

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;
RIGHT HON. LORD SALTOUN, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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NOTICE.

In consequence of Friday next being Christmas Day, the "Freemason" will be published on the morning of Thursday, the 24th inst., instead of Friday, as usual.

"C" ON THE REMOVAL OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

There are several points in the letter from "C" which we published last week, which demand from us some notice, not from the inherent force that is in them, but because there are many who will run away with the idea that, if they are left unanswered, they must of necessity be unanswerable. We have said that to this correspondent belongs the merit—which has certainly not been exhibited by other opponents of the scheme—of having supported his protest by reasons, but while we are willing to accord him credit in this respect, we cannot say his reasons are of a very convincing kind. Thus, as regards his first statement that "the very large sum of money" which the buildings at Wood Green have cost "cannot, in anyway, be recovered by the suggested sale of the land," it is admitted on all hands that the removal will involve the loss of several thousands of pounds, but as Bro. Bodenham—who, as a former member of the Board of Management, has a very intimate knowledge of what is required to be done—ably expressed it in a letter of his which appeared in our columns some weeks ago, while we regret this loss, we recognise it is no good trying "to retrieve the irretrievable." All that can be done is to sell the estate to the best advantage and reckon the use and occupation of the building during a period of between 30 and 40 years as in some measure a set-off against the balance which is not recovered. "C" prefers "a little more re-arrangement and slight alterations," but one of the earliest acts of the new régime was to reject a scheme of "re-arrangement" and "alterations," which it was estimated would necessitate an expenditure of some £6500. They did not see their way to reaping any advantage from thus further tinkering a building which had already been tinkered almost from the very commencement of its existence. When the main portion of the present building was erected, it was intended for the occupation of 100 boys. That was in 1863-5, and 10 years later there were about 150 boys on the establishment, the additional accommodation having been obtained by "re-arrangement," "alterations," and new buildings. Five years later, the School numbered over 200, the necessary space having been obtained by "re-arrangements," "alterations," and additions. Two years later, the scheme for a new Hall and Preparatory School was started, and there followed still further "re-arrangements," "alterations," and additions. Add to this, that when the present building was erected—or rather the original portion of it—the first school premises known as Lordship House

was pulled down, and we arrive at the fact that during the whole of the period the Institution has owned the estate at Wood Green, there has been little else than a costly series of "re-arrangements," "alterations," additions, and repairs. This is the reason why so large a sum of money, amounting in round figures to £100,000, has been expended at Wood Green, and it constitutes one of the main reasons why the Board of Management have been led to adopt the policy of removal in preference to that of continual "re-arrangement" and "alteration," as being in the long run the more economical policy of the two.

Again, as regards the statement that "the site cannot be said to be unhealthy, as there has been no outbreak of illness for several years," &c., we are under the impression that the PHILBRICK Investigation Committee was appointed to inquire into the management of the Institution, because the boys were out of form in respect of tone and character, poor in health, &c. We know that one of the circumstances that led to the inquiry was the penalty inflicted on a boy who, while in a state of convalescence from scarlet fever—of which there had been an outbreak at the time—quitted the infirmary for home without leave. It speaks well for the precautionary measures taken by the Board of Management and the skill of their medical officer that there has been no serious outbreak of illness during the time they have been in charge of the School, but this is after all only negative evidence and does not go far to prove that a clayey soil is a suitable one on which to erect and maintain a large School; nor seeing that the clayey soil is not the only objection to the Wood Green site, does this absence of serious illness from the School for several years, offer any special inducement to remain, if the bulk of the Craft are willing to purchase another site, of the healthiness of which there is positive and direct evidence.

As regards playground accommodation, whether there is more or less of this than at other large schools in or near London is beside the question. It stands to reason that when from an area of some 13 or 14 acres we deduct the space occupied by the Main and Preparatory School Buildings, the Head Master's residence, the gymnasium, the asphalted playgrounds, &c., and so much of the ground as is laid out for garden purposes, there cannot be left any great amount of accommodation for cricket, football, and outdoor sports generally. But doubtless more would have been available for the purpose if the School buildings had been planned and erected for the accommodation of the present number of boys. Of the two schools mentioned by our correspondent, we are unable to say what extent of ground they occupy. We believe the Drapers' School is located somewhere in Tottenham, while Christ's Hospital is shortly to be removed into the country. As regards the latter, we imagine there is no healthier school in England, though its sanitary arrangements date from time immemorial, and while there is no room for cricket, there is no lack of space either for indoor or outdoor purposes. But because A chooses or is constrained to live in a small house, it does not follow that B with his growing family should go and do likewise, if he can obtain better and ampler accommodation.

The argument as to the small percentage of those who vote in favour of the removal knowing anything of the circumstances or even having seen the Institution may be applied with equal force to those who have protested against it. How many of these latter even knew where Wood Green was when the present controversy began? There are some 20,000 Life Governors and Subscribers, but 12 months ago probably not one in 20 of them

would have been able to say offhand, without the aid of a directory, where the place was situated.

There is no reason why the Governors should reverse the policy of boarding as well as clothing and educating the children, which was contemplated from the very foundation of the Charity but which, owing to lack of funds, was not adopted till 1856. The reasons which led them to adopt it are as valid now as they were 40 years ago. The local educational associations do a world of good and no one—certainly not we who have written times out of number in their behalf and extolled them for the good they do—has a word to say in their disfavour. But they are, as they were always intended to be, subsidiary to the central Institutions. They do locally, but in part only, what the latter does for the whole country. The two Provinces of East and West Lancashire together educate at Schools in the neighbourhood of their own homes nearly 400 children, of whom it is no exaggeration to say that 19-20ths would obtain no assistance whatever towards their education but for the Local Educational Institutions which these Provinces have founded. Many of the smaller Provinces also have local educational Charities, but all Provinces, whether great or small, get their children into the central Schools whenever they can for the sake of the greater benefits to be obtained, the number hailing from East Lancashire, either separately or in conjunction with other Provinces being, according to the latest published lists of subscribers, 10 boys and 12 girls; and from West Lancashire 10 boys and five girls. As for the Mark Benevolent Fund, it has our heartiest sympathy, nor is there any one who has commended it more warmly and sincerely than we have done, but it is absurd for our correspondent to dream of instituting a comparison between a Fund which educates and otherwise partly helps from 15 to 20 children of both sexes—about as many as are assisted by the Durham Educational Fund—and our two central Masonic Schools which between them clothe, educate, and maintain some 550 girls and boys.

"C's" concluding reason is, at the same time, his weakest. It amounts to this—that we must not assist some of the children of our deceased brother Masons, because, by doing so, we place them in advance of their brothers and sisters, and this "often causes dissension and unhappiness in the family circle, where none should exist." Our correspondent appears to have forgotten that this applies equally—though to a less extent—to the local as well as to the Central Institutions; those children who are not educated at the expense of the local Educational Charities having to put up with such education as they are able to obtain at Board and other minor Schools. Hence this is an argument against giving any assistance, either local or central, and cannot be seriously intended by our correspondent.

As for the determination at which "C" has arrived, we trust he will see his way to pursue the same course he has adopted heretofore, and continue the support he has given to the Boys' School. We are sure he will never have reason to regret the continuance.

FREEMASONRY IN DURHAM.

The Transactions of the Provincial Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Chapter of Durham for the current year, the receipt of which we briefly acknowledged last week, are very pleasant reading. There is, indeed, no reason why they should be otherwise. The Province has a compact body of 36 lodges on its roll, of which some half-dozen hold centenary warrants, while all but the youngest ten have been in existence for 15 years and upwards. Moreover, the aggregate membership, amounting to 2788, is exceptionally high, and, as a consequence, the average membership of 77 per lodge is exceptionally high likewise. Much of the success which has marked the career of Durham Masonry for some years past is, no doubt, due to the energy and ability, tact and judgment, of the more prominent brethren, and to the caution exercised in the election of candidates; but the lodges themselves deserve great credit for the regularity and efficiency of their work, and the large amount of interest which is exhibited by the members individually in the proceedings of the lodges and Prov. Grand Lodge. As for the financial position of the Province, a good

balance in hand regularly maintained from year to year speaks for itself. The Statement of Account for the year ended 31st August opens with a balance of £350 and closes with one of £341, the total receipts, including the opening balance, together with Dividend on Consols amounting to £63 10s. 10d., being £817, while among the disbursements were the grants made in September amounting to £344 12s. 6d. Out of the closing balance of £341 the Committee recommended the appropriation of 60 guineas to the Girls' School, 60 guineas to the Boys' School, and 70 guineas to the Benevolent Institution, together with the distribution of £110 among six applicants for relief. The Report of the Charities Committee is not quite so satisfactory, there being a decrease of donations and subscriptions as compared with the previous year, of £95. In 1895 these items of receipt reached £458 14s.; but in 1896 they amounted only to £363 14s. This is, of course, to be regretted, but for ourselves we are inclined to attribute the falling off to one of those awkward fluctuations in the wrong direction to which all Funds of this description are liable, rather than to any diminution of sympathy on the part of our Durham brethren with the objects for which the Fund was established. During the past year the sum of £150 was expended on the maintenance and education of 19 children, while the number at present on the Fund is 17, for whom it is estimated that an expenditure of £170 will be required during the year 1896-7. The capital account shows a total of upwards of £2229, the bulk of which is invested in Consett Water Works Preference Stock and New South Wales Inscribed Stock, there being a balance in bank of over £276, awaiting investment whenever a favourable opportunity presents itself. But, in addition to this regular Annual Report, the Committee presented a Special Report, in which they recommended the establishment of a Benevolent Fund for granting annuities of £26 a year to aged poor brethren and £20 to the widows of brethren. This Report was accepted, and the Rules and Regulations for the administration of the Fund, as recommended by the Committee, were adopted unanimously. As regards Royal Arch Masonry, it will suffice if we say that at the annual meeting of Prov. G. Chapter the G. Superintendent was able to congratulate the companions on the stability of this branch of ancient Masonry, the returns giving a total of 405 paying companions belonging to 12 chapters, or an average of between 33 and 34 members per chapter.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF WEST YORKSHIRE.

A convocation of the above Provincial Grand Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Longcauseway, Dewsbury, on Friday, the 20th ult., under the banner of the Three Grand Principles Chapter, No. 208, when there were present—

Comps. Ensor Drury, P.Z. 139, P.A.G.S. England, acting G. Supt.; Hy. Smith, P.Z. 387, P.G.P.S. England, Prov. G.H.; J. L. Atherton, P.P.G.H., as Prov. G.J.; C. Letch Mason, P.P.G.H.; B. Broughton, P.P.G.J.; Capt. Herbert G. E. Green, Prov. G.S.E.; T. R. Vaux, P.P.G.J., as Prov. G.S.N.; James Bedford, P.P.G.S.N.; J. W. Balme, P.P.G.S.N.; Wm. Smith, Prov. G. Treas.; J. Hy. Gratton, P.P.G. Treas.; F. Rand, P.P.G. Treas.; P. Bancroft Coward, Prov. G. Reg.; Theophilus Bates, Prov. D.G. Reg.; D. Allison Shaw, P.P.G. Reg.; H. Thomas, P.P.G. Reg.; W. R. Thompson, Prov. G.P.S.; F. C. Robinson, Prov. 2nd A.G.S.; Hugh S. Holdsworth, P.P.G.S.; Thos. Pickles, P.P.G.S.; John Thrippleton, P.P.G.S.; Thos. Richards, P.P.G.S.; John Seed, P.P.G.S.; Cornelius Wheawill, P.P.G.S.; Wm. Flockton, P.P.G.S.; Henry Blackburn, P.P.G.S.; Alfred Verity, P.P.G.S.; John Richardson, P.P.G.S.; T. I. Walker, P.P.G.S.; T. Bland Wilson, Prov. G.S.B.; H. S. Goodyear, P.P.G. Std. Br.; V. G. S. Dearden, Prov. G. Std. Br.; W. F. Wilkinson, P.P.G. Std. Br.; Joseph Hartley, P.P.G. Std. Br.; Wm. Cockcroft, P.P.G. Std. Br.; Edwin Billington, P. as Prov. G.D.C.; William Allatt, Prov. A.G.D.C.; W. F. Smithson, Past G. Std. Br., P.P.G.D.C.; John Barker, P.P.G.D.C.; Edmund Lord, Past Prov. G.D. of C.; John R. Fawcett, P.P.G.D.C.; J. K. Blakey, P.Z., P.P.G.D.C.; John Constable, Prov. G. Org.; James Milnes, P.P.G. Org.; J. J. Martin, Prov. A.G.S.E.; Alfred Leach, P.P.A.G.S.E.; T. Chester, Prov. G. Janitor; Thos. Hoare Tanner, Wm. Laycock, and Lewis B. Brierley, Prov. G. Stewards; and acting M.E.Zs., P.Zs., and companions of 36 out of the 42 chapters, viz.: Nos. 61, 139, 154, 208, 242, 258, 264, 275, 289, 290, 296, 302, 304, 306, 307, 308, 337, 380, 387, 448, 495, 521, 600, 603, 827, 904, 910, 974, 1001, 1019, 1042, 1214, 1462, 1513, 2069, and 2491. Those unrepresented were Nos. 265, 408, 458, 652, 837, and 1283.

Apologies were received from Comps. W. Lawies Jackson, M.P., G. Supt.; G. Buckley, P.Z. 61, Prov. G.J.; T. M. Holmes, P.Z. 387, Prov. G.S.N.; Tom Atkinson, P.Z. 2069, Prov. 1st A.G.S.; C. W. O. Smith, P.Z. 974, P.A.G. Std. Br.; G. H. Holdroyd, P.Z. 275, Prov. G.D.C.; M. C. Peck and T. B. Whythead, N. and E. Yorks; J. Chadwick, E. Lancs.; J. Terry, Sec. R.M.B.I.; F. R. W. Hedges, Sec. R.M.I.G.; and upwards of 100 M.E.Zs., P.Zs., and companions.

The acting Grand Superintendent, Comp. Ensor Drury, accompanied by the Prov. Grand Officers, entered at 3.30 p.m. They were received by the M.E.Z., Comp. John Lane Fox, and Principals and companions of Chapter No. 208, and Provincial Grand Chapter was opened in form.

The acting Grand Superintendent was saluted.

The Grand H. and J. were saluted.

The roll of chapters was called.

The roll of Present and Past Prov. Grand Officers was called.

The Prov. G. Scribe E. presented the minutes of the annual convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter, held at Bradford, on Tuesday, 9th June last. As these had been printed and circulated, Comp. J. BARKER, P.Z. 258, moved, and Comp. J. H. GRATION, P.Z. 1513, seconded—"That the minutes be taken as read." This was carried.

On the motion of Comp. W. F. WILKINSON, P.Z. 448, seconded by Comp. J. W. BALME, P.Z. 61, the minutes were confirmed.

The acting Grand Superintendent, Comp. ENSOR DRURY, P.Z. 139 and 296, Past Asst. G. Soj., then delivered the following address:

Companions,—I thank you for the compliment you have been good enough to pay to the office that I have the honour of filling on this occasion, and at the same time allow me to express my sympathy with you in the disappointment you must feel—in which I participate—that the Grand Superintendent is unable to be present to-day. He has requested me to take his place, and I have done so, feeling sure that I may rely upon your kind indulgence, and that I shall receive from you that assistance which has been so courteously rendered to me on every occasion when I have been placed in the Grand Superintendent's chair. The business on the agenda paper is not of an important nature, and it is unnecessary for me to make any observations upon it. Turning to the events of the past few months I notice with satisfaction the resuscitation of the Zetland Chapter, No. 603, Cleckheaton, by Comp. J. T. Last and other zealous companions, and I am sure we all trust that with their energetic assistance, it may enter upon a long and prosperous career. Many a chapter in this province has had its period of depression, sometimes lasting until it became a question of the withdrawal of the charter, and then by the help of zealous and generous companions it has again become a good working chapter, in some cases reaching a higher state of prosperity than it had before experienced. The two old chapters in my own town Paradise and Loyalty both founded towards the end of the last century are good examples. Whilst speaking of Sheffield, I should like to refer for one moment to that part of the Grand Superintendent's address in the minutes we have just confirmed where he alludes to the consecration by me of the White Rose of York Chapter in March last in that city. For his kind words about myself I very heartily thank him, but I refer to it because I wish to say that I was present at a meeting of that young chapter a few days ago, and I am happy to say that it was quite fulfilling the high hopes that I formed and expressed at its consecration. It now numbers 26 subscribing members and six Hon. P.Zs., all, I think, without exception, enthusiastic Royal Arch Masons. I wish, companions, that I could truthfully use that expression in speaking of Royal Arch Masons generally. I think if the members of our chapters were to show a little more enthusiasm and interest in this beautiful Degree, many of the Craft Masons who neglect Royal Arch Masonry altogether would be attracted to it. It seems almost incredible that although as declared by the Act of Union in 1813, "pure and ancient Masonry consists of three Degrees, viz.: Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch" only about one Mason out of every three in this province becomes a Royal Arch Mason. It is, perhaps, too soon yet to judge of the effect of reducing the probation of a Master Mason from 12 months to one month. So far as I have been enabled by my own experience and by inquiry to form an opinion, it has not led to an increase in the number of candidates in this province and when I recollect the eagerness with which I, and the young brethren of the lodge, took the degree the very earliest day we could possibly do so after the 12 months' probation, I am inclined to hold to the opinion that in this, as in most things, people do not value that which is too easily attained. Meeting to-day, companions, in this old town of Dewsbury, under the banner of that flourishing chapter, the Three Grand Principles, and especially as that chapter is presided over by our E. Comp. John Lane Fox, it is impossible for me to keep from my thoughts our lamented and loved companion the late Bro. Thomas Bateman Fox, whose untimely death we still deplore, and who, had he now been with us, would have been one of the foremost to welcome this Provincial Grand Chapter. Nor do we forget, comps, that it was here in 1858 that the Earl of Zetland, First Grand Principal, installed Comp. Dr. Fearnley as first Grand Superintendent of the newly-established Provincial Grand Chapter of West Yorkshire. I am reminded by the Prov. G. Scribe E. that the end of the financial year is rapidly approaching, when the annual returns will have to be forwarded to him, so that a report on the condition of the province may be prepared, and submitted to the Grand Superintendent. It is very desirable therefore that Treasurers and Scribes should do their best to get in all arrears, and so place their respective chapters in a good position. I understand that the Prov. G. Scribe E. has made out for each chapter the returns of its members, so that the Scribe E. will only have to add the names, &c., of those who have joined or been exalted since December 31st last. This will save the Scribes of private chapters a good deal of trouble, and I hope our Prov. G. Scribe E. will have the satisfaction of finding it expedite the return to him of these necessary forms. I have now only to thank you again, companions, for your kind reception and for your attention to the few remarks I have ventured to make.

Comp. Ensor Drury had a very hearty reception, and his address was heard with great interest.

After which, Comp. HENRY SMITH, on behalf of the acting Prov. G.J., Comp. J. L. Atherton, and himself, thanked the companions for their cordial salutation. It was, he said, a great pleasure to be present and to be welcomed so warmly in that ancient chapter, and to see around him so many old familiar faces. He trusted that the harmony which had distinguished Three Grand Principles would continue to prevail. He was conscious that in some parts of the province difficulties existed, but those difficulties, he was confident, would be overcome, and he congratulated the companions on the fact that they were enjoying greater prosperity at that moment than they had ever known before. He hoped the concord which was so marked would increase as time went on, and, though his term of service might be said to be almost at an end, yet he would to the last wish well to their onward progress. Comp. Smith explained that exalted in 1854, he became a subscriber from that date to two chapters, and from 1860 to three, so that he thought he had some right to express confidence in the Degree. This he did most thoroughly, and he should to the extent to which his humble services would go always give it his fullest and heartiest encouragement.

Comp. J. L. ATHERTON, P.Z. 337, P.P.G.H., acting Prov. G.J., then delivered the Mystical Lecture. This was given in a masterly way and was followed throughout with profound attention by the companions.

At its close the acting GRAND SUPERINTENDENT, in the name of the companions, tendered to Comp. Atherton warmest thanks for his beautiful rendering of that sublime and most perfect lecture.

A point was here raised in relation to one of the signs which led to expressions of opinion by Comps. VAUX, C. L. MASON, and others, but there was no discussion as it was not deemed a material question.

In replying to the thanks of the companions, Comp. ATHERTON said that if he had done or could do anything by which the interest of the brethren might be stimulated so that more might be induced to join, he would be fully repaid for any exertion on his part. He considered the Royal Arch to be distinctly a part of the Third Degree, and ought not, he declared, to have been severed from it. He deemed it an excellent rule, practised in some places, that no one should pass the chair in a Craft lodge unless he was a chapter Mason. Many Past Masters, not being Royal Arch Masons, consciously or unconsciously, threw cold water upon the Degree, but as for himself he considered its importance could not be overestimated, and that it was worthy of the earnest attention of every member of the Craft.

Comp. T. ROBERTSHAW, M.E.Z. 448, Halifax, in the name of his chapter, invited the province to hold the annual convocation in May, 1897, in that town.

A vote of thanks to Comp. John Lane Fox and the companions of No. 208, heartily proposed, was adopted by acclamation.

Comp. Fox replied, and the proceedings ended.

Tea was prepared in the Mayor's banquetting rooms, Town Hall, at which 53 companions were present, the M.E.Z. presiding.

CONSECRATION OF THE ST. JOHN-AT-HACKNEY CHAPTER, No. 2511.

This new chapter, which is attached to the lodge of the same name consecrated only two years and a half ago, was formally started on its Masonic career on the 14th inst., at the Old Town Hall, Hackney, where the lodge first saw the light. The Consecrating Principal was Comp. E. Letchworth, F.S.A., Grand Scribe E. He was assisted by Comps. John Newton, P.A.G.D.C., as H., Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, as J., Frank Richardson, P.G.S., as D.C., and George Graveley, A.G.D.C., as Scribe N.

The other companions present were Comps. J. Gooding, J. H. Milton, J. Pinder, J. Joseph, F. C. Lintott, A. G. Hammond, John J. Olley, Sydney Meadows, Alfred Rusby, George F. Rossiter, H. Sadler, G. Janitor; T. Brown, P.Z. 174; Charles Wyatt Smith, P.Z. 554; H. E. Sanders, 1623; Thomas G. Hodges, P.Z. 538; A. F. Lay, M.E.Z. 1364; W. R. G. Emerson, 548; H. Massey, P.Z. 619 and 1928; and Brown, the well-known Royal Arch Preceptor.

The musical arrangements were under the direction of Comp. W. Emerson. After a short address by Comp. Letchworth, and a neat little oration by Comp. the Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, the chapter was consecrated, constituted, and dedicated. Comp. J. Gordon, P.Z., was installed by Comp. Letchworth. Comp. Brownrigg installed Comp. J. H. Milton, first as J. and then as H., and also placed Comp. James Pinder, P.Z., P.P.G.A.S. Essex, in the chair of J. The other officers invested were Comps. J. J. Olley, Scribe E.; J. J. Gordon, Scribe N.; S. Meadows, Treasurer, F. C. Lintott, P.S.; A. Rusby, 1st A.S.; G. F. Rossiter, 2nd A.S.; A. J. Hammond, D.C.; and Ives, Janitor. A vote of thanks was passed to the Consecrating Principals, who were elected honorary members of the chapter.

The Three Principals were elected a Committee to frame the by-laws, and the S.E. read out the names of 14 proposing candidates for exaltation, with their proposers and seconders.

After closing the chapter, the companions returned to London, and at the Great Eastern Hotel enjoyed a delightful banquet.

There was a high-class concert, under the direction of Comp. W. Emerson, by Madame Laura Brown, Madame Rich, Mr. Hubert Gray, and Mr. Percy Mordy, in the intervals between the speeches in which the toasts were proposed and responded to, and the companions spent a most pleasant evening.

Comp. J. GORDON, M.E.Z., in proposing "The Consecrating Officers," said that to those companions the chapter was indebted for coming down to Hackney to give Royal Arch Masonry a start in that borough. The work had been admirably done and well rendered, and he had felt it very much. Many companions had seen the Grand Scribe E. perform it previously, for he consecrated the lodge which was the mother of the chapter; but he thought that night he liked him better in the chapter than in the lodge. It might be that Comp. Letchworth was improving on acquaintance. At the time Comp. Letchworth consecrated the lodge, he (Comp. Gordon) said he never saw the ceremony done better; but that night Comp. Letchworth had done it better. That might be only his (Comp. Gordon's) opinion, but, at all events, all the companions were sensible of his kindness, and of the excellence with which he did his work, and also of his geniality. When he (Comp. Gordon) met a G. Officer, somehow it took all the fat out of him, and he could not say all he wished; he could do a great deal better when he got rid of the Grand Officers. (Laughter.) However, he very heartily proposed their health.

Comp. E. LETCHWORTH, in reply, said as he knew the companions wished to hear a few words from those companions who had rendered such service that evening in consecrating that chapter, and as Comp. Brownrigg, on whom the lion's share of the work had fallen, and Comps. Newton and Graveley would also like to say something, he would not trouble the companions with many words, except to say what a great pleasure it had been to him to take part in the consecration. It was difficult to realise that two-and-a-half years had passed since he had the very great pleasure and privilege of consecrating the lodge with which that chapter was connected. He was glad to find that the lodge had had a very successful career, and he did not think they could have better evidence of that success than the fact that the lodge felt itself strong enough to have a chapter attached to it. He was sure that under the able guidance of the companion filling the chair, the chapter, like the lodge, would be a very great success, and that it might be so would be the wish of all the other Consecrating Officers.

Comp. the Rev. J. S. BROWNRIFF said that he could only echo all that the G.S.E. had said and that all the Consecrating Officers were glad to have placed a chapter on such historic ground as Hackney. As he had often told his friends, Hackney was an aristocratic suburb of London, because a society he was connected with was started by a Hackney gentleman—Joshua Watson. In the chapter that night he saw the chair in which Joshua Watson used to sit.

Comp. NEWTON apologised for the loss of his voice by a cold, which had deprived him of the power of performing his portion of the ceremony as he should like to have performed it.

Comp. GEORGE GRAVELEY also responded, and said what little he had done he did not so well as he would have liked. The next time he took part in consecrating a chapter he hoped to be in better form.

Comp. LETCHWORTH next said it was his privilege to propose what was really the toast of the evening—"The Health of Ex. Comp. Gordon," whom he had had the honour of placing in the chair of First Principal of the St. John-at-Hackney Chapter. In addressing the founders of the chapter, who were all members of the lodge to which it was attached, it was needless for him to descant on the merits of the companion to whom he referred; at the same time he did most distinctly congratulate the companions on having as their First Principal one of such experience as Comp. Gordon had had in Masonry. He believed Comp. Gordon was initiated in Masonry many years ago in one of the English lodges—St. John's—at Montreal. He afterwards became a member of Lodge Temperance-in-the-East, the chair of which he filled 10 years ago, and therefore the St. John-at-Hackney was most fortunate when, as a founder of the lodge, he acted as one of the Wardens two and a half years ago. The companions knew how well Comp. Gordon discharged the duties of Master of the lodge, and under his very able guidance the chapter could not fail to have a year of the greatest possible success. That it might be a very successful year to the chapter and to Comp. Gordon, and a very pleasant year as well to the companions was his most earnest wish, and the sincere wish of every companion present.

Comp. J. GORDON, M.E.Z., acknowledging the toast, which was most heartily received by the companions, said he was sure his behaviour that night could not raise him in the estimation of Comp. Letchworth for he felt he was out of sorts and had not done the work as he ought. He was well enough physically, but he did not seem "fit." It was not nervousness; that was not his rule; but he had "got off the track." He had never been guilty of the sin of ingratitude; he felt thankful and grateful for the kind words said of him, but he felt he did not deserve them. It had always been his consistent line of conduct to endeavour to do his duty to the best of his ability. He might fail sometimes, but it was not for want of trying. He felt grateful to the companions for the kindness they had shown him; he felt on the whole he had given them satisfaction. If he had been wanting that night, they must excuse him: he did not feel up to his work. He most sincerely thanked the Grand Officers, Comps. Letchworth, Brownrigg, Newton, and Graveley. With the last he had many battles in the Lodge of Temperance in-the-East, but they had always separated well, and settled their differences amicably. He hoped they would have many more if only that they settle them as amicably. In conclusion, he should endeavour to do his duty to the best of his ability, and would keep the companions in order.

Comp. J. GORDON, M.E.Z., next proposed "The H. and J."—Comps. Milton and Pinder of both of whom he spoke in the highest terms for their excellent work and for their zeal in Masonry. They were never tired of being called upon to do work. With such principal officers he was sure the chapter would make a good start.

Comp. MILTON, H., said he tried as much as he could to promote the prosperity of the St. John-at-Hackney Lodge, in which he felt great interest. He felt interested in Masonry in Hackney, and should do his best to assist in the promotion of the lodge and the chapter to which he belonged, as well as of Masonry in general.

Comp. PINDER, J. also responded, and said that all the brethren of the St. John-at-Hackney Lodge were coming into the chapter. He believed in chapters being attached to lodges, and objected to chapters holding under sanction of another lodge with which the brethren were not connected. Where the Scribe E. of a chapter was Secretary of the lodge he knew better what had been done by the different members. Where the members met both in the lodge and in the chapter they were all in a nutshell, and consequently there was more harmony than if there were only a few members belonging to the lodge and the many came from other lodges.

Comps. BROWN HODGES, and LAY responded to the toast of "The Visitors," the first recommending attendance at chapters of instruction, where alone it was possible to learn the accurate performance of official duties; the second said that, as a pupil of Comp. Brown, he fully endorsed his sentiments; and the third congratulated Comp. Gordon on his being the first M.E.Z. of the St. John-at-Hackney Chapter, as he (Comp. Lay) was of the Earl of Zetland Chapter.

The toast of "The Officers" followed, and

Comp. IVES closed the proceedings by giving the Janitor's toast.

THE OLD MASONIANS.

The above association of old scholars of our Wood Green School, held last Friday, the 11th inst., another of their many gatherings at the head-quarters of the club, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. On this occasion the members assembled for the purpose of discussing that most difficult of subjects—the "Darwinian Theory of the Descent of Man." The chair was occupied by Mr. R. S. Chandler (Treasurer), and notwithstanding the dry nature of the subject to be debated, a very fair number of members attended.

Mr. A. GLEICHEN—who, by the way, we understand will commence practice in January as a barrister—opened the debate in a lengthy and eloquent speech, supporting Darwin's theory, that man is part of the grand scheme of evolution. Mr. Gleichen pointed out how after years of close study, Darwin had found that there existed a great similarity between man and animal—in structure; process of reproduction; rudimentary organs, *i.e.*, skin muscles, hair, &c.; diseases common to both; senses, passions, pain, happiness, &c. The opener also explained Darwin's theory of the survival of the fittest, how a class of animals possessing qualities greater than others would eventually gain the ascendancy, and that this process going on through long ages had at last resulted in the production of man.

A heated discussion followed, the company not separating till a late hour.

At the close of the debate, Mr. CHANDLER briefly summed up, after which a vote of thanks was passed to both opener and Chairman.

Amongst the members present were Bros. R. E. Barnes, C. Patrick O'Doherty and R. Harold Williams; Messrs. H. F. Aspinall, W. M. Andrews, C. W. Barber, S. Baylis, G. Cox, G. L. Gallott, J. H. Hewett, H. Lewis, M. B. Lumsden, J. T. Scarfe, G. Wilson, A. S. West, J. E. Walters, H. S. Wilson, F. M. Watkins, G. Cross Willett (Sec.), A. Gleichen, and R. S. Chandler. Messrs. E. R. Bingham and J. A. Coupland also looked in, but had to leave early, the former to return to Brighton and the latter to Wood Green.

It is gratifying to notice that our "Old Boys" appear to take increased interest in "debates" as there is no doubt that this form of recreation is very beneficial in enlarging their views and giving them that necessary confidence for speaking in public.

INTERESTING ENTERTAINMENT AT THE MERCHANT TAYLORS' HALL.

Bro. Major-General E. C. Sim, R.E., finding himself at once Worshipful Master of the very celebrated and illustrious Company of Merchant Taylors and Deputy Master of the Euston Mark Lodge, conceived the felicitous idea of entertaining his lodge and the leading brethren of the Mark Degree within the palatial rooms of his Company, Threadneedle-street, and this he carried into effect on Saturday night, the 5th instant, with a success which must have gratified the genial and generous host.

The list of guests reads almost like an enumeration of Grand Mark Lodge Officers. Bro. Lord Euston, in consequence of the serious condition of the Duke of Grafton, was unable to attend, but his place was ably filled by Bro. Lord Dungarvan. The other guests were Bros. Lord Skelmersdale, Col. A. B. Cook, Sir Reginald Hanson, the Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, Capt. Phillips, Admiral Markham, Sir John B. Monckton, Sir Geo. Harris, Frank Richardson, W. E. M. Tomlinson, M.P., R. Loveland Loveland, Balfour Cockburn, Raymond Thrupp, Ralph Clutton, Sir Terence O'Brien, Sir Charles Turner, Sir F. Middleton, Col. Turner, C.B., Col. McCullagh, R.E., Col. Filgate, R.E., Ernest Flower, M.P., C. F. Matier, Alfred Cooper, F. Mead, C. Godson, M.D., F. S. Hanson, Col. Lockwood, M.P., K. R. Murchison, Gordon Miller, F. Graves, Fitzroy Tower, Dr. A. Orwin, Edward Nash, F. W. Sims, and others.

Craft Masonry.

Moira Lodge, No. 92.

The installation meeting of this old and distinguished lodge was held at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, on Thursday, the 3rd inst. Present: Bros. M. A. Tweedie, W.M.; Rev. R. I. Woodhouse, S.W.; T. L. Wilkinson, P.M., P.D.G.R., Treas.; R. F. Gould, P.M., P.G.D., Sec.; J. Webb, S.D.; C. E. Russell, J.D.; J. W. Smith, I.G.; Sir Norman Pringle Bart., P.M.; G. C. Andrew, P.M.; G. Greiner, P.M.; E. Greiner, P.M.; Charles Calkoen, and Russell Ardagh. The visitors were Bros. G. W. Speth, P.A.G.D.C.; H. W. Turner, P.M. 1347; C. Kupferschmidt, A.G. Sec. for German Correspondence, W.M. 2076; H. Whitney, 861; R. Austen, 1591; J. Norwood, 357; J. P. Richards, 1582; J. J. Hamilton, P.M. 1506; Frank Richardson, P.G.D.; W. M. Bywater, P.G.S.B.; S. T. Klein, J.W. 2076; Col. L. G. Dundas, P.G.D.; F. Hallows, P.M. 861; Thomas Fenn, P.G.W.; H. Noakes, P.M. 1083; Rev. J. H. Smith, P.M. 279; Luke Hansard, P.M. 1506; C. W. Skinner, 2000; T. H. Gardiner, P.A.G.D.C.; E. H. Fones, and C. W. Kingzett, 1691.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. C. Calkoen was passed to the Second Degree, after which Bro. the Rev. R. I. Woodhouse, S.W., W.M. elect, was duly presented, and installed by Bro. R. F. Gould, P.M., as Master for the ensuing year, the following Grand Officers filling the various stations in the lodge during the ceremony: Bros. Fenn, I.P.M.; Bywater, S.W.; Speth, J.W.; Frank Richardson, D. of C.; and Kupferschmidt, I.G. The following are the officers for 1896-97—Bros. W. F. Noakes, S.W.; John Webb, J.W.; T. L. Wilkinson, P.M., Treas.; R. F. Gould, P.M., Sec.; C. E. Russell, S.D.; J. W. Smith, J.D.; Russell Ardagh, I.G.; Wickham Noakes, P.M., Stwd.; and George Couchman, Tyler.

The lodge having been closed, the brethren adjourned to the large hall, where an excellent banquet had been provided.

The customary toasts followed, and in proposing "The Queen and the Craft," the Worshipful Master said the reign of her Majesty has not only been the longest, but also the most illustrious in the annals of English history. In this lodge to-night, we began under the sway of a W.M. who represented the law, and the gavel has since passed into the hands of one of the clergy, but the spirit of loyalty and devotion to the throne, we may rest assured, will be re-echoed from year to year under all sorts and conditions of Worshipful Masters in our Moira Lodge.

In proposing "The Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M.," the W.M. said the Heir Apparent is the King of our English Craft, and wherever a British flag flies, or British Masons reside, there fitting homage is paid to that most worthy representative of King Solomon, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

The Worshipful Master then said: I rise to propose the health of those brethren whom we may term "The Knights of the Round Table." They all bear titles, they are all "grand," both in insignia and deeds. Their jurisdiction stretches over "The round table land of the globe," and they control the working of Masonry in all parts of the world. The Earl of Lathom, Pro G.M., and Earl Amherst, Deputy G.M., stand worthily at their head, and among the kindly knights who have donned their uniforms for the purpose of being with us to-night, are Bros. Fenn, P.G.W.; Frank Richardson, P.G.D.; Colonel Dundas, P.G.D.; T. H. Gardiner, P.A.G.D.C.; G. W. Speth, P.A.G.D.C.; W. M. Bywater, P.G.S.B.; and C. Kupferschmidt, Asst. G. Sec. for German Correspondence; to one and all of whom we tender a most hearty welcome, while we particularly congratulate ourselves on always having with us, as two of our Past Masters, Bros. Wilkinson and Gould, whose health I shall also ask you to drink, together with that of the other Grand Officers who are visitors on this occasion.

Bros. Fenn, Richardson, and Gardiner having responded, the toast of the evening, "The Memory of Earl Moira, the Patron of the Lodge," was proposed by the Treasurer, Bro. T. L. Wilkinson, P.M., with all the eloquence of previous years, and in a manner that made a deep impression on all present.

The toast having been drunk in solemn silence, Bro. M. A. Tweedie, I.P.M., spoke as follows: If there is one thing more than another which may be looked upon as forming a crown to the termination of our year of office, and which renders palatable the yielding up of the reins of government, it is the pleasure of proposing the toast of "Our Successor." We in the Moira Lodge have known our W.M., Bro. Woodhouse, from his very infancy in Freemasonry. From his initiation we have seen him go through the other Degrees of the Craft. He has undertaken the duties of the various offices, going up step by step, until this evening we have seen him installed with all due solemnity in the chair of K.S. I cannot help recalling to mind the occasion of my own installation last year, when Bro. Mitchell, who was then I.P.M., in proposing my health (which he did in most eloquent terms), enumerated some of the qualifications for a Master of a lodge, and amongst others, he quoted from some ancient writer on Freemasonry (I forget his name, but Bro. Mitchell, I think, gave chapter and verse to substantiate his quotation), and that quotation was—"That he must be strong and mighty in war." Now, brethren, I have often thought since, that I could not agree with that ancient writer, as his dictum seemed to be in such strong antagonism to the accepted tenets of Freemasonry, which are not "war," but "peace and harmony." However, whether that ancient writer was right or wrong, the man who might have been strong and mighty in war is now out of the chair, and his place has been taken by our W.M., Bro. Woodhouse, our Chaplain, and a man of peace. Worshipful Master, we look forward to your year of office with pleasurable expectations, that it may be one of success to yourself, of success to the lodge, and a continuation of that love and harmony which has ever existed in the Moira Lodge, and which we trust will never be broken.

The W.M. having replied in a few well-chosen words, the toast of "The Visitors" followed, and was acknowledged by Bros. the Rev. J. Henry Smith, P.M. 279; Richard F. Austin, 1581; and J. J. Hamilton, P.M. 1506.

In responding for the next toast—"The Past Masters," which met with a very hearty reception, Bro. M. A. Tweedie said: As it is the usual duty of an I.P.M. to respond to the toast of the P.M.s. of a lodge, that duty devolves upon me, and it is one of pride and pleasure. "Pleasure," brethren, because it is the first time that I find myself counted in the ranks of the P.M.s. of the Moira Lodge, and "Pride," because it is my duty to respond for my betters. Worshipful Master and brethren: I feel I need hardly assure you how deeply sensible the P.M.s. are of the very kind reference which has been made to them, and it is also almost unnecessary to say that it will ever be their aim and pleasure to do all in their power to maintain and support the very high

standard that the Moira Lodge has attained in Freemasonry—but, brethren, I must not forget that in responding to the toast of the P.M., I am also answering for myself, and much as I should like to annex some of the very kind things that the W.M. has said of me—my natural modesty will not allow it, my conscience will not permit. I think, therefore, that as regards myself, the words of the W.M. must not be taken in their literal sense, but simply as evidence that my efforts while in the chair of the Moira Lodge have not been altogether unappreciated, and what that light work I had to do (and which was rendered still lighter by the kind consideration of those around me) has not been altogether fruitless. W.M. and brethren: On behalf of the P.M.s. of the Moira Lodge, amongst whom I am proud to connect myself, I thank you for the very kind toast which has been given and received in our behalf.

"The Health of the Officers of the Lodge" was acknowledged (in the absence of the S.W.) by Bro. J. Webb, J.W.

"The Treasurer and Secretary" was responded to by Bros. Wilkinson and Gould.

The Tyler's toast brought the speeches to a close.

During the evening an excellent selection of music, under the direction of Bro. Henry Lindsey, was proceeded with, the artistes being—vocalists—Madame Ida Everard, Miss Kate Probyn, Bros. Henry Lindsey, Wingrove Ives, and Fred. Cozens; violin, Miss Winifred Jones; and pianoforte, Mrs. Warner-Hollis and Bro. Herbert A. Gisby.

Alfred Lodge, No. 306.

The brethren of the above lodge assembled in the Masonic Hall, Carlton Hill, Leeds, on Friday, the 4th inst., to witness the installation of Bro. Alfred Redmayne, S.W., as W.M. for the ensuing year, and to celebrate the Festival of St. John the Evangelist. Unusual interest was centered in the function from the facts that the Installing Master was to be no less a personage than Bro. J. C. Malcolm, a P.M. of the lodge, J.G.D. of England, P.P.G.R., who is the Dep. Prov. G.M. of West Yorkshire, and that the service was to be fully choral, for the first time, we believe, in the history of Masonry in Leeds. These circumstances drew together a full attendance of the brethren of the lodge and a large and distinguished gathering of Present and Past Provincial Grand Officers and visitors from nearly all parts of the province.

The lodge having been opened by the retiring W.M., Bro. William Blackburn, the ode "Hail Eternal" was sung. After the transaction of the usual lodge business, the Dep. Prov. G. Master entered the lodge accompanied by the following Grand and Prov. Grand Officers: Bros. T. B. Whythead, P.G.S.B.; H. G. E. Green, P.G. Sec.; T. Norfolk, P.P.G.D.C.; J. Tilley, P.G.D.; W. Smithson, P.G.D. Eng.; W. S. Childe, P.G.R.; H. Allen, P.S.G.D.; A. R. Shaw, P.G.W.; the Rev. L. S. Calvert, P.G. Chap.; R. Jackson, P.G. Treas.; W. M. Tate, P.P.G.S.B.; the Rev. C. A. Lambert, P.P.G. Chap.; J. Dyson, P.P.G.S.B.; and others. Escorted by the Deacons to the dais, he was met by the W.M., who presented his gavel, which was accepted by the Dep. Prov. G.M., who occupied the chair of K.S. The usual salutations having been accorded to the Deputy by the brethren, and also to the Prov. Grand Officers, the W.M. elect was presented by the retiring W.M., the psalm "I will lift up mine eyes" was chanted, and afterwards the verses "Keep thy tongue from evil." The solo "Be thou faithful unto death" was beautifully sung by Bro. C. Blagbro, followed by the anthem (quartette) from the oratorio "Elijah," "He that shall endure to the end shall be saved." A Board of Installed Masters having been formed, the ceremony was most impressively given by the Deputy Prov. G.M. After the re-admission of the brethren, the processional ode "Hail, Masonry divine!" was sung. The newly-installed W.M. then proceeded to invest his officers as follows: Bros. J. A. Campston, S.W.; Councillor C. H. Wilson, J.W.; the Rev. C. A. Lambert, P.P.G. Chap.; J. Dyson, P.M., P.P.G.D.C., Treas.; C. Fenton, Sec.; J. A. Boorman, S.D.; R. H. Crowther, J.D.; R. A. Blackburn, I.G.; S. E. Seanor, P.M., D. of C.; J. J. Flockton, Org.; William Blackburn, I.P.M.; W. C. Ellison, P.M., Charity Steward; J. Bowers, and R. H. Blackburn, Stwds.; and W. Knight, Tyler. At the conclusion of the addresses to the W.M., the psalm—"The Lord is thy keeper," was sung. The addresses to the Wardens was followed by the chant—"I will wash my hands in innocency," and that to the brethren by the anthem—"Behold how good and joyful a thing it is, brethren, to dwell together in unity." At the closing of the lodge the hymn—"Now the evening shadows closing," was joined in by all the brethren.

The musical portion of the ceremony was placed in the hands of Bros. Blagbro, Firth, Miller, and Sharp, of Bradford, and it was carried out most excellently; Bro. J. H. Cockerlyne, 304, presided at the organ.

At the conclusion of the installation ceremony the brethren celebrated the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, when over 80 sat down to a *recherché* banquet, at which the W.M. presided.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been honoured, the W.M. proposed "The Grand Master and the Grand Officers," which was received with enthusiasm, and responded to by Bros. T. B. Whythead and W. Smithson.

The toasts relating to the Provincial Grand Lodge were also cordially received and responded to by Bros. H. Allen, P.S.G.W. of Sheffield, and Bro. W. S. Childe, P.G.R.

The glee "Of a' the airts" was given by Bros. Blagbro, Firth, Miller, and Sharp. The Deputy Prov. Grand Master, in proposing "The Health of the Worshipful Master," alluded to his past services, and expressed the confidence that the best interests of the lodge would be upheld during his year of office, and hoped that he would have a pleasant and successful term.

The toast was cordially received, and the W.M. briefly responded.

The Worshipful Master proposed the toast of "The Installing Master," and conveyed the thanks of the brethren to him for his services that afternoon, and their satisfaction that he still continued his interest in the lodge over which he had ruled with so much success years ago.

The Installing Master, who was received with loud and repeated cheering, acknowledged the compliment in a brief speech.

Then followed "The Worshipful Masters of the Leeds Lodges and the Visiting Brethren," proposed by Bros. Dyson, and acknowledged by Bros. R. G. Smith, W.M. 1042; H. J. Palethorpe, W.M. 289; W. Lawson, W.M. 600; T. Norfolk, P.P.G.D. of C.; and J. R. Barton, P.M. 42.

"The Officers of Alfred Lodge," proposed by the W.M., and responded to by Bro. J. A. Compton, S.W.; "The Masonic Charities," proposed by Bro. Taite, and responded to by Bro. W. C. Ellison, followed.

The toasts were interspersed with songs, &c., and an enjoyable evening was spent.

Skiddaw Lodge, No. 1002.

The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, Challoner-street, Cocker-mouth, on Tuesday, the 1st inst. The lodge was opened by Bro. J. P. Bennett, P.G.S., W.M., supported by his officers. The following were present: Bros. F. R. Sewell, P.G.D., D.P.G.M.; J. Lewthwaite, P.M., P.P.S.G.D.; H. Peacock, P.M., P.P.S.G.D.; T. Mason, P.M., P.P.G.P.; T. Atkinson, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; J. O. Scott, S.W.; J. Sculby, J.W.; R. Robinson, P.M., P.P.J.G.W.; E. Jackson, P.M., P.P.G.S. of W.; J. Dickinson, P.M. 371, P.P.G.D.C.; J. Walker, 902; and others.

The minutes of last regular meeting were read and confirmed, when Bro. Col. F. R. Sewell, P.G.D. Eng., D.P.G.M., was announced, received, and saluted with the usual Grand Lodge honours. The business of the meeting was to elect W.M., Treasurer, and Tyler for the ensuing year. On the ballot being taken, Bro. J. Ostle Scott was unanimously elected W.M., Bro. T. Mason, P.M., P.P.G.P., Treasurer, and Bro. J. Hewson, P.M., Tyler. Two candidates were initiated by Bro. Bennett, W.M. Bro. Mason, P.M., explained the working tools, and Bro. Sewell, P.G.D., D.P.G.M., gave the charge in a very effective manner.

On the conclusion of the business, the brethren adjourned to Bro. Peacock's, where refreshments were provided at the invitation of the W.M. A very pleasant evening was spent.

Piccadilly Lodge, No. 2550.

The installation meeting of this successful lodge was held at the Café M. nico, Piccadilly, on the 3rd inst. Bro. W. F. Bates, P.M., W.M. presided, and he was supported by Bros. F. Arnold, P.M., I.P.M.; J. Russell, P.M., S.W.; A. J. Bignold, P.M., J.W.; C. Arnold, Treas.; A. W. Beckham, Sec.; W. C. Clark, S.D.; F. B. Tipton, J.D.; A. A. Jordan, I.G.; T. H. Parry, D.C.; J. Leigh, Org.; R. Bearcroft, J. Strange and G. J. Charlton, Stewards; C. P. Wyatt, F. Penn, R. L. Cooke, W. Brooman, G. W. Hayward, G. J. Anderson, P.M., R. P. Webster, W. G. Weller, J. Claxton, W. S. Broome, W. J. Gore, and L. T. Snell. The visitors were Bros. F. Duke, J.W. 1842; C. Robinson, P.M. 60; D. Moss, W.M. 1326; Geo. Holland, P.M. 1604; E. L. Berry, W.M. 2473; A. W. Pritchett, P.M. 1261; A. Simpson, 2432; H.

J. Chapman, P.M. 1694; H. G. Edwards, 186; E. Rolhouse, 1742; J. B. Fardes, 1716; W. R. King, P.M. 1671; C. H. Denny, W.M. 1671; J. B. McClellan, P.M. 529; G. B. Spicer, J.W. 1891; F. A. Sherras, 2030; F. Larner, P.M. 2054; A. Robertson, S.D. 2345; G. T. Miles, 1929; G. P. Painter, P.M. 1613; W. Kirby, 860; H. Sherras, 172; C. R. Keddle, 1172; G. Glover, W.M. 2427; P. G. W. Tykke, P.M. 1671; and R. T. West, 1744.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Auditors' report was received and adopted, and Bro. Joll Gore, 1692, was unanimously elected as a joining member. The W.M. elect, Bro. Josiah Russell, P.M., was then presented and installed into the chair by the outgoing Master, Bro. W. F. Bates, P.M., in a very able manner. The following were appointed and invested by the new W.M. for the ensuing year: Bros. W. F. Bates, P.M., I.P.M.; A. J. Bignold, P.M., S.W.; W. C. Clark, P.M., J.W.; C. Arnold, Treas.; A. W. Beckham, Sec.; T. B. Tipton, S.D.; A. A. Jordan, J.D.; T. H. Parry, I.G.; J. Leigh, Org.; R. Bearcroft, D.C.; J. Strange, A.D.C.; G. J. Charlton and C. P. Wyatt, Stewards; and G. A. Ball, Tyler. Bro. W. F. Bates, P.M., gave the customary addresses in his well-known style, and it need hardly be recorded that the manner in which he carried out the installation ceremony was faultless, and he was heartily congratulated by the brethren. The W.M. then initiated Mr. Leonard Thos. Snell, and his working of the ritual proved that the members had elected a competent ruler.

Other business followed, after which the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to a *recherché* banquet, which was admirably served under the personal superintendance of Bro. G. C. Noble, the manager.

After full justice had been done to this part of the proceedings, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured in an adequate manner.

Bro. W. F. Bates, I.P.M., said it was a pleasure to him to have the honour and privilege of proposing the next and important toast—"The Health of the Worshipful Master." They were all proud of him, and after the excellent work he had done that night it was a good omen, which might tend to show that the lodge would in every probability continue its great success. He would be able to do everything to make the lodge second to none in London, although they were only a young lodge in years, as work done well ensured success. In the W.M. they had found one who would carry out his duties with perfection, and one who was capable of presiding over any lodge with *eclat*.

The toast was received with much enthusiasm, and

Bro. J. Russell, W.M., on rising to respond, had a hearty reception. He thanked Bro. Bates for his very kind remarks, and the members for their flattering reception. He had been through the chair in his mother lodge, but he was proud and honoured to be the Master of the Piccadilly Lodge which had been very successful in the hands of his two able predecessors, Bros. F. Arnold and W. F. Bates. He had never undertaken anything in which he had not thrown his heart and soul into it, and so with Masonry, which had made him, he felt, a better man. He would to the utmost of his ability do everything possible for the lodge, and he earnestly hoped that no one would ever regret having elected him as the ruler.

In submitting the toast of "The Installing Master, Bro. W. F. Bates," the W.M. stated that it would appeal to them with peculiar interest. He was the last W.M. and it was a great advantage to the lodge to have such an ardent and thorough Mason who was never happy unless doing something for Freemasonry. He was working every day in the week for the Craft and it was impossible to have had a better Master. In presenting him with a Past Master's jewel, which he said was voted from their hearts, he hoped it would remind him that they were all his friends in the lodge and also of his happy and very successful year of office as W.M. The jewel bore the following inscription—"Piccadilly Lodge, No. 2550—Secundus—Presented by the brethren to Bro. Wm. Furbur Bates as a mark of esteem and in recognition of his valuable services as second Master. December 3rd, 1896."

Bro. Bates on rising to respond was enthusiastically received. He thanked the W.M. from the bottom of his heart for his kind words in submitting the toast and the brethren for their very hearty reception. When he was approached to become a founder of the lodge they wished him to be the first S.W. and a greater honour had never been paid him in his Masonic career. It was the proudest year of his life to have occupied the chair and he had felt the responsibilities of that high office. Having made a jocular allusion to taking a walk in Piccadilly he said it was fitting to have a lodge named after that important thoroughfare. So long as he had life it would be a pleasure to devote to the best of his ability everything to enhance the prosperity of the lodge and he should ever honour and esteem the jewel presented to him.

In giving "The Past Master, Bro. Fred Arnold," the W.M. stated that he was the father of the lodge, which, although a young one, was happy and prosperous, and could show a balance on the right side, and its success was due to him. It was his inspiration that started the lodge, of which he was the first Master, his working of the ritual was perfect, and he was a popular and good Mason. He had a charitable heart and in his Stewardship for the "Boys" he had taken up over £200, and the members were all proud of him.

In response Bro. Fred Arnold, P.M., said that he had no idea he would have been called upon, but he thanked them for the way they always received him. The W.M. had described him as the "father" and he (Bro. Arnold) was very proud of his offspring. When he was honoured by being elected the first Master, he had great doubts as to whether the lodge would be a success, but he was supported by Bro. Bates as S.W. and other good officers, and the position of the lodge was very gratifying to him. That night was a great relief to him to sit there and see the beautiful working which was, in his opinion, the best in the Metropolis.

The W.M. gave "The Initiate," which he said was the toast of the evening, and was considered so in every lodge. No army could be sustained without recruits, and so it was with Masonry. He was glad to welcome the initiate, and if one could fortell, he would say that he would be a credit to the lodge and to the Craft. He appeared to have followed the ceremony of his initiation with great interest, and he ventured to think they would afterwards hear more of him, and he was positive that he would never regret being made a Mason. Sometimes, those in the world who were not Freemasons, were inclined to scoff, but they did not know anything of the beauties, or what was done in Masonry. He held out to the initiate the Masonic hand of friendship, and hoped he would spend many years with them.

Bro. L. T. Snell stated that he had had to make speeches in his life, but never felt before that evening how he was lacking in response. He could not thank them too much for admitting him to the Order, as he had long wished to be a Mason, and felt it was something missing in his life not to be one of them. He hoped to carry out the duties imposed on all good Masons, and he looked upon his initiation as a bond with his fellow men and Masons, which he earnestly trusted to faithfully carry out.

The next toast was "The Visitors," the W.M. observing that they were always glad to have a large number, and he hoped they would all come again. They were honoured that evening with 25, of which there were four Worshipful Masters, and he coupled with the toast the names of Bros. D. Moss, W.M. 1326; E. L. Berry, W.M. 2473; C. H. Denny, W.M. 1671; G. Glover, W.M. 2427; and George Holland, P.M. 1604.

Bro. D. Moss responded. He said it was a great pleasure to him to visit the lodge. He did not at the time know whom he was going to meet, but he found in the initiate a very old friend of his, and it was an agreeable surprise to see him initiated. As W.M. of a lodge, he prided himself on the working of his officers, but the Piccadilly Lodge had a better set, and he should report to his staff that they had been outdone. The working that evening was excellent, and he had never seen better.

Bro. E. L. Berry said he had heard so much about the Piccadilly Lodge that he was glad when he was invited to attend, and if he had been asked he would have been one of the founders. The lodge was in a unique position, and the I.P.M., Bro. Bates, was a veteran in Masonry and a good Preceptor, and a great many had to thank him for what they knew of the ritual. If the initiate would throw that energy into Masonry which he did in the commercial world, he would be a great success in the Craft.

Bros. C. H. Denny and G. Holland also acknowledged the toast in eloquent terms, bearing testimony to the excellent working and the hospitality of the members.

The W.M. gave "The Treasurer, Secretary, and Officers," and said they were all good men and true and efficient, and he was proud of them. The Secretary was a veteran, and knew everything in Masonry. He associated with the toast the names of Bros. C. Arnold, Treas.; A. W. Becknam, Sec.; A. J. Bignold, P.M., S.W.; and W. C. Clark, P.M., J.W., who all responded in happy terms.

The Tyler's toast brought a very happy evening to a close.

The musical entertainment was of a superior character, and was carried out under the able direction of Bro. J. Leigh, Org., assisted by Bros. G. J. Anderson, F. Bes-Folkes, G. T. Miles, Miss Eva St. Denys, and Miss Susetta Penn. Miss Penn received two well-deserved encores, and a word of praise is due to her for her sweet and exquisite singing, which was much appreciated. Mr. Thos. T. Noakes presided at the pianoforte.

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CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

DECEMBER 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, additional trains
will be run to meet requirements of traffic. The 10.30 p.m.
express from King's Cross on Thursday, 24th December,
will not run beyond Berwick on Christmas Day morning.
Thursday, December 24th, the 5 p.m. express from King's
Cross will be continued to Melton Constable, calling at all
stations East of Peterboro'. A Special express, at ordinary
fares will leave London (King's Cross) at 12 midnight on
Thursday, December 24th, for Welwyn, Stevenage,
Hitchin, Biggleswade, Sandy, St. Neots, Huntingdon,
Peterboro', Spalding, Boston, Grimsby, Grantham,
Lincoln, Nottingham, Newark, Retford, Doncaster, Wake-
field, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Selby, York, and other
places in the North of England.

CHRISTMAS DAY, the trains will run as on Sundays,
except that the 5.15 a.m. express from King's Cross (at
ordinary fares) will be run to Peterboro', Bourne, Stam-
ford, Grantham, Lincoln, Nottingham, Doncaster, Wake-
field, Leeds, Bradford, and Halifax, stopping at the inter-
mediate stations at which it ordinarily calls, and will be
continued to York, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth,
Aberdeen, &c.

CHEAP EXCURSIONS.

THURSDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 24th (for 4, 5, 8, and
10 days), and Thursday night, December 31st (for 4, 5,
and 10 days), cheap excursions to Northallerton, Darling-
ton, Richmond, Durham, Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh,
Glasgow, Dumfries, Helensburgh, Stirling, Perth,
Dundee, Dalmally, Oban, Fort William, Montrose, Aber-
deen, Inverness, and other stations in Scotland, will leave
Woolwich (Arsenal and Dockyard), Victoria (L.C. & D.),
Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's
Cross (G.N.), and Finsbury Park. Passengers by the
excursion on December 24th return on Sunday, 27th,
Monday, 28th, Thursday, 31st December, or Saturday, 2nd
January, and those by the excursion on December 31st,
return on Sunday, 3rd, Monday, 4th, or Saturday, 9th
January, according to period of ticket taken.

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be run from LONDON (Woolwich, Victoria, Moorgate,
Aldersgate, Farringdon, and King's Cross (G.N.)), to Cam-
bridge, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Peterboro', Lynn, Norwich,
Cromer, Yarmouth, Lincoln, Boston, Spalding, Grimsby,
Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Burton, Burslem, Tutbury,
Stoke, Newark, Retford, Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham,
Huddersfield, Manchester, Liverpool, Doncaster, Wake-
field, Leeds, Bradford, Keighley, Halifax, Hull, York,
Harrogate, Bridlington, Malton, Scarborough, Whitby,
Stockton, Darlington, Richmond, Durham, Hartlepool,
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On DECEMBER 18th, and during the week preceding
Christmas Day, CHEAP THIRD CLASS RETURN
TICKETS available on December 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th,
or 25th, and for return December 26th to December 30th,
inclusive, will be issued from PADDINGTON, Kensington
(Addison-road), Hammersmith, &c., to Bath, BRISTOL,
Taunton, Barnstaple, ILFRACOMBE, EXETER, TOR-
QUAY, PLYMOUTH, Falmouth, Penzance, YEOVIL,
DORCHESTER, WEYMOUTH, &c.; and on December
23rd and 24th only, to GUERNSEY and JERSEY, to
return within 14 days. Fare 25s. The tickets will be
available by all trains.

Tickets, Pamphlets, and full particulars of Excursions
and alterations in ordinary train arrangements can be
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Offices.

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MIDLAND RAILWAY.
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.

On Christmas Day the trains will run as appointed for
Sundays, except the Newspaper Express leaving London
(St. Pancras) at 5.15 a.m., which will run to Bedford,
Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Sheffield, and Manchester,
as on Ordinary Weekdays. The 8.55 a.m. local train,
Sheffield to Leeds, &c., will await the arrival of the New-
paper Express at Sheffield.

ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26th, AND ON NEW
YEAR'S DAY,

certain booked trains will be DISCONTINUED, of which
due notice will be given by special bills at the stations.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR EXCURSIONS.

NORTH OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.

On Thursday, December 24th, for 4, 5, 8, or 10 days,
and on Thursday, Dec. 31st, for 4, 5, or 10 days, to NEW-
CASTLE, Berwick, Carlisle, Dumfries, Castle Douglas,
Kirkcudbright, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, Ayr, Kil-
marnock, Stranraer, &c., from St. Pancras at 10.5 p.m.,
Kentish Town at 10.10, Victoria (L.C. & D.) 8.20, Moor-
gate-street 9.12, Aldersgate-street 9.14, and Farringdon-
street, 9.16 p.m., and to Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Arbroath,
Montrose, Aberdeen, &c., leaving ST. PANCRAS at 9.15
p.m., Kentish Town 9.19, Victoria (L.C. & D.) 8.3, Moor-
gate-street 8.47, Aldersgate-street 8.49, and Farringdon-
street at 8.51 p.m.

RETURN TICKETS at a THIRD CLASS SINGLE
FARE for the DOUBLE JOURNEY will be issued by
the train on December 24th to the places mentioned, avail-
able for return on any day up to January 8th, 1897, and by
the train on December 31st, available for return on any day
up to January 15th, 1897.

GENERAL EXCURSION.

On Thursday night, December 24th, to Leicester, BIR-
MINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, Derby, Newark, Lincoln,
Burton, MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, Blackburn, Bolton,
Sheffield, LEEDS, BRADFORD, York, Hull,
Scarboro', Newcastle, the Lake District, &c., returning
December 27th or 28th.

IRELAND.

There will also be cheap Excursions to LONDON-
DERRY, via Morecambe, on Tuesday, December 22nd;
to DUBLIN, Ballina, Galway, Sligo, Cork, Killarney,
Limerick, BELFAST, Londonderry, Potrush, &c., on
Wednesday, December 23rd; and to Londonderry, via
Liverpool on Thursday, December 24th. See bills for times
of return.

CHEAP WEEK-END TICKETS.

The Cheap Week-end Tickets issued on Fridays and
Saturdays during the winter will also be issued on
Thursdays, December 24th and 31st, from LONDON (ST.
PANCRAS) and other MIDLAND STATIONS to the
PRINCIPAL HOLIDAY and HEALTH RESORTS for
the CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

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Fire Premiums	£732,000
Life Premiums	239,000
Interest	172,000
Accumulated Funds	-	-	-	£4,671,000



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1896.

Masonic Notes.

We are indebted to the courtesy of Bro. Zillwood Milledge, P.M. 170, &c., for a Copy of his "Historic Notes of all Souls' Lodge, No. 170, Weymouth." It is an exceedingly handsome volume, well printed and bound, and embellished with portraits of the Prov. G. Master (Bro. M. J. Guest), and many other prominent Dorsetshire Masons. The Preface and Introduction are from the pen of Bro. W. J. Hughan, P.G.D., who, though he says but little, evidently looks with the greatest

favour on this evidence of Bro. Milledge's labour. One of the points to which Bro. Hughan calls attention, is the continuity of its existence from 1767. Judging from the fact that a centenary warrant was granted in 1867, there would seem to be no doubt, at all events, in the minds of our then Grand Lodge authorities, that it had enjoyed an uninterrupted career from its constitution till that year. However, when we have read what Bro. Milledge has said upon the subject, and compared it with the statements in Bro. Lane's "Masonic Notes," we shall be in a better position to form an opinion upon the question. And this we trust we shall be able to do before the current year is ended.

* * *

That the All Souls' is a most distinguished lodge, and during its protracted existence has numbered among its members some of the ablest and most eminent Masons in Dorsetshire may not be disputed. Bro. Hughan notes that of the nine brethren who have presided over the Craft in this county as Prov. Grand Masters, as many as three in succession were chosen from its ranks, namely, Bros. W. Williams, William Eliot, and William Tucker, who successively ruled Dorsetshire from 1812 to 1853; while a glance at the latest list of Past Masters and members will suffice to show that the prominent position it has always held in Dorsetshire Masonry is fully maintained at the present day. This fact alone, apart from the question of a protracted continuous existence, will make Bro. Milledge's work all the more interesting, not only to Dorsetshire Masons, but to the Craft generally.

* * *

Doubtless, when we have had an opportunity of reading carefully the contents of this history, or, as Bro. Milledge prefers to call it, these "Historic Notes," we shall find many references to curious old Masonic customs—that is, if the lodge is fortunate enough to possess its earlier records—and chatty remarks and reflections about the Masonic worthies of by-gone days. No doubt, also, we shall obtain an insight into the doings of the All Souls' Royal Arch Chapter attached to the lodge, as well as into those of the other Masonic bodies which have been established in Weymouth by our All Souls' brethren. It is, however, of little use to speculate as to what is in store for us when we come to peruse over Bro. Milledge's work with that care which it manifestly deserves. He must have devoted much time and labour to its compilation, and we feel sure that it will be due not to any fault or oversight of his if the "Historic Notes" are not as ample and interesting as notes on the history of so old a lodge are expected to be, but rather to the disjointed state of the records, or, more likely still, to the destruction or loss of those records.

* * *

It is also with great pleasure that we acknowledge receipt of Bro. Fred. J. W. Crowe's new work on "Masonic Clothing and Regalia," both British and Continental, published by T. C. and E. C. Jack, Grange Publishing Works, Edinburgh. It is both an elaborate and a comprehensive work, and apart from the fact that it contains a series of very beautiful plates showing the clothing and regalia worn by the different Grand Lodges and Grand Orientals, with ample descriptive letterpress, is historically interesting, seeing that in one case are given representations of the jewels belonging to the Lodge of Edinburgh, No. 1 on the roll Scotland, while generally we are able to judge from the whole 36 plates, how closely other countries have followed, or to what extent they have deviated from the clothing, &c., of the British Grand Lodges, from which they have at some time or other emanated either directly or indirectly. It is needless to add as regards the letterpress that it forms a complete and, as far as we have been able to judge from a hurried glance through the volume, an accurate guide to the plates. Bro. Crowe, in his Hand Books, has earned a character for accuracy and completeness, which has not deserted him in the compilation of this valuable work.

* * *

The Provincial Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Chapter of Nottinghamshire held their respective annual meetings at the Masonic Hall, Nottingham, on Thursday, the 10th instant. The Reports of the proceedings—which reached us too late for insertion in this issue—will appear next week. In the meantime, however, we may state that Bro. his Grace the Duke of St. Albans presided in the former, and that a resolution in favour of the action of the Board of Management of the Boys' School in removing the Institution "to a more desirable locality" was carried by a large majority. At the Provincial Grand Chapter,

Comp. his Honour Judge William Masterman was installed in office as Grand Superintendent, the ceremony being performed by M.E. Comp. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., G.J., assisted by Comps. E. M. Kidd and J. M. Perry, as H. and J. respectively.

* * *

We publish with pleasure a report of the consecration of a new chapter—the St. John-at-Hackney—which is attached to Lodge No. 2511, bearing the same name, and consecrated some two years and a half ago. The ceremony was, of course, performed by the Grand Scribe E., Comp. Letchworth, and to judge from the proceedings, there are good grounds for hoping that the new chapter will prove a success. It starts under the auspices of an experienced Mason—Comp. G. Gordon, P.Z., as M.E.Z., and no doubt before his year of office is ended it will have an exceedingly good muster roll of members. It has our heartiest good wishes for its prosperity, and a long career of usefulness.

* * *

According to the *Canadian Craftsman*, Freemasonry has been making great progress of late years in Spain. One of its lodges in Madrid, La Humanidad, has recently acquired a temple in the centre of the city. It occupies all the three stories of this building, and all are elegantly furnished, while a portion is devoted to the entertainment of indigent brethren until such time as due provision can be made for their requirements. What has the Spanish priesthood to say to this exhibition of Masonic audacity? It is misfortune enough for them to know that Masons exist anywhere without having them planted in the very heart of the city that was sacred to the Inquisition.

* * *

The *Freemasons' Repository* for last month contains an account of an important Masonic function which was held in Providence, Rhode Island, on the 15th October, when Bro. William H. Crawley, M.W.G. Master, laid the foundation-stone of the new State House now in course of erection. The Masons as a body took no part in the ceremony, only the Officers of the Grand Lodge being in attendance on the occasion. The proceedings, which were of the usual character, included a very interesting address delivered by Bro. the Rev. C. W. Sellick, in the course of which he expatiated at some length and with marked ability on the merits of Freemasonry. If we may be allowed to judge from the very excellent illustration which accompanies the account, the new State House in Providence, when completed, will be a handsome and imposing structure.

* * *

We notice with pleasure that all the more valuable features which have for a long time past characterised the *Repository* are at least as prominent as ever under the new proprietorship of our Rev. Bro. Dr. Rugg, who for years has been the responsible Editor, and who now, as both proprietor and editor, is able to conduct it entirely in accordance with his own wishes. If, indeed, there is any difference noticeable in the character of the contents it is in the direction of improvement. He still gives, in addition to leading articles, a budget of news from north, east, south, and west, with the "Questions and Answers," which, as the former are always very fully, and, at the same time, very carefully answered in the latter, constitute by no means the least valuable portion of the journal. We remark that the first of the series of questions is one based on the difficulties in which a lodge is placed through some two or three of its members having adopted that odious practice of indiscriminately black-balling all candidates who present themselves for acceptance. The querist is very anxious to know if measures cannot be taken to put an end to this. The editorial answer is a model of cautious advice as to what is possible according to the circumstances of the case.

* * *

We learn from the *Indian Masonic Review* that the District Grand Lodge of Madras has determined upon instituting a Charity jewel, the qualification to be a donation of 500 rupees to the Madras Masonic Institute or the collection of a similar amount. It suggests that the next thing to do will be to institute a gold jewel for competition, but if this is done, we trust it will be limited to the collection of substantial amounts. If not, the individual Mason who can only afford to make a small personal donation will be seriously handicapped in the competition against those who are rich enough to give largely. Moreover, the collection of a large sum means an immense amount of work which is not always of the most agreeable character. Thus the hope of winning the gold jewel will help materially to sweeten this labour.

Correspondence.

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

THE NEW ZEALAND QUESTION.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Bro. Lamonby has so well answered the letter of my good friend, Bro. T. B. Whytehead, by pointing out the mistaken idea under which Bro. Whytehead seems to have written that there is little for me to add.

I have only to say that if I erred in using the word "loyal," I am content to err in excellent company. I find "loyal" defined in *Webster's Dictionary* as "Faithful or true to a prince or superior," and this is what I maintain that those who wish to "adhere to their allegiance" most distinctly are.

I refrain from defining those who do not wish to "adhere to their allegiance" to the Grand Lodge from whom they derive their Masonic existence. I leave that to Bro. Whytehead to do.

But when Bro. Whytehead says that "every Grand Lodge . . . has been formed by lodges holding under other Constitutions" I am puzzled. Under what other Constitutions did the Four Old Lodges hold in 1717? Can he identify the lodges holding under "other Constitutions" who took part in the institution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1736?

I cannot better, I think, justify the position I take than by referring to the sixth paragraph of the letter of Lord Zetland to Bro. Harrington, P.G.M. of Quebec and the Three Rivers, which is fully set out in the minutes of Grand Lodge of 3rd March, 1858, every word of which seems to me to apply to the present question.—Yours fraternally,

LEX SCRIPTA.

14th December.

The paragraph referred to is as follows:

"6th. Whilst I abstain from giving an opinion whether any or what circumstances can absolve Masons from their moral obligation, and justify them in separation from their mother Grand Lodge, I conceive it to be my duty to point out that 'in the present unfortunate and conflicting condition of "Freemasonry in Canada," it is impossible that I could consistently with my duty as Grand Master, and the obligation of my office, recommend to the Grand Lodge the recognition of either of the bodies which have recently assumed the power of erecting themselves into a Grand Lodge. To do so would be inconsistent with the first principles of Masonic unity. Of the lodges existing in the Provinces of Canada, and holding under the Grand Lodge of England, the warrants of seven have been returned by those who have joined the Independent Grand Lodge, whilst 34 have been returned by those who have joined the Ancient Grand Lodge, leaving a large number of lodges of which some are known to remain firm in their allegiance, and of the secession of others there is no official record. It is plain that the Grand Lodge of England has no right or title to absolve from their allegiance the brethren who are anxious to preserve it; it is equally clear that it is the duty, the sacred duty, of the Grand Master and Grand Lodge to support them in maintaining their allegiance and in preserving inviolate their obligation to their parent Grand Lodge. Bearing in mind that there are already two self-erected Grand Lodges in Canada; that there are many lodges which have not joined either; that there are others who, having never wavered in their fidelity, pray to have a Prov. Grand Master appointed in the place of him who has seceded from them, and who desire to remain under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, I cannot think that any reasonable Mason, will, upon a calm and deliberate review of the facts, come to any other conclusion than that recognition is impossible; and that even were it accorded, it would lead only to increased confusion."

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Technically Bro. Lamonby is right, but he knows as well as I do that the confirmation of the Resolution of July to all intents and purposes settled the matter.—Yours fraternally,

T. B. WHYTEHEAD.

Dec. 15th.

REFRESHMENT AFTER LABOUR.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I trust that "Delta's" letter in your last number will have a good effect. The custom of going through a long list of toasts after every ordinary meeting is getting a terrible infliction, and, I am sure, keeps many members from attending, particularly those who have had some years' experience of Masonry. The tedious repetition of the "same old tale," and the "back-scratching" that gets on, especially with visitors, is positively nauseous in not a few lodges I know of. Why not make the refreshment interval what the word implies? Few lodges are without a competent Organist to accompany vocalists, and if the W.M. would request brethren to bring their songs with them a really pleasant time might be passed, and meetings made more attractive and social. The W.M. has this in his own hands, and if he will persist in going through the whole list, with "firing" to each toast, he cannot expect the general body of members to care about putting in an appearance.

May I suggest, Sir, that you should discourage off-night chatter, and, except in very special circumstances, ruthlessly cut down exuberant verbosity. It is quite rare to read an after-dinner speech which possesses the charm of novelty, but I must admit that readers of the *Freemason* do occasionally take that pleasure. It is, however, to the everyday lodge meeting that the criticism mostly applies.—Faithfully yours,

AN OLD P.M.

Kingston-on-Thames, Dec. 14.

FREEMASONRY AMONGST THE NEGROES IN THE U.S.A.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

In an interesting article on "Coloured Freemasonry," which appeared in your issue of the 24th October, I read the following statement:

"Bro. Prince Hall, a coloured man, who (it was alleged) had been, with 14 other coloured men of Boston, U.S.A., initiated into Freemasonry in an army lodge, warranted by the Grand Lodge of England, and the first W.M. of the African Lodge, No. 459, warranted by the Grand Lodge of England, issued a license to 13 black men, who had been made Masons in England, to assemble and work a lodge in Philadelphia, &c., &c."

My object in writing to the *Freemason* is to enquire whether the records of the Grand Lodge of England go to prove that a warrant was granted to Bro.

Prince Hall and other coloured Masons constituting the African Lodge, No. 459, in 1784.

Further, is there any evidence extant in this country of the fact that the 13 black men licensed by Bro. Prince Hall to work a lodge in Philadelphia "had been made Masons in England" as alleged in the article; if such were a fact there should be some record of it in this country. I had never before heard of anything of the kind, and would like further information on the subject if your readers can assist me.

EX-SECRETARY, P.M.

A SUGGESTION.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

The suggestion made by "P.M." in the *Freemason* of the 5th inst., that there should be a Masonic thanksgiving service in St. Paul's Cathedral on the completion of the 60th year of her Most Gracious Majesty's reign is a most admirable one, and it is to be hoped that it will "catch on" (as the Americans say). It should have the cordial support of all loyal Masons—and where is there one who is not loyal?—throughout the empire, and will certainly be the grandest thing that can be done on the occasion.

We do not, however, want it as "an answer to the Pope" or anyone else we want it simply as a means for evincing our deep gratitude to the Great Architect of the Universe for having, in His Mercy, given us the Victorian era, and as an opportunity for displaying our devoted loyalty to such an estimable Sovereign.—Yours fraternally,

PAST GRAND WARDEN OF DEVON.

December 9th.

P.S.—If "P.M." will exchange addresses through you I shall be glad to assist him to bring about the adoption of his splendid suggestions.

Masonic Notes and Queries.

1091.] AN OLD FRENCH CERTIFICATE.

Bro. Crowe's interesting article on old and curious Certificates, in the Christmas *Freemason*, induces me to send you particulars of a very old French Certificate in my possession, even older than Bro. Crowe's.

It is on parchment 13½ + 7½ and wholly in manuscript as follows:

"A L'orient De Marseille et De La Loge la parfaite Union.

"Aux R. Loges Regulieres De la surface De la Terre. Salut. Salut. Salut.

"Nous Les Maitres En L'art Royal Et officiers De la loge la Parfait Union, fille De Clermont Certifions que Le frere Fouque Membre De notre Loge y'a travaillé En apprentif, Compagnon Maitre et Parfait, et exhortons Les D. L. R. De l'admettre En Cette Qualité a leurs Sublimes travaux apres Les Epreuves Sur Ce Requite et pour que Le present Certificat ne puisse Servir a Des Profanes avons fait signé Le Dit f. Fouque Sous L'emprunte De notre Sceau; Demandons De plus Pour Luy aux R. Loges Accueil et Secours Ainsi que nous En Vons Envers Les membres Des Loges Dignement Constituees. Delivré a L'orient De notre Respectable Loge Le 6^e De May En Plein Midy L'an De la Lumiere 5761."

At the foot are eleven signatures, viz.: L. F. Tarteirons, Vble. Mc.

Conte	Pr. St.
Arnaud	Sd. St.
R. Beauregard	Tresor.
Chateaneuf	Ora.
Giraudel	Sec. par interim.
E. Vernet	
J. F. Brandenbourg.	
J. F. Laurent-Riequier.	
Lequeux.	
A. Ramband.	

The signature of the Master (Vble. Mc.) has the compasses in front of it, and a square at the end, and just below it a small red wax seal (device effaced). On the left margin is a large red wax Seal and the signature of the recipient, "J. F. Fouque." In the top left corner is the endorsement—"Quaranteneuvieme frere Cote Vingt. six" (Forty-ninth brother, No. 26.)

The following is a free translation:

"From the Lodge of 'Perfect Union,' Orient of Marseilles.

"To all Regular Worshipful Lodges throughout the World. Thrice Greeting.

"We, Masters of the Royal Art, and Officers of the Lodge of Perfect Union, a daughter Lodge of Clermont, certify that our Brother Fouque is a member of our Lodge, and has worked therein in the degrees of Apprentice, Companion, Master and Perfect Master, and we request all Regular Lodges to admit him to their labours in these degrees on this recommendation after due examination, and in order that this Certificate may not be used by the uninitiated, we have caused it to be signed by the said Brother Fouque and sealed with our Seal; we request also for him from all Regular Lodges a due recognition and assistance, as we also are prepared to extend to the members of all regularly constituted Lodges. Given in the East of our Worshipful Lodge, at noon of the 6th of May in the year of Light 5761."

J. T. THORP.

Craft Masonry.

Nelson Lodge, No. 700.

The first meeting of the above lodge since the vacation was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Plumstead, on the 18th ult., when over 130 members and visitors were present. The new W.M., Bro. G. Porter, carried out the ceremonies of the Three Degrees in an admirable manner showing clearly that the prestige of the lodge would not suffer at his hands. After the ordinary business was concluded the W.M. in a neat speech presented to the late Secretary, Bro. J. Warren, P.M., on behalf of the lodge a handsome Past Secretary's jewel and an address beautifully inscribed on vellum testifying the brethren's appreciation of his services during the nine years he served the lodge in that capacity and their regret on his resigning that appointment. A further mark of their esteem was shown by the presentation to him of a fine three-stone diamond ring, and (for his wife's acceptance) a gold lever watch and chain with a suitable inscription, each of which were subscribed for by the members of the lodge. Bro. Warren feelingly responded, assuring all present that the gifts would ever be cherished by his wife and himself, that he should ever remember that night, and although he had given up the important position of Secretary, he should always be ready, as he ever was, to do anything he could for the welfare of the Nelson Lodge and its members. After the lodge was closed refreshments were partaken of, and a capital musical programme gone through, everyone present being delighted at the evening's enjoyment.

Wentworth Lodge, No. 1239.

The stability of Freemasonry and the consistency of its members continue year by year to obtain greater recognition and afford stronger illustration. No sooner does one Worshipful Master, after displaying all the Masonic attributes during his reign, retire from the chair than in steps another, prepared to take up and continue the good work, and anxious to emulate, or even exceed, if possible, the achievements of his predecessor. Where this is the case—and it is now the rule—the lodge renews its youth, so to speak, at each anniversary festival, and starts again upon its course with fresh energy and zeal unabated. Thus the mystic circle widens, influences for good extend, and the world is found the better through the silent working of our Order. Freemasonry, we are taught, is a progressive science. Quite so; but progress is a relative term, and what may seem rapid in some conditions is in others a scarcely perceptible movement. There can be no doubt in the mind of the observant man, however, that, let the cause be what it may, the development of Freemasonry of late years has been very marked. We say development, for both in numbers and in the amount bestowed upon our Charities, this increase is apparent; there is, however, besides these, a manifest advance in intelligent interest and appreciation. This is shown in improved working, in better attendance at instruction, and, perhaps more than all, in the fearless and persevering inquiry into the history of our Order and its *raison d'être*. The old-fashioned Past Master looks back with a sigh, and would recall the days gone by—days when all knowledge of ritual was confined to one or two, when inquiry of any kind was deprecated, when such terms as *Quatuor Coronati*, *Commentaria Hibernica*, et *hoc genus omne* were unknown, and when—to be fair—banquets were unheard of, and champagne at a Masonic supper was not dreamt about. Now, instead of ignorant submission to his ruling, he finds a few, perhaps, prepared to argue, and he notes that those who have recently passed the chair regard his opinions on Masonic traditions with good-natured tolerance. Powerless to alter it, he accepts the situation, and, if a sensible man, makes the best of it, yet he shakes his head. And thus it is always. Youth says *Carpe diem*; old age, *Èheu fugaces!* A Masonic community is a little world, and in most instances a very active, not to say wide-awake, world. This is so in Sheffield, at any rate. The activity is unmistakable, the intelligence pronounced, and the unanimity and good feeling—all things considered—remarkable. Of the eight lodges of which the city now boasts, not the least to display these good points is the Wentworth Lodge, No. 1239. Instinct with life, in the full vigour of lusty existence, it met on Monday, the 7th inst., when, amid the congratulations of a large gathering, Bro. Thomas Rowbotham received at the hands of Bro. T. E. Barker, the transfer of that authority, which, though, absolute, is so rarely abused. After a year of successful rule, a year during which Bro. Barker has more than realised the estimate which the brethren at its commencement so justly formed, he has laid down the cares of office and passed on his gavel to an equally worthy and esteemed successor. Wentworth Lodge is considerably above the average in the matter of numbers, so that what with its own members and the crowds of visitors who assembled to do honour to Bro. Rowbotham, the capacity of both lodge and dining-room were fairly tested.



THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER.

The lodge was opened by Bro. T. E. Barker, W.M., assisted by the following officers: Bros. M. J. Dodworth, I.P.M.; T. Rowbotham, S.W.; T. Firth, J.W.; W. F. Cole, Sec.; A. J. Forsdike, Asst. Sec.; G. Wragg, S.D.; J. Green, J.D.; A. E. Kirkham, P.M., D.C.; E. Rowbotham, Asst. D.C.; J. A. Rogers, Org.; W. D. Forsdike, I.G.; and E. G. Whiteley and I. C. Brameld, Stwds. After the minutes were read, the officers of Prov. Grand Lodge entered, viz.: Bros. J. C. Malcolm, Dep. Prov. G.M., G.D. Eng.; H. Allen, P.S.G.W.; E. Drury, P.P.G.W.; T. H. Vernon and H. Nixon, P.P.G.Ds.; J. Mathewman, Prov. A.G. Sec.; and H. J. Garnett and J. E. Darling, P.P.G.S.Bs. The brethren of the Wentworth Lodge comprised Bros. J. Broadhead, P.M.; E. E. Holliday, P.M.; J. Robertshaw, P.M.; J. P. Hewitt, P.M.; F. S. H. Wilson, P.M.; M. J. Dodworth, P.M.; G. Senior, T. Nixon, A. J. Birks, J. Struges, S. Wetherell, W. Fearnough, F. S. Hardy, R. Hanbidge, A. G. M. Jack, H. Johnson, W. H. Dixon, S. Oates, J. T. Thompson, H. Adrain, E. Beck, and T. Spewart. Visitors—the W.Ms. of the following Sheffield lodges: Bros. G. B. Wood, 296; R. O. Wever, 1779; T. Harrison, 2263; and W. Gunstone, 2491; also W. Gadsby, P.M. 1179, 2491, P.P.G. Org. Derby; W. C. Fox, P.M. 2263; A. C. Pennock, P.M. 1508, Sukkur, India; E. Dickinson, P.M. 139; J. Barton and A. E. Rowland, 1779; C. Simmons, 1225; S. Smith, R. C. Honey, and C. H. Smith, of 2263; C. A. Hahn and W. Sales, of 2491; G. Foster, 904; C. Baggaley, W.M., W. Roper, and G. T. Y. Dickinson, of 2355; W. A. Birks, 1802; W. J. Maidment, 2558; F. Stanton, 681; G. Alcock and F. Hill, 2373; W. Lindlar, 296; J. W. Shipman, 2263; John Stokes, W.M. elect 139; A. Davidson, 2558; G. E. Hardcastle, 2259; and T. F. Holmes, P.M., P.P.G.D.C. The installation ceremony was at once proceeded with. The W.M. elect, Bro. T. Rowbotham, after presentation by Bro. J. E. Darling, P.M., was addressed and obligated by the Installing Master, Bro. T. E. Barker. After the brethren had retired a Board of some 25 Past Masters was formed and Bro. Rowbotham was inducted by his predecessor with the usual ceremonial, and was proclaimed and saluted. The working tools in the various Degrees were presented by Bros. H. Nixon, P.M.; F. S. H. Wilson, P.M.; and J. Robertshaw, P.M. The W.M. invested his officers, administering each in suitable terms, as follows: Bros. T. E. Barker, I.P.M.; T. Firth, S.W.; W. F. Cole, J.W.; J. P. Hewitt for J. B. Wostenholme, Treas.; A. J. Forsdike, Sec.; G. Wragg, Asst. Sec.; T. Green, S.D.; E. Rowbotham, J.D.; J. Broadhead for C. Stokes, D.C.; W. D. Forsdike, A.D.C.; T. Nixon, Org.; E. G. Whiteley, I.G.; J. C. Brameld and J. A. Rodgers, Stwds.; and T. Leighton, Tyler. Bro. J. P. Hewitt, P.M., was unanimously elected for the third time to represent the Wentworth Lodge on the West Yorkshire Charity Committee. When the usual questions were put from the Chair, the Deputy, Bro. J. C. Malcolm, briefly thanked the W.M. in the name of the Prov. Grand Master and himself for the invitation given them, complimented Bro.

Barker on the able way in which he had conducted the installation, and congratulated Bro. Rowbotham who, he declared would prove a most capable and competent Master. After apologies had been announced from Bros. W. L. Jackson, M.P., P.G.M.; W. H. Brittain, P.M., P.G.S.B.; H. G. E. Green, P.M., Prov. G. Sec.; Charles Stokes, P.M., and others, and certain votes of condolence passed, the lodge was closed.

At the dinner which took place in the hall below upwards of 90 brethren sat down, an excellent repast was served and the table decorations, floral and otherwise, were, as usual, profuse and beautiful.

Dinner over the toast of "The Queen" was loyally proposed and heartily received. The Worshipful Master next gave "The Health of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the Most Worshipful Grand Master; the Right Honourable the Earl of Lathom, Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master, and the Officers of Grand Lodge." He said that after her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, the Prince of Wales had next place in the loyal affections of the people, and should he be spared to attain to the highest dignity in the land there was no doubt he would maintain the honour and the prestige of this mighty empire. As Masons he (Bro. Rowbotham) considered they should be especially grateful to the Prince, for by accepting the position of Grand Master he imparted grace and dignity to the Order, and showing his sustained interest his Royal Highness had now held that post for upwards of 21 years, a proof that the ennobling principles of Freemasonry were worthy of being adopted and practised by the highest and greatest in the land. They were also, the W.M. declared, especially fortunate in having so experienced and enthusiastic a Mason as Lord Lathom to act as Pro G. Master. In his double capacity, for he holds the office of Prov. G. Master of W. Lancashire, Lord Lathom had twice visited this province—in 1885 to install our late Prov. G. Master, Bro. T. W. Tew, and in 1893 to perform that office in the case of our present chief, the Right Hon. W. L. Jackson. The importance of the toast was still further enhanced, however, by the fact that there was amongst them that night a present officer of Grand Lodge in the person of Bro. J. C. Malcolm. They appreciated him in his nearer and useful capacity as Deputy of this Province as well as in the more ornamental one of Junior G. Deacon, and were especially delighted that he should desire to make the acquaintance of the brethren of 1239. Bro. Malcolm's reputation had preceded him, they knew how he had twice passed the chair in his lodge and how munificent and constant his support of the Masonic Charities had been. He would couple the toast with Bro. Malcolm's name wishing him long life, health, and prosperity.

The brethren responded heartily and "God bless the Prince of Wales," was sung. Bro. J. C. Malcolm said he was proud to be in the position to reply to the toast and pleased at the cordiality with which it had been received, but was a little taken aback by the great praise which their W.M. had bestowed upon himself. It was not, of course, expected that he should follow up the panegyric in regard to the Grand Officers. No doubt, it was deserved, but so far as his own experience had gone, he had not found it quite so simply ornamental as their W.M. would have them believe. It involved frequent journeys to London, for he was, Bro. Malcolm declared, one of those who believed it was the duty of him who accepted a collar to do the work which appertained to the office. Many brethren once having obtained the distinction seemed to pass out of active Masonic life; this should not be, for it was a reproach to the bearer and might be looked upon as a reflection upon the judgment of those who made the selection. Bro. Malcolm spoke of the Grand Secretary in terms of praise and said that no better executive existed than that of Grand Lodge. The W. Dep. concluded by offering his warmest thanks for the reception he and the toast had received. Loyalty in the province he certainly looked for, and he was proud to say that it was spontaneous and constant and he could assure them it met with the fullest appreciation.

After the Tyler's toast and a cornet solo by Bro. R. C. Honey, "Only once more," by Moir,

The W.M. rose to propose "The Right W. Prov. G. Master of West Yorkshire the W. Deputy, and the Officers of Prov. G. Lodge, Present and Past." He said that, West Yorkshire had always been fortunate in having to preside over its destinies men of sterling worth and actuated by Masonic principles. He and they with him rejoiced that the mantle of the late respected Prov. G. Master Bro. Tew had fallen upon the shoulders of so able a brother as the Right Hon. W. L. Jackson. The Prov. G. Master was a busy man, but Bro. Rowbotham declared that it was not to the lazy "society" drones but to those who believe with Bro. Jackson that

Life is real, life is earnest,

they looked for the discharge of the delicate yet arduous duties of Prov. Grand Master. After enumerating the many appointments which Bro. Jackson held, Bro. Rowbotham wondered how he could find time for Masonic affairs at all. His doing so proved that he lived not only for himself, but was actuated by a charitable desire to benefit others. After eulogising the Deputy, whose credentials—a willingness to work and a disposition to give—they all, as Masons, recognised and appreciated, the W.M. referred to the presence amongst them of Bro. Harry Allen, P.M. of Ivanhoe Lodge, Sheffield, and S.G.W. of the province. They most of them knew him, and to name him was a guarantee that the duties of the high position he occupied would be faithfully and honourably filled. There were many Past and Present Prov. Grand Officers, he was pleased to say, about him; but he would call upon their townsman—Bro. Allen—to reply.

After a song from Bro. Stanton, Bro. Allen, who had a very warm reception, rose. He had not, he said, come prepared to make a speech, as, in the presence of the W. Deputy, he did not expect to be called upon, but after their very hearty reception of him, he would be ungrateful indeed if he did not offer acknowledgment. The kind remarks of Bro. Rowbotham, their most able and excellent W.M., and the support he had met with from the various lodges in the province, made him feel that the position of S.G.W. in West Yorkshire was by no means an unpleasant one to occupy. Bro. Allen then described a recent visit he had paid to the Alfred Lodge, Leeds, where he witnessed the installation of the W.M. by the W. Deputy, and where, amongst other interesting matters, he saw a most attractive *menu*, garnished, as it was, by apt and piquant quotations from various parts of Masonic ceremonial. Bro. Allen gave instances which provoked much mirth amongst the brethren. He concluded by congratulating the W.M. upon attaining his position, and thanking him for giving him the opportunity of being present at so large and enthusiastic a meeting.

The toast of "The Worshipful Master," proposed by Bro. T. E. Barker, I.P.M., was most enthusiastically received. Bro. Barker said that, though he had not previously had the pleasure of performing that task, yet he would not forego it on any account. Briefly sketching the career of Bro. Rowbotham, Bro. Barker showed how, after initiation some 14 years ago, and a gradual process of rising step by step, their W.M. had served an apprenticeship, which not only entitled, but also fully qualified, him to preside over them. He was sure Bro. Rowbotham appreciated the honour bestowed upon him, and he had not a doubt that he would amply justify it. Besides being W.M. of Wentworth, he might remind them that Bro. Rowbotham was at that moment also W.M. of the Britannia Mark Lodge in Sheffield, and was moreover Scribe N. in the Paradise Chapter and Registrar and Prov. G.S.B. in the De Furnival K.T. Preceptory. He filled the important post of Vice-President and M.C. of the Masonic dance assemblies in Sheffield, and in that capacity he enjoyed the entire confidence of the ladies. "Let us then," continued Bro. Barker "emulate the ladies by placing our trust in him and as to the rest I think he can't be likely to get far wrong, as the affection and esteem of his Past Masters would prevent any tendency in that direction were such possible."

A song by Bro. Wm. Gadsby followed. Bro. Gadsby is a great favourite in Sheffield and as usual delighted his audience thoroughly. He chose a characteristic production entitled "Gipsy John," the music by the late F. Clay. It is needless to say that full justice was done to the composer. After which the Worshipful Master after several efforts at length obtained a hearing. He said: W. Dep. Prov. G. Master, Bro. Barker and brethren, I thank you from my heart for the kind way in which you have received the too flattering description of myself as given by Bro. Barker in proposing this toast. It will be an incentive to me, I assure you, to use my best exertions to maintain harmony and prosperity in the lodge. I approach the work of the chair with some trepidation although I have discharged most of the inferior offices. I have had some little experience and the instructive guidance of the Past Masters, the dutiful assistance of my officers, and the generous forbearance of my brethren will, I hope, combined, contain all the elements of successful management so that I may maintain the honour of the chair when in it and may leave it with the esteem and good will of every one of you.

Bro. Forsdike here sang "In friendship's name," which was much appreciated. The other toasts were "The Installing Officer and I.P.M., Bro. T. E. Barker," proposed by Bro. J. Robertshaw and most gracefully acknowledged; "The Masonic Charities," "The Sister Lodges and Visiting Brethren," "The Past Masters," and "The Officers."

Music, instrumental and vocal, was interspersed and Hatton's most delightful part song "When evening's twilight," was not the least of the gems submitted.

We regret that our space forbids particulars of the speeches of the various proposers and the particularly happy replies. The evening passed rapidly and delightfully and perhaps we cannot give greater praise than to say that the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Wentworth Lodge under the popular rule of Bro. T. Rowbotham was celebrated in the fashion for which West Yorkshire generally, but Sheffield in particular, is eminently distinguished.

Mozart Lodge, No. 1929.

The installation meeting of this distinguished and well-known musical lodge was held at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon, on the 5th inst., when there were present Bros. H. J. Macfarlane, P.P.G. Org., W.M.; R. S. Taylor, I.P.M.; F. West, D.P.G.M.; C. H. Howlett, S.W., W.M. elect; W. Wesché, J.W.; J. J. Lamigeon, Treas.; F. Flood, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., Sec.; J. A. Chalk, D.C.; W. Salmon, A.D.C.; R. J. Porter, I.G.; A. Toop, Org.; W. Squier, J. J. Kern, and G. C. Tegetmeier, Stwds.; F. Whatley, A. J. Stopher, John Sinclair, G. Briggs, W. D. Bolton, S. McLewin, W. W. Jaggard, H. T. Dudman, W. H. Bartlett, A. R. Shubbrook, P. Notcutt, T. H. B. Bolton, John Lecquire, W. H. Shiner, Wm. Dennis, H. J. Salmon, Trefelyn David, F. Oxley, R. Groome, Dr. W. Groome, and G. Harrison, Tyler. Visitors: Bros. J. Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I.; W. H. Dallimore, P.M., Sec. 87; J. H. Cureton, P.M., Sec. 2182; A. Holmes, P.M., Sec. 598; W. Wills, P.M., Treas. 1901; R. Greenwood, P.M. 1641; G. H. Kitson, P.M. 548; E. Nightingale, P.M. 87; A. B. Butt, J.W. 753; F. Isitt, Org. 2408; A. A. Row, J. Phillips, Org. 463; H. Osmond, 2182; G. Watts; W. Briggs, 1366; A. E. Rowe, 2580; E. P. Waymouth, 1744; J. J. De Haes, 1052; H. Hill, 1580; R. Naegeli, 2551; A. W. Cooper, 619; and K. T. West, 1744.

After the usual routine business the W.M., Bro. Macfarlane, passed Bro. Willy Hugh Bartlett to the Second Degree, and the Auditors' report having been received, the W.M. elect, Bro. Charles Henry Howlett, was presented by the I.P.M., Bro. R. S. Taylor, and installed into the chair by the out-going Master, Bro. Macfarlane, in a most impressive manner. The following brethren were appointed officers, and with the exception of three absentees, were invested: Bros. W. Wesché, S.W.; L. R. Dicksee, J.W.; Rev. H. V. Tyrrel, Chaplain; J. J. Lamigeon, Treas.; Fredk. Flood, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C. Surrey, Sec.; Edwd. Branscombe, P.P.G. Org. Surrey, S.D.; R. J. Porter, J.D.; J. A. Chalk, I.G.; Walter Salmon, D.C.; J. J. Kern, Asst. D.C.; G. C. Tegetmeier, Trefelyn David, Wingrove Ives, and W. R. Dennis, Stewards; Augustus Toop, Org.; and G. Harrison, Tyler. The customary addresses were eloquently given by the I.P.M., Bro. Macfarlane. The W.M. then rose and stated that it was his great pleasure to present Bro. Macfarlane, in the name of the lodge, with a Past Master's jewel, as a small token for his very efficient services in the chair. He was already well embellished for what he had done for Freemasonry and there was no doubt he was a great ornament in the Mozart Lodge, and his good work would ever be remembered by the members.

In acknowledging the jewel, Bro. Macfarlane, I.P.M., said it was with feelings of some reluctance that he vacated the chair after his very happy year of office in that his mother lodge, and he should always honour and esteem the jewel and it would be a pleasure to him to continue his efforts to promote in every way possible the interests of their good lodge. Bro. Macfarlane reported that Bro. Arthur Briscoe, P.M., P.P.G. Org., had been very ill and confined to his bed for 14 weeks and the Secretary was instructed to convey to Bro. Briscoe the sincere regret of the members together with their warmest sympathy with him and their earnest wish for his speedy recovery. A letter was afterwards read from Bro. Arthur Briscoe tendering his resignation, which was received with regret, but he was afterwards unanimously elected as an honorary member. In eloquent and pathetic terms Bro. Macfarlane referred to the lamented death of Bro. G. J. Barnett, P.P.G.D., a P.M. of the lodge, and the brethren appeared in Masonic mourning.

The lodge was then closed and a substantial banquet followed, which was well-served under the superintendence of Bro. C. Lucken.

In giving "The Grand Officers, Present and Past," the W.M. said they were always to the fore in Masonry and set all a good example. That evening they were honoured with the presence of a Grand Officer—Bro. Terry—P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I. He was well known for the great things he had done for the Craft, and if they would only follow in his footsteps they could not go wrong.

Bro. James Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I., on rising to respond, had quite an ovation. He said it was a comprehensive toast, and it was his honour to speak of men above him in social status. The two mentioned—the Earl of Lathom and Earl Amherst—well deserved all the great things said of them, as they had done their duty to the Craft. No one could gain high honour unless they worked hard for it. He appreciated the cordial way the toast had been received, and it was always so in all lodges.

The W.M. gave "The Prov. Grand Officers, Present and Past," and said the Dep. Prov. Grand Master, Bro. F. West, had honoured them with attending the lodge that evening, but a previous engagement prevented him stopping for the banquet. The lodge had been well recognised by the Prov. Grand Lodge, as they had received seven collars during the last four years. He coupled with the toast the names of their old friends, Bros. Frederick Flood, P.P.A.G.D.C., and H. J. Macfarlane, P.G. Organist.

In response, Bro. Fredk. Flood said Bro. Macfarlane had, in point of weight, the advantage, although he (Bro. Flood) was his senior at the Prov. Grand Lodge, and if there was anything for them to do for it, they would do their very best. The Deputy Prov. G. Master had the interest of the Mozart Lodge at heart, and he had looked well after them, as they had more than their share of collars. It was kind of him to have honoured them with a flying visit, although he had previously written that he would not be able to attend. In conclusion he thanked them for having associated his name with the toast. Bro. Macfarlane, P.G.O., also acknowledged the toast in brief terms.

In proposing "The Health of the Worshipful Master, Bro. C. H. Howlett," the I.P.M., Bro. Macfarlane, stated that it was a most important toast, and he wished he could give expression to it as heartily as he felt it. Bro. Howlett had worked up from the lowest position in the lodge, and he now gained his desert by going into the chair, and he wished him, with all sincerity, a very prosperous year of office. He had appointed good officers, and everything pointed to a brilliant year of office. He had no unruly members to preside over, and if he had a happy time as he (Bro. Macfarlane) had had, he would never regret having been elected W.M. of the Mozart Lodge. He was a splendid worker of the ritual, and would be able to do everything asked of him, and he would redound to the credit of the lodge.

The toast was received with much enthusiasm, as was the W.M., Bro. Howlett, on rising to respond.

Bro. Howlett said he hardly knew how to thank them for the very hearty way they had received the toast; but Bro. Macfarlane had been too flattering in his remarks. He appreciated the very great honour of being elected the Master of such an important lodge, and might he say he deeply felt the responsibilities of his office, because he had to follow the splendid men who had gone before him. That was the last meeting they would have that year, and he took that opportunity of hoping that they would all have a good time at Christmas, with a happy, prosperous New Year to follow.

The Worshipful Master proposed "The Visitors," remarking that whether their meetings were large or small they always had plenty of visitors. There were many old friends present, and some new ones, but they were all most welcome and on behalf of the members he gave them all a hearty greeting with a wish that they would come again, and he joined with the toast the name of their very old friend, Bro. J. Terry.

Bro. Terry said he was very much surprised to be called upon to respond to the toast. The visitors had enjoyed themselves immensely and they had had the distinction of seeing the installation ceremony which was admirably performed by the I.P.M., Bro. Macfarlane. The lodge was going forward as was the town of Croydon, and Masonry would look up in Croydon. They were all delighted with the hospitality of the members and he congratulated the W.M. on the way he had invested his officers, which he thought was a good omen for his year of office, and he hoped all then present would have the opportunity of being there that time next year to see the W.M. instal his successor. He concluded a very eloquent speech by making a fervent appeal on behalf of the Old People and he hoped the W.M. would become a Steward for the festival of the Institution he had the honour to represent, and he would then say, in the words of their motto, "Let harmony prevail."

The next toast was "The Installing Officer, Bro. Macfarlane," the W.M. stating that his work was beyond praise. He (the W.M.) was very much surprised and impressed with what had taken place when the brethren who had not passed the chair were asked to leave the lodge room that evening, and he should never forget it. Bro.

Macfarlane was endeared to them and might he have long life to continue his valuable services to the lodge.

Bro. Macfarlane acknowledged the toast in a few words, but to the point.

The hour being now very late and as time and trains wait for no one, the W.M. was reluctantly compelled to dispense with the toasts of "The Past Masters," "The Masonic Charities," "The Treasurer and Secretary," "The Musical Brethren," and "The Working Officers," the W.M. observing that they must take the will for the deed, and the Tyler's toast brought to an end one of the many of the happy meetings of the Mozart Lodge it has been our privilege and pleasure to attend.

During the evening the Charity box was sent round and the substantial sum of £5 2s. 6d. was the result.

An excellent musical programme was contributed to by Bros. Reginald Groome, Trefelyn David, and W. H. Shiner, but a word is due to Bro. Groome, who gave that beautiful song, "Stars may forget,"—his own composition—with marked effect. Bros. W. Wesché and Augustus Toop presided at the pianoforte.

Borough of Greenwich Lodge, No. 2332.

About 120 brethren attended this lodge on Wednesday evening, the 25th ult., at the King William IV., East Greenwich, to assist at the installation of Bro. E. W. Higgs as its W.M., among those who signed the Tyler's book being Bros. Ralph Gooding, P.M., P.G.D.; W. J. Light, P.M., P.P.G. Supt. of Works Kent; J. G. Thomas, P.M.; W. H. Burney, P.M.; G. Banks, P.M.; G. Burney, sen., P.M.; B. G. Stringer, P.M.; G. Marcus, P.M.; J. Gore, P.M.; G. Sly, P.M.; F. Flood, P.M.; and others. After the due initiation of a candidate, the installation ceremony was impressively and perfectly performed by the retiring Master, Bro. J. H. Harper, the occupants of the chairs in the West and South being respectively Bros. H. Roberts and A. H. Oakley, Past Masters of the lodge. Having been installed in the chair of K.S., the W.M., in a manner calculated to inspire the greatest confidence in his powers, invested his officers as follows: Bros. J. H. Harper, I.P.M.; A. Eades, S.W.; W. J. Frooms, J.W.; A. H. Oakley, P.M., Treas.; W. J. Huntley, Hon. Sec.; R. D. Simpson, S.D.; E. J. Relph, J.D.; G. P. Carter, P.M., D.C.; E. S. Cockton, Org.; E. J. Cook, I.G.; F. J. Simpson, D. McCall, J. W. Rozier, and C. Waller, Stwds.; and E. Spinks, Tyler. On behalf of Bro. Sir T. W. Boord, the first W.M. of the lodge, the W.M., as representing the lodge, was presented with a life-size portrait of Bro. Boord, which will be hung on the walls of the lodge-room.

After labour the brethren discussed an excellent menu, and when the toasts of "The Queen and Craft" and "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales" had been proposed from the chair and duly accorded Masonic honours,

The Worshipful Master gave the toast of "The Pro G.M., the Earl of Lathom; the R.W. Deputy G.M., the Earl Amherst; and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," who were, he said, the mainstay and backbone of Freemasonry.

Bro. Dr. Gooding, responding, said he would not dilate upon the virtues and qualities of those who had been honoured by the imperial purple, but it would ill become him to sit down without saying who they were and what they did. They were the busy bees of the mother Masonic hive of the world. Like others, they had had to work up from the lowest rungs of the Masonic ladder, and they had not been backward in opening their purse strings in the cause of Masonic Charity. (Applause.) At the head of the Board of General Purposes was he who had just been honoured in being appointed Deputy Chairman of a principal Criminal Court, and at the head of the Board of Benevolence there had been Bro. Robert Grey, whose successor would be Bro. James Henry Matthews. The Grand Officers were only too glad to continue in the future the work they had done in the past. He himself was about to serve his eighth Stewardship of the Masonic Charities—(applause)—and he was getting near the seniority of Past Grand Deacons of England, and as long as he had the energy he would continue to do his best for brethren who might need help. Personally it had given him great pleasure to be present and see the ceremonies so efficiently performed and the Master so ably supported by his officers. He wished prosperity to the lodge, and hoped that he might soon be afforded the opportunity of being with them again. (Applause.)

The toast of the evening—that of "The W.M."—was proposed by the I.P.M., who remarked upon the fact that Bro. W. Higgs was the first initiate of the lodge who had risen to its chair, thus marking an epoch in the lodge's history. Judging from the way he had performed the investiture ceremony, he was sure the future of the lodge was safe in his hands.

Responding, the W.M. expressed the hope that on the expiration of his term of office he would have given satisfaction to the brethren and shown a good year's record.

"The Installing Master" was given by the W.M., who said that the I.P.M. had left the lodge in an excellent financial position, and the Benevolent Fund in a first-class condition. He presented to the I.P.M., on behalf of the lodge, a handsome Past Master's jewel.

Replying, the I.P.M. thanked the brethren for their kindness and support during his year of office, and remarked upon the fact that there had seldom been fewer than 60 or 70 brethren at refreshment.

"The Charities" was responded to by Bro. Oakley.

Bros. Roberts and W. H. Burney replied for "The Past Masters."

The toast of "The Treasurer and Secretary" was responded to by Bros. Oakley and Huntley.

"The Visitors" was replied to by Bros. Marcus, 1593, and F. Flood, 1929.

Bro. Silversten responded for "The Initiate."

"The Officers" was responded to by Bros. Eades and Frooms.

A musical programme was contributed by Bros. G. Burney, P.M.; G. Sly, P.M.; F. Flood, P.M.; A. Brett, G. Fishenden, J. J. Hewitt, W. Powley, E. W. Carpenter, J. Simpson, E. Walford, and G. Everard.

Humber Installed Masters' Lodge, No. 2494.

A largely attended meeting of this lodge was held on Friday, the 4th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Osborne-street, Hull, in order to listen to a lecture by Bro. R. F. Gould, P.G.D. England, entitled "The Story of the Craft and the Legend of the Guild." The W.M., Bro. G. L. Shackles, P.P.G.D., briefly introduced the lecturer, who then proceeded to deliver a most interesting lecture in which he sought to demolish the belief that our medicinal brethren held a purely Masonic assembly either annually or otherwise, as stated in the "Old Charges." He carefully reviewed the "Old Charges" and criticised their contents—mentioned that no trace could be found of any such privilege as the Masons claimed in any written document of the fourteenth or succeeding centuries—but that what assemblies they held were only in common with other freemen and were simply the tithing meeting. The lecturer traced the Family Bond, the Frankpledge, and the Frith Guild and mentioned that the Frith Guilds of London were united by King Athelstan in one guild, in one friendship, and in one enmity. In conclusion, Bro. Gould stated that in his opinion there were no purely Masonic assemblies in the middle ages. The lecture was listened to with marked attention. The W.M. moved a vote of thanks, which was seconded by Bro. John Bilson, S.W. This being election night the brethren unanimously elected the S.W. as W.M. for the ensuing year. The lodge was closed.

Empress Lodge, 2581.

The meeting of this lodge for the installation of a new W.M. was held on the 9th inst., at the Queen's Gate Hall, South Kensington. Bro. Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale, W.M., P.G.T., presided, and other brethren present included Bros. Dr. J. Balfour Cockburn, Sir J. B. Monckton, Sir Reginald Hanson, Rev. J. Studholme Brownrigg, Richard Eve, R. Loveland Loveland, Frank Richardson, Chas. Belton, Will. E. Chapman, R. Turtle Pigott, D.C.L., Maj. C.W. Carrell, C. F. Matier, Wilhelm Ganz, Thos. Fenn, Robt. Grey, E. Letchworth, G. Secc.; Capt. N. G. Phillips, P. de Lande Long, G. P. Goldney, L. G. Gordon Robbins, H. H. Crawford, J. D. Langton, Chas. Martin, A. J. R. Trendell, F. Mead, T. Hastings Miller, W. Lake, M. Jacollette, A. Hallums, J. A. Browne, Franklin Clive, J. Horsey Carson, W. Nicholl, Templer Saxe, J. R. Jones, W. Follett, S. M. Segar, Maj. Clifford Probyn, G. W. Fitzwilliam, Turner, W. H. Jeffcoat, J. Woodhouse, C. I. Kiralfy, E. Daoust, Crewdson, J. W. Woodthorpe, P. Bevan, Dr. F. H. Gervis, C. L. Carson, J. A. Harrison, E. G. Woodd, R. M. Meyer, A. R. Meyer, J. H. Dimsdale, G. D. Coleman, W. S. Hooper, C. F. Monckton, J. Dimsdale, Armour, A. Boulting, H. A. Stern, M.A., Major W. J. Bosworth, R. J. Maitland Coffin, J. H. Alabaster, J. P. Houghton, Bailey, E. Graubert, H. Massey, A. F. Stokes, T. Whitford, J. Pain, jun., F. Mulholland, W. J. Fisher, E. N. Alpe, D. F. Norington, A. J. Naughton, A. Strutt, J. Richmond, W. Newman, W. H. Bond, W. H. Pullen, S. K. Nariman, J. S. Bhumgara, E. Ashby, J. W. Clark, B. Dawson, C. E. Lumley, R. N. Khory, N. F. Bhumgara, E. Romano, W. G. Ardington, G. C. Breeze,

W. H. Coppinger, Thomas Fraser, W. S. Gillham, G. G. Kichner, J. P. Nelson, C. L. I. Noad, A. Strugnell, and A. Tite.

After the opening proceedings, Bro. Sir John B. Monckton, P.G.W., took the chair, Bro. Thomas Fenn, P.G.W., the chair of S.W., and Bro. Charles Belton, P.D.G.D.C., the chair of J.W., and Bro. Sir J. B. Monckton installed Bro. Imre Kiralfy as W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. Sir Joseph Dimsdale was invested with the collar of I.P.M., and, later on, with the collar of Treasurer of the lodge. The other brethren appointed and invested were Bros. R. Maitland Coffin, M.D., F.R.C.P., S.W.; J. H. Dimsdale, I.W.; J. W. Clark, Sec.; E. N. Alpe, S.D.; C. I. Kiralfy, J.D.; G. C. Breese, I.G.; G. D. Coleman, D.C.; J. P. Nelson and J. S. Bhungara, Stwds.; and Saml. Ellis, P.M. 1981, Tyler. A handsome Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Sir Joseph Dimsdale, and also to the late Secretary, Bro. Will E. Chapman, who is about to leave for South Africa. Bro. Sir Joseph Dimsdale, in making the presentation, said the lodge was going to suffer irreparable loss by Bro. Chapman's departure, for it was to his energy and unflagging zeal that the success of the Empress Lodge was due. But his energy was not confined to that lodge, as was known throughout the length and breadth of Masonry. The brethren desired to place on record their deep regret that Bro. Chapman was going, but they trusted his absence was only temporary, and they assured him that he would retain the esteem and affection of every brother of the lodge. Bro. Chapman thanked the brethren, who shortly afterwards closed the lodge and adjourned to an excellent banquet supplied by Spiers and Pond, Ltd.

The usual toasts were subsequently honoured.

An excellent concert formed part of the enjoyments of the evening.

Bros. Dr. J. Balfour Cockburn and Sir Reginald Hanson, M.P., responded to the toast of "The Grand Officers."

Bro. Sir Joseph Dimsdale, I.P.M., in proposing "The Health of the W.M.," said, in vacating the chair of any lodge the I.P.M. must necessarily feel many regrets; but those regrets were very much allayed by the fact that he was permitted, however inadequately to propose the health of the W.M. for the ensuing year. He could honestly say that in now proposing that toast he did it sincerely and heartily. His thoughts carried him back to rather more than that night 12 months ago, when he found around the board many of his friends and colleagues in the Craft, Present and Past Grand Officers. They were there now. He found among them Bro. Letchworth, who consecrated the lodge; Bro. Brownrigg, who acted as Chaplain; and, although himself was an humble and incompetent Mason, he also found that there was that friendly and sincere feeling existing in the Craft which caused one's brethren always to support a brother in every good undertaking. The inception of the Empress Lodge was a great success, thanks to their brethren of the Craft, and the lodge's objects had been worked out. Those who were founders of the lodge might remember that the object in view was to have a haven of Masonry for those who visited from the distant portions of Her Majesty's dominions, that vast and unique empire spreading from one end of the world to the other. They felt that they might be doing good not only to the Craft by extending the inestimable blessings of Masonry to those who were in England temporarily, who would in their turn communicate the noble doctrines of Masonry to all portions of the empire. They had had during the last 12 months a most successful history; they had initiated, he supposed, almost a record number, and they had the satisfaction of knowing that, although they might part with many of their brethren, and although they might go to distant portions of the globe, they were still with them, as Bro. Chapman would be, however, many thousands of miles he might be away, that they were bound by those feelings of sympathy and love which could only be attained by those doctrines of Freemasonry which made them loyal and true to their God and equally true and loving to their neighbour. Passing from the first year of the lodge which was naturally one of anxiety all source of anxiety as to the future was now set at rest; they had no anxiety as to the next year; they were handing the destinies of the lodge into the hands of one who would fully maintain all its principles, one they desired to work for, and who was animated in the very best traditions of Masonry—Bro. Kiralfy. To him and Bro. Chapman the palm belonged; they were the initiators of the lodge; it was true they gave him (Sir J. Dimsdale) the honour of being the first Master, but he was not going to take the palm that did not belong to him; Bros. Kiralfy and Chapman were the inceptors of the lodge, and to them the honour belonged. He believed that as long as they could have such brethren among them and as long as the destinies of the lodge were in the hands of Bro. Kiralfy the lodge would fulfil the object for which it really was in existence—a nursery for Masonry and for those who carried forward the flag of England from one end of the world to the other. He trusted T.G.A.O.T.U. would shower his best blessings upon him and his household and family and that they might have a happy and prosperous year.

Bro. Imre Kiralfy, W.M., acknowledged the toast, and said this was the proudest moment of his life. He had had many successes in his professional career, but he never felt so proud and happy as he did that evening. He had been a Mason many years but he had never held office until the last year. To succeed Sir Joseph Dimsdale in the chair was the greatest honour he could possibly imagine. During all his year of office and at all times he should do everything in his power to uphold the interests of the Empress Lodge and the Fraternity, and, certainly he should never forget the Masonic Charities.

Bro. Sir J. B. Monckton, P.G.W., responded to the toast of "The Installing Master," which was proposed by Bro. E. Letchworth, G. Sec. In the course of his reply, Bro. Sir John Monckton referred to the departure of Bro. Chapman, to the surprise of some, and the regret of all. Without the assistance of Bro. Chapman, he still hoped the W.M. would have a gratifying year of office, which would be a satisfaction to Bro. Chapman in his distant home.

Bro. Imre Kiralfy, W.M., in proposing "The I.P.M.," said Bro. Dimsdale, with his usual kindness and modesty, had been good enough to say that Bro. Chapman and he (the W.M.) had been the initiators of the Empress Lodge. They were; but if it had not been for Sir Joseph Dimsdale's good work and co-operation the lodge would not be there that day as one first in rank among the lodges of the country. Sir Joseph Dimsdale had been a true friend in every possible way, a loyal gentleman, a friend, and every Mason was proud of him. Although he left the chair, he hoped the brethren would have his co-operation, and the goodwill in the Empress Lodge which would keep it in its present excellent state.

Bro. Sir Joseph Dimsdale responded. As members of the Empress Lodge, they had but one aim in view, they worked for the prosperity and perpetuity of the lodge, to extend and inculcate the doctrines of Masonry to those who came into the lodge as initiates. His year had been a happy one, and, thanks to the co-operation and support of the members, he hoped it had been successful. He should do his best in the future to support the W.M. in every way. Sir Joseph then proposed "The Health of the Visitors."

Bros. Carson, Harrison, and Hooper responded.

Bro. Imre Kiralfy, W.M., proposed "Bro. Will E. Chapman," wishing him *bon voyage*, thanking him for what he had done for the lodge, and asking him to break bread with them on December 18th. Bros. J. D. Langton and Clark would organise the details.

Bro. Chapman, in reply, said for the greater part of his life he had been annually saying "Good-bye" to people, and, therefore, he thought, after a sojourn at home for 12 years, it would be just as easy to say good-bye. He was absolutely mistaken. In those 12 years there had come something into his life which had made him a part of other people—he meant Masonry. He was a Mason before; he had been one for 25 years; but as he never had the privilege of meeting many in the year in different towns in which he lived, it was not a great pang to say he was going away at a certain date. He realised it now even for the short time he might be absent. There was something in his heart which was hard to get away from. One of the associations was the Empress Lodge. He felt sad when he thought of the happy evenings he had had in it and other Masonic lodges, and what had taken place that night with regard to him would be one of the pleasantest recollections. The Empress Lodge was a child of his own and he naturally felt proud of it. Its success had been great—the lodge had come to stay and to be one of the first lodges in London, England, and the Empire. He hoped its history would be carried to distant countries and that its standard would be planted everywhere. They had made 21 Masons in the year and he was proud to say they were men who would be an honour to it. They went to lodges of instruction and were well up in their work. Again thanking the brethren he hoped he should return.

Bro. Sir Joseph Dimsdale again mentioned the subject of the dinner to Bro. Chapman, and hoped it would be a great success. Although it was got up by the Savage Club Lodge, the Eccentric, and the Empress he had no doubt other Masons would like to take part in it, and he wished it to be made known that the Secretaries were Bro. J. D. Langton, New Inn, Strand, W.C., and Bro. Clark, the Secretary of this lodge, 3, St. Peter's Alley, Cornhill, E.C., who would afford any information required.

The other toasts followed before the brethren separated.

Gallery Lodge, No. 1928.

One of the most successful installation meetings of this Press lodge was held on the 12th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. P. W. Husk. The lodge was very numerously attended, and there was a larger array of Grand Officers than has been witnessed in the lodge since its consecration in August, 1881. The following members of the lodge were present: Bros. Percy W. Husk, W.M.; Chas. Lock, I.P.M.; G. Tarran, S.W., W.M. elect; J. Hurdell, acting J.W.; Rev. J. S. Barrass, Chap.; W. M. Duckworth, P.M., Treas.; W. T. Perkins, P.M., Sec.; S. James, S.D.; E. A. Peachey, J.D.; Lionel F. Gowing, A.D.C.; G. H. Ribbons, A.D.C.; F. W. O. Brodie, Inner Guard; H. E. Peacock, Organist; H. L. Bell, W. G. Kirby, and J. D. Irvine, Stewards; H. Massey, P.M.; E. E. Peacock, P.M.; G. E. Saunders, P.M.; T. G. Scott, P.M.; Alfred F. Robbins, Treasurer of the Benevolent Fund; the Right Hon. Lord Glenesk (who attended for the first time since his election as a subscribing member of the lodge), J. Bune, Cornwallis Smith, R. G. Emery, A. Bettamy, W. G. Proudfoot, John Martin, Ernest Hobson, Edgar Clyatt, J. Ernest Lane, J. Macintyre, and G. A. Jones, who was, during the meeting, elected a joining member. The visitors present were Bros. the Ven. Archdeacon of London, P.G. Chap.; Edward Terry, P.G. Treas.; Richard Eve, P.G. Treas.; J. D. Langton, P.G.D.C.; Dr. Turtle Piggott, P.A.G.D.C.; T. A. Bullock, P.G.S.B.; the Rev. W. Hawksley, P.P.G. Chap. Hants; J. R. Diggle, 2611; Thos. Alfred Tucker, 859; J. H. Scott, 1673; W. C. Chaney, 507; E. H. Bramley, 957; T. Clack, 1178; C. L. Carson, W.M. 2199; F. Soward, 2021; W. Grant, 2231; J. Jones, 2096; J. Dalgety Henderson, W. Nicholl, and Templar Saxe, all of 2190; F. H. Cheesewright, 907; J. A. Collings, 1693; and Vernon Taylor, 2000.

Bro. George Albert Jones, 1125, was elected a joining member, after which the W.M. proceeded to instal Bro. George Tarran, S.W. and W.M. elect, as Master of the lodge for the year. The ceremony was admirably performed throughout, and Bro. Husk was invested as I.P.M., afterwards receiving a P.M.'s jewel. The other officers were Bros. Samuel James, S.W.; E. A. Peachey, J.W.; W. W. Duckworth, P.M., Treas.; W. T. Perkins, P.M., Sec.; H. L. Bell, Asst. Sec.; F. W. Brodie, S.D.; Lionel F. Gowing, J.D.; Geo. H. Ribbons, I.G.; Rev. J. Stephen Barras, Chaplain; H. E. Peacock, Org.; J. Hurdell, P.M., D.C.; H. L. Bell, A.D.C.; J. D. Irvine, A.D.C.; W. G. Kirby, A. E. Baine, R. G. Emery, and John Martin, Stewards; and G. A. Ball, P.M. 1981, Tyler. The I.P.M. concluded his duties by delivering the addresses and was loudly cheered on resuming his seat.

The brethren then adjourned to an excellent banquet, which was superintended by Bro. Clemow's manager, Mr. W. A. Wallace, and also by Bro. Wagstaff.

The usual toasts followed, the various speeches being mingled with a musical entertainment, which was pronounced by visitors and members alike as being one of the most superior of those organised by the lodge. The artistes were Bros. J. Dalgety Henderson, W. Nicholl, F. H. Cheesewright, Templar Saxe, Vernon Taylor, and J. A. Collings (accompanist).

Bro. George Tarran, W.M., in proposing "The Queen and the Craft," said: The first toast which it is my duty and pleasure to give as Worshipful Master of this lodge is the time-honoured one of the Queen and the Craft. For nearly 60 years this toast has been proposed and received with loyalty and enthusiasm in our Masonic assemblies. It is a toast which I have always thought is most honoured by using the fewest possible words in proposing it—because even when speech may be silver silence is golden. The sentiment which this comprehensive toast enshrines is one of such deep significance to every subject of her Majesty's vast empire, that it appeals at once to our hearts. This is especially the case now, when we are within so short a distance of the commemoration of that unique event which is unparalleled in our national history. I, therefore, at once submit the toast, coupled with a devout aspiration that the Almighty Ruler of the Universe will give her Majesty health and strength to worthily celebrate the 60th anniversary of her accession to the throne.

Bro. George Tarran, W.M., in giving the toast of "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," said: In proposing this toast it would be presumptuous in me to attempt to dilate upon the many noble qualities and graceful acts of our Grand Master. Suffice it to say that as he has endeared himself to all the brethren of our Craft, so there is no member of the Royal House who is more universally beloved than the Prince of Wales. We feel honoured and gratified by the interest which his Royal Highness has always shown in Freemasonry, and we trust that for many years he will retain the exalted position which he now occupies in our Order.

Bro. Tarran next said: I now give you "The M.W. Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Lathom; the R.W. Deputy Grand Master, the Earl Amherst; and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past." At the installation banquets of this lodge we have always, I believe, been favoured with the presence of Grand Officers. I am sure, all feel considerably indebted to those of our brethren who undertake the onerous and important duties which their high offices in the Craft entail upon them. The pressure of my professional avocations have not enabled me to attend the meetings of the Grand Lodge so often as I should like to have done; but when I have been present I have been struck with the great amount of detail work which is performed in connection with the Grand Lodge, and with the complexity and difficulty of the questions which have to be adjudicated upon. We see men of eminence in the legal profession, like, for instance, our Bro. Judge Philbrick, devoting all their legal acumen to the decision of knotty points which have arisen in various parts of the world, and giving their decisions with the greatest care and ability. And then there is the magnificent and munificent work done by the Board of Benevolence in relieving the needs of the bereaved and distressed—that noble work of Charity which should ever occupy the foremost place in our Masonic work. I had hoped to see amongst us once more Bro. Richard Eve, Past G. Treas., who has been, I am glad to say, a very regular attendant at our installation festivals. We are glad to see him, because we know he is a good and true Mason who has spared no effort to promote to the best of his power the interests of the Craft. We have, however, our brother, the Grand Treasurer, who has been elected to that honourable position by the votes of the Craft. We all know the keen contest there is for this post of distinction, and we may rest assured that the brother who may be elected is well worthy of the honour conferred upon him. We therefore give our brother, the Grand Treasurer, a right hearty welcome. We have also present to-night the Venerable the Archdeacon of London, Bro. Sinclair, Past Grand Chaplain. Brethren, I thank the Archdeacon for his kindness in accepting my invitation, and I am sure we all feel honoured by the presence of a dignitary of the church of Bro. Sinclair's rank and position. Our Bro. the Archdeacon of London deserves a hearty welcome at your hands, not only as a Mason but as an able and frequent contributor to the press and as one who is a pattern of courtesy to all. Even when attacked, and I regret to say I have seen him unfairly attacked, the Archdeacon has always replied with the dignity, calmness, and ability indicative of a scholar and a gentleman. Having watched his career for many years I could, of course, say much more in his praise if time permitted, but I would only add that as an important member of the chapter of our Metropolitan Cathedral—that cathedral which has led the way in recent years in the beauty and reverence of its services—our Bro. Sinclair will meet with a hearty reception from the brethren of the Gallery Lodge. If, as has been stated, the great natural thanksgiving service on the 20th June, 1897, is to take place in St. Paul's, we may rest assured that it will be in every way worthy of that great and stirring event in the history of this realm and empire, and that the arrangements for those members of the press whose privilege it will be to give an account of it to the millions of readers in all parts of the world, will receive every consideration at the hands of those who are responsible for the details of this great function—that arduous duty being one which will be shared by the distinguished ecclesiastic whom it is our pride and privilege to greet to-night as our Bro. Sinclair. We have also present our Bro. Dr. Turtle Piggott, who, as a Mason and in other well-known positions of usefulness and importance, has earned a high reputation for his good work and zealous labours in good causes. We have also Bro. the Rev. W. H. Hawksley, Provincial Grand Chaplain. He has come from Portsmouth in order to be present on this occasion, and I thank him for the personal compliment he has thus paid to myself. I can assure you, brethren, that our Brother Hawksley is a true and worthy man and Mason, and one who is not a stranger to journalistic work.

The Archdeacon of London, P.G.C., in his response to the toast, said he always felt very considerable responsibility in attempting to answer so weighty a toast as that of "The Grand Officers," because he himself had been so short a time in that honourable position, and he knew there were others who could speak to the toast better than he. There was Dr. Turtle Piggott, who had helped him up to his position; he was obliged to take precedence of that brother, but his regret at having to take precedence of Dr. Piggott was outweighed by the extremely kind terms used by the W.M. in proposing the toast, and nothing could have been more consonant to his

feelings than the W.M.'s remarks about what he (the Archdeacon) had done in connection with journalistic life and in the press. He also hailed with satisfaction that opportunity of expressing, on his own behalf and on behalf of the clerical profession, the enormous debt of gratitude they were under to the press for whatever they desired to make known. Their words would have very small and feeble echoes on many occasions were it not for the hearty sympathy and generosity of gentlemen of the press. Let him compliment the I.P.M. for the very able manner in which he performed the installation. He had had the pleasure of hearing it before, but he was very much impressed with the style in which Bro. Husk executed the difficult task. The brethren would pardon him for a little pun on his own name derived from a tale—of which there were many—of the present Archbishop elect of Canterbury. They knew his terrible voice which had made so many curates quake. A curate at the East-end of London went to him and wanted his permission to introduce some forms which were supposed to savour of irregularity, saying he believed they would be of use among the people he ministered to. "Can't do it," said the Bishop on London. The curate said he thought his people would like it and he believed the forms were in use at St. Alban's, Holborn. "Oh yes," said the Bishop, "but they have got the kernel there as well as the husk." (Laughter.) He ventured to say that the brethren had that night had the kernel as well as the husk in the performance of their duties. (Renewed laughter.) There was a strong unity, he ventured to say between Masonry and the true spirit of religion. One had only to refer cavillers to some points which would put their objections to silence, one of which was that about one half of Masons' coat of arms were the emblems of the four evangelists. That was a very significant fact. Then the obligation they always took on reaching the office of Master was on the whole body of the sacred law. Then the spirit of peace and harmony was strongly inculcated on all Masons as the true spirit of Masonry and of religion. In thanking the journalists for their kindness he could not help saying that journalists sometimes knew more about the clergy than the clergy knew about themselves. For instance he had been told that he was the leader of the evangelical party. Nothing was further from the truth; he never would be a leader of any party except the party that was for truth and righteousness. He had been told there was a present waiting for him by his own orders at some show. That was not in the least true either (Laughter.) He did not want to detain the brethren long; but he must say that the W.M. had alluded to the fact that this year might be called the sixtieth year of the reign of the Queen, and a celebration might be had at St. Paul's Cathedral. No one knew whether the advisers of the Crown would have it at the Abbey or St. Paul's; but if the Queen favoured St. Paul's the difficulty of her going up steps could be avoided, as it was by the Princess of Wales. But whether it took place at St. Paul's or Westminster Abbey, the great Masonic body generally might show their gratitude for all the Queen had done for the country during 60 years by holding a great service at the Cathedral. Objections had been made by high authorities when the subject was broached before, but he thought the coming year would be ample justification, and nothing would be more impressive or beautiful than in Wren's great masterpiece. It would give him (the Archdeacon) great pleasure to have a celebration of the Gallery Lodge, for on an appointment being made, he should be happy to show all the objects of interest in the Cathedral to the members of the Gallery Lodge some afternoon, if they would accept his invitation.

Bro. J. D. Langton also replied.

Archdeacon Sinclair, in replying to the W.M., extended his invitation to the ladies of the brethren's families.

Bro. George Tarran, W.M., in proposing the toast of the two joining members, "Lord Glenesk and Passmore Edwards," said: I am sure you will allow me at this stage of our proceedings to introduce a toast which, though it be somewhat irregular will, I know, be acceptable to you all, and that is the health of our Bro. Lord Glenesk, who, with our Bro. Passmore Edwards, has joined the lodge during the present year. As a working journalist I feel that we owe a deep debt of gratitude to our Bro. Lord Glenesk for what he has done as President of the Newspaper Press Fund and for the help he has given to the Institute of Journalists. We all know something of the noble work which the Newspaper Press Fund has done in relieving the necessities of those upon whom misfortune has fallen, and in giving timely aid to the widows and children of those who have fallen in the professional struggle for life. We know, too, how the Institute of Journalists has come to the succour of the orphan children, and I say, unhesitatingly, that neither of those great press institutions would have occupied the positions they do to-day had it not been for the support which they had received from our distinguished Bro. Lord Glenesk. His lordship has always identified himself with the profession to which we are proud to belong, and even in the House of Lords has defended the rights of the Press when it was proscribed to unduly and unnecessarily curtail them. In a lodge like ours, which is composed mainly of practical working journalists, it is unnecessary for me to detain you in proposing the health of one whose name must be to many of us—to all who are members of the Institutions I have mentioned, a household word and an honoured name. I would only add, Brother Lord Glenesk, that though I regret that this toast has not fallen into abler hands, still I would beg you to believe that if my speech be imperfect and inadequate, the expression of my appreciation of your kindness in coming here to-night to be present at my installation banquet is most sincere and heartfelt. I do assure you that every member of this lodge deeply feels and warmly appreciates your kindness in attending on this occasion, remembering the many calls upon your time, which are inseparable from your high social position. I know, brethren, you will receive the toast with great heartiness, and that you will not blame me for a deviation from our toast list, which, if it be an irregularity, I trust will be forgiven. I would only say in conclusion that not only the members of this lodge, but a large number of the Craft hope that the day is not far distant when our Bro. Lord Glenesk, who has been so worthily called to the Upper Chamber in another place, will also be called to the House of Lords in the Masonic Craft—the Grand Lodge—where he will equally well and truly represent the profession to which we have the honour to belong.

Bro. Lord Glenesk replied, and gave an account of a visit of his to Egypt, where were to be seen signs that Masonry existed long before Hiram built the Temple of Jerusalem. The orientation of the temples was so accurate, that our great astronomers could tell from it the dates when the different temples were built. When he looked upon the steps by which man passed from savagery to civilisation, he could not but think of the Craft, and how worthily it represented all that had been revealed up to the present hour. He was but a humble Craftsman, and he doubted if he should ever have the time to work up to the Master's chair; but he should be content with the work he had done, and the spirit in which he had attempted to work among the brethren as a brother and with brotherly love. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

Bro. Percy W. Husk, I.P.M., in proposing "The W.M.," said it was a toast which required very few words of introduction, Bro. Tarran being so well-known, loved, and respected by every member of the Gallery Lodge. He had watched Bro. Tarran's progress, and could testify that he possessed all the distinguishing characteristics of a good Mason, a noble man, and a true friend. He had given the brethren that night a test of his skill as a Mason, and he would prove a credit to himself and an ornament to the lodge.

Bro. George Tarran, W.M. in responding, said: Brethren, it is my earnest desire to maintain all the best traditions of our lodge. We start the year, I am glad to say, under the most favourable circumstances, and I trust the brethren will assist me in making our financial position thoroughly sound. I propose to have a ladies' night on February 27th, and I hope to take up a Stewardship; and I feel that I am called upon to make a special effort to secure if possible the election of our late Bro. Sanderson's son. As W.M. of this lodge I stand as it were between two brethren who had fallen in the battle of our professional life. But for his death Bro. Sanderson would have been standing in my place to-night, but for his sad break down in health, Bro. Striem would have been in the S.W.'s chair. It is well that in the midst of our festivities we should remember these things and should endeavour to do what we can to secure the election of our late Bro. Sanderson's son. I was much struck by an observation of Bro. Terry, at Croydon, that if every brother would subscribe a certain sum all cases could be dealt with. I am told there are two sides to the question but it does seem sometimes that the manipulation of votes is being carried a little too far. I hope that if any of our visiting brethren have any votes to spare they will make themselves acquainted with the case. It is a thoroughly deserving one. Bro. Sanderson was a young man in the prime of life when he was struck down. Bro. James is helping the case with all his efforts. I hope we shall have our picnic again next year, but it may be difficult to fix a day. I hope peace and harmony will prevail, and that my year of office may be successful. I can only assure you that I will do my best to deserve that generous confidence which you have reposed in me by electing me to the chair of this lodge, of which I was one of the first initiates.

Bro. George Tarran, W.M., proposed "The I.P.M.," who had endeared himself to the brethren by his many good qualities. He had found him a true man, a worthy

Mason, a kind friend, and a most genial companion. He had had a most successful year of office, in addition to which the ladies' night and the picnic had been most enjoyable.

Bro. Percy W. Husk, I.P.M., replying, said: Accept my heartfelt thanks, W.M., for the exceedingly kind, generous, and able way in which you proposed my health, and you, brethren, for the very cordial reception you accorded that toast. I am afraid that the W.M., in the goodness of his heart, paid me far too flattering a compliment when referring to the manner in which I fulfilled the duties of the chair. This I can say, however, that I did my best under trying conditions of health. In reviewing the past year, I can congratulate the lodge upon an exceptionally successful period. For the first time in its history the lodge is free from debt; the overdraft at the bank (which two or three years ago amounted to nearly £100) has been entirely wiped out; all liabilities have been discharged; there is a balance in hand, and this in face of the fact that we have given in the cause of Masonic Charity a larger sum, I believe, than has been disbursed by us in any former year. The Charity-box, too, which receives Bro. Robbins' unremitting attention, yielded a larger sum than collected in any previous year, while my list as Steward to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys totalled a pretty respectable sum, and enabled us to add to our number two more votes in perpetuity for that excellent Institution. I have not yet finished our glorious achievements of the year. For the first time the summer outing, which, I think, was in every respect an enjoyable function, paid for itself, and left a balance to the good in the hands of the Treasurer, and to bring the list of successes to a close, I may mention the names of two very distinguished brethren, Lord Glenesk, whom we are pleased to see amongst us to-night, and Passmore Edwards, have "swelled" our ranks. Brethren, under all these gratifying circumstances I may be pardoned for expressing feelings of considerable pride. May my successor, and each succeeding Master, exceed them so that the lodge may increase its sphere of charitable usefulness and take a place which so distinguished, powerful, and influential an institution as the Gallery Lodge—the only Press lodge in the whole world—should occupy, viz., at the head of all London lodges. Brethren, I will not occupy your time more, but it would be ungracious indeed if I were to retire without thanking the officers for their able assistance, the Past Masters for their valuable counsel, and the brethren generally for their constant attendance, while to one and all I tender my heartfelt thanks for the beautiful jewel which for the first time adorns my breast. It is far more to me than a presentation, it is a token of respect from friends I love.

Bro. Carson, W.M. Savage Club Lodge, replied to the toast given in honour of that lodge, in the course of which he expressed his admiration of the style in which Bro. Husk had performed the ceremony of installation.

Bros. Dr. Turtle Pigott and J. Diggle, 2611, replied to the toast of "The Visitors."

Bros. E. E. Peacock and C. Lock replied to the toast of "The Past Masters," and Bros. W. T. Perkins, P.M., Sec.; Hurdell, D.C.; S. James, S.W.; and E. Peachey, J.W.; for "The Treasurer, Secretary, and Officers," and the Tyler's toast closed the proceedings.

St. Oswald Lodge, No. 1124.

The annual festival and installation of the above lodge was held on the 7th inst., at Oswestry, when Bro. Alfred Aslett, late manager of the Cambrian Railways, now the manager of the Furness Railway, was installed Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. The visitors present at the meeting were Bros. H. Cook, 119, P.P.G.W. Cumberland; Howel Davies, 1336, P.G.W. North Wales; J. E. Griffith, 164, P.P.G. Purst. Cambridge; R. H. Giles, 2131, P.G.S.W.; J. H. Parsons, 1432, P.P.G.D.; J. McLardy, unattached, P.P.S.G.D.; W. Baxter, 2311, P.G.D.C.; A. Minshall, 2131, P.P.G.P.; A. C. Minshall, 2131, P.P.G.P.; Thos. Owen, 1432, P.A.G. Sec.; W. Martin, 1432, P.P.A.G. Sec.; S. K. Dutton, W.M. 280; F. Salisbury, S.W. 262; A. T. Davis, J.W. 262; W. C. Joyce, W.M. 117; R. D. Jones, W.M. 998; Chas. Shuker, S.W. 998; A. H. Aslett, 1336; A. C. Nicholson, W.M., E. M. Gardner, I.P.M., H. Kenyon, S.W., J. S. Cheeseman, J.W., and J. D. Andrew, J.D. of 1432; Warton, unattached, and Albert Peate, S.W., J. Williamson, S.D., and Thos. Poole, J.D. of 2131. The brethren of the lodge present were Bros. Col. J. M. Maltby, W.M.; Dr. A. A. Lewis, I.P.M.; A. Aslett, S.W.; Dr. C. T. Reynolds, J.W.; W. F. Rogers, Treas.; W. H. Spaul, Sec.; W. H. Bott, S.D.; Capt. G. H. Hayhurst France, J.D.; Geo. Owen, P.P.G.W., D.C.; Steele L. Roberts, I.G.; C. K. Benson, P.P.G.W. N. Wales; J. P. Cartwright, P.P.A.G.D.C.; Stanley Leighton, P.P.G.W.; Dr. C. W. O'Connor, W. H. G. Weaver, J. T. Wall, Tyler, and H. C. Corfield, unattached. A number of letters were read from brethren who had been unable to accept the invitation to be present. Bro. R. G. Venables, D.P.G.M. was elected a member of the lodge. Bro. Col. J. M. Maltby assisted by Bros. Geo. Owen and J. P. Cartwright, performed the ceremony of installing Bro. A. Aslett, after which the W.M. appointed and invested the officers of the lodge for the ensuing year, viz., Bros. Col. J. M. Maltby, I.P.M.; D. C. T. Reynolds, S.W.; W. H. Bott, J.W.; Rev. J. B. Meredith, P.M., Chaplain; W. F. Rogers, Treas.; W. H. Spaul, P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.W., P.G. Sec.; Capt. G. H. Hayhurst France, S.D.; Steele L. Roberts, J.D.; Dr. W. A. Lewis, P.P.G.D., D.C.; Rev. J. B. Meredith, P.M., Organist; Geo. Owen, P.P.G.W., I.G.; W. F. Rogers, Steward; and Jno. T. Wall, Tyler.

The business of the evening having concluded the brethren of the lodge entertained their visitors to a banquet, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

Enfield Lodge, No. 1237.

This lodge, which is one of the foremost in the Province of Middlesex, held its installation meeting on Monday, the 14th inst., at the George Hotel, Enfield, when a large number of brethren met under the presidency of Bro. Walter Marshall, W.M., supported by Bros. A. Monk, S.W.; W. Humphrey, J.W.; H. V. Clements, P.P. G. Treas.; Treasurer; A. G. Fidler, P.P.G.D., Sec.; C. H. Penny, S.D.; J. M. Dexter, J.D.; W. Hibberdine, I.G.; C. W. Offord, Org.; A. Bryant, Tyler; H. Woodley, P.M.; Geo. Tegg, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; O. T. Oxley, P.M.; H. B. May, P.M., P.P.G.D.; J. Hicks, P.M.; J. A. Taverner, P.M.; W. H. Caddy, E. H. Jones, E. T. Vint, J. H. Ernst, and A. Millbourn. Visitors: Bros. F. A. Bullock, P.G. S.B., R. Berridge, P.G.D., H. J. Adams, P.G.S.B., H. W. Dobb, Jno. Moule, W. H. Harrison, and J. H. Kirby, of 1579; W. Seville, 180; W. G. Symons, 1489; E. Linzell (one of the founders), B. Stocker, S.W. 754; W. R. Coysh, 1707; W. H. Bullock, P.M. 2128; T. P. Trowse, J.W. 453; W. Dawson, P.M. 829; H. W. Francis, J.W. 829; M. F. Cadman, 1707; N. Stiffin, 1185; J. Gough, 1237; J. H. Smyth, 704; and W. H. Berry, 1817.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The chair was vacated by the W.M. in favour of Bro. Woodley, P.M., by whom Bros. Caddy and Ernst were impressively raised to the Third Degree, after which the Auditors' report was adopted. Bro. Monk was then installed as Master for the ensuing year, Bro. May, P.M., performing the ceremony of installation, as anticipated, in perfect style. The new W.M. then appointed his officers as follows: Bros. A. J. Monk, W.M.; Walter Marshall, I.P.M.; Walter Humphrey, S.W.; Charles H. Penny, J.W.; H. V. Clements, P.M., &c., Treas.; Alfred G. Fidler, P.M., &c., Sec.; James M. Dexter, S.D.; William J. Hibberdine, J.D.; George Gange, I.G.; H. E. Brown, D.C.; A. E. Millbourn, A.D.C.; J. H. M. Meyers, Stwd.; Charles W. Offord, Org.; and A. Bryant, P.M., Tyler.

The lodge was closed and an adjournment made to an excellent repast, served under the active supervision of the proprietor, Bro. Ernst.

The toasts of "The Queen and the Craft" and "The Grand Master" were proposed, and met with the customary loyal reception.

Replying to the toast of "The Pro Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," Bro. Berridge said Lord Lathom's name was a household word in Masonry for the zeal and energy he displayed, whilst Earl Amherst, who was well known and esteemed in the Province of Kent, would be assured, worthily fulfil the distinguished position to which he had been recently appointed. The rest of the Grand Officers should be taken as being anxious to do all for the benefit of Freemasonry.

"The Right Worshipful Prov. G.M., Bro. Lord George Hamilton; the Very Worshipful Deputy Prov. G.M., Bro. Raymond H. Thrupp; and the rest of the Prov. Grand Officers, Present and Past," was next proposed by the W.M., who said he was proud to say that there were many brethren in the Enfield Lodge who had been honoured with provincial rank.

Bro. Adams responded.

Bro. Marshall, I.P.M., next gave the toast of "The W.M.," expressing the plea-

sure he felt at seeing him in the chair, and heartily wished him a successful year of office for which the number of brethren present was a good omen.

The other toasts were "The Installing Master," "The Past Masters," "The Visitors," and "The Officers."

During the evening, a Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Marshall in recognition of his services as Master for the past year.

A word of praise should be given Bros. Offord, Dobb, Gough, and Berry, whose musical abilities helped to complete a most enjoyable evening.

Royal Arch.

Industry Chapter, No. 48.

The regular meeting of this chapter was held on Thursday evening, the 10th inst., when there was a large gathering of members and visitors. Comp. Robert Stewart, M.E.Z., presided, and was supported by Comps. W. J. Jobson, H.; H. Jackson, J.; T. R. Jobson, P.Z.; M. Corbitt, P.Z.; Wm. Brown, P.Z., D.C.; Robt. Whitfield, P.Z.; Wm. Stafford, S.E.; W. Holzapfel, S.N.; A. Simpson, P.S.; A. Dodds, 1st A.S.; T. A. Moffitt, 2nd A.S.; W. E. Peacock, J. Boazman, J. Armstrong, P. Cash, T. Douglass, and others. Amongst the visitors were Comps. D. Cameron, M.E.Z. 240; G. Narland, P.Z. 240; Wm. M. Lyon, P.Z. 404; C. B. Ford, P.Z. 481; J. Usher, P.Z. 481; T. R. Short, P.Z. 481; B. Thomas, 240; J. McDowell, 240; A. M. Clarkson, 240; W. Millar, 240; F. Coverdale, 240; F. G. Isaacson, 431; and others.

The ballots were respectively taken for two joining companions, also for six candidates for exaltation, all of whom were elected. Bros. J. T. Pragnell and John Carr being in attendance were each exalted, for the first portion of the ceremony by Comp. T. R. Jobson and thence to the finish by Comp. R. Stewart, M.E.Z. Comp. W. Brown, D.C., delivered the mystic lecture. Eight propositions for exaltation were made, and other business having been transacted, after receiving the "Good wishes" of the visitors, the proceedings closed, and an adjournment took place to the refreshment room.

Zetland Chapter, No. 236.

This chapter, which was consecrated in June, 1886, has had a somewhat chequered career during its short life. It had a promising start but after meeting somewhat irregularly for a couple of years it became dormant and so continued until the present year, when some of the younger members of the lodge to which the chapter was attached interested themselves along with one or more Royal Arch Masons in the town in the resuscitation of the chapter, their efforts were crowned with success, for with the willing assistance of several experienced companions in the district a most successful meeting was held on Wednesday, the 18th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Duncombe-place, Cleckheaton, when Comp. S. H. Stocks, M.E.Z., had the co-operation of Comps. Joseph Wilson, P.Z. 302, P.P.G. Std. Br., as H.; A. Butterworth, J. 302, as J.; J. T. Last, 387, as S.E.; Wm. Fielding, 448, as S.N.; Richard Hodgson, P.Z. as 448, as P.S.; J. Niven, S.N. 302, as 1st Asst. Soj.; S. Law, 2nd Asst. Soj.; Wm. Sharp and J. W. Monckman, P.Z. 600, P.P.G.P.S., acted as D.C.; and H. S. Holdsworth, P.Z. 448, P.P.G.P.S.

The minutes of the last regular meeting of the chapter held on the 10th January, 1888, having been read and confirmed, Comp. J. T. Last, 387, was balloted for and elected as a joining member. Notices of proposition of two candidates for exaltation having been given pursuant to Article 72 of the Royal Arch Regulations, Bros. H. E. Hodgson, 603, and James Clough, P.M. 603, were duly elected and, being present, were exalted to the Supreme Degree of a Royal Arch Mason by Comp. H. S. Holdsworth, P.Z. 448. The lecture was given by Comp. Wilson, P.Z. 302. The chapter not having adopted by-laws it was resolved that the election of Principals and officers take place at the next monthly meeting, and the installation of the Principals and the investiture of officers be proceeded with at the January meeting of the chapter. A proposition of a candidate for exaltation at the next meeting was handed in and notice given of a resolution to be moved at the next meeting for regulating the future meetings of the chapter.

After "Hearty good wishes" to the M.E.Z. and congratulations from the visitors upon such a successful and business-like meeting, the chapter was closed, and the closing address given by Comp. Wilson, P.Z. 302.

After refreshment, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured "The Health of the M.E.Z." was proposed by Comp. J. W. Monckman, who heartily congratulated the members of the chapter upon such a good meeting as they had had at the resuscitation of the chapter after so many years of inactivity. It was a good augury for the future, and with the enthusiasm of some of the members who had taken the matter up, and the prospect of several candidates who had submitted their names as coming members, he saw the beginning of a prosperous little chapter. It had afforded him, at the invitation of Comp. Last, very much pleasure to have been present on that occasion, and to render his humble services in assisting at the resuscitation of the chapter.

Comp. S. H. Stocks, M.E.Z., in responding, thanked the companions for the kind manner in which the toast of his health had been received. He was glad to have had the privilege of presiding again in the chapter that some few years ago he took great interest in establishing. By some means it had for several years ceased to meet and he assured them that at his age and from the state of his health the chapter would certainly have lapsed altogether had it rested with him; but he was glad that some of those present had interested themselves in re-establishing the chapter. He had been pleased to render what assistance he could in the matter, and he was pleased to think that the chapter had obtained a new lease of life; he thanked the visiting companions for their valuable assistance in rendering the ceremonies that evening. He confidently stated that he had never before witnessed such excellent working and he sincerely hoped they would do the chapter the honour of visiting them again whenever they could conveniently do so.

"The Visitors," was proposed by Comp. Last who in the name of the chapter gave them a very hearty welcome. He said it had fallen to his lot to make the necessary arrangements for resuscitating the chapter and he was pleased to recognise the readiness with which all the visitors responded to the invitation to attend and assist in the conduct of the business of the meeting; its success had been mainly the result of the help the visitors had so very generously afforded.

Comps. H. S. Holdsworth, P.Z. 448, and J. Wilson, P.Z. 302, responded for the visitors and expressed the gratification it had afforded them to have been present and to have assisted at the resuscitation of the chapter, which had their best wishes for its future success.

Other toasts followed.

Lodges of Instruction.

PROSPERITY LODGE, No. 65.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 16th inst., at the Weavers' Arms, London Wall, E.C., when there were present Bros. William Baker, W.M.; J. G. Robeson, S.W.; E. Croft-Wise, J.W.; D. Harlow, P.M., Preceptor; J. Smith, P.M., Asst. Sec.; Saunton, P.M., S.D.; E. Collins, J.D.; Emden, P.M., I.G.; Lockett, Fishleigh, Farr, Shipman, King, and Spencer.

The lodge was opened in due form and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, after which the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Spencer being the candidate. Bro. Lockett then answered the usual questions, and was entrusted. The W.M. opened the lodge in the Second Degree, and Bro. Lockett was passed to the Degree of a F.C. The lodge was then resumed in the First Degree, and the W.M. rising the usual number of times and Bro. J. G. Robeson being unanimously elected W.M. for next Wednesday evening, the lodge was closed.

LA TOLERANCE LODGE, No. 538.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 16th inst., at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, W., when there were present Bros. J. Goldstein, W.M.; A. Zeppenfeld, S.W.; J. Butcher, J.W.; J. Paul, P.M., Preceptor; G. Thom, P.M., Asst. Preceptor; T. W. Smale, Asst. Sec.; G. Hill, P.M., S.D.; J. Mason, J.D.; Webb, I.G.; S. Cross, and L. Genese.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The 1st and 2nd Sections of the Lecture were worked by the Preceptor. The lodge was opened in the Second and Third Degrees. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree, and the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Cross being the candidate. The W.M. rose for the first time, and Bros. Webb and Carnaby were elected members of the lodge. The W.M. rose for the second and third times, and all Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed.

ISLINGTON LODGE, No. 1471.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday, the 15th instant, at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, when there were present Bros. M. Miroy, W.M.; W. Rapley, S.W.; J. E. Thomas, J.W.; W. Hancock, P.M., Preceptor; J. W. Clarke, P.M., P.A.G.P. Middx., Asst. Preceptor; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D. Herts, and J. Duncan, P.M., Secs.; R. Eddie, S.D.; W. F. Roberts, J.D.; P. Cload, I.G.; A. Oliver, P.M.; E. J. Harrison, G. R. Carsberg, C. T. Rayner, A. F. Hardymont, C. Smith, C. Nicole, H. R. Bower, G. Yexley, A. E. Armfelt, L. Danielsson, C. Bone, W. J. North, G. Popham, C. Isler, and R. P. Upton, P.M.

The lodge was opened and the minutes read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was then rehearsed, Bro. Isler being the candidate. The questions having been answered, the lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the ceremony of passing rehearsed, Bro. Danielsson being the candidate. Bro. Carsberg gave the lecture on the tracing board. The lodge was closed in the Second Degree, when Bro. Rapley was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation. The lodge was then closed.

Knights Templar.

Rose of Lancaster Preceptory, No. 157.

The above preceptory held its regular conclave at the Clifton Arms Hotel, Blackpool, on Monday, the 7th inst., when the Eminent Preceptor, Sir Knight Thomas Forrester, presided. After the ordinary business of the agenda had been gone through, Sir Knight T. Forrester then read a lecture he had prepared on the antiquity and history of Knight Templars, which was appreciated by the sir knights present, and a vote of thanks was accorded to the lecturer.

Obituary.

BRO. H. J. TINNEY, P.M.

Very deep and sincere is the sympathy with which the news of the sudden death of Bro. H. J. Tinney has been received throughout the Craft. Bro. Tinney, it will be remembered, fell dead while performing his duty as conductor of the band at the Frascati Restaurant on the evening of the 8th instant, and the inquest disclosed that death was due to the bursting of a blood vessel on the brain. Bro. Tinney, who was only 50 years of age, was a P.M. of the Asaph Lodge, and was very highly respected by its members and his many friends in other lodges as well as the members of the profession of which he had been so bright an ornament for so many years. The funeral took place at East Finchley on Monday, the 14th inst., prominent among the mourners being the three brothers of the deceased, namely, Bros. W. A. and C. E. Tinney, who are both Past Masters of the Asaph Lodge, and Bro. S. Tinney, of the Derby Allcroft Lodge, No. 2168. There were also present, as representatives of the Asaph Lodge, Bros. S. Johnson, W.M.; C. S. Jekyll, P.M., Past G. Org.; G. E. Fairchild, P.M., P.A.G. D.C.; and O. Yearsley, as well as Bro. Morrell, the manager of Frascati. The coffin was almost hidden from view by the many beautiful wreaths which had been sent by relatives, friends, and brethren as a mark of respect to our deceased brother.

IT HAS NOW been definitely decided to call Mr. Huan n's's three act musical farce "Stolen," and the same is now being carefully rehearsed at the Avenue Theatre, where it will be produced on or about the 31st inst., under the stage direction of Messrs E. J. Lonnen and Fred. W. Sydney, the principal characters being sustained by Mesdames Alice Lethbridge, Alma Stanley, May Edouin, and Grace Hamond, and Messrs. E. Dagnall, Sydney Howard, C. L. Cherry, Littledale Power, and E. J. Lonnen. The first act takes place in a West-end drawing-room, the second act in the shop of a theatrical costumier, and the third act in a room above the same shop let off for rehearsals.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.—The twenty-third annual meeting of subscribers to the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund took place on Monday, Bro. Archdeacon Sinclair in the chair. According to the report, the contributions to the fund this year were £46,035. The council were awaiting a final report from the Committee of Distribution on out-patient departments. The working expenses, including rent of offices at 18, Victoria-street, were £1675, against an average of £1585, during 22 previous years. At the instance of Canon Graham, seconded by Canon Fleming, it was resolved that the 20th of June shall be the next Hospital Sunday.

AN EXHIBITION OF BRITISH PRODUCE.—At Winchilsea House, Long Acre, a very interesting exhibition is now being made of British farmers' produce, by the Association inaugurated by the Earl of Winchilsea, to introduce co-operative methods of collecting and distributing agricultural produce. The great object of the Association is to bring the producer and consumer into immediate contact, and to so specialize British produce that there can be no possibility of foreign being substituted for it. The productions of almost every county are represented, and British fare is liberally provided for Christmas.

WORTH KNOWING.

"I've wandered much this weary mortal round, and Sage Experience bids me this declare,"

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Masonic and General Tidings.

BRO. LORD WOLSELEY has been re-elected president of the South London Rifle Club, having held the position for several years past.

THE 90th anniversary festival of the City of London Trust Society will be celebrated in March next, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor (Mr. Alderman Faudel Phillips).

GROOTE SCHUUR, the country seat of Bro. Cecil Rhodes, situated about seven miles from Cape Town, was destroyed by fire on Thursday morning. The fire broke out at 3 p.m. and the appliances at hand were not sufficient to extinguish it.

AT CAMBRIDGE, Bro. F. W. Potts, S.W., has been elected W.M. of the Three Grand Principles Lodge, No. 441, and Bro. W. Sindall, S.W., has been elected W.M. of the Scientific Lodge, No. 88. Their installation will be on January 4th and 11th respectively.

T.R.H. THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, accompanied by the Princess Victoria and Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark, returned to Marlborough House, on Monday, from visiting the Queen at Windsor, and attending the memorial service in the Royal Mausoleum, at Frogmore.

A FIRE BROKE OUT in Arundel Castle on Saturday last, owing to some sparks from the fire in the billiard-room igniting the carpet. It was, however, very soon extinguished without doing any great damage. The Duke and a number of guests were in the castle at the time.

BRO. W. H. PRERCE, C.B., F.R.S., delivered a lecture on "Telegraphy Without Wires" at Toynbee Hall, on Saturday evening last, and in the course of his remarks gave a number of highly interesting experiments. Canon Barnett presided on the occasion, and there was a very large attendance.

A NUMBER of ladies and gentlemen, among whom were Bro. Lord Loch, Admiral Sir A. Hoskins, and Dr. Rutherford, Head Master of Westminster School, met on Tuesday at the head-quarters of the Royal Geographical Society, for the purpose of celebrating the jubilee of the Hakluyt Society, Sir Clements Markham, the President of the meeting, delivering an interesting address on Richard Hakluyt.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES left Marlborough House on Tuesday, on a visit to Bro. the Earl of Derby at Knowsley. His Royal Highness was received at Euston Station by Bro. Lord Stalbridge, Chairman of the London and North-Western Railway Company, with whom he had a conversation on the recent differences between the company and its employes, expressing his great satisfaction that the differences had been arranged.

THE DIRECTORS of Spiers and Pond (Limited) announce that the Debenture Stock Transfer Books will be closed from the 15th to the 31st inst., both inclusive, for the purpose of preparing the interest warrants for the half-year ending 31st December, 1896, on the Five per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures, the "A" Mortgage Debenture Stock, the "B" Mortgage Debenture Stock, and the "C" First Mortgage Debenture Stock of the company.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN paid a visit to Walworth on Tuesday for the purpose of opening, in a greatly enlarged form, the Richmond-street Mission. Her Royal Highness was received by Lady Jeune, Lady Whittaker Ellis, and others, a guard of honour being formed by the 1st V.B. Royal West Surrey Regiment under the command of Lieut.-Col. J. J. Sexby. The Princess expressed her good wishes for the success of the undertaking and a vote of thanks was passed to her Royal Highness for her kindness in attending.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK arrived at Worksop, on Monday evening, en route for Welbeck Abbey, and notwithstanding the lateness of the hour, received a hearty welcome from the inhabitants. Their Royal Highnesses were met by Bro. the Duke and Duchess of Portland, while the house party invited to meet them includes Bro. the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, the Duchess of Manchester, the Marchioness of Granby, the Earl of Scarborough, Sir Charles Cust, Bro. the Maharajah of Coch Behar, and others.

OUR ATTENTION has been called to sundry misprints in the names of several of the brethren mentioned in our report last week of the recent installation meeting of the Zetland Lodge, No. 1311, Leeds. Firstly, it was Bro. D. Robert Snailes—not Swailes—who was installed W.M., while among the officers he appointed were Bros. E. L. Frazer—not Frayer—J.W.; H. M. Forbes—not Ferber—S.D.; and F. Long—not Song, though that would have been appropriate enough—Organist. Moreover, it was the Lion—not the Zion—Lodge, No. 312, Whitby, from which a deputation of brethren attended.

THE ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Amongst many other attractions on the Christmas programme, Professor Finney has undertaken to dive, enveloped in flames, from underneath the Aquarium Dome into a shallow tank of water below the level of the floor. It has been proved that the flames, although fed by the rapidity of his (Finney) passing through the air from so immense a height, will be at once extinguished by the water without injury to the diver or possibility of accident or danger to visitors. The attempt will be made at 10 p.m. on Monday next, at the close of the first day's ladies' second Great International five days' Cycle race. The Christmas performances at the Royal Aquarium will be on an unusually liberal scale, commencing punctually at 10 a.m. daily. The entertainment will run continuously until 11.40 p.m. All the Boxing Day attractions, including the Ladies' Cycle Race and the entire holiday programme, will commence at 10 a.m. on Monday, the 21st inst., and be so continued all the week, Christmas Day only excepted.

THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY announce that on Thursday night, the 24th inst. (for 4, 5, 8, and 10 days), and Thursday night, the 31st inst. (for 4, 5, and 10 days), cheap excursions will leave London (Woolwich, Arsenal, and Dockyard), Victoria (L. C. & D.), Moorgate, King's Cross (G. N.), Finsbury Park, &c., for Northallerton, Darlington, Richmond, Durham, Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Helensburgh, Dumbarston, Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Dalmally, Oban, Fort William, Montrose, Aberdeen, Inverness, and other stations in Scotland. Passengers by the excursion on 24th return on Sunday, 27th, Monday, 28th, Thursday, 31st inst., or Saturday, 2nd prox., and those by the excursion on 31st inst. return on Sunday, 3rd, Monday, 4th, or Saturday, 6th prox., according to period of ticket taken. Tickets at a single fare for the double journey will also be issued by above excursions to places named, available for return by one fixed train on any day within 16 days including days of issue and return. A special express conveying parcels only will leave London (King's Cross) at 10.15 p.m. on the 19th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd inst. for Lynn, Norwich, Yarmouth, Nottingham, Melton Mowbray, Leicester, Derby, Burton, Lincoln, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Keighley, Halifax, York, Hull, Newcastle, and all places in the North of England and Scotland. To prevent inconvenience from crowding at the Company's principal terminal station, King's Cross, tickets, dated in advance, will be issued at King's Cross (G.N.R.), Victoria (L. C. & D.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, Holloway, and Finsbury Park stations, and at their ticket offices. For further particulars see advertisement.

"I DREAMT THAT I DWELT IN MARBLE HALLS" will be the pleasing fancy to every one who first crosses the threshold of the gorgeous Trocadero Restaurant, which now holds such a proud and enviable position in the "New London" starting into life round and about Piccadilly Circus. But instead of the "vassals and serfs" of the old song we shall find a warm and hospitable welcome from the courteous and spirited proprietors, Messrs. J. Lyons and Co., Limited, and the proverbial attention and personal comfort ever extended to the public by these well-known caterers and restaurateurs. The basement floor is devoted to the grill room, with the buffet, smoking, reading, and billiard rooms. The entrance floor is occupied by the grand restaurant, with its golden minstrel and great gallery in the style of Louis Quatorze, and attached to the gold hall and gallery is a splendid adjacent saloon in the style of Louis Quinze. Small but deliciously cosy dining rooms surround these splendid public rooms. The first floor of the new Trocadero is another welcome surprise, consisting as it does of a ball room, a banquet hall in the Empire period—a most admirable reproduction—and an ante-room in the style of Louis Treize. On the gallery level, at the top of the grand staircase, will be found a reception room, again in the style of Louis Treize; a magnificent Masonic lodge in the period of Francois Premier, with, of course, the necessary ante-rooms for the comfort and convenience of the brethren of the Craft. Full particulars can be had on application at the Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus.

THE ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SHOW in 1897 will be held at Chelmsford under the presidency of Bro. the Earl of Warwick.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, President of the Church Lads' Brigade, has forwarded a donation of £20 to the headquarters of the Institution.

THE QUEEN and her Court will spend Christmas, as usual, at Osborne, and will return to Windsor Castle some weeks previous to her leaving England for her customary spring excursion.

BRO. G. SHAW-LEFEVRE has purchased Abbotsworth House, near Winchester. It is a picturesque building in the Elizabethan style, and has extensive fishing rights in the river Itchen, on which it stands.

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND, who was a member of each of the six Conservative administrations held between 1852 and 1892, completed his 78th year on Sunday last, having been born on the 13th December, 1818.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES, with the Princess Victoria, Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark, and the Duke and Duchess of Teck visited the St. James's Theatre on Thursday evening and witnessed a performance of "As You Like It."

OUR ATTENTION has been called to an error in our report of the proceedings in Grand Lodge on the 2nd inst. It was not Bro. Akers-Douglas, M.P., P.G.W., but Bro. Lord Bolton, P.G.W., D.P.G.M. West Yorkshire, who occupied the chair of Senior G. Warden.

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF GERMANY gave a large musical party at the new palace at Potsdam on Saturday last. Nearly the whole of the Diplomatic Corps were present, with Lady and Miss Lascelles, but the British Ambassador was prevented attending, having some time previously arranged to present his letters of credit on that day to the Regent of Brunswick.

IT HAS BEEN arranged that the Collegiate Church of St. Saviour, Southwark, shall be opened as the Cathedral Church of South London on the 16th February next. The chapter will include the Bishop of Rochester as Dean and the Bishop of Southwark as Sub-Dean. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales laid the memorial stone of the rebuilt nave on the 9th July, 1890, and his Royal Highness is desirous of being present at the approaching opening.

THE DUCHESS OF TECK opened a bazaar in aid of the Church Institute at the Public Hall, Croydon, on Saturday last. Her Royal Highness was received by the Right Hon. C. T. Ritchie, M.P., President of the Board of Trade, the Mayor, and members of the Committee, at the George-street entrance, where a detachment of the 1st V.B. Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment was posted as a guard of honour. The Vicar of Croydon read an address setting forth the objects of the bazaar, which the Duchess afterwards declared open and wished it success.

THE 142 HOURS' CYCLE RACE in Madison-square Gardens was brought to a conclusion at 10 p.m. on Saturday, the winner being Edward Hale, an Irishman, the 100 mile champion of Great Britain, who covered 1910 miles 8 laps, Joseph Rice, a Russian Pole, being second with 1832 miles, Ned Reading, an American soldier, of Omaha, third with 1853 miles, and Fred Forster, a German, fourth with 1820 miles. The winner received 1300 dollars, Rice, 800 dollars, Reading, 500 dollars, and Forster 250 dollars, eight other prizes being awarded ranging from 300 to 75 dollars.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund was held in the Guildhall on Monday, and, in the unavoidable absence of the Lord Mayor, who was detained on Corporation business, Bro. Archdeacon Sinclair was invited to preside, among those present being Bro. Alderman Treloar, the Bishop of Stepney, the Chief Rabbi, Lord Frederick Fitzroy, and 10 others. The report of the Council showed that the amount raised was £46,035, being the largest ever obtained except in 1895. The report was adopted, and the other business having been transacted, the proceedings terminated with the usual vote of thanks to the Chairman.

"FREEMASONRY IN 1896," is the title of the principal article contributed to the Christmas number of the *Freemason*, but it is only one of many features which will be read with interest by all who belong to the Craft. Admirable, in fact, is the comprehensive issue which has just been published, accompanying which is a supplementary page, on which figure portraits of the Provincial Grand Masters under the Grand Lodge of England. The chief Masonic occurrences of the fast-dying year have been compiled in diary form, and the number boasts further an entertaining story of Old Paris, by T. C. Walls, entitled "The Vision of Evil."—*Daily Telegraph*.

THE QUEEN, accompanied by T.R.H. Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of York, Princess Victoria of Wales, Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark, Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, and Prince Christian Victor, the Princess Louise Marchioness of Lorne and the Marquis of Lorne, Princess Henry of Battenberg, and the Duchess of Albany, attended the service held in the Royal Mausoleum, at Frogmore, on Monday morning, in memory of H.R.H. the Prince Consort and the Princess Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse, who died, the former on the 14th December, 1861, and the latter on the 14th December, 1878. In the afternoon the Mausoleum was opened by Her Majesty's commands for the servants and their families to visit.

MIDLAND RAILWAY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.—The Midland Railway Company, to prevent inconvenience and crowding, have arranged for the booking offices at St. Pancras and Moorgate Street stations to be open for the issue of tickets all day on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, inst., and tickets to all principal stations on the Midland Railway can be obtained beforehand at the Midland Company's City and Suburban Offices. On Christmas Eve the pressure of the traffic will be relieved by the running of duplicate trains from St. Pancras as circumstances may require. On Christmas Day the trains will run as appointed for Sundays, except the newspaper express, leaving London (St. Pancras) at 5.15 a.m., which will run to Bedford, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Sheffield, and Manchester, as on ordinary weekdays. On Saturday, the 26th inst., and on New Year's Day, certain booked trains will be discontinued, of which due notice will be given by Special Bills at the Stations. See advertisement.

THE MASONIC CHARITIES.—Speaking at the banquet in connection with the installation of Bro. C. F. Baker, W.M. elect of the Menturia Lodge, No. 418, at Hanley, on Tuesday, the 15th inst., Bro. E. V. Greatbach, P.P.S.G.W. Staffordshire, in responding to the toast of "The Masonic Charities," strongly condemned the proposed removal of the Boys' School from its present site, where, he contended, the children were as healthy as they would be anywhere else, and which had cost a large sum of money, probably not less than £100,000. In the past he had fought as strongly as any man could do against the prevailing order of things in the management of the School, and had been the means of bringing about a considerable improvement, but matters were almost as bad as ever they were. The fact that Lord Dartmouth had in a short space of time raised £700 in that province to endow a cot at the Wolverhampton Orphanage, and the realisation of a thousand guineas by the festival at Trentham a few months ago, showed that the Freemasons of Staffordshire were not behind the brethren of any other province, and he had no hesitation in saying that they could raise £1000 for several years if it was required. He urged that the London Institutions should be left severely alone, and that the Provinces of Staffordshire, Cheshire, and Warwickshire should combine to form their own Charitable Institution on lines similar to the Provinces of East and West Lancashire.

THE BARNATO SOCIAL AND SPORTING CLUB.—The Barnato Social and Sporting Club held their first smoking concert at Masons' Hall, E.C., on Tuesday last, when amongst those present were Bro. I. B. Joel, P.M. 2265, in the chair, and the other members of the Barnato Lodge present included Bros. T. Honey, P.M.; C. F. Hogard, P.G. Std. Br.; H. Barnato, Leo Harwood, G. Harwood, J. Jackson, Tom Smith, and P. Fulcke-Rantzen; besides Bros. Max Mendelssohn, P.M. 212; Ridout, P.M. 1287; and H. Hall, 2551. A very enjoyable evening was spent, many of the gentlemen who gave their services showing real talent, but we think the honours of the evening fell to Mr. Guy (late Royal Italian Opera), who gave a rendering of "The lost chord" on the cornet in a most perfect manner; Bro. Harry Hall for his comic songs; and Mr. H. J. Hughes, who sang one of Hayden Coffin's songs from "The Gisha Girl," and had to repeat the last verse. In the course of the evening a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Brown for the manner in which he had organised the concert and marshalled his forces, and Bro. I. B. Joel was thanked for his able conduct in the chair, and his health, as well as Bro. Harry Barnato's, was drunk with enthusiasm. There is no doubt that these social gatherings do much to cement a good feeling between employer and employé, and we trust the experiment, having proved such a success, will be repeated shortly.