

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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SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1898.

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THE BOYS' SCHOOL CENTENARY.

Had the approaching Festival in behalf of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys been of an ordinary character, the time at our disposal for advocating its cause and bringing prominently before our readers any special claims it may have acquired during the past 12 months would have been insufficient for the purpose. As a rule the Girls' School Festival, which precedes it, is held on the second Wednesday in May, and that of the Boys' School on the last Wednesday in June, and the period of six or seven weeks which intervenes between the two events is ordinarily sufficient to allow of our doing whatever lies in our power towards strengthening and confirming the appeal which the Secretary and others have been addressing for several months to the lodges and brethren in London and all parts of the country. But this is an exceptional year. The Boys' Institution was founded in 1798, and the Festival which, by the special desire of H.R.H. the Prince of WALES, K.G., M.W.G.M., and President, will take place at the Royal Albert Hall, on Friday, the 10th prox., will be the hundredth that has been held in aid of the funds of the Institution. Moreover, for the whole of the past twelve-month, and even longer, the Executive of the Institution has been preparing for, and the whole of the English Craft looking eagerly forward to, the particular anniversary which awaits us next month, while the brethren generally owing to the reports of the Board of Management and other information which has been freely circulated amongst them are conversant with the position in which the Institution is now placed, the progress it has made under the present governing body, and the special circumstances connected with the removal of the School from Wood Green to a new and more commodious site at Bushey in the County of Hertford. There is, therefore, no need for us to describe, as we have been wont to do in ordinary years, the general and particular claims which our Boys' School has upon the generosity of the Craft as illustrated by the progress and improvement it has made in any given period, the successes that pupils and ex-pupils have achieved at public examinations, the more pressing monetary requirements which it is considered desirable to satisfy with the least possible delay, &c. These matters have been so dinned into the ears of our readers that it might weary them if we devoted any portion of our space to a repetition of the oft-told tale. Let it suffice, therefore, if we state that over and above the sum required to meet the ordin-

ary expenditure and still further increase the limited amount of invested capital to the credit of the Institution, the estimated cost of erecting the new School buildings at Bushey in accordance with the design which was selected and approved last year, is set down at £99,000, and though ultimately an appreciable part of this large sum will be defrayed out of the proceeds of sale of the present site and buildings at Wood Green, there will still remain a very considerable amount which must be provided out of the Returns which we have good reason to hope will be forthcoming on the occasion of the Centenary Celebration under the presidency of H.R.H. the Prince of WALES. We say we have good reason to hope that the provision of this large amount will be possible out of the Centenary donations and subscriptions on this ground, that there are already some 3400 ladies and brethren who have volunteered their services as Stewards. On this Board all the Provinces, so far as we know, are more or less fully represented, as well as many foreign Districts and out-lying lodges, while London alone will furnish such a contingent of lodge representatives and Unattached brethren as, at Festival time, would gladden the hearts of the Chairmen, Treasurers, and Secretaries of half-a-dozen, nay, of half-a-score of our largest and most highly-favoured Charitable Institutions outside the pale of Masonry. For months and months it has been the topic of everyday conversation among the brethren as to whether or not this or that immense aggregate of contributions would be reached or exceeded, so successful, beyond all expectation, have been the appeals which Bro. MCLEOD, the Secretary of the Institution, and those who have been acting with, or for him, have been addressing to the Craft in all directions for the past 12 months. We fully realise, of course, that for the moment we must content ourselves with anticipating an exceptionally brilliant result of the untiring efforts which the executive of the Institution and the Craft have been for so long making, but we feel that we are not allowing ourselves to be unduly sanguine in expecting from a Board of Stewards which will ultimately, no doubt, number over 3500 members, such a return as has never hitherto been dreamt of in Masonry. Something of this kind we feel justified in looking forward to under the circumstances; what the accomplished result will prove to be on the day of celebration remains to be ascertained. Still, the cause is a good one, and the Institution fully merits even the richest favours that Dame Fortune may have in store for it in the near future.

THE RECENT ELECTIONS OF THE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The Annual General Meeting of the Governors and Subscribers of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Friday, the 20th instant, under the presidency of Bro. J. A. FARNFIELD, P.A.G.D.C., Patron and Treasurer. There was a large attendance of brethren, and the competition, in view of the great disproportion between the vacancies to be filled and the long lists of approved candidates, was very keen, more especially in the case of the Widows' Fund.

For the MALE FUND, the list of candidates, as approved by the Committee of Management at their February meeting, was 57, but one of the West Yorkshire brethren had been subsequently withdrawn, and

there remained, therefore, 56 to compete for the 17 annuities—14 immediate and three deferred—that were available. London furnished 18, and was successful in carrying the election of seven, while the Provinces and Abroad were responsible for 38, of whom they were able to elect 10. The two highest on the poll hailed from Cheshire, which contributed four candidates. Both these candidates had been on the list at two previous elections, and No. 1, who started with only 19 votes to his credit, had the satisfaction of increasing his total to 5639; while No. 2, who began the day with 28 votes, finished with 5574. One of three candidates from East Lancashire secured the third vacancy with 5458 votes all polled on this occasion; No. 4 from Cornwall, who brought forward 744 votes from his first attempt in 1897, obtained 4566 additional votes thereby augmenting his poll to 5310. No. 5 was a London candidate of two years' standing, who raised the 1406 votes polled for him in May, 1897, to 5090, while Nos. 6 and 7 were new candidates, the former who scored 5059 votes hailing from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, while the latter, who polled 5037, was one of two candidates from Dorsetshire. Nos. 8 and 16 were two out of the three applicants from West Yorkshire, and obtained respectively 4951 and 4261 votes; and No. 9, London, who brought forward 3720 votes from his previous attempts, appears to have had no difficulty in augmenting his total to 4919. No. 10 was one of four applicants from Kent who compiled a total of 4879 votes, of which 3412 were the result of his efforts in 1895, 1896, and 1897; while Nos. 11, 12, 13, and 14, all hailed from the Metropolitan district and polled 4758, 4596, 4584, and 4401 votes, respectively, the highest of the four old brethren being a candidate for the first time, the next in order an unsuccessful applicant from last year, who started with 84 votes to his credit, the third polling 2400 at his first experience in May, 1897, and the last having 2618 votes in hand from three previous elections. No. 15, who hailed from Victoria, polled 1808 last year and raised his total on this occasion to 4340 votes, while No. 17, from London, was a candidate for the first time, and polled right away 3698 votes, the next highest, but unsuccessful, candidate, being also a London brother and having 3647 votes to his credit, of which 255 were brought forward from last year. There were also three other candidates who obtained—in the order of their seniority on the poll—3514—one of two candidates from Somersetshire; 3449 (Surrey), and 3424 (Norfolk). Eight other candidates carry forward over 2000 votes to next year, and three between 1000 and 2000, while four polled under 1000 votes, one of them being a last year's candidate from Warwickshire, who brought forward two votes and polled a further seven. The votes brought forward from previous elections were 26,479, and the number issued for this was 110,388, but of the latter only 98,663 passed the Scrutineers, leaving 11,725 unused or spoiled.

For the

WIDOWS' FUND

there were originally 62 candidates, while the vacancies declared in February were only eight in number, but as regards the former, two, namely, No. 4 from Devonshire, who was an applicant for the 12th time, and No. 25 from Cheshire, for the first, died subsequent to the issue of the Voting Papers, and No. 58 from London, a new applicant, was withdrawn, while four additional annuities had become vacant since then, so that there were 59 candidates—of whom London furnished 18 and the Provinces and Abroad 41 for the 12 annuities—nine immediate and three deferred—that were to be competed for. In this ballot London was most unfortunate, and secured the election of only one of its many applicants, while the other 11 hailed from the Provinces and Abroad, the highest place on the poll being secured by one of three widows from Lincolnshire, who obtained 7280 votes at this her first election, a new London candidate being next with 7102 votes. No. 3 was a Cornish widow, who scored 6359 votes at the first time of asking, the Hertfordshire candidate standing next with 6079 votes. The three West Yorkshire widows were placed fifth, sixth, and seventh on the list, with 5689, 5686, and 5658 votes respectively, one of two widows from Devonshire, who was an applicant for the first time, taking the eighth place, with 5346 votes, and one of two from Staffordshire, who already had 116

votes to her credit from four previous trials, the ninth place, with 4944 votes. One of the two Hampshire and Isle of Wight widows was bracketed with No. 9, scoring 4944 votes, the remaining two who obtained places among the successful competitors having been candidates for the first time last year, when No. 11, one of two Kentish widows, who had 1068 votes in hand, finished up with 4839 votes, and No. 12, one of two applicants from Bristol, polled 4120, of which 514 were brought forward. The highest unsuccessful widow was one of three from Warwickshire, who increased the 1211 votes, with which she started, to 4065, a first case from London being close up with 4043 votes, and a last year's candidate from London, who polled 3849 votes, of which 1674 were brought forward, was third. There were, in addition, three other widows who polled between 2000 and 3000 votes; seven between 1000 and 2000; and six for whom no votes whatever were polled. The number brought forward from previous elections was 9382 votes, and the number issued for this election, 110,870, but only 95,137 of the latter passed the Scrutineers, leaving 15,733 that were either unused or spoiled. There are now 49 candidates who, if their circumstances remain as they are now, will go forward to next year's election.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The following is the business to be transacted on Wednesday next, the 1st prox.:

The minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 2nd March for confirmation.

The minutes of the Grand Festival of the 27th April for confirmation.

To consider the following communication from the Most Worshipful Grand Master:

It having been made to appear to the satisfaction of the Most Worshipful Grand Master that the Grand Lodge of Peru has decreed the removal of the Volume of the Sacred Law from the altars of all lodges under its jurisdiction, substituting therefore the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Peru, and replacing the word "Bible" in the ritual by the words "of the Grand Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Peru;" and, further, that the said Grand Lodge has not only refused to reconsider its decision in authorising such decree, but requires obedience thereto from the several lodges under its jurisdiction.

His Royal Highness is of opinion that recognition of the Grand Lodge of Peru as a Masonic body ought no longer to be accorded, until that body shall have returned to its observance of the ancient landmarks, and, therefore, desires that the sense of Grand Lodge shall be taken on the following resolutions:

1st Resolution.—That this Grand Lodge views with profound regret the step taken by the Grand Lodge of Peru in ordering the removal of the Volume of the Sacred Law from the altar, and in prohibiting all mention of the Bible in the ceremonies of lodges under its jurisdiction.

2nd Resolution.—That so long as the Grand Lodge of Peru, or the lodges holding thereunder, require or authorise the holding of lodge meetings from which the Volume of the Sacred Law is absent, or in the ceremonies of which no mention of the Bible is made, they cannot be recognised as true and lawful Masonic lodges or bodies.

3rd Resolution.—That this Grand Lodge requests that his Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master will be pleased to take such steps for giving effect to the foregoing resolutions, as he may consider consistent with the honour of this Grand Lodge; and to take such further steps, if any, as he may deem desirable for the recognition of those brethren in Peru who determine to abide by the ancient landmarks of the Order.

4th Resolution.—That this Grand Lodge hereby re-affirms and again places on record the resolution adopted by Grand Lodge, on the 6th day of March, 1878, as follows:

That in view of the foregoing resolutions, the Worshipful Masters of all lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of England be directed not to admit any foreign brother as a visitor unless—

1st.—He is duly vouchsafed for, or unless his certificate shows that he has been initiated according to the ancient rites and ceremonies in a lodge professing belief in T.G.A.O.T.U., and

2ndly.—Not unless he himself shall acknowledge that this belief is an essential landmark of the Order.

5th Resolution.—That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland, to each Grand Lodge with which this Grand Lodge is in communication, and to the Worshipful Masters of all lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of England, each of whom is hereby instructed to cause these resolutions to be read at the first meeting of his lodge after the receipt thereof, and to direct that they shall be entered on the minutes.

Appointment and investiture of President of the Board of General Purposes.

Election of members of the Board of General Purposes.

Election of Grand Lodge Auditor.

Election of Members for the Committee of Management of the "Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons."

Report of the Board of Benevolence for the past quarter, in which are recommendations for the following grants:

The widow of a brother of the Kilburn Lodge, No. 1608, London...	£50 0 0
A brother of the Fenwick Lodge, No. 1389, Sunderland	50 0 0
The widow of a brother of the York Lodge, No. 236, York ...	75 0 0

A brother of the Duke of Albany Lodge, No. 1963, London ...	£50 0 0
A brother of the Cotteswold Lodge, No. 592, Cirencester	50 0 0
A brother of the Temperance-in-the-East Lodge, No. 89S, London ...	50 0 0
A brother of the New Finsbury Park Lodge, No. 1695, London ...	50 0 0
The widow of a brother of the Res'ormel Lodge, No. 879, Lostwithiel ...	75 0 0
A brother of the Southwark Lodge, No. 879, London ...	50 0 0
The five orphan children of a brother of the Faith Lodge, No. 141, London ...	50 0 0
A brother of the Eccleston Lodge, No. 1624, London ...	50 0 0

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England.

The Board have to report they have recently had under consideration the desirability of taking steps with a view to the enlargement of the Temple and to providing additional means of egress both from that part of the building and from the adjacent Hall of Freemasons' Tavern.

With that object the Board, acting under the advice of the late Grand Superintendent of Works, W. Bro. Alexander Stenning, put themselves in communication with the owner of the property in the rear of the building, with a view to its acquisition.

The property in question, which has a frontage to Wild-court of about 170 feet, with a depth of about 30 feet, consists of warehouses and premises, some portion of which is let on a lease, which will expire in about three years, the remainder being let to quarterly or weekly tenants.

After many weeks' negotiation, the Board, acting under the best professional advice they could obtain, have authorised a contract for the purchase of the property being entered into, subject to the approval of Grand Lodge, for the sum of £7000, and the further payment of £127 8s. on account of the Vendor's Surveyor's fees and Solicitor's costs.

The Board also submit a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts presented to the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on Friday, the 13th day of February instant, showing a balance in the Bank of England (Law Courts Branch) of £8089 5s. 4d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for Petty Cash, £100, and for Servants' Wages, £100.

(Signed) RICHARD LOVELAND LOVELAND, President.

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.,
17th May, 1898.

This being the last meeting of the present Board, it was resolved unanimously:

"That a most hearty and cordial vote of thanks be accorded the President, V.W. Bro. Richard Loveland Loveland, Q.C., for the skill, ability, and courtesy displayed by him while presiding over the meetings of the Board during the past year.

(Signed) WILLIAM JAMES MASON, Vice-President.

"17th May, 1898."

The Board have to report that the following presentations have been made to the Library and Museum since the last meeting of Grand Lodge, all of which have been accepted with thanks:

TITLE OR OBJECT.	BY WHOM PRESENTED.
History of Chapter No. 291 ...	Thomas Floyd Norris, P.Z. 291.
Royal Arch Medal (1814) ...	A. C. Quick, P.M., Sec. 168.
The Great Symbol (a reprint) ...	Sydney T. Klein, W.M. 2076.
History of Friendly Lodge, No. 239 ...	E. X. Leon, P.D.S.G.W. Jamaica.
A Masonic Sash and Sundry Pamphlets ...	R. J. A. Bennett, 1632.
Special Medal Old Union Lodge, No. 46 ...	H. S. Clutton, P.G. Steward.
Centenary of the Lion Lodge, No. 312 ...	Rev. E. Fox-Thomas, P.P.G.C.
Two Masonic Pamphlets ...	G. W. Speth, P.A.G.D.C.
A Masonic Sermon ...	W. J. Chetwode Crawley, LL.D., &c.
A Select Collection of Masonic Songs ...	A. C. Chapin, P.M. 137.
Psalms Sung at Prov. Grand Lodge of Kent, 1804 ...	Dr. Pelham C. Maitland, W.M. 2394.
An Historical Masonic Lecture ...	George Graveley, G. Purst.
Bye Laws and History of Lodge No. 56 ...	Thos. Francis, P.P.G.W. Hants and Isle of Wight.
A Masonic Halfpenny Token ...	T. E. Williams, P.M., Sec. 2295.
A Masonic Medal (French) ...	H. Thomson Lyon, P.M. 2563.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

1.—By W. Bro. JOHN ALBERT FARNFIELD, P.A.G.D.C.—

That the sum of £70 be given from the Fund of General Purposes; that the money be placed in the hands of the Secretary of the "Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons," to supply the inmates of the Institution at Croydon with coals during the winter season.

2.—By R.W. Bro. Sir JOHN B. MONCKTON, P.G.W.—

That the sum of 500 guineas be given from the funds at the disposal of Grand Lodge to the funds of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, on the occasion of the Centenary Festival, at which the M.W. Grand Master will preside, in June next.

The annual report of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons, dated 20th May, 1898, will be laid before Grand Lodge.

APPEAL.

By Bro. WALTER JAMES, of the Tennant Lodge, No. 1992 —

Against a decision of the R.W. Prov. Grand Master of South Wales (E.D.) that a candidate for initiation in the lodge, who had been declared duly elected, was not duly elected a member of the lodge.

List of brethren nominated for the Board of General Purposes:

NAME.	NOMINATED BY.
Bro. John Leach Barrett, P.M. 1201 ...	Bro. W. J. Mason, P.M. 1627.
" William John Batho, W.M. 1708 ...	" W. Heap Bailey, P.G.T.
" James Whittaker Burgess, P.M. 1325 ...	" Robert Wylie, P.G.D.
" William Cleghorn, P.M. 1287 ...	" Charles Kempton, P.M. 1227.
" William B. Fendick, P.M. 1321 ...	" C. A. Cottebrune, P.G.P.
" Col. Francis W. Frigout, W.M. 2397 ...	" James Terry, P.G.S.B.
" Francis Stanhope Hanson, P.M. 2524 ...	" F. G. Ivey, P.M. 99.
" John Whittle Harvey, P.M. 25 ...	" James Terry, P.G.S.B.
" Capt. Charles J. Knightley, P.M. 1744 ...	" W. M. Stiles, P.G.T.
" William F. Lamony, P.M. 962 ...	" J. E. Le Feuvre, P.G.D.
" Major Frederick Larnar, P.M. 2054 ...	" E. C. Mulvey, P.G. Purst.
" Richard P. J. Laundry, P.M. 1681 ...	" George Read, P.G. Std. Br.
" Harold Thomson Lyon, P.M. 2563 ...	" E. M. Money, P.A.G.D.C.
" William James Mason, P.M. 1328 ...	" George Read, P.G. Std. Br.
" Charles J. Wilkinson Pimbury, P.M. 2241 ...	" Henry Lovegrove, P.G.S.B.
" Frederick Atkinson Powell, P.M. 720 ...	" Henry Lovegrove, P.G.S.B.
" Charles Pulman, P.M. 1712 ...	" John Strachan, G. Reg.
" John Robertson Reep, P.M. 1260 ...	" Henry Lovegrove, P.G.S.B.
" Eliab Rogers, P.M. 60 ...	" S. H. Parkhouse, P.M. 1642.

NAME.	NOMINATED BY.
Bro. James Beresford Ryley, M.D., W.M. 2332 ...	" T. Fenn, P.G.W.
" Arthur G. Sandberg, M.D., P.M. 3 ...	" R. C. Sudlow, P.G. Std. Br.
" James Speller, P.M. 1677 ...	" James Stephens, P.D.G.D.C.
" Robert H. Stimpson, P.M. 59 ...	" E. C. Mulvey, P.G. Purst.
" Edwin Styles, P.M. 704 ...	" E. C. Mulvey, P.G. Purst.
" Japheth Tickle, P.M. 1196 ...	" J. W. Tacon, P.M. 1196.
" Henry A. Tobias, P.M. 1502 ...	" E. C. Mulvey, P.G. Purst.
" Charles Wakefield, P.M. 1259 ...	" James Terry, P.G.S.B.
" John H. Wheddeat, P.M. 19 ...	" James Terry, P.G.S.B.
" Francis A. White, P.M. 1437 ...	" A. Lucking, P.G. Purst.
" Arthur Williams, P.M. 834 ...	" W. M. Stiles, P.G. Treas.
" James Willing, jun., P.M. 2455 ...	" E. M. Money, P.A.G.D.C.

List of brethren nominated for the Committee of Management for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons: Bros. C. A. Cottebrune, P.M. 733, W. D. Child, P.M. 1719, Lieut.-Col. A. Durrant, P.M. 569, Constantine D'oresa, P.M. 749, William H. Hubbert, P.M. 1625, John James Pakes, P.M. 871, Leonard Potts, P.M. 1716, John Robertson Reep, P.M. 1260, George Graveley, P.M. 898, and Robert Colsell, W.M. 1685, nominated by Bro. Edwin George, P.M. 1489.

List of lodges for which warrants have been granted by the M.W. Grand Master since the last Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge.

- 2705, The Playgoers', London.
- 2706, The Foster Gough, Stafford, Staffordshire.
- 2707, The Weald, Brentwood, Essex.
- 2708, The Holmes, Wigan, Lancashire.
- 2709, The Royal York, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire.
- 2710, The Lodge Minchin, Trevendrum, Madras.
- 2711, The Imperial, Liverpool.
- 2712, The Jubilee Masters', London.
- 2713, The Vanna Levu', Vanna Levu, Fiji.
- 2714, The Temperance, Liverpool.
- 2715, The Acanthus, London.
- 2716, The Midland and Oxford Bar, London.

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS.

The following is the business to be transacted on Tuesday, the 31st instant:

Read and, if approved, confirm minutes of Quarterly Communication of 1st March, 1898.

Report of the General Board.

A motion will be made that the Report be taken as read.

A motion will be made that the Report be received and entered on the minutes.

A motion will be proposed that the Report be adopted.

Installation of the M.W.G.M.

Appointment and investiture of Grand Officers.

Nomination by the M.W.G.M. of six members to serve on the General Board.

Election, by Grand Lodge, of five members to serve on the General Board.

LIST OF BRETHREN NOMINATED FOR THE GENERAL BOARD.

Masters and Past Masters.

Nominated by

*Clowes, Richard, P.G.O. ...	} Gordon Miller, P.G. Treasurer. V. P. Freeman, P.G. Deacon. William Vincent, P. Asst. G.D. of C.
*Stewart-Brown, A., P.G.D. ...	
*West, Frederick, Dep. P.G.M. Surrey ...	
*T. P. Dorman, P.G.I.G. ...	
*Alfred F. Church, P.G. Stwd. ...	

*Are present Members of the Board.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF EAST LANCASHIRE.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Philip's Hall, Garden-street, Bury, on the 18th inst. Twelve years had elapsed since the lodge previously visited Bury. Bro. Col. Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie, P.G.M., presided, and there was a large attendance, only one lodge out of the 113 in the province being unrepresented. There was also a strong gathering of Provincial and Past Provincial Grand Officers.

The minutes of the November meeting and the Past Grand Treasurer's accounts were submitted, and approved without comment.

On the motion of Bro. C. D. CHEETHAM, seconded by Bro. T. J. HOOPER, the report of the proceedings of the Charity Committee were approved, and on their proposal it was also unanimously resolved—"That a grant of 250 guineas be made to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys on the occasion of its Centenary Festival on the 10th of June next, when H.R.H. the Prince of Wales will preside," Bro. Cheetham stating, when moving the resolution, that it was expected the festival would realise £100,000.

The five brethren on the General Committee of the East Lancashire Systematic Masonic Educational and Benevolent Institution who served last year were unanimously re-elected.

On the motion of Bro. J. T. NEWBOLD, seconded by Bro. JOHN BARLOW, Bro. Walter Alcock, a P.M. of two local lodges, was unanimously elected P.G. Treasurer for the ensuing year.

In response to an appeal from Bro. S. HALL, P.S.G.W., a collection was made in the hall in behalf of the East Lancashire Systematic Masonic Educational Benevolent Institution, which realised £25 5s. 3d.

A vote of condolence was passed with the family of the late Bro. James Heelis, P.P.G.W., on the loss Prov. Grand Lodge had sustained by his death, and the Prov. Grand Secretary was instructed to forward the same to the relatives of the deceased, with the signature of the Prov. Grand Master.

Bro. Edward Ashworth, P.P.G.W., was unanimously elected a Prov. Grand Lodge Trustee in the room of Bro. Jas. Heelis.

The Prov. G. Master afterwards invested the following brethren as his Prov. G. Officers for the ensuing year :

Bro. J. Kenyon, 1253	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" W. Forrest, 221	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. W. W. D. Firth, 633	...	...	Prov. G. Chaps.
" W. H. Healey, 344	...	...
" H. Lycett, 62	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" F. W. Broadbent, 37	...	...	Prov. D.G. Reg.
" J. Newton	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" C. S. Wilson, 1253	...	...	Prov. S.G.Ds.
" G. Coombs, 44	...	...
" W. Jones, 325	...	...	Prov. J.G.Ds.
" T. J. Hutchinson, 2560	...	...
" Simon Mamelok, 1798	...	...	Prov. G.S. of Wks.
" O. C. Crompton, 191	...	...
" S. Mills, 2584	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" W. Packman, 1012	...	...	Prov. D.G.D.C.
" J. Whitaker, 298	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.Cs.
" W. Siddell, 1993	...	...
" H. T. Grundy, 934	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" W. B. Akerman, 2554	...	...	Prov. D.G.S.B.
" T. H. Steigh, 42	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" J. Robinson, 1219	...	...	Prov. D.G. Std. Br.
" R. Hall, 1392	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" W. H. Mitchell, 128	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" S. Lord, 993	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" W. Potts, 467	...	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" J. P. Green, 344	...	...	Prov. G. Stwds.
" J. R. Meanoch, 2279	...	...
" W. Spencer, 42	...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.
" Jos. Olive, 128	...	...
" R. Smith, 191	...	...	Prov. G. Stwds.
" R. K. Roberts, 1012	...	...
" Hugh Scott, 1392	...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.
" J. Bailey, 2560	...	...
" E. H. Flower	...	...

The customary banquet was held at the Bury Town Hall.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF WEST YORKSHIRE.

The annual convocation of the above Provincial Grand Chapter was holden in the Music Saloon, Wood-street, Wakefield, on Wednesday, the 11th inst. Present :

Comps. Ensor Drury, P.Z. 296, P.G.S., acting G. Superintendent; Hy. Smith, P.Z. 302, P.G.S., Prov. G.H.; H. Slade Childe, P.Z., M.E.Z. 154, Prov. G.J.; C. L. Mason, P.Z. 304, P.P.G.H.; T. R. Vaux, P.Z. 208, P.P.G.J.; Capt. H. G. E. Green, P.Z. 1019, Prov. G.S.E.; Wm. Laycock, P.Z. 1001, Prov. G.S.N.; W. C. Lupton, P.Z. 974, P.P.G.S.N.; J. Wm. Balme, P.Z. 61, P.P.G.S.N.; J. Gibbs, P.Z. 904, Prov. G. Treas.; H. T. E. Holmes, P.Z. 139, F. Rand, P.Z. 242, and Wm. Smith, P.Z. 1042, P.P.G. Treasurers; J. Corrin Bell, P.Z. 1283, Prov. G. Reg.; T. H. Tanner, P.Z. 337, Prov. D.G. Reg.; J. C. Malcolm, P.Z. 304, P.G.S., and Major G. Bolton, P.Z. 154, P.P.D.G. Registrars; John Shoesmith, P.Z. 521, P.P.G.P.S., as Prov. G.P.S.; Wm. Watson, P.Z. 304, P.P. 1st A.G.S., as Prov. 1st A.G.S.; Cornelius Wheawill, P.Z. 290, P.P. 2nd A.G.S., as Prov. 2nd A.G.S.; William Haigh, P.Z. 1283, P.P.G.S.; John Parkin Hewitt, P.Z. 139, P.P.G.S.; T. Ibbetson Walker, P.Z. 448, P.P.G.S.; J. A. Thornton, P.Z. 1019, and H. Samuel Goodyear, P.Z. 495, Prov. G.S.Bs.; Jeremiah Robertshaw P.Z. 139, Joseph Hartley, P.Z. 495, W. H. Milnes, P.Z. 1019, and W. Cockcroft, P.Z. 307, Prov. G. Std. Brs.; Dr. V. G. S. Dearden, P.Z. 139, P.P.G. Std. Br.; W. Dawson Quarmbly, P.Z. 208, Prov. G.D.C.; Richard Ruff, P.Z. 2491, and G. Stones, P.Z. 1462, Prov. A.G.D.Cs.; W. F. Smithson, P.Z. 289, P.G.S., Edmund Lord, P.Z. 495, Thomas Gaukroger, P.Z. 307, and J. K. Blakey, P.Z. 1214, P.P. A.G.D.Cs.; Jeremiah Dunnill, Org. 1019, P.P.G. Org., as Prov. G. Org.; John Constable, P.Z. 242, P.P.G. Org.; J. R. Barton, M.E.Z. 128, as Prov. A.G.S.E.; T. Chester, Janitor 904, Prov. G. Janitor; Andrew Macredie, P.Z. 296, and A. Armitage, P.Z. 521, Prov. G. Stewards; also a large number of Principals, Past Principals, and companions. Comp. E. Simpson, 422, was a visitor.

Apologies were received from Comps. the Right Hon. Wm. Lawies Jackson, M.P., G. Supt.; T. Norfolk, P.Z. 600, Prov. G.P.S.; W. S. Milligan, Org. 448, Prov. G. Org.; Caleb England, P.Z. 910, Prov. A.G. S.E.; Wm. B. Harrop, P.Z. 290, P.P.G.H.; and 220 M.E.Zs., P.Zs., and companions.

The acting Grand Superintendent, Comp. Ensor Drury, P.Z. 296, P.P. G.H., P.G.S. Eng., accompanied by the Prov. G. Officers, entered, and Prov. Grand Chapter was opened in form.

The acting Grand Superintendent and the Prov. Grand H. and J. were saluted.

The roll of chapters and the roll of Present and Past Prov. G. Officers was called.

The Prov. G.S.E. presented the minutes of the half-yearly meeting (which had been printed and circulated to 567 companions), held at Sheffield on Wednesday, 24th November, 1897, when it was moved by Comp. J. GIBBS, Prov. G. Treas., seconded by Comp. Wm. HAIGH, and resolved "That the minutes be taken as read and confirmed."

The Prov. G.S.E. read a letter from the G. Superintendent apologising for his absence.

The acting GRAND SUPERINTENDENT, in addressing the companions, said:

Companions,—I have the honour of acting as the representative of the Grand Superintendent, but, whilst very much appreciating the compliment of being asked to preside over this Provincial Grand Chapter, I should much have preferred seeing our Grand Superintendent occupying this chair to-day. This is the fifth occasion on which this Provincial Grand Chapter has assembled in Wakefield, and we are meeting under the banner of the Sincerity Chapter, No. 1019, of which our energetic and worthy Companion Robert Sheard is for the second time First Principal. It was consecrated by Comp. Mason in 1879, and is, I believe, a most successful and well-worked chapter. Our last meeting was held at Sheffield, and I had, on that occasion, not only the honour of presiding over you, but also the pleasure of consecrating a new chapter—the Milton, No.

1239. This is the second chapter added to our roll since the last annual meeting, the other one being the Colne Valley Chapter, No. 1645, Slaithwaite, which I consecrated last July. This latter chapter has made rapid progress since its foundation, and the Milton is also showing signs of vigorous life, having already exalted four, besides having several candidates on its books. Making every allowance for the special reasons why new chapters draw to themselves at first more than the average number of candidates, do you not think, companions, that some of the older chapters might take a leaf out of their juniors' book, and by a very little effort bring more members, and so more life, into themselves? It will be my privilege to-day to invest with their collars those whom the Grand Superintendent has this year honoured with office in the Prov. G. Chapter. May I venture to hope that all those thus honoured will show their appreciation of it by a special devotion during their year of office to the interests of Royal Arch Masonry. I am glad to inform you that the number of members in 1897, viz., 1498, shows an increase of 88 over 1896, whilst the number of companions in arrear has decreased, so that we may be said to have gained both in quantity and quality. Since our last meeting, that old Chapter, Prosperity, Huddersfield, founded in 1795, has proved its claim to, and obtained its centenary charter, and the Chapter of Paradise, Sheffield, the largest in the province, with its 105 members, has been celebrating its 100th birthday, and it is a most interesting fact that upon its walls hang the original portraits in oils of the First, Second, and Third Principals who held those offices in the chapter at its foundation in 1798. We have now eight chapters in this province founded over one hundred years ago. This allusion to the subject of centenaries brings to mind the great Masonic event of the year, viz., the 100th Annual Festival of the Boys' School, on June 10th, when the First Grand Principal of our Order will preside. I see that the Prov. Grand H. has a motion on the paper in reference to this, so I will not further allude to it, except to say that there is no reason why private chapters, if their funds will permit, should not join in subscribing, as I see some half-dozen chapters have already done, one being the chapter under whose banner we meet to-day. Companions, as I do not wish that lack of time should prevent us from taking advantage of the opportunity so kindly arranged for our inspection of the splendid new home of the County Council of this great Riding, I will not further detain you, except just to recall the meeting of Prov. Grand Chapter in this City in 1881, when the Town Hall was just built, and we were allowed, after inspecting it, to hold the chapter in its very handsome Council Chamber, under the presidency of our late Grand Superintendent, Comp. Tew, who, always proud of Wakefield, would, I am sure, had he been spared, have taken the keenest delight in the new County Buildings. Permit me now to close these few remarks with my hearty thanks for your most kind greeting.

Comp. John Gibbs, Prov. G. Treas., presented the balance sheet for the past year, which showed a balance in favour of the chapter of £328 3s. 7d.

Comp. J. C. BELL, Prov. G. Reg., moved that the balance sheet be received and adopted. This was seconded by Comp. A. MACREDIE, and carried.

Comp. H. SMITH, Past G. Soj., Prov. G.H., in accordance with notice, moved, "That a sum of fifty guineas (£52 10s.) be voted from the funds of this Provincial Grand Chapter to further endow the Grand Superintendent's chair, Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, in commemoration of the Centenary of that Institution, and in support of the Chairmanship of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., &c., First Grand Principal." He remarked that they had heard the balance sheet read, showing a balance of £328, but when he commenced his connection with the Prov. Grand Chapter there was only a balance of £28. The chapter had never been any the poorer for the money which had been given in charity as they would see, for when he took the opportunity of glancing over the Treasurer's book he found that during the period he had been a member of that chapter they had given £430 away in charity, and notwithstanding that fact the balance of £28 had grown into £328 odd. The present was not an opportunity to be lost of obtaining the premium votes which were offered to them for the Institution, because of the centenary celebration. If they spread their money over the whole of the Institutions it would not be so beneficial to the chapter on that occasion as it would be by confining their contributions to the fund to be raised for the centenary celebration of the Boys' Institution. The Boys' votes were equally valuable to them, for they could exchange them for other votes, because the organisation which was adopted in West Yorkshire 30 years ago had been copied by every province in England. It would be an advantage to the chapter to increase its contribution from 50 to 100 guineas.

Comp. W. C. LUPTON, P.Z. 974, said he had great pleasure in seconding the motion. As they were aware, the Prov. G. Lodge at Sheffield had passed a similar motion, doubling its subscription. He need not enlarge on the subject after the remarks of Excellent Comp. H. They would remember that a controversy had arisen with respect to the removal of the Boys' School, but the School had now been removed, and the old buildings had been disposed of. The Executive expressed a desire that the sum of £5000 should be taken up from West Yorkshire, and, including the £52 10s. from that chapter and the 200 guineas from the Provincial Grand Lodge, they had already realised £4603. They wanted the amount sent up to be as representative of the Province as it was possible to be. In addition to the reasons advanced by the Prov. G.H. in support of the motion, he might state that the coming festival would be the first occasion for some years on which the Grand Master of England, who held a warm corner in the hearts of Masons, had presided over the festival of the Boys' Institution, and they wished to show their appreciation of the services he had rendered to Masonry. They only required £397 to make up the sum required. It was not necessary in Masonry to sue *in forma pauperis* for the Masonic Charities, but the question was whether Arch Masonry had done its share towards the contributions. There were members of chapters who were not members of lodges, and there were chapters which could afford to contribute from their funds. There were also seven lodges in West Yorkshire which had not yet figured in the list. He should like the Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys to be able to say not only that West Yorkshire was the most generous province in England, but that every lodge and chapter in the province had contributed. He had no doubt that they would get the amount of money he had mentioned, but in order to do so it would be necessary for each of them to put his shoulder to the wheel and bring the subject before his chapter. The object they had in view was a noble one. The removal of the Boys' School was an accomplished fact. The new premises would be a great credit to the Craft, and he would urge them to support the movement to the best of their power, and to show that in supporting it West Yorkshire was doing its best for the honour and credit of Masonry.

The motion was carried *nem. dis.*

Comp. J. GIBBS, Prov. G. Treas., proposed that Comp. Richard Jackson be elected Prov. G. Treasurer for the ensuing year. This was seconded by Comp. C. L. MASON, P.P.G.H., and carried unanimously.

The acting GRAND SUPERINTENDENT said that Comp. J. C. Malcolm, the Deputy Prov. Grand Master in the Craft, had been appointed by the Grand Superintendent the Prov. G.H. for the ensuing year, and Comp. W. E. Lupton, the Chairman of the Charity Committee, as Prov. G.J. Before he called upon those companions to be invested he wished to refer to the retiring Prov. G.H. Comp. H. Smith had filled the office of H. for the past five years. His record was a very long one, and one that could not perhaps be equalled by any member of the chapter. He was exalted in the Charity Chapter, No. 302, as long ago as May, 1854—44 years ago—and he had been a subscriber to that chapter to the present time. Comp. Smith had also joined two other chapters, of which he had been a subscribing member—one for 39 years and the other for 35 years. He held the office of Prov. G.S.E. from 1870 to 1893. He (the acting Grand Superintendent) did not like Comp. Smith to leave the chair without alluding to his past services, and he was sure Comp. Smith carried with him the hearty goodwill of every member of the Prov. Grand Chapter and of every chapter within the province. (Applause.)

The Prov. G.H. and J. were then invested and installed in their chairs, and the other Prov. Grand Officers for the ensuing year were invested as follows:

Comp. J. C. Malcolm, P.Z. 304	...	...	Prov. G.H.
" W. C. Lupton, P.Z. 974	...	...	Prov. G.J.
" Capt. H. G. E. Green, P.Z. 1019	...	...	Prov. G.S.E.
" A. Stephenson, P.Z. 302	...	...	Prov. G.S.N.
" R. Jackson, P.Z. 289	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" C. A. Phillips, P.Z. 306	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" Andrew Macredie, P.Z. 296	...	...	Prov. D.G. Reg.
" Alfred Robertshaw, P.Z. 61	...	...	Prov. G.P.S.
" J. W. Cocking, P.Z. 275	...	...	Prov. 1st A.G.S.
" J. W. Tanner, P.Z. 337	...	...	Prov. 2nd A.G.S.
" Abraham Armitage, P.Z. 521	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" George Hesketh, P.Z. 1462	...	...	Prov. D.G.S.B.
" T. W. Roome, P.Z. 904	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" J. W. Blackburn, P.Z. 1042	...	...	} Prov. A.G. Std. Brs
" H. Beaumont, P.Z. 1283	...	...
" J. Ellis Cave, P.Z. 264	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" Lewis Lee, P.Z. 827	...	...	} Prov. A.G.D.Cs.
" F. L. H. Wilson, P.Z. 139	...	...
" John Tillotson, P.Z. 387	...	...	} Prov. G. Org.
" J. B. Griffiths, P.Z. 1001	...	...
" W. H. Hewson, P.Z. 304	...	...	Prov. G.S.G.
" J. H. Simpson, P.Z. 208	...	...	} Prov. G. Stewards.
" T. H. Vernon, M.E.Z. 2491	...	...
" Robert Sheard, P.Z. 1019	...	...
" Richard Hodgson, P.Z. 448	...	...	} Prov. G. Janitor.
" T. Chester, Janitor 904	...	...

Comp. C. H. CROWTHER, M.E.Z. 290, on behalf of the companions of his chapter, invited the Grand Superintendent to hold the half-yearly meeting in November, 1898, in Huddersfield. The invitation was accepted.

On the motion of Comp. C. L. MASON, seconded by Comp. ALFRED ROBERTSHAW, a vote of thanks was accorded to the M.E.Z., Comp. Robert Sheard, and to the members of the Sincerity Chapter for the arrangements made for that meeting, and for the opportunity given to the companions to go through the County Hall.

Comp. SHEARD acknowledged the compliment on behalf of the Sincerity Chapter.

The Grand Chapter was closed in due form.

The companions afterwards sat down to tea, the acting Grand Superintendent presiding.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF WILTSHIRE.

The Grand Superintendent, Comp. the Earl of Radnor, presided over the above Provincial Grand Chapter at Salisbury, on Wednesday, the 18th inst. Present:

Comps. J. Chandler, P.Z. 355, P.P.G.H., P.P.G.D.C.; A. Plummer, P.Z. 355, P.P.G.H.; A. Barns, 355, P.P.G. Reg.; H. Bevir, 355, P.P.G.H., Prov. G. Sec; W. S. Bambridge, 1533, P.P.G.J., P.P.G. Org.; W. L. Powning, 586, P.P.G.H.; G. Ll. Palmer, 632, P.P.G.H., P.G. Treas.; F. W. Macdonald, 586, P.P.G. Soj.; Rev. W. Gardener, P.Z. 1533; A. B. Elers, P.Z., J. 586; F. S. Hancock, 663, P.P.G.N.; G. M. Wilson, 586; E. Waters, P.Z. 586, P.P.G. Std. Br.; Fred Sutton, P.Z. 586; G. Harris, P.Z., H. 586; H. Mundy, M.E.Z. 632; and Rev. R. J. Milner, P.Z. 586.

The receiving chapter was Elias De Derham, No. 586.

The Prov. Grand Secretary undertook the duties of Prov. G.S.E., in his absence.

The Provincial Grand Officers were then appointed and invested as follows:

Comp. Edward Bartlett, 586	...	...	Prov. G.H.
" F. S. Hancock, 663	...	...	Prov. G.J.
" W. E. Nicolson Browne, 355	...	...	Prov. G.S.E.
" F. Griffin, 586	...	...	Prov. G.S.N.
" G. Ll. Palmer, 632	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" Rev. W. Gardener, 1533	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" Hy. J. Johnson, 663	...	...	Prov. G. Soj.
" G. M. Wilson, 586	...	...	Prov. 1st A.G.S.
" James Low, 1478	...	...	Prov. 2nd A.G.S.
" James Blakeley, 586	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" F. Ploydell Goddard, 355	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" John Chandler, 355, P.P.G.H.	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" F. Leeder, 1533	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" Wm. Dean, 355	...	...	Prov. G. Janitor.

The P.G.S.E. was absent through illness.

A luncheon was served at the White Hart Hotel.

THE DUCHESS OF YORK has consented to attend the launch of the new battleship Albion, at the Thames Shipbuilding Company's yard at Blackwall, on June 21st.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE will be the guest at Gwydyr Castle, Vale of Conway, of Bro. Earl and Countess Carrington during the week of the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales.

CONSECRATION OF THE WITHENSHAWE LODGE, No. 2688.

Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl Egerton of Tatton, Prov. G.M. of Cheshire, with the assistance of a number of Prov. Grand Officers, on Saturday, the 14th inst., consecrated the above lodge, No. 2688, on the roll of the Grand Lodge of England, at the Tatton Arms Hotel, Northenden. There was a crowded attendance of brethren of the Cheshire and neighbouring provinces, including Bros. F. Broadsmith, P.S.G.W.; J. Armstrong, P.J.G.W.; R. Newhouse, P.D.G.S.B., P.G.S.; Col. Dean, P.P.S.G.W.; H. Jackson, P.P.J.G.W.; H. G. Small, P.P.G.W., P.G.D.C.; H. P. Jones, P.P.G. Std. Br.; W. Rumsey, P.G.P.; Jas. Hamilton, P.P.S.G.W.; M. Stone, P.P.G.D.C.; W. Harris, P.P.A.G.D.C.; J. Foden, P.A.G.D.C.; J. Armstrong, P.J.G.W.; S. Statham, P.P.G.T.; P. Jackson, P.J.G.D.; J. T. Goulding, P.P.G. Std. Bearer; W. Dykes, P.P.G.S.; T. Thornley, P.P.G.S.; A. Huxley, P.G.T.; J. Clayton, P.A.G.D.C. Eng.; J. Leigh, P.P.G.P.; A. Lawley, P.P.A.G. Sec.; Geo. Ibeson, P.P.G.R.; W. Wildgoose, P.P.G.T.; W. Campbell, P.P.A.G.D.C.; T. W. Sheldon, P.P.G.S.; E. Barlow, P.P.J.G.D. East Lancs.; W. Newton, P.S.G.D.; J. Brine, P.P.G.D.C.; H. Perry, P.J.G.D. East Lancs.; W. A. Renshaw, P.P.S.G.W.; J. Cliffe, P.P.G.D.C. East Lancs.; and H. Nash, P.P.G.R.

After the usual opening formula had been gone through, Bro. EARL EGERTON said he had been deputed by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to consecrate that new centre for Masonic work in the growing and already populous district of Northenden; he had great pleasure in obeying the Grand Master's command; and wished the Withenshawe Lodge a prosperous future.

The petition and warrant were read by the PROV. GRAND SECRETARY, after which Bro. the Rev. C. Chetwynd Atkinson, Rector of St. Mary's, Ashton-on-Mersey, P.G.C., delivered an oration on the nature and principles of the Institution.

The consecration service was then perfected, the musical portions of the service being rendered by a select body of vocalists from the choir of Manchester Cathedral.

After the consecration, the installation of the Worshipful Master was proceeded with, the Installing officers being Bros. F. Broadsmith, P.S.G.W., and John Armstrong, P.J.G.W.

The various officers were afterwards appointed and invested as follows: Bros. T. W. Markland, P.G.R., W.M.; H. G. Small, P.P.S.G.W., P.G. D.C., I.P.M.; Mark Oliver, S.W.; John Rylance, J.W.; John Wrigley, Treas.; J. J. Broadbridge, Sec.; H. Powell Jones, P.P.G. Std. Br., D. of C.; Julius Laurisch, S.D.; John Rudd, J.D.; William Steel, Org.; Sam. H. Tiller, I.G.; John Ingle, Geo. J. Ross, and Frank H. Gregory, Stwds.; and Arthur Keymer, Charity Representative.

The above, with the following, were the founders of the lodge: Bros. Richard Newhouse, P.G. Sec., P.D.G. Std. Br. Eng.; John Clayton, P.A. G.D.C. Eng.; E. H. Barnett, John Cliffe, P.P.G.D.C.; E. Webb, W. Charlton, and W. T. Eskrigge.

The customary banquet followed.

The furniture was supplied by George Kenning and Son, Manchester.

Craft Masonry.

Sir Francis Burdett Lodge, No. 1503.

A meeting of this lodge was held at the Albany Hotel, Twickenham, on the 13th inst. Among those present were Bros. A. B. Browne, W.M.; Dr. J. W. Hinton, M.A., P.M. 84, P.P.G.O., S.W.; B. Bright, J.W.; Rev. S. T. H. Saunders, M.A., P.M., P.G. Chap., Chaplain; J. T. Briggs, P.M., P.P.G.S.D., Treas.; Maj. T. C. Walls, P.M., P.P.G.W., P.G. Std. Br., Sec.; Tompsett, S.D.; Dobson, I.G.; E. W. Davis, P.M.; and W. Fisher, P.M., P.P.G. Treas. Bro. A. O. Hemming, 1512, was a visitor.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was taken on behalf of Bro. A. O. Hemming, 1512, as a joining member, and it proved to be unanimous. The Treasurer presented his annual financial statement, which was far in excess of previous years, and he received a vote of congratulation. It having been reported that Bro. W. H. Saunders, P.M., P.P.G.D., was very unwell, a vote of sympathy was unanimously passed, and the Secretary was ordered to forward the same. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Bros. W. H. Saunders, P.M.; F. F. Bonney, J.D.; and others. The lodge was then closed. A banquet followed.

Bro. the Rev. S. T. H. Saunders responded on behalf of "The Provincial Grand Officers." His concluding remarks were devoted entirely to an advocacy of the cause of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, of which Charity he is a Steward.

Bros. Davis, P.M., and Fisher, P.M., responded on behalf of "The Past Masters;" Bro. J. T. Briggs, P.M., acknowledged the toast of "The Treasurer;" and Bros. Dr. Hinton and H. Bright responded on behalf of "The Officers."

The proceedings then terminated.

Justinian Lodge, No. 2694.

The first regular meeting of this lodge took place on Thursday, the 19th inst., at the Inns of Court Hotel, Lincoln's Inn Fields, when, in the unavoidable and regretted absence of the W.M.—Bro. C. Swinfen Eady, Q.C., P.D.G.R.—the S.W., Bro. W. W. Snelling, occupied the chair. The other chairs were filled by Bros. Colley, Sec., as S.W.; W. Briggs, J.W.; Scott, Treas.; Bishop, S.D.; Colsell, J.D.; Escott, D. of C.; Briccoe, Org.; Sweet, I.G.; Redgrove, Steward; and Maidwell, Tyler. The visitors were Bros. Bridgman, S.W. 2255; Norman, J.W. 1767; and Cannon, J.W. 1044.

Lodge having been opened, the minutes of the consecration and first meeting of the lodge were read and confirmed, and Bros. Fisk, 209, P.P.G.S.B., and W. Rogers, 1339, 1861, and 2454, were duly elected as joining members. The ballot was then taken for Messrs. Spooner, Edwards, Portway, Smellie, and Lees, and, being favourable, those gentlemen were duly initiated into Freemasonry. Upon the proposition of Bro. Colley, P.M., Sec., seconded by Bro. Briggs, J.W., the Consecrating Officers were elected honorary members of the lodge. The following resolution was unanimously passed, upon the motion of the Secretary, seconded by the W.M.: "That the members of the lodge regretted the absence of the V.W. Bro. C. Swinfen Eady, the W.M. of the lodge, and expressed the hope that he would be speedily restored to health." The Secretary was directed to communicate this in due course. The lodge was then closed.

At the banquet which followed, the ordinary toasts were duly honoured, the musical portion being ably carried out by Bro. A. Briccoe, P.P.G. Org. Surrey, Org., assisted by Bros. Rogers, Cannon, and Norman.

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Extracted from the Authorized Reports of the Grand Lodge of England, during the past 25 years.

EDITED, ARRANGED, AND ANNOTATED BY

Wor. Bro. Rev. J. T. LAWRENCE, M.A.

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HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

THE CENTENARY FESTIVAL

WILL BE HELD AT THE

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On FRIDAY, 10th JUNE, 1898,

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EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT,

FREEMASONS' HALL, GREAT QUEEN STREET, W.C.

The Committee of the E.L. of I. have instructed me to give notice that there will be no meeting of this Lodge, on Friday, June 10th, this being the date fixed for the celebration of the Centenary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

J. RUSSELL, Secretary.

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GRAND PATRON AND PRESIDENT:

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES,
K.G., &c., M.W.G.M.

At the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Institution, held at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Friday, May 20th, 1898, W. Bro. J. A. Farnfield, Patron, P.A.G.D.C., in the chair, after the General Business was disposed of, the Governors and Subscribers proceeded to the Election of 17 Male Annuityants from an approved list of 57 Candidates, and 12 Female Annuityants from an approved list of 62 Candidates, when the following were declared duly ELECTED:

No. on Poll.	MALES.	Notes.
1.	Bro. Hy. Crosby	5639
2.	" N. G.	5574
3.	" J. Parker	5458
4.	" W. H. P. Martin	5310
5.	" T. Rendel	5090
6.	" C. Knell	5069
7.	" W. P. Cockeram	5037
8.	" E. Farrar	4951
9.	" H. Wilson	4919
10.	" R. Day	4879
11.	" R. Solomon	4758
*12.	" G. F. Crane	4596
*13.	" T. J. Tyer	4584
*14.	" E. Smith	4401
15.	" W. Perry (deferred)	4340
16.	" J. C. Crocker (deferred)	4251
17.	" J. J. West (deferred)	3998

WIDOWS.

1.	Mrs. S. E. Bellamy	7280
2.	" M. E. Kenyon	7102
3.	" S. F. Lovell	6359
4.	" L. Laxton	6079
5.	" S. Speight	5689
6.	" E. Bingham	5686
*7.	" L. R. Atkinson	5658
*8.	" M. Woodman	5346
*9.	" Clara James	4944
10.	" L. H. Symonds	4944
11.	" H. Hester (deferred)	4839
12.	" M. Hurd (deferred)	4120

The votes of the Unsuccessful Candidates will be carried forward to the next election.

Those marked * are elected to fill vacancies occasioned by death since the voting papers were issued.

The three lowest on the poll (both male and female) will be placed on the List of Annuityants as vacancies occur.

By order,

JAMES TERRY,

May 20th, 1898.

Vice-Patron and Secretary.

The next ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL will be held on February 22nd, 1899, under distinguished presidency. The services of brethren and of ladies to act as Stewards on this important occasion are earnestly solicited, and will be gratefully acknowledged.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

MISS KENYON, BRO. GEO. THOMAS (representing the Province of Middlesex for the Masonic Charities Association), and other friends and brethren who interested themselves in promoting the election of MRS. KENYON (aged 80) to the benefits of the above Institution, desire to take this means of tendering their grateful thanks to the very large number of friends for their kind assistance which so largely contributed to the success of the case.

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Masonic Notes.

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1898.

The regular Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge will be held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 1st prox., when, in addition to the business that is ordinarily transacted, there will be submitted for the consideration of the brethren a communication from his Royal Highness, the M.W. Grand Master, in reference to the recent action of the Grand Lodge of Peru in violating the most important of the ancient principles and tenets of Freemasonry.

Many of our readers have, doubtless, learned with regret that some time since the said Grand Lodge decreed the removal from the altars of all the lodges under its jurisdiction of the Volume of the Sacred Law, and substituting for the word "Bible" in its ritual the words "the Grand Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Peru." Moreover, the said Grand Lodge, to quote the very words of our Grand Master's communication "has not only refused to reconsider its decision in authorising such decree, but requires obedience thereto from the several lodges under its jurisdiction."

Under these circumstances, his Royal Highness the Grand Master is of opinion that recognition by the Grand Lodge of England should no longer be accorded to the Grand Lodge of Peru as a Masonic body, and desires that the sense of Grand Lodge should be taken on a series of resolutions, in which such recognition is declared to be impossible, and Grand Lodge requests his Royal Highness to take such steps as he may consider necessary to give effect to the views of Grand Lodge, and instructions are given for the conduct of English lodges in the circumstances; the resolution of the 6th March, 1878, is reaffirmed; and copies of said resolutions are to be forwarded to all lodges under the jurisdiction of our Grand Lodge, with instructions to have them read in open lodge and entered on the minutes.

From the report of the Board of General Purposes, it appears that steps have recently been taken with a view to purchasing certain property to the rear of Freemasons' Hall so as to allow of the Temple being enlarged and to provide additional means of egress therefrom as well as from the adjacent hall of Freemasons' Tavern. Accordingly, the sanction and approval of Grand Lodge will be asked for a contract into which the Board has provisionally entered with the owner for the purchase of the said property for a sum of £7000, together with a further sum of £126 8s. to defray the Vendor's Surveyor's fees and Solicitor's costs.

Among the notices of motion is one which will be submitted by Bro. Sir John B. Monckton, P.G.W., to the effect that a sum of 500 guineas be voted from the funds of Grand Lodge to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys on the occasion of its Centenary Festival, which will be held next month under the presidency of his Royal Highness, the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

We note, lastly, that since the March Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the M.W. Grand Master has been pleased to issue warrants for the constitution of 12 new lodges, of which four are located in the London district, six in the Provinces, and two Abroad. The four London lodges are the Playgoers', No. 2705; the Jubilee Masters', No. 2712; the Acanthus, No. 2715; and the Midland and Oxford Bar, No. 2716. Of the six Provincial lodges, the Weald, No. 2707, will be located at Brentwood, in Essex; the Royal York, No. 2709, at Nailsworth, in Gloucestershire; three in West Lancashire, namely, the Holmes, No. 2708, at Wigan, and the Imperial and Temperance, Nos. 2711 and 2714 respectively, in Liverpool, and the Foster Gough, No. 2706, at Stafford. Of the two lodges Abroad, Minchin, No. 2710, will meet at Trevendrum, in the District of Madras, and the Vanna Levu, No. 2713, at the place of the same name in the Fiji Islands.

The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales, &c., will hold its regular Quarterly Communication at Mark Masons' Hall on Tuesday, the 31st instant, when the Grand Officers for the ensuing year will be appointed and invested. On Grand Lodge being closed, the Grand Festival will be held at the adjoining Freemasons' Tavern. Tickets for the Festival, at 21s. each, to be obtained of the Grand Stewards.

It appears from the Report of the General Board which will be submitted at the Communication, that during the quarter ending 31st March, there were issued 631 Mark certificates, raising the total number of registered M.M.'s to 38,322; and 195 Royal Ark Mariner certificates, raising the total registered to 5588. During the same period warrants for four new Mark and two Royal Ark Mariner lodges were issued, all of which are located in foreign parts. The Mark lodges are the Addington, No. 515, Natal; the Hamerton, No. 516, Gibraltar; the Wedad, No. 517, Minieh, in Egypt; and the Yeatman-Biggs, No. 518, Darjeeling, in the District of Bengal. The Royal Ark Mariner lodges are both located in Egypt, namely, the Ragheb, attached to No. 510, and the Al Hakeeka, to No. 513. A new District has been formed—that of the Western District of South Africa, and his Royal Highness has been pleased to appoint Bro. Capel J. Hogg to preside over it as District Grand Master. The vacancy caused by the lamented death of Bro. Major-General A. G. Yeatman-Biggs, C.B., District Grand Master of Bengal, has been filled by the appointment of Bro. the Hon. Mr. Justice Burkitt, but the duties of the District Grand Mastership of Burma, vacant by the death of

Bro. Judge Donald G. Macleod, will for the present be carried on by the Deputy District Grand Master. Bros. Col. Charles Hunter and Thomas Cook have been re-appointed for a further term of three years, the former as Provincial Grand Master of North Wales and the latter as District Grand Master of Natal.

It is announced under the head of the "Fund of Benevolence" that the 30th Anniversary Festival in behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund will be held at Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, the 13th July, and that the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, M.P., Prov. G. Master of Cheshire, has very kindly undertaken to preside as Chairman on the occasion.

We regret exceedingly that an error of considerable importance should have crept into our report of the proceedings of the recent Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. Bro. J. M. McLeod, in replying to the toast of "The Kindred Charities," is reported to have said that he "acknowledged the handsome way in which all the Committee of the Girls' School voluntarily assisted him in the Old Masonians' Lodge list, which was the second best of Lay Stewards." What, in effect, Bro. McLeod did say was, that he acknowledged the very kind and cordial assistance he had received from the members of the Girls' School House Committee and from Bro. Hedges in his task of preparing the necessary arrangements for the Boys' School Centenary next month, and their generous action in becoming Stewards as a body for the Festival. The merit of compiling the second highest list of £246 15s. belonged entirely to Bro. McLeod as Steward for the Old Masonians' Lodge, No. 2700, while the personal donations and collections of the members of the House Committee appeared on the list of Bro. Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., M.P., the Chairman of the day.

We note with pleasure that the Governors and Subscribers of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at the Annual General Meeting, on the 20th instant, followed our advice, and rejected the proposal of Bro. W. C. Parsons to award without ballot two of the annuities that fall vacant between the meeting of the Committee of Management, on the second Wednesday in February, and the Annual General Meeting, on the third Friday in May, to the two candidates who had been longest on the list—"if deemed worthy of the same." It is not quite clear whether Bro. Parsons intended that two such vacancies on each Fund should be so awarded, or that the two should be reckoned on the two Funds taken together; but, as the motion was rejected, the point is immaterial. We are pleased that the motion has fared as it did, not because we do not sympathise with the unfortunate candidates, but because, firstly, we do not desire to see the existing laws concerning vacancies to be altered; and, secondly, because we consider that the right thing for Bro. Parsons to do is to address himself to the Provinces, from which these long-protracted unsuccessful cases emanate, with a view to enlisting for them their support. If he succeeds in this, then we have no doubt that outside help will be forthcoming from the very large number of voters who are not interested in, or pledged to, assist any particular candidates. If he does not succeed, then he cannot in reason expect that the election of other and equally deserving cases shall be deferred in favour of those who are not assisted by the voters even in their own provinces.

A meeting was arranged to be held at the Freemasons' Hall, Ipswich, on Thursday, the 26th instant, under the presidency of the Prov. Grand Master of Suffolk, or, in his absence, of the Dep. Prov. Grand Master, at which all W.Ms. and P.Ms. in the Province were invited to be present to hear an account by Bro. S. T. Klein, W.M. Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, of his recent discovery of the genuine secrets of a M.M. and his esoteric demonstration thereof.

We have been requested by Bro. E. Whitley Baker, P.M., Secretary, St. Cuthberga Lodge, No. 622, Wimborne, to warn our readers against a man who some time ago traversed the country in the vicinity of Wareham, Poole, and Wimborne in search of relief from unwary brethren, and, we regret to say, succeeded in obtaining help of a substantial nature from each town. He is described as being about 5 feet 8 inches in height, with a brown beard, rather thin in the centre, and occasionally keeps the left eye closed, stating that it was injured by an accident, whereas both eyes are perfect. He claims to be an engineer, speaks with an Irish accent, and gives indifferently the names of Standich and Wilson. He says he is an Irish Mason, has no certificate, but carries with him a letter of recommendation from a brother at Swansea, of whom Bro. Baker instituted inquiries with the result that he (Bro. Baker) was informed that the man was a rogue who had imposed on many residents in the neighbourhood of Swansea, was disowned by and unknown to the Irish lodge and would not work when offered employment. The vagrant in question is believed to have been in the neighbourhood of Wimborne about Easter twelvemonth, so that he has been following his predatory habits, and apparently with success, for a considerable time past.

Correspondence.

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

THE APPROACHING BOYS' SCHOOL CENTENARY.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

The 10th June next will certainly be a red-letter day among Masons, and possibly such a gathering at the festive board under the chairmanship of Bro. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, our M.W. Grand Master, will not be seen again in our lifetime.

Will you allow me, through the medium of your journal, to suggest to Bro. McLeod, Sec. R.M.I.B., that the scene should be photographed, and that copies should be sold to anyone who desires to become possessed of them, the profits going to the School? Supposing only 5000 were sold, which I consider a very low estimate, and that one shilling per copy (above cost) were charged, the Charity would thus benefit to the extent of £250, but no doubt when all the demands were supplied this sum would be very largely exceeded.

I shall be glad to see what the Craft in general, and the powers that be in particular, think of the suggestion of—Yours faithfully and fraternally,

W. E. MACKLEY, P.M. 1702, 624.

Birmingham,
23rd May.

Masonic Notes and Queries.

1121.]

THE NEWLY DISCOVERED MS. OF THE "OLD CHARGES" OF A.D. 1629.

The owner of this valuable vellum roll of A.D. 1629, has kindly sent it to me for examination, and I have just completed my collation of the document. Though it does not add to our knowledge as to any extra text or special readings, it is of great importance because of its date; especially as it belongs to the "Sloane Family"; the oldest hitherto known being of the year 1646, and the second of 1659. Technically, what Bro. Brown alluded to is not an endorsement, but a continuation of the MS., on the reverse of the last slip of vellum, the Scribe having been short of material. There is a curious addition to the "Charges" at the last, immediately before the year 1629 is written. The roll runs to 8 feet 5 in., and with the portion on the other side, extends to 9 feet; so it is a fair length. I have had the pleasure of naming many of these rolls, and have obtained the consent of the owner, of Northampton, to call this scroll the "Henry Brown MS.," by which it will be known hereafter. Its number on my list is placed at E 16, Branch (a), and it is undoubtedly, a copy of the age named and of considerable interest.

W. J. HUGHAN.

Reviews.

"WEST LANCASHIRE MASONIC CALENDAR, 1898-99.—This truly wonderful *shilling's* worth is printed and published by R. Platt, 17, Wallgate, Wigan, and runs to nearly 200 pages of ably arranged and well-printed matter. The painstaking Editor is the respected Prov. Grand Secretary, Bro. W. Goodacre, P.G.S.B., of Granville Park, Aughton, Ormskirk, who has thus done a noble work for the Province, in addition to his other onerous duties. It is dedicated, by permission, to the M.W. Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Lathom, G.C.B., Pro Grand Master of England, and Prov. G.M. of West Lancashire. The Report of the Prov. Grand Secretary is printed as an excellent Introduction to the numerous details respecting 117 lodges, having 7603 members (being an average of 65 to each lodge), 46 Royal Arch chapters, seven K.T. Preceptories, and three Rose Croix chapters. The Mark Province includes the whole of Lancashire, with 36 lodges, and 10 of the Ark Mariners. It will be seen that the Province of West Lancashire is larger than many Grand Lodges, and much larger than quite a number of our Provincial Grand Lodges all put together! Yet all is managed most thoroughly, and generally the machinery goes on as "smooth as a glove." Bro. Goodacre has some excellent suggestions for a better proportionate arrangement for Provincial Grand Officers as respects their appointment annually, for even now the improvement is far from satisfactory for such large provinces, as compared with the number allowed for the smaller ones. The recommendations deserve serious consideration.

GREAT PRIORY OF THE UNITED RELIGIOUS AND MILITARY ORDERS OF THE TEMPLE.

A Great Priory was held at Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on Friday, the 13th inst. Present:

The Right Hon. the Viscount Dungarvan, G.C.T., G. Seneschal (on the throne); V.E. Prov. Priors: V.E. Knights the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, K.C.T., Cheshire; Major J. W. Woodall, K.C.T., N. and E. Yorkshire; Col. A. Thrale Perkins, K.C.T., Somerset and Monmouth; Charles Fendelow, G.C.T., Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Leicestershire; and J. Dunning Kay, West Yorkshire. Great Officers: V.E. Knights Rev. C. E. L. Wright, as G. Prelate; R. Loveland Loveland, G.C.T., G. Chancellor; Col. A. B. Cook, G.C.T., as 1st G. Constable; Capt. R. Gresley Hall, as 2nd G. Constable; R. Clutton, K.C.T., G. Treasurer; F. Richardson, K.C.T., G. Reg.; C. F. Matier, K.C.T., G. Vice-Chancellor; Chas. Belton, K.C.T., G. Marshal; E. Knights Rev. C. Chetwynd Atkinson, G. Almoner; A. H. Jefferis, 1st G. Std. Br.; Percy Wallis, 2nd G. Std. Br.; H. E. Cousins, G. Master's Banner Br.; R. A. B. Preston, G.S.B.; T. P. Dorman, 2nd G. Capt. of Guards; and H. R. Rose, G. Org. Past Great Officers: V.E. Knight Richard Clowes, G. Constable; E. Knights Major-General J. C. Hay, G. Vice-Chancellor; Capt. R. Gresley Hall, William Tyrer, and Richard Eve, G. Aide-de-Camps; A. Knight Prescott, G. Chamberlain; James Hillhouse, A. H. Bowles, and Major T. W. Richardson, G. Captain of Guards; J. Paget Priestley, G. Org.; and a large number of knights from London and the provinces. Visitors: From the Chapter General of Scotland: V.E. Sir Knight Sir James Buchanan, Bart., K.C.T.; and from the Great Priory of Ireland: V.E. Sir Knight Lieut.-Col. A. V. Davoren, G.C.T., G. Chancellor.

The knights having formed the arch of steel, the Very High and

Eminent the Viscount Dungarvan, G.C.T., Great Seneschal, attended by the Great Officers, entered and ascended the throne.

The Great Priory was opened in due form.

The GRAND REGISTRAR called the muster roll.

The minutes of Great Priory held on 10th December, 1897, were read, and declared to be correctly recorded.

On the motion of the GREAT CHANCELLOR, seconded by the GREAT TREASURER, it was agreed to take as read the following

REPORT OF COUNCIL.

Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master,

Your Council have the honour to report that in accordance with the unanimous recommendation of the Finance Committee the sum of £3087s 9d. has been invested in India 3 per cent. Stock on behalf of the General Account, making the total invested capital £3300, and a sum of £213 16s. 8d. in Metropolitan 2½ per cent. Consolidated Stock on behalf of the Benevolent Account, making the total invested £2500.

The fourth Conference of the Order of the Temple will be held in Edinburgh on 21st April, under the auspices of the Chapter General of Scotland, and it is confidently hoped that the best interests of the Order will be thereby materially consolidated.

The following reply to the vote of condolence and sympathy on the lamented death of the Countess of Lathom, has been received:

"Lathom House, Ormskirk,
December 30th, 1887.

"Dear Sir Knight,

"May I ask you to convey to the Most Eminent the Grand Master, the Great Officers and Knights of Great Priory, my heartfelt gratitude and thanks for their truly fraternal and touching message of sympathy with me and my family in our great affliction.

"I am, dear Sir Knight,
"Yours fraternally,
"(Signed) LATHOM.

"To the Great Vice-Chancellor
Great Priory of England, &c.,"

All the preceptories in England and Wales have made the returns enjoined by the Statutes with the exception of the Baldwin Preceptory, Bristol. Some however, of these preceptories have failed to make the return before the last day of February, the end of our financial year, and therefore, their contributions are not included in the accounts for year 1897.

Several preceptories abroad are in arrears.

The Great Treasurer's accounts have been audited up to 28th February, 1898, and show the following balances, which are in the London and Westminster Bank, Limited, Bloomsbury Branch:

General Fund...	...	...	£578 18 11
Benevolent Fund	...	...	63 6 6
			£642 5 5

By Order of the Council,

R. LOVELAND LOVELAND,
Great Chancellor.
C. FITZGERALD MATIER,
Great Vice-Chancellor.

6th April, 1898.

The GREAT CHANCELLOR moved that the report be received and entered on the minutes.

The GREAT REGISTRAR seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, as was also one that the report be adopted, proposed by the GREAT CHANCELLOR and seconded by the GREAT REGISTRAR.

Great Priory was then invited to proceed to elect a Treasurer.

Sir Knight COUSANS: I have much pleasure in proposing the re-election of our present Treasurer, and of expressing, on behalf of Great Priory, the sense of our obligations to him for his past services. (Hear, hear.) I am sure we cannot do better than re-elect Sir Knight Ralph Clutton.

The GREAT REGISTRAR: I have much pleasure in seconding that resolution. I am certain that Great Priory cannot do better than re-elect Brother Ralph Clutton to the position in which he has done us such excellent service.

The GREAT SENESCHAL: Before I put that resolution, perhaps I ought to refer to the unavoidable absence of our Grand Master. I am quite sure I am only expressing the feelings of all who are here present when I say we deeply regret the absence of Lord Euston, and we regret it the more on account of the cause being an illness in which we all deeply sympathise with him. (Cheers.)

The motion for the election of the V.E. Knight Ralph Clutton as Great Treasurer was then put and carried.

The GREAT SENESCHAL: I have the honour to announce that the Grand Master has been pleased to re-appoint me Great Seneschal of the Order. (Cheers.)

The Great Officers of the year were then invested as follows:

Sir Knight Rev. C. C. Atkinson	...	G. Prelate.
" R. Loveland-Loveland, G.C.T.	...	G. Chancellor.
" Sir Lionel Darell, Bart.	...	G. 1st Constable.
" Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale	...	G. 2nd Constable.
" Ralph Clutton, K.C.T.	...	G. Treas.
" Frank Richardson, K.C.T.	...	G. Registrar.
" C. F. Matier, K.C.T.	...	G. Vice-Chancellor.
" Charles Belton, K.C.T.	...	G. Marshal.
" Rev. A. W. Oxford	...	G. Almoner.
" Col. George Lambert, K.C.T.	...	G. Warden of Regalia.
" William Gillman	...	G. Herald.
" R. M. Beachcroft	...	G. 1st Std. Br.
" J. C. FitzRoy Tower	...	G. 2nd Std. Br.
" F. P. Morrell	...	Gd. Master's Banner B.
" Col. Clifford Probyn	...	G. Sword Bearer.
" Edward Armitage	...	G. 1st Aide-de-Camp.
" W. Buckler Lethbridge	...	G. 2nd Aide-de-Camp.
" Francis William Wright	...	G. Chamberlain.
" William Forrest	...	G. 1st Capt. of Guards.
" Harold Thomas	...	G. 2nd Capt. of Guards.
" Alfred King, Mus. Doc.	...	G. Organist.

The GREAT VICE-CHANCELLOR announced the unavoidable absence of the Great Second Captain of the Guards.

The GREAT SENESCHAL announced that the Grand Master had been pleased to appoint the following as members of the Council: Sir Knights

Ralph Gooding, K.C.T.; Charles Belton, K.C.T.; Lieut.-Col. A. B. Cook, G.C.T.; and Major-Gen. J. C. Hay, C.B., K.C.T.

Sir Knight A. H. BEVAN proposed, and Sir Knight FENDELOW seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the following be elected to serve on the Council: Sir Knights Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, G.C.T.; Sir George D. Harris, K.C.T.; Gordon Miller, K.C.T.; A. Woodiwiss, P.G. Chamberlain; and J. Balfour Cockburn, P.G. Herald.

The motion was carried.

Alms amounting to £3 9s. 6d. were collected.

Great Priory was closed in due form.

ORDER OF MALTA.

Great Priory of Malta was opened in due form. The Very High and Eminent Great Seneschal, the Viscount Dungarvan, 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 Officers took their seats as follows—At the East Table: Sir Knights R. Loveland Loveland, G.C.T., E. Prior; Frank Richardson, K.C.T., as Capt.-General; Ralph Clutton, K.C.T., as Lieut.-General; A. H. Jefferis, as First Lieutenant; and J. W. Woodall, K.C.T., as Second Lieutenant. At the Octagon Table in the West: V.E. Knights Chas. Belton, K.C.T., Mareschal, and the Rev. C. C. Atkinson, as Hospitaller; E. Knights Percy Wallis, as Admiral; H. E. Cousins, as Conservator; R. A. B. Preston, as Bailie; R. Gresley Hall, as Turcopolier; T. P. Dorman, as Chancellor; W. Hillhouse, as Treasurer; the Rev. C. E. L. Wright, as Prelate; and Major T. W. Richardson, as Capt. of Outposts.

The following were Guards to the Banners: E. Knight Capt. G. B. Preston, Banner B.; Knight H. R. Rose, Banner L.; E. Knight W. Gillman, Banner D.; Knight John Dimsdale, Banner R.; and Knight A. W. Chapman, Banner A.

The following Knights of the Order of the Temple then received the Mediterranean Pass, and were admitted into the Order of Malta, the accolade being given by the M.E. and S. Grand Master: W. H. H. Jessop, Bard of Avon Preceptory; H. LeRoy Lewis, Holy Palestine Preceptory; E. Pryce Jones, M.P., Faith and Fidelity Preceptory; Dr. Ashtod Godwin, Holy Palestine Preceptory; the Rev. F. W. Macdonald, Bladud Preceptory; Henry Pearce, De Warrenne Preceptory; A. C. Chapin, Hyde Preceptory; Walter Fisher, Mount Calvary Preceptory; George Thomas Carpenter, Mount Calvary Preceptory; and Rd. Melville Beachcroft, Holy Sanctuary Preceptory.

Great Priory was closed in due form.

The Very High and Eminent the Viscount Dungarvan, G.C.T., Great Seneschal, afterwards presided at the banquet, supported by the V.E. Prov. Prior for N. and E. Yorkshire, the Great Officers, many Past Great Officers, Preceptors, and other knights.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The annual meeting of Subscribers to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons was held on the 20th inst. at Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street. Bro. John A. Farnfield, Treasurer of the Institution, was voted to the chair, and among a very large number of brethren who supported him were Bros. Major Woodall, W. Russell, Major Oliver Papworth (Cams), E. Terry, Henry Smith, P.G.D., P.D.P.G.M. West Yorks; Capt. Herbert Green, Prov. G. Sec. West Yorks; C. E. Keyser, P.G.D.; W. J. Crutch; J. S. Cumberland, P.G. Std. Br.; Dr. Strong, Henry Garrod, H. A. Tobias, A. C. Spaul, and Frank Richardson.

The minutes of the meeting of 21st May, 1897, were taken as read.

The CHAIRMAN: Brethren,—I have to report that the annual Festival will be held on February 22nd, 1899, under distinguished presidency. The Chairman is not yet known.

The report of the Auditors was taken as read, and then adopted and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

The following report of the Board of Management was read by Bro. JAMES TERRY, Secretary:

The Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution has very great pleasure in laying before the Governors and Subscribers a report of its proceedings during the past year.

The anniversary festival on behalf of the Institution was held by direction of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G., Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Patron and President, on Tuesday, the 22nd February last. The Right Honourable the Earl of Jersey, G.C.M.G., Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire, presided as Chairman, and the Board of Stewards which supported his lordship consisted of 258 members, of whom 13 were ladies.

The total amount of the donations and subscriptions obtained by the members of this Board was announced as £9413 2s., which has since been augmented by the receipt of outstanding lists and additions to lists to £9766 17s. This, with the exception of the amount subscribed in the year (1893) following the Jubilee of the Institution, is the smallest total obtained at any festival since 1876, but this is not very surprising having regard to the fact that the Centenary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys will be celebrated next month under the auspices of his Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master. The Committee, however, gladly recognises that all who took part in the festival did their utmost to promote its success, and readily avails itself of this opportunity of publicly recording its thanks to the Right Honourable the Chairman, who so ably presided on the occasion; to the ladies and brethren who formed the Board of Stewards, and by whose exertions the total was raised; and to the lodges, chapters, and brethren, by whom it was contributed. But most especially are the thanks of the Committee due to the ladies and brethren, to the number of 144, who acted as Stewards for the lodges and chapters or unattached in the London district, who amongst them raised £6024 11s. 6d., as well as to the brethren from the Chairman's Province of Oxfordshire, who testified their exceeding loyalty to their Provincial Grand Master and their desire to promote the welfare of this Institution by raising what for so small a number of lodges is the splendid sum of £595 12s. 6d.

At the election in May, 1897, there were on the two Funds of the Institution 147 annuitants, of whom 202 were on the Male Fund, and 245, including three nominated under certain perpetual presentations, on the Widows' Fund, while the number of applicants for admission was 117—namely, 65 men and 52 widows. To-

day the number is 119, of whom 57 are men and 62 widows, so that there is again a slight increase in the number of candidates at this election as compared with that of last year.

It is needless to say that the Committee having regard to the smallness of the amount subscribed at the recent Anniversary Festival, has no idea of recommending the creation of any additional Annuities on either Fund. Hence the numbers to be elected at this meeting will be 14 men and eight widows, including in each case the three deferred Annuities, as declared in February. Since then, however, there have occurred three vacancies on the Male Fund and four vacancies on the Widows' Fund, and it is the opinion of the Committee that these also should be filled. If, then, their recommendation is adopted, there will be elected to-day 17 men and 12 widows, including, as before stated, the three deferred Annuities on each Fund. Consequently the strength of the establishment will remain precisely what it was after the election in May of last year, when there were 202 on the Male Fund, each receiving £40 per annum, and 245 on the Widows' Fund, each receiving £32 per annum, the total sum required for distribution among these 447 Annuitants being £15,920. In addition, there will be needed a further sum of £560, payable under Law 9 of the Male Fund among the widows of 28 recently-deceased Male Annuitants, so that the full amount required for disbursement in Annuities during the ensuing year will be £16,500.

The Committee is desirous of expressing its grateful thanks to United Grand Lodge for the generous grant of £2000 which it voted in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at its Quarterly Communication in June, 1897; and for the further sum of £1166 14s. 6d., being the portion allotted to the Institution of the proceeds arising from the fees of admission to the grand Masonic meeting held under the presidency of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Most Worshipful G. Master, in the Royal Albert Hall, on the 14th of the same month. It is also glad of the opportunity of recording its thanks to the Grand Lodge for the continuance of its annual grant of £70 towards providing the annuitants in residence at the Asylum, Croydon, with fuel during the winter months, to the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite for its gifts of periodicals and comforts for the residents, and to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement for its renewed grant of £10 to be divided equally between the third highest unsuccessful candidates of each sex at to-day's election.

The Committee is also desirous of publicly recording its sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Honorary Surgeons of the Institution, J. Wayte, Esq., and R. Percy Middlemist, Esq., for their kind and unremitting attention to those of the annuitants, whether resident at the Asylum, at Croydon, or non-resident, who during the past year have, unfortunately, been compelled to seek their advice and assistance, and also to H. J. Strong, Esq., Honorary Consulting Physician, for the readiness with which he has at all times given to those who needed it the benefit of his long professional experience.

The Committee is further desirous of placing on record its full appreciation of the ability and thoroughness with which the Secretary and his staff have discharged their many and arduous duties, and sincerely congratulates the former on the unabated energy with which he is able to perform his work after nearly 34 years of successful labour in the service of the Institution.

The Committee has great pleasure in being in a position to report that the premises at Croydon were during the past year put into a thorough state of repair and that during the ensuing year only very little will be needed to maintain them in their present condition.

The audited statement of account for the year ended the 31st December, 1897, is appended. It has, as in all previous years, been compiled with the greatest care by the Finance Committee, and has been subjected to the most searching examination before being passed and approved by the Auditors. The Committee, therefore, considers itself justified in expressing the hope that when the several items of receipt and expenditure have been scrutinised and compared with the corresponding items in the accounts of past years, the Governors and Subscribers, in annual general meeting assembled, will come to the conclusion that the Committee has administered the funds entrusted to its care with a due regard for economy and efficiency.

It only remains for the Committee to express its continued confidence in the generosity of the Craft both at home and abroad, and its firm belief that so long as it continues in the discharge of its important functions to exhibit the same earnest desire to administer the affairs of the Institution in accordance with the policy it has pursued in the past, the means that are required to maintain the Institution at its present high standard of efficiency will always be forthcoming.

On the motion of Bro. C. E. KEYSER, seconded by Bro. Surgeon-Lieut.-Col. KJALLMARK, the report was adopted and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

On the motion of Bro. Dr. STRONG, seconded by Bro. C. E. KEYSER, Bro. John Albert Farnfield was again unanimously elected Treasurer.

The following brethren were elected Auditors: Bros. Charles Kempton, William Cleghorn, and Stanley J. Attenborough.

Bro. Dr. STRONG moved, and Bro. KJALLMARK seconded the adoption of the following: "That any Masonic Charitable Association (whose Rules must first have been duly registered in the books of the Institution) upon payment of donations amounting to Twenty-five Guineas, shall have the privilege of nominating one of its Executive Officers as a Life Governor with Two Votes at each Election of Annuitants, and for every further completed sum of Twenty-five Guineas he shall receive an additional Two Votes, or in lieu thereof, the Association may nominate a second Executive Officer for the like privileges."

Bro. WILLIAM RUSSELL, P.A.G.D.C., said he moved an amendment, not because he objected to the principle involved, but on account of the competition it would create between the Institutions. The last time he took a somewhat prominent position in trying to prevent competition between the Institutions his efforts were met with very happy results; and now once more he was going to try to stop the same competition. He saw no objection to the Institutions giving privileges, but he did not want to see the Benevolent Institution undercutting the two schools. He moved to take out the words "25 guineas" where they occurred twice, and to substitute for them the words 50 guineas.

Bro. HENRY LOVEGROVE, P.G.S.B., seconded.

The CHAIRMAN said he should like to point out one thing that might have escaped the attention of Bro. Russell, that Law 19, p. 40, of the Institution's book, said—"Every Steward at the Anniversary Festival who shall procure donations or subscriptions to the extent of not less than 25 guineas in addition to his personal donation shall receive two additional votes at each election, and two votes for every additional sum, if not less than 25 guineas." So that the brethren would see by that rule, as far as Stewards were concerned, they were permitted to give two votes for 25 guineas. That had been sanctioned by Grand Lodge. They could not alter their laws without the consent of Grand Lodge. Bro. Russell had intimated that the Institution was not keeping in line with the scholastic Institutions. He (the Chairman) had striven to make them all keep in line; but this was to be said—that the scholastic Institutions had each two elections a year, and they gave two votes at each election. (Cries of "No, only one vote.") He asked Bro. McLeod if that was not so.

Bro. J. M. McLEOD said it was one vote at each.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, the Benevolent had only one election a year, and they therefore asked to have half the amount.

Bro. RUSSELL said they asked to give double votes.

The CHAIRMAN observed it was the recommendation of the Committee that he put to the brethren.

Bro. A. C. SPAULT asked if there was not a similar law with relation to Stewards for the other Institutions.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that he was trying to put them straight before the meeting. Had he been expecting that he was going to be cross-examined, he would have prepared himself. He had told the brethren what the Institution's law was, and they had heard what had been said on the other side. The question was for the brethren. Whatever they did would have to go before Grand Lodge. He would put the amendment, and they would vote upon it. He felt rather put in a hole on this matter.

The voting having taken place,

The CHAIRMAN said the amendment was carried by a majority, but not a very large one.

The amendment having been put as a substantive motion, it was carried amid cries of, "All, all."

Bro. WILLIAM C. PARSONS, Vice-President, and P.M. 180, then rose to move to add to Rule 13, page 25, after the word "proportion," the words—"With the exception of two such vacancies, which shall be reserved for the two candidates who have been longest on the list, if deemed worthy of the same." So that the Rule would read thus: "The Committee shall, at its meeting in February in each year, or at an adjournment thereof, determine the number of annuitants, male and female, to be elected, of which number, three men and three widows will not be entitled to receive the annuity until vacancies shall have occurred after the Annual General Meeting. Should any death or deaths occur amongst the annuitants between that meeting and the General Meeting in May ensuing, the number to be elected shall be increased in like proportion, with the exception of two such vacancies, which shall be reserved for the two candidates who have been longest on the list, if deemed worthy of the same." Last October, and again in January, he endeavoured, by a letter to the *Freemason*, to draw the attention of the subscribers to the Institution to the sad fact that they would have 17 candidates—six brethren, and 11 widows, three of those widows being the widows of annuitants—who had been from six to sixteen years on the lists of candidates. Since then one brother had died. He informed the subscribers that he had suggested to the Treasurer and the Secretary of the Institution that this sad state of affairs might be lessened and ultimately removed by reserving a small proportion of the vacancies that occurred between the February Committee meeting, when the number of vacancies was announced, and the General Meeting in May, for some of these friendless candidates. He regretted to say that neither of those brethren agreed with his proposition. It was for the brethren now present whether those two brethren were right and he was wrong. He was very sorry that these old friendless candidates had not some one of more ability and higher standing than himself to plead their cause that day; but assuming that they were all equally worthy, that their cases had been thoroughly investigated before being accepted and placed before the subscribers for their support, he should think that in the body of subscribers to this Benevolent Institution there could be no argument against adopting this small measure of assistance to friendless cases, more especially as it would not cost the Institution a farthing more, or any increase in the amount necessary to distribute it, and they would be acting up to the principles on which the Order was founded. On their Stewards' badge, at the recent festival, there was this motto—"The Old Folk remembered in the Eventide of Life"—a very good motto, and no doubt it had been substantially acted upon by many of the brethren, both at the festival, and in many cases it would be acted upon that day by those brethren who were assisting cases at that election; but was their remembrance to be restricted to those who had plenty of friends? Here was an opportunity for remembering those who had no one to help them, who had from year to year been hoping against hope, and who, unless this law was passed, were likely to remain on the list until death relieved them. Why should this Institution be behind other societies in their efforts to do good? The British Home for Incurables elected one candidate.

The CHAIRMAN called to order. Bro. Parsons was travelling outside the Benevolent Institution. This was not a Benefit Society.

Bro. PARSONS said the British Home for Incurables was not a benefit society. The National Benevolent Institution which had always more than 200 candidates, elected two, and the Royal Blind Pension Society elected six who had been longest on the list. He believed the Masonic Benevolent Institution was founded rather on the lines of the National Benevolent Institution; but he might be wrong. It was for the brethren to decide whether they should follow their example, and thereby obtain the thanks of those friendless ones, and see what a powerful finish up it would give to Bro. Terry when he was pleading for this Institution to be able to draw attention to the fact that their relief was not confined to those who had "heaps of friends" to assist them, but that they were mindful of those who had outlived their friends, and that they endeavoured to carry out in the broadest sense possible that virtue which they had all professed to admire. (Cheers.) He moved his proposition.

Bro. MAURICE SPIEGEL seconded.

Bro. W. H. SAUNDERS said he had intended to second the motion. He had made enquiries about the cases that had been so long on the list, and he had found that many of them had no friends; that others had friends and did not require help. There were cases where attention was paid to them by lodges to which the friends belonged. Some had dropped out. He thought the last line of the motion was a very good one—"if deemed worthy of the same." He thought there should be no difficulty in passing that resolution. It was for the Committee to find out whether cases were worthy or not. He hoped the brethren would pass that proposition, which was only a tentative one, and gave the privilege a brother or brothers. Let them not hastily dismiss that proposition, but consider well before they decided. Bro. Parsons had referred to other institutions. He (Bro. Saunders) belonged to institutions which elected old candidates who had been on the list for some time.

Bro. J. S. CUMBERLAND opposed. He sincerely hoped that this proposition would not be carried, while he trusted it would have the brethren's best consideration. He would point out Bro. Parsons's words, "if deemed worthy of the same." The fact of the candidate being on the list so many years was evidence that more deserving cases had come forward. (Cries of "No, no.") He said "Yes," and he was going to instance a case within his own knowledge. It had been mentioned to him that day. In looking through the lists, he found a good many cases that had been on the list a long time—cases from the provinces. With the provincial organisations which existed, was it likely they would not have elected those cases long ago if they had been found worthy? If the case was worth electing at all, it was worth electing in four years. (Hear, hear.) It was all very well to say a brother had been on the list 16 years; but he said advisedly such a case never ought to have been put on the list; but as long as a lodge complied with the rules when it brought a candidate forward to the Committee, and the petition was strictly in accordance with the laws, it could not be refused. When a lodge put a brother on the list, he almost thought the lodge which signed the petition should take some action to secure the election, if the brother was found worthy. He thought the list should be cleared of those cases which had been on it year after year without getting more forward. In one case he was alluding to only 240 votes had been carried forward. That was from North and East Yorkshire. It should never have been placed on the list. It was opening the gates very wide indeed. Who was to decide on the two longest on the poll being worthy? He should say that the two longest on the poll were the least deserving, or they would have been elected long since. Probably next year there might be one a great deal more deserving. If he was spared to another yearly meeting, he should move that all

names be removed from the list after a given time, and then a brother would know if they did not elect him in four years, say, he would go off altogether; if they did not elect him it was a proof he was not worthy; if elected, he was deemed worthy. He had had a great deal of experience in the provinces, and he had also had experience since he had come to live in London, and he thought he was entitled to express an opinion. He strongly opposed the motion.

Bro. HENRY SMITH, P.G.D., said he had great pleasure in supporting Bro. Cumberland. He believed he knew the case Bro. Cumberland had referred to, and if that was the case he was sure if the brother had been on the list 50 years the province would not have elected him. Did the brethren mean to say the provinces could not take care of themselves? If the provinces had a good case the brethren might depend upon it they would elect it. Brethren had no business to put a case on the list by a side wind. It was no use to create vacancies by putting on cases that were unworthy. He hoped the brethren would not meddle with the laws. The three deferred cases were intended to meet good cases.

Bro. ROBERT WYLIE, P.G.D., thought candidates should be struck off the list after a certain number of years; but he advocated their not being put on for elections if there was not a fair prospect of an election.

Bro. W. GOODACRE, P.G.S.B., said there was a widow from East Lancashire who had been on the list for 15 years. The case had been inquired into and they did not consider it a worthy one. She was not put on with the consent of the Province, and as long as the name was on the list the Province would not adopt the case.

The CHAIRMAN put the motion, and declared it lost.

Bro. PARSONS was sorry the brethren had not more charity.

Bro. J. S. CUMBERLAND: That is a compliment to brother Masons, &c.

Bro. PARSONS, continuing, said, as he had not been able to receive much support for his motion, he begged to put the alternative, which was—"That any candidate failing to obtain a sufficiency of votes to carry his or her election after six years, shall be removed from the list, but the same candidate may be re-nominated if considered worthy." His idea in proposing that motion was to save the years of suffering which must be caused to those candidates who were year after year looking forward to be elected to that annuity. He would not detain the brethren with any remarks on it, as it seemed to him, from what had been said in opposition to his first motion, that the brethren were rather in accord with his second motion. He therefore left it to them.

The CHAIRMAN enquired whether it was part of Bro. Parson's proposition that when the candidate was re-nominated all the votes previously polled were to be brought forward, or was the candidate to begin *de novo*?

Bro. PARSONS said it was to be a re-start; it was to induce the brethren to use every effort to carry their candidate, and he did not think it would be unjust to any candidate.

Bro. HENRY LOVEGROVE, P.G.S.B., seconded.

Bro. Dr. A. J. STRONG, P.A.G.D.C., suggested that instead of saying—"That any candidate failing to obtain a sufficiency of votes," it might be—"That any candidate having failed to obtain 1000 votes to carry his or her election after six years, shall be removed from the list." Then that would give him or her an opportunity of trying one more election.

Bro. J. S. CUMBERLAND, P.G. Std. Br., said that at the risk of being considered troublesome, he opposed the motion, for more reasons than one; but he thought one reason was sufficient. If he or she had been on the list six years and had only obtained a few votes, why, in the name of conscience, was he or she to be re-nominated? Leave them on the list altogether rather than re-nominate them and begin afresh and throw away any votes if they had a chance of election. It would do no good to re-nominate them. If they were not elected in six years, they would not be elected in 60.

Bro. C. E. KEYSER, P.G.D., also opposed the motion; it would be better to leave the Institution's laws as they stood.

The motion was lost.

The case of an Annuitant was reported where in addition to his Annuity he was making more than £32 a year, and the Committee had consequently suspended his annuity. Their action was brought up for confirmation, and the meeting supported them.

Scrutineers of votes were then appointed, and the election of annuitants took place.

The successful candidates will be found in our advertisement columns.

The usual votes of thanks closed the proceedings.

Craft Masonry.

Lodge of Industry, No. 48.

An interesting and unique ceremony took place on Monday night, at the above lodge Jackson-street, Gateshead. The W.M., Bro. Holzappel, announced that he had received a letter from Bro. R. B. Reed, P.M., P.P.G. Treas. Durham, stating that the respected Tyler of their lodge, Bro. Joshua Curry, had discharged the duties of his important office for a long period of time to the great satisfaction of the brethren. Bro. Curry was elected Tyler of the lodge in 1864, and discharged the duties of the office each year, until 1871, when pressing calls upon his time compelled him to step aside in 1871, but in 1874, he felt himself at liberty to take office, when it was offered him by the brethren. Since 1874, he had been appointed Tyler every year. During his term of office he has prepared no less than 304 candidates. As one of the oldest Past Masters of their lodge, it occurred to him (Bro. Reed) that he would faithfully interpret the wishes of the brethren if he offered for the acceptance of the lodge a portrait in oils of their esteemed Bro. Curry, representing him in the clothing of a Tyler. Therefore, a commission was given to Bro. William Irving, who had attained considerable distinction in the artistic world, to delineate on canvas the likeness of Bro. Curry. Bro. Irving had executed the commission with admirable skill. The portrait of Bro. Curry had been suitably framed, and he (Bro. Reed) begged now to offer it for the acceptance of the lodge. He would like to have been present at the lodge meeting, but the state of his health precluded him from having that pleasure. The W.M. said it was with great satisfaction he moved that the letter be entered on the minutes of the lodge, and that a communication be forwarded to Bro. Reed, thanking him for his handsome gift, and his remembrance of Bro. Curry's long services. Bro. William Brown seconded the motion, which was carried with hearty acclamation. The portrait was then hung in front of the W.M.'s pedestal, on the dais, and was much admired by the brethren. It was further agreed that a suitable inscription should be placed on the painting, in order that the memory of one of the most popular Tylers in the county should be held in kindly remembrance by members of the mystic Craft.

Earl Spencer Lodge, No. 1420

The installation meeting of this lodge was held at Stanley's Restaurant, Lavender-gardens, S.W., on the 19th inst., when there were present Brs. A. C. Mead, W.M.; H. J. Marten, S.W.; P. Dodd, J.W.; H. J. Ollive, I.P.M.; H. G. Hills, P.M.; Treas.; A. Southam, P.M., Sec.; G. E. Hayles, S.D.; W. E. Barr-w, I.G.; Rev. W. F. Wilkinson, Chap.; W. H. Ball, Stwd.; G. S. Graham, P.P.G. Org. Middx.; W. H. Kempster, M.D., P.M., P.G. Stwd.; R. O. Moody, P.M.; F. W. Bramall, P.M.; J. Merry, P.M.; J. C. Radford, P.M.; H. S. Windsor, P.M.; J. T. Pilditch, P.M.; F. Hickmott, T. Gregory, T. H. Baker, and A. Sarll. Visitors: Brs. C. Gott, P.M. 302; W. H. Kempster, jun., 60, P.G. Stwd.; G. C. Hudson, P.M. 141; W. F. Woods, P.M. 858; W. R. Mead, 1694; C. J. Dilmott, 720; J. R. Ayris, 217; H. Chambers, 1056; R. J. Liversedge, 31; H. J. Richardson, 2500;

G. H. Jennings, 1297; T. F. Comins, 720; A. Clarkson, 862; J. Akers, 55; W. Dunkley, 1044; and E. N. Davis, 1818.

The minutes of the two previous meetings having been read and confirmed, the report of the Permanent Committee was received which showed the lodge to be in a highly prosperous state, a sum of £218 being in hand. Bro. Henry James Marten, Master elect, was then presented by Bro. R. Q. Moody, P.M., and duly installed in the chair by the retiring Master, Bro. A. C. Mead. The W.M. then invested his officers as follows: Bros. P. Dodd, S.W.; G. E. Hayles, J.W.; A. C. Mead, I.P.M.; H. G. Hills, P.M., Treas.; A. Southam, P.M., Sec.; W. E. Barrow, S.D.; W. H. Ball, J.D.; F. Hickmott, I.G.; J. C. Radford, P.M., D.C.; F. H. Baker, Stwd.; Rev. F. W. Wilkinson, Chap.; G. S. Graham, Org.; and J. Gilbert, Tyler.

The lodge being closed, the usual banquet was held, when the loyal and Masonic toasts were given and duly honoured.

Bros. Gott, Kempster, jun., Woods, and Dunkley, responded for "The Visitors."

An excellent musical entertainment was carried out under the direction of Bro. G. S. Graham in which the following took part: Miss Amy Graham, Miss Clorinda Thurtle, Mr. Hugh Cochrane, Mr. Herbert Dyer, Mr. Haydn Grover, Mr. Frederick King, and Bro. G. S. Graham.

During the evening a handsome Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. A. C. Mead, for the excellent manner in which he had discharged the duties of the chair during his year of office.

A sum of 50 guineas has recently been voted by this lodge towards the approaching Boys' Festival, and, although the lodge is a small one, it will send up four Stewards for this Festival.

De Grey and Ripon Lodge, No. 1161.

The installation meeting of the above lodge was held by dispensation on Saturday, the 21st instant, at Freemasons' Hall, Manchester. A large attendance of members and visitors were present. Among the latter were Bros. Hebden, P.M., P.P.D.G.D.C.; Harris, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.; Brook, P.G.D. Herefordshire; C. Shaw, W.M. 1147; Ward, W.M. 993; and other distinguished brethren.

The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. Buckley Carr, P.M., P.P.G.D.C., D.C., who was ably assisted by Bros. J. Mansell Moss, P.M.; Job Islam, P.M.; and O. M. Jones, W.M. During the installation the S.W.'s chair was occupied by Bro. Hebden, P.M., and the J.W.'s chair by Bro. Harris, P.M. Bro. J. M. Moss duly presented Bro. Hugh Mortimer Massingham, S.W., to receive the benefits of installation. The addresses were admirably delivered by Bro. Job Islam, P.M. The working tools of the Degrees were presented and explained by Bro. O. M. Jones, I.P.M. The newly-elected officers were invested by Bro. J. M. Moss, P.M., as follows: Bros. H. M. Massingham, W.M.; J. Schofield, S.W.; W. Cockerham, J.W.; S. Lord, S.D.; J. T. C. Blackie, J.D.; Job Islam, P.M., Treas.; Richards, Sec.; Hoffman, I.G.; Buckley Carr, P.M., P.P.G.D.C., D.C.; J. M. Moss, P.M., Org.; J. Brownhill, Bentley, and Dixon, Stewards; and J. R. Fletcher, Tyler. Bro. J. M. Moss having been elected Charity Representative, the lodge was closed.

The festival of St. John was held in the spacious dining room of the hall which was grandly illuminated and prettily decorated in honour of the occasion. Masonic and other toasts were enlivened by songs, &c.

The musical part of the programme was in the hands of Bro. W. H. Anderton, P.M., who ably carried out same. Songs, &c., were rendered by Bros. W. Howard, C. Shaw, W.M. 1147; and Long, P.M. 1496.

During the evening a handsome Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. O. M. Jones, the retiring W.M.

Letters of apology for non-attendance were received from Bros. Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie, P.G.M.; C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, D.P.G.M.; and other brethren.

Agricola Lodge, No. 1991.

On Monday, the 25th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Castlegate, York, the installation meeting of this lodge took place, and was attended by many members and visitors from the provincial lodges, amongst whom were, in addition to the officers, Bros. Alfred Proctor, W.M., M. Bryson, P.M., F. W. Laughton, S.W., and J. H. Wray, Steward, of 236; F. A. Stone, 552; J. E. Matthews, 607; H. Gale, 1042; Rev. E. Richards, S.W., P.P.G.C., and W. Mennell, J.W., of 1337; F. H. Vaughan, P.M., W. Sykes, S.W., B. Kilvington, J.D., J. C. Mason, C. Wilson, J. W. Dixon, T. Welburn, and P. Pearson, of 1611; A. Henchley, 2668; W. Sykes, W.M., W. Callum, S.W., and J. Crow, 1522, J.W., of 2677; E. Oxtoby, S. Batchelor, G. Rhodes, J. E. Wilkinson, P.M., P.P.G.P., R. B. Gray, J. Harding, J. Challis, and G. Hewitt, of the lodge.

Letters of apology for unavoidable absence were read from Bros. the Right Hon. Lord Bolton, D.P.G.M.; M. C. Peck, P.G. Std. Br. Eng.; the Very Rev. the Dean of York, P.G.C. Eng.; J. G. Butcher, Q.C., M.P.; Lord Charles Beresford, M.P.; T. B. Whythead, P.G.S.B. Eng.; J. Sykes Rymer, P.M., P.P.G. Reg.; J. A. Askew, J.W. 236; W. Nutt, W.M., and J. Brown, J.W., of 566; W. G. Thurley Rose, W.M., and S. Ridge, S.W., 660; F. Linskill, W.M., and A. W. Lowe, J.W., of 1001; J. R. French, J.W. 1416; J. T. Chambers, W.M., and A. Humphreys, J.W., of 1611; J. Melrose, W.M., T. H. Lindberg, S.W., and A. Turner, J.W., of 2328; M. Rooke, P.M., W. N. Stimpson, and A. Furnish, of 236; G. W. O. Wilson, R. Hodgson, 566; H. H. Riley Smith, 2677; W. R. Powell, P.M.; and H. W. J. Kemp.

Lodge having been opened, the installation of the W.M. elect was proceeded with. The installing Master was Bro. Geo. Hy. Stott, W.M., assisted by Bros. D. Young, P.M., P.P.G.P. N. and E. Yorks, and J. W. Dow, P.M., and they, according to ancient usage, invested Bro. George Woolford, S.W., with the responsibility of the chair of K.S. for the ensuing year. The W.M. then invested his officers as follows: Bros. G. H. Stott, I.P.M.; J. H. Hill, S.W.; J. P. Gill, J.W.; J. Press, Chap.; D. Young, P.M., P.P.G.P., Treas.; Walter Seymour, Sec.; W. Wild, S.D.; T. Leatham, J.D.; J. W. Dow, P.M., D.C.; G. H. Cutforth, A.D.C.; T. F. Walton, Org.; Wm. Hy. Seymour, Asst. Org.; R. Rook, I.G.; H. Masser, H. Pratt, and A. Cowper, Stwds.; D. Young, P.M., P.P.G.P., Charity Representative and Almoner; and R. Woodall, Tyler.

The installation banquet was subsequently held at the Coach and Horses Hotel, Low Cusegate, an excellent spread being provided by Bro. Bucktin, and was thoroughly appreciated by about 50 brethren, the W.M., Bro. George Woolford, presiding.

The usual toast list was gone through, including "The Queen and the Craft," "The Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M. of England, and the Grand Lodge," given from the chair.

Bro. Dow proposed "The Prov. G.M., Bro. the Marquis of Zetland; the D.P.G.M., and the Prov. Grand Lodge of North and East Yorkshire," which was suitably honoured.

Bro. the Rev. E. Richards, P.P.G.C., responded.

"The Health of the Worshipful Master, Bro. Woolford," was proposed in eulogistic terms by Bro. G. H. Stott, who remarked that he was perfectly sure that the W.M. would do his level best for the lodge and Masonry generally.

The W.M., on rising to respond, was received with loud cheers, and, in briefly acknowledging the compliment, said that he appreciated the honour which had that day been conferred upon him, and he would during his year of office endeavour to carry out the tenets of the Order.

The W.M. proposed "The Health of the Installing Master and Past Masters," which was suitably acknowledged.

"The Visiting Brethren," "The Officers of the Lodge," "The Masonic Charities," and the Tyler's toast were suitably dealt with.

During the banquet an excellent programme of music was gone through, Bro. T. F. Walton being the conductor and pianoforte accompanist. The selections throughout were well rendered, and encores frequent, the vocalists being Bros. J. W. Dow, C. H. Stott, W. H. Dawson, A. G. Monaghan, G. Rhodes, J. E. Wilkinson, E. Kilvington, J. Challis, and G. H. Cutforth. Recitations were admirably given by Bros. Gale, Crow, and Callum.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES has granted the use of the Imperial Institute for a great fete on behalf of the Orphanage at Norwood, on a date in June yet to be fixed by her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, who has graciously promised to open the fete. In addition to a sale of work, all the chief musical and dramatic artistes have promised to give an entertainment.

Instruction.

LA TOLERANCE LODGE, No. 538.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 11th inst., at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, W., when there were present Bros. H. Raphael, W.M.; C. Pinnell, S.W.; W. Fisher, J.W.; J. Paul, P.M., Preceptor; L. S. Genese, P.M., Treas.; Howard E. Mullins, Sec.; J. L. Goldstein, S.D.; C. Ornstein, J.D.; C. W. Holmes, I.G.; Proctor, Tyler; T. W. Smale, P.M.; J. Thom, P.M.; R. Hatfield, J. Leather, and H. C. Parker.

The lodge was opened in due form and the minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree. Bro. Leather being a candidate for raising, was duly examined and entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree. The ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Leather being the candidate. The lodge was resumed to the Second Degree. The 1st Section of the Lecture was worked by Bro. Leather. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. The W.M. rose for the first time. The W.M. rose for the second time, when Bro. Pinnell was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed the officers in rotation. The W.M. rose for the third time, and, all Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed.

NEW CONCORD LODGE, No. 813.

The usual weekly meeting was held at the Farleigh Hotel, Amhurst-road, N., on Wednesday, the 11th inst. Present: Bros. D. Jackson, W.M.; J. Anley, S.W.; S. J. Owers, J.W.; H. G. Gush, Preceptor; J. A. Powell, Treas.; T. Matthews, Sec.; W. E. Jeanes, S.D.; T. Petchell, J.D.; S. Barton, I.G.; J. Jacob, A. W. Fenner, W. A. Wallace, H. Reed, W. H. Barrow, T. W. Couch, M. Strang, G. Legg, D. J. Witte, and E. J. Platt.

Lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. Bro. Jacob, acting as candidate, answered the usual questions satisfactorily, and was duly entrusted. Lodge was then opened in the Second Degree. Bro. Anley worked the 1st Section of the Lecture assisted by the brethren. The ceremony of passing was then rehearsed by Bro. Jackson in a very excellent manner, Bro. Jacob acting as candidate. Bro. Anley worked the 2nd Section of the Lecture being assisted by the brethren. Bro. Barrow answered the questions leading to the Third Degree, but was not entrusted. Lodge was closed in the Second Degree. The W.M. having risen the usual times, the dues were collected, and Bro. Anley, S.W., was elected W.M. for the next meeting, after which the lodge was closed.

We are pleased to note that the lodges of instruction held at the Farleigh Hotel, are well supported by Masons in North London, who appreciate the excellent teachings of the Preceptors, and we feel sure reap much benefit by attending the meetings regularly. Time of meeting 8 p.m.

STAR CHAPTER, No. 1275.

A meeting was held at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell, S.E., on Friday, the 13th inst. Present: Comps. G. H. Lewis, M.E.Z.; J. H. Cureton, H.; H. Hardman, J.; W. Dawson, acting Preceptor; C. H. Stone, P.Z., Scribe E.; H. Cornford, Scribe N.; W. J. Frampton, P.S.; Pascoe, Derham, Hayward, and Cass.

The minutes of the previous convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. S. J. Derham personating the candidate. Comp. J. H. Cureton was elected M.E.Z. for to-day (Friday). Comp. G. H. Lewis expressed his thanks to Comp. J. H. Cureton for allowing him the privilege of rehearsing the ceremony of First Principal. The chapter was closed.

ISLINGTON LODGE, No. 1471.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday, the 17th inst., at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, when there were present Bros. W. F. Roberts, W.M.; W. Rapley, S.W.; A. F. Hardymont, J.W.; R. Philip Upton, P.M., acting Preceptor; J. W. Clarke, P.M., P.P.G.P. Middx., Asst. Preceptor; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D. Herts, and J. Duncan, P.M., Secs.; F. H. Johnson, S.D.; J. Birks, J.D.; C. C. Renaud, I.G.; A. Oliver, P.M.; S. Cloud, A. L. Langton, C. Ornstein, O. J. Cogan, and W. Fowler.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Duncan being the candidate. The ceremony of passing was then rehearsed, Bro. Oliver being the candidate. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Renaud, who rehearsed the ceremony of raising, Bro. Ornstein being the candidate. Bro. Rapley was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation. The lodge was then closed.

SELWYN CHAPTER, No. 1901.

A meeting was held on Monday, the 16th inst., at the Montpelier Hotel, Choumert-road, Peckham, S.E., when there were present: Comps. Wm. Wills, M.E.Z.; J. Lightfoot, H.; A. H. Fraser, J.; F. E. Pow, Treas.; Thomas Grumant, P.Z., Preceptor; C. H. Stone, P.Z., S.E.; H. Hayward, S.N.; H. Cornford, P.S.; J. S. Pointon, 1st A.S.; W. G. Simmons, M.F.Z. 169; C. Lazenby, P.Z. 297; W. R. Barr, M.E.Z. 1275; J. Ellinger, 879; H. P. White, 1901; R. Weddall Thomas, 1901; T. Bowler; and L. J. de Whalley, 879.

The minutes of the committee meeting of the 11th inst. were read and confirmed and a letter from the Principals of Selwyn Chapter, granting temporary permission to hold a chapter of instruction, and a warrant would be granted at the October convocation. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. H. P. White personating the candidate. The M.E.Z. rose the usual number of times. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the three Principals for so ably rehearsing their respective duties. Comp. J. Lightfoot, P.Z., II., was elected M.E.Z. for the next meeting. The chapter was then closed.

IN AID OF THE Duchess of Teck Endowment Fund of £2500 for the Sailors' Home and Princess May's Reading Room at Millwall Docks, which sum is being collected with the patronage of 11 members of the Royal family, a concert will be given at Lady Esther Smith's, 3, Grosvenor-place, S.W., on Tuesday, the 21st prox.

SMOKERS SHOULD USE CALVERT'S DENTO-PHENOLENE.

A DELICIOUS ANTISEPTIC LIQUID DENTIFRICE.

A few drops in a wineglass of water makes a delicious wash, for sweetening the breath and leaving a pleasant taste and refreshing coolness in the mouth.

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Masonic and General Tidings.

THE DRAWING ROOM announced for June 6th will take place instead upon June 5th. The list for presentation has long since been completed.

THE DUCHESS OF YORK drove down from London to White Lodge, Richmond Park, on Saturday afternoon last, on a visit to the Duke of Teck, who leaves for Germany this week.

THE QUEEN has been pleased to approve the appointment of Bro. the Duke of Portland, G.C.V.O., to be Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Nottingham, in the room of the late Bro. Duke of St. Albans.

BRO. SIR HENRY IRVING will probably be the recipient of the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters of Cambridge University, at the Senate on the 15th prox., on the occasion of his delivery of the Rede Lecture. Other honorary degrees are expected to be conferred on the same occasion, both of Letters and Arts.

AT THE MEETING of the Anglo-American Lodge, No. 2191, on Tuesday, the 17th inst., Bro. C. G. Rotter, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year; Bro. F. Kedge, P.M., Treasurer; and Bro. R. F. Potter, P.M., Tyler. We wish Bro. C. G. Rotter, W.M. elect, a most successful year of office.

BRO. THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF DUDLEY entertained at dinner on Monday evening, at 7, Carlton-gardens, Bro. the Duke and Duchess of Leeds, Bro. the Marquis and Marchioness of Granby, Viscount and Viscountess Cranborne, Earl Beauchamp, Viscount Llandaff, the Right Hon. G. N. Curzon, M.P., and Mrs. Curzon, and the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, M.P., and Mrs. Asquith.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN visited the Windsor Albert Institute on Saturday afternoon last, for the purpose of presenting certificates and medallions to the local ambulance classes. The recipients included ladies, railway officials, policemen, postmen, and firemen. Mr. Alexander Hubbard, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to Princess Christian, stated that four or five thousand certificates had been awarded the Great Western Railway classes, and that about 1200 of these had been signed by her Royal Highness in the course of the year.

BRO. THE RIGHT HON. CECIL J. RHODES left London on Saturday last for South Africa. The departure was somewhat unexpected, his object in returning at once to the Cape being to be present in his place in Parliament when the Redistribution of Seats Bill comes forward. Among those who were at Waterloo to see Bro. Rhodes off were Bro. the Marquis of Granby, Bro. the Duke and Duchess of Abercorn, Earl and Countess Grey, and Mr. Hawksley. In the afternoon he sailed from Southampton in the Norman.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE honoured Sir George and Lady Faudel-Phillips by his presence at dinner on Monday night. Among those present to meet his Royal Highness were their Highnesses Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar, Bro. the Marquis and Marchioness of Tweeddale, the Marchioness of Hastings, the Marquis of Lothian, Bro. the Earl and Countess of Arran, Blanche Countess of Rosslyn, Bro. Lord and Lady Hothfield, Mrs. Fitzgeorge, and Mr. Cecil Lowther. Col. Fitzgeorge was in attendance on his Royal Highness.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.—The Exhibition, at the Imperial Institute, of a selection from the gifts and addresses presented to the Queen on the occasion of her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, having taken place at a period of the year when many were unable to inspect them, her Majesty has consented to allow a selection from the Colonial and Indian addresses, together with some of the most interesting Oriental presents, to be again exhibited at the Imperial Institute. The Indian addresses to be shown include a number which have not been previously exhibited. The collection will be on view during the summer months, from Monday, May 30th.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, accompanied by the Duke of Connaught, the Duke of York, and the Duke of Cambridge, was present at the annual Guard Mounting Parade, on Saturday morning last, in celebration of her Majesty's birthday. Major-General Sir A. Ellis, Bro. Major-General Sir S. Clarke, Bro. Capt. Holford, Bro. Col. A. Egerton, the Hon. Derek Keppel, and Major-General Williams were in attendance. H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, attended by Lady Sulfield, Miss Knollys, and General Sir D. Probyn, witnessed the spectacle from the Horse Guards. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and their children, Princess Louise (Duchess of Fife) and Bro. the Duke of Fife and their children, the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Christian lunched with the Prince and Princess of Wales after the Parade. His Royal Highness, attended by Bro. Capt. Holford, dined in the evening with the Marquis of Salisbury at the Hotel Cecil.

THE DUCHESS OF ALBANY, attended by the Hon. Mrs. Eliot Yorke and Bro. Sir Robert Collins visited the Crystal Palace on Saturday afternoon last to present the prizes gained by the youthful members of the London Diocesan Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society, one of the features being a "march past" of some 15,000 children. The Duchess arrived at the Palace about four, and was received by the Bishop of London and Mrs. Creighton, the Bishop of Stepney, the Rev. Dr. Ridgeway (chairman of the Council), the Rev. J. Wakefield, and Mr. G. T. Rait, and Mr. Henry Gilman on behalf of the Crystal Palace Company. Her Royal Highness was then conducted to seats on the platform of the Handel orchestra, where a bouquet was presented. A short choral concert having been given by 4000 children, the Duchess fulfilled her long task with kindly grace, retiring at its conclusion to the Queen's corridor for tea, where the Bishop of London expressed the thanks of all concerned.

A PONDEROUS COFFIN.—The funeral took place on Tuesday of Mr. Georges Alexandre Pigache, of Vine House, Surbiton, son-in-law of the late Bro. Daniel Nicol, proprietor of the Café Royal and founder of the Empire Theatre, who died on the 20th inst., aged 47 years. The deceased was celebrated as being one of the fattest men in England. At the time of his death he weighed 35 stone. He was a Frenchman, and formerly served at the Café Royal as wine taster. The precincts of his residence were thronged by spectators anxious to see the removal of the body. Great care had to be exercised in carrying the body downstairs, and precaution was taken to shore up the staircase. The remains were placed in an enormous polished mahogany casket, and altogether the weight was fully three-quarters of a ton. The funeral was at Brookwood Cemetery, Woking, whither the body and mourners were conveyed by special train. To expedite matters, the hearse was unhorsed at Surbiton railway station and run into a covered carriage truck, and the horses were put into a horse-box, both vehicles being attached to the special. Eighteen men had to be employed in lifting the casket from the hearse to the grave, which was beside the handsome mausoleum of the late Bro. D. Nicol.

BRO. DR. KERBEY, the oldest Past Master of Montagu Lodge, No. 665, has presented the lodge with an excellent portrait of himself.

THE DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND will hold an exhibition of home-spuns in the gardens of Stafford House, on July 4th, from 3 o'clock to 7 o'clock. Admission by invitation cards only.

THE DUCHESS OF ALBANY has made arrangements for a performance of "As You Like It," to take place at Claremont, on Saturday, the 2nd prox., in aid of the Deptsford Fund, of which her Royal Highness is the president.

HER MAJESTY'S birthday was celebrated at Aldershot on Tuesday by a review on Laffan's Plain. The whole of the troops in the district paraded in review order at 10.40, and the ceremony was concluded by a march past before the Duke of Connaught.

THURSDAY LAST was the anniversary of the birth of H.R.H. the Duchess of York, that event having taken place at Kensington Palace on May 26th, 1867. Her marriage with the Duke of York was solemnised at St. James's Palace on July 6th, 1893. Her Royal Highness rejoices in no less than eight Christian names.

BRO. GENERAL J. C. SMITH, Past Grand Master of Illinois, U.S.A., and Representative of the Grand Lodge of England, has been staying for some time in Torquay with his daughter, Miss Ruth Smith, to the enjoyment of his friends in that town, who wish much his stay could be prolonged. "Our General" is likely to leave for Paris next week, but will probably return to London in about a month's time. The change to such a genial and lovely neighbourhood has considerably benefited his daughter and himself.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE MR. JOSEPH HIRST.—Bro. F. H. Buckland, W.M. of the St. George's Lodge, Doncaster, during the past year, has put up at the entrance of the Forman Chapel, in the parish church, a brass tablet bearing the following inscription: "To the Glory of God and in memory of Joseph Hirst, for 34 years the verger of Doncaster Parish Church, and for 26 years the faithful Tyler of St. George's Lodge, No. 242. This tablet was erected by the Worshipful Master as a mark of respect in the Diamond Jubilee Year, 1897." The tablet is engraved in old English text.

LORD BATTERSEA presided over the 52nd annual meeting of the Domestic Servants' Benevolent Institution, which was held in the Banqueting Room, St. James's Hall. The objects of the Institution are to relieve honest and industrious domestics, who have been rendered incapable of active duty by unavoidable misfortune and the advance of age, by granting them pensions and temporary relief. Since the formation of the Institution, 349 pensioners have been elected, 95 of whom are now in receipt of £15 to £20 each per annum. Upwards of £48,500 has been disbursed in pensions and temporary relief, and a reserve fund of £24,897 has been accumulated.

TUESDAY WAS the 79th anniversary of the birth of the Queen, that auspicious event having taken place at Kensington Palace on May 24th, 1819. Her Majesty is in excellent health, and enjoying the beauties of her picturesque home in the Highlands. Her age has been exceeded by one only of her Royal predecessors—King George III., who lived 82 years. On the 20th of next month the Queen will have reigned over this country for 61 years, having succeeded to the Crown on the death of her uncle, King William IV., on June 20, 1837. This period has never been attained by any other Monarch in this country. Long may she yet reign!

THE QUEEN arrived at Balmoral on Saturday afternoon last. Her Majesty was accompanied by Princess Henry of Battenberg and her children, Princess Henry of Prussia with the Princes Waldemar and Sigismund, Princess Victoria of Wales, Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, and Princess Leningen, and was attended by the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting. Her Majesty was received at Perth by Bro. the Marquis of Breadalbane. At Ballater a guard of honour of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, under the command of Captain Campbell, was mounted at the station. Sir John Clark, of Tilliepronie, and Mr. Farquharson, of Invercauld, were present on the platform.

T.R.H. THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, accompanied by the Duke and Duchess of York, visited the Royal Military Tournament at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Monday afternoon. On account of the Levée, their Royal Highnesses did not arrive until a comparatively late hour, but on entering the Royal box they were recognised by the large audience, and very warmly cheered. Viscount Falmouth, General Higginson, Colonel Villiers, and other members of the Committee received the illustrious visitors, and a guard of honour saluted at the entrance to the hall. Among the occupants of the patrons' box were Bros. the Earl of Lathom, the Earl of Ancaster, the Earl of Coventry, Sir Robert Meade, General Sir Dighton Probyn, and others. In the evening his Royal Highness, attended by Maj.-Gen. Sir A. Ellis, was present at the annual dinner of the First Guards' Club, at the Hotel Metropole, the Duke of Cambridge, Colonel of the Regiment, being in the chair.

THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY announce that the first of the weekly excursions will leave Paddington Station on Wednesday, the 1st prox., for Swindon, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Cardiff, Swansea, Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Aberystwyth, Barmouth, Rhyl, Llandudno, Bangor, Carnarvon, Llanberis (for Snowdon), &c.; on Thursday, the 2nd prox., to Weston-Super-Mare, Bridgwater, Taunton, Minehead, Lynton, Lynmouth, Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Exeter, Dawlish, Feignmouth, Torquay, Dartmouth, Plymouth, Falmouth, Penzance, &c.; on Friday, the 3rd prox., to Bath, Bristol, Trowbridge, Frome, Yeovil, Weymouth (for the Channel Islands), &c.; and on Saturday, the 4th prox., to Douglas (Isle of Man). Return tickets will also be issued to Guernsey and Jersey at 2s. 6d., available by the Boat Express leaving Paddington at 9.15 p.m. on Saturdays.

ROYAL VISIT TO READING.—The approaching visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to Reading, for the purpose of opening the new buildings of the University Extension College in the capital town of the Royal county, is being anticipated with great interest, and the ceremony, which is fixed for Saturday, the 11th proximo, will be attended by a very large and influential gathering. The Prince, who will be accompanied by Prince Christian, is expected to reach Reading from Paddington shortly before one o'clock, and his Royal Highness will be received at the station by Lord Wantage, Lord-Lieutenant of the county and President of the College Council, the Mayor, Alderman Berkeley Monck, and others. A carriage procession will be formed, and proceed to the college, which has been erected contiguous to the municipal buildings. After the opening ceremony the Prince will inspect the buildings. Lord Wantage will subsequently entertain the Royal visitors and a distinguished party at luncheon in the Town Hall, and later on the Prince of Wales will visit the Royal Berkshire Hospital in the London-road between four and five o'clock. His Royal Highness will leave Reading by special train for Lockinge House, near Wantage, where he will remain until the following Monday as the guest of Lord and Lady Wantage.

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