

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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A VETERAN PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

During the current week Stoneleigh Abbey has been the scene of a series of festivities in celebration of the golden wedding of Bro. Lord and Lady LEIGH, and the present is a favourable opportunity for tendering them our respectful congratulations on the auspicious event. His lordship is the *doyen* of our Provincial Grand Masters, his patent of appointment as Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire bearing date the 1st of August, 1852, as well as of the Grand Superintendents of Royal Arch Masonry in the Provinces, his appointment to that exalted position dating from the 17th October, 1864. Thus our noble brother has presided over the fortunes of Craft Masonry in Warwickshire for 46 years, and of the Royal Arch in the same county for 34 years, and during the whole of that protracted period there has never been a time when Masonry has not been, either directly or indirectly, deriving benefit of some kind or degree from his watchful care and the attention he has shown to its interests. Masonry, indeed, is in a far different position, both generally and in his particular Province, from what it was when, in 1852, the late Bro. the Earl of ZETLAND, M.W. Grand Master, selected Lord LEIGH to fill the responsible office of Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire. Then there were in round figures some 880 lodges numerically on the register of United Grand Lodge, and on the closing up of numbers in 1863 these 880 lodges were found to be about 600. Then Warwickshire had a muster roll of its own of about a dozen lodges, while now the number over which he presides is 31. In those days no such organisation existed as a Colonial Grand Lodge, nor was it till four years after his appointment as a Provincial Grand Master that the first secession of lodges from the parent Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland occurred in Canada. This was in 1856, and it was not till some short time later that the existence of the Grand Lodge of Canada as a sovereign and independent Masonic body was recognised by us. Now there are in the Dominion of Canada alone seven such organisations, each being independent of the other six, as well as of the Grand Lodges of the United Kingdom, while each is supreme within the limits of its own jurisdiction. These seven Grand Lodges in British North America are those of Canada (Province of Ontario), Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, and Manitoba. Again, in those days the number of lodges established in our Australasian Colonies could not greatly have exceeded 20, if, indeed, it was not within that limit; now there are the five independent Grand Lodges of South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and New Zealand, while the lodges in the Districts of Queensland and Western Australia and elsewhere are still on the register of their parent Grand Lodges. Then the Mark Degree did not exist as a separate organisation; now it is presided over

by a Grand Lodge of its own, which was founded in 1856, and presided over during the first four years of its existence by Lord LEIGH himself as its premier Grand Master, while under its banner are some 500 lodges, the great bulk of which are arranged in Provinces and Districts. Then there were no such separate bodies as the Royal and Select Masters, no Order of Rome and the Red Cross of Constantine, no Allied Degrees, no Rosicrucian Society, no Order of the Secret Monitor, while the Ancient and Accepted Rite had been only a few years in existence, the only branch of our Masonic System that could boast of a protracted organisation, being the Order of the Temple. Again, as regards our Charitable Institutions, the present premises of the Girls' School at Rattersea Rise were consecrated on the 2nd August, 1852, the year following that on which Lord LEIGH'S appointment as Provincial Grand Master took place, while the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys' though it had been in existence 54 years, had no local habitation, the children entrusted to its charge being located at schools in the neighbourhoods in which they lived. The Male Fund of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution had been in existence 10 years, and the Widows' Fund for three years, while the Asylum at Croydon had been dedicated two years previously. Now there are some 270 girls on the books of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, who are clothed, maintained, and educated at the expense of some £13,000 a year; the Boys' School provides in a similar manner for some 280 pupils, and there are 200 male annuitants, 242 widow annuitants, and about 25 or 30 half annuitants (widows), amongst whom is annually distributed over £16,000; the expenses of management and maintenance of Asylum exhausting a further £3,000.

Such are the principal changes which Lord LEIGH has witnessed since his appointment, 46 years ago, to the office of Prov. Grand Master, and towards the bringing about of which he has himself so largely contributed. That he has borne a part in so many and such momentous changes must be matter for self-congratulation to his lordship, and we trust the day is still far distant when the place he has so long and so ably filled in Masonry shall know him no more.

CANADIAN MASONRY.

If we may judge from the accounts we have received of the doings of the Craft in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada (Province of Ontario), there can be very little doubt that Freemasonry has prospered greatly during the past 12 months. Grand Lodge, both numerically and financially, is in a better position than it was at the corresponding date in 1897; the lodges have done their work admirably and care has been taken by the several District Deputy Grand Masters, that both time and attention should be given to the study of the ritual, the suggestion of Grand Master GIBSON to the effect that lodges of instruction should be held at certain localities, having been duly observed. On the 20th July the 43rd annual communication of the Grand Lodge was held in the Temple Buildings, Toronto, under the presidency of Bro. WILLIAM GIBSON, M.P., M.W.G.M., there being the usual large attendance of Grand Officers and the representatives of the private lodges, together with a delegation from the Grand Lodge of Michigan, consisting of Grand Master Bradley, his Deputy, Bro. F. E. LODGE, and several of the Grand Officers, and Bro. M. D. C. FRASER, a Past Grand Master of Nova Scotia. Unusual interest was attached to the visit of the brethren from Michigan, who were the bearers of a handsome gift from their Grand

Lodge, which was not only received with a most cordial welcome, but we may be sure will be highly prized by future generations of Canadian Craftsmen. The gift took the form of a gavel for the use of the M.W.G. Master. The head of this gavel was composed of Michigan oak, while the handle was "part of the boat hook belonging to the gig of Capt. SIGSBEE, of the U.S.S. Maine, and was last used by the captain himself when his boat had brought him from his wrecked ship to the steamer City of Washington in Havana Bay. He extended it to Mr. SIGMUND ROTHSCHILD, of Detroit, Mich., who was on board the City of Washington, and who assisted him aboard that vessel. As a token of his appreciation, Capt. SIGSBEE presented the boat hook to Mr. ROTHSCHILD, who kindly gave a portion of it to us." The value of the gavel was still further enhanced by the appointments. Thus its head "is bound at either end with portions of the brass railing of the wrecked vessel," one band being "appropriately engraved with the pine needles and cones of the Michigan forests, while upon the other bands are engraved the maple leaves of Canada." On one side also there "has been wrought in Michigan silver and copper the coat-of-arms of the Wolverine State," and on the other "a beautifully-chased representation" of the maple leaf and the beaver. On the handle are the American and English flags joined, and upon the top a silver band bearing the following inscription: "Presented by the officers of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan to the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario, with fraternal greetings and best wishes, July, 20, A.D., A.L. 5898." The Grand Master of Michigan in acknowledging the honours with which he was received and his Deputy Bro. LODGE, in making the presentation, referred in terms that were enthusiastically applauded to the good feeling which had latterly been developed between the United Kingdom and the United States and expressed the hope that that good feeling would always exist among the people of the Anglo-Saxon Race. As a rule, it is forbidden to make reference at Masonic meetings to the course of political events, but such remarks as were made at this gathering, as there is little doubt they will have the effect of strengthening the ties already existing between the two branches of the Anglo-Saxon race, may be held as an excusable departure from our laws and customs.

As regards the further proceedings in Grand Lodge, it is worthy of note that Grand Master GIBSON, in his address, referred in detail to the financial position of the Grand Lodge, but more especially to the large expenditure for the purposes of benevolence, amounting to 10,775 dollars, inclusive of 2000 dollars given as a donation to the Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto, and raising the total sum thus expended from the formation of the Board of Benevolence in 1865 to the 31st May of the current year to 256,500 dollars (£51,300). On the second day of the meeting the election of Grand Officers took place, and resulted in the choice of Bro. E. T. MALONE as M.W.G.M., and Bro. R. B. HUNGERFORD as Deputy G.M., with Bros. HUGH MURRAY and J. J. MASON in their familiar posts of G. Treasurer and G. Secretary respectively. With the installation of the new Grand Officers and the completion of the general business, the proceedings were brought to a conclusion, and we both hope and believe that under Grand Master MALONE, as under Grand Master GIBSON and the other distinguished brethren who preceded him, Masonry in this portion of the Dominion will go on prospering ever more and more abundantly.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF NORTH WALES.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Newton, on Thursday, the 11th inst. The province embraces 20 lodges, and it is the usual practice to visit each lodge in succession. The meeting took place in the Masonic Temple of the Cedewain Lodge, of which Bro. A. T. Benbow is the W.M. The brethren assembled at 3 o'clock, and half an hour later, the procession of present and past officers filed into the room. The Prov. Grand Lodge having been opened in due form by the Prov. G.M., Bro. Lord Harlech, the minutes of the last meeting, held at Bangor, were read and confirmed.

Bro. EDWARD ROBERTS, Prov. G. Sec., read the roll of the Prov. Grand Lodge Officers, who severally responded, after which the roll of the individual lodges was called,

The brethren present included the following :
 Bros. Samuel Griffith, 1509, P.S.G.W.; James G. Tuxford, 1509, 755, 2569, P.G. Treasurer; Edward Roberts, 606, 1369, P.G. Secretary; H. R. Heap, 1369, P.J.G.D.; James Porter, 755, 2569, P.G.D. of C.; J. H. Ellis, 1674, P.A.G.D. of C.; J. M. Milnes, 1594, P.G. Std. Br.; Caradoc Rowland, 606, P.A.G. Sec.; N. J. Preston, 1583, P.G. Stwd.; William Williams, 597, P.G. Tyler; J. O. Morris, W.M. 606, P.G. Auditor; Sir William Grenville Williams, Bart., 1143, P.P.S.G.W.; Major T. W. Best, 1932, P.P.S.G.W.; C. K. Benson, P.P.S.G.W.; J. Danily, 1594, P.P.J.G.W.; the Rev. T. Hughes Buttington, 998, P.P.G.C.; T. Mark Taylor, 1794, P.P.G. Reg.; C. Cathrall, P.P.G.D.C.; T. Ashbrook Forster, 1594, P.P.G.D.C.; J. R. Pritchard, 1509, P.P.G.D.C.; Richard James, 1594, P.P.G.S.B.; R. Moreton Pritchard, 597, P.P.G.S.B.; A. D. Dawson, 1594, P.P.G. Std. Br.; W. D. Henderson, 755, P.P.G. Org.; John Owen, 988, P.P.G.P.; J. W. Tanqueray, 1369, P.P.G.P.; James Tomlins, 1583, P.P.G. Stwd.; J. R. Dix, 1583, P.P.G. Stwd.; E. O. V. Lloyd, 2423, P.P.G. Stwd.; R. A. Gregson, 384, P.P.G. Stwd.; the Rev. W. D. Roberts, W.M. 1582; A. T. Benbow, W.M., G. H. Ellison, I.P.M., E. Elwell, P.M., C. W. Norton, P.M., the Rev. W. James, Chap., H. E. Breese, S.D., W. G. Cottle, I.G., and Martin Woosnam, of 1594; R. Davies Jones, P.M., Ed. Wyke, S.W., Herbert Summers, and C. J. Clipston, of 998; and others.

The P.G. SECRETARY, after announcing the receipt of letters and telegrams from distinguished brethren regretting inability to be present, presented his report of the various lodges, which was of a satisfactory character, showing an increased number of members.

The report was unanimously adopted, as was that of the Prov. Grand Treasurer, Bro. J. G. Tuxford, the financial position of the province showing a decided improvement.

A hearty vote of thanks having been accorded the P.G. Treasurer and the Auditors for their services during the past year, Bro. C. K. Benson, Chairman of the North Wales Masonic Charitable Association, presented his report, which was of a gratifying character.

A vote of thanks was proposed from the throne to the Committee and officers of the North Wales Masonic Charitable Association for their past services, which, after being agreed to, was suitably acknowledged by Bro. BENSON.

The P.G.M., in complimentary terms, proposed, and the Prov. G. Lodge unanimously accepted, the re-election of Bro. Tuxford as Prov. G. Treasurer, which was resolved.

After other formal business, the P.G.M. appointed his officers for the ensuing year, and invested them as follows :

Bro. Col. H. Platt, C.B., P.G.D.	...	...	Dep. Prov. G.M.
" E. O. V. Lloyd, 1143	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" T. A. Forster, 1594	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. T. Hughes, P.M. 998	...	...	} Prov. G. Chaps.
" W. D. Roberts, W.M. 1582	...	...
" J. G. Tuxford, 775, 1509, 2569	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" W. D. Henderson	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" E. Roberts, 606, 1369	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" G. Cathrall, 1336	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" Daniel Davies, 1582	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" J. L. Tanqueray, 1369	...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" J. R. Pritchard, 1509	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.1
" R. A. Gregory, 384	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" W. Rowlands, 1583	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" J. Hughes, 1488	...	...	} Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" J. Tomlins, 1583	...	...
" R. D. Jones, 998	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" J. O. Morris...	...	...	Prov. G.P.
" J. W. Bishop, jun., 1336	...	...	Prov. A.G.P.
" W. P. Matthews, 384	...	...	} Prov. G. Stwds.
" T. Williams, 1113	...	...
" O. Rowland, 1369, 2569	...	...
" W. Wright, 1477	...	...
" C. W. Norton	...	...
" E. Elwell, 1594	...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.
" J. W. Fenwick, 1113, 1488	...	...

The following were appointed Auditors: Bros. W. McKenzie Williams, W.M. 384; J. Herbert Rees, W.M. 606; and R. H. Pritchard, W.M. 1849.

The Prov. G.M., after announcing that the next annual meeting would be held at Portmadoc, referred to the recent accident sustained by the M.W.G.M., the Prince of Wales, and moved that the following telegram be despatched to his Royal Highness: "The Provincial Grand Lodge of North Wales this day assembled at Newtown respectfully tender their sincerest sympathy with H.R.H. the M.W.G.M., and earnestly prays for His Royal Highness's speedy recovery."

The motion having been seconded, was carried unanimously.

This ended the business, and the Prov. Grand Lodge was closed.

The banquet took place in the Public Hall, and at the close of the repast, the Prov. G.M., who occupied the chair, and who was supported in the vice-chairs by Bros. E. O. V. Lloyd, P.S.G.W., and T. A. Forster, P.J.G.W., gave the toast of "The Queen," referring to her Majesty's practical sympathy with the objects of the Craft.

His LORDSHIP next submitted the toast of "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M.," followed by "The Pro G.M., the Earl of Lathom, the Deputy G.M., the Earl Amherst, and the Grand Officers, Present and Past."

Bro. E. O. V. LLOYD proposed the toast of "The Prov. G.M. for North Wales, Lord Harlech." After thanking his lordship for the honour he had conferred on him that day, Bro. Lloyd said the truth was that he had a great deal more sentiment towards the Craft of Freemasonry than actual honour as a Freemason. For a long time past he had had an ever-growing feeling towards the Craft, and nothing had emphasised that more in his mind than the fact that there was always a cordial response to the joy or grief of their brethren. Evidence of the latter was signalised that afternoon, when they passed a vote of sympathy with the M.W. Grand Master in the accident which recently befel him, and which they hoped would only for a short time keep him away from the onerous duties of his public life. Bro. Lloyd referred to the practical interest which the P.G.M. manifested in the work of the province, and expressed the hope that his lordship would be long spared to be their P.G.M., and that they would always have the pleasure of seeing him as vigorous as he was that day. (Hear, hear.) If Freemasonry was a guarantee of long life with happiness in one's old age, he hoped that would be the happy fate of their P.G.M. (Applause.)

The PROV. GRAND MASTER, who was enthusiastically received on rising thanked the brethren most heartily for the manner in which his health had been proposed and received. The Prov. S.G.W. had been wishing him a

long life. It seemed that he was wishing for him what he already enjoyed. His lordship spoke of the great kindness he always received at the hands of the brethren when he came to the Prov. Grand Lodge, and said he only wished he could return the compliment as adequately as it deserved.

Bro. Maj. BEST, P.P.S.G.W., proposed "The Health of Colonel Platt, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master," repeating the regret they all felt at his absence.

Bro. Sir GRENVILLE WILLIAMS, P.P.S.G.W., proposed "The Masonic Charities" in a neat speech, and with the toast he coupled the name of Bro. Benson, P.P.S.G.W., Chairman of the North Wales Masonic Charitable Association, to whose devotion to Masonic interests he paid a high tribute, and expressed gratitude to him for his exertions on behalf of the province.

Bro. BENSON, in the course of a happy reply, assured the brethren that his interest in Masonry was as warm as ever.

The Prov. G.M. having to leave to catch the mail train, the chair was taken by Bro. J. Danily, P.P.J.G.W.

Other toasts were gone through, including "The Worshipful Masters and Past Masters of the Province," and "The Visiting Brethren."

The Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to an end.

The Craft Abroad.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF INDIA (S.C.).

A regular convocation of the above Provincial Grand Chapter was held at Freemasons' Hall, Clare-road, Byculla, on Monday, the 7th March, last, when there were present Comps. K. R. Cama, G. Supt.; C. D. Furdoojee, P. Dep. G. Supt.; N. J. Guzder, as Prov. G.H.; D. F. Commissariatwalla, as Prov. G.J.; Capt. C. D. Wise, Prov. G. Scribe E.; H. J. Vakilna, as G. Scribe N.; Rustom K. R. Cama, P. Prov. G. Recorder; J. J. A. Penny, as P.P.G. 1st Soj.; N. N. Guzder, P.P.G. 2nd Soj.; F. Burdett, P.P.G. Chancellor, as P.P. 3rd Soj.; Manocki M. Mehta, as P.P.G.S.B.; C. E. Howard, P.P.G. Janitor; and others.

Provincial Grand Chapter was opened in due and ancient form at 7:20 p.m., and the summons convening the convocation was read.

The minutes of the convocation, held on the 6th September, 1897, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

The proceedings of the Provincial Grand Committees, held prior to the convocation, were read, put for adoption, and adopted.

The GRAND SUPERINTENDENT then said that by adopting the minutes of the Provincial Grand Committee, the companions would also adopt the nomination of officers for 1898-99. He, however, was willing to hear if any companion had to say anything in respect of the list. He observed that the list had been carefully prepared. Every consideration had been given to the claims of the companions; there was due recognition of merit combined with seniority. He remarked that there may be some disappointment when these offices are filled; but the companions must bear in mind that there are many qualified Royal Arch Masons and but few officers, and that we can only climb the ladder of preferment gradually. Members of up-country chapters had claims, and they should be fairly represented. If any deserving companion was disappointed this year in not obtaining office or promotion he might hope for future advancement.

Comp. J. E. DAVUR then proposed, and Comp. N. J. GUZDER seconded that the office-bearers nominated by the Provincial Grand Committee be elected.—Carried unanimously.

The G. SUPERINTENDENT observed that he had to trouble the companions with a very few remarks on this occasion. Nothing of importance had occurred since the convocation of the Prov. Grand Chapter in September, 1897. The chapters had worked in peace and harmony internally as well as with each other. Since the last convocation he had the pleasure to pay official visits to Chapters Rising Star of W.I., No. 124, on the 9th October; Caledonia, No. 134, on the 13th; and St. Andrew-in-the-East, No. 68, Poona, on the 16th of that month. He was glad to say that he found all of them working in concert and harmony. The companions had no complaints to make, and a good feeling prevailed amongst them. The books had been properly kept, and the funds were in a fairly satisfactory state. He said that he had commissioned our worthy and energetic Prov. Grand Scribe E. to visit officially Chapters Faith and Charity, No. 72, Karachi, and Kindred Hope, No. 186, Oorgaum, S.I. The Provincial Grand Scribe E. had sent reports on his official visits, and the reports would be appended to the proceedings of the meeting. The reports were highly satisfactory, and he thanked Comp. Capt. C. D. Wise for the trouble he took in visiting these chapters. He (the Grand Superintendent) was pleased to state that, with one exception, the chapters had submitted their returns for the half year ended 30th September last. During the year ended on that date there had been 45 exaltations and 40 affiliations and 63 resignations, deaths, &c., the net increase being 31. The Grand Superintendent urged on all Masons to keep up their interest in Freemasonry and to try to obtain higher Degrees. He was also pleased to say that Kilwinning in the East and Star in India Chapters, both of Calcutta, were making good progress, and he hoped they would continue to prosper with the new blood lately infused therein. He regretted to say that he had to deplore the deaths of Comp. J. J. Barrett, a member of long standing of Perseverance Chapter; Comp. J. Davies, of Malva Chapter; and Comps. Framjee P. Vakil and D. Bett, of Connaught Chapter. He expressed the sympathy of the Provincial Grand Chapter with these chapters and with their relatives in the loss they had sustained. A doubt having arisen as to whether, under the agreement made in 1860 between the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Supreme Grand Chapter, lodges chartered since date of that agreement were entitled to work the Mark Degree, the question was referred to the Grand Scribe E., and he replied that the working of the Degree was not restricted to those lodges in possession of charters at date of that agreement. The question was mooted by a Craft lodge here, and, though it was legally all right, he doubted the desirability of such a step, as it would cause conflict with other bodies which hitherto conferred that Degree. The Grand Superintendent thanked the companions for their presence. The attendance was not great, yet it was satisfactory, considering the troublous times we are passing through. They wished every success and prosperity to the Provincial Grand Chapter, and hoped that he would be able to make a better report at the next meeting.

The Prov. G.S.E. pointed out that the altar in use was not in accordance

with the description given in the Royal Arch instructions, and he suggested that one of proper pattern be obtained, and the cost shared by the Prov. G. Chapter and the other chapters using it.

The G. SUPERINTENDENT thanked the Prov. G.S.E. for bringing this to notice, and on putting it to the Prov. G. Chapter the suggestion was agreed to, and the Prov. G.S.E. was requested to write to the chapters on the subject.

The Prov. G.S.E. reported receipt of proceedings of Supreme and District Grand Chapters, and of apologies for non-attendance of certain companions, which were duly recorded.

The Provincial Grand Chapter was closed in ancient and solemn form at 8 p.m.

LADIES' OUTING OF THE SKELMERSDALE LODGE, No. 1599.

The brethren of this lodge, accompanied by their ladies and friends, held high revel on Saturday, the 13th instant, when, under the presidency of the W.M., a most successful outing was celebrated. Among those present were Bro. Herbert Peirce, W.M., and Mrs. Peirce; Bro. F. W. Horn, I.P.M., and Mrs. Horn; Bro. G. Laker, P.M., Sec., and Miss Laker; Bro. G. H. A. Harris, P.M., Treas., and Mrs. Harris; Bro. C. E. Cove, S.W., and Mr. Cove, jun.; Bro. Walter Callingham, J.W., and Mrs. Callingham; Bro. C. H. Hall, J.D., and Mrs. Hall; Bro. W. Mokler, Steward, and Mrs. Mokler; Bro. A. W. Diamond; Bro. F. Cundall and Mrs. Cundall; Bro. T. H. Roberts, W.M. 1362; Mr. and Mrs. C. Buckwell; Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Blair; Mr. C. J. A. Harris, and others.

Meeting at London Bridge (S.E.R.) at two o'clock, the party proceeded to Red Hill Junction, arriving there with commendable Saturday punctuality, but very hot and in some cases thirsty. A "bee-line" was made for that charming old-fashioned hostelry originally styled the Railway Hotel, but now universally known as Laker's (it having been in the family for more than half a century) where refreshments on the lawn and a stroll round the pretty gardens at once put everybody in good humour. A two-hours' drive was the next item on the programme, the route taken being *via* Nutfield, Pendell, Merstham, &c., to the summit of Reigate-hill, where a halt was called for a proper enjoyment of the magnificent view there obtained.

Return to Laker's was made in time for ablutions, pick-me-ups, &c., preparatory to the more serious portion of the day's proceedings, viz., a most *recherché* little banquet, served in the style for which the house is famous.

Due justice was most certainly done to the good things provided, and prior to the cloth being removed, the following toasts were submitted from the chair: "The Queen and the Craft" and "The Ladies and Visitors."

The latter was responded to by Bro. T. H. ROBERTS, W.M. 1362, who, on the part of his own lodge, gave the Skelmersdale a hearty greeting.

The toast of "The W.M." was given by Bro. HORN, I.P.M., who congratulated him upon the complete success of the outing.

The W.M. stated, in reply, that there could be no doubt that everybody had thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Bro. HARRIS, P.M., Treasurer, said there had been a committee appointed to organise and carry out the day's arrangements, but one brother had really done the lot, and that was Bro. Geo. Laker, the senior P.M. and Secretary. He begged to propose "His jolly good health and hearty thanks for all he had done."

Bro. GEO. LAKER briefly acknowledged the compliments, and assured the ladies and brethren that in their enjoyment he was amply recompensed for the time and trouble he had taken in the matter.

An adjournment was made to the garden for a cigarette, fresh air, and general chat, and on returning to the dining room a capital entertainment of music, singing, &c., was carried out, towards which Mrs. Mokler, Bro. Harris, Hall, and Mokler were chief contributors, Mr. F. E. Blair kindly and efficiently acting as accompanist. Time for preparation for departure came all too quickly, "Auld Lang Syne" was heartily indulged in, but, before quitting the house, everybody felt there was something yet to do and that was to thank the worthy host (Bro. W. A. Laker, P.M. 1632), not only for his splendid catering but also for his personal kindness and attention, consequently the farewell greetings were hearty and enthusiastic, and his hand must have ached for days afterwards.

Through the kind instrumentality of Mr. G. Swan, the esteemed Station Superintendent, a saloon carriage was provided for the company, and a very comfortable return journey completed a real jolly "Ladies' Outing."

PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC RECORDS.

The great value now placed on any thing connected with the early history of Masonry, ought to be an admonition to those in possession of valuable data, to see to it that the "lapse of time, the ruthless hand of ignorance or the devastation of war," do not destroy that which in justice to civilisation we ought to transmit unimpaired to future generations. It may be said that we have enough to do to seek our own happiness, and that it is useless to worry about what coming generations may think we ought to have furnished for their satisfaction or benefit, but as men having the vast interests of those we bring into existence at heart, we have no right to ignore their claim on us for anything which we can by industry and intelligent care transmit to them. A man who would launch a mighty ship on the broad Atlantic to float without chart or compass, thereby becoming a menacing derelict to the commerce of the world, would be deemed worthy of a place in an insane asylum. The man who brings into the world the most perfect thing in nature—a living, breathing, thinking machine, has no right to abandon it, but is bound by the strongest of ties to equip it with all the latest improved appliances by which it may accomplish its mission in the world. We do owe something to posterity, and let us not be backward in contributing to the little pleasures that help to make human life something more than a wild, selfish struggle to gain a supposed advantage over our fellow beings. We find a little time to-day, and will find a little time to-morrow, hanging heavily on our hands; let us remember the decrepid old mother, whose wealth of love has made many green spots where only barren rocks would have greeted us had not God blessed the world with her presence; let us devote much time to the tiny mite of a baby who never doubts our ability to do anything, and if we do our duty, leans upon the staff which we put in his hand long after the last prayer has been said over our inanimate clay.—*Square and Compass.*

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Masonic Notes.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1898.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire will be held at Kidderminster on Wednesday, the 14th September, and, as this will be the first occasion the brethren have met since their respected Provincial Grand Master received at her Majesty's hands the honour of knighthood, no doubt Bro. Sir A. F. Godson will be the recipient of their hearty congratulations.

We have great pleasure in congratulating the *Canadian Craftsman* on the completion of a further volume. The July number was the first issue of its 33rd volume, and we trust that for many, many years it will be our privilege to express the admiration we feel for the manner in which it fulfils its duties. In

face of what we have said on previous similar occasions, there is no need for us to dilate upon its merits. We are not the only Masonic journal that looks upon the *Craftsman* as one of the best-edited and best-conducted of Craft periodicals, while as regards its monthly budget of news, we have again and again expressed our indebtedness to it for much valuable information, which we should not have readily obtained elsewhere. The *Craftsman* has our heartiest good wishes for its continued success.

It seems that the *Kansas Freemason* has been taking the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick very severely to task for having contracted to have the portraits of its Past Grand Masters painted at a cost of 75 dollars each, and hung around its hall, our *Kansas contemporary* regarding "such an expense, in the face of a world-wide and constantly increasing demand for money for charitable purposes, as unjust and un-Masonic as it is unnecessary." The *Canadian Craftsman* is not of this opinion, remarking—as we have done on several occasions—"that, while 'Charity' is a leading virtue in the casket of Freemasonry, it is not the only one." If our Grand and private lodges are never to spend any of their moneys on other than charitable objects, we are very much afraid that the fears of many clear-headed and far-seeing brethren will be realised, and that Freemasonry will degenerate into a huge benefit society, and, as a consequence, that it will lose much of the prestige it now enjoys in the world's estimation.

People are apt to forget that it is our Charitable Institutions which were established for the purposes of Freemasonry, not Freemasonry for the maintenance of Charitable Institutions. It is to our credit that we have founded Schools and Annuity Funds for the relief of our indigent members, their widows and families, but having regard to the hundreds and thousands of charities that exist in all directions, we venture to think there are not many who join our ranks merely for the purpose of helping and supporting certain Charities. They can do that anywhere, without becoming Freemasons.

At the regular half-yearly meeting of the District Grand Mark Lodge of Bengal, which was held early in the year, at Freemasons' Hall, Calcutta, and at which, had his life been spared, the late lamented Bro. Maj.-Gen. Yeatman-Biggs, C.B., would have been installed in office as District Grand Master, a letter was read from Bro. Sir John Edge, in which he explained his reasons for resigning office and leaving India, the reasons being the failure of his health through overwork and a severe domestic bereavement. But though unable to bid the brethren farewell in person, he did so in eloquent and kindly terms in his communication, and at the same time expressed his gratitude to those over whom he had presided for their loyalty and courtesy to himself.

He further said that, though he was an old Mason and had enjoyed opportunities of observing Masonry in many countries, he was persuaded there was no country in which "the principles of Masonry" were "better understood and more loyally adhered to" than India, and that he was confident the future would be as bright and prosperous as the past; adding "Masonry will flourish and must flourish and extend so long as Masons and Masonic lodges continue to be guided as they have been guided in the past by the honest desire to regulate their conduct according to the true principles of Masonry."

After the new District Grand Officers for the ensuing 12 months had been appointed and invested, Bro. J. J. D. La Touche, G.S.I., Dist. S.G.W., proposed, and Bro. J. R. Maples, Past D.S.G.W., seconded, a resolution of regret at the retirement from office of Bro. Sir John Edge, and of gratitude for the many and valuable services he had rendered to Masonry. This resolution was carried by acclamation, as also was another, but in this instance in "solemn silence," in which District Grand Mark Lodge expressed a desire to place on record "its deep sense of sorrow at the death of Rt. Wor. Bro. Major-General Arthur Godolphin Yeatman-Biggs, C.B., Past District Grand Senior Warden, and District Grand Master nominate of Bengal, and the loss sustained by the Mark Master Masons" of the District by his untimely death. The new District Grand Mark Master is Bro. the Hon. Mr. Justice Burkill.

The new Masonic Hall which has recently been erected in Providence, Rhode Island, for the Grand Lodge which presides over that jurisdiction was formally dedicated by Bro. C. M. Van Slyck, M.W.G. Master, on Friday, the 24th June, the address being delivered by Bro. Joshua M. Addeman. There was a very large attendance on the occasion of the officers of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island as well as of the officers and members of the private lodges, and of the members of the Templar Bodies in the State.

According to an editorial note in the Melbourne Masonic journal, which rejoices in the title of *Masonry*, the I.P.M. of a New South Wales Lodge in responding to the toast of his health, remarked that "his year of office had not been a notable one, that is, in the number of initiates." This, however, appears to be explained by the fact that the lodge would not accept as a candidate any man without "making a proper and thorough investigation into his antecedents and character." As a matter of fact, several candidates presented themselves, but were refused. Our contemporary remarks that if this practice were more generally followed, the status of Freemasonry in the Colony would be raised. It appears to us that the practice might be very desirably followed elsewhere as well as New South Wales to the undoubted advantage of the Craft.

From the same source we learn that it was in contemplation to hold a ball some time during last month in the Town Hall, Sydney, in behalf of the New South Wales Freemasons' Benevolent Institution, and it was expected that the net proceeds would reach £500. The grounds for this expectation are not unreasonable, the Ball Committee having cleared towards the support of the Institution £256 in 1894; £315 in 1895; £406 in 1896; and £460 last year. Our contemporary suggests that whether a brother is able to be present at the fête or not, the least he can do is to take a ticket in aid of so worthy an object. We think so, too.

It appears from a report in the *Indian Masonic Review* for last month that Lodge Faith, Hope, and Charity, No. 1285, Ootacamund, held an emergency meeting on the 13th June last, when it was honoured with the presence as visitors of Bro. Lord Sandhurst, M.W.G.M. of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and Pro Dist. G. Master (E.C.) of Bombay, and Bro. Col. Sir G. M. J. Moore, Dist. G. Master of Madras. A double welcome was accorded to the former, the W.M. of the lodge, in greeting him, taking the opportunity of referring to the admirable manner in which his lordship had surmounted the difficulties with which his administration had been confronted in coping with the plague and famine that had raged in Bombay; while, in acknowledging the welcome, Lord Sandhurst "paid a high tribute to the brethren of the Craft there for the sympathy and assistance which, he said, he had always received from them in dealing with the difficulties which had arisen." The W.M., in introducing the reference to a political matter apologised for doing so, but we hardly think any excuse was necessary.

The other welcome was tendered by Bro. Col. Sir George M. J. Moore, G. Master of the District in which Faith, Hope, and Charity is located, and in doing this the District G. Master expressed regret that he had been unable to attend the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the new Masonic Hall in Bombay, and likewise, that Lord Sandhurst's tour would not extend to Madras, where he (Sir G. Moore) was assured that his lordship's reception would be most cordial. These kindly wishes were heartily reciprocated by his lordship, and shortly afterwards the proceedings terminated, and the lodge was closed.

The Masonic Home of New Jersey at Burlington in that State, was formally dedicated by the Grand Master of Masons in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, Bro. J. W. Ewan, assisted by his principal Grand Officers, on the 24th June last in the presence of a large concourse of brethren and spectators. The programme arranged for the occasion appears to have been admirably carried out and we can only hope that the success of the day's proceedings will prove a favourable augury for the future prosperity of the Home.

BRO. THE RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN R. MOWBRAY, M.P., has left England in the P. and O. steamship *Egypt*, for a voyage in the Mediterranean.

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,

Most Masons who regularly attend lodges of instruction will agree with Bro. Lovell's suggestion that such lodges would do splendid work for the Craft if they paid more attention to the symbolical meaning of our beautiful ritual, and less to a "parrot-like imitation of the ceremonial."

I trust his letter may be brought under the notice of most Preceptors, and be duly pondered by them. Laxity in this connection is a danger to the best interests of our grand old Institution.—Yours fraternally,

P.M.

QUALIFICATION OF PAST PRINCIPALS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Will you kindly inform me if a companion who has ceased to be a subscribing member of a chapter for about 10 years, although he passed the chair of M.E.Z. several times, can be a member of Grand Chapter, or can he become a Grand Officer of Grand Chapter.

Rule 2, in Royal Arch Regulations, is not very clear on that point, it only says: "as a Past First Principal, it does mention H. or J."

I should also like the opinion of some old P.M.E.Z.

Thanking you in anticipation.—Yours fraternally,

AN OLD P.M.E.Z.

THE DANGER FROM WITHIN.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

The Brotherhood of Freemasonry—this ancient Institution so essential to human welfare—appears to be at present imperilled by serious dangers which will try it more severely than the constantly renewed attacks of its opponents from without. A clear insight into the nature of Freemasonry will be as requisite as a cool treatment of existing differences, if the threatening peril of division of the Brotherhood is to be avoided, and thorough unity in spirit, laws, and fundamental convictions established.

If anything can rouse the conscience, insure wise moderation, and prevent passion and fanatic persistence in individual opinions within the Grand Lodges, it should be the conviction that all the regrettable differences in laws, rites, and opinions are the result of a long historical evolution. If this development has produced an unsound and anomalous condition of things, all Grand Lodges are to be held responsible, conjointly, and all are answerable for their share in it.

Therefore, it would be unjust to put the blame on one or the other Grand Lodge in particular, or to insist on one's own infallibility. And nothing is to be hoped from attempting to solve pending questions by forced means, which might not unlikely make matters worse.

The present state of things is owing to the fact that no common law was laid down to secure unity when the Order of Freemasons was called into existence, and the several Grand Lodges were established. It is true that the first Grand Lodge of England was based on inviolable principles, which were to form a universal law; but these were not laid down in clear, precise terms, and never insisted upon when new lodges or Grand Lodges were established. Thus from the beginning free scope was given to individual ideas, and, for want of a common basis and strictly-defined laws, the Grand Lodges were left too much to themselves. Who can wonder at so many and serious divergencies arising, even on fundamental points, especially in the case of American lodges, where quite unessential matters and subjective individual prejudices have been raised to the rank of landmarks.

This splitting up has been considerably favoured by the ignorance of brothers, lay brothers, and Grand Lodges in reference to the history, rites, and Masonic laws and in no less degree by the influences of public opinion which in France and elsewhere assumed the direct negative, owing to the growth of Radicalism, or as in England, America, and partly in Germany took too much account of religious professions and dogmatic prejudices.

In this way we have arrived at a point where danger threatens the Brotherhood—which should be universal and strong like an unbreakable chain—into hostile camps and burst the union of the Craft.

Apart from less important questions, such as the American despotism on total abstinence, the questions as to the Bible—(the Bible is not on the Altar of the Grand Lodges in Hungary, France, Belgium, Italy, Mexico, perhaps also in the Netherlands, Argentina, &c., and some German lodges)—and religious belief have been put on the order of the day. These, if not treated with calm consideration, tolerance, and in a conciliatory spirit are apt to arouse religious passions and fanaticism and make an end to the highest aspirations of the Craft, viz., liberty of thought, tolerance, and brotherly love.

This danger seems to be the greater as deviations from the old traditions have taken place no less in England and America than in France and those Grand Orients where questions as to the Bible and religious belief have caused anxiety, uneasiness, and complaints.

And not only this, the Grand Lodges who differ on these questions do not stand on the ground of the documentary basis of Masonic laws, but more or less on subjective views, influenced on both sides by the course of thought prevalent in our days, whether this arises from misconception of scientific progress or narrow-minded religious dogmatism.

To avert this danger and pave the way for a satisfactory solution of existing differences it will be necessary to revert to the old documents and the original intentions of Freemasonry which stand far and away above the passing spirit of the times and religious prejudices, viz., on the sound basis of the fullest freedom of conscience and tolerance. On this ground an understanding should be arrived at which offers guarantees for a strong and sound development of the Craft.

It should be mentioned here that the deviations from the old principles of Freemasonry adopted by the Grand Lodges of the Swedish system and the Grand Lodge of the Three Globes at Berlin are much greater and more serious than, for instance, the removal of the Bible from the altar.

A great deal, if not everything, will depend upon the Grand Lodge of England. In order to arrive at a firm basis for mutual exchange of views and for an understanding, it would be useful to translate into English for publication in the *Freemason* the following parts from *Findel's* book: "Der Freimaurer Gedauke," page 32 to 42, together with the supplement—Fundamental Law of the Order.

This publication in the *Freemason* would place the contents before the Masonic press and before the American Grand Lodges.

In no case must the Federation go behind the original lofty and free intentions or the old documents; it must avoid drifting into clerical channels if it means to uphold its high purpose and influence.

The way marked out for us is this—from Division to Unity, in Liberty, Tolerance, and Brotherly Love.

"Unity in essential points, Liberty in minor matters, Love under all circumstances."—(Augustinus).

J. G. FINDEL.

Leipzig, August.

THE RELIGION OF FREEMASONRY.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

In attempting any definition of the faith that we hold, it is most essential to avoid the mistake that the old lady made when asked her ideas on religion. She replied, "by religion, I mean the Christian religion, by the Christian religion I mean the Protestant religion, and by the Protestant religion I mean the Presbyterian religion, and no other is the Christian religion." As Freemasons, we stand by the Bible, but are not bound to any particular man's creed, dogma, or doctrine, that he may adduce therefrom, or tied to any particular church or sect called Christian; we are, in fact, a peculiar people, set apart as it were to maintain the Truth, and not a truth, or portion of the truth which other people hold.

There is no higher or better definition of religion than that recorded in Holy Writ, which states "that all the law and the prophets is comprised in the love of God and the love of one's neighbour." This is quite unsectarian and cosmopolitan; we ought to encourage nothing less.

I think Bro. Lovell's ideas as to the necessity of studying the significance of our symbols is good. Could not a lodge of "Esoterics" be formed for this purpose? I believe it would be a success if worked on original lines.

As to the origin of the word "Mason," no one has mentioned Leigh Hunt's essay on the question. He traces it to *Maison*—a house—because when the Society was interdicted and "banned" by the Church, and the brethren of the "mystic tie" were forced to meet secretly in their houses, or "*maisons*," and to disguise their aim, they called themselves, or were nicknamed, "*Masons*." This, I think, is most likely to be the real source of the name, and the trade emblems used were, of course, part of the disguise, and had no reference whatever to trade guilds or mechanical work.—Yours fraternally,

T. MAY, 754.

40, Spondon-road, Tottenham.

Reviews.

"USEFUL HANDBOOKS." (Ward, Lock, and Co., Limited, Salisbury-square, E.C.)—This new *Penny series* is remarkable for the valuable and abundant information, ably condensed within some 90 pages each, of closely, but clearly, printed matter. They include Gardening, Cookery, Toilet, Doctor, Poultry, Letter-writer, Dictionary (most useful), Manners, Reckoner, Home, Landlord and Tenant (valuable), Photography (practical), Tables, and Cricket; the last being very handy respecting the Laws as revised by the Marylebone Cricket Club, May, 1894. They are mostly dated in the present year, and are marvels at the price.

"SHILLING GUIDE BOOKS."—(Ward, Lock, and Co., Limited, London and all Booksellers).—These popular, pictorial, and practical guides comprise many of the chief cities, towns, and tourist neighbourhoods of England, Scotland, and Ireland (also a few for the Continent), and are not to be excelled for either the variety and accuracy of their information, to date (lavishly illustrated, numerous maps and plans), or the able arrangement of the text and the interesting character of the contents generally. We have before us six of the series, and can speak with confidence as to their *handiness, trustworthiness, and completeness*. London is a wonderful compilation, in its 17th edition (1895), some 67,000 having been printed so far, and the latest issue contains about 80 illustrations from recent photographs, as well as nine long sectional maps, one for main thoroughfares, out of London, a valuable index to the sections, and a larger "District Railway Miniature" Map of London and Environs. The abundant particulars are neatly arranged and printed, the handy volume running to some 350 pages for 1s.—Paris is duly attended to in another thick volume, having a large plan of the city and another of the environs and 40 illustrations; Scarborough, similarly treated as respects maps, &c., includes excursions to Robin Hood's Bay, Whitby, Filey, Flamborough, and Bridlington; Oban, Fort William and the Western Highlands, is quite a literary omnibus as Iona and Staffa are carefully described besides, and there are appendices for anglers, cyclists, and golfers; "Falmouth, the Lisard and South Cornwall" takes in the newly constituted City of Truro (with good views of the cathedral); Penzance, Land's End and Scilly Isles has a large map of West Cornwall, and all of these, as with the series generally, are real pictorial and descriptive guides worthy of the high reputation so long enjoyed by this enterprising firm.

GENERAL COMMITTEE OF GRAND LODGE AND BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The quarterly meeting of the General Committee of Grand Lodge was held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Bro. James Henry Matthews, President of the Board of Benevolence, presided. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and declared correctly recorded, the agenda for the Quarterly Communication of September 7th were submitted to the brethren, and, after the closing of the Committee, the Board of Benevolence was opened, Bro. J. H. Matthews presiding. There were also present Bros. D. D. Mercer, Senior Vice-President, and C. A. Cottebrune, Junior Vice-President; Bros. William Lake, Assistant Grand Secretary, George S. Recknell, Cock, and Henry Sadler, Grand Tyler, representing the Grand Secretary's department; also Bros. R. Loveland Loveland, Henry Garrod, C. J. R. Tijou, Walter Martin, James Boulton, George B. Chapman, George Graveley, H. A. Tobias, A. W. Duret, H. Massey, W. Fisher, E. W. Nightingale, Charles Henry Stone, W. Kipps, James Kew, John R. Dabree, J. Carey, W. H. Ball, J. Procter, Frank Surrey, Arthur N. Mann, Archer M. Archer, S. J. Fletcher, John Hills, W. T. Harvey, C. Heuda, J. L. Miller, E. Barlow, H. W. Nicholson, William W. Underhill, F. Compton Stanley, F. Coleman Richardson, and J. S. Eidmans.

Bro. HENRY GARROD, P.G.P., before the business was proceeded with, said he would like to mention for the information of the brethren the circumstances of the death of a very old and regular attendant at the meetings of this Board, and who was for some years its Senior Vice-President. He was sure all members of this Board had always looked up to him with a great deal of respect, and he (Bro.

Garrod) possibly being the oldest member who knew him, that was about 45 years they were first acquainted, he thought he should just mention the circumstance of his death that the Board might be fully acquainted with it. He would mention the name of the brother—Bro. James Brett.

Bro. J. H. MATTHEWS said he was glad Bro. Garrod mentioned it, because he felt that Bro. Brett, after being so many years Vice-President (he remembered him in Bro. Clabon's time), the subject of his death should be mentioned. Bro. Brett was one of the most useful members they had; he had a method of cross-examination and bringing out facts that was extremely useful to the Board. He would not ask Bro. Garrod for a motion; he thought an expression of regret through their President—a regret which, he was sure, they all felt—would be sufficient.

The brethren then proceeded with the list, first confirming recommendations to the Grand Master made at the July meeting to the extent of £280. On the new list were 17 cases, only one of which was in the London District. The others were from the Grand Lodge of New South Wales, Lymington, Crediton, Leeds, Whitby, Sidmouth, Uxbridge, York Town, Garstang, Saltash, Chipping Sodbury, Landport, Montego Bay, Grand Lodge of Canada, Maryport, and Norwich. One petition was withdrawn, one was not accepted, and one was dismissed. The remainder were voted a total of £435. One petitioner was recommended to the Grand Lodge for £75, and one for £50. The Grand Master was requested to approve of a grant of £40 in each of two cases, and £30 in each of five cases. Three grants were made for £20 each, and two for £10 each.

Craft Masonry.

Kingswood Lodge, No. 2278.

A regular meeting was held at Broxbourne on Saturday, the 13th inst., when there were present Bros. A. Ingram, W.M.; J. Gravatt, I.P.M.; C. C. Renaud, S.W.; E. N. Beningfield, J.W.; J. Petch, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br., Treas.; J. F. Bell, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Sec.; H. Bower, S.D.; F. Page, P.M., J.D.; C. Nicole, I.G.; D. Taylor and H. Rackham, Stwds.; L. Williams, Tyler; R. W. Nicole, P.M., Prov. A.G.P.; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D.; J. G. Cobb, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br.; G. Redding, S. Butter, A. T. D. Palmer-Palmer, A. C. Little, J. Perceval, and H. H. Broughton. Visitors: Bros. H. J. Spurgeon, 1615; Sidney Napper, P.M. 1471; and C. R. Church, 33°, P. Dep. D.G.M. Ottawa.

The first business of the meeting, the minutes having been read and confirmed, was to ballot for Mr. Joseph Perceval, a candidate for initiation, and Bro. Thomas H. Wye, 1910, as a joining member; in both cases the vote was unanimous, the first-named being initiated. Bro. Sydney Butler was raised to the Degree of M.M., and the lodge was closed.

After the banquet which followed, the usual toasts were proposed and duly honoured.

In response to that of "The Provincial Grand Officers," Bro. R. W. Nicole, Prov. A.G.P.—the acting officer for the year—replied for the first time, when he met with a cordial reception.

In proposing "The Health of The Initiate," the W.M. said they had already had evidence of his vocal ability, and he had reason to believe that in other respects he would prove an acquisition to the lodge.

Bro. Perceval replied in a few well-chosen words.

"The Visitors' Health" was then proposed, and as there were but three present, the W.M. expressed a desire to have a few words from each of those brethren.

The toast having been most cordially received,

Bro. C. R. Church, P. Dep. D.G.M., Ottawa, in his reply, said that he was delighted to have had the opportunity of paying his second visit to the Kingswood Lodge after an interval of five years. On behalf of 17,000 Canadian Masons, he tendered a cordial greeting to the brethren of the lodge and province. They were allied not only by the Masonic traditions which they upheld, but also by their mutual love of their Queen and the constitutions of the great Empire of which their Colony was proud to form a part.

Bro. Church's eloquent speech met with hearty applause.

Bro. S. Napper, P.M. 1471, referred to a previous meeting which he had attended at Elstree in the early days of the lodge. As a Past Master of the Islington Lodge—from which the Kingswood Lodge emanated—he had the heartiest good wishes for its welfare. He expressed the pleasure he had experienced in meeting so distinguished a Colonial Mason as the brother who had just spoken.

Bro. H. Sturgeon, 1615, said he did not feel like a visitor, knowing intimately so many of the brethren of the lodge. He was there on that occasion for the purpose of witnessing the initiation of his friend, Bro. Perceval; he was pleased to find that he had been so well received, and that he had made such a favourable impression on the brethren.

Bro. Kelly, the Organist of the lodge, was unfortunately unable to be present, Bro. C. Nicole, however, kindly undertook his duties as accompanist, and the brethren present had the pleasure of listening to some excellent songs by Bros. R. W. Nicole, J. Perceval, A. C. Little, H. R. Bower, F. H. Johnson, and G. H. Redding, Bro. C. Nicole contributing the comic element to an excellent programme.

Instruction.

PROSPERITY LODGE, No. 65.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 24th inst., at the Weaver's Arms, 17, London Wall, E.C. Present: Bros. John G. Robeson, 192, W.M.; William Baker, W.M. 192, S.W.; T. Stokes, 192, J.W.; James Greig, P.M. 65, Asst. Preceptor; James Smith, P.M. 192, Asst. Sec.; E. Croft Wise, W.M. 619, S.D.; Saunton, P.M. 1423, J.D.; J. Collins, 192, I.G.; Read, 65; Palmer, 65; Gernon, 2411; Farr, 192; Roche, 192; and Wise, jun., 619.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Gernon acting as candidate. The W.M. then opened the lodge in the Second and Third Degrees, and the brethren went through Masonic Drill. The lodge was closed down in the three Degrees, when the W.M. rose the usual times, and next Wednesday being Preceptor's night, Bro. William Baker, W.M. 192, was unanimously elected to occupy the chair on the first Wednesday in September. The lodge was then closed.

HOW TO MAKE LODGE MEETINGS INTERESTING.

Since 1744, when Brother D'Assigny published "A Serious and impartial Enquiry Into the Cause of the Present Decay of Freemasonry in the Kingdom of Ireland," more than one faithful Master has inspected the work, to see if aught could be added for strength or ornament, or has made inquiry to ascertain the cause of confusion among the workmen.

To the vigilance of these watchers upon the highest hills, and to their faithful warnings of approaching danger to the brethren assembled "where a Dog was never heard to bark, nor a Cock to crow," is largely due the preservation of ancient landmarks and the fine conservatism which are notable characteristics of our Fraternity.

In direct line with precedents established by them is the course of the *Masonic Chronicle* in calling for solutions of the problem—"How to Make Lodge Meetings Interesting"—for if these are not as interesting as they

once were it must be due to some innovation, or to the neglect of something that our forefathers practised.

In seeking a remedy for a disease, it is usually a great aid to know the cause of that disease. Let us ask then—Why are lodge meetings not more interesting? To answer this, we ask another question—What are, or ought to be, the chief purposes of lodge meetings? Are not these three in number—to teach Masonry, to promote the spirit of Brotherhood among the members, and to perpetuate the Institution by making, passing, and raising new members? And, assuming that none of these purposes are to be disregarded, should not the three rank, in point of importance, in the order in which I have named them? And does not the average lodge devote itself almost wholly to the third purpose—that of conferring Degrees—and neglect the second purpose of its existence greatly, and the first and chief purpose entirely? So it appears to me, and here, I think, we have the answer to our inquiry—Lodge meetings are rendered uninteresting through ignorance of Masonry and through neglect of its social side.

But, to go back a step farther, what is the cause of these ills? Is not a sufficient cause found in the fact—if it be a fact—that those who ought to be our leaders and teachers are themselves untaught? That this is the chief cause—that our Masters and leading spirits are, as a rule, woefully un-informed as to the history, usages, and laws, and more especially as to the symbolism, mission, and real esotery of our Fraternity—I am fully convinced. It is not a chief purpose of this paper to demonstrate the correctness of this opinion, and therefore I will not take space to attempt to do so, but will, for the present, at least, assume its correctness, and ask the further question: What is the cause of this ignorance? Is it not that Masonry in America during the last 50 or 60 years has received more material than she could assimilate?

Let us see: Figures that are at least approximately correct indicate that in 1840, as a result of the Morgan excitement, the number of affiliated Masons in the United States had become reduced to about 32,000. Then came the reaction—so true is it that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church"—and the 32,000 of 1840 had become 87,000 in 1850 and over 230,000 before 1860. Then came the civil war, and many readers of this page will remember the wild rush to our preparation rooms of the thousands of young volunteers who desired to be brought—or whose friends desired that they should be brought—within the protecting influence, real or fancied, of our Fraternity before going to the front. Between 1860 and 1870 our membership more than doubled—and this, too, in spite of our frightful losses on the fields of battle. If all the hosts who received the degrees from 1861 to 1865 were truly first prepared in their hearts, and in seeking admission into our Fraternity were influenced by those motives only which we regard as proper ones, yet how many of them failed to receive that Masonic instruction—I do not refer to the ritual, but to far more important knowledge—which can only be given gradually, and which is so essentially necessary to qualify the initiate to become, in his turn, a teacher of Masonry. In innumerable cases they receive the Three Degrees in one or two nights, and rushing from lodge room to battlefield, did not even once hear the instructive tongue again until years had elapsed and the idea that they were but infants in their knowledge of our mysteries had passed away. Now, if you and I and the Master of our lodge learned our Masonry from one whose opportunities to acquire a Masonic education were restricted in the way I have described, is it any wonder that our lodge is in the narrow rut of mere ritualism and its meetings uninteresting?

To sum up: It seems to me that Masonry has suffered greatly from the fact that she has accepted more material than she could absorb and assimilate; that, as a result of this and other causes, it has unavoidably happened at certain periods that our teachers—not only in lodges, but among our Grand Officers and Masonic Authors—have themselves been imperfectly taught, and that under their teachings and example the lodge room has degenerated into a place for conferring Degrees; the teaching of Masonry has been abandoned and the social side of Masonry largely neglected.

It may be thought that I have devoted an undue proportion of this article to the disease, when the remedy is what was asked for. I do not think so. With men as intelligent as our American Masons, to point out the error suggests the remedy.

What, then, is the remedy? Evidently, in a nutshell, it is to reverse our present practices. Without in the least neglecting the ritual, let the conferring of Degrees be a mere incident in the affairs of the lodge—like relieving the distressed or burying the dead. Let brethren go to lodge because they know they are going to learn something about Masonry; or at least because they know that if no elaborate instruction is prepared for the evening they are sure of having a good social time. Space will permit me to go into details in but a very general way—nor is there any reason for fixed rules on the subject. Circumstances, which vary greatly in different lodges, must largely govern. But, for my part, I would never close a lodge, unless the hour be very late or a repast of some kind is to follow, without "calling off" for a half hour to be spent in informal sociability. I would rarely fail to have a bit of lunch of some kind. This need not be expensive. A cup of coffee or chocolate, a sandwich, and a cigar cost but a trifle; but will do more towards developing the social ties than a dozen obligations or a score of visits from the Grand Lecturer. "The shortest way to a man's heart is down his throat."

Where the funds justify it, there ought to be more elaborate banquets several times a year, with pre-arranged toasts and a jolly song or two. My judgment would be to have them after an initiation as a general thing, instead of after a raising, as is more common, for the impressions formed on one's first entrance into the Fraternity are liable to be more lasting than any other. At the banquet board the new initiate often realises for the first time that he is no longer a mere candidate, but has really been taken by the hand as a brother, and that the jollification which he witnesses illustrates the cordiality of Masonic brotherhood and the warmth of his own welcome into the Fraternity. In those jurisdictions where the use of lodge funds for these expenses is forbidden, they should be borne by voluntary contributions, until the restrictive regulation—which is an innovation on ancient usage and an unwarranted interference with the rights of lodges, as well as baleful in its effects—can be repealed; and in many lodges it is found more satisfactory to pay for the light lunches which I have mentioned by passing the hat, without recourse to lodge funds.

Along with the feeling of good fellowship which these things will inspire—and the return of old members whom you have not seen at the lodge for years—will come a willingness and desire to learn more about Masonry. I am a decided believer in Masonic libraries, and think every lodge ought to have at least a small collection of the best Masonic books. But I have been

forced to the conclusion that you cannot force a horse to drink, or a Mason to read. Return, then, to the usage of ancient times, when knowledge was instilled orally and illustrated by symbols. If the Mason will not read, he will listen. Every brother has an attentive ear. Supply the instructive tongue, and you will find him quick and eager to learn. Knowledge quickens the desire for knowledge. When the Mason, who supposed he was "bright" because he could readily work his way into a lodge, awakes to the fact that the real secrets of a Freemason are unknown to him; learns that there is a second and third meaning concealed in every symbol on the Master's carpet, in every working tool, in scores of clauses of the ritual; that there is an esoteric reason for every step taken by the candidate, and for ceremonies that he has supposed to be purely arbitrary; when he learns that the mere method of wearing an apron may allude to the tetrad, the right-angled triangle, or to the compasses elevated above a square; that an ineffable name is alluded to in passing from the grip of an Entered Apprentice and an omnific word concealed in the names of three men of Tyre; that the cable-tow is but one of several allusions, in our esotery, to the doctrine of the new birth; that the two parallel lines and the point within a circle refer to a worship that was hoary with age before its teachings moved Jacob to reverently set up a pillar and anoint it with oil; that the 47th problem of Euclid, instead of merely teaching Masons "to be general lovers of the arts and sciences," is, as Anderson told us a century and a half ago, "that amazing proposition which is the foundation of all Masonry;" when, I repeat, our "bright Mason" gets an inkling of these things—

"Wi' mair o' * * * * awfu'
Which, e'en to name wad be unlawfu'."

and learns that no high rite, no occult Order, has any deep lesson to teach, the very germ and key of which is not to be found—though veiled from unworthy eyes and slothful minds—in the sanctuary of his own lodge, there is no longer any danger that lodge meetings will not be "interesting" to him if they give promise of teaching him "the word that was lost"—of showing him "the Light that never was on land or sea."

Begin, then—if you would make your meetings interesting, if you would fulfil your whole obligation and perform your highest duty—begin to teach Masonry. Lay aside that overweening desire to change profanes into nominal Masons, and begin to teach your brethren that which they have a right to know—that knowledge of the divine truths of which Masonry has been the depository for ages, may not perish from the earth.

Where it can possibly be avoided, let no meeting pass without some form of Masonic instruction. Study and teach our symbolism. Let Masonic problems of all kinds—history, law, usage, local legislation or what you will—be discussed by appointed brethren and by volunteers. Let well informed Masons, educated or uneducated, deliver written or oral addresses on any phase of Masonry. Think not that teachers can not be found—in every community will come forth old greybeards who have been chilled into silence by our devotion to mere forms, and scholars who have dropped out of the lodge, disappointed and disheartened by our apparent lack of intellectuality, and will tell our average ritualists things about Masonry which they were never suspected of knowing.

On occasions where formal addresses cannot be secured, let something be read from some old book like Hutchinson's "Spirit of Freemasonry," or Preston's "Illustrations," or from the old Charges of a Freemason; or let there be five-minute talks from each of a dozen brethren—the whole enlivened by music and Masonic songs.

From personal experience, some of us know that by means like these and by improvements upon them which their use will suggest, not only will "lodge meetings be made interesting," but a new interest in our beloved Institution will be awakened; dormant members will be aroused and will join in our labours; appreciation of the designs of our Institution will be engendered; the most intellectual minds of the community will desire to be enrolled among us, and, above all, a knowledge of the deep meaning of our mysteries and the sublime teachings of our symbolism—now almost forgotten in some quarters—will be imparted, enriching and beautifying our own lives and preserved and passed unimpaired to our successors. So mote it be.—William H. Upon, Deputy Grand Master Grand Lodge of Washington. From the *Masonic Chronicle*, U.S.A.

Obituary.

BRO. JAMES BRETT, P.G.P.

Bro. James Brett—to whose lamented death we referred last week—was initiated in the Domatic Lodge, No. 177, on the 11th September, 1854, and very soon rose to the chair. In December, 1855, he was appointed J.D., and in 1856 he was advanced to the chair of S.W., his services thus far being of such a character, that during the year 1858 he presided as W.M. In 1860, he was selected to fill the office of Assistant Grand Pursivant, and the *Freemason*, in writing of the appointment, was pleased to speak in the highest terms of commendation of Bro. Brett's ability as a Craftsman. "If," we remarked at the time, "untiring perseverance in the pursuit of Masonic knowledge, ability in acquiring it, and inexhaustible good humour in imparting it, are just claims to the honours of Grand Lodge, no living Mason in England can prefer stronger ones than Bro. James Brett." In 1870, Bro. Brett was advanced to the rank of G. Pursivant, while the following year—as was the custom in those days—the Grand Master

conferred on him the rank of Grand Officer, and sanctioned his taking his seat on the dais. He was also a distinguished Royal Arch Mason, and in 1871 had conferred on him by the Grand Z. the office of Grand Director of Ceremonies. In this branch of Masonry, moreover, he enjoyed the reputation of being one of the most perfect masters of the ritual. As a supporter of our Charities, he was Life Governor of the three Central Institutions, and had served once as Steward for each of them. He was, too, one of the most active members of the Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, in the prosperity of which he took the deepest interest. But in all probability it will be as the Senior Vice-President of the Board of Benevolence that our respected brother will be best remembered. He occupied the position for several years, and there is no one who ever had occasion to be present at the meetings of the Board who did not at once recognise the worth of his services and the exceeding kindness of his disposition. He retired from the active pursuits of Masonry a few years since, on the death of his wife, but his services are still, and we trust for many years will be, remembered by his brethren. We believe we are correct in stating that Bro. Brett, with his brother officer and Mason—the late Bro. Michael Haydon—are portrayed in Frith's celebrated picture of "The Railway Station." Among those who sent wreaths or other floral tributes of respect to the memory of our deceased brother were the members of the Domatic Lodge, No. 177, and of the Whittington Lodge and Chapter, No. 862.

BRO. C. A. MURTON, P.G.D.

Bro. Charles Augustus Murton, the head of the firm of Charles Augustus Murton and Sons, stockbroker, of Threadneedle-street, died at Instow, Devonshire, on Sunday, at the age of 77. He was a very old member of the Craft, and took a very great interest in the development of Masonry, and was an active supporter of all its works of benevolence. For many years he acted as Secretary of the Emulation Lodge of improvement, the funds of which, after the small expenses attending its weekly meetings are defrayed, are entirely devoted to the Masonic Institutions. His work in Freemasonry was recognised in 1872 by the then Grand Master, Lord Ripon, who appointed him a Junior Grand Deacon.

BRO. JAMES PITTAWAY.

At Toxteth Park Cemetery, on Tuesday morning, took place the funeral of Bro. James Pittaway, of Gresford-street, Sefton Park, a gentleman who during his life was a prominent member of our Order, and held several high positions in the Craft, including that of honorary Secretary of the Alpass Benevolent Institution of West Lancashire. He was 55 years of age when death occurred, on the 19th instant. The Rev. W. M. Barrow, of St. Philemon's, conducted the burial service. The chief mourners were Mr. Pittaway (brother), Mr. J. Grave (brother-in-law), Mr. Travis (nephew), Mrs. Grave (sister-in-law), Mrs. Travis (niece), Mrs. R. Grave (sister-in-law), Mr. Manning, Mr. Cox, Mr. J. Sutton, Mr. L. S. Powell, Mr. James, and Mr. Davies. Among the mourners were the following representatives of the Duke of Edinburgh Lodge, No. 1182, of which the deceased was P.M.: Bros. R. Wright, W.M.; H. B. Wright, I.P.M.; J. Edwards, P.M., P.G.S.; Dr. Johnson, P.M.; W. Rawsthorne, P.M.; R. Tunnicliffe, P.M.; R. Johnson, Sec.; Joseph Clark, Stwd.; G. C. Banks, and T. Tilston. Other brethren in attendance were Bros. Dr. Crawford, P.P.G.T.; H. J. Jarman, P.P. G.D.C.; Robert Foote, P.P.G.T.; J. Tunstall, P.P.G.P.; S. L. Fraser, P.P.G. S. of W.; John Williams, P.P.G.D.; J. R. Bottomley, P.P.A.G.D.C.; Joon Molloy, P.P.G.S. and S.W. 65 (Mark); Henry James, P.P.G.D.; W. J. Doran, P.G. Tyler; John Hayes, P.P.G.S.B.; E. R. Latham, P.M. 594; H. H. Hughes, P.M. 1356; John Laughton, W.M. 241; John Jones, Sec. 1356; G. Barclay, P.M. 2316, co-Secretary of the Alpass Institution; C. Johnson, P.M. 1756; J. Clayton, W.M. 2714; W. Skinner, W.M. 1675; C. B. Ford, 1299; J. Mitty, 49 and 65 (Mark); J. Downey, 673 and 65 (Mark); A. Adams, 2114 and 65 (Mark); George Green, 2042; and J. Clarke, 65 (Mark). The service was impressively conducted by the Rev. W. M. Barrow, vicar of St. Philemon's. There were a number of beautiful wreaths, including one from the officers and members of the Duke of Edinburgh Lodge.

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Policies may be effected or transferred without any extra expenses.

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

POWER TO WALK RESTORED.

THE use of the legs, arms, or indeed, any other movable part or parts of our bodies, comes to be so habitual, natural, and easy, that we are apt to be astonished when anything seriously interferes with it. For example, although we have no trouble to understand now one may lose the power to walk, by means of accident or injury, it is not so plain when the cause is obscure and invisible. For such a cause is always a nervous one, and the action or non-action of the nerves is a subject involved in considerable mystery, even to the wisest students of those marvellous sources of feeling and motion.

Experience, however, has shown that nervous derangements affecting, either temporarily or permanently, the most useful of our muscles, may arise from a blood poison, such as that of gout or rheumatism, although acting in a different way. More or less complete paralysis is commonly due to blood poison, either communicated from without or engendered by abnormal processes within the system, the latter being by far the most frequent occurrence. The means used for relief or cure must, of course, be addressed to the cause of the blood impurities which thus interfere with the working of the nerves. The following interesting and important letter will help to throw light upon the point:—

"In March, 1893," writes a lady, "my daughter Elizabeth Jane (then eleven years old) had an attack of measles. After this she could not get up her strength. She was weary, weak, and languid. Her appetite was poor, and she scarcely ate anything solid. I gave her beef-tea, chicken, &c., but no food seemed to nourish her or give her strength.

"She complained of a gnawing pain at the stomach, which was worse after partaking of food. She got weaker every day, and I soon noticed she stooped and could not straighten herself.

"Fearing that something was wrong with her spine, I had a doctor to attend her. He gave her medicines and cod-liver oil,

and ordered her to the sea-side. I took her to Larne, but the change, together with hot sea bathing, did her no good. She got so bad *she could not walk*, and had to use crutches to move about.

"As the doctor could do her no good, I took her to a specialist at Belfast, but nothing helped her. She continued for a year in this distressing state, when I read in a book about Mother Seigel's Syrup and Plasters. I got two plasters and placed one at the lower part of the back and the other along the spine. I gave her the Syrup according to the directions, and in a few weeks she was greatly improved. She could eat well, and her food agreed with her, and gave her strength.

"Every day we saw an improvement; and after having taken two bottles *she was completely cured and put aside her crutches*. Since that time she has been in the best of health, and is as straight as any one. For the benefit of others, I consent to your publishing this statement, and you may refer anyone to me." (Signed) Ann Jane Marshall, Ballyalbanagh, Ballyclare, near Belfast, August 24th, 1897.

The young girl's father, Mr. David Marshall, is a large farmer and esteemed by all who know him. Mrs. Marshall informs us that people came from all around to ask what cured her daughter, and she was very glad to tell them. At the date of this writing—three and one half years after her recovery—Miss Marshall is a strong, healthy girl, and has had no return of her disease or of the spinal weakness.

It is only needful to add that in Miss Marshall's case the measles (as often happens with that ailment of childhood) was complicated with a digestive trouble, which afterwards developed into profound nervous dyspepsia, the humours from which entered the blood and caused the muscular collapse which crippled her for a time. In expelling these impurities and in renewing her digestive powers, Mother Seigel's Syrup restored her strength, and furnished one more proof of its ability to cure diseases which afflict us.

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BY

BRO. J. FINLAY FINLAYSON.

Dedicated to the Worshipful Master, Officers, and Brethren of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076.

WITH 15 ILLUSTRATIONS.

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16 and 16a, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Masonic and General Tidings.

BRO. THE RIGHT HON. WALTER LONG, M.P., have left Osborne, and rejoined Lady Doreen Long at Chitterne, near Codford, Wilts.

BRO. SIR BLUNDELL AND LADY MAPLE, and the Baron and Baroness Eckardstein have left Childwick Bury St. Albans, for Harrogate.

PRINCESS HENRY OF BATTENBERG left Osborne on Tuesday afternoon for the purpose of paying a visit to the Empress Eugénie at Farnborough.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY has promised to attend the annual ploughing match of the Surrey Agricultural Association on October 12th, and to preside at the banquet in the evening.

BRO. THE MARQUIS AND MARCHIONESS OF BREADALBANE have left Taymouth Castle for Forest Lodge, Black Mount, Argylshire, where they will entertain a distinguished company during the stalking season.

THE DUTIES of the Blackheath Lodge of Instruction, No. 1320, will be resumed at the Stirling Castle, Church-street, Camberwell, on Monday, the 5th prox., at 8 p.m.—Bro. W. Dawson, P.M. 788, &c., Preceptor.

EARL AND COUNTESS HOWE have left Penn House, Amersham, where they have been staying since Goodwood, to spend the week in Yorkshire, after which they will proceed to Gopsall, near Atherstone, for the autumn.

ADMIRAL SIR MICHAEL CULME-SEYMOUR, having left Portsmouth for Scotland on six weeks' leave, the chief command of the port has been assumed by Admiral Superintendent Rice, who has transferred his flag to the Victory.

SIR MAURICE FITZGERALD, Bart., in his yacht the Satanita, made a record passage from Land's End to Valencia Harbour on Wednesday, doing the distance—250 miles—in 20 hours, although a terrific storm was raging during Wednesday night.

THE WILL of Bro. Alfred Albert Pendlebury, of Kimberley, Westley-road, Boscombe, late Assistant Grand Secretary, was proved on the 11th inst. by Mrs. Louise Juliane Charlotte Olga Helene Pendlebury, the widow and executrix, the value of the estate being £1886 5s. 8d.

THE AUTHORITIES of the Salvation Army have sent to the Lord Mayor (Bro. Alderman Davies, M.P.) a choice assortment of fruit grown on their farms in Essex, where they are making an interesting experiment to educate some of the waifs from the great City in agricultural pursuits.

BRO. J. L. TOOLE has recently had serious trouble with his eyes. He is at present staying at Margate, and it was found necessary to operate on the left eye for cataract. The operation was successfully carried out on Saturday last, and it is stated that in all probability he will be able to be about again in a few days.

THE CURFEW TOWER BELLS at Windsor Castle, which are usually rung upon the Queen's birthday and other Royal anniversaries, have been re-arranged, and are now ready for pealing when necessary. The set has been silent for a time owing to an accident to the big tenor, and the discovery of a crack in the fifth bell, which had to be recast.

MEMORIAL TO A LEWES BROTHER.—A white marble headstone with a kerb of Portland stone has recently been placed in St. Anne's Churchyard, Lewes; to the memory of Bro. Henry Hall. The stone bears the following inscription: "In memory of Henry Hall, for many years Tyler of the South Saxon and Pelham Lodges of Freemasons. Died February 2nd, 1898, aged 76 years. This stone was erected by the brethren of the above lodges as a mark of fraternal regard. 'The Lord is my Shepherd.'"

IN THE BED-ROOM of William IV., at Hampton Court Palace, is a clock of the "grandfather" pattern, which goes for 12 months without winding. It was constructed about 1660 by Dan Quare, and is such a splendid timekeeper that it does not vary a second in a month. It does not record the hours only, but also the seconds, minutes, days, and months, and even the times of sunrise and sunset. The clock has just been cleaned by a Kingston firm of watchmakers, who state that the mechanism is in such excellent condition that the old timepiece will probably keep on going for another 200 years.

MONDAY was the anniversary of the first cable message which successfully crossed the Atlantic, just 40 years ago. The British ship Agamemnon met the American ship Niagara in the middle of the Atlantic on July 29th, 1858, and the two ends of the cable were spliced. Then the vessels parted, each paying out cable, and reached their destinations a week later. After some delay the cables were adjusted. The Mayor of New York telegraphed compliments to the Lord Mayor of London. On August 22nd the Queen telegraphed to President Buchanan, and on the same day the news of a steamship collision was flashed across the Atlantic. The new cable, however, only lasted a fortnight, and then snapped on September 3rd, after costing £400,000. It was not till 1866 that the Great Eastern was at length successful in laying a satisfactory cable.

BRO. LORD AND LADY LEIGH celebrated their golden wedding on Monday at Stoneleigh, with great rejoicing and festivity. His lordship has for many years been Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire, and is in one way or another connected with almost every institution which has for its object the advancement and welfare of the county. The principal function at the Abbey was a large garden party, to which the tenantry were invited. Bro. Lord and Lady Leigh were presented with a massive silver-gilt vase weighing over 200 ounces on behalf of his lordship's tenants in Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, and Warwickshire. An illuminated address was presented by the tenantry of the Cheshire estate. Among the many other gifts which they received were presents from their sons, daughters, and grandchildren, his lordship's brothers and sisters, the chairman and committee of visitors of the County Lunatic Asylum (with which his lordship has been connected for 46 years), the officers and boys of the Warwickshire Reformatory, and the servants of Stoneleigh Abbey.

PRINCESS HENRY OF BATTENBERG, the President of the Victorian Society for Nursing the Sick Poor of Gosport, which was instituted as a memorial to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, attended a public meeting of its supporters, which was held on Saturday afternoon last, in the Thorngate Hall, Gosport. Her Royal Highness was conducted to the platform by Deputy-Inspector Woods, C.B., of the Royal yacht Victoria and Albert, and Miss Dorothea Brodrick, daughter of the Rector of Alverstoke (the Hon. and Rev. Canon Brodrick), presented the Princess with a bouquet. Princess Henry then presented certificates and medallions to members of the St. John's Ambulance Association, and the distinguished order to Mrs. Everett Mumby, in recognition of her services as honorary local secretary of the association. A vote of thanks was moved by Canon Brodrick, and seconded by Dr. Kealy. The Princess expressed herself much pleased with the arrangements.

BRO. LORD AND LADY BURTON have arrived at Glenquoich, Invergarry, and will entertain a succession of guests during the stalking season.

BRO. VISCOUNT WOLSELEY, accompanied by Colonel Gough, A.D.C., left London on Tuesday night, for the Red House, Dorrington, to stay with Sir Evelyn Wood.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, who has been on the Continent for the last few weeks, returned to town on Wednesday morning, reaching Victoria by the earliest boat train.

OWING to the illness of the Lady Mayoress, whose condition still causes some concern, the Lord Mayor, Bro. Alderman Davies, under the advice of the surgeons in attendance, has reluctantly abandoned his proposed visit to the United States.

THE ROSE LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1622.—The duties of this lodge will be resumed at the Stirling Castle, Church-street, Camberwell, on Thursday, the 1st prox., at 8 p.m. Bro. David Rose, P.M. 73, &c., Preceptor.

A DONATION of £1000 has been received by the honorary secretaries of the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund from the trustees of the City Parochial Foundation, to be applied to the maintenance of convalescent hospitals.

HER MAJESTY'S departure from Osborne, though somewhat delayed this year, will not be so very much later than usual. It is definitely arranged that the Court will leave the Isle of Wight on Wednesday next, the 31st inst.

BRO. THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF DERBY, who are residing at Knowsley Park, Lancashire, will proceed shortly to Scotland in order that Lady Derby may take a course of waters at Strathpeffer Spa, Ross-shire, for the benefit of her health.

BRO. LORD ROBERTS'S son, the Hon. F. Roberts, of the 60th or King's Royal Rifle Corps, who has been acting as A.D.C. to the Officer Commanding the Forces in Ireland, has left to join Bro. Sir Herbert Kitchener in the Soudan in a similar capacity.

THE MARQUIS OF LONDONDERRY AND THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE have promised to attend the show and the luncheon of the Durham North-East Agricultural Society to be held at Seaham Hall, one of the seats of Lord Londonderry, on Wednesday, the 31st instant.

THE STAR CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1275.—The weekly convocations of the above will be resumed at the Stirling Castle, Church-street, Camberwell, on Friday, the 1st prox., at 8 p.m. Comp. Thomas Grumant, P.Z. 1275, &c., Preceptor, will occupy the position of M.E.Z. and rehearse the exaltation ceremony. Royal Arch companions will be welcomed.

THEIR EXCELLENCIES the Lord-Lieutenant and Countess Cadogan, accompanied by their guests, drove to Leopardstown on Monday, and were present at the races. The Hon. Murrugh O'Brien and Captain Cecil Feilden, aides-de-camp, were in attendance. Earl and Countess Annesley, Bro. the Earl and Countess of Portarlington, Lord and Lady Langford, and Viscount Castlereagh have arrived at the Viceregal Lodge.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has been informed by the acting British Consul-General at Odessa that English artists, or members of the theatrical profession, intending to enter Russia, should on no account leave England without a written contract legalised by the Russian Consul-General in London. Verbal agreements between them and their employers have no legal force in Russia.

THE ROYAL YACHT Osborne, with H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and Princess Victoria of Wales on board, left Cowes for the westward on Tuesday. The yacht coaled at Portland, and then proceeded to Dartmouth and other ports. His Royal Highness is expected to return to Cowes to-morrow (Saturday). The Duke of York went to Portsmouth on Monday for official duty on board the Crescent, and remained a few days.

THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND dined with the members of the executive committee of the Health Congress on Saturday evening last, at the Royal College of Physicians, Dublin. His Excellency, in reply to the toast proposed by the President, Sir Charles Cameron, said he was glad to see the progress which had been made in sanitary science in Ireland, and especially in Dublin, where the drainage system and the housing of the working classes had been greatly improved.

BRO. SIR GEORGE FAUDEL PHILLIPS, ex-Mayor of London, has received from the Right Hon. G. H. Reid, Prime Minister of New South Wales, a large album, containing about 100 different photographs of the scenery of that Colony. It bears the following inscription: "Presented to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London by G. H. Reid, Premier of New South Wales, as a souvenir of the visit of the Colonial Premiers to England on the occasion of her Majesty's Jubilee, June 22, 1897."

AT SOUTHPORT on Tuesday Bro. the Earl of Crawford opened the 21st annual meeting of the Library Association, which was incorporated by Royal Charter this year. In his opening address, his lordship dwelt upon the value of the study of books to the individual. He also insisted upon the usefulness of the private collector, but remarked with regret that the day of great private collections had gone by. During the day papers were read to the Association, and in the evening the members attended a smoking concert in the conservatory of the Winter Gardens.

BY REQUEST of the Duke of York, the officers and crew of her Majesty's ship Crescent were provided with a pleasant entertainment on Tuesday evening, his Royal Highness honouring the proceedings with his presence. A number of cinematographic pictures had been taken on board the ship and in the Channel Squadron. These, together with some other films, were shown to the ship's company. A magic lantern show, made up of photographs taken by one of the crew during his Royal Highness's cruise, was also given.

AT STONELEIGH ABBEY this week is being celebrated the golden wedding of the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire and Lady Leigh. A large family party, including the Duke and Duchess of Westminster, Bro. the Earl and Countess of Jersey, and Bro. Lord Norton, assembled at the Abbey on Saturday last, and on Monday there was a garden party, followed by celebrations among the villagers. Residents of Warwickshire are having his lordship's portrait painted, and his tenants in four counties will present an address of congratulation.

THE ANNUAL DUBLIN HORSE SHOW was opened at Ballsbridge on Tuesday, and was visited in the afternoon by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, among other distinguished visitors being the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, the Earl of Enniskillen, Earl and Countess Annesley, Bro. the Earl and Countess of Portarlington, the Earl of Coventry, Viscount Castlerosse, Lord Massy, Bro. Viscount Castlereagh, Lord and Lady Rossmore, the Earl of Mount Cashell, Viscount Monck, Bro. Viscount Templeton, Bro. Lord Rathdonnell, Lord Farnham, Sir Thomas J. Lipton, and Sir James Blyth.



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