

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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THE EASTERN DIVISION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

A regular communication of the District Grand Lodge of South Africa (E.D.), was held in King William's Town on the 7th September last, and to judge from the report of the proceedings with which we have been favoured, Freemasonry is in a very prosperous condition in the District. Indeed, the Board of General Purposes commenced the report it was their duty to lay before District Grand Lodge by stating "that the course of Freemasonry throughout the Eastern Division during the year has run so smoothly that no occasion has arisen for any special action or remarks," while the Dep. Dist. G. Master—who, in the absence in England of the Dist. G. Master, presided at the gathering—spoke in the most encouraging terms of the welcome he had received from the lodges he had taken occasion to visit, the readiness with which all his inquiries had been met, and the kindly spirit prevailing among the members. "In every instance," said Dep. Dist. G. Master AUSTIN, "the greatest cordiality has been shown to me as representing the R.W. the Dist. G. Master, and in each case the W.M. and Wardens have done all in their power to assist and explain entries in their minute books which appeared to call for question. Any suggestions that I have made have been received and adopted in that spirit which should always characterise Freemasons, and I wish here to express my thanks to the representatives of the above-named lodges for the cordiality and fraternal kindness exhibited to me as inspecting officer." But this was very far from being the only matter on which the Deputy District Grand Master considered it his duty to tender his sincere congratulations to the brethren. The District Educational Fund has more than maintained its position. "The contributions of the past year show a considerable increase, and I trust that in the near future this Division will be enabled to establish a School of its own." Moreover, the number of subscribing members is returned as 1348, as compared with 1276 the previous year, and of the 1348 there are 1258 returned as being in "good standing," leaving 90 brethren in arrear. The Address voted to the QUEEN on her "Diamond Jubilee" was also referred to, and announcement made that it had been graciously received by her Majesty, as set forth in the reply received from the Right Hon. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the Dist. G. Secretary—Bro. R. J. DICK—was warmly congratulated on his appointment to the brevet rank of Past A.G.D.C. in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee. Mention was also made of the scheme for a District Benevolent Fund; which the District Grand Master recommended to the lodges and brethren as being worthy of their support as commemorating the auspicious event of the year, but we gather from the report of the Board of

General Purposes that the response to the recommendation had not been on as large a scale as had been expected—owing, it may be, to the many other calls of all kinds that had been made upon the brethren during this year of Jubilee. Be this as it may, the scheme has been started as a memorial of a unique historical event in English history, and there will probably be little, if any, difficulty in the near future, when there are no longer any special calls being made upon the purses of the brethren, in making good the deficiencies in the initial subscription list. As regards the Educational Fund, to the prosperity of which we have already referred, it appears from the statement of account that during the year close upon £600 was subscribed by lodges and brethren to the General Fund, while £366 was spent on the education of children, the expenses of management amounting to less than £20. The assets in respect of this and of the Endowment Fund reach £1060, of which £1251 is in respect of the General and £709 in respect of the Endowment Fund. In estimating the merits of the work we have described we must bear in mind that the District Grand Lodge of South Africa (E.D.) was only formed in 1877, when South Africa was split into Eastern and Western, the former being placed under Bro. CHARLES J. EGAN, its present chief, and according to our Grand Lodge Calendar, when that brother was appointed to office, the number of lodges on the roll, which is now 31, was only 14. We need hardly be at the pains of adding that the progress indicated by the facts we have just recorded must be a subject of congratulation, not only to Bro. EGAN and the District he has so ably administered, but also to the English Craft generally. We trust the progress it has thus far made may be continued in future years.

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF THE UNITED STATES.

The body which presides over Royal Arch Masonry in the United States, and is known as the General Grand Chapter, recently celebrated the centenary of its foundation. The scene of the gathering was in the City of Baltimore, and the fêtes lasted from the 12th to the 15th October. On the first day the proceedings were restricted to an "elegant reception" of the members of the General Grand Chapter, while on the second day, which appears to have been devoted to work, the General Grand Chapter met with a "Royal welcome," at which Comp. WILLIAM H. SHRYOCK, G.H. Priest of Maryland, delivered a long and interesting historical address, in the course of which the fortunes of the General Grand Chapter were traced from the very foundation of the body till the present time. At the inaugural meeting in Boston, Mass., on the 24th October, 1797, only two States were represented and only seven companions present, while "their entire constituency would be outnumbered by many single chapters of the present day." Now, in October, 1897, the General Grand Chapter is composed of representatives from the Grand Chapters of 45 States and Territories, with an aggregate membership of 175,000 companions. But great trials and difficulties appear to have beset the path of the General Grand Chapter. The war between the United Kingdom and the United States in the earlier years of the present century led to the desertion of lodge and chapter for service in the army and navy, but the "war clouds rolled away," and on the 6th June, 1816, in the City of New York, the General Grand Chapter became in fact, as its name, a national

body by the reinforcement of the Grand Chapters of Maryland and South Carolina." Ten years of fair progress followed, and then a "blight came over the Fraternity more damaging than even war's alarms. The MORGAN excitement, starting from a little town in Upper Western New York, gradually spread its malignant influence all over the land." But this time there was no break in the continuity of the record. "Timid ones went out, it is true, but the altar fires were kept burning, and EDWARD LIVINGSTONE, Secretary of State of the United States, was General Grand High Priest," while "ANDREW JACKSON, Past Grand Master of Tennessee, was President." In 1832, Baltimore, was selected for the holding of the triennial. "It was a very small gathering—twenty-four, all told—but ten of these were Maryland men, who stood shoulder to shoulder with the rest to stem the tide of malice and persecution." That tide was successfully stemmed, and then followed another period of progress and prosperity. In 1861, the terrible Civil War broke out between North and South. "Of course, the General Grand Chapter went into eclipse, Companions battling for what they considered the right were upon both sides of the unhappy conflict. Nor is it strange that our organisation was well nigh rent asunder." The war ceased in 1865, and the two triennial meetings that followed, "sought to re-establish unity, but the result was doubtful." Then came the meeting held in Baltimore in 1874, when "we met and cemented again the bonds which had bound us." Thus, as Comp. SHRYOCK was careful to point out there was an appropriateness in selecting Baltimore as the scene of the centenary celebration, which would hardly have attached to any other Masonic centre in the United States. Comp. SHRYOCK concluded his address by paying sundry well-deserved compliments to the General Grand High Priest—Comp. GEORGE L. MCCAHAN—whom, as a Marylander, they felt especial pleasure in welcoming; and the address having been gracefully acknowledged by Comp. REUBEN C. LEMMAN, Dep. G.H.P., the proceedings in General Grand Chapter were commenced under the presidency of Comp. G. L. MCCAHAN, G.G.H.P., after General THOMAS J. SHRYOCK, M.W.G. Master of Maryland, had been received with the customary honours and most heartily welcomed. These proceedings, however, which included the inevitable address from the G.G.H.P., appear to have been of local, rather than of general, interest, save in respect of one act, which Comp. MCCAHAN reported he had done during the past three years, this being none other than that of sending "a letter of congratulation to her Most Gracious Majesty Queen VICTORIA by a Special Deputy," and of this he said "that its reception by the QUEEN had been acknowledged by the Prince of WALES, Grand Master of Masons in England." Comp. MCCAHAN, also exhibited "the original certificates of the appointments of the representatives of Temple Chapter of Albany, October 11th, 1797; St. Andrew's Chapter of Boston, October 23rd, 1797; and Newburyport Chapter, October 23rd, 1797, who constituted the first convention to 'deliberate on the propriety and expediency of erecting a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons,' and he said 'To that convention the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States of America in direct line traces its origin.'" The General Grand Secretary, Comp. CHRISTOPHER FOX, having submitted his report, which was full of statistical matter, there was an adjournment till the evening, when what are described as the "Centennial Exercises" were held, the chief item in the programme being an Oration delivered by Comp. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Past General Grand High Priest. On the 14th October a grand banquet was served, and each guest was presented with a Centennial ring, marked "1797-1897," as a souvenir of the meeting. A magnificent Past General G.H. Priest's jewel was presented to Comp. MCCAHAN on his retirement from office, while a centennial medal has been designed for the occasion, having on the obverse portraits of "EPHRAIM KIRBY, first General Grand High Priest, with that of GEORGE L. MCCAHAN, now Immediate Past General Grand High Priest, with the legend 'General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons U.S.A. Centennial,'" the reverse showing "the Royal Arch coat-of-arms, with the legend 'Boston, October 24, 1797; Hartford, January 24, 1798; Baltimore, October 12, 1897.'"

GREAT PRIORY.

A Great Priory of the United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem was held on the 10th inst., at Mark Masons' Hall. Present:

The M.E. and Supreme G.M., the Right Hon. the Earl of Euston, G.C.T., on the throne; V.E. Prov. Priors: V.E. Knights Captain N. G. Philips, G.C.T., East Anglia; Captain C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, G.C.T., Lancashire; Great Officers: V.E. Knights Rev. C. E. L. Wright, P.G. Prelate, as G. Prelate; R. Loveland Loveland, G.C.T., G. Chancellor; Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., M.P., P.G.C., as 1st G. Constable; C. Letch Mason, 2nd G. Constable; Ralph Clutton, K.C.T., G. Treas.; Frank Richardson, K.C.T., G. Reg.; C. F. Matier, K.C.T., G. Vice-Chancellor; Charles Belton, K.C.T., G. Marshal; E. Knights Rev. C. Chetwynd Atkinson, G. Almoner; Clement Godson, M.D., G. Herald; A. H. Jefferis, 1st G. Std. Br.; Percy Wallis, 2nd G. Std. Br.; H. E. Cousans, P.G.M.B.B., as G. Master's B.B.; R. A. B. Preston, G.S.B.; F. B. Westlake, 1st G. Aide-de-Camp; Major T. W. Richardson, P.G.C. of G., as G.C. of G.; and H. R. Rose, G. Org. P.G. Officers: V.E. Knights Richard Clowes, G. Constable; Major Hugh Wm. H. Carey Elwes, G. Herald; Ralph Gooding, K.C.T., G. Herald; E. Knights Frederick Hastings Goldney, G. Herald; Major-General J. C. Hay, C.B., G. Vice-Chancellor; Charles E. Keyser, G. Std. Br. (Beauceant); V.E. Knight E. Letchworth, K.C.T., G.S.B.; E. Knights George Mickley, M.B., and J. A. Robinson, G. Aides-de-Camps; and Nathaniel Goodchild, G. Captain of Guards.

There were also present:

(London) Knights Walter J. Ebbetts, 1st Constable, and Herbert Wright, Marshal, of Bard of Avon; Hubert S. Clutton, Pro Preceptor, W. B. Lethbridge, P. Pro Preceptor, and John Dimsdale, of Faith and Fidelity; H. Thomson Lyon, E. Preceptor, Philip Saillard, P. Preceptor, and Thomas Fraser, of Holy Palestine; John R. Carter, Marshal, Mount Calvary; J. C. F. Tower, P. Preceptor, Oxford and Cambridge; Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale and J. S. Tamburini, Herald, of St. George's; John J. Pakes, P. Preceptor, Shadwell Clerke; Alfred H. Bevan, E. Preceptor, and Percy Caldecott, of Studholme; and Edwin P. Moore, Kemeys Tynte; (in the Province of East Anglia) William Briggs, 2nd Constable Tancred; (in the Province of Lancashire) William Tyrer, Prov. Sub-Prior Jacques de Molay; Frederick Nassau Molesworth, Prov. Chancellor United; and William Hayes, E. Preceptor St. James of Jerusalem; (in the Province of Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Leicestershire) George C. Kent, P. Preceptor Godefroi de Bouillon; (in the Province of Sussex) J. H. Ewart, E. Preceptor, and Capt. Claude de M. Franklyn, R.E., Preceptor Elect, of Sussex; and R. Percy Clowes, E. Preceptor De Warrenne.

The knights having formed the Arch of Steel, the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, attended by the Great Officers, entered and ascended the Throne.

The Great Priory was opened in ample form.

The GREAT REGISTRAR called the muster roll.

The minutes of the Great Priory of the 14th May last were read and declared to be correctly recorded.

It was then resolved, on the motion of the GREAT CHANCELLOR, seconded by the GREAT REGISTRAR, that the report of the Council be taken as read, as follows:

REPORT OF COUNCIL.

Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master,

Your Council have the honour to report that the following has been received in reply to the loyal and respectful address presented to her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen:

"Whitehall,
3rd July, 1897.

"SIR,

"I have had the honour to lay before the Queen the loyal and dutiful Address of the Grand Master and Knights of the United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple and Hospital in England and Wales on the occasion of Her Majesty attaining the Sixtieth year of Her Reign, and I have to inform you that Her Majesty was pleased to receive the same very graciously.

"I have the honour to be,

"Your obedient servant,

"The Great Vice-Chancellor of the

"MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY.

"Order of the Temple,

"Mark Masons' Hall,

"Great Queen-street, W.C."

Your Council note with much satisfaction that many of the Grand Commanderies in the United States of America allude in feeling and sympathetic terms to the attainment by her Majesty of the 60th year of her reign. Among these your Council would desire to quote the following extract from the proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Montana:

"At the last meeting of the Great Priory, herein noted, the Grand Master moved, and it was unanimously carried 'with acclamation and great cheering,' to present her Majesty Queen Victoria, Patron of the United Orders of the Temple and Hospital, an address of congratulations on the happy completion of the 60th year of her glorious and benignant reign, accompanied with the fervent hope that she might long be spared to rule over a loyal and devoted people. In the spirit and sentiment of that address, as Grand Commander of Montana, we most heartily join. In our admiration and respect for the noble Queen of England, who has done so much to promote peace and union among all who speak the English tongue, and to exalt domestic virtues, the Templars of Montana vie with her most loyal subjects at home in their loyal congratulations and good wishes. The chivalry of the new world unites with that of England and all her colonies in paying homage to England's noble Queen. A common tongue, common laws, faith, literature, and higher common interests make us all one people, and this is the greatest revelation of the closing years of the nineteenth century."

You have been pleased, by patent dated 29th October, 1897, to appoint the Very Eminent Knight Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Daly, Provincial Prior for British Guiana and the Windward Islands.

You have been pleased to grant a warrant for a new preceptory to be held at Fremantle, in West Australia, to be called the Preceptory of Westralia, and in accordance with the prayer of the petitioners to attach the same to the Provincial Priory of South Australia.

You have been pleased to grant a warrant for a new preceptory to be held at Cape Town, to be called the Preceptory of Mount Zion.

The Provincial Prior of West Yorkshire having reported that the warrant of Prince Edward Preceptory, now meeting at Hebden Bridge, had been improperly removed from the possession of the preceptory, you were pleased to authorise the meetings being held until the warrant had been restored.

The original warrant of the Royds Preceptory, meeting at Manchester, dated the 20th July, 1880, having been lost, you have been pleased, on application, to grant a warrant of confirmation, dated the 8th November.

It having been reported that the Antient York Preceptory of Redemption, meeting at Hull, had installed their Preceptor in the chair for the third consecutive term of office, contrary to Statute 83, your Council, after due consideration, admonished the preceptory and imposed a fine of one guinea.

The whole of the preceptories in England and Wales have made the returns enjoined by the statutes, and have paid the necessary fees.

The following preceptories abroad are in arrears:

	Years.
Ardvorlich	7
Ascalon	7
Diamond of the Desert	4
Celestial	3
Calpe	2

The Great Treasurer's accounts have been audited up to 31st August, 1897, and show the following balances, which are in the London and Westminster Bank, Limited, Bloomsbury Branch:

General Fund	£520	18	3
Benevolent Fund	250	15	10

£771 14 1

By order of the Council,

R. LOVELAND LOVELAND,
Great Chancellor.

C. FITZGERALD MATIER,
Great Vice-Chancellor.

8th November, 1897.

On the motion of the GREAT CHANCELLOR, seconded by the GREAT REGISTRAR, the report was ordered to be received and entered on the minutes, and it was afterwards resolved on the motion of the GREAT CHANCELLOR, seconded by the GREAT REGISTRAR that it be adopted.

THE GRAND MASTER: Before we proceed with any further business there is a task which I must perform, and that is to ask you, the Great Priory, to allow a letter of condolence to be sent to our Past Great Prior Lord Lathom, in the great trouble, sorrow, and affliction which has fallen on him. Lord Lathom has always worked hard for this Order, and there is no one among us who does not love, honour, and respect him for the work he did for us. It is, therefore, only right that we should send him some small token of our sincere condolence in his great affliction. Brethren, few words are necessary from me to commend to you this proposition with regard to one who is so well known and so beloved by Masons, and I will only, therefore, ask you to allow us to send a letter to our distinguished brother condoling with him in this the hour of his great affliction.

Sir Knight Capt. N. G. PHILIPS: I beg to second that.

The motion was put and declared carried amid solemn silence.

Sir Knight F. RICHARDSON, G. Reg.: I beg to move, Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, that the form of the letter and the method of its conveyance be left in your hands. I am sure that whatever you may do in the matter will meet with the wishes of the sir knights here present. (Hear, hear.)

Sir Knight RALPH CLUTTON, G. Treas.: I beg to second that.

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

The G. VICE-CHANCELLOR announced the receipt of a letter from Sir Knight Stephen Berry, of Portland, Maine, which was read, as follows:

"Portland, Maine,
"November 20th, 1897.

"DEAR FRATER,
"The following sentiment has been prepared for the coming Christmas:
"To our Most Eminent Grand Master, W. LARUE THOMAS:
A faithful leader: may his days be long, and may the blessings of Our Lord and Master follow him all the days of his life."

"The Grand Master sends the following response:

"To all true Knights of the Temple: Health and Peace: God bless us every one."

"Will you join in these sentiments on Saturday, December 25th, at noon Eastern Standard time (equivalent to 5 p.m. Greenwich), and will you extend the invitation to your command, as well as to all true Templars and their friends, wheresoever dispersed, on land or sea.

"Courteously and fraternally yours,

"STEPHEN BERRY."

Pacific Standard Time, 120° W., 9 a.m.; Mountain, 105° W., 10 a.m.; Central, 90° W., 11 a.m.; Eastern, 75° W., 12 m.; Greenwich, 0°, 5 p.m.

THE GRAND MASTER: You have, brethren, heard the letter from America. Our brethren there number, some 120,000 or more members, and I am quite certain we shall not do amiss if we on Christmas Day wish them and all Knights Templars throughout the world God speed. (Hear, hear.)

Alms amounting to £3 os. 6d. were collected.

Great Priory was closed in ample form.

ORDER OF MALTA.

Great Priory of Malta was opened in ample form. The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, the Earl of Euston, G.C.T., occupied the throne.

The Great Chancellor, V.E. Knight C. F. MATIER, K.C.T., read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were confirmed.

The GREAT CHANCELLOR then said that he had received the commands of the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master to announce that he had made the following appointments:

V.E. Knight R. Loveland Loveland, O.C.,	G.C.T.	...	Great Prior.
"	The Lord Skelmersdale	...	Great Captain General.
"	C. Letch Mason	...	Great Lieut. General.
"	Clement Godson	...	Great First Lieutenant.
"	Arthur H. Jefferis	...	Great Second Lieut.
"	C. E. Lefroy Austen (Rev.)	...	Great Prelate.
"	Charles Belton, K.C.T.	...	Great Mareschal.
E. Knight C. Chetwynd Atkinson (Rev.)	Great Hospitaller.
"	Percy Wallis	...	Great Admiral.
"	Walter Simpson	...	Great Conservator.
"	R. A. B. Preston	...	Great Baillie.
"	F. B. Westlake	...	Great Turcopolier.
V.E. Knight C. F. Matier, K.C.T.	Great Chancellor.
"	Ralph Clutton, K.C.T.	...	Great Treasurer.
E. Knight Surg.-Lieut.-Col. H. Mackinnon	Great Banner Bearer.
"	J. B. Bridgman	...	Great Sword Bearer.
"	T. M. Barron	...	} Great Captain Outposts.
"	T. P. Dorman	...	
"	H. R. Rose	...	Great Organist.

The Great Officers took their seats as follows: V.E. Knights R. Loveland Loveland, E. Prior; Frank Richardson, K.C.T., as Capt.-General; and Charles Letch Mason, Lieut.-General; E. Knights Clement Godson, 1st Lieut.; and Arthur H. Jefferis, 2nd Lieut.; V.E. Knight Charles Belton, K.C.T., Mareschal; E. Knights H. E. Cousins, as Hospitaller; Percy Wallis, Admiral; George C. Kent, as Conservator; R. A. B. Preston, Baillie; F. B. Westlake, Turcopolier; J. A. Robinson, as Chancellor; and Hubert S. Clutton, as Treasurer; Rev. C. Chetwynd Atkinson, as Prelate; and Major T. W. Richardson, as Capt. of Outposts.

The following knights were Guards to Banners: E. Knights George Mickley, Banner B.; J. C. FitzRoy Tower, Banner L.; Walter J. Ebbetts, Banner D.; Knights John Dimsdale, Banner R.; and Thomas Fraser, Banner A.

The following Knights Templar then received the Mediterranean Pass, and were admitted into the Order of Malta under the banner of the St. Michael's Preceptory, the Accolade being given by the M.E. and Supreme Grand Master, the Earl of Euston, G.C.T.: Knights John Henry Ewart, Sussex Preceptory; Claude de Montmorency Franklyn, Sussex Preceptory; Edwin Philip Moore, Kemeys Tynte Preceptory; Henry Robert Rose, St. George Preceptory; Percy Caldecott, Studholme Preceptory; and Philip Felix Renaud Saillard, Holy Palestine Preceptory.

Great Priory was then closed in ample form.

CONSECRATION OF THE COLUMBIA CHAPTER, No. 2397.

The Columbia Lodge, No. 2397, which has during the past few years rendered excellent service by providing a Masonic home in London for brethren from America, has now gone one step further and started a Royal Arch chapter. The interesting ceremony took place at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, on the 14th instant, in the presence of a numerous and distinguished array of companions, who assembled to give a good "send-off" to the new venture.

The Consecrating Officer, Comp. E. Letchworth, F.S.A., G. Scribe E., was assisted by Comps. R. Horton Smith, Q.C., Dep. G. Reg., as H. (in the unavoidable absence of Comp. Sir J. Monckton, P.G.S.N.); Thomas Fenn, G.S.N., as J.; C. E. Keyser, P.G.S.B., as S.N.; and Frank Richardson, G.D.C., as D.C.

The founders of the new chapter are Comps. J. R. Brough, A. W. Chapman, R. Newton Crane, E. Jessurun, L. O. Johnson, Imre Kiralfy, W. J. Spratling, R. Clay Sudlow, J. L. Taylor, W. Hastings Toone, F. C. Van Duzer, and H. S. Wellcome.

Chapter was opened, and a hymn sung, after which

THE CONSECRATING PRINCIPAL, addressing the companions, said they had met for the purpose of dedicating a new Royal Arch chapter to be attached to a lodge consecrated some few years ago. He felt sure he was expressing the feelings of all present when he gave voice to the hope that the new chapter might have before it a career of the greatest success and prosperity.

The charter was read by the D.C.

An excellent oration, dealing with the historical aspect of Royal Arch Masonry, was delivered by Comp. T. FENN, acting J.

The new chapter was then dedicated and constituted, the musical portions of the ceremonial being splendidly rendered by Comps. H. Schartau, John Bartlett, and F. Bevan.

Comps. R. Clay Sudlow and H. S. Wellcome were inducted into the respective chairs of Z. and H., and Comp. Van Duzer was installed as J. by Comp. Fenn, G.S.N.

The following officers were elected and invested, the collars and jewels being the gift of Comp. Van Duzer: Comps. J. L. Taylor, S.N.; W. J. Spratling, S.E.; A. W. Chapman, Treas.; R. Newton Crane, P.S.; Imre Kiralfy, 1st A.S.; and J. R. Brough, 2nd A.S.

The M.E.Z. then said it was his exceedingly pleasant duty to propose a very hearty vote of thanks to the Consecrating Officers for their excellent work, and to invite them to accept the honorary membership of the chapter. The consecration was one of the most beautiful of their ceremonies and it had been performed in a very impressive manner. He especially alluded to the instructive and interesting oration given by Comp. Fenn.

THE GRAND SCRIBE E. in acknowledging the compliment, tendered the warmest thanks of the Consecrating Officers.

Eight brethren were proposed for exaltation and one companion as a joining member. Letters of regret for non-attendance were read from several Grand Officers, and the chapter was closed.

A *recherche* banquet was well-served, and was followed by a hearty recognition of the usual loyal and Masonic toasts.

"The Queen and Royal Arch Masonry," "The President of the United States," and "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Z.," were briefly given by the M.E.Z. and warmly received.

Comp. H. S. WELLCOME, H., proposed "The Grand Officers," and said that a finer exhibition of work than they had seen in the impressive performance of the consecration ceremony could not be witnessed anywhere. Their esteemed friend, the M.E.Z., was also a Grand Officer and the members felt great pride in placing him in the chair as the First Principal. Comp. Col. J. A. BINDLEY, G. Supt. Staffordshire, replied.

Comp. F. C. VAN DUZER, J., said he had a very pleasing duty to perform in the chapter in asking the companions to express a vote of thanks to the Consecrating Officers. He had an equally pleasant duty in asking them all to drink the next toast—"The Consecrating Officers." The founders were all deeply grateful to them, and the toast had, therefore, only to be mentioned to be warmly and heartily received.

Comp. E. LETCHWORTH, G. Scribe E., on behalf of the Consecrating Officers, expressed their warmest thanks for the cordial reception given the toast proposed by the J. in such very kind terms. It had given them all the greatest possible pleasure to be present and assist as they had done in bringing into existence that new chapter. It was now his privilege to propose the next toast, but he was not going to inflict a long speech upon them as that was unnecessary. He asked them to join in drinking the health of the companion whom he had the pleasure of placing in the chair of M.E.Z. that evening. Comp. Sudlow was a most accomplished Mason, and a staunch friend, whom it was a great delight to be associated with. He

wished the M.E.Z. a most agreeable and prosperous year of office, and ventured to predict that under Comp. Sudlow's able and genial rule that new chapter could not fail to have before it a most successful year. He most heartily congratulated the founders on being presided over by such an accomplished and kindly M.E.Z.

Comp. R. CLAY SUDLOW, M.E.Z., in reply, said it was often the unexpected that happened. He had made up his mind that he would never occupy the position of chief of a lodge or chapter again, but the founders of the Columbia Chapter decided otherwise. They arrived at their decision without his knowledge, and he might add, without his consent. When he signed the petition he found that his name was entered as the first M.E.Z. On entering a protest he was informed that the matter was definitely settled and that he had nothing whatever to do with it. He had to thank the founders for the honour done him in placing him in that position and he took this opportunity of doing so. He was also extremely grateful to Comp. Letchworth for the more than kind expressions used in placing the toast before them. For all those kindnesses he could not do more than pledge himself to do all he possibly could to carry out the wishes of every founder in making the Columbia Chapter a pronounced success.

Comp. F. J. RUSHTON, P.Z. 382, acknowledged the toast of "The Visitors," which was cordially given by the M.E.Z., and expressed their pleasure at being present on that interesting occasion.

The M.E.Z., in proposing "The Officers," said that when he learnt the names of those who would support him, he at once dismissed all nervousness and fear as to the success of the chapter. He did not propose to go through their qualifications, but it would be quite impossible for any M.E.Z. to have a more enthusiastic body of Masons to help him during perhaps the most difficult of all years—the first year. Every officer was a tried Mason, and one whose first wish was to help forward the true interests of the chapter.

Comps. J. L. TAYLOR, S.N., and R. NEWTON CRANE, P.S., responded.

The Tyler's toast then closed the proceedings.

The toasts were interspersed with excellent musical selections by Comp. J. Bartlett and Bros. John Josey and A. Strugnell.

THE CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE.

The "Committee on Christmas Observance," appointed by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, has issued the following sentiment for the ensuing season:

"To our M.E. Grand Master, H. La Rue Thomas: A faithful Leader: may his days be long, and may the blessings of our Lord and Master follow him all the days of his life."

Bro. Stephen Berry, a dear friend of mine (Grand Secretary of the varicus Grand Bodies of Maine), still has the arrangements of this annual toast, and I am very pleased to state that our own Grand Master, the Earl of Euston, G.C.T., has most warmly accepted an official invite to respond, and, what is more, has asked the knights assembled at the Great Priory to do so likewise. My instructions are to seek the co-operation of all the knights in Great Britain and Ireland. I feel assured that the members of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada will gladly "fall into line," as before, with Victoria, so that some 120,000 knights (all speaking the English language) of various Nationalities will thus unite, and practically exemplify—"Peace on earth and goodwill to mankind."

The Grand Master of U.S.A. responds:

"To all true Knights of the Temple; Health and Peace
God bless us every one."

The time of the Observance, on December 25th, is fixed for noon, Eastern Standard, which is equivalent to 5 p.m., Greenwich time, when we hope many thousands "of true Templars and their friends, wheresoever dispersed on land or sea," will participate in this fraternal toast.

WM. JAS. HUGHAN
(Representative for Great Britain and Ireland).

Craft Masonry.

Moira Lodge, No. 92.

The 142nd anniversary festival of this distinguished lodge was celebrated at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, E.C., on Tuesday, the 7th inst. Present: Bros. the Rev. R. I. Woodhouse, W.M.; Wickham Francis Noakes, S.W.; J. Webb, J.W.; T. L. Wilkinson, P.M., P.D.G.R., Treas.; R. F. Gould, P.M., P.G.D., Sec.; Chas. E. Russell, S.D.; A. W. Smith, J.D.; Russell Ardagh, I.G.; M. A. Tweedie, I.P.M.; Wickham Noakes, P.M., Stwd.; Harold Carter, P.M.; Bertram Noakes, P.M.; G. Greiner, P.M.; Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G., P.M.; G. C. Andrew, P.M.; J. M. Mitchell, P.M.; and J. P. Murrrough. Visitors: Bros. the Earl of Kilmorey, 357; Ed. Letchworth, G. Sec.; Frank Richardson, P.G.D.; G. W. Speth, P.A.G.D. of C.; Lennox Browne, P.D.G.D. of C.; C. F. Matier, P.G.S.B.; C. Kupferschmidt, A.G. Sec. for German Correspondence; Wal. E. Southwood, 907; J. Peeke Richards, 1584; C. Wells, 2323; W. G. Poole, P.M. 860; Sir N. R. Pringle, Bart., late of the Brandon Lodge, Manitoba; J. C. Partridge, P.M. 1074; L. Stevens, 2397; C. F. Micher, P.M. 1209; C. Kingzett, 1691; Sydney T. Klein, W.M. 2076; R. C. G. Ant, P.M. 21; W. H. Bourke, P.M. 1635; G. Heydey, P.M. 46; J. B. S. Lancaster, P.M. 1287; the Rev. J. Henry Smith, 279; H. W. Noakes, P.M. 106; E. L. Shelton, P.M. 1366; T. H. Wellingham, 780; C. W. Skinner, 2000; E. Stobel, 197; and Henry Times, P.M. 165.

The lodge was opened and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. Bro. S. Shorter, P.M., was elected a re-joining member. A ballot was then taken for Messrs. John Norman Noakes, Stuart Bertram Noakes, and Frederic Akenhead Donni-son, which proving unanimous in their favour, and the candidates being in attendance, they were initiated by Bro. R. F. Gould, P.M., into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry. Bro. Wickham Francis Noakes, S.W., Master elect, was presented to the chair by Bro. Wickham Noakes, P.M., and duly installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. Much assistance was rendered by Bros. G. W. Speth, P.A.G.D.C.; and Charles Wells, 2323, as additional Deacons in the former ceremony; and by Bros. G. W. Speth, C. F. Matier, P.G.S.B., and F. Richardson, P.G.D., as S.W., J.W. and D.C., respectively, in the latter one. The W.M. appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. John Webb, S.W.; Charles Edward Russell, J.W.; Rev. R. I. Woodhouse, I.P.M., Chap.; T. L. Wilkinson, P.M., Treas.; R. F. Gould, P.M., Sec.; A. W. Smith, S.D.; Russell Ardagh, J.D.; Sir Norman Robert Pringle, Bart. (who in the course of the evening had been proposed as a joining member), I.G. pro tem.; Wickham Noakes, P.M., Stwd.; and George Couchman, Tyler. Letters expressing regret

at inability to attend were read from Bros. Sir Henry Harben, P.M.; William Bohm, P.M.; and Adam Pringle, P.M.; also from Major-Gen. Sir Charles Warren, G.C.M.G.; Vice-Admiral A. H. Markham, Thomas Fenn, P.G.W.; Dr. Ralph Gooding, P.G.D.; W. M. Bywater, P.G.S.B.; and others, who had been invited as visitors. The sum of half a guinea was voted to that most deserving charity "Our Brother's Bed." Bro. Wickham Noakes, P.M., signified his willingness to serve as Steward in connection with the Centenary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

A summary of the accounts was laid on the table by the Treasurer, and the Charity-box having been circulated, the lodge was closed.

The banquet that followed gave every satisfaction, and was served in the admirable manner for which the Albion Tavern is proverbial.

On the removal of the cloth, the W.M. gave in brief, but happy, terms the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were very cordially received.

Bro. Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary, having replied for "The Grand Officers,"

The toast of the evening—"The Memory of Earl Moira, the Patron of the Lodge"—was proposed by the Treasurer, Bro. T. L. Wilkinson, P.M., in a speech of great power and eloquence, and drunk in solemn silence by the brethren.

Bro. the Rev. R. I. Woodhouse, I.P.M., then gave "The W.M."

The W.M., on rising to respond, was very heartily greeted, and in well-chosen words acknowledged the compliment which had been paid him.

Bros. the Earl of Kilmorey, S. T. Klein, W.M. 2076; and Robert C. Grant, P.M. 21, returned thanks for "The Visitors."

The next toast was "The Past Masters," with which was coupled the name of Bro. Sir Alfred Dent, whose speech in reply was much applauded.

Bro. Wickham Noakes, P.M., then proposed "The Health of the Initiates," two of whom, he said, were his own sons, and the third a young and valued friend, of whose personal worth he was fully assured. The two former had been admitted into Masonry in a lodge which numbered their father and uncle among its Past Masters, and possessed as its Master for the year their eldest brother. With much eloquence and in a tone of deep feeling, the speaker dilated on the characteristics of Freemasonry, and his address was listened to with the greatest attention by all present.

All three initiates ably responded.

The W.M. next gave in succession "The Officers of the Lodge" and "The Treasurer and Secretary."

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

An excellent musical entertainment was provided under the able direction of Mr. J. W. Ivimey, in which the following well-known artistes took part: Miss Maggie Purvis, Miss Hutton, Mr. Samuel Masters, Mr. James A. Hamilton (solo flute), and Mr. Jos. Ivimey (solo violin). Mr. John W. Ivimey presided at the pianoforte with his customary ability.

Piccadilly Lodge, No. 2550.

A large number of brethren attended the installation meeting of this prosperous lodge, held at the Café Monico, Piccadilly-circus, on Thursday, the 2nd inst., and were well rewarded for their visit by an excellent display of Masonic working. Bro. J. Russell, W.M., installed as his successor Bro. A. J. Bignold, who was initiated in the Eccleston Lodge, No. 1624, of which he is a Past Master. He is also P.Z. of the Eccleston Chapter, No. 1624, P.M. of the Panmure Mark Lodge, No. 139, and W.C.N. of Panmure Royal Ark Mariners. At the meeting under notice the W.M. was supported by Bros. A. J. Bignold, P.M., S.W.; W. F. Bates, I.P.M.; F. Arnold, P.M.; W. C. Clark, P.M., J.W.; C. Arnold, Treas.; J. B. Tipton, A. A. Jordan, T. H. Parry, J. Leigh, W. G. Weller, R. Bearcroft, C. P. Wyatt, W. J. Gore, C. J. Charlton, C. J. Anderson, and others. Visitors: Bros. W. Vincent, P.G.S.B.; J. H. Anderson, 2292; W. A. Chalmers, 2266; C. W. Samuel, W.M. 1708; C. H. Danevills, P.M. 1671; J. Wade, W.M. 862; W. J. Norman, 1624; F. Duke, S.W. 1842; G. Glover, I.P.M. 2427; J. A. Barham, 1601; A. Mutter, 1987; C. Watson, W.M. 1702; W. H. Herbert, P.M. 173; H. B. Riddle, P.M. 173; A. Walton, P.M. 1237; J. C. Carpenter, I.P.M. 1716; F. Larner, P.P.G.S. Wks.; J. W. Beckerton, 2137; F. J. Deaton, P.M. 25; A. Hughes, 704; G. Makepiece, S.W. 1891; E. J. Kix, 1891; T. Whitford, W.M. 1321; H. G. Powell, P.S.G.D. Berks; W. W. Lee, P.P.G.D. Middx.; and others.

Lodge was opened, the minutes confirmed, and routine business transacted. Bro. A. J. Bignold was then presented as W.M. elect, and duly installed into the chair, after which the following officers were invested: Bros. W. C. Clark, P.M., S.W.; J. B. Tipton, J.W.; C. Arnold, Treas.; J. Russell, I.P.M., Sec.; A. A. Jordan, S.D.; T. H. Parry, J.D.; J. Leigh, I.G.; W. G. Weller, Org.; R. Bearcroft, and J. Strange, C. J. Charlton, and C. P. Wyatt, Stewards. The usual addresses were then effectively rendered by the Installing Master. A Committee was formed, in conjunction with the Eccleston Lodge, to place a stone on the grave of the late Bro. Beckham, Sec. of both lodges, and £65. was subscribed by the members for this object.

The lodge was closed, and an enjoyable banquet was followed by the customary toasts.

Bro. W. Vincent, P.G.S.B., replying for "The Grand Officers," expressed his delight to be present at that lodge. It was his good fortune to initiate the W.M., Bro. Bignold, into Freemasonry, and he also had the pleasure of placing him in several chairs in other Degrees. He was sure he echoed the feelings of every brother when he said how sorry they were for the grief that had befallen the Pro G.M., who was suffering from the greatest loss one could possibly have. The Grand Officers endeavoured to emulate the example set by the Pro G.M. and Deputy G.M. There were many degrees of Grand Officers. Those who, by birth and high station, filled the higher offices, others distinguished in law and letters and the dignitaries of the Church and other working officers. He was proud to think he had gained his distinction for any work he might have done. There were a large number of men who devoted their time to teaching others, and he had endeavoured to follow that work, and it was perhaps on that account he wore the collar of Grand office. He thanked them cordially for the manner in which the toast had been received.

Bro. W. F. Bates, P.M., briefly proposed "The W.M.," who he said was highly esteemed in the Piccadilly Lodge. Under the good auspices under which Bro. Bignold had been installed, there was a prospect of a happy and successful year. They hoped he would have plenty of work, which he would perform with great credit to himself and the lodge.

Bro. A. J. Bignold, P.M., W.M., expressed his obligation to Bro. Bates and the brethren, and said that anything he could do for the lodge would be cheerfully done. He was proud of being a founder of this lodge and its present W.M. There was a young and small lodge, but they would grow older and stronger, and know more as they proceeded. The interests of this lodge were his first care in Masonry. He would take every care to pass on the warrant as he received it—pure and unadulterated. He thanked them heartily and hoped to have a successful year, to which end he was sure every member would help him.

The W.M. then gave "The Installing Master and Past Masters." The I.P.M. had been one of the best Masters they could possibly have, for in the working, presiding over them, and in looking after the lodge's affairs, he was *par excellence*. The ceremony of installation could not have been better performed, and was a great credit to the lodge. He had great pleasure in asking Bro. Russell, I.P.M., to accept a Past Master's jewel in the same spirit in which it was offered. Their thanks were also due to him for coming forward as Secretary, for few had any idea what a vast amount of work there was to perform.

Bro. J. Russell, I.P.M., responded, and said that whilst occupying the chair he applied his best efforts in any work coming before him to secure to that lodge an efficiency which he hoped it would always retain. Masonry to him was a pleasure, and the occupancy of the chair had been a great pleasure indeed. If he had in any way succeeded in maintaining its efficiency, he was amply repaid by their thanks. For the handsome jewel he had no words in which to express his appreciation of the kindness which had prompted the brethren. As he had occupied the chair during Jubilee year, it had occurred to some to commemorate that event by placing a handsome diamond in the Past Master's jewel. If it was as a token of the esteem in which he hoped he was held, and if he had in any way maintained the dignity of the lodge to their satisfaction, he could only say his thanks were feebly expressed when he said he was more than gratified.

Bros. Larner, Whitfield, Powell, and Wade acknowledged "The Visitors," after which "The Treasurer and Secretary," and "The Officers" were duly honoured.

Bros. Jas. Leigh directed the musical arrangements, and was assisted by Miss Edith Yorke, Miss Ida Hedges, and Messrs. Kinke, Dyson, Thorne, Pearce, and Bagnall.

The tables were decorated with a large number of beautiful chrysanthemums grown and presented by the W.M.

Stability Lodge, No. 217.

The election meeting of this flourishing centenary lodge was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, W.C., on Tuesday, the 7th inst., when there were present Bros. J. H. Edwards, W.M.; Geo. Say, S.W.; J. R. Ayris, J.W.; S. P. Fisher, Treas.; J. Nixon, P.M., Sec.; W. H. Smith, S.D.; H. B. Hancock, J.D.; W. H. Edwards, D.C.; Thos. Bowler, Tyler; and many others.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The election of W.M. for the ensuing year was unanimous in favour of Bro. Geo. Say, S.W.; also that of Bro. S. P. Fisher, as Treasurer.

At the conclusion of the business of the lodge, the W.M., Bro. J. H. Edwards, Mr. Edwards, and the Misses Gertrude and Edith Edwards, held a reception, at which the following were present: Bros. G. Say, W.M. elect, Mrs. Say and Mr. H. Say; Bro. J. R. Ayris and Mrs. Ayris; Bro. S. P. Fisher, Mrs. Fisher, and the Misses E. F. and A. L. Fisher; Bro. Garner, Mrs. Garner, and Miss Garner; Bro. W. Eckersall and Mrs. Eckersall; Bro. J. Nixon, Mrs. J. Nixon, and the Misses Alice, Nellie, Maggie, and Mary Nixon, and Mr. J. Nixon; Bro. H. Marfleet, Miss H. A. Marfleet, and Mrs. Marfleet; Bro. Wm. Gorrie, P.M.; Bro. Wright and Mrs. Wright; Bro. Hancock, Mrs. Hancock, and Miss Lapham, and Mr. Williams; Bro. Owen, P.M., and Mrs. Owen; Bro. Taylor and Mrs. Taylor; Bro. Giraud and Mrs. Giraud; Mr. Heath and Mr. Roberts; Bro. W. H. Edwards and Mrs. Edwards; Bro. Foster and Mrs. Foster; Bro. Palmer and Mrs. Palmer; Bro. Doughty and Miss Doughty; Bro. Vague and Miss A. Evans; Bro. James Addington and Mrs. Addington; Bro. Finch and Mrs. Finch; Bro. Furnell and Mrs. Furnell; Bro. Cutleris, Mrs. Cutleris, and Miss Cutleris; Bro. Carleton, Mrs. Carleton, and Miss Carleton; Bro. Manning and Mrs. Manning; Bro. Wratten and Mrs. Wratten; Bro. G. Kirk and Mrs. Kirk; Bro. C. H. Stone and Mrs. Stone; Bro. Fisher, Bro. Botterill and Mrs. Botterill; Bro. Baker and Mrs. Baker; Mr. Ellis and friend; Bro. W. H. Smith, Mrs. Smith, and Miss M. Smith; Bro. Leaman and Mrs. Leaman; Bro. Broadberry and Mrs. Broadberry; Bro. Matthew Hale and Mrs. Hale; Bro. Uncle, Bro. Woolmer, P.M.; and Bro. J. E. Cosham.

At the close of the reception, the large company adjourned to the dining hall and participated in an excellent banquet ably presided over by Bro. J. H. Edwards, W.M., supported by the Mrs. Edwards and the Misses Edwards on his left, and by Bro. Marfleet and friends, the oldest Past Master in the lodge, on his right.

The banquet ended, the W.M. rose and said the toasts would be short and few as the company were anxious to adjourn to the ball room, where a Cinderella dance had been arranged under very able M.C.s., Bro. Giraud and Mr. J. W. Nixon, to the strains of Bro. Leaman's Quadrille Band.

The W.M. presented the toast of "Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen" in right loyal terms, which was duly honoured.

Bro. P. H. Garner, P.M., proposed the toast of "The W.M., Bro. J. H. Edwards," which he said he did with the greatest possible pleasure, as it was a great honour. The W.M. had presided during a most exceptional year—the centenary festival and the summer outing, which occasion exceeded, if possible, the previous meetings. The thoroughness of the arrangements had been fully carried out, which added to the comfort of all present. The brethren fully appreciated the services rendered to the lodge by the W.M., and he would ask them to drink to the health of Bro. and Mrs. Edwards in bumpers.

The toast was received with acclamation.

In reply, Bro. J. H. Edwards, W.M., said: Ladies, gentlemen, and brethren,—It gives me great pleasure to reply to the toast so ably proposed by Bro. Garner and to thank you all for so hearty a reception. A similar occasion had occurred twice before; but the present was the most enjoyable. It was the last occasion in the year he should hold the position of W.M. in the lodge, and he was leaving it most reluctantly, having had such a happy year; but he was pleased to know he was relinquishing the position to so worthy a successor as Bro. G. Say, S.W. On behalf of Mrs. Edwards and himself, he most heartily thanked the company.

In proposing the toast of "The Ladies," Bro. Marfleet stated the great pleasure it gave the brethren to welcome them to the Stability Lodge and to witness their excellent work. He hoped that they would have an enjoyable evening, and in their kindness of heart to overlook any little shortcomings of the brethren if they were detained on some occasions a little later than usual.

A most cordial response was given to the toast.

Bro. Nixon, P.M., in felicitous terms, said the ladies were deeply sensible of the honour conferred upon them, and congratulated the W.M. in presiding over so historical a lodge during its centenary this, the Jubilee year, and also on the enjoyable summer outing at which they were present, and likewise the present occasion, which crowned all. They also congratulated the coming W.M., Bro. G. Say, and hoped that he would in like manner look after them in the coming year, which was fully anticipated.

The W.M. next presented the toast of "The Visitors," which was always most cordially extended by the brethren of the Stability Lodge.

Bro. Matthew Hale, P.M., in reply, said it gave him great pleasure to respond for the first time in Stability Lodge, which was his misfortune, as he had been invited a dozen times by the esteemed W.M. It gave him still greater pleasure as he was now accompanied by Mrs. Hale, who was witness to the efficiency and cordiality which existed amongst the brethren of Stability Lodge. He most heartily thanked the brethren on behalf of the visitors.

Bro. C. H. Stone, P.M., also cordially replied.

During the banquet each lady was presented with a handsome box, silk lined, with two bottles of choice scent, as a souvenir of the occasion, the card bearing the following inscription: "Lodge of Stability, 217, 'Cinderella,' December 7th, 1897, with the compliments of Bro. J. H. Edwards, W.M., and Mrs. Edwards."

The whole arrangements were most successfully carried out by Bros. Nixon, P.M.; Hancock, J.D.; and Giraud, for which they received the highest praise.

Empress Lodge, No. 2581.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday evening, the 8th inst., at the Café Royal, Regent-street, and the lodge was opened by Bro. Imre Kiralfy, W.M. A very large number of brethren attended, among them being Bros. S. J. Templeton, N. Haskine, W. S. Hooper, C. Goovart, P. Dixon, J. H. Alabaster, C. B. Lumley, W. H. Bond, Arthur Tite, F. A. Nash, W. G. Ardington, N. F. Bhungara, W. H. Jiffant, A. G. Howell, G. R. Blades, W. H. Coppinger, G. C. Breese, Alfred Hollness, W. G. Merritt, W. F. Allvey, N. F. Stokes, C. L. J. Noad, and Bertrand Dawson. The visitors included Bros. Sir Reginald Hanson, P.G.W.; Alderman Vaughan Morgan, G. Treas.; Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale, P.G. Treas.; Sir Walter Wilkin, P.G.W.; Thomas Fenn, P.G.W.; Edward Letchworth, G. Sec.; R. Horton Smith, J.C., Dep. G. Reg.; Richard Eve, P.G. Treas.; W. Mason Stiles, P.G. Treas.; Sir George D. Harris, P.G.D.; Frederick West, P.G.D.; Dr. Ralph B. Gooding, P.G.D.; G. P. Goldney, P.G.D.; Sir William T. Marriott, J.C., P.G.D.; J. D. Langton, P.D.G.D.C.; C. Belton, P.D.G.D.C.; Sir Charles Martin, P.A.G.D.C.; Lennox Browne, P.D.G.D.C.; F. Mead, P.G. Std. Br.; T. Hastings Miller, P.G. Std. Br.; C. F. Matier, P.G. Std. Br.; W. S. Hoyte, P.G. Org.; W. Henderson, Dep. Dist. G. Reg. S. Africa; Joseph Pock, P.G. Std.; the Hon. P. M. Meha, P.M., Bombay Legislative Council; Richard Creed, W.M. 1; Rev. H. C. Dimsdale, 859; A. R. Meyer, W.M. 900; John P. Houghton, P.M. 1768; R. Evens, P.M., P.Z. 1949; Walter Clifford, P.M. 2488; John Foss, S.W. 2488; Natham Robinson, P.M. 55; J. Harbert, W.M. 1957; J. R. Cleave, W.M. 2648; Percy Short, W.M. 2255; Geo. P. Hadley, 2488; Henry Neville, W.M. 2127; E. E. Cooper, P.M. 8; Edward White, P.M. 177; W. Griffin, P.M. 1; W. Dent, 1; Thos. Dimsdale, P.G. Std.; E. Beranger, 2060; W. T. Pigott, W.M. 197; H. Baker, P.P.A.G.P.; William H. Bourke, P.M. 1635; E. B. J. Arne, P.M. 1615; H. Dangerfield, P.M. 1260; W. J. W. Beard, P.M., and Treas. 101; H. Massey, P.M. 619 and 1028; W. Sergeant Lee, P.M. 2488; Jas. H. Hawkins, P.M. 569; J. A. Harrison, I.P.M. 2488; Orton Cooper, P.M. 211; A. J. Squires, 1987; J. W. Hayes, 164; W. Rapley, 1987; P. J. Rowlands, 2009; A. H. Hooper, 46; J. Witney, 1446; G. W. Stillwell, 1; F. W. Nelson, 284; C. P. Channing, 1987; W. J. Busworth, and A. E. Baker, 1.

After the minutes had been read and confirmed, Bros. J. Weiner, 1987, and W. F. Allvey, 2374, were elected joining members. Bro. Thomas Fenn, P.G.W., afterwards took the chair for the purpose of the installation, Bro. Alderman Vaughan Morgan, G. Treas., taking the S.W.'s chair and Sir G. D. Harris, P.G.D., the J.W.'s chair. Bro. John Holdsworth Dimsdale (son of Bro. Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale, P.G. Treas.) was then installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. Imre Kiralfy was invested as I.P.M. The

other officers were Bros. R. J. Maitland Coffin, M.D., F.R.C.P., S.W.; E. Nalpe, J.W.; J. W. Clark, Treas.; G. D. Coleman, Sec.; C. I. Kiralfy, S.D.; G. C. Breese, J.D.; J. P. Nelson, I.G.; R. M. Meyer, D.C.; G. R. Blades, A.D.C.; J. S. Bhungara, W. H. Coppinger, and G. G. Kirchner, Stewards; James Kift, Org.; and Ellis, P.M., Tyler. At the conclusion of the ceremonies the W.M. presented Bro. Imre Kiralfy, I.P.M., with a handsome Past Master's jewel. The W.M. undertook the office of Steward for the lodge at the Centenary Festival of the Boys' School, and Bro. Sir J. C. Dimsdale, P.M., P.G.T., took the Stewardship for the Girls' School, at the 110th Festival of which Institution Bro. Sir Reginald Hanson, M.P., P.G.W., will preside. He trusted that the lodge would support both Stewards liberally.

The lodge was then closed, and punctually to the hour appointed the brethren sat down to a delightful banquet.

The usual toasts followed, and between the speeches the brethren enjoyed some excellent singing, under the direction of Bro. James Kift, by Bros. Davies and Arthur Strugnell.

Bro. J. H. Dimsdale, W.M., in giving the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," said he was glad to have to propose the Queen's health in the record year of her Majesty's reign. That reign was wonderful in national improvements, and those improvements were due to the encouragement held out by her to science and art. When she acceded to the throne fears were entertained by the more thinking portion of the community, but those fears did not exist for long, and the Queen was soon beloved by her people, and envied by every crowned head of Europe. And now after 60 years she had laid up a crown of joy and rejoicing which would never fade away, but would continue until time with her should be no more.

Bro. Sir Reginald Hanson, P.G.W., replying to the toast which includes "The Grand Officers, Present and Past," said the Pro G.M. was suffering under a most dire calamity, which had touched the hearts of the people as much as the calamity which had lately overtaken the Royal Family. He trusted that T.G.A.O.T.U. would send him a speedy relief from his sufferings, and that the Craft he had done so much to adorn would soon see him again among them. The rank he (Sir R. Hanson) occupied in Masonry was a high one, and, on behalf of the Grand Officers, he would point out that as good masters made good servants, so the Prince of Wales, being a good Grand Master, he got good Grand Officers; but even then they could not do much if they did not feel that they had the entire confidence of the Craft, and he did not think Masonry could have increased as it had but for that. He was P.M. and a founder of a lodge the number of which was 1000 less than the number of the Empress Lodge. That showed that in 20 years the Craft must have had great confidence in those appointed to rule over them. He would now come to a matter somewhat personal to himself. He thanked the first Master of that lodge (Sir J. C. Dimsdale) for the exceedingly kind way in which he received the letter read out by the Secretary as to the Festival of the Girls' School; he was very much touched by his coming forward on the occasion of his son being placed in the chair and supporting him in what must be a somewhat heavy undertaking—the Festival of the Girls' School. The Boys' School Centenary must be abundantly supported, but let them not forget the Girls.

Bro. Sir Walter Wilkin, P.G.W., said it was a matter of extreme pleasure that the W.M.'s chair was filled that night by one who might be said to be young in years. It was satisfactory to old servants of the Craft, because the principles which governed Masonry were handed down by those who were young, and as long as there were instilled into society by principle and practice brotherly love, relief, and truth, so would they not only discharge their duty to the Craft and all society receive benefit therefrom.

Bro. Imre Kiralfy, I.P.M., proposing "The W.M.," said it was scarcely possible for him to express the feeling he had towards the W.M., because he considered him not only a good and great Mason as a young man, but a loving son, a faithful friend, and a most devoted and energetic Mason. The Empress Lodge might congratulate itself, for they could not find a better Master anywhere; Bro. Dimsdale worked well in the lodge of instruction, and the brethren were all proud of him.

Bro. J. H. Dimsdale, W.M., replying to the toast, said Bro. Kiralfy had left him a very difficult task to follow in his footsteps; but if at the end of his year the brethren said he had done half as well as the I.P.M. he should be satisfied with himself. He was well supported by Bro. Kiralfy and all the members of the Empress Lodge; all friends of his; and last, but by no means the least, he had the support of his father.

Bro. J. H. Dimsdale, W.M., proposed "The Installing Master." A finer specimen of a Grand Officer than Bro. Thomas Fenn it would be hard to find; it was one of the pillars of Freemasonry; no one could have given the ceremony of installation more impressively, and he hoped that other brethren who might follow him (Bro. Dimsdale) in the chair would have some one to install them as well. The ceremony had impressed him intensely, and he should try to follow the advice given him by Bro. Fenn.

Bro. Thos. Fenn, P.G.W., acknowledging the toast, said that when his esteemed friend, Sir Joseph Dimsdale, invited him to install the W.M., he took it as a great honour. Any one would consider it a great honour to instal a W.M. of a lodge which bore the cherished name of our Empress Queen, and any W.M. would think it an honour to rule over such a lodge. It was a great pleasure to instal the son of his old friend. He (Bro. Fenn) was at the consecration of the lodge, and it was pleasing to see the progress the lodge had made in two years. He congratulated the W.M. and wished the lodge all prosperity in the future.

Bro. J. H. Dimsdale, W.M., next proposed "The I.P.M., Bro. Imre-Kiralfy," whom he had seen under many circumstances, as a true friend, as an ordinary brother in a lodge, as originator of the most wonderful spectacles the world had ever seen, and as the Master of the Empress Lodge; he had excelled them all. In the Mastership of the lodge he had been tip top, and he had not forgotten the Charitable side of Freemasonry, for he had contributed to the Charities most liberally. He expressed the wish of everyone when he hoped Bro. Kiralfy might long be spared to the brethren.

Bro. Imre Kiralfy, I.P.M., in reply, said that anything that was in his power he should do for the assistance of the lodge and its members, and he should do it with the greatest pleasure. The W.M. had referred to his (Bro. Kiralfy's) abilities with reference to the exhibition; well, that work he did with the greatest pleasure; it was hard work sometimes, but he did not feel it; but the greatest pleasure he had was from his association with Freemasonry; that was without limits or bounds, and he hoped that some day he would be rich enough to do what he should like to do—take up two or three Stewardships. With reference to his association with the lodge, he had travelled 4000 miles to be present that evening. He went to America for a little rest and leisure, then to Chicago and New York. He could assure the W.M. that if he asked him to stand by him as a friend he should do so.

Bro. Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale responded to the toast of "The Past Masters." He felt very proud that night; probably there was one in the room who felt still prouder. The meeting carried him back to two years ago, when he had gathered round the hospitable board of the Empress Lodge many, many old friends in Masonry and representative Grand Officers. He would be more than human if he did not recognise by their presence to-night that they had paid a very great compliment to the Empress Lodge—a compliment to its W.M.—and he was also vain enough to believe that many of his friends gathered together because his son happened to be W.M. As they went through life they found friendships cementing into firm knowledge of each other and appreciation of any work they might have and extreme kindness to all failings; but he thanked sincerely all the brethren assembled that night to wish God-speed to a very young, but able Mason. The Empress Lodge was founded for special objects to be a haven and home for those who desired to come within the fold of Masonry, who might be here from other parts of her Majesty's dominions, and for them to carry away and spread those noble principles for which they strove with loyalty and love to the G.A.O.T.U., and as a natural sequence the doing of their duty to their fellow men. The lodge was progressing, and their appreciation of the objects and work of the lodge was shown by the Grand Officers, than whom there was seldom a more representative gathering in a private lodge. He could assure them that the members of the Empress Lodge would continue to do their duty to maintain the great traditions of Masonry and to build up year by year the traditions of the Empress Lodge. It was a proud evening for him to see his own son occupying the chair, as young almost as it was possible to fill that high position. He hoped his son would appreciate the great Mason who installed him—one of the great pillars of Masonry.

The other toasts followed.

Britannia Lodge, No. 139.

Britannia Lodge, No. 139, is the oldest existing Masonic Institution in Sheffield, dating back to 1765, and stands second in seniority of the 83 lodges which compose the roll of West Yorkshire. It has comprised within its portals—and does yet, some of the

ablest and most distinguished citizens of Sheffield. It has played a prominent part in all Masonic matters, not only in the town itself, but in the West Riding generally; it has championed the cause of the Masonic Charities, both London and local; it has had a just and well-spread reputation for reverent and conscientious rendering of Masonic ceremonial; its hospitality has been thorough, bountiful, and widely bestowed, and it has yet found time to give no inconsiderable attention to Masonic archaeology and to the study of the history of the Craft.

A lodge which has demonstrated its *raison d'être* by such proofs as these necessarily attracts the attention and concentrates the interest of its Masonic neighbours. Without setting up as a pattern, it has been quite naturally looked up to as a standard by which the younger lodges around might measure themselves. After filling so high and honourable a position for considerably more than a century, Britannia, through the weakness of human nature, at the present moment presents in some particulars a Masonic warning, rather than a Masonic example. This is not the place to go into matters of an unpleasant kind; let it be enough to say that, like all human institutions, Britannia has not escaped adversity. Its membership is still large, its funds ample, and its individual enthusiasm great as ever; but, unfortunately, unanimity cannot be secured. If it pleases some few brethren in a lodge to check the wheel of progress, we all know how easily it can be done. For the past eight or nine years, so far from adding to its numbers, Britannia has decreased. The great bulk of the brethren are eager to progress, anxious to remove the deadlock, and naturally impatient at the *impasse*. The Past Masters, with a courage and determination, equalled only by their loyalty and attachment, have done all that men could; hitherto without success. The question as to the advisability of applying for intervention from outside has occupied many anxious minds. The condition of affairs is, of course, well known in official quarters, and the fact that interposition has not been offered spontaneously may possibly have been misconstrued.

The authorities must be only too eager to take any opportunity of doing away with such a state of things, and we are not without hope that should an effort of this kind be made—leaving out the question as to who should take the initiative—some satisfactory issue might result. We can only add how deeply we regret that a lodge with so many claims upon our admiration and respect should fall to such adversity. Let us trust that the day of its awakening is not distant, that its neglected responsibilities will soon be taken up, and that, in short, Britannia will again become the Britannia of yore.

We are told that "Hope springs eternal in the human breast," and it is, actuated by this feeling, that each year the new Worshipful Master takes his seat in the chair of Britannia. Last year it was Dr. John Stokes; this anniversary it is Bro. Wm. Gunstone. Both well known, enthusiastic, and popular, can it be wondered if each in his turn should have fostered the idea or conceived the hope that through his influence or during his year the lodge would arise, shake itself, and resume its career of progress and usefulness? There is this, at any rate, to be said of Lodge 139, it does not parade its troubles; it rather seeks to hide them, and it would have required a very close observer indeed to notice on the occasion of its annual festival on Thursday, the 9th inst., that anything was amiss, so thoroughly and so genially from beginning to end were the proceedings conducted.

The new Worshipful Master, as we have already said, is Bro. Wm. Gunstone. Rather more than 12 months ago we chronicled his accession to the White Rose of York Lodge, No. 2491, and only last month we noticed how ably he installed Bro. C. Hahn, his equally worthy successor.

The lodge was opened by Bro. Dr. John Stokes, W.M., with commendable punctuality. He was supported by Bros. W. Gunstone, S.W.; A. R. Fox, J.W.; John Hunt, P.M., Treas.; L. H. Osbaldistone, Sec.; W. G. Skelton, S.D.; G. Robinson, J.D.; C. A. Hahn, I.G.; H. Arnold, Org.; and T. Leighton, Tyler. Other brethren were Bros. H. J. Garnett, P.M., P.P.G.S. of W., D.C.; A. Boulbee, Jos. Craven, J. Needham, J. W. Shipman, G. Turner, S. Hayes, P.M., P.P.G.W.; G. W. Hawkesley, P.M., P.P.G.D.; John Shaw, P.M., P.P.G. Supr. of Works; Joseph Binney, P.M., P.P.G. Reg.; E. Dickinson, P.M.; G. Williams, P.M.; and others. Among the visitors were Bros. Ensor Drury, P.M. 296, P.G.D.; T. H. Vernon, P.M. 2263, P.P.G.D.; Chas. Stokes, P.M. 1239, and 2558, P.P.G.D.; H. G. E. Green, P.M. 1019, Prov. G. Sec.; E. Moore, A. B. Gunstone, W. Skelton, J. Atkinson, C. A. Wright, T. W. Hanforth, P.P.G. Org., W. Foxon, W. Turner, W. H. Peasegood, J. K. Lister, C. F. Brindley, P.M., and C. A. Shaw, all of 2491; Joseph Matthewman, P.M. 1019, P.P.A.G. Sec.; W. Fearnchough, 2558; J. Barton, 1779; H. Cawood, 2558; Rev. G. Ford, W.M. 2558; H. W. Shaw, 402; W. C. Fox, P.M. 2263; A. Whitchurch, 345; G. H. Dawes, 2263; Rev. J. Clough, Chap. 2339; R. C. Honey, 2263; A. W. Chadburn, 1779; F. W. Johnson, 2263; T. Burnell, W.M. 296; C. F. Bennett, 2268; W. C. Newton, 2263; R. A. Wright, 2268; E. Howarth, 2263; A. J. Forsdike, 1239; W. Parken, 296; T. Rowbotham, P.M. 1239; Thomas Firth, W.M. 1239; Ernest Beck, 1239; and many others. All the Sheffield lodges were represented.

As the business of the evening consisted solely of the installation, after the confirmation of the minutes, it was at once proceeded with. The retiring Master, Bro. John Stokes, conducted the ceremony, and, it is needless to say, did it in the excellent way for which the brethren of Lodge 2491 are distinguished. Bro. W. Gunstone was presented by Bro. H. J. Garnett, and duly addressed by the Installing Master. On the retirement of the brethren there were found to be 23 Installed Masters constituting the Board. As Bro. Gunstone was already an Installed Master, this portion of the ceremony was very properly somewhat curtailed. On the re-admission of the brethren the usual proclamations and salute were made, and the working tools being briefly given by Bros. W. Williams, P.M.; John Shaw, P.M.; and E. Dickinson, P.M. The W.M. then, after carefully addressing each one, invested his officers as follows: Bros. A. R. Fox, S.W.; L. H. Osbaldistone, J.W.; Rev. J. Clough (in place of Rev. O. Odom), Chap.; J. Hunt, P.M., P.P.G.D., Treas.; W. G. Skelton, Sec.; G. Robinson, S.D.; C. A. Hahn, W.M. 2491, J.D.; H. J. Garnett, P.M., D.C.; A. H. Boulbee, I.G.; H. Arnold, Org.; and T. Leighton, Tyler. On the motion of Bro. John Stokes, I.P.M., seconded by Bro. S. Hayes, P.M., P.P.G.W. Bro. Joseph Binney was again elected to represent the lodge on the West Yorkshire Charity Committee. Bro. Binney proceeded at once to propose a vote of 10 guineas from the funds of the lodge to the West Yorkshire Local Charity. This, seconded by Bro. Hawkesley, was carried. After the usual questions, apologies were announced from the Prov. G. Master, Bro. W. L. Jackson; the Deputy Prov. G. Master, Bro. J. C. Malcolm; Bros. J. Jackson, P.M., P.P.G.D.; Rev. V. Odom, and Rev. G. Ford, who had unexpectedly been called away.

The lodge was then closed and the brethren went down to dinner. It has often been our privilege to draw attention to the excellent arrangements which are made on these occasions at Sheffield. Surrey-street Masonic Hall attained a reputation for catering and *cuisine* under the *regime* of Bro. and Mrs. Turner. It bids fair to maintain that position under the new Hall Steward, Mr. Shelton, for there was no falling off either in the excellence of the viands or in the careful consideration for the comfort of the guests.

In proposing "The Queen," the Worshipful Master said that at no time was her Majesty more popular than at present and that she carried out the principles of the Craft by offering sympathy to the widow, and the orphan, and substantial help in case of want or distress. He trusted she would long continue to fill the throne she had ennobled and adorned. The National Anthem, of course, succeeded the toast, which was most heartily received, Bro. G. W. Hawkesley taking the solo.

The W.M. next gave "The M.W. the Grand Master, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and the Officers of Grand Lodge." In the discharge of his duty as Head of the Craft, the Prince of Wales, Bro. Gunstone was of opinion, showed not only great ability, but an ever cheerful readiness, which was especially pleasing. As to the officers—had they not one with them? He (Bro. Gunstone) had the pleasure of seeing their Grand Master place the collar on Bro. Ensor Drury's neck, and he was sure they were equally delighted with himself. Bro. Ensor Drury was present that night, and he bade him hearty welcome. He should couple his name with the toast.

After Bro. Foxon had sung the solo of "God bless the Prince of Wales," the brethren joined in the chorus, and

Bro. Ensor Drury was called upon. After expressing his thanks for the hearty reception of his name, and his pleasure—a pleasure not unmingled with pride—that he should be qualified to reply for so important a toast, Bro. Ensor Drury proceeded, humorously, to what he called "ventilate a grievance." He deprecated coupling the Grand Officers with that of their M.W.G. Master in this toast. Up to his appointment he had been able to drink with all loyalty and respect to the health of the Grand Master, now, as the toast was given that night, he was precluded from doing so.

Formerly it had been usual to drink the health of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales separately, and he hoped that custom would be revived. It was a great pleasure to be present at the annual meeting of Britannia, and to get so warm a greeting from his brethren. Bro. Ensor Drury finished an interesting speech by local kindly references.

The third toast was that of "The Provincial Grand Master for West Yorkshire, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Officers, Present and Past." In proposing this, Bro. Gunstone said that anyone who saw the manner in which Bro. W. L. Jackson conducted the affairs of Provincial Grand Lodge at the Saltaire meeting could not but be struck with the ability he displayed. His capacity for business was immense. His officers he believed ably sustained and assisted him. He was gratified to see many round that table—his good friends, all good Masons. He should associate with the toast the name of Bro. Green.

Here the Tyler's toast was introduced, after which followed a pianoforte duet by Bros. Hanforth, P.P.G.O., and Peasegood.

Bro. Green, in his own name and in that of P.G. Lodge, expressed his thanks. The office of P.G.M. involved immense responsibilities, and, ably assisted by his Deputy—who though himself largely occupied in his professional duties, yet managed to bestow much time on Masonic functions—Bro. Jackson endeavoured to fulfil those obligations. Bro. Green then referred to the Masonic events of the year, and, touching on the great meeting at the Albert Hall and the Jubilee honours, he declared that Bro. Ensor Drury on that occasion received an honour "not one day before he was entitled to it." He concluded by expressing his gratification at the way in which his (Bro. Green's) name was received not that night only, but on many previous occasions.

"The Health of the W.M. of Britannia Lodge, Bro. Wm. Gunstone," was proposed by the I.P.M., Bro. John Stokes, who said that having had the privilege of working with him in Freemasonry, and knowing him in outside life, he had come to the conclusion that Bro. Gunstone was an excellent fellow, both as a man and a Mason. It was only necessary to see him do his work in lodge to arrive at the conclusion that, distinguished as many of the W.Ms. of Britannia had undoubtedly been, Bro. Gunstone would not be the least eminent of that noble band. Besides that, he possessed the true spirit of fellowship, was honourable and straightforward in conduct and purpose, and, therefore, a fitter man they could not have selected. He had already obtained Masonic distinction in another lodge, and he (Bro. Stokes) was of opinion that the modest, yet effective, way in which their W.M. had installed his successor in the chair of that lodge was an education in itself. He proposed health and happiness to their Worshipful Master.

The toast was received with great enthusiasm, proving the undoubted and general popularity of the new W.M. of Britannia.

The brethren having relieved their feelings by means of a vigorous rendering of "Prosper the Art,"

The W.M. called upon Bro. Foxon for a song.

Now, Bro. Foxon is a great favourite in Sheffield and other musical circles, and his singing is thoroughly appreciated by his Masonic friends. He chose an air, "Where'er you walk," from Handel's not very well known oratorio *Scenes*, and sang it with his usual care and finish.

Bro. Gunstone, who was greeted vociferously, began by invoking his good angel to guide him and instruct him as to what he should say in reply to the much too flattering portrait which had been drawn of him by the proposer, Bro. John Stokes. Perhaps it would be better, he thought, to leave the subject of self and refer only to the lodge. Britannia men, Bro. Gunstone showed, had played a not insignificant part in the affairs of Sheffield for more than a century back. At the foundation of the Infirmary, for instance, whose centenary they had this year celebrated, they had given presence and substantial support, and they were never wanting when any measure for the general weal was advanced or when Charity was to the fore. Britannia might for a time stand still, yet it was one of the oldest lodges of which Yorkshire could boast. It possessed, and with their help it should continue to maintain, an authority to which its antiquity and repute entitled it. It was his mother lodge, and he thanked them from his soul for placing him in the Worshipful Master's chair. He also thanked Bro. Stokes for the more than kind words with which he had proposed his health.

To Bro. John Hunt, P.M., was entrusted No. 6 on the list, that of "The Health of the I.P.M. and Installing Master, Bro. John Stokes." Bro. Hunt said the duties of W.M. of Lodge 139 at present were not of a very active character, but were, perhaps, better described as those of peaceful repose. The position was, nevertheless, a powerful and dignified one and Bro. Stokes had duly exemplified the power and maintained the dignity for whilst Britannia rules the waves, Bro. Stokes had ruled Britannia. With no work it was doubtless more difficult to keep a lodge going pleasantly, but, notwithstanding, the past year had been peaceful, happy, and as far as their means would allow, prosperous. Bro. Stokes had left nothing undone which might tend to rehabilitate the lodge or improve its condition and for his conduct in the chair, they owed him their fullest thanks. Like Bro. Gunstone, Bro. Stokes was an initiate of his own, the last but one, he believed, which Britannia had received. He had shown his capacity in the splendid way in which he had carried out the installation ceremony and he hoped that opportunity would be afforded him some day to still further display the ability which they all knew him to possess.

An instrumental trio from Reissiger (op. 56), was here introduced—violin, Bro. C. Stokes; violincello, Bro. M. T. Miner; and piano, Bro. T. W. Hanforth, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O. Music of this class is not common at Masonic circles and it is to the credit of the Sheffield brethren when we say that it was as fully appreciated as it was ably executed.

Bro. John Stokes had a very cordial reception. He said that on an occasion of this kind when the year's duties were ended and the reins of office were handed on, one was naturally led to look back upon one's shortcomings, there were so many things which he might have done better, as well as some, perhaps, which he might have done worse. He hoped they would strike a merciful balance and believe that he had done the best he could. During the year just past he had, he feared, been like Mr. Micawber "waiting for something to turn up." It had not turned up, it was true, but, as in the career of that hero, a time came when prosperous and honoured, he burst forth into splendour, so it was his hope and belief that at no distant date Britannia like the phoenix would rise from its ashes and occupy the position from which it had fallen. To bring this about there was nothing towards which they would not all diligently strive. The position of W.M. even in a lodge like the Britannia where the duties were the reverse of active, was still an important one; it was, in fact, an education by no means to be despised. He was very grateful to Bro. Hunt for the kind words he had used and to his brethren for the unflinching courtesy and consideration which he had received.

Bro. R. C. Honey introduced a cornet solo—"Beyond earth's shadowland." Bro. Honey not only possesses a fine instrument, but is thoroughly master of it, and the result was all that could be desired.

The J.W., Bro. L. H. Osbaldistone, in proposing "The Sister Lodges and Visiting Brethren," said that that toast was ever popular in Sheffield, and eminently so in Lodge 139; that, notwithstanding her adversities, Britannia still held her own, and, as the numerous visitors proved, still retained her friends.

Bro. J. Atkinson gave a song—"My Friends"—after which Bro. F. W. Johnstone, W.M. 2263, replied, as also did Bro. Burnell, W.M. 296, both of whom prophesied returning prosperity in Britannia Lodge at no distant date.

In responding to the toast of "The Masonic Charities"—most ably and sympathetically proposed by Bro. G. W. Hawkesley, the Charity Steward—

Bro. Joseph Binney thanked the brethren for their continued confidence in him as their representative. That was the eighth time he had been selected for that honourable—yet also responsible—post. Bro. Binney explained the system upon which the brethren of West Yorkshire worked the Charity organisation, and assured them that no votes which came into the hands of the executive were lost. After touching upon the West Yorkshire local Charity, Bro. Binney went on to point out the wonderful success which had attended the efforts of their previous Charity member—Bro. Simeon Hayes—who each year contrived to obtain never less than 100 guineas from Lodge 139 for the Masonic Charities. He was pleased to say that that evening he had received promises of 75 guineas—50 guineas London and 25 guineas local—and he was not without hope of still further increasing that sum.

"The Past Masters" was given by the S.W., Bro. A. R. Fox, who especially thanked those worthy and enthusiastic Past Masters who, through evil report and good report, in adversity as well as in prosperity, had stood staunch and firm in their support of the lodge. The younger brethren ought, he (Bro. Fox) considered, to be especially grateful to them.

To this, Bro. H. J. Garnett made a touching response. He said that next to the comforts and delights of home he had found greatest pleasure in Freemasonry. He gave instances of various experiences of many years back, touched upon the kindnesses

which he had constantly met with, and assured them that personally, as well as in the interest of the lodge, he had endeavoured to reciprocate those good feelings, and that when he said that he was only voicing the sentiments of all the Past Masters of Britannia.

"The Officers of the Lodge" was the last toast. This was given from the chair, and replied to by Bro. H. Arnold, Org.

The musical efforts of the brethren we have named were continued throughout the evening, though we have not specially mentioned them, and there is no doubt that they contributed much to what was acknowledged by all to have been a most delightful and successful meeting.

United Northern Counties Lodge, No. 2128.

This successful lodge held its installation meeting at the Inns of Court Hotel, Holborn, on the 7th inst. As usual on these occasions, there was a large attendance of brethren. The W.M., Bro. W. B. Hextall, P.P.S.G.W. Derby, was supported by Bros. R. Davison, I.P.M.; E. C. R. Oxley, S.W.; W. E. Porter, J.W.; C. R. Lee, P.M., Treas.; W. H. Bullock, P.M., Sec.; Wyatt Wingrove, M.R.C.S., S.D.; W. N. Haydon, J.D.; T. W. Chant, I.G.; T. Moysey and C. J. Weller, Stewards; J. Kershaw, G. Pringle, P.M.; C. J. Wood, P.M.; J. S. Cumberland, P.M., P.D. G.S.B.; and many others. Visitors: Bros. W. J. James, W.M. 2218; L. R. Oxley, S.W. 117; E. J. Spencer, J.W. 2218; J. Scanlon, 2580; T. Briggs, W.M. 1657; W. R. Hayden, 1538; E. Marriott, 1319; A. Spicer, P.P.G. Stwd.; A. F. Smith, W.M. 1479; P. Wallis, P.P.S.G.W. Derby; J. H. Richardson, P.P.A.G. Sec. Derby; E. Partridge, Sec. 1085; B. Lemere, P.M. 1744; J. Dickson, P.M. 1572; T. W. Ramsay, 1119; T. H. Thompson, P.P.G.S.B. Middx.; W. Spencer Bowen, S.D. 483; C. Cope, W.M. 2192; W. F. Carnley, S.W. 2228; J. C. Burkitt, P.P. G.S.B.; R. Waide, W.M. 1042; H. Carter Pegg, 1909; W. C. Hulbert, 165; A. H. Bateman, 100; Sir H. H. Bemrose, M.P., Prov. S.G.W.; A. J. Eggleston, 2224; W. H. Berry, 1817; E. Blinkhorn, P.M. 1471; C. Fox, I.P.M.; W. W. Lee, P.P. G.D. Middx.; and others.

Lodge was opened, and the minutes confirmed. Bro. E. C. Rice Oxley, was next presented as W.M. elect, the installing Master being Bro. W. B. Hextall, P.P.S.G.W. Derby. Immediately after the obligation, the sacred solo "Be thou faithful unto death," was sung by Bro. Maurice Aubrey, with violincello obligato by Bro. Hambleton, P.M. A Board of Installed Masters was next opened in a manner similar to the opening of the Three Degrees, and Bro. Rice Oxley was duly installed, invested with the collar of W.M. and presented with the jewel (gift of the Earl of Zeland at the consecration). The Installed Masters saluted in procession and the board was closed in a manner similar to the opening. The brethren were re-admitted and saluted the W.M. The I.P.M. then delivered the address to the W.M., after which Bros. W. E. Porter, M.D., and T. H. Wyatt Wingrove, M.R.C.S., were invested as S.W. and J.W. respectively. The address to the officers was next given by Bro. Cumberland, P.D.G.S.B., and the following officers were invested: Bros. R. Davison, P.M., Treas.; W. H. Bullock, P.M., Sec.; W. Nicholson Haydon, S.D.; T. W. Chant, J.D.; T. Moysey, I.G.; G. J. Wood, P.P.G.P. Derby, D.C.; Dr. J. H. Casson, P.M., P.P.G. Org. Derby, Org.; C. J. Weller, H. Riley, and R. Bullock, Stwds; and H. Evenden, P.M., Tyler. The anthem "Behold how good," was sung, and the address to the brethren given by the I.P.M. A Past Master's jewel was presented to the I.P.M., who, in acknowledgment, said he had been loyally supported by the officers and members, and hoped to retain their confidence for many years. A resolution of condolence with the Pro G.M. was passed on the proposition of the W.M. The Secretary gave notice of motion to give 25 guineas to the Boys' School, and a similar sum to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Letters of regret for non-attendance were announced, propositions were received, and the lodge was closed.

After an excellent banquet, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were heartily honoured.

"The Health of the W.M." was proposed by Bro. W. E. Porter, M.D., S.W., who said that although a more eloquent brother could have been selected, yet none could have greater pleasure in the task. They had seen but little of the W.M.'s working in the chair; but if what they heard was correct, they might look forward that year to a Masonic treat. With all due deference to former Masters, he thought that their present W.M. would not be in the shade. The officers would do all they could to support him, but would be only showing reflected light from the glory of the chair.

Bro. E. C. Rice Oxley, W.M., expressed his gratitude to the S.W. for the kindly proposition of the toast, and his doubts as to the grand working imputed to their newly-installed Master. Certainly he had endeavoured to make himself proficient in the ritual, and for that purpose had regularly attended lodges of instruction. He should feel satisfied if he went through his work in as good a manner as the I.P.M., or followed in his footsteps at a distance. He thanked them for their cordial reception, and assured them he would do his best during his year to carry out the traditions of the lodge, and for that purpose he knew he could rely on his officers.

Bro. W. B. Hextall, P.P.S.G.W. Derby, I.P.M., next gave "The Visitors," and said that, although theirs was not a strong lodge, that toast was always honoured to the extreme. It gave place to none in its hospitality, and he ventured to say that no gratification the W.M. could experience would be equalled by the recollection that he had rallied round him so many from outside districts to support him in the London district. The only difficulty was in selecting a few names to respond. Although Bro. Sir H. Bemrose, M.P., Prov. S.G.W. Derby, was present for the first time, he would not ask him to reply. There was also present Bro. Percy Wallis, whose name was a household word in Freemasonry, who was, however, reserved for another toast. He coupled with the toast the names of Bros. J. H. Richardson, Fox, P.M. 92, and Foulger, 2162.

Bros. Richardson, Fox, and Foulger briefly replied. Bro. Sir H. Bemrose, M.P., Prov. S.G.W. Derby, proposed "The I.P.M. and Installing Master," and said he counted it an honour, and esteemed it a great pleasure to be called upon to do so, on that, his first visit to the lodge. The Derby members were drawn together that day by bonds which ought to draw Masons from one end of the earth to another to express their great appreciation of the qualities of the Installing Master. He must say that it was with some feelings of pride that he saw so many Derby Masons in that lodge and in office. They would discern from that the high estimation in which the W.M. was held by those who knew him well, and had associated with him for many years. He had known the I.P.M. in various capacities, and esteemed him highly in all, and could only regret that Derby did not send him to Parliament to allow him to tread the sacred precincts of Westminster. London was the hub of the universe, and was an attractive power to great men, and as he looked round that evening he saw some who he knew had been so attracted—men representative of many parts drawn by the attraction of London and their own talents. The I.P.M. was still the friend of all who knew him, for he always exemplified those principles which were the glory of Masons. He was much struck with the manner in which Bro. Hextall, I.P.M., discharged that part of his duties which he was privileged to hear, for he felt as he listened that Masonry was not what some people imagined it to be, but was a thing instinct with principles which sank deep in the heart, a living power among men, possessing those good qualities which should distinguish the man and the citizen. He included with that toast the names of the Past Masters. The lodge was distinguished by the excellence of its officers and members. It drew members from a large country, and should have tendrils extending throughout England. Might he be allowed to wish the W.M. a useful year of office. It was no slight distinction to draw men of influence together, thus enlarging the sphere of one's sympathies and tending to benefit, not only their own circle, but the larger benefit of the nation to which they were proud to belong. He asked them to drink with all sincerity to the toast, with that broad sympathy which Masons were always ready to show to those who had served faithfully.

Bro. W. B. Hextall, P.P.S.G.W. Derby, I.P.M., said he responded for the Past Masters with diffidence, as it was the first occasion that he had had that opportunity in that lodge, and they would make allowances for a neophyte in difficulties. The Past Masters had not fallen short in the execution of their duty, and deserved well of the members. When he saw such brethren present as Bros. Bullock, Davison, Lee, and Wood, he could have no doubt but that the duties of assisting the W.M. would be adequately fulfilled. He was pleased, as they all were, to see Bro. Cumberland, whose Masonic enthusiasm was always well meant. They deeply sympathised with Bro. Cumberland, P.M., in his ill-health, and hoped the Great Architect would be pleased to spare him for many years. Bro. Bemrose had said more of him (the I.P.M.) than he deserved. It was true they had worked together in various capacities, and it was a matter of regret that those experiences could not be repeated, but they had left remini-

scences of good fellowship which could not be effaced from his memory. During the past year he was pleased to think he had earned their satisfaction. What he had done in the past he would do in the future in the same measure. No Master who had filled the chair of the lodge had met with more loyalty, unswerving, unflinching loyalty, than he had. He should, in time to come, cherish with pride and gratified feelings the recollection of the year when he was W.M. of No. 2128, and none could surpass him in his feelings of gratitude, good fellowship and esteem which he cherished to this lodge and every member.

"The Masonic Charities" was proposed by Bro. Percy Wallis, P.P.G.W., and responded to by Bro. Chant, J.D.

"The Treasurer and Secretary," and "The Officers," were honoured before the Tyler's toast closed the proceedings.

The music performed in the lodge was to a large extent composed by Bro. J. Hornsey Casson, P.M., who was assisted by Bros. Marriott, Aubrey, Geo. Stubbs, and Vernon Taylor.

Mark Masonry.

Industry Lodge, No. 293.

The last meeting for the present year was held on Monday evening, the 6th instant, at Gateshead, when there was an excellent gathering of Provincial G. Officers and members generally. The W.M., Bro. Wm. Stafford, P.G.R. of M., presided, and was supported by Bros. Wm. Brown, P.M., D.C., P.P.S.G.O.; Robt. Whitfield, P.M., P.P.G.R. of M.; T. R. Short, P.M., P.P.G.D.; John Page, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; T. R. Jobson; John Heppell, P.M. 362, P.G. Sec.; Geo. Harland, P.M. 362, P.P.G. R. of M.; Jas. Sedcole, P.M. 362, P.P.G.M.O.; J. Redhead, W.M. 362; Geo. Blair, W.M. 263, P.G.S.B.; Alf. Simpson, S.W., P.G.I.G.; H. Jackson, J.W.; Wm. J. Jobson, M.O., P.P.G. Stwd.; W. C. A. Holzappel, S.O.; T. Douglass, J.O.; John Armstrong, R. of M.; R. Harrison, Sec.; C. W. Hodgson, S.D.; J. B. McKenzie, J.D.; R. Ferry, Org.; W. E. Peacock, I.G.; and J. Appleyard, Tyler. Amongst the other numerous members and visitors present were Bros. J. T. Pragnell, R. Dobson, C. H. Keay, John Carr, John Lightbown, A. J. Waugh, P. Cash, R. Laverick, W. F. Hall (U. and B.T.I.); Cornwell Smith, J.D. 263; and others. The ballot was taken for Bro. John Lawson, 48, and he being elected and present was duly advanced by the W.M., who also explained the charge, &c. Bro. Alf. Simpson was elected as W.M. for the ensuing year; and Bro. T. R. Jobson, P.M., was elected as Treasurer in room of Bro. W. F. Carmon, P.M., resigned.

Other business was transacted, after which the proceedings closed, and the brethren adjourned to the refreshment room for a supper, &c.

Lodges and Chapter of Instruction.

PROSPERITY LODGE, No. 65.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 15th inst., at the Weavers' Arms, 17, London Wall, when there were present Bros. John G. Robeson, W.M.; Brown, S.W.; Gernon, J.W.; D. Harlow, P.M., Preceptor; William Baker, Treas., acting Sec.; Saunton, P.M., S.D.; Stokes, J.D.; Spencer, I.G.; Butcher, W.M. 902; Miller, Far, Collins, Garton, W.M. 192; J. C. Jackson, Newman, High, and Knight.

The lodge was opened in due form and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Knight acting as candidate. The lodge was then opened in the Second and Third Degrees respectively, and the brethren went through Masonic drill. The W.M. closed the lodge in the Third and Second Degrees. The W.M. rose for the first time and dues were collected. The W.M. rose for the second time, and Bro. D. Harlow, P.M. 65, proposed, and Bro. Garton, W.M. 192, seconded—"That a hearty vote of thanks be given to the W.M. for the admirable manner in which he had worked the ceremonies that evening for the first time, and that the same be recorded on the minutes." This was carried unanimously. It was then proposed by the Preceptor—"That Bro. Brown occupy the chair of W.M. on the first Wednesday in January, next Wednesday being officers' night of the mother lodge, and the 5th Wednesday, in accordance with the by-laws, Preceptor's night." This being seconded by Bro. Gernon, J.W., was also duly carried. The W.M. rose for the third time, and, "Hearty good wishes" having been tendered, the lodge was closed.

WHITTINGTON LODGE, No. 862.

The usual weekly meeting of this lodge was held at the Red Lion, Poppin's Court, Fleet-street, on Wednesday, the 3th inst., when there were present Bros. W. H. Latham, acting W.M.; A. Clarkson, S.W.; A. Collins, J.W.; A. V. H. Pauncefort, P.M., Preceptor; Henry T. Kobelt, acting, Sec.; J. Scarlett, S.D.; Charles Howard, J.D.; and T. H. Pate, I.G.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were confirmed. The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Kobelt acting as a candidate. Bro. Kobelt, with the assistance of the brethren, worked the 1st Section of the Lecture. A vote of sympathy having been passed in respect to the indisposition of Bro. J. C. Tilt, P.M., the valuable and courteous Secretary of the lodge, all Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed.

ISLINGTON LODGE, No. 1471.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday, the 14th instant, at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, when there were present Bros. J. Birks, W.M.; S. Cload, S.W.; A. F. Hardyment, J.W.; W. Hancock, P.M., Preceptor; J. W. Clarke, P.M., P.P.G.P. Middx, Asst. Preceptor; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D. Heris, and J. Duncan, P.M., Secs.; A. Oliver, P.M., S.D.; C. T. Rayner, J.D.; W. F. Roberts, I.G.; C. Isler, A. L. Langton, E. Yexley, V. J. R. Longman, C. Smith, G. Popham, J. C. Dunsmead, J. T. Hare, A. E. Hubsch, C. Bora, R. P. Upton, P.M.; and G. Gregory, P.M.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. It was afterwards opened in the Second and Third Degrees. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Isler being the candidate. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Rayner, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Hoare being the candidate. Bro. Cload was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed the officers in rotation. The lodge was then closed.

HUGH OWEN LODGE, No. 2593.

The usual weekly meeting was held at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, on Friday, the 3rd inst. Present: Bros. H. G. Holland, P.M., W.M.; R. H. Nicholls, S.W.; J. W. Hunt, J.W.; W. P. Neville, P.M., acting Preceptor; F. G. Soper, Sec.; H. Ramsbottom, S.D.; C. G. Ridgway, J.D.; A. E. Frith, I.G.; W. G. Read, J. Barnett, R. P. Webster, H. Roberts, R. Sandlands, J. Lamb, E. Burgess, J. Cohen, and E. J. White.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting confirmed. Bros. Barnett and Lamb acting as candidates to be passed to the Second Degree, were examined and entrusted. The lodge being duly constituted, the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. Bros. Read and Sandlands acting as candidates to be raised to the Third Degree, were examined and entrusted. The lodge being duly constituted, the ceremony of raising was rehearsed. Bros. Isaac Cohen, 183, and Ernest White, 733, were duly elected joining members. All Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed.

COMMEMORATION LODGE, No. 2663.

This lodge of instruction held its weekly meeting on Monday, the 13th instant, at the Star and Garter, Arbour-square, Commercial-road, E., when there were present: Bros. C. Holland, W.M.; J. Goulston, S.W.; H. Pollock, J.W.; Beard, S.D.; Mitchell, J.D.; Montgomery, I.G.; De Casseres, Preceptor; J. Smith, Sec.; Burge, Palmer, and others.

The W.M. worked the ceremony of initiation in a very praiseworthy manner, after which Bro. Goulston worked the first three Sections of the First Lecture.

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On December 18th, and during the week preceding Christmas Day, CHEAP THIRD CLASS RETURN TICKETS available on December 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, or 25th, and for return December 26th to December 30th inclusive, will be issued from PADDINGTON, Victoria (L.C. & D. Rly.), Kensington (Addison-road), Hammersmith, &c., to Bath, BRISTOL, Taunton, Barnstaple, ILFRACOMBE, EXETER, TORQUAY, PLYMOUTH, Falmouth, Penzance, YEOVIL, DORCHESTER, WEYMOUTH, &c.; and on December 23rd and 24th only, to GUERNSEY and JERSEY, to return within 14 days. Fare 25s. The tickets will be available by all trains.

Tickets, pamphlets, and full particulars of Excursions, and alterations in ordinary train arrangements, can be obtained at the Company's Stations and usual Receiving Offices.

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GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

DECEMBER 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, additional trains will be run to meet the requirements of traffic. The 10.30 p.m. express from King's Cross on Friday, 24th December, will not run beyond Berwick on Christmas Day morning. Friday, December 24th, the 5 p.m. express from King's Cross will be continued to Melton Constable, calling at all stations east of Peterboro'. A Special express, at ordinary fares, will leave London (King's Cross) at 12.20 midnight on Friday, December 24th, for Welwyn, Stevenage, Hitchin, Biggleswade, Sandy, St. Neots, Huntingdon, Peterboro', Spalding, Boston, Louth, Grimsby, Grantham, Lincoln, Nottingham, Newark, Retford, Doncaster, Wakefield, Leeds, Laisterdyke, Bradford, Halifax, Selby, York, and other places in the North of England.

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

CHEAP EXCURSIONS.

FRIDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 24th (for 4, 5, and 8 days), and Friday night, December 31st (for 3, 4, and 8 days), cheap excursions to Northallerton, Darlington, Richmond, Durham, Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Dundee, Oban, Fort William, Aberdeen, Inverness, and other stations in Scotland, will leave Woolwich (Arsenal & Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E.), Victoria (L.C. & D.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), &c. Passengers by the excursion on December 24th return on Monday, 27th, Tuesday, 28th, or Friday, 31st December, and those by the excursion on December 31st, return on Sunday, 2nd (if train service admits), Monday, 3rd, or Friday, 7th January, according to period of tickets taken.

TICKETS AT A SINGLE FARE FOR THE DOUBLE JOURNEY will also be issued by above excursions to places named, available for return by one fixed train on any day within 16 days, including days of issue and return.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24th (for 4 and 5 days), cheap fast excursions will be run from LONDON (Woolwich Arsenal and Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E.), Victoria (L.C. & D.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, and King's Cross (G.N.), to LINCOLNSHIRE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, STAFFORDSHIRE, LANCASHIRE, YORKSHIRE, NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT, &c.

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CHRISTMAS EVE.

On Christmas Eve the pressure of traffic will be relieved by the running of duplicate trains from St. Pancras as circumstances may require.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

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

MONDAY, DEC. 27th, and NEW YEAR'S DAY, certain booked trains will be DISCONTINUED, of which due notice will be given by special bills at the stations.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR EXCURSIONS.

TO PROVINCIAL TOWNS, &c.

On FRIDAY NIGHT, December 24th, to Leicester, BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, Derby, Newark, Lincoln, Burton, MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, Blackburn, Bolton, SHEFFIELD, LEEDS, BRADFORD, York, Hull, Scarborough, Newcastle, the Lake District, &c. returning December 27th or 28th. On SATURDAY, December 25th (Friday midnight), a Cheap 3 days' Excursion will be run from London to MANCHESTER, STOCKPORT, Warrington, LIVERPOOL, SHEFFIELD, LEEDS, and BRADFORD.

TO THE NORTH AND SCOTLAND.

On Friday, December 24th, for 4, 5, or 8 days, and on Friday Dec. 31st, for 3, 4, or 8 days, to NEWCASTLE, Berwick, Carlisle, Appleby, Dumfries, Castle Douglas, Kirkcubright, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, Ayr, Kilmarnock, Stranraer, &c., from St. Pancras at 10.5 p.m., Kentish Town at 10.10, Victoria (L.C. & D.) 8.20, Moorgate-street 9.12, Aldersgate-street 9.14, and Farringdon-street 9.16 p.m., and to Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Arbroath, Montrose, Aberdeen, &c., leaving ST. PANCRAS at 9.15 p.m., Kentish Town 9.19, Victoria (L.C. & D.) 8.3, Moorgate-street 8.47, Aldersgate-street 8.49, and Farringdon-street at 8.51 p.m.

RETURN TICKETS at a THIRD CLASS SINGLE FARE for the DOUBLE JOURNEY will be issued by the train on December 24th to the places mentioned, available for return on any day up to January 8th, 1898, and by the train on December 31st available for return on any day up to January 15th, 1898.

TO IRELAND.

There will also be cheap Excursions to LONDONDERRY, via Morecambe, on Tuesday, December 21st; to DUBLIN, Ballina, Galway, Sligo, Cork, Killarney, Limerick, on December 22nd and 23rd; to BELFAST, Londonderry, Portrush, &c., on Thursday, December 23rd; and to Londonderry, via Liverpool, on Thursday, December 23rd. See bills for times of return.

TO SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

Cheap Day and Week-end Excursion Tickets will be issued to Southend-on-Sea, as announced in Special Bills.

OTHER CHEAP TICKETS.

Cheap Week-end Tickets will be issued on Fridays, December 24th and 31st, and Saturdays, December 25th and January 1st, from LONDON (ST. PANCRAS) and other MIDLAND STATIONS to the PRINCIPAL HOLIDAY and HEALTH RESORTS for the CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS. NEW WINTER TOURIST TICKETS are also now issued.

Tickets, programmes, and bills may be had at the MIDLAND STATIONS and CITY BOOKING OFFICES; and from Thos. Cook and Son, Ludgate Circus, and branch offices.

EXCURSIONS FROM THE PROVINCES.

EXCURSION TRAINS will be run from Leicester, NOTTINGHAM, BIRMINGHAM, Derby, MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, Sheffield, LEEDS, BRADFORD, and other principal towns to EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, and ALL PARTS OF SCOTLAND for the Christmas and New Year Holidays. NUMEROUS OTHER CHEAP EXCURSIONS have been arranged from the chief Midland Stations, particulars of which may be had on application.

GEO. H. TURNER,
Derby, December, 1897. GENERAL MANAGER.

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By Bro. J. HORNSEY CASSON,
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à la carte and prix fixe. Viennese Band.

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Musical Dinner 3s. 6d. per head. Accompanied by the
Imperial Austrian Band.

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Academy Luncheon 2s. 6d., Diner Parisien 5s., during both
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Quick service à la carte and moderate prices. Joints in
each room fresh from the Spit every half-hour.

AMERICAN BAR.

Service of special American Dishes, Grills, &c.

*Splendid Suites of Rooms for Military and other
Dinners.*

NOTICE.

In view of the Christmas Holidays commencing on Saturday next, we purpose publishing the *Freemason* on Thursday, the 23rd inst., instead of on Friday, the 24th inst.



Masonic Notes.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1897.

Very general regret will be felt at the announcement that, owing to failing health, Bro. the Duke of St. Albans has resigned his office of Prov. G.M. of Nottinghamshire. His grace was appointed in succession to the late Duke of Newcastle in 1877, having for the preceding 15 years served as Prov. G. Master of Lincolnshire. Thus, there are but three brethren who have held the rank of Prov. G. Master for a longer term of years, namely, Bro. Lord Leigh, who has been Prov. G. Master of Warwickshire since 1852; Bro. his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, who was appointed to office in 1858; and Bro. Earl Anherst, who has been Prov. G. Master of Kent since 1860. His Grace was a founder and first W.M. of the Isaac Newton University Lodge, No. 859, Cambridge, which was consecrated in 1861, and it is recorded in the columns of the *Freemasons' Magazine and Mirror* for that year, that a short time previous to the consecration—the Duke personally showed H.R.H. the Prince of Wales—then pursuing his studies at Trinity College—over the hall in which the lodge was to meet.

We regret to find that very little further progress has been made during the current month in strengthening the Board of Stewards for the Festival which will be held in February, 1898, in behalf of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, only nine names having been placed on the list since the 30th ult. We keep on referring to the paucity of Stewards for this particular Festival, because, while we are prepared for great things in connection with the Boys' School Centenary, we are desirous that the Returns for the Old People should approach as nearly as possible to the sum actually required to make good the ordinary annual deficit. If that much is raised there will be no reason to complain; but present appearances do not justify the hope that the Institution will be fortunate enough to obtain such an amount, or even two-thirds of it. We, therefore, urge upon lodges and brethren not to forget the Annuitants, and the large sum they require to maintain them in a state of efficiency.

* * *

When we wrote the article which appeared some-while since in our columns in reference to a letter addressed by a Father Wyndham to the *Tablet* on the subject of the "Christless" and even "anti-Christian" character of Freemasonry, we never expected that any arguments we might employ would influence his position towards our Society. We shall, therefore, make no attempt to follow him through his second letter, which appeared in the *Weekly Register* on the 20th of last month. Suffice it to say that in this second letter he repeats the statements contained in his first, but with this important addition—that English Masonry is responsible for the violations of Masonic principle which have been sanctioned and approved by "other sections of the Craft—in France and elsewhere."

* * *

It is perfectly true, as Father Wyndham says, that "English Masonry is the parent stock whence all other Masonry has been derived. Wherever Masonry was established abroad, it was effected by a transplantation from England." This is quite true; but while we English Masons justly claim for ourselves that we have steadfastly maintained the principles, the fundamental principles, of Freemasonry, there are sections of the Craft in other countries, and particularly in France, which have deliberately ignored and set at defiance those principles, and from these we have, by the act of our Grand Lodge, solemnly disassociated ourselves. In doing this, we naturally tell them that we do not recognise them, do not accept them as Masons. It is not we, but themselves, who have deliberately placed them in direct antagonism to the principles of Masonry, and it strikes us as being the very height of absurdity to hold us responsible for acts which it was never in our power to prevent, and which we have most solemnly condemned.

* * *

But, says Father Wyndham, the English lodges have representatives accredited to the foreign lodges and the latter return us the compliment by accrediting representatives to our lodges, and though there may be some few cases in which there is no such exchange of accredited representatives, "the ancient and accepted Scottish rite supplies the connecting link." But the "ancient and accepted Scottish rite" is itself outside the pale of recognition by our Grand Lodge as constituting any part of "pure ancient Masonry," which by the Articles of Union of 1813 consists of "three degrees and no more," and those degrees, as explained in Article 1, Book of Constitutions, are the E.A.P., F.C., and M.M., "including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch." But even were it otherwise, as none but Master Masons can become members of the A. and A. Rite, it follows that the fundamental principles of both bodies must be the same.

* * *

In favourable contrast with the condemnation of Freemasonry by Father Wyndham is the praise bestowed upon our Order in the *Gentlewoman* of last week. "We women," writes our contemporary, "might have smiled at the purple and gold of the Masonic clothing worn by the great officers of the Craft," at the service in St. Paul's Cathedral on the 2nd instant, "and imagined the quaint ritual of lodge, and in our ignorance have called it stupid mummerly; but did we realise that that solemn service, offered in thankfulness to the Almighty, was the basis of Masonic life and principles, and that no community of men in the world gave so largely—some £60,000 a year—to the maintenance of their own Charities?" This is certainly a kindlier, more charitable, and, therefore, more Christian view of Freemasonry than will be found in—to apply his own expression—the "Christless, un-Christian, and finally, anti-Christian," diatribes of Father Wyndham.

We have received copy of a communication which Bro. Howard H. Room, P.G. Std. Br. England, Prov. Grand Secretary Middlesex, has addressed to the Secretaries of the lodges in that Province, in which he announces that, owing to increased pressure of his official duties and the unsatisfactory state of his health, he has found it necessary to resign his post of Prov. Grand Secretary, and that the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Lord George Hamilton, M.P., has been pleased to appoint Bro. James M. Small, P.M., Treasurer Carnarvon Lodge, No. 708, as his successor. We feel sure the news will be received with sincere regret throughout the Province of Middlesex, and, indeed, throughout the Craft generally. Bro. Room has laboured faithfully, and we feel we are justified in adding, most successfully, during the nine years he has served as Prov. Grand Secretary to maintain and strengthen the interests of Masonry in the Province of Middlesex. In him there is no doubt that the Prov. Grand Master and the lodges under his rule have lost a most painstaking executive officer, and we must hope that his health will be benefited by his resignation of an office, the duties and responsibilities of which are by no means easily fulfilled. We must hope, too, that his successor, Bro. J. M. Small, when he has had time to settle down to his work, will prove himself a not unworthy successor of Bro. Room.

* * *

We learn from one of our esteemed American exchanges that the plans for the new Masonic Hall at Washington are rapidly taking shape, and the enterprise seems now an assured success. There were nearly 300 enthusiastic brethren present at a meeting of the general committee, and 44 out of the 49 lodges and chapters in the Washington jurisdiction were represented. Although the capital of the Association is placed at 100,000 dollars, it is proposed to spend at least five times that amount on the building, which will be national in its character. It is in contemplation to hold a fair that shall eclipse anything of the kind ever attempted in the District of Columbia, the receipts to be applied to the new building. The new structure, which will be located in the business portion of the city, will cover an area of 15,000 square feet.

* * *

We have much pleasure in announcing that it is in contemplation to organise a party of brethren, with their friends (including ladies), with a view to visit Egypt and the Holy Land, more especially the Temple and Solomon's Quarries at Jerusalem. Bro. the Ven. Archdeacon Stevens, Past Grand Chaplain, has been invited to accompany the party in the capacity of Chaplain, and, in the event of a sufficient number of brethren arranging to take part in the excursion, it is proposed to make application in the proper quarter for permission to hold a lodge in Solomon's Quarries. Such a meeting was held many years ago by a body of brethren who made the tour of the Holy Land. It is proposed that the party shall leave London the 21st January, 1898, and return by the 17th February, the earlier, and, on returning, the latter, part of the journey being accomplished over land. The scheme is well worthy of support, and we trust that a sufficient number of Masons will be found to take part in it, or, rather, to make it possible for the promoters to carry it out.

BRO. AND THE HON. MRS. ROCHEFORT MAGUIRE have left town to spend a few weeks at the Cap Martin Hotel, South of France.

MR. BAILLIE, M.P., and the Hon. Mrs. Baillie have arrived in town from Duchfour, and will leave next week for Rangemore to spend the Christmas Holidays with Bro. Lord and Lady Burton.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK left Windsor Castle on Wednesday morning upon the conclusion of their visit to the Queen, and returned to York House, St. James's, where they will remain for a few days before proceeding to Sandringham.

THE 15 SECTIONS will be worked at the Red Lion Hotel, Leytonstone, E., in connection with the Clarence and Avondale Lodge of Instruction, No. 2411, on Tuesday evening, the 21st instant, at seven o'clock sharp, on which occasion Bro. J. Pringle, P.M., Preceptor of the Merchant Navy Lodge of Instruction, No. 781, will preside.

THE QUEEN, accompanied by Princess Henry of Battenberg, drove shortly after noon on Wednesday, from the Victoria Tower, Windsor Castle, to the Lower Ward, and visited the Albert Chapel, the burial-place of the late Duke of Albany and Duke of Clarence and Avondale. Wreaths of white and yellow immortelles were placed during their stay near the tombs of the deceased Princes.

ADMIRAL THE HON. SIR E. R. FREMANTLE, in presenting the prizes to the naval students on her Majesty's ship *Britannia*, at Dartmouth, on Wednesday, announced that the Queen would each year give a gold medal to the cadet who was most distinguished for gentlemanlike bearing and good influence among his mates, and the recipient is to have the fact noted in the Navy List during his future career. Cadet J. Wilfred Scott, of the *Astræa*, is the first to receive the reward.

Correspondence.

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

PROPOSING CANDIDATES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Perhaps you will permit me the presumption of differing from your line of argument, as held forth in the last issue of the *Freemason*, in regard to the recent appeal to Grand Lodge.

The affix of "R.N."—Royal Navy—to a candidate's name is neither more nor less than an indication of the "profession or occupation" of the candidate, and cannot by any stretch of imagination be held to apply to his "place of abode," as provided by the Book of Constitutions.

Besides, along with the ruling of the Deputy Grand Registrar and the President of the Board of General Purposes, that the appeal be dismissed, we have the stultifying qualification and advice to add the name of the candidate's ship as his "place of abode," in future propositions of the kind.

That the dictum of our legal advisers in this matter was a case of "not guilty but don't do it again," goes without saying, and, as it is not the first time during the present year that a similar deliverance has been promulgated for the government of English Freemasonry, the policy is one that, in this latter-day rush to secure candidates, is, in my humble opinion, calculated to prejudicially affect all the law and order laid down for our guidance in the Book of Constitutions.—Fraternally yours,

W. F. LAMONBY.

December 11th.

Craft Masonry.

City of Westminster Lodge, No. 1563.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. W. C. SMITH, P.M., SECRETARY.

The installation meeting of this most successful and ever-growing lodge took place at the Café Royal, Regent-street, on the 25th ult., when 89 members and 44 visitors attended to honour Bro. E. T. Ginder, a very popular member of the lodge, on his being installed W.M. Amongst the very large gathering were Bros. M. M. Taylor, W.M.; E. T. Ginder, S.W., W.M. elect; A. H. Marks, I.P.M.; C. M. Brander, P.M., Treas.; W. C. Smith, P.M., Sec.; T. H. Beach, Asst. Sec.; F. Hill, P.M.; and H. Fonseca, P.M. Visitors: Bros. E. L. Valeriani, P.M. 1687, P.G.S.B.; Baron D. Barnett, P.M. 1668; R. R. Callick, P.M. 1585; H. B. Pullman, P.M.; A. Brown, 2589; J. Howlett, 15; E. H. Ferraira, 1889; W. Bentley, 1903; C. D. Lindsay, 957; F. W. Bird, W.M. 1228; W. Fisher, 860; J. Hands, 188; E. L. Wagstaff, 1212; F. Walker, S.W. 1627; P. Erback, 820; L. Danielsson, 1471; E. J. Chambers, 548; E. A. Anson, 2128; J. P. Curtis, 1363; H. R. Williams, W.M. 820; L. A. Bassett, 1790; J. C. Dunningham, 174; J. Kemshall, 704; J. Omer, P.M. 1259; F. J. Eadle, P.M.; C. Morrison, 1901; J. B. Taylor, P.M. 250; W. A. Powell, 1298; E. Stear, 250; F. J. Deaton, P.M. 25; G. W. Tyrrell, 1000; R. W. Henry, 144; P. Heales, 619; J. Kent, 619; H. Sharp, 2411; J. A. Jones, 1776; J. J. Gimble, 1790; H. J. King, 2308; R. I. West, 1744; and others.

The minutes of the last lodge and emergency meetings having been read, the W.M., Bro. M. M. Taylor, initiated Messrs. H. N. Phillips, Frank Little, A. L. Huggins, and G. F. Thompson. Bro. C. M. Brander, P.M., then occupied the chair, and installed Bro. E. T. Ginder as W.M. The working of Bro. Brander was carried out in excellent manner, for which he deserved the highest praise. The newly-installed W.M. invested his officers, giving a kind and appropriate word to each officer. The following brethren were the officers for the ensuing year: Bros. H. T. Cullford, S.W.; E. Rutherford, J.W.; C. M. Brander, P.M., Treas.; W. C. Smith, P.M., Sec.; T. H. Beach, Asst. Sec.; J. H. Horner, S.D.; J. B. O'Callaghan, J.D.; J. B. Burton, I.G.; F. J. Chaffers, Org.; A. W. Bacon, D.C.; E. C. Wiseman, A.D.C.; S. Fonseca, A. T. Winkler, and P. J. Reynolds, Stwds.; and T. Potter, P.M., Tyler. The delivery of the customary addresses was most ably rendered by Bro. C. M. Brander, P.M. The report of the Audit Committee, showing a very substantial balance in hand, was received, and four gentlemen were proposed for initiation at the next meeting. The W.M., in presenting a Past Master's jewel to Bro. M. M. Taylor, I.P.M., stated that his next task was a very important and pleasant one, and he hoped the small token would ever remind him of the high esteem and regard in which he was held by them all, and accept the jewel as a slight return for his great services to the lodge. It could not be bestowed on one more worthy to wear it, whose efforts were much appreciated by the members. In acknowledging the jewel Bro. Taylor said that he had done his very utmost as Master, and to be congratulated by the W.M. and the members on his working was the greatest honour he could wish. The jewel he should ever look upon as a great prize, and he should never forget his happy year of office and the kindness he had received at the hands of the members. The jewel bore the following inscription: "Presented by the City of Westminster Lodge, No. 1563, to Bro. Marlborough Millbank Taylor, P.M., as a token of fraternal regard and in appreciation of the excellent manner in which he discharged the duties of W.M.—25th November, 1897." In pathetic terms Bro. W. C. Smith, P.M., alluded to the sad and tragic death of the Countess Lathom, and he moved that a letter be sent to the Earl of Lathom, the M.W. Pro Grand Master, expressing to his lordship their deepest and most respectful sympathy in the great calamity which had befallen him. The proposition was seconded by Bro. A. H. Marks, P.M., and on being put to the vote, was carried unanimously. The W.M. then rose and said he had yet another very pleasant duty to perform, which was to present Bro. W. C. Smith, P.M., with an address and a cheque on behalf of the members as a small token of the feeling they had towards him and for his valuable services as Secretary to the lodge. The address was as follows: "Presented to Bro. William Charles Smith, P.M., by the brethren of the City of Westminster Lodge, No. 1563, as a token of esteem and respect and to mark their appreciation of the able and courteous manner in which he has fulfilled the office of the Secretary and the great interest he has taken in the welfare of the lodge and Freemasonry in general, and the brethren pray that the Great Architect of the Universe may prolong his life and give him good health so that he may remain with them for many years. Bros. M. M. Taylor, W.M.; A. H. Marks, I.P.M.; J. H. Martell, S.W.; E. T. Ginder, J.W.; Hyman Fonseca, P.M.; Frederick Hill, P.M.; C. M. Brander, P.M., Treas.; November 25th, 1897." Bro. W. C. Smith, P.M., on rising, was enthusiastically received. He said that he was sure they would understand with what feelings he rose to thank them one and all for the very handsome testimonial. Anyone accepting office should in duty bound carry out the duties to the best of his ability. He had had every assistance and courtesy from them all which he very much appreciated, and his only fear was that his health would not permit him to go on much longer. The lodge was a large one and it had made remarkable progress, but the work was heavy and important, and in conclusion he again thanked them most heartily and most sincerely.

Other business followed, after which the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to a *recherché* banquet, which was admirably served under the personal superintendence of the Manager, Bro. Oddenio.

The Worshipful Master gave, with commendable brevity, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were duly honoured.

In responding for "The Grand Officers, Present and Past," Bro. E. L. Valeriani, P.G.S.B., whose name was associated with the toast, stated that he had visited the City of Westminster Lodge on many occasions, but that was the first time he had attended as a Grand Officer, and he was honoured to have been asked to acknowledge the toast. He had many dear friends in the lodge, which had made such great progress and he had no doubt that its prosperity would continue under the presidency of their genial and energetic Worshipful Master.

Bro. M. M. Taylor, I.P.M., in proposing "The Health of the Worshipful Master, Bro. E. T. Ginder," said that in Bro. Ginder they had a W.M. who was capable of doing everything to add to the prosperity of the lodge and the happiness of the members, and there was no doubt he would have, as they all wished him, a very happy and prosperous year of office.

Bro. Fitzgerald stated that the W.M. and the Assistant Secretary (Bro. T. H. Beach) were going up as Stewards at the forthcoming Centenary Festival of the Boys' Institution, and he urged the members to give freely. The list he held in his hand amounted to £200, and he hoped to be able to announce, before the evening was over, that it had swelled to £500, which would be paying a great compliment to the W.M. and Bro. Beach.

Bro. E. T. Ginder, W.M., on rising to respond, received a very hearty welcome. He stated that he would do his utmost to make the lodge the success it always had been. He and Bro. Beach would be grateful to the members for any amount they might give for the boys. He was honoured to be the Master of such an important lodge, in which he had received every kindness from them all.

The W.M., in proposing "The I.P.M., Bro. M. M. Taylor," paid a tribute to the excellent work done by Bro. Taylor, whose year of office had been a great success, for which he was to be congratulated.

Bro. M. M. Taylor, I.P.M., in reply, observed that it was a proud day for him to be in the grand position as a Past Master of such an important lodge, and he was happy that he was succeeded by one who would be able to add to the prosperity of the lodge. He had received nothing but kindness from them all, and he took that opportunity of thanking his officers during the time he occupied the chair for their great assistance, which he should never forget.

The toast of "The Initiates" was next given by the W.M., who remarked that he thought they would all be good and true, and looking to the extraordinary great reception they had had, the members, he felt, must be of the same opinion.

In response, Bro. H. N. Phillips thanked them for the enthusiastic way the initiates had been received. On looking round the table, the majority appeared to him to be married, and he, as a single man, would not keep them late, so he would content himself by observing how glad he was to be a Mason, and that he was honoured to have been elected a member of such a good lodge.

Bros. Frank Little and A. L. Huggins also responded in brief, but appropriate, terms.

In proposing the toast of "The Visitors," the W.M. stated that the lodge was always honoured with a large number of guests, and that evening they were graced with the presence of nearly 50. Many were experienced and distinguished in the Craft, and he hoped to see them again during his year of office, and he joined with the toast the names of Bros. F. J. Eadle, P.M. 179; F. J. Deaton, P.M. 25; R. R. Callick, P.M. 1585; and Baron Barnett, P.M. 1668.

Bro. F. J. Eadle, P.M., responded, congratulating the members on the great working of the lodge, and thought the W.M. would carry out his duties with honour to himself and the lodge. He had many dear friends members of the lodge, and perhaps it would not be long before he visited them again.

Bros. F. J. Deaton, P.M.; R. R. Callick, P.M.; and Baron Barnett also acknowledged the toast, bearing testimony to the excellent working, and the hearty manner the visitors had been received and entertained.

The W.M. gave "The Past Masters, Installing Master, Treasurer, and Secretary," remarking that they could not do without the Past Masters, who were a very important body, and, as to the Treasurer and Secretary, they were both excellent officers, and their great efforts on behalf of the lodge were much appreciated by the members.

Bro. C. M. Brander, P.M., Installing Master, responded. He said the W.M. was his initiate, and it was a great delight to him to have shown the W.M. his first light in Masonry, and to have had the great honour to instal him. If he had worked hard for the lodge he hoped always to do so. They were in a very flourishing condition, and the Benevolent Fund had a good balance on the right side.

Bro. W. C. Smith, P.M., Sec., also acknowledged the toast, and said that he was pleased that his efforts had given satisfaction, and he would do in the future—as he hoped he had done in the past—his utmost to promote the prosperity of the lodge.

The W.M. gave "The Officers," and at a very late hour the Tyler's toast brought the happy proceedings to an end.

Miss Minnie Ginder (daughter of the W.M.), Miss Amy Russell, Bros. Dr. Taylor, Phipps, Albert Rayner, Bridgman, Childs, and Enney, vocally and otherwise, entertained the brethren.

Royal Arch.

Pythagoras Chapter, No. 88.

The half-yearly convocation of this chapter, attached to the Scientific Lodge, No. 88, was held on Wednesday, the 15th inst., at the Lion Hotel, Cambridge. Comp. Rev. L. R. Tuttle was installed as M.E.Z. by Comp. W. P. Spalding, I.P.Z., and Comps. J. Gordon Chennell and A. E. Chaplin were installed as H. and J. respectively by Comp. F. Piggott, P.Z. The officers elected last June were subsequently invested. Bros. W. H. Heal, 88, and T. Leader, 1290 and 2107, were elected. The latter brother, however, was unable to be present.

The exaltation of Bro. Heal was proceeded with, and the work of the P.S. was ably discharged by Comp. C. H. Banham, in conjunction with Comp. Spalding, P.Z. The lectures by the Second and Third Principals followed; and Comp. B. Chennell, P.Z., gave the signs and the description of the pedestal. The Auditors' report of the Treasurer's account was of a satisfactory character. On the motion of Comp. W. P. Spalding, P.Z., it was resolved to give 10 guineas to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

The companions afterwards adjourned for banquet, and the evening was passed in true Masonic harmony.

THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND and Countess Cadogan will entertain a family party at the Viceregal Lodge, Dublin, for Christmas. Their Excellencies will pay one or two visits in Ireland before taking up their residence at Dublin Castle for the season, which commences on January 29th. The Lord Lieutenant will hold his first levee on Tuesday, February 1st, and a Drawing Room will be held on the evening of the day following.

FIELD LANE REFUGES AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.

Will the Readers of the "Freemason" help to provide

5,000 CHRISTMAS DINNERS?

800 FOR HOMELESS POOR.
3,500 FOR POOR PERSONS AT OWN HOMES.
700 FOR POOR CHILDREN.

5,000

All this in ADDITION TO THE GENERAL WORK, which is in urgent need of help.
(3,500 Benefits dispensed every week).

THE SECRETARY WILL GLADLY SEND COLLECTING CARDS.

Treasurer—W. A. BEVAN, Esq., 54, Lombard Street, E.C.

Secretary—PEREGRINE PLATT, The Institution, Vine Street, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.

Masonic and General Tidings.

THE MARCHIONESS OF LONDONDERRY has left town for Wynyard Park.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF WESTMINSTER left Grosvenor House on Tuesday on their return to Eaton Hall, Chester.

BRO. THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF ABERCORN and family left Hampden House on Wednesday for Villa Marguerite, Valescure, St. Raphael, Var.

THE MARQUIS AND MARCHIONESS OF SALISBURY arrived in London from Eastbourne shortly after one o'clock on Monday afternoon, and immediately proceeded to Hatfield.

THE WORSHIPFUL Company of Goldsmiths has made a grant of £50 to the funds of the Ragged School Union and Shaftesbury Society, of 37, Norfolk-street, Strand, W.C.

THE MARQUIS AND MARCHIONESS OF LANSDOWNE arrived at Lansdowne House on Monday evening from Bowood, Wilts. They intend staying in town about a week.

THE TWICKENHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL have decided to present an address of welcome to the Duc de Orléans on the occasion of his taking up his residence at York House.

THE LONDON OFFICE of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 78, Queen Victoria-street, E.C., has issued its annual time-tables of the Australian and New Zealand mails for 1898, covering the whole of the services between Europe and Australasia, in a very neat and handy form for the pocket. Copies can be had gratis upon application.

ON THE motion of Bro. Horace B. Marshall, M.A., C.C., the board of management of the Orphan Working School have unanimously agreed to recommend the governors at the next general court to admit two orphan children from Maidstone (in connection with the recent epidemic), and two from Margate (in connection with the recent disaster to the lifeboat—Friend of all Nations).

TWO MUNIFICENT donations have been received by the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University for the fund for rebuilding the School of Medicine and Surgery attached to the University. One is a cheque for £1000 from Mr. Alexander Peckover, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, in response to a letter from Bro. the Duke of Devonshire, and the other a cheque from the Mercers' Company for 1000 guineas.

SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY.—In response to an application by passengers on the West Wickham and Hayes branch line for a better Theatre Train, the South-Eastern Railway will, from Thursday, the 10th instant, allow a portion of the 11.35 p.m. express Mid-Kent train to go on to Hayes. It is earnestly trusted that this concession (made at such a busy time of the year) will be made use of to an extent that will promise its continuance.

THE QUEEN'S family dinner party at Windsor Castle on Monday included T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the Duke and Duchess of York, Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne, and Princess Henry of Battenberg. Her Majesty's guests remained at the Castle till Tuesday in order to attend the service which was held in the Frogmore Mausoleum on the anniversary of the deaths of the Prince Consort and the Grand Duchess of Hesse.

AT THE Houses of Parliament, the arrangements for the coming Session are practically already complete. This recess has been free from the carrying-out of any of those internal structural alterations which so frequently delay the final preparations until the close approach of the date fixed for reassembling. The only change of the slightest importance which has called forth the efforts of the Office of Works has been the opening of a new doorway, to facilitate the passage of members and their visitors to and from the now fashionable terrace. Police and commissariat arrangements remain exactly as they were—the former still under the judicious and experienced control of Chief Inspector William Horsley, the latter in the tried hands of Mr. Moss. Two faces long familiar at St. Stephen's will, however, be missed next Session—those of Mr. Prim (Superintendent of Works) and Mr. Fisher (Chief Confidential Clerk of the Ministerial "Whips"); both these gentlemen are retiring on well-earned pensions.

THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY announce that on Friday night, December 24th (for four, five, and eight days), and Thursday night, December 31st (for three, four, and eight days), cheap excursions will leave London (Woolwich Arsenal and Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E.), Victoria (L.C. and D.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), Finsbury Park, &c., for Northallerton, Darlington, Richmond, Durham, Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Helensburgh, Dumbarton, Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Dalmailly, Oban, Fort William, Montrose, Aberdeen, Inverness, and other stations in Scotland. Passengers by the excursion on 24th return on Monday, 27th, Tuesday, 28th, or Friday, 31st December, and those by the excursion on 31st December return on Sunday, 2nd, Monday, 3rd, or Friday, 7th January, according to period of ticket taken. Tickets at a single fare for the double journey will also be issued by above excursions to places named, available for return by one fixed train on any day within 16 days, including days of issue and return. On Friday, December 24th, cheap fast excursions will also leave London (Woolwich (Arsenal and Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E.), Victoria (L.C. and D.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross), &c., for Cambridge, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Peterboro', Lynn, Norwich, Cromer, Yarmouth, Leicester, Spalding, Boston, Grimsby, Lincoln, Nottingham, Derby, Burton, Burslem, Tutbury, Stoke, Newark, Chesterfield, Edwinstowe, Retford, Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham, Huddersfield, Manchester, Liverpool, Doncaster, York, Hull, Harrogate, Bridlington, Malton, Scarborough, Whitby, Stockton, Richmond, Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesboro', Durham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Shields, Sunderland, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Keighley, Accrington, Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Rochdale, and other principal stations in the Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and North Eastern districts, returning on 27th and 28th December. On December 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, additional trains will be run to meet requirements of traffic. The 10.30 p.m. express from King's Cross on Friday, 24th December, will not run beyond Berwick on Christmas Day morning. Friday, December 24th, the 5.0 p.m. express from King's Cross will be continued to Melton Constable, calling at all stations: East of Peterboro'. A special express at ordinary fares will leave London (King's Cross) at 12.20 midnight on December 24th, for Welwyn, Stevenage, Hitchin, Biggleswade, Sandy, St. Neots, Huntingdon, Peterboro', Spalding, Boston, Louth, Grimsby, Grant-ham, Lincoln, Nottingham, Newark, Retford, Doncaster, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Selby, York, &c. Christmas Day, the trains will run as on Sundays, except that the 5.15 a.m. express from King's Cross will be run, at ordinary fares, to Peterboro', Bourne, Stamford, Grantham, Lincoln, Nottingham, Doncaster, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, and Halifax, stopping at the intermediate stations at which it ordinarily calls, and will be continued to York, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Aberdeen, &c. A special express, conveying parcels only, will leave London (King's Cross) at 10.15 p.m. on December 21st, 22nd, and 23rd for Lynn, Norwich, Yarmouth, Nottingham, Leicester, Derby, Burton, Lincoln, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Batley, Keighley, Halifax, York, Hull, Newcastle, and all places in the North of England and Scotland. To prevent inconvenience from crowding at the Company's principal terminal station, King's Cross, tickets, dated in advance, will be issued at King's Cross (G.N.R.), Victoria (L.C. & D.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, Holloway, and Finsbury Park Stations, and at the Company's ticket offices.

CHRISTMAS CARDS.—Lalo Company, 42, Gray's Inn-road, W.C. We can strongly recommend to those of our readers who may not have yet laid in their store of Christmas cards for distribution among their friends the "Lalo" Artistic Packet of Christmas and New Year Cards. The packet contain a well-selected assortment of elegant specimens of very beautiful handiwork. They are of English manufacture and will be sent carriage free on receipt of one shilling and threepence. By way of encouraging people to purchase, the "Lalo" Company offer as an additional inducement to become purchasers to distribute a cash bonus of £40, in manner following, among the 75 persons who succeed in solving what is called the "24 problem," namely: £1 to each of the first 10 who succeed in solving it; 10s. to each of the next 20; and 5s. to each of the 20 that follow; 10s. to the youngest and 10s. each to the oldest purchasers, and £1 to each of the five persons who copy out "Lalo Company" in the neatest manner. The paper containing the problem and particulars will be sent with the cards when ordered.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF BUCCLEUCH have left London for Dalkeith Palace. BRO. ALDERMAN TRELOAR has become a trustee of the London Friendly Institution in the place of the late Bro. Alderman Sir George R. Tyler, Bart.

PRINCE ALEXANDER OF TECK visited T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales on Tuesday, and took leave of them previous to his departure from England to join his regiment in South Africa.

BRO. THE MARQUIS AND MARCHIONESS OF BREADALBANE, Mr. and Lady Ilene Campbell, and the Ladies Elizabeth and Beatrice Meade have arrived at Inveraray Castle, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Argyll.

BRO. THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE, who went to Chatsworth on Saturday last, left on Monday to join Bro. the Duke and Duchess of Portland's party at Welbeck Abbey to meet T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales.

BY MEANS of the Duchess of Albany's Fund, which was started by her Royal Highness for the purchase of a residence for the rector of Esher as one of the local memorials of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, a freehold building has been purchased, at a cost of £2250. Towards payment of this amount £1433 Ss. has been subscribed, and the requisite balance has been advanced by the bankers.

IT APPEARS that the fire on Tuesday at Lipton's Somers Town branch was the work of burglars, who, being unable to force the Milner's safe, vindictively set fire to the premises. The safe, in addition to being proof against the burglars, was also found, as usual, to be fire-proof. Messrs. Milner just now must be doing a roaring trade, considering the large number of their make that have already been taken from the debris of the great City fire and which will require replacing by their owners.

ON MONDAY, Bro. Sir Henry Harben presided at Hampstead Vestry Hall at the final meeting of the general committee of the Hampstead Diamond Jubilee Fund. It was reported that after payment of all expenses there remained, as the result of the Diamond Jubilee fête at Hampstead and general subscriptions, £3337 for distribution. Of this sum £1500 was voted to the North London Hospital for Consumption, £1500 to the Hampstead Hospital, £300 to the Hampstead Nursing Association, and £37 to the Hampstead Provident Dispensary.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE was the principal guest on Monday night at the annual dinner given by the Mayor of Richmond at the Star and Garter Hotel, in that borough. Amongst the others who accepted Councillor Chancellor's invitation were Viscount Midleton, the Bishop of Rochester, Col. A. C. FitzGeorge, Sir Richard Temple, the Right Hon. St. John Brodrick, M.P., Bro. Sir W. T. Marriott, M.P., O.C., Gen. Sir H. Prendergast, V.C., Sir Edward Hertslet, the Governor of the Bank of England (Mr. H. C. Smith), Bro. Gen. Sir Stanley Clarke, Rear-Admiral A. H. Alington, Bro. R. D. M. Littler, O.C., Bro. T. Skewes-Cox, M.P., and Mr. J. Bigwood, M.P.

WELSHMEN in LONDON, with their ladies, assembled on Monday evening at the Hôtel Métropole on the occasion of the annual dinner of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, which was held under the presidency of Lord Justice Vaughan Williams, who was supported by Mr. Henry Owen, in the vice-chair, Bro. Sir John Puleston, Sir Lewis Morris, Mr. J. Morgan Richards, Bro. D. Brynmor Jones, O.C., M.P., General R. Owen Jones, Mr. John Thomas (Queen's harpist), and others. The especial aims of the society are the improvement of education and the promotion of intellectual culture by the encouragement of literature, science, and art as connected with Wales.

LAST FRIDAY the *élite* of the Swiss colony in London, assembled at Monico's Piccadilly, for their annual banquet, his Excellency the Swiss Ambassador presiding. The dinner did credit to Mr. Monico's excellent *cuisine*, and a special and pleasing feature was the appearance of a non-alcoholic Swiss champagne introduced by the Sans-alcohol Wine Company, 39, Eastcheap. The Swiss Ambassador's toast was "Her Majesty the Queen," which was heartily applauded, and followed by everyone rising and singing "God save the Queen." Mr. Faris, the president of the Swiss Club, drank to "The Patrie," Mr. Holliger to "The Guests," and Charity was remembered by Mr. Clemence, which resulted in a collection of over £40 for the poor. Several distinguished English gentlemen, admirers of the beautiful country across the Channel, took part in the proceedings, which were of a most genial and cordial character. At parting the "surprise" was Mr. Monico's gift of a bottle of the above delicate champagne to every one present.

TUESDAY being the anniversary of the death of the Prince Consort as well as of the Princess Alice (the late Grand Duchess of Hesse), the Queen and T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the Duke and Duchess of York, Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne), and the Marquis of Lorne, and Princess Henry of Battenberg, with Princess Victoria Eugénie and Prince Leopold, went to the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore, where a special service was performed by the Bishop of Winchester (Clerk of the Closet to the Queen), assisted by the Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor. Several of the ladies and gentlemen and attendants of the Royal household were present. The choir of St. George's Chapel, under the direction of Bro. Sir Walter Parratt, were in attendance, and sang, among other selections, the anthem specially composed by Bro. Sir Arthur Sullivan, "Wreaths from our graves the Lord has given," and "Peace, come away," the music by Professor Villiers Stanford. By Her Majesty's command, the Royal Mausoleum was opened between the hours of one and four o'clock in the afternoon for the servants and their families, when permission was also extended to many of the residents of Windsor and the neighbourhood. Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein were, by unforeseen circumstances, unable to be present at the ceremony.

THE MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY announce that on Christmas Eve the pressure of traffic will be relieved by the running of duplicate trains from St. Pancras as circumstances may require. On Christmas Day the trains will run as appointed for Sundays, except the newspaper express leaving London (St. Pancras) at 5.15 a.m., which will run to Bedford, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Sheffield, and Manchester, as on ordinary weekdays. On Monday, December 27th, and on New Year's Day, certain booked trains will be discontinued, of which due notice will be given by special bills at the stations. Early issue of tickets.—The Midland Railway Company, to prevent inconvenience and crowding, have arranged for the booking offices at St. Pancras and Moorgate-street stations to be open for the issue of tickets all day on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, and tickets to all principal stations on the Midland Railway can be obtained beforehand at the Midland Company's City and Suburban Offices. Cheap excursion trains will be run from London (St. Pancras) and principal provincial stations to Carlisle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Dundee, Aberdeen, &c., on Friday, December 24th, for four, five, or eight days, and December 31st for three, four, or eight days, by which return tickets will be issued at a third class single fare for the double journey. The single fare tickets issued on December 24th will be available for returning on any day up to and including January 8th, 1898, and single fare tickets taken on December 31st will be available for returning any day up to and including January 15th, 1898. Cheap excursion trains will also be run from London (St. Pancras) on Friday night, December 24th, to Leicester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Derby, Newark, Lincoln, Burton, Manchester, Liverpool, Blackburn, Bolton, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, York, Hull, Scarborough, Newcastle, the Lake District, &c., returning December 27th or 28th, and on December 25th (Friday midnight) a cheap 3 days' trip will be run to Manchester, Stockport, Warrington, Liverpool, Sheffield, Leeds and Bradford. Cheap excursion tickets will be issued from London (St. Pancras) and principal provincial stations on Thursday, December 23rd, to Dublin, Cork, Killarney, Limerick, &c., *via* Liverpool, available for 16 days, and on Wednesday, December, 22nd, *via* Morecambe, available for returning on December 28th or 30th, and January 1st, 4th, or 6th, 1898; on Thursday, December 23rd, to Belfast, Londonderry, Portrush, &c., *via* Barrow, or *via* Liverpool, available for 16 days; on Tuesday, December 21st, to Londonderry, *via* Morecambe, and on Thursday, December 23rd, *via* Liverpool, available for returning December 30th, or January 3rd, *via* Morecambe, and on December 28th and 29th, and January 1st, 4th, or 5th, *via* Liverpool. On Christmas Day cheap day excursion tickets will be issued to Southend-on-Sea, from St. Pancras, Kentish Town, Walthamstow, Leytonstone, and stations on the Tottenham and Forest Gate joint line. Cheap week-end tickets will be issued on Fridays, December 24th and 31st, and Saturdays, December 25th and January 1st, from St. Pancras and other Midland Stations to the Principal Holiday and Health Resorts, available for returning on the following Sunday (train service permitting) Monday or Tuesday. New Winter tourist tickets are also now issued to the principal tourists resorts.

MASONIC MEETINGS (METROPOLITAN)

For the week ending Saturday, December 25th, 1897.

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20.

CRAFT LODGES.
 1, Grand Masters, Freemasons' Tavern.
 8, British, Freemasons' Hall.
 21, Emulation, Albion Tavern.
 185, Tranquillity, Frascati Restaurant.
 862, Whittington, Freemasons' Hall.
 1537, St. Peter Westminster, Criterion.
 1004, Imperial, Clout's Restaurant, Victoria-street.
 1728, Temple Bar, Anderton's Hotel.
ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER.
 1657, Aldersgate, Albion Tavern.
MARK LODGES.
 173, Temple, London Tavern.
 234, Brixton, Anderton's Hotel.
 294, Royal Naval College, Ship Hotel, Greenwich.
LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.
 Blackheath, Stirling Castle, Church-street, Camberwell, at 8.
 Commemoration, Star and Garter, Arbour-square, Commercial-road, E., at 8.
 Cripplegate, Goldsmiths' Arms, Gutter-lane, at 6.30.
 Dalhousie, Town Hall Tavern, High-street, Kensington, at 8.
 Eleanor, Rose and Crown, High Cross, Tottenham, at 8.
 Friars, The White Horse, 94, White Horse-lane, Mile End-rd., E. at 8.
 Hyde Park, Prince of Wales Hotel, Eastbourne-terr., Bishop's-rd., Paddington, at 8.
 Kingsland, Cock Tavern, Highbury, N., at 8.30.
 Marquess of Ripon, Weaver's Arms, London Wall, E.C., at 6.45.
 Metropolitan, Moorgate Tavern, 15, Finsbury-pavement, at 7.30.
 Neptune, Gauden Hotel, Clapham, S.W., at 7.30.
 North London Chapter, Cock Hotel, Highbury, at 8.
 Perseverance, Ridler's Hotel, Holborn, E.C., at 7.
 Queen's Westminster, Criterion, Piccadilly, at 8.
 Regent's Park, Frascati Restaurant, 32, Oxford-street, at 8.
 Royal Arthur, Prince of Wales Hotel (opposite Wimbledon Railway Station), at 8.
 Royal Commemoration, Railway Hotel, Putney, at 8.
 St. James's Union, St. James's Restaurant (Piccadilly entrance)
 St. Mark's, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New-road.
 St. Michael's, Norland Arms, Addison-rd. North, Uxbridge-rd., 8
 Sincerity, Blackwall Railway Hotel, Fenchurch-street, at 7.
 South Norwood, Goat House Bridge Hotel, Penge-rd., at 8.
 Stockwell, White Hart, Abchurch-lane, E.C., at 6.
 Tyssen Amherst, Amherst Club, Amherst-rd., N., 7.30
 United Military, Earl of Chatham, Thomas-st., Woolwich, at 7.30
 Upton, Great Eastern Hotel, Bishopsgate-street, at 8.
 Walthamstow, The Chequers, High-street, Walthamstow, at 8.
 Wellington, New Cross House, New Cross, at 8.
 Woodrow, Stone's, 24, Pantion-street, Haymarket, S.W., at 3.
 Zetland, "The Falkland," Falkland-road, N.W., at 8.
 Doric Chapter, Duke's Head, 79, Whitechapel-road, at 6.
 Lewis Chapter, Fishmongers' Arms Hotel, Wood Green, N., at 8.
 North London Chapter, Cock Tavern, Highbury, at 8

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21.

Board of General Purposes, at 5.
CRAFT LODGES.
 30, United Mariners, Guildhall Tavern.
 75, Mount Lebanon, Bridge House Hotel.
 95, Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
 102, Cadogan, Freemasons' Hall.
 1330, Stockwell, Surrey Masonic Hall.
 1095, New Finsbury Park, Holborn Restaurant.
 2021, Queen's Westminster, Holborn Restaurant.
 2022, Haven, Public Buildings, Fading.
 2233, Old Westminster, Cafe Royal.
ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.
 11, Enoch, Freemasons' Hall.
 10, Mount Sinai, Anderton's Hotel.
MARK LODGE.
 254, High Cross, Liverpool Street Hotel.
LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION
 Brixton, Prince Regent, Dulwich-road, Herne Hill, S.E., at 8.
 Upper, City Arms, St. Mary Axe, at 6.
 Clarence and Avondale, Green Man Hotel, Leytonstone, E., at 8
 Constitutional, "Apple Tree and Mitre," 30, Cursitor-street,
 Chancery-lane, W.C., at 7.
 Chaucer, Grapes Tavern (Slee & Pike's), 121, Borough High
 street, at 8.
 Corinthian, George Hotel, Cubitt Town, Poplar, at 8.
 Croydon Lodge of Concord, King's Arms, Katherine-street,
 Croydon, at 8.
 Dalhousie, Lord Truro, Dalston-lane, at 8.
 Duke of Cornwall, Queen's Arms, Queen-street, Cheapside, at 7.
 Egyptian, Salutation, Newgate-street, at 7.
 Emblematic, St. James's Restaurant, Piccadilly, at 8.
 Enfield, Rose and Crown, Church-street, Edmonton, at 8.
 Excelsior, Commercial Dock Tavern, Plough-road, Rotherhithe,
 Faith, The Victoria Mansions Restaurant, Victoria-street, S.W.
 Finsbury, The Bell Hotel, Old Bailey, at 7.
 Florence Nightingale, M.H., William-street, Woolwich, 2nd and
 4th Tues., at 7.30.
 Hendon, Railway Hotel, West Hampstead, N.W., at 8.
 Islington, Cock Tavern, Highbury, at 7.30.
 Joppa, "The Moorgate," 15, Finsbury Pavement, E.C., at 7.30.
 Kensington, Town Hall Tavern, High-street, Kensington, at 8.
 Kirby, Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Station, at 7.30.
 Mount Edgcombe, Rockingham Arms, Newington Causeway,
 S.E., at 7.30.
 Nelson, Star and Garter, Powis-street, Woolwich, at 8.
 New Cross, Chester Arms, Albany-street, N.W., at 8.
 New Finsbury Park, Hornsey Wood Tav., Finsbury Park, at 8.
 Pythagorean, Portland Hotel, Greenwich, at 8.
 Richmond, Station Hotel, Richmond, at 8.30.
 Robert Burns, Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, W.
 South Middlesex, Beaufort House, Walham Green, S.W., at 7.30
 St. Kew, Masonic Hall, Weston-super-Mare, at 8.
 St. Leonard's, Bedford Hotel, Victoria Park-road, South
 Hackney, at 8.
 Southwark, White Hart Hotel, New Cross Gate, at 8.
 Wandsworth, St. Mark's School-room, Battersea Rise, S.W., at 8
 Westbourne, Oliver Arms, Westbourne-terrace North, Harrow-
 road, at 8.
 Yarborough, Mitre Tavern, Fish-street-hill, E.C., at 7.30.
 Camden Chapter, The Moorgate, Moorgate-street, at 8.
 Metropolitan Chapter, Eastcheap Restaurant, Eastcheap, at 6.30
 Kintore Mark Lodge, Stirling Castle Hotel, Camberwell Green,
 S.E., at 8.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22.

Board of Benevolence, at 5 precisely.
CRAFT LODGE.
 1217, Montebote, Cafe Royal.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23.
 Home Committee Girls' School, at 4.30.
MARK LODGE.
 118, Northumberland, Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24.

Board of Management Boys' School, at 2.30.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25.
 CHRISTMAS DAY.

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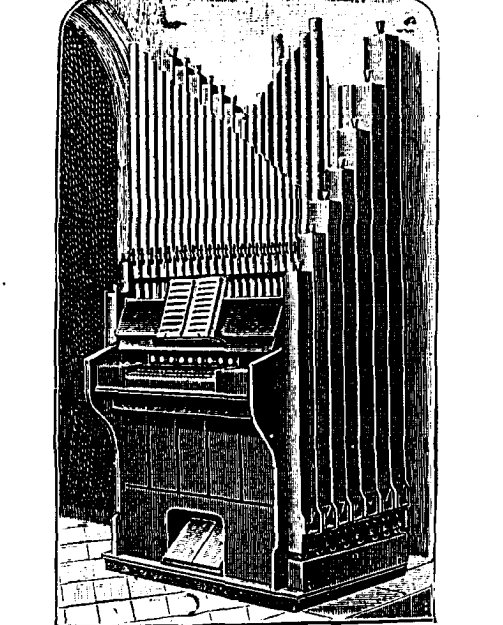
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A Life's Hatred.

By T. C. WALLS.

Author of "The Red Room Mystery," "A Night of Peril," "The Old Manor House," "Saved by a Sign," "The Secret Tribunal," "Fatal Divination," "The Hermit of Dunstanborough," "The Vision of Evil," &c., &c.

(Continued from "The Freemason Christmas Number").

"His punishment rests with a higher Power," solemnly said Mr. Mordaunt. "Armand, I may as well tell you," he continued, "that my suspicious point to the late owner of the Limes as the perpetrator of this cruel and most unnatural crime. I have made careful enquiries in the neighbourhood, and it appears that no one saw Mr. Percival leave this house on the last night he spent in the neighbourhood. I believe he killed his little son, and these sad relics are all that remain of the poor innocent. What cause induced him to commit the deed must for ever remain inscrutable, as he was shortly after drowned in the wreck of the 'Benbow,' and his fearful secret perished with him. In the store room above, you will find a small empty case, bring it here."

Pierre obeyed, and soon returned with the article in question. The remains were reverently placed by Mr. Mordaunt in the box, and when the lid had been secured, Armand shouldered it, and, accompanied by his master, repaired to the grounds behind the mansion. It was a cold and gloomy night, and the wind moaned dismally as it swept through the bare branches of the trees. Mr. Mordaunt paused beneath the towering limbs of a huge old wych-elm, and placing the lantern on the ground, bade his valet there to prepare a grave. This operation did not take long, and when the box, with its mouldering relics of humanity, was deposited in its narrow receptacle, the gentleman murmured a few words of prayer, and returned to the house, leaving his servant to replace the earth, and to destroy all traces of their visit to the vault.

Next morning whilst at breakfast, Mr. Mordaunt received a missive, the contents of which affected him strangely. It was written in pencil, and had been found in the letter box. It bore no address, but was dated two days previously. Its brief contents were as follow:—

"Sir,—These lines come from a friend, and are intended to put you on your guard. An attempt will shortly be made to do you a grievous injury. Do not stir abroad after dark, and take every precaution to secure your house from being broken into. In conclusion the writer earnestly beseeches you not to treat this communication lightly."

The note had no signature, and the writing was but indifferent.

"I do not know what to make of this," mused the gentleman, "I have but just arrived in England, and living as I do in so secluded a manner, I cannot conceive why I have incurred the enmity of anyone. However, my anonymous correspondent means well, and there will be no harm in my adopting his advice to be wary. A nervous man would at once post to London and engage the services of an experienced officer to try and ferret the matter out. This course I shall not adopt. I am guiltless of ever having done any person an injury, and thus fortified with a clear conscience I shall fearlessly await the issue."

Without acquainting his faithful servant, Armand, at that time with the receipt of the letter, Mr. Mordaunt, nevertheless, gave him instructions to see that the fastenings of the doors and windows were in good order.

A few days after this event the valet, whilst assisting his master to undress, said, "I feel it is my duty, sir, to inform you that for some days past I have noticed a strange man lurking about the road near the house."

"Indeed," said Mr. Mordaunt. "What kind of fellow is he?"

"A powerfully-built man of middle age, as dark as a mulatto," was the reply.

"How dressed?" was the next query.

"But poorly. He looks like one of those men who wander through the country, doing no work, sleeping where they can, and not above putting their hands on honest people's goods."

"You are too severe, my good Pierre," smilingly remarked his master. "By your description I should take the man to be one of those wanderers known throughout the Old World under the various names of Egyptians, Bohemians, Zingari, Gitanoes, Romany, or Gypsies. The majority of them are harmless enough. They prefer to roam unrestricted by the usages and laws of those who dwell in villages, towns, and cities, and purposely discard the ordinary conventionalities of every day life. However, I do not like the idea of having my house watched by a fellow of that class; his actions, to say the least, are questionable. I will call upon Mr. Maitland, the magistrate, to-day, and take his opinion on that and another matter. You have done quite right in imparting to me your suspicions."

After luncheon the owner of the Limes set out for the residence of Mr. Maitland, J.P., which was situated some two miles distant, and he was fortunate enough to find that gentleman at home. They

had met and had been introduced to each other a few weeks previously at a neighbour's house. The worthy justice was a fine-looking man, who bore his sixty summers well. His clear, ruddy complexion, aquiline features, and bright grey eyes were well set off by a glorious coronal of silver hair. He was dressed in a bygone fashion, and his speech and general manners were of that genial and fascinating type of character well and deservedly known as the "old English gentleman."

After the usual interchange of compliments, Mr. Mordaunt said, "I have taken the liberty, Mr. Maitland, of calling upon you to ask your magisterial advice on a strange circumstance which has occurred within the last few days."

"I shall be charmed to give you every assistance that is in my power to afford," replied the other. "I hope, however, that there is nothing of a serious nature in your intended revelation."

"I am afraid there is," gravely said Mr. Mordaunt. "Several mornings ago I received by hand this missive. Be pleased to read it."

The justice took the letter, carefully wiped his gold-rimmed glasses, adjusted them to his satisfaction, and then attentively perused the ill-written scrawl several times.

"Before giving any opinion on this communication I should like, Mr. Mordaunt, to put to you a few questions, that is, if you will allow me," said he.

"With all the pleasure in the world," heartily assented the other.

"Have you any reason to believe that you have an enemy in this country?" continued the magistrate.

"No; neither here nor in the West Indies," was the firm reply.

"I will relate a few brief incidents of my life. About twenty years ago, soon after the death of my father, I left England and threw my lot in with an old uncle of mine who owned large sugar plantations in Jamaica. I was possessed of ample means, but feeling reluctant to lead a life of idleness I worked exceedingly hard, and under my management the estate became a very valuable one. In the course of time my relative died, and with the exception of a few legacies to old servants, and bequests to several benevolent institutions on the island, he bequeathed to me the whole of the property. After his demise I engaged a careful manager, and used to be absent very frequently from the plantations. I was particularly fond of collecting specimens of the beautiful flora of the country. In fact, I became an enthusiast in botany, and natural history generally. A year ago I yearned to re-visit the old country. I had no family ties to bind me to my tropical home, and having sold my estate most profitably I sailed from the island with two old dependents who elected to accompany me. I arrived after a pleasant voyage at the West India Docks, and having warehoused my effects in the vicinity I took the coach to Chertsey, in the environs of which town I was born, in the hope of being able to meet with a local residence where I might end my days in peace. I came across the Limes during my first visit to the town, and being charmed with its situation and appearance I purchased it. I trust, Mr. Maitland, that you will pardon me for this digression," he concluded, "but I thought it better that you should hear a few particulars of my life, uninteresting though they are, in order to prove to you how utterly impossible it is for me to have an enemy in England, or elsewhere."

"Have you any relatives who are aware of your return after so prolonged an absence?" enquired the Justice.

"I have every reason to believe that I am the last of my race, sir," was the reply. "It seems very sad that in 'the serene and yellow leaf' of life I should have no kindred to welcome me back to the land of my ancestors. No, Mr. Maitland, when my time comes there will be no one near to solace my last hours, none but paid dependents to close my weary eyes when they shall have looked their last on this bright world."

"Come, come, my good sir, be not so despondent," good-humouredly said the magistrate. "You are my junior by some years, are in fair health, and in the possession of ample means. Why, then, should you not marry and have the pleasure of seeing a troop of youngsters scampering over the old house and grounds, and filling the place with the cheerful echo of their merry voices?"

"A pleasant prospect, my dear sir, but one that will not be realised. I shall never marry." "Ah, Mr. Maitland," he added, with a sigh, and his dark eyes were moistened with tears, "I have not confided to you the one black spot in my past life. May I trespass upon your patience a little longer?"

"My good friend, I am entirely at your service, pray proceed," was the courteous reply.

"Many years ago," resumed Mr. Mordaunt, "an elderly gentleman named Daley, came from England to Jamaica, and took up his residence near my uncle's estate. He was accompanied by his daughter Alice, a most charming girl, but of very delicate constitution. We became great friends, and after a time the fair girl plighted her troth to me. My uncle and Mr. Daley were both favourable to the match, and it was arranged that when the lady reached her twenty-first year we were to be married. Ah! those were happy days! I pictured to myself an ideal home, with the beautiful Alice enshrined as its guardian angel. I purchased a small property a few miles from my uncle's, where I intended to convey my darling when Hymen should smile upon our union. It was naturally a lovely spot, but art had been called in, and the result was terrestrial perfection. The house was commodious, and was surrounded by a verandah supported by pilasters covered thickly with climbing flowering plants of great beauty. The palm, the majestic banyan, and the magnolia

were striking objects in the shrubberies. In the cool of a fine evening when the brilliant sun was low on the horizon and the clouds were gorgeously tinted by its fast declining rays, and the calm atmosphere was laden with a thousand floral perfumes, such a picture was presented to the ravished senses as can only be enjoyed in those far tropical regions, and one well calculated to fire a contemplative mind with feelings of artistic rapture. As I have already informed you I was a great admirer of Dame Nature, and I used to be frequently away, weeks at a time, collecting choice specimens of her products. Upon my return after one of those pleasurable excursions I noticed a coldness of demeanour in my *fiancée* that I could not understand. I taxed her with this strange and, to me, unaccountable alteration, but failed to obtain any satisfactory explanation. I was deeply in love with the beautiful girl, and her strange conduct excited in me the most painful emotions. I redoubled my attentions and did everything in my power to revive in her the warm affection that she used to bestow on me in the first blissful months of our engagement. But in vain; she became every day more distant in her manner towards me. In my distress I mentioned her conduct to my kind uncle, and he took counsel with Mr. Daley, who chided his daughter on what he firmly believed to be her fickleness. Alice was evidently impressed with her father's strictures, for she became a little more *complaisant*, and for a time I fondly thought that her affections were gradually being restored to me. Delusive hope! In two months from the time fixed for our marriage she disappeared from the island. She left a letter in which she begged her father's forgiveness for leaving him so cruelly, but stated in justification that knowing his mind was irrevocably fixed on her union with me she had eloped with a gentleman who had so entwined himself around her heart that she felt that she could not be happy with anyone else. This untoward event proved to be a great blow to us all. Mr. Daley was quite prostrated with grief; my uncle was furious with Alice, whom he called, in his rage, "a heartless jilt;" and I was inconsolable. I made a vow never again to fix my affections or pay addresses to any of the variable sex, however fascinating, and I have most religiously kept that protestation. Such, Mr. Maitland, is the brief history of the sudden collapse of my first and only courtship."

"Did you ever hear what became of your faithless fair one?" Jasked the justice.

"Some months after her departure, her father received a communication from her stating that she and her husband had arrived safely in England, and that she was well and happy. She gave him her address in London, and hoped that he had forgiven her, and that he would leave Jamaica and join her, as her heart yearned to see him once again. The old gentleman wasted no time, but left by the first ship he could secure a passage in. A friend of ours, a planter, sailed in the same vessel, and shortly afterwards we received a letter which contained the shocking news that the yellow fever had broken out on board a few weeks after the ship had quitted our shores, and that one of its first victims was poor old Daley, who, weakened by age and mental distress, had fallen an easy prey to the dreadful scourge."

"Quite a domestic romance," remarked Mr. Maitland. "However, as the details even at this late period of time must be exceedingly painful to you, I will not speak further on the subject. To return to the object of your visit to me to-day. I am not inclined to attach any serious importance to the anonymous letter. My idea is that the writer of this plausible epistle thinks that by acting on your fears he will eventually be enabled to establish a system of extortion."

"I thought so, too," said the other, "until this morning, when Armand, my valet, made a startling announcement to me, and one—"

"What was that?" quickly interrupted Mr. Maitland.

"It appears that for some time past an ill-looking tramp has been lurking about my house," resumed Mr. Mordaunt; "and his movements were so suspicious that they excited the attention of Armand."

"That may be a part of the plan," remarked the sceptical Justice. "I will, however, issue immediate instructions that a close watch shall be set on your residence, and if the fellow is again seen in its vicinity, he shall be called upon to give an account of himself. What does your man take him to be?"

"A gipsy," answered Mr. Mordaunt.

"Have you, to your recollection, ever been harsh to any member of that predatory tribe?" asked the magistrate.

"On the contrary, I have always given orders to my servants never to refuse any just appeal of theirs. To tell the truth, I rather admire the dark-skinned roving rogues. There is a freedom and an independence about the genuine gipsy which pleases me."

"You do not know them so well as I do, Mr. Mordaunt. I regret to say that in the long course of my magisterial experience I have had to hear many sad tales of their vice and delinquency, and have had to make some sharp examples among them."

"I know that there are black sheep to be found in the race," remarked the other; "but the same may be said of every class, civilised or otherwise. I met with an exception," added the speaker, "soon after my arrival in this neighbourhood. I will relate the incident which led to my introduction to bright, fearless, and honest little Richard Lee." Mr. Mordaunt then recounted to his host his adventure on Bagshot Heath, and the subsequent disappearance from school of his interesting *protégé*.

"My dear sir," gravely said his hearer, "I am afraid that you have unknowingly nursed a viper in your bosom. Your benevolence has been misplaced, and the boy is in some manner implicated in the

affair of the letter, and the espionage to which you have subsequently been subjected."

"I cannot believe it, sir," warmly replied his friend. "The lad had honesty and truthfulness written on every feature of his handsome and intelligent face."

"Well, well, Mr. Mordaunt, I will not seek to disillusionize you, as I can see that the subject is distasteful to you. I hope that my surmise is unfounded, but we humble instruments of the law are apt to judge by plain dry facts, and are consequently neither to be carried away by sentiment nor romance. You can rely, however, upon my giving you every assistance, and you may also rest assured that any attempt to molest you shall, if possible, be frustrated."

Mr. Mordaunt thanked the worthy magistrate for his courtesy and advice, and with a hearty shake of the hands the twain parted.

CHAPTER VI.

It was truly a dreary night that ushered in the events we are about to relate. The snow had been falling very heavily all day, and it lay in huge drifts, whither it had been blown by the biting north-east winds which had prevailed since the commencement of the storm. The firs and the pine trees presented a fantastic appearance, thickly covered as they were with a mantle of snow. The fields, hills, and other landmarks were rendered quite unrecognisable from the same cause. Here and there the few cottages that dotted the dismal landscape stood out in bold relief, but from the gradual accumulation of snow upon the eaves and chimneys they presented an aspect desolate in the extreme. The sky was of a dull, uniform leaden colour, and from the steady fall of the snow it was evident that there was but little, if any, prospect of the storm ceasing by the morning. There were but few wayfarers to be seen, and those who were unfortunately compelled by their avocations to be abroad made for home as quickly as possible.

Mr. Mordaunt, in consequence of the inclement weather, had not stirred out that day, but had sat reading in the library. After a late dinner he had retired to his bedchamber, where a good fire was blazing merrily on the hearth. His valet assisted him to undress, and when he was comfortably wrapped in his warm dressing-gown, and was nestling cozily in a large well-cushioned arm chair with a novel of Smollet's in his hand, he turned to Armand and said, "Pierre, I shall not require your services any more to-night. I shall sit up reading for some time. I feel strangely restless. I slept but little last night, and my nervous system seems thoroughly unhinged."

"I know that you will pardon me, sir, for attempting to dictate to you," said Armand, "but why not leave this cold, cheerless land, and return to the West Indies. You have not been the same man since you landed in this country."

"You are quite right in your remarks, my good fellow," assented his master. "I have not been well, either mentally or bodily, since I took up my abode here. But I am determined that my bones shall be laid to rest in the land which gave me birth. I appreciate your concern, but the tropics will never again be re-visited by me."

The speaker then listlessly turned over the pages of his book whilst the valet busied himself in putting everything straight before leaving the room.

"Armand," suddenly said the gentleman, "has the storm ceased?"

The valet went to the window and, drawing aside the heavy curtains, peered forth. The snow flakes were beating against the glass, and had formed quite a drift within the deep embrasure of the casement. Having carefully readjusted the curtains, Armand advanced into the middle of the apartment, and, with a shiver, answered, "I do not think, sir, that the snow is falling quite so heavily as it was a short time ago."

"The roads must be almost impassable by this time," remarked Mr. Mordaunt. "Unless a thaw takes place within the next few days our communication with the outside world will be cut off."

"The mail-carrier, sir," observed Armand, "told me, when he called this morning, that he had great difficulty in getting here, as in some places the snow drifts were several feet deep. Is there anything else," he added, "I can do for you, sir, before I leave?"

"I think not, my good Armand," replied the gentleman. "You will not fail to call me at eight o'clock to-morrow morning. Good night."

The valet, having given the fire a final stir, softly retired.

After the departure of his servant, Mr. Mordaunt plunged into the interesting pages of clever Tobias Smollet. He read industriously on for at least an hour, and then closed the book just as the dial on the chimney-piece musically chimed the hour of eleven. The fire was burning with a bright glow, but the occupant of the room apparently did not feel its warmth, for he shivered more than once. He sat musing, with his head supported by one hand, and as the ruddy light shone on his cleanly cut features, broad brow, and clear dark eyes, a striking profile was presented, that to a spectator would have recalled the portrait of one of those grandees of the Middle Ages, whose names are forgotten, but whose features yet live on the canvas of many an "Old Master." The owner of the lines was apparently gazing at the embers, but his thoughts were far away. He was thinking, strangely enough, of that distant time when he wandered side by side with the beautiful Alice, ere the black cloud came which dimmed the bright sun of his hopes for ever. Her fair face and wealth of golden tresses were shaded by the broad and picturesque hat she wore. A mass of white flowing drapery enrou-

passed her fragile though graceful form. As she leant affectionately on his arm, with her bright happy face coyly smiling upon him, she appeared in his fond eyes to be the very incarnation of purity and innocence. They were sauntering slowly through the glades of a tropical forest, whose huge umbrageous trees sheltered them from the sultry rays of the fast setting sun. Occasionally a bird of resplendent plumage or a brilliant insect flew by like a ray of light. Overhead could be heard the twittering and singing of myriads of birds. In every direction flowers and luxuriant parasitical plants displayed their varied beauties, and the air was filled with an almost overpowering fragrance from the *flora* of this delightful region. Choosing a suitable spot they sat down, and conversed on the happiness which they thought was soon to be theirs. As Mr. Mordaunt pictured that peaceful and lovely evening of the past long ago, and conjured up in his "mind's eye" every winning grace and irresistible charm of the fair girl who that night plighted her troth to him, a flood of agony swept unstemmed through his frame, and the strong man, whose life had been so embittered, silently wept. Thus absorbed in a reverie of painful recollections, he did not at first notice a low but distinct tapping on the outside of the window.

"Some poor bird dying with cold, and attracted by the light, seeks warmth," he muttered at last.

The sound ceased for a few moments, but was presently renewed more energetically than before.

Mr. Mordaunt's curiosity being now fairly aroused, he arose from his seat, approached the casement, and drew back the curtains, when a startling sight met his view. The light from the room shone full on the window panes, and its reflection revealed a white and terrified face, that under the peculiar circumstances looked ghastly. Approaching nearer the gentleman uttered an exclamation of joyful surprise. His next movement was to open the casement and assist the intruder, who had so strangely sought admittance, into the apartment.

His after proceeding, to an observer, would have appeared singular to a degree, as he clasped the new-comer in his arms, and kissed him warmly on both cheeks.

"Richard, my dear boy, how glad I am to see you once more. But why take this curious method of gaining admittance? Where have you been?"

"I was waylaid and taken back to the tents, and to my mother," answered the youth, with a shudder. "I have much to tell you, sir," he went on. "I am pleased to see you well, Mr. Mordaunt. I was afraid I should be too late."

"Too late!" exclaimed the gentleman, smiling. "I am sadly afraid, Richard, that you allow your natural love for romance to get the better of you. However, I will not prejudge you. First, let me ask if you are in need of refreshment; the night is bitterly cold, and you look fatigued."

"Thank you, sir, I am tired, but I require nothing save rest. I shall soon recover, as I have been used all my life to hardship and exposure to every kind of weather."

"Well, well," said his companion; "I will give you a glass of wine, at any rate."

The lad removed his wet outer garments, and took a seat near the fire.

Mr. Mordaunt handed him the wine, and patting his clustering hair, considerably said, "I am very anxious to hear your adventures since you so mysteriously disappeared from school some time ago, but if you do not feel equal to the task to-night you may defer the communication until to-morrow. All the household are in bed; you can, however, sleep on the couch in this room. I daresay we shall find some wraps in yonder linen press."

Without replying to these remarks the boy, with a scared look upon his face, strangely enquired, "Are all the doors and windows fastened, sir? Have you any firearms in the house?"

Mr. Mordaunt was inclined to laugh at these questions, but there was such a terrible earnestness in the lad's manner that forbade the idea of his treating the matter too lightly.

"Your questions are very startling, Lee; yet to allay your evident anxiety on the subject I will say that the house is well secured in every respect against marauders. Do you anticipate danger to me or mine?"

"Yes, sir, I do," was the short reply.

"Well, then tell me your story, and I shall be able to judge whether your suspicions are soundly based or not. I may, however, tell you that certain incidents have occurred recently which tend to bear out your supposition that danger is abroad."

As the lad's narrative was many times interrupted by the questions and general remarks of Mr. Mordaunt, we will relate it in our own words.

The reader is already aware that young Lee disappeared at the conclusion of a football match, and that the most searching enquiries as to his whereabouts were made for week's after. The circumstances which took place subsequent to that event we will now detail. Lee had particularly distinguished himself in the game, and on his way back to the school, being somewhat fatigued with his exertions, he lagged behind the rest of his playmates. At the bend of a dark lane he heard a slight rustling in the bushes which skirted the road. With a boy's natural curiosity he approached the spot to ascertain the cause, when, to his dismay, a man darted out from a gap in the hedge, and before he had time to shout for assistance, he found himself pinioned in a powerful grasp, and a voice, whose harsh tones he knew but too well, hissed out, "So, my young cub, you are nabbed

at last. It is of no use your struggling; come along quietly, or I will make it the worse for you."

The poor lad, with a cold feeling of despair at his heart, and knowing the violent temper and determination of his uncle, for it was Hugh who had captured him, ceased to resist, and casting one sad look in the direction of the road taken by his schoolfellows he dejectedly followed the ruffian. The roads taken by Hugh were but little frequented, and as darkness set in soon after the abduction, poor Lee was quite unable to note by what route he was being conveyed. They walked some miles, and just as a distant clock struck nine a bright light was seen glittering amongst the leafless trees of a wood, Richard was then surlily commanded by his companion to hasten his steps as his journey for the present was at an end. The hapless youth gave an involuntary shudder, and sighed deeply when he found himself once more surrounded by his quondam associates. A huge fire was burning in an open space, and several gipsies were smoking their pipes and lazily basking in its genial warmth. Upon the approach of the new-comers they started to their feet in some alarm, but a few words from Hugh reassured them and they resumed their listless, recumbent positions.

Presently a woman descended from a caravan and approached the spot where Lee had thrown himself down overcome with grief and fatigue. In a voice of sarcastic bitterness she exclaimed, "Ha, Dick, I welcome ye home again! Have ye no kissos to give to thy fond mother who has missed ye so much, and whose heart strings are almost bursting at beholding ye once more?"

The lad slowly raised himself from the prostrate position he had assumed, and stared wildly at the speaker, who stood where the blaze from the fire shone fully upon her. Her raven tresses were partly confined by a crimson kerchief, her swarthy complexion glowed with health, her dark glistening eyes flashed in the gleaming light, and her tall, lithe form was dramatically posed.

"What, still silent?" she continued, in mocking accents. "Ungrateful boy! Is this the return ye make for all my fostering care?" Then suddenly altering her bantering tone, she fiercely added, "Arouse thee from thy stupor thou devil's cub, or a thick cudgel shall be laid across thy shoulders!"

The youth gave a visible tremor and then stood defiantly erect. "You may threaten me with blows," he said, "but I fear them not. You have brought me back to the tents, and I hate you for it. You may slowly starve me, or kill me outright, but I will not resume the wretched life I fled from."

These words were spoken in a fearless manner that could not be mistaken.

Hugh scowled, and lifted his stick in a threatening way, but the female gipsy raised her hand deprecatingly, and quietly said, "Well, well, my son, we shall see whether a bread and water diet will not lower thy fiery disposition, and bring ye back to a more pliant mood. Nat," said she, turning to one of the fellows sitting by the fire, "keep an eye upon this runaway. If he attempts to move from this spot without permission thrash him well."

Having uttered this maternal injunction she returned to the van in company with her brother. Shortly afterwards the latter reappeared, and in a surly voice ordered Richard to enter the caravan. Upon entering, he perceived his mother by the imperfect light of an oil lamp, sitting on a low stool industriously knitting an article of attire. She motioned him to be seated, and agreeably to the threat she had made she bade him partake of some bread and water, which were placed on a small table. The lad, who had not broken his fast since mid-day, was glad to avail himself of this fare, meagre though it was.

During the interval that had elapsed between his enforced return to the camp and the present moment, Lee had come to the conclusion that to put himself in opposition to his mother or her ruffianly brother would be impolitic. His best course, he had also decided, would be to quietly accept the situation, and by lulling suspicion pave the way to another escape. That night the lad slept undisturbed in the caravan. He was aroused next morning by the rough jolting of the house on wheels, which was being occasioned by its being removed from the camp. He hurriedly arose from his rude couch, and opening the shutter of one of the windows gazed forth. The vehicle, which on account of its unusual size, was drawn by two powerful horses, he perceived was on the high road, but in consequence of the darkness of the early winter morn the surrounding objects were not discernible.

He heard a movement behind him, and the harsh voice of his mother said, "Dick, I forbid ye to look abroad. If I catch ye making signs to the passers by I will have ye chained to a log like a dog."

With a heavy sigh the unfortunate youth left the lattice, and in a dejected manner flung himself upon the rags he had just quitted. The woman looked at him for a few moments with a sneering expression upon her dark face, but did not again address him for some time.

The caravan jogged along for several hours, and at last was brought to a standstill for the night on a waste piece of common land. It was halted near a dense copse of fir trees that gave a welcome shelter from the cutting north-east wind then raging. Lee's mother, as the day wore on, grew less stern in her manner, and had allowed him a little more freedom of action. This was doubtless due to the fact that he had promised her that he would not seek to attract the attention of the people they met on the road. The shutters of the six little windows that gave light to the two compartments of the caravan was open, and consequently it would have been an easy matter for Lee to have called for assistance from the inhabitants of

several small villages they passed through during their journey. Upon reflection the propriety of his doing so appeared useless. What could he say? He had ran away from his mother and had been recaptured. It was true he had been cruelly beaten and badly fed before he left her guardianship, but at the present time he was well clothed and physically in good condition. Who would believe the romantic story of his adoption by Mr. Mordaunt? None. About four o'clock in the afternoon, Lee was left alone. Before leaving, his mother gave him to understand that she would not be long absent. She, however, took the precaution of locking the door. For a little time the lad amused himself by turning over the pages of a dog eared and otherwise dilapidated copy of Defoe's fascinating romance, "Robinson Crusoe," which formed his sole literary treasure. Wearied at last, he closed the volume and went to the inner room that constituted the sleeping apartment of his mother. It was in perfect darkness, but the youth mechanically opened the shutter of the narrow window and looked forth into the fast gathering gloom. The wind was moaning mournfully amongst the bare branches of the gaunt looking trees, and the general features of the landscape were black and forbidding. Lee was about to close the shutter when the sound of low voices fell upon his ear. He could not see the speakers as they were beyond the rays of a lantern which was hanging to a tree, but he could plainly distinguish the tones of his mother and Hugh. Urged by an unaccountable feeling of curiosity he cautiously undid a pane of glass that did occasional duty as a ventilator, and overheard the conversation which will be narrated in the next chapter.

CHAPTER VII.

"Did ye meet with him?" Ruth was saying.

"No, he was away," answered Ralph. "I left word that ye wished to see him here to-night. Hist! I hear a rustle in the thicket yonder."

In a few moments a firm tread was heard on the frosty ground, and Lee saw a tall shadowy form emerge from the copse and approach to the light of the lantern, and a voice, whose accents sounded clear and sharp, said, "Good evening, Ruth."

The woman merely replied, "Speak low, unless ye wish to be heard by those who may blab."

"You have been successful, I suppose?" was the next remark of the new comer.

"Aye, we have him safely caged yonder," was the answer.

"Is he well?"

"Oh, yes, but as stubborn as ever. I have had to keep a sharp eye on him, or he would have shown us a clean pair of heels."

"That must not be," said the interrogator. "You must keep him for the present in close confinement, my scheme is not yet matured. I have recently made a surprising discovery," he continued. "I have accidentally come across one whom I thought was some thousands of miles distant. You have not yet told me where you found the boy."

"It is a long story," said Ruth.

"Keep yourself to the plain facts, and make the communication as short as possible," remarked the other, curtly.

"Ye have to thank my brother for the trouble he took in the matter. For some weeks he tramped through the neighbouring villages and towns making enquiries as he went, but without success. One evening on his way to Ripley—near where our camp was pitched—he passed through Chertsey, and at a short distance from that place he saw a gentleman and a lad some few yards in front of him. Their backs were towards him, but it struck him that the lad was Dick. To make sure of it he scrambled through the high hedge that skirted the turnpike, and keeping well within the shadow of the bushes he overtook them and found that the boy was indeed our runaway. He dogged their steps and saw them enter a large old-fashioned house. He hung about the neighbourhood for days and weeks in the hope of catching Dick alone, but the lad never went out unattended. The gentleman had evidently taken a liking to the youngster, for he appeared to treat him as a son. The house they occupied is called the Limes."

"The Limes!" ejaculated her hearer. "Did your brother ascertain the owner's name? Was it Mordaunt?"

"Aye," assented the woman. "Do ye know him?"

"How strange," murmured the man, not heeding the query. "He little thought who it was he was protecting. Well, go on with your story."

"Hugh at last found out," resumed Ruth, "that Dick was to be sent to a large school some distance away. One morning the lad, in company with Mr. Mordaunt, left the house and waited at the top of the lane for the coach. Dick started off alone. My brother followed, but as he knew the name of the place whither the boy was bound, he did not exert himself to keep up with the coach. After spying about the neighbourhood of the school for several weeks he was lucky enough to waylay the youngster two days ago on his return from some boyish sports."

"You must not allow him to escape again; use every precaution," said the man, "but treat him kindly. Poor lad, he has had a hard time of it. I have often thought of him, and it has grieved me to think of the stern necessity that led to his being placed under your charge."

(To be continued in our next).

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