

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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RECENT PROVINCIAL MEETINGS.

The recent annual meetings of many of our Provincial Grand Lodges all tend to show that Freemasonry in the English Counties is in about as flourishing a condition as we could desire it to be. The reports of the chief executive officers make it clear (1) that their financial position is sound, and (2) that the lodges have either maintained their numerical strength or are steadily increasing it. There is, indeed, a uniform level of prosperity to which all of them appear to have attained, nor is there—as far as it is possible for us to judge—any reason why that level should not be easily maintained. Here and there we meet with cases in which lodge Secretaries have failed to make their returns to the Provincial Grand Secretary by the appointed time, and here and there we hear of a small proportion of the members of private lodges being in arrear of their subscriptions; but these are the only blemishes we note in reports which, on the whole, are exceptionally favourable. Moreover, nearly every Province that has met recently has had good reason for congratulating itself on the support it has found it possible to give to the junior of our two Central Scholastic Institutions on the occasion of its Centenary Festival. All of them would seem to have done at least as well as they did for the Centenary of the senior School or at the Jubilee of the Benevolent Institution, while the majority of them have greatly exceeded the limits which might in reason have been assigned to their subscriptions. Thus Norfolk, which is principally an agricultural county, and has but 18 lodges, raised for this important celebration upwards of £800, or almost twice as much as it has ever subscribed at a single Festival, while Buckinghamshire, with 19 lodges, subscribed nearly £1130, or nearly four times what it gave to the Benevolent Jubilee—which, however, was celebrated during the second year of its existence as a separate Province. North and East Yorkshire, which raised about £500, shows a substantial falling off as compared with the £760 it gave to the Girls' Centenary, and the £720 it is entered for in the Benevolent Jubilee Returns; but at the former date it had no Provincial Educational Fund with a first claim upon its benevolence, while in the year of the latter celebration, that claim upon its resources was, doubtless, smaller than it is now. In the report we published last week it was announced that the expenditure during the past 12 months amounted to some £270 so that the Province has maintained its total of subscriptions but apportioned them differently. Suffolk with its contingent of 22

lodges contributed £1500, which is nearly three times what it gave to the Girls' Centenary, and fully £200 in excess of its total at the great Benevolent gathering in 1892. Surrey has beaten its previous best by a round £1500, and Hertfordshire, 22 lodges, made Returns which exceeded all its previous contributions save at the Benevolent Jubilee. The Provincial Grand Lodges of Devonshire, Essex, and Shropshire all met on the same day—Tuesday, the 26th ult., and in each case there was the same pleasant unvarnished tale to unfold. Devonshire in June last raised twice as much as it has ever raised at any previous single Festival, and we trust that now it has brought the sum of its contributions to correspond fairly well with the number of lodges it has on its roll, it will do what is in its power to maintain that position. Essex, as is mentioned in the report we publish elsewhere, stood sixth in order of contribution at this memorable gathering, the total it subscribed amounting to upwards of £3900, while SHROPSHIRE, which numbers only a dozen lodges, raised £1170, which is quite £150 better than its previous best in 1887, when its Prov. G. Master, R.W. Bro. Sir OFFLEY WAKEMAN, Bart., presided as Chairman at the 99th Anniversary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. These, then, are the indications, not selected with difficulty, from a long series of reports, for the purpose of showing what can be done under exceptional circumstances, but quoted from each and every of the reports we have had the privilege of lately publishing, with a view to showing what they have, one and all, done in honour of an especial anniversary of one of our Institutions. Provinces that are not well-administered, or are wanting in the essentials to ensure them strength and stability, could not have accomplished these great things. We are, therefore, justified in our assertion that the position of Freemasonry in the English counties is one on which we may be reasonably allowed to pride ourselves.

BELFAST MASONIC CHARITY FUND.

We have been favoured with a copy of the 36th annual report of the Committee of the Belfast Charity Fund and are gratified beyond measure at finding that during the year 1897 the Institution has prospered to a greater extent than at any previous period of its existence. More especially is it a satisfaction to be told that "those sources of income which mark the interest taken by lodges in the work of this Charity show a continuous increase." It is easy enough for a wealthy man or body of wealthy men to make a large donation to a Charitable Institution which depends principally, if not entirely, for its maintenance on voluntary contributions. It is equally easy in a Society like ours, for the presiding body to make a liberal grant from its funds towards the support of such a Charity. We say this is easy enough and we recognise at the same time that it is an honourable act on the part of the donors. But the greatest credit of all is due to those, be they man or bodies of men, who subscribe without being specially solicited to do so, that is to say, when, as in the case of this Charity "no special effort has been made" by the Committee "to bring the claims of the Fund more particularly under the notice of the Lodges and individual brethren." As the Committee very properly remark, "the unselfish kindness which prompts such action is worthy of more than a passing commendation, and is convincing proof, if such were needed, that the true spirit and genius of our noble Order flourishes with unabated vigour in our midst."

The justice of these statements is beyond question as shown by the accounts that were laid before the Committee at its meeting. The balance brought forward from the year 1896 was close upon £140. The receipts from all sources amounted to £527, which is described as "the largest yet attained," the principal items being Lodge and Personal Subscriptions and Charity Collections amounting together to close on £286, Donations to the extent of £25, and £124 for Interest on Investments. The expenditure was £546, of which £420 was disbursed in Relief and Funeral Expenses; £17 for expenses of management—Rent, Printing, Postage, &c.—and £100 in the purchase of additional capital, the total of which now reaches £3000. The result is a balance of £120 to be carried forward to the present year. From the table appended of Lodge Subscriptions, it appears that 48 out of 65 lodges and one Royal Arch chapter gave their support, while of the 17 that made no grants from their funds, not a few rendered substantial help by their Charity Collections. The money expended in relief was distributed among not far short of 100 brethren, widows, and, in a few cases, children, the number of cases in which moneys were voted towards Funeral Expenses being three. The donations, amounting together to £25, were made by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim, private lodge No. 36, and an individual brother. From a further table appended to the Report, it appears that "the amount received from all sources since the commencement of the Fund" is, in round figures £9938, of which £3275 was contributed by the Prov. G. Lodge of Antrim and 70 private lodges, and over £49 by other Masonic bodies. The donations and bequests were close on £960 and the Charity Boxes yielded £360. The half Proceeds of Bazaar represented a sum of £2385, while interest on capital, Grand Lodge Moiety, Personal Subscriptions, Proceeds of Masonic Services and Meetings, &c., reached £2908. These figures show unmistakably that our Belfast brethren are generous in the support of their Masonic Charity Fund, and we feel sure their generosity will be as conspicuous in the future as it has been in the past.

The value of this report is still further enhanced by the unqualified testimony it bears to the excellent manner in which the Masonic Female Orphan and the Orphan Boys' Schools in Dublin are managed. It will be, no doubt, in the recollection of our readers that some time during the summer of 1897 we had the pleasure of publishing an account of a visit paid by some 400 brethren, &c., from Belfast to those Institutions, that they were most kindly and hospitably received, and that they returned home delighted with what they had seen in the Irish capital of Masonry and its Institutions. It would have been strange indeed if this Report had appeared without some reference to this visit, and it is most gratifying to know how favourably the inspection of the School impressed the visitors. The following is the passage containing this reference: "The reception at both Schools was most cordial and fraternal, each visitor having the honour to be presented to the R.W. Deputy Grand Master (R.W. Bro. J. CREED MEREDITH, LL.D.), who gave a hearty welcome to all on behalf of the School Committee. It is not too much to say that the impression left on the mind of every visitor was that the half had not been told them of the excellence in every respect of these Institutions. The sound education imparted, the fraternal care evinced, and the loyalty and affection displayed by the children to those in authority, should suffice to obtain for these monuments of Masonic benevolence that support and sympathy which are claimed for them." Such testimony as this must not only be gratifying to the friends and supporters of these Irish Masonic Schools, but also most honourable to the powers that preside over them, and we hope it may never be in any one's power to speak in terms of commendation less unqualified than those employed by the Committee of Management of the Belfast Masonic Charitable Fund.

THE DUCHESS OF ABERCORN and Lady Phyllis Hamilton have gone to Baron's Court, and Bro. the Duke of Abercorn will join them shortly.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF WESTMINSTER have arrived at Eaton Hall, Chester, where they propose to remain until their departure for Stack Lodge, Sutherlandshire.

THE THREE DAYS' bazaar at Hampden House, Bucks, held by the kind permission of the Earl and Countess of Buckinghamshire, on behalf of the fund for the restoration of Great Hampden Church—where John Hampden, the patriot, is buried—realised £625, making a total raised of £1065 towards the £2000 required.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER OF ENGLAND.

On Wednesday evening a Quarterly Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Comp. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., occupied the chair of G.Z.; Comp. General Randolph that of G.H.; and Comp. Robert Grey that of G.J. Comp. Horton Smith filled the position of G.S.N.; and there were present Comps. E. Letchworth, G.S.E.; Sir T. O'Brien, G.P.S.; T. Jones, Asst. G.S.; Baron de Ferrieres, 2nd Asst. G.S.; and William Lake, Asst. G.S.E.

There were also present—

Comps. Clifford Probyn, G. Treas.; R. J. Mure, L. G. Gordon Robbins, J. J. Thomas, P.G.S.B.; G. Cowell, P.A.G.S.; Wm. F. Smithson, P.G.S.B.; W. Russell, P.G.S.B.; J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B.; G. C. Kent, P.G.S.B.; C. Valeriani, P.A.G.D.C.; H. W. Smallwood, C. F. Matier, P.D.G.D.C.; T. A. Bullock, P.A.G.D.C.; Chas. Belton, P.G. Std. Br.; F. Gordon Brown, P.G. Std. Br.; T. Henry Gardiner, P.G.S.B.; J. D. Langton, P.G. Std. Br.; F. Laurance, P.G.S.B.; W. A. Scurrah, P.A.G.D.C.; J. A. Farnfield, P.G.S.B.; T. Minstrell, P.A.G.D.C.; H. Tipper, P.A.G.D.C.; Maurice Spiegel, P.P.G. Std. Br.; W. F. Lamonby, M. Smalls, H. 10; Alexander C. Chapin, M.E.Z. 137; W. Sergeant Lee, M.E.Z. 2488; W. J. Kennedy, M.E.Z. 766; J. Tickle, M.E.Z. 2410; Albert Clarke, M.E.Z. 2020; J. Speller, M.E.Z. 1766; Harry N. Nicholls, M.E.Z. 1319; J. R. Cleave, M.E.Z. 2030; and others.

Grand Chapter having been opened in due form, the minutes of the last convocation read by Grand Scribe E. having been declared correctly recorded, Comp. Sir GEO. D. HARRIS moved, and Comp. RICHARDSON seconded the adoption of the report of the General Purposes Committee.

The motion was agreed to.

On the motion of Comp. Sir GEO. D. HARRIS, seconded by Comp. RICHARDSON, it was unanimously resolved to vote 100 guineas from the funds of Supreme Grand Chapter as a donation to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

This concluded the business of the Supreme Grand Chapter, which was then closed in solemn form.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF DEVONSHIRE.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Paignton on the 26th ult. The P.G.M., Bro. Sir Stafford Northcote, C.B., M.P., presided, supported by Bro. W. J. Hughan, P.G.D. England, acting as D.P.G.M., in the absence, through indisposition, of Bro. Major G. C. Davie.

Bro. J. STOCKER, P.M. 39, Prov. G. Sec., in his report, stated that he had received the returns from the 57 lodges in the province for the year ended 31st December, 1897, which showed the number of subscribing members to be 3670, an increase of 245 over the previous year, and the amount paid in dues and fees £426 9s., an excess of £24 12s. 6d. over the previous year. There were 342 initiations and 163 joinings, the large number of the latter being accounted for by the returns of four new lodges constituted during the year. The number of Past Masters returned was 845. It would be of interest to the brethren to know that at the recent Centenary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, presided over by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M., the province was represented by 34 Stewards, and the contributions amounted to £1775. (Applause.) The province stood 15th in order of amounts contributed out of the 46 that were represented. (Applause.) In a letter received on the 21st ult. from the Secretary of the Institution expressing regret at his inability to attend that meeting, Bro. McLeod said: "Will you kindly express my best thanks on behalf of the Institution for the splendid help accorded by the Stewards and the brethren of the province on the occasion of our recent Centenary Festival. The position held by the province on the announcement is one they may well be proud of, and reflects greatly to the credit of all who contributed thereto." (Applause.) The Devon Masonic Directory was issued that year in the month of June in an improved form, and with additional information. He would embrace that opportunity of urging upon brethren the necessity of increasing its circulation, and that they would endeavour in their respective lodges to promote and stimulate a greater interest in the publication and its circulation amongst their members. He had further to report that he had received from the Masters of 18 lodges applications under the 20th By-Law for the supplemental grant to enable them to acquire Life Governorships in one or other of the great Masonic Charities.

The Prov. G.M. in moving the adoption of the report, congratulated the province on its satisfactory character, and especially on the success of the Boys' Centenary Festival, for the generous support of which by the Masters and brethren of the lodges he thanked them generally.

The acting DEP. PROV. G.M., in seconding, suggested that the generous support of the Boys' Centenary by that province was not only an indication of the value of the Institution itself, but also a testimony to the esteem in which their own Prov. G. Master was held. (Applause.) In spite of the increase in the number of lodges the average membership per lodge had also increased, which was a remarkable feature. The province was to be congratulated not only on its support to the great Charities, but also on its harmonious working. (Applause.)

The report was then adopted.

The Prov. G. Treas., Bro. Fred Sanders, P.M. 1284, in his report showed a balance brought forward from the previous year of £260 9s. 11d., and the receipts made the total £750 14s. 10d. Payments amounting to £491 16s. 4d. left a balance in hand of £258 18s. 6d.

On the proposition of Bro. HENRY STOCKER, seconded by Bro. H. W. HOOPER, the report was adopted, and a vote of thanks passed to Bro. Sanders for the able manner in which he had discharged the Treasurer's duties.

Bro. E. H. SHORTO presented the report of the Fortescue Annuity Fund for the year ended 31st May, 1898, which stated that it was again the pleas-

ing duty of the Committee to record further progress in the good work of this fund. The Treasurer's account showed that the actual income of the year had amounted to £658 3s. 9d., while the expenses of management had been only £16 8s. 5d., or barely two and a half per cent. of the income. An addition of £300 has been made to the Capital Fund, which now amounted to £4000. The Committee regarded the augmentation of the invested capital as a matter of the utmost importance, as a necessary provision for the possible (and they hoped probable) long duration of the lives of the annuitants. A brother, lately deceased, received no less than £600 from this fund, and another, yet amongst them, a still larger sum, which the Committee trusted would for many years continue to grow. The number of the annuitants during the greater part of the year had been twelve. At the annual general meeting of the members and subscribers, held at Exeter, on the 12th ult., three additional annuitants were elected, thereby increasing the permanent number to 14. The best test of the vitality of the fund was the amount contributed by the several lodges in the province, either corporately or individually by its members. The sums thus contributed had been: 1885, £152 13s.; 1896, £294 12s.; 1897, £264 18s.; 1898, £404 17s. 6d. It was only right to say that the great increase of the last year was mainly due to the generous help from a very small number of lodges. It was a fact much to be regretted that 22 lodges had contributed nothing for the year, and 13 of them nothing in the past four years. The Committee commended these facts to the brethren of the province, feeling confident that the mere act of doing so would awaken the slumbering feeling of generosity and quicken the same into energetic activity.

At the instance of Bro. SAMUEL JONES, seconded by Bro. J. W. CORNISH, the report was adopted.

Bro. J. B. GOVER, the Secretary of the Committee of Petitions, reported that whilst no candidate had been formally adopted, they had been able to materially assist the election of one candidate for the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and one candidate for the Widows' Annuity. The Province had five boys and one girl in the Institutions, educated at a cost of £300 a year. Five Masons and 13 widows were receiving annuities at a cost of £776 per annum. Various grants were recommended, and further contributions invoked.

The report was duly adopted.

In most eulogistic terms Bro. SHORTO proposed the election of Bro. C. S. Stebbing, 156, whose zeal in Masonic Charity was known all over the province, who had been twice elected W.M. of his own lodge, and to whose ability and generosity there could be no greater testimony than his unanimous election that day.

Bro. F. B. WESTLAKE seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

On the motion of Bro. J. STOCKER, seconded by Bro. J. B. GOVER, Bros. Lord and Crouch were re-elected Auditors.

Bro. G. S. S. STRODE proposed an alteration of the bye-laws, providing that 15 guineas annually shall be paid to the Devon Masonic Educational Fund, and also to the Devon Aged Widows' Annuity Fund in consideration of which every lodge shall have one vote at every election in each Charity.

Bro. HENRY STOCKER seconded, Bro. F. B. WESTLAKE supported, and it was carried.

At the instance of Bro. J. STOCKER, seconded by Bro. J. GOVER, Bro. F. B. Westlake was nominated for election on the Board of Management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, as representative of the province.

The Prov. G. Master then appointed and invested his officers as follows:

Bro. G. C. Davie	...	...	Dep. Prov. G.M.
" Major G. Strode	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" Dr. Deas, 112	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. E. B. Bickersteth, 112	...	...	Prov. G. Chaps.
" F. Wilberforce Saulez, 1753	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" C. S. Stebbing, 156	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" R. E. Tucker, 2189	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" John Stocker, 39	...	...	Prov. S.G.Ds.
" G. Dunsterville, 189	...	...	Prov. J.G.Ds.
" F. Seymour, 39	...	...	Prov. G. S. of Wks.
" H. Holman, 202	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" R. Musgrave, 303	...	...	Dep. Prov. G.D.C.
" W. Harris, 231	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.Cs.
" J. R. Lord, 1247	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" C. Piper, 1753	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" D. C. Powell, 1443	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" C. Emmett, 1358	...	...	Prov. Asst. G. Sec.
" J. G. Oldridge, 1181	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" E. Stenlake, 223	...	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" H. E. Sitters, 1205	...	...	Prov. G. Stwds.
" J. Wilcocks, 2595	...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.
" F. G. Shapcott, 1254	...	...
" W. Stanlake, 70	...	...
" W. King, 70	...	...
" W. Johns, 666	...	...
" T. P. Webby, 847	...	...
" W. H. Turrell, 1885	...	...
" W. Walters, 1135	...	...
" T. H. Wills, 1402	...	...
" C. R. H. Sellick, 1091	...	...
" G. H. Steele, 1284	...	...
" H. Shooter	...	...

Thanks were accorded the W.M. and brethren of the Torbay Lodge for the arrangements made for the Prov. G. Lodge.

The usual banquet followed in the Board Schools, about 100 brethren sitting down, under the presidency of the Prov. G.M.

The customary loyal and Masonic toasts were observed, and sympathetic reference made to the illness of the M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SHROPSHIRE.

The annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Market Drayton on Tuesday, the 26th ultimo, under the presidency of Bro. Sir Olmley Wakeman, Bart., Prov. Grand Master.

The Provincial Grand Lodge having been opened in due form, the Prov. Grand Master was saluted, and the following Past Grand Officers were

present: Bros. Rowland G. Venables, P.A.G.D.C., Deputy Prov. Grand Master; W. H. Spaul, P.A.G.D.C., Prov. G. Sec.; and J. Bodenham, P.A.G.D.C.

The minutes of the last Prov. Grand Lodge, held at Shrewsbury, on the 14th July, 1897, were read.

The roll of officers was called, and representatives from every one of the 12 lodges in the province were found to be present.

A letter was read from Bro. J. M. McLeod, Secretary R.M.I.B., expressive of regret for non-attendance, and of thanks to the Provincial Grand Master and other Stewards from Shropshire at the recent Festival for their assistance and contributions.

The Prov. G. Treasurer's annual statement was read, and on the proposition of the PROV. GRAND MASTER, seconded by the DEPUTY PROV. GRAND MASTER, was received and adopted with a cordial vote of thanks to Bro. Cooksey for the services he had rendered during the past five years as Prov. Grand Treasurer, his term of office having expired.

Bro. W. Baxter, P.M. 2311, was unanimously elected his successor.

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

Bro. Tom Collins, 1896	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" Arthur R. F. Exham, 1575	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. J. B. Meredith, 1124 (re-appointed)	...	...	Prov. G. Chaps.
" Rev. L. V. Yonge, 601	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" James Vine, 117	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" W. H. Spaul, 1124 (re-appointed)	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" F. Salisbury, 262	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" Henry Skelding, 1621	...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" T. H. Johnson, 1432	...	...	Prov. G.D. of C.
" H. F. Newman, 117	...	...	Prov. A.G.D. of C.
" Thos. Owen, 1432	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" W. E. Sharp, 611	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" J. W. Littlewood, 601	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" Wm. Bromfield, 1896	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" Henry Byolin, 117	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" Harry W. Hughes, 117	...	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" A. C. Nicholson, 1432	...	...
" C. W. Smallman, 1896	...	...
" W. G. Slaney, 601	...	...
" C. B. Cranstoun, 611	...	...
" A. T. Davis, 262	...	...
" Jno. M. Griffiths, 1120	...	...
" A. Peate, 2131	...	...
" J. M. Etches, 2311	...	...
" Henry Goodall, 1621	...	...

Bros. R. G. Venables, D.P.G.M.; W. J. Ogg, P.P.G.R., D.P.G.M., P.G. Treas., P.G. Reg., P.G. Sec., were elected Auditors of Accounts.

Bros. W. L. Southwell, A. S. Townsend, W. Baxter, L. E. Woolstein, and W. J. Ogg, were elected Auditors of Books.

The PROV. G.M. announced that under the authority of the M.W.G.M. in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of her Majesty the Queen, he had conferred the rank of Past Prov. G. Warden upon Bro. F. R. Spaul, P.P.G.R. of Shropshire, in recognition of the valuable services rendered by him to the Shropshire Masonic Charitable Association.

From the report of the Dep. Prov. G.M. it appeared there was a steady increase in numbers of subscribing members to lodges in the province, the total being 370 in 1897, as compared with 354 in 1891.

The PROV. G.M. stated that there was an improvement noticeable in the manner in which the lodge minutes and accounts were kept.

It was announced that the next meeting of Prov. G. Lodge would be held at Ironbridge in July, 1899.

On the conclusion of business, the Prov. G. Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to luncheon at the Corbet Arms Hotel.

SUMMER OUTING OF THE EARL OF CARNARVON LODGE, No. 1642.

The annual summer trip and banquet of this well-known lodge took place on Thursday, the 21st ult. The company included, amongst others, Bros. J. French, W.M., and Mrs. French; Bro. S. H. Parkhouse, P.M., Treas., and Mrs. Parkhouse; Bro. R. C. Green, P.M., Sec.; Bro. E. M. Lander, P.M., D.C., and Mrs. Lander; Bro. Hatton, P.M., S.W., Mrs. and Miss Hatton; Bro. Handover, J.W., and Miss Handover; Bro. Holmes, P.M., S.D.; Bro. Rogers, P.M., and Mrs. Rogers; Bro. Huish, P.M.; Bro. Adkins, P.M.; Bro. G. Davis, P.M., and Mrs. Davis; Bro. Chandler, P.M., and Mrs. Chandler; Mrs. D. P. Cama; Mrs. S. Cama; Bro. Dr. McLeod; Bro. Gatt; Bro. Passingham; Bro. G. Inglish, P.M., and Mrs. Inglish; Bro. Millen and Mrs. Millen; Bro. Thomson; Bro. Williams; Bro. Scherf and Mrs. Scherf; Bro. Standing; Bro. Herbert Jones; Bro. Tilney Rising; Bro. Chocqueel and Mrs. Chocqueel; Bro. King and Mrs. King; Bro. Dr. Rotheroe; Bro. Rowlands; Bro. Elms and Mrs. Elms; Bro. Gibbin and Mrs. Gibbin; Bro. Foale; Mr. Havers; Mr. James Smith; Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Manfield; Bro. Ridgwell; Mrs. Williams; and others.

The saloon train left Liverpool-street Terminus for Harwich at 10.20 a.m. Luncheon was served in admirable style at the Great Eastern Company's Hotel at Harwich at 1 p.m. After viewing the place the company left by steamboat at 3.15 p.m. for Ipswich. The return journey was made by express train leaving Ipswich at 4.54 p.m. Tea, coffee, fruit, and ices were served in the saloons en route. The banquet, which was in every way worthy of the lodge and the hotel management, was served in the Hamilton Room of the Great Eastern Railway Company's Terminus Hotel.

The whole of the arrangements for the day were most perfectly carried out by the Manager of the Hotel, Bro. Amendt, and the Officers of the Great Eastern Railway Company, and in addition the weather was perfect.

The usual Masonic toasts followed the banquet, and the W.M., Bro. J. French, was congratulated by all present on the success of the outing.

ON MONDAY the Royal Academy closed its doors after a prosperous season. The number of visitors is said to have exceeded those of last year, when the many engagements of the Jubilee weeks were powerful rivals to picture-seeing.

THE SHIP AND TURTLE,

Proprietor, Bro. C. J. PAINTER.

Best and oldest house in London for recherche
Masonic Banquets, Private Parties, and Dinners.
ASSEMBLY ROOMS FOR COMPANIES, &c.

OUR TURTLE "THE ELIXIR OF LIFE,"

Vide faculty.

Purveyors to H.R.H. Prince of Wales, H.I.M. Emperor
of Russia, Dukes of Saxe Gotha, Connaught, Cambridge,
and most of Crowned Heads of Europe.

Manager, Bro. E. ASHBY.

THE SHIP HOTEL,

HALLIFORD-ON-THAMES, SHEPPERTON.

Bro. F. J. THAYRE, Proprietor.

(Many years at the Savoy Hotel).

The above old-established and famous Hostelry is most
pleasantly situated on the banks of the Thames at one of
its most charming reaches.

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Bridgewater, TAUNTON, Minehead, Wellington, Tiverton,
&c., for a week, a fortnight, &c.; and to SHREWSBURY,
Leominster, HEREFORD, Welshpool, ABERYSTWYTH,
Llangollen, Corwen, Bala, Festiniog, DOLGELLEY,
BARMOUTH, Rhyl, Llandudno, Bettws-y-coed, Carnar-
von, Llanberis (for Snowdon), &c., for 6, 9, 13, or 16 days.

EVERY WEDNESDAY MIDNIGHT.—To Chepstow,
Monmouth, Newport, CARDIFF, SWANSEA, Llanelly,
Carmarthen, Pembroke Dock, Tenby, Cardigan, OLD
AND NEW MILFORD, &c., for 8 or 15 days; and to
CHESTER, Birkenhead and LIVERPOOL, for 5, 8, 12 or
15 days.

EVERY THURSDAY.—To Newbury, Savernake,
Marlborough, Devizes, Trowbridge, Warminster, &c.,
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SATURDAY.—To EXETER, Dawlish, Teignmouth, PLY-
MOUTH, Bodmin, Wadebridge, Fowey, Truro, Falmouth,
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head, Lynton, Lynmouth, Barnstaple, ILFRACOMBE,
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inclusive, for 4 or 10 days, from St. Pancras, at 9.15 p.m.,
to STIRLING, Perth, Dundee, Arbroath, Forfar, Brechin,
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Liverpool, Manchester, Accrington, Blackburn, Burnley,
Bolton, Rochdale, Oldham, Bury, Preston, Wigan, Black-
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at 12.10 (noon) each week to MATLOCK and BUNTON;
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BLACKPOOL, LYTHAM, ST. ANN'S, and FLEET-
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**Masonic Notes.**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 1898.

The news that is published from time to time as to the progress made by his Royal Highness the M.W. Grand Master towards recovery from his recent accident is of a highly gratifying character, but more particularly that the Prince bore the journey well on Saturday last from Marlborough House to the Royal Yacht Osborne off Cowes. Every precaution had necessarily been taken to avoid mishap of any kind, and his Royal Highness was conveyed on board his yacht both expeditiously and comfortably. There later

in the day he was visited by the Queen, his mother, and there he has had the opportunity of enjoying the sea air, and witnessing the yacht racing which takes place during the first week of the present month. We have no doubt the change will conduce materially to his Royal Highness's further recovery.

We must all sympathise with the Princess of Wales in the news that reached her on Tuesday on board the yacht Osborne and which has necessitated her Royal Highness's immediate departure for Copenhagen. We allude, of course, to the announcement that her mother, the Queen of Denmark, had been taken seriously ill. It was but the other day that we read the announcement that later in the season the Princess would join the King and Queen of Denmark at their Castle of Bernstorff, in order to join in the congratulations to her venerable mother on the occasion of her 81st birthday. We hope her Majesty will recover from her present attack and that it will still be possible for her Royal Highness to join with the other members of the Danish Royal Family in celebrating that auspicious anniversary.

The Quarterly Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter was held at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 3rd instant. There was, as usual at this time of the year, a somewhat sparse attendance of members, nor was there any other than the usual formal business to transact, save that of dealing with the recommendation of the Committee of General Purposes to vote the sum of 100 guineas from the funds of Grand Chapter to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys on the occasion of its Centenary Festival. It is unnecessary to say more than that the proposal was carried *nem. con.*

We have much pleasure in announcing that No. 4 of Bro. S. T. Klein's "Hidden Mysteries" will appear in our next week's issue, the MS. having reached us too late for publication in this number. The subject of the paper is "Light." The last of the series will be read before Lodge Quatuor Coronati, No. 2076, at its meeting on Friday, the 7th October.

The regular Quarterly Communication of the District Grand Lodge of Canterbury (N.Z.) was held in the St. Augustine Masonic Hall, Christchurch, on Thursday, the 21st April last, under the presidency of Bro. R. Dunn Thomas, Dist. G. Master. In the course of the proceedings a cablegram was sent to the Grand Secretary to learn if the proposed recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand was complete and a prompt reply received to the effect that the terms had been arranged and that the brethren of the two Constitutions might henceforth meet fraternally. Accordingly the Dist. G. Master announced his intention of attending the meeting of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand on the occasion of the installation of Bro. the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, P.C., LL.D.,—who is the Premier of the Colony—as M.W. Grand Master for the ensuing year. Our readers will have gathered from an article which appeared in our columns some weeks since that R.W. Bro. R. Dunn Thomas carried out his intention, and was not only present both in Grand Lodge and at the banquet table, but also, in replying to the toast of the Sister Grand Lodges, expressed the pleasure it gave him to know that the Masons of the different Constitutions established in the Colony were once again united in the bonds of friendship.

The other business of importance at the Quarterly Communication was the consideration and adoption of the annual balance-sheet of District Grand Lodge for the year, including the 31st December, 1897. From the statements appended to the report of the proceedings, it appears that, in the case of the Fund of General Purposes, the cash balance in bank at the close of the year's account was over £68, as compared with one of £31 10s at the close of the year 1896, and that the assets exceeded the liabilities by about £380 10s., of which some £218 10s. was in bank and on fixed deposit, and £35 on loan to one of the lodges. As for the Fund of Benevolence, the balance at close of the year was over £354, as compared with one of £318 at the close of 1896. There are eight lodges in the District, so that the two Funds of District Grand Lodge are in a healthy condition.

There is one entry in the Minutes of Proceedings which, though we presume it was necessary in order to render them a complete and accurate record of what took place, had reference to a silly question which, in our opinion, ought never to have been seriously asked. At the previous Quarterly meeting a brother submitted the following query: "Is it, in your opinion, right at a Masonic banquet, installation or otherwise, at which are present persons who are not members of the Craft, for the usual Masonic toasts to be given and the honours attached to those toasts also fully given?" To this it is recorded that "the R.W.D.G. Master said

he had no hesitation in saying it was not proper. Masonic toasts and what was commonly known as Masonic Fire should not be given when none but Masons were present." We trust the District Grand Master's dictum will be carefully observed. There is far too much laxity in these matters nowadays and things are often said in the presence of non-Masons which should be mentioned only in that of brethren.

It is worthy of mention that in response to an invitation from Bro. W. F. Lamonby, District Grand Lodge, on the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes, unanimously voted a donation of £3 3s. towards the Centenary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and that, in the course of the meeting, the District Asst. Grand Secretary announced donations to the same Institution from the District Grand Master, the W.M. of Lodge No. 2627, and four other lodges amounting to £8 8s.

We seem, in the course of our Masonic reading, to have met with the definition before, but where we know not. At all events it will, perhaps, be new to many of our readers to learn that Freemasonry has been—of course, most irreverently—defined as being a "beautiful system of eating and drinking veiled by the table cloth and illustrated by knives and forks." The definition will be found in *The New Zealand Craftsman* as quoted from *The Masonic Sun* in a paragraph headed "The Knife and Fork Degree." This expression was applied by Dermott to the "Moderns" on the ground that "some of the young and older brethren made it appear that a good knife and fork in the hands of a dexterous brother over proper materials, would give greater satisfaction and add more to the rotundity and popularity of the lodge than the best scale and compass ever known."

We most heartily congratulate our respected contemporary, the *Keystone*, of Philadelphia, U.S.A., on the completion of its 31st Volume. Its first issue was dated the 6th July, 1867, and on the 2nd July, 1898, it entered upon the 32nd volume. During the whole of this period it has earnestly—and we have much pleasure in adding successfully—striven to uphold the ancient usages, customs, and landmarks of the Fraternity. It has set its face against innovation of every kind, and has strictly adhered to the principles which it laid down for its guidance in its opening number. Moreover, it has done much to spread a knowledge of, and promote a love for Masonic history in the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania generally, and there is no Masonic periodical in whose judgment upon difficult questions, or in whose zeal for the well-being of Masonry we have greater confidence than the Philadelphia *Keystone*. We trust it may have before it a long future of equal, or even greater success. It deserves it thoroughly.

The permanent Committee of the Lodge of Perfect Unanimity, No. 150, Madras, in their report for the year to the 31st December, 1897, announce a total membership of 61, as compared with 65 during the previous year. It further declares the financial position of the lodge to be thoroughly sound. On the 1st January, 1897, there was a Cash Balance in hand of 2086 Rupees—of which, however, about 900 Rupees was due to the contractor for the boundary walls, &c.—yet on the 31st December last the amount remaining in the hands of the Treasurer, after defraying the year's expenses, was 868 Rupees, to which must be added 500 Rupees on fixed deposit at 4½ per cent. with the Commercial Bank of India. But the point on which the Committee justly lay the greatest stress is that "the books have been closed with absolutely no arrears of any kind, the whole of the dues of all kinds having been recovered from the brethren," while "all returns and dues for Grand Lodge and District Grand Lodge have been regularly transmitted and paid." This is a most creditable report.

The first stone of the new Masonic Hall about to be erected in Boston, Massachusetts, was laid with full Masonic ceremonial by M.W. Grand Master Hutchinson, on the 8th June last. There was a very large attendance of brethren at the ceremony, and in the course of his address the Grand Master referred to the most notable of the many similar ceremonies that had taken place in the past, but more especially to that of laying the corner-stone of the national capital at Washington by Bro. General Geo. Washington, on the 4th July, 1793; that of laying the stone of the Massachusetts Court House by Governor S. Adams, assisted by Bro. Paul Revere, on the 4th July, 1875; that of the Bunker Hill Monument by Bro. John Abbott, M.W.G.M., on the 17th June, 1825; and those of the Masonic Temples in Boston on the 30th October, 1830, and 14th October, 1864, respectively.

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.

"FREE" AND "FREEMASON."

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

In the "New English Dictionary on Historical Principles: Founded Mainly on the Materials Collected by the Philological Society," three new parts, embracing the letter F, have recently been published. It may interest those of your readers who have not seen this work to know that among the words of Teutonic origin under that letter, 32 definitions are given of the word *Free*—

"The primary sense of the adjective is 'dear'; the Germanic and Celtic sense comes from its having been applied as the distinctive epithet of those members of the household who were connected by ties of kindred with the head, as opposed to the slaves. The converse process of sense-development appears in Latin *liberi* 'children,' literally the 'free' members of the household."

The article on *Freemason* is as follows:

"Free masons,' in the fourteenth and following centuries, were a certain class of skilled workers in stone . . . often mentioned in contradistinction to 'rough masons,' 'ligiers,' &c. They travelled from place to place, finding employment wherever important buildings were being erected, and had a system of secret signs and passwords by which a craftsman who had been admitted on giving evidence of competent skill could be recognised. Early in the seventeenth century the societies of freemasons (in the above sense) began to admit honorary members, not connected with the building trades, but supposed to be eminent for architectural or antiquarian learning. These were called *accepted* masons, though the term *free masons* was often applied to them; and they were admitted to a knowledge of the secret signs, and instructed in the legendary history of the craft, which had already begun to be developed. The distinction of being an 'accepted' mason became a fashionable object of ambition, and before the end of the seventeenth century the object of the societies of free masons seems to have been chiefly social and convivial. In 1717, under the guidance of the physicist, J. T. Desaguliers, four of these societies or 'lodges' in London united to form a 'grand lodge,' with a new constitution and ritual, and a system of secret signs; the object of the society as reconstituted being mutual help and the promotion of brotherly feeling among its members. The London 'grand lodge' became the parent of other 'lodges' in Great Britain and abroad, and there are now powerful bodies of 'freemasons,' more or less recognising each other, in most countries of the world."—Yours fraternally,

E. FOX-THOMAS.

Whitby,
29th July.

Reviews.

"CALENDAR OF MASONIC MEETINGS IN EAST LANCASHIRE, A.D. 1898-9."—This able compilation, so carefully edited by the Prov. Grand Secretary of the Province (Bro. James Newton), is now in the 48th year of issue, and is probably the oldest publication of the kind extant, with a continuous existence for such a long period. Formerly it was published for the year from January to December, but now it is issued from July to June, by which plan it secures the new Grand Officers for April in each year, and the Prov. Grand Officers for the Provincial Grand Lodge and Chapter, in May and March respectively. This is next to the largest province in England, and makes a very close bid for the largest really, as there are now 113 lodges under the rule of the Prov. G.M. (Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie), 25 being situated in Manchester. There are 40 Royal Arch chapters in East Lancashire, but the whole of the county for the purposes of Mark Masonry is combined as a province with 36 lodges, and so in Knight Templary with 22 preceptories, and the Rose Croix chapters numbering nine. Of all these bodies, the numbers, towns, names, places of meeting, times, and days of meeting are given. There is also a list of Provincial Grand Lodge meetings from 1814 to 1898, and those of Provincial Grand Chapter from 1863, besides other particulars.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF ESSEX.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Brentwood on the 26th ult., and the peculiarly interesting character of the proceedings drew one of the largest gatherings of the brethren of the "Mystic Tie," ever remembered, there being some 300 Masons present from all parts of the county.

The local arrangements were in the charge of the members of the Hope and Unity Lodge, No. 214, headed by the W.M., Bro. Imbert-Terry, and the Secretary, Bro. Col. Frank Landon, whilst the bulk of the clerical work was ably carried out by Bro. John Ramsey, one of the Past Masters of the lodge.

The Prov. Grand Master, Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Warwick, travelled direct from Warwick Castle, and on reaching Brentwood Station about 2.30, was met by Bro. F. W. Imbert-Terry, W.M. 214, and the Prov. G. Secretary, Bro. Ralling. Mr. Tower, of Weald Hall, had kindly placed his carriage at the disposal of his lordship, and he drove at once to the headquarters of the lodge, the White Hart Hotel. Having transacted some Masonic business, his lordship, accompanied by Bro. Col. Lockwood, M.P., made a call upon Bro. Col. and Mrs. Landon at Red House.

The Masonic proceedings took place at the Town Hall, which, under the able management of Mr. Wallis, of Brentwood, had been converted into a very handsome lodge room. The walls were adorned with the elegant banners of the various lodges, and when his lordship entered, accompanied by a very large number of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers, resplendent in Masonic clothing and jewels, the spectacle was a most brilliant one.

The minutes of the last annual Provincial Grand Lodge (at Colchester) having been read and confirmed,

The Prov. G. SECRETARY said that letters, expressing their inability to attend, had been received from—

Bros. Earl Amherst, D.G.M.; Lord George Hamilton, P.G.M. Middlesex; the Rev. C. J. Martyn, D.P.G.M. Suffolk; Hamon Le Strange, D.P.G.M. Norfolk; J. Eastes, D.P.G.M. Kent; Raymond H. Thrupp, D.P.G.M. Middlesex; Major Le Feuvre, D.P.G.M. Hants and Isle of Wight; N. Tracy, Prov. G. Sec. Suffolk;

G. W. G. Barnard, Prov. G. Sec. Norfolk; C. Bullock, Prov. G. Sec. Herts; A. Spencer, Prov. G. Sec. Kent; Col. Lambert, P.G.S.B.; Sir Francis Boileau, Bart., P.G.D.; Sir Weetman Pearson, Bart., M.P. for Colchester; Jas. Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I.; F. R. W. Hedges, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.G.; J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B.; Vero W. Taylor, P.P.S.G.W.; J. H. Salter, P.P.J.G.W.; G. Corbe, P.P.J.G.W.; Andrew Durrant, P.P.G. Treas.; Fras. A. White, P.P.G.R.; W. J. Crump, P.A.G.D.C.; and others.

The roll of lodges was then called over, and all but one were found to be represented.

The report of the Board of General Purposes, a copy of which had been sent to every member of Provincial Grand Lodge—was taken as read; and on the motion of Bro. J. J. C. TURNER, P.M. 51, P.P.S.G.W., seconded by Bro. R. CLOWES, P.M. 650, P.G. Std. Br., was received and adopted. The first paragraph of the report was as follows:

The Board are sure the brethren of the province will learn with much regret that his Honour Judge Philbrick, Q.C., has intimated to the Right Worshipful Grand Master his desire not to be re-appointed Deputy, the necessities of his official position, and his distance from the county, preventing his taking that active part in the business of the province which the post demands. In severing his official connection with the province, the Board trust that Bro. Philbrick will always retain a pleasant recollection of the 17 years that he so ably acted as Deputy, and they earnestly hope that he may long be spared to take a friendly interest in its affairs, and to come amongst the brethren as often as he can. At the suggestion of Lord Warwick, an address to Bro. Philbrick has been drawn up, and the Board have ventured to anticipate the wishes of the brethren by giving directions that it be suitably prepared in time for presentation at the annual meeting.

The report proceeded to state that the accounts showed a balance in hand of £33 on the general account, and £31 on the Charity account. No less than £203 had been spent in Charity, the grants including 100 guineas to the Boys' School Centenary Fund, and 50 guineas to the Essex Hailstorm Relief Fund. The returns from the lodges showed that during the past year there had been 155 initiations, compared with 167 last year, and 64 joining members compared with 82 last year. Against this there had been 64 resignations against 106 last year, the losses by death had been 32, whilst 49 brethren had been struck off the books of their respective lodges, leaving the present strength of the province 2089 members, against 2015 last year. The Board noted with satisfaction that the brethren returned as "in arrear" showed a further decrease, there being 142 this year, as against 190 in 1896, and 169 in 1897. The Board recommended that in future their transactions be issued in printed form, as is done by Grand Lodge. Grants were recommended of £5 5s. to Brentwood Cottage Hospital, and £10 10s. each to the Girls' School and the Benevolent Institution. The Board concluded their report by referring with satisfaction to the record sum of £134,000 announced at the recent Centenary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, of which amount the Province of Essex contributed the munificent sum of nearly £4000, the principal lists being: Shurmur Lodge, No. 2374, £525; St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1817, £367 10s.; Priory Lodge, No. 1000, £369 12s.; St. Clement's Lodge, No. 2442, £357; Angel Lodge, No. 51, £210; Brooke Lodge, No. 2005, £205 10s.; and Shurmur Chapter, No. 2374, £205 5s.

In a supplementary report the Board stated: "It having come to the knowledge of the Board that Lord Warwick has invited W. Bro. Colonel Lockwood, M.P., to be the new Deputy Prov. Grand Master, they heartily congratulate the province upon the appointment of so popular and worthy a brother to be the successor of Bro. Philbrick, and they feel sure that it will be the wish of the brethren that the portrait in next year's Calendar should be that of the new Deputy."

The report of the Charity Committee was unanimously adopted. It recorded with satisfaction that two boys (Oldham and Pallot) had been elected, whilst a third (Hardy), though unsuccessful this time, would receive a grant of £20 per annum towards his education till elected or attained the age of 11 years, in accordance with a resolution passed by the subscribers to the Schools in commemoration of the Centenary Festival. One girl (Sackett) had also been elected; whilst another (Tremlett) was considerably helped, leaving her 2439 to start with at the next election.

The Earl of WARWICK, who was received with hearty cheers, then addressed the brethren. His lordship congratulated the province upon the vitality which it exhibited in matters Masonic. He acknowledged gratefully the support which had ever been given him since he was first called to rule over the province, and expressed his great satisfaction at the splendid contribution sent by the province to the Boys' School Fund, and said that Charity should always be the predominating factor in their work as Masons. (Hear, hear.) Lord Warwick referred sympathetically to the recent accident to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of England. He thought they would allow him to express to the Prince, on their behalf and his own, their sympathy with his Royal Highness in his misfortune. (Applause.) Lord Warwick went on to express the deep regret they all felt at the retirement of the V.W. Bro. Philbrick, whom he found in office when he was installed, and who had supported him with the greatest loyalty and kindness that it was possible for a Deputy to show. His lordship then moved a resolution embodying the feeling of the brethren, and begged Bro. Philbrick's acceptance of a beautifully engrossed album containing a copy of the resolution, in which the brethren placed on record their deep sense of the obligation they were under to V.W. Bro. Philbrick for his devotion to the best interests of the Craft, and heartily congratulated him upon his recent elevation by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the M.W.G.M., to the rank of Past Grand Warden, in recognition of his eminent services to the Craft as Grand Registrar from 1886 to 1898.

Bro. PHILBRICK, on rising to acknowledge the compliment, received quite an ovation. Speaking with evident emotion, Bro. Philbrick said there was always a peculiar element of sadness in doing anything for the last time. He had only been appointed for a short time by the late lamented Lord Tenterden, when that nobleman's sudden death caused a vacancy and their present beloved Provincial Grand Master was called to preside over them. His lordship did him the great honour to ask him (Bro. Philbrick) to remain in office, and had renewed that kindness year by year. Whatever service he had been able to render to Freemasonry in the province had been a labour of love. He could, without vanity, say that during the whole time of his connection with the province he had always endeavoured to interest himself in the progress of the Craft. (Hear, hear.) That interest had been cordially reciprocated. When he was installed there were 19 lodges; now there were more than double that number. The Masonic spirit was truly abroad amongst the lodges. During the whole of that time there had never been an occasion to call into operation what he might call the coercive

powers of the Provincial Grand Master—not a single cloud which a little friendly advice, a little kindly forbearance, a little consideration, had not dispelled. He could not deny that the severance of the tie that had bound him to the brethren for so many years was a very painful one, and he should not have arrived at the decision he had done had he not felt that it was for the best interests of the Craft amongst them. He thanked Lord Warwick for the great kindness and consideration he had ever exhibited towards himself, and he was most grateful to his lordship and the brethren for the tangible testimony of their kindness in the elegant and handsome testimonial he held in his hands. He should always be delighted to come amongst them; and meanwhile the proofs he had received of their kindness would be cherished and dear to him as long as life lasted. (Cheers.)

The Earl of WARWICK said when his late excellent Deputy intimated that he could not continue in office, he naturally looked around to see who would be a fitting successor, and came to the conclusion that there was no one he should be more pleased to see in the office, or who, he thought, would be more acceptable to the province generally, than his friend, Col. Lockwood. (Cheers.) Col. Lockwood was an earnest Mason; was very thorough in all he undertook, and he (his lordship) was quite sure the brethren would find that the more they saw of Col. Lockwood the better they would like him. (Renewed cheers.)

Bro. Col. LOCKWOOD said he accepted the post with very great pleasure. He hoped the brethren would not think that because he was a "new broom" he was going to make a clean sweep of everything—(laughter)—because to his mind there was very little "dust" on the Masonry of the Province of Essex. He took a great interest in the work of the Craft, and trusted that he might be of some service to the good cause in Essex. (Applause.)

The new Deputy was then inducted with the usual ceremonies, and on taking his seat at the right of the Prov. G.M., Col. Lockwood was heartily cheered.

The Earl of WARWICK then proceeded to invest his officers for the ensuing year in accordance with the subjoined list. Having placed the collar upon the neck of the Prov. Grand Secretary, Bro. Thomas J. Ralling, Lord Warwick said he had to perform a very pleasant duty, and they should all take much pleasure in the surprise that would fall upon one member of their lodge, Bro. Ralling. (Hear, hear.) They were all in the secret except himself. (Laughter and applause.) He was asking Bro. Ralling, for the 22nd year, to accept the office of Secretary. That was a very long term of service, and he could say, on behalf of them all, that those duties had been performed with the greatest assiduity. He had given his name ungrudgingly. He did not believe Bro. Ralling had an enemy in the province, and it was quite certain that he might count all present at that unusually large meeting as his friends. (Hear, hear, and applause.) It was now his duty to inform Bro. Ralling that he had been requested to hand him a little token of regard from the province in the shape of a cheque for £250. (Loud and long continued applause.) I have it here, said his lordship, producing it from his breast pocket, nearest my heart, and nothing that I have had to perform as Provincial Grand Master has given me greater pleasure than to hand this to you. (Renewed applause.) His lordship added that he was also pleased to hand to Bro. Ralling an album with an address setting forth the strong feelings of regard they all entertained towards him.

His lordship then handed to Bro. Ralling the testimonials, amidst a warm demonstration from the brethren.

Bro. RALLING said that this kind and generous action on the part of the brethren had come as a very great surprise. They had kept their secret well, and so had shown a true Masonic spirit. He could only thank them for their great kindness, and for the trouble which must have been taken by some brethren in organising this splendid testimonial. He had always received the greatest kindness from every lodge and from every brother in the province, and should always value most highly the evidences of their regard he had now received. He trusted the brethren would, under the embarrassing circumstances in which he suddenly found himself, excuse his saying more. (Cheers.)

The following is the text of the address, which was contained, together with a complete list of subscribers, some 400 in number, in a magnificently engrossed album:

To W. Brother Thomas John Ralling, P.M. and P.Z. 51, P.A.G.D.C. England, Provincial Grand Secretary Essex.

We are desired by the subscribers, whose names are appended, to convey to you our sincere appreciation of the many kind and thoughtful services you have rendered to the province and to the brethren generally during the 21 years that you have occupied the position of Provincial Grand Secretary.

We feel that such ungrudging devotion to duty merits some special recognition, and we beg your acceptance of the accompanying cheque for £250, representing subscriptions from every lodge in the province, as a mark of our esteem and regard.

We trust that the province may continue for many years to have the benefit of your valued assistance.

(Signed) WARWICK, Provincial Grand Master.
FRED. A. PHILBRICK, Deputy Provincial Grand Master.
WM. SHURMUR, Treasurer.
JOHN J. C. TURNER } Honorary Secretaries.
R. HAWARD IVES }

July, 1898.

On the motion of Bro. W. SHURMUR, P.M. 2374, P.G. Std. Br., seconded by Bro. W. D. MERRITT, P.M. 1000, P.P.S.G.W., the brethren unanimously elected Bro. E. J. Bowmaker, P.M. 1000, as Prov. G. Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The other officers for the year are as follows:

Bro. Robert Woodhouse, W.M. 2561	...	Prov. S.G.W.
Col. Landon, P.M. and Sec. 214	...	Prov. J.G.W.
Rev. W. Cree, Chap. 2330	...	Prov. G. Chaps.
Rev. W. H. Langhorne, Chap. 2374	...	Prov. G. Reg.
John Ramsey, P.M. 214	...	Prov. G. Sec.
Thos. J. Ralling, P.M. and Sec. 51, P.A.G.D.C.	...	Prov. S.G.Ds.
Eng. (22nd year)	...	Prov. J.G.Ds.
W. E. Facey, W.M. 1024	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
M. F. Frelove, W.M. 1280	...	Prov. G.D.C.
H. E. Herman, P.M. 2501	...	Dep. Prov. G.D.C.
F. W. Pelling, P.M. 1343	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
F. England, W.M. 2442	...	Prov. G.S.B.
A. Lucking, P.M. 1000 P.G.P. Eng. (25th year)	...	
Joseph Cohen, W.M. 2184	...	
Alfred Miller, P.M. 2077	...	
J. W. Armour, W.M. 2707	...	

Bro. F. J. Cumine, P.M. 1000	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
T. McD. Shelley, P.M. 160	...	Prov. G. Org.
C. H. Kempling, W.M. 2508	...	Prov. Asst. G. Sec.
G. Gardiner, I.P.M. 1799	...	Prov. G. Purst.
Q.M.-Sergt. Leaney, P.M. 1817	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
C. E. Skinner, W.M. 1457	...	
John Spencer, W.M. 1437	...	
C. G. Cutchey, W.M. 2256	...	
E. E. Eve, W.M. 1977	...	Prov. G. Stwds.
F. B. Townsend, J.W. 214	...	
A. S. Gardiner, S.W. 2707	...	
A. T. Gunnell Woods, J.W. 2707	...	
A. W. Martin	...	Prov. G. Tyler.

Five brethren having been nominated for the four elective seats on the Board of General Purposes, a ballot took place which resulted as follows: Bros. J. J. C. Turner, P.M. 51, P.P.S.G.W., 128 votes; J. H. Salter, P.M. 234, P.P.J.G.W., 115; W. D. Merritt, P.M. 1000, P.P.S.G.W., 109; W. Ernest Dring, P.M. 2318, P.P.S.G.W., 95; and Rev. Thos. Lloyd, P.M. 2561, P.P.G. Chap., 90.

One brother was to be elected on the Charity Committee in place of the member retiring by rotation, and Bro. Robert Woodhouse, Prov. S.G.W., was unanimously elected.

His LORDSHIP having announced that the meeting for next year would be held at Tilbury, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Hope and Unity Lodge for the excellent arrangements made for the reception of Provincial Grand Lodge, and the proceedings, which had been characterised throughout by great heartiness, closed.

Bro. Lord Warwick presided over a very large number of brethren at the usual banquet which followed, and which took place in the commodious Drill Hall, which by means of drapery of Masonic blue had been transformed into an elegant banqueting hall.

After dinner, a commendably short toast list was gone through.

The loyal toasts of "Queen and Craft" and that of "The M.W.G.M., his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales" were cordially received, and the PROV. GRAND MASTER'S hope that their drinking of the Prince of Wales's health might do him a great deal of good, was heartily cheered.

At the suggestion of several brethren his Lordship sent a sympathetic telegram to his Royal Highness, and subsequently received the following reply: "Grand Master much touched by sympathy expressed by brethren of Province of Essex, and sends them a friendly greeting through you.—ALBERT EDWARD."

Bro. his Honour Judge PHILBRICK, Bro. E. LETCHWORTH, Grand Sec., and the Archdeacon of Essex, Bro. T. STEVENS, P.G.C., responded for "The Grand Officers." Bro. Judge Philbrick referred to his severance, officially, from the province. Consciously he had wronged no brother—(applause)—and he parted from them all with deepest regret. If it ever lay in his power to be of service, the brethren would command his best efforts. (Applause.) Bro. Letchworth mentioned that Essex had been remarkably prolific in Grand Officers, as the county held as many as any county in England.

Bro. Archdeacon STEVENS said he was an Essex man, and when the Grand Master called him to the post of Grand Chaplain he felt the honour done to the county quite as much as his own personal exaltation. He was Prov. Grand Chaplain of Essex before he was Grand Chaplain of England. (Applause.)

The D.P.G.M. gave the toast of "The Prov. Grand Master," which was received with enthusiasm.

In response, the Earl of WARWICK said he felt quite unworthy of the cordiality with which they had received his name. (Cries of "No, no," and cheers.) For 16 years or so he had been a scourge to them—"No," and laughter)—and, though he felt Col. Lockwood's flattering reference to his occupying for long years his present position, he felt that the time was coming when he must give place to a better man. ("No, no.") He had been at any rate very earnest in his desire to do all he possibly could for Masons in the province. (Cheers.) With all due deference to their ecclesiastical brethren, he would in all humility recommend them to the example of Freemasons in their bearing one towards another in these somewhat critical times. (Cheers.) They were all servants of the Great Architect of the Universe, and one of His great principles was that they should have Charity one to the other. Concluding, his lordship said it had given him great pleasure to be able to honour, on the part of the province, two of their most respected and distinguished brethren.

Bro. the Earl of WARWICK having proposed "The Health of the Dep. P.G.M.,"

Bro. Col. LOCKWOOD responded, and said that Freemasonry was still in its infancy in Essex, and it behoved every brother to go forth that night determined to uphold and spread its great and beneficent principles.

Bro. IMBERT-TERRY, W.M. 214, responded for "The Worshipful Masters of the Lodges in the Province," proposed by the Earl of WARWICK, remarking that the lodge he represented had been most anxious that everything possible should be done to make the meeting a success, and they trusted they had been successful in their efforts. (Applause.)

During the dinner the band of the 1st Essex Volunteer Battalion played a selection of music; and between the speeches Bro. Schartau and a concert party gave an excellent entertainment.

Craft Masonry.

United Military Lodge, No. 1536.

The last, but not the least, of the lodges in the Woolwich and Plumstead district to celebrate its annual installation meeting was the above excellent lodge, the place of meeting being the Masonic Hall, Mount Pleasant, Plumstead, and the date Wednesday, the 26th ult. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. F. Reed, who initiated a candidate. At this juncture it was announced that Bro. Walter Martin, P.G.P., sought admission into the lodge, and the Provincial and Past Masters of the lodge received him and conducted him to the right of the W.M. He was accorded Grand honours, and thanked the brethren for their kind reception. Bro. Reed then proceeded to install his successor—Bro. A. Hill, S.W., W.M. elect, and did so in a most careful and effective manner. The new W.M. installed his officers as follows: Bros. F. Reed, I.P.M.; A. Simmonds, S.W.; A. G. Swanson, J.W.; J. W. Gee, Treas.; E. W. Sinnett, P.M., Sec.; J. Howe, S.D.; W. Shackleton, P.M., J.D.; R. F. Cochrane, I.G.; G. W. Ingle, P.M., D. of C.; S. J. Hackworthy and G. Harlow, Asst. Directors of Ceremonies; W. E. Redman, Org.; H. F. Furlong, Asst. Org.; J. Bilton, P.M., J. Jones, A.

Andrews, F. J. Marfleet, and A. J. Bulpitt, Stwds. Bro. Reed then gave the addresses admirably. His working of the ceremony was perfect and correct, and reflected the highest credit on him. He was thanked and presented with a Past Master's collar and jewel, for which he returned thanks. Bro. Capt. G. Spinks, P.M., P.P.J.G.W., was re-elected to represent the lodge on the Provincial Charity Committee, and then the lodge was closed.

The banquet was served in the upper hall of the building, and during the evening the courtesy and hospitality of the Stewards were the theme of admiration.

Among the other brethren present were Bros. G. Kennedy, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; W. Moulds, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; R. Gooding, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br.; R. Fowler, P.M.; C. Jolly, P.M. and Sec. 1472, P.M. and Sec. 2184, P.P.A.G.D.C. Essex (Hon.); F. Rowland, T. Mills, J. Brooks, F. Sharpe, C. Warren, W. G. Down, J. Baxter, E. Harbert, J. Goldsmith, W. Haughey, R. Hurn, E. Brook, A. Nius, J. Fowler, H. Earnshaw, J. Mellon, H. Henry, G. Harrison, G. Hook, and J. Grierson, of the lodge. Among the visitors were Bros. A. McQueen, W.M., H. Jacobs, S.W., J. Quick, J.W., and W. H. Turton, P.M., of 13; G. Dyer, W.M., J. Wheatley, S.W., and R. Rawlinson, J.W., of 2399; Jas. Palmer, W.M. 1472; Capt. J. J. Murphy, W.M., E. M. Taylor, S.W., and B. Littlewood, of 913; W. Long, S.W., and C. Mettrep, of 700; H. Mason, J.W. 706; and W. Quillet, P.M. 1695.

The toast of "The Queen and the Craft" having been loyally drunk, that of "The Prince of Wales, Grand Master of English Freemasonry" followed, the W.M. feelingly alluded to the serious accident by which H.R.H. was prostrated, and wished him a speedy recovery, a sentiment that was loudly re-echoed by the brethren present, "God bless the Prince of Wales" being sung lustily and in chorus.

Bro. Martin was cheered as he rose to respond to a hearty reception of his name, coupled with the toast of "The Grand Officers, Present and Past." He said he was extremely obliged to the W.M. for his kindness in coupling his name with so important a toast. They all heartily rejoiced to have H.R.H. as the head and ruler of their Order, but upon that occasion he could not refrain from saying that every officer and brother, not only of Grand Lodge, but every officer and every brother of any lodge under the dispensation of the Grand Lodge of England, regretted and deplored the unfortunate accident to which their W.M. had so feelingly referred. He trusted their beloved Grand Master would, before long, be restored to them in all his robust health and vigour, and once more be enabled to discharge the duties of his high and important position. It afforded him exceeding pleasure to be present with them at their installation meeting, and he rejoiced to see the splendid manner in which their esteemed I.P.M., Bro. Reed, had discharged the duties of Installing officer that day. As one of the officers of Grand Lodge, he would only be too pleased to do anything that lay in his power to assist the progress of their lodge. He was proud of his position, which he felt to be a high honour conferred upon him, and in conclusion, thanked them again for their kindness and courtesy to him that night.

Bro. Spinks, in responding for "The Provincial Grand Officers, Present and Past," spoke of the Prov. Grand Lodge meeting at Margate in June last. At that meeting their lodge was complimented on the excellent manner in which their Secretary rendered his accounts, and the excellent time in which the dues were paid. In the case of the girl O'Neil, from that lodge it was opposed by one of the representatives, but Bro. Spencer said he considered it a most deserving case, and it was carried to a successful issue. He would have liked to have seen more of the brethren present at their Margate festival, and as time went on, he trusted that the lodge would be even better represented at their annual provincial meeting.

Bro. Kennedy regretted that it had not been his lot to take the same interest, nor had he the same opportunities of attending Prov. Grand Lodge as their esteemed Bro. Spinks had, yet he was proud to be associated with the Grand Officers of such a grand province as that of Kent.

Bros. Moulds and Gooding also briefly responded.

Bro. Hill, in response to a hearty reception of the toast of his health, eloquently proposed by the W.M., said that during the ensuing year they would have opportunities of seeing his work and of hearing him speak, so that if he was brief in his remarks that night they must excuse him. He could only say that nothing should be wanting on his part to make it a most pleasant and successful year. He thanked the brethren for placing him in such a proud position, and would endeavour to be worthy of their confidence.

Bro. Reed thanked the W.M. for the high eulogiums passed upon his services as Installing Officer. When, some 12 months ago, they placed him in the chair of that lodge, he told them that he should do his very utmost to make himself worthy of their appreciation, and he trusted he had done so. From the manner in which they had received the toast, and the handsome jewel and collar that day presented to him by them, he felt that he had succeeded in his endeavours, and if he could in the future do anything to further the interest and welfare of the lodge they might depend upon it he would do it. The work to him had been a "labour of love." The lodge had prospered during the past year, and they were in a better position now than at any time since its consecration. He felt he must say that it did not depend upon the W.M. alone for the success of a lodge, but it was to the efforts of every officer and member of it that success must be attributed, and he could say that he had been most loyally helped by his officers and brethren during his year of office. He had told them that it had given him the greatest pleasure to instal his successor. He knew Bro. Hill, and respected him, and felt sure that 12 months hence they would receive him in the same hearty manner they had received him (Bro. Reed) on his retiring from the chair.

Bro. Spinks, in responding for "The Past Masters," said now he had been a Past Master of that lodge for 21 years and had attended 200 of its meetings. He had had, during that time, again and again to respond for the Past Masters. He was very pleased to be present that night, and also to see Bro. Sharpe, who was with himself (Bro. Spinks) one of the founders of the lodge. He congratulated Bro. Sharpe, who lived a long way from the lodge, on his presence and upon his continued membership of the lodge. He congratulated the Treasurer and Secretary on the balance-sheet, especially as the balance was on the right side of the ledger. He trusted that those who had charge of the spending department, now they had a good balance, would not squander it, but keep the lodge out of debt, and put a bit by for a rainy day.

Bros. Moulds and Sennett also responded.

Bro. McQueen, as W.M. of 13, thanked the W.M. for placing him first on the roll of the visitors, which he took as a compliment to the lodge and not to himself. He had thoroughly enjoyed himself. He had known the lodge for many years, and was always received in it with open arms.

Bro. Murphy said that was his first visit to the lodge, but he was bound to say it was his own fault and not theirs. Last year he could not attend; this year he hoped to be with them on many of their meetings. He must say that he never enjoyed himself more, nor had been so deeply influenced as he had been by the admirable manner in which their I.P.M. did his work that day. They had initiated his senior non-com. officer—a well-known and tried officer, who was respected by all, from the youngest drummer to the oldest officer in the corps. He thanked them for their hospitable reception of the toast.

Bros. Palmer, Dyer, and Turton also responded.

Bro. Jolly replied to an enthusiastic reception of "The Press, Local and Masonic."

"The Officers" and Tyler's toast finished the list, and "God save the Queen" concluded a truly enjoyable gathering.

The Misses Rosabelle Beste and Louisa Jenkins, Bros. Fowler and E. Walford, and Mr. W. Hengler sang, and Bros. Parsons and Green played, the former the euphonium and the latter the flute admirably. Bro. A. E. Kipps presided at the piano.

Instruction.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 167.

The usual weekly meeting was held at the Court House, Harlesden, on Thursday evening, the 28th ult. There were present Bros. J. T. Fripp, J.W. 2098, W.M.; A. Jones, W.M. 1637, as S.W.; F. Case, 1767, J.W.; T. J. Mercer, W.M. 2427, acting Preceptor; F. S. Priest, I.P.M. 1637, Sec.; T. J. Penell, 2202, S.D.; W. H. Handover, 1642, J.D.; E. Willis, 771, I.G.; J. Laurence, P.M. 1326, P.P.A.G.D.C. Middx.; A. W. Lane, P.M. 167; J. P. Thompson, P.M. 1637; W. C. Tebbot, P.M. 2045; S. Hussey, P.M. 1637; A. M. Wybourn, Golby, Fordham, House, McBain, Armfield, T. Parker, G. Chapman, J. Cohen, Holmes, and Stanley Ball.

The lodge was opened in the Three Degrees, and closed down in the Third and Second Degrees respectively. The lodge was again opened in the Second Degree, and to Bro. Armfield, a candidate to be raised to the Third Degree, the questions were put, and he was entrusted. The lodge was again opened in the Third Degree, and the W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Stanley Ball, 2361, who rehearsed the ceremony of raising. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. In consequence of the resignation of the Preceptorship by Bro. William Hillier, P.M. 1365 and 2090, P.Z., the lodge has been for some little time without a regular Preceptor, and, after due notice, Bro. Stanley Ball moved, and Bro. A. Jones, W.M. 1637, seconded—"That W. Bro. T. J. Mercer, W.M. 2427, be elected Preceptor of the St. John's Lodge of Instruction, No. 167"—which was carried unanimously. The newly-elected Preceptor was conducted into the chair, and congratulated by the W.M. in the name of the lodge, and duly invested with his collar of office, and took his seat accordingly. After "Hearty good wishes," the lodge was closed.

JACQUES BERNARD DE MOLAI.

Born in 1243, is said to have been received into the order of Knights Templar in 1265, at the Preceptory of Beaume in Burgundy, and soon greatly distinguished himself as an able administrator and a gallant soldier. He was especially distinguished under the Grand Mastership of Wm. de Beaujeu from 1273 to 1291, though to this Wm. de Beaujeu much blame was subsequently attached, for grave innovations on the reception of the Knights. In 1297, at the death of Theobald de Guadin, he seems to have been elected Grand Master of the Templars. Invited to France in 1306, to a special and secret meeting at Avignon, he left Cyprus and went with 60 Knights, at the end of 1306 or the beginning of 1307, to France. On the 13th October, 1307, all the Knights Templars in France were simultaneously seized (which says, rightly or wrongly, a good deal for their unpopularity)—Molai amongst them. Most serious charges were brought against the Templar Knights, and a Commission was opened at Paris, to examine them; but this seems to have been a complete perversion of justice, and we note that it was apparently a foregone conclusion—that, as the order was both rich and friendless, it had to be suppressed. No doubt the wealth, and probably haughtiness, of the Templars had made them many enemies. Many of the Knights were cruelly tortured, and died in their prisons.

Molai remained in prison (it is believed that he was tortured) until March, 1313, when he was sentenced to perpetual imprisonment, together with Guy, Dauphin d'Auvergne, Hugo de Peyraud, and Godefroi de Gonaville, on the promise of recantation and acknowledgment of the justice of his sentence. But as he manfully avowed the entire innocence of the order, he was burnt to death March 18th, 1313. He is said to have summoned Clement the Pope and Philip the King before an infallible tribunal; and as Clement V. died April, 20th, 1317, and Philip, according to Wilke, November 29th, 1314, by a fall from his horse (though some say not until 1323), the main or superstitious feeling of the age declared that it saw in these deaths the "finger of God." Molai is only interesting to Freemasons, apart from his gallant life and end, as Grand Master of the real Knights Templars; though, as the historical connection between Masonic Knight Templars and the warrior soldiers of Palestine is more than doubtful, at least is certainly "non proven," his name may seem to have but little to do with a Masonic Cyclopaedia. But as his name appears in later revivals of a so-called Templarism, it has been thought well to allude to him thus.—*Kenning's Cyclopaedia*.

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