

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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MASONIC IMPOSTORS.

We are under great obligations to Bro. JAMES NEWTON, Prov. G. Secretary of East Lancashire, for the trouble he takes in exposing the doings of the Masonic vagrant. Last week, but not for the first time, he kindly furnished us with particulars of a case in which a person claiming to be a member of the Cornubian Lodge, No. 450, Hayle, in the Province of Cornwall, is going about obtaining assistance from lodge Almoners. But inquiries have been made as to the truth of this allegation with the result that the Secretary of No. 450 declares that "no such name has ever been attached to that lodge and that he has had several inquiries about this man during the last 12 months." Bro. NEWTON further informs us that the fellow has been travelling the country under several *aliases* and concluded with the hope that "Almoners will be on their guard against him."

Our readers will no doubt call to mind that for a considerable time past we have been urging upon the lodges in town and country the necessity for adopting some plan for the prevention of imposture. Some few years since the Secretary of a lodge in Tonbridge brought a very flagrant case of the kind to the notice of his brother Secretaries and Almoners in the Province of Kent. A special meeting was held with a view to considering what measures should be adopted in order to put an end to the nuisance. Indeed, matters were carried so far that the subject was mentioned at the next annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, but nothing resulted, except, it may be, that for a time the Lodge Almoner was rather more on his guard than usual against the trickery and deceit of the Masonic vagrant. But since then, though we have received many cautions from different parts of the country to beware of this or that person, who was travelling the country under many *aliases* and doing his best to levy toll on the Lodge Almoner, no concerted action has been taken. We are as far off as ever from putting down the impostor, and all because those who are chiefly interested in getting rid of him will not take a little trouble. So the vagrant still thrives, and the Almoner is still worried, and often "done" out of the moneys entrusted to him for genuinely benevolent purposes. Yet in Canada and the United States, or at all events in very many of the Masonic jurisdictions in the United States, there is an association which has been specially organised to cope with this evil; and though it would be an exaggeration to say that since its establishment some 20 or more years ago the Masonic

impostor has been stamped out of existence, there is little doubt that his game is now hardly worth playing. The system adopted works admirably, and, as a result, the lodges and brethren in the jurisdictions which subscribe regularly to the Central Association annually save many thousands of dollars, which would otherwise find their way into the pockets of the vagrants. But this will be more clearly seen if we quote a few of the cases contained in the last report of the New York Board of Relief in illustration of their methods of dealing with applications for help. The first case—No. 1322—is one of a brother from "Jamaica, West Indies, with wife and two children." The applicant had been sent from "Oakland, Cal. Board of Relief to New Orleans, under the impression that a steamer sailed from there to Jamaica." But as there appears to have been none, he was sent on to New York "by New Orleans Board of Relief, and by us to his home." It was declared to be "an excellent case for generous outlay, and gladly helped." Another case—No. 1327—is that of a brother who had been "a thriving business man of Montreal, Canada, three years ago." It was ascertained that "his unfortunate condition was due to habits which he did not appear able to break," but many of the members of the New York Board "knew him personally and well, and, because of his generosity and true Masonic kindness, we helped him liberally." No. 1348 is said to have been "the case of a man who applied to us soon after our organisation in 1880, and was recognised, though denying his former application. He might have changed his name, and did not. His features could not be so easily altered, and his untruthfulness did him no good." No. 1352, who is said to have figured in the previous year's report as No. 1241, is described as "an elderly but frisky" brother, who, notwithstanding his experience of the previous year, visited New York, lost all his money "upon the Bowery," and then applied to the Board "for sympathy and money." The remark appended is: "He got little of the first, none of the last." No. 1368 claimed membership of a lodge in Boston, and produced certificates of membership of a Chapter and Templar Commandery in that city. On inquiry it turned out that he was not a member of the lodge. He was, however, a member of the other bodies, but had swindled several of his Companions and Sir Knights. The Board report that he was given "a little money pending investigation;" but, it is added, that they "have satisfaction in knowing his career as a Masonic beggar is checked." Now if some such system as this were adopted, with a Central Association in London, and a Board or corresponding Almoner in each province, we, too, might have "the satisfaction of knowing" that at no very distant date the careers of our "Masonic beggars" would be "checked." But what is everybody's business is nobody's. When a more than usually flagrant case occurs, information is sent to us, and we insert the warning we are invited to publish; but otherwise the demands of the Masonic impostor are never noticed. He goes about the country relieving the benevolent of their spare cash, and with the proceeds is able to fare more or less sumptuously every day.

THE NEW YORK MASONIC HOME.

We are naturally and justly proud of our Masonic Charitable Institutions, and the brethren in other jurisdictions, but especially in those of the United States, commend our efforts to assist our aged and indigent members, their widows, and their orphan children. The praise from American Masons is all the more valuable, because they, too, are not unmindful of the claims of their poor brethren, widows, and children, and though

the methods they adopt for helping them are somewhat different from ours, they bestow a large amount of help upon the deserving, and are thus enabled to do a considerable amount of service in the shape of permanent relief to the aged and of sound training and education to the young. Among the many Grand Lodges which have of late years established what in the States are called Masonic Homes, that of New York occupies a foremost place. As soon as it had cleared off the debt it had incurred in erecting its stately hall in the City of New York, it set about the task of founding a Home at Utica, and successive annual reports have made it clear that this Home is becoming year by year more valuable by reason of the amount of good it does. The latest of these reports was laid before Grand Lodge at its annual communication in June last, when the Trustees found themselves in a position to speak most warmly of the successful efforts which had been made in the past and the encouraging nature of the prospects which seemed to await them in the future.

The Trustees, after mentioning that "the Reserve Fund of the Masonic Hall and Asylum now amounts to more than 200,000 dollars (£40,000)," confine their attention to the latter. They point out, among other things, that the number of inmates was increased during the past year from 151 to 180, and that the cost of maintenance is 191.52 dollars (between £38 and £39) per head, or less by about £4 15s. than in the previous year. This reduction in cost, however, is due principally to the fact "that, while the number of inmates has been increased, the working force has remained about the same." They lay particular stress upon the further fact that "no part of the reduction has been obtained by any change in the quantity or quality of merchandise purchased," it being their belief that "true economy consists in always procuring the best of everything required." They also mention that "the 'Memorial Building,' which was erected for the use of the children only, has proved of great advantage, and that both the old people and the young are far more comfortable now that they are occupying separate buildings, the children in particular "showing a marked improvement in their appearance, and also in their mental and moral training." They express the hope that the day is not far distant when they will be in a position to erect another building for the children, and thus have separate accommodation for the girls and boys. They have procured plans for an extension of the east wing of the main building which shall serve as an infirmary and hospital, and have two wards completely isolated for the use of those who may be suffering from any contagious disease. Their plans for the improvement and extension of the Home appear to be worthy of all praise, and we hope to hear in some future report that they have carried them out as completely as they themselves can desire.

There are other paragraphs in the Report to which we must only briefly refer. In the first place, they express their gratitude to the Masonic members of the medical profession resident in Utica for their kindness and attention to the inmates of the Home, and to the clergy and members of several religious societies in Utica for the kindly advice and assistance which at all times they have so ungrudgingly rendered. In the next place, they invite all masons to make a stricter examination into "the merits of each application submitted for approval," pointing out that cases have occurred in which undesirable persons have been admitted into the Home. We trust this salutary caution will have due effect and that as years elapse, the New York Masonic Home will become worthier and still more worthy of the brethren in the Empire State.

OLD MASONIC CHARGES.

Since the publication of my "Old Charges of British Freemasons," 1895, the following MSS. have been traced or made known. I append particulars and distinctive titles, so as to put students in possession of the latest information as to this important subject in relation to the early history of the Fraternity.

C 4. "Henry Heade MS."

This document was noted by me in 1895, and given the number X 10. Bro. Speth saw it described in Cochrane's Catalogue of 1826 (No. 633). I have since traced it in catalogue of Libri's Sale of his valuable MSS., &c. (as No. 65). Bro. W. M. Bywater first noted it a few weeks since in the

Report of the "Historical Manuscripts Commission" (11th Report, Part VII.), which includes the MSS. of the Inner Temple, London (but it is incorrectly described as by "Hen. Heale") p. 308. "From Mr. J. O. Halliwell's Library, who bought it at M. Libri's sale."

The MS. is on paper, and of the "William Watson" text, being similar to that important Roll, and is dated 1675. It belongs to the Plot Family.

D 40. "Langdale MS." (c).

This is a late 17th century transcript, and on a paper Roll (c/o "Newcastle College of Rosicrucians' Library.") It was printed in the *Freemason* for December 7th, 1895, from a copy made by Bro. F. F. Schnitger, with an Introduction by me. The Scroll is of the *Grand Lodge Family—Branch (c)*.

E 16. "John T. Thorp MS." (a).

This fine vellum Roll of A.D. 1629, lately announced by me in the *Freemason*, belonged to Bro. Henry Brown, of Northampton, and I called it after him. Since then, however, it has been acquired by Bro. John T. Thorp, of Leicester, after whom I have now named it. It is very curious and valuable, because of the "Sloane Family," and 17 years older than any hitherto discovered of that group; hence its importance. Bro. Thorp and I have sent it to Bro. Speth for the Transactions of the "Quatuor Coronati" Lodge, Part 3, now in the Press, so that the text thereof will soon be made public, and Bro. Thorp will, later on, publish it in the Transactions of the "Lodge of Research," of which he is the Editor.

F 5. "Macnab MS."

This document was once a paper Roll, but since made up in Book form. It is in the celebrated "West Yorkshire Masonic Library," and was published in the Series of Reproductions, edited by Bro. William Watson (1896), with an Introduction by me. There is also a facsimile of a portion. Copies may be had from Bro. George Kenning at 2s. 6d. each, post free. It is an important MS., as it contains the *New Articles* and the *Apprentice Charges*.

Of the "Missing MSS." the "Henry Heade," of 1675, has been discovered (X 10). The MS. once in the possession of the late Bro. T. Lamb Smith has not been traced and is numbered by me X 11; and another referred to in the minutes of the "Anchor and Hope" Lodge, No. 37, Bolton, Lancs., in the year 1788, is still to be found. This is No. X 12.

The "Aberdeen MS." (D 11 (i)) I have had privately printed (50 copies), and also in *Freemason*, Nov. 23rd, 1895.

Corrections needed for my "Old Charges," 1895. P. 21, should read 38 pp. both sides of each leaf. P. 29, 60 copies not 100. P. 37 Edward Thompson. Pp. 49 and 88, Vol. V. (not VI.). P. 59, No. 1 tris. P. 78, fourth line, up g (not 9). Pp. 80-1, Dumfries Kilwinning 3 (not 4), as to reference. P. 109, Rule 19, Mast.

W. J. HUGHAN.

CONSECRATION OF THE ALBERT LUCKING LODGE AT SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

The Earl of Warwick, Provincial Grand Master, Essex, visited Southend-on-Sea on Saturday, the 29th ult., for the purpose of consecrating a new lodge, to be named the "Albert Lucking," after the highly respected brother who for twenty-five years has occupied the post of Director of Ceremonies of the province.

His Lordship, accompanied by Bro. Col. Lockwood, M.P., the newly-appointed D.P.G.M., Bro. Richard Clowes, P.G. Std. Br. and P.P.S.G.W., and other brethren, reached Southend soon after three o'clock, and was met at the West Cliff Station by Bros. Thomas Hood, P.M. 1000, P.P.G.R., the W.M. designate of the new lodge; and Thos. J. Ralling, the Prov. G. Sec., and was driven in an open carriage to "The Grove," Bro. Hood's residence, where light refreshments were partaken of. The party afterwards proceeded to the West Cliff Hotel, the coffee-room of which had been transformed into a very handsome lodge room, and in which a large number of members of the Craft had assembled.

The lodge having been opened by the Provincial Grand Secretary, his Lordship and Deputy, accompanied by a goodly array of Present and Past Provincial Grand Officers, entered, and were received with the honours due to their Masonic rank. His Lordship then appointed as his officers to assist in the consecration ceremony: Bros. Richard Clowes, P.G. Std. Br., P.P.S.G.W., as S.W.; Col. Landon, Prov. J.G.W., as J.W.; Ven. Archdeacon Stevens, P.G. Chap., and Rev. Wm. Cree, Prov. G. Chap., as Chaplains; Thos. J. Ralling, P.A.G.D.C., Prov. G. Sec., as Sec.; Albert Lucking, P.G.P., Prov. G.D.C., as D.C.; and Geo. Graveley, G. Purst., as I.G.

In opening the proceedings, Bro. the Earl of WARWICK said it gave him great pleasure to come to Southend, where he knew he had many Masonic friends and where the work of the Craft was so well carried out. But it was especially gratifying to him that the object of their assembly that day was to consecrate a lodge to be named after one so well known to all the Essex Masons, and who had done so much for the good of the Craft in the county. (Applause.) He believed that Bro. Lucking had been over 30 years a Mason, and for 25 years he had been Director of Ceremonies of the province. (Hear, hear.) That was a long period of service, and it seemed to him most fitting that Bro. Lucking's name should be commemorated in this way in the annals of the Craft in Essex. (Applause.)

The ceremony of consecration was then proceeded with in Masonic form, in the course of which an eloquent oration on the nature and principles of the Order was given by Bro. the Ven. Archdeacon STEVENS, who said—

He thought he might assume that they were met that day as something more than brethren—they were met as believers in Freemasonry, and as such were desirous that a new centre should be formed from which all that was good in the Craft might radiate. They were met also as believers in the principles of their Order, and desirous that they should be more widely known and more fully recognised. Some time ago he assisted at the consecration of a new lodge in Staffordshire of a very remarkable kind. It was formed to perpetuate the memory of one who had for many years been Provincial Grand Master—it was the Foster Gough Lodge—and in the fulfilment of the duties of that important position had made his mark. The circumstances of that consecration were of a striking

and unique kind. There were 100 founders, all of whom were installed Masters; the first Master of the lodge was the Provincial Grand Master, and all the officers were of Provincial rank, and the feeling of all who took part in the ceremony was that the best monument that could be raised to any man was to create something that would continue the great and good work to which he had devoted himself during life, and which had tended to make the world better. But why should they wait till a good brother had passed away before recognising the value of his services, and then do something to perpetuate the memory of those services? Was it not better to recognise his work while he was with them, and show to him and the outside world the value they put upon those services? The Archdeacon then proceeded to enforce on the founders the responsibility they had undertaken in starting that new lodge, of the care they should take in carrying out the cardinal Masonic virtues of brotherly love, relief, and truth, and, above all, that they should exhibit the reality of their profession in the support of the noble Charities of the Order. It must have been a marvellous revelation to the world when after the great meeting in support of one of our Charities, presided over by H.R.H. the Grand Master, the amount of the subscription was published; it must have caused people to realise, if they had not done so before, the great power that the Craft has become, and the immense good it is doing in the education of the young and the relief of the aged. But he would commend to them another form of Charity—that which produced kind and brotherly feeling, the Charity that enabled brethren to meet in perfect friendliness, though there were points on which they might not agree, and which set forth to the world their belief in brotherly love, relief, and truth. He trusted that the characteristics of that new lodge would be the excellence of its working, the reality of their brotherly feeling one towards another, and that all of them would so live that no one would be able to say that it was not a grand thing to be a Mason.

At the conclusion of the consecration ceremony, Bro. Thomas Hood, P.M. 1000, P.P.G.R., was installed as W.M. by Bro. Colonel Lockwood, M.P., D.P.G.M., and the officers for the year appointed as under: Bros. W. Scott-Miller, S.W. 2500, S.W.; F. England, W.M. 2442, Prov. G.S. of W., J.W.; Rev. Thomas Varney, P.P.G.C., Chap.; H. B. Dickins, I.P.M. 2346, Sec.; W. L. Crow, P.M. 1076, S.D.; J. J. Cummins, J.W. 1910, J.D.; J. Berry, I.P.M. 1817, I.G.; Wm. Marlow, D.C.; W. H. Stevenson, Org. 1817, Org.; A. Drury, G. Jacob, E. M. Kemp, Thos. Byford, and A. Knight, Stewards; and A. W. Martin, Tyler.

Bro. A. J. Marden, P.M. 1817, P.P.A.G.D.C., was unanimously elected Treasurer; Bro. F. England as Charity Representative; and Bro. W. E. Bridgland, P.M. 1000, P.P.G.S.B., accepted the invitation of the W.M. to act as I.P.M. for the year.

Heartly votes of thanks were passed to the Prov. G.M. for his kindness in coming and personally consecrating the lodge; to Bro. Col. Lockwood for installing the Master; and both of them were elected hon. members, and presented with a jewel in commemoration of the event.

Lord WARWICK, in acknowledging the compliment, reiterated the pleasure it had given him to be present, and wished the lodge a long and prosperous career.

Bro. Col. LOCKWOOD said he should always remember the occasion with great interest, as it was the first time he had taken part in a Masonic ceremony since his appointment by the Prov. G.M. to be his Deputy. He regretted that owing to his recent bereavement he could not remain to the altar proceedings.

The lodge was shortly afterwards closed, and about 80 brethren sat down to a banquet, at the conclusion of which the usual toasts were duly honoured.

The Earl of WARWICK, in responding to the toast of his health, remarked that he wished it were possible for him to make a speech at all adequate to the kindly reception they had given him. It was extremely difficult for him to say anything fresh to them upon Masonic subjects, but it seemed that Freemasonry, every time he met them, had assumed a more prosperous aspect in the province than upon the previous occasion. He also offered his sincere and earnest thanks for the generous manner in which Essex brethren came forward to support their great Masonic Charities, though the province was far from being a wealthy one. He did not wish to make a pun; but he was in "luck in" being there that night, for he appreciated the honour which had been done to a very old kind friend of them all. It had never been his privilege to see a lodge more admirably started, and seldom had he seen work better done; whilst the attendance in lodge was a credit to the organisers. They regretted that Bro. Col. Lockwood, through a domestic bereavement, could not remain with them; and they also regretted the unavoidable absence at the consecration of Bro. Woodhouse. His Lordship wished them great prosperity in their new lodge; and he proceeded to propose "The Health of the W.M.," remarking that that brother had a most pleasant way of bestowing upon the officers of his lodge the honours and decorations which were at his disposal; whilst it seemed that he had so won the affections of all that his rule over them would be pleasant to himself and pleasant to all the brethren. Southend was a charming place, and his Lordship hoped that having been introduced to the Albert Lucking Lodge he would have the pleasure of paying them another visit before long.

Bro. HOOD, W.M., who briefly acknowledged the toast, said he started in Masonry as a baby under Albert Lucking, and hoped that brother had never had occasion to be ashamed of his child. He hoped not only to have the assistance of Bro. Lucking, but also of the Priory Lodge, and that real good feeling would exist between the two lodges.

In the course of the afternoon a telegram was despatched to the M.W. Grand Master congratulating him on his recovery from his late accident, to which his Royal Highness wired a gracious reply.

It was a matter of much regret to the founders that owing to an obstruction on the Cambridge line Bro. Woodhouse, Prov. S.G.W., who was to have acted as S.W., was delayed for two hours, and was unable in consequence to get to Southend till the proceedings were far advanced.

The furniture, &c., was manufactured by Bros. George Kenning and Son.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF SURREY.

The above Provincial Grand Mark Lodge was held recently at the Greyhound Hotel, East Croydon, under the banner of the Croydon Lodge, No. 198. The Prov. G.M., Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Onslow, G.C.M.G., &c., &c., presided, and was supported by the following: Bros. Fredk. West, D.P.G.M.; C. W. Davis, P.J.G.W.; E. Apelt, P.G.M.O.; J. R. Mosse, P.J.G.O.; Rev. J. H. Robson, P.G. Chap.; Rev. S. C. Hill, P.G. Chap.; S. W. Lambert, P.G.R. of M.; A. H. Bowles, P.G. Sec.; B. Cooper, P.J.G.D.; C. P. Passmore, P.G. Org.; A. W. R. Sowman, P.A.G. Sec.; S.

F. Mackway, P.G. I.G.; F. C. Van Duzer, P.G.S.B.; J. L. Barrett, P.G. Std. Br.; R. F. Potter, P.G. Tyler; J. H. Curtis, P.M. 333, P.G.D.; A. H. Salter, W.M. 111, P.G. Stwd.; C. W. J. Bird, P.G.D.; Rev. E. G. Houndell, 196, P.G. Chap.; E. H. Lewes, W.M. 505; F. Lockett, S.W. 505; W. A. Shaw, E. J. Parkinson, 505; W. M. Bisley, 407; Thos. White, 114; Thos. White, 505; W. Featherstonehaugh, P.J.G.D.; C. F. Taylor, P.P.J.G.W.; R. Wilson, W.M. 196; E. G. L. Anderson, 451; F. W. Williamson, 451; G. H. C. Collier, 505; P. Squire, 198; G. H. King, 198; T. Hodgson, 315; C. Woodrow, 450; R. Nevill, 442; T. H. Roberts, 198; G. W. Howell, 450; and J. T. Fielder, 198. Visitors: Bros. Thos. Pargatier, P.P.G.D.C. Middx. and Surrey; W. J. Batho, 433; Prof. F. W. Driver, P.G. Stwd. Eng., P.P.G.I. of W. Middx. and Surrey; and H. F. E. Pistorius, P.M. 217, S. Africa.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was opened in ample form by the Prov. G. Master, who was saluted by the brethren present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The roll of lodges was then called, and all were represented.

Letters and communications were read by the Prov. G. Secretary. The Prov. G. Treasurer's account and Auditors' report was received and adopted. The Prov. G. Treasurer was elected.

The Prov. G. Master then proceeded to invest the Prov. G. Officers for the ensuing year:

Bro. Fredk. West	...	...	...	D.P.G.M.
" J. R. Mosse...	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" J. L. Barrett	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" F. C. Van Duzer	...	...	...	Prov. G.M.O.
" A. H. Salter...	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.O.
" R. Wilson	...	...	...	Prov. G.J.O.
" Rev. E. L. Houndle	...	...	...	} Prov. G. Chaps.
" Rev. W. P. Clare Hill	...	...	...
" Col. Bircham	...	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" T. W. Lambert	...	...	...	Prov. G.R. of M.
" A. H. Bowles	...	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" T. F. Mackway	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" W. Shaw	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" H. L. Crozier	...	...	...	Prov. G.I. of Wks.
" Major Bridges	...	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" E. G. L. Anderson	...	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" C. Woodrow	...	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" E. H. Lewis	...	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" C. F. Passmore	...	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" A. W. R. Sowman	...	...	...	Prov. Asst. G. Sec.
" W. Hill	...	...	...	Prov. G.I.G.
" R. Nevill	...	...	...	} Prov. G. Stwds.
" F. Lockett	...	...	...
" Robt. Potter	...	...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.

The Prov. Grand Officers were saluted in due form.

The four brethren who had served on the Committee of General Purposes for the last year were re-appointed.

By the unanimous decision of the Provincial Grand Lodge, the Prov. G.M., the Earl of Onslow, was recommended to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M., for another term of three years.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed.

After the discussion of the well-served banquet, the Prov. G.M. gave the usual toasts.

"The Queen and Mark Masonry," "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," having been given, "The Pro G.M., the Earl of Euston," followed.

Bro. F. WEST responded to "The D.G.M., Viscount Dungarvan, and the Grand Officers, Present and Past."

In proposing "The D.P.G.M., Bro. F. West," Lord ONSLOW observed how much Mark Masonry had progressed under the zealous care of Bro. West, and that the Croydon was a great and important lodge in his province.

The brethren most enthusiastically responded to the toast.

Bro. WEST, in reply, said how gratified he felt that his efforts had been appreciated.

The D.P.G.M. then gave the toast of "The Prov. G.M.," which was heartily acknowledged by those present.

The Earl of ONSLOW, in reply, said how pleased he was to be so ably supported by the officers and brethren of his province. It was a great gratification to him to welcome them. His chief interests and wishes were connected with the Provincial Grand Lodge, and, whilst thanking the brethren for their past support, trusted they would extend it in the future.

The toast of "The Visitors" was next given.

Bro. H. F. E. PISTORIUS, of South Africa, responded in a few well-chosen words.

In giving the toast of "The Prov. Grand Officers," Bro. Lord ONSLOW coupled it with the name of Bro. J. L. Barrett, Prov. J.G.W. His lordship said the Provincial Grand Lodge was deeply indebted to Bro. Barrett for his handsome gift of a banner, which had been displayed for the first time that evening in Provincial Grand Lodge.

Bro. Barrett, in reply, said that last year he had been appointed by the Prov. Grand Master Prov. G. Std. Br., and it then occurred to him that it was absurd that he should have no banner to carry; and so that this should not occur to the future holders of the office, he had determined to supply the deficiency. This he had done, and he trusted it might be displayed for many years to come in Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Prov. G. Tyler's toast brought the evening to a close.

PROVINCIAL PRIORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE, WARWICKSHIRE, AND LEICESTERSHIRE.

A meeting of the above Provincial Priory, to which Derby and Nottingham are attached, was held at the Great Western Hotel, Birmingham, on Friday, the 28th ult.

The Very Eminent Knight Charles Fendelow, G.C.T., Prov. Prior, the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl of Euston, G.C.T., accompanied by the Very Eminent Knights C. F. Matier, K.C.T., Great Vice-Chancellor, and Charles Belton, K.C.T., Great Marshal, and other Great Officers, entered the priory and were received in the customary manner.

The Provincial Prior appointed the following knights for the ensuing year, and Eminent Knight C. A. Newnham was elected Treasurer.

Sir Knight J. Loxdale Warren	...	...	Prov. Sub-Prior.
" Rev. Trevor Parkins	...	...	Prov. Prelate.
" Col. Newton	...	...	Prov. Chan.
" Sir Thomas Roe	...	...	} Prov. Constables.
" A. Mear	...	...
" Lieut.-Col. G. W. Walker	...	...	Prov. Reg.
" A. H. Hibbert	...	...	Prov. Vice-Chan.
" Alfred Page	...	...	Prov. Marshal.
" Capt. J. D. Roberts	...	...	Prov. Almoner.
" Christopher Taylor	...	...	Prov. W. of R.
" George Bennion	...	...	Prov. Herald.
" E. F. Milthorp	...	...	} Prov. Std. Brs.
" W. Lister	...	...
" Capt. C. L. N. Wilson	...	...	Prov. Banner Br.
" J. Dunbar Steen	...	...	Prov. S.B.
" J. N. Woodiwiss	...	...	Prov. Capt. of Gd.

There was a large muster of members of Provincial Priory and of private preceptories.

During the proceedings, the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master invested the Very Eminent Knight Abraham Woodiwiss, Past Great Chamberlain, with the collar and Order of K.C.T.

A banquet was subsequently held, at which the Provincial Prior presided, and the Grand Master and other Great Officers were present.

GRAND COUNCIL OF THE ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES.

The annual meeting of the Grand Council was held at Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C., on the 31st ult., when the following Grand Officers were present: M.W. Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Euston, G.M.; R.W. Bros. Charles Belton, D.G.M.; C. F. Matier, G. Sec., P.D.G.M.; Frank Richardson, P.D.G.M.; R. Loveland Loveland, P.D.G.M.; A. H. Jefferis, P.G.W., as S.G.W.; Nathan Heywood, J.G.W.; Baron de Ferrieres, P.G.W.; Abraham Woodiwiss, P.G.W.; Gordon Miller, G. Treas., P.G.W.; and Major C. W. Carrell, P.G.W.; V.W. Bros. Rev. V. P. Wyatt, P.G. Chap., as G. Chap.; and Rev. C. E. L. Wright, P.G. Chap.; W. Bros. F. W. Driver, P.G.D.; Sir Thomas Roe, P.G.D.; William Vincent, G.D.C.; R. J. Voisey, P.A.G.D.C.; John Smith, P.G. Stwd., as G.S.B.; George Graveley, P.G. Std. Br.; W. A. Scurrah, P.G. Stwd.; and E. J. Mills, G. Tyler.

Grand Council was opened in ample form, and Bro. the Earl of Euston, M.W.G.M., saluted.

The minutes of the last meeting of Grand Council were read and confirmed.

The following report was read by the GRAND SECRETARY: The Grand Secretary has great pleasure in reporting that all the councils on the roll have shown increased vitality and activity during the past year, and that a considerable accession in number has taken place. The Degrees of Grand Tyler of King Solomon and Secret Monitor have been conferred on a very large number of candidates who are already in possession of the other Degrees controlled by the Grand Council. In consequence of the strained relations existing between members of the Grand Council or Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor and the members of this Grand Council, following upon the granting of a warrant by the said Order to certain brethren in the town of Rockland, Maine, U.S. America, the whole differences were placed before the V.W. Bro. John Strachan, Q.C., Grand Registrar United Grand Lodge of England, and he was requested to arbitrate thereon.

The Grand Secretary then submitted the following reply to the vote of condolence to his Highness the Duke of Teck:

White Lodge, Richmond Park,
January 17th, 1898.

Dear Sir,

I am desired by the Duke of Teck to convey to the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Past Deputy Grand Master, and the Members of the Grand Council Allied Masonic Degrees, his most grateful thanks for their Resolution expressing sympathy and condolence in the severe loss sustained through the death of H.R.H. the Duchess of Teck; and I am to assure them that their kind message has deeply touched His Highness.

I remain, your obedient servant,
ARTHUR WALSH,
Comptroller and Equerry.

To the Grand Secretary.

The St. Lawrence Council, No. 27, was consecrated at Pudsey, Yorkshire, on 29th April, by the Dep. Grand Master, assisted by the Grand Secretary and Bros. Vincent Voisey, John Smith, and others, and Bro. J. W. Monckman was installed first Master and 14 candidates were received into each of the various Degrees.

The M.W.G.M. re-appointed R.W. Bro. Charles Belton as Deputy Grand Master for the coming year.

Bro. the EARL OF EUSTON, M.W.G.M., said that in order to settle the differences between the Order of the Secret Monitor and this Grand Council, he had taken on himself the entire responsibility of accepting the award of Bro. Strachan, Q.C., and he would ask the brethren to say that he was in the right. They had now got rid of an unpleasant feeling which had for some time existed, which he trusted would for the future be entirely removed, and he sincerely hoped that peace and harmony would prevail among the brethren.

It was proposed by the R.W. Bro. R. LOVELAND LOVELAND, Q.C., P.D.G.M., seconded by R.W. Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON, P.D.G.M., and carried unanimously, that the report be received and adopted, and that the award of V.W. Bro. Strachan be accepted.

Bro. the EARL OF EUSTON, M.W. Grand Master, said that in the whole affair he had every confidence in the wisdom and impartiality of the Arbitrator, and he would beg to propose a hearty and cordial vote of thanks

to V.W. Bro. Strachan for his distinguished services in the cause of that unity and harmony which should always distinguish Freemasons of every Degree.

This was seconded by R.W. Bro. CHARLES BELTON, D.G.M., and carried unanimously.

The Grand Treasurer's accounts, which showed an increased balance in hand of £97 14s. 3d., were also received and adopted.

Bro. Gordon Miller was re-elected Grand Treasurer.

The M.W. Grand Master then appointed and invested the following Grand Officers:

Bro. Charles Belton	...	...	D.G.M.
" Richard Clowes	...	...	G.S.W.
" J. W. Monckman	...	...	G.J.W.
" C. F. Matier, P.G.D.M.	...	...	G. Sec.
" Gordon Miller, P.G.W.	...	...	G. Treas.
" Rev. C. C. Bluett	...	...	} G. Chaps.
" Rev. Richard Peek	...	...
" Wm. Briant	...	...	G.S.D.
" Seymour T. Bell	...	...	G.J.D.
" William Vincent	...	...	G.D.C.
" Thomas Taylor	...	...	A.G.D.C.
" J. Ostle Scott	...	...	G.S.B.
" Wm. Taberner	...	...	G. Std. Br.
" Alfred King, Mus. Doc.	...	...	G. Org.
" A. C. Knight Smith	...	...	G.I.G.
" A. Molony	...	...	G. Stwd.
" Edward James Mills	...	...	G. Tyler.

Grand Council was closed, and a banquet was subsequently held at the Freemasons' Tavern, at which the M.W. Grand Master presided.

LADIES' NIGHT OF THE UNITED NORTHERN COUNTIES LODGE, No. 2128.

The first annual banquet, concert, and ball of the above lodge was given under the Worshipful Mastership of Bro. E. C. Rice Oxley, W.M., and Bro. W. E. Porter, S.W., and W.M. elect, at the Holborn Restaurant, on the 1st inst., and the event proved a great success. The brethren and ladies sat down to a choice banquet, which they thoroughly enjoyed, and during dinner the Bijou Orchestra played some interesting music. After dinner Miss Ada Higginson, Miss Grace Furniss, Bros. M. Aubrey and W. F. Addison, treated them to a beautiful concert, which was performed between the toasts.

The company consisted of Bro. and Mrs. E. C. Rice Oxley; Bro. Dr. W. E. Porter, W.M. elect, and Mrs. Porter; Bro. R. Cooper and Mrs. Cooper; Bro. T. D. Jones; Bro. R. S. Ayling, Bro. C. S. Ayling, and Miss Ayling; Bro. T. Moysey, J.D.; Bro. Maurice Aubrey, Bro. H. T. Town and Miss Town; Bro. W. M. Haydon and Miss Haydon; Bro. T. G. Newton, Mr. Vernon Brown and Miss Brown; Bro. G. W. Thompson and Mrs. Thompson; Bro. W. W. Walford, Bro. H. Massey and Miss Massey; Bro. J. S. Cumberland, P.M., and Miss Cumberland; Bro. G. B. Davis; Bro. H. P. Williams and Mrs. Williams; Bro. R. Davison, P.M., Treas., and Miss Davison; Bro. W. H. Bullock, P.M., Sec., Mrs. Bullock, and Miss Bullock; Bro. T. W. Chant and Mrs. Chant; Bro. J. Parkinson; Bro. C. J. Weller; Bro. W. R. Hayden and Mrs. Hayden; Bro. T. J. Ashton and Mrs. Ashton; Bro. W. F. Smithson; Bro. R. Vivian; Bro. Rayson and Mrs. Rayson; Bro. Dr. Pike; Bro. A. E. Pridmore and Mrs. Pridmore; and Bro. Rumball.

Bro. J. S. CUMBERLAND, P.G. Std. Br., proposed the toast of "The Ladies." He said that was the first meeting of the kind which the United Northern Counties Lodge had had since its formation. He was sorry to say it was the first, because he could not help thinking that the wives, daughters, and sweethearts of the brethren had not yet participated in the brethren's enjoyments. Ladies had for some time had an idea that there was something very strange going on in the lodge which they could not understand, and which they were anxious to get at and know. They rather grumbled at the brethren sometimes for going to lodge and getting home about half-past nine at night—(laughter)—well, sometimes a little later. But he would put it to them very forcibly—Why did they begrudge the brethren six times a year in lodge when they might go to their hotel, and be smoking and listening to stories that were true? (Laughter.) They had a right to know this, that the Masonic organisation was one of charity—to do the greatest amount of good they possibly could to those who could not help themselves, who had fallen out of the ranks, perhaps through illness or leaving the country, and the relatives of those who had died—to benefit them until they were fitted to buffet with the world. In assisting these people the brethren had sometimes to ask the assistance of the ladies to get together something for the noble Charities of the Order. Therefore, it was, he felt, they ought oftener than they did, ask the ladies to join them either in some little country picnic or a meeting like the present. He hoped that although this was the first meeting of its kind it would not be the last, because they could not too much interest the ladies in what they did themselves.

Bro. RALPH BULLOCK replied on behalf of the ladies.

Bro. J. S. CUMBERLAND, P.M., P.G. Std. Br., proposed "The Health of the W.M."

Bro. E. C. RICE OXLEY, W.M., in reply, said it was a great pleasure to him and his wife to be there and to inaugurate these meetings, which he hoped would be annual gatherings. He did not take credit to himself for starting them; the proposal emanated from others; he thought the worthy Secretary, Bro. W. H. Bullock, P.M., had been the prime mover; and but for his assistance he did not think they would have had that gathering. They were greatly indebted to Bro. Bullock and all the Stewards for the splendid work in connection with the organisation of that banquet, concert, and dance. They had put on the programme—"First Annual Banquet, Concert, and Ball;" he hoped it would not be the last. Although that had been a splendid success, he hoped that next year would be an improvement, and that the W.M. elect, Dr. Porter, would see a greater assemblage. He trusted every brother, every visitor, and every lady had enjoyed himself or herself as much as he (Bro. Rice Oxley) had enjoyed himself. (Hear, hear.)

Bros. W. H. BULLOCK, P.M., CHANT, OXLEY, and PARKINSON, having responded on behalf of "The Stewards," the ladies and brethren proceeded to the dancing saloon, where they kept up the entertainment until morning was well advanced.

The Committee of Management consisted of Bros. E. C. R. Oxley, W.M.; W. E. Porter, S.W.; T. W. Chant, J.D.; G. B. Davis, J. Parkinson, M. Aubrey, and W. H. Bullock, Hon. Sec. To them the greatest credit is due for the unqualified success which attended their efforts.

THE MASONIC BAZAAR AT BELFAST.

We are glad to be in a position to state that the Masonic Bazaar which closed on the 29th ult. was an unqualified success. During Saturday afternoon and evening the attendance was very large, and a brisk business was done by the stallholders, while the various amusements were liberally patronised.

The procession, which was repeated at night, was a very imposing ceremony. The R.W. Bro. R. J. Hilton, J.P., supported by several prominent brethren, was again in attendance, and took a great interest in the proceedings all through. The half-hour concerts in the minor hall proved most attractive, the programme during the three days being contributed to by Madame Dorothy Bayley (Mrs. Sydney Spratt), Misses Daisy Greeny, Cissie Carroll, Emily Johnston, Minnie Wright, Hettie Wright, Henderson, Brooks, J. Corken; Messrs. Guthrie, F. Murphy, and Willson Dighton; Bros. W. Thomas, R. T. Mahood, A. P. Dalzell, W. Hart, W. Livingston, R. Windrim, M. Gibson, R. Tully, Walter Irvine, J. D. Johnston, J. Haveron, W. T. M'Larnon, J. H. McKeown, and Master Johnston. Mr. L. Glenton efficiently supplied the accompaniments.

In the annex Mrs. and the Misses Haines provided half-hour entertainments, consisting of children's fancy dress dances, which, needless to say, were much admired, and an excellent cinematograph display was given in the minor hall under the supervision of Mr. James A. Doyle. The music for the grand cycle gymkhana was supplied by Mr. J. Green's string band, and Millon's string band, which occupied a prominent position on the platform in the large hall, played a choice selection of airs.

The arrangements in connection with the bazaar were perfectly made and admirably carried out, reflecting great credit upon the Committee, and especially the Honorary Secretary (Bro. R. B. Andrews), who was ably assisted by Bro. Wm. Brown, jun. It should be mentioned that the pretty little girl, Miss Tizie Andrews, who handed the beautiful bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Pirrie is a daughter of Bro. R. B. Andrews. It is thought that when the cash still out is returned the sum aimed at (£1000) will be realised. It is gratifying to know that the efforts of the Committee and the energetic Honorary Secretary have been awarded with success. A quantity of goods still remain unsold, and it is intended to have a sale of work in a few weeks, and also to complete the ballots of the new hall, Crumlin-road.

NEGRO MASONRY.

The following cutting from the *St. Louis Daily Globe Democrat* of October 20th last may be of interest to readers of the *Freemason* who are watching the action of the various Grand Lodges in America with respect to the question of Negro Masonry, which has so recently been brought into prominent notice through the adoption by the Grand Lodge of Washington of the report of a Special Committee on the claims to recognition of certain persons alleging themselves to be "Free and Accepted Masons of African descent."

R. F. GOULD.

"MASONS QUARREL OVER COLOR.

"The Grand Lodge of Kentucky Declines to Recognise That of Washington.

"Louisville, Oct. 20.—The Grand Lodge of Kentucky Masons adopted a resolution which recommends non-intercourse between the Grand Lodge of this State and the Grand Lodge of Washington because of the action of the latter in recognising negro lodges.

"Seattle, Wash., Oct. 20.—Past Grand Master J. M. Taylor, when shown the dispatch from Louisville last night on the action of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Kentucky, said: "The Masons of the State of Washington are, in this matter, contending for a principal of right and justice. Kentucky can certainly get along without us; and it is equally certain that we can get along without Kentucky. We can afford to bide our time until such time as the future shall demonstrate that the Masons of Washington are right on this question, just as the loudly condemned Abolitionists were right in their fight on slavery."

Craft Masonry.

Moira Lodge, No. 92.

The first meeting of this lodge after the summer recess took place at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, E.C., on Tuesday, the 25th ult., when there were present, Bros. R. F. Gould, P.G.D., P.M., as W.M.; John Webb, S.W.; C. E. Russell, J.W.; Russell Ardagh, J.D.; Sir W. R. Pingle, Bart., I.G.; S. Shorter, P.M.; J. M. Mitchell, P.M.; H. M. Carter, P.M.; G. Greiner, P.M.; J. P. Murrrough, J. W. Noakes, S. B. Noakes, and F. A. Donnison.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The S.W. Bro. John Webb was elected W.M., and Bro. T. L. Wilkinson, P.D.G.R., P.M., was re-elected Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Ballots were taken for three candidates, which proving favourable, and two of them, Messrs. C. A. Elgood, and A. J. Sanderson, being in attendance, they were initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Ancient Freemasonry. After which, there being no further business, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet.

Pattison Lodge, No. 913.

Bro. Capt. J. J. Murphy, the esteemed W.M. of the above strong and influential lodge, may well be proud of his position and of the splendid attendance of the brethren of the lodge and visitors, when he, on Thursday, the 3rd inst., opened his lodge, and commenced his sessional work for the year 1898-99. The meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Mount Pleasant, Plumstead, and the line hall of the place was surrounded by brethren, in some places two deep; while round the room hung some twenty banners of the Past Masters of the lodge—Bro. Kenning's masterpieces, both in design and beauty of execution. The only work done was the raising of Bro. Broadbridge, and the W.M.'s full and sonorous voice rolled out the grand ritual with telling effect; while the full Pattison Choir sang the incidental music in splendid style, Bro. Sydney Horton, P.M., who is also the musical director of the lodge, presiding at the organ in a masterly manner.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to, and partook of, a neatly served little dinner.

Among the brethren present were Bros. Murphy, W.M.; E. M. Taylor, S.W.; A. Moore, J.W.; Rev. A. Jackson, M.A., P.M., and P.G. Chap.; W. Campbell-Taylor, P.M., Sec.; W. Sanders, Asst. Sec.; J. G. Tucker, S.D.; F. Hoare, J.D.; J. H. Bull, D.C.; W. H. Chaney and B. Hammond, Asst. D.C.; T. J. Nell, G. Roberts, Dr. J. Clarke, J. O. Widger, and W. H. Lewis, Stwds.; C. Warren Tyler, all officers of the lodge; A. Penfold, L.C.C., P.M., and P.P.S.G.D.; R. J. Cook, P.M. P.P.G.R.; W. Busbridge, P.M.; Dr. E. Bryceson, P.M.; G. H. Letton, P.M.; James Farrier, P.M.; J. Furton, P.M.; J. O. Cook, I.P.M.; S. Horton, P.M.; C. Jolly, P.M. (Hon.), P.M. and Sec. 1472, P.M. and Sec. 2184, P.P.A.G.D.C. Essex; E. W. Simpson, W. E. Champion, T. Kirkman, A. D. Capon, F. Hutchins,

W. C. Hallam, B. Littlewood, W. H. Lendry, W. Wren, D. Sedley, T. Mills, E. G. Denton, H. Vicars, J. Stratton, T. Oliver, R. Saunders, I. T. Taylor, J. Frankling, A. M. Oyley, R. Broadbridge, G. Markwell, A. F. Lever, W.M. 1358; J. Honor, W.M. 1324; A. J. Waklin, W.M. 483; A. Hill, W.M. 1536; A. McQueen, W.M. 13; H. Jacobs, S.W. 13; J. Wheatley, S.W. 2399; A. Simmonds, S.W. 1536; H. Mason, J.W. 706; A. Loneragan, S.W. 706; J. Brooks, J.W. 1993; W. Long, S.W. 700; A. Swanton, J.W. 1536; E. Rock, P.M. 1288; E. W. Carter, P.M. 858; W. Bristow, P.M. 1348; J. Sanderson, P.M. 700; L. Webber, I.G. 706; F. Beardsley, 700; E. Jelley, 706; E. T. Hutchins, 1382; F. Benson, S.D. 1158; K. Solkarn, Treas. 615; C. J. Mettrop, 700; E. Brandon, 348; R. Robinson, 2399; G. Chambers, 13; R. Price, 2399; and J. Ireland, 13.

The usual loyal and Grand Lodge toasts were eloquently given by the W.M., and loyally responded to by the brethren.

In proposing the toast of "Earl Amherst, Prov. Grand Master of the Province of Kent," the W.M. said he only hoped that every one present would have the good fortune to go to Provincial Grand Lodge, and see the grand work done by their Prov. Grand Master in conducting the business of Prov. Grand Lodge. He was a splendid worker of the Masonic ritual, a distinguished nobleman, a lover of the Craft, and the ruler of a flourishing province. He asked them to drink the toast heartily.

The next toast was that of "The R.W. Bro. James Smith Eastes, D.P.G.M., and the rest of the P.G. Officers, Present and Past." The W.M. said, as they all knew, the two principal Grand Officers were fixtures, the rest of the officers were distributed amongst the lodges of the province. Their lodge had been favoured with some good officers, and he should couple the toast with the names of Bros. Cook and Jackson.

Bro. Cook, in response, said he had had the honour of responding to the toast upon several occasions. The career of a Provincial Grand Officer commenced at the time of his initiation. In time, if the initiate was fortunate enough, he rose to the chair; then he had an opportunity of attending Provincial Grand Lodge. The Provincial Grand Officers were selected by the P.G.M., and how proud a brother must be, and indeed was, to be so selected by Earl Amherst to the dignified and important position of a Provincial Grand Officer. For himself he assured them that he was proud of his position, and thanked them for their kind reception of the toast.

Bro. Jackson said he could cordially endorse every word that had been said by Bro. Cook. It was a grand thing to look forward to, and then attain the position of a Grand Officer in such a province as that of Kent. It was worthy of the ambition of any brother, no matter how high his station in life might be, to achieve the proud position of a Provincial Grand Officer. Their Provincial Grand Master would never look upon any proposition for Grand Office in his province unless the aspirant had been through the chair of his lodge, and as a proof of that, he might mention the fact that when he had for the second year filled the position of Prov. G. Chaplain, his lordship asked him to keep the office for another 12 months as there was no other person eligible for the office, viz., not having passed the chair of his lodge. He then gave an amusing reminiscence of a visit he made lately to the Lake District where he met with a young gentleman in orders, who at the dinner table was talking eloquently of the responsibilities attached to the office of P.G. Chaplain. After dinner he, Bro. Jackson, got into conversation with the young gentleman and found that he was from Oxford, and a great Don there. He extracted from his Oxford friend that at certain functions in the lodge he had to retire for a short time, and when asked why, said he was neither a Master nor Past Master. Well, he told the young brother that that might do for Oxford, but it would not do for Kent, and so left him, thankful that he was a Provincial Grand Officer of the Province of Kent and not of the Province of Oxford.

Bro. Cook, I.P.M., then proposed "The Health of the W.M.," and prefaced his remarks on the subject by stating that Bro. Jackson had just given him a cigar from Rangoon, telling him that no one but a Rangooner could smoke it; well, he was going to show Bro. Jackson what a Past Master of the Pattison Lodge could do, for he was going to smoke it, whether or no. Now, with regard to their W.M. They had seen the excellent manner in which he had raised a candidate that night, a manner he felt sure was appreciated by every brother of the lodge, or visiting brother, who had witnessed the working of their W.M. He recollected that when Bro. Murphy was elected to his office of W.M., one of the ballot papers had on it "Bro. Potato," that paper he had just given to the W.M., who would no doubt keep it as a souvenir of the happy event. He asked them to drink the toast with all the warmth it deserved, and concluded by reading the few following lines, which he facetiously denominated as "poetry"—

"May their whiskey be weak,
Discontented their lives;
May they run from their foes,
To be beat by their wives,
Who wish ill to your lodge and its Master."

Bro. Murphy, who was received with cheers, said it was one of the hardest tasks of his life to adequately respond to their kindly reception of the toast of his health. So far as to the work he had done that night, it was simply a light task, but when he came to the "Fourth Degree," and had to make up his mind what was right and proper, and if possible new and interesting to say, then he felt it was a task almost too hard for him. He hoped during his year of office to please them both by his work in the lodge and while presiding over them at the social board, for if there was one thing more than another he had at heart it was the interest and welfare of the lodge. Their lodge, he was proud to say, held a high position, both in the Craft generally and in the province especially, and that position made it a heavy task for the Master to maintain its dignity and honour. That was the sentiment that moved him, and would in carrying out his duties and conducting the business of the lodge. He thanked them for their hearty support, and for the countenance given him that night. If they would only give him plenty of work he would do it, and he hoped to their satisfaction. They had seen that night new members coming forward to assist them in the musical portion of the ceremony. In his opinion, nothing added more impressiveness to the ritual than the beautiful service that had so well been sang that night. He trusted that when he left the chair, and went to the left of it, there would be but one sentiment moving them, and that would be one of gratitude on his part and gratification on theirs.

The toast of "The Visitors" was responded to by Bros. A. McQueen, Capt. Wishart, Walklin, Hill, Long, and Wheatley.

Bro. W. Taylor, in responding for "The Past Masters," thanked the W.M. and brethren for their kindly toast, and also for so ably assisting him in gaining and maintaining a good financial position for the lodge. They had had a wonderfully successful year under their I.P.M., Bro. Cook, and were now in a prosperous condition. There had been ten P.Ms. present during the evening, showing that they did not lose their interest in the lodge after passing the chair. He congratulated the W.M. upon opening his year of office so auspiciously, and predicted for him a useful and successful year.

Bro. C. Jolly also responded for "The Past Masters of and belonging to the Lodge," "The Officers" and Tyler's toasts concluded the business and pleasures of the evening.

The singing in the hands of Bro. Nell, Ireland, McQueen, and Walklin, was exceedingly good, Bro. Horton presiding at the piano.

The 2nd Middlesex Artillery Lodge, No. 2484.

The installation meeting of the above lodge took place at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C., on Wednesday, the 2nd inst., when Bro. Quartermaster-Sergeant Lidbury's year of office as W.M. (which has been one of the most successful years that the lodge has experienced since its inauguration five years ago), was brought to a close, and Bro. Sergt.-Major Williams, who had been duly elected to occupy the chair, was installed as W.M. for the current year.

The installation banquet was held at the Freemasons' Tavern when Bro. Sergt.-Major Williams, W.M., presided.

The usual toasts having been put and duly responded to, the W.M. spoke in very glowing terms of the energy, perseverance, and good work that Bro. Sergt.-Major Lidbury had done for the good of Freemasonry in general and for the lodge in particular. The lodge has been carried on successfully since its commencement and is growing annually in its importance. He was glad to see so many visitors present, amongst whom were Bro. the Rev. Studholme Brownrigg, P.G. Chap.

During the evening a very pleasant programme of music was gone through, to which the following contributed: The Ariel Vocal Quartette; Bros. Horace Ward, Holden, Walker, W. C. Hamilton, H. Cribb, Pritchard, P.M. '9; and N. Starkwell (Musical Director).

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Masonic Notes.

— — —
 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1898.

Our Sussex brethren are to be congratulated on the recent annual meeting of their Provincial Grand Lodge, but more particularly on the good fortune which enabled their Prov. G. Master, the Duke of Connaught, to take part in the proceedings. The calls upon his Royal Highness's time are so numerous that it is not always possible for him to attend these gatherings. But the brethren fully realise this, and the only result is that when he is able to be present, the greeting he meets with is the more enthusiastic. But on this occasion additional *clat* was given to the meeting from the fact that it is close on 70 years since a member of the Royal Family has visited Lewes where the Prov. G. Lodge was appointed to be held. Hence the right royal welcome

which was accorded to the Duke by the townspeople, the decoration of the streets along which the procession was to pass, and the vast concourse of spectators who lined the route on either side and cheered the Royal visitor to the echo. Hence, too, the address presented by the Mayor and Corporation and gracefully acknowledged by his Royal Highness.

But pleasant as must have been these evidences of Lewes loyalty, they were only in the nature of an introduction to the main business of the day, which was inaugurated at the Town Hall with a luncheon and concluded at the Assembly Rooms, where, as soon as Prov. G. Lodge had been opened, H.R.H. the Prov. G. Master had the satisfaction of hearing from the reports of his several executive officers, how prosperous had been the condition of his Province during the preceding twelvemonth. Having expressed his gratification with the progress thus evidenced in their reports, the Duke appointed and invested his officers for the ensuing year and then quitted the lodge amid the same manifestations of respect as had greeted him on his arrival; the rest of the proceedings being conducted under the presidency of Bro. the Very Rev. the Dean of Battle, Past G. Chap.

Bro. Lord Mayor Davies, M.P., brought the hospitable part of the duties which devolve upon the Chief Magistrate of the City of London to a brilliant conclusion on Friday, the 4th inst., with a grand banquet at the Mansion House in honour of Bro. Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, who, earlier in the day, had been presented in the Guildhall by the Corporation with the freedom of the City and a sword of honour in recognition of his great services in annihilating Mahdism and recovering the Soudan for Egypt. So splendid a gathering has been rarely witnessed even within the hospitable walls of the Mansion House, and Bro. Davies, who has since vacated the mayoralty, and whom we heartily congratulated on becoming Sir Horatio Davies, K.C.M.G., will have the pleasure of knowing that his year of office as Lord Mayor will be not the least memorable in the annals of the City of London.

It is greatly to be regretted that no explanation has as yet been forthcoming as to the reason for the two different versions of the notice of motion to vote an honorarium to the Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, which was presented to and accepted by the recent Quarterly Court of Governors and Subscribers. One of those versions, which appeared in our advertisement columns, vaguely announced that it was proposed to grant "a sum of money" to the said Secretary, in recognition of his services in respect of the Centenary Festival; the other, which appeared in the circular announcing the meeting and the paper of agenda, explicitly stated that it was proposed to grant him "a sum of 1000 guineas" — the proposal in both instances being based on "the recommendation of the Board of Management as approved by the Council of the 30th September." The point we have raised is by no means unimportant. We have not at the moment a copy of the Rules of the Institution available for reference; but we believe we are correct in saying that when the paper of Agenda at an approaching Court of Governors is being drawn up, all notices of motion to be brought forward at such Court are handed to the Chairman in writing, and these written notices of motion are printed *verbatim* not only in the paper of Agenda, but likewise in the advertisements convening the Court which are furnished to the daily and Masonic press.

Doubtless a reasonable and proper explanation — perhaps half-a-dozen such — can be offered, but the authorities of the Boys' School will make a grave mistake if they imagine that silence is the best policy to adopt in the circumstances we have described. There are not a few among the supporters of our Institution who are irate, not to say disgusted, at the course which, in this instance, has been followed of reversing the policy which for many years past has found favour with the general body of the English Craft, and which, simply stated, consists in restricting the expenditure of the funds subscribed for the use of these Institutions wholly and solely to the purposes for which they are subscribed.

We trust also that some announcement will shortly be made as to the date when the final meeting of the Board of Stewards for the recent Centenary Festival will be held, and for this, if for no other reason, that the very pardonable curiosity of those who have not only the desire, but likewise the right, to make the

inquiry, may be satisfied. We have heard it stated, on by no means despicable authority, that it is not intended to hold any such meeting. If this be the case, let a statement to that effect be made public, and at the same time the reason why, in the case of this particular Festival, the holding of such a meeting is to be departed from. Here, again, the proper course for the Executive Committee of the Board of Stewards to pursue is to take the general body of Stewards into their confidence and tell them straightforwardly what is being done or going to be done, not leave them to obtain it haphazard or remain in total ignorance.

Some time since we announced that Bro. Hamon Le Strange, P.G.D., D.P.G.M. of Norfolk, would succeed Bro. Lord Suffield, who has retired from active duty after upwards of 20 years' service, as Prov. G. Master. We have now much pleasure in announcing that the ceremony of installing Bro. Le Strange will take place in Norwich on the 1st December, and will be performed by Bro. the Earl of Euston, Prov. G. Master of Northants and Hunts. On the same day Comp. Sir Francis G. M. Boileau, Bart., Past G. Prin. Soj., will be installed by Lord Euston, as Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masons in the Province of Norfolk, in succession to Comp. Lord Suffield, who has resigned this office as well as that of Prov. G. Master.

The Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island some time since declared itself very strongly against canvassing for office. The Constitutions forbid it, but the practice, nevertheless, is continued, and, from the accounts we have read, would appear to be on the increase. The Grand Lodge, therefore, at its annual session last year declared, and very properly, that "canvassing for office in said Grand Lodge is derogatory to its dignity, subversive of, and contrary to, the Constitutions," and "dangerous to that peace and harmony which should ever exist among its members." It, therefore, declares that "any one committing such offence is guilty of a violation of his obligation, and liable to severe censure and punishment." We trust this outspoken declaration will have the desired effect, but we must confess to being somewhat sceptical as to whether any good will result.

It appears that the Grand Lodges of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are desirous of establishing a Masonic Home for the jurisdictions of the two bodies, but the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick has very wisely expressed its opinion that the first thing to do is to establish a sufficient fund for the purpose. Accordingly, the whole question is to be referred to the different Grand Lodges, each of which is to elect a Trustee, who shall at the same time act as custodian of the funds that are raised. It has been further requested by New Brunswick that each of the Grand Lodges interested in the project shall contribute annually to such fund, and that the private lodges shall also be invited to contribute; the fund to be known as "The Maritime Masonic Home Fund."

The Joint Committee of the two Grand Lodges which adopted the foregoing resolutions, at the same time, expressed their strong conviction "that closer fraternal relations between the Grand Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons of the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island would tend greatly to promote the objects of our Order." They therefore suggested that the matter should be referred to the Grand Lodges in question with a view to bringing about the closer union desired. The Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, by expressing its opinion that the time is not ripe for establishing a Masonic Home, but at the same time resolving to continue the Home Committee, may be said to have endorsed the recommendations of such Committee; while as regards the project for bringing about closer relations among the Grand Lodges of the Maritime Provinces, we shall await with interest the result of the proposal.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cambridgeshire will be held at Cambridge on Monday, the 28th inst.

In order to remove a want keenly felt in the educational centre of Cheltenham, Baron de Ferrieres offered the Council, at their annual meeting, the gift of £1,000 towards the erection of an Art Gallery in connection with the Free Library, which would also be available for civic receptions and mayoral functions, only stipulating that the smaller of two suggested galleries should be reserved for his 30 best pictures, which he intended at a future date to present to the Corporation. The offer was gratefully accepted by the Town Council.

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.

THE HONORARIUM TO BRO. MCLEOD.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

There is a strong growing feeling of dissatisfaction among the subscribers to the Boys' School, especially among the country members, at the enormous honorarium of 1000 guineas, which has been lately voted to the Secretary of the Institution. In the hope that this grant, awarded in an enthusiastic impulse of gratitude for the unprecedented success of the Jubilee Centenary, has not yet been confirmed, the writer would wish to offer a few remarks. Some time previous to the great gathering at the Albert Hall, the Craft unanimously resolved that no efforts should be spared to raise a sum of money that the cost of the new School building should be provided for, and that the surplus should be invested for any exigencies in the future.

The benefit of the Institution alone was the sole aim of the Craft. Had it been previously known that the sum of 1000 guineas would, hereafter, be diverted from its legitimate purpose it is very doubtful whether the large amount the Institution received would have been collected. There is not the least question that Bro. McLeod devoted his best energies to the great work, the success of which was ensured by the gracious presence of the M.W. Grand Master in the chair, but it must not be forgotten that the members of his staff were actuated by the same laudable feelings. The enormous disproportion between the honorarium bestowed on the Secretary individually and on the clerks as a body cannot fail to impress impartial brethren that the principles of justice and equity have been entirely lost sight of.

When the Jubilee of the Masonic Benevolent Institution and the Girls' School Centenary took place, it was acknowledged by all Masons that the Secretaries of the respective Institutions had faithfully and zealously discharged their duties. They were each rewarded with a handsome honorarium, provided out of the surplus of the Stewards' fees, and whilst their merits were appropriately acknowledged, there was no call on the funds of either Charity. But in the case of the Boys' School we have the first instance, and I sincerely hope it will be the last, where the funds of the Charity are diverted from their proper object. It appears to me that the sense of the subscribers generally, both in town and country, should be taken on this subject, and that, meanwhile, the motion passed at the last meeting should remain in abeyance until their opinions have been obtained.—Yours fraternally,

P.M. OF 25 YEARS' STANDING.

(If our correspondent will kindly refer to our article of the 29th ult., on the Boys' School Court, he will find that, though the greatest, it is not the first, honorarium that has been voted out of Institution funds.—ED. F.M.)

QUAKER AND FREEMASON.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

In looking through the old registers of the parish of Shirland I came across the following entry: "July 16, 1699—Isaac Kirk, Quaker & Freemason, was married."

I shall be glad if any of your readers can inform me whether the entry is of interest to "brethren of the mystic art," as the two centuries' old record struck me as a curious one?—Yours faithfully,

HOLLAND ROWBOTTOM,
P.M. 1028, P.P.G.S.B.

Higham Cliffe, Alfreton.

MASONIC IMPOSTORS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Again I have to caution the various Masonic Almoners against another impostor. A person, calling himself Thomas Peterson, claiming to belong to the Lewis Lodge, No. 872, Whitehaven, is obtaining relief from the lodge Almoners in our province. The Secretary of the Lewis Lodge says no person of that name has ever been a member of that lodge. He is believed to be identical with an individual who, under the name of George Scott, was sent to prison for one month at Ashton-under-Lyne early last month for obtaining relief under false pretences from the Almoner in that town. If so, he is believed to give different names in different parts of the country, viz., Jas. Purcell, Henry Peterson, Thos. Peterson, R. Gibson, Jas. Ramily, John Mursell, and Stephen Bradburn. He is described as being about 56 years of age, slim build, grizzled beard, and rather long moustache.

There are a great number of impostors travelling about preying on Masonic Charities, and it behoves Almoners to be on their guard against them. I have written many letters of enquiry respecting these itinerants, and in by far the greater number of cases have ascertained that they are impostors.—Yours fraternally,

JAMES NEWTON,
Prov. G. Secretary East Lancashire.

November 8th.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Another of the gang of Masonic impostors has recently been obtaining relief in this neighbourhood. He gives the name of Andrew Cutler, of Peace and Harmony Lodge, No. 359, Southampton. The Secretary of that lodge writes me that they have no such name on their books. Cannot something be done unitedly to put an end to this system of imposition? One means is to refuse relief to all itinerants who do not produce Grand Lodge certificates.—Yours fraternally,

JAMES NEWTON,
Prov. G. Secretary East Lancashire.

23, Silverwell-street, Bolton,
November 9th.

Masonic Notes and Queries.

1127]

BRO. SADLER'S NEW WORK.

I have been much interested in reading Bro. Sadler's latest book, and especially the able introduction by Dr. W. J. Chetwode Crawley, which is quite a revelation in itself. All the kind things the Editor of the *Freemason* has said, typographically and textually, of the volume are well deserved, and I hope the edition will soon be exhausted, so as to tempt both authors to present us with

more of the same kind. These "Masonic Reprints and Historical Revelations," by Bro. Henry Sadler, Grand Tyler and Sub-Librarian of the Grand Lodge, and Dr. W. J. Chetwode Crawley, Past Senior Grand Deacon, Ireland, &c., &c., run to some 250 pages demy octavo, and contain much valuable historical material. Dr. Crawley's chapter is of a most important, not to say startling, character, dealing, as it does mainly, with Freemasonry in Ireland prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge at Dublin, *even as far back as 1688*, the value of which "can hardly be overrated." Undoubtedly, owing to the learned doctor's researches, the history of the Craft in Ireland must be, or is being, re-written, the facts he has traced being so much earlier as to date, and so much more valuable than any other finds concerning the Fraternity in that country during this century. The Reprints include "A Letter from the Grand Mistress of the Female Freemasons" (*Dean Swift*); the very rare, if not unique, "Defence of Freemasonry: a refutation of Mr. Dermott's absurd and ridiculous Account of Free-Masonry" (*London, 1765*); several historical Papers by Bro. Sadler on the "Ancients," &c., besides some most useful Tables as to Lodges and Prov. Grand Masters of the "Ancients." It may be had, at present, from the Publisher, Bro. George Kenning, for *six shillings* (and postage).

W. J. HUGHAN.

Craft Masonry.

Lion and Lamb Lodge, No. 192.

A meeting of the above lodge was held on Thursday, the 3rd inst., at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C., when there were present Bros. William Baker, W.M.; Robeson, S.W.; Stokes, J.W.; Cohu, P.M., Treas.; Legge, P.M., Sec.; Ferguson, S.D.; J. Smith, P.M., D.C.; A. J. Rippin, I.G.; Roche, Stwd.; Couchman, Tyler; Hughes, P.M.; Mower, P.M.; Abbott, P.M.; Williams, Francis, Collins, Farr, Lloyd, Blaxtan, Hipwell, Taylor, S. Rippin, Cowderoy, Bassett, Franklin, Purbrook, Doody, MacLarty, and Crawshaw. Visitors: Bros. Brown, 1416; Miller, 879; Spencer, 65; Harlow, 65; Bliss, 1320; Randall, 1799; and Withaus, 2530.

Lodge having been opened and the minutes of last meeting read and confirmed, Bro. Blaxtan was raised to the Third Degree, Bro. Cowderoy, passed, and Mr. Archibald Pollock MacLarty initiated. A committee was appointed to arrange for the ladies' night, consisting of the officers of the lodge, and Bros. Doody, Franklin, Collins, Hipwell, Farr, and Williams. Two candidates were proposed for initiation at the next meeting, and the lodge was closed.

St. John the Baptist Lodge, No. 475.

The installation meeting of this premier Bedfordshire lodge was held in the Town Hall, Luton, on Thursday, the 27th ult. There were present Bros. Henry Gates, W.M.; G. S. Duberly, P.M., I.P.M.; G. J. Wardill, S.W.; F. W. Faulkner, J.W.; E. F. Green, P.M., Sec.; S. W. Smith, S.D.; A. Grace, J.D.; W. Austin, P.M., D.C.; A. Hayward, I.G.; W. E. Dipple, Org.; Hugh Cumberland, P.M., and J. H. Staddon, Stewards; J. Cumberland, P.M.; F. W. Beck, P.M.; W. L. Gates, P.M.; H. V. Cavill, P.M.; J. W. Green, P.M.; W. H. Hyder, C. Dillingham, W. H. McNamara, A. J. L. Evans, T. B. Ellery, W. Hoyle, G. W. Bindloss, S. Heath, J. W. Bone, C. Amey, and F. Beecroft. Visitors: Bros. G. M. Hamilton, 1445 and 1641; C. Slatter, 2490; J. H. Folmer, 1057; W. C. Clark, 1964; C. J. Whitlock, 2343; A. Spendlove, 1470; J. G. McCubbin, 1087; A. E. Langridge, 1470; J. Gawthrop, 1706; J. Gladwell, 1470; W. Deacon, 1470; H. Shoppee, 152 and 5, P.G. Stwd.; and R. G. Brookes, 449.

Bro. G. J. Wardill was presented as W.M. elect, and was duly installed by Bro. W. Gates, I.P.M. The W.M. duly invested his officers as follows: Bros. Faulkner, S.W.; Smith, J.W.; E. A. Cumberland, Treas.; E. F. Green, Sec.; Grace, S.D.; Hayward, J.D.; W. Austin, P.M., D.C.; W. E. Dipple, Org.; W. H. McNamara, I.G.; H. Cumberland, P.M., and J. H. Staddon, Stewards; and H. Dickens, Tyler. A candidate for initiation was then proposed.

An interesting presentation of a handsome silver salver was made to the I.P.M. (Bro. H. Gates, P.M.) on the occasion of his marriage during his year of office as W.M., the presentation being made in felicitous terms by Bro. J. Cumberland, P.M. The I.P.M. gracefully acknowledged this token of esteem and regard from the brethren, and the lodge was formally closed.

The customary banquet followed at the George Hotel, when the usual toasts were duly honoured, "The Health of the W.M." being heartily drunk. The musical arrangements were in the hands of Bro. Heath, who sang several solos very acceptably. Bro. Gawthrop sang a couple of songs in admirable style, and Bros. Heath and Gawthrop rendered some duets magnificently. Bro. Beck, P.M., delighted the brethren with a song, and the accompaniments were played by Bro. Dipple, P.M. The evening was a very pleasant one, and it is confidently anticipated that this old-established lodge (it celebrated its jubilee some years ago) will have a highly successful year of working under Bro. Wardill, who is an extremely popular brother.

Duke of Edinburgh Lodge, No. 1259.

The installation meeting was held on Tuesday, the 1st instant, at the Three Nuns, Aldgate, when a large number of brethren assembled. Bro. J. Coote, W.M., presided at the opening, and there were, amongst others, also present Bros. Henry Warner, S.W.; R. O. Hinderwell, J.W.; C. W. Chandler, S.D.; J. H. Wilson, J.D.; T. Sweeting, I.G.; D. Gower, D.C.; D. G. Lusty, Steward; T. F. Noakes, Org.; C. Wakefield, F.M., Treas.; G. Parrett, P.M., Sec.; J. R. Omer, P.M.; W. Esmond, P.M.; W. J. Trappitt, P.M.; Frank Adams, P.M.; J. W. Westmoreland, P.M.; J. Bailey, Tyler; and many visitors.

After the lodge had been opened by the W.M. and the minutes of the regular monthly meeting had been read and confirmed, the W.M.'s chair was occupied by Bro. George Parrett, P.M., Sec., and Bros. Lewthwaite and Johnson were passed to the Second Degree in a manner worthy of a Past Master. Bro. J. W. Westmoreland, I.P.M., next initiated Messrs. G. A. Roberts, J. W. Kitson, and W. May, in a most impressive manner. Subsequently Bro. Morrison was raised to the Third Degree. Next came the installation of Bro. Henry Warner, S.W., by Bro. John Coote, P.M., who invested the following officers for the ensuing year: Bros. R. O. Hinderwell, S.W.; C. W. Chandler, J.W.; C. Wakefield, P.M., Treas.; George Parrett, P.M., Sec.; J. H. Wilson, S.D.; T. Sweeting, J.D.; D. Gower, I.G.; D. G. Lusty, D.C.; R. Court, C. Wakefield, jun., and C. R. Warde, Stwds.; T. F. Noakes, Org.; and Bailey, Tyler. The way the work was done and the ease with which it was accomplished by Bro. J. Coote will live long in the memories of all who were fortunate enough to witness this magnificent ceremony, and the reward he received at the end of it was a proper tribute for work well done. The presentation of a Past Master's collar and jewel was very neatly performed by the W.M., accompanied with the hope that, although retiring from the cares of office, he (Bro. Coote) might long be spared to wear it in memory of the occasion. Bro. Coote briefly returned thanks. The only other lodge business was the Audit Committee's report, which was adopted and ordered to be entered on the minutes. Although showing a good substantial balance there was a slight falling off, brought about by the liberality of the members in voting the sum of 70 guineas to the Charities.

All Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed, an adjournment being made to the banqueting room, the Queen's Hall, where a good dinner was served in good style and to the satisfaction of all.

Earl of Chester Lodge, No. 1565.

The annual festival in connection with this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Lymington, on Thursday afternoon, the 3rd inst. Amongst the visitors present were: Bros. Henry Stevens, Mus. Bac., P.M., P.P.G.Org. E. Lincs.; James Davenport, W.M. 1045, P.A.G.D.C. Cheshire; Wm. Dykes, I.G. 1045, P.P.G. Stwd.; Wm. Hughes, S.D. 1045; G. W. Bebbington, W.M. 941; R. Thrutchley, S.W. 941; J. H. Bebbington, J.W. 941; John Lyness, 941; Hy. Lord, 2144; and J. A. Lord, 2144. The W.M. elect, Bro. Geo. J. Plimmer was installed in the chair in a very excellent

manner by W. Bro. John Lewis, P.P.D.G.D.C., assisted by Bro. Wm. Skilling, and the following officers were appointed: Bros. Wm. Skilling, I.P.M.; W. Severs, S.W.; J. S. Derbyshire, J.W.; the Rev. J. E. Evans, M.A., Chap.; E. G. Parker, P.M., P.S.G.D., Treas.; J. H. Evans, P.M., P.P.G.Std.Br., Sec.; John Lewis, P.M., P.P.D.G.D.C., D.C.; R. Fowden, S.D.; W. C. Moore, J.D.; R. Oddie, I.G.; Dr. W. W. Williamson, Org.; Thos. Watts, Wm. Kelsall and Wm. Groves, Stwds.; and Wm. Kirkpatrick, Tyler. Bro. James Gregson was appointed Charity Representative.

At the close of the proceedings the brethren sat down to a banquet excellently catered for by Mrs. Macread, hostess of the Church Inn, Lymm, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured. The musical programme had been arranged by Bro. J. S. Derbyshire, the following brethren contributing thereto, viz., Bros. Hy. Stevens, Mus. Bac.; G. W. Bebbington, Wm. Severs, Dr. Williamson, and J. S. Derbyshire.

Royal Kensington Lodge, No. 1627.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, W.C., on the 4th inst., when there was a good attendance. The members present included Bro. Isidor Ehrmann, W.M.; O. Heinemann, I.P.M.; F. Walker, S.W.; E. N. Glaeser, J.W.; John B. Stevens, P.M., Treas.; H. P. Hay, P.M., Prov. G. Reg. Middx., Sec.; M. Ehrmann, I.G.; Percy G. Edwards, Stwd.; C. F. Bennewitz, P.M.; W. Bellamy, P.M.; Percy Leith, P.G.D.; H. F. Palmer, C. J. Butler, and others. Visitors: Bros. T. J. Hayward, J.D. 1900; J. Songhurst, P.M. 227; H. C. T. Hunt, J.W. 134; C. Wright, P.M. 1463; F. H. Westcott, 1563; S. G. Bonner, P.M. 1382; J. M. Klemper, W.M. 2721; R. Batchelor, 1507; F. Spurgin, P.M. 1305; Carlo Grassi, P.M. 1559; C. J. Coombs, P.M. 780; G. P. Bertini, P.M. 1559; F. J. Deaton, P.M. 25; W. W. Lee, P.M.; and others.

The formal opening of the lodge and the confirmation of the minutes was followed by other routine business, including the adoption of a satisfactory Audit report. Bro. J. B. Stevens, P.M., the esteemed Treasurer, then assumed the chair, and installed Bro. F. Walker as W.M. in an able manner to be expected from such a veteran in Freemasonry. The officers invested were Bros. I. Ehrmann, I.P.M.; E. N. Glaeser, S.W.; M. Ehrmann, J.W.; J. B. Stevens, P.M., Treas.; H. P. Hay, P.M., Prov. G. Reg. Middx., Sec.; P. G. Edwards, S.D.; E. Parsons, J.D.; L. A. Diamant, I.G.; J. H. Jarvis, P.M., D.C.; A. F. Bargate, Steward; and Potter, P.M., Tyler. A handsome Past Master's jewel was presented to the I.P.M., Bro. Ehrmann, in recognition of his services in the chair, and was appropriately acknowledged.

Lodge was closed, and an adjournment made to Freemasons' Tavern, where ample justice was done to a well-served repast.

The usual toasts followed, and were heartily honoured.

"The Grand Officers" was proposed by the W.M., who remarked that these distinguished brethren did the best they could for the interests of Freemasonry, and well sustained their high and dignified position.

Bro. Percy Leith, P.G.D., briefly responded.

Bro. I. Ehrmann, I.P.M., next submitted "The Health of the W.M." Good wine needed no bush, and, to carry the simile further, refined gold needed no gilding. The merits of the W.M. were well known, and it was, therefore, the expectation of all that Bro. Walker would nobly carry out the traditions associated with the position he now held. He asked the brethren to be upstanding and drink with the utmost enthusiasm to the health of the W.M.

Bro. F. Walker, W.M., most sincerely thanked the I.P.M. and brethren, and could only say he hoped to be able to carry out the responsibilities devolving upon him during his year. From the prophecy of the I.P.M. he felt very hopeful and proud. It was his ambition when initiated to attain the chair, and now that he had reached that position he hoped to carry it through to the satisfaction of the members.

For "The Visitors," Bros. F. Deaton and Klemper returned thanks, and acknowledged the hospitality they had received.

The W.M. next gave "The I.P.M. and Past Masters," and expressed his admiration for the work done by Bro. Ehrmann, I.P.M. The Installing Master, Bro. J. B. Stevens, P.M., Treas., had done his duty most splendidly, and he (the W.M.) only hoped he would be able to carry out the ceremony with the same effect. The Sec., Bro. Hay, always carried out his duties so admirably in every respect, and was at all times ready to give advice or assistance. Bros. Bellamy, Heinemann, and Bennewitz were also ready to help, and the latter had ably officiated as D.C.

Bro. I. Ehrmann, I.P.M., apologised for any shortcomings during the time he occupied the chair, and expressed grateful thanks to the officers for their courtesy, kindness, and assistance. He hoped the W.M. would be able to look back with the same happy recollections of a pleasant year of office.

Bro. J. B. Stevens, P.M., Treas., said that as one of the oldest P.Ms. he had watched the lodge almost from its infancy to the present time, when it had reached a high pedestal of fame. They stood second to no lodge in the metropolis, but, like most lodges, they had had their trials and vicissitudes. These, however, had been overcome, and he trusted the lodge would continue to prosper under the guidance of the W.M. as it had done during the past few years. He had done the duties of Installing Master with pleasure, but it was his great wish that every outgoing Master should install his successor. They had tried to work up to that pitch, and if the present W.M. would bestow a little time and study upon it he would be enabled to thoroughly perform the ceremony. His work had been a labour of love, and he would always do his best for the lodge.

Bros. Bellamy, P.M., and Bennewitz, P.M., also responded.

"The Masonic Charities," "The Treasurer and Secretary," and other toasts followed, and the pleasant proceedings terminated with the Tyler's toast.

The musical programme was supplied by Miss Prince, Miss Coucher, Mr. Ireton, and Bros. Chas. Butler and Sidney Gandy.

Earl of Mornington Lodge, No. 2000.

The regular meetings of this prosperous lodge were resumed at the Café Royal, Regent-street, W., on Friday, the 28th ult., Bro. Wilfred A. Bowser, W.M., presiding. There were present Bros. R. S. Fairbank, S.W.; Wm. Turner, J.W.; Henry R. Rose, P.M., Treas.; J. H. Lavis, P.M., Sec.; H. T. Taylor, S.D.; A. Dawson Jones, J.D.; Joseph Pollard, P.M., D.C.; J. Davidson, I.G.; W. J. Hart, Org.; T. Bowles, Tyler; Richard Luke, I.P.M.; R. C. P. Gardner, P.M.; W. A. Bird, H. Carlton, Viscount Mountmorres, F. E. Bartlett, and R. J. Probyn-Williams. Bro. G. J. Cosburn, 574, P.P.G. Purs., was a visitor.

The lodge having been opened, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. William A. Bird, having previously undergone a satisfactory examination, was raised to the Degree of M.M. by the W.M., who also gave the traditional history and explained the working tools. A candidate for initiation and membership was balloted for, unanimously elected, and is to be initiated at the next meeting. Four other gentlemen were proposed for election and initiation at the same meeting. A communication from the Grand Lodge of Peru was read, and the lodge was closed.

Pantiles Lodge, No. 2200.

With the exception of the great Masonic meeting when Provincial Grand Lodge, under the banners of the Holmesdale and Pantiles Lodges met at Tunbridge Wells, there has been no such gathering of brethren in that town as that of Wednesday, the 2nd instant, when Bro. Wm. Rule was installed W.M. of the above lodge. Amongst those present were the following officers: Bros. A. Burslem, W.M.; John Corfield, I.P.M.; W. Rule, S.W.; T. J. Best, J.W.; R. Stevenson, P.M., Sec.; N. Grunwell, P.M., Treas.; E. O. Howis, J.D.; E. E. Fenwick, D.C.; E. Westbrook, I.G.; and W. H. Downs, Stwd.

The lodge being opened, the W.M., Bro. Burslem, at once proceeded to install Bro. Rule, the W.M. elect. Bro. Rule having been installed in a most impressive manner, he proceeded to invest his officers as follows—Bro. Ryder acting as D.C., and the Wardens' chairs being filled by Bros. Terry and B. Sidney Wilmot: Bros. T. S. Best, S.W.; E. O. Howis, J.W.; Rev. H. E. Eardley, Chap.; N. Grunwell, P.M., Treas.; R. Stevenson, P.M., Sec.; E. Westbrook, S.D.; E. E. Fenwick, J.D.; F. L. Williams, I.G.; Wm. H. Downs, D.C.; C. Dudeny, A.D.C.; L. H. Luck, Org.; H. C. Gain and M. D. Brown, Stewards; J. D. Myers, S.B.; R. Stevenson, P.M., Charity Representative; and James Boulter, Tyler. On the motion of Bro. J. Corfield, a Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Albert Burslem in recognition of valuable services rendered by him to the lodge during the past year. Mr. W. J. Gane was

elected as an initiate, and Bros. A. H. Tester and H. Hewett as joining members, the business of the lodge being concluded with the usual reports of the Permanent and Audit Committees.

The members then adjourned to the Pump Room, where a capital banquet had been provided.

The W.M. presided, supported by the three Grand Officers, several Prov. Grand Officers of Kent, Sussex, Hunts, &c., and about a dozen W.Ms. of local and other lodges.

The W.M., at the close of the banquet, proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, and in proposing that of "The Right Hon. the Earl of Lathom, M.W. Pro G.M.; the Right Hon. Earl Amherst, Dep. G.M.; and the Officers (Present and Past) of the Grand Lodge of England," said the toast was one which would associate itself in a different manner to other years because it was not very often they had had Grand Officers present. They were fortunate that evening in being honoured with the attendance of three Grand Officers. That being the case, much more importance was attached to the toast. They had amongst them Bros. Terry, McLeod, and Price, and he was sure the brethren would drink their healths with enthusiasm. He should couple with the toast the name of Bro. Price. (Cheers.)

Bro. Price, in response, said it had given him a great amount of pleasure to be present, and to thank the W.M. for the many kind remarks he had made with regard to Bros. the Earl of Lathom and Lord Amherst. It was always a matter of congratulation with Grand Officers to find that this toast was always received with the same cordial and hearty way that had been accorded to it in the Pantiles Lodge that evening, and was a proof to Grand Officers that any efforts they might make in the cause of Freemasonry were approved and appreciated. (Cheers.)

Bro. John Burton, in proposing the next toast—"The Right Hon. Earl Amherst, R.W. Prov. G.M."—observed that if there was a Mason in whom they had the utmost confidence, whom they respected more highly than any other, it was his Lordship. (Cheers.)

Bro. Gallard proposed the toast of "Bro. James Smith Eastes and the Officers (Present and Past) of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Frank William Stone, P.P.G.W. of Kent. (Cheers.)

Bro. Stone responded.

Bro. Burslem said he had to propose a toast which he knew would be received with enthusiasm and acclamation, "The Health of the W.M." (Cheers.) He was highly esteemed as a man, and loved as a brother, and his untiring industry and energy was centred in the cause of Masonic Charities. During the last three years for that purpose he had collected no less a sum than 150 guineas, which was a splendid record. (Hear, hear.) They wished him health and a prosperous and successful year of office. (Cheers.)

The W.M., who was loudly cheered, in response, said his position was a matter of great gratification. He announced that a second ladies' evening would be held on the first Wednesday in February—cheers—and was certain that if they could only get Bro. Terry to come down he would want every lodge in London to emulate them. He next submitted the toast of "The I.P.M., Bro. Burslem," whose work was so well known and so highly spoken of by every visiting brother. (Cheers.)

Bro. Burslem, in response, spoke of the support he had received and the general kindness which had always been exhibited towards him. He had simply endeavoured to carry out the principles and tenets of Masonry and to impress upon the brethren those grand and noble principles upon which the Order was founded, believing that if they only exercised them right they would not only be better Masons but also nobler and wiser men. (Cheers.)

The W.M. then proposed the toast of "The Visiting Brethren," with which he coupled the names of Bros. Col. Tester, F. Graham, W.M. 847; and Bowles, P.M. 1056; who replied.

Bro. Cripps proposed "The Masonic Charities," to which Bro. Terry responded.

The W.M. then proposed in eulogistic terms "The Healths of the Past Masters of the Pantiles Lodge," coupled with the names of Bros. Simpson and Corfield.

Bro. N. T. Simpson, in response, said he appreciated the kindness of the Pantiles Lodge. They had been called pillars of strength and other terms, but it had been left to their W.M. to call them experienced Masters who will guard the landmarks against encroachment.

The remaining toasts were "The Treasurer and Secretary" (brethren of inestimable value), both of whom responded; "The Officers," concluding with the Tyler's toast.

The musical arrangements were admirable. They were under the direction of Bro. H. J. Walker, P.M., P.P.G. Org. Norths and Hunts. The artistes were Bros. C. C. Lilley, Lovett King, G. T. Miles (harp), A. Smith (cornet), Mr. A. Greenberg (violin), and Glee Party—Mr. Alfred Kettle, Bros. Lock, Grier, and Miles. The glees were rapturously received, the instrumental solos being all encored, especially the cornet solos and post-horn gallop by Bro. A. South, which were rapturously re-demanded. Bro. Lovett King gave a couple of humorous sketches; Bro. Walker gave a humorous recitation; and capital songs were given by Bros. C. Chilley (who has a splendid voice of great compass) and G. T. Miles.

Clarence and Avondale Lodge, No. 2411.

This excellent lodge held its installation meeting on the 3rd instant, at the Red Lion Hotel, Leytonstone, when the following brethren were present: Bros. S. Fennell, W.M.; A. P. Bebrouth, I.P.M.; T. Blyth, S.W.; E. Jennings, J.W.; Jno. West, P.M., Treas.; W. Fisher, Sec.; J. J. L. Linton, S.D.; J. S. R. Moloney, J.D.; J. Ribbons, D.C.; W. Prentice, I.G.; H. W. Sherwin, Org.; F. A. Lloyd, Steward; H. B. Holliday, P.M.; J. P. Smyth, P.M.; E. Daniel, P.M.; B. Stewart, P.M.; T. Williams, P.M., Tyler; K. Wishart, H. Dorton, J. Holland, R. Watts, S. Vernon, F. J. Minchin, G. Edwards, W. German, H. H. Hicks, E. Turner, J. A. Barnes, J. H. Dorly, C. Teale, W. Oliver, J. C. Anderson, C. F. Wheeler, J. Role, P. Perry, W. C. L. Jones, R. Dipple, R. Ayton, jun., R. Bell, J. Glasgow, E. W. Greenwood, R. Nichols, G. Dennis, H. Sharp, J. R. Goodall, and A. Carter. Visitors: Bros. J. Howard, W.M. 2374; J. Downton, 1382; H. Temple, 1598; R. O. Henderson, S.W. 1259; A. W. Flint, S.W. 1382; E. Stratford, I.G. 179; F. Aslip, 1278; A. W. Brewer, J.D. 183; W. E. Knight, 65; George Graveley, G.P.; E. Day, I.P.M. 188; J. H. Anderson, 2272; R. E. Dipple, 615; J. Davis, 1349; P. J. Osman, 2466; J. Moss, 188; H. Stewart, 1076; C. Y. Draward, 2715; M. D. Armstrong, 188; J. Oxley, P.M. 1386; R. F. Jordan, 141; A. R. Andrews, 2403; W. Andrews, 2214; F. Knight, 1816; H. Thom, D.C. 1839; J. H. Slyman, 1365; and A. Millbourn, 1237.

The lodge being opened, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A satisfactory Auditors' report having been adopted, the W.M. then impressively raised Bro. W. Oliver to the Degree of a M.M. Subsequently Bro. J. R. Goodall, 241, was admitted a joining member. Bro. S. Fennell, the outgoing Master, then installed Bro. Thomas Blyth as his successor, who invested his officers as follows: Bros. E. Jennings, S.W.; J. J. L. Linton, J.W.; Jno. West, P.M., Treas.; Walter Fisher, Sec.; J. S. R. Moloney, S.D.; W. Prentice, J.D.; Jno. Ribbons, I.G.; F. A. W. Lloyd, D.C.; R. Watts and H. N. Dorton, Stwds.; M. H. W. Sherwin, Org.; and T. Williams, Tyler. Bro. Blyth then had an opportunity of proving his efficiency by initiating Bro. C. E. Fells, which he did in a manner that impressed all favourably.

The lodge was then closed, and an adjournment made to a banquet, served under the supervision of the proprietor, Bro. Greenwood.

After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured,

The W.M., in presenting "The M.W. the Pro G.M., the R.W. Deputy G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," coupled with it the name of Bro. G. Graveley, G.P.

Bro. Graveley, in reply, said it gave him very great pleasure to reply as a Grand Officer. He had been very pleased to have been present, and complimented the W.M. on the excellent working he had seen in the lodge.

Bro. Fennell, I.P.M., then proposed the toast of "The W.M.," whom, he said, they all knew as a good man and a good Mason.

Bro. Blyth, W.M., in reply, said: I thank you, Bro. Fennell, for the kind manner in which you have proposed my health, and you, brethren, for the hearty way in which you have received it. I can assure you that the present is the proudest moment of my life. It was with considerable diffidence I first accepted office, wondering whether I should ever be able to work up to the proud position of W.M. of the Clarence and Avondale Lodge. I cannot let this opportunity pass without acknowledging the kind assistance of Bro. Stewart, P.M., and the help so readily extended to me, I am sure, at the service of all. I am accorded by you, brethren, this position; time will prove if I am worthy of your confidence; certain it is that I will do my best to enhance the future of the Clarence and Avondale Lodge.

The "Initiate" was proposed by the W.M., who said he had known Bro. Fells for 30 years in business, and felt sure that they had in him a brother of whom the lodge might be proud.

After Bro. Fells had suitably replied, the W.M. gave the toast of "The Visitors," expressing the pleasure he felt in seeing so many present, to which Bros. Oxley, Fisher, and Day replied.

The W.M., in proposing "The Health of the I.P.M.," felt sure that the toast would receive from them the heartiest reception; it was with very great pleasure that he, on behalf of the Clarence and Avondale Lodge, affixed the Past Master's jewel to Bro. Fennell's breast in lodge, in addition to which, in recognition of his very able and efficient services to the lodge, he asked him to accept, on behalf of the brethren, a very handsome gilt clock and side pieces.

Bro. Fennell in reply said he could hardly find words to thank them sufficiently; firstly, for the Past Master's jewel given, and secondly, for the very handsome present before him. It had been hard work to him, but he felt sure now, as the recipient of the brethren's gift, that he had given satisfaction, this alone repaid him.

The remaining toasts of "The Past Masters," "The Treasurer and Secretary," and "The Officers," were given and replied to, the Tylers toast concluding a most enjoyable meeting at a late hour.

The vocal efforts of Bros. A. C. Dennis Andrew, J. A. Barnes, A. Carter, H. Thom, and E. W. Greenwood, contributed much to the success of the evening.

Bisley Lodge, No. 2317.

The first ordinary meeting after the annual festival of this flourishing lodge took place on Thursday, the 3rd inst., at the Masonic Hall, Woking. Present: Bros. J. Tomlinson, W.M.; A. M. Kennett, S.W.; H. A. Whitburn, J.W.; Capt. J. Hoey, P.M., Treas.; J. B. S. Lancaster, P. Prov. G.S.B., P.M., Sec.; G. J. Woodbridge, S.D.; A. Althorp, J.D.; J. W. H. Littleboy, P.M., D.C.; H. W. Gloster, I.G.; J. B. Walker, Stwd.; J. H. Askham, P.M.; A. J. Gunning; and J. E. O'Connor. Visitors: Bros. R. F. Gould, P.G.D., and W. G. Garnett, I.G. 1874. Bro. Jesse Coleman, of the Noel Money Lodge, No. 2521, was elected a joining member.

The lodge was then opened in the Third Degree, and Bro. John Edward O'Connor was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The ceremony was admirably performed by the W.M., who was ably assisted by his officers.

Nothing further offering, the lodge was closed.

The brethren afterwards dined together, and adjourned at an early hour.

Loggia Italia, No. 2687.

The second regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, on Wednesday last, proving very interesting, and giving good promise for the future. The enthusiasm of the Italian brethren for Freemasonry may be gathered from the fact that the W.M. travelled from Brighton, and the candidate for initiation came specially from Switzerland. The ceremonial was in the Italian language, and was splendidly rendered by all concerned. The members present included Bros. F. Gallizia, W.M.; A. Bonoldi, acting S.W.; G. Mentasti, J.W.; E. L. Valeriani, P.G.S.B., Treas.; E. Snow, P.M., Sec.; F. Guanzoli, S.D.; A. Audagna, P.M., Stwd.; F. Mentasti, L. Foppoli, C. Antonelli, L. Azario, A. Cogliati, P.M.; and F. W. Moreti. Visitors: Bros. J. Block, P.M. 1158; F. Conzina, 1602; and F. Canute, 2692.

Lodge was opened, the minutes confirmed, and Mr. F. V. Moretti was duly initiated into Freemasonry. Lodge was closed, and a banquet followed.

The progress made by the lodge is particularly gratifying to Bro. Valeriani and his co-founders, its existence having been so far amply justified.

Royal Arch.

Moira Chapter, No. 92.

A meeting of this chapter took place at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, E.C., on Tuesday, the 1st inst. Present: Comps. E. D. Oppert, M.E.Z.; J. M. Mitchell, H.; R. F. Gould, P.Z., as J.; T. L. Williams, P.Z., Treas.; Wickham Noakes, P.Z.; and G. Grenier, I.P.Z. Visitors: Comps. W. Poole, P.Z.; C. G. Poole, and S. C. Partridge.

Ballots were taken for Bros. J. W. Noakes and S. B. Noakes, of 92, which proving favourable, and the candidates being in attendance, they were duly exalted in Royal Arch Masonry. The mystical lecture was delivered by Comp. Wickham Noakes, P.Z., and in the unavoidable absence of the P.S., his duties were undertaken by Comp. J. M. Mitchell.

Urban Chapter, No. 1196.

The installation meeting of this chapter was held in Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C., on Friday, the 4th inst. There was a good attendance, including Comps. J. Butler, M.E.Z.; A. J. Turner, H.; W. S. Thwaites, P.S.; G. Nelson Watts, J.P., S.E.; R. Manuel, P.Z.; C. Ortner, P.S.; T. Simpson, and Rev. H. Vyvian Tyrrel. Visitors: Comps. George Read, P.Z., P.G. Std Br.; R. E. H. Goffin, P.Z.; and Rev. G. S. Flack. The companions all wore Masonic mourning in consequence of the lamented deaths of Comps. J. R. Roberts, P.Z., M.E.Z.; J. Pearson, P.Z., Treas.; and F. Eckstein, P.Z., and Treas. elect.

The chapter was opened, and the minutes of the last convocation having been read and confirmed, the report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted. Comp. J. Butler installed Comp. A. J. Turner, H., as M.E.Z., and Comp. George Read, P.G. Std. Br., installed Comp. W. S. Thwaites as J., the ritual in each case being rendered in a most impressive manner. Comp. G. Nelson Watts, J.P., P.Z., was invested as Scribe E. The following candidates having been approved by ballot, were exalted into Royal Arch Masonry: Bros. T. Simpson, S.W. 2648, and Rev. H. Vyvian Tyrrel, 2360. The rendering of the ceremonies reflected the highest credit on all concerned. The lectures delivered by the M.E.Z., H., and J., and the work of the P.S. being exceptionally well done.

Chapter was closed, and an excellent banquet followed. The customary loyal and Masonic toasts were heartily honoured.

In proposing "The Queen and Royal Arch Freemasonry," the M.E.Z. said they all knew that Royal Arch Freemasonry was founded on the purest principles of piety and virtue, and no one had ever lived up to those principles to a fuller extent than her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. Royalty and Freemasonry had long been closely bound together in England, and might that union ever continue to exist!

The M.E.Z. proposed "The Grand Officers, Present and Past," and pointed out that those distinguished companions had gained their positions by services rendered to the Craft, and reminded the companions how ready they still were to do all in their power for the good of the Order. He alluded specially to the grand work for Freemasonry which had been done in West London by Comp. George Read, P.G. Std. Br., and asserted that no appointment to Grand Lodge had ever given satisfaction to a greater number of the brethren and companions than when their distinguished visitor was appointed P.G. Std. Br.

Comp. George Read, P.G. Std. Br., thanked the M.E.Z. and the companions for the cordial manner in which they had received the toast. The Grand Officers were ever ready to do all in their power to promote the interests of the Craft, and they were delighted to know that their services were appreciated. He had gained Grand Lodge honours rather late in life, but he trusted that he might still have the pleasure of being among them for many years to come. He had been a friend and neighbour of the M.E.Z. for many years, and he was glad to be present to congratulate him on attaining the position of First Principal in the chapter.

Comp. J. Butler proposed "The Health of the M.E.Z." He said that since Comp. Turner had been connected with the chapter he had discharged all his duties in the most exemplary manner. They all congratulated him sincerely on attaining the high position he now held, and they all wished him a most happy and prosperous year of office.

The M.E.Z., in reply, thanked the companions for the very kind and cordial manner in which they had received the toast. He knew that many of his predecessors

had been distinguished in science, law, and letters, and it would be his ambition to try to follow their noble example. He thought that no companion had ever been called upon to preside over the chapter under sadder circumstances than he had. During the past few months death had claimed three of their companions, who were justly looked upon as the three pillars of the chapter, viz., Comps. J. R. Roberts, F. Eckstein, and J. Pearson. It seemed almost impossible that they should hear no more the hearty laugh of Comp. Roberts, enjoy the well told stories and the sparkling wit of Comp. Eckstein, or listen to the more serious view of life which was always expressed so well by Comp. Pearson. The chapter had most certainly sustained a serious loss, but by working in the same spirit that had actuated those departed companions he had no doubt the chapter would long continue to flourish and prosper.

"The H. and J.," was next given by the M.E.Z. He spoke highly of the devotion to the chapter which had been shown by Comps. Farrow and Thwaites. They all deeply regretted that illness had prevented the former from being with them that evening.

Comp. Thwaites expressed his thanks and pride in filling the office of Third Principal. He was glad to have had the honour of assisting in exalting two candidates into the chapter.

The M.E.Z., in proposing "The Exaltees," said they were two personal friends of his—Comps. T. Simpson and the Rev. H. Vyvian Tyrrel—and it would be impossible to find anywhere two better men and Masons.

Comps. T. Simpson and the Rev. H. Vyvian Tyrrel both responded, and expressed their thanks at having been admitted into the Urban Chapter. They had been much impressed with the ceremony, and would do all in their power to promote the interests of Royal Arch Freemasonry in general, and the Urban Chapter in particular.

"The Visitors" was cordially given by the M.E.Z., who referred in kindly and complimentary terms to each visiting companion present, and a suitable response having been made by each visitor, the following toasts were duly honoured: "The Scribe E.," "The Past Principals," "The Officers," and the Janitor.

During the evening some excellent songs were sung by Comps. C. Ortner, W. S. Thwaites, and G. Nelson Watts, and the Rev. H. Vyvian Tyrrel fairly convulsed the companions with some capital recitations. Altogether, the meeting was a most successful and enjoyable one.

Ancient and Accepted Rite.

Alleyn Chapter, No. 139.

A meeting of this chapter was held at 33, Golden-square, W., on Wednesday, the 9th inst., when there were present Ill. Bros. W. J. Songhurst, 30°, M.W.S., in the chair; Capt. W. Portlock-Dadson, 33°, Sec. to Supreme Council; and John Read, 30°, P.M.W.S. 10, 42, 107, Prelate; Ex. and P. Bro. F. A. Powell, 18°, 1st Gen.; Ill. Bro. R. C. Leversedge, 31°, 2nd Gen.; Ex. and P. Bro. W. H. Kidson, M.L.S.B., Treas.; J. W. Stevens, 18°, Marshal; A. H. Thornton, J.P., 18°, Raphael; A. Churchward, M.D., 18°, D.C.; J. P. Norrington, 18°, Herald; F. J. Henley, and G. Austin, Outer Guard. Visitors: Very Ill. Bro. Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, 33°, Grand Prior S.C.; Ill. Bro. Harold Burke, 30°, Tuscan Chapter; and Ex. and P. Bros. J. J. Fakes, Invicta Chapter, and J. Inskipp, St. George's Chapter.

Communications of regret for inability to attend this meeting were received from the Most Ill. Bro. Capt. N. G. Philips, 30°, Lt. Grand Commander; Very Ill. Bro. R. Loveland Loveland, 33°, O.C., Grand Chancellor; Ill. Bros. Sir F. Godson, M.P., 33°, Digby Green, 30°; and Ex. and P. Bro. T. Parker, 18°.



The chapter was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Bro. W. Llewellyn as a candidate for perfection, and, it being in favour of his admission, Bro. Llewellyn was regularly admitted to the 18° by the M.W.S. This being the annual period of installation of M.W.S., Ill. Bro. John Read, 30°, having been presented, was installed into the chair by Ill. Bro. W. J. Songhurst, 30°. This ceremony, as well as the ceremony of perfection, was carried out in a most faultless and impressive manner by Ill. Bro. W. J. Songhurst, 30°. Ill. Bro. John Read, 30°, as M.W.S. appointed and invested the following officers: Ex. and P. Bro. F. A. Powell, 18°, Prelate; Ill. Bro. R. C. Leversedge, 31°, 1st General; Ex. and P. Bro. J. W. Stevens, 18°, 2nd General; Ill. Bros. W. J. Songhurst, 30°, Treas.; and Capt. W. Portlock-Dadson, 33°, Recorder; Ex. and P. Bros. A. H. Thornton, J.P., 18°, Marshal; A. Churchward, M.D., 18°, Raphael; J. P. Norrington, 18°, D.C.; H. E. Herman, 18°, Herald; W. H. Kidson, M.L.S.B., 18°, Capt. of Guard; and J. F. Henley, 18°, Stwd. Nothing further offering, the Third Point was given in ample form, and the chapter closed, and the meeting adjourned.

Those present subsequently dined together at the Cafe Royal, under the presidency of the M.W.S., and good working was succeeded by a good dinner, carefully provided by Bro. Odennino, the manager, and a most agreeable, successful, and enjoyable evening was spent by all.

Mark Masonry.

Beaconsfield Lodge, No. 205.

A meeting of this lodge was held at the Lord Brooke Hotel, Shern Hall-street, Walthamstow, on Saturday, the 5th inst. The following brethren were present: Bros. W. S. Wright, W.M.; J. M. Murphy, G. M. E. Hamilton, M. A. McInerney, J. A. Walter, T. Hallows, P.M.; T. Cull, P.M.; L. V. Walker, P.M.; J. C. Yates, P.M.; F. E. Bailey, P.M.; A. Molony, P.M.; H. H. Nuding, P.M.; F. E. England, H. B. Dickens. Bro. Pickering was a visitor.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. requested Bro. Alfred Molony, P.M. and Sec., to take the chair; and the latter then installed Bro. J. N. Murphy, S.W. and W.M. elect. The new W.M. appointed the officers as follows: Bro. G. M. E. Hamilton, S.W.; W. A. Greene, J.W.; M. A. McInerney, M.O.; J. A. Watts, S.O.; A. J. Williamson, J.O.; F. Hallows, P.M., Treas.; A. Molony, P.M., Sec.; F. England, S.D.; H. B. Dickens, J.D.; and F. E. Bailey, P.M., I.G.

After the close of the lodge, the brethren dined together and spent a very enjoyable evening.

Instruction.

PROSPERITY LODGE, No. 65.

(Removed to The Whittington, 5 and 7, Moor-lane, Fore-street, E.C.)

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 9th inst., at the Whittington, 5 and 7, Moor-lane, E.C. Present: Bros. D. Harlow, P.M., Preceptor, W.M.; Graham, S.W. 65, S.W.; J. Brown, W.M. 1446, J.W.; William Baker, W.M. 192, Treas.; H. T. Meadows, P.M., Sec.; Fergusson, 192, S.D.; S. Spencer, W.M. 65, J.D.; J. Collins, 192, I.G.; W. J. Grig, P.M. 65, Asst. Preceptor; H. J. Harriss, P.M. 65; G. Schadler, P.M. 65; H. Saunton, P.M. 1423; H. Butcher, P.M. 902; J. Smith, P.M. 192; G. T. Kinipple, P.M. 65; F. Hughes, P.M. 192; Williamson, Hammerton, Miles, Read, Gernon, Robeson, Farr, Lloyd, Stevenson, Taylor, Blaxton, Doody, Rix, Williams, Brooks, Drake, and Maurice. Visitors: Bros. Horley and Prior.

The lodge being opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, the W.M. opened the lodge in the Second Degree, and Bro. Gernon, answering the usual questions, was entrusted. Bro. Harlow then opened the lodge in the Third Degree, and rehearsed the ceremony of raising, Bro. Gernon acting as candidate. The lodge was then called off from labour to refreshment, and on resuming the brethren went through Masonic drill, after which the W.M. closed the lodge down in the Third and Second Degrees respectively, and on rising the usual times a most hearty and unanimous vote of thanks was passed to Bro. D. Harlow for the very able manner he had presided over the inaugural meeting at the new quarters of the lodge, and the same was ordered to be recorded on the minutes. Bro. Graham was elected as W.M. for the next meeting, and Bro. Blaxton as a joining member. In the unavoidable absence of Bro. E. Croft Wise, Bro. J. Brown proposed, and Bro. C. Butcher, P.M. seconded, that the fees be altered to 3d. each night of attendance, or an annual payment of 5s. per annum, which was carried unanimously. Bro. Robeson proposed, and Bro. Brown seconded, that the annual supper, which was unavoidably postponed through change of address, should take place on the second Wednesday in January, 1899, which was also unanimously carried. There being no further business, a most successful and enjoyable evening, spent by an unusually large attendance of the members, was brought to a close by the W.M. closing the lodge in due form.

STAR CHAPTER, No. 1275.

A meeting was held at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell, S.E., on Friday, the 23rd ult. Present: Comps. Braik, M.E.Z.; Cornford, H.; Longhurst, J. H. Cureton, P.Z., Preceptor; C. H. Stone, P.Z., S.E.; H. Turner, S.N.; Stone, P.S.; Plant, Snelling, Targett, Lundie, Sparks, Lewis, and Dawson.

The minutes of the previous convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. A. Sparks personating the candidate. Comp. A. Sparks, 1269, was elected a member. Comp. H. Cornford, H., was elected M.E.Z. for to-day (Friday). The chapter was closed.

Scotland.

GRAND LODGE.

A Quarterly Communication of the above Grand Lodge was held in Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, on the 3rd instant, Bro. Lord Saltoun, the Grand Master, presiding, supported by Bros. Major F. W. Allan, S.G.W., and J. Dalrymple Duncan, acting J.G.W. There were over 200 brethren present, including Bros. Sir Charles Dalrymple, of New Hailes, Bart., M.P., Past Grand Master; Capt. Hope, Prov. G.M. of Linlithgowshire; ex-Provost G. Christie, Prov. G.M. of Stirlingshire; James Berry, Prov. G.M. of Forfarshire; John Macpherson Grant, yr., of Ballindalloch, Prov. G.M. of Inverness-shire; D. Murray Lyon, G. Sec.; David Reid, G. Treas.; Rev. Archibald Fleming, G. Chap.; W. Munro Denholm and P. L. Henderson, acting G. Deacons.

From a statement submitted by the Grand Treasurer, it appeared that the income of Grand Lodge for the quarter ended 15th October had amounted to £983, and the expenditure to £696, showing an excess of income to the amount of £287. Grants to the amount of £90 had been made to distressed brethren or the widows of brethren. There had been 1290 entrants to the Order during the quarter.

It was ordered that charters be issued to the following new lodges: Ivanhoe, Boulder, John Brockman, Cossack, and Banbery, all of Western Australia, and St. Kilda, Invernesshire. It was resolved to resume recognition of the Grand Lodge of Peru and lodges under its jurisdiction, it having been intimated officially from the Grand Lodge that the Bible had been restored to its place in all lodges under the Peruvian Constitution. It was agreed that the members of Grand Committee shall at all meetings of Grand Lodge rank immediately before the Grand Stewards. Grand Lodge agreed to give its patronage to a series of theatrical performances in the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, during Christmas week in aid of the Metropolitan District Fund of Masonic Benevolence.

In regard to this, the GRAND MASTER said he was perfectly sure that the whole of the Metropolitan lodges must feel that it was to their advantage to give such a Masonic act every encouragement that they possibly could. (Applause.) On the first night of the performance he proposed to be present, and Lady Saltoun had done him and the Metropolitan Lodge the honour to say that she would also attend. (Applause.)

Grand Committee reported the resignation of Bro. the Earl of Roslyn of the Provincial Grand Mastership of Fife and Kinross, and recommended

the Grand Lodge accept thereof, with an expression of regret, and thank his Lordship for his services in connection with the office. This was adopted, and, in accordance with a later recommendation, Grand Lodge appointed Bro. James Taylor Cathcart, younger of Pitcairnie, to the Provincial Grand Mastership. He had been recommended by the Provincial Grand Lodge and by the greater part of the lodges in the province.

It was reported that Bro James Berry had expressed a desire to be relieved of Provincial Grand Mas'ership of Forfarshire after 10 years in the office and an official connection with the province for 30 years. But, out of 25 lodges in the province, 22 had recommended his re-appointment, and the Provincial Grand Lodge held that "it is in the best interests of Freemasonry that Bro. Berry be re-appointed." Bro. Berry, at a subsequent meeting, intimated that, in respect of this unanimity, and that Grand Committee had cordially resolved to endorse the recommendation, he felt it his duty to accept re-appointment. Grand Lodge re-appointed him accordingly.

Grand Lodge then proceeded to the nomination of Grand Office-bearers for the year. Grand Committee reported their unanimous recommendation that Lord Saltoun be nominated as Grand Master, and that he be specially thanked for the excellent services he had rendered to Grand Lodge and to the craft since his election in 1896.

Bro. Sir C. DALRYMPLE in moving the adoption of this, said he felt sure that the resolution would be carried with acclamation, because Lord Saltoun had done admirable work in Grand Lodge during the years he had occupied the chair, and he was sure, enjoyed the full confidence of the brethren throughout the world. (Applause.)

The motion was seconded by Bro. CHRISTIE, and carried with acclamation.

The GRAND MASTER, in acknowledging, said he had done his best to discharge his duty towards Grand Lodge and Freemasonry, and in assuring them that he would continue to do so, he placed his own credit and his own honour in their hands. (Applause.)

The G. Officers for the year are—

Bro. Major F. W. Allan	...	...	S.G.W.
" the Hon. Charles Maule Ramsay	...	...	J.G.W.
" the Rev. Archibald Fleming, M.A.	...	...	} G. Chaps.
" the Rev. Dr. M'Adam Muir	...	...
" A. A. Spiers of Elderslie	...	...	S.G.D.
" W. Munro Denholm	...	...	J.G.D.
" John Whitehead	...	...	G. Architect.
" Robert K. Inches	...	...	G. Jeweller.
" John Carruthers	...	...	G. Bible-Bearer.
" William Phillips	...	...	G.D.C.
" James Drummond, W.S....	...	...	G. Bard.
" James Gunn	...	...	G.S.B.
" Emile Berger	...	...	G. Dir. of M.
" Arthur J. Curle	...	...	G. Org.
" George Crawford	...	...	G. Marshal.
" Matthew Richmond	...	...	G.I.G.
" George Hay	...	...	G. Tyler.

The Grand Stewards were nominated for re-election, and the following brethren to fill six vacancies: Bros. James Reid, Dugald M'Innes, George Glen, Thomas Wardale, Robert Jackson, and Emil Christensen. This was all the business.

Obituary.

DEATH OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER OF THE ISLE OF MAN.

We regret to announce the death of Sir John Senhouse Goldie Taubman, Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of the Isle of Man. Bro. Sir John Taubman was initiated as a member of the Tynwald Lodge in the year 1880, and has been an active member of the Craft ever since. Soon after his admission into the Order he was made Secretary of his mother lodge, and in 1883, about three years after his admission, he attained the position of W.M. A year or two after that a movement was made amongst Masons in the Isle of Man to constitute the Island into a Province, and early in 1886, the usual formalities having been gone through, the new Prov. G. Lodge was formed, with Bro. John Senhouse Goldie Taubman as its Right Worshipful Grand Master. Although not in any way proficient in the ceremonial work of the Order, yet his tact and influence was so great that it would be almost impossible to exaggerate the esteem with which he was regarded by Manx Freemasons. This was shown by the fact that when the Tynwald Chapter was instituted he was appointed to the premier position, and at a recent meeting of the Ellan Vannin Lodge, at which it was resolved to change its construction into a Past Masters' Lodge, he was unanimously selected to be W.M., and had he lived he would have been [duly] initiated into office during the present month. On more than one occasion he has presided over the Grand Lodge in London, in the absence of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. Bro. Taubman occupied in the island a position exactly the counterpart of that of the Speaker of the House of Commons. The Isle of Man has its own Legislature, and for the last 25 years he has been Speaker of the popularly elected branch of that Legislature which is denominated the House of Keys. Bro. Taubman was in his 61st year, and the cause of his death was pleurisy.

COUNTY

50 REGENT ST., W., &
14 CORNHILL, E.C., LONDON.

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Insurances on Farming Stocks and on other than **Ordinary Risks** do not participate in the Returns, nor are the Returns given on amounts which, being in excess of its own holding, are not retained by the Office.

Policies may be effected or transferred without any extra expenses.

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

Masonic and General Tidings.

BRO. THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH has arrived at Sysonby Lodge, Melton Mowbray, from London.

BRO. VISCOUNT WOLSELEY, the Commander-in-Chief, who has taken a house at Brighton, is to be presented with the Freedom of the Borough. No date has yet been fixed for the ceremony.

LADY LUCY HICKS-BEACH has accepted an invitation to perform the ceremony of christening the Formidable, first-class battleship, on the occasion of her being launched from No. 5 slip at Portsmouth Dockyard on Thursday, the 17th inst.

THE EMPRESS FREDERIC OF GERMANY arrived at Buckingham Palace on Monday evening on the conclusion of her Northern tour. It is expected that her Imperial Majesty will remain in London until the return of the Court from Balmoral, when she will go to Windsor.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN has consented to open and take a stall at a bazaar to be held in the Albert Institute, Windsor, on the 29th and 30th instant, in aid of the Windsor Croche and the local branch of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

PRINCESS ARIBERT OF ANHALT and suite left Victoria Station on Monday evening for Germany, via Queenborough and Flushing. Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, accompanied by Princess Victoria, was present to see her Royal Highness off. Major Martin was in attendance.

A FEW PERSONAL FRIENDS OF T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales and family arrived at Sandringham on Monday evening, including Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Prince Francis of Teck, the Earl of Rosebery, Capt. Ricardo, the Right Hon. Henry Chaplin, M.P., Bros. Montagu Guest and Sassoon.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN, who was accompanied by Princess Aribert of Anhalt and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, with Baroness von Egloffstein and Major Evan Martin in attendance, paid an opening visit on Monday afternoon to the exhibition organised by the Artists' Guild at the Imperial Institute.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK, who, with the young Princes and Princesses, are staying at York House, Sandringham, attended Divine service at Sandringham Church, attended by Lady Mary Lygon and Sir Francis de Winton. Their Royal Highnesses afterwards visited T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales at Sandringham House.

ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON the ceremony of swearing in the new Lord Mayor took place in Guildhall. After a "breakfast" at one o'clock, at the Mansion House, Bro. Lord Mayor Davies, the Lord Mayor elect, the Aldermen, Sheriffs, and high officers, went in procession to Guildhall, where, both in the Court of Aldermen and in the Great Hall, the ancient ceremonials took place.

BRO. LORD KITCHENER was present at the performance in the Palace Theatre on Saturday morning last, and was soon recognised by the large audience, who gave the Sirdar a tremendous reception, singing "See the Conquering Hero Comes" and loudly cheering him. The entertainment was stopped temporarily, and when, during the interval, the band struck up "Rule, Britannia," the house rose, and joined in the chorus.

ON SATURDAY, Bro. Lord Mayor Davies, M.P., and the Lady Mayoress gave an entertainment to the children of the Freeman's Orphan School, at the Mansion House. The institution, which is situated at Brixton, was erected by the Corporation and opened in 1850 for the maintenance and religious and ordinary education of orphans of freemen of the City. It has accommodation for 100 girls and 100 boys, and nearly 1000 children have passed through it since 1850.

THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES the Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Victoria, attended by Miss Knollys, General Sir Dighton Probyn, Major-General Sir A. T. Ellis, and Bro. Sir Francis Knollys, attended divine service on Tuesday morning at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, in the park at Sandringham. Owing to the Prince and Princess being in deep mourning for the late Queen of Denmark, his Royal Highness's birthday celebration at Sandringham will not be held this year.

WE HEAR that Bro. Sir Henry Irving continues to improve. The Prince's Lodge—the most aristocratic in Glasgow—dining in the Windsor Hotel on the 7th inst., on the motion of Bro. McLeod, R.W.M., son of the famous Queen's Chaplain, Dr. Norman MacLeod, sent the following message, signed by the whole company, to Bro. Sir Henry, who was ill upstairs: "Brethren of Prince's Lodge now dining in this hotel salute Bro. Sir Henry Irving, with warmest wishes for his speedy recovery, and regret he cannot give them the honour and pleasure of his presence at their annual banquet."

IT HAS become quite a custom to confer a K.C.M.G. on a retiring Lord Mayor, in place of the knighthoods which used to obtain in years when baronetcies were not awarded. It was Mr. Gladstone who created the precedent 13 years ago, at the termination of Bro. John Staples' year of office. Curiously enough, one of his Sheriffs was Bro. David Evans, who in his turn seven years later was himself created a K.C.M.G. Sir Walter Wilkin was another recipient. There is some appropriateness in conferring an honour which has always been associated with Greater Britain, seeing that one of the latest official acts of the late popular occupant of the Mansion House was to open a relief fund on behalf of distressed Colonies.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, accompanied by Colonel FitzGeorge, went on Saturday to Balls Park, Hertford, on a visit to Sir George and Lady Faudel-Phillips. The party invited to meet his Royal Highness included the Duke of Manchester, Bro. the Marquis and Marchioness of Tweeddale and Lady Clementine Hay, Bro. Lord Claud Hamilton, Bro. Lord Hothfield, Sir William Walrood, Bro. H. McCalmont, M.P., Mr. H. Stuart Wortley, and Mr. Faudel-Phillips. The Duke of Cambridge and the house party attended Divine service in the chapel of Christ's Hospital, where a most impressive sermon was preached by the Rev. J. T. Bell, the headmaster. His Royal Highness subsequently visited the other portions of the institution, and attended the children's dinner. The Duke of Cambridge expressed himself greatly pleased at the high tone maintained in the school, of which he has been president for many years.

NATIONAL TOAST.—"Here's to John Bull, Pat and Sandy in Grant's Morella Cherry Brandy," acknowledged by all to be delicious and comforting; and well calculated by its soothing properties to make all parties work together for the benefit of the nation. Sold everywhere. Also Grant's Cherry Whisky and Stoe Gin.—ADVT.

THE EARL OF CLARENDON and his daughter, Lady Edith Villiers, have left London for Clumber, Notts, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Newcastle.

BRO. THE RIGHT HON. SIR J. E. GORST, O.C., M.P., Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, has appointed Mr. William Loring, as his private secretary.

THE COUNTESS OF CARNARVON has given birth to a son and heir at 13, Berkeley-square. Mother and child are progressing favourably.

THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND has arrived at Chelsea House from the Viceregal Lodge, Dublin. His Excellency will return to Ireland after the meeting of the Cabinet.

THE DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH has gone to Brighton for a fortnight. Bro. the Duke of Marlborough is spending a few days at Sysonby Lodge, his hunting quarters, in Leicestershire.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT arrived on Tuesday night at Welbeck on a visit to Bro. the Duke and Duchess of Portland, who give a grand ball in their honout to-day (Friday).

BRO. THE RIGHT HON. W. C. GULLY, M.P., Speaker of the House of Commons, has promised to preside at the 30th anniversary dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund, which will be held at the Whitehall Rooms, on Saturday, May 13th, 1899.

WE ARE GLAD to hear that Bro. J. L. Toole is still making excellent progress towards recovery at the Royal Eye Hospital, St. George's-circus, S.E. On Sunday last the surgeons permitted him to take exercise on the roof of the hospital.

BRO. THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF DERBY have been entertaining a large house-party at Knowsley Park for the Liverpool races. Bro. Lord Derby has just given a handsome cup to the Royal Botanical Society of Manchester for competition at the forthcoming chrysanthemum show.

THE MARQUIS OF HEADFORT and Lord and Lady Ribblesdale left King's Cross on Tuesday on a visit to Lord and Lady Savile at Rufford Abbey, who are this week entertaining a large party for shooting and for the balls at Clumber and Welbeck, which are to be honoured by the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

"**HOLLOWAY'S Almanac and Family Friend for 1899** is a very useful little book. It is not all 'Pills and Ointment' as might be supposed, but contains a good deal of useful information, and a series of articles on the Pastimes of Many Nations. It may be obtained free on sending a halfpenny stamp for postage to 78, New Oxford-street."—*Modern Society*.

THE GRAND DUKE AND DUCHESS SERGE OF RUSSIA, accompanied by their suite, will arrive at Windsor to-morrow (Saturday) evening, on a visit to the Queen. General Godfrey Clerk, who has been appointed to attend upon the distinguished visitors by her Majesty, will meet the travellers at Dover, and accompany them on the final stage of their journey.

AT FARNHAM on Saturday night last the Aldershot district annual Inkerman and Crimean War banquet was held under the patronage of the Duke of Connaught, the Duke of Cambridge, Bro. Lord Wolseley, Bro. Lord Roberts, and many others. Besides veterans of Inkerman and the Crimean War, survivors of the Indian Mutiny were invited, and by permission of Lieut.-Col. Bro. the Earl of Airlie and the officer of the regiment the band of the 12th (Prince of Wales's) Royal Lancers played a selection of music.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN, who was attended by Baroness von Egloffstein, opened at noon on Monday, in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster Abbey, a two days' sale on behalf of the Westminster Refuge for Women and its allied institution, the St. Helena Hospital. Among the ladies in attendance were Viscountess Emlyn, Lady Beatrice Kemp, Miss Bradley, Miss Beryl Thynne, Mrs. Hugh Spottiswoode, and Mrs. Seymour Corkran. The Princess was received at the Abbey entrance by the Dean and Mrs. Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. John Thynne, and Mr. Frank Thynne.

THE IMMEMORIAL dining customs of the Middle Temple have been rudely broken in upon by the Benchers. Up to this term the dinners have been split up into messes of four. To each mess has been assigned a separate joint, from which each diner has carved for himself. Has not Thackeray immortalised this custom in "Pendennis?" But now, and henceforth, the waiters are to carve from a few common joints. The innovation is generally disliked. While the waiters are carving, the vegetables grow cold, and there has been a torturing delay in uncorking the wine. As a solatium, the Benchers have offered coffee. This, however, has failed to pacify, and the diners are in a state of suppressed rebellion.

THE QUEEN has been pleased to approve the appointment of the retiring Lord Mayor (Bro. Colonel Davies, M.P.) to be a Knight-Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Bro. Colonel Sir Horatio Davies was born in 1842, educated at Dulwich College, and, after spending a year or two with an engraver, forsook art to enter into commerce. Subsequently he became associated with various industrial enterprises in the City, which under his care prospered exceedingly. He has been a member of the Common Council since 1879, served as Sheriff and Alderman, and has now left the Mansion House after a successful year of office, which has been marked by generous hospitality and unremitting efforts to promote the interests of the citizens of London.

£2950 FOR A BIBLE.—At the first day's sale of the valuable library of the late Rev. William Makellar, at Sotheby's, on Tuesday last, one of the most precious printed copies of the Bible known to collectors was the chief object of competition. This was one of that first printed edition of the Sacred Book known as the "Gutenberg Bible," having also the interest of being the first important issue from moveable metal types. The existing copies are calculated at 25, but only five have changed hands within the past 20 years, and these have come under Messrs. Sotheby's hammer. The date of printing was from 1450-55; and as to its value, the sum of £2950 speaks for itself to some extent, though this treasure sold at a greater figure on a former occasion, before certain defects were discovered by the initiated. It is what is called the second issue, and measures 15 by 10½ inches. Mr. Quaritch, who, it will be remembered, paid a large sum for this "Syston Park" copy before, has again become its possessor. After such an item running easily to four figures, a vellum manuscript at £300 seems a modest acquisition; but it may be noted that this amount was given by Mr. Robson for a 13th century Anglo-Norman transcript of the Bible in Gothic characters ornamented and historiated, the illuminations showing the distinctive dresses of the period and fashions of armour. There was a copy, not perfect, but rare for all that, of the first Polyglott Bible printed, comprising likewise the first printed Greek New Testament. This fell to Mr. Quaritch at £88.

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