

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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UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The proceedings of the Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge, which will take place on Wednesday, the 7th instant, are likely to cause more than the usual amount of interest. In the first place, the Grand Master in the chair will propose a resolution of sympathy with his Royal Highness, the M.W. Grand Master, "in the suffering occasioned by his late unfortunate and serious accident," and will express the "earnest hope that it may please the Great Architect of the Universe speedily to restore his Royal Highness to the full enjoyment of perfect health." Similar resolutions have been passed at well nigh every Masonic meeting, and it is in the natural order of things that Grand Lodge, which is supreme over the whole English Craft, should take the earliest available opportunity of expressing the same feeling. The duty will then devolve upon the Grand Registrar to report the steps which his Royal Highness, the Grand Master, in accordance with the request of Grand Lodge, at its special Communication on the 29th July, 1896, has taken "for the recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, and for the establishment of fraternal good feeling with our New Zealand brethren." It will be in the recollection of our readers that at the special meeting referred to, a communication was read from the Grand Master to the effect that his Royal Highness, having satisfied himself that it was the general feeling of the Masons in New Zealand that the time had arrived when the body styling itself the Grand Lodge of New Zealand might properly be recognised as an independent Grand Lodge, requested that United Grand Lodge would invest him with full powers to take such steps to that end as he might consider necessary and expedient, consistently with the rights and privileges of the English lodges in the Colony. Grand Lodge at once acceded to the request, and a resolution was adopted conferring the powers asked for upon his Royal Highness. That a considerable time should have elapsed in exchanging the necessary communications is not to be wondered at, having regard to the distance of the Colony from the Mother Country; but some time ago it was announced in these columns that the terms and conditions on which our Grand Lodge was prepared to recognise the Grand Lodge of New Zealand had been accepted by the latter body. Subsequently, we published particulars of the proceedings at the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, at which not only was it publicly announced that the terms of such recognition had been submitted and accepted, but one of our English District Grand

Masters—Bro. R. DUNN THOMAS, of the Canterbury District—was present as a visitor at the said meeting, and at the banquet which followed responded to the toast of "The Sister Grand Lodges." Thus the final stage in this important business will be reached on Wednesday next, when the Grand Registrar will move a resolution—the adoption of which may be looked upon as a foregone conclusion—expressive of the gratification felt by Grand Lodge at the successful termination of the Grand Master's labours, and tendering its "dutiful and respectful thanks" to him "for the able and judicious manner in which he has fulfilled his task."

It is not necessary for us to enter into particulars as regards the terms and conditions on which recognition has been accorded to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. It will suffice if we state that they are of the usual character and that under those terms and conditions the rights and privileges of such lodges as may elect to remain under the English banner will be scrupulously respected. It only now remains for the members of the several Masonic communities in the Colony to set about restoring as speedily and completely as possible the fraternal relations formerly existing amongst them, and we have no doubt the act of Bro. THOMAS, Dist. G. Master of Canterbury, in visiting the Grand Lodge as soon as he learned it had been recognised by us will materially conduce towards that most desirable consummation.

"FREEMASONRY VERSUS CHRISTIANITY."

The second and third of the series of articles which appeared under this head in the *Baptist* some weeks since from the pen of a Mr. WILLIAM FOSTER, F.S.S.A., author of "The Subject Testament" have been kindly forwarded to us by some unknown friend who appears to be of the opinion that a description of their contents may profitably find a place in our columns. We do not think we can go further than we did in our article of the 30th July in condemnation of Mr. FOSTER'S attack upon our Society, nor is there a passage in the two articles we have just received to modify in the slightest degree the judgment we passed upon the first. Mr. FOSTER furnishes another illustration of those who write upon subjects of which they have little or no knowledge, with the usual result that what is true in his writings is not new, and what is new is not true. Thus it is matter of common knowledge that women and men who are under age are not eligible for admission to our Society, the exclusion of the former being absolute, while as regards the latter the law is relaxed in the case of those who are the sons of Masons. The reasons for their exclusion have been held to be good and sufficient by successive generations of men of intelligence and common sense, but those reasons include none that are derogatory either to women or men under age. This is clearly shown by the respect in which our Society is held by all who are not so bigoted to their own opinions that they cannot discover even a solitary grain of sense in the opinions of others. These are the men who exemplify in their daily conduct the full force of the old saying as to "Orthodoxy being my 'doxy,' and heterodoxy the 'doxy' of others," and it is to this class of people that the author of this series of articles appears to belong. There is not a scrap of evidence in any part of the series that he is willing to exhibit towards his neighbours any of that love and respect for others, and the opinions of others, which are the common basis of Christianity and Freemasonry. Mr. FOSTER conveniently ignores the fact that our Society numbers amongst its members men of the highest intellectual calibre—dignitaries of the Established

Church, members of both Houses of Parliament, judges and members of the legal profession generally, officers of distinction in the military and naval services of the empire, graduates and undergraduates of our principal Universities, men who have won position in the commercial and industrial worlds both at home and abroad, while the bulk of them are men of whom we speak familiarly as being in reputable circumstances. In short, our Society is composed for the most part of men of broad and generous views, who would disdain to do anything detrimental to the interests of the body politic or derogatory to the just influence of any of its members, male or female. They are for the most part actuated by kindly motives towards their fellow-men, and they join the ranks of Freemasonry, not with the idea of advancing their material interests, but because they verily believe they will be able to do more good generally. As for the idea that men enrol themselves as Masons in order to win election to municipal and other offices to which they could not otherwise hope to attain, the charge is entirely groundless. Men of every shade of politics, both imperial and municipal, are contained within our ranks. If any attempt were made to enlist the support and sympathy of a Masonic body in behalf of this or that exponent of imperial or local politics, that body would speedily find itself in the position of the house that is divided against itself.

But we need not pursue this matter further. It is evident that Mr. FOSTER has little, if any, knowledge of Freemasonry, what small amount of information he has been able to glean being derived from unauthorised and untrustworthy sources. We have, however, this consolation, that he belongs to that class of men who write dogmatically and bitterly against all who differ from them in opinion on any subject. Why, then, should we exclaim against our receiving our fair share of that condemnation which we doubt not is liberally dispensed by Mr. FOSTER to all other sectarians.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The following is the business to be transacted on Wednesday next, the 7th inst.

The minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 1st of June for confirmation.

The GRAND MASTER in the Chair will move:

That this Grand Lodge respectfully offers to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, its most fraternal and heartfelt sympathy, in the suffering occasioned by his late unfortunate and serious accident, and desires to express its earnest hope that it may please the Great Architect of the Universe speedily to restore his Royal Highness to the full enjoyment of perfect health.

V.W. Bro. JOHN STRACHAN, Q.C., Grand Registrar, will report the steps taken by his Royal Highness in accordance with the request of Grand Lodge on the 29th July, 1896, "for the recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, and for the establishment of fraternal good feeling with our New Zealand brethren," and will thereupon move: "That the Grand Lodge expresses its gratification at the happy result which has attended the labours of the Grand Master in the settlement of the recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, and offers its dutiful and respectful thanks to the Most Worshipful Grand Master for the able and judicious manner in which his Royal Highness has brought this important matter to a successful termination."

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

The widow of a brother of the Unity Lodge, No. 183, London ...	£75 0 0
The widow of a brother of the Barnato Lodge, No. 2265, London ...	100 0 0
A brother of the Fowey Lodge, No. 977, Fowey ...	50 0 0
A brother of the Farringdon Without Lodge, No. 1745, London ...	50 0 0
A brother of the Lodge of Peace, No. 149, Meltham ...	50 0 0
The widow of a brother of the Southern Star Lodge, No. 1158, London ...	60 0 0
A brother of the St. John's Lodge, No. 673, Liverpool ...	50 0 0
A brother of the Excelsior Lodge, No. 1042, Leeds ...	50 0 0
A brother of the Walpole Lodge, No. 1500, Norwich ...	75 0 0

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

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

The Board have to report that they have received a recommendation from the Officers' and Clerks' Committee that, having regard to the very creditable manner in which Bros. Leonard Cook, Charles Lawrence, and Ralph Grist were discharging their duties as Clerks in the Grand Secretary's office, their salaries, which, in the case of Bro. Cook is at present £130 per annum, and in that of Bros. Lawrence and Grist is £100 per annum, be increased as from the 21st June last by yearly increments of £10, until they respectively reach £150 per annum.

The Board, having considered the report, recommend that the salaries of Bros. Cook, Lawrence, and Grist be increased accordingly.

The Board have to report, with deep regret, the death of Bro. A. A. Pendlebury, late Assistant Grand Secretary, who died on the 30th June last, after a long,

lingering, and expensive illness, and although his pension has been paid up the time of his death, still the Board recommend that the sum of £100, being equivalent to one quarter's pension, be paid to his widow.

The Board have further to state that they have had under consideration a report of the Colonial Committee on the subject of an application from the Wardens and other officers and members of the Hervey Lodge, No. 1788, Trinidad, praying that the lodge, the greater number of members of which were in arrear in payment of their subscriptions, and some of whom had been proved guilty of un-Masonic conduct in lodge, should be erased; and the Board, taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case, are of opinion that Grand Lodge should be recommended to erase the lodge.

The Board have further to report they have very fully considered a complaint preferred by the W.M. elect of the Stuart Lodge, No. 1632, against the W.M. for having on the day named in the by-laws for the installation of his successor, and the appointment and investment of officers, appointed and invested the officers for the ensuing year, the minutes of the previous meeting relating to the election of Master not having been confirmed.

It appeared that in taking that course the W.M. acted strictly in accordance with a written opinion on the point given some years since by the late Grand Registrar, his Honour Judge Philbrick, Q.C.

The Board, without arriving at a formal decision on the various points raised by the question, resolved *nem con.*, in accordance with the advice of the present Grand Registrar, that in the event of the election of Worshipful Master elect being confirmed, it would be competent for him on his installation to appoint his officers, notwithstanding the appointment of officers by his predecessor.

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

TITLE OR OBJECT.	BY WHOM PRESENTED.
History of the Joppa Mark Lodge, No. 11 (2 copies)	John Armstrong, P.P.G.W. Cheshire (The Author.)
A Masonic Handkerchief ...	Rowland D. Longworth, P.M. No. 1816
History of the Royal Clarence Lodge, No. 976	E. R. Hayter, P.M. and Sec.
St. Paul's (an Historical Poem) ...	Major T. C. Walls, P.G. Std. Br. (The Author.)
Three Royal Medals (in case) ...	George Kenning, P.P.G.D. Middx.
Old Silver Masonic Medal ...	Henry H. Boyle, Nos. 34 and 2224.
Volo, or the Will, and Ars Vivendi, 1898	Arthur Lovell, No. 1425 (The Author.)
An Oration delivered at the Consecration of St. Ivo Lodge ...	Rev. G. Herbert Frewer, P.P.G. Chap. (The Author.)
Old Masonic Medal (copper gilt) ...	Bros. H. G. and Walter Spilling.
Memorials of Lodge No. 91, Leicester	J. T. Thorp, P.P.G.W. (The Author.)
South African Freemasonry ...	O. H. Bate, P.M., P.D.S.G.W. South Africa.
Western Australia, its History and Progress...	Albert F. Calvert, W.M. No. 28 (The Author.)
The Aborigines of Western Australia ...	
Souvenir of Western Australian Banquet ...	
The Exploration of Australia (1895) ...	
The Exploration of Australia (1844 to 1896)...	
My Fourth Tour in Western Australia (1897)	

The Board also submit a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts presented to the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on Friday, the 12th day of August instant, showing a balance in the Bank of England (Law Courts Branch), of £6694 13s. 8d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash, £100, and for servants' wages, £100.

(Signed) R. LOVELAND LOVELAND, President.
Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.,
16th August, 1898.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

By Bro. WILLIAM FARQUHAR LAMONBY, P.M. No. 962, P.P.G.W. Cumberland and Westmorland—

RECOGNITION OF NEW GRAND LODGES IN BRITISH TERRITORIES—

"That in order to better insure the preservation of the rights and privileges of minorities, and to prevent subsequent disputes, Grand Lodge respectfully suggests and prays that the Most Worshipful the Grand Master may be pleased to command that Lodge Warrants shall not be cancelled until the expiration of three calendar months from the date of receipt of such Warrants by the Grand Secretary."

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

- No. 2717, Albert Lucking, Southend-on-Sea.
- 2718, Fordsburg, Fordsburg, Transvaal.
- 2719, Barberton, Barberton, Transvaal.
- 2720, Loyal Commercial, Cardiff.
- 2721, Lodge of Light, London.
- 2722, Edward Terry, London.
- 2723, Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- 2724, St. Lawrence, Northfield, Worcestershire.
- 2725, Maristow, Yelverton, Devon.
- 2726, Light on the Surma, Silchar, Bengal.

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS.

The following is the business to be transacted on Tuesday next, the 6th instant:

Read and, if approved, confirm minutes of Quarterly Communication of 31st May last.

Report of the General Board.

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

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

A motion will be proposed that the report be adopted.

Presentation of Charity jewels to the Stewards of the last Benevolent Fund Festival.

MASONIC CEREMONY AT HARRISBURG, PA.

The ceremony of laying the corner-stone of the new Capitol at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which is to be erected in place of the building destroyed by fire on 2nd February, 1897, was performed with full Masonic honours on Wednesday, the 10th August. According to the *Keystone*, of Philadelphia, to which we are indebted for the following particulars: there was, in spite of the unfavourable weather, a large attendance, not only of the Craft, but

also of the citizens of Harrisburg and visitors from all parts of the State, among the latter being judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts of Pennsylvania and other State officials.

The Grand Officers who took part in the ceremony were B'os. William J. Kelly, M.W.G.M.; Henry W. Williams, Deputy Grand Master; George E. Wagner, S.G.W.; Edgar A. Tennis, J.G.W.; Thomas R. Patton, G. Treas.; Walter Lyon, acting G. Sec.; John A. Perry, Dep. G. Sec.; Rev. John S. J. McConnell, D.D., J. Gray Bolton, D.D., and William B. Chalfant, and William S. Wray, as G. Chaplains; George W. Kendrick, jun., S.G.D.; George D. Moore, J.G.D.; Allan B. Rorke and Robert J. Linden, as G. Stewards; William R. Frazier, G. Marshal; G. J. Vandegrift, as Asst. G. Marshal; John Slingloff, as G.S.B.; James M. Lamberton, as G. Purst.; Samuel W. Wray, G. Tyler; and Harry E. Hillier, as Asst. G. Tyler.

There were also present Bros. Samuel B. Dick, P.G.M.; William L. Gorgas, Charles S. Vandegrift, Wilson I. Fleming, and John W. Farnsworth, D.D.G.Ms. Pennsylvania; Josiah W. Ewan, G.M. New Jersey; James S. Raeburn, W.M., Frederick W. Daw, S.W., and Frank Thomas, P.M., a Committee of Potomac Lodge, No. 5, of Washington, D.C., delegated by the lodge to bring to the Grand Master of Pennsylvania the gavel used by Bro. George Washington in laying the corner-stone of the National Capitol, on September 18th, 1793; by Bro. Richard Vaux, Grand Master, in laying the corner-stone of the present Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, June 24th, 1868; and for the purpose of being used by Bro. William J. Kelly, G.M., on this occasion.

After the invocation by the Grand Chaplain, the GRAND MASTER delivered the following address:

"Why should Masons lay the corner-stones of public buildings?"

"Because our Fraternity is the oldest republic in the world."

"When the nations lay bound hand and foot, soul and body, in the universal prison house of self-assumed authority, the Freemason, as his very name implies, was a member of a representative and responsible government."

"He aided in electing the Chief or Master of his immediate Lodge, and for a limited time, so that the delegated authority, restricted in its exercise by law and usage, returned back to the hand that gave it, to be conveyed under like restrictions to another worthy member of the little community."

"These tiny republics were further restrained by a higher power, which they themselves composed, by selecting delegates to a general assembly, denominated a Grand Lodge."

"That Grand Lodge, composed of the selected wisdom of all the lesser bodies within a country or State, made general laws for general use, framed a Constitution with respectful reference to the unwritten usages and customs of the Fraternity, whilst, under a like restraint, the inalienable rights of all Masons, and the constitution of their Grand Lodge, the subordinate or local lodges framed their own laws or regulations."

"This double representative republic, so like to that of the great nation and great State within whose territory and under whose protection and paternal laws we now live, is the oldest representative government in the world; it has always enjoyed the freedom which is still its boast; it has always elected its chiefs and rulers, and it has always made its own laws by means of representatives democratically elected."

"History points to the year A.M. 2992, more than ten centuries before the Christian era, as the period when Solomon began to build a Temple to be dedicated to the God of Israel. This marvellous work was the creation of men, specially instructed and skilled in wisdom, science and arts, which to all others were unknown."

"Selected from tribes and nations after they had acquired this esoteric knowledge, these men of Tyre, Sidonia, and neighbouring nationalities, undertook the work which Solomon required for the accomplishment of his purpose."

"The site chosen was at Jerusalem and Mount Moriah."

"The associations, sacred and profane, which cluster around that hallowed eminence, are but the outer covering of facts, mysteries, and events which have made impressions on the human mind, and produced consequences on the soul of man lasting through time and outreaching into eternity."

"Nowhere in Christendom can there be found an educated intellect which has not been wrought up to its highest capacities by the record of the mighty works, stupendous mysteries, and miraculous events which consecrate Jerusalem."

"The descendants of the chosen people who saw Moses, and heard the law and the prophets, look yet with faith to the time when the Holy City shall be the resting-place of the ark of their covenant."

"The Christian bows his head in devout adoration as he contemplates the memories of Olivet."

"Even the heathen feel an inexpressible awe at the recital of the histories of the Cæsars and Centurions, who then ruled and reigned over Palestine."

"Philosophers and scholars have exhausted centuries in a failure to explain, by human reason, the unfaithfulness of the records and revelations which give sanction and sacredness to the scenes of Gethsemane and the Holy Sepulchre."

"As we review the past, remote as well as recent, we are struck by the stability of Freemasonry."

"No other human organisation has been so permanent."

"Men die, kingdoms pass away, even nations are lost, but Freemasonry, like the everlasting hills, remains. Why is this?"

"It is because the cornerstone of our Fraternity is the first great light in Masonry—the Word of God."

"Without it, there would be no Freemasonry, and it is this which insures its perpetuity."

"Freemasonry is founded upon a rock. It is a beautiful system of morality, derived from the Holy Bible."

"We quote its very words and perform the very deeds enjoined by it."

"This is why our Mystic Craft, which traces its origin by history and tradition to the remotest past, promises to continue to the remotest future."

"Its corner-stone is God's Word."

"Its spiritual temple is 'a house not made with hands,' the ashlar of which are the ever-living souls of ever-living men, and its capstone is charity or Brotherly love."

"Freemasonry in its very essence is a system of light, but if the source of that light, the Grand Architect of the Universe, should be stricken from Freemasonry, the Craft would lose its sun, about which all its symbolism clusters, and enthrone darkness in place of light."

"It is not amiss here to state that George Washington, Past Master of Alexandria, No. 22, while serving a second term as President of the United States, on September 18, 1793 and Acting Grand Master, clothed in the insignia and jewel of that office, performed the ceremony of laying the corner-stone of the Capitol at Washington, in the presence of one of the grandest Masonic gatherings that had ever perhaps been assembled in this country up to that date, thus attesting to the world his appreciation of Masonry, his faith in its teachings, and the importance of having the corner-stone of the Capitol of this nation 'tested,' 'tried,' and laid by the proper officers of the Grand Lodge of Masons in accordance with ancient usages and solemn rites."

The ceremony having been completed, addresses were delivered by Bros. Daniel H. Hastings, the Governor of the State, and Alex. McClure, the Orator of the day, and the proceedings then terminated.

OPENING OF A NEW MASONIC HALL AT BLYTH.

On Thursday, the 18th ult., an interesting ceremony was performed at Blyth, when the new Freemasons' Hall was formally opened by members of the Blagdon Lodge, No. 659. There was a large number of provincial officers and brethren from all parts of the district present at the dedication. The hall has been erected in Beaconsfield-street—a now very important and central thoroughfare in the town of Blyth—on the site of ground kindly given by Bro. Sir M. W. Ridley, Bart., M.P., Prov. Grand Master of Northumberland. The site has about 42 feet frontage, and is 86 feet deep, and the building has been specially constructed for the convenience of the Blagdon Lodge. This lodge was consecrated about 43 years ago, the warrant bearing the signatures of the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., and Baron Yarborough, D.G.M., and for many years held its regular meetings at the Ridley Arms Hotel until about 12 years ago, when the lodge was removed to the Mechanics' Institute of the town. Several attempts have been made to obtain premises specially suited for Masonic purposes, and in the year 1888 Bro. Edward Forster, the then Worshipful Master, moved that an effort be made to build a Masonic Hall in Blyth. A strong Committee was appointed, and the scheme was pushed forward with much enthusiasm. Afterwards an eligible site was placed at the disposal of the Committee. As the hall was to be built by subscription, an effort was made to raise funds by a bazaar and other ways. In order to carry the scheme forward a sub-building Committee was appointed, consisting of Bros. E. Foster, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br.; J. Tweedy, P.M., P.P.S.G.W.; Jas. Carmichael, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br.; R. T. Guthrie, P.M., D.C.; and John Whitfield, W.M.; whose efforts have been so energetically carried out that the hall ultimately became an accomplished fact. The building is a most imposing structure, the frontage being very artistically designed with two Masonic emblems, and is built of red pressed bricks with stone facings. The large bay windows have camber arches and are ornamented in terra cotta. The passage and hall are beautifully tiled. On the basement there are two rooms on each side of a heavily-panelled entrance door, with smoke and club rooms in the rear. The lodge-room is upstairs, and is most commodious, with two ante-rooms on the west side. There is also a caretaker's house attached to the hall. The premises are heated by hot water pipes, whilst for the ventilating of the building Boyle's patent ventilators have been fixed. Bro. John Whitfield is Chairman and Treasurer of the Building Fund, and Bro. John Tweedy has ably carried out the secretarial duties since the project was reinstated in 1890, when the scheme had very poor prospects. The position of Secretary is an honorary one. The hall, which will cost upwards of £1000, will prove a very useful institution at Blyth, and great credit is due to the Building Committee for the completion of the scheme in such a satisfactory manner.

A DISTINCTION WITH A DIFFERENCE.

This phrase is applicable to Freemasonry as expressed in different countries at the present time. Freemasonry in Great Britain and its Dependencies is conservative in its character and holds itself altogether aloof from participation in matters of Church and State. The organisations which bear the Masonic name do not attempt to exert any influence of a political nature, nor to promote party or sectarian measures. In the United States the same rule holds good. There can be no discussion of political questions or of religious doctrines in the lodge room. Brethren do as they choose when they come to act in party politics or in support of churches and creeds.

But it is not so in some of the countries of Continental Europe. In France the Masonic organisation counts as an important factor in political movements. Members of a lodge, meeting in secret, discuss party measures and then decide to throw their united strength in favour of a certain policy, and for or against certain men who are candidates for official station. Social questions and the reforms of the day are considered by brethren when they meet within tiled doors, and if they decide to advocate a measure the whole strength of the organisation is brought to its support. One lodge is in touch with another to such an extent in France that the Fraternity is likely to act together in promoting a measure of social or political reform. Perhaps such effective combination of strength may sometimes tend to the best results. As a rule, the Masons of France are intelligent and patriotic men, and oftener than otherwise they plan and act in such a manner as to promote the public welfare; but all the same there is an element of danger in their alliances and exercise of power when the objects are as here stated.

It is a matter of profound rejoicing that English Freemasonry, as expressed in all lands where the English language is spoken, declares itself so positively against any interference with matters which belong to the domain of party politics, and leaves to its members, acting individually, to exercise the duties of citizenship in accordance with what may be the personal thought and judgment of each brother. The Institution as such—the lodge as such—formulates no platform, pronounces itself neither in favour of or against political candidates and measures, but holds itself apart from all such disturbing issues.

Maintaining such a position, Freemasonry has a legitimate influence to exist and a worthy service to render. It fulfils a beneficent mission in bringing men together to walk and work as brethren. It teaches reverence and faith toward God, and inculcates practical sympathy and helpfulness as between man and his fellow man. Keeping itself altogether apart from entangling alliances, Freemasonry goes forward in an illumined way which promises the best results for truth and for humanity.—*Freemason's Repository.*

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Masonic Notes.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1898.

A Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge will be held at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 7th inst., at the usual hour of 6 for 7 p.m. The earlier items on the Agenda are referred to elsewhere in our first leading article, but there are sundry matters in the report of the Board of General Purposes to which attention may properly be called. Thus regret is expressed at the death, after a long, painful, and expensive illness, of Bro. A. A. Pendlebury, Past Asst. G. Secretary, and under the circumstances the Board recommends that a sum of £100, being the amount of one quarter's pension, be paid to the widow. We have no doubt that the recommendation will be adopted and our only regret is that a larger sum has not been recommended.

The circumstances connected with another of the Board's recommendations are somewhat curious. "The Wardens and other officers and members" of Lodge No. 1788, Trinidad, finding that the greater number of the members are in arrear in payment of their subscriptions, and that some among them have been

guilty of un-Masonic conduct in lodge, pray that their lodge may be erased, and the Board recommends that the prayer of the petition be granted. We imagine the reasons for this unusual request will be fully explained, but it seems strange that with the number of subscribing brethren which "the Wardens and other officers and members" of a lodge may be presumed to represent, there should be no other way out of their difficulties than for them to suggest, and the Board to recommend, the commission of an act of "happy dispatch."

As regards the complaint of the W.M. elect of Lodge No. 1632 and the points connected therewith, we offer no opinion until the whole of the circumstances are before us, but it is not a little curious that what appears to be a somewhat similar case is to be found under the head of "Questions and Answers" in the *Freemason's Repository* for July last. The question there raised is as follows: "Should the Master elect of a Lodge decline to be installed, is it lawful to proceed and install the other officers duly elected?" Both in this case and that of our Lodge No. 1632, the usual installation of the Master does not take place, but in both it is declared to be lawful for the other officers to be appointed, or, in the American lodge, installed. According to next Wednesday's Agenda, Bro. his Honour Judge Philbrick, when G. Registrar, gave it in writing as his opinion some years since, that in the event of the minutes relating to the election of Master being non-confirmed, it was competent for the W.M. to appoint and invest the officers for the ensuing year. In the case recited in the *Repository*, the Editor expresses it as his opinion that there is "not sufficient reason why the installation of one officer of a lodge should be made dependent on the installation of another officer."

It appears that the number of new lodges for the constitution of which his Royal Highness the M.W.G. Master has been pleased to grant warrants since the Quarterly Communication in June last is 10. Of these two—the Lodge of Light and the Edward Terry Lodge, Nos. 2721 and 2722 respectively—will be located in London. The following five will be constituted in the Provinces: The Albert Lucking, No. 2717, at Southend-on-Sea, in Essex; the Loyal Commercial, No. 2720, at Cardiff, in South Wales (E.D.); the Heaton, No. 2723, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, in Northumberland; the St. Lawrence, No. 2724, at Northfield, in Worcestershire; and the Maristow Lodge, No. 2725, Yelverton, in Devonshire. As regards the remaining three, the Transvaal will be the stronger for two of them—the Fordsburg, No. 2718, and the Barberton, No. 2719—which will meet in the towns they are severally named after; while the Lodge Light on the Surma, No. 2726, will meet at Silchar, in the District of Bengal.

The Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales will take place at Mark Masons' Hall on Tuesday, the 6th inst., but the business to be transacted is of the usual routine character. We learn, however, from the Report of the General Board that during the quarter to 30th June last 347 Mark and 98 Royal Ark Mariner Certificates were issued, raising the total number registered in the former to 38,669, and in the latter to 5670. No Warrants for new lodges in either Degree have been granted since the June Communication.

The Report further announces the appointment of two District Grand Masters, Bro. the Hon. C. E. Davies, M.L.C.—who is M.W.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Tasmania—to be Dist. G.M. of the newly-created District of Tasmania; and Bro. the Hon. Mr. Justice Burdett to be Dist. G. Master of Bengal, *vice* Bro. Major-General A. G. Yeatman-Biggs, deceased. Bros. the Rev. Canon Tristram, C. Letch Mason, Col. G. S. Tudor, and Viscount Valentia have had their patents renewed for a further term of three years as Prov. Grand Masters of Northumberland and Durham, West Yorkshire, Staffordshire, and Berks and Oxon respectively; and Bro. Lieut.-Col. Sir G. M. J. Moore, R.A., has had his renewed as District Grand Master of Madras.

A meeting of the General Committee of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution will be held at the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool, this (Friday) evening at 7 p.m., for the election of children upon the several Funds and for the transaction of other business. There are three candidates for the Educational Fund, two for the Combined Fund, and five for the Advancement Fund.

One of the questions propounded in the July number of the *Freemasons' Repository* and answered by the Editor is, whether a member of the Roman Catholic Church is eligible for admission into Freemasonry, and if he is not what the reasons are for keeping him out. The answer of course is to the effect that he is eligible, as "Freemasonry bars no man out of its communion because of his religious belief or because of his connection with any branch of the church of the living God." But the Editor goes further and explains that very few Roman Catholics offer themselves as candidates for the mysteries and privileges of our Order owing to the fact that "nearly every pope from Clement XII. until now" has anathematized it and that it is "barely tolerated in countries where Roman Catholicism bears rule."

There is also another question, as to whether the time has not come "when it would be well to leave out or greatly abridge some of the forms observed in the lodge room; and whether the Masonic organisation would not be just as strong and useful if a considerable part of its ceremonies were omitted." To this the reply of the editor is in the negative. "We think not," says he, and then he proceeds to give his reasons for so thinking. These reasons are so clearly and concisely expressed that we reproduce them almost in their entirety, so that our readers may have the opportunity of pondering them well and carefully.

Firstly, he suggests that "to set aside the ceremony of the Craft and abridge the forms established by the wisdom of the fathers would surely bring evil upon the Institution," his reason being that "it accords with the genius of Freemasonry to find expression in orderly and precise forms and to practice ceremonials which are not without meaning to thoughtful brethren." He contends, and in our opinion, most justly, that "that to give up or abbreviate those methods would be to so change the character of the Masonic Fraternity as to deprive it of something of its attractiveness and something of its powers."

Moreover, as with equal justice he is careful to point out in the remaining sentences of his answer—"All the forms and ceremonies of Freemasonry are for a purpose; they are to set forth and illustrate some truth; they are object-lessons in the moral teaching which goes on in the lodge room. Thus they have value. Every part of the Masonic ceremony is freighted with instruction, and every form observed is associated with some idea or lesson worthy of man's consideration. Forms and ceremonies," he adds, by way of conclusion, "are but the outworks of Freemasonry, but all the same they have their importance, and to remove them would most assuredly tend to the injury of the Institution."

Let any one who feels inclined to question the wisdom of this answer or any part thereof, mentally run through any portion of our ritual with the object of determining, so far as his opinion goes, where an abridgment or omission would appear to be either possible or desirable. Let him ponder well every part of any one of our ceremonies; let him clearly examine into the meaning and intent of such; let him carefully note how beautifully all the several parts fit together; how completely they fulfil the purpose intended. Then let him omit or abridge any one part, and let him carefully compare the version as he has curtailed it with the true version as it has been handed down to us, and we venture to think he will, sooner or later, come to the conclusion that there is a something wanting in the version as amended by himself, that it does not, in fact, quite convey the lesson which is intended by the original version. Let him continue his experiment restoring what he had amended or abridged and making alterations elsewhere, and he will find himself confronted by results similarly disappointing. In short, he will find, after all, that in dealing with our ceremonial, the best policy is "to leave well alone."

We have to acknowledge receipt of copy of the new work by Bro. Henry Sadler, Grand Tyler, and Sub-Librarian of Grand Lodge, entitled, "Masonic Reprints and Historical Revelations." We had the pleasure of announcing some time since that it was in the press, and that its publication might be looked for at an early date; and from the particulars we then furnished, we feel sure the new work will be read with the same pleasure and profit as those which have preceded it from the same pen. We shall take an early opportunity of reviewing its contents.

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.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Will you allow me, before the meeting of Grand Lodge and Grand Mark Lodge next week, to refer to the question, already discussed in your columns, of what is meant by the "confirmation" of the minutes of a private lodge?—a question which was raised in Grand Mark Lodge last May, and which is known to have been under the consideration both of the Craft and the Mark authorities.

The question is—Whether "confirmation" of the minutes, after they have been read out by the Secretary, means that the lodge considers them a proper record of the business transacted at the last regular meeting and at any intervening emergency meetings that may have taken place? Or whether it means (at any rate, as to such portions of the minutes as relate to resolutions) that the lodge ratifies the resolutions which, unless so ratified, would not be deemed valid?

It must be noticed that in the first of the two alternative interpretations something more is required than that the record presented by the Secretary should be an accurate one. The minutes are confirmed, as being in the opinion of the lodge, a proper record, omitting nothing which it is necessary to insert, and containing nothing which ought not to be inserted. In the second alternative, "confirmation," as regards the record of mere facts (e.g., the attendance of members and visitors), can only have the same force as in the first; but, as regards resolutions to be carried out in the future, it means ratification, and, therefore, implies that a lodge cannot pass a valid resolution without holding, at least, two meetings, the latter of which must be a regular one.

In the Craft Constitutions, Rule 172, which deals with the minutes of private lodges, directs that a Minute-book be kept, and that there be entered in it (besides certain particulars as to new members, &c.), "Minutes of all such transactions of the lodge as are proper to be written." The rule concludes by providing that "the minutes can only be confirmed at a subsequent regular meeting of the lodge." In Mark Masonry the corresponding Rule (No. 126) is substantially the same, except that it concludes thus:

"N.B.—Minutes can be confirmed only at the 'next' [not 'at a subsequent'] regular meeting of the Lodge."

Neither of the Rules defines the word "confirmed," or answers to the question before us. It has, however, been argued from a passage which occurs both in Rule 130 of the Craft, and in Rule 99 of the Mark Constitutions (Rules which regulate the election of the Master), that to confirm must be taken in the sense of ratifying.

The passage is as follows: "At the next regular meeting the first business after the opening of the Lodge shall be the reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting, and if they be confirmed, so far at least as relates to the election of Master, he shall be deemed to be elected and shall be duly installed in the chair"

It appears, no doubt, from this provision that the final validity of the election of the Master is dependent on the confirmation of the minutes relating to that election. But the election is a resolution of the lodge arrived at by ballot, and if no resolution were valid until the minute recording it was confirmed, the above special provision would be superfluous, as the election could practically be annulled by non-confirmation of the minutes relating to it. What grounds are there for extending this exceptional rule to other transactions? It can hardly be contended, for example, that the election of a joining member is not good immediately after his ballot, but must wait for ratification till the minutes are read at the next regular meeting.

Passing from written laws to custom and practice, I am aware that in Grand Lodge decisions come to at one meeting have been reversed at the next by means of non-confirmation of some particular minute. This is an indirect way of doing what might as well be done directly, and involves a kind of useless legal fiction, but with the ample notice that is given of Grand Lodge business beforehand it becomes a mere question of form and leads to no real inconvenience.

In private lodges the practice on this point, as on others, is probably not uniform, but in the majority of cases, I believe, confirmation is not taken to mean ratification except with reference to the election of the Master. The lodge by-laws usually prescribe what notice is to be given before a motion can be made, and can rarely be altered themselves unless the alteration is carried at two consecutive meetings, so that undue haste and snap votes are guarded against. There may be an interval of four or five months between one regular meeting and another, and it would be a grave inconvenience if every vote of money or other resolution had to wait for subsequent confirmation before it could be carried into effect. Moreover, the attendance of members when a lodge first opens and the minutes are read is often very thin, and to allow previous decisions to be reversed, without notice, by non-confirmation of minutes, would, in many instances, put the wishes of a full lodge at the mercy of a small minority.

If precedents outside Masonry are sought for, we find that almost universally—at municipal councils, boards of directors, committees of charities, and other bodies that habitually meet to transact business—minutes are regarded solely as records, and are confirmed or amended as such. When it is wished to rescind a resolution passed at the preceding meeting, the minute is not challenged, but a motion for rescission has to be made. When it is wished, for the sake of riper deliberation, that resolutions on certain subjects shall be passed at successive meetings before becoming finally valid, the by-laws or articles by which the conduct of the body is governed are made to say so expressly.

I venture to hope that this question may be set at rest in both Craft and Mark lodges by some authoritative expression of opinion, in accordance with common sense, practical convenience, and almost universal custom.—I am, dear Sir and Brother, faithfully and fraternally yours,

REGINALD J. MURE, J.G.D.

August 31st.

QUALIFICATION OF PAST PRINCIPALS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I am surprised that an "old P.M.E.Z." should ask the question in your last issue as Rule 2 is so clear.

The companion in question has ceased to subscribe for the year, and therefore has ceased to be a member of the Grand Chapter.

The rule does not refer to the H. and J. as they attend Grand Chapter during their term of office (as the Wardens attend the Grand Lodge), and are not permanent members of the Grand Chapter as are all First Principals after the expiration of their term of office while they continue to subscribe to some chapter.

I remember a provincial case; a companion had left the province for two years, and on rejoining and again taking Prov. G. Office, he was required to pay another fee of honour as if he had never held provincial office.—Yours fraternally,

HENRY LOVEGROVE.

P.G. Std. Br.

IS FREEMASONRY A RELIGION?

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Those who attempt to find fault with the Craft frequently bring forward the statement that it is not Christianity; but it must appear to all thinking men that if the Craft fell into line with the Church or any of the modern sects, it would cease to be cosmopolitan, and we should not see men of all creeds working together for the common good.

Belief in a Supreme Being is all that is required, and is sufficient for the purpose, and those who have this faith, and live in accordance with Masonic precepts, can outside Freemasonry belong to any religious body.

Bro. Lovell's suggestions are good. More life should be put into the work of lodges of instruction; Preceptors are too fond of "parrot-like" and often ungrammatical rendering of the ritual.—Yours fraternally,

PAST GRAND OFFICER.

Masonic Notes and Queries.

1126]

BRO. DR. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

Johann Georg Von Zimmerman, in his deservedly popular book on "Solitude," thus faithfully delineated our gifted brother's character as an author. "The pen of Franklin renders the most abstract principles easy and familiar. He conveys his instructions in pleasing narrations, lively adventures, or humorous observations; and while his manner wins upon the heart by the friendly interest he appears to take in the concerns of mankind, his matter instils into the mind the soundest principles of morals and good policy. He makes Fancy the hand-maid to Reason in her researches into science, and penetrates the understanding through the medium of the affections. A secret charm prevades every part of his works. He rivets the attention by the strength of his observations, and relieves it by the variety of pleasing images with which he embellishes his subjects. The perspicuity of his style, and the equally easy and eloquent turn of his periods, give life and energy to his thoughts; and, while the reader feels his heart bounding with delight, he finds his mind impregnated with instruction. These high advantages resulted entirely from his having studied the world, and gained an accurate knowledge of mankind." It is pleasing to find an able literary contemporary in so distant a land doing such honour to our illustrious brother.

GEORGE MARKHAM TWEDDELL.

Stokesley.

Craft Masonry.

Liverpool Dramatic Lodge, No. 1609.

Resuming "labour" after "refreshment" in the shape of a two months' holiday, the brethren connected with this prominent lodge in the Province of West Lancashire, met at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool, on the 23rd ult., for the transaction of business of a highly important nature. The agenda comprised the conferring of the Three Degrees, the election of W.M., Treasurer, Auditors, and Committees which are necessary to the good government of the lodge. Bro. H. Round, W.M., was in his place as the chief of the lodge, and he was supported by a strong array of Past Masters and officers, amongst these being Bros. Harris Fineberg, I.P.M.; W. W. Sandbrook, P.M., P.P.G.D.; G. D. Clarence, P.M.; Harry Heard, P.M.; J. B. McKenzie, P.M., P.P.S.G.D.; Dr. Limrick, P.M.; Lewis Peake, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.; W. Catrall, P.M.; Eustace Baxter, S.W.; Dr. A. G. Goodwin, J.W.; W. Savage, P.P.G. Treas., Treas.; J. W. Armstrong, Sec.; W. H. Dalton, S.D.; G. Hargrave, I.G.; H. C. Arnold, Creswick Boydell, and H. A. Johnson, Stewards; and J. Wiatt, Tyler. The members present were Bros. Henry Bruce, Henry A. Nelson, A. Weber, J. J. Hewson, P. H. Boggis, L. Murphy, H. G. Robinson, Frank Turner, G. Bassett, W. O. Conlan, H. F. Parr, M. G. Hurst, and others. There was also a good representation of visitors from various parts of the world, one brother hailing from Old Calabar.

The lodge having been opened, Messrs. Henry Jennion and Frank Lynne were impressively initiated by the W.M.; two brethren were passed to the F.C. Degree, by Bro. G. D. Clarence; and Bro. H. Round, W.M., most effectively concluded his year's labour in the chair by raising two brethren to the M.M. Degree. Subsequently the unanimous and cordial vote of the brethren was given to Bro. Baxter, S.W., on his election as Worshipful Master for the coming year—a fitting recognition of valuable services, the "highest honour" in the power of the brethren to confer on any member being feelingly acknowledged by the W.M. elect. A like unanimity and cordiality was shown in the re-election of Bro. Savage, P. Prov. G. Treas., to the important and onerous office of Treasurer of the Dramatic, an office which he has filled with a faithfulness and zeal which has brought the lodge into a financial position of soundness which has not been exceeded during its 22 years' existence. Bros. J. Cantor, P.M., P.P.G.O., and W. W. Sandbrook, P.M., P.P.G.D., were appointed Auditors; the W.M., S.W., J.W., and Bros. Cantor, P.M.; Peake, P.M.; and Heard, P.M., members of the Committee of the Fund of Benevolence; Bros. J. B. Mackenzie, L. Peake, and H. Heard to serve on the Masonic Hall Committee; and Bros. H. Round, Peake, and Heard were selected as the Committee of Inquiry as to proposed candidates, &c.

After the transaction of further business, the brethren adjourned to banquet, which was succeeded by various special toasts, including that of "The Retiring Worshipful Master," received with "three times three;" and a capital musical and variety programme, given by Bros. C. Aspinall, Eaton Batty, W. Savage, W. W. Sanderson, H. Heard, J. J. Hewson, H. C. Arnold, and W. Hudson.

Knights Templar.

THE SAINT BERNARD COMMANDERY, No. 35.

Chicago is making elaborate arrangements for the 27th Triennial Encampment of Knights Templar, October 10th to 13th next.

"It is taken for granted that this commandery, which, for more than a score of years, has attended all the Triennials with as large a delegation as any commandery visiting the conclaves, and with equipment as to trains, hotel accommodations, music, drill corps, and everything the very best, will as loyally and generously come to the front for Pittsburgh, do its duty faithfully, and add new triumphs and glory to the record of St. Bernard."

Commandery. We are known wherever Knights Templar go as a live, hospitable, and progressive body of Templars; have taken and maintained our stand with the leading commanderies of the country, always putting in months of hard work on drills and making preparations to entertain citizens and guests and to contribute to the revenue and charity funds of the conclave, through either competitive or exhibition drills as they have come up, taking as our reward only the good will and honours 'that await the valiant Templar.'

Pittsburgh is making very elaborate preparations, building acres upon acres of ground into pavilions and review stands, making new boulevards for the grand parade, illuminating the streets by strings of electric lights and arches, the United States and local courts, public officials and even the public schools have agreed to suspend during conclave week and give up their rooms and buildings for the use and pleasure of visitors.

"There will be yacht racing on the three rivers, daily railroad and steam-boat excursions to outside points of interest. 'Nothing which can possibly be crowded into the space of three days will be left undone for the comfort and enjoyment of our guests' is their modest announcement. Pittsburgh is an ambitious city, full of very hospitable people, trained in recent years in the art of caring for big gatherings of people and conventions, beautifully situated in the heart of the Allegheny Mountains where the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers unite to form the great Ohio, and, surrounded by charming mountain scenery. While at Pittsburgh we will climb Mount Washington, go through the great oil and gas fields, window and tableware glass factories, the great Homestead mills, and all the big industrial plants we can find time to visit.

"Special arrangements are being made for the entertainment of the ladies of St. Bernard party. Seats will be secured in grand stand for the parade. An elaborate 'afternoon tea' with the ladies of Pittsburgh and visiting Knights Templar ladies as guests will be one of the features of our trip, and of which our ladies will, of course, have charge."

Instruction.

PROSPERITY LODGE, No. 65.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 31st ult., at the Weaver's Arms, 17, London Wall, E.C. Present: Bros. D. J. Harlow, P.M. 65, Preceptor, W.M.; Brown, S.W.; E. Croft Wise, J.W.; William Baker, Treas., acting Preceptor; Meadows, P.M. 1571, Sec.; John G. Robeson, S.D.; Gernon, J.D.; Rix, I.G.; James Smith, P.M. 192 Asst. Sec.; C. Butcher, W.M. 902; Palmer, Read, Farr, and J. J. Wise.

A Masonic treat was thoroughly enjoyed by the brethren present under the able presidency of the Preceptor, as W.M., who, ably assisted by two W.M.s as Wardens, rendered the ceremonies in a most perfect manner, which proved a useful and instructive lesson to the Masters as well as the other aspirants to the chair present.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, the W.M. opened it in the Second Degree, when Bro. C. Butcher, acting as candidate for raising, answered the usual questions, and was entrusted. The lodge was then opened in the Third Degree, and Bro. Butcher was raised to the Degree of M.M., the Master giving the traditional history in his well-known able style. The brethren then rehearsed Masonic Drill, after which the W.M. closed down in the three Degrees, and rising the usual times, closed the lodge in due form. Bro. William Baker, W.M. 192, will occupy the chair next Wednesday evening at 7.

IMPORTANCE OF SECRECY IN THE BALLOT.

We extract the following from the report of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana:

"Lodge 249 has an applicant for initiation; the ballot was spread and declared dark; the W.M., in order to make sure that no error or mistake had taken place, ordered a second ballot, when it was found still dark. The W.M. decided that the candidate was rejected. Immediately thereafter the lodge was called to refreshments, and the brethren assembled in the ante-room; while there considerable discussion took place, and denunciation of the brother who cast the black ball. The result of this discussion induced Bro. T. S. Williams to admit he had cast the black ball. Finally, whether by persuasion or otherwise, this brother declared his readiness to change his ballot, if opportunity was offered. On calling the lodge to labour, a motion was made to have a third ballot, and Bro. T. S. Williams arose, stated that he had cast the black ball, and, for reasons assigned, withdrew his objections and requested to be allowed to correct it. The W.M., who is a young Mason, conferred with some of the older brethren, took their advice, and ordered a new ballot; whereupon the candidate was elected, introduced, and received his degree of Entered Apprentice. A full statement of this case was laid before the G.M. by R.W. Bro. L. E. Robinson, D.D.G.M., of the Nineteenth District. The G.M. at once wrote a letter to Bro. Robinson, directing him to notify W.M. of Lodge 249 that violation of the secrecy of the ballot-box was a serious offence; that permitting a third ballot was absolutely null and void; that the initiation of the candidate in the E.A. Degree seriously aggravated and complicated the gravity of the offence. He, therefore, ordered the lodge to receive no application for advancement from the candidate or other proceedings to be taken in his case until further orders. The cumulation of the offences and the serious questions involved, induced the G.M. to convene the Committee on Masonic Law and Jurisprudence, and lay the whole subject matter before them. After careful investigation, the Committee, in their report, among other things, said: 'By forcing the violation of the secrecy of the ballot, the members of the lodge individually committed little less than a Masonic misfemeanour; and as to the action of the W.M. in permitting the third ballot, it is sufficient to say that it was absolutely null and void, being in direct violation of the express law of the Grand Lodge.' The Committee were of the further opinion that Lodge 249 merited severe punishment, and suggested the Grand Master exercise his high prerogative and carry out their recommendation, which was to suspend it for a period of six months. The G.M. carried out this suggestion, and instructed the D.D.G.M. to demand from the W.M. of Lodge 249 its charter; to be held and retained by him until the period of the suspension of the lodge should expire."

PRESENTATION AND UNVEILING OF A PORTRAIT OF THE LATE R. WOR. BRO. DR. R. HAMILTON, D.G.M.

A very interesting function took place in the Hamilton Lodge No. 1440, Spanish Town, Jamaica, on the evening of Thursday, the 7th ult. A portrait of the late Rt. Wor. Bro. Hon. Robert Hamilton, M.A., M.D., who was for nearly 22 years District Grand Master of Jamaica, and who was one of the founders of the lodge, was presented to the lodge by Wor. Bro. R. W. Campbell, the I.P.M. The picture was unveiled by the Rt. Wor. Deputy Surgeon-General, Bro. C. B. Mosse, C.B., Deputy District Grand Master of Jamaica in charge, who, with his D.G. Wardens, Chaplain, and Secretary attended by invitation to perform the ceremony. There was a large number of Past Masters and members of other lodges present.

The Wor. Bro. R. W. CAMPBELL, in a very appropriate speech, made the presentation, and asked the D.D.G.M. to unveil the picture.

The D.D.G.M. pulled a cord, and the veil rolled back, exposing the beautiful picture.

The D.D.G.M. then, in a speech couched in very choice language, enlarged upon the virtues of the late brother, who, he said, had initiated him into Freemasonry many years ago, and from whom he and many others had received valuable instructions in matters relating to the Craft. He exhorted the officers and members of the Hamilton Lodge to do all that lay in their power to make the lodge worthy of the noble name it bore, and all the brethren present to endeavour to follow in the footsteps of such a glorious Masonic example.

Bro. W. DUFF, the D.G. Sec., in the course of a speech, stated the interesting fact that the regalia which the late Bro. Hamilton was depicted wearing was the same set that the D.D.G.M. was then clothed in—Bro. Dr. Hamilton having bequeathed it as a legacy to the District Grand Lodge to be worn by his successors.

A vote of thanks to the generous donor was passed by the lodge, and conveyed to that brother by the W.M., Bro. W. M. Fraser.

A NEWLY-INSTALLED WORSHIPFUL MASTER'S POWER.

A rather nice question was recently raised in a Melbourne Lodge and it has cropped up again so soon as to be worthy of comment. "When do the duties and powers of an Installing Master end?" Some Past Masters hold strongly that the moment the W.M. is installed and the gavel is placed in his hands he has supreme power and can call upon whom he likes to continue the ceremony. It is urged that his first act is to invest his I.P.M. That may be admitted, but after placing the gavel in the newly-installed W.M.'s hands the Installing Master should resume it and according to the best rituals, he, and not the newly-installed W.M., closes the Board, admits Masons in the various Degrees and makes the proclamations and presentations. All this goes to show conclusively, we think, that the Installing Master's powers are absolute until after proclamations and addresses have been delivered. If the W.M. is to invest his I.P.M. he does so at the request of the Installing Master, nor is it essentially the W.M.'s province to do it. It comes even better from the Installing Master, who can appropriately explain the jewel, work which comes most absurdly from a newly-fledged W.M. The advice also to support and counsel the new W.M. comes better from an Installing Past Master than as a request from the W.M. himself. The addresses to the W.M., Wardens and brethren are essentially work appropriate to a Past Master, and in the first and second the W.M. himself is specially alluded to in terms of direction and advice. The Installing Master also instructs the W.M. to invest his officers, or depute some one to do so, and the whole adjuncts of the ceremony go to show that the W.M. is a cypher until the final address to the brethren has been concluded. Indeed, that is a proper time for the Installing Master to congratulate the W.M., and hand him his gavel with some appropriate remarks. Custom in Victoria, and, indeed, elsewhere, places the investment of the I.P.M. in the W.M.'s hands whilst the Board of Installed Masters is sitting, and if the I.P.M. be the Installing Master he cannot well invest himself. If, however, it is done by the newly-installed W.M., he should be formally requested to do it, and his subjection for the present thus shown. Without the warrant of the lodge, which has yet to be presented to his keeping, and without the Book of Constitutions and by-laws, he is unfitted to take control of the lodge. At the Duke of Albany Lodge, Victoria, during the recent ceremony there was a disposition to wrest the ceremony from the hands of the I.P.M., but, fortunately, better counsels prevailed, though not until some discussion had taken place. The investment of the I.P.M., if he be the Installing Officer, might be gracefully done by the senior past or present Grand Lodge Office in attendance. The fact that the jewel has to be explained according to some rituals, indicates that the incoming W.M. could not have the knowledge necessary in time to commit it to memory, and the inference is that the investiture is meant to be carried out by some one else. At a recent installation meeting a contention arose as to when the I.P.M. should be invested. Bro. W. B. Edwards contended, and we think properly, that the W.M. has no power until after he has been proclaimed, and Bro. Sinclair, whilst agreeing in the main with this, admitted that custom at least had recognised that the W.M. should do the work. The situation is interesting because in the possible event of friction or petty jealousies arising, some definite line of action should be recognised. We believe that the gavel should not be delivered to the new W.M. until after the proclamations nor before the conclusion of the ceremonies. The ascension of a Queen or King of England is followed by coronation on a subsequent day. The arrival in these Colonies of a Vice Regal representative is followed by the swearing, which completes the legal powers he requires, though already nominally the Governor of the Colony, and in our own ceremonies the newly-installed W.M. is not fitted to fulfil his duties until the Installing Master has fully rendered the ceremonies relative to that position. A reference of such a difficulty to the Board of General Purposes would no doubt be dealt with on some such lines. Happily the occasions are very rare when a decision may become of any great importance, but because they are rare is not a reason why some such definite ruling should not be obtained, for, as witness the recent ceremonies at the Duke of Albany Lodge, a scene was narrowly averted upon this very point of dispute.—*Masonry*, Melbourne, N.S.W.

PAIN IS AN ELEMENT OF STRENGTH FOR THE MASONS.

BY BRO. ERMILO G. CANTON, GRAND SECRETARY MEXICO.

To pretend to walk in the paths of life in an easy and serene manner without stumbling over rough stones, and without the briars injuring our feet, is to dream of something impossible, is to pretend a phantasmagorical idealism, which, by merely opening our eyes to reality, vanishes like a mist. Having passed the first ages of life, *reason* and the *conscience* are formed, and, as free beings, place our destiny in the pathway. Each step is a doubt; each look we give round about is a vacillation. Who can be vainglorious of having been lucky enough to find—when taking the route—the broad way, festooned with floriferous margins and with placid currents; the sun clear and cloudless; transit easy and commodious? In the unfortunate journey which we undertake from the cradle to the grave there is no one who is free from turbulence and obstacles. We have to pay a tribute, we have to render a jewel, and that tribute and jewel are called pain. Pain is the contingent with which we all contribute to embellish the great drama of life, and each one of us is merely a suffering personage in that picture where all the colours have been shown and all the perspectives distributed. But in the created, everything obeys the immutable laws of compensation, and the same which pain makes us bend in response to the first dismay, invigorates and strengthens us, taking then the street of bitterness more warlike and resistant. Of this we find manifold examples in life, because there is no work that is not examined closely by the rudeness of test. You have the forge with its fire, its anvil and sledge; the workman separates the incandescent metal from the red heat, places it on the anvil and with athletic energy discharges on it the tremendous blows of forging. The metal suffers; each blow makes sparks of useless matter fly, which in a moment shine in the air and subsequently fall extinguished on the powerful pavement of the workshop. After the test, and the metal having been modulated; it remains between the hammer and the anvil, fit for the strength that is required of it. You have also the diamond; a despicable pebble in its primitive form, and found only by those who search with perseverance among the asperity of the earth and among the mysterious labyrinth of the veins of ore. The diamond is placed in the crucible, the fire laps it with an embracing tongue, depurates it, facilitates the cutting of its facets, and lastly after the test is converted into a precious conquest of labour. Think of the mariner who commences to navigate; the solitude, the sadness and the tempests of the sea armour and teach him. In the midst of great danger he learns to resist and secure equilibrium; in the highest parts of the masts of the vessel he finds the habitude that is necessary to withstand dizziness; and in all the contingencies of his nomad life he finds enough vigour, free from dread and marine daunt, to challenge the angry combats of that immense expanse called the ocean. See the men who encourage a warring spirit, or are lead to death by the egotism of others; the first skirmish puts them to the test; fright, horror, fatigue, and perhaps fear are the circumstances which surround them; but afterwards, when accustomed to the firing, they follow exempt from suffering the conventional sound of the bugle and under the frightful yoke of an inflexible discipline, they go resolutely, perhaps without banner and without faith, and without an opinion of their own, to play calmly with the dice of death such as at Pul-tava, St. Quintin, Waterloo, Sedan, and Mexico. They were weak and timorous; the trial made them strong. There is nothing, therefore, that can elude this general rule and by the same influences, man in regard to which is moral has to fatally bear that tremendous and decisive test called pain, which goes deeper into the soul than the forge does the metal or the crucible the diamond. Pain is a law that must be irremissibly respected. We suffer, and after its violence has passed, the pang leaves us an abundance of experience and energy that comforts us. The amount is so great that it cannot be easily reduced to figures. We learn to listen to the consoling and philosophic voice of resignation; we open our breast to hope and each fresh knock increases that source of faith in the future which is so called. Probably these words, if spoken to a gathering of profanes, would be received with a smile of cold scepticism; perhaps some one would say that in daily life what we term blows of life, far from giving us hope, wrest our faith and leave us doubt. Such option cannot be admitted here, because we are in the Masonic world and the Mason is—and should be—less victim to passion and error, and consequently should believe, because puny spirits only deny without making affirmations; only those needing light are unbelievers; because to believe is a necessary virtue, whatever that belief may be as regards morality, philosophy, or the sciences. No one, no Mason, I am sure, will smile when he reads these lines from my flying pen, when it states that pain after its transit leaves us many lessons—the golden hopes of a compensating futurity. Nevertheless, when pain, when the unforeseen accidents of life afflict us, an incontrovertible instinct impels us to seek aid, sufficient protection to compensate those displeasures. And here, like a loving mother, our august Institution appears performing such a noble action, such an ineffable mission. Profane life awakens that instinct, and we come here in search of mutual help, fraternal aid from our brother, the lodge and society in general, and then we extend the hand to those who fall in the struggle, to repress the weeping of those who suffer, and confraternity rouses the courage of those that are oppressed by sorrow. When entering

the lodge we divest ourselves of pride, and we remove from ourselves the airs of haughtiness, forget offences, and clothe ourselves in the most modest apparel of humility. Thus we should be converted from enemies to brothers, and thus it will be more easy for us to clear the pathway of life of thorns and rough stones, and to walk therein with less fatigue and languidness. In Masonry the I is a plural; one body only with thousands of hands to extend and thousands of hearts to feel. The opinion of others when it is contrary to our own, is not an insult as it usually is in the profane world; what another thinks is, in the Masonic Temple, the result of freedom of thought, which never should even in the greatest divisions constitute any other thing than different phases of good intention and dissimilar ways of arriving within our Order of that pleasant goal of fraternity and love. If all men were to think alike, the brain would end by atrophy for want of exercise. We come here to the Masonic hearth, to the lodge, each one bringing his share of misfortune, to assist ourselves mutually, to strengthen ourselves to continue with new ardour the path of inclemency in the bitter street of life. Yes, Masonry has beautiful laws, and on us depends the practising of them and taking them to the land of realisation, and this we shall attain imitating the slow but constant labour of the drop of water, and as it at last perforates the rock which minute by minute it strikes, thus, with equal patience, if we do not dismay, we shall increase our progressive scientific and moral development, and we shall conquer our blessed redemption from the slavery of error.—Translated from the *Boletin Masonico* (Mexico), by Bro. Eli Broad, Lodge Nepean, N.S.W., for *Masonry*.

Obituary.

BRO. DELOITTE.

By the death on Tuesday, the 23rd ult., at Southall, of Bro. William Welch Deloitte, the founder of the firm of Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths, and Co., one of the oldest accountants in the country passes from our midst. The deceased, who was 80 years of age, commenced practice as a public accountant in 1845, and had, therefore, been in business for nearly half-a-century, when he retired from City life three years ago. In his early days Bro. Deloitte was engaged on the staff of the official assignee in bankruptcy of the City of London Court, but at the age of 26 he commenced practice in Basinghall-street. Bro. Deloitte took a great interest in the formation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, of which he was the President in the year 1889, having previously held the office of Vice-President for a period of four years, besides occupying a seat on the Council with one of his partners, Mr. J. G. Griffiths. He was also one of the founders, and, until his retirement from business, the President of the Chartered Accountants' Benevolent Association. For many years the deceased carried on business in Manchester under the style of Messrs. Deloitte and Halliday, and was a member of the old Manchester Society of Accountants. Some of the best known stockbrokers and accountants have passed through his office, and among the latter may be mentioned Mr. Charles J. Stewart, the clerk to the London County Council. During his business career Bro. Deloitte has had the handling of many large and important matters, and, indeed, it may be said that the present system of keeping English railway accounts is due very largely to his initiative when first called upon to act as professional accountant to the Great Western Railway Company about 45 years ago. He was also the originator of a system of hotel account-keeping which is now adopted by all large hotels both at home and abroad. Many of the older members of the profession will, no doubt, remember that it was he who investigated and unravelled the great frauds that were perpetrated on the Great Western Railway Company by Redpath in 1857, and on the Great Eastern Steamship Company in 1870. Bro. Deloitte was closely associated with the late Sir John Pender, Sir Richard Glass, Sir George Elliot, Sir Daniel Gooch, Mr. Cyrus Field, and the other pioneers of submarine telegraphy. He was a Freemason of many years' standing. Bro. Deloitte was possessed of a generous disposition, and in addition to building a church at Southall, where he had resided for the past 40 years, he also erected a number of almshouses for the poor in the Jubilee year.

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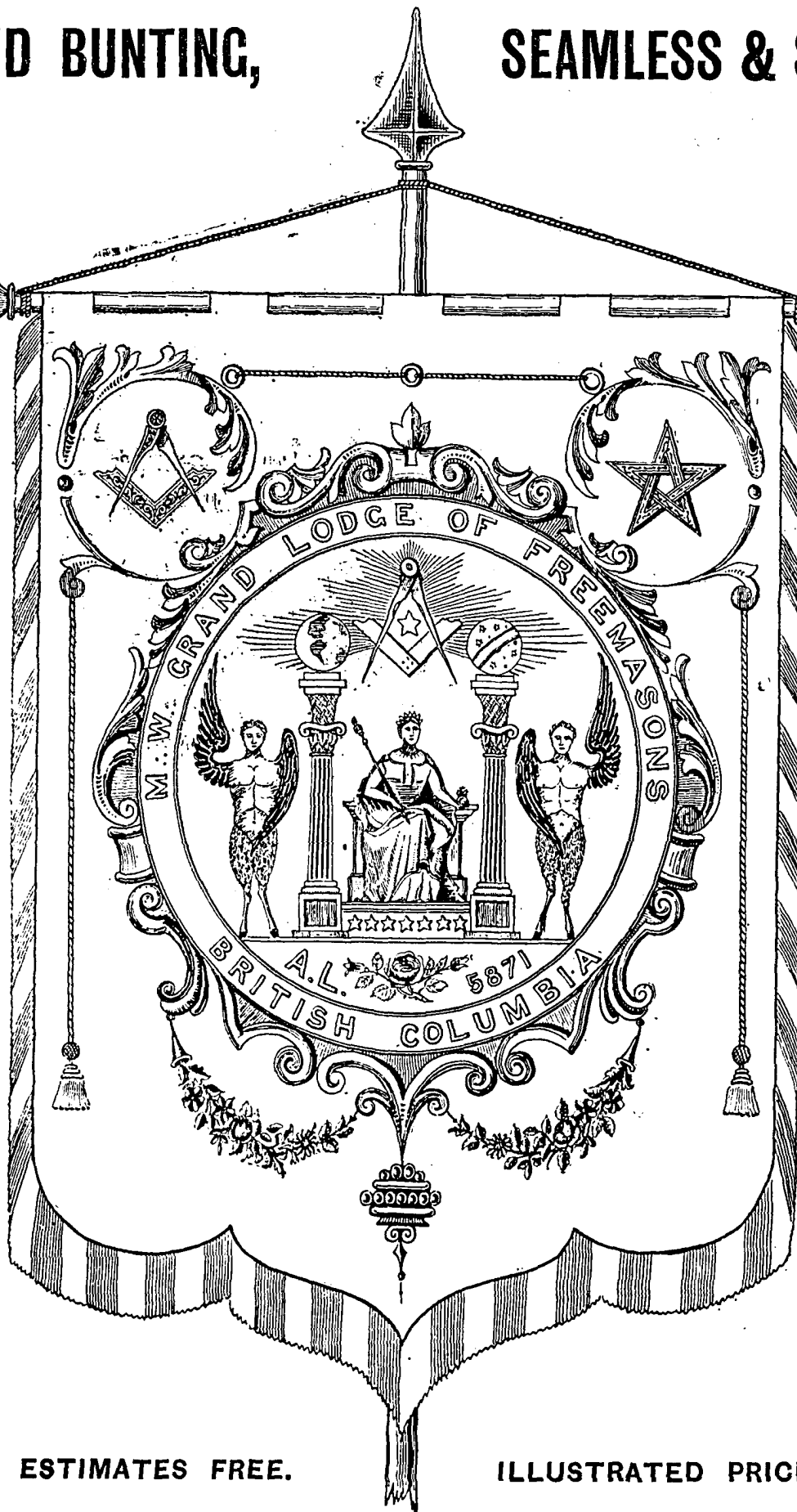
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Masonic and General Tidings.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK are expected to arrive at Copenhagen to-day (Friday).

BRO. ALDERMAN AND SHERIFF FRANK GREEN, P.G.D., and Mrs. Green have now returned to London from Harrogate.

BRO. THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE will be accompanied by the Duchess upon the occasion of his visit to Keighley to-morrow (Saturday), for the purpose of laying the first stone of an extension of the Keighley Hospital.

ISLINGTON LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1471.—The weekly meetings of this lodge will be resumed on Tuesday next, the 6th instant, at 7.30 p.m., at the Cock Tavern, Highbury. Bro. Walter Hancock, P.M. 2191, Preceptor.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, who holds the office of Prov. Grand Master of Gloucestershire, has arranged to consecrate a new lodge at Nailsworth on October 6th, and will afterwards lay, with Masonic ceremonial, the foundation-stone of a new church to be dedicated to St. George.

THE ANNUAL convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Northumberland will be held at the Masonic Hall, Norfolk-street, North Shields, on Wednesday, the 5th prox. The meeting will be presided over by the Grand Superintendent, the Right Hon. Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart., M.P., H.M.'s Secretary of State for the Home Department.

SUNDAY, the 28th ult., was the last Sunday show at the Guildhall Art Gallery, for the present season, of the loan collection of pictures of the French School. There was again a large attendance of interested sightseers, the number passing the turnstile between three and six o'clock being 1472, which brought up the grand total for the three months during which the pictures have been viewed to nearly 193,000 persons.

HER MAJESTY, on Saturday last, gave a fête to the labourers on the estate, the servants, and some of the men of the Royal yachts, in remembrance of the birthday of the beloved Prince Consort, of which the day previous was the anniversary. The people were provided with a dinner, after which there were rustic games and dancing. The Queen, accompanied by the Royal Family, drove to the Recreation Ground, and witnessed some of the sports. Lieut.-Col. Sir Arthur Bigge and Major the Hon. H. C. Legge, the Equerries-in-Waiting, were in attendance.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES was landed on Saturday last from the Royal yacht Osborne, which was anchored under the slopes of Mount Edgcombe Park. As this was the first time the Prince had left the yacht for three weeks, every possible precaution was taken to avoid an accident, and with complete success. Bro. the Earl of Mount Edgcombe, Viscount Valletort, Colonel the Hon. C. Edgcombe, Lady Ernestine Edgcombe, and Admiral Sir R. Macdonald were present to greet his Royal Highness, who was much amused at the novel method of landing. As soon as the horses were harnessed Lord Mount Edgcombe took his seat by the side of his Royal Highness in the carriage, which was driven up to Mount Edgcombe House. Remaining in the carriage the Royal visitor was subsequently taken through the park, the flower gardens, and the orangery. Shortly before seven o'clock his Royal Highness was safely conveyed back to the Osborne.

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE was present on Saturday afternoon last at the annual inspection of the 2nd Durham Seaham Volunteer Artillery, which took place at Seaham Harbour. The brigade was under the command of the Marquis of Londonderry, who is the Colonel Commandant, and among the officers present were Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Henry Vane Tempest and Major Lord Herbert Vane Tempest. After a most successful parade inspection, the Duke of Cambridge addressed the officers and men, and congratulated Lord Londonderry on the high state of efficiency to which the brigade had been brought. He sincerely hoped that the necessity for calling out the Volunteer forces would never arise, but if it were to, he was certain that they would each and all maintain the honour of their Queen and country. His Royal Highness also presented the prizes to the successful companies. On Sunday last the Duke attended a cyclists' church parade at Seaham Hall, the grounds having been lent for the occasion by the Marquis of Londonderry.

ON SATURDAY LAST a very interesting ceremony took place at the Viceroyal Lodge, Dublin. The Lord Lieutenant and Countess Cadogan received a number of nurses of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution, in order to confer upon them the distinctions awarded by the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England for their meritorious services last year on the Inishkea Islands, when the inhabitants of those comparatively remote and isolated districts were prostrated by a virulent epidemic of typhus fever. There was a large and fashionable assemblage. Frère Chevalier Francis Robert Davies, Senior Knight of Justice of the Order, and President of the Dublin centre of the St. John's Ambulance Association, who had been deputed by the Chapter to represent H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, who is Grand Prior, invested each of the ladies with the honorary rank of serving sister. Her Excellency subsequently decorated the nurses thus distinguished. Amongst those present at the ceremony were the Lord Chancellor of Ireland (Bro. Lord Ashbourne) and Lady Ashbourne, Field-Marshal Bro. Lord Roberts, Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon, and Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P.

THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY are making special arrangements in connection with the Doncaster Races. The usual service of 15 express trains will be maintained from London. On Monday, the 5th inst. additional expresses will leave King's Cross at 3.15 and 5.40 p.m. First and third-class luncheon cars will be attached to the special express leaving King's Cross at 9.40 a.m. on Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th, and Friday 9th, due Doncaster at 12.40. First and third-class dining cars will also be run on the special express leaving Doncaster at 6.5 p.m. on Tuesday 6th, Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th, due King's Cross 9.5 p.m., and on Friday 9th, on the 5.0 p.m. due King's Cross 8.0 p.m. First and third-class dining cars are also run on the 6.18 p.m. from Doncaster, due King's Cross 9.20 p.m. To enable visitors from town to return immediately after the last race on "Cup" day, Friday, the 9th instant, special express trains will leave Doncaster at 4.10, 4.40, and 5.0 p.m. Third-class passengers will be conveyed by all trains. On Wednesday, the 7th instant (St. Leger day), an excursion for one or three days will leave Woolwich (Arsenal) at 6.25 a.m., Woolwich (Dockyard), 6.27, Charlton, 6.30, Maze Hill, 6.35, Greenwich, 6.40, Deptford, 6.43, Blackheath, 6.20, New Cross, 6.30, Spa-road, 6.45, Moorgate, 6.37, Aldersgate, 6.39, Farringdon, 6.41, King's Cross (G.N.), 7.0; returning from Doncaster at 6.25 p.m. same day or "Cup" day (Friday), the 9th inst. For this trip the low fare of 12s. will be charged for third-class passengers. Tickets, bills, and all particulars can be obtained from any of the company's stations or town offices.

LA TOLERANCE LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 538.—This lodge of instruction will resume its usual Wednesday evening meetings at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, at 8 o'clock sharp, on Wednesday, the 7th inst.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN, who arrived at Victoria Station early on Wednesday morning on her return from Germany, went to Buckingham Palace for a few hours, and in the afternoon left Waterloo for Clouds, near Salisbury, on a visit to the Hon. Percy and Mrs. Wyndham.

THE LORD MAYOR (Bro. Alderman Davies, M.P.) brought his visit to Tenby to a close on Tuesday, when he left for London, en route for Marseilles, where he will join a steamer for a cruise in the Mediterranean, returning in about a fortnight. The Lady Mayoress will come back to London early this month.

THE CLAPTON LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1365, will commence its winter session to-day (Friday) at 7 p.m., at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool-street, and we can thoroughly recommend this lodge of instruction to all brethren desiring to become proficient in their Masonic work. Bro. W. Finch, senior P.M. of the Mother Lodge, is the able Preceptor.

AMONG THE guests at the garden party given by the Bishop of Salisbury at the Palace on Tuesday were the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the Earl and Countess of Pembroke, Lady Lucy Hicks-Beach, and Lady Luck. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught visited the cathedral, and viewed with interest the memorial window to the late Duke of Albany.

BRO. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, the Secretary of State for India, will shortly have to appoint a Bishop of Madras. Dr. F. Gell is about to retire, after 37 years' service. The jurisdiction of the Bishop of Madras extends over the entire Southern Presidency, and he has also the oversight of the congregations in the Nizam's dominions and in the State of Mysore.

AT A MEETING of the East Suffolk County Council on Tuesday Bro. Lord Heniker was presented with his portrait, painted in oils by Mr. A. S. Cope. His lordship was Chairman of the Council up to the time of his appointment to the governorship of the Isle of Man, and the portrait in question was subscribed for by over 300 residents in recognition of the valuable services he had rendered to the county. The picture, which is an excellent likeness, was exhibited at the Royal Academy.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CHESHIRE.—Bro. Earl Egerton of Tatton, Prov. G.M., has appointed the annual meeting to be held at the Literary Institute, Altrincham, on the 28th inst. The reports of the various Committees show that Cheshire Masons subscribed the sum of £3000 at the Centenary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and that contributions to the Cheshire Masonic Benevolent Fund, the Cheshire Educational Fund, and other objects have been as usual up to the average.

THE QUEEN on her journey from Osborne to Balmoral arrived at Ballater Junction at half-past one on Thursday. A large number of people had assembled outside the barrackade. Her Majesty, assisted by her Indian attendants, passed to her carriage, an open one, drawn by the well-known greys, and, accompanied by Princess Henry of Battenberg and followed by the other members of the Court, drove to Balmoral, which was reached shortly before three p.m.

HOMBURG appears to have been the chosen resort, during the past few weeks, of a not inconsiderable number of members of the Craft. Among the prominent Masons who might have been seen daily taking its health-giving waters were Bros. the Earl of Onslow, the Earl of Dartrey, the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Hon. Mr. Justice Bigham, S. Pope, Q.C., R. D. M. Littler, Q.C., Victor Williamson, E. Letchworth, Walter Harris, Alderman Newton, Major-General F. W. Blake, Col. J. G. Sandeman, Col. C. B. Hozier, Col. A. R. Wilson, J. M. Waldron, J. Smithers, Forbes Lankaster, C. Critchett, S. Green, and P. Hubbard.

WE HAVE great pleasure in calling attention to the excursion arrangements which the Midland Railway Company have made for the convenience of the public. Full particulars of these will be found in our advertisement columns, and we are satisfied will prove most acceptable. The arrangements include fortnightly excursions to Ireland, Scotland, and the North of England; weekly excursions to the Isle of Man; and excursions to the English Lake District, Buxton, Matlock, &c., the charges fixed being in all cases most moderate, while as to the excellence of the train service in respect of punctuality and comfort, this is far too well known and too generally recognised to need any further commendation.

BRIGHTER WEATHER prevailed at Plymouth on Tuesday, and, in company with Bro. the Earl of Mount Edgcombe, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was driven along Whitsand Bay, one of the nearest points on the Cornish coast to Barnpool. The other members of the Royal party visited Plymouth breakwater, and met the Prince, on his return, in the orangery at Mount Edgcombe, where the Royal visitors took leave of Lord Mount Edgcombe, Lady Ernestine Edgcombe, Viscount Valletort, and the other members of the house party. His Royal Highness and Princess Victoria, with Prince Nicholas and Princess Marie of Greece, re-embarked at a quarter to two, and half an hour later the Osborne cast off from the buoy and steamed slowly out into the Sound. The Prince witnessed the progress of some of the yacht races of the Royal Western Yacht Club. As the Osborne went out the Garden Battery at Mount Edgcombe, her Majesty's ship Cambridge, Gunnery School ship, and Plymouth Citadel fired Royal salutes of 21 guns. The Osborne left at three o'clock, passing along the deep-water channel inside Drake's Island, and went within easy sight of the Hoe and the pier, where hundreds had assembled, some to watch the yacht racing, and others to see the Royal craft leave Plymouth. Just before six o'clock the Royal yacht arrived at Dartmouth, and was moored in the harbour.

ANECDOTE OF LORD RAMSAY.—In the year 1836 Lord Ramsay was elected Grand Master of the Masons of Scotland, and proved one of the most zealous and most skilful Masons that ever presided over the Fraternity in any country. He is said to have paid such attention to the forms and ceremonies of the Institution as to have become a perfect adept in the details of all the Degrees. The circumstances which first led to his initiation into the Order are thus related: As his lordship, when a youth, was walking with his tutor, a clergyman, a wretched beggar, apparently a foreigner, entreated his charity. The clergyman turned round to question the mendicant, and in a moment grasped his hand with the most cordial kindness. Lord Ramsay was surprised. The stranger was a Freemason; he was fed, clothed, and supplied by the generous tutor—who was himself a member of the Order—with the means of transport to the coast of Syria, whence he stated that he had originally come. The circumstance of the mystic appeal, which, unobserved by him, had been made by the supplicant, and the prompt and effective response of his benefactor as soon as he had recognised a brother, made such an impression upon Lord Ramsay, that he determined to join as soon as possible an association so pregnant with good works.—*Exc.*

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