

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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MASONIC BENEVOLENCE IN AID OF NATIONAL AND SPECIAL OBJECTS.

It has often been affirmed—with how little reason will be gathered from the following particulars—that Masons are selfish in their benevolence and limit their donations and subscriptions to members of or objects connected with their own body. Why it should be the subject of reproach that the members of a society should, before all things, make generous provision for the necessities of their own aged and destitute and their widows and children we fail to see; but even if we go so far as to acknowledge that such a policy is an evidence of selfishness on the part of the society which adopts it, we are at a loss to understand how, with the facts before us, any such charge can be made against the Masonic body. Firstly, there are few deserving objects of local or general interest in London, the Provinces, or Districts abroad, to which support by the local Masonic bodies is not freely and voluntarily given. Many a donation or subscription from lodges and brethren finds its way into the hands of the Treasurer of the local cottage hospital, infirmary, convalescent home, or other similar charity, and of these frequent gifts there is in 99 cases out of 100 no record to be found outside the minute book. Again, our Provincial and District G. Lodges when they hold their periodical meetings invariably make grants to some charity in the neighbourhood, while, whenever a scheme is projected for the restoration of a cathedral or the erection of some public edifice, the Masons are seldom, if ever, found less willing to contribute than their neighbours. It is for instance, but the other day that our Kentish brethren paid over £1000 towards Dean FARRAR'S Fund for the restoration of Canterbury Cathedral, while similar gifts have been made at divers times for similar objects in other dioceses. Of these contributions, however, no special record is kept, and a few months after they have been made the names of the donors or donating bodies are forgotten. But irrespective of these subscriptions and contributions, to which we only refer for the purpose of showing that the charge of indifference to charitable objects outside does not apply to local Masonic bodies, the donations which have been made from time to time to national and special objects by our Grand Lodge, that is, by the Masonic body as a whole, are both numerous and considerable in amount. The latest act of Masonic munificence towards extra-Masonic objects will be found in the grant and contributions by Grand Lodge towards the Prince of WALES'S Hospital Fund for London, the

sum voted by Grand Lodge being £2000, while the contribution in the shape of one moiety of the fees received for admission to the Masonic Jubilee Commemoration meeting in the Royal Albert Hall on the 14th June amounted to £3512 15s. 6d., the total sum handed over to the Fund, exclusive of amounts raised by individual lodges and other Masonic bodies, being £5512 15s. 6d. This, as we have said, is the latest act we are able to point to, but similar gifts, if not precisely on the same scale, have been made during the last 40 years and upwards. Thus in 1855, during the war in the Crimea, Grand Lodge voted £1000 to the Patriotic Fund, while in 1858 a like sum was voted to the Indian Relief Fund. In 1874, £500 was voted to the Bengal Famine Relief Fund; in 1877, £1050 was voted to the Famine Relief Fund for the whole of India; and in March of the present year a grant of equal amount was made towards a similar purpose. In 1863 £1000 was granted towards the alleviation of the distress caused by the American Civil War in the Lancashire Cotton Districts. In 1877, by way of commemorating the safe return of the Prince of WALES, M.W.G.M., from his visit to India, Grand Lodge voted the handsome contribution of £4000 to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for the purpose of providing and permanently endowing two lifeboats. In 1870, when the war was raging between France and Germany a gift of £500 was voted by Grand Lodge to the National Society for the aid of the sick and wounded in war. In 1872, when pretty well the whole of the city of Chicago was burnt to the ground, a sum of £500 was voted towards the relief of the sufferers by the terrible catastrophe. In 1880, when exceptional distress prevailed in Ireland, Grand Lodge gave £500 towards the relief of the sufferers, while in 1886 and again in 1887, sums were voted for the relief of the London poor, 200 guineas being given in the former year for the relief of the unemployed in London, and £500 in the latter year towards relieving the distress prevailing among the poor. In 1896, 500 guineas was voted towards the special fund that was being raised under the auspices of the Prince of WALES for the re-endowment of Guy's Hospital Fund. Other grants that have been made will be found to include £100 in 1825 towards the relief of the sufferers by inundation in Hanover; two grants of £105 each to the Palestine Exploration Fund in 1868 and 1876 respectively; £100 to the Turks' Island Relief Fund in 1867; £105 to the Peruvian Earthquake Fund in 1869; £100 to the Refugees' Benevolent Fund in 1871; £105 to the Famine Relief Fund for Persia; £210 to the sufferers by the Fire at St. John, N. Brunswick, in 1877; and £105 to those who suffered by the "Cataclysm" on the Coast of Peru in the same year. In 1878, £100 was given to the members of Igualdad Lodge, No. 653, Curacao, who had suffered by the hurricane, and in 1883, £105 was voted to brethren who had suffered by the fire at Kingston, Jamaica. In 1884, £105 was presented to the families of two of the crew of the Albert Edward Life-boat, Clacton-on-Sea (one of the Grand Lodge Life-boats), who lost their lives in the performance of their duty; and in 1888, a like sum was voted in aid of the families of the crew of H.M.S. Serpent which was lost, with all hands but three, off the coast of Spain. The four following grants were also made in the years specified, namely, in 1892, £315 to the relief of the general distress, and in 1893 £200 to that of the Masonic distress caused by the fire at St. John's, Newfoundland; £105 in 1893 towards those who suffered by the earth-

quakes in Zante; and in the same year £315 towards the relief of the general distress caused by the floods in Queensland. There are, as will be seen, sundry amounts among those we have mentioned, which were given specifically for the relief of brethren, but they are very few in number, and of too small importance to affect our general statement, that in dispensing their Charity the Masons of England are by no means unmindful of the claim upon their kindness of non-Masons. The total of the amounts voted by Grand Lodge for National and Special objects is fully £20,000, and it must be remembered that our Grand Lodge, though it has ample funds with which to defray its own expenses, has by no means a heavy surplus at its disposal.

FREEMASONRY IN QUEENSLAND.

There is hardly a British Colony in which Freemasonry has made greater progress, especially during the last few years, than Queensland. It was not till 1862 that it was organised into a District and then there were but three lodges on the roll, of which two were warranted in that year, the senior of the three having been warranted in 1859. During the first 20 years of its existence 17 lodges were constituted, raising the number on the roll to 20, but since 1882 as many as 31 lodges have been placed on the roll, and at the present time there are 51 lodges under the charge of Bro. the Hon. A. C. GREGORY, C.M.G., the first and only District Grand Master who has presided over the Craft in this favoured Colony. It is, indeed, under his auspices and with the loyal support and co-operation of such able and worthy brethren as Bro. B. L. BARNETT, P.G.D. England, the present Dep. D.G.M., and Bro. JOHN FENWICK, District Grand Secretary, upon whom his Royal Highness, the M.W.G.M., at the recent Diamond Jubilee Commemoration meeting, was pleased to confer the rank of Past Asst. Grand Director of Ceremonies, that Freemasonry in Queensland has attained its present strength and prosperity. How great is this strength and influence was shown at the meeting of the District Grand Lodge at Freemasons' Hall, Brisbane, on the 3rd of March last, when, from the statements furnished by the District Grand Treasurer, it appeared that dues, &c., amounting to close upon £1000 had been received from the lodges on the District roll, the receipts from all sources, exclusive of the balance brought forward from the previous year, being £1100, while the expenditure, exclusive of sums placed at deposit and balance in hand at close of account, was about £900; the investments being upwards of £1400. As regards the Fund for Benevolence, the receipts during the year amounted to some £330, the balance brought forward being over £400, while the expenditure, including purchase of Stock, &c., was £600; the investments and balance at close of the account being over £1900. Owing no doubt to the illness of Bro. JOHN FENWICK, District Grand Secretary, no statistics were presented as to the roll of subscribing members, but if we take a fair average of 50 per lodge, we have no difficulty in arriving at a total of over 2500. As regards the general business, which included the election of a District Grand Treasurer and the appointment of District Grand Officers for the ensuing year, there are only two matters to be noticed. Firstly, as regards an appeal against a decision of the District Grand Master, which had been allowed by United Grand Lodge, steps were at once taken by the District Grand Master, after a careful consideration as to the manner in which the thing was to be done, to give effect to the ruling of the supreme authority. In the other matter, the W.M. of the senior lodge on the roll having first sought and obtained permission of the District Grand Master, mentioned that his lodge at its previous meeting had resolved "that it was desirable to celebrate the 60th anniversary of her Majesty's reign in some signal manner in connection with Freemasonry in Queensland, and it was proposed to do that by the establishment of an Orphanage for the sons and daughters of Freemasons in Queensland, or by some other permanent Masonic Charity." The W.M. in question expressed his belief, based upon conversations he had had with different brethren, that such a project would be exceedingly popular. At the same time, he realised that it was a subject that should be freely and fully considered by the different lodges, and he hoped that all would

join in the movement when a decision had been arrived at, not only those belonging to the English, but also the brethren under the other Constitutions in the Colony. The District Grand Master considered it very desirable that some such idea should be adopted, but District Grand Lodge could not then do more than express its approval of such a scheme. The Deputy District Grand Master, while he agreed that it was desirable that such a movement should be adopted, expressed his opinion in favour of a home or hospital for aged Masons and their widows, and there for the present the matter stands. However, we have no doubt that in the interval that has elapsed since this Communication of the District Grand Lodge was held, the lodges have taken the matter up, and we feel sure that before the year is ended it will be found that some plan for commemorating the QUEEN'S Record Reign will have been adopted that shall be a credit to the Craft in Queensland, as well as an honour to our Gracious Sovereign.

A MASONIC ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY FROM THE U.S.A.

The following letter to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and congratulatory address to her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen were sent by post and express on June 7th, 1897.

The address is in 14th century medieval illuminated text on the finest vellum, and bound in choice seal skin of "garter blue." On the back, in letters cut out of solid gold, is the name "Victoria."

"Chicago, June 7th, 1897.

"H.R.H. Albert Edward Prince of Wales.

"M.W. Sir and Brother,

"On behalf of the Masonic Veteran Association of Illinois, United States of America, which is honored with your membership, I forward by express, a congratulatory address to her Most Gracious Majesty, on the attainment of her 60 years reign on the throne of Great Britain and Ireland, &c.

"We kindly ask that you, on our behalf, will present this token of our love and respect for so noble a woman, to your loved mother, the Queen.

"Sincerely and fraternally,

"JOHN CORSON SMITH,

"Past Grand Master of Illinois, &c., &c., and

"Representative of Grand Lodge of England,

"Venerable Chief."

The unique address reads:

"June 20th, 1837.

June 20th, 1897.

"To

"Her Most Gracious Majesty, VICTORIA, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India.

"The members of the Masonic Veteran Association of Illinois, United States of America, most heartily join their brethren 'wherever they be, on land or sea,' and the people of all civilised nations around the globe, in congratulating your Majesty upon having attained the longest reign of any King or Queen who ever sat upon the throne of Great Britain and Ireland.

"We thank our Heavenly Father, the Grand Architect of the Universe, for having, in His great goodness, spared your life to witness the most wonderful 60 years of progress in the world's history. No like period has seen so much progress in moral and religious thought, in effective effort for the freedom of mankind, in the advancement in industrial pursuits, in the development of the liberal arts and mechanics, the uplifting of humanity, and the promotion of the general welfare of the people everywhere. In all of this you have by constant effort, example, and encouragement borne a conspicuous part.

"Wishing to your Most Gracious Majesty continued years of usefulness and happiness, we ask your kindly acceptance of this tribute from the Veteran Freemasons of Illinois, United States of America, representatives of that Ancient Craft whose Patroness you have so long been, and of which your honoured father, the Duke of Kent, and your son, his Royal Highness, Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, have been and are such distinguished members.

"JOHN CORSON SMITH,

"Veteran Chief."

The following reply has graciously been sent by her Majesty to our indefatigable Bro. Gen. J. C. Smith.

Its warm appreciation of the good wishes from the Veterans of Illinois, leaves nothing to be desired, so that communication is certain to be widely read and treasured by the brethren concerned, as well as highly valued by the Craft in America.

"Windsor Castle,
"12th July, 1897.

"Dear Sir,

"I am commanded to convey to you and to the members of the Masonic Veteran Lodge of Illinois, the sincere thanks of the Queen, for the kind expressions of congratulation and goodwill contained in the address which was forwarded by you through H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, for submission to her Majesty.

"I am also commanded to thank you for the photograph of yourself which was enclosed with the address.

"I am, dear Sir,

"Yours very faithfully,

"ARTHUR BIGGE,

"Gen. J. C. Smith,
"65, Sibley-street,
"Chicago, U.S.A."

ANCIENT FREEMASONRY.

That Freemasonry may of right be called Ancient admits of no doubt. It is often called the oldest Society in the world, and its claim to be thus regarded cannot well be contradicted. But when we affirm the ancient character of Freemasonry, and declare that it originated in a remote past, there is need of some care in definition and explanation, if we would avoid a misleading statement. There are distinctions to be kept in mind; there are interpretations and limitations to be set forth, and processes of change and development to be noted, if we undertake to follow along the lines of Freemasonry and to trace the beginnings of its life in a period far distant from our own.

Something more than a word, or a date, or a sentence, is required to answer the question, "How old is Freemasonry?" It is not enough to say Freemasonry is old as the creation, its life runs parallel with the life of the human race; or, with something more of modesty to declare that it dates from the time when the pyramids were erected, or when King Solomon's Temple was builded, or when the Crusades were entered upon. Such responses may have an element of truth in them, but they are inadequate and misleading; they do not satisfy the careful enquirer, they do not go to the heart of the question, they need amplification and explanation.

It is essential at the outset that we should agree as to the meaning of the word Freemasonry. Does it stand for a system or an organisation, or both? Does it represent no more than a sentiment or idea belonging to the unfoldings of related life, and showing itself in the associations by which men have united their strength and augmented the zest of living from the early days until now? Interpreting Freemasonry thus broadly, as referring to principles and tendencies potent in bringing men together, and causing them to walk together and work together as brethren, we shall be justified in maintaining the proposition that it belongs to the remotest period of the past, being identified with all systems and associations which, by their expression of the fraternal sentiment, have exercised a benign mission in the human world.

Freemasonry, however, as commonly understood, has a more restricted meaning. It represents a system of teaching and of service; it has a symbolism of its own; it has rites and observances that stamp it with individuality; and thus it constitutes a close and helpful bond of kindredness to those who come within its fellowship. In this view of the Masonic system, and of an organisation with which such a system must be connected, and through which it must manifest itself, we certainly find it difficult to justify the assertion that Freemasonry has existed from time immemorial, or that it was known and practised in the days of King Solomon. When we enter upon an historical examination of the rise and progress of Freemasonry, restricting the term as just now indicated, we shall find ourselves obliged very likely to abate somewhat the claims we may have put forward as to the antiquity of our cherished Institution.

In an intelligent search to reach the truth as to the past of

Freemasonry we must draw the lines between tradition and history—between legends and facts. Tradition is by no means worthless as bearing upon the age of Freemasonry; it has great value; but it does not take the place of history. Traditionally there is considerable evidence to show that Freemasonry originated with the Ellusinians, the disciples of Pythagoras, the the Essenes, or the Druids; but there is no actual, historic proof sufficient to establish such a line of descent for the modern Craft organisation.

It must be allowed that it does not establish the antiquity of Freemasonry to cite its legends and ceremonies associated with distinguished personages and memorable events of a former age. Masonic ritual still refers to Moses, Joshua, Aholiab, Bezalel, and other ancient worthies, but such reference does not warrant the assumption that these famous Hebrews were members of or leaders in any society to which the name Masonic could properly be applied. Nor may like references to King Solomon and the two Hiram be accepted as showing that symbolic Freemasonry existed in their day, and that "our three Most Excellent Grand Masters" governed a Craft organisation such as we know the modern Fraternity to be. The legends, symbols, ceremonies, familiar to modern Craftsmen, which seem to connect Freemasonry with King Solomon's time and specially with the building of the Temple at Jerusalem do no harm. There is not the slightest call to eliminate them from the work and the ritual, for they are wholesome object lessons, giving character and impressiveness to the ceremonies and teachings of the Order; but further than this we need not go. We involve ourselves in difficulties the very moment we attempt to maintain the proposition that there is an historic chain of continuity between the workmen in King Solomon's Temple and the members of the Masonic Fraternity as it exists to-day.

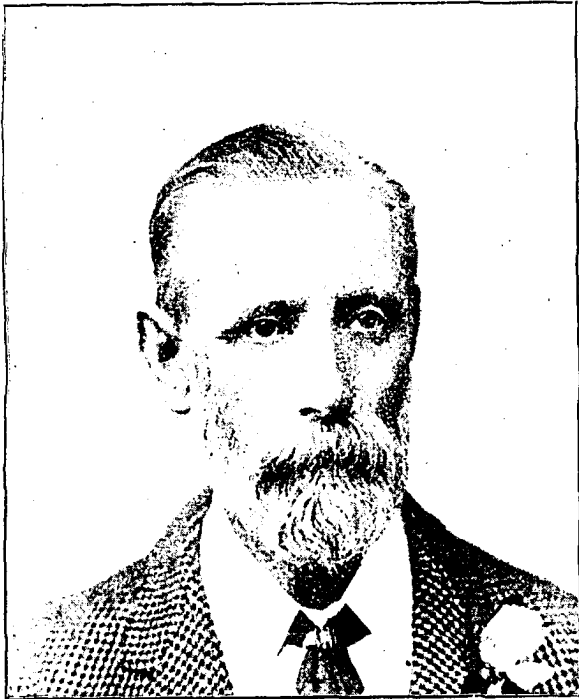
It is unwise to claim too much for our venerable organisation in respect to age. The finding of so-called Masonic marks on stones taken from ruins in the valley of the Nile, does not show conclusively that Freemasonry was known and practised by the ancient Egyptians. It is certainly suggestive, in a broad range of enquiry, to find the All-Seeing Eye, the Blazing Star, the Square, and numerous other emblems familiar to the modern Craftsman, displayed upon the stones that have been covered by the earth for thousands of years. But these interesting relics do not prove that the men who carved the symbols on Egyptian tablets or Temple walls were Masons. They are witnesses to the fact that these distinguishing emblems of our Order were held in high regard in the time of the Pharaohs, that they had meaning, and the inference is a reasonable one that some Association existed which laid special stress on these signs and symbols, and most likely enacted peculiar rites in connection with their use. All this is probable, and the field of conjecture is broad and inviting. But that the Masonic Institution existed then and there, that there were Masonic lodges in those ancient days, conferring Degrees and obligating members, is by no means proven. There is no sufficient warrant for the assumption that Freemasonry originated in Egypt, and that an organisation of Masonic Craftsmen directed the building of cities and temples in the Valley of the Nile.

How old is Freemasonry historically considered? It is somewhat difficult to answer this question. We know the history of the Masonic Institution since the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England in the year 1717. But to affirm that the organic life of Freemasonry began at that date would be not only to disregard traditions and a mass of inferential testimony, but to set aside documentary evidence that points to a very different conclusion. Distinctive Freemasonry was known before the eighteenth century. The proof is ample that there were Masonic lodges in England and Scotland in the seventeenth century, while before that period there were organisations both in Great Britain and in Germany, which in many of their features bore the stamp of the Masonic Fraternity as it became better known and more prominent in the early part of the eighteenth century.

Historical Freemasonry can clearly trace the line of its descent to organisations bearing the name Masonic, which existed in the 17th century, back of which appear the societies of builders and skilled workmen—the German, Steinmetzen, and other Operative Guilds—with which there is also a line of connection more or less clearly revealed. These mediæval societies present a worthy type of brotherhood from which modern Freemasonry is evolved. It is well that modern Freemasonry can refer to such an origin and establish its relation with the Operative Masonry of the Middle Ages. It is a matter of congratulation that so much of the ancient character and prestige of Freemasonry is made clear by historical evidence—*Freemason's Repository*.

R.W. BRO. W. F. LAMONBY, PAST DEPUTY
GRAND MASTER OF VICTORIA.

As a Mason, our R.W. brother is "dyed in the wool," for his maternal grandfather was a member of the Scottish Craft more than a century ago. His grandson, the subject of this notice, presented Quatuor Coronati Lodge with his apron, which was reproduced in the "Transactions." His late father, for many years was a prominent Mason in America (New York.) Our brother has been more than 20 years a contributor to the *Freemason*. He was initiated in Skiddaw Lodge, No. 1002, Cockermouth, May 2nd, 1865; served offices of Secretary, I.G., J.D., and S.W., installed W.M. in 1875, and with three P.Ms. represented his lodge at the installation of the M.W. Grand Master in the Royal Albert Hall the same year; two years later he was again Secretary. Appointed P.G. Steward Cumberland and Westmorland in 1875, P.G. Registrar in 1877, and P.S.G.W. in 1892, on his return from Australia, the last occasion on which the late Earl of Bective presided over his province. Was presented with a valuable jewel and address at a farewell dinner by the members of his mother lodge on leaving England for Australia, in January, 1882; joined the Combermere Lodge, No. 752, (E.C.), Melbourne (the only English lodge now in Victoria), in 1882, and two years later was elected to the chair. Founder and first W.M. (two years) of Gordon Lodge, then 2112 (E.C.), now 99 (V.C.), at Ascot Vale, Melbourne, 1887, and presented with piece of plate on retiring from the chair. Is still a subscribing member. Appointed District Senior Grand Warden of Victoria, (F.C.) in 1888, and consecrated, as Deputy of the R.W. District Grand Master (late Sir W. J. Clarke, Bart.), Trentham Lodge, 2303 (E.C.), now 130 (V.C.) Was Hon. Sec. to Provisional Directors of the Freemasons' Hall Company, Melbourne, also to the Executive Committee in connection with laying the corner stone of same, and was presented with a valuable testimonial therefor, also a massive gold medal by the late Sir W. J. Clarke, R.W. District and Prov. Grand Master (E.C.), (I.C.) and (S.C.) A founder and original member of the Committee of



the Melbourne Masonic Club. Was Chairman Ascot Vale Masonic Hall Company, Melbourne, and laid corner-stone of same October, 1886—presented with massive silver trowel. A member of the Executive Committee for the formation of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria, and compiled and read an historical sketch of Masonry in that colony during half a century, at the inauguration of the new Grand Lodge, in 1889, when he was appointed R.W. Past Senior Grand Warden of the Victorian Constitution. Was presented with his portrait painted by Bro. J. C. Waite, Royal Society of British Artists. On leaving Australia, August, 1891, was presented by the late M.W. Grand Master, Bro. Sir W. J. Clarke, on behalf of the Victorian Craft, with an address and purse of 250 sovereigns. At the last June communication of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria, Bro. Lord Brassey, M.W. Grand Master, conferred the rank of R.W. Past Deputy Grand Master on Bro. Lamonby. Is Life Governor and Steward Boys' and Girls' Schools and Benevolent Institution, representing Victoria on the occasion of the Centenary Festival Girls' School, and intends doing a similar duty at the Boys' School centenary next year. Is a Life Governor of the Freemasons' Charitable Institutions of Victoria. Was two years a member of the defunct Colonial Board, and last year a member of the re-constructed Board of General Purposes, in connection with which was the only elected member qualified to serve on the Colonial Committee. In 1894, carried by resolution in Grand Lodge an amendment of Article, 126, B.C., empowering the M.W.G. Master to grant new or confirmation warrants to lodges whose warrants may have been stolen. This was first applied, and became necessary, in connection with the New Zealand difficulty. Last year he carried a resolution whereby Grand Lodge unanimously condemned the practice of canvassing for elective offices. Has been a member of the Correspondence Circle of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge since 1889, and is an occasional contributor to its "Transactions." Author of "Craft Masonry in Cumberland and Westmorland, from 1740 to the present day" (1879).

Royal Arch—Exalted in Sun, Square, and Compasses Chapter, No. 119, Whitehaven, April 8th, 1873; served as 1st A.S., P.S. and M.E.Z. in 1878, and is now third oldest P.Z. on the roll. P.G.S.B. of Cumberland and Westmorland 1879, and P.G. 1st A.S. in 1880. P.G.J. in 1893. In Australia joined Combermere Chapter, No. 752, Melbourne, in 1883; District Grand S.N. of Victoria in 1887.

Mark—Advanced in Bective Lodge, No. 147, Keswick (extinct), August 29th, 1872. Served offices of J.D. and S.W. A founder of Faithful Lodge, No. 229, Cockermouth, and first W.M. 1878; P.A.G.D.C. of Cumberland and Westmorland, 1878; and P.G. Secretary, 1879, resigning same in 1882, on proceeding to Australia, when he received a letter of thanks for his services from the late Earl of Bective, R.W. Prov. Grand Master. He consecrated Derwent Lodge, No. 282, Workington, in 1881. A founder of the Combermere Lodge, No. 336, in Melbourne, which he consecrated in 1884. Appointed Prov. Senior Grand Warden of Cumberland and Westmorland in 1895. Was Life Governor, and has been three times Steward of the Mark Benevolent Fund. Is an honorary member of several "blue" lodges, R.A. chapters, and Mark lodges.

Red Cross of Constantine.—Installed on the day of consecration of Dykes Conclave, No. 36, Cockermouth, April 15th 1873, and served several offices therein. Was specially commissioned by the Grand Imperial Council to introduce the Order into Australia. He founded and consecrated Melbourne Conclave, No. 143, in 1884. On returning to England he was appointed by the late Sir Francis Burdett, head of the Order, an Intendant General (unattached). He is still a subscribing member to Dykes Conclave.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF WESTLAND,
NEW ZEALAND.

The annual communication of the above District Grand Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, River-street, Hokitika, on Wednesday, the 24th of March, when there were present—

Bros. John Bevan, J.P., Dist. G.M.; Hon. James Kerr, M.L.C., Deputy Dist. G.M.; John R. Hudson, Past Deputy Dist. G.M.; John J. Clarke, Dist. S.G.W.; Leonard Northcroft, J.P., Dist. J.G.W.; Thomas A. Walker, Dist. G. Chap.; Michael Pollock, J.P., Dist. G. Treas.; Fritz Eisfelder, P.D.S.G.W., Dist. G. Sec.; John J. Williams, P.D.S.G.W., President Board of General Purposes; Edward Chilman, Dist. J.G.D.; Henry Hyams, P.D.S.G.W., Dist. G.D.C.; William Heinz, Dist. G.S. of W.; Carl F. G. Robeck, Dist. G.S.B.; John L. Smith, Dist. G. Purst.; Jacob Weber, Frank M'Gregor, J. Valentine, and H. Larsen, Dist. G. Stwds.; Harry J. Thompson, Dist. G. Tyler; W. H. Kitchingham, P.D.S.G.W.; James Bevan, P.D.S.G.W.; J. A. Bromley, P.M. 1233; George Brownlie, W.M. 1233; W. Morgan, P.M. 1689; W. H. Evenden, W.M. 1689; H. J. C. Schroder, W.M. 1229; and James Holmes, S.W. 1229. Visitors: Bros. H. Preston, 1229; S. J. Spiers, 1689; and Dr. Teichmann, 2, S.A.C.

Apologies were received from Bros. J. Steer, D.J.G.W.; Thos. Carr, W.M. Phoenix Lodge; C. A. Harden, D.G. Reg.; C. Cohen, D.S.G.D.; Larsen; and Jorgenson.

The lodges represented were the Pacific Lodge, No. 1229; Greymouth Lodge, No. 1233; Lazar Lodge, No. 1689; Phoenix Lodge, No. 1690; and Pacific Lodge, No. 1463.

Outward correspondence having been read and approved, and inward correspondence read and received, a number of reports of quarterly communications from various Grand and District Grand Lodges were received and laid on the table.

Bro. NORTHCROFT, P.D.J.W., proposed, Bro. E. CHILMAN, D.J.G.D., seconded, and it was carried unanimously that Bro. Michael Pollock be re-elected Treasurer.

Bro. JAMES BEVAN, P.D.S.G.W., proposed, Bro. J. J. WILLIAMS, P.D.S.G.W., seconded, and it was carried unanimously, that Bro. H. J. Thompson be re-elected Tyler.

It was agreed, on the proposition of Bro. J. J. CLARKE, D.S.G.W., seconded by Bro. G. F. C. ROBECK, that Bros. J. J. Williams and H. Hyams be elected Auditors.

This being the annual meeting the D.G.M. invested the following as D.G. officers for the ensuing year:

Bro. Hon. James Kerr, M.L.C.	...	...	Dep. Dist. G.M.
" John R. Hudson	...	...	Past Dep. Dist. G.M.
" Charles A. Harden	...	...	Dist. S.G.W.
" J. A. Bromley	...	...	Dist. J.G.W.
" George Brownlie	...	...	Dist. G. Reg.
" John J. Williams, P.D.S.G.W.	...	...	Pres. Bd. Gen. Purps.
" Thomas A. Walker	...	...	Dist. G. Chap.
" Henry Hyams, P.D.S.G.W.	...	...	Dist. G.D. of C.
" Michael Pollock, J.P.	...	...	Dist. G. Treas.
" Edward Chilman, P.M.	...	...	Dist. G. Sec.
" W. Evenden	...	...	Dist. S.G.D.
" F. H. Robertson, P.M.	...	...	Dist. J.G.D.
" S. J. Spiers	...	...	Dist. G.S. of W.
" J. L. Smith	...	...	Dist. G.S.B.
" F. M'Gregor	...	...	Dist. G. Purst.
" J. Valentine	...	...
" Grandera	...	...
" W. H. Purnell, P.M.	...	...	Dist. G. Stwds.
" J. Marris	...	...
" H. Larsten	...	...
" H. J. Thompson	...	...	Dist. G. Tyler.

On behalf of the District Grand Lodge and the lodges and brethren of the district, the D.D.G.M., Bro. Hon. JAS. KERR, M.L.C., presented the District Grand Master with a very handsome Masonic jewel, together with a service of plate in token of the deep esteem entertained for him by the brethren throughout the district. As an evidence of the high reputation Bro. John Bevan had gained in Masonic circles in the Colony he emphasised the fact that he (Bro. Bevan) had been asked to instal the D.G. Master of Canterbury next month and the District Grand Master of Auckland in June. The unity existing amongst the lodges in Westland was attributable to the tact and strong personality of the District Grand Master.

In expressing his appreciation of the splendid gift, Bro. J. BEVAN, who was much affected, thanked the brethren most sincerely for this fresh tribute of their appreciation of his services. He was deeply sensible of the debt of gratitude he owed them for their loyalty to him, and through him, to the Grand Lodge of England. The happiness he had enjoyed for so many years amongst the brethren of Westland had amply repaid him in the past, and that fresh testimony of their devotion to him would leave another enduring memorial of their large-heartedness, their sincerity of purpose, and their attachment to the Craft. He was proud indeed of the position of English Masonry in Westland, where the lodges were most prosperous, large attendances and harmonious meetings being the result. It was their duty to exercise the highest aims of the Order, to inculcate the true principles of Masonic patriotism and to be faithful to their solemn obligations. The pages of history in this eventful year would express the greatest feeling of loyalty the world has ever known towards a beloved monarch, and English Masons will accentuate their loyalty in their unswerving devotion to their Royal Grand Master, the Prince of Wales. Once more he desired to tender his dear friend, Bro. Kerr, his warmest thanks for the kind words he had uttered and his faithful brethren for their handsome gift and kind reception of him that night.

At the conclusion of his speech, the District Grand Master sat down amidst prolonged applause.

Accounts having been passed for payment, the District Grand Lodge closed at 9.30 p.m.

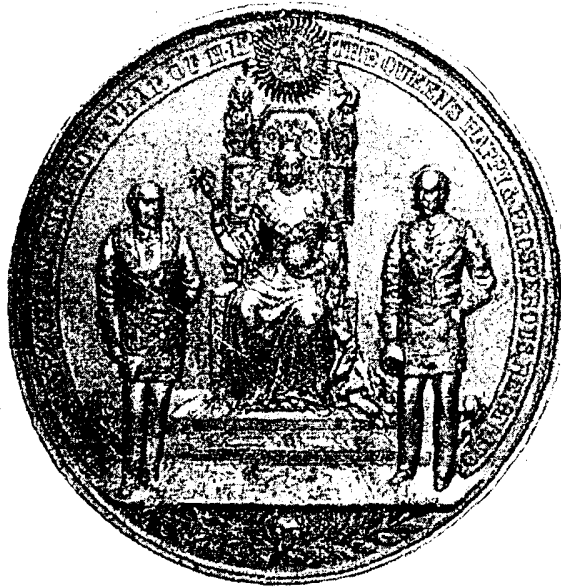
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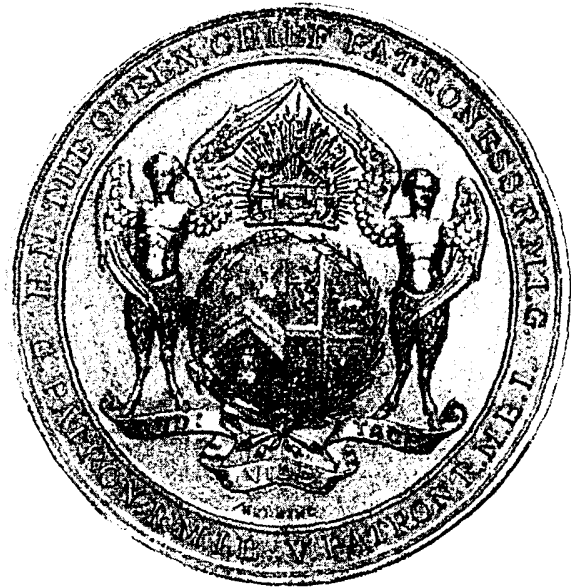
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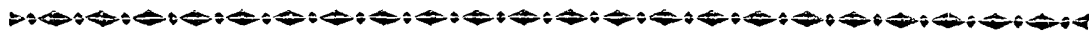
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12.25 Midnight.—For Chestow, Newport, CARDIFF,
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EVERY SATURDAY, 7.55 a.m.—For MINEHEAD,
LYNTON, LYNMOUTH, Barnstaple, ILFRACOMBE, Plymouth,
Tavistock, Launceston, Devonport, NEWQUAY, Truro,
FALMOUTH, St. Ives, PENZANCE, &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15,
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8.10 a.m.—For Wellington, SHREWSBURY, Church
Stretton, Leominster, HEREFORD, Oswestry, Welshpool,
ABERYSTWYTH, Llangollen, Corwen, BALA, Blaenau Fes-
tiniog, DOLGELLY, BARMOUTH, Harlech, Criccieth, CHEST-
ER, Birkenhead, LIVERPOOL, Rhyl, LLANDUDNO,
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Snowdon), &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15, or 17 days.

8.35 a.m.—For FROME, Shepton Mallett, Wells, YEovil,
Bridport, Dorchester, WEYMOUTH (for the Channel
Islands), Portland, &c., for 3, 10, or 17 days.

9.30 a.m. and 4.45 p.m.—For DOUGLAS (ISLE OF MAN),
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11.5 a.m.—For WESTON-SUPER-MARE, EXETER, Daw-
lish, Teignmouth, TORQUAY, Dartmouth, &c., for 3, 8, 10,
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12.5 noon.—For Newbury, Savernake, Marlborough,
Devizes, Trowbridge, Warminster, &c., for 3, 10, or 17
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12.40 noon.—For CLEVEDON, WESTON-SUPER-MARE,
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Tiverton, &c., for 3, 10, or 17 days.

4.0 p.m.—For Swindon, Stroud, Cirencester, GLOUCES-
TER, Cheltenham, HEREFORD, &c., for 3, 10, or 17 days.

6.5 p.m.—For Chippenham, BATH and BRISTOL, for
3, 10, or 17 days.

10.10 p.m.—For WESTON-SUPER-MARE, EXETER, Daw-
lish, Teignmouth, TORQUAY, Kingswear, PLYMOUTH,
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1897.

Masonic Notes.

We mentioned last week that in the award of Past rank to distinguished Royal Arch Masons, while the full number of 60 was preserved, and the proportions among London, the Provinces, and Abroad, there were sundry of the companions thus honoured who had not received Past rank in Grand Lodge, being appointed in place of those who had, but were ineligible for Grand Chapter office. We think it will be generally conceded that the standard of merit which characterised the Craft appointments, as a whole, has been well maintained in those of the Royal Arch. Thus as re-

gards the 25 appointments in London, we find prominent amongst them Comp. the Earl of Portarlington—who, as the Senior Grand Warden of United Grand Lodge, and the present Z. of a chapter, is eligible for office in Grand Chapter—has been appointed Past G. Scribe N., while Comp. Strachan, Q.C., who, for his services in the Provinces, was awarded the rank of Past Grand Deacon, is now honoured with that of Past Deputy Grand Registrar, as a London Mason. Comps. Edmund Pontifex, the Rev. A. W. Oxford, M.A., W. H. Stanger, J. Leach Barrett, Captain R. Gresley Hall, Mihill Slaughter, W. B. Fendick, H. A. Tobias, and E. Cutler, Q.C., are the other London companions who have been awarded Past rank in Supreme Grand Chapter, and though the names of some of them may not be familiar outside their own circle of Masonic acquaintances, we know that such as Comps. the Rev. A. W. Oxford, M.A., J. Leach Barrett, Captain Gresley Hall, and E. Cutler, who is Past Grand Organist of Grand Lodge, have done good services to Masonry and its Institutions, and fully deserve the honours now bestowed upon them in Royal Arch Masonry.

Among the 25 provincial companions who receive Past rank in place of Jubilee Craft Past G. Officers who were not eligible for office in Supreme Grand Chapter will be found the following, namely, Comp. J. H. Salter (Essex), who is made Past A.G. Soj.; Comps. John J. Williams, Prov. G. Scribe E. Buckinghamshire, and Bernard G. Edyvean (Cornwall), who are now Past G.S.Bs.; and Comps. Charles Bullock, Prov. G. Scribe E. Hertfordshire, and G. W. G. Barnard, Prov. G. Scribe E. Norfolk, who receive brevet rank as Past Grand Standard Bearers. Of the 10 hailing from abroad the following did not receive Past rank in Craft Masonry, namely, Comps. E. J. Smith, Dist. G. Scribe E. Bombay; Joseph Clarke, Dist. G. Scribe E. South Africa (E.D.); and A. O'Driscoll Gordon, Dist. G. Scribe E. Hong Kong and South China, who are appointed Past Grand Standard Bearers.

Very sincere regret will be felt by a large number of our readers at the sad and unexpected news of the death of Bro. John Larkin, J.P. The deceased had been slightly out of health for a short time past, but his condition was not of so serious a character as to cause any anxiety to his family and friends. However, he died on Saturday last, and will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of his acquaintance. Bro. Larkin was a P.M. of the Lodge of Fidelity, No. 3, and of the Aldersgate Lodge, No. 1657, but the generous support he gave to our Charitable Institutions and the active interest he took in their welfare constitute his strongest claim upon the respect of his brethren. He was, as will be seen from our report elsewhere, a Patron of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and Vice-Patron of both our Schools, while he had served many Stewardships in their behalf. We offer our respectful sympathy to the widow, family and friends of our deceased brother on the loss they have just sustained.

Our respected contemporary the *Keystone* of Philadelphia, since it entered upon its 31st volume, has appeared in a new form, the change, in our opinion, being greatly for the better. It retains all its old characteristics. It is still the same well-edited, well-informed Masonic journal, but in the matter of size, it is now a sixteen-page paper, and is far handier than when it was only an eight page.

The Grand Lodge of New York held its 116th annual communication in the Masonic Hall, New York, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 2nd and 3rd June respectively. Bro. Stewart, M.W.G.M., presided, and there was a large attendance of Grand Officers, present and past, and lodge representatives. The G. Master delivered a long and interesting address, in the course of which he passed in review all the principal events of the past year, and expressed his opinions freely on questions of a controversial character. We are glad to find that he is strongly opposed to the new-fangled idea of Masonic benevolence, which requires that "each Grand Lodge" should "enforce the reimbursement of moneys spent by their subordinate lodges in relieving the distress of visiting brethren." Bro. Stewart declares with reference to this "that the adoption of such a system would forever be a blight upon the name of Masonry. The well-known and prescribed duties Masons owe to each other, the well-known and defined principles of our Craft, demand that our gifts must be a free-will offer-

ing, emanating from a pure desire to perform those duties and uphold those principles. The very intimation of a return must be rejected with scorn as insulting to the high calling of our Fraternity."

We are indebted to the courtesy of the Dist. Grand Secretary of Natal—Bro. John B. Cottam—for a copy of the Proceedings at (1) the half-yearly Communication of the District Grand Lodge of Natal, held in the Masonic Hall, Avoca, on the 18th September, 1896; and (2) at the half-yearly Communication at the Masonic Hall, Durban, on the 16th March last. At the former meeting Bro. George Russell, Dep. District G.M., presided in the unavoidable absence of the Dist. G.M., and, in the course of the address which he had occasion to deliver, took the opportunity to congratulate the brethren on the prosperous condition of Freemasonry in the District. At the same time he expressed his belief that District Grand Lodge should do more towards strengthening its funds for purposes of benevolence.

At the meeting in Durban in March last Bro. Wesley Francis, Dist. G.M., presided, and was supported by his respected Deputy, the great majority of his District Grand Officers and the representatives of the lodges. He, too, spoke in terms of satisfaction at the state of the Craft under his authority, and having called attention to one or two matters of detail in reference to the lodges, he went on to suggest that some steps of a Charitable nature should be taken with a view to commemorating worthily the Diamond Jubilee of her Majesty the Queen. Bro. Francis, however, laid stress upon the desirability that such a scheme, of what nature soever it might be, should be adopted voluntarily by the lodges and brethren. "I should just like," said the District Grand Master, "to lay this down as a fundamental principle that I trust that whatever is done will be of an essentially voluntary character and that no call will be made upon lodges or brethren save in the way of a free-will offering on their part. I do not wish to see any enforced subscription in the scheme which we propose now to initiate." Subsequently the District Grand Master appointed his officers for the ensuing year, and the proceedings shortly afterwards terminated.

With reference to a proposal initiated some time ago by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin to the effect that a lodge which has expended money in relieving a brother in distress should be entitled to reimbursement from the lodge the relieved brother belonged to, and failing that to the Grand Lodge of the jurisdiction in which his lodge was situated, we note with pleasure that the Grand Lodge of Indiana has again declined giving its adhesion to the scheme. At the 76th annual meeting held at Indianapolis on the 25th and 26th May last, a resolution was adopted to the effect that "the Grand Lodge of Indiana has at all times contended and held that a Mason in distress is entitled to aid and assistance from the Fraternity wherever he may be at the time of his need, and that, as a matter of law, his lodge is not bound to make any restitution, though it may always do so at its own option."

The sooner Wisconsin sees its way to withdrawing its objectionable scheme the better, and we hope the other Grand Lodges in the United States which have not already adopted a similar course to Indiana, will lose no time in doing so. The latter is quite right in its declaration that "as a matter of law," a lodge "is not bound to make any restitution" of the sum expended in relieving one of its members who happened to be in temporary distress, "though it may always do so at its own option." If the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin has any doubt upon the subject, let the next case in which a distressed member of one of its lodges is relieved by another of its lodges be brought into a court of law, and let the latter claim the restitution of money which it has never received, and cannot show, authority for spending, and we venture to think the statement in the resolution of the Grand Lodge will be found true to the letter—that no man or body of men "is bound to make restitution" of what is "freely and voluntarily" given in Charity.

If the result of such a reference to the law courts does not satisfy the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, then let it organise itself as a Committee for consulting Noah Webster's Dictionary for the meaning of the word "Charity," and if that does not satisfy it let it formulate a definition of its own of Masonic Charity.

Reviews.

"HANDBOOK OF THE GRAND BAZAAR AND CARNIVAL."—In aid of the new Masonic Hall in Templepatrick School Grounds on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 24th, 25th and 26th June. This, though it claims to be no more than a handbook to a bazaar which was held in the Templepatrick School Grounds in Jubilee week for the purpose of raising funds for the erection of a Masonic Hall for the use of St. Paul's Lodge, No. 160, is a most interesting compilation, which does the greatest credit to Bro. J. Clarke, jun., P.M. 160, who was Hon. Secretary of the Committee in charge of the arrangements, and under whose auspices the guide has been prepared and organised. There is, for instance, quite a history of Templepatrick itself, to which we are indebted to the researches of Bro. Francis Joseph Bigger, and which is very nicely illustrated. Then there are the bye-laws of the St. Paul's Lodge, a copy of the warrant granted by the Duke of Leinster, G.M., in 1826, with several portraits of distinguished brethren connected with the neighbourhood, and sundry illustrations of old lodge seals, which are certain to arouse a feeling of interest among studious brethren, in whose estimation all such representations are of exceptional value. As regards the guide to the various stalls at the bazaar, there is no doubt they must have been found useful at the time, but now they only possess a kind of academic interest, as conveying an idea of the character of a bazaar which was held for so admirable a purpose, and which we hope will be found to have been a great success. We thank Bro. Clarke for his courtesy in forwarding us a copy of his "Handbook."

PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF DORSET.

The above Provincial Grand Lodge was held on the 27th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Poole. Bro. W. E. Brymer, M.P., Prov. Grand Master, presided, and among the brethren assisting in the ceremonies of the day were:

Bros. H. T. George, 126, D.P.G.M.; George Habgood, 99, P.G. Treas.; Nelson Bowes, acting Sec.; John A. Sherren, 126, P.P.S.G.W.; Sidney S. Milledge, 126, P.G.I. of Works; E. Mills, 126 and 133, P.J.G.W.; D. H. Williams, 126, P.J.G.O.; W. Hair, 133, P.S.G.D.; W. J. White, acting Org.; A. Budden, 99, P.G.I.G.; A. C. Chapin, A. Rayner, 126, P.G.D.C.; W. D. Dugdale, G. A. Mate, E. W. Baker, A. Graham, R. Cox, S. Short, C. J. Freeman, B. Morris, S. Furnell, G. Hobbs, E. Howell, A. Davidson, F. Eacock, S. Jackson, and others.

The usual formalities having been gone through,

Bro. CHAPIN, on behalf of Amity Lodge, presented the Prov. Grand Lodge with a copy of his newly-published work, "The History of Freemasonry in Poole."

The presentation was suitably acknowledged by the PROV. GRAND MASTER.

Upon the motion of Bro. J. A. SHERREN, P.M. 128, P.S.G.W., it was resolved—"That, having regard to the year 1898 being the Centenary year of the R.M.I.B., and that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has signified his intention of presiding at the Anniversary Festival, that R.W. Bro. W. E. Brymer, P.G.M., be asked to represent the province on that occasion, and that a sum of not less than 20 guineas be voted by this Prov. Grand Lodge to be placed on his list."

The returns from the different lodges in the province were presented by the P.G.R. of M.

The PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER then addressed the brethren on the state and prospects of Mark Masonry and the general business of the province.

Later on, Bro. George Habgood, 99, was re-elected Prov. G. Treasurer, and Bro. Albert Harris was re-appointed Prov. G. Tyler.

The Prov. Grand Master then proceeded to invest the nominated officers for the ensuing year as follows:

Bro. H. T. George	...	...	...	Prov. D.G.M.
" A. Graham	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" E. Whitley Baker	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" W. D. Dugdale	...	...	...	Prov. G. Chap.
" A. C. Chapin	...	...	...	Prov. G.M.O.
" S. S. Milledge	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.O.
" J. E. Crickmay	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.O.
" A. Rayner	...	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" J. H. Wadcoat	...	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" F. P. Oakley	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" B. Morris	...	...	...	Prov. G.I. of W.
" S. Short	...	...	...	Prov. G.D. of C.
" R. Cox	...	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" A. Davidson	...	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" G. Hobbs	...	...	...	Prov. G.I.G.
" W. J. White	...	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" F. Eacock	...	...	...	Prov. G. Stwd.

A vote of sympathy was passed to Bro. Zilwood Milledge, Prov. G. Sec., who was prevented by illness from attending.

The labours of the lodge being ended, the brethren adjourned to the London Hotel where a *recherché dejeuner* was served. A supply of fruit for dessert being kindly placed on the table by the Prov. G. Master.

The customary toasts were duly honoured.

In giving "The R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. Colonel Brymer, M.P.," the DEP. PROV. G. MASTER announced that during the past year there had been an increase of between 30 and 40 members in the province.

The PROV. G. MASTER, in reply, stated that his Deputy had visited every Mark lodge in the Province except Bridport at least once during the past year.

"The Entertaining Lodge (Amity)" was proposed by the PROV. G. MASTER, and responded to by Bro. CHAPIN, W.M. of Amity Lodge.

During the proceedings songs were sung by Bros. W. J. White and Nelson Bowes.

THE ASSASSINATION of the Spanish Prime Minister, Senor Canovas, has aroused the deepest feelings of horror and indignation, while the utmost sympathy is expressed in all directions. On receipt of the deplorable news, instructions were at once sent to Bro. Sir H. Drummond Wolff, the British Ambassador in Madrid, to express the Queen's heartfelt condolence with Spain and the Queen Regent on the loss they had sustained, Lord Salisbury also telegraphed his condolence to Madrid, and the Count de Casa Valencia, the Spanish Ambassador in London, who is brother-in-law of the murdered minister.

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

The quarterly communication of the above Grand Lodge was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, on Thursday, the 5th inst. The Right Hon. Lord Saltoun, M.W.G.M., occupied the throne, and Bros. Colonel Campbell and Major F. W. Allan were the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens. Other office-bearers included Bros. D. Murray Lyon, Grand Secretary; David Reid, Grand Treasurer; W. M. Denholm, Grand Bible Bearer; James Thomson, Grand Sword Bearer; Colonel W. Ivison Macadam, Grand Director of Ceremonies; John Carruthers, Grand Marshal; William Phillips, Grand Inner Guard; and others.

The visiting brethren included Bros. J. Tait, from Toronto; J. G. Sharpe, Gibraltar; and A. Paterson, New York, and they all received a cordial welcome from the M.W. Grand Master.

The M.W. GRAND MASTER intimated that he had received a letter of thanks from the Secretary for Scotland in reply to the Jubilee address sent to the Queen, and that said letter would be read at next meeting of Grand Lodge.

The minutes of Grand Lodge and Grand Committee included the following recommendations, which were agreed to—That Bro. A. M. Mackay be re-appointed Prov. Grand Master of Newfoundland, and that charters be granted to three new lodges in Western Australia and one in Innerleithen.

Bro. Dr. MIDDLETON, Prov. Grand Master of Peebles, Roxburgh, and Selkirk, had a motion on the agenda to give power to Prov. and District Grand Masters to grant dispensations for the conferring of Degrees at intervals of not less than one week.

Bros. JAMES CALDWELL and HUGH R. WALLACE opposed the motion on the grounds that it would be a mistake to return to the old system of conferring Degrees just as the daughter lodges were settling down to the new rule.

Grand Lodge supported this opposition by 137 votes against 26 for the motion.

Bro. W. M. DENHOLM brought a similar motion forward, with the difference that the change should apply to lodges in India and the Colonies only, and this simply to bring them into line with English lodges there; but this motion was also thrown out by a large majority.

Bro. JAMES MUIR sought to change the present mode of voting by show of hands in favour of voting by voting papers, but this motion was also rejected.

The income of Grand Lodge for the quarter ending July, amounted to £1593 2s. 8d., while the expenditure is shown as £694 2s. 7d.

Benevolent grants during the year amounted to £132. The grants paid in annuities now amounts to £1160.

YEATMAN-BIGGS LODGE, No. 64, IN BENGAL.

INAUGURAL MEETING.

The inauguration under a Provisional Warrant from the District Grand Master of Lodge Yeatman-Biggs, and the installation of its first Worshipful Master, which took place at the Freemasons' Hall, Bentinck-street, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 3rd June, proved a very brilliant function, and it must have been very gratifying to its founders, and especially to Bro. H. M. Rustomjee, who has taken such an active part in its formation, to see such an array of prominent brethren assisting at the ceremony. Bro. R. H. Rustomjee is sincerely to be congratulated on being the first Worshipful Master of this lodge, among the founders of which are to be found some of the highest Masons in the country, and in having for his Senior Warden such a distinguished gentleman as Bro. the Hon. Justice Jenkins. The following brethren were present:

Bros. W. H. Fitze, H. M. Rustomji, C. F. Larmour, E. G. Sinclair, R. F. Dedrickson, Martyn-Wells, Major G. Bowring, C. T. Wilbey, J. C. Bannerji, C. N. Bonnerji, D. N. Pundit, W. Franks, M. Anderson, C. M. Rustomjee, T. Avery, T. Maxwell, A. S. Mitchell, K. J. Guzder, F. G. Clarke, B. K. Mukerji, M. M. Masoom, G. R. Pitt, G. Bridgewater, F. F. Handley, the Hon. Justice Jenkins, R. H. M. Rustomjee, C. H. M. Rustomji, N. Sorabji, T. C. Cruickshanks, N. Giannacopulo, C. A. Giannacopulo, W. H. Elliott, C. C. Evannett, Shelley Bannerji, J. E. Thorpe, M. A. Kadir, C. S. Nazir, F. A. S. Jeejeebhoy, D. S. Ollenbach, H. R. Hambleton, P. Cawey, L. C. Bural, S. G. Bural, T. K. Ghose, L. Khettry, R. P. Lahiry, A. C. Sen, D. R. Kotiwal, C. R. Pitt, jun., R. Framji, S. K. Mitra, C. Bradford, J. G. Barcklay, S. C. Mullick, E. Penny, H. Boltze, and N. A. S. Jeejeebhoy, jun. The following were unavoidably absent, but sent their hearty good wishes for the prosperity of the lodge, namely: Bros. Brigadier-General Yeatman-Biggs, D.G.M.; Sir H. T. Prinsep, P.D.G.M.; the Maharaja of Kuch Behar, and J. R. Maples, Dep. D.G.M.

As regards the inaugural ceremony, all that need be said is that it was conducted in a most masterly manner by the Installing Master, Bro. H. M. Rustomjee, and that the following officers, who were appointed by the new W.M., Bro. R. H. M. Rustomjee, performed their duties with the utmost precision: Bros. the Hon. Mr. Justice Jenkins as S.W.; C. H. M. Rustomjee as J.W.; C. M. Rustomjee as Sec.; N. A. S. Jeejeebhoy as S.D.; and M. C. Sarkies as J.D. Bro. H. M. Rustomjee was appointed I.P.M. and Treasurer, and Bro. N. M. Chatterjee, Tyler.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren were called from labour to refreshment.

After ample justice had been done to the wines and viands provided, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and received, those of "The R.W. Bro. Brigadier-General Yeatman-Biggs" and "The R.W. Bro. Sir H. T. Prinsep" being drunk with enthusiasm.

Then a delicate but pleasant duty involved upon our revered old friend, Bro. H. T. Rustomjee. It was a peculiar experience for him, the father, to propose the toast of his son's health, in their respective capacities of Past Master and Installed Master. The parent and Past Master being merged into one, it was natural that he should be overpowered by his feelings, and be unable to do ample justice to the toast, but Bro. Fitze came to the rescue, and when proposing the toast of the newly-appointed officers, remedied this.

Bros. the Hon. Justice JENKINS and C. H. M. RUSTOMJEE, with whose names the toast was coupled, responded in suitable speeches.

The toast of "The Visiting Brethren," was drunk with much heartiness, and Bros. SINCLAIR and MARTYN-WELLS spoke on behalf of the visitors.

A delightful programme of vocal and instrumental music, to which Bros. Martyn-Wells, Giannacopulo, Boltze, Evannett, and Lantwar, were the chief contributors, helped to render the evening a memorable one.

The following is a complete list of the founders:

Bros. Rustomjee Heerjeebhoy Manackjee Rustomjee, P.W. 234, Dist G. Steward, W.M.; the Hon. Lawrence Hugh Jenkins, S.W.; Cursetjee Heerjeebhoy Manackjee Rustomjee, J.W.; Brigadier-Gen. A. G. Yeaman-Biggs, C.B., W.M. 2439, P.M. 1971, Dist. G.M. for Bengal; the Hon. Sir Henry Thoby Prinsep, P.M. 109, 392, and 2476, Past Dist. G.M.; John Richard Maples, W.M. 67, Dep. Dist. G.M.; William Henry Fitze, P.M. 218, P.G.D. Eng., P. Dep. Dist. G.M., Dist. G. Treas.; Heerjeebhoy Manackjee Rustomjee, P.M. 67, 229, and 2037, P.D.S.G.W., D.G. Sec.; Frederick St. Aubyn King, P.M. 218, D.S.G.W.; Charles Frederick Larmour, W.M. 229, P.D.S.G.W.; Thomas Browne Gray Overend, P.M. 109, P. Pres. D.B. of G.P.; R. Forrest Dedrickson, P.M. 218, Past Pres. Dist. Board of Gen. Purposes; Francis Daniel Augustus Larmour, P.M. 229, P.D.S.G.D.; Carl Theodor Max Andersonn, W.M. 2476, D.G.D.C.; Cowasjee Manackjee Rustomjee, P.M. 229, P.D.A.G.D.C.; Charles Robert Pitt, W.M. 392; Nanabhoj Ardasir Sorabjee Jeejeebhoy, 2441; and Malcolm Catchick Sarkies, 109, 2441, and 2507.

ADDRESSES TO THE QUEEN FROM THE GRAND LODGE AND GREAT PRIORY OF CANADA.

We are indebted to the columns of the *Canadian Craftsman* for certain addresses to her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee. That from the

GRAND LODGE OF CANADA (PROVINCE OF ONTARIO), which was forwarded by the hands of Bro. Major J. J. Mason, Grand Secretary, was as follows:

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, Most Gracious Sovereign:

The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Canada, desires to present to your Majesty their congratulations on the great event which has stirred the utmost limits of the Empire—and, indeed, the whole of the civilised world—the completion by your Majesty of the 60th year of your reign.

The Grand Lodge is sensible that their congratulations will be especially welcome, inasmuch as his Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, has for many years occupied the exalted position of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, and each one of your Majesty's sons has been enrolled in the Craft, and has attained distinction in its ranks. Well, indeed, may Freemasonry be termed the Royal Craft, and besides inculcating the most kingly and noble sentiments and principles, it has enrolled in its ranks several of the Sovereigns of Europe, and many of the most distinguished men of the Empire.

The Grand Lodge needs not to assure your Majesty of the loyalty of the members of the Craft within its jurisdiction. They regard you as their Patron, and look upon you as exhibiting to the world an example of those virtues which it is the office of Freemasonry to develope and practice.

The Grand Lodge, in common with many other bodies which will address your Majesty on this auspicious occasion, desires to record its sense of the wonderful progress made throughout the Empire in science, art, literature, and material prosperity during the past 60 years, and the great influence of your Majesty's life and example in promoting morality and purity in social life.

The Grand Lodge prays the Great Architect of the Universe to continue to your Majesty that protection which he has given you in the past, and to grant to you that crown of life which is given to those who are faithful unto death.

(Signed) WM. GIBSON, M.P., Grand Master.
E. T. MALONE, Deputy Grand Master.
HUGH MURRAY, P.G.M., Grand Treasurer.
J. J. MASON, Grand Secretary.

The address which was forwarded to her Majesty from the SOVEREIGN GREAT PRIORY OF CANADA

is as follows:

Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, of the United, Religious and Military Orders of the Temple, and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta.

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, Most Gracious Sovereign:

The Knights Templar of Canada humbly desire to unite in the expression of joy and gladness that is felt by all of your Majesty's loving and devoted subjects upon the approach of the anniversary that marks the longest and most glorious reign in the history of the British Empire, together with all of your Majesty's loyal subjects, we rejoice in this opportunity of commemorating a reign, not only remarkable for its length, but for the greatness and unexampled progress of the British nation as well as the world at large.

The 60 years of your Majesty's reign has been an era of happiness and prosperity in which the ancient and honourable Fraternity of Freemasonry in all its branches, including the chivalric Order of the Temple, has abundantly shared.

We deeply feel that the respect and esteem in which the Empire is held by all nations is due very much to your Majesty's influence, which has ever been exercised on the side of truth, justice, charity, virtues which every member of the Order of the Temple is taught to practice and revere, and the deep sympathy which your Majesty has ever shown for the welfare of your people in their prosperity and afflictions, has caused the hearts of your devoted subjects to beat in response to your own joys and sorrows. The admiration of your Majesty's personal example will never be effaced from the hearts and minds of your loving subjects wherever situated.

The chivalric Order of Knights Templar in the Dominion of Canada, especially desire to add their dutious and heartfelt congratulations on this joyous occasion, for not only has your Majesty been pleased to grant the Knights Templar of England the great honour of having your Majesty as patron, which honour was shared by Canadian Templars when a component part of that Grand Body, but as Canadians, they recall with pride the fact that his Royal Highness, Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, very graciously accepted the office of patron of the Order when Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Lower Canada, and a resident of the city of Quebec over a century ago.

On behalf of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, we earnestly hope and pray that your Majesty may long continue to enjoy your subjects' love and devotion and reign over a loyal and happy nation.

(Signed) WILL. H. WRYTE, Supreme Grand Master.
DANIEL SRY, Grand Chancellor.
D. F. MCWATT, Deputy Grand Master.
HENRY ROBERTSON, O.C., Past Grand Master.
E. T. MALONE, Past Grand Master.
E. E. SHEPPARD, Past Grand Master.
JAS. K. KERR, O.C., Grand Representative of England and Wales.
J. R. BATTISBY, D.D., Grand Chaplain.
A. A. S. ARDAGH, Grand Constable.
JOSEPH DUNBAR, Grand Marshall.
O. S. HILLMAN, Grand Treasurer.
ANGUS MCKEOWN, Grand Registrar.

Our Portrait Gallery.

Bro. Rustomjee Heerjeebhoy Manackjee Rustomjee was initiated in the Thomas Jones Lodge, No. 2441, Calcutta, on the 8th August, 1893. Towards the close of the year 1894, he joined the Anchor and Hope Lodge, No. 234, and was appointed S.W. for the year 1895-96. He was appointed Dist. G. Steward of Bengal on the 28th December, 1896, and is now Worshipful Master of the newly-organised Yeatman-Biggs Lodge. He was exalted a Royal Arch Mason in the New Union Chapter, No. 234, on the 3rd May, 1894. As regards the other branches of Masonry, we understand that he was advanced to the Mark Degree in Ashlar Lodge, No. 474, on the 10th April, 1894, and joined the Capstone, No. 80, on the 24th September following, having been Secretary of the latter since



November, 1894. In March, 1896, he became a founder of the Keystone Mark Lodge, No. 495, and has held the important office of Secretary ever since. He is a Royal Ark Mariner having been elevated in the Rainbow Lodge, No. 80, on the 14th September, 1894. He is also a member of the Excelsior Council, No. 6, of the Allied Masonic Degrees, and a member and Secretary since November, 1894, of the Empress of India Conclave, No. 16, of the Order of the Secret Monitor, and has generally done excellent service to Freemasonry. He is a son of the distinguished Mason, on whom his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was pleased to confer the brevet rank of Past A.G.D.C., at the Commemoration meeting in the Royal Albert Hall, on the 14th June last, and who has held the offices of Dist. G. Secretary and Dist. G. Scribe E. of Bengal, since 1880. We wish him a long continuance of honourable service in the various branches of Freemasonry.

JOTTINGS FROM THE ANTIPODES.

The lamented death of Bro. Sir W. J. Clarke, Bart., Pro Grand Master of Victoria, and first Grand Master of the Order, has evoked wide-spread demonstrations of regret all over the vast Continent of Australia. At a public meeting in the Town Hall of Melbourne, presided over by the Mayor, it was resolved to erect a statue to his memory, the principal speakers being the Governor, Bro. Lord Brassey, Grand Master of Victoria, his Deputy, Bro. G. Baker, P.G.M., Dr. Cave, Lord Bishop of Melbourne, and other leading citizens. The subscription list, according to the latest mails, will soon be closed, and it will suffice to say that the Grand Lodge has not only voted £105 to the fund, but a shilling subscription has been started in every private lodge in the Colony.

Bro. Sir Rupert Clarke, the new baronet, is mentioned as the next Pro Grand Master. Sir Rupert Clarke has been elected unopposed to the seat in the Upper House of the Legislature, so long held by his much-regretted father.

Bro. Lord Brassey was in June installed W.M. of the Clarke Lodge, No. 98 (Victorian Constitution). It is expected that his lordship will, next year, be elected to the chair of the Combermere Lodge, No. 752, the only English Lodge in the Colony.

Bros. the Hon. A. C. Gregory, C.M.G., M.L.C., and John Kenwick, P.A.G.D.C. England, District Grand Master and District Grand Secretary respectively of Queensland, E.C., have become affiliating members of the Cambrian Lodge of Australia, No. 656, E.C.

The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales is about to be incorporated by Act of Parliament, "with power to sue and be sued; to acquire and hold real and personal estate; and to sell, exchange, assign, or convey same." This, it must be confessed, is a new departure in Freemasonry.

One of the oldest lodges under the New South Wales Constitution is in open rebellion, namely, Lodge St. Andrew, No. 7, originally belonging to the Scottish Constitution. The trouble is ritualistic, and an apt illustration of the futility of attempting to force uniformity of working amongst the private lodges of a jurisdiction. Some years ago, when Bro. Lord Carrington was Grand Master of New South Wales, an official ritual was printed and ordered to be used in all the lodges. The lodge in question, however, retained its old Scotch working, without interference up to the present year, when one of the Inspectors reported the lodge to the Supreme authorities. After a heated discussion in Grand Lodge it was decided that the Lodge St. Andrew must forthwith adopt the official working; whereupon a special meeting of the members was called "to take into consideration the position of the lodge by the recent decision of the Grand Lodge, and the advisability or otherwise of returning the charter." At the meeting it was agreed by a strong majority to return the lodge warrant. This resolution remained to be confirmed at the July meeting.

Craft Masonry.

Prince Frederick William Lodge, No. 753.

A large number of brethren attended the installation meeting of this lodge, held at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, on the 28th ult. The members included Bros. W. Parsons, W.M.; J. Harvey Chandler, W.M. elect; W. D. Slyman, P.M., Treas.; J. J. Thomas, P.M., P.G.S.B., Sec.; J. Stephens, P.M., Dep. G.D.C.; R. P. Tabb, P.M.; W. P. Clark, P.M.; H. Slyman, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; G. Scatteryard, P.M.; Dr. F. R. Miller; H. J. Thomas, P.M.; J. Hopkins, A. J. Neck, W. Miller, and many others. Visitors: Bros. J. Lewis Thomas, P.A.G.D. of C.; T. Reynolds, 1319; A. L. Achard, 2045; R. McMillan, 1549; S. Blankley, S.D. 183; S. Johnson, W.M. 1319; H. K. Cheese, P.M. 145; H. Allardyce, 1524; C. Coleman, P.M. 1423; W. Thorne, 398 South Africa; E. Chace Carr, 23; J. F. Goldstein, J.D. 2268; W. Gimlett, I.P.M. 1695; J. King, P.P.G.D.C. Kent; E. Young, I.P.M. 19; J. S. Richardson, 2580; A. H. Thomson, 1527; J. C. Kruse, 1624; S. C. Rhodes, 2467; W. M. Roberts, 733; J. W. Curtis, P.M. 733; F. Elsborne, 2202; C. Grassi, P.M. 1359; W. Boyer, 739; W. Chapple, P.M. 1425; T. Grace, 1582; W. W. Lee, P.M.; and others.

After the opening of the lodge, and the confirmation of the minutes, a very satisfactory audit report was adopted. Bro. J. Harvey Chandler, W.M. elect, was next presented for installation and the ceremony was impressively and ably rendered by Bro. W. Parsons, who was invested with the collar of I.P.M. The following officers were appointed for the ensuing year: Bros. D. R. Redfearn, S.W.; T. Cox, J.W.; W. D. Slyman, P.M., Treas.; J. J. Thomas, P.M., P.G.S.B., Sec.; A. B. Butt, S.D.; W. A. Unwin, J.D.; T. B. Harpham, I.G.; H. Slyman, P.M., P.P.G.D.C. Middx., D.C.; J. T. Musgrave, Org.; L. B. Conradi, B. B. Thomas, and M. E. Swann, Stwds.; and C. Shepperd, Tyler. The I.P.M. was presented with a Past Master's jewel in recognition of his eminent services during the past year, and suitably acknowledged the gift. The W.M. having signified his intention of serving as Steward on behalf of the lodge for the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, a sum of 10 guineas was voted as a donation to his list. Several propositions were received, and lodge was closed.

The reputation of the management of the establishment was fully maintained in the banquet which followed. An innovation in the toast list is worthy of notice, the W.M. having placed "The Charities" and "The Visitors," before that of his own health.

Bro. J. Stephens, D.G.D.C., in responding for "The Grand Officers," referred to the illustrious heads of the Order who devoted their time to further the interests of the Order, and none more so than the Pro Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master. The rank and file could lay claim to having borne the heat and burden of the day in having taken an active part in Freemasonry. What could better rejoice the hearts of the G. Officers than to see a lodge like this? Some years ago the lodge numbered 30, and its growth in recent years had gladdened his heart. He had the honour of proposing the W.M. as an initiate into the lodge not many years ago—less than seven—when he expressed his confidence that Bro. Chandler would prove an acquisition to the roll of members. The W.M. had discharged every duty which had fallen upon him, and no member occupied a warmer corner in the hearts of the brethren.

"The Initiates" and "The Joining Member" were next given by the W.M., the former having been initiated at an emergency meeting.

In response, Bros. Mack, R. Miller, and W. Miller acknowledged the toast.

Bro. J. J. Thomas, P.G.S.B., answered for "The Masonic Charities" in an excellent speech, in which he urged the claims of the three Institutions. He was particularly interested in the Boys' School, he said, having been a member of the Board of Management for some years. They had done all they could to raise that School in the estimation of the Craft, and, he thought, were to be congratulated on the result. Next year being the centenary he hoped the brethren would send in their names as Stewards to enable the management to build the new School at Bushey and he sincerely hoped the W.M.'s list would be well supported by the members.

The W.M. next gave "The Visitors," cordially welcoming them and coupling the names of Bros. Lewis Thomas, S. Johnson, W. Thorne, and Young.

Bro. J. Lewis Thomas, P.A.G.D.C., said they had enjoyed the hospitality, but more particularly the excellent working in the installation ceremony by the I.P.M., for as a Grand Officer of 20 years' standing, he had never seen better. He heartily congratulated Bro. J. J. Thomas who had been raised to the Degree of a Grand Officer, which he so well deserved.

Bro. S. Johnson, W.M. 1319, in reply, said he had enjoyed the installation ceremony which had been a good rehearsal to him as he was looking forward to instal his successor in November.

Bro. W. Thorne, from South Africa, referred briefly to Masonry in that district and was followed by Bro. Young, who also returned thanks.

Bro. W. Parsons, I.P.M., then proposed "The Worshipful Master," and said that Bro. Chandler possessed the necessary qualifications for the post, including those not stated in the Book of Constitutions. The W.M. had a splendid memory, was a favourite with the members, an excellent host, and a sensible man of business, and what else could they wish for in a man or a brother.

A pleasing incident followed, the wife of the W.M. being introduced to the brethren, and her health heartily drunk.

Bro. J. Harvey Chandler, W.M., who met with an enthusiastic reception, said it was simple to talk about others, but to respond for one's own health was a difficult thing. He felt, however, a great amount of pleasure in thanking them for the cordial manner in which they had received the toast. He thanked the I.P.M. for the kind

sentiments expressed towards him. He had at all times done his very best for that lodge, and had also endeavoured to act fairly and straightforward to all the members. He had to thank Bro. Stephens for introducing him into Masonry, a step he much appreciated, and which he had never repented. A question having been asked with regard to a summer outing, he might say they had been subject to several misfortunes, and it had been decided to defer it until next year. He promised them a right royal good outing next year. It was his intention during the winter to have a lodge ball, as it was some years since they had held one, and he thought they were now strong enough. He attended one in connection with the Fellowship Lodge, and he should like to run one on that scale. With regard to the Charities he trusted they would all support him, as he was most anxious to have a good list. He wished to thank them for the many kindnesses he had received at their hands. He hoped to be worthy of it and to be spared for many years to enjoy the proud position in which they had placed him.

"The I.P.M. and Installing Master" was proposed by the W.M., who also included "The Past Masters." He referred in eulogistic terms to the installation ceremony as rendered by the I.P.M. and to the services of the Past Masters generally.

Bros. W. Parsons, I.P.M., and Slyman, P.M., responded.

"The Officers" and the Tyler's toast closed the proceedings.

The excellent programme of music was under the direction of Miss Ethel Winn, and was a great success. The artistes included Miss Lizzie Jones and Bros. J. Gawthrop, R. Grice, and G. T. Miles.

The W.M. presented each of the brethren present with a handsome match-box, artistically made in the shape of an elephant's head, as a souvenir of the interesting occasion.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF BURMA.

At a Quarterly Communication, held at Freemasons' Hall, Rangoon, on Tuesday, March 9th, there were present—

Bros. D. G. Macleod, D.G.M.; L. L. Downes, D.D.G.M.; R. Mutter, P.D.S. G.W., as D.S.G.W.; R. Napier, as D.J.G.W.; Dr. N. N. Parakh, President of the Board of General Purposes; W. Bain, D.G. Sec.; G. T. Thomas, P.D.J. G.W., as D.S.G.D.; Ally Akbar, D.J.G.D.; H. E. Wilkins, D.G.S. of W.; W. Wagstaff, as D.G.D.C.; W. A. Samuel, as D.G. Reg.; Cowasjee Muncherjee, P.D.G. Std. Br., as D.G. Std. Br.; A. M. Lear and J. S. Carlisle, D.G. Stwds.; W. Collins, D.G. Tyler; and several members and visitors.

The proceedings of the Quarterly Communication of the 28th December, 1896, having been printed and circulated, it was proposed by Bro. L. L. DOWNES, and seconded by Bro. R. NAPIER, and carried, that they be taken as read.

On the proposition of Bro. R. MUTTER, seconded by Bro. L. L. DOWNES, they were confirmed.

The proceedings of the Board of General Purposes of the 23rd February, 1897, having been printed and circulated, it was proposed by Bro. R. MUTTER, and seconded by Bro. R. NAPIER, and carried, that they be taken as read.

On the proposition of Bro. J. C. BALTIVALLA, seconded by Bro. COWASJEE MUNCHERJEE, they were confirmed, and directed to be incorporated in the present proceedings.

The proceedings of the Board of Benevolence of the 23rd February, 1897, having been printed and circulated, it was proposed by Bro. L. L. DOWNES, and seconded by Bro. J. C. BALTIVALLA, and carried, that they be taken as read.

On the proposition of Bro. L. L. DOWNES, seconded by Bro. R. NAPIER, they were confirmed and directed to be incorporated in the present proceedings.

The DISTRICT GRAND SECRETARY reported the receipt of correspondence since the meeting of the Board of General Purposes.

The DISTRICT GRAND MASTER then addressed the brethren, and expressed his pleasure at being able to preside on that occasion in the District Grand Lodge. He said that from the proceedings of Board of General Purposes he was glad to see that all the lodges had been working harmoniously, and that nearly all returns and dues had been received. It was to be regretted that a brother of Lodge Irrawaddy had been excluded for non-payment of dues, but had no doubt the course was inevitable. He observed that a few of those appointed to District Grand Lodge office had failed to pay their fees of honour, and he trusted that these would do so before the next communication, or at least have the courtesy to explain the non-payment.

The DISTRICT GRAND MASTER then said he had now to refer to a matter of great sorrow, for since the last meeting they had lost by death their Right Worshipful Bro. John Fairclough, late D.G.M. of Burma, whose loss every one who knew him would feel keenly. He had ruled that District wisely and well during his tenure of office, and had done much for the prosperity of the Craft which he loved so thoroughly. Only a short while ago he was hale and hearty till he was suddenly struck down with paralysis, from which he never recovered. The D.G.M. said he felt sure the sympathy of the members of that District Grand Lodge would be with those sorrowing ones now left to mourn, and he was confident that those present would readily acquiesce in his proposition that the deep sense of that District Grand Lodge of the eminent services of the late worshipful brother be recorded, and that a letter of condolence be addressed to Mrs. Fairclough and her children.

This was seconded by the DEPUTY DISTRICT GRAND MASTER and unanimously carried.

Apologies were read and ordered to be recorded from several brethren for unavoidable absence.

There being no further business, District Grand Lodge was closed in due form.

Marriage.

MALDEN—SHEPHERD.—On the 5th inst., at St. Michael's, Abingdon, by the Rev. W. M. Shepherd, vicar of Appleby, Rural Dean, uncle of the bride, assisted by the Rev. Bingham S. Malden, vicar of Sheldwich, Kent, uncle of the bridegroom, and the Rev. Hanbury Miers, curate of the parish, Eustace Malden, of Frant, Sussex, third son of the late Rev. Clifford Malden, rector of St. Lawrence, Isle of Wight, and of Mrs. Malden, of Tunbridge Wells, to Eva, youngest daughter of Edward Leader Shepherd, The Lindens, Abingdon.

Obituary.

BRO. JOHN LARKIN, J.P., P.M., P.Z.

A most worthy and estimable man and Mason passed away on Saturday last, in the person of Bro. John Larkin, J.P. He had been ailing for some time past owing to some heart affliction, but no one anticipated that his illness would have had so sudden and fatal a termination. However, on Saturday last he died at the by no means advanced age of 60 years, at his residence Delrow, near Watford, where he had lived for some time, and was in the habit of devoting most of his leisure to the cultivation of choice flowers, a pursuit in which he took the liveliest interest. Bro. Larkin was a member of the well-known firm of Sweeting and Co., and it will be readily imagined that the news of his unexpected death, when it reached the City on Monday, was received with the utmost possible regret. The deceased, as a member of the Board of Guardians had done, quietly and without ostentation, a vast amount of service and had endeared himself to all who were associated with him in the discharge of the duties of that body. He was a member of the Court of the Paper-stainers' Company and a Warden of the Joiners' Company. He was also a member of the Committee of the Fishmongers' and Poulterers' Institution, which suffers a grievous loss by his untimely death. He was a generous supporter of many other Charitable Institutions, such as the Royal Hospital for Incurables and the Infant Orphan Asylum, and had always taken a warm interest in the Cripple Gate Boys' Camp. As a member of our Order he was generally recognised as a genial and popular brother. He was, we believe, initiated in the Lodge of Fidelity, No. 3, of which he was a Past Master and was also a P.M. of the Aldersgate Lodge, No. 1657, and a P.Z. of the chapter attached to it. As a friend of our Institutions his services will always be remembered with gratitude and respect. He was a Patron of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, for which he had likewise served six Stewardships, and a Vice-Patron of both our Schools, having been Steward five times for the Girls' School and four times, including the current year's Festival, for "Our Boys." In addition, he was for many years a churchwarden of St. Sepulchre, Holborn, and had filled with much ability and tact the office of Chairman of the District Council. The funeral took place at Aldenham, near Watford, on Tuesday, and was attended by the members of the family, his executors, Messrs. W. Rome, C.C., and W. Potter, and a great number of friends, both Masonic and private, who took the opportunity of thus testifying their respect for their deceased friend; while the coffin was completely hidden from view by the floral offerings received from relatives and others, as well as from the various bodies with which he was connected. Bro. Larkin leaves a widow and six children to mourn his loss. On the day of the funeral an ordinary meeting of the City of London Union was held, and from the *City Press* we learn that as soon as the members had taken their seats, the Chairman (Mr. C. B. Bowes) made a sympathetic allusion to the death of our late brother. He said it was his melancholy duty to report the death of one of their most esteemed colleagues. He was sure all present would receive with deep regret the intelligence of the death of their friend, Mr. Larkin. He had been absent for some time from the meetings of the Board, on account of illness, and on Saturday night he passed away at his residence. The deceased had occupied many very important positions on the Board, and had discharged his duties in the way they all expected he would, as he was a most conscientious gentleman, and a hard worker. The Chairman said he hardly dared to speak of Mr. Larkin's geniality among his colleagues, who would be a long time before they thoroughly realised how faithful and warm-hearted a worker they had lost. He moved that a letter of condolence should be addressed by the clerk to Mrs. Larkin and family, expressing the feeling of deep regret which the news of Mr. Larkin's death had created among his colleagues, and also their high appreciation of his many excellent qualities. The Rev. E. C. Hawkins, in seconding the motion, expressed his admiration of the sweetness and sympathy of the deceased gentleman's nature. The air and manner of their late colleague, he said, marked him out as a man possessed of a kindly, cordial, and genial nature, and by his death the Board had sustained a great loss. The Chairman's motion was then adopted amid every demonstration of sympathy.

BRO. GEORGE HOLDSWORTH, P.M. 1327.

Bro. George Holdsworth, P.M. 1327 and a Past Prov. Grand Officer of Hertfordshire, passed away at his residence, Waltham Cross, where he occupied a highly respectable position as a tradesman for many years and brought up a large family. He was initiated in the above lodge on the 20th September, 1877, passed and raised in due course, and after having filled the various offices he was elected to fill the chair of his lodge in 1887. In 1890 he became one of the founders of the James Terry Lodge, No. 2372, of which Bro. Terry was first Master, who appointed and invested Bro. Holdsworth as his I.P.M. His purse and sympathies were ever ready to help the cause of Charity. The funeral took place at Cheshunt Cemetery on Tuesday, the 10th inst. He was followed to the cemetery by many sympathising brethren and friends, and the grave has taken one more of those whom to know was to love. The family has suffered a great loss which time with its healing balm can alone repair.

BRO. THOMAS MEYLER, P.M. No. 261.

The funeral of the late Bro. Thomas Meyler (Town Clerk of Taunton, Registrar of the local County Court, and the occupant of many other public offices), whose death occurred on the 5th inst., under tragic circumstances, took place at St. Mary's Cemetery, Taunton, on Saturday evening last, and was made the occasion of a most impressive ceremony. The first portion of the service was held at St. John's Church, of which deceased was for some years vicar's warden, and the sacred edifice was filled with a large and representative assembly of the principal residents of Taunton and the district. The mourners included the sons and daughters of the deceased, Mr. William Dunn, Clerk of the Peace for Somerset (brother-in-law), and Mr. P. Froude Hancock, of Wiveliscombe. Col. Welby, M.P. for the borough, was present, and the Mayor and Corporation attended in state, Alderman Lock's gold chain and the silver Corporation mace being both draped with crape. The legal profession was largely represented by solicitors of Taunton and the neighbouring towns. A number of Freemasons, of which body deceased was a member, were also present, and many of the clergy, including the Rev. Preb. Askwith, B.D., vicar of Taunton, were in attendance. The governors of Bishop Fox's Schools, the Taunton Town Charity, the Board of Guardians, and other bodies were represented, and several members of the county magistracy paid the last tribute of respect to deceased. The coffin was covered with lovely wreaths, and was placed within the chancel, where the altar candles had all been lit. The service, which was choral, was conducted by the vicar, the Rev. T. E. M. Barrow, while the lesson was read by the

Rev. Arthur Montford, curate. Dr. Ham, F.R.C.O., presided at the organ, and played the funeral music. The procession from the church to the cemetery was one of the longest seen in Taunton for many years, and a vast concourse of people lined the route, but admirable order was maintained. The procession was headed by the police, and then came the choir and the officiating clergy, the Rev. A. Montford, attended by acolytes, carrying the processional cross, and both he and the vicar wearing birettas. Next followed the mourners in carriages, and then the Mayor and Corporation, and the representatives of public bodies and personal friends on foot. The committal service was read by the Rev. T. E. M. Barrow. The hymns used were "On the resurrection morning," "Now the labourer's task is o'er," "Let Saints on earth in concert sing," and "O Heavenly Jerusalem." A muffled peal was rung on St. Mary's bells during the evening. The sad death formed the subject of reference at several places of worship in the town on Sunday. Mr. H. B. Sheppard, the deceased's partner, has been appointed Town Clerk, *pro tem.*, and the question of the new holder of the office will probably be discussed at the next quarterly meeting of the Council. Our late respected brother served as W.M. of Lodge Unanimity and Sincerity, No. 261, in the year 1862, and again in 1877, and has been Senior Grand Warden in the Province of Somerset. Bro. Meyler was M.F.Z. of the Sincerity Chapter, No. 261, in 1873 and 1880, and served the office of Soj. in Prov. Grand Chapter of Somerset.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution held their regular monthly meeting at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, under the presidency of Bro. J. A. Farnfield, P.A.G.D.C., Treasurer of the Institution. The death of one widow annuitant was reported, and the widows of two recently-deceased annuitants were granted each the half of her late husband's annuity. The petition of one widow was accepted and the name ordered to be placed on the list of candidates for next year's election.

CARLOW MASONIC BAZAAR.

The great three-day Masonic bazaar, held in the Town Hall, Carlow, and which was brought to a close on Friday night, the 6th instant, was a splendid success, financially and otherwise. It was given in aid of a debt on the Masonic Hall, recently erected in the town, and which is one of the nicest and most commodious of its kind in the provinces, and the proceeds will almost, if not entirely, liquidate the arrear. The interesting ceremony of opening the bazaar was witnessed by a large and fashionable assembly.

Bro. Lord Rathdonnell, H.M.L., Co. Carlow, kindly acceded to the request of the local brethren to open the bazaar in Masonic form, which included a procession in full Masonic costume, in which several of the Degrees were represented. His lordship was escorted by Bros. Col. P. D. Vigors and Capt. Duckett-Stewart (all three wearing the regalia of Prince Masons), and was accompanied by present and past Provincial Grand Officers, and a large gathering of the Craft.

In formally opening the bazaar, his LORDSHIP, in a very neat and appropriate speech, referred to the object, and pointed out that when the debt on the hall was wiped off it would enable the Carlow lodges to help liberally, as they had heretofore done, the Masonic Orphan Schools—admirable Charities which were deserving of all support.

The stalls and hall were tastefully decorated, and laden with varied and valuable wares, which found ready purchasers and many admirers. The entertainments included the ever-popular *Café Chantant*, which was liberally patronised, and added considerably to the receipts. Needless to say, the fair stall-holders and their pretty and persuasive assistants carried out loyally and well the work cheerfully undertaken, and to them, and all who assisted at concerts, dramatic entertainments, &c., the Carlow Masons are deeply indebted. The success of the bazaar is all the more gratifying in face of the fact that the Roman Catholic Bishop thought it necessary, through his clergy, on the previous Sunday, to warn his people against attending the bazaar. The following were the stall-holders and assistants:

Stall No. 1.—Presided over by Lady Rathdonnell and Mrs. Stuart, assisted by Mrs. G. Fishbourne, Miss Roger, Miss Twigg, and Miss Frazer.

Stall No. 2.—Presided over by Lady Burton and Mrs. Browne-Clayton, assisted by Miss Butler, Miss Shackerley, and the Misses Browne-Clayton (6).

Stall No. 3.—Presided over by Mrs. Massy (and Mrs. Maffett, assisted by Mrs. H. Fitzmaurice, Miss Duckett-Stewart, Miss Carroll, Miss Ada Carroll, Miss Goodwin, Miss Weldon, Miss Murielle Weldon, Miss Adeline Herring-Cooper, and Miss H. Herring-Cooper.

Stall No. 4.—Presided over by Mrs. W. Fitzmaurice, assisted by Miss Harding, Miss D. Rawson, Miss Drillma, and Masters Fitzmaurice and Harding.

Stall No. 5.—Presided over by Mrs. and the Misses Langran, assisted by Miss N. Coghlan, Miss H. Coghlan, and Miss Bell.

Stall No. 6 (Refreshment).—Presided over by Miss Thorp, assisted by Miss May Thorp, Miss Crosthwait, Miss Hend, Miss Stawell, and Mrs. Frank Brown.

Chapter of Improvement.

NORTH LONDON CHAPTER OF IMPROVEMENT.

A meeting of the above was held at the Station Hotel Highbury, on Monday last, when there were present Comps. G. Gregory, M.E.Z.; Piper, H.; Hughes, J.; Edmunds, Preceptor; George, Assist. Preceptor; Osborne, S.E.; Snelling, S.N.; Bunker, P.S.; Hayling, McDowall, Austin, and others.

The chapter having been opened, and the minutes of last meeting read and confirmed, the ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed in a most exemplary manner. The M.E.Z. rose the usual times, and the chapter was closed.

DEATH.

LARKIN.—7th inst., at his residence, Delrow, near Watford, John Larkin, of 158, Cheapside, aged 60 years.

Masonic and General Tidings.

THE SKINNERS' COMPANY have sent a donation of £10 10s. to the Factory Girls' Country Holiday Fund.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF TECK, the Duchess of York, and suite, visited the Victorian Era Exhibition, at Earl's Court, on Monday evening.

BRO. BARON FERDINAND DE ROTHSCHILD, M.P., accompanied by Mr. Arnold Morley and a few friends, has started in his yacht, Rona, for a cruise in the Baltic.

UP TO THE beginning of the present week about £22,000 had been received at the Mansion House in respect of the Essex Farmers' Fund. This is irrespective of the amounts locally collected.

H.M.'S FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS has written to say that he cannot allow a large meeting of cyclists in Richmond Park in aid of the Richmond Royal Hospital and the Kingston Jubilee Cottage Hospital.

THE HON. T. BAYARD, lately American Ambassador in London, has been spending some days at Mortimer, near Reading, as the guest of Bro. the Right Hon. Sir John R. Mowbray, Bart., M.P., and Lady Mowbray.

THE MEMBERS of the National Sunday League visited Apsley House on Sunday, and inspected the treasures handed down from the Iron Duke. Grosvenor House will, by permission of the Duke of Westminster, be open from 2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday next.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK will visit the Marquis and Marchioness of Londonderry at Mount Stewart, County Down, Ireland, in September, and the Primate of Ireland will preach in the private chapel on Sunday, the 5th September, on the occasion of the Royal visit.

A COLUMN of the Egyptian Army, under the command of Major-General Hunter, left Em Merawi on Saturday last, and after an hour's sharp fighting drove the dervishes out of Abu Hamed. Brevet Major Sidney, commanding the 10th Soudanese Battalion, and Lieut. Fitzclarence were killed.

THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND and Countess Cadogan have been entertaining a large party of guests at the Viceregal Lodge, Dublin, during the present week in connection with cricket, a number of members of the I. Zingari team having arrived on a visit to their Excellencies.

BRO. SIR FRANCIS KNOLLYS, K.C.M.G., Groom of the Bedchamber, and Private Secretary to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, was, on Saturday last, introduced to the Queen's presence and invested by her Majesty with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath.

T.R.H. THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, accompanied by the Princess Victoria and Princess Charles of Denmark, and attended by Miss Knollys and Bro. Sir Francis Knollys, returned on Monday to Marlborough House from Cowes, where they had been staying on board the royal yacht Osborne.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS has conferred the cross of Commander of the Royal Order of Leopold on the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London, and that of officer of the same Order upon—among others—Bros. Alderman Sir Joseph Savory, Bart., M.P., Alderman Davis, M.P., and Sheriff Rogers.

BRO. LORD HERSCHELL, after consulting with his colleagues on the executive council of the Imperial Institute, has written to Mr. Townend, Manager of the Australian Press Association, to express regret at the exclusion of the representative of that association by the Secretary of the Institute from the banquet to the Colonial Premiers.

AMONG THE GUESTS invited by Bro. the Duke and Duchess of Portland to meet the King of Siam on the occasion of his recent visit to Welbeck Abbey were the Duke of Manchester, Bro. the Marquis and Marchioness of Granby, the Earl of Enniskillen, Bro. Lord and Lady Wantage, Lord and Lady Ribblesdale, Bro. Sir Frederick and Lady Milner, and Bro. Capt. Holford.

ON THE recommendation of the Home Secretary, Bro. Sir M. White Ridley, Bart., M.P., the Queen has approved the issue to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and the members of the St. John's Ambulance Association who were on duty in London on the 22nd June, of medals, commemorative of the Diamond Jubilee, similar to those issued to the Metropolitan and City Police.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING of the London Press Sports in aid of the Caxton Convalescent Home, Limpsfield, Surrey; the Morley Home, Dover; and the Printers' Pension and Almshouses, Wood Green, will take place on Saturday, the 11th prox., at the London County Grounds, Burbage-road, Herne Hill, S.E. The programme comprises 100 yards, 300 yards, and one mile running handicaps; 200 yards boys' handicap (under 14); one mile, three miles, and five miles bicycle races, tug-of-war, obstacle race, &c.

BRO. SIR M. WHITE RIDLEY, Bart., M.P., Home Secretary, opened two new wards that have been recently added to the Blackpool Hospital at a cost of £4000, and distributed certificates and medals to a number of ladies and police-officers who have been studying under the St. John's Ambulance Association. The Right Hon. baronet took occasion to congratulate the Society on the great efforts that were being made to build and endow hospitals and nursing-homes, and stated that he had her Majesty's authority for naming the building the Victoria Hospital.

THE BRETHREN of the Ferrers and Ivanhoe and other lodges had a congenial task on Friday, the 30th ult., when they assisted at the laying of the foundation-stone of the new Cottage Hospital for Ashby. The ceremony, which was of a brief but impressive character, was performed by Bro. the Right Hon. Earl Ferrers, Provincial Grand Master of Leicestershire and Rutland. It must have been a matter of gratification to the brethren present that they had with them on the occasion the generous donors of the hospital, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ison, who have subscribed the whole sum necessary for the erection of the building.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT laid the foundation-stone of a new hospital in Portsmouth, on Saturday last, in commemoration of her Majesty's record reign. His Royal Highness, who was accompanied by the Duchess and their three children, and attended by Bro. Col. Egerton, travelled by special train from Aldershot to Portsmouth, and was received by the Mayor of Portsmouth and the General commanding the southern district. The Duke and Duchess were most enthusiastically received, and when the ceremony was over, partook of tea in the board-room of the hospital. Subsequently they crossed on board the Royal yacht, Alberta, to East Cowes, whence they proceeded on a visit to the Queen at Osborne.

BRO. W. J. HUGHAN, P.S.G.D. of England, &c., of Torquay, was elected the second honorary member of the Magnolia Lodge, No. 20, of Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A., on July 5th last. The jubilee of the lodge was recently celebrated, and at the commemoration it was decided to pay this compliment to our well-known brother and Masonic historian, in appreciation of services rendered to this lodge in particular and the Craft generally. A Committee was appointed who reported favourably on the proposition, and at the next stated meeting the election was unanimous. Bro. Hughan is connected with several lodges in America in a similar honorary capacity, but we feel sure he will value this special honour from brethren he has never seen or even communicated with until recently when invited to the celebration, and all the more because he is the second only so honoured since the formation of the lodge in 1847.

FREEMASONRY OF MOTHERHOOD.—Under the ermine of an Empress, under the rags of a pauper, may beat a mother's heart, and the story told of the Czarina but illustrates this point. A number of ladies had been recently invited to the Palace in order that the Empress might thank them personally for their share in a recently concluded Charitable entertainment. Of course all of them (says the *Echo*), womanlike, were longing to enquire after the little girl, but felt that the query would sound cold and formal if, according to etiquette, they gave the child all her titles. But there is a wonderful Freemasonry in motherhood, and one of the ladies, whose own sweet little girl was born on the same day as the Grand Duchess Olga—a fact well known to the Empress—said quite naturally, "How is the baby?" The effect was magical. The Empress's face no longer wore what we may call the State smile, but was radiant as she talked of her little pet.

THE TOTAL contributions to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London up to Wednesday (excluding the proceeds of the hospital stamps) amounted to £180,612 15s. 11d.

THE QUEEN has forwarded a donation of £100 to the Rev. Robert Burnaby, Vicar of East Cowes, in aid of the funds for enlarging the National Schools.

THE QUEEN, according to present arrangements, is expected to leave Osborne towards the end of this month for Scotland.

BY A RETURN just issued it appears that 120 extra engine-room artisans and 942 extra ratings of the stoker class are required for the Royal Navy during the present financial year.

THE PROV. GRAND MASTER has fixed Tuesday, the 31st inst., as the date of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall at Liskeard. Several visitors are expected from the Cornish Lodge in London.

T.R.H. THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, attended by Miss Knollys and the Hon. Seymour Fortescue, have left England for Germany. Princess Victoria of Wales and Princess Charles of Denmark have gone to Appleton, near Sandringham.

WE UNDERSTAND that Mr. Frederick Gordon, chairman of the Gordon Hotels Company, Ltd., and well-known in connection with other large commercial undertakings joins the Board of Directors of Maple and Company, Limited, upholsterers of Tottenham Court-road.

HER MAJESTY, through the medium of Sir Fleetwood Edwards, has written to express the pleasure she has derived from the American Victoria Jubilee Fund. The sum raised under this title amounts to £4307, and is intended to be devoted to the endowment of beds in hospitals.

THE KING OF SIAM spent Saturday at Taplow Court, quietly, and on Sunday, attended by his suite, went to Welbeck Abbey on a visit to Bro. the Duke of Portland. On Monday evening he left by special train for Edinburgh, where he was received with due state and ceremony.

THE DEATH RATE in London, according to the Registrar-General's returns, rose last week from 23.6 to 25.7 per 1000, while in Croydon it has risen from 9.9 to 16.4, and in Brighton from 14 to 18. Gastric maladies are the chief cause of this, and these are almost wholly confined to children under five years of age.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.—We are glad to learn that Miss Bertha Jane Dean, an ex-gold Medallist of this Institution, has passed in the First Division, Intermediate Examination, for B.A. Degree, London University. Miss Dean is still at the Institution as one of the junior members of the staff.

ORDERS HAVE been given for her Majesty's cruiser Galatea, Captain Count Frederick C. Metaxa, Coastguard Ship at Hull, and the twin-screw cruiser Mersy, Captain G. W. Hill, Coastguard Ship at Harwich, to proceed to Sheerness, to be supplied with apparatus to complete illumination circuits in readiness to escort their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York to Ireland.

WE ARE INFORMED that the M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, has been pleased to grant a warrant for a new lodge at Gateshead, to be called the Ravensworth, and the number will be 2674. P.G. Chapter will be held at Darlington Masonic Hall at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday, the 18th prox., and P.G. Lodge will be held at the Borough Hall, Stockton, on Tuesday, the 28th prox., under the banner of the Fraternity Lodge, No. 1418.

BRO. THE MARQUIS OF ZETLAND in celebration of the coming of age of his eldest son, the Earl of Ronaldshay, entertained the tenants on his estates in Shropshire, Clackmannanshire, and Fifeshire, together with a number of prominent citizens of Grangemouth, at a grand banquet in the Town Hall. His lordship presided and there were present the Marchioness of Zetland, the Earl of Ronaldshay, and Lord George Dundas.

THE PRINCESS LOUISE (Marchioness of Lorne), who was accompanied by the Marquis of Lorne and the Duchess of Connaught, opened a bazaar in East Cowes Castle on Tuesday in aid of the building fund for the enlargement of National Schools. Subsequently the bazaar was honoured with the presence of the Queen, who was accompanied by the Princess Henry of Battenberg and attended by Bro. Sir Henry Byng and Major the Hon. H. Legge.

THE KING OF SIAM arrived at Edinburgh from Welbeck Abbey on Tuesday and was received by several of the city officials. In the afternoon his Majesty went to Riccarton for the purpose of attending the marriage of Captain Cummings, who commands his Majesty's State yacht, with Miss Gibson-Craig, eldest daughter of Sir James H. Gibson-Craig. The King was received with a Royal salute by the boys from her Majesty's training ship Caledonia, the band playing the Siamese National Anthem.

THE TOURIST GUIDE TO THE CONTINENT is the name of an invaluable little book published by authority for the Great Eastern Railway Company, for tourists seeking enjoyment on the Continent, traveling by their popular route *via* Harwich and the Hook of Holland. The work is full of illustrations and every assistance by numerous maps is given, in addition to most interesting and descriptive matter exhaustively dealing with the places of interest in Holland, Germany, Belgium, and Switzerland. By this route fresh districts, which are little known or yet popular, are brought within easy reach of the tourist. Cyclists have not been neglected and routes for their benefit find a place in this guide which may be obtained from all booksellers and railway stations for the nominal charge of sixpence.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF A SCHOOL.—On the 7th inst., the foundation stone of the new Radcliffe Hall National Schools was laid with full Masonic ceremonial by Bro. Colonel Le Gendre N. Starkie, Prov. Grand Master of East Lancashire. There were about 150 Masons present, the company including brethren from Manchester, Bury, Radcliffe, Whitefield, Hindley, Heywood, and Bolton. The director of ceremonies was Bro. J. Selby, 1083, P.G.D.C., and Colonel Mellor, M.P. for Radcliffe-cum-Farnworth, was also present. Prov. G. Lodge was opened at St. Anne's School, and afterwards there was a procession through the streets to the site of the proposed new school. After the ceremony, which was interesting and impressive, Col. Starkie made a short speech, and Col. Mellor, M.P., moved and Mr. A. C. Bealey seconded a vote of thanks to the Masons for the assistance they were rendering the trustees of the school. The new school will cost between £2000 and £3000.

THE NEW PALACE COMPANY'S palatial steamer La Marguerite started on her initial special Wednesday trip to Boulogne from Tilbury at 7 a.m., on Wednesday last, and calling at Southend, Margate, and Ramsgate *en route*, achieved the marvellous feat of carrying over 1500 passengers to and from Boulogne. Three-and-a-half hours' sojourn in "La Belle France" was greatly enjoyed by this large body of tourists, and La Marguerite proceeding homewards afterwards, the London passengers arrived at Fenchurch-street Station about 10 p.m. This, we believe, to be a record passenger freight, so far as Channel trips are concerned, and the fact that the number of passengers carried reached little short of the steamer's Channel passenger carrying capacity, bespeaks volumes for the popularity of this company's excellent steamer. These special trips will be continued every Wednesday, up to and including 1st September, in addition to the usual sailings of La Marguerite on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, to and from Margate and Boulogne, and on Sundays to and from Margate only.

BY COMMAND of the Queen, the Marquis of Lothian, Captain-General of her Majesty's Scottish Bodyguard, presided over a meeting, held in the Archers' Hall, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, for the purpose of presenting the jubilee medals to the officers of the Royal Company of Archers, and also to members of the corps who had been at least three times in attendance on the Sovereign when in Scotland. Among the distinguished personages upon whom this reward has been bestowed are—Captain-General—the Marquis of Lothian; Lieutenants-General—the Duke of Buccleuch, Bro. the Earl of Stair, the Earl of Wemyss, and Sir Graham D. Montgomery, Bart.; Majors-General—the Earl of Rosebery, the Hon. B. F. Primrose, C.B., Bro. Sir James Fergusson, Bart., and Bro. the Earl of Haddington; Ensigns-General—the Earl of Home, the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Lord Polwarth, and the Earl of Aberdeen; Brigadiers-General—Bro. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Bro. the Marquis of Tweeddale, the Earl of Hopetoun, the Right Hon. J. H. A. Macdonald, C.B.; Adjutants-General—the Earl of Dalkeith, Bro. the Duke of Abercorn, Lord Colville of Culross, Bro. the Marquis of Breadalbane, Bro. Lord Saltoun, and the Earl of Leven and Melville; and Surgeon-General—Sir Douglas Maclagan.