

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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THE APPROACHING SCHOOL ELECTIONS.

Within a week from the present time the autumn School Elections will have been held, and the hopes and fears of the candidates and their friends and supporters will be at rest. There will, of course, be the same full attendance of voters as is usual on these occasions, and no doubt there will be a considerable amount of excitement during the time the poll is open, but there is no marked disproportion between the number of candidates and the number of vacancies in the case of either School.

The election into the

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS

will take place at the Quarterly General Court of Governors and Subscribers, which will be held at Freemasons' Tavern on Thursday, the 13th October. The chair will be taken at the hour of noon, and at 1 p.m., or when the regular business of the meeting is over, a poll will be opened for the election of 13 from an approved list of 27 candidates, and will be closed at 3 p.m., after which time no voting papers can be received. Of the candidates, there are nine from London and three others in which it has a part interest with one of the Provinces. The remaining 15 hail from the Provinces or Districts Abroad. The London nine include No. 3, who polled 3349 votes at the last two elections; Nos. 10 and 11, who obtained 1204 and 1199 votes respectively in April; and Nos. 13, 17, 18, 20, 23, and 26, who are new candidates, and have had no previous experience of the ballot. The three in which London and a Province have a joint interest are No. 6, who has claims upon Kent and London, and obtained 2006 votes in April; and No. 19, with claims on London and Surrey; and No. 27, from North and East Yorkshire and London, whose names have been placed on the list since the last ballot. Of the 15 other candidates, Middlesex furnishes Nos. 21, 22, and 24; Essex two, of whom No. 1 has secured 2439 votes at the last two elections and No. 25 who is a new candidate; and West Lancashire two—Nos. 14 and 16, who are fresh cases. The other cases are as follows: No. 2, from Valparaiso, who stood as candidate in October, 1897, and again in April last, and has 989 votes standing to her credit; No. 4, from Kent, who scored 494 votes in April; No. 5, from Northumberland and Durham, who starts for her second ballot with 2788 votes already to her credit; No. 7, from Devonshire, who polled 1716 votes at the Spring election; No. 8, from Surrey, with 726 votes, who must win a place on this occasion or have her name removed from the list on the ground of age; and No. 9, who brings forward the 1539 votes she obtained in April last from her friends and supporters in Lincolnshire, North

and East Yorkshire, Surrey, and Staffordshire; No. 12, from Sussex, and No. 15, from West Yorkshire, who are both new cases, complete the list. In other respects the particulars furnished are of the usual character, that is to say, in about half the cases the candidate's father had been a subscribing member of a lodge or lodges for 10 years or upwards, and in several instances had held office in lodge or Provincial Grand Lodge, while in the other half he had subscribed for less than 10 years. There is perhaps a smaller proportion than usual in which the father had supported one or more of our Institutions as contributor or Steward, while of the total number, 23 are fatherless, one motherless, one has both parents living, and two have lost both.

For the election into the

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS,

which will take place at the Quarterly Court of Governors and Subscribers, which will be held at Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, the 14th October, at noon, precisely, there are 45 candidates, of whom 20 have been before the voters at one or more previous elections, and 25 have been approved, and had their names placed on the list since April, while the number of vacancies to be competed for is 26, a proportion which is rather more favourable to the candidate than in the case of the Girls' School. As regards distribution, London furnishes 15, and has a part interest in two others, and the other 28 are from the Provinces and Abroad. Of the purely London candidates, No. 4 has accumulated 1643 votes at his three previous attempts, while Nos. 7 and 10 have taken part in two ballots, with the result that the former starts with 16 votes in hand, and the latter with 824 votes. Nos. 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, and 20, were candidates for the first time in April, and severally obtained 122, 431, 555, 304, 315, and 376 votes, but of these No. 13 has only this one chance of gaining admission, and his friends must bestir themselves if they desire to carry his case through successfully. Nos. 22, 23, 24, 35, 40, and 44 are all new cases, but if their circumstances remain as they are now they will all of them have further opportunities allowed them of winning admission if they should happen to be left out in the cold on this occasion. The two boys in whom London has a part interest are No. 15, who obtained 731 votes from his friends in the Metropolis and Metropolitan Province of Middlesex, and No. 42, a new case, with claims on London and Surrey.

As regards the cases furnished from the country and abroad, West Lancashire, Hants and the Isle of Wight, Staffordshire, East Lancashire, and West Yorkshire are each of them responsible for two, the West Lancashire pair being No. 3, who has 25 votes from three previous attempts, and a new case at No. 39. The two from Hants and the Isle of Wight, have 18 and two votes to their respective credits, but the latter will have his name removed from the list in the event of his failing to win a place this time. Staffordshire sends Nos. 27 and 28; East Lancashire Nos. 32 and 38; and West Yorkshire Nos. 37 and 45—all of the six being before the electors for the first time. The rest are as follows: No. 1 (Devonshire), with 589 votes to his credit from four elections; No. 2 (Buckinghamshire) and No. 5 (Herefordshire), with 134 and five votes respectively to their credit from three elections; Nos. 8 (Essex) and No. 9 (Northumberland), with 1748 and 225 votes respectively to the good from two elections, of whom the Essex lad has only this one chance remaining of success; and No. 12 (Cornwall), who was a candidate in April, and brings forward 38 votes for his

last effort next month; and No. 19 (Northumberland and South Wales, E.D.), who was also a candidate in April, when he polled 794 votes. The others are all fresh cases, and include No. 21 (Durham and Bucks); No. 25 (Auckland, N.Z.); No. 26 (Lincolnshire); No. 29 (Cambridgeshire); No. 30 (Worcestershire); No. 31 (Suffolk); No. 33 (Sussex); No. 34 (Kent); who has only this one chance of securing election; No. 36 (South Wales, E.D.); No. 41 (Gloucestershire); and No. 43 (N. and E. Yorkshire.) In rather more than half the cases the boy's father had been a subscribing member of a lodge or lodges for 10 years or longer, and the remainder for less than 10 years. In several cases too, the father had held office in lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge, and in a fair proportion of them he had contributed to or acted as Steward for one or more of our Institutions. Of the whole 45 boys, 40 are fatherless, three have both parents living, and two have lost both.

We close these remarks with the usual appeal on behalf of the children who must win places at the approaching election or have their names removed from the list altogether. They are, in the case of the Girls' School, No. 8, and in that of the Boys' School, Nos. 8, 12, 13, 17, and 34, and we trust those voters who have not already promised to support a case or cases will give their votes and use their influence in aiding these half dozen children, so that none of them may be sent empty away.

IMPORTANT MASONIC GATHERING IN BOMBAY.

JUBILEE OF ST. GEORGE LODGE, No. 549.

The members of the above lodge, the premier Masonic lodge of this city, celebrated the Jubilee of the lodge on the evening of Tuesday, the 16th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Byculla, in the presence of a large and influential gathering of the members of the Craft. The refreshment-room on the ground-floor was transformed for the occasion into a fashionable reception hall, which was decorated with flags and bunting, and embellished with flowers and evergreens, which were skilfully worked in elegant Masonic symbols and designs. On the staircase leading up to the first floor was surmounted a transparency with the words "Welcome to the Jubilee of Lodge 'St. George'" inscribed on it. Representatives of about a dozen lodges working in Bombay under the English as well as Scotch Constitutions were invited, and they all mustered in full force to do honour to the occasion. It was a cosmopolitan gathering of Europeans, Parsees, Hindoos, and Mahomedans.

The lodge was opened at 6.30 p.m. for the transaction of business laid down in the summons convening the meeting, which was presided over by Bro. F. C. Allen, the W.M. of the lodge. At the termination of the business, Bro. R. S. Brown, a Past Master of the lodge, in addressing the brethren, said that on an occasion like the present, when the lodge was celebrating the Jubilee of the 50 years of its existence, he would make a few observations previous to his moving a short resolution congratulating the lodge and the W.M. on that auspicious event. It did not fall to everyone's lot to be present, and still less to be present in his own lodge, on the occasion of the accomplishment of the Jubilee of 50 years of its existence. The period might not appear long compared with the time immemorial during which their Fraternity had existed, nor could it be long in comparison with the history of the countries and races to which they all belonged; but at the same time it was a circumstance which did not always obtain in the case of all human institutions, and it was therefore a matter of great congratulation to themselves, and he hoped to the Fraternity generally, that they had been permitted during the last 50 years, and without any interruption, to carry on the work of Freemasonry in Bombay. (Applause.) He would not detain the brethren by any lengthy remarks, but he might however observe that it must have occurred to their minds, as it had occurred to his mind, that the experience of the last 50 years transcended the experience of a majority of the brethren present that evening, the long period carrying them back to the time when Bombay, and for the matter of that the whole of India, must have been in a very different condition than what they were in the present. The changes made in Bombay as regarded its buildings, its government, its trade, and its general advancement, must have been immense. As regards its connection with the Western world, it should not be forgotten that in those days it took them a period of three or four months to accomplish the voyage which had now been reduced to a few days. The prosperity of the town, though slightly eclipsed at the present moment, had advanced by leaps and bounds, and it was a matter of congratulation that side by side with the prosperity and general advancement of the town, Freemasonry had also taken a deep root in the city, and Lodge St. George had not only survived, but had increased in its number and influence. (Applause.) He thought that they might fairly consider that while, on the one hand, it should inspire them with gratitude that Providence had enabled them to carry on the work of the lodge for such a long period, they should, on the other hand, look forward with confidence that if all the changes that had taken place during that time had resulted in an enormous spread of Freemasonry, they might also confidently believe that in the future the same progress might be continued. (Applause.) He then proposed that the Worshipful Master be asked to accept the congratulations of the lodge over which he had the good fortune to preside at a time when it had reached the 50th year of its existence, and that the members of the lodge expressed their gratitude for favours received and their confidence in the usefulness of the lodge in the future. (Loud applause.)

Bro. H. J. PARSONS seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The lodge having been closed, dinner was served, covers being laid for about 80 members. The table was most tastefully and artistically decorated, being adorned with many of the silver trophies belonging to the Worshipful Master, and the *tout ensemble* reflected the greatest credit on Mrs. Arnold Jenkins, who had spent much time and trouble in superintending the arrangements.

The following is a list of members of the lodge and guests who had accepted the invitations, and who were almost all present at the banquet:

Bros. E. C. B. Acworth, F. C. Allen, R. S. Brown, E. Comber, Commander T. G. R. Finny, A. H. B. Froom, W. L. Harvey, R. A. Arnold Jenkins, H. E. John, Hon. Mr. Justice Parsons, I. M. Shields, J. W. Smith, R. M. Watson Smyth, Sydney Cope, G. A. Gerrard, Jas. Mumford, G. A. Prier de Saone, Surgeon-Capt. W. G. Hojel, A. S. Leresche, S. E. Prall, G. Hay, C. D. Furdoonjee, Amirudin Tyebjee, G. Hepworth, T. W. Cuffe, D. R. Chichgar, Bomonjee F. Wadia, Bapojee R. Wadia, E. Shapoorjee Saher, Alexander Mackenzie, R. W. Sharp, J. F. Saunders, Thomas Counsell, E. W. Fern, N. N. Wadia, George Mackenzie, J. A. Brandon, A. B. Talpute, Dr. Framjee J. Patell, Cursetjee H. Captain, Cowasjee Wookerjee Kharas, James Dunlop, F. M. Coleman, N. R. Chichgar, A. Waller, E. J. Smith, A. Pell, P. N. Wadia, Captain C. D. Wise, D. R. Tata, W. W. Wilson, F. Hogan, R. Ditchbourne, Manekjee F. Setna, Shrivaxa S. Batliwalla, Ardesir S. Engineer, H. R. Hoyles, J. W. Seager, C. W. Richardson, A. F. Kidney, L. A. Macaulay, R. M. Chichgar, G. W. Street, Jas. Tate, Ardasir Pestonjee Davar, M. H. Mody, C. Beresford, and Surgeon-Major W. H. Quicke.

At 8.15 p.m. the string band of the 21st Bombay Infantry, which was present by the kind permission of the officers of the regiment, played "The roast beef of England." The proceedings of the evening were much enlivened by the band playing a few selections and some of the brethren giving songs and recitations during the intervals. At the termination of the dinner,

Bro. F. C. ALLEN, the W.M., who presided at the banquet, gave the toast of "The Queen-Empress and the Craft," which was cordially received.

The W.M. then proposed the toasts of "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M.;" "The Grand Master Masons of Scotland and Ireland;" "H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught and Straithnairn, District Grand Master of Bombay and its Territories;" and "H.E. Lord Sandhurst, Pro District Grand Master of Bombay," and they were all duly honoured by the brethren.

Bro. R. S. BROWN next proposed the toast of "The Grand Master and Officers of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India," observing that they were always welcome to Lodge St. George.

Bro. J. W. SMITH, P.G.M. of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, in replying to the toast, said that Bro. Brown had taken the wind out of his sails, inasmuch as he said all that could be said about the Jubilee of Lodge St. George in his excellent oration which he delivered in the lodge. Speaking for H.E. Lord Sandhurst, the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, he said that nothing could have given greater pleasure to his Excellency than to be present at the Jubilee of Lodge St. George, but that the exigencies and business of the State only had prevented him from visiting the lodge.

The W.M. next proposed the toast of "The Deputy District Grand Master and his Officers." He said that he was sure the name of Bro. Shields required no recommendation from him. (Cheers.) He was known throughout the whole of India in the ranks of Freemasonry for the lively interest and constant thought that he had given to the Craft, not only in the present time, but also in the past. Bro. Shields had always lent the very greatest assistance, and had enabled Freemasonry to attain the present position that it had acquired in Bombay. (Cheers.) His interest in Freemasonry had been far-reaching, and he (the W.M.) could personally testify to the fact that his advice to him and other young Freemasons was of a most valuable kind, and he spared neither time nor trouble in furthering the interest of the Craft. (Cheers.) In asking the assembly to drink to the health of Bro. Shields, he asked them to drink to the health of a brother who was distinguished for everything good in Freemasonry. (Cheers.) Bro. Shields was surrounded by many worthy officers, and the able way in which they assisted him to carry out his duties was proved by the very prosperous condition in which Freemasonry in that Presidency stood at the present moment. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. SHIELDS, in reply, said that he thought the W.M. in proposing his toast had somewhat overdrawn the picture which he had painted. (Cries of "No," "no.") He had always endeavoured ever since he came to Bombay, and long before he ever accepted the important post he filled at the present time, to do whatever he could for Freemasonry and the various lodges with which he had been connected. In his present position he was supported by a body of Freemasons who had long experience, and who had served the Craft in various capacities, and who had proved their ability in the chairs of various lodges, and who now supported the Grand Master in his duties with great zeal and assiduity. The District Officers recently visited with him some of the lodges in the mofussil at a great sacrifice of time and money, which showed that they had the interest of the Craft at heart. (Cheers.)

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER then proposed the toast of "The Past Masters of Lodge St. George," and in doing so referred to the long list of distinguished Past Masters who maintained the prestige and dignity of the lodge.

Bro. H. J. PARSONS, in responding to the toast on behalf of the Past Masters, remarked that the lodge was particularly fortunate in always possessing a grand stock of Past Masters. When he entered the lodge in the early eighties they were almost entirely Past Masters, and the lodge was almost kept up by Past Masters. At that time Lodge St. George was, if not the most hospitable, one of the most hospitable lodges in Bombay. At the time when he entered the lodge the late Bro. Tyrrel Leith, whom they all knew and held in high esteem was the Grand Master, and since then they had H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught at the head of affairs, and now they had H. E. Lord Sandhurst for their Grand Master—(cheers)—the latter two being members of Lodge St. George. Freemasonry in general was flourishing in Bombay, and Lodge St. George showed a record such as no other lodge could show in regard to its charitable subscriptions, and its subscriptions to the new Masonic hall building, in the completion of which they all took so much interest. He hoped that the lodge would continue to flourish, and he had no doubt whatever that everyone present there would have the happy recollection of that evening. (Cheers.)

Bro. I. M. SHIELDS then proposed the toast of success to "Lodge St. George of Bombay and the Worshipful Master," and in doing so he gave

a sketch of its formation and early history. complimenting the lodge upon the uniform support it had given to the Masonic Charities, and its services to English Masonry, which it had been the means of fostering in Bombay, and concluded by saying that in the hands of its present Master, Bro. Allen, who had brought to his task of guiding the destinies of the lodge during the current year energy, ability, and courtesy, equal to any of his predecessors in the chair, there was every reason to believe that the lodge would continue to prosper. (Loud cheers).

The brethren having duly honoured the toast, sang "For he is a jolly good fellow," and gave three cheers for the lodge and one for the Worshipful Master.

Bro. F. C. ALLEN, the W.M., in reply, said: Brethren,—It is a proud privilege for so young a Mason as myself to be placed in the position of being able to return thanks to the toast which has been so eloquently proposed by Bro. Shields, and it is a still prouder privilege for the members of Lodge St. George to welcome as their guests this evening so many prominent members of the Craft to assist in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the warrant under which our lodge has been permitted to work for the past half century in Bombay. (Applause.) Questions that have doubtless been put to many of us at one time or another by the popular world who are not Masons are, "What is the good of Freemasonry?" and, "What do you gain by becoming a member of the brotherhood?" Such questions are difficult to answer in a convincing manner; but I think that the present occasion is one which most of us might quote as pointing to an all-powerful tie which, in spite of 50 years of vicissitude in a country which must of necessity see many changes in its European inhabitants—a tie which, I say, has enabled a Masonic lodge of Englishman to hold together in a foreign land for the long period of 50 years. (Cheers.) Many of us enter the bonds of Masonry from a feeling of curiosity and a desire to know what the peculiar secrets of the Craft are, and when those mysteries have once been ascertained, it is optional for any brother to take his vows away with him and never again attend a lodge of Freemasons; but, strange as it may appear to the outside world, the value of our art becomes greater as we know more of it, the great beauties of our faith grow, and we linger and remain, and, I venture to say, that no man who once becomes a Mason ever regrets the step he has taken. (Cheers.) The annals of Lodge St. George include the names of many men who have helped to build up the history of this city of Bombay and to render it one of the foremost in the world. Many of the most prominent men of their time, whether it was in 1848 or the present year, have had their names enrolled amongst its list of members, and, as I said just now, the bond of Masonry must be great indeed if a small lodge like this of St. George can boast a history which includes such names as the late Bros. James Gibbs, Tyrrel Leith, and Harold King—(applause)—and of the present time H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught and H. E. Lord Sandhurst. (Cheers.) "Masonry universal" is a sentiment which we brethren in this country can fully appreciate; but it was left to our Bro. Dunn to bring home to the Masons of England the true meaning of the expression on the occasion when our English brethren met together at the Albert Hall in London to celebrate the 60th year of the reign of her Majesty the Queen Empress. (Applause.) In responding to one of the toasts he was able to say that a long residence in the East had enabled him to discover that the ties of the Craft were more powerful than any other bond, whether it was creed, caste, or lineage, and that the light of Masonry had permitted him to meet men of all religions on the same grounds of equality and even to break down the prejudices of Shylock, who it will be remembered said:

"I will not eat, drink, nor pray with you,"

because he was not of the Christian faith; but the tenets of our peculiar laws render such restrictions impossible, and we brethren of the Craft meet on common ground—the ground of natural equality and mutual dependence. (Applause.) Brethren, I am glad to be able to say that the history of Lodge St. George in the present year is not likely to be dimmed by any of its forerunners. We have many ardent members, and every meeting we hold speaks to the fervency of the brethren who belong to it. It is a long cry to 1948, but when that year comes, and I hope that many of you will be present when it does—(laughter and applause)—and the lodge has completed a century of existence—(cheers)—I am confident that whoever has the honour to be the Master on that occasion will be able to render a good account of the lodge in the meanwhile. (Hear, hear.) Before I sit down I would beg to thank you most heartily and humbly for the kind way in which you have drunk my health, and to say that whilst the welfare of this lodge is my welfare, it would be impossible for the lodge to be in its present state of prosperity were it not for the able and kind support I have received during the time I have been in the chair from my officers and the members as a body. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. SHIELDS then gave the toast of "The Visitors," and while doing so observed that the W.M. had invited the visitors to the centenary of the lodge, and he (Bro. Shields) only hoped that they would all be able to attend. (Laughter and cheers.) In coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Darasha R. Chichgar, he said that that brother was well known to them all, and his excellent services to Freemasonry were probably greater than those of any other brother in Bombay. (Cheers.) To Bro. Chichgar they owed a great debt of gratitude for assisting them that evening in their preparations, and to him the Craft generally owed a great debt for the exertions he had made both in the past and present as Secretary and Treasurer of the Joint Hall Committee, and more especially for the very great help he had given in raising the fund for the building of the new hall, which they soon hoped to occupy. (Cheers.) There was also another distinguished Mason present—Bro. Tate—who he hoped would be benefited in health by his being transferred to Bombay from S'nd. (Cheers.) There was also Bro. Counsell, who was one of the oldest Past Masters in English Freemasonry in Bombay, and one to whom the lodge was particularly indebted. (Cheers.) He coupled the names of Bros. Chichgar, Tate, and Counsell with the toast of the visitors.

Bros. DARASHA CHICHGAR, TATE, and COUNSELL responded to the toast, and in doing so wished prosperity to the lodge, which was second to none as regards its Charities and working the rituals.

The W.M. then gave the toast of the Tyler, which was drunk in solemn silence, and the brethren separated sometime after midnight.—*The Times of India.*

THE EMPRESS FREDERIC will be the guest of the Queen next month in Scotland. Her Majesty crosses the North Sea in the Royal yacht Victoria and Albert, which leaves Portsmouth about the 28th inst for Flushing, in order to convey her to England. The Empress will probably make a short stay at Buckingham Palace on her way to Balmoral.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution held their usual monthly meeting at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the business transacted being of a purely formal character. The Secretary reported the deaths of three annuitants (two male and one widow) and one accepted candidate, while the Warden's Report for the past month recorded the fact of Bro. C. E. Keyser, P.G.D., having sent 18 brace of partridges for distribution among the inmates at Croydon.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. H. HARDMAN, P.M. 606, P.P.A.G. SEC. NORTH WALES.

The above pleasing event took place at the Ship Restaurant, Charing Cross on Saturday, the 10th instant, on the occasion of Bro. H. Hardman, P.M. 606, H. 1275, P.P.A.G. Sec. North Wales, and P.P.S.G.W. (Mark) North Wales, leaving England for a Government appointment as master of a boarding school in India, Bengal Presidency.

Among those present were Bros. T. Grumman, P.M. 1559, President; W. Cowley, P.M. 1559, Vice-President; T. R. Cass, P.M. 1320; C. N. McI. North, P.M. 1559; W. Eckersall, P.M. 217; C. H. Stone, P.M. 507; J. Witty, J.W.; G. Benedetti, P.Z. 1275; Horley, P.M.; Frank Swinford, W.M. elect 2272; and A. Bonaldi, S.D. 1559.

After a *recherche* banquet, personally attended to by Bro. Bonaldi, the proprietor,

Bro. GRUMMAN, President, gave the toast of "The Queen" in loyal and Masonic terms, and, in proposing that of "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W. G.M.," very feelingly alluded to his recent severe accident, and expressed an earnest wish for his speedy recovery.

Bro. GRUMMAN next proposed the toast of the evening—that of "Taking a Loving Farewell of our dear Bro. Hardman and wishing him God-speed." He said he was delighted to see such a happy gathering, so quickly called together and most readily responded to, to wish success and prosperity to one so deserving. Bro. Hardman had endeared himself to many, but to none more than to the members of the Star Chapter, of which he was H., and would have been installed First Principal in January next. He was one of those companions whom once knowing you would love and respect, and if ever a brother left his native land with every good feeling towards him that was Bro. Hardman. Although he had accepted an excellent appointment some 16,000 miles away, it was the hearty desire of all present, and many others who were not Masons who were unable to attend, that his future career would be one of great success and happiness, and that the G.A. O.T.U. would spare him to return to his native land. In order that he might feel in touch with his many friends, although in India, but still a part of the Mother Country, the companions of the Star Chapter and others had placed their photos in a beautifully-bound album, which he (the President) had the greatest pleasure in presenting, with the feeling that he might look upon the faces of many who were dearest to him and who were present with him in spirit.

Bro. WM. ECKERSALL, P.M., also most feelingly eulogised the many excellent qualities of Bro. H. Hardman, whom he had known for upwards of 21 years and had always admired. They had worked together for several years, he never had a better co-worker, or one so modest yet still so masterful.

In reply, Bro. HARDMAN, with feelings of emotion, said his remarks would be very few. He had no idea of meeting such a number of brethren and hearing so many kind remarks from the President and Bro. Eckersall, for whom he had the highest respect. His services would be given to the country to which he had been appointed but which was no foreign one. His salary he was pleased to state would be bettered about three times and at the expiration he hoped to return to the bosom of his friends again and receive the pension he would be entitled to. For their kindness in presenting the splendid album he expressed his heartfelt thanks, and which he was assured would keep him in touch with so many dear friends.

Bro. C. H. STONE, P.M., next proposed the toast of "The Bro. President" in terms of high appreciation, both for geniality and excellent services rendered to Freemasonry, especially the Royal Arch. For the manner he had conducted the whole of the circumstances connected with the happy meeting he deserved the highest praise.

The toast was most cordially received.

In reply, Bro. GRUMMAN thanked all present and remarked it was one of the most pleasant meetings he had ever presided over. There was no one for whom he could do more than Bro. Hardman, and again he wished him God-speed and asked him to remember that although in India he was still an Englishman, under the control of the Grand Lodge of England, and that we were still fully in touch with him whenever we went to Great Queen-street. He was thankful to preside over the meeting for such an object, and it was the earnest wish of all present that Bro. Hardman would be blessed with health and strength and have a most successful career.

"The Health of Bro. Bonaldi and Mrs. Bonaldi" was drunk and very suitably replied to by Bro. BONALDI.

Bro. Frank Swinford added considerably to the harmony by singing a composition of his own, entitled "Night patrol," which was rapturously received.

THE OLD MASONIANS' VISIT TO BUSHEY.

The Old Masonians' Cricket Club concluded their season on Saturday last, with their third annual summer gathering, which took place at Northwood. Favoured with delightful weather, a very enjoyable time was spent by the Old Masonians and their friends, the feature of the outing being the drive taken to Bushey, where the Old Boys had an opportunity of visiting the site of the new School, which they considered a magnificent spot for so worthy an Institution. After leaving Bushey, they continued their drive through Watford, Rickmans, worth, Backer Heath, and Moor Park, returning thence to the Northwood Hotel.

The Northwood Hotel was found to be a very suitable rendezvous. Mr. Higgs, the proprietor, catered for his visitors in a pleasing manner, whilst the surrounding country walks added to the attractions of the place. Various games, &c., were indulged in, amongst which an egg and spoon race caused much merriment. In the evening songs and selections on the piano and mandoline brought another enjoyable gathering to a close.

Mr. J. Swinford Francis, the President of the club, was unavoidably prevented from being present, but Bro. Sholto H. Hare, Vice-President, accompanied the party. We hear that Bro. Hare has taken a very kindly interest in the Old Masonians, therefore, it was a source of great pleasure to have their Vice-President amongst them on this occasion. Bro. Henry Stiles was also present, and took a photograph of those present.

The arrangements of the gathering were ably carried out by Messrs. Gough, Lewis, and Barber, Hon. Sec.

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Masonic Notes.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1898.

The annual convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Hertfordshire will take place at the Four Swans' Hotel, Waltham Cross, on Saturday, the 13th October, at the hour of 5.30 p.m. The business will consist chiefly of the appointment and investiture of officers for the ensuing year. The entertaining chapter is the James Terry, No. 2372, which will meet earlier in the day for the installation of Principals and investiture of officers.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Sussex will this year be held at Lewes, the date approved by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, K.G., Prov. G. Master, being Friday, the 28th October. A hearty welcome will be given to his Royal Highness, who will be met on his arrival at the station shortly after 1 p.m. by the Mayor and Corporation in state. After inspecting the Masonic Museum, his Royal

Highness will be entertained at luncheon at the Town Hall, after which Prov. G. Lodge will be opened and the business of the day, including the appointment and investiture of the new Provincial Grand Officers, will be transacted. In the evening the brethren will give an entertainment at the Assembly Rooms. The South Saxon and Pelham Lodges, Nos. 311 and 1303 respectively, will share between them the responsibility of entertaining Prov. G. Lodge.

For the third week in succession we have had the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of a newly-published work on Masonry of great interest and importance to the Craft generally. The first was Bro. Henry Sadler's "Masonic Reprints and Historical Revelations," a brief summary of the contents of which was contained in our leading article of the 10th instant. This was followed by an elaborate "History of Union Lodge, Norwich, No. 52," by Bros. Lord Amherst of Hackney, P.G.W., and Hamon Le Strange, P.G.D., D.P.G.M. Norfolk, two of its Past Masters. This week it is the "History of the Ancient Masonic Lodge of Scoon and Perth, No. 3 (Lodge of Scone)," by Bro. D. Crawford Smith, F.S.A. (Scot.), the Secretary of the lodge, with an Introduction by Bro. W. J. Hughan, P.G.D. This, which forms a large and handsome volume, we shall take the first available opportunity of reviewing, and, as the lodge dates from the 17th century, we prognosticate that the task will be a most pleasurable one, and profitable withal. We gladly express our thanks to the author for affording us the opportunity of studying his work.

It is matter for satisfaction that the burning question of New Zealand and the recognition of its Grand Lodge has at length passed its final stage, and that the schism which had so long disunited the Craft in that Colony has been determined. It will now be the fault of the brethren out there if we hear of dissensions amongst them in the future. The terms of recognition are so clearly set forth in the document which was read out in Grand Lodge and published in our report last week, that it will be extremely difficult for either of the contracting parties to misinterpret them. More especially is this the case as regards the right conceded to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand to grant warrants for new lodges, it being stipulated that neither that body nor its Grand Master shall grant any "out of the five Districts referred to or the Colony."

As regards Bro. Eve's remarks, while we respect the consistency with which he has supported the rights and privileges of the English lodges in the Colony, we are convinced there is little, if any, ground for the misgivings in which he permits himself to indulge. It would be too much to expect that the bitterness of feeling engendered by the recent severe conflict in New Zealand should pass away *instantly*. But the fact, to which we adverted last week, that one of our English District Grand Masters, when he found the New Zealand Constitution had been recognised by our Grand Lodge, took the opportunity of attending the installation of Bro. the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, P.C., the Premier of the Colony, as M.W. Grand Master, may be taken as evidence that the brethren of the English Constitution are prepared to loyally accept the new order of things; and we may reasonably hope that, with a renewal of intercourse, all soreness between the several sections of the Masonic community will slowly but surely, die out. As we have said in the preceding paragraph, it will be the brethren's own fault if dissensions arise in the future.

But we are sanguine enough to hope that no such evil will follow. Our Grand Lodge has shown itself to be actuated by a genuine spirit of conciliation. It is a powerful body, and would have had no difficulty in prolonging the schism, and with it, of course, all the unpleasant consequences to Masonry which none would have more sincerely regretted than Bro. Eve. But instead of doing this, it has realised that it was possible to recognise this new Grand Lodge, and so help to promote the general interests of the Craft, without abandoning the just claims of the English lodges and brethren to its protection.

We are pleased to know that Bro. Lamonby's motion that, with a view to better insuring "the preservation of the rights and privileges of minorities and to prevent subsequent disputes," lodge warrants shall not be cancelled for a period of three months after their receipt by the Grand Secretary. Bro. Lamonby, who speaks with authority from the

experience he acquired during his sojourn in one of our Australasian colonies, put the matter clearly enough when he said that "a great mistake was made in leaving the warrants there to be fought and struggled for." We have heard of more than one case in which the wishes and opinions of a minority have been overborne; but the acceptance of the motion will go some way towards preventing the possibility of this in the future by giving the minority time to lay their views before Grand Lodge.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire will be held in St. Mary's Hall, Coventry, on Tuesday, the 4th October, under the auspices of the Stoneleigh Lodge, No. 725. In the course of the proceedings the brethren will march in procession to Holy Trinity Church, where Divine service will take place, and a sermon be preached by Bro. the Rev. Thomas Downing, M.A., Prov. G. Chap., after which a collection will be made in behalf of the Warwickshire Masonic Benevolent and Pupils' Aid Fund. A banquet will be held at the Craven Arms Hotel, at 5.30 p.m.

The Supreme Grand Chapter of the Grand Cross of Constantine for the United States of America is to assemble in the Scottish Rite Cathedral, Cincinnati, Ohio, on Tuesday, the 20th instant, at 3 p.m. General John C. Smith is the Grand Sovereign and Bro. Charles K. Francis is the Grand Registrar General. The two other prominent officers are his Honour Judge Josiah H. Drummond, Grand Viceroy, and Bro. Marquis F. King, Grand Treasurer.

It is intended to hold a Grand Masonic Bazaar and Fancy Fair in Ulster Hall, Belfast, on Thursday, the 27th October, and two following days, with the object of clearing off the debt on the new Masonic Hall in that city. The patronage has already been secured of the Grand Lodge of Ireland and the Provincial Grand Lodges of Antrim and Down, and we have every reason to hope that the Craft generally throughout Ireland will render all the assistance in its power towards so worthy an object. All necessary particulars are to be had of Bro. R. B. Andrews, Hon. Secretary, 104, Clifton Park Avenue, Belfast.

We have much pleasure in acknowledging our indebtedness to Bro. John T. Thorp, P.M., Sec., for copy of the Transactions of the Lodge of Research, No. 2429, Leicester, for the year 1897-8. The volume is bulkier than usual owing to there being appended the "Memorials of Lodge, No. 91 (Antients, Leicester)," together with Detailed List of Members, 1761-1821, which Bro. Thorp himself has compiled so ably and with so much care and accuracy and of which there recently appeared in these columns an appreciative review from the pen of Bro. W. J. Hughan, P.G.D. The lodge is quite young, having been founded on the lines of Lodge Quatuor Coronati, No. 2076, in the year 1892, but it has done some very successful work during the brief period of its existence, and we anticipate for it, not without reason, a long and prosperous career.

The Transactions date from the 5th Anniversary Festival on the 27th September, 1897, when Bro. R. Pratt, M.D., was installed in office as W.M. by the retiring Master, Bro. S. S. Partridge, P.A.G.D.C., D. Prov. G.M. Leicestershire and Rutland, and when the officers for the year had been appointed and invested, Bro. John Lane, P.A.G.D.C., who is a member of the Correspondence Circle of the lodge, read a highly instructive paper entitled "Some Aspects of Early English Freemasonry (Esoteric)." The subject was treated very exhaustively, and on the conclusion of the discussion which followed, a hearty vote of thanks to Bro. Lane was passed *nem. con.*

At the November meeting, the S.W., Bro. F. W. Billson, LL.B., read a paper entitled "Masonic Ritual and Ceremonies: their antiquity as judged by internal evidence;" but neither in this case nor in that of Bro. Lane's paper has it been possible to give more than a very guarded idea of what was said. The papers presented at the January, March, and May meetings were contributed by Bro. Pratt, the W.M., on "The Grand Lodges of England" (First Part); by Bro. Thorp, on "The Provincial Grand Masters of Rutland, 1776-1823;" and by Bro. R. B. Starkey, on "The Christian Element in Ancient Freemasonry." The volume also contains lists of official members and members of the Correspondence Circle, as well as other useful matter.

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.

RORKE OR ROOKE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

The valuable collection of hitherto unpublished Masonic papers in Bro. Sadler's new volume clearly indicates that we have not yet reached the end of our historical investigations. The work will doubtless be reviewed by experts, whom I have no intention to forestal in any way, except to express my own personal congratulations to Bro. Sadler upon his new venture.

My special object in writing now is to call attention to a sentence in Bro. Chetwode Crawley's most able Introductory Chapter. Into the scope of the argument it is unnecessary to enter. I only desire to point out that his reference on page xvi. to "one gentleman of unmistakeable Irish patronymic 'Ger[ald] Rorke, Esq.,'" appears to me to be an error, for in a copy of the names of the members of the lodges comprised in the Third Manuscript List of 1731-2 (not 1730, see my *Handy Book*, pp. 20-23), made by me many years ago, it is clearly written "Geo. Rooke, Esq.," and as "George Rooke, Esq." was one of the Grand Stewards at the annual Festival held on 19th April, 1732, and was on the same day appointed Senior Grand Warden in G. Lodge, I have no doubt that he is the person indicated as a member of the lodge held at the "Goat at the Foot of the Haymarket," his official position evidently inducing the compiler of the list to dub him an "Esq.," whilst all the other members of the lodge are simply "Mr."—

Yours fraternally,

JNO. LANE.

Torquay, September 7th.

Reviews.

"THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF WELLS" (*Bell's Cathedral Series*, Edited by Messrs. Gleeson and E. F. Strange.) This is the 13th of the excellent and artistic handbooks of Cathedrals published by Messrs. George Bell and Sons, Covent Garden, each of which ably describes the Fabric, and gives a history of the Episcopal See selected, so that the handsome Volumes are practically exhaustive, and furnish all needful information for residents and visitors alike. They cannot be improved upon, for as a series the entertaining little Books are all that can be desired. Wells has fallen to the facile pen and archaeological tastes of the Rev. Percy Drexler, M.A., to describe, who will be gratefully remembered for the companion Volume on Oxford. Chapter II is devoted to the exterior, and naturally, the Grand West Front has most prominence and attention, for it is quite unrivalled, as Ferguson declares or as Fuller quaintly says, "*England affords not the like*." Even Professor Freeman, who objects to the West Front as a piece of architecture, admits that the sculpture is the finest display in this country. As a matter of fact some of the figures "are almost as beautiful as the greatest masterpieces in Italy or France." The tiers of statuary are minutely described and explained, and the north porch has justice done as "perhaps the finest piece of architecture at Wells," though it does not generally receive the attention it deserves. The interior is also ably described, and the numerous illustrations add much to the value and interest of the volume, which may be had for *eighteenpence*, direct from the publishers or any book-sellers.

FREE AND FREEMASONRY.

By BRO. R. F. GOULD.

(Continued from page 421.)

II.

Few scholars are critics, few critics are philosophers, and few philosophers look with equal care on both sides of a question.—W. S. LANDOR.

The aggregate testimony of our neighbours is subject to the same conditions as the testimony of any one of them. Every man who has accepted the statement from somebody else, without himself testing and verifying it, is out of court; his word is worth nothing at all.—W. K. CLIFFORD.

I do not suppose for an instant that my friend, Dr. Chetwode Crawley, would argue that the adoption by the Editors of the new Oxford Dictionary, of the story related in the *Masonic Eclectic*, constitutes "an authoritative recognition" of the altogether baseless theory advanced with so much confidence by the "Latonia Society." But when a writer is proved to be grossly inaccurate or unduly credulous on one point, it is, at least, reasonable to suppose that he may be equally wrong, and not in any lesser degree open to be deceived on another.

The "New Dictionary," as we learn from the title-page, is being compiled on "historical principles," hence a criticism of its contents is by no means restricted to those

"—Learn'd philologists, who chase
A panting syllable through time and space,
Start it at home, and hunt it in the dark,
To Gaul, to Greece, and into Noah's Ark."

It is not given to everyone of us to be skilled in the science of language, —i.e., the study of languages for their structure and relations—but of the little band of brethren who associate for Masonic research under the banner of the Quatuor Coronati, it may be said that they are all (without exception), more or less diligent students of the history and antiquities of Freemasonry.

As one of their number, I have already ventured to call in question the accuracy of one of the statements in the "Dictionary," and an examination of another and equally positive avouchment of what also purports to be a well ascertained fact, will next be proceeded with.

The "Free Masons," we learn, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, travelled from place to place, seeking employment in their trade, "and had a system of secret signs and passwords by which a craftsman who had been admitted, on giving evidence of competent skill could be recognised." (See part I of the present article).

Here, the learned editors of the "English Dictionary" evidently pin their faith on the introductory observations which prepare the reader for the

development of the remarkable theory, advanced with such persuasive force and dialectical ability by our Bro. Speth, in his "Tentative Enquiry" concerning the words "Free" and "Freemasonry."

The greater comprehends the less, and in looking at Bro. Speth's paper as a whole, though my glance of it must necessarily be a more rapid one than I could desire, the "positive avouchment" in the dictionary, to which attention has been drawn so recently above, will be considered with all the fulness at my command.

Before, however, parting company with the editors of the "New English Dictionary," let me express my regret that a more "exhaustive survey of the whole ground" was not made before putting on paper their definitions of the terms "Free" and "Freemason."

Besides Bro. Speth's paper (the value of which, however, I should be one of the last to underrate), the only Masonic works consulted at first hand appear to have been the "History" of Bro. Findel and the "Hole Craft" of Bro. Conder respectively. From the former they would appear to have derived such acquaintance as they may possess with the writings of the late Wyatt Papworth, while in the pages of the latter they have been made familiar with the "Diary" of Elias Ashmole, "The Academie of Armoury" of Randle Holme, and the notable "Aubrey memorandum" of 1691. But the actual argument of Wyatt Papworth, in regard to the origin and derivation of "Freemason," as contained in his "Superintendents of English Buildings in the Middle Ages" they evidently have not perused, nor apparently the remarks of Dr. Begemann in his letter of May 16th, 1897 (*A. Q. C.*, X. 156), and while I shall not contend that either of these excellent authorities has established as a fact, that "Freemason" has come down to us from *mestre mason de franche pere*, I unhesitatingly assert that from the paper of the one, and the letter of the other, we gain a good working hypothesis, which in common with what is called the "Guild" theory (still possessing many supporters, though unaccountably neglected in the "New Dictionary,") and the "Tentative Enquiry" of our Bro. Speth, will have to be "reckoned with," by any Masonic historian of the future who attempts the arduous task of making "an exhaustive survey of the whole ground."

To make use of a comparison—a case, let us suppose, is carried into court, and (it may be) very rightly decided in favour of the plaintiff; nevertheless, the administration of justice, locally speaking, would fall into disrepute, if a hearing had been refused to the greater bulk of the evidence which was tendered by the defendant.

Passing, however, to the third (and last) of the theories referred to above, this remarkable piece of constructive speculation will perhaps be more easily discussed if I broach, in the first instance, a rival hypothesis, which, if entitled to any weight, would seem to strike at the root of the supposition that the operative Masons of the Middle Ages were the intermediaries in passing on the signs, tokens, and symbols which have come down to the modern Society.

That the symbolism of Masonry, as now preserved, was inherited from very different ancestors, and that the working masons never came into the line of transmission at all, is a contention supported by very learned members of the Craft, and among them (was) the late Albert Pike, from whose letters to myself I extract the following:

ALBERT PIKE TO R. F. GOULD.

"It is very certain that, at an early day, there were in England, as well as on the Continent, some men, perhaps many, who devoted their time to the study of that religious philosophy known by the different names of Hermeticism, Rosicrucianism, and Alchemy,—the last being only pretendedly the 'science' of practical Alchemy, but using the terms of science to conceal the Rosicrucian and Hermetic Dogma. Several of the symbols used by these philosophers to express their doctrines are now in the keeping of Masonry, notably the Compasses and Square."

"Many things combine to prove that the symbols had other meanings for the few than those which they had for the many,—the attraction which the Degrees had for men of high rank, the Preface to the Book of 'Long Livers,' the real meaning of the Substitute for the Master's Word, the Sun, Moon, and Master of the Lodge as its Lights, the 47th Problem, which is not a symbol of any moral truth: and the expression in the Regius Manuscript that 'Gemetry' took the name of Masonry. These are strengthened by the traditional connection of Pythagoras with Masonry, and by the charge to keep the secrets 'of the chamber.'"

"I think that the Philosophers, becoming Free-Masons, introduced into Masonry its Symbolism,—Secret, except among themselves,—in the Middle Ages, and not after the decline of Operative Masonry began." (Nov. 8th, 1889).

"I find in the Blue Degrees certain Symbols that were used a hundred years and more by the Hermetic writers, before the so-called revival of Freemasonry in England."

"There is no proof that the unlettered day-labouring Masons who had formed themselves into Lodges here and there, and came together periodically, or occasionally in inns or ale-houses, for sociability and to smoke their pipes and drink ale, had and used any of these Symbols, at all. To men of that class no Symbol of any recondite or valuable truth, religious or philosophical, could speak intelligibly, or have any other than a trite and vulgar common-place meaning, or be of much greater dignity than the bush over the door of a wine-shop, or a barber's pole."

"The Symbols that I have spoken of as Hermetic may have been borrowed by Hermeticism; but all the same, it had them: and I do not know where they were used, outside of Hermeticism, until they appeared in Masonry. To one who knows what working masons were, one or two hundred years ago, it is not necessary to argue that men of that class could not originate these symbols."

Did the architects have them? As architects, no. Architecture is not a science of Symbolism, and does not use Symbols. If it had any, it was for the purpose only of using the figures in its work. The architect, if peradventure, there were any who used these symbols, putting them to philosophical and religious uses, using them as philosophers', and not as architects,—as philosophers of some sort who happened to be Architects."

Whoever endowed Masonry with these particular Symbols, they were Hermetic Symbols; and I know what they meant to the Hermetic writers, French, German, and English. I should think it most likely that Ashmole became a Mason, because others who were Hermeticists had become Masons before him." (Feb. 7th, 1890).

"Ashmole had some inducement that led him to seek admission into Masonry,—some object to attain, some purpose to carry out. Even his utter

silence as to the objects, nature, customs, and work of the Institution is significant. There was something in the Institution, that made it seem to him worth his while to join it; and what was in it then may have been in it centuries before." (July 22nd, 1889)

* * * * *

For a full explanation of what may be called in general terms, "the Rosicrucian Theory with regard to Freemasonry," the works and fugitive writings of a vast number of persons would have to be consulted. I have myself treated the subject at considerable length in my *History of Freemasonry* (chap. XIII.), where the leading references will be found collected; and very masterly papers entitled "Freemasonry and Hermeticism" (by the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford), and "Rosicrucians, their History and Aims" (by Bro. W. Wynn Westcott) have been read before the Lodge of the Quatuor Coronati (*A.Q.C.* i. 28, vii. 36). Also, I must not forget to mention that at the hands of German writers, a Rosicrucian theory of Masonic origin or development, has passed through quite a multitude of phases, and is still stoutly upheld by brethren of "light and leading" in the Fatherland.

Not, however, to take up too much space, with what, after all, is merely introductory to a study of Bro. Speth's paper, I shall quote from no further commentator on the history—legendary or otherwise—of the Rosicrucians, and proceed at once to indicate the "points" dwelt upon by Albert Pike, which are material to the inquiry we are about to pursue. It will be seen that he claims (1) for the Hermetic philosophers, a *prior* possession of much of the Symbolism now the property of the Freemasons; and (2) that he refuses to believe in the possession at any time by the working Masons of any symbols of the same class.

To the first contention, it has been replied, that the Hermeticists or Rosicrucians are not known to have practised themselves any mystic or symbolical ceremonies which they could have passed on to the Freemasons (*A.Q.C.* iii. 22); and with respect to the second, let us now examine how far it remains unshattered after the publication of the counter-theory of Bro. Speth. But before doing this, I shall interject a few words from one of our Bro. Crawley's latest essays which seem to offer themselves properly in this place:—"The fact that Ashmole, being a Freemason, was also a Mystic has given rise to the theory that he may have formed a link between the Rosicrucians and the Freemasons. This theory rests on a series of postulates, and may be passed over till proofs are forthcoming" (*A.Q.C.* XI. 5).

The principle laid down is a sound one, and what the writer of the essay has laid down as a rule of action to be observed with respect to the claims of the Rosicrucians, will equally hold good when applied to the claims of the Freemasons.

[ABRIDGED FROM "A TENTATIVE ENQUIRY,"

BY BRO. G. W. SPETH.]

The cathedral (or church) builders were a separate class from the masons of the City guilds or companies.

The Manuscript Constitutions belonged to the church-building masons.

The Accepted Masons derived from the church builders, rather than from the guild masons.

The church builders were one fraternity, co-extensive with England at least, even if they did not at first include Scotland and Ireland also.

A mason travelling from, say, York to Canterbury, was immediately recognised and treated as a fellow, a co-member of the fraternity. If his indenture existed in writing, which is doubtful, it might be miles away, so he had means to establish not only that he was at one time an apprentice to the craft, but also that he had served his full time, and had been passed a master of the craft. This he was enabled to do by secret grips, tokens, and signs. There were two degrees, those of Apprentice and Fellow Craft, and a ceremony of some sort took place when each of them was conferred.—(*A.Q.C.* X., 16 *et seqq.*)

* * * * *

This state of affairs, in the opinion of Bro. Speth, predated any known guild of Masons in the kingdom, and I think I shall be justified in assuming that the chief authority upon which he relies for the maintenance of his theory as a whole, is the final portion of the Matthew Cooke MS. (*Addl. MS.*, 23, 198, *Brit. Mus. Lib.*), as dating "in its transcription, though not in its origin, from about A.D. 1400," and the evidential value of this document will form the subject of our next study.

III.

We see on our shelves, in handsome Volumes, the Works of old Authors who lived and wrote before the invention of printing; but how few of us ask ourselves the questions: Where are the originals of which these books are the copies? And what authority have we for the genuineness of the text?—WILLIAM FORSYTH.

I see no answer to the argument, that one has no right to pick out of an obviously unhistorical statement the assertions which happen to be probable, and to discard the rest.—T. H. HUXLEY.

The Manuscript Constitutions are supposed to contain the codes of regulations in use among the church builders of the Middle Ages, but they are not referred to in any way by the writers of that period, nor do we meet with any independent testimony with respect to them until the 17th century was well advanced, or, in other words, until long after the publication of the *Fama Fraternitatis*, with which is ordinarily associated the development of the Rosicrucian mania, which set in at about A.D. 1610–14.

"A large parchment volume, containing the History and Rules of the Craft of Masonry," is mentioned by Dr. Plot in the "Natural History of Staffordshire," 1686, but a criticism of his "Account of the Freemasons" as there related, lies beyond the scope of my present purpose. The points on which I want to dwell at the present stage are (1) that the Manuscript Constitutions of the Masonic Fraternity, are nowhere referred to in any independent testimony of prior date to the appearance on the scene of those hermetic philosophers referred to by Albert Pike, and the "conveyance" of whose "Symbols" into Freemasonry constitutes the "Rosicrucian theory," of which there are so many supporters, and among them Dr. Begemann, one of the most profound Masonic scholars of this or any other age.

But to return to the Manuscript Constitutions, there is nothing to show that either in the sixteenth or the fifteenth centuries, or earlier, the codes of regulations contained in these venerable documents fulfilled any more useful

purpose than the several versions of the "Legend of the Craft," of which, in all copies of the M.C. they form a part.

Our accounts of these codes of regulations are, indeed, only traditional, and we cannot trust those echoes of the past, the early "History" or written traditions of the Freemasons. Unless machinery is seen at work it is not possible to judge of its results. Equally hard is it to form a judgment of the operation of the Masonic system of government in the middle ages, from the dry statements which successive copyists of the Manuscript Constitutions have preserved or invented.

Moreover (to adopt the words of Professor Goldwin Smith), "It is a rule of criticism that we cannot by any critical alembic, extract materials for history out of fable. If the details of a story are fabulous, so is the whole. Devices for meeting such difficulties may be found, but they are devices and not solutions. So long as anything miraculous is left the difficulty of proof remains" (*Essays*, 56, 108, and 163).

Now it is the essence of the code of regulations on which our Bro. Speth so much relies, that there was an "Assembly" or Masonic parliament which was in full swing from some unknown period down to, and perhaps, after the 15th century.

The masons, according to the "Constitutions," were only obliged to go up to the Assembly when they received any warning. But from whom was the warning to proceed? The meeting, if it took place at all, must have been convened by some person or persons, and who could they have been? In other words, there must have been a sort of head-quarter staff somewhat resembling that of a modern trades-union. Yet we are asked to believe, not only in the existence of so remarkable an organisation, but also to carry our faith to the extreme point of supposing that the legal writers, commentators, annalists, and antiquarians, from Chief Justice Glanvill downwards, together with the vast array of ancient records, have passed over in utter silence, the extraordinary privilege thus enjoyed by the Masons, and possessed by no other trade, which must have been common knowledge while the custom lasted.

It has, indeed, been suggested by Bro. Speth, that instead of there being one General Assembly of Masons for the whole kingdom, there were several, but this supposition would appear to be by a long way the least tenable of the two. It seems to me quite incredible that one such Assembly could have been held yearly (or triennially) without some trustworthy record of the circumstance descending to us, and, therefore, the holding of a score of them (let us say) in different parts of the country would, in my judgment, have been at least twenty times as miraculous (if the expression may be allowed to pass), as the alleged custom of meeting in one body, which I have criticised at greater length.

What the Assembly really was, that we find so constantly alluded to in the Manuscript Constitutions, is a question which would involve a protracted study of the legal and judicial procedure of the Middle Ages—but it may be shortly stated, that the unions of the trades and Crafts in towns met in what were styled General, or Common Assemblies, both of which terms occur in the Masonic Constitutions, though the words "Common Assembly" are very unusual and are only to be found in what are called the "Hope" and "York No. 4" MSS. There is no doubt whatever that to the governing body of the borough, the trade association was a mere matter of public convenience, and was so little regarded as depending on the free will of the craft itself, that it was frequently founded by order of the town and was invariably compelled to make submission to superior force and receive orders from its master the municipality (*J. R. Green, Town Life in the Fifteenth Century* i. 135). It is not likely that the masons and carpenters should have volunteered to take oath before the Mayor and Aldermen that they would do their duty in their trade (*Lib. cus.* 100); or that the masons should themselves propose that if a mason failed to fulfil his contract, certain men of his trade who acted on his securities should be bound to finish his task (*Riley, Memorials*, 280–82).

"Men who offended against the rules of the trade were brought before the town officers for punishment. Even the wandering artisans who moved from place to place, who had no fixed shops and no complete guild organization, found themselves subjected to the town authorities as soon as they had crossed the borders of the borough" (*Green*, i. 151).

The suggestion might therefore be made that the General Assemblies specified in the Manuscript Constitutions were really those of the associated trades in the towns?

But there is another, and as it seems to me a preferable hypothesis. Except in London, certainly down to the time of Edward I., the Sheriff and County Court still reviewed the jurisdiction of the town, and even much later, the supervision of the Sheriff extended over many towns. Also, the clause in the "Constitutions" naming the radius within which attendance at the Assembly was compulsory, would be meaningless, if we can suppose that the "Charge" was addressed solely to residents in the towns.

We are told in the *Mirror of Justices* (A.D. 1285–90):

"The Sheriffs, by ancient ordinance, hold General Assemblies twice a year in each hundred, whither all fee tenants within the hundred are bound to come" (chap. XVI.).

That the masons were not exempt from attendance and service at the Court Leet or the Sheriff's Tourn, when a View of Frankpledge took place is quite clear, and an instance of a special jury consisting of masons and carpenters, in connection with the proceedings of a Court Leet, is given in the IXth Volume of the Historical MS. Commission, p. 169.

To this, of course, it may be replied that the masons in question were not of the church-building class—conceding for the moment, that there may have been two divisions of the Masons' trade—but if the very abundant evidence on the subject is consulted, and particularly the publications of the Selden Society, many examples will be found where the right of the Bishop (whose authority over the church-building masons might almost be implied) to hold a Court Leet and View of Frankpledge, was disputed by the Town. A case of the kind is cited by the Rev. F. Bloomfield, and, although the Judges of the King's Court decided in favour of the Bishop in 1352, the quarrel was still going on in 1473 (*Topographical History of Norfolk*, iii., 513).

But the chief point on which I wish to lay stress, is the extreme improbability (to put it no higher) that the masons, at any time, could have had, so to speak, a parliament of their own. There is nothing whatever to point in that direction outside of the Manuscript Constitutions, and, in order that we may obtain a glimpse of what would pass through the mind of any critical historian of the modern school, if he were asked to believe in the existence of such a phenomenon, I shall adduce the following:

"The critic is one who, when he lights on an interesting statement, begins by suspecting it. He remains in suspense until he has subjected his

authority to three operations. First, he asks whether he has read the passage as the author wrote it. For the transcriber, and the editor, and the official or officious censor on the top of the editor, have played strange tricks, and have much to answer for. And if they are not to blame, it may turn out that the author wrote his book twice over, that you can discover the first jet, the progressive variations, things added, and things struck out. Next is the question *where the writer got his information.* If from a previous writer, it can be ascertained, and the inquiry has to be repeated. If from unpublished papers, they must be traced, and when the fountain head is reached, or the track disappears, the question of veracity arises. The responsible writer's character, his position, antecedents, and probable motives have to be examined into, and this is what, in a different and adapted sense of the word, may be called the 'higher criticism,' in comparison with the servile and often mechanical work of pursuing statements to their root. For a historian has to be treated as a witness, and not believed unless his sincerity is established." (Lord Acton, *Lecture on the Study of History*, 40-42).

Now the "question of veracity," will of necessity arise, in connection with the authorship or transcription of the Cooke MS., but beyond the fact that this manuscript "History" was the production of some unknown fabulist, there is nothing to disclose.

To use the words of a great philosopher, "If we read a book which contains incredible or impossible narratives, or is written in a very obscure style, and if we know nothing of its author, nor of the time or occasion of its being written, we shall vainly endeavour to gain any certain knowledge of its true meaning" (Spinoza, *Works*—Bohn's *Philos. Lib.*—i, 111.)

I must not forget to state, however, that the legendary narrative and the code of regulations in the Cooke and other MSS. are supposed to stand on very distinct footings, the former being regarded as delusive fable, and the latter as accredited history. I do not profess to see this point in the same strength as some see it, or I might even say that in my judgment the foundations of the "code," as well as those of the "narrative," have been built on legendary quicksands (*A.Q.C.* v. 219, vi. 184), but since our Bro. Speth has laid great stress upon it in his remarks on the "Assembly" (*Ibid* vi., 189), it is right that I should set it before the readers of this article.

A rule, however, which it would seem in every respect most desirable to follow, has been strictly laid down by one of the most eminent of all the students who are to-day investigating the history and sources of early Christian literature: "None but firmly established historical facts or doings can be allowed as evidence of the existence of any legal ordinance they may imply." (Prof. A. Kuenen, *An Historico-Critical Inquiry into the Origin and Composition of the Hexateuch*, tr. by P. H. Wickstead, 179).

I shall now ask all who have favoured me with their attention so far, to cast a backward glance at the contention which has been presented to them in the language of Albert Pike,—after which I shall enquire of them, whether there is any proof that the English working masons of the fourteenth century recognised one another by means of signs and tokens, or, in other words, if there is any more positive evidence to support such a conclusion, than has been advanced in favour of the theory that the symbolism of Masonry was brought into it by the Rosicrucians?

If, indeed, the *literati* of the Craft differ very essentially, as they unquestionably do, about the details of Modern, how can they be expected to agree with respect to those of Ancient Masonry? Also, if they differ about facts, is it conceivable that they can arrive at any definite agreement in regard to conjectures? Then, again, is it within the limits of possibility to discriminate between what is legitimate conjecture, and what is not? To a great many persons, apart from any predilection they may entertain for one theory of Masonic descent over another, the story of Christian Rosenkreutz as related in the *Fama Fraternitatis*, will seem far less violently improbable than the Legend of the Craft (with the "Charges" thrown in), as recounted in the various copies of the "Constitutions."

Still, as it has been finely observed: "The rise of new difficulties is as essential to the progress of truth as the removal of old puzzles." (T. K. Cheyne, *Founders of Old Testament Criticism*, 127.) The *Tentative Enquiry*, which has been launched with such remarkable force by our Bro. Speth, seems to me to have come to stay. But the last word has not been spoken on the subject, and no one probably feels a stronger conviction than the writer of that paper, that he has lifted only a little corner of the veil.

Albert Pike tells us—"No man can find any evidence that, before 1723, the Ancient Craft Masonry had any symbols at all. At the beginning of its rebuilding in England, its whole foundation was a rubble-work of fictions as absurd as the story of Jack the Giant Killer. Most of this has been got out and cast away; but some remains in its place yet, and is very dear to those whose faith is large enough to remove mountains. There is a leaning now, likely to become stronger, to replace the old rubble-work of fiction and fable, by building presumptions on suppositions, and from the presumptions inferring facts" (*Official Bulletin*, *Sup. Comm. S.F., X. App.* 14).

Now I have endeavoured to show cause why it is permissible to differ from Bro. Speth with respect to many of his "suppositions," but there is a "presumption," and, indeed, the most material of the whole number, that I think he has clearly proved to be one of the several possible explanations of the problem which he set himself to attack.

That the "Free" Masons were free from and not of, something with regard to which the converse holds good in the case of other Masons, is a theory which I hope may be still further developed by its author who, I trust, will regard it as a greater compliment to be asked to continue the interesting study upon which he has so far advanced, than to rest from his labours, under the highly mistaken idea that the effect of the verdict of the "English Dictionary" has been to transmute an ingenious hypothesis into a fact.

Since the above was in type, I have become aware that in the observations with which Dr. Chetwode Crawley accompanied his excerpt from the Oxford *English Dictionary*, he studiously confined himself to its *philological* (without, as erroneously printed in his letter of August 13th, concerning himself in any way about its *philosophical*) bearing. I have reason to believe that he has personal knowledge of the nature and extent of the learned Editors' philological researches on the points reviewed in this article. Therefore, when writing of their "exhaustive survey of the whole ground," the context of his letter shows that he refers only to the philological aspect, and that he does not claim for them any further survey. What I trust to have already shown, however, in the course of the remarks is, that a survey thus limited cannot properly be called "exhaustive," and that any conclusion deduced from it cannot be "authoritative."

But after all, how shifting and uncertain is the result of modern research—"We see through a glass darkly. The past is an enigma. The voices of the dead are faint and distant. History will not become a branch of positive science till the secrets of all hearts are loosed, till at eventime it is light." (John Skelton, *Nugae Criticae*, 145).

To those of my fellow-students, therefore, who are interested in the problem of "Free" and "Freemason," let me conclude by saying—in the words of the Genius to the Hermit of Bassora—"If you wish for the solution, be patient, and wait."

Craft Masonry.

Lodge of Perseverance, No. 1743.

Saturday last saw the opening of the new installation season, two lodges of the London District, then furnishing two new Worshipful Masters. These two lodges were the Lodge of Perseverance, No. 1743, which met at Anderton's, and the Duke of Cornwall Lodge, No. 1839, at Freemasons' Hall. The former lodge was presided over by Bro. Harry Watts, who took the chair for the last time for the year. There was a capital attendance of members of the lodge as well as of visitors, as will be seen by the following list, which includes the names of Bros. Henry G. Park, S.W.; W. B. Cossham, J.W.; T. Lovell, P.M., Treas.; G. J. Tollett, Sec.; R. Perry, S.D.; John Handley, J.D.; J. Henry Bridgman, I.G.; W. Farrant, A.D.C.; J. Dormer, P.M., Stwd.; Frederick Kearney, P.M.; H. C. Lonsdale, P.M.; W. J. Wall, P.M.; Louis Leins, P.M.; Bernard Ferry, Joseph Houten, J. Millman, W. Searle, F. Hannam, H. Camp, G. Millard, D. Rogers, H. Taylor, J. W. Terry, G. W. C. White, James Phillips, F. R. Frost, H. Hawkins, A. R. Batton, Thomas Tyrell, R. F. Sharp, Walter Thompson, and J. Bogler. Visitors: Bros. Edward Triggs, P.M. 749 and 2291; Walter Bray, 431 U.S.A.; Joseph Walton, 1360; William Thomas Winsor, P.M. 1950 and 1559; H. McClintock Harris, 1997; Eli Bull, I.G. 1549 and 2218; J. R. Johnson, P.M. and Sec. 2005, P.P.S.G.D. Essex; C. J. Thomas, 1185; George Browne, 700; H. Massey, P.M. 619 and 1928; R. Ede, 1474; W. Pallant, S.D. 1421; George Verlyck, 1421; W. J. London, 1580; and F. Stutfield, P.M. 144.

Mr. Robert Frank Sharp was initiated by Bro. Kearney, P.M., after which ceremony Bro. Henry C. Lonsdale, P.M., in splendid style, installed Bro. Henry George Park, S.W. and W.M. elect, as Master of the lodge for the year ensuing. Bro. H. Watts was invested with the collar of I.P.M. The other collars of office were disposed as follows: Bros. W. B. Cossham, S.W.; Richard Perry, J.W.; T. Lovell, P.M., Treas.; G. J. Tollett, Sec.; John Handley, S.D.; J. H. T. Bridgman, J.D.; Jas. Flexman, I.G.; W. Farrant, D.C.; J. Cunningham, A.D.C.; J. T. Dormer, P.M. 1571, and J. E. Millman, Stewards; and W. Lane, Tyler.

At the banquet which succeeded the working of the lodge, a long list of toasts were disposed of, the music between the speeches being rendered by Miss Ruby Lyons, Bro. J. E. Lyons, Bro. George Browne, Mr. A. A. Moncrieff, and Bro. W. Graves. Bro. W. Stevens accompanied on the pianoforte, and Bro. W. Farrant, D.C., acted admirably as introducer of the artists.

Bro. Harry Watts, I.P.M., in proposing the toast of "The W.M.," wished the duty had fallen to better hands than his, because the W.M. deserved everything which could be said in his praise that the most practised elocutionist could give utterance to. He had known Bro. Park a good many years, and had found him a true and honest friend; they had entered the lodge together side by side; they were initiated together; and their father in Masonry—Bro. Louis Leins—was present now. It was very gratifying to Bro. Park and himself to know that Bro. Leins was there; it gave them an amount of courage and confidence to know that he was there. But Bro. Park and he (Bro. Watts) had come up the ladder step by step; Bro. Park had done his work well; he was a good Master; he knew he could do the work and would do the work. It was very presumptuous for him (Bro. Watts) to say Bro. Park could do the work, because Bro. Park might say, "You cannot do the work yourself." He knew Bro. Park could do it; he hoped he would have a very prosperous year. Whatever Bro. Park put his hand to he would do to the satisfaction of the lodge and of himself.

Bro. H. G. Park, W.M., in reply, said Bro. Watts had mentioned many kind things about him, half of which he did not deserve he was quite sure. But Bro. Watts had been very, very, kind to him, and he appreciated that kindness immensely. The brethren had placed him in the high position he had looked forward to with very great pleasure indeed; it was the height of his ambition to get into the Master's chair; he thought it was nothing but right that all brethren should have the same ambition. As the brethren had seen fit to place him there it would be his earnest endeavour to do his very best. He should try to do his duty without fear, favour, or affection, and to the utmost; he only hoped they would give him plenty of work. With the assistance of T.G.A.O.T.U. he would do his best; they must all admit that without His help none of them could do anything. He would endeavour to do the work to the satisfaction of all the brethren. He was exceedingly grateful to P.M. Watts for his very very great kindness. Bro. Watts had known him, it was true, longer than any brother in the lodge except one. They had all enjoyed each other's friendship, and he trusted they would for many years to come.

Bro. H. G. Park, W.M., then proposed "The Installing Master." In Bro. Past Master Lonsdale they had an exceptionally good Master, who had installed him that night with great credit to himself and satisfaction to the brethren generally. He would have been delighted if Bro. Watts had performed the ceremony, but knowing the amount of trouble he had gone through lately he could hardly expect that pleasure. But the brethren would agree he had found a good substitute in Bro. Lonsdale. He was very grateful to Bro. Lonsdale, P.M., for the way he had installed him. It was very impressive. He thought when he was initiated he was impressed, but he was far more impressed with the installation.

Bro. H. C. Lonsdale, P.M., in acknowledging the toast, said he could assure Bro. Park that if it had given him pleasure to be installed by his humble servant, it had given him pleasure to do it, and he could only say after hearing so much of him (Bro. Lonsdale) that night, that at any time he might be called upon to assist the W.M. he should be only too pleased.

Bro. H. G. Park, W.M., next proposed "The I.P.M." They all knew Bro. Watts's good qualities; they knew how he had educated the lodge during his Mastership; that he had done his duty to the best of his ability, and zealously, faithfully, and impartially; he was a good friend, a good brother, and a good Mason. He had had the honour of Bro. Watts's friendship 16 or 17 years, and he had always found him everything that one could wish. He was quiet, unassuming, sympathising; ever ready to enter into your joys or sorrows, and to lend a hand in time of trouble. He could enlarge upon Bro. Watts's virtues, but being present, he would refrain from saying more in that respect, for he knew it was distasteful to him. The brethren knew how he had conducted his business during the past year, and in appreciation of his work they had voted him a splendid Past Master's jewel. He now pinned it on Bro. Watts's breast, hoping he might live many, many years to adorn the Perseverance Lodge.

Bro. Harry Watts, I.P.M., in reply, said the W.M. had spoken of him in very high terms; if he only deserved half of them he might feel himself much honoured. But he did feel very great honour to have the jewel; he could not say he deserved it for the work he had done in the lodge; perhaps he had done some good outside. However, he had endeavoured to relieve the poor and to do what the brethren had asked him to do, although he had not been able to do the work of the lodge as he thought when they did him the honour to elect him he should have been able to do. If he had worked harder he might have done better; but he had had a great deal of trouble, a great deal of illness among his close relations, his dear wife's sister and her father. Such trouble had had something to do with his not having paid enough attention to the ritual. He thanked the brethren one and all very much for their great kindness; Bro. Kearney had come to his assistance and rescue some months ago at a minute's notice; Bro. Lonsdale he had to thank personally for his great kindness, for a great deal—he would not tell him all that night, and every officer and member of the lodge he had to thank very heartily for their kindness during his year of office. If he could do anything to promote the welfare of the lodge he should do it.

Bro. H. G. Park, W.M., in proposing "The Initiate," said he was sure Bro. Sharp would be a credit to the lodge and to the Craft in general. He sincerely hoped Bro. Sharp was impressed with the way in which the ceremony was conducted by Past

Master Kearney. One thing he regretted Bro. Kearney omitted, the Ancient Charge; it should be given to every candidate. No doubt it was omitted owing to the shortness of time. He thought it essential that a Master should give the Ancient Charge to every initiate; he sincerely trusted he should be able to give it; it would be his endeavour to do so. Bro. Sharp, being introduced by the J.W., who would not bring forward anyone they would not be glad to accept as a brother, he hoped would to the best of his ability try to remember what he had heard that evening and profit by it. Might temperance chasten him, fortitude support him, and justice be the guide of all his actions!

Bro. Sharp said he was very much struck that night by the beautiful ceremony he had gone through; it had made a great impression upon him. So also had the last ceremony, the joining hand in hand; it tended to shake the liver up. (Laughter.) He thanked Bro. Perry for proposing him, and the lodge for accepting him. He trusted to be a good Mason and to get to the chair next to which he was that night.

Bros. Johnson, Walter Bray (New York), and Verlyk, responded to the toast of "The Visitors"; Bros. Kearney, P.M., Lovell, P.M., and Tollett, to that of "The Past Masters, the Treasurer, and the Secretary"; the Wardens and other officers replied to the toast of "The Officers"; and the proceedings closed with the Tyler's toast.

Graystone Lodge, No. 1915.

The installation festival was held at the Foresters' Hall, Whitstable, on Thursday, the 5th instant, when there were present Bros. J. W. Elvin, W.M.; R. T. Wheeler, I.P.M.; M. Kemp, S.W.; C. E. Monkley, J.W.; Sibert Saunders, P.M., P.P.G. Reg., Sec.; J. T. Reeves, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., D.C.; H. Hemsley, I.G.; A. J. Weatherley, Tyler; T. W. Porter, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.; F. T. Browning, P.M.; E. G. Walthew, P.M., Prov. A.G.D.C.; W. B. London, P.M.; S. Brown, P.M.; W. H. Brand, P.M. 1524; F. A. Johnson, H. L. Daly, H. K. Daniels, W. H. Wakeford, B. Lightfoot, E. Griffiths, A. C. Child, and J. R. Daniels. Visitors: Bros. J. Bryhurst, P.M. 127, Prov. J.G.W.; W. F. Franklin, W.M. 127; F. Pauley, P.M. 127, P.P.G.S. of W.; W. Bennett, 127; J. Moore, P.M. 127; P. E. Igguiden, W.M. 2099; J. S. White, P.M. 2099, Prov. G.P.; C. Woodgar, W.M. 1967; M. Laxon, W.M. 133; J. A. Darney, 133; J. Nebel, W.M. 1209; T. S. Chaney, 1209; W. Cowell, W.M. 429; F. W. Drury, W.M. 1449; H. Andrews, P.M. 1449; T. H. Butcher, W.M. 184; T. T. May, W.M. 2448; G. S. Graham, W.M. 1777, P.P.G.O. Middlesex and Surrey; J. Rennie, W.M. 972; C. Richardson, P.M., Sec. 972; O. F. Peall, P.M. 12; F. M. Browning, 1360; F. J. Hunt, 194; W. J. Gordon, 288, U.S.A.; J. H. Fielding, 167; and R. Downer, 972.

The past year, under the presidency of Bro. J. W. Elvin, will be a memorable one in the annals of the Graystone Lodge, not only for the skill displayed by the W.M. in carrying on the work of the lodge and performing the ceremonies, but also for the splendid position taken by the lodge in the lists sent up to the Centenary Festival of the Boys' School when Bro. Elvin, as Lodge Steward, took up £413, which sum included a large personal donation from himself. He has always given liberal support to the Masonic Institutions, being Patron of the Boys' School and also of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and Vice-Patron of the Girls' School. We believe he has served as many as 14 Stewardships. Bro. Elvin is a well-known London Mason having been, by dispensation, installed W.M. of Lodge 2395, which occupying the chair of the Graystone Lodge. He is also S.W. of the Anglo-American Lodge, and a Past Master of La Tolerance, 538. He was for some years Preceptor of the lodge of instruction attached to the last-named lodge, and is an honorary member of several lodges of instruction where sectional work is largely done. With such a record it is no wonder that the members of the Graystone Lodge feel proud of the late Master.

The lodge having been duly opened, the minutes read and confirmed, and other preliminaries observed, the W.M. elect, Bro. M. Kemp, S.W., was installed in the chair, the ceremony being most ably performed by the retiring Master. The following officers were appointed: Bros. C. E. Monkley, S.W.; Bruce Lightfoot, J.W.; Sibert Saunders, P.M., Sec.; A. Anderson, Treas.; A. A. Kemp, S.D.; H. Hemsley, I.D.; J. T. Reeves, P.M., D.C.; H. E. Limmer, I.G.; H. K. Daniels and W. H. Wakeford, Stds.; and A. J. Weatherley, Tyler. Bro. E. G. Walthew, P.M., P.A. G.D.C., was elected Charity Delegate and Lodge Almoner.

After the closing of the lodge the brethren adjourned to the Bear and Key Hotel, where they enjoyed a banquet excellently served by Bro. T. H. Fielding, and a very agreeable evening was spent.

Kingswood Lodge, No. 2278.

The regular meeting of this lodge was held at Broxbourne, on Saturday, the 10th inst., and was attended by Bros. A. Ingram, W.M.; C. C. Renaud, S.W.; E. N. Beningfield, J.W.; J. F. Beel, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Sec.; C. Nicole, as S.D.; F. H. Johnson, as J.D.; A. A. Kelly, Org.; F. Williams, Tyler; J. G. Cobb, P.M., P.P. G. Std. Br.; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D.; R. W. Nicole, P.M., P.A.G.P.; R. Von der Sahl, S. Butler, J. E. Little, G. H. Redding, A. C. Little, A. R. Palmer-Palmer, J. Perceval, H. A. House, O. P. House, and H. H. Broughton. Visitors: Bros. S. Napper, P.M. 1471; C. Hooper, P.M. 1613; and Jackson.

The business to be transacted after the confirmation of the minutes, was to pass Bro. J. Perceval and to ballot for Messrs. Oswald Percy House and Henry Archibald House, who, having been elected, were duly initiated. Another candidate for initiation was proposed and seconded, and the lodge was closed.

The brethren afterwards dined together, and a very pleasant evening was spent, thanks to the vocal efforts of Bros. Nicole, Perceval, Redding, Johnson, and Little. Bros. Nicole and Kelly accompanying them on the pianoforte.

Instruction.

PROSPERITY LODGE, No. 65.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 14th inst., at the Weaver's Arms, 17, London Wall, E.C. Present: Bros. T. Stokes, W.M.; Gernon, S.W.; Spencer, J.W.; D. Harlow, P.M. 65, Preceptor; William Baker, Treas.; H. T. Meadows, Sec.; John G. Robeson, S.D.; E. Croft Wise, J.D.; Rix, I.G.; and Farr.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Baker acting as candidate. Bro. Farr then answered the usual questions leading to the Second Degree, and was entrusted. Bro. Stokes opened the lodge in the Second Degree, and passed Bro. Farr to the Degree of F.C. The W.M. resumed the lodge in the First Degree, and rising the usual times, Bro. Gernon was elected to occupy the chair on the 25th, next Wednesday being officers night of the Mother Lodge. On the second rising Bro.

Harlow, P.M., proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the W.M. for the able and efficient manner in which he had worked the ceremonies and that the same be recorded on the minutes; the same was unanimously carried and certainly was thoroughly deserved, as we have never seen the work done better even by brethren with far longer experience in the Craft, and the usual qualification of "for the first time," implying that great things were not expected, were not required on this occasion, although as a matter of fact it was Bro. Stokes's first occupancy of the chair as W.M. The lodge was then closed.

LA TOLERANCE LODGE, No. 538.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 14th inst., at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, W., when there were present Bros. C. Ornstein, W.M.; S. Woolfers, S.W.; F. Zeppenfeld, J.W.; L. S. Genese, P.M., Treas.; Howard E. Mullins, Sec.; N. Dukas, S.D.; R. Hatfield, J.D.; C. Glaser, I.G.; W. Proctor, Tyler; T. W. Smale, P.M.; T. L. Bowden, W. Fisher, H. Raphael, and W. Hayward.

The lodge was opened in due form and the minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Raphael being the candidate. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree. Bro. Fisher being a candidate for raising, was duly examined and entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree. The ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Fisher being the candidate. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. The following brethren were unanimously elected joining members: Bros. W. Hayward, Victoria Park Lodge, No. 1816, and J. D. Hood, W.M. Sampson Lodge, No. 1663. The W.M. rose for the second time, when Bro. Woolfers was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week. The lodge was closed.

STAR CHAPTER, No. 1275.

A meeting was held at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell, S.E., on Friday, the 9th inst. Present: Comps. C. Plant, M.E.Z.; J. H. Cureton, H.; Hy. Turner, J.; Thos. Grumman, P.Z., Preceptor; C. H. Stone, P.Z., S.E.; H. Hardman, S.N.; Stanley, P.S.; Wm. Eckersall, P.Z.; and Cass.

The minutes of the previous convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Stone personating the candidate. Comp. J. H. Cureton, P.Z., was elected M.E.Z. for to-day (Friday.) A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Comps. Turner, J., and Stanley, P.S., for ably rehearsing their respective duties for the first time. The M.E.Z. rose the usual number of times and the chapter was closed.

BLACKHEATH LODGE, No. 1320.

The weekly meeting of the above lodge was held at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell, on Monday, the 12th inst., when there were present Bros. W. Jeffery, W.M.; Robinson, S.W.; Potter, J.W.; Elgar, P.M., Deputy Preceptor; T. R. Cass, P.M., Treas.; C. H. Stone, P.M., Sec.; T. J. Smith, S.D.; Sobel, J.D.; Brambleby, I.G.; Hill, P.M., Tyler; Crisp, Bailey, Audy, Newstead, and Snelling, P.M.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Newstead being the candidate. Bro. W. Jeffery vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Snelling, P.M., who rehearsed the ceremony, of initiation, Bro. Audy being the candidate. Bro. W. Jeffery resumed the chair and invested his officers. Bro. Robinson, S.W., was elected W.M. for the next meeting. A vote of thanks was heartily accorded to Bro. Snelling, P.M., for so ably rehearsing the initiation ceremony for the first time in this lodge of instruction. Bro. Snelling suitably replied. The lodge was then closed.

ISLINGTON LODGE, No. 1471.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday, the 13th inst., at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, when there were present Bros. J. W. Clarke, P.M., Asst. Preceptor, W.M.; E. J. Harrison, S.W.; C. T. Rayner, J.W.; A. F. Hardymont, Acting Preceptor; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D. Herts, and J. Duncan, P.M., Secs.; C. Ornstein, S.D.; S. Cload, J.D.; C. C. Renaud, I.G.; A. L. Langton, W. F. Roberts, W. T. Roberts, G. T. Atkinson, J. Birks, F. H. Johnson, E. C. Kilsby, P.M.; A. E. Hubsch, and R. P. Upton.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. W. F. Roberts, being the candidate. The ceremony of initiation was then rehearsed, Bro. Hardymont as W.M. elect. The investiture of officers was also rehearsed and the addresses given. Bro. Harrison was elected W.M. for the ensuing week. The lodge was then closed.

Obituary.

BRO. JOHN ASHLEY RANDELL, P.M. 663.

We regret to announce the death of Bro. John Ashley Randell, P.M. of the Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity, No. 663, which took place on the 8th instant at Devizes, at the age of 75. Bro. Randell was a P.P.G. Supt. of Works in the Province of Wilts, and had held the office of Director of Ceremonies in Lodge No. 663 for some years. In Arch Masonry he was Prov. G.H. in the Provincial Grand Chapter of Wilts, and a P.Z. in the Chapter of Harmony, No. 663. He was a Life Governor of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. In Mark Masonry he was P.S.G. Warden in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Wilts, and P.M. of the Wiltshire Keystone Mark Lodge, No. 178. He was also a P.W.C.N. of the Anchor Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, No. 178. Bro. Randell was an Alderman of the Borough, and served the office of Mayor in 1891. He was connected with the Volunteers for many years, retiring with the rank of Major in 1890 in consequence of having reached the age limit. He was a J.P. and a member of the Board of Guardians, and for many years joint Secretary of the Cottage Hospital and the Soup Charity. Our lamented brother was connected with many other public bodies and institutions in the town and neighbourhood, and his loss will be severely felt not only by his Masonic friends but by everyone with whom he came in contact. Much sympathy is felt for his widow and family in their bereavement. The funeral took place at the Devizes Cemetery on the 12th instant and was attended by a large number of Masons, the Mayor and Corporation, representatives of the different bodies (military and otherwise), with which the late Bro. Randell was connected, and numbers of private friends. Several handsome wreaths were sent including one from the Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity, No. 663.

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

Masonic and General Tidings.

BRO. THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF HALSBURY arrived at Tralee on Tuesday evening.

BRO. THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF ONSLOW have left Chandon Park for Scotland, and will be absent till the beginning of October.

LEWISHAM LODGE, No. 2579.—We hear that Bro. Edward Hall, a founder of this lodge, and Secretary since its foundation, has, with several others, severed his connection therewith.

THE MARQUIS OF DUFFERIN and the Sirdar of Egypt, Bro. Maj.-Gen. Sir Herbert Kitchener, are to receive the freedom of the City of Edinburgh in recognition of their services to the Empire.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES attended service in the Queen's private chapel at Osborne on Sunday last. By means of a surgical appliance his Royal Highness was able to walk slowly to his seat.

TUESDAY was the 16th anniversary of the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir, fought on September 13th, 1882, and in honour of the event the Guards and other regiments which took part in the action again decorated their colours.

COL. HAY, the American Ambassador, called at the Foreign Office on Tuesday afternoon and left his letters of recall. On Wednesday Mr. White, the First Secretary, commenced to act as the American Chargé d'Affaires.

BRO. THE HON. SCHOMBERG K. McDONNELL, the Prime Minister's Private Secretary, has gone to Scotland, and his place at the Foreign Office is taken temporarily by the Hon. Sidney Greville, who has returned to town after a holiday in Austria.

THE QUEEN has forwarded to the Vicar of Bagshot, the Rev. Pendarves Lory, a cheque for £25 towards a new organ for the parish church. Her Majesty has in past years contributed liberally to the building of the new church, the vicarage, and to the Sunday School.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN and her daughter, Princess Victoria, have concluded their visit to the Hon. Percy Wyndham at Clouds, Salisbury, and arrived on Tuesday afternoon at Arlington Manor, Newbury, the residence of Sir Francis and Lady Jeune.

THE QUEEN has consented to become President of the Royal Counties Agricultural Society Show, which is to be held in the vicinity of Windsor Castle next summer. Prince Christian, Ranger of the Great Park, will, it is said, undertake the duties appertaining to the office.

THE LORD MAYOR (Bro. Alderman Davies, M.P.) and Bro. Sir John Monckton have returned to London, after an agreeable cruise in the Mediterranean. The Lady Mayoress has greatly benefited by her stay at Tenby, and returned to the Mansion House on Tuesday, with the members of her family.

TUESDAY'S *Gazette* contains the orders for the Court's going into mourning on Wednesday for her late Imperial Majesty the Empress of Austria, Queen of Hungary, to change the mourning on Wednesday, the 28th instant; and, finally, the Court to go out of mourning on Wednesday, 12th October.

MR. EDWIN MILLER, the Queen's State coachman at Buckingham Palace, is about to retire from his post on superannuation allowance, after having been in the service of the Crown upwards of 40 years. It has fallen to his lot to drive every monarch and other notable personage who has visited the Queen in London for several years past.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK and Prince Edward of York are expected to arrive at York House, St. James's Palace, to-morrow (Saturday), on their return from Copenhagen, and after probably a very short stay in London will proceed to Balmoral. Prince Nicholas of Greece and Princess Marie of Greece reached London on Tuesday on the conclusion of a visit to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales at Osborne, and left the same night for the Danish capital.

ACCIDENT TO THE EMPRESS FREDERICK.—A Berlin local paper hears from Bad Homburg that the Empress Frederick fell from her horse on the morning of the 5th inst., and sustained slight injuries. Her Majesty was taken to her Chateau of Friedrichshof in one of the carriages belonging to the Kronthal Springs. These springs, which produce the Kronthal Natural Mineral Waters, blue, red, and green labels—now being advertised and pushed throughout Great Britain and the Colonies by the well-known firm of Schweppes, Limited, are the property of an English syndicate (the Kronthal Company, Limited, London), and are situated within a mile of the Castle Friedrichshof, the residence of H.I.M. the Empress, and a few miles from Homburg, amid some of the finest scenery in the Taunus Mountains.

AS THE 41st anniversary of the relief of Lucknow falls this year on a Sunday (25th inst.), it has been decided to commemorate the famous event by a special service at Westminster Abbey. It is not the first time that the survivors both of the hard-pressed garrison itself and of Havelock's and Outram's rescuing force have met for Divine worship, for the 35th anniversary in 1892 was also on a Sunday, and in that year nearly 50 officers and a large muster of veterans of the rank and file assembled at St. Paul's Cathedral, when Canon Eyton preached a most eloquent sermon. The arrangements for the coming service, which will take place at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, are being made by General Sir William Olpherts, V.C. (the United Service Club, Pall Mall), who will be glad to hear from any survivors, whether civil or military, who were in the beleaguered city and desirous of being present, as it is hoped to bring together as large a number as possible.

MONDAY NIGHT'S Marlborough House circular contained the following: "Osborne, September 12th, 1898. Eight weeks have now elapsed since the accident to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Since the last bulletin was issued three weeks ago most satisfactory progress has taken place. The apparatus which it will be necessary for his Royal Highness to wear during the daytime for many weeks has been fitted, and has already enabled the Prince to walk with ease on level ground with the assistance of a single stick. The massage and passive movement are continued, and a considerable degree of mobility has been obtained in the knee-joint. The stay on board ship, practically in the open air, has proved of supreme importance to the general health, and the last few days at Osborne House have also been beneficial, as it has enabled his Royal Highness to enjoy the advantage of a greater amount of exercise, both indoors and in his carriage. It is the intention of his Royal Highness to proceed to Scotland this week, and every precaution has been taken to ensure a safe transport.—William MacCormac, Alfred D. Frupp." Since then the Prince has left Osborne, travelling by special train from Gosport to Balmoral.



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THE FIRST MATINEE of "Teresa," with Miss Violet Vanbrugh, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, and full cast, will take place at the Garrick Theatre to-day (Saturday), at three o'clock.

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE GERMAN EMPEROR has graciously signified his intention to offer for the yacht race from Dover to Heligoland next year a gold cup, with an enamelled portrait of her Majesty the Queen, as a prize, in commemoration of her Majesty's 50th birthday.

ON WEDNESDAY the foundation stone was laid of the new church at Shotton, within the boundaries of Hawarden parish. The church is practically a Gladstone Memorial Church, and it will be remembered that the deceased statesman contributed £1000 towards the endowment of the living.

BRO. J. RENWICK SEAGER met with an accident on Saturday last, when he slipped down some steps at his house. Fortunately, no bones were broken, but Bro. Renwick Seager suffered a severe shock to the system, from which he has not yet quite recovered, although able on Wednesday, for the first time since the accident, to attend his work.

BRO. THE RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN R. MOWBRAY, M.P., Father of the House of Commons, has returned to England from a cruise in the Mediterranean. Sir John is in the enjoyment of remarkably good health, considering his advanced age—83 years. During his absence Lady and Miss Mowbray have remained at Warrens Wood, near Reading.

WE understand that Bro. R. F. Gould's "Military Lodges" (crown octavo, handsomely bound in cloth), "An Account of Lodges in Regiments and Ships of War, together with Biographies of distinguished Military and Naval Brethren, and Anecdotes showing the Influence of Masonry in Warfare, &c., &c.," is in a very forward state, and will shortly be issued to subscribers.

SIR HARRY BODKIN POLAND, Q.C., Recorder of Dover, has presented the Corporation of that city with a handsome jewelled badge of office, to be worn by the Mayor on official occasions. It is of solid gold, richly jewelled with diamonds and rubies. The design includes the arms of the Marquis of Salisbury as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, those of the port of Dover, and of the present Mayor, Sir William Crundall.

IT HAS BEEN decided by the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education, at the suggestion of the Council of the Society of Arts, to hold during the autumn an exhibition of lithography in the buildings of the South Kensington Museum, on the west side of Exhibition-road. As lithography was discovered by Senefelder in the year 1798, the present is the centenary year of the invention, and therefore offers a suitable occasion for such an exhibition.

THE BENEVOLENCE AND CHARITY COMMITTEE of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Western Division of Lancashire, embracing representatives of all the lodges in the province, recently met, under the presidency of Bro. Robert Wylie, P.G.D., D. Prov. G.M., and in the course of the proceedings the members voted substantial sums from the fund for the relief of a deserving widow and a distressed brother. After careful consideration, it was resolved to appropriate the votes of the province for the purpose of securing the election of two meritorious candidates next month in connection with the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.

BRO. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, who is attending the French Army manoeuvres, met with an accident on Monday, that might have proved very serious. While riding with M. Faure on the scene of operations, the Duke halted for a moment beside batteries which just then came into action. His horse, startled by the simultaneous discharge of many guns, bounded forward and fell. Presence of mind and good horsemanship, however, saved the rider from being crushed in the fall. The Duke disengaged his feet from the stirrups, so that he was enabled to get clear of the horse as it fell. The Duke happily seems to have been none the worse for his fall as he promptly mounted another charger and continued to watch the operations as if nothing had happened.

POSTAL DEVELOPMENT IN LONDON.—The Postal Department has decided to expend the sum of £200,000 on a scheme which makes provision for dealing more efficiently with the ever-increasing postal work in the Metropolis, and provide better accommodation for the Telegraph and Post Office staffs. Three new buildings will be erected at once. The east block of the St. Martin-le-Grand buildings will be demolished, except the exterior walls, and inside a new structure will be erected suited to modern requirements. While the work is in progress a portion of the business will be transferred to the Mount Pleasant offices, to which a new wing is being added. These parts of the scheme will involve an expenditure of £150,000. The Department has purchased business premises in Angel-street and King Edward-street, which will be demolished, and a handsome building erected, which will provide dining and cloak-room accommodation for the staff of 3000 telegraph clerks at St. Martin-le-Grand. The sum of £50,000 will be spent in the undertaking. As soon as a suitable site can be obtained it is proposed to build a large post and telegraph office in the East Strand, where business has so rapidly increased in recent years.

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