

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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CONTENTS.

LEADER—	PAGE.
A Queensland Pronouncement against Separation ...	287
Hidden Mysteries No. 3...	288
Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset ...	288
Provincial Grand Lodge of Lincolnshire ...	289
Consecration of the Brondesbury Lodge of Instruction, No. 2694 ...	289
MASONIC NOTES—	
Ex-pupils' Day at Royal Masonic Institution for Girls ...	291
Athletic Sports at Royal Masonic Institution for Boys ...	291
Appointment of Bro. Lord Wantage as Prov. G.M. of Berkshire ...	291
Consecration of the Jubilee Masters' Lodge, No. 2712 ...	291
Annual Meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Kent ...	291
Correspondence ...	292
Masonic Notes and Queries ...	292
Reviews ...	292
Craft Masonry ...	293
Royal Arch ...	293
Mark Masonry ...	293
Red Cross of Rome and Constantine ...	293
The Craft Abroad ...	293
Masonic and General Tidings ...	294

A QUEENSLAND PRONOUNCEMENT AGAINST SEPARATION.

In our Notes of last week we briefly referred to the issue by a number of influential brethren in Queensland of a pronouncement against an agitation which is said to have again sprung up in the ranks of the members of some English lodges in that Colony in favour of establishing a Grand Lodge for the government of the whole Craft, on lines similar to those on which the great Australasian Grand Lodges of South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, &c., have already been founded. Our intention was to have reproduced in full this very important paper; but we consider we shall attain the end in view still better by quoting the passages which strike us as being of the greatest moment, and introducing such comments of our own as seem desirable.

The compilers of this declaration address themselves at the outset to the errors and misconceptions which have found their way into the "case" in favour of separation from the Grand Lodges of the United Kingdom. "In the course of the agitation or canvass on behalf of a Queensland Constitution," say these brethren, "many things have been stated by speakers or writers and in general conversation that are either wrongly expressed or reported, so as to create and encourage misconceptions, which then pass in a variety of garbled forms from mouth to mouth, as is the case with all questions of popular interest during times of agitation and solicitation. We do not wish anyone to infer that such statements are wilful or made with bad intent; but the errors do exist, and we deem it our plain duty to correct them, and to endeavour to guide the ideas and decision of those who are uninstructed or badly informed upon the subject of the 'case' for the maintenance of the English Jurisdiction, which we desire to uphold, and to speak of especially and firmly, but without derogation from the dignity and value of any other similar existing and lawful authority." After expressing their opinion that "the division and sub-division of the government of the Craft into a number of small Grand Lodges is a great evil," on the ground that "the differences that creep in are by-and-by exaggerated by precedent and by differences of opinion as to points of strong divergence," the signatories to this declaration, while admitting that errors in the administration of Masonry in Queensland, may have been made, point out that "corrections can surely be made" without setting up a new governing body, which "without experience or precedent of its own to guide it," would be quite as liable to error, and would most certainly fail to become "the general redressor of every person's grief and fads." They point out, further, that while

"change for its own sake may be a sign of the times," it "will not necessarily be improvement." As regards "the money point" on which those that favour a local Grand Lodge would seem to lay great stress, they consider it is "distinctly of least importance." After remarking that "the institution"—that is, of Freemasonry—"is not a mere matter of money, nor a 'benefit society' and if anyone is consciously or unconsciously colouring his thoughts by what he knows of these excellent institutions, he should be careful to draw the necessary distinction," they proceed to show how trifling must be the influence of this question of money when weighed against the benefits that must result from a maintenance of the *status quo*. "The average amount annually remitted by us to London," they declare, "is £95. The amount forwarded during the year 1897 was £95 14s. 6d., which included one warrant (£5 5s.) [£10 10s. in England], the remainder being for registration of, and certificates for, initiates, and registration of joining members—seven shillings and sixpence and two shillings and sixpence respectively. This ensures individual registration and recognition at the Centre of English Masonic activity (London), and thereafter, for the rest of a Mason's life as a member of an English Lodge in this Masonic district, no further sum whatever contributed by him or by his Lodge is sent out of the Colony. All moneys collected from Lodges or Persons are received, invested, administered, or expended in this Colony itself, as may be required, and under the absolute and unquestioned control of the District Grand Lodge—which is always a representative body—by means of its practically independent self-government." But this is not the only advantage which, in the opinion of these experienced brethren, Queensland Masons under the Grand Lodge of England enjoy. They are members of the Central Government in London and thus have the right of appeal to a perfectly impartial tribunal which is "composed of brethren whose knowledge, either as Masons or jurists, is undoubted." At the same time they have their own local government which is practically "the complete counterpart of the apparatus of government in London." In fact, there is, they point out—"practically no limit to the privileges and independent position we now enjoy." At the same time, "without hesitation or delay in the matter of government and control, there is the ever-present source of satisfaction and security in the connection with a jurisdiction having world-wide ramifications and influences."

As regards the question of a Charitable Institution, which, in the opinion of many, the Queensland brethren should and could have, the partisans of the *status quo* point out that they could have had such an institution long ago, nor is there anything to hinder them from having one now, but it would necessarily be "under conditions properly attaching to all such institutions elsewhere"—that is to say, it would have nothing to do with the governing body, but be purely a voluntary institution. The governing body could not support such an institution out of its own income and at the same time provide the means to meet "all the incidents and expenses of the government and general control of the Craft." A Charitable Institution such as exists elsewhere would have to rely for support upon the voluntary aid of individual brethren.

A few remarks of a general character complete the declaration, and then follow the signatures to the number of 22, the most important being those of Bros. B. S. BARNETT, P.G.D. England, D.D.G.M.; JOHN FENWICK, P.A.G.D.C. England, Dist. G. Secretary; T. H. ANNETT, Dist. J.G.W.; R. H. MILLS, Pres. Dist. Board of General Purposes: A. W. MICHAEL, Past D.S.G.W., Dist. A.G. Secretary; and G. N. BURROWS, Dist. J.G.D. Thus the brethren who are together responsible for the issue of this paper are as influential as the arguments in support of their "case" are forcible. But the number of Scottish and Irish lodges in the Colony is great, and these may not be influenced by arguments—even the most convincing—from representative members of the English Constitution.

HIDDEN MYSTERY, No. 3.

Before closing the lodge at the last meeting of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, the Worshipful Master, Bro. Sydney T. Klein, F.L.S., F.R.A.S., &c., continued his interesting series of demonstrations by giving Hidden Mystery, No. 3, or "The loves of the Atoms," as follows: I concluded my last demonstration by pointing out that the force we then used was the result of what we call Chemical Affinity, and this process might be described as the act of bottling up and letting loose the desires of those atoms of which matter is composed. The Mystery we are to consider to-night is the fact that each atom has its own special characteristic desires for certain other atoms, for some it is of the most vigorous order, for others it is less energetic, and for others again it is even shy of recognition. There are many ways in which we can examine the mystery of those passionate atoms, but before we consider them let us try and fathom what matter really is; we are so accustomed to take everything for granted that it may, perhaps, startle some of you when I ask you to consider whether we can even assert that we have ever seen matter. Let us turn towards a common object in this room: we catch in our eyes the multitudinous impulses which are reflected from its surfaces under circumstances similar to those in which a cricketer "fields" a ball, he puts his hand in the way of the moving ball and catches it, and knowing the distance of the batsman he recognises, by the hard impact of the ball, that the batsman has strong muscles, but he can gain thereby no idea as to his character, and so it is with objective intuition, we direct our eyes towards an object and catch thereby rays of light reflected from that object, at different angles, and by combining all these directions we recognise form, and come to the conclusion that we are looking at, say, a chair; the eye also tells us that rays are coming in greater quantity from some parts of it, and we know that those parts are polished; the eye, again, catches rays giving higher or lower frequencies of vibration, and we call that colour; our eyes also tell us that it intercepts certain rays reflected from other objects in the room, and we know that it is not transparent to light, and those are our conceptions of a wooden chair; we may go a little further by "pushing," when we know by the amount of resistance, compared with the power exerted, what force of gravity is being exerted by, and on that chair, and we declare it heavy or light, but we get no nearer to the knowledge of what matter really is. By tests and reagents, we can resolve wood into other forms which we call carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, &c., which, because we cannot divide them into any other known substance, we call "elements," but we can only look at these in the same way as we are looking at the chair. Chemists, however, carry us a little further, and show us that these elementary substances have not only their likes and dislikes, but their passionate desire and lukewarmness towards other of their ilk, and when opportunity offers, they break up with great violence any ordinary friendship existing between their neighbours, and seize on their coveted prey with a strength of will surpassing anything experienced in the organic world, and this association they maintain until they, in their turn, are either dispossessed, or they encounter another substance of still greater attraction when they leave their first love, and take up new connections.

The lecturer then illustrated his subject by the following experiments:

Two colourless gases enclosed in separate glass jars were mixed together, and immediately formed a perfectly opaque vapour.

Several colourless liquids were likewise mixed, the result being new combinations showing brilliant red, yellow, green, blue, and intense black solutions.

The next experiment explained that the life and heat of the human body, the heat and light of a coal fire, and also of an ordinary gas flame, were not inherent in the human body, or in the coal, or in the gas; but were rendered possible by means of the oxygen in the surrounding air. The human body could not be kept alive or warm, neither would the fire glow nor the gas jet light unless surrounded by the atmosphere containing oxygen. An example of the combining properties of oxygen in its mildest form may be seen in the case of an iron nail being gradually but surely rusted away. This is due entirely to the action of the oxygen in the air, which burns up the iron, although so slowly that no appreciable heat or light is evolved in the process.

The lecturer then showed this same process greatly accelerated by the experiment of burning a piece of iron in pure oxygen, the result being an intense white incandescent light.

The W.M. then blew some soap-films with a mixture of two parts of hydrogen to one of oxygen, and, taking these on his hand, the application of a lighted taper exploded them with great violence. He explained that owing to the thinness of the film the force of the explosion, although of very great intensity, was small in quantity, and quite a large volume of the mixed gases could be exploded on the hand without injury. This experiment was formed with pure hydrogen and pure oxygen, and showed the enormous violence of the reciprocal affinity of these two gases for each other.

The lecturer explained that these two gases when combined resulted in a new compound, in the same way as the mixture of colourless fluids had been shown to produce new chemical combinations by the colours of the resulting fluids. In the present case the result of the combination of oxygen and hydrogen was the formation of pure water, and, in view of the violence of the action, it would be natural to expect that it would be very difficult to break up this combination.

The lecturer, however, showed in conclusion that there were two "elements" which had a much greater affinity for oxygen than oxygen had for hydrogen, and that, in their presence, hydrogen was powerless to keep the oxygen in her grasp. These two substances were sodium and potassium, both of which have a beautiful metallic lustre, like silver. A piece of sodium was dropped into a large basin of water, and on touching the water it exploded with great violence, but without much light: the potassium, on the other hand, when dropped into the water, immediately caught fire, and burned brilliantly for a considerable time. The lecturer explained that the cause of the explosion and also of the flame was that the hydrogen was set free by the desertion of the oxygen, and sufficient heat was generated to enable this (the hydrogen) to combine again with the oxygen of the air; in the former case it did this very suddenly, forming a quick explosion, whereas in the latter case it did it more leisurely, resulting in a burning flame.

The lecturer then continued: This passionate desire, if we may use the term metaphorically, is not confined to one side only—it is reciprocal, and

is between the ultimate particles of matter called "atoms," and we now come to the very root of the question as to what matter is, namely, what are these atoms? We know with great precision their relative weights and the force exerted in their combinations. We know that they vibrate ever quicker and quicker as their temperature rises, and, as the quicker they vibrate the less cohesion they have, so matter passes from the solid into the liquid, and thence into the gaseous state as the temperature is raised, but this does not touch the mystery of what an atom really consists. Our greatest physicists are ever working on this subject, and the theory which explains the most and seems to fulfil the conditions under which these atoms act, points to each of these being a vortex in the ether, that subtle medium which, having the properties of a solid of almost infinite elasticity, we know to be universally present, as it is by means of that wonderful elasticity that we are able to receive the light from stars sunk far away in the depths of space. Do we not, then, seem to find in this an explanation of how matter was brought into existence and how some day it will vanish away? God is omnipresent, and it would seem that the fiat of His will, which went forth when these worlds were made, was the indestructible force which set these vortices in motion, and these will remain in motion until that fiat is recalled; we may, in fact, look upon all creation, as suggested in my installation address, as being the materialisation of the thoughts of the Deity and, when Volition is withdrawn, matter will return again into the ethereal. Let us think what it will mean for us when all matter ceases to exist, only the Innermost Self of which we treated in my last demonstration, or Spiritual part of us, will be left, our corporeal senses and all our affections set on material objects will be as naught; we shall then see clearly that from the beginning of Time the only reality is, and has been, the Spiritual; the material body is but the shadow which attends it during its pilgrimage through this passing life, it has no real existence except to our corporeal senses, it is but a movement in the Ether which in the fulfilment of time will cease to exist. The Philosopher Paul seems to have had this in mind when, in the first century of our Era, he wrote to the Corinthians—Behold I show you a mystery, we shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump. (1. Cor. 15. 51, 52.)

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SOMERSET.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held on Friday, the 3rd instant, at the Friends' Meeting House, Yatton, under the banner of the Yatton Lodge of Agriculture, No. 1199. The Prov. G.M., Bro. the Right Hon. Viscount Dungarvan, presided, and was supported by Bro. R. C. Else, P.G.D. England. Dep. P.G.M., and other distinguished brethren.

Bro. C. L. FRY EDWARDS, S.G.D. England, Prov. G. Treas., presented the Prov. Grand Lodge accounts, which showed a balance in hand of £81 10s. 7d.

The statement of accounts was adopted, on the motion of Bro. PEEL FLOYD, seconded by Bro. J. C. HUNT.

Bro. T. P. ASHLEY next proposed the re-election of Bro. C. L. Fry Edwards as Prov. G. Treasurer, remarking that he had discharged the duties of that high and important office in a very efficient and satisfactory manner, and he was sure they could not do better than re-appoint him.

Bro. J. BURNETT, seconded the proposition, observing that the accounts were always presented by Bro. Edwards in the best possible form, and that they were very much indebted to him as a province for his valuable services.

The PROV. GRAND MASTER said he was sure it was unnecessary to put the resolution in a formal manner, and that it would be agreeable to the lodge that he should inform Bro. Edwards that he had been re-elected unanimously.

Bro. EDWARDS having thanked the brethren for the honour they had again conferred on him,

The PROV. GRAND MASTER said he had received the permission of the M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, to confer two more Jubilee honours on provincial brethren, and he had great pleasure in appointing as officers of past rank Bros. W. Rice, 1755, P.P.S.G.W., and Evans, 1199, P.P.J.G.W.

The PROV. GRAND MASTER next appointed and invested the following brethren as officers of Prov. Grand Lodge for the ensuing year, remarking that he was pleased to state that the Bishop of Bath and Wells had accepted the collar of P.G. Chaplain, but, unfortunately, his many duties had prevented his attending the lodge that day.

Bro. R. Gough, P.M. 973	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" H. W. Collins, P.M. 1199	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Right Rev. Dr. Kennion, G.C. Eng.	...	...	Prov. G. Chaps.
" Rev. A. R. Cartwright, 1750	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" G. H. Kite, P.M. 390	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" C. L. Fry Edwards, P.M. 1199	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" E. Fry Wade, P.M. 291	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" W. Gough, P.M. 2038	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" F. T. George, P.M. 446	...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" A. B. Cottam, P.M. 135	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" A. B. Wickenden, P.M. 1750	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" P. H. Shrepnell, P.M. 1833	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" J. P. Capell, P.M. 1222	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" J. Tyler, P.M. 291	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" J. R. Paull, P.M. 1197	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" T. H. Chaffin, P.M. 261	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" W. A. Pedden, P.M. 1296	...	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" J. M. Harper, P.M. 379	...	...	Prov. G. Stewards.
" W. J. Clarke, P.M. 976	...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.
" C. J. Perrott, P.M. 285	...	...	Prov. A.G. Tyler.
" F. B. Smith, P.M. 329	...	...
" C. F. White, P.M. 437	...	...
" S. Pile, P.M. 814	...	...
" J. W. Pitts, P.M. 1199	...	...
" A. J. Salter, 53	...	...
" S. Bidgood, 41	...	...

Bro. R. C. ELSE, D.P.G.M., next presented a very satisfactory report of the Charity Organisation Committee.

The PROV. G. MASTER said he was sure they were all very grateful to the D.P.G.M. for the way in which he had again so successfully managed the elections in connection with their benevolent institutions on behalf of the province. (Applause.)

Bro. ELSE, D.P.G.M., replied that it had been to him a labour of love, and he could not have achieved so much but for the valuable co-operation and assistance he had received from the various lodge delegates throughout the province.

The Prov. G. Treas., Bro. EDWARDS, in accordance with notice, moved, "That the sum of £21 be given from the funds of the Prov. G. Lodge to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and that the sum be placed on the list of the D.P.G.M., who is representing the province as Steward at the Centenary Festival."

Bro. W. RICE having seconded the proposition,

Bro. HADDON reminded the brethren that their M.W.G.M. would preside at the forthcoming Centenary, and he proposed as an amendment that the sum of 50 guineas be voted instead of 20 guineas only.

Bro. J. BURNETT seconded the amendment, observing that the occasion was a unique one, and, besides that, their D.P.G.M., who, he ventured to say, was one of the most popular D.P.G.Ms. throughout England, being not only respected and esteemed, but beloved by every brother throughout the province—(applause)—was going up as Steward.

Bro. C. E. HAGON, P.M. 135, proposed, as a further amendment, that the sum of 30 guineas be voted, and this was seconded by Bro. RUBIE, and ultimately agreed to by a large majority.

The PROV. G. MASTER said he was sure they were all very sorry that two or three brethren, who were formerly well known and much esteemed throughout the province, and had done a good deal of work for Masonry, were missing from amongst them that day. He alluded more particularly to Bro. Radway, P.P.S.G.W., and the Rev. C. G. Anderson, P.P.G. Chap., and he was perfectly certain all the brethren deplored their loss. He desired to move a vote of sympathy and condolence with the bereaved families.

Bro. ELSE, D.P.G.M., seconded the resolution, together with a request that the Prov. G. Secretary should record it on the minutes, and forward a copy of the same to the relatives.

An anthem was then sung, and this was followed by the collection of alms, amounting to £6 3s.

On the motion of Bro. EDWARDS, P.G. Treas., seconded by Bro. PERRETT, this sum was voted to the widow of P.M. of 1199, recently deceased.

Dinner was afterwards taken at the Assembly Rooms, Railway Hotel, under the presidency of the P.G.M.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF LINCOLNSHIRE.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Louth on the 9th inst. The day was fortunately fine, and there was a large assemblage of brethren from the province, both the Town Hall, in which the business of the Provincial Grand Lodge was transacted, and the Corn Exchange, in which the subsequent banquet was held, having been fitted up and decorated for the occasion.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened by the Prov. G.M., Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, there being also present Bros. W. Harling Sissons, D.P.G.M., and W. H. Smyth, P.P.G.M.

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

Bro. R. F. Moresby White, 362	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" H. Wilson, 1447	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. Humphrey Fawcett, 1304	...	...	Prov. G. Chaps.
" Rev. W. Horn, 1603	...	...
" C. M. Nesbitt, 712	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" H. Watson, 297	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" B. Vickers, 297	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" G. Spilman, 1282	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" T. H. White, 297	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" B. G. Stone, 712	...	...	Prov. G.S. of Wks.
" G. F. Barrell, 469	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" J. Frankish, 1282	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" W. Hill, 792...	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" E. Carter, 712	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" W. Le Tall, 1386	...	...
" C. A. Guy, 1294	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" T. B. Adlard, 422	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" T. Cook, 1286	...	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" W. W. Smith, 297	...	...	Prov. G. Stwds.
" T. C. Moss, 792	...	...
" W. Porter, 985	...	...
" J. Cooper, 1286	...	...
" W. S. Scholey, 1482	...	...
" H. Walker, 1600	...	...

PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE.

The annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons was held on Tuesday, the 24th ult., at the Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford, and was attended by representatives of the various lodges of the two counties under its jurisdiction. Bro. R. V. Vassar-Smith, Prov. Grand Master, presided.

Before the assembly of Prov. Grand Lodge, Bro. Vassar-Smith had officiated at the installation of Bro. G. R. Sinclair as W.M. of the St. Ethelbert Lodge, No. 243, at which ceremony many of the visiting brethren were present. On taking the chair in Provincial Grand Lodge, he was supported by his Deputy, Bro. Orlando Shellard, Hereford.

The business of Provincial Grand Lodge was chiefly of a routine character. There were, however, some exceptions. The members of Gloucester Lodge, No. 439, had given to Prov. G. Lodge since its last

meeting a ceremonial sword of a very handsome design. The richly gilt hilt was ornamented with Masonic emblems, and with the arms of the counties of Gloucester and Hereford, and of the city of Gloucester, and the blade bore the inscription: "Presented to Provincial Grand Lodge, by members of Lodge Gloucester, No. 439 in the Diamond Jubilee year of Queen Victoria, 1897, N. Philpott, Secretary, W. B. Wood, W.M."

The sword, which was made by Bro. George Kenning and Son, was fitted in an oak case, also bearing an inscription and the names of the subscribers. The valuable gift was suitably acknowledged by the Prov. G.M. on the re-appointment of Bro. Philpott as Sword Bearer.

A vote of 20 guineas was made from the funds of Prov. G. Lodge to the Centenary Festival of the Boys' School.

The Prov. G. Master then appointed and invested the officers for the ensuing year as follows:

Bro. O. Shellard, 243	...	...	...	Dep. Prov. G.M.
" A. S. Townsend, 243	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" R. S. Shrapnell, 218	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" C. J. R. Rogers, 10	...	...	...	Prov. G.M.O.
" W. Parlyby, 243	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.O.
" R. P. Sumner, 439	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.O.
" Rev. Dr. Lynes, 340	...	...	...	Prov. G. Chap.
" J. Balcomb, 10	...	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" H. G. Courtenay, 218	...	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" G. Norman, 10	...	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" W. F. Plimmer, 218	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" J. Jennings, 439	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" G. D. Woodman, 340	...	...	...	Prov. G.I. of W.
" M. L. Evans, 10	...	...	...	Prov. G.D. of C.
" N. Philpott, 439	...	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" F. J. Palmer, 10	...	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" F. Forty, 10...	...	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" H. H. Parry, 243	...	...	...	Prov. G.I.G.
" Farr, 139	...	...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.

Prov. Grand Lodge having been closed, the brethren dined together under the presidency of the Prov. Grand Master, and a short toast list was disposed of.

CONSECRATION OF THE BRONDESURBY LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 2698.

The contemplated inauguration of a new lodge of instruction in the Kilburn district, which was mentioned in a recent issue, was carried out on the 9th inst., at the Earl of Derby, High-road, under especially favourable auspices, upwards of 60 brethren attending to support Bro. James Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I., in the ceremonies of consecration and installation, in which he was assisted by Bros. James J. Thomas, P.G. Std. Br.; John Mason, P.G. Std. Br.; W. E. George, P.M., Sec. 2698; F. Dunstan, P.M., Sec. 1326, Preceptor of the Citadel Lodge of Instruction, P.P.G.D.C. Middx., as D.C.; A. E. Horstead, 1897, Org.; W. Sutherland, 2029, as Chap.; Albert H. Oldrey, W.M. 2361, J.D. and Founder 2698, as I.G.; R. J. Campbell, P.M., P.Z. 1489, W.M. and Founder 2698, Asst. Preceptor and Treasurer; A. F. Hardyment, S.W. and Founder 2698, J.W. 1500, S.D. 1489, Preceptor; Harry Willsmer, 1567, Hon. Sec.; G. Coxen, Treasurer and Founder 2698; T. Batrum, Stwd. 2698; J. M. Goodwin, D.C. 2698; C. W. Paine, I.G. 2698; W. G. Coxen, 2698 (proprietor of the Earl Derby); Pearce, 2698; M. Symonds, 2698; Greaves, 2698; Liddall, P.M. Wyatt, 1567 and 1585; M. T. Tuck, P.M. 901, 1343, &c., P.P.G. Std. Br. Essex; W. J. Stratton, P.M. 753; G. A. Knight, P.M. 1585; G. J. Wood, P.M. 1608; R. C. Frampton, P.M. 1695; Lewin, 1668; R. F. Sheen, 614; Aldred, 1140; Wiley, 1437; Dr. Whitehall-Cooke, 2361; Newman, 65; Smyth, 2331; Melville, 1791; Buck, 1891; Harvey, 2361; Gunn, 2331; G. A. Barker, 1897; Goldstein, 2265; Cutts, 2090; Batchelor, 2361; Clemens, 183; Knowles, 1897; Court, 1687; James Gawthrop, 1706; P. Davis, 1585; T. Matthews, 1585; M. Strang, 1981 and 1585; Symonds, 183; F. W. Bishop, 1056; D. Haes, 1056; Estcourt, 2361; B. Hocker, 2691; Gerson, 2427; Robertson, 1897; J. A. Harvey, 1314; T. Feistel, 171; C. A. Trott, 1437; J. Suckling, 1437; W. H. Palmer, 1437; S. A. Marks, 1503; G. D. Mogford, P.M. 2362; H. J. Wynam, J. W. Smith, P.M., Tyler; and others.

The lodge having been opened, Bro. Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I., addressed the meeting, and the ceremony of consecration was rehearsed in a most perfect manner, after which Bro. R. J. Campbell, P.M., W.M., the Asst. Preceptor and Treasurer, was installed as W.M., and appointed and invested his officers.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Bro. Terry, and Bros. James J. Thomas, John Mason, George, F. Dunstan, W. Sutherland, Oldrey, and Horstead for their assistance, on proposition by Bro. CAMPBELL, seconded by Bro. HARDYMENT.

Bro. TERRY, in replying, made especial reference to the beautiful oration delivered by Bro. W. Sutherland, who acted as Chaplain, expressing his astonishment when learning that he was not in holy orders. The compliment was well deserved, for this address to the brethren was one of the most impressive and beautiful of the finest of all ceremonies connected with our Order.

The permanent officers of the lodge are Bros. A. F. Hardyment, S.W. 2698, J.W. 1500, S.D. 1489, Preceptor; R. J. Campbell, P.M. and P.Z. 1489, W.M. 2698, Asst. Preceptor and Treas.; A. E. Horstead, 1897, Org.; and Harry Willsmer, 1567, Hon. Sec.

The meetings are held at the Earl of Derby Hotel (proprietor: Bro. W. G. Coxen, 2698), 155, High-road, Kilburn, N.W., on Wednesday evenings, at 8 o'clock, for ceremonial workings.

No less than 48 joining members were elected among the visitors present, making, with those who joined at the preliminary meeting, 64, a very fair number to commence working with.

Bro. Hardyment was elected to occupy the chair at the first regular meeting on Wednesday last.

This lodge starts under exceptionally favourable circumstances, apart from the fact that such enthusiastic workers as Bros. R. J. Campbell, A. F. Hardyment, George Coxen (Treasurer mother lodge), W. G. Coxen (proprietor of the hotel), Albert H. Oldrey (W.M., &c.), A. E. Horstead, Harry Willsmer, and others are interested in its future prosperity.

The lodge room is one of the prettiest and most conveniently adapted for the meetings of any in London, and Bro. W. G. Coxen has offered every facility to meet the wishes of those who are desirous of attending.

Brethren needing instruction or those having it to impart will receive a most cordial reception at any time.

A Masonic Charities Association is being formed in connection with the lodge, some 30 brethren having signified their intention of taking up shares.

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GRAND LODGE DECISIONS

Extracted from the Authorised 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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THE RT. HON. LORD GEORGE FRANCIS HAMILTON, M.P., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, Past Grand Warden of England, R.W. PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Provincial Grand Lodge will be held at the PUBLIC HALL, HARROW-ON-THE-HILL, on SATURDAY, the 25th day of JUNE, when the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master will be in the Chair.

The Provincial Grand Lodge will be opened punctually at 3.45 o'clock p.m.

By command.

JAMES M. SMALL, Prov. Grand Secretary.
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The most convenient route from London is by the Metropolitan Railway, via Baker-street Station. There will be a special fast train from No. 3 platform at 2.49 p.m., reaching Harrow at 3.14, thus enabling the Brethren to arrive in good time for the meeting.

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THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF WARWICK.

Deputy Ruler of the Order:

HIS HONOUR JUDGE PHILBRICK, Q.C.

Grand Chancellor:

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF HALSBURY.

Grand Chamberlain:

C. E. KEYSER, Esq., J.P., &c.

GRAND FESTIVAL, 1898.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the GRAND FESTIVAL of the ORDER will be held at FREEMASONS' TAVERN, GREAT QUEEN STREET, W.C., on

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29TH, 1898,

GRAND COUNCIL will meet at Five o'clock precisely, WHEN THE RIGHT WORTHY

BRO. THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF WARWICK, Supreme Ruler of the Order,

Will be again proposed as Supreme Grand Ruler, and

R.W. BRO. WILLIAM COCKCROFT, J.P.,

Will be proposed as Grand Treasurer for the year.

At Six o'clock.

THE GRAND OFFICERS AND GRAND STEWARDS for the Year will be invested and proclaimed.

All Princes of the Order are entitled to be present at GRAND CONCLAVE, which meets at Six o'clock, and all Bro. Secret Monitors are invited on this important occasion.

Brethren belonging to a foreign jurisdiction, and desiring to be present, should apply to

Bro. W. J. SPRATLING,

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74, Wickham road, Brockley, S.E.

The Grand Festival will be followed by a BANQUET at the Freemasons' Tavern, at Seven o'clock, for which Tickets (price One Guinea each, inclusive), may be obtained of the Grand Stewards attached to the various Conclaves, or of the Grand Recorder.

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Masonic Notes.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1898.

The annual Athletic Sports of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys will be held at Wood Green on Saturday, the 25th instant. We understand that no tickets of admission will be issued, but the Stewards at the recent Festival and their friends will receive a hearty welcome. With this the last of the functions in connection with the Centenary of the Institution will be brought to a close.

Saturday, the 25th instant, will be ex-pupils' day, and, as usual, the House Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls will be pleased to see as many ex-pupils as can make it convenient to attend between the hours of three and eight p.m. The Committee, however, wish to impress upon ex-pupils that the day is set apart for them, and them only, and that visitors are not invited or expected to attend.

His Royal Highness, the M.W. Grand Master, has been pleased to appoint Bro. Lord Wantage, K.C.B., V.C., to be Provincial Grand Master of Berkshire. Since the lamented death, early in 1892, of the late Duke of Clarence and Avondale, K.G., the office has remained vacant, the Province having, however, been in charge of Bro. J. T. Morland, P.G.D. of England, Dep. P.G. Master. Lord Wantage, who served as Senior Grand Warden in 1891, will, it is expected, be installed with the usual ceremony at the next annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, which will probably take place at Reading some time during the month of August, when a numerous and influential gathering of the Craft may be anticipated.

On Monday, the 20th inst., the Hotel Cecil will be the scene of an important Masonic function, the ceremony of consecrating the Jubilee Masters' Lodge, No. 2712, having been arranged to take place on that day. Bro. E. Letchworth, F.S.A., G. Sec., will be, as usual, the Consecrating Officer, and will be assisted in his duties by Bro. Sir J. B. Monckton and other Grand Officers. The Lodge will start on its career with a muster roll of 75 founders, of whom the following are the principal officers designate, namely, Bro. Alderman W. Vaughan Morgan, P.G. Treas., W.M.; Bro. J. R. Cleave, S.W.; and Bro. W. S. Hooper, J.W.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent held its annual meeting, under the auspices of the Lodge of Union, No. 127, Margate, on Wednesday, the 15th instant. Earl Amherst, Deputy Grand Master of England, Prov. Grand Master, presided, and there was, as usual, a very strong muster of the brethren, while the proceedings were characterised by more than the usual amount of enthusiasm. Provincial Grand Lodge met at 1 p.m. at the Victoria Hall; at 2.30 p.m. the brethren attended Divine service in the parish church of St. John's, the offertory, which amounted to upwards of £11, being divided between a local charitable institution and the Masonic Charity Fund of the Union Lodge. At 4.15 p.m. the brethren dined together at the Foresters' Hall, when the usual toasts were honoured, and the afternoon passed off most pleasantly.

It is needless to say that the circumstances under which the Prov. Grand Lodge was held were of the most encouraging nature, and tended very materially to enhance the pleasure of the meeting. On Friday, the 10th instant, the Centenary Festival of the Eoys' School was held under the presidency of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M., and among the Provinces of England, Kent, as became its strength and influence, took a foremost part in it, the 100 ladies and brethren who acted as Stewards in its behalf, returning a total of donations and subscriptions which exceeded £5350. Kent, on previous occasions, has distinguished itself greatly. It was among the foremost contributors at the Girls' School Centenary in 1888 and the Benevolent Jubilee in 1892. When in 1883 the Prov. G. Master, then Viscount Holmesdale, presided as Chairman at the Boys' School Festival, it did some good, solid work, but there has never been a Masonic Festival, at which it has shown itself so strong a supporter of an Institution, as on what the esteemed and popular Prov. G.M. Master described as the "Glorious tenth of June," when it raised the immense sum we have stated, which, coming as it did, from a Province of only 62 or 64 lodges, may be looked upon as virtually the biggest total of the Centenary. At all events, the number of Stewards was 100, and consequently the average per Steward was £53, an average far in advance of what we are accustomed to on these occasions, even when they happen to be Centenary Festivals.

There is just a word to be said in respect of the entertaining lodge. In that capacity it well sustained the reputation of the Province and also of the lodge, and too much praise cannot be bestowed on its Committees and Bro. F. Stanley, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., who is Secretary of the lodge.

On Tuesday, the 21st inst., Bro. William Short, of the Derby Allcroft Lodge, No. 2186, and his friends have kindly arranged to give a musical and miscellaneous entertainment to "Our Boys," at Wood Green, under the direction of Bro. R. D. Cummings. A similar entertainment was given last year under the direction of the same brother, and proved a great success, and we doubt not that the result of Tuesday's meeting will be equally satisfactory.

The Report of the Masonic Orphan Boys' School for Ireland, Richview, near Dublin, for 1897 is in every way satisfactory. The income for the year was less than that for 1896, but the accounts closed with a greatly reduced balance due to the bankers of the Institution. As regards the educational results, we are glad to learn that the "high position to which the School had attained continues to be held, and the Education Committee feel entirely satisfied with the progress which has been made." The general health of the boys is reported to have been "most satisfactory," there having been no serious outbreak of illness of an infectious character, but, unfortunately, one boy succumbed to an effusion of blood upon the brain, supervening upon an attack of rheumatic fever, this being the first and only case of illness that has terminated fatally during the existence of the School. The number of boys on the establishment at the close of the year was 81, as compared with 79 the previous year.

The May number of the *Canadian Craftsman* contains an interesting account of the establishment of the Craft in Manitoba. A meeting of emergency was held in the Masonic Hall, Winnipeg, under the presidency of Bro. T. Robinson, M.W.G.M. of Manitoba, on the 29th April last, when Bro. W. G. Scott, Grand Secretary, gave a lecture on the subject, which was listened to with the keenest attention by a numerous muster of brethren. It seems that many informal meetings of Masons were held prior to the date assigned by Bro. Scott for the formal establishment of the Craft in the Province. That brother, however, not without reason, is of opinion that the true date of the establishment must be looked for in the organisation of Northern Light Lodge, at Pembina, early in 1864. Two years previously a number of Masons had sought a dispensation from the Grand Master of Minnesota for a lodge in what is now the Province of Manitoba; but the prayer of the petition was not granted, owing to the disturbed state of the country. In 1863, however, the idea was revived by the Masons who were among the troops sent from Minnesota to put down the outbreak of the Sioux Indians.

This time the request proved successful, a dispensation was granted to Bro. C. W. Nash, who was then en route for Pembina. But the winter was a severe one so that the troops did not succeed in getting settled in their quarters till January, 1864, and the first meeting was held somewhere about the 15th of that month—the precise date not being obtainable owing to the destruction of the records by fire in 1868. The lodge, which subsequently received the name of the "Northern Light," continued to work at Pembina till the following month of May, when the troops were withdrawn, and a petition having been granted for the removal of the lodge to Fort Garry, the first meeting was held in the new quarters on the 8th November following. On Tuesday, the 27th December, the brethren met for the purpose of celebrating St. John's Day. During the next year great activity prevailed among the members of the lodge and the installation of officers was held on St. John's Day, in the presence of a large muster of the Craft. Since then, Freemasonry has gone on prospering and the Grand Lodge of Manitoba now has close on 60 lodges on its register.

The *Indian Masonic Review* for last month has an article headed "Royal Arch Masonry," in which, after weighing all that was said at the time in favour of and in opposition to the alteration in the Regulations of the Order as to the length of the qualifying period for exaltation of a M.M. from one year to one month, our contemporary comes to the conclusion that the change has not been productive of the benefits that were expected to result from it. "Having," it says, "bartered away the selectness of the Order, and having thus cheapened it, we are bound to see that we have got our price. And as the result of investigations extended over some years, we say, emphatically, we have not." Later, in the same article, it adds: "The Order has been cheapened and given away for nothing, and the sooner Article 73 of 1893 is replaced by Article 73 of 1886, the better for the dignity of the Order."

THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES the Prince and Princess of Wales, attended by Miss Knollys and Bro. Major-General Sir S. Clarke, returned to Marlborough House on Monday morning from visiting Bro. Lord and Lady Wantage at Lockinge, Bucks. His Royal Highness received the Swedish Minister (Count Charles Lewenhaupt) in the afternoon, who presented to him Dr. Hedin, a Swedish explorer in Central Africa.

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.

LODGE No. 1.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

It is interesting to find, judging from the experience of Lodge No. 1, that the new lodges do not affect the stability of the old ones.

From a lodge like No. 1 we naturally look for light and leading, and I have been wondering on what authority Bro. Belton describes himself as "Honorary" Secretary.

The Book of Constitutions, Rule 129, gives amongst the regular officers "A Secretary," but I do not see that he is called Honorary, and if the term is a correct one, why should it not be applied to the Treasurer or other officers?—Yours faithfully and fraternally,

P.M. AND SECRETARY.

June 13th.

THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Your correspondent in the last issue of the *Freemason* no doubt had a little grievance in the omission of the asterisk from his name in the list of candidates for the Board of General Purposes, but I venture to think it is largely stretching a point to assume that he lost his election thereby. If it be a fact that brethren, "especially country brethren," to quote your correspondent's quotation, go in and vote blindly for an asterisk, or even for a candidate, only because he had been elected on a previous occasion, it does not speak well for the electorate who should cast their votes for a brother whom they positively know will do credit to their choice.

Bro. Styles is an estimable Mason and well-known to the Craft as an efficient member of the late Board. I had the pleasure of voting for him at the last meeting of Grand Lodge, and I hope on the next occasion he will be successful, but if so, I venture to think he will owe little to the insertion or omission of an asterisk.—I am, yours fraternally,

P.M.

Masonic Notes and Queries.

1122.]

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

I am very pleased with the editorial on the above subject, and hope that the matter will receive all the attention its importance deserves. It appears to me that Bro. C. F. Matier, as the *Mark* Grand Secretary, replied, so far as he was competent, to the query submitted, and it now is for the "Board" to consider and report on the question to the *Mark* Grand Lodge that the members may decide. The Grand Lodge of England has *non*-confirmed a portion of the minutes of a previous meeting, and hence, it appears to me, that the members of lodges may also do the same, even if the record be correct as such. Confirmation, Masonically, would seem to mean agreement with the business transacted at the previous meeting, as well as approval of the accuracy of the minutes.

W. J. HUGHAN.

1123.]

The confirmation of minutes is necessary, and the mere statement that they are a correct record of what took place is not sufficient, for the minutes may contain matter improper to be written, and the business transacted may be contrary to the Constitutions and in no wise agreeable to the general opinion of the members of the lodge.

C. H. W.

Reviews.

"ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF OLD AND RARE BOOKS FOR SALE AT PRICES AFFINED."—(London: *Pickering and Chatto*, 66, Haymarket, St. James's, S.W.)—This very interesting series has now reached Part J. (*Phis* to Sporting Works), and is fully equal to the previous issues. Several of the illustrations are gems, and most faithful reproductions of the curious and scarce originals, and the Bibliographical Notes are of no little value and importance. Each Part consists of 64 pages at one shilling, and, if the venture meets with the success it deserves, the spirited Publishers will be well rewarded for their enterprise.

Craft Masonry.

Furnival Lodge, No. 2558.

This flourishing lodge, founded in 1895, kept its third anniversary festival at the Masonic Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield, on Wednesday, the 8th inst. The De Furnival family, as we have previously pointed out, were of great repute in Hallanishire in the 14th century, and Sheffield to this day recognises obligation to this noble house. The lodge has hitherto well maintained its reputation in the Masonic world, and in one important particular, as we shall subsequently show, has this year proved itself worthy indeed to hold the honoured name it bears. Interest in the progress of the Furnival Lodge and sympathy with its proceedings were evidenced by the fact that on a beautiful evening in June, when the country outside the smoke of Sheffield presented almost irresistible attraction, upwards of 70 brethren assembled within the four walls of the Surrey-street Masonic Hall to participate in or to witness the installation ceremony and festivities.

The Worshipful Master, Bro. the Rev. George Ford, M.A., took the chair and opened the lodge at five o'clock. He was supported by Bros. Claude Barker, S.W., W.M. elect; Walter Fearnough, J.W.; Chas. Stokes, P.M., P.P.G.D., Treas.; R. P. Fisher, Sec.; Walter Sissons, Asst. Sec.; A. Davidson, S.D.; H. Cawood, J.D.; Ernest Beck, D.C.; B. J. Taylor, A.D.C.; W. J. Maidment, Org.; H. E. Schnetzler, I.G.; C. Robinson, Stwd.; and Thos. Leighton, Tyler. Other members of the lodge present were Bros. C. Dolman, W. H. Croft, F. Dallaway, J. E. Brooks, J. E. Fletcher, E. A. Sampson, Dr. H. Coward, G. H. Hunt, A. Hastings, W. Cawood, J. Appleyard, and A. Turner.

There was a strong gathering of visitors, amongst whom were the following: Bros. Ensor Drury, 296, P.G.D. Eng.; H. J. Garnett, P.P.G.S.B.; V. E. S. Dearden,

2263, Prov. G.D.; H. J. Atkins, 197 and 1764, P.P.G.W.; Col. J. E. Bingham, 296, P.P.G.W.; H. G. E. Green, 1019, Prov. G. Sec.; J. Matthewman, 1019, P.P.A.G. Sec.; W. Gunstone, W.M. 139; C. E. Maleham, W.M. 296; T. Firth, W.M. 1239; S. Suckley, W.M. 1779; F. W. Johnson, W.M. 2263; C. F. Bennett, W.M. 2268; T. E. Parker, P.M. 1239; A. E. Mager, P.M. 1386; R. P. Shiell, P.M. 34; E. S. Tozer, P.M. 2268; J. J. Parker, P.M. 2258; E. Dickinson, P.M. 139; Dr. J. Stokes, I.P.M. 137; W. Davies, P.M. 581; A. W. Chadburn, I.P.M. 1779; W. Cole, S.W. 1239; G. Glossop, S.D. 2268; A. M. Wilson, J.D. 29; C. F. Shepherd, Sec. 2355; H. Johnson, 1239; W. Ryland, 2491; J. Atkinson, 2491; G. Gibson, 2355; E. Marples, 1779; R. R. Neill, 296; F. Herbert, 1547; W. Foxon, 2491; R. Honey, 2263; W. Froggatt, 1239; L. E. Colley, 1779; W. H. Eyre, 2373; and W. Watts, 1239.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed, with the usual promptitude, and after progressing to the Second Degree, the installation ceremony was at once proceeded with. The W.M. elect, Bro. Claude Barker, S.W., was presented by Bro. C. Stokes, P.M., P.P.G.D., first W.M. of the lodge. The retiring W.M., Bro. Rev. G. Ford, undertook and ably carried through the entire ceremony. It was not as elaborate as we have sometimes witnessed it in Sheffield, nor was it relieved by interludes of music as is sometimes customary, especially in the White Rose of York Lodge; but it was done promptly and reverently, and yet in a workmanlike manner. Following the usual custom in Sheffield—a custom, by the way, we have not observed to obtain elsewhere—the other lodges of the city were pressed into the service by a selection from the Worshipful Masters or Past Masters being invited to present the working tools in the various Degrees. In the Third Degree this was done by Bro. Edward Tozer, P.M. 2268; in the Second by Bro. C. F. Bennett, W.M. 2268; and in the first by Bro. C. H. Maleham, W.M. 296. The Board comprised 26 Installed Masters. The officers were most impressively addressed in turn, on appointment, by the W.M., after which they were invested as follows: Bros. Rev. G. Ford, I.P.M.; W. Fearnough, S.W.; R. P. Fisher, J.W.; C. Stokes, P.M., Treas.; Walter Sissons, Sec.; A. Davidson, Asst. Sec.; H. Cawood, S.D.; E. Beck, J.D.; B. J. Taylor, D. of C.; A. Hastings, Org.; Albert Senior, I.G.; C. Robinson and W. Croft, Stwds.; and Thomas Leighton, Tyler. The delivery of the addresses to the W.M., Wardens, and brethren by the Installing Master closed the ceremony. The W.M. being now in full power, at once proceeded with the remaining business, the first item of which he explained was the election of a brother to represent them upon the Charity Committee of the Province. For his own part, he had no hesitation in suggesting that Bro. Chas. Stokes, their present most able Charity Representative, should be continued in that office. He was a founder of the lodge, its first W.M., and as an advocate in the cause of Masonic Charity, could not, as his record for this year showed, be surpassed. He therefore proposed that Bro. C. Stokes be cordially thanked for his past services, and requested to continue in his office. This was seconded by Bro. W. Fearnough, S.W., and carried with acclamation. Other routine business followed, after which the Secretary announced letters regretting inability to be present from Bros. the Prov. Grand Master, the Right Hon. W. Lawies Jackson, M.P.; the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, J. C. Malcolm, P.G.D.; Henry Smith, Past Deputy Prov. G.M., P.G.D.; W. C. Lupton, P.P.G.W., Chairman of West Yorkshire Charity Committee; W. H. Brittain, J.P., P.M. 139, P.G.S.B.; Geo. Franklin, Prov. J.G.W., Lord Mayor of Sheffield; C. F. Longden, Prov. G. Treas.; Rev. R. Williams, P.P.G. Chap.; C. A. Hahn, W.M. 2491; Martin Cole, W.M. 1386; G. E. Webster, P.M. 2268; A. E. Bingham, P.M.; J. Rogers, P.M.; Bradley, Robinson, Foster, Dewsnape, and others.

The usual questions were asked, "Hearty good wishes" were given and received, and the lodge was closed.

The dinner, which was served in the hall below, fully maintained the reputation which the Surrey-street management has so well deserved. Upwards of 70 sat down. The floral decorations were beautifully arranged, and the waitresses neatly capped and gownned spared no pains to contribute to the comfort and enjoyment of the guests.

The toasts were ten in number and followed the accustomed routine.

In proposing "The Queen," the W.M. took the opportunity of pointing out the immense progress commercial, scientific, educational, and social, which the country had made during the reign of her Gracious Majesty, and called upon the brethren to testify their loyalty by honouring the toast as in all Masonic gatherings was customary.

This, it is useless to say, was done, Bro. W. Foxon delighting his brethren by singing the solo in the National Anthem.

"The M.W. the Grand Master, the M.W. the Pro Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," was next given from the chair. Second only to the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the W.M. declared, enjoyed the greatest popularity amongst Englishmen, and he ventured to assert that it was not by any means his high position only which ensured him that esteem but it was to his sterling qualities as a man he owed it. How he contrived to carry out the manifold duties which his station entailed was difficult to understand, and yet amid all his cares he could find time to devote a considerable amount of interest to Freemasonry. The Craft owed him much gratitude and his value as head of the Order was a factor the importance of which could hardly be overestimated. As to the Pro G. Master and other officers he could not say much, but this much he might, nay, confidently would assert, viz., that if the Grand Officers in their various positions might be judged by the two which Sheffield was proud to possess; if Bros. Ensor Drury and W. H. Brittain were representative of what the Grand Officers really were, then he (the W.M.) was thoroughly satisfied both as to their ability and value and gladly left the honour and reputation of Grand Lodge in hands so able and distinguished.

In his reply, Bro. Ensor Drury pointed out that advancement to higher honour entailed increased duty and more extended responsibility. He trusted that whatever the duty or however great the responsibility he would be able to sustain to the full the reputation of Grand Lodge and dwell upon the consolation which he and others similarly situated felt, when they found how kindly and affectionately the brethren received them in their various lodge visits. He thanked the W.M. for giving him the opportunity of expressing his feelings on these points.

In proposing "The Prov. G. Master for West Yorkshire, the Deputy Prov. G. Master, and the officers of Prov. G. Lodge, Present and Past," the W.M. said that amongst many things for which they owed gratitude to their M.W.G.M. the Prince of Wales, not the smallest was his appointment of Bro. W. L. Jackson as Masonic head of this Province. A better man could not have been found and now that he had become so well known amongst them it would be unnecessary to dilate upon his virtues, they had seen them equally with himself. In his conduct of affairs and his intercourse with the brethren Bro. Jackson had succeeded in endearing himself to them all. Then he had been fortunate in his selection of a Deputy. Bro. Malcolm, whose absence that evening like that of several others he might name, was much regretted, had spared no effort to make himself known in Sheffield as well as all over the province. He believed that he and the Prov. G. Officers worked very hard for the good of the Craft; that they were always ready to tender assistance or counsel, and that not only Furnival Lodge but the brethren generally, had confidence in the ability of the Prov. G. Lodge, and thanked each and all of its members for what they were doing and had done in the interest of the Order. Amongst them that night they had many Prov. G. Officers. He thanked them for their presence at this, to him, most important meeting.

Bro. H. G. E. Green, Prov. G. Sec., being called upon, said in reply, how encouraging it was to find the brethren so heartily responding to the toast of the Prov. G. Officers. He, with them, regretted the absence of their chief. He was present, however, he need scarcely remind them, two months ago and partook of the hospitality of their Lord Mayor. That day would be long remembered. Turning to the great event of the week, Bro. Green spoke of the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales and how the latter at the Albert Hall graciously distributed the prizes to the boys of their Masonic School. As to the festival and what it would bring forth there was no doubt West Yorkshire would do its share. In the province contributions had come in freely but Sheffield bore the palm. In no town or city in the Riding had a sum so handsome been raised as in Sheffield. The number of Stewards, without counting the ladies, was 67, and the amount subscribed nearly £900. Of the eight lodges, Wentworth, No. 1239, took first place with 17 Stewards and 200 guineas. The youngest lodge came next, viz., Furnival, which notwithstanding that it has but 29 members on its roll, yet through the energetic action of its Charity member, Bro. Chas. Stokes, showed 16 Stewards and the handsome sum of close upon £200. What the total subscriptions of West Yorkshire would realise he could not say, but they were in hopes to raise more not only than they themselves had subscribed before, but also to exceed the total of any other province at any previous festival.* This would, of course, materially increase the voting power. He

* When the list was read in the Albert Hall on Friday, the 10th inst., West Yorkshire's return was 338 Stewards with £200. [Ed. *Freemason*.]

congratulated the province, but Sheffield in particular, upon the result and trusted that the various lodges would be as successful as they by their generosity deserved to be.

Bro. Dr. V. G. S. Dearden, Prov. G.D., also responded.

The Tyler's toast next followed.

"The Health of the Worshipful Master" was heartily and humorously proposed by the I.P.M., Bro. Ford, who said that in proposing that, the toast of the evening, without favour and without prejudice, he could say that for the first time in the history of the lodge the chair had been adequately filled. He then jocularly made reference to his predecessors—how they fell short latitudinally or longitudinally properly, as he thought, to fill the W.M.'s seat, but declared that in the present occupant they had succeeded in securing both length and breadth. Not only in matters physical, however, was Bro. Claude Barker calculated adequately to fill the chair, but also mentally and Masonically was he fitted eminently to discharge the duties annexed thereto. That he would in a manly and creditable fashion so fulfil them he (Bro. Ford) had no doubt, and he could only wish him health and success, in both of which aspirations he was sure the brethren would heartily join.

This the brethren did, and when

The Worshipful Master rose to reply, he again had a very cordial reception. He said: Bro. Ford and brethren,—My first duty in rising to respond is to thank you, Bro. Ford, the proposer, for your kind words, and you, brethren, for the emphatic way in which you received and endorsed them. In reference to certain physical points to which Bro. Ford has alluded, I may say that some years ago I joined a local volunteer corps, and I have it appears, consciously or unconsciously, been following the example of my superior officer even in the matter of physical development. Leaving aside the joke, however, just let me say that I do indeed feel proud and honoured on having attained this high position; that I will endeavour to merit the confidence you have so unreservedly placed in me; and that if you will but give me the support to which I am entitled, I have no fear for the progress or success of the Furnival Lodge. I also wish particularly to thank the many visitors who have honoured me by attending to-night. There are many for whom I have the highest respect, and whose presence I value. To travel all the way from Bournemouth or from London, which has been done to-day by some in order to witness my installation and offer good wishes, is a mark of esteem which impresses me strongly. One and all, then, brethren, accept my thanks for your greetings and kind reception.

Bro. C. Stokes undertook the next on the list—that of "The I.P.M. and Installing Master," and contrasted in doing so the custom which obtained some years ago, when there was generally one, and only one, regular Installing Master in a lodge, and that in vogue at present, when each retiring Master thought it a natural part of his duty to install his successor. He congratulated Bro. Ford upon his efforts.

Bro. Ford briefly replied.

"The Past Masters" was entrusted to the S.W., Bro. Fearnough, who pointed out how great was the interest which Bro. Stokes, who, in consequence of the absence of Bro. Hutchinson, was virtually sole Past Master, had shown in the Craft generally, and in Furnival Lodge particularly. After an example like his if properly followed, there would be no fear of the Past Masters failing in their duty.

Bro. Stokes declared his task a simple one. What he had done in the past he was prepared to continue in the future, and the interests of Furnival Lodge would always be an object of care with him.

The other toasts were "The Sister Lodges and Visiting Brethren," proposed by the J.W., Bro. R. P. Fisher, and replied to by Bros. C. F. Bennett, W.M. 2268, and H. J. Atkins, 195 and 1764, P.P.G.W.; and "The Masonic Charities," advocated by Bro. W. Davies, P.M. 581. To this last

Bro. C. Stokes responded. He pointed out that out of 17 brethren upon whom he had called in the interest of the Masonic Charities 14 had each given him 12 guineas; that as to the rest of the very handsome sum which Furnival, small though it was, had raised, every brother had contributed something, and that, he thought, was as it should be, for it was more blessed to give than to receive. He could only thank them very gratefully for the support they had so ungrudgingly given him as their Charity member.

"The Officers of the Furnival Lodge," given from the chair and replied to by Bro. C. Robinson, Stwd., closed the meeting.

It is only necessary further to say that the whole proceedings were of a most pleasant and harmonious character; nor should we forget to add that between the speeches, music—both vocal and instrumental—of a very high class was introduced. Bro. Foxon, whose reputation as a vocalist extends far beyond Sheffield, Bro. J. Atkinson, and Bro. Herbert each contributed songs; whilst Bros. Honey, with the cornet, and Maidment, on the piano, delighted the brethren with their efforts, singly or combined, thus giving the requisite finish to the character and success of the meeting.

Royal Arch.

Studholme Brownrigg Chapter, No. 2421.

The installation meeting of this flourishing chapter was held on Thursday, the 2nd inst., at the Station Hotel, Amersham, when there were present Comps. T. H. Hobbs, acting M.E.Z.; H. J. Thomas, H.; J. Stratton, P.Z.; J. J. Thomas, P.G. Std. Br., S.E.; J. J. Simcox, Org.; F. J. Turer, P.P.G.S.N.; and a good number of companions. Visitors: Comps. Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, Grand Supt. Bucks.; John Williams, P.G.S.B. Eng.; and others.

The chapter being duly opened, the minutes were read and confirmed. The balance sheet and report of the Audit Committee was read, received, and ordered to be entered on the minutes. Comp. H. J. Thomas and J. Stratton were then duly installed into the chairs of H. and J. respectively, by Comp. J. Williams. Bro. Collingwood was next exalted. A P.Z. Jewel was provided for the outgoing M.E.Z.; Comp. F. J. Hubbard, who was not able to be present. The officers having been invested, and after various other matters had been attended to, the chapter was closed.

The officers for the year are Comps. H. J. Thomas, M.E.Z.; F. J. Hubbard, I.P.Z.; H. Lomas, H.; W. J. Stratton, J.; J. J. Thomas, S.E.; C. A. Parker, S.N.; J. Stephens, Treas.; E. Brown, P.S.; H. G. Clarke, 1st Asst. Soj.; C. Darlington, 2nd Asst. Soj.; J. J. Simcox, Org.; R. A. Thompson, D.C.; and H. Bye, Stwd.

The companions then sat down to an excellent banquet, which was followed by a splendid selection of music given by the Misses K. and A. Thomas, Comp. Collingwood, and Bros. D. R. Redfern, and T. C. Harpham.

THE DUKE and Duchess of Connaught have been entertaining a large and distinguished party this week for the Ascot Races.

Mark Masonry.

Earl of Carnarvon Lodge, No. 211.

A meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on the 26th ultimo. Among those in attendance were Bros. E. Beard, W.M.; Rosedale, S.W.; Richards, J.W.; Hardinge, M.O.; Wales, S.O.; Strutt, J.O.; J. N. Frye, P.M., Treas.; Major T. C. Walls, P.M., P.G.S.B., Sec.; W. Wiltshire, S.D.; T. Baragwanth, J.D.; G. A. Dowse, I.G.; R. Shaw, D.C.; M. K. Prasada, Stwd.; G. Larter, I.P.M.; S. H. Parkhouse, P.M.; Skinner, P.M.; Monson, P.M.; John Mason, P.M., P.G. S.B.; and H. J. Lardner, P.M., P.S.G.D. (Hon. Members). Bro. John Smith, P.M., was a visitor.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. Beard, S.W. Arcadian Lodge, was balloted for and most effectively advanced to the Honourable Degree of a M.M.M. by the W.M.

Communications regretting inability to attend were received from Bros. F. C. Frye, P.M.; Huish, P.M.; Dr. Kiallmark, P.M., P.G.S.; D. P. Cama, P.M. (Hon. Member); and others.

The lodge having been closed, an excellent banquet followed. The toasts were ably given by the W.M.

Bros. H. J. Lardner, P.S.G.D., and John Mason, P.G. Std. Br., replied on behalf of "The Grand Officers." Both speakers often touched upon the subject toast, and congratulated the lodge on its strength and prosperity.

Bro. Mason, as a founder and first Master of the lodge, expressed his great satisfaction that the members of the lodge worked so well, and that such perfect harmony prevailed. He had enjoyed the meeting very much, and he trusted that No. 211 would continue to prosper.

The I.P.M., in proposing the toast of "The W.M.," complimented Bro. Beard upon the admirable manner in which he had performed the ceremony of advancement that day. He also said that the W.M. had proved himself to be a capable chairman, and his kindness in providing an excellent musical entertainment at their meetings was not to be lost sight of.

The W.M., having said a few words in reply, gave "The Advancee."

Bro. Beard, in acknowledgment, expressed his thanks to the brethren for admitting him into their ranks. He had been highly pleased with the Degree, and he should endeavour, by attention and hard work, to merit their good opinion, so that in the distant future he might hope to be elected to the position which his brother filled so well.

Bro. John Smith, P.M., replied on behalf of "The Visitors" in a neat and complimentary speech.

Bros. Larter and Parkhouse responded on behalf of "The Past Masters," Bros. J. N. Frye and T. C. Walls for "The Treasurer and Secretary," and Bros. Rosedale and Richards for "The Officers."

The W.M. had provided a varied programme of instrumental, vocal, and dramatic selections, which gave unqualified satisfaction to everyone present, and it was with regret that the members were prevented by the exigencies of time from asking, as did Oliver Twist, "for more."

Red Cross of Rome & Constantine.

Premier Conclave.

The election meeting was held at the Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on the 6th inst. Among those present were Sir Knights H. J. Lardner, P.G.C., P.M.P.S., Treas., as M.P.S., in the absence of Sir Knight W. A. Scurrah, G.S.; G. Graveley, P.M.P.S., as V.E., in the unavoidable absence of Sir Knight L. Steele; Major T. C. Walls, P.M.P.S., P.G.G., Recorder; J. Furrot, P.M.P.S.; and R. Barnes.

The minutes of the previous conclave having been read and confirmed, Sir Knight L. Steele was unanimously elected M.P.S.; Sir Knight the Rev. R. C. Fillingham, M.A., V.E.; Sir Knight H. J. Lardner, P.M.P.S., Treasurer; and Frater Reinardt, Sentinel. A Past Sovereign's jewel was unanimously voted to Sir Knight W. A. Scurrah.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Sir Knights L. Steele, V.E.; the Rev. R. C. Fillingham, M.A., S.G.; Capt. T. Phillips, J.G.; G. Powell, P.M.P.S., P.G.G.; C. Keyser, J.P., P.M.P.S., P.G.G.; H. Humphries, E. Moore, and others.

The conclave was then closed, and the Sir Knights dined at Freemasons' Tavern. There were no toasts, and the proceedings terminated at an early hour.

The Craft Abroad.

Cambrian Lodge of Australia, No. 656 (E.C.).

The regular meeting of the above lodge was held in the lodge rooms, Royal Foresters' Hall, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, on Wednesday, April 6th. There was a large attendance of members and visitors from the English Constitution, Irish Constitution, Scottish Constitution, and the New South Wales Constitution. The Grand Lodge of England was represented by W. Bro. Pollack, J.P., District Grand Treasurer of Westland, New Zealand (E.C.), and also by a number of visitors from H.M.'s ships then in port.

The lodge having been opened, one gentleman was balloted for, and accepted for initiation, and two brethren from the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales for affiliation. W. Bro. Pollack congratulated the lodge on the progress it was making, and assured the brethren that they had the warm support of all the English Constitution lodges in New Zealand. Three brethren present as visitors signified their intention of affiliating.

The lodge, being now firmly established, seems to be filling a want long felt by unaffiliated members of the English Constitution, Irish Constitution, and Scotch Constitution who prefer remaining under the old Constitutions rather than any other, this being the only lodge in New South Wales working under the Grand Lodge of England.

TUESDAY NIGHT'S "Gazette" contains the official announcement of Bro. Lord Muncaster's elevation to the peerage of the United Kingdom.

COUNTY

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G. W. STEVENS, }
B. E. RATLIFF, } Joint Secretaries.

Masonic and General Tidings.

T.R.H. THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES spent Sunday last at Lockinge House, near Wantage, as the guests of Bro. Lord and Lady Wantage, and their Royal Highnesses returned to town on Monday.

THE DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE has kindly consented to open the flower show and award the prizes in connection with the Children's Geranium Club at Cambridge House, Camberwell, on Monday, the 11th July.

WE ARE desired to state that on the occasion of Bro. the Lord Mayor's dinner to the officers of her Majesty's Navy, on Wednesday, the 29th inst., at which the First Lord of the Admiralty will be present, full dress will be worn by the officers attending.

THE "HOUSE PARTY" for Ascot, at Cumberland Lodge, included H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, his Highness Prince Christian Victor, Lady Jeune and Miss Stanley, Miss Minnie Cochrane, Miss Emily Loch, Col. Douglas Dawson, Lieut.-Col. Grierson, Capt. Henniker, and Col. the Hon. Charles Eliot (in waiting).

BRO. THE DUKE OF PORTLAND, Master of the Horse, who recently underwent a somewhat serious operation, has arrived at Welbeck Abbey, where he will remain for a few weeks. Although his Grace is making good progress towards recovery, he was unable to attend in his official capacity the State procession at Ascot on Tuesday.

PARIS EXHIBITION OF 1900.—The Royal Commission are now prepared to circulate information respecting the exhibition. The classification and rules for exhibitors, together with forms of application for space, can be obtained by applying to the secretary of the Royal Commission, Paris Exhibition, 1900, St. Stephen's House, Westminster, S.W.

PRINCESS HENRY OF PRUSSIA will conclude to-day (Friday) her visit to the Queen at Balmoral, and leave for London, accompanied by her two children and the members of her suite. Reaching Euston to-morrow (Saturday) morning, the party will proceed to Buckingham Palace, where they will stay till Monday, when they commence the return journey to Germany.

AMONG THOSE who have accepted the invitation of the Treasurer (Master Lewis Coward) and the Benchers of Gray's Inn to dine on Wednesday, the 22nd instant, are H.R.H. Prince Christian, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, the Earl of Coventry, the Earl of Morley, and the Earl of Camperdown. H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught will dine with his brother benchers on the same evening.

ON WEDNESDAY, the 22nd instant, the Duke of Connaught will unveil the Albert Memorial window in the Collegiate Church of St. Saviour, Southwark, which has recently been restored; £6000 is required immediately to discharge the liabilities of the restoration committee, towards which £1800 is guaranteed, with the promise of an additional £1000 if the balance (£4200) is speedily subscribed.

ON TUESDAY the Lord Mayor, Bro. Alderman Davies, M.P., entertained at luncheon, at the Mansion House, Herr Bäcker, the Burgomaster of Cologne, Her Dittmann, the Burgomaster of Bremen, and a number of the members of the municipalities of those cities who are now visiting the Metropolis for the investigation of certain sanitary and hygienic matters in which they are seeking information.

ON SATURDAY afternoon last Princess Christian distributed the medals and certificates to the students of the National Health Society, at Grosvenor House. The chair was occupied by the Duke of Westminster, who was accompanied by the Duchess of Westminster, and there was a crowded attendance. The Princess, having distributed the medals and certificates, was presented with a handsome bouquet by Master Christian Duckworth.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, during his visit to the Marquis of Londonderry at Wynyard Park, will, on Saturday, August 27th, be present at the annual inspection and review of the 2nd Durham (Seaham Harbour) Artillery Volunteers, of which regiment Lord Londonderry is Colonel. His Royal Highness will, on the same day, take part in the opening ceremony of the Durham Agricultural Society's Horse Show.

LORD DAVEY, the Treasurer, and the Benchers of Lincoln's Inn entertained at dinner on Tuesday evening, being "Grand Day" of Trinity Term, the Right Hon. Viscount Knutsford, Lord Lingen, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, Sir Richard Couch, Lord Justice Collins, Mr. Justice North, Mr. Justice Darling, Sir Godfrey Lushington, Sir David Tennant (Agent-General Cape of Good Hope), and the Rev. Dr. Wace. Mr. Chamberlain, M.P., had accepted an invitation to be present, but was prevented from attending at the last moment.

AN ENTERTAINMENT in aid of the Westminster Building Accident Fund for the relief of the widows and orphans left destitute by the recent calamity was held at the Westminster Town Hall on Wednesday. The artists assisting included Madame Antoinette Sterling, Miss Mary Rorke, Miss Florence Terry, Miss Mabel Love, Miss Aileen D'Orme, Miss Beatrice Ferrar, Miss Mildred Baker, Miss Gertrude Macaulay, Miss de Lacy, Mr. Dan Leno, Mr. Hayden Coffin, Mr. Courtice Pounds, Mr. Maurice Farkoa, Mr. Jones Hewson, and the Westminster Glee Singers. The hall was crowded with an appreciative audience, and a substantial sum was realised.

SUNDAY LAST, being Hospital Sunday, the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and Commoners of the City of London, with the Lord Chancellor (Bro. the Earl of Halsbury), Sir Francis Jeune, Lord Justice Rigby, Mr. Justice Kekewich, Mr. Justice Barnes, Mr. Justice Ridley, Mr. Justice Bigham, and Mr. Justice Phillimore, attended the afternoon service at St. Paul's Cathedral, in accordance with custom, wearing their robes of office. Each carried a bouquet, presented by the Keeper of Guildhall. The sermon was preached by the newly-consecrated Bishop of Stepney (the Right Rev. Winnington Ingram). Collections were made in all places of worship throughout London.

FOUNDINGS' DAY in the noble institution in Guildford-street founded by Captain Coram was honoured by the presence at morning service of the Duke of Cambridge attended by Col. FitzGeorge, Bro. Christopher Sykes, and Bro. General Sir Reginald and Lady Gips. There are now 350 boys and girls in the institution, and altogether 520 children are maintained by the charity, 170 of the more delicate being placed under medical supervision in cottages in the neighbourhood of Addlestone and Tonbridge. The Lord Primate of Ireland preached the sermon. Afterwards his Royal Highness presented purses, each containing five guineas, to 16 young people brought up in the hospital upon their attaining their majority. Several were soldiers, others clerks, and the girls were mostly servants.

THE DUCHESS OF ALBANY, after lunching with Bro. the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress at the Mansion House on Monday, presided over a well-attended meeting of the Deftford Fund. Bro. Sir Robert and Lady Collins were in attendance, and among those present were Viscountess Maitland, Lady Jane Taylor, Lady Faudel-Phillips and Miss Faudel-Phillips, Lady Florence Pelham-Clinton, and Lady Darling. Mr. A. H. Tarleton, Chairman of the Executive Committee, moved the adoption of the report, and on seconding, Lord Belhaven and Stenton, Chairman of the Finance Committee, gave some interesting details concerning the new building, the cost of which is likely to be about £14,000. Great preparations are being made in honour of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's visit.

CYCLE RACE FOR THE CARWARDINE CUP.—The annual race, promoted by the Anerley Bicycle Club, for the historic Carwardine Cup takes place on the Crystal Palace track to-morrow (Saturday) at 3 p.m. The race was originally run as a 24-hours' competition for unlicensed riders and won by C. Fontaine, but owing to the action of the N.C.U. in stopping races for this class of men, the distance has been altered to 100 miles for amateurs, the winners being D. Frost in 1896 and A. H. Harris in 1897. Probably, of all the century races there has been more competition for this cup than any other, owing, perhaps, to its enormous value, 300 guineas, which is, we believe, the highest valued prize ever offered for a cycle competition. The amount of interest shown by riders in this year's race can best be proved by the number of entries (including the two previous winners, Frost and Harris) being so great that it is quite impossible to start them all in one race, so only 20 picked riders will start, and as each rider is now allowed by the N.C.U. to have six tandems for pace-making, the race should be to the spectators very exciting and interesting, and a great crowd is expected to be present. The Crystal Palace is one of those places which differ greatly from the ordinary tracks of London, because after the race is over there is still plenty to see and do, particularly the new ballet and café chantant, besides a host of other amusements.

THE SECOND State concert will take place on Monday, the 20th inst., at Buckingham Palace.

THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF YARBOROUGH have left town for Ems, for the benefit of Lady Yarrow's health.

THE MERCHANT TAYLORS COMPANY have contributed £1000 to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund, and promised to give a like sum annually during the next two years.

MANY CONGRATULATIONS were offered on Tuesday to that gallant sailor Bro. the Hon. Sir Henry Keppel, G.C.B., Admiral of the Fleet, who entered on the 90th year on that day. Sir Henry, who is hale and hearty for his age, joined the fleet in 1822, when turricots and armour plates were unknown. He is not the father of the fleet, as there are at least two officers who are his seniors. Sir Henry, who retired in 1879, is exceedingly popular wherever he goes—in clubs and in country houses—and is now busy preparing his memoirs.

ACCORDING TO latest arrangements, her Majesty will hold a Council a day or two after her return to Windsor, on Wednesday of next week. The Queen will visit Aldershot early next month for the purpose of holding a review of the troops in the camp on Laffan's Plain before the Duke of Connaught relinquishes his command there, and T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the Royal family are expected to be present. Her Majesty will come to London for a couple of hours in the afternoon on a day not yet fixed in order to lay the foundation stone of the new building of the South Kensington Museum.

THE DUCHESS OF YORK crossed from Portsmouth to Haslar on Tuesday, accompanied by Prince Edward of York, and witnessed an interesting parade of 400 boys from the training ship St. Vincent, who were drawn up under Lieutenant Barber, in the absence of Commander Fisher through indisposition. The boys went through a picturesque display of physical drill. Her Royal Highness also visited the golf links and the Admiralty Experimental Workshops before returning to Portsmouth. T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales have given their patronage to the annual regatta of the Royal Portsmouth Corinthian Club.

THE MARCHIONESS OF LONDONDERRY presided, on Saturday last, at a meeting of the London General Committee of the Irish Industries Association, held at Londonderry House. There was a large attendance, those present including the Marchioness of Dufferin, the Marchioness of Lansdowne, Earl and Countess Mayo, Countess Cadogan, Countess of Gainsborough, Countess of Lucan, Bro. Lord Arthur Hill, Lord and Lady O'Neill, Lord and Lady Duncannon, Lord and Lady Ulrick Brown, Lady Pontifex, Lady Morris, the Hon. Lady Ridley and others. The report was read, and showed a record profit on the sales. Bro. Lord Arthur Hill said that the autumnal sale would be held at Liverpool, and that the Princess Christian had promised to open the exhibition early in December. Many distinguished ladies have offered to take stalls.

ON SATURDAY morning last the Duchess of York, accompanied by Prince Edward, proceeded from Admiralty House, Portsmouth, where she is the guest of Admiral Sir Michael and Lady Culme-Seymour, and visited the first-class cruiser which has been commissioned by the Duke for naval manoeuvres, and is now completing for sea. Subsequently the Duke and Duchess went out of harbour to witness a race for craft of the Solent No. 1 design class, this being one of half a dozen events on the card for the opening regatta of the season of the Royal Portsmouth Corinthian Yacht Club. Eleven yachts started over a 12-mile course, and in the result the Eileen (Capt. the Hon. A. G. Grenville and Mr. B. Fitzgerald) was only 11secs. ahead of the Volage, which was steered by its owner, Admiral Sir M. Culme-Seymour.

AS PRESIDENT OF the Royal Photographic Society, Bro. the Earl of Crawford invited its members to an enjoyable *soirée* on Tuesday at the Grafton Galleries, where he is exhibiting to the Bibliographical Society, of which also he is the head, his marvellous collection of manuscripts and specimens of metal and ivory book covers. A very large company assembled in response, and inspected with keen delight such treasures as Wycliffe's version of the Gospels, in manuscript, on vellum, presented by Francis Newport, who had flown from the Marian persecutions, to Queen Elizabeth, with his letter begging her acceptance; a book of recipes by the master cook of Richard II., and a beautifully illuminated manuscript of Lydgate's "Siege of Troy." The Oriental manuscripts, also form a very interesting section. The coverings include work as ancient as the 10th and 11th centuries, and are extremely beautiful in their carving and enrichment of jewels.

OWING TO THE indifferent state of Mr. William Gillette's health a short rest before resuming his American engagements in August is absolutely necessary, his season, therefore, with Mr. Brickwell at the Garrick Theatre will terminate after the performance of "Too much Johnson" on Tuesday evening, the 28th inst. On the following evening, Wednesday, the 29th inst., will be presented "Sue" the play by Messrs. Bret Harte and T. Edgar Pemberton, adapted from Mr. Harte's story "The Judgment of Bolinas Plain," which was produced with such conspicuous success on Friday afternoon last at the Garrick Theatre. Following on "Sue" will be "Tresa" by Mr. George Pleydell Bancroft which was so successfully produced at Camberwell and Birmingham by Mr. Albert Mayer, and for which the original cast have been engaged, including Mr. Arthur Boucher and Miss Violet Vanbrugh. Mr. Leo Trevor's play which was lately copyrighted under the title of "Brother Officers" and for which a powerful company have already been engaged will succeed "Tresa" whenever it is found necessary to withdraw that play.

THE ANNUAL REPORT of the British Homes Investment Corporation, Limited—published in last week's issue—impresses one by the progress made, the work having been worthily rewarded by signal improvement in the already ample resources of its constitution, and the increase in the volume of new business, shows a gratifying development all round, and bears striking testimony to the growing confidence of the public in the successful operations of the company. The Life Assurance Department was started in October, 1897, and the statutory deposit of £20,000 duly lodged with the High Court of Justice, required by the Life Assurance Acts, all the arrangements having been satisfactorily completed, the business of the Investment Corporation was merged into the Assurance Corporation. It can now fill an enlarged sphere of operations, while the combination of the two businesses, under one management and with the same trained agency forces at work in all parts of the United Kingdom, will lead to the continued growth and profitable expansion of the Corporation's work, under more economic conditions than could otherwise be secured. It is by a thorough regard for the absolute welfare and a solicitude for providing the largest measure of benefit to its members, that this institution has become famous and justifiably popular everywhere; and its founder and managing director—Mr. M. Gregory—with his colleagues deserve well of the public for the excellent work they have done.

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