

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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AN INSTRUCTIVE LECTURE.

One of the ablest and most instructive addresses it has been our privilege to publish is that which appeared in these columns last week. It was delivered at the installation meeting of the Lodge de Goede Hoop by the Orator, and though, as he very truly said, it would be impossible, at the close of a "protracted and exacting ceremonial" to give an adequate description of "the history, principles, aims, and prospects of Freemasonry," still we think it will be generally allowed that the orator contrived to furnish, even in outline, a good deal more valuable information than could have been expected under the circumstances in which he was placed. With much of this information our brethren have already become familiarised through the well-nigh innumerable lectures and addresses of a more or less similar character which have been delivered by others on similar occasions or at the consecration of new lodges; but there is also much else in the address which, if not absolutely new to the reader, is placed before him in apparently a new aspect, and one so attractive withal as to merit the closest attention. Such passages are those in which are described "the striking analogies to some of our allegories, symbols, and rites, which occur in the mysteries of Ancient Egypt," &c., but more particularly as regards "the Druses of the Mount Lebanon district," of whom it is said that "their moral Law is summarised in the first three out of the seven articles in their religion, as follows: Belief in God and in His Eternal Truth, the exercise of brotherly love, and the practice of Charity, all of which are identical with our brotherly love, relief, and truth." Another striking analogy, on which the writer laid stress, between these ancient mysteries and Freemasonry is to be found in the common possession by both of them of "the allegorical legend, the principal incidents of which turned on the death by violence at the hands of treacherous friends of some god or hero, such as that of Osiris among the Egyptians, and Balder the Beautiful among the Scandinavians," on the one hand, and our Third Degree Legend on the other. Equally deserving of note are the remarks as to the distinction between the spurious and true Freemasonry of antiquity and what is said concerning the Essenes.

Perhaps the most important of all is what our Bro. Orator is reported to have said towards the conclusion of his address, "that the Order to which we are proud to belong, though avowedly not a church or a form of religion, is to the philosophic Freemason a very important witness to God in the history of the world, and as such alone—if for no other reason—deserves

to exist as an institution retaining its own immemorial distinctive features." In these days there is an ever-increasing tendency, more especially among the brethren in the United States, to look upon Freemasonry as a Society with a mission to fulfil, while in England the tendency is in the direction of an overwhelming preponderance of attention to the Charitable Institutions which the Order has established and which in the opinion of many are the "be-all and end-all" of Freemasonry. We are necessarily very proud of these Institutions, but we take leave to point out, firstly, that Freemasonry is not the only Society which has Institutions of this kind, and secondly, that we did not become Freemasons merely to support them. We must bear in mind what the lecturer said at this installation of Lodge de Goede Hoop as to the greater necessity there is nowadays to look at Freemasonry as a philosophy whose teachings are conveyed by means of allegories and symbols, lest "we insensibly come to regard the Fraternity as something only a little better than a huge benefit society." The amount now annually levied upon the Craft in order to maintain our Institutions is very considerable, amounting more nearly to £50,000 than £40,000, but, as we have said, there was no need for us to become members of the Order for the mere purpose of supporting such institutions, which exist without limit as to numbers in every part of the United Kingdom. Let us remember that Charity, while it is in its broadest, deepest, and truest sense a fundamental principle of Freemasonry, is by no means restricted to the maintenance of such Institutions as we, like other Societies, have established for the benefit of our decayed members, their widows, and their offspring.

THE GRAND LODGE OF IOWA.

In the previous articles we have written on the subject of Freemasonry in Iowa, the pleasant duty has devolved upon us of speaking in terms of commendation of the prosperous condition to which the Craft in this State has attained and the admirable manner in which its affairs are administered. The former, indeed, is the consequence of the latter, and the latter in its turn is due to the fact that those who have been successively elected to preside over the fortunes of the Grand Lodge have been men of great ability and sound judgment, while they have had the supreme advantage of being assisted in their arduous and important duties by brethren of equal ability and judgment and at the same time of greater experience in Masonic government than themselves, the most prominent among their leading executive officers being Bro. THEODORE S. PARVIN, Past Grand Master, whose occupancy of the office of Grand Secretary lacks only a few years in order to be co-equal in duration of time with the Grand Lodge itself. It would, in fact, be next to impossible to make any reference, however brief, to Iowan Freemasonry at any particular epoch in its history without finding it necessary to introduce the name of this respected brother as the suggester, promoter, or originator of some step, or some course of policy or that was calculated and intended to be of service to the cause of Freemasonry, and which, when adopted or carried out, was found to have been of material benefit to the Craft. Bro. PARVIN has been from the very outset one of the central figures in Masonry in this State, and in speaking of its proceedings, may, without exaggeration, or vainglory, add "*quorum pars magna fui.*" But the greatest of his many services, the service with which his name will ever be associated, is the establishment

of the great Masonic Library at Cedar Rapids. This Library is not only valuable on account of the great number of Masonic publications which have been gathered together from all the countries in which the Craft has been established, while many of them are almost priceless, on account of their rarity; it has, too, the further inestimable advantage of being housed in handsome premises, in which are rooms that are set apart for the use of those who may be desirous of becoming acquainted with our history and literature.

There is nothing new in these remarks, but we are pleased to have this opportunity of making them because, on taking up the report we have quite recently received of the proceedings of the 55th annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, which was held at Council Bluffs on the 7th-9th June, and glancing through its contents, we find that the portion relating to the Library is about the most interesting, though at the same time there is a mass of statistical information as to the finances and numerical strength of the Craft which to those who look upon them as indications of prosperity cannot fail to prove most instructive. Thus as regards the financial position of the Grand Lodge, we find that the receipts on the General Fund, including the balance from the previous year, exceeded 50,500 dollars, while the disbursements, including liberal appropriations for charitable purposes and towards the library and library buildings, reached to upwards of 24,500 dollars, so that the account for the year closed with a balance of, in round figures, 26,000 dollars. As regards numerical strength, it appears that the number of lodges enrolled is 555, but of these 73 have become extinct, so that the number working is 482, the aggregate of whose subscribing members is 27,997, or not very far short of 28,000—a very substantial aggregate for a period of little more than half a century. We congratulate the Grand Master and his executive officers on the position in which Masonry in Iowa is at the present time, and trust that the progress that has been thus far made will be exceeded in the future.

GRAND LODGE LIBRARY.

I presume that we shall soon hear of additions being made to the Freemasons' Hall Buildings, and this has led me to wonder as to what will be done for the ever-increasing Library. Is there to be a fire-proof Building for the valuable Books and MSS? *There surely should be*, and I venture to submit the statement, that many and needful as the claims may be for other Departments in this great Beehive of Masonic Industry (Official, Clerical, Charitable, and Masonic Ceremonies, &c.), there is not a more pressing want at the present time than a suitable *fire-proof Habitation* as a storehouse for the invaluable Masonic Treasures, so many *virtually priceless*, which may all be lost to the Craft through a destructive fire. The Records of the Grand Lodge of England, from 1723, those of the "Ancients," from 1751; the United Grand Lodge of England, from 1813 to date; the Royal Arch Chapter and Grand Chapter, from 1765, and the continuous Volumes from 1817; besides Registers of lodges and chapters; Engraved Lists of lodges from 1723-4 (*several copies being unique*), and other important documents have never been reproduced, save in a very few instances, though their "*price is beyond rubies*," and their loss would be a grievous blow to the Craft universal.

There is also a vast correspondence preserved, MSS. of the "Old Charges," rare medals and jewels, and an immense variety of other literary treasures, books, and MSS., that any reasonable expense to ensure their safety would be heartily agreed to by the English Brotherhood, and, what is more, they would welcome undoubtedly any scheme that provides such a fire-proof building accordingly.

I see that at the last meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, held 2nd and 3rd June last, the following proposition, following due notice, was *unanimously approved*—

"That it is desirable to provide for the safe custody in the premises of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, of completed minute books and other records of subordinate Lodges desiring to deposit same; and that it be referred to the Board of General Purposes to frame such rules and regulations as may be requisite for this purpose."

This is a step in the right direction, and I shall watch more eagerly for developments. The Records, however, of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, are not of the age and value of those to be found in our Freemasons' Hall, for our Grand Lodge Library is without an equal, in several respects.

W. J. HUGHAN.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF HANTS AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Town Hall, Ryde, on Tuesday afternoon, the 9th inst., under the presidency of Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., P.G.M., and was largely attended by brethren from all parts of the province.

The roll was called by Bro. LANCASTER, P.A.G. Sec., and was responded to by representatives of nearly every lodge in the province.

The accounts were submitted by the P.G. Treasurer, Bro. J. W. GIEVE, and were of a satisfactory character.

Bro. R. EVE, in proposing that the accounts be received and adopted, said he was sorry that the position he occupied that day was not held, as usual, by their Deputy Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Le Feuvre, whose illness continued to the very great regret of all the brethren. (Hear, hear.) The Provincial Grand Lodge had expended a considerable amount in Charity during the past year, for not only had they voted the usual 100 guineas, but 500 guineas as well to the Boys' School, and notwithstanding this large payment there was a balance at the bank to the credit of the province. He remembered the time when they had no invested capital in the Provincial Grand Lodge, but now they received interest from investments in Consols and Victorian and New Zealand Bonds and also on a deposit at the bank.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Bro. LASHMORE moved, and Bro. FRANCIS NEWMAN seconded, the re-election as Treasurer of Bro. Gieve, and the motion was carried with applause, the Prov. Grand Master expressing his appreciation of the value of the services rendered to the province by Bro. Gieve, who in acknowledging the vote, said it would give him pleasure to continue in the office, and he had particular pleasure in now acknowledging his re-appointment, inasmuch as it was 10 years ago that day he was first elected to it. Nine times he had been re-elected, and he felt sure that had his opponent at the first election been present that day he would have been glad to have proposed or seconded his re-election. (Hear, hear.)

The Audit Committee was then appointed, after which Bro. LANCASTER read the report of the Provincial Grand Lodge Committee, which detailed, among other matters, the successful efforts made on behalf of the province in connection with the elections of candidates to the benefits of the Masonic Charities.

The Prov. G.M. said they had heard by the report that the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Le Feuvre, was prevented attending through illness. They had hopes on the last occasion that his illness would be only temporary, and that he would in due course meet the brethren and occupy his usual place in Provincial Grand Lodge in the enjoyment of good health. He regretted, however, that those hopes had not been fulfilled. Bro. Le Feuvre's health was now so impaired that he felt he could no longer continue in the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He received this communication, in the first instance, with very deep regret, and he at once asked him to continue in the office, but lighten his labours by taking a rest, which he trusted would have happy results. Bro. Le Feuvre did so for a little time, but his health did not improve, and not feeling happy in an office in which he could not be active, he had, he (the P.G.M.) regretted to say, written that he could not continue to act any more. He could only say for himself that he felt the loss deeply, and he was sure that all the brethren would join him in a feeling of regret that Bro. Le Feuvre had been compelled to retire from the office which he had well filled for many years. His recollection of him went back a very long time; he had known him as Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary, then as Provincial Grand Secretary, and afterwards as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and they all knew how he threw into the work of these offices all that energy which was characteristic of his disposition. He was sure they all joined with him in the hope that his present illness was only temporary, and that, though he would no longer fill the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master, he would recover sufficiently to be able to again take an active part in that Masonic work which he loved so well. Bro. Le Feuvre had been of the utmost service to him as his Deputy; he had found in him a most able counsellor, to whom he looked for help on every occasion; he had been most indefatigable in his work, taking an interest in every lodge in the province, and making himself acquainted with the capabilities of the brethren. He asked them to join him in extending towards him their hearty sympathy, trusting that his health would be speedily restored, and that they would have him among them for many years to come.

Bro. R. LOVELAND LOVELAND said the Provincial Grand Master had given him the opportunity of saying a few words concerning Bro. Le Feuvre from an Isle of Wight point of view. The Provincial Grand Master had principally spoken, and well spoken, of him as his Deputy, and they all knew what an excellent Deputy he had made. He (the speaker) had known him for 33 years; he had seen him in his Masonic work in Hampshire, and he had, too, seen much of his work in London, where he was connected with many societies of which that Provincial Grand Lodge was not cognisant, and he was afraid that the present state of his health was very greatly due to his activity and hard work as a Freemason. He had suddenly collapsed, for a time only they hoped; and they trusted that the voyage he was now taking would restore his health. Bro. Le Feuvre was a man who did not care to fill an office in which he could not work, hence his resignation of the office. Bro. Loveland Loveland made further sympathetic allusions to the late D.P.G.M., and was followed by

Bro. EVE, who said he missed Bro. Le Feuvre as a personal friend. He hoped they would not lose his presence among them, for there was no brother in Hampshire who had rendered more faithful service to Masonry than he had. (Hear, hear.)

The Prov. G.M. said that the office of Deputy Prov. G.M. being now vacant, he felt he could not better consult the wishes of the province than by appointing Bro. Goble to fill the vacancy. (Applause.) Bro. Goble had been for many years Prov. Grand Secretary, and the brethren generally could hardly conceive what an onerous position that was. He had discharged the duties with the utmost ability, and he felt sure that in the higher office he would act in the interests of the Craft and bring to the discharge of the duties all the abilities he had shown in his previous capacity. He had every confidence in asking him to accept the office of Deputy Prov. Grand Master of this large and important province. (Applause.)

Bro. LANCASTER read the patent for the appointment of Bro. Goble, who then took the obligation, and was next invested and saluted in Masonic form.

The D.P.G.M. said he heartily thanked the Prov. Grand Master for having selected him as his Deputy, and he assured him he would endeavour to carry out the duties to the satisfaction of every officer and brother of the province. He made some graceful allusions to the late Deputy, and read extracts from two letters he had received from him, which were full of sympathy, and in one of which he said that if his memory served him rightly he had never come into personal conflict with any of the brethren. He added, in a letter written from on board the Gaul on the 2nd of July, that he looked forward to meeting all the brethren with the highest satisfaction, and to supporting him as his successor, and to join in the congratulations which he was sure his appointment would evoke. (Applause).

The Prov. Grand Master then invested the officers for the year as follows:

Bro. A. E. F. Francis, 2158 ...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" E. A. Farr, 1373 ...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" H. Searle, 96 ...	...	Prov. G. Chaps.
" A. T. Richardson, 698 ...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" J. W. Gieve, 1990 ...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" W. Dunn, 195 ...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" H. G. Giles, 1903 ...	...	Prov. S.G.Ds.
" J. Homan, 309 ...	...	Prov. J.G.Ds.
" W. E. Duck, 1834 ...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" A. T. Hicks, 132 ...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" A. Millidge, 151 ...	...	Prov. D.G.D.C.
" C. S. Dusautoy, 359 ...	...	Prov. A.G.D.Cs.
" E. W. Ward, 76 ...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" Shepherd, 551 ...	...	Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" S. Frampton, 1803 ...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" J. M. Godfrey, 804 ...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" R. Young, 1884 ...	...	Prov. G.P.
" H. Hussey, 1780 ...	...	Prov. A.G.P.
" T. M. Taylor, 35 ...	...	Prov. G. Stwds.
" R. Wyatt, 1428 ...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.
" G. H. Atkinson, 1331 ...	...
" H. Siebert, 342 ...	...
" G. F. Lancaster, 309 ...	...
" G. Rogers, 2169 ...	...
" E. G. A. Nash, 2153 ...	...
" E. R. Ratcliff ...	...
" F. Fairweather, 394 ...	...
" Chandler, 2068 ...	...
" Evans, 342 ...	...
" Duke, 903 ...	...
" Guy, 1869 ...	...
" J. Exall ...	...

The PROV. G.M. went on to refer to the increase of Masonry in the province during the year, and particularly spoke of the interesting ceremony at St. Paul's, the great Centenary Festival of the Boys' School—in which their own province came out, he said, very well—and to the recent interesting service at Salisbury Cathedral, in which, he said, though it was outside their own province, he was glad to assist. (Hear, hear).

After the transaction of some further business, Provincial Grand Lodge was closed, and the brethren afterwards partook of a banquet in the hall, under the presidency of the Prov. G.M.

The arrangements for the meeting were admirably made and carried out by the Ryde brethren.

The Craft Abroad.

CONSECRATION OF THE NORTHERN STAR OF CHINA LODGE, No. 2673 (E.C.).

We have been asked to publish the following:

An event of considerable importance in the history of Newchwang took place on Saturday, June 18th. This was the consecration of the above lodge. It had been expected that the official opening of the lodge would have been held in the autumn of last year, but owing to the non-arrival of the warrant from England before the closing of the port for the winter, this had to be postponed until now. On the above date, however, the impressive ceremony was performed in a most effective and solemn manner by R.W. Bro. Lewis Moore, the District Grand Master for Northern China, assisted by W. Bro. W. H. Anderson, D.D.G.M., and the warrant handed over to the members of the lodge. The meeting was attended by a considerable number of both resident and non-resident Masons.

After the consecration, Bro. Moore installed Bro. J. N. Segerdal as the first W.M., and invested the following officers: Bros. A. Schmidt, S.W.; G. Fawcett, J.W.; F. C. McCallum, Treas.; W. J. Lister, Sec.; G. H. Pennefather, S.D.; F. Hopkins, J.D.; J. Clark, I.G.; J. Armour, D.C.; and W. Sloss, Steward.

At the close of the ceremonies, the brethren adjourned to the Assembly Rooms, where a substantial repast had been prepared.

The usual Masonic toasts having been duly honoured, several of the most prominent residents, who are not Freemasons but who had been invited, arrived, and, although they only "came in at the tail end of the banquet," joined heartily in contributing to the passing of a very pleasant, musical evening. The stage in the ball-room was utilised for the convenience of the singers, and the entertainment was kept up until a late hour.

The Freemasons of Newchwang are to be congratulated on the spirit which has induced them to conquer many difficulties and establish a lodge of their own, which now numbers nearly 40 members, and to have obtained and furnished such a comfortable room for their place of meeting.

THE DUCHESS OF ALBANY and her children, who returned to Claremont, on Tuesday after a short visit to the Hon. Mrs. R. C. Moreton, at Crookham House, Winchfield, will go to Balmoral on a visit to the Queen when the Court leaves Osborne, instead of staying at Birkhall, Deeside.

Craft Masonry.

Duke of Edinburgh Lodge, No. 1182.

The above lodge, consecrated at the Coffee House, Wavertree, in the year 1857, started on a career of great promise, having several Craftsmen of repute at the head of affairs, and the early indications of success then given have been verified on attachment to its transference to "another place"—the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool. The annual installation meeting held there on the 11th inst. afforded emphatic evidence of the vitality of the lodge, which has very greatly distinguished itself with respect to the essence of Freemasonry—hearty, liberal, and spontaneous support of the various Charities, in the city and in London, which have for their object the welfare of children, old men, and old women. The chair at the commencement of the proceedings was occupied by Bro. H. B. Wright, the retiring W.M., and he crowned his year's work in connection with that important office by introducing six candidates to the Order, and afterwards installing his successor in the chair. Amongst the chiefs of the lodge present besides the W.M. were Bros. T. Davies, P.P.G.P.; A. Morris, P.M.; G. B. Kirkland, P.M.; J. Williams, P.P.S.G.D.; W. H. Ferguson, P.M.; W. Rawthorne, P.M.; J. Edwards, P.G.S., Treas.; R. Tunnicliffe, P.M., D.C.; T. Burrows, P.M.; and amongst the visitors were Bros. W. Goodacre, P.G.S.B. England, P.ov. Grand Secretary; W. H. Bucknell, P.P. Assist. Grand Director of Ceremonies Shropshire; J. Macnab, P.P.G.W.; J. Lane, P.M. 2042; P. Armstrong, P.P.S.G.D.; J. M'Murray, P.S.G.D. (Mayor of Bootle); S. L. Fraser, P.P.G.S. of W.; T. J. Jarman, P.P.G.D.C.; C. Fothergill, P.P.G.D.; J. Hughes, P.M. 1675; R. M'Gee, P.M. 1675; R. H. Webster, P.P.G.S.B.; H. D. Jay, W.M. 1264; N. Christensen, P.M. 1393; L. H. Eaton, P.M. 1547; G. Davies, I.P.M. 1356; J. R. Bottomley, P.P.G.D.C.; L. Gibson, P.M. 1094; and R. R. Martin, P.M. 1094. Bro. Robert Wright was impressively installed Worshipful Master, and the subjoined brethren were invested officers for the ensuing year—Bros. H. B. Wright, I.P.M.; Isaac Grace, jun., S.W.; David Robertson, J.W.; A. Morris, P.M., Treas.; Richard Johnson, Sec.; Walter Allison, S.D.; J. Starkey, J.D.; J. Bowman, I.G.; T. W. Outhwaite, H. G. Grace, J. Clarke, and G. Payne, Stwds.; J. K. Cave, Org.; George Johnston, P.M., D.C.; and H. du Chemin, Tyler. Bro. H. B. Wright, I.P.M., was the recipient of a valuable Past Master's jewel in recognition of the services he had rendered to the lodge.

Banquet was served to about 120 brethren, and in the course of the evening an excellent musical programme was given by Bros. Green, Lane, Kirkham, Edwards, T. Wright, Burt, Hollis, and Cave.

Acacia Lodge, No. 2321.

This lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Thursday, the 4th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Rawson-square, Bradford, and notwithstanding the holiday season, there was a good attendance, Bro. J. Morton, W.M., presided, and the officers supporting him were Bros. S. A. Bailey, I.P.M.; John W. Bland, S.W.; J. B. Fearnley, as J.W.; Fred Beteridge, Chap.; C. H. Ellis, P.M., Treas.; J. T. Last, P.M., P.P.G.R., Sec.; W. S. Smith, as S.D.; W. Durrance, as J.D.; W. H. Barton, I.G.; Jno. Cooper, Tyler; T. W. Holmes, P.M., P.P.G.O.; John Hayle, P.M.; and a number of the brethren. Visitors: Bros. F. C. Robinson, P.M. 1648, P.P.G.D.; Wm. Oddy, P.M. 387, P.P.G.D.C.; F. Ronfeldt, P.M. 1018; Wm. Leach, 408; H. Heaton, S.W. 258; W. H. Briggs, J.W. 302; H. F. Scales, 239; and A. J. Taylor, Org. 2609.

After the lodge had been opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting confirmed, Bro. Ledgard was passed to the Second Degree by Bro. Ellis, P.M., Treas. and the working tools were explained and the charge delivered by Bro. Fearnley, acting J.W. The Secretary read an interesting letter he had received from the W.M. of Acacia, No. 34, of the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, U.S.A., enclosing copy of a resolution which had been passed at the last meeting of that lodge, of which the following is a copy:

"Copy of resolutions from Acacia Lodge, No. 34, Nebraska, proposed by Bro. James A. Grimison, J. D.; and seconded by M.W. Bro. Chas. J. Phelps, P.G.M., and were adopted unanimously. Whereas our Worshipful Master on the 18th of last March received a Fraternal communication from Bro. J. T. Last, P.M., P.P.G.R., Sec. of Lodge Acacia, No. 2321, on the roll of the Grand Lodge of England, meeting at Bradford, Yorkshire, containing many items of interest to us and the Craft, as well as an exemplification of the pleasant thoughts clustering around and associated with our common and much revered name 'Acacia,' and whereas said Lodge Acacia, meeting at Bradford, Yorkshire, on the 2nd day of June, 1898, by resolution passed for that purpose sent 'Fraternal Greetings and hearty good wishes' to the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and brethren of our lodge. Therefore be it resolved: First, that we request our Worshipful Master to reply to the communication of Bro. J. T. Last in due and ample form giving to him all the information asked for and extending to him our full appreciation of the honour conferred upon us by his kind thoughtfulness; of and manifested interest in our Acacia Lodge, No. 34, A.F. and A.M. Second, that we acknowledge with gratitude the 'Fraternal greetings and hearty good wishes' of Lodge Acacia, No. 2321, of Bradford, Yorkshire, England, and third, that Acacia Lodge, No. 34, assembled at Schuyler, in the jurisdiction of the State Nebraska, U.S.A., on the evening of July 7th, 1898, hereby sends Fraternal greetings to Lodge Acacia, 2321, Bradford, England, with the hearty wish that each and all its members may spend many happy years ere the 'sprig of Acacia' blooms o'er their graves."

On the motion of Bro. Fearnley, J.W., seconded by Bro. Bailey, I.P.M., supported by Bro. Ellis, P.M., Treas., and the W.M., the following resolution was passed: It was proposed by Bro. J. B. Fearnley, J.W., seconded by Bro. S. A. Bailey, I.P.M., "That the Secretary having read a letter dated the 16th July, 1898, from the W.M. of the Acacia Lodge, No. 34, Free and Accepted Masons of the Jurisdiction of Nebraska, U.S.A., accompanied by a copy of a resolution of that lodge, duly passed at a regular meeting assembled at Schuyler, Colfax County, in the State of Nebraska, U.S.A., in the evening of Thursday, the 7th day of July, 1898, sending fraternal greetings and hearty good wishes to the W.M. and brethren of our lodge. It is resolved that the copy of such resolution read by the Secretary be entered on the minutes of the lodge, and also be it resolved that this lodge heartily reciprocates the cordial good wishes and fraternal greetings of our brethren in the far West, and that this resolution be entered on the minutes of the lodge and a copy thereof be forwarded by the Secretary to the W.M. of Acacia Lodge, No. 34, State of Nebraska, U.S.A." Bro. Ellis, P.M., Treas., in supporting the resolution referred to the universality of Freemasonry, and related his pleasant experiences in visiting lodges in Australia and New Zealand during his recent voyage and the kindnesses he received from so many Freemasons in those countries, both outside as well as inside the lodges. The resignation of a member was recorded, and, after "Hearty good wishes" from the visitors, the lodge was closed.

After refreshment the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

Bro. Last, P.P.G. Reg., proposed "The Visitors" and gave them a very cordial welcome, indeed, at this season of the year when so many of the members were away, visitors were doubly welcome.

In responding, Bro. Robinson, P.P.G.D., said the meeting had been an interesting one having regard to the communications from the Nebraska Lodge; they were indebted he said, to the Secretary, Bro. Last, for giving them so much information regarding Freemasonry over the water, the exchange of courtesies and greetings which had taken place between the members of the two lodges bearing the same name was a matter for gratification; he was pleased to see the work in the lodge had been very creditably done, and he was pleased to have had an opportunity of again visiting the lodge.

Bro. H. Heaton, S.W. 258, also responded, and referred in some interesting remarks to the Nebraska correspondence.

Other toasts, including "The W.M.," "The Past Masters," and "The Officers" followed, concluding with the Tyler's toast.

Bros. Holmes, Taylor, Durrance, Last, and Smith contributed songs and music during the evening.

THE QUEEN will probably defer her departure from Osborne beyond the date originally fixed, as the work of lighting Balmoral Castle with electricity, which is now in progress, will not be completed until the beginning of September. There are to be 600 lamps, and there will be over 1000 when the electric light is extended to the out-buildings. The water is brought from the River Gelden through half a mile of underground pipes to the turbine house, which is more than a mile from Balmoral. The current is to be transmitted to the Castle by cables laid underground.

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		a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.
London (Waterloo) dep.	5.50	9.15	11.0	1.0	3.0
Portsmouth.....	6.15	9.25	11.40	12.25	2.15
Southampton.....	6.50	9.45	11.33	1.5	3.0
Holsworthy.....	1.3	3.30	4.54	6.55	9.25
Bude.....	1.5	3.32	4.56	7.0	9.27
Bude.....	1.28	3.55	5.19	7.23	9.50

Up Trains.		Exp.		Exp.	
		a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Bude.....	8.5	10.25	1.57	3.5	...
Holsworthy.....	8.28	10.48	2.20	3.28	...
Southampton.....	8.30	10.50	2.22	4.5	...
Portsmouth.....	1.40	4.20	8.1	9.28	...
London (Waterloo) ..	2.31	4.43	9.9	9.47	...
London (Waterloo) ..	2.33	4.35	8.16	10.15	...

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and Bude.

TOURIST TICKETS LONDON to BUDE and BACK,
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By rail throughout.....	66s. 6d.	41s. 6d.	33s. 3d.
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To Ilfracombe by rail, Ilfracombe to Bude, by rail and Coach, via Bideford, returning from Bude by rail via Holsworthy or vice versa.....	79s. 0d.	52s. 0d.	43s. 3d.
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N.B.—These Tickets will not be available for the coach
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October, as the Coaches cease running on that date.

A NEW STATION, named WHITSTONE and
BRIDGERULE, situated about five miles from Hols-
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later date, particulars of which will be duly announced.

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The Right W. Bro.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF EUSTON,
Prov. Grand Master Norths and Hunts.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

The V.W. Bro. RICHARD EVE, P.G. Treasurer.
The W. Bro. J. HAVILAND, M.A., Dep. Prov. G.M.
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Brethren who will allow their names to be added to this
Committee, will kindly communicate with the Hon.
Secretary:

J. PERCY FITZGERALD,
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AND DOWN, &c., &c.,

Will be held in ULSTER HALL, on 29th OCTOBER
next, and TWO following days, for the purpose
of clearing off the debt on the

New Masonic Hall, Crumlin Road, Belfast.

Further particulars in future advertisements. Meantime,
contributions of work, &c., will be gratefully received and
duly acknowledged by the Stall Holders;

or, R. B. ANDREWS, Hon. Sec.,

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EVERY WEDNESDAY.—To SWINDON, Cirencester,
Tetbury, Chalford, STROUD, GLOUCESTER, Chelten-
ham, HEREFORD, Clevedon, WESTON-SUPER-MARE,
Bridgwater, 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,
Carnarvon, 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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EVERY THURSDAY, FRIDAY MIDNIGHT, AND
SATURDAY.—To EXETER, Dawlish, Teignmouth, PLY-
MOUTH, Bodmin, Wadebridge, Fowey, Truro, Falmouth,
St. Ives, PENZANCE, &c., for a week, a fortnight, &c.

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head, Lynton, Lynmouth, Barnstaple, ILFRACOMBE,
Yealmpton, Tavistock, Luaneston, Torquay, Dartmouth,
&c., for a week, a fortnight, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY.—To the SCILLY ISLANDS, for a
week, a fortnight, &c.

FRIDAYS, August 19 and 26.—To FROME, Shepton
Mallet, Wells, Yeovil, Bridport, Dorchester, WEY-
MOUTH, Portland, &c., for a week, a fortnight, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT.—To WESTON-SUPER-
MARE, for a week, a fortnight, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.—To Chippen-
ham, BATH and BRISTOL, for a week, a fortnight, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY MIDNIGHT AND SATURDAY.—
To DOUGLAS (ISLE OF MAN), for a week, a fort-
night, &c.

SPECIAL SATURDAY EXCURSIONS to the BRISTOL
AND WEYMOUTH DISTRICTS.

NOTICE to EXCURSION PASSENGERS for the
WEYMOUTH DISTRICT.

ALTERED RETURN ARRANGEMENTS.

On FRIDAY, August 19, EXCURSION PASSEN-
GERS booking to Frome, Wells, Yeovil, WEYMOUTH,
&c., must return on AUGUST 25, 29, or SEPTEMBER 5;
and those booking on FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, must return
on SEPTEMBER 5 or 12; and NOT on the following
THURSDAY or THURSDAY WEEK, as announced in
the Excursion Pamphlet.

The EXCURSION to the WEYMOUTH DISTRICT
announced to run EVERY FRIDAY until further notice,
will be DISCONTINUED after August 26.

SATURDAY EXCURSIONS to the WEYMOUTH
DISTRICT.

Commencing SATURDAY, August 20, and EVERY
SATURDAY until SEPTEMBER 24 inclusive, an EXCUR-
SION to FROME, Witham, Shepton Mallet, Wells,
Yeovil, Maiden Newton, Bridport, Dorchester, WEY-
MOUTH, Portland, &c., for 3, 10, or 17 days, will leave
PADDINGTON STATION at 8.10 a.m.

SATURDAY EXCURSIONS to BATH, BRISTOL, &c.

EVERY SATURDAY EVENING until further notice,
an EXCURSION to Chippenham, BATH and BRISTOL,
for 2, 6, 9, 13 or 16 days, will leave PADDINGTON STATION
at 7.2 p.m., in addition to the EXCURSION announced
to leave PADDINGTON at 12.40 noon, EVERY FRIDAY.

A FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND.—THURSDAYS,
AUGUST 25, SEPTEMBER 8, and 22.—For CORK and
KILLARNEY.

FRIDAYS, August 26, SEPTEMBER 9 and 23.—
For WATERFORD, Dungarvan, Lismore, Clonmel,
Tipperary, Kilkenny, KILLARNEY, BELFAST, Armagh,
Enniskillen, Larne, Giants' Causeway, &c.

CHEAP THIRD CLASS RETURN TICKETS are
issued DAILY by certain trains to WINDSOR (2s. 6d.),
BURNHAM BEECHES (3s.), Maidenhead (3s.),
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Tickets, bills, pamphlets, and Country Lodging Lists
can be obtained at the Company's Stations, and at the
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Musical Dinner 3s. 6d. per head. Accompanied by the Imperial Austrian Band.

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Academy Luncheon 2s. 6d., Diner Parisien 5s.

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AMERICAN BAR.

Service of special American Dishes, Grills, &c.

Splendid Suites of Rooms for Military and other Dinners.

To Correspondents,

Wanted.—The present address of the wife of the late Bro. Kennett Mackenzie, author of the "Masonic Encyclopedia."—Dr. W. Wynn Westcott, 396, Camden-road, N.W.



Masonic Notes.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1898.

By a happy chance, the *Freemason* of last week, which contained the lecture delivered by the Orator of Lodge de Goede Hoop at its installation meeting, contained also a letter from Bro. Arthur Lovell, in which he earnestly advocated a closer and more careful study of our ritual than is at present possible at the great majority of our lodges of instruction. Both our Dutch brother and our correspondent desire that the study of the hidden mysteries of our Masonic Science should be more thoroughly investigated. The former seems to be haunted by the fear that if what we will call the philosophy of Masonry is not studied, the Fraternity may degenerate into a mere benefit society. Bro. Lovell considers that we fail to show a just appreciation of our beautiful ritual by contenting ourselves with a mere parrot-like repetition of our ceremonies.

There is much to be said in commendation of these views. But in order to give effect to Bro Lovell's contention, it will be necessary, first of all, either to extend the scope which our lodges of instruction have thus far set themselves; or establish lodges of instruction which shall devote themselves chiefly, if not entirely, to the study of the inner life, as it were, of our ritual, nor do we see any reason why this should not be done. Very material benefit has resulted to the study of Masonic history and of the old constitutional rolls in particular from the formation of such lodges as the Quatuor Coronati, the Lodge of Research, &c. &c., and as far as we know, there is no obstacle to the formation of lodges of instruction that shall make the exposition of the deeper and broader meaning of our ritual their chief object.

* * *

The *Indian Masonic Review* for last month contains an article by Bro. Frank Stevens, on the subject of "Masonic Halls," in which he strenuously advocates the erection of more of such buildings in India. In order to obtain information upon the subject he appears to have communicated with a number of brethren in the United States, where there are many magnificent Masonic Halls, with the object of learning how the lodges raise the funds for the purpose. He has ascertained that the matter is managed without serious difficulty, the members of a lodge, which desires to have a hall of its own, advancing the money and receiving bonds bearing interest at so much per cent., which are redeemed year by year until the whole indebtedness is cancelled. The same kind of plan has been adopted here by many lodges, and in those cities in India which can boast of several lodges there is reason to believe that it might also be adopted with advantage. But lodges in the latter country, especially at outlying stations, are not, as a rule, strong as regards membership, and we imagine the difficulty in raising the money would be greater.

* * *

It is, as Bro. Crawley remarked in his letter of last week, a very great compliment which has been paid to our Bro. G. W. Speth, P.A.G.D.C., Secretary of Lodge Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, by the Editors of the Philological Society's "English Dictionary" now in course of publication by the Clarendon Press, Oxford. Readers of the "Ars Quatuor Coronatorum" will perhaps remember that Bro. Speth in a paper entitled "A tentative Enquiry," which he read last year before that lodge, suggested that the word *Free* in *Freemason* meant, not as it has been commonly interpreted heretofore, *Free of the Mason Guild or Company*, but *Free from it*, that is, from the control exercised by the Guild. The Editors of the Dictionary have not gone so far as to adopt Bro. Speth's suggestion, but a modification of it, which strikes us as differing only in the very slightest possible degree from his theory. However, whether the adoption is complete, or stops short by a mere hair's breadth as it were of being so, it is a great compliment that has been paid him, and all the greater because, as Bro. Crawley points out, there are so few Masonic authors whose opinions are treated with anything like respect by scholars of repute.

* * *

According to the *Freemason's Repository* for last month, the Grand Master of North Dakota "some two months ago authorised the making of 31 Masons, practically 'at sight,' the avowed justification of such proceedings being the fact that the candidates then initiated, passed, and raised were volunteer soldiers under orders for the Philippine Islands. The same Grand Master issued a dispensation authorising the brethren thus received within Masonic lodge to form and open 'a movable military Lodge' on reaching their distant destination."

* * *

So far as the selection of Sunday for the making passing, and raising of the 31 volunteer soldiers, we agree with our contemporary that it was neither wise nor expedient, but as regards the conferring of the Three Degrees at one sitting, it has been done before in jurisdictions which are senior to that of North Dakota, and unless emergencies are to be altogether wiped out of existence, we consider the circumstances in this particular case justified to a certain extent the departure from the strict letter of the law. These brethren were going on foreign service, and there was no knowing when there would be an opportunity for them to take their Second and Third. The further allowing them to meet as a lodge strikes us as being somewhat absurd, unless there was a fair sprinkling of experienced Masons going out with them, who would be able to conduct the business of the lodge.

The District Grand Chapter of Bengal is to be congratulated on once again having Comp. the Hon. Sir H. Thoby Prinsep to preside over its fortunes as Grand Superintendent. Sir Henry occupied that office from 1879, concurrently with that of District Grand Master, till 1896, when he retired from both those positions in favour of the late lamented Bro. and Comp. Major-General A. G. Yeatman-Biggs, C.B. The latter, however, died early in the present year from illness contracted while on service with the force under Sir William Lockhart, and Sir Henry has now been re-appointed to the two offices, with the duties of which he is so familiar. His installation took place at an emergent convocation of District Grand Chapter, held at Freemasons' Hall, Calcutta, on the 29th June last, the ceremony being performed by M.E. Comp. W. D. Cruickshank, Past Dist. G.H., as Grand Superintendent.

* * *

Our worthy contemporary, the *New Zealand Craftsman*, naturally enough writes very indignantly as to the conduct of some 200 or 300 members of the Craft, who have taken that paper for a considerable time—some, we believe, during the whole of the three years the present series of the N.Z.C. has been running—but have never paid a penny in the way of subscription. The Masonic Newspaper Company, which is the proprietor of the *Craftsman*, held its third annual meeting on the 2nd June last, when it was stated that bad debts to the amount of about £178 had been written off, of which all but some £12 were subscriptions. This is the reverse of creditable to those who took the paper and then omitted to pay for it.

* * *

In the issue of *Light* for the 6th instant will be found an article from the pen of Bro. Arthur Lovell on "Freemasonry and Spiritualism," in which he earnestly sets forth the views to which he gave expression in his letter to this journal which we had the pleasure of publishing last week and to which we have already referred in some of our preceding Notes. In this he quotes largely from Bro. Klein's paper entitled "Hidden Mysteries, No. 3, or the Loves of the Atoms," which was read some time since before Lodge Quatuor Coronati. At the same time he bestows unqualified praise on the article, regarding it as an evidence that Freemasonry is making a move in the right direction. His belief is that "Freemasonry is destined to play in the future a far more important part in the development of man than it has done in the past, for it has the unspeakable advantage of a splendid and magnificent organisation, which when saturated with the living Will or Spirit can be made to wield an incalculable influence in the social and political destinies of humanity."

* * *

We have been requested by the W. Master of the Whittington Lodge, No. 862, to state that the paragraph we published last week under the heading "Summer Outing of the Whittington Lodge, No. 862" had reference to an excursion organised privately among sundry of the Past Masters and had nothing whatever to do with the lodge itself. In fact, the summer outing took place some time ago and turned out to be a most enjoyable gathering, there being present between 70 and 80 members and their friends, headed by the W. Master and including Bros. James Terry, John Mason, and James Speller. We regret the mistake that has occurred, more especially as we fear it is due to some verbal alterations that were made in the report we were favoured with. Of one thing, however, we feel assured that the brother to whom we were indebted for the paragraph had no idea of saying or doing anything that could be construed into disrespect for the lodge or its W. Master.

* * *

The unpleasant duty devolves upon us of recording the death of two prominent members of our Order—Bro. Charles Locock Webb, Q.C., who was appointed Junior G. Deacon in 1863; and Bro. James Brett, Past G. Pursuivant, who, till a few years since took an active and energetic part in the proceedings of Freemasonry. Both these brethren rendered valuable services to the Craft in their respective spheres of duty, and in the case of both of them, we are satisfied the memory of those services will be cherished, not only by the brethren to whom they were known personally, but by the general body of the Craft. We give some few particulars as to the Masonic career of both these brethren, reserving a fuller account of their services till next week.

MORE MINUTES.

The Report of Supreme Grand Chapter, held 3rd August, just received, states that the minutes of the last convocation were "read and confirmed."

At a Committee Meeting of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, held "last Wednesday," "the Minutes of the previous meeting are reported in *Freemason*, p. 382, to have been "read and verified!" May it not be that the expressions "declared correctly recorded," and "read and verified," are due merely to the taste and fancy of the Reporter?

C. H. W.

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.

IS FREEMASONRY A RELIGION?

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

In the correspondence on page 380, the 13th instant, under this heading, from Bro. Arthur Lovell, he says—"The word Religion covers an enormous amount of ground." The first requisite is to present a clear definition of the meaning intended to be conveyed. . . . The symbols used are absolutely worthless to the candidate who has not "the inner eye opened"—(2 Kings, 6 ch., 17 v.; Acts 26 ch., 18 v.)—to see the real, but hidden, meaning." In the first leading article on page 375 you tell us "that the open Bible in our lodges is a Masonic principle and one of our ancient landmarks;" and Bro. Klein, W.M. of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, whose admirable address on Light—(Luke 2 ch., 32 v.)—you report on page 376, says—"The framers of our ritual evidently looked beneath the surface of things, and I think this is so with this ancient landmark *The Bible*." I am not a scholar, but I venture to suggest that the word "Religion" is derived from our word *ligature*, and means a binding back afresh. The Volume of the Sacred Law reveals to us that man is, by nature and practice, entirely estranged from his Creator; but running through its pages, both Old and New Testament, is the good news of a *ligature*, which will bring all mankind back again to God if they will believe and accept it.—(Hosea, 14 ch., 4 v.)

It appears very clear to me that if brethren will examine this landmark of our Order and its authority as a revelation from the Great Architect of the Universe, surely this is a Religion which if obeyed will be a sure guide for conduct in this world and a certain hope of eternal life in the world to come. We are told of the rising of that bright Morning Star—(Rev., 22 ch., 16 v.), whose rising brings peace—(Rom., 5 ch., 1 v.)—and salvation—(Luke, 19 ch., 9 v.)—to the faithful and obedient of the human race.—I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

GEO. B. CHAPMAN,
Secretary No. 2499.

Bayard Cottage, Bexley Heath,
August 13th.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

My attention has been drawn to a letter by Bro. Arthur Lovell in your issue of August 13th, entitled "Is Freemasonry a Religion?" I read the letter with very great interest because I have long thought that something more could and should be made out of Masonry than has hitherto been attempted. As it at present exists, it is a vast Charity Organisation Society worthy unquestionably of the support of all Masons so far as Brotherly love and relief are concerned, but Masons are apt to forget that Truth is also one of the objects. Any one acquainted with the ordinary meetings of a lodge will at once acknowledge that very little is done towards explaining the hidden mysteries of nature and science. It is not necessary that Masons should be Astronomers or Chemists for the comprehension of Masonic science, which, in my opinion, is a science of human development. Our ceremonies proclaim this in no uncertain voice as we rise from Apprentices to Craftsmen and then to the sublime Degree of Master—a growth which corresponds in our inner selves to our natural development.

What is wanted in our lodges is an explanation of this process of development and the application of the principles of Masonic science to our daily living. It must be confessed that this inner meaning is not taught in our lodges, consequently the individual Mason has no chance whatever of understanding the ceremonial. Given this inner perception, the possibilities of Masonry are immense, and the world would be a far better place to live in were every Mason to live up to the tenets he has professed to accept and understand. Here, then, is an opportunity for Masters of lodges to signalise their year of office by re-vivifying Masonry, and making their lodges real centres of instruction. As a Master, I shall certainly endeavour to do what I can during my occupancy of the chair to further this end, and, in my opinion, the thanks of all true Masons are due to Bro. Lovell for bringing this matter forward.—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully and fraternally,

JOHN SPINT, W.M. 1425.

27, Chapter-road, Willesden Green, N.W.,
August 15th.

Obituary.

BRO. JAMES BRETT. P.G.P.

It is with extreme regret we record the death of Bro. James Brett, who was appointed A.G. Pursuivant in 1869, and G. Pursuivant the following year, while in 1871 he was chosen to fill the office of G.D. of C. in Supreme Grand Chapter. Bro. Brett will doubtless be best remembered as for many years the Senior Vice-President of the Board of Benevolence, from which office he retired a few years since. He also served very actively on the Committee of Management of the Benevolent Institution, and was a Life Governor of all three Charities, for each of which he had served a Stewardship. We shall give fuller particulars next week.

BRO. C. LOCOCK WEBB, Q.C., P.G.D.

By the death of Bro. Charles Locock Webb, Q.C., the Middle Temple has lost one of its oldest members, he having been 76 years of age. The deceased was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in April, 1850, was made a Queen's Counsel in June, 1875, and elected a Bencher of his Inn in 1879. He was next in rotation for the office of Treasurer of the Middle Temple for the ensuing year. Bro. Webb was a distinguished member of our Order, having been appointed J.G.D. of England as far back as 1863. We shall give further particulars next week.

THE DUCHESS OF ST. ALBANS has left Newtown Anner, her seat near Clonmel, on a visit to Sir Henry and Lady Blake at Youghal, where they have purchased the old manor house in which Sir Walter Raleigh once lived.

THE TOMBS OF THE KINGS GOLCONDA AND MOSQUES OF HAIDARABAD DECCAN VIEWED MASONICALLY.

BY BRO. FRANK STEVENS, P.D.G.S.B. MADRAS.

Much has been written at various times, and in various places, regarding the Temple at Jerusalem, and this the more so, as the data at hand are so meagre, that it has been a comparatively easy task for any society, religion or sect to claim a connection with that venerable edifice, now, alas! lost almost as completely as the genuine secrets of a Master Mason. Practical architects and antiquarians have, more nearly than any, reconstructed the ancient fane as it existed, and to them be all honour for the light they have shed upon this, the most interesting feature of the Old Testament History. But, while doing all justice to these able and scientific investigators, we cannot but deplore the terrible want in Masonry, as it is now understood, of any thing like a definite idea of that edifice, or of its history. We are possessed of lectures and explanations of certain tracing boards, which have come to be regarded, despite their comparative novelty, as landmarks; but these explanations—to use the words of the late Bro. Albert Pike—are "no explanations," and only calculated to confuse, rather than instruct the novice. True it is that in the present day thinking Masons are beginning to see that their tracing boards are but a "will o' the wisp," a seeming light, which offers much promise but little realisation, and on the strength of this they are with commendable energy devoting themselves to individual research, which it is to be hoped will eventually place the Craft in possession of some more authentic and trustworthy notions on leading matters, and dissipate some of those mists of verbiage which enshroud the salient points of Masonry.

Such, then, is the endeavour of the present effort—one which has been undertaken in a true Masonic spirit, and with a view to make that daily increase in Masonic knowledge as forcibly impressed upon the novice in Masonry.

A careful and detailed study of architecture in the city of Haiderabad Deccan revealed a very curious Masonic coincidence, which from its frequent and invariable occurrence in all Moslem places of worship and tombs in that city, demonstrated beyond doubt that the coincidence was the result of a set purpose, and not of mere hazard. It is now necessary to inform those readers who are unacquainted with Haiderabad or Mahomedan cities in general, that there are two special forms used in the building of religious edifices—the one is that of the mosque or masjid, and the other that of the tomb. As a rule, these two buildings are to be found in close proximity, though the mosque is more often to be found standing alone, but the tomb is never unaccompanied by the masjid.

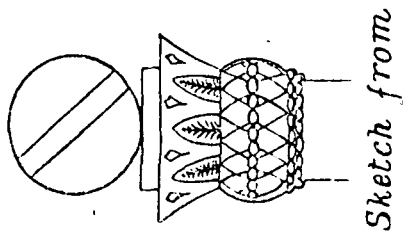
Let us first take into consideration the masjid, or place of prayer. This is an oblong building, built so as to face Mecca, or very nearly east and west. The east end is open, and it is from this point that the faithful approach for the purpose of prayer. Standing then in the east, facing the west, the first objects which strike the eye are the two large pillars, or minarets, which adorn the north-east and south-east corners of the building, and which stand at the porchway or entrance to the mosque. These pillars are of a purely ornamental nature, and, as a rule, are elaborately decorated, though it is a very striking and most important fact, that among the hundreds of minarets which adorn the city the form of decoration never varies in the slightest detail.

The minaret is surmounted by a spire, which is generally "cast in brass;" below this is the dome, which is ornamented at its base with a pattern of "lily work," while this in its turn is supported by a moulding decorated with "net work and pomegranates." This is no fanciful description, but an actual fact, the decoration being most marked and well finished. In other words, these two minarets answer exactly to the description of the two great pillars as given in the Second Degree tracing board.

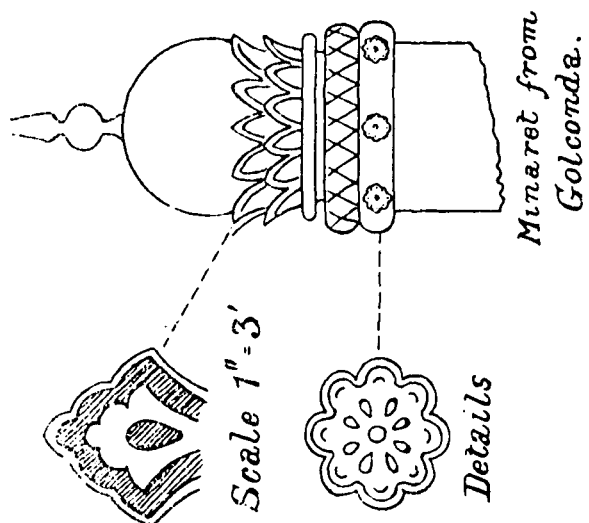
The globes or spherical balls which surmount these pillars are undoubtedly the domes of the Moslem minaret, and it will be noticed that the lines of latitude and longitude are clearly defined on them. This at first when collecting information for this article escaped the writer's notice, till on visiting one of the two stone mosques in Haiderabad for the purpose of gaining further information, the whole matter became clear. The lines of latitude and longitude were nothing else than the joints in the masonry, for the individual stones, of which the dome was composed, were all shaped and dressed, in courses, with the utmost regularity, and the lines of the courses and the breaking of the joints at once elucidated the whole idea. The next point worthy of notice is the position of these two pillars. It has been already noticed above that the two minarets, which stand at the right and left hand of the porch, are at the north-east and south-east corners of the building. If the reader now were to imagine himself as standing in the porchway looking out towards the east, the pillar on his left hand would be situated at the north-east corner of the building, while that on the right would be at the south-east corner. The association of these two pillars with these two points of the compass will at once suggest itself to the Masonic reader, who will remember that the north-east corner is always traditionally regarded as the point whence the building should be commenced, while the left hand pillar is equally associated with the First Degree. Similarly the completion of the course of earthly study is typified by the south-east corner, in the Second Degree, which is associated with the name of the right hand pillar.

We may thus assume the lessons of the first two Degrees in Masonry to be that man is taught to conduct himself honourably throughout life, at the same time making such progress as he is able in worldly knowledge, and these the mosque typifies Masonically by the two minarets, its chequered pavement, and the Holy verses from the Koran, which embellish the centre of the building.

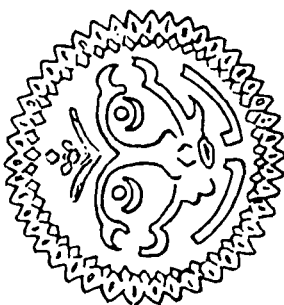
The minarets have already come under discussion, but there yet remain the chequered pavements and the verses of the Koran. The mosque floor is divided into rectangles each sufficiently large to permit one man to pay his devotions within its boundaries. This pavement cannot but suggest the Masonic flooring of the lodge. The verses of the Koran are still more curious. A visit to the tomb of Meer Mahmood Saheb on the banks of the Meer Alum Tank, which necessitated the removal of our boots before we gained admission, revealed several very perfect specimens of the ineffable name of Allah, which constitutes the Sacred Symbol in the centre of the Moslem mosque—this is represented by the Arabic characters of the name of Allah, arranged in a kind of sacred monogram, within an irradiated star



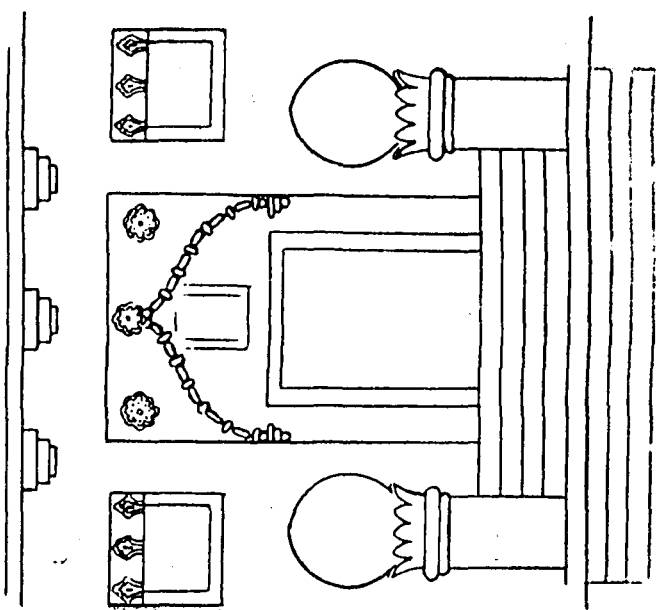
Sketch from
Lectures.



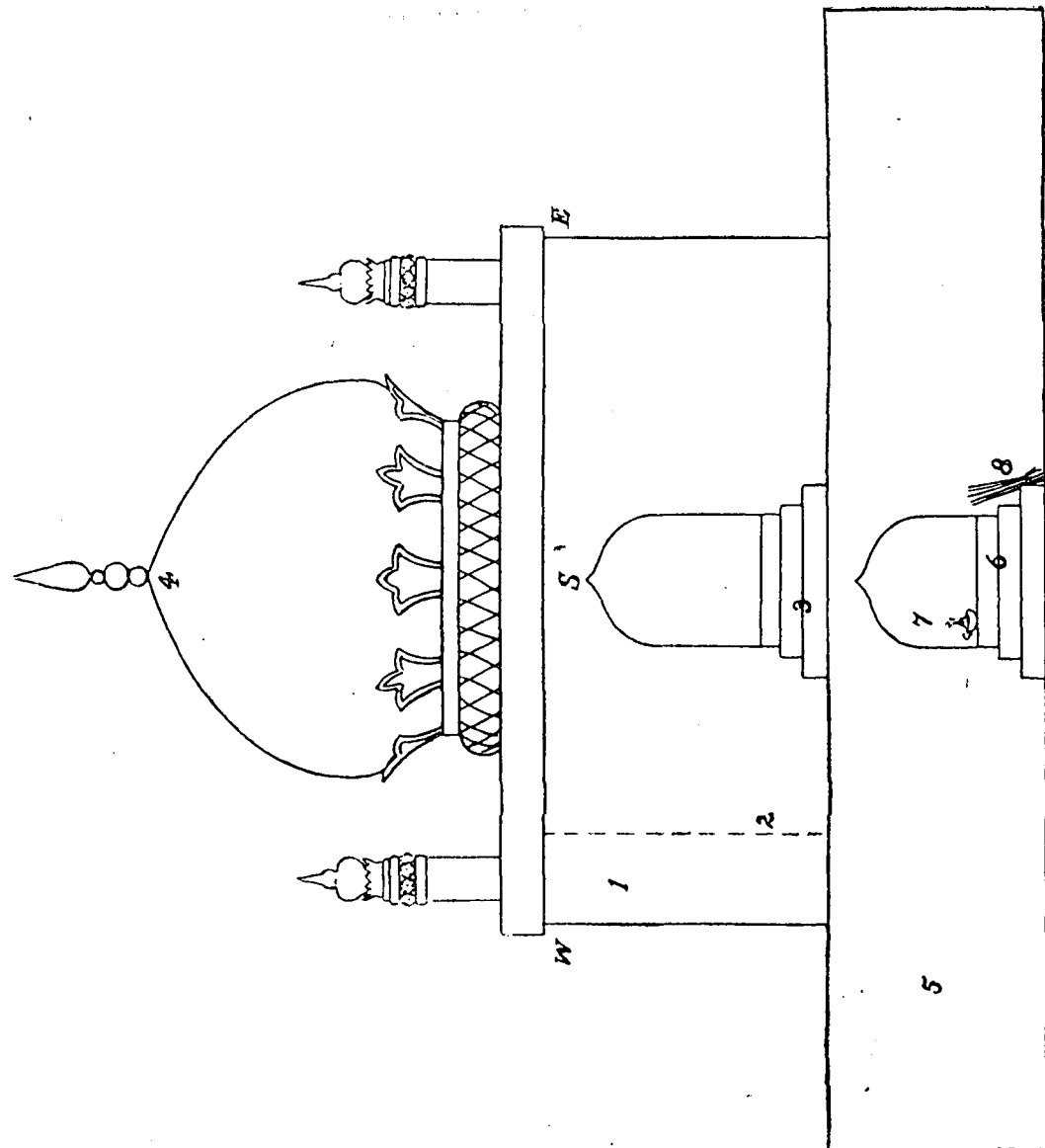
Minaret from
Golconda.



Sun Emblem or
"S S" tomb of
Mir Mahmood.



Entrance to the tomb
of Mir Mahmood.



South Elevation of a Moslem Tomb (no scale)

References.

- 1 Staircase at S.W. corner. 5 Crypt.
- 2 Door to Staircase. 6 Actual Tomb.
- 3 False Tomb. 7 Lamp.
- 4 Centre of Dome decorated 8 Brush.

of 33 points which is probably a conventional arrangement of the helianthus or sunflower. Pursuing our bootless quest (for bootless it was as regards the feet) we discovered yet another representation of this Sacred Symbol in the shape of the same helianthus border, the centre being arranged so as to represent what may be termed an arabesque treatment of a man's face—which at once recalled the conventional method of representing the sun in splendour in ancient illuminated manuscripts and elsewhere. This was the more interesting as it is a generally accepted idea that the Koran permits of the representation of no living thing in its forms of art as perhaps tending to idolatry. Possibly the reverence paid to the name of Allah, which in its own sphere is equally revered as the Tetragrammaton of the Jews, might well permit the use of the human form when delineating a symbol which in itself is deemed worthy of worship as being the embodiment of the Divine Essence. However this may be, the symbol in question would afford an important link in the chain of evidence which some exponents of comparative Religions would advance to show the common derivations of all faiths from Ancient Sun worship. Thus, then, as already stated, we find the salient points of the first two Degrees of Craft Masonry exemplified in the Musjid. There now only remains the Third Degree and its teachings, which we shall endeavour to show are appropriately and forcibly presented by the Moslem Tomb. The ancient Moslem Tomb in Haidarabad, is, as a rule, a far more magnificent structure than the mosque; indeed the comparative simplicity of the mosque is more often than not over-shadowed by the grandeur of the tomb, this being particularly noticeable in the wonderful tombs of the Kings of Golconda on which the art of the architect was lavished in beauty of design, and the skill of the craftsman in the exquisite enamel which clothed its domes, an art now unfortunately lost, never it is to be feared again to take its place in the "handmaiden of use," in adorning the monuments of the mighty. To attempt to adequately describe the ancient Moslem Tomb, would far exceed the limits of the present paper; we will, therefore, touch upon only such points as are of interest to Masonic readers. The tomb is built four square, and facing the cardinal points of the compass. It consists of a basement, which is the actual sepulchral chamber, and which forms a platform for the building above. The upper building is what may be termed, for want of a more suitable expression, a "false tomb," that is to say, it contains a monument situated immediately over the actual monument in the basement. It was to this false tomb that the energies of the architect were directed. The massive central dome was decorated, as in the case of the minarets, with "lily work," "net work," and "pomegranates," while around the central dome were grouped smaller domes, all preserving the same characteristics, and one cannot help thinking, while thus regarding the great central dome, how well it expresses in itself "stability" when compared to the lighter and more airy reproductions of itself which surround it. The central dome sums up as it were the lessons of the smaller minarets around it, and fairly symbolises the "conjoint signification" of the two pillars of the mosque. Whilst dealing with the external appearance of the Moslem tomb, it is most interesting to note that at the tomb of Meer Mahomed Saheb, on the banks of the Meer Alum Tank at Haidarabad, the entrance is flanked by two stone pillars, surmounted by capitals identical with those of the mosque domes already noticed. This, although an unusual form in tomb architecture, is yet interesting by reason of its resemblance to Masonic tradition; it is also a curious fact that *three* steps lead up to the two columns which flank the door, while *five* more lead to the actual entrance; it is absolutely forbidden to ascend these steps in boots or shoes, which have all to be deposited at the foot of the stairs. So much for the external appearance of the Mahomedan tomb; let us now glance at the interior of the building and see how the Third Degree of Masonry may be symbolised in its arrangements. Entering the basement or crypt, which is the actual sepulchral chamber, the prevailing idea is one of "darkness visible," relieved only by a glimmering ray which proceeds from a small oil lamp which is placed upon the "Master's" grave; this is the light which is never extinguished. At the head of the grave rests the broom which is used to sweep the grave; this broom is made, as a rule, from a branch of date palm, and bears a strong resemblance in its form to the branch of Acacia which is to be seen in the Third Degree tracing board in a similar position. The grave itself is situated in the exact centre of the building and it is quite conceivable that in dealing with the interment of the master, the secrets lost at his untimely death might well be supposed to rest with him, in the centre of his mausoleum. Again the custom of erecting the tomb near to the mosque suggests the idea that the master should be buried as near to the Holy Place as would be permitted by the ceremonial law.

It is the custom in many Moslem burying places to place a volume of the Koran upon the tomb, and this bears a strong resemblance to the custom existing in Scotch and American Lodges of having an "altar" on which the V.S.L. rests during the ceremony. Access to the crypt is gained by four doors situated at the N. E. S. W. and it is quite easy to see from this how the meridian and setting sun could be determined by the rays of the sun entering at the S. and W. doors respectively, and striking upon the centre of the tomb. This crypt was usually built before the decease of the person for whom it was intended; the E.As. and F.Cs. would therefore have finished their labours long before the crypt was actually required, and when at length the time came for the great man to die, the Master Mason was ready with his tools to find the exact centre and raise the tomb. The mere fact also of the crypt being built during the lifetime of its future occupant would serve as an excellent "Memento Mori" to that exalted

personage and lead him to "contemplate his inevitable destiny."—Upstairs in the False Tomb, all is beauty and brightness. The spacious dome over the false grave glows with the richest of colours, while in its centre the sacred symbol before alluded to again attracts the eye. In the south west corner of this is a winding staircase which leads to the upper gallery of the tomb; this again tallies with the lecture of the Second Degree which describes the F.Cs. as entering at the south door, to ascend to the middle chamber where they received their wages. It will also be remembered that our ancient brethren on reaching the middle chamber had sundry Hebrew characters pointed out to them, and we see the counterpart of this in the symbol before mentioned as being in the centre of the tomb. One other little point accords remarkably well with the statement that the F.Cs., after entering at the south door found their "ascent was opposed * *"—The explanation of this is that although doorways of necessity existed in these tombs, doors as we at present understand them did not exist. A glance at the massive hard lintels of polished stone (Deccan trap) would show no trace of a door having ever existed there, and consequently, what more natural than to place a guard to arrest the approach of any unwarranted intruders?

Having thus demonstrated the close resemblance existing between the Moslem forms of Mosque and Tomb and the traditions of Masonry the question naturally arises—How are we to account for these resemblances? To this several answers may be given. The first and readiest answer would probably be that the establishment of communication by King Solomon with other nations would lead to an imitation of his great Temple in other lands, the more so, as we are credibly informed that Embassies were sent to him by most of the leading Sovereigns of the then known world. Another reason, and perhaps a better one, is that which is afforded by archaeological research. Moslem architecture may be divided into three classes, viz., Moorish, Egyptian, and Persian, and it is to the last class that the buildings above described and discussed may be relegated; Persian architecture we know was greatly improved by King Cyrus, whose connection with the Jews has now become a matter of history. But architecture came to Persia from the Turanians, that is to say, Tyre. The connection of Tyre with the Temple is well known, and it requires no great stretch of imagination to assume that the architecture of Persia and Palestine are both sister styles emanating from one common centre, Tyre. With regard to the curious form taken by the pillars of the existing tracing board, it must be borne in mind that these tracing boards were designed and "written up to" at a time of very comparative enlightenment; possibly the transition from the dome of the minaret to the globes is referable to ancient travellers, for it is not a hard matter to suppose that in days gone—by a traveller returning home would bring a confused idea of what he had seen and would probably be unable to resist the chance given him by the minarets of Jerusalem of giving his opinion, which would carry considerable weight. Be this as it may, the remarkable resemblances noted above can only be urged as the excuse for thus opening the doors to what it is possible may prove to be a most interesting Masonic discussion.

Mark Masonry.

Faithful Lodge, No. 229.

The installation meeting of this excellent little lodge took place on the 10th inst., at the Masonic Temple, the Globe Hotel, Main-street, Cokermouth, when Bro. W. W. R. Sewell, S.W. and W.M. elect, was installed W.M. for the ensuing 12 months. The lodge having been opened by the W.M., Bro. H. Peacock, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., P.G. Stwd. Eng., and the usual business having been transacted, Bro. James Gardiner, P.G. Sec., assumed the chair of Installing Officer, and in a perfect manner placed the W.M. elect in the chair of A., where he was saluted primarily by a Board of Installed Masters and then by the brethren of the lodge. He then installed his officers as follows: Bros. H. Peacock, I.P.M.; T. Atkinson, S.W.; T. Mason, J.W.; W. P. Bennett, M.O.; R. Robinson, S.O.; E. L. Waugh, J.O.; F. R. Sewell, Sec. and R. of M.; and J. Hewson, Tyler. The addresses were most impressively rendered by Bro. T. Atkinson, P.M., P.J.G.W. A cordial vote of thanks to Bros. Gardiner and Atkinson for their services as Installing Officers was carried. Two candidates were proposed for advancement at the next meeting. The members present included Bros. Col. F. R. Sewell, P.M., D.P.G.M.; H. Peacock, P.M., P.P.S.G.W.; T. Mason, P.M., P.P.J.G.W.; T. Atkinson, P.M., P.J.G.W.; W. W. R. Russell, S.W., W.M. elect, P.G. Std. Br.; James Gardiner, P.G. Sec.; and others. Bros. J. Dickinson, P.M. 181, Treas., P.P.J.G.W., and G. A. L. Skerry, P.M. 282, P.P.G.R. of M., were the visitors.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the brethren adjourned to the Globe, where a banquet was provided by the W.M., which was a great success in every respect. The toast of "The Installing Masters" concluded the list, and terminated a most pleasant evening.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. BOWDEN GREEN.—A meeting of friends of the National Thrift Society took place on Saturday last at Cannon-street Hotel, for the purpose of making a presentation to Bro. Bowden Green, in commemoration of his completing 20 years' Secretaryship of that society. The testimonial consisted of an illuminated address, 25 volumes of the "Encyclopædia Britannica" (Times Reprint 1898), and a Royal Enfield bicycle. The Chairman (Dr. Greville Walpole), in handing these to Bro. Green, congratulated him upon the success of his 20 years' work in the cause of social reform, and regretted that the presentation of one more article—a purse—would have to be deferred, as it was not yet "lined." Bro. Bowden Green having expressed his sincere thanks for the address, and the gifts which accompanied it, the meeting terminated.

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Masonic and General Tidings.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND (Bro. the Earl of Halsbury) and the Countess of Halsbury arrived at Kingstown on Tuesday from England.

BRO. LORD CHARLES BERESFORD, M.P., and Lady Charles Beresford have been staying at their Surrey residence, Park Gate House, Ham Common, for some days.

COUNT H. HATZFELDT arrived at Dover from the Continent on Monday morning, and proceeded to London. Sir Henry and Lady Hawkins crossed from Dover to Calais.

BRO. HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BEDFORD has kindly accepted the post of Vice-President, and her Grace the Duchess that of Patroness to the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association.

THE HAMSTEAD Heath Extension Committee have now completed the purchase of the Golder's Hill Estate, having paid the £38,500 purchase money to the trustees of the late Sir T. Spencer Wells, the former owner of the property.

IT IS proposed to form a new lodge at the city of Ely, to be called Saint Audrey Lodge. An application to this effect was presented to the Scientific Lodge, No. 88, Cambridge, on the 12th inst., and the necessary consent was unanimously granted.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT, who are going to Scotland in October, will, for a few days, be the guests of Bro. the Marquis and Marchioness of Tweedale, at Yester House, Haddingtonshire. They will arrive at Yester on October 8th.

BRO. THE RIGHT HON. C. T. RITCHIE, President of the Board of Trade, who has been staying at Harrogate, has now joined the Trinity yacht Irene for a cruise of inspection of the Scottish lights. He is being accompanied for this purpose by some of the Northern Lights Commissioners.

MR. H. T. BRICKWELL, who has just returned from an inspection of the Continental theatres, has decided to produce Mr. George Pleydell Bancroft's play—"Teresa," at the Garrick Theatre, on Thursday, the 5th prox., with Mr. Arthur Bouchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh in the cast, and has arranged with Mr. Albert Meyer to produce the play.

ALTHOUGH the Empress Eugénie has much improved in health, her Imperial Majesty, who is at Farnborough Hill, was not sufficiently convalescent to be present at the special service held at the Imperial Mausoleum on Monday, in celebration of the anniversary of the Fête Napoleon, being the birthday of the first Emperor of the House of Bonaparte.

BRO. BURDETT-COUTTS, M.P., presided on Tuesday at a luncheon preceding the sale of Bro. the Earl of Lonsborough's hackney horses at Market Weighton. Bro. Viscount Raincliffe, responding to the toast of the noble Earl's health, said his father could not attend because of a chill. The sale realised about 6000 guineas, an average of 140 guineas per animal.

SOME IDEA of the amount of work performed by Mr. David Moss and his assistants in the Kitchen and Refreshment Department of the House of Commons may be gathered from the fact that during the session just ended no fewer than 19,209 luncheons, 21,730 dinners, 31,705 teas, and 330 suppers were served, making a grand total of 72,974 meals. The majority of the teas were partaken of on the Terrace, which has attained remarkable popularity under the new régime.

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL MAYOR OF POOLE (Bro. J. H. Whadcoat, J.P.) visited the new Masonic Hall, Crumlin-road, Belfast, the other evening, and was shown through by Bro. R. B. Andrews. He expressed himself well pleased with the design and finish of the hall, and extended his patronage to the forthcoming bazaar in aid of its funds, and also has promised a handsome subscription. He was afterwards entertained by Lodge NNI. Bro. the Hon. C. E. Davies, Grand Master of Tasmania, who is on a visit to Belfast, has also extended his patronage.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES watched the animated scene off the Green at Cowes from the bridge of the Royal yacht Osborne, when the annual regatta took place on Saturday last. Some of the rowing boats were sent round his Royal Highness's vessel, and an exciting race was witnessed between the barges from the Royal yachts, Princess Henry of Battenberg, Princess Ena, and Princess Alexander of Battenberg, Prince Arthur, and Princesses Margaret and Victoria. Patricia of Connaught were in one of the steam pinnaces, and stayed a long time watching the various events. The Duke of Connaught and Prince Nicholas of Greece walked down from Osborne in the evening, and went to pay a visit to the Prince of Wales, who still continues to make good progress. It is hoped that in three weeks' time his Royal Highness will be able to take slight walking exercise.

NEW CORNISH LINE OPENED.—The extension of the London and South-Western Railway from Holsworthy to Bude was formally opened on the 10th inst. The new line is a continuation of the branch railway from Okehampton to Holsworthy, the distance from Holsworthy to Bude being 10 miles, three furlongs. Immediately after leaving Holsworthy the line crosses the Deer Valley, over which it is carried by a lofty viaduct of nine arches, each of 50 feet span, the height from the permanent way to the valley being 99 feet. There being no suitable material in the district, it was decided to construct the viaduct wholly of concrete, and this has been done with conspicuous success, the result being a handsome structure, which is absolutely the first of its kind in the country. There is only one intermediate station, and this is placed at Whitstone, about midway between Holsworthy and Bude. An excellent position has been chosen for the site of the terminus in Bude, namely, quite close to the junction of the Bude and Stratton main roads, half a mile from the centre of the former town. The station is a handsome structure of red brick. Here, as also at Holsworthy and Whitstone, ample platform accommodation has been provided, and in addition to cloak and retiring rooms, there is to be at Bude an excellent refreshment buffet. It will be acknowledged that the company are wise in making ample provision for traffic, inasmuch as the opening of the new line is sure to be followed by a large increase to the number of visitors to Bude, which, besides being one of the most bracing places on the coast of North Cornwall, possesses a combination of natural attractions such as are given to very few English watering-places. A branch line for the purpose of goods traffic has been laid to the basin of the Bude Canal, and another branch may eventually be carried to Marhamchurch, within easy reach of the magnificent Widemouth Bay, which would convert it into a fashionable bathing place, the stretch of sand on the shore being one of the finest in North Cornwall. (See Advt., page 388).

BRO. THE EARL OF LATHOM arrived at Antwerp in his steam yacht Morven from Rotterdam and Amsterdam in the early part of the week.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK, who were expected to arrive at York House, St. James's Palace, on Monday, have decided not to return to town till the end of the present week.

THE WEEKLY MEETINGS of the Great City Lodge of Instruction (Bro. J. K. Gwynn, P.M., Sec. No. 1426, Preceptor), held at the Red Cross Hotel, Paternoster-square, E.C., will be resumed on Thursday, the 1st prox., at 7 p.m. precisely.

BRO. LORD AND LADY LEIGH's golden wedding is to be celebrated by a series of festivities at Stoneleigh Abbey, the family seat in Warwickshire, which will begin to-day (Saturday) and extend over a week. The tenantry have arranged for several presentations.

MAPLE AND CO., LIMITED, of Tottenham Court-road, have given notice that the transfer books for Ordinary Shares will be closed from the 19th to 31st inst., both inclusive, to allow of the preparation of an interim dividend which will be posted to ordinary shareholders on Wednesday, the 31st.

OWING TO THE illness of the Lady Mayoress, Bro. the Lord Mayor of London has been obliged to postpone, and may possibly have to abandon, his proposed visit to the United States. The Lady Mayoress, who is staying at Tenby, was taken ill on Friday, the 12th inst. Her condition on Monday showed some improvement, and we are glad to say that improvement has since been continued.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF WESTMINSTER drove from Eaton Hall to Halkin, Flintshire, on Saturday last, where the Duchess opened a public hall and library, erected by the parish council at a cost of over £900. A loan was obtained from the Flintshire County Council, and supplemented by local subscriptions, which included £200 from the Duke of Westminster, who also gave the site.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS POLICE on Saturday last went for a trip to Dover, the necessary funds for the outing having been handed to Inspector Kendrick by Lord James of Hereford, on behalf of a small body of Peers. This was a separate recognition of the satisfactory discharge of sessional duties, and was quite unconnected with the gratuity fund, which is subscribed to by members generally.

THE MARQUIS AND MARCHIONESS OF LONDONDERRY have been entertaining a party for Stockton Races, at Wynyard Park, including Bro. the Earl of Durham, the Earl of Crewe, Viscountess Helmsley, Lady Sarah Wilson, Lady Isobel Stanley, Lord and Lady Lurgan, Lord Alwyne Compton, M.P., Lord Athlumney, Lady Gerard, Sir Samuel and Lady Sophie Scott, Bro. Sir Charles Hall, M.P., Bro. and the Hon. Mrs. Maguire, Captain and Mrs. Greer, and Viscount Castlereagh and Lady Helen Stewart.

A COMPETITIVE EXHIBITION of metal work is to be held in Ironmongers' Hall, on October 26th and 27th, under the auspices of the Worshipful Company of Founders. The competitions will be restricted to British subjects who are founders, designers, craftsmen, or apprentices engaged in foundry business within the City of London and the area of the Metropolitan Police. Prizes to the aggregate value of upwards of £100 will be offered for various subjects, and in addition to the money awards all the successful competitors will be presented with the freedom of the Founders' Company.

IN CONNECTION with the approaching marriage of the second daughter of Bro. Alderman Davies, M.P., Lord Mayor of London, it may be of interest to state that only on two occasions during the last 25 years has there been a wedding from the Mansion House. In 1877 Miss White, the Lady Mayoress, was married at St. Paul's Cathedral to Mr. Cecil H. T. Price, in the Mayoralty of Alderman Sir Thomas White, her father. In 1883 the marriage of Miss Ada Knight, third daughter of the then Lord Mayor—Bro. Alderman Sir Henry Knight—to Mr. Albert Aitkens was also solemnised in St. Paul's.

BRO. GEN. THE RIGHT HON. SIR REDVERS HENRY BULLER, G.C.B., V.C., who has been chosen to succeed the Duke of Connaught in command of the troops in the Aldershot Division, will take up his duties on October 9th, upon which date his Royal Highness will have completed his term. Few officers in the British Army possess a more distinguished record of active service than Sir Redvers Buller. He commenced his military career as an ensign in the 60th Rifles in 1858, receiving his first step in promotion in 1860, and being advanced to his present rank in 1895. He took part in the Chinese War of 1860, and two years later in the Red River Expedition. In 1873 he underwent the hardships of the Ashantee War, and was present in the battles of Amoafu, Ordahsu, and the capture of Coomassie, for which he was honoured with a C.B., received medal with clasp, and was promoted Brevet-Major. During the Kaffir War of 1878-9 he again saw a considerable amount of hard fighting, and also in the Zulu War, which immediately followed, when he was awarded the V.C. for several acts of gallantry during the campaign. When the Egyptian Expedition was formed, in 1882, he was appointed to the Intelligence Department, and was present in the battles of Kassassin and Tel-el-Kebir. He was next employed in the Eastern Soudan, with Sir Gerald Graham, and, finally, with Viscount Wolseley in the Gordon Relief Expedition. From 1887 to 1890 Sir Redvers Buller was Quartermaster-General of the Army, and in October of the latter year became Adjutant-General.

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