

THE FREEMASON.

The Organ of the Craft, a Weekly Record of Progress in
FREEMASONRY, LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND ART

REPORTS OF THE GRAND LODGES ARE PUBLISHED WITH THE SPECIAL SANCTION OF
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, THE M.W. GRAND MASTER OF ENGLAND; HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF IRELAND;
RIGHT HON. LORD SALTOUN, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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THE APPROACHING FESTIVAL OF THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The second of our great Anniversary Festivals for the current year—that of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls—will take place at Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, the 10th May, under the presidency of R.W. Bro. Viscount DUNGARVAN, Prov. Grand Master of Somersetshire. We, therefore, take the earliest available opportunity of laying before our readers the claims which our senior Charity has upon their support and that of the English Craft generally. Not that these claims are altogether unknown to them; but experience has taught us that what is virtually the policy, which President LINCOLN so aptly described as that of keeping on "pegging away," is the best to pursue in respect of all our Institutions; but more particularly is it the best when their respective Festivals are approaching, and the necessity for drawing attention to the circumstances in which they are placed is urgent. The bulk of our readers must be aware that our Institution for Girls maintains, clothes, and educates some 270 children—the orphan daughters of brethren who, when living, were in reputable circumstances. It is equally a matter of common knowledge that the training and education, both mental and physical, of these children will compare favourably with the best that can be found at the most successful of our middle-class educational establishments, both in town and country. No doubt, also, it is tolerably well-known that our Girls' School relies for support chiefly on the voluntary contributions of the Craft and their friends, but we question if they quite realise how considerable is the sum that is annually required in order to meet the heavy expenditure of the Institution, and how laborious is the task of raising that amount. The permanent income of the Institution does not greatly exceed £2500, while the annual expenditure is certainly not less than £13,500. The deficiency, therefore, is £11,000, and this must be raised or one of two courses adopted—that of reducing the number of children on whom the benefits of the School are conferred; or that of trenching upon the small amount of invested capital which the administrators of the Charity have been able to accumulate. We feel sure there is

not a single member of our Order who would desire to see either of these courses adopted, save under pressure of the direst necessity, and hence when we make these annual appeals on behalf of this Institution we do so with a feeling of confidence that a ready and ample response will be forthcoming. But this year, owing to the special efforts that were made in 1898 in respect of the Centenary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys and the unprecedented success which resulted from those efforts, the task of raising, not only the sum ordinarily required, but an additional £2,000 as well, will be somewhat more difficult to fulfil than in ordinary years. Last year the Girls' School Festival yielded some £9,500, as compared with the average proceeds of the preceding half dozen years, namely, about £16,000, against which the only set-off was the grant of £2000 voted in June, 1897, to commemorate the QUEEN'S Diamond Jubilee, but not paid till early in 1898. But after making allowance for this, the interest on capital, and the regular grants by Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, there was still a falling-off in the receipts for the Festival, as compared with the expenditure, of between £2000 and £2500, so that to restore things to their old position the Festival in May next should yield not less than £13,000 or £14,000. As far as we are able to judge, the prospects are encouraging, the able Secretary, Bro. F. R. W. HEDGES, having already enrolled a goodly number of ladies and brethren as Stewards, who may be relied upon to leave no stone unturned in order to raise what is possible in the way of donations and subscriptions.

Let us hope, then, that Bro. HEDGES will be as successful in the time that remains at his disposal as he has been heretofore in organising the Board of Stewards, and if any special incentive is needed to ensure a Return such as we have indicated, that incentive will be found, firstly, in the necessity for making good the unavoidable deficiency of last year, and, secondly, in the successful manner in which the School is conducted, and the prudence with which its funds are administered. None need hesitate about subscribing to the Girls' Institution, when they know that the amounts they subscribe are so carefully and economically applied to the training and education of the daughters of our deceased and indigent brethren.

THE WEST LANCASHIRE MASONIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.

We have carefully read the report of this Institution for the past year—for copy of which we are indebted to the courtesy of the Honorary Secretaries—and are glad to find that, though 1898 was in one respect a disastrous one, and though there are still some among the lodges in the Province which have not contributed towards the maintenance of this deserving and well-managed Charity, the income has been well maintained and the benefits conferred by it at least as great as in previous years. The year, as we have said, was a disastrous one owing to the loss sustained by this and the other West Lancashire Charitable Institutions through the lamented death of the Earl of LATHOM, whose interest in all that related to the cause of Charity was known and appreciated everywhere throughout the Craft, and the opportunity is taken in the opening sentences of the report to pay a just tribute of respect to the memory of his lordship's services to the Fund. "From the commencement," we are told "of his career as a Mason, he evinced a keen interest in our Institution, and immediately after his promotion to the rank of

Provincial Grand Master, he was elected our President, which office he continued to hold with kindness, wisdom, and courtesy, to the end of his days. The loss of so noble a chief will be keenly felt, not only in this Province, but throughout the country, and we can only express the fervent hope that his successor will follow the path he so worthily trod."

The Hon. Secretaries, after expressing their regret at the resignation of Bro. J. H. TYSON, who had "laboured so long and faithfully as one of the Honorary Secretaries," and "who will be sadly missed by his old colleagues," go on to describe the more important work done by the Institution during 1898 and the amount received in the way of income. The number of children who have received the benefits dispensed by the Charity is stated as 215, and the amount expended in educating and otherwise advancing their welfare is set down as £1535 4s. 9d., while the number of those to be elected at the Court of Governors, which will be held at the Masonic Hall, Liverpool, this (Friday) evening, is 17, of which nine are to be elected on the Educational Fund, four on the Combined Fund, and four on the Advancement.

Turning to the Hon. Treasurer's statement of account for the past year we find that, including the balance brought forward from previous account, the total of the receipts reached in round figures, £2531, the amount of the donations, &c., &c., being £1238, of which £304 was the proceeds of the annual ball in aid of the Charity, and £834 represented the Donations and Subscriptions from lodges, chapters, brethren, &c. The interest on the invested capital was £802, or more by nearly £29 than the sum received under this head in the previous year. The expenditure amounted to a fraction over £1501, of which the only outlay incurred for management, &c., was £86 for Printing, Stationery, Postages, &c.; the remainder, represented by £1414 8s. 1d., having been paid for Education, Maintenance, and Advancement. To this has been added the year's proportion of the cost of eight Presentations for Children possessed by the Charity, amounting to £121, making the total expended on the children, as before stated, £1535 4s. 9d. The investments represent a total value of close on £23,000, to which must be added the balance at bank and on deposit, making a grand total of nearly £24,000.

We congratulate the Committee of Management on the very satisfactory condition of the Institution, and while we share with them in the regret they express that there are still many lodges which "have failed to realise the great importance of the Institution and the part it plays in providing for the helpless little ones of those who (but a short while ago) were our boon companions;" we also unite with them in the hope that "in next year's report the words 'no returns' may appear less frequently."

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England was held on Wednesday, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C., Bro. Earl Amherst, M.W. Pro G.M., presiding. Bro. the Earl of Euston, R.W. Prov. G.M. of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, acted as Deputy Grand Master, and Bro. Dr. Balfour Cockburn, Prov. G.M. of Guernsey, as Past Grand Master.

Grand Lodge was opened at two o'clock in the afternoon to afford facilities for the election of Grand Treasurer, the candidates for which office were Bro. Alfred H. Bevan (London) and Bro. Harry Manfield (Northampton).

After Grand Lodge had been formally opened, the minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 7th December, 1898, so far as they related to the election of Grand Treasurer, were read and confirmed.

Bro. ERNEST FLOWER, M.P., Most Worshipful Grand Master, in the chair: I beg to propose for election for Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year, Bro. Alfred Henry Bevan. It is not necessary to recall at any great length, or to detain Grand Lodge for any considerable time by giving in detail the qualifications for the candidature of Bro. Alfred Bevan, as the manner in which it has been received is, at all events, an indication of the sincere respect and regard in which he is held by the Craft at large. But I may tell Grand Lodge that I had the pleasure of laying before it at last Quarterly Communication a statement of his Masonic career, not only in London, but also in the provinces, and I spoke of the generosity with which he has assisted the great Masonic Charities. Most Worshipful Grand Master, such qualifications will, I am sure, commend themselves to the brethren at large; they are qualifications which I am glad to think have always been maintained by those brethren who have held the office of Grand Treasurer; they are those qualifications which belong to that distinguished office.

But, Most Worshipful Grand Master, it is, I think, within the limits of propriety if I add to Bro. Bevan's Masonic experience some brief words of review of that wider philanthropy known to the world without which has made the name of Alfred Bevan almost a household word in the Charitable world. Most Worshipful Grand Master, I think such qualifications in a candidate render him worthy to be proposed for election, and if he secures election following on that proposition he will carry on the unlimited lustre of the office of Grand Treasurer which the provinces and the metropolis may require. I beg to propose Worshipful Bro. Alfred Henry Bevan, Past Prov. Grand Treasurer, for election as Grand Treasurer.

Bro. HAWKINS, P.M. 569: Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master, I beg to second the proposition.

Bro. JOHN GLASS, P.M. 453: Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master, I rise to propose for election as Grand Treasurer, Bro. Harry Manfield. I do not know, Sir, that I need take up the time of Grand Lodge by adding anything to what I said on the last occasion, but I am prepared to justify every word I uttered then with respect to the candidate. I shall content myself by reminding the brethren that out of the last 21 Grand Treasurers who have been elected by Grand Lodge, 16 of them were London brethren and five only Provincial; and I think that although we have splendid candidates, it is but fair to the Provincial brethren, as well as to the London brethren, that the Provinces should now have their turn at this present opportunity to be represented by a Grand Treasurer.

Bro. Dr. KNIGHT, P.M. 445, Northampton: Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master in the Chair, I rise as a member of the Province of Northamptonshire and as a Past Grand Officer of the Prov. Grand Lodge of that Province to second the proposition for the election of Bro. Manfield. What has been said with regard to his qualifications for the office is all true, and is all known to Masons, not only in that Province, but throughout the country. The arguments, Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master, with respect to the desirability, to say no more, of having Provincial Officers for Grand Treasurer of England, seem to me arguments that cannot be in any way gainsaid. They are tremendous in favour of Bro. Manfield; there are no two opinions upon it. I beg to second his election. (Loud applause)

The poll was then opened, and remained open until a quarter past seven o'clock.

At the meeting at seven o'clock, Bro. W. W. B. BEACH, M.P., Prov. G.M. of Hants and Isle of Wight, took the chair, and called upon the Grand Secretary to read the minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 7th December, 1898.

Bro. General Wimburn Laurie, M.P., Prov. G.M. of South Wales (Western Division), acted as Past Grand Master, and Bro. the Earl of Euston, Prov. G.M. Northants and Hunts, as Deputy Grand Master. Bro. George Richards, District G.M. of the Transvaal, acted as S.G.W., and Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn, P.G.C., as J.G.W. Bro. Thos. Fenn, P.G.W., acted as G.D.C.

The minutes having been read and confirmed,

The ACTING GRAND MASTER, at a quarter-past seven, declared the poll for Grand Treasurer closed, and then obligated the Scrutineers, of whom Bro. A. C. Spaul was appointed Chairman. The Scrutineers then left Grand Lodge with the ballot boxes.

Bro. BEACH then said it had pleased the Most Worshipful Grand Master to appoint the Earl Amherst as Pro Grand Master of England. (Applause.) A deputation would retire in order to conduct his lordship into the hall for the purpose of his lordship taking the obligation and being installed in the chair.

The deputation, consisting of two Past G. Wardens, two Prov. G. Masters, four G. Deacons, four G. Stewards, and the Dep. and Asst. G.D. of C., was then formed and left Grand Lodge. They afterwards returned escorting Lord Amherst.

Bro. BEACH, addressing his Lordship, said the Most Worshipful Grand Master had been pleased to appoint him to the position of Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master, and he now had the pleasure of placing him in the chair, but first he must call on him to take a solemn obligation with regard to the discharge of the duties of his office.

Earl Amherst then took the obligation and was invested by Bro. Beach with the insignia of his office.

By the direction of Bro. Thomas Fenn, acting G.D.C., the brethren saluted the Pro G.M. with the honours of Grand Master.

Earl AMHERST: Brethren, I greet you well.

Bro. BEACH, addressing his lordship, said he now placed him in the chair not doubting that his conduct in the discharge of the duties of his office would be such as to justify the confidence which the Grand Master had placed in him and also to merit the approbation of the brethren. (Applause.) Bro. Beach then took the seat of Past Grand Master.

Earl AMHERST then said: Lord Warwick, it has pleased H.R.H. the M.W.G.M. to appoint you to the office of Dep. G. Master. Before you take your seat as Dep. G. Master I must ask you to take the obligation applicable to the duties of your office.

The Earl of Warwick was then obligated, invested, and installed by Earl AMHERST, who said: I now place you in the chair of Dep. G. Master, nothing doubting that you will so discharge your duties as Dep. G. Master as to justify the confidence which the G. Master has placed in you, and also to merit the approbation of the brethren.

Led by Bro. Thomas Fenn his lordship was saluted by the brethren with the honours of Deputy Grand Master.

Bro. E. LETCHWORTH, G. Sec., then read the following communication from the M.W.G.M. with reference to the Grand Lodge of Peru:

The Most Worshipful Grand Master having had before him certain resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Peru, reversing its former action respecting the removal of the Volume of the Sacred Law from the altars of lodges and the suppression of the word "Bible" in the ritual; and having satisfied himself that the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Peru has, in pursuance of such resolutions, issued a decree abrogating the decree of June 17th, 1897, his Royal Highness is of opinion that the Grand Lodge of Peru, having ordered the restoration of the Volume of the Sacred Law to its place upon the altar and in the ritual, is entitled to recognition as a true and lawful Masonic body, so long as it conforms to the landmarks and beliefs common to pure Masonry, and that this recognition should be extended to all lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of Peru, which faithfully carry out the true principles of the Craft as endorsed by the later decree. His Royal Highness, therefore, desires that the sense of Grand Lodge be taken upon the following resolutions:

1st. That this Grand Lodge hails with the greatest satisfaction the reversal by the Grand Lodge of Peru of its decree of the 13th of June, 1897,

- by which decree the Volume of the Sacred Law was removed from the altars and from the rituals of lodges under its jurisdiction.
- 2nd. That this Grand Lodge welcomes the return of the Grand Lodge of Peru to its place among those Supreme Masonic Bodies, which acknowledge a belief in the Great Architect of the Universe, and the presence in lodges of the Volume of His Sacred Law, as essential landmarks of the Craft.
 - 3rd. That so long as the Grand Lodge of Peru, and the lodges holding thereunder, respect those ancient landmarks, and practise pure Masonry, they are entitled to recognition by English Masons as true and lawful Masonic lodges or bodies.
 - 4th. That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to the Grand Lodge of Peru, to the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland, to each Grand Lodge with which this Grand Lodge is in communication, and to the Worshipful Masters of all lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of England, each of whom is hereby instructed to cause these resolutions to be read at the first meeting of his lodge after the receipt thereof, and to direct that they shall be entered on the minutes.

The Earl of AMHERST then formerly moved the resolution the brethren had just heard read, and the Earl of WARWICK seconded it. The resolution was then put and carried.

Bro. LETCHWORTH read the following letter he had received from the Earl of Lathom: "43, Seymour-street, W., Jan. 26, 1899. Dear Bro. Letchworth, may I ask you to convey to the Grand Lodge on behalf of my family as well as myself our most grateful thanks for the touching and sympathetic resolution passed at the recent meeting expressing their deep sympathy with us in our great sorrow. I am, dear Bro. Letchworth, yours fraternally, Lathom." The Grand Secretary said he had also received letters of condolence with the Grand Lodge on the loss of the late Pro Grand Master from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the Grand Lodge of Egypt, and the Grand Lodge of Liberia.

Bro. Earl AMHERST said the next business was the election of their Most Worshipful Grand Master, and he called on Bro. Col. Chaloner.

Bro. Col. CHALONER, M.P., P.M. 472 and 1271, W.M. 2644, P.P. S.G.W. Dorset, and P.P.S.G.W. Wilts: Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master and brethren, I had the privilege of nominating his Royal Highness at our last Quarterly Communication. It is now my privilege to nominate him for election to that high office, and I am glad to think that in making this nomination there is no necessity for me to bring forward any powerful arguments in favour of it, because we have only to look back to the time many years ago when he was first nominated to the high office of Grand Master to see the enormous progress Masonry has made throughout the whole world and to see the hold it has got on the minds of the people in this country and the Empire at large to realise the amount of good we have received by his occupying the position of Most Worshipful Grand Master and the benefits Masonry has received under his guidance. But there is another reason, I think, why his name is the right one to propose for this important position. First of all, his rank as the first gentleman in the country, as well as first gentleman in the Empire, if there were no other reason, who has done us the high honour to preside over us; and then there are his personal qualities, his devotion to duty, as shown by the unselfishness in setting aside his own convenience to perform his duties to the Craft. For these reasons, if for no other, and there are others I could bring forward, if necessary, I believe we should do well to re-elect him, and I am proud to have the honour of proposing him for re-election. I beg to move that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales be re-elected as Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Bro. Sir FORREST FULTON: Most Worshipful Grand Master in the Chair, I rise to second the resolution which has been proposed in such felicitous terms by our brother, Col. Chaloner. Everyone present, I am sure, will agree with him that it is a good thing for the Craft that his Royal Highness should have presided so long over us, and that he may long be spared to do so is the desire of us all. It is a good thing for the Craft, and it is a good thing for the Royal House that the two should be so connected for a period of 24 years. I beg to second the proposition.

Earl AMHERST: Brethren, there being no other name before Grand Lodge, I declare H.R.H. the Prince of Wales duly re-elected by acclamation. (Loud applause.)

The Report of the Board of Benevolence for December, 1898, and January and February, 1899, was then read and adopted, and on the motion of Bro. J. H. MATTHEWS, seconded by Bro. D. D. MERCER, the following recommendations of grants were confirmed:

The widow of a brother of the St. John's Lodge, No. 99, London ...	£50 0 0
The widow of a brother of the Lodge of Sincerity, No. 943, Norwich ...	50 0 0
A brother of the Mornington Lodge, No. 1672, London ...	100 0 0
A brother of the Carnarvon Lodge, No. 1472, London ...	75 0 0
A brother of the Merchants Lodge, No. 241, Liverpool ...	50 0 0
A brother of the Perfect Ashlar Lodge, No. 1178, London ...	50 0 0

On the motion of Bro. R. LOVELAND-LOVELAND, Q.C., President, seconded by Bro. J. W. BURGESS, the report of the Board of General Purposes as published in the *Freemason* last week, was taken as read, and ordered to be received and entered on the minutes.

Bro. R. LOVELAND-LOVELAND, Q.C., in moving the adoption of the report, said the brethren would see in paragraph 1 of the report that the Board had tenders for the plans for building and that Messrs. Cubitt and Co.'s was the lowest tender, that the Board had arranged for the buildings, which would cost something like £12,000 including the demolition of the next two houses. They were satisfied in every respect with the plans which would meet the requirements of Grand Lodge. The brethren would also see in paragraph 3 that the Board asked the brethren for the confirmation of a provisional contract they had entered into to let the two houses not to be demolished. They had already bought them for the sum named in the paper, first of all because Grand Lodge had not the accommodation to afford the Charities when they were very deeply in need of larger premises, and also because, he was sorry to tell the brethren, the premises they had authorised the Board to buy a short time ago at the rear of the hall so that they might have an extension of the dais of Grand Lodge to get into the back in case of fire, was scheduled by the London County Council in their new scheme for a street. They had consulted the solicitor to see whether it was not possible for Grand Lodge to hold the property; but they would have to oppose the bill, and if the third reading passed the Council would take compulsorily the back premises. They had bought the premises named, therefore, for the express purpose of enlarging the hall and for obtaining the very essential means of exit in case of fire. The brethren might be aware that they

would have a very fine entrance at the back, and a good frontage there to a great wide street, but, unfortunately, that was blocked up by the scheme of the London County Council, so that they would not only have the premises taken from them, but also the door he had spoken of. It was with regard to that the Board asked the brethren for leave to complete the provisional contract which had been entered into subject to the approval of Grand Lodge. He asked now for the approval of the purchase of premises further off, the third house from the hall. They had had a little difficulty as regarded Nos. 9, 10, and 11, New-yard, with the tenant, but they had taken possession, and would put them in repair for a temporary tenant from quarter to quarter. All these arrangements were necessary for the further extension of Grand Lodge premises and the Charities' offices.

The adoption of the Report having been seconded by Bro. J. W. BURGESS, was carried unanimously; and as a separate motion, moved by Bro. LOVELAND LOVELAND, seconded by Bro. J. W. BURGESS, "That the provisional contract be confirmed by Grand Lodge," was put and carried.

The Grand Lodge Auditors' Report was also adopted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

Bro. HERBERT A. RIGG, Deputy Grand Registrar, brought up the appeal by Bro. J. R. Gibbons of Lodge Star of the South, No. 1025, Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, against the decision of the District G. Master upholding his exclusion from the lodge for alleged un-Masonic conduct. He said Bro. Gibbons objected that the document of information was inadmissible, that the charge against him was too vague, and that there was not sufficient cause to justify his exclusion. He then read the opinion of Bro. Strachan, Q.C., Grand Registrar, on the case, which set forth the facts, the exclusion of the appellant arising from his stating that he would blackball candidates, and that he did so not because he objected to the Worshipful Master, but because he had said he would blackball everyone. This was the charge of un-Masonic conduct. Bro. Strachan's opinion was that a very grave Masonic offence had been committed, and that Bro. Gibbons was properly excluded. He had been called upon to confess, apologise, and resign, but he declined, and the vote of 24 against 4, there being 29 members of the lodge, was a majority of more than two-thirds, and he was properly excluded. The appeal should be dismissed.

Bro. R. LOVELAND-LOVELAND, Q.C., seconded.

The appeal was dismissed.

The scrutineers of the ballot being here announced, they were admitted, and Bro. A. C. Spaul read the figures:

Bevan	...	...	...	1322
Manfield	...	...	...	1026

Majority 296

Earl AMHERST thereupon declared Bro. Alfred H. Bevan duly elected Grand Treasurer.

Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form.

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS.

The Quarterly Communication of G. Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown was held on the 28th ult., at Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C. Bro. the Earl of Euston, Pro G.M., presided; Bro. the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton acted as Deputy Grand Master; and Bro. Major J. Woodall Woodall, as Past Grand Master; Bro. Frank Richardson, as S.G.W.; and Baron de Ferrieres, as J.G.W.

Among other brethren present were Bros. R. Loveland Loveland, Q.C. President of the General Board; C. F. Matier, G. Sec.; Major C. W. Carrell, G.D.C.; Richard Eve, P.G. Treas.; Gordon Miller, P.G. Treas.; W. M. Stiles, P.G. Treas.; Charles Hammerton, Dist. G.M. Gibraltar; F. West, Dr. Balfour Cockburn, P.G.D.C.; W. A. Scurrah, Richard Clowes, Col. Lyne, C. Letch Mason, and James Boulton.

Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form, the minutes of December 6th, 1898, meeting were read and confirmed.

Bro. H. J. ADAMS rose to propose for re-election as M.W. Grand Master H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. He said the brethren might remember he had the honour and privilege to nominate his Royal Highness for the high office at the last Quarterly Communication, and he then had the great indulgence of the brethren whilst he endeavoured to enumerate the many qualifications of his Royal Highness for the office. The brethren all knew the great interest the Prince of Wales took in Masonry and in Mark Masonry; they all knew how on the occasion of the Jubilee of her Majesty and the Centenary Festivals of the other two Charities he took the chair at the Albert Hall, and what great results followed, especially last year, when he took the chair and presided at the Centenary Festival of the Boys' School at the Albert Hall, at which an unprecedented amount of money was collected. The Prince of Wales also they knew took great interest in the welfare of the hospitals of the Metropolis, those grand institutions which did so much to alleviate human suffering. They knew his Royal Highness started that fund called the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund, which he was happy to say was a success. Moreover, they knew how, during the Jubilee year, H.R.H. the Grand Master of the Craft, convened that grand meeting at the Albert Hall which was so largely attended in order to pass resolutions of congratulations to her Majesty on her long reign. In Masonry his Royal Highness allowed himself to be nominated and elected Grand Master of this Grand Lodge and in other Degrees. During the time he had been Grand Master, Masonry had made great progress not only in numbers but also in popularity. It had often been said that owing to his high position he was the busiest and the hardest worked man in this country. That being so, he (Bro. Adams) proposed his Royal Highness for re-election and with these few words he would move "That his Royal Highness Albert Edward Prince of Wales be re-elected as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Grand Mark Lodge for the ensuing year."

Bro. ALFRED H. BEVAN seconded.

The Earl of EUSTON said he did not think they could have a Grand Master who was more fit to be Grand Master than the Prince of Wales, who, as had been said, worked very hard. Although the Grand Lodge Officers worked under him in subordinate offices he could assure the brethren that from personal knowledge he knew the Prince of Wales took the greatest and deepest interest in the Mark; he knew everything that went on in this

Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and with his own hand signed every warrant he possibly could. Of course, when he was out of the country, it was impossible for him to do so. He (the Earl of Euston) had now for many years the honour and pleasure of being appointed under him Pro G. Master, and as the brethren's Pro G. Master he called upon them now to elect the Prince of Wales Grand Master; he knew he was not asking too much when he asked them to elect him unanimously.

This having been done, Bro. Major GARRETT, G.D.C., proclaimed the Prince of Wales duly elected M.W. Grand Master.

Bro. HARRY MANFIELD (Northampton) proposed the election of Bro. Alfred H. Bevan as Grand Treasurer.

Bro. FITZROY TOWER seconded.

The Earl of EUSTON said there being no other nomination for Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year, he declared Bro. Bevan duly elected to the distinguished office of Grand Treasurer.

Bro. ALFRED H. BEVAN, G. Treasurer, thanked the brethren, and said, having the interest of Masonry at heart, he hoped the brethren would not at any time regret having conferred this honour upon him.

The report of the General Board was taken as read, and ordered to be received and entered on the minutes.

Bro. R. LOVELAND LOVELAND, O.C., President, said before the last motion, "That the Report be adopted," was made, he would like to tell Grand Lodge that since this Report had been passed by the General Board an event had happened which had plunged all the Board in the very deepest sorrow. Most of the brethren who lived in London would know that his predecessor in office, the late Prov. G. Master of Middlesex, was very suddenly called away to his last home. He was so intimately connected with the Mark, the Craft, with the Arch, with the Christian Degrees, the Order of the Temple, and the higher Degrees, that all the brethren would know he referred to Bro. Col. Arthur Bott Cook. He was in good health, although he was a little anxious about himself; but he was with the Masonic brethren up to the last day before he died; he was with them on the Saturday as he passed away on the Sunday. This sad event happened after the Report of the General Board was printed, or the Board would certainly have inserted in it a paragraph expressing their regret. With these few words he would move "That the Report be adopted."

Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON, G. Reg., Acting Senior Grand Warden, seconded.

The report was adopted.

Bro. C. F. MATIER read the following letter from the Earl of Lathom:

"43, Seymour-street, W., January 26th, 1899.

"Dear Brother Matier,—On behalf of my family and myself, may I ask you to convey to all the members of Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons our most sincere and grateful thanks for their kind and sympathetic resolution of condolence with us in the great sorrow that has come upon us.—I am, dear Brother Matier, yours fraternally,

"LATHOM."

Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT.

The annual festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement was held on the 24th ult., at Freemasons' Hall, when the old lines were adhered to by having an exemplification of the working of one of the lectures, which on this occasion was the First Lecture, and afterwards a supper at Freemasons' Tavern. Year by year the attendance at these meetings increases in number, and at the assembly now noted more than 500 brethren put in an appearance.

Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, P.G. Std. Br., presided in lodge, and the Right Hon. the Earl of Dartmouth, Prov. G.M. of Staffordshire, took the chair at the supper, besides attending the lodge. Bro. Edward Cutler, Q.C., P.G. Org., presided at the organ, and played the following selections as the brethren assembled: Fugue in G minor (J. S. Bach); Meditation (Guise de Moncey); Offertory, E. flat (L. Wely); Andante from Second Symphony (Wider); Minuet (Edward Cutler); and March "Tannhauser" (Wagner). The minuet, which was of the Past Grand Organist's own composition, set only for the organ, was a most attractive and lively piece; but the whole selection was admirably chosen, and its performance gave eminent satisfaction.

Among the brethren who attended the working were Bros. Edward Letchworth, F.S.A., G. Sec., Treas.; James Henry Matthews, Pres. B. of B.; Ralph Gooding, M.D., P.G.D.; Charles Edward Keyser, P.G.D.; W. F. Smithson, P.G.D.; R. Horton Smith, Q.C., P.G. Reg.; Lennox Browne, P.D.G.D.C.; J. E. Le Feuvre, P.G.D.; Col. J. A. Bindley, P.G.D.; Ernest M. Money, P.A.G.D.C.; James Tertius Collins, P.G.S.B.; W. M. Bywater, P.G.S.B.; Henry Lovegrove, P.G.S.B.; Henry Garrod, P.G.P.; J. Boulton, P.G.P.; Walter Martin, P.A.G.P.; A. C. Spaul, P.G. Std. Br.; W. G. Kentish, P.G. Std. Br.; William Lake, Asst. G. Sec.; and Henry Sadler, G. Tyler. Bros. Rushton, acted as I.P.M.; C. Lewis, P.M. 1706, P.P.G.D. Essex, was S.W.; R. L. S. Badham, 21, J.W.; E. Letchworth, G. Sec., Treas.; Joseph Russell, P.M. 8, P.G. Std., Sec.; G. R. H. Clark, 1965, S.D.; Lionel Cooke, 2108, J.D.; and J. Collett Smith, I.G.

The workers of the Sections were as follows:

The 1st Section	...	...	Bro. J. Collett Smith.
" 2nd "	...	...	" D. D. West.
" 3rd "	...	...	" J. F. Roberts.
" 4th "	...	...	" W. R. Bennett.
" 5th "	...	...	" Charles Lewis.
" 6th "	...	...	" G. R. H. Clark.
" 7th "	...	...	" T. W. Allsop.

All the work was, as usual, performed to perfection.

The Earl of DARTMOUTH at the close of the working proposed a vote of thanks to the working brethren. He said no doubt the company had a right to expect when they came to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement that they would find the work effectively and efficiently performed, but he thought it must be a revelation to some of them that the perfection had been attained which Freemasons alone were able to reach. It had really been ideal; and it would be no doubt disheartening to some of the brethren if they found they could not do the work so perfectly. They certainly should try with such an example before them.

Bro. R. HORTON SMITH, Q.C., P.G. Reg., seconded. The exhibition was no new thing to those who had been in the habit of attending; once seen, once heard, it remained in one's mind, and was an impression that remained for ever—a living proof of the common phrase that example was better than precept.

The vote was carried unanimously.

Bro. R. CLAY SUDLOW, in acknowledging the vote, said that according to precedent when a cordial vote of this kind was passed, the brother occupying the Master's chair, though not himself a working officer, was expected to reply on their behalf. As the mouthpiece, therefore, of the working officers that night he tendered to Bro. the Earl of Dartmouth and Bro. Horton Smith their very hearty thanks for the kind words they had used in putting this vote before the brethren. He knew that each one of the working officers had been most anxious to maintain the prestige of this lodge for correct and excellent working, and they would esteem very highly the vote which had been so kindly and unanimously passed.

Names of proposed joining members were then taken, Bro. Sudlow previously stating that the joining fee was 2s. 6d., and a small fee was charged each night a member attended. The meetings were every Friday night (except Good Friday and when Christmas Day fell on a Friday) in every month of the year except August and September. All the receipts but the working expenses went to the Masonic Charities.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the Tavern to supper, but on account of the large numbers an overflow supper was given in the drawing-room.

After supper the toasts were honoured.

The Earl of DARTMOUTH, in giving the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," said: I rise with your permission to propose the first toast, and that toast, as you naturally will expect, is that of "The Queen and the Craft." Now, it may seem somewhat surprising to you that the Queen and the Craft should be coupled in this connection, because, owing to circumstances over which she had no control—(laughter)—the Queen is unable to be a member of the Craft; but, at the same time, we know that in the Queen we have our Grand Patroness, and a very generous and hearty sympathiser with all the good work that the Craft is able to accomplish. In proposing such a toast it is, of course, quite unnecessary for me to detain you at length, but I should like to take this opportunity of just reminding you that when her Majesty first came to the Throne there were many of a pessimist character who thought that the great burden that was thrown on those young shoulders was too heavy for her to bear. But the last 60 years have proved conclusively that, though the charm of the woman has never been lost, we have found in that woman a common-sense and ability, a fulness, and a power which many of us thought were a man's sole prerogative, and we must not forget that during that long life there has been a lurid light thrown on the every action of that life—a light that most of us would not like to have thrown on us; and she has come brilliantly out of that ordeal, and no one more brilliantly. There are Courts more brilliant, sovereigns more magnificent; but I will undertake to say that throughout the whole history of the world there is no one whose throne is more fastly fixed in the hearts of the people, and in giving you this toast I think I cannot do better than quote two lines of the poet Pope, which I think more clearly than anything I can say show what are the relations between her Majesty and her people—

"Of human race the wisest and the best,
Her people blessing; by her people blessed."

(Cheers.)

Bro. the Earl of DARTMOUTH, in proposing the next toast, said: I rise without loss of time to propose to you the next toast—that of our "M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales." Perhaps among the many benevolent actions of her Majesty the Queen one of those the most gratifying to Freemasons is the fact that she has presented us with our M.W. Grand Master. (Laughter.) Nothing I can say can add anything to what we already know about H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. I am quite sure that no one who has occupied the very important position of the Grand Master of Freemasons in this country has ever done more for promoting the interests of that great Brotherhood than has his Royal Highness. Those of us who have had the opportunity, as we have had in Staffordshire, of welcoming his Royal Highness and seeing the distinguished manner in which he performed any duty he is called upon to perform will agree with me when I say no one could more fitly occupy the post of Grand Master. (Hear, hear.) It is not for me to dilate to-night on his many good qualities, but I would ask you to join with me in drinking "Long Life, Good Health, and continued Success to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W. Grand Master."

The toast having been honoured,

Bro. RUSHON, P.M., proposed "The M.W. Pro Grand Master, the R.W. Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past." He said, at this festival last year it was my privilege to propose the toast of "The Grand Officers." Since then the first one on the list has gone; death has removed from our midst the Pro G. Master, who, under the successive titles of Lord Skelmersdale and Lord Lathom, has stood at the head of the Grand Officers during the Masonic career of the greater number of us in this room. No doubt the brethren who have been substituted for the two principal places will do their work in Grand Lodge as well as he did who is now gone; but we cannot be unmindful of the services he has rendered to the Craft so many years, and it would ill become us to allude to this toast without a passing mark to his memory. The Grand Officers have supported this festival on this occasion as well as on occasions past. We are grateful to them for the countenance they give to our festival; they give them a quasi official character which we are grateful for. We number among our body several distinguished Grand Officers, and I venture again to remind you, although it is quite unnecessary, the principal executive officer of the Craft is Treasurer of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. We are proud to have him in that position. To-night you should know the R.W. Provincial Grand Master for Staffordshire has been good enough to honour us by presiding over our meeting, and has made a sacrifice. I shall call upon Col. Bindley, P.G.D., to reply, he has been Deputy to the Provincial Grand Master for Staffordshire, and therefore I think that Province will feel that we are not forgetting the acknowledgments due to him for urging the Provincial Grand Master to preside over us.

Bro. Col. BINDLEY, P.G.D., Dep. Prov. G.M. Staffs., in reply, said: The few words I have say I will say as quickly as possible because you do not want long speeches on an evening like the present. It is a great pleasure and honour to have my name coupled with the toast, but I feel like a minnow among whales—there are greater men to my right and left who would do it better; but I should feel ungrateful if I did not respond. The Grand Officers are no doubt very grateful for the loyalty and the great support they have from the Craft, and while there is that unanimity and kind feeling among them long will it prosper, and I hope it will. I cannot think we have had a more beneficent reign. I think at the present time we are singularly fortunate in the Grand Officers who are in permanent places to guide and direct us in the provinces when we want direction. Having said so much I think I should be taking up too much time if I said more, but I ought, perhaps, to utter a word of sympathy and thought on those who have gone before. Lord Lathom has been with us in Staffordshire on more than one occasion, and we love to think of him as one of the most kind and genial of men. No doubt those who have been raised in rank consequent upon his death are deserving of their preferment.

Bro. E. LETCHWORTH, G. Sec., Treasurer of the lodge, next said: Bros. Grand Officers and Brethren, as Treasurer of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement the great privilege devolves upon me to propose the next toast, and I can assure you I regard this privilege as a very great privilege, it is to ask you to drink the health of a very distinguished brother who has done us the great honour of

presiding on the present occasion. Our R.W. brother is well known to all in this room as the popular and most respected head of one of our most important provinces; but it may not be known to all in this room, although it is known to the Staffordshire brethren, that Lord Dartmouth is a most able exponent of the ritual of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. It was my privilege, as it was of not a few in this room, within the past few weeks to listen to the most admirable manner in which Lord Dartmouth installed his successor in a very important lodge in the Province of Staffordshire, and I venture to think that even the critical ears of Bro. Sudlow would have failed to detect any defect in his working. On behalf of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement I beg to tender you, my lord, our warmest thanks for the high honour you have done us in presiding over our meeting to-day, and I ask you, brethren, to join with me in drinking "The Health of his lordship (Lord Dartmouth), the President on this occasion." (Cheers.)

Bro. the Earl of DARTMOUTH, who was received with loud cheers on rising to respond, said: Brethren, I rise at once to return you the very heartiest thanks for the kind manner you have received the toast that has been submitted to you by Bro. Letchworth. I can only thank Bro. Letchworth once again for this additional kindness that he has rendered. He has been a great assistance to me personally in the position which I have the honour to occupy. I am afraid if I compare the ceremony to which he has referred with the ceremony which we have listened to to-night, I should be bound to admit that there were very many points in it to which anybody, and Bro. Sudlow in particular, would have to exercise a judicious correction. But, at the same time, as you are perhaps aware, I am a very young Mason indeed, and I can only hope that by the example of those of so much greater experience in the Craft, that as years go on, I shall be able to follow to some extent the example they have set us. I should like before proceeding to return you my own thanks to make a statement, which I think I may be permitted to do, with regard to the late deputy who has responded to this last toast, and I should like to take the opportunity of telling you, as I have told my brethren in the province, of the great kindness and consideration that I have always received at the hands of Bro. Bindley. (Hear, hear.) I am aware that from my youthfulness in Freemasonry no doubt many of my friends would be a little surprised to find me occupying the place that I do to-night as President of the annual gathering of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. Some of you may be acquainted, probably all of you, are acquainted with the opera played some years ago of "The Grand Duchess." There was in that opera a character named Fritz, who, having rendered some service to the Grand Duchess, was offered a reward; but that reward—to the surprise of every body—which he selected was the post of a village schoolmaster. It was pointed out to him that he was unable to read, and he said, "That is the very reason why I want to be a schoolmaster; I want to learn." (Laughter.) Brethren, it is a good deal for that reason that I occupy the post that I occupy to-night, and I am bound to own that I have learned a very great deal if I can remember all I have learned. But it seems to me that Freemasons generally when anybody renders some little service are apt to look at those services through a very strong pair of binocular glasses; they try to make those services look as big as possible; and if there is a failure the glasses are reversed, and they look through them at the other end and see them as small as possible. (Laughter.) That is a comfort to you in going through life, and I can say of Freemasonry that I have always received a kind and courteous consideration, and that, however undeserved it may be, is at any rate most gratifying to the individual. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) Before I sit down I have a very pleasant and important duty to perform, and that is to propose "Success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement." I understand, brethren, that there are something over 100 new members—probationer members—who have sent in their names to-night. I may be allowed to say that I am one of those members—(applause)—and as I have every hope that the result of the ballot may not be altogether unsatisfactory, I take this opportunity, which will probably be denied me as a member of the lodge, to propose hearty success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. I have been favoured by Bro. Letchworth with some facts connected with the lodge, which, though familiar to some of you, may be a new toy to some, and perhaps you will allow me to play with that toy to-night. In the ritual and work of Freemasonry carried on throughout the country there must be a sort of head, a Court of Appeal. To be of any value that Court of Appeal must have antiquity; it must have ability; and it must have the confidence of the brethren generally. ("Hear, hear.") I think the Emulation Lodge of Improvement answers those requirements. With regard to antiquity, I understand it was established 76 years ago—in 1823—and we who have been present to-night can testify that the work of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement is regarded, and has long been regarded, as the standard of Masonic perfection. (Hear, hear.) It is, I think, a direct successor of the Lodge of Reconciliation which was formed for the purpose of arranging uniformity of working and arranging the ceremonies of the Craft. The brethren who composed that lodge brought their labours to a close in the year 1816, and on June 5 that year in Grand Lodge the very ceremonies recommended by that lodge of Reconciliation were rehearsed and explained, and afterwards were formally authorised and confirmed by Grand Lodge. That, I think, gives us that antiquity which I said in my opening remarks was desirable. At the following meeting of Grand Lodge a vote of thanks was passed to the Grand Officers and brethren for their unremitting zeal in the cause of Freemasonry. The ritual and ceremonies are almost quite identical with those taught by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, which, as I have stated, was started seven years after the approval of the ritual and ceremonies by Grand Lodge. From that year, 1823, to the present date the Emulation Lodge of Improvement has steadily and unremittingly pursued its useful course, and been the means of affording Masonic education to many thousands of the Craft, which has been promulgated all over the world where English lodges are held. (Hear, hear.) It is, perhaps, also interesting to note that previous to the year 1839 the meetings of these lodges were held at various taverns in London, but these were deemed unsuitable, and they were removed in that year to the Freemasons' Tavern, and in 1865 it was the first lodge then opened in the new Freemasons' Hall. For the last 60 years, therefore, our meetings have been held under the ægis of Grand Lodge. At the annual gathering of 1841 there were some 30 brethren present, and at that time it was considered a large gathering. (Hear, hear.) Now, I have partaken of the hospitality of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement to-night, and I do not know, therefore, whether my powers of counting noses will be very accurate, but I imagine we have more than 30 here now, and I think that is a proof, if proof were needed, of the respect in which the present Emulation Lodge of Improvement is held. (Hear, hear.) One might think I was in some little difficulty because I have to call upon some brother to return thanks to this toast, but I feel you will agree with me that there is very little difficulty about such a selection, because if there is a man to whom the Lodge of Emulation would wish to return thanks for them, when I look to my left they will agree that Bro. Sudlow is the right man. (Applause.) I am glad to find that that suggestion is so unanimously endorsed, and I am proud to own all this evening, beautiful as the work was.

"——— and still the wonder grew

That one small head could carry all he knew."

I have been informed by Bro. Sudlow that between himself and myself there is even another relation. Some years ago I presented a prize for a school in the neighbourhood of Lewisham—a prize that was to be given to a boy selected by his colleagues for the reception of that prize. Bro. Sudlow has informed me

to-night that it was the son of a friend of his who obtained that prize on two separate occasions. I am very pleased to find it has fallen into such good hands. We in Staffordshire have reason to be grateful to Bro. Sudlow in our attempts to improve and secure uniformity in working the ceremonies in our province, and I am quite sure that if it ever happens that doctors disagree in that province as to ritual, Bro. Sudlow will give us his assistance. I give you with all heartiness and all aspirations for its success and prosperity "The Emulation Lodge of Improvement." (Cheers.)

Bro. R. CLAY SUDLOW, in responding, said: R.W. Brother in the chair and brethren, if the continued success of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement depended upon the measure of kindness and goodwill with which this toast was proposed by his lordship, or upon the heartiness and cordiality with which it was received by this splendid gathering of Masons, then, indeed, that success is already assured. (Hear, hear.) Certain it is that the members of the Committee upon whom the work of the lodge devolves should feel greatly encouraged in their labour of love—labour more arduous and exacting than is generally supposed. It may not prove uninteresting if I to-night mention, and in a very few words deal with, a criticism that now and again is given expression to in connection with the working of the Past Masters of this lodge. You might reasonably imagine, in view of the fact that this lodge has been in existence for nearly 80 years, and that absolutely no change has been made in its aims or in its methods during this long period, that nothing like criticism would have a place. But, as I have already hinted such is not quite the case; our critics say that the Past Masters of the lodge—and I believe I am considered the greatest culprit—are unnecessarily severe in requiring absolute perfection in the working of our ceremonies; they do not recognise, in other words, the necessity of our interrupting a brother in his work if the mistake made is a trivial one. Now, let me say at once if this were a lodge of instruction, or even a regular lodge, I should cordially agree with and heartily endorse the criticism. It is not necessary, and in many cases it is impossible, in a lodge of instruction to correct every verbal slip, and in a regular lodge nothing in my opinion can be more unfortunate than to hear, as one often does, corrections given to the W.M. Surely it is inadvisable to say a word unless the mistake is a serious one, and likely if uncorrected to lead to disaster. Interruptions at once suggest to the candidate, for whom after all the ceremony is being performed, that the speech of the Master is not altogether out of the abundance of his heart, and the impression which might otherwise be secured is to a very great extent lost. (Hear, hear.) But applied to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement the criticism is not a just one—(hear, hear)—and for this reason: It must always be borne in mind that our system of working, adopted and approved by the United Grand Lodge soon after the union, is virtually a standard, and if a standard is to be of any real value, it must be absolutely unaltered and unalterable. (Hear, hear.) I will not, brethren, press this point because I am quite sure it will be at once conceded. It therefore behoves the Past Masters of this lodge to guard most jealously this system of working from any change—(hear, hear)—and we have the satisfaction of knowing that while we maintain the traditions of this lodge, while we are faithful to the very important trust committed to our care, we at the same time are very helpful to every brother who comes to our meetings. I cannot, brethren, sit down without personally thanking the Grand Secretary, our Treasurer, for his courtesy in again allowing me the privilege of responding to this toast. (Applause.)

Bro. R. HORTON SMITH, O.C., P.G. Reg.: Brethren, the next toast on the list has been confided to me, and I venture to think that the confidence is a little invidious. It reminds me of two facts of history in the old time, the nature of which I will mention and shortly dispose of. The first thing it reminds me of is the fact that at the old Egyptian banquets they used to carry round in the hands of a slave a skull. The skull, of course, was meant to suggest to the banqueters that their time was coming to an end and that they possibly might make the best of their time. I do not mean to say that the toast I am going to submit to you is quite that, but another thing it reminds me of is the fact that when the church, which has a great history over a certain part of the earth, proceeds to canonise a brother or a sister they depute a certain person to be the Devil's advocate and it is the duty of that person to suggest all sorts of reasons why the person proposed to be canonised should not be so canonised. Now, it appears to me that that is more germane to the toast I have to propose. We have given to-night full justice to the glories and the usefulness of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. I do not say it has been forgotten, but, at any rate, it has not been noticed that without the assistance of another body the Emulation Lodge of Improvement could not have existed, and if it had not been for the ægis of the Lodge of Unions under which the Emulation Lodge of Improvement works, we never should have had a lodge of improvement. The toast which is confided to me is "Success and Prosperity to the Lodge of Unions," under which this lodge of improvement works. I venture to submit it to you, and I couple with it the name of the Worshipful Master of that lodge, Bro. Kendall.

Bro. KENDALL, in response, said: My Lord Dartmouth, Grand Officers and brethren, I have the honour as Master of the lodge of Unions to respond to this toast. It is always a very proud evening for the Lodge of Unions when the brethren belonging to it find themselves at the Lodge of Emulation annual Festival, and, as you say, we are in many ways responsible for the Lodge of Emulation, having granted its charter. All I can say is that no parent was ever prouder of his offspring or ever had better reason to be so. This evening I am sure that the brethren of the Lodge of Unions, and also the brethren of other lodges, will go back feeling that they have received an excellent object lesson in the work of Masonic ritual, and we all of us feel very grateful indeed to the Lodge of Improvement for giving us this very great treat. We shall, I repeat, go back to our own lodges very confidently, feeling resolved that in the future we shall make greater efforts to emulate the working we have seen this evening.

Bro. G. W. SPETH: W.M. in the chair and brethren, I have been asked to perform a very pleasing task, and one which I am sure you will join me in with very great cordiality. We have to-night spent a very pleasant evening indeed. The praises of the very grand entertainment provided for us in the lodge room have been sung in every key, and have met with your approval, but there is one important part of this evening's entertainment which, perhaps, though not the most instructive, is, I am sure, not the least pleasurable, and that is the entertainment which we have been recipients of round the hospitable board of this room. For both these entertainments I believe we are indebted to the Stewards of the Festival; but I take it that the greater part of their duty has been connected with this, which I may call the Fourth Degree. I have been asked to propose "The Health of the Stewards of the Festival," and I am confident we wish them all good health and prosperity and long life, if it be only that they may have another chance of providing for us on a future occasion a similar entertainment.

Bro. JOSEPH RUSSELL, Sec.: Worshipful President, Grand Officers, and brethren, on behalf of the Stewards of this Festival of the Lodge of Improvement I tender you our very warmest thanks for the kind manner in which this toast has been proposed and honoured. The work of this Festival is simply possible by the kind co-operation of the large body of Stewards, and even among those there are about 10 or 12 who stand out so clearly in their pushing forward the success of this festival that it would be unworthy of me on this occasion if I did not tender them my warmest thanks, because without them it would be impossible for me to carry it out. I thank you all for the very kind manner in which our toast has been honoured.

The Tyler's toast was then given, and the brethren separated,

CONSECRATION OF THE ASHBURY CHAPTER, No. 1459.

This important function took place on Thursday, the 23rd ultimo, in the Union Schools, Kelsall-street, West Gorton. There was a good muster of companions present, including Comps. C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, Prov. G. H., acting as G. Superintendent; A. H. Jefferis, acting as Prov. G.H.; Buckley Carr, Prov. G.J.; James Newton, Prov. G.S.E.; Dr. Foreman, Prov. G.S.N.; Arthur Bowen, Prov. G.P.S.; E. Williams, as Prov. 1st A.G.S.; Allen Shaw, Prov. 2nd A.G.S.; R. Hudson, Prov. D.G.S.B.; S. Mamelok and J. Halden, Prov. G. Std. Brs.; C. H. Arnold, Prov. G. D.C.; R. Wardle, Prov. A.G.D.C.; E. H. Flower, Prov. G. Janitor; T. J. Hooper, P.P.G. Treas.; and others.

The musical arrangements were conducted by Comp. L. H. Keay, P.P. G. Org.

After the ceremony of consecration, Comp. Buckley Carr, Prov. G.J., installed the Principals designate, viz., Comps. Wm. Bee, M.E.Z.; Walter Newton, P.P.G.D.C., H.; and Dr. Foreman, Prov. G.S.N., J.; and invested the officers, viz., Comps. J. Townley Trotter, S.E.; C. H. Griffiths, S.N.; M. Goth, P.S.; H. G. Walker, 1st A.S.; J. Cooper, 2nd A.S.; G. W. Davies, D.C.; T. C. Lord, Org.; and T. Hughes, Janitor.

Eight candidates were proposed for exaltation. Comps. Col. Starkie, G. Supt.; C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, Prov. G.H.; A. H. Jefferis, Buckley Carr, Prov. G.J.; J. Newton, Prov. G.S.E.; and C. H. Arnold, Prov. G. D.C., were elected honorary members.

The chapter being closed, a banquet was held at the Justice Birch Hotel under the presidency of Comp. Bee, M.E.Z.

The chapter was furnished by Comps. George Kenning and Son, Manchester.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF DERBYSHIRE.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Mark Lodge was held on Friday, the 17th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Derby. The Prov. G.M., Bro. Abraham Woodiuss, presided, and was supported by a large number of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers, Present and Past. The reports of the various lodges showed that the number of members had increased, and that the Charities had been generously supported.

Bro. Sir Thomas Roe was elected Prov. G. Treasurer in place of Bro. W. Cooper.

The Prov. G. Master appointed his officers as follows:

Bro. J. H. Lawson	...	...	...	D. Prov. G.M.
" W. Cooper	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" G. A. Capes	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" F. C. Wardley	...	...	...	Prov. G.M.O.
" T. W. Lumley	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.O.
" Rev. W. C. Groves	...	...	...	Prov. G. Chaps.
" Rev. Thomas Orrell	...	...	...
" Sir Thomas Roe (elected)	...	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" W. Whitaker	...	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" Percy Wallis	...	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" J. Payne Hall	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" R. A. Little	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" T. Oldham	...	...	...	Prov. G.I. of W.
" Frank Iliffe	...	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" T. F. Rowan	...	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" A. R. Price	...	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" W. H. Bass	...	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" W. C. Riley	...	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" W. Hart	...	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" W. Woodiuss	...	...	...	Prov. G.I.G.
" W. R. Bryden	...	...	...	Prov. G. Stewards.
" G. Morrall	...	...	...
" C. Baggaley	...	...	...
" R. H. Higgett	...	...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.
" Arthur Slinn	...	...	...

ANNUAL SUPPER OF THE EARL OF CARNARVON LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1642.

The annual supper of the above lodge of instruction was held at Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill, on the 17th ult. There were present Bros. E. Rogers, P.M. 60, 1238, 1642, Chairman; W. J. Mason, P.M. 1328, 2150, 2246, Vice-President, Board of General Purposes, Hon. Sec.; G. Davis, P.M. 167, Preceptor; W. R. Flack, W.M. 1656; W. R. Hatton, W.M. 1642, P.M. 2246, Vice-Chairman; J. J. Thomas, P.G. Std. Br.; Harry Manfield, P.P.G.D. Northants and Hunts; E. A. Dutton, P.M. 167; E. M. Lander, P.M. 1642; R. C. Green, P.M. 1642; Prof. F. W. Driver, M.A., P.M. 45; J. Gillingham, P.M. 1238; F. L. Chandler, P.M. 1656; A. England; C. Godwin, P.M. 1820; H. Foskett, P.M. 1642; H. F. Foale, P.M.; G. Inglis, P.M. 901; G. D. Mogford, P.M. 2362; G. A. Knight, P.M. 1585; W. J. Millington, P.M. 2246; H. Dehane, P.M.; J. J. Chapman, W.M. 1503; S. H. Parkhouse, P.M. 1642; A. Hardy, P.M. 1201; J. Percy Fitzgerald, P.M. 1364; W. B. Neville, P.M.; L. W. Westwood, P.M. 2246; L. H. Napper, P.M. 1471; G. Weaver, P.M.; W. Thomas, P.M. 1853, 2045; H. J. Thomas, P.M. 753; G. Wood, P.M. 1681; L. Standring, W. Perring, H. Armsfield, H. Hatton, H. Jefferson, C. Winterbon, W. Biggs, P.M., W. H. Cave, F. Cave; C. Spencer, E. W. Rogers; J. Bartlett, P.M. 1637; A. Collman; A. R. Finch, W.M. 1238; T. H. Darby; W. Ellis; J. Chubb; W. Inman; W. Rignall; J. W. Flack; Otto Scheof; E. W. Tucker; G. Gidley; R. Williams, P.M.; W. H. Handover; and others.

After supper, the CHAIRMAN gave the usual loyal toasts—"The Queen and

the Craft" and "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales"—and "The Pro G.M., the Deputy G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past."

Bro. J. J. THOMAS, P.G. Std. Br., replied on behalf of the Grand Officers.

The CHAIRMAN then gave the toast of the evening, "The Preceptor and Secretary of the Earl of Carnarvon Lodge of Instruction." He spoke in glowing terms of the admirable way in which both had fulfilled their duties—the Preceptor for 20 years and the Secretary for 10 years. On behalf of the brethren of the lodge of instruction he presented each of them with his portrait as a token of the esteem in which they were held.

Bro. HATTON, Vice-Chairman, said that as there was a surplus of the funds subscribed for the portraits, it had been determined by the Committee that it should be devoted to the purchase of a present to their excellent Chairman of the evening.

Bro. FLACK then presented Bro. Rogers with a silver cigarette case.

In reply Bro. DAVIS, Preceptor, said what a labour of love it had been to him to give Masonic instruction; alluded feelingly to those of his former pupils who had passed away; how proud he felt the chair of W.M. had been well and worthily filled by many who had received instruction from him. He said the Masonic Charities had been nobly supported by the lodge of instruction. He thanked the brethren most heartily for the portrait of himself, which he felt sure his family would highly value.

Bro. MASON, Sec., said he hardly knew how to sufficiently thank the brethren for their kindness in presenting him with the portrait of that fellow "who looks like me"; he could safely tell his good wife that it was the best portrait of her "first husband." He said that when Bro. Flack spoke to him relative to his portrait he at first declined to give his consent, but seeing that it would cause great disappointment, he ultimately accorded his permission. The cause of his previous hesitation was his daughter's ill-health, which might necessitate his living out of town. Under these circumstances he could not well accept a testimonial were he unable to attend the lodge as heretofore. He trusted, however, she would soon be better. He stated that this was the tenth year he had been Secretary, and it was very gratifying to him to feel that his services had been appreciated. He had always endeavoured to act fairly and honourably to all; to this he attributed the great success of the lodge. He said he would not mar the enjoyment of the brethren by making a long speech; he considered long speeches were like long tunnels—"a bore." In conclusion, he thanked them most heartily for their goodwill and sympathy, and for the very nice present they had given him.

The CHAIRMAN also replied. He thanked the brethren for the pretty cigar case, and said he expected it would be an expensive article to him, as many would like to sample its contents. He spoke of having lately won a large silver cup in a coursing match; he caused it to be filled with champagne, from which he drank the health of the brethren, who, on it being passed round, pledged him in return.

The toast of "The Visitors" was given, to which Bros. MANFIELD and J. PERCY FITZGERALD replied.

The PRECEPTOR gave "The Health of the Chairman."

Bro. ROGERS replied, saying it had been a great pleasure to him to preside over them that evening.

Other toasts followed.

The proceedings were agreeably enlivened by the vocal contributions of the brethren.

LADIES' NIGHT OF THE SELWYN LODGE, No. 1901.

This annual and happy event took place at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, on Thursday, the 23rd ultimo, and was attended by an appreciative company to the number of nearly 100, under the able presidency of Bro. F. H. Ford, W.M. A reception was held, at which there were present Bro. Dr. Thomas, S.W.; Bro. F. E. Pow, I.P.M., Miss Flora Pow, and Mr. F. Pow; Miss Maude Mann, Mr. A. Mann, and Mrs. Mann; Bro. Ernest Pow and Mrs. E. Pow; Miss Ida Pankhurst; Bro. Woodgate and Mrs. Woodgate; Mr. and Mrs. Krook; Bro. Wm. Wills, P.M., Treas., and Mrs. Wills; Bro. Keen and Mrs. Keen; Bro. F. Flood and Mrs. Flood; Bro. J. Pointon, J.W., and Mrs. Pointon; Bro. Bridge, 1861; Miss Fryer; Bro. Moseley and Mrs. Moseley; Mr. Moseley, jun.; Mr. and Mrs. Biggs; Bro. J. May, S.D. 1901, and Mrs. May, sen.; Bro. G. May and Mrs. May; Bro. J. M. Wimble, P.M., Sec., and Miss E. Wimble; Bro. Wm. Hook, P.M.; Bro. John Lightfoot, P.M., D.C., and Mrs. Lightfoot, Miss Lightfoot and Mr. Robinson; Miss F. Lightfoot and Mr. Gunter; Bro. P. E. Wiberg and Mrs. Wiberg; Mr. E. Wiberg; Bro. C. H. Marrison, J.D., and Mrs. Marrison; Mrs. Harvey and Miss Harvey; Bro. J. Frampton, Mrs. Frampton, and Mrs. Russell; Bro. H. Hayward; Bro. T. R. Dickason, S.D. 1861, and Mrs. Dickason; Bro. A. E. Pusey; Bro. H. P. White, 1541, and Mrs. White; Bro. Graham and Mr. Roberts; Bro. G. W. Hayward, 2550; Bro. W. T. Greenland. Mr. A. H. D. Fraser; Miss Fraser; Mr. H. A. Patterson; Mr. Gibson; Mr. Duff; Bro. David and Mrs. David; Bro. Frank Sheppard and Mrs. Sheppard; Bro. A. Priest; Mrs. Oram; Bro. J. E. Poole and Mrs. Poole; Bro. H. Millsom; 813, and Mrs. Millsom; Mr. and Mrs. Murton; Bro. W. Allen and Mrs. Allen; Bro. W. W. Woodman, 65, and Mrs. Woodman; Bro. A. Cartwright and Mrs. Cartwright; Bro. J. W. Woodward; Bro. C. H. Stone, P.M. 507, S.W. 1641, and Mrs. Stone; and others.

The reception ended, the company adjourned to the banquet hall, where was enjoyed a sumptuous banquet, personally superintended by Bro. Kalla and staff, who were most assiduous in their duties. The tables were very prettily decorated.

On the removal of the cloth, the W.M. proposed the loyal toast of "The Queen," coupled with "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family," and remarked that among all bodies of British subjects none were more loyal than the members of the Craft.

The next toast proposed by the W.M. was that of "The Ladies," which, he said, was a pleasurable duty, and one not often honoured at our meetings; but when occasions arose for it to be placed before the brethren, it was always received by them with esteem and affection, for no body of men could be more devoted to the ladies than Freemasons. Looking round the festive board, and seeing such a large gathering of ladies present, he believed that that sentiment was thoroughly reciprocated by them. He hoped that they would have a most enjoyable evening.

Bro. J. LIGHTFOOT, P.M., very suitably replied on behalf of the ladies, and said by the command of the W.M., and gracious consent of the ladies, he would for the moment assume he was one of their sisters, who were delighted to again have the opportunity of attending and receiving at the hands of the brethren of the Selwyn Lodge such a cordial welcome. It was not the first time they had been present, and he must say that their presence gave a successful tone to the

gathering, the meeting would be incomplete without them, and the brethren poor mortals indeed. He hoped the same welcome and invitation would be accorded them in the future, and that they would most readily accept it. They were very pleased for the entertainment given them, and desired to spend the remaining few hours in the ball-room, where a number of dances had been arranged to the sweet strains of Thorp's Quadrille Band.

The M.Cs. were Bros. J. Lightfoot and W. Wills.

Bro. F. E. Pow, I.P.M., next proposed the toast of "The W.M., Bro. F. H. Ford," in terms of great cordiality, and also for his presidency over the large assemblage with so much ability. In the W.M. were bound up many sterling qualities, and one and all congratulated him upon his restoration to health after a somewhat serious illness. He asked the brethren to drink to the toast with acclamation.

The W.M. in reply most heartily thanked Bro. Pow for proposing and saying such kind words of him, and also for the cordial reception by the brethren. It was indeed a proud moment to preside over such a gathering, and he might say his year of office which was now drawing to a close was one of the happiest years of his life. He took that opportunity of thanking the officers and brethren who had so ably assisted him in the arrangements and bringing the gathering to so successful an issue.

The toast of "The Visitors," received at the hands of the W.M. that most cordial welcome which is the characteristic of the brethren of the Selwyn Lodge and he hoped they would have a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

This was very ably responded to by Bro. F. FLOOD, P. Prov. G.S.B. Surrey.

The concert was nicely arranged by Bros. E. C. L. Hawley and P. E. Wiberg. Among the artistes were Miss Beatrice May (who was loudly encored), Bro. J. Graham, P. Prov. G. Org. Surrey and Middx. (humorous), and Mr. E. Wiberg, who played with ability a composition of his own upon the piano, and also a valse specially written for the occasion. Both pieces were ably executed and much admired.

Expressions of sympathy were extended to Bro. A. H. Fraser, P.M.; Mrs. Pow, wife of the esteemed I.P.M.; and Bro. Hawley, who were unavoidably absent through suffering from influenza.

The Stewards, who worked admirably, were Bros. A. H. Fraser, P. M.; J. S. Pointon, J.W.; E. A. Pow, I.P.M.; R. Weddall Thomas, S.W.; J. Frampton, and R. Woodgate.

ANNUAL LADIES' NIGHT OF THE SCOTS LODGE, No. 2319.

The annual ladies' night given by the above lodge was held on Friday, the 17th ultimo, when a company of 200 ladies and brethren assembled at the Holborn Restaurant to do honour to the occasion. A reception took place at 6.30 in the evening in the ante-room of the King's Hall, when the company was received by Bro. D. Robertson Duncan, W.M., and Mrs. Duncan. The following members of the lodge were present; Bros. John Whitehead, P.M.; John Page, P.M.; Thomas Grant, P.M.; Joseph James Whitehead, P.M.; James Thomson, P.M.; Dr. D. M. Forbes, I.P.M.; E. J. Gordon, S.W.; Wm. Craig, J.W.; D. A. Ross, Sec.; T. Sandilands, J. Duncan Balfour, T. Charteris, J. M. Barclay, J. Macgregor, J. Plenderleith, J. Bennett, J. Anderson, W. Bailey Smith, John Imray, J. Gemmell, W. C. Vince, P. G. Mallory, C. Thwaites, T. B. Barrett, R. Watts, A. McNeish, W. Bain, R. S. Darling, F. Inman, and others.

After the reception the company proceeded to the King's Hall, where a magnificent banquet was provided, the W.M. presiding. After the banquet the following three toasts were proposed: "The Queen and Royal Family"; "The Ladies"; and "The W.M."

The W.M. proposed the first two toasts, and expressed his regret at the absence through illness of Bros. D. F. Gellion, P.M., and Alex Ritchie, J.P., C.C., Treas.

Bro. JOHN IMRAY, M.A., in replying to the toast, said, he considered it a high honour to be asked to return thanks for the ladies.

Bro. Dr. D. M. FORBES, I.P.M., proposed "The Worshipful Master." The Chairman was beloved by the members of the Scots Lodge; he was well known for his skill in working the ritual and for his interest in the cause of Freemasonry and its Charitable Institutions, and he asked the W.M. to accept from him a souvenir of that event in the shape of a handsomely-framed photograph of a picture of the mother lodge of Scotland which Bro. A. Ritchie, J.P., C.C., had asked him to present in his enforced absence through illness.

Bro. D. ROBERTSON DUNCAN, W.M., returned thanks for the toast and presentation, and referred to the assistance he had received from the Secretary, Bro. D. Angus Ross. He announced that the donations received towards the Charity Fund amounted to £9 9s.

In the interval between the speeches Miss Grainger Kerr and Mr. Swabey Russell entertained the company by singing several Scotch songs. Bro. Sergt. Peter McLean, piper of the lodge, and two boy pupils of the Royal Caledonian Asylum contributed greatly to the success of the evening by their pipe music.

Dancing commenced at 10 p.m., and was kept up with unflagging energy until four in the morning. Mr. J. Pougher's "Bijou" orchestra played selections during the dinner, and the dance music.

LADIES' NIGHT OF SIR WALTER RALEIGH LODGE, No. 2432.

The seventh annual banquet, concert, and ball of the above lodge was given at Freemasons' Tavern, on the 22nd ult. The lodge, which was established in connection with that important industry, the tobacco trade, in 1892, established concurrently with it this entertainment of the ladies of the families of the brethren, and, although at first it was but a small affair, it has grown year by year until it has now assumed considerable dimensions, and on the 22nd ult. over 100 ladies and gentlemen assembled, under the presidency of Bro. W. F. Bates, P.M. 1507 and 2550, W.M., to do honour to the occasion.

Among the other members of the party were Bros. E. G. Grahner, Geo. Ransford, E. Van Raalte, David Phillip, S. H. Rose, J. Thompson, W. Foyle, T. H. Francott, H. Muspratt, T. A. Gill, L. S. Benjamin, F. S. Benjamin, J. Berrie, A. S. Benjamin, B. Berrie, J. Parkiss, S. Behr, W. Schubach, Percy Wood, Geo. Emblin, Geo. Southee, Thos. Raynor, H. Cosins, J. H. Butt, G. H. Lawes, C. H. J. Ransford, A. Schoenfeld, A. Hardy, F. Smith, W. H. Bullock, M. Lowry, A. Simpson, Alexander Jones, C. H. Peddell, and W. Curry; Mrs. and Miss Zache; Bros. Pearson and S. F. Atkins; Mr. and Mrs. Fleming; Bro. F. Thorpe and Mrs. Thorpe; Bro. W. Northern and Mrs. Northern; Miss Winnie Southee; Bro. H. Vandersfoot; the Misses Bullock; and Bro. H. Massey, P.M. 619, 1928, and Miss Massey.

Bro. William H. Lowry, P.M. 1839, is the I.P.M. of the lodge, and the other brethren holding office are Bros. C. H. I. Ransford, S.W.; T. Rayner, J.W.; George Ransford, P.M., P.P.G.S.B. Middx., Treas.; W. H. Bullock, P.M., Sec.;

Rev. R. J. Simpson, M.A., P.G.C., Chap.; A. S. Benjamin, S.D.; O. C. Moore, J.D.; A. F. Jones, I.G.; G. Emblin, P.M., D.C.; H. Cosins, E. G. Grahner, W. C. Lightfoot, and S. Maier, Stwds.; T. H. Yeldham, Org.; and Henry Evenden, P.M., Tyler.

During the dinner the band of Mr. A. W. Hulley (late 2nd Life Guards) played a beautiful selection of music.

The dinner was admirably chosen and gave every satisfaction.

At the conclusion of the repast, a few words were said in proposing and responding to the shortest possible list of toasts.

The toast of "The Queen and the Craft" was first drunk.

Bro. W. H. LOWRY, I.P.M., proposed "The W.M.," which the W.M. very nearly blotted out by starting to propose "The Ladies," but Bro. Lowry quickly stopped the irregularity by proposing that the company should drink with the greatest enthusiasm, "Bro. W. F. Bates, W.M."

Bro. BATES, W.M., thanked the brethren from his heart, and said he had had great pleasure in meeting all the brethren and ladies. He then proposed "The Ladies," who could not be admitted to lodges, and the brethren had, therefore, great pleasure in meeting them at banquets, concerts, balls, and garden parties. Whenever they did so they tried to make the ladies comfortable. In every society where ladies were present they graced it and everything went on with more success than it otherwise would. The more the brethren saw of them the better, and the more they had of their company the more pleasure they derived. Quoting Milton's lines of God's last and greatest gifts to man being woman, he said that was what Masonry taught; did they not think it was a very good lesson?

Bro. PARKINS replied for the ladies, and in the course of his remarks said the ladies thanked the W.M. very much for his most acceptable present of a scent bottle to each of them.

Bro. DAVID PHILLIPS, P.M., proposed "The Visitors."

Bro. CURRY replied, and said he was at the consecration of the lodge, and had been absent from only one or two meetings since.

The party then adjourned to a short concert, and afterwards engaged in dancing until an advanced hour on the Friday morning, and when they separated expressed their great satisfaction with the pleasant evening provided by the brethren. The dance Stewards were Bros. George Ransford, P.M., Treas.; Charles Ransford, Thomas Rayner, A. S. Benjamin, Alexander Jones, and A. Simpson; and Bro. Henry Cosins was Master of the Ceremonies.

MASONIC BALL OF THE NELSON LODGE, No. 700.

The ball of the season was undoubtedly the magnificent one given by the Nelson Lodge, and which took place on Wednesday evening, the 22nd ult., at the Masonic Hall, Mount Pleasant, Plumstead, when upwards of 120 ladies and gentlemen assembled to enjoy the festivities so lavishly prepared for them by the brethren.

The large and spacious upper room of the hall was especially prepared for the dancing, the floor being well waxed, while around the walls were handsome flowers and brilliantly-coloured lanterns, flags, &c. The platform was a mass of floral beauty, beautifully arranged. The stairs were prettily carpeted, and, indeed, the whole of the decorations made a charming scene of taste and beauty. The brilliant assembly of the brethren in full Masonic costume, gleaming in purple and gold, flashing jewels on their breasts, and spinning through the mazy intricacies of the dance; the enchanting music, lights, and merry chatter made a scene of loveliness, enhanced as it was by the exquisite dresses of the ladies, not often seen in the midst of our throbbing hive of toil.

The banquet was splendidly served in the lower hall by Bro. G. Mitchell. The tables were exquisitely dressed, and the viands were of the choicest, admirably cooked and garnished.

Bro. W. Chambers, J.W. of the lodge, catered for the wines and bibulents generally, and certainly did wonders for the success of the gastronomic and quenching operations.

The W.M. of the lodge, Bro. Sydney Smith, presided genially, and by the side of every lady's plate was a handsome bottle of rare scent, presented by Bro. Smith as a souvenir of the occasion.

Among the brethren and guests present were Bros. Sydney Smith, wife, daughter, and two sons; W. Long, S.W. and wife; W. Chambers, J.W., wife, son, and daughter; Carter, J.D., and wife; H. Pamment, P.M., the most genial of M.Cs.; Folkes, I.G., and wife; W. Lawson, P.M., Sec., and wife; Taylor, P.M., and wife; J. Sanderson, P.M.; G. Davis, P.M. (hon.); G. H. Nichols, P.M., P.P.G.D.C. Middx.; G. H. Porter, P.M.; Walking and daughter; G. Lawrance and wife; Crone and wife; Mettrop and wife; West and wife; Sandford, wife, and daughter; A. McQueen, W.M. 13; Coombes and wife; Chapman and wife; Alford, wife and daughter; E. Mathews and Miss Nellie Mathews; Bremer and wife; G. Cashfield, P.M. 615, and Mrs. Cashfield; J. Stratton, wife and son; Mann and wife; Grant and wife; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mann.

Bro. C. Jolly called and had a look at the magic scene, and then slowly turned and went a sadder and bolder man.

The only toasts given at the banquet were "The Queen and the Craft," "The W.M.," "The Ladies," and "The Visitors."

The affair will long be remembered with pleasure by all who were privileged to be present.

Obituary.

BRO. LORD HERSCHELL, P.G.W.

We refer elsewhere to the loss which the Craft has sustained by the sudden death at Washington, U.S.A., on Wednesday, of Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Herschell, ex-Lord High Chancellor of England, who was serving at the time as President of the English Commission which had been appointed to act in conjunction with a similar Commission appointed of the United States, with a view to arranging, if possible, the several matters in dispute between Canada and the United States. His lordship a short time previously had met with a somewhat serious accident, but though he had been confined to his bed, his progress towards recovery was most satisfactory, when on the morning of the 1st instant, his death occurred, after a few hours' illness. Bro. Lord Herschell was among the earlier candidates for initiation in the Northern Bar Lodge, No. 1610, and after the lapse of a few years, was elected and installed as W. Master. In 1886, he was appointed to the chair of S.G. Warden, it being the first occasion on which such an honour was conferred upon a Lord Chancellor. But his lordship's official duties prevented his taking a very active part in Masonry, and we complete his record as a member of our Order by adding that he was a Life Governor of the Boys' School and a Life Subscriber of the Girls' School.

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ELECTION OF GRAND TREASURER.

BRO. HARRY MANFIELD

desires to SINCERELY THANK all those Brethren who
voted for him, or worked on his behalf, at the recent
Election.

Northampton,
March 2, 1899.

ELECTION OF GRAND TREASURER.

Kindly permit me, through your columns, to thank my
Masonic friends who kindly gave me their support at
yesterday's Election. I deeply appreciate the great honour
that has been paid to me, and I shall do all in my power
to uphold the high traditions of the off. e.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

March 2, 1899. ALFRED H. BEVAN.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

ELECTION, 14th APRIL, 1899.

The favour of your VOTES and INTEREST is respectfully
solicited on behalf of

FREDERICK JAMES WAYMAN,
AGED SEVEN.

Son of the late JAMES WAYMAN, Lodge 195, Master
Mariner and Chief Officer of the Cape Liner "Drummond
Castle," who lost his life by the wreck of the vessel.

The case is strongly recommended by the whole of his Lodge,
No. 195, Hengist, Bournemouth, and the following:

Bro. Col. E. W. RERBECK, P.P.G.S.W.
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Masonic Notes.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1899

The Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, for the transaction of the regular business, on Wednesday, under the presidency of Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Prov. Grand Master of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, who, earlier in the proceedings, obligated and installed Bro. Earl Amherst as Pro Grand Master, in succession to the late Earl of Lathom. The Pro Grand Master then took the chair, and, in his turn, installed Bro. the Earl of Warwick as R.W. Deputy Grand Master. A message was then read from his Royal Highness the M.W. Grand Master relating to Freemasonry in Peru, and recommending the withdrawal of the interdict against the Grand Lodge of Peru, in consequence of its having restored the Volume of the Sacred Law to its place on its altar and on those of the lodges under its

obedience. Resolutions in accordance with the Grand Master's recommendation were, therefore, proposed, and adopted *nem. con.* H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was then elected for the 25th time to the office of Grand Master, and duly proclaimed, while the reports of the Boards of Benevolence and General Purposes were adopted.

On this occasion Grand Lodge was opened at 2 p.m., in view of the keen contest for the office of Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year to which everyone was looking forward. The candidates, whose names were mentioned last week, having been proposed and seconded, the poll was opened, and during the afternoon a succession of brethren entered G. Lodge, and having deposited their ballot-papers in the room, retired. In the evening the result was announced as follows: for Bro. A. H. Bevan 1322 votes, for Bro. Harry Manfield 1026, the former being thus elected by a majority of close on 300 votes. A full report of the meeting will be found in another part of our columns.

The Grand Lodge of Mark Masons met in Quarterly Communication at Mark Masons' Hall on Tuesday, the 28th ultimo., when Bro. the Earl of Euston, M.W. Pro G. Master, occupied the chair, and was numerously supported by the Grand Officers and representatives of private lodges. As for the proceedings, there was nothing of very great moment to which, after our "Notes" of last week, we need call the attention of our readers. Bro. A. H. Bevan was elected unanimously G. Treasurer for the ensuing year, there being no other candidate nominated for the office, and will thus have the honour of occupying this important position in Craft, Royal Arch, and Mark Masonry concurrently. Sympathetic reference was also made by the President of the General Board (Bro. R. Loveland-Loveland, Q.C.) on moving the adoption of the Report, to the sudden and lamented death of R.W. Bro. Col. A. Bott Cook, Prov. G. Master of Middlesex, whose demise occurred after the Board's Report was printed, or the sad event would have been mentioned therein. The kindly terms in which Bro. Loveland spoke of our deceased brother and the important services he had rendered to the several branches of Freemasonry with which he was connected, were fully appreciated by all present in Grand Lodge, and will be equally appreciated by the whole body of Masons.

The annual Festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, which was held on Friday, the 24th ultimo, proved, as usual, a great success. The meeting, which was very numerously attended, had the honour of being presided over by the R.W. Bro. the Earl of Dartmouth, Prov. G. Master of Staffordshire, who was supported by a strong force of Grand Officers, prominent among whom was Bro. E. Letchworth, G. Secretary, who is the Treasurer of the lodge. The lodge work, which consisted of the Sections of the First Lecture, was faultlessly performed under the able guidance of Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, Past G. Std. Br., Preceptor, who occupied the Master's chair, and before the lodge was closed a cordial vote of thanks, proposed by the Earl of Dartmouth, and seconded by Bro. R. Horton Smith, Q.C., Past G. Registrar, was passed by acclamation, and gracefully acknowledged by Bro. Sudlow on behalf of the workers of the Sections.

After the banquet which followed, and at which Lord Dartmouth most genially presided, a succession of admirable speeches were delivered. In proposing "Success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement," his lordship laid great stress on the importance of having such a School of Instruction, and expressed the belief that the quasi-official position it held gave it an influence which ordinary lodges of instruction were necessarily unable to command. He pointed out that the Emulation working of the ceremonies was the same as that recommended, after the consummation of the Union in 1813, by the Lodge of Reconciliation, and approved, with some slight modifications, adopted by Grand Lodge in 1816. Thus the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, which was founded a few years later—in 1823—was carrying out the working of the ritual precisely as it had been settled, as stated, in 1816, and hence its system should be the standard of work for all English lodges.

Bro. Sudlow, in responding for the toast, laid stress on the necessity for literal accuracy in the working, remarking that while it would be productive of harm rather than of good to interrupt the presiding officer in his working for the purpose of correcting any slight

error of omission or commission on his part, and while such a course would be undesirable, if not impossible, in any ordinary lodge of instruction, it would be a grave mistake to allow even the slightest verbal slip to pass uncorrected in a lodge whose working was looked upon as the standard to be followed. We agree with Bro. Sudlow in these remarks, and we feel sure that our readers will be grateful to him for insisting so strenuously upon the necessity for complete accuracy in all respects.

Two of the new lodges in London for which his Royal Highness the M.W.G. Master has been pleased to grant warrants are, at the time of writing, on the eve of being consecrated. The date fixed for the consecration of Comrades Lodge, No. 2740, is this (Friday) afternoon, when the ceremony will be performed at the Holborn Restaurant by the Grand Secretary, assisted by Bros. J. H. Matthews, President of the Board of Benevolence, as S.W.; Col. Davis as J.W. the Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, P.G.C., as Chaplain; Frank Richardson, P.G.D., as D.C.; and Major Newington Bridges, P.G.S.B., as I.G. The principal officers designate are Bros. J. H. Lister, P. Prov. G.S.B. Surrey, W.M.; J. G. Baldock, S.W.; and J. C. Jordan, J.W.

The Lodge of Verity, No. 2739, will be consecrated at the Café Monico, on Monday, the 6th instant. The ceremony, will on this occasion also, be performed by the Grand Secretary, who will be assisted in his task by Bros. Thomas Fenn, P.G.W., as S.W.; William Russell, P.A.G.D.C., as J.W.; and the Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, P.G.C., as Chaplain. The principal officers designate are Bros. John Renton Dunlop, P.G. Stwd., W.M.; Edward Roehrich, S.W.; and A. J. Neville, J.W.

It is with very sincere regret we announce the death of Bro. Lord Herschell, Past S.G.W. of England. The event, which occurred on Wednesday morning in Washington, U.S.A., was quite unexpected. About a fortnight previously his lordship had met with an accident, having slipped on a piece of ice as he was stepping into his carriage, and sustained somewhat severe injuries to the hip and thigh; but he had been progressing so satisfactorily towards recovery, that no one anticipated a fatal termination to his illness. Owing to the busy career he had followed at the Bar, in the House of Commons, and subsequently in the House of Lords, when he was appointed Lord Chancellor, his lordship was not a very active member of our Order; but, after he had been installed as W.M. of the Northern Bar Lodge, No. 1610, his Royal Highness was pleased to appoint him to the chair of S.G.W., it being the first occasion on which such an honour had been conferred upon the highest legal functionary in the United Kingdom. We tender our most respectful sympathy to Lady Herschell and the rest of his lordship's family in their bereavement.

We learn from the *Voice of Masonry* for December last that at the 38th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Colorado, which was held at Denver on the 20th and 21st September, under the presidency of Bro. Cromwell Tucker, G. Master, G. Lodge declined to authorise life membership. It also appears, from the reports that were then presented, that there were at that time 92 lodges on the roll, with a total membership of 7605, while the financial condition of Grand Lodge was sound. Bro. Horace T. de Long was elected and installed M.W.G.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. E. C. Parmelee re-elected G. Secretary.

It is with great regret that we learn from the pages of the December issue of the *Freemason's Repository* published at Providence, Rhoda Island, that this periodical will not be continued. The magazine was started, if we remember rightly, in the year 1871, and during nearly the whole of its career was under the Editorship of Bro. the Rev. Henry W. Rugg, who for the last few years had also been its proprietor. During all these years it was one of the ablest conducted and most valuable of our many American exchanges. Its articles were admirably written and the information it furnished of the doings of the Craft in the United States was both ample and trustworthy. Bro. Rugg, in announcing the discontinuance, explains that having many other duties to fulfil and finding that the *Repository* did not receive such a measure of support as such an organ of Masonic opinion was entitled to, he did not consider himself justified in carrying on the work. We are sorry, as we have said, that henceforth there will be no longer a *Freemason's Repository* to enlighten us on American Masonry, but we cannot consider the course which Bro. Rugg has taken ill-advised under the circumstances.

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.

RECENT ELECTION OF GRAND TREASURER.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Kindly permit me through your column to thank my Masonic friends who kindly gave me their support at yesterday's election. I deeply appreciate the great honour that has been paid to me, and I shall do all in my power to uphold the high traditions of the office.—Yours faithfully and fraternally,

March 2.

ALFRED H. BEVAN.

MARK MASONRY.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I am sure it will be welcome news for those of your readers who are Mark Master Masons to know that a Mark Lodge of Instruction has been formed under the sanction of the Star Mark Lodge, No. 499. The inaugural meeting will be held at the Six Bells Hotel, Queen-street, Hammersmith (two minutes' walk from either of the Hammersmith railway stations) on Wednesday evening, the 8th instant, at eight p.m., at which all Mark Master Masons are cordially invited to be present. The Executive trust that in meeting this long-felt want all Mark Master Masons who can possibly do so will attend and avail themselves of the opportunity afforded them of learning the beautiful ritual and working of this Degree. Bro. Woolmer Williams, P.M. 499, G. Steward, has kindly consented to act as Preceptor, and Bro. Robert Reid, 499, as Deputy.

The lodge will also meet on the second Wednesday evening of each subsequent month.—I am, Sir, yours fraternally,

W. T. RIDGWAY,
Secretary.

2. Brooklyn-road, Shepherds' Bush, W.
February 25th.

Reviews.

"COSMOPOLITAN MASONIC CALENDAR, 1899" (London: Bro. George Kenning. Price, One shilling).—This is an old friend, and a most welcome one, as it is as indispensable as ever, for those who wish information about the Craft universal, and especially as to the "Higher" or additional Degrees. This very handy and compact little volume is in its 28th year of publication, and contains more matter for 1899, than in the previous issue. As the Brotherhood extends, so this most useful guide increases in bulk, and at the trifling cost of one shilling, its pages can be consulted as to all the Degrees worked in England, other than the Craft and Royal Arch—which are duly found in the calendar of Grand Lodge published by the same well-known firm—and likewise as to all the Grand Lodges in the world; fuller particulars being supplied as to Scotland and Ireland and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown. All the names are given of the members of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, from the 30th to the 33rd Degrees inclusive, for England, Ireland, and Scotland, and Knight Templary for all three countries is very fully represented. Continental and American Freemasonry are carefully noted and described, and the Editor will only be too pleased and grateful to receive intimations of any errors, or desirable additions for another issue. It seems to be for 1899, as in previous years, the Masonic "Who's who" for the Craft.

The Craft Abroad.

Conyers Lodge, No. 1916.

The 20th anniversary of this lodge, holding under the Grand Lodge of England, was celebrated on January the 12th, in their chambers, Lichfield-street, Christchurch, New Zealand. The special function was the installation of Bro. W. E. Chudley, Master elect, and the investiture of his officers. The occasion was full of surprises. None of the District Grand Lodge officers were present. The installation was conducted in the presence of a Board of 17 Installed Masters by the retiring W.M., Bro. H. N. Martin, and the investiture of officers was done, as by law enjoined, by the incoming occupant of the chair. It was due to the circumstance that, owing to the full recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, the leading character in founding the Conyers Lodge, Bro. John Joyce, M.H.R., and its first Master was enabled to take a prominent part in the ceremonial, delivering the impressive charges to the W.M., the Wardens, and the brethren. Bro. Chudley having been duly placed in the chair, the following officers were invested with their insignia: Bros. H. W. Martin, I.P.M.; William Brew, S.W.; Charles E. Clarkson, J.W.; Charles Duggan, Treas.; William Cuming, P.M., Sec.; James Allen, S.D.; W. Ingram Ballinger, J.D.; S. Clarke, P.M., D.C.; Walter Langford, and J. F. Minchenton, Stwds.; F. C. Harrow, Org.; James Kennedy, I.G.; and John Mortlock, Tyler (for the 13th year).

The lodge having been closed, an adjournment was made to the large hall on the ground floor, where an excellent supper had been provided, and here a large number of ladies were waiting to join in the festivities.

There was a really good programme of toasts, songs, and gramophone items, and the enjoyment of everyone present was evidently perfect. Amongst the vocalists were Miss Duggan and Bros. Harrow, Daltry, Broom, Barlow, and Brew.

It is needless to state that the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were enthusiastically received in this remote land, and in submitting them special reference was made to the excellent manner the I.P.M. had observed and performed the privileges conferred by charter of installing his successor and affording a worthy example to futur aspirants to the highest honour a lodge can bestow.

Instruction.

HORNSEY CHAPTER, No. 890.

A convocation was held at the Prince of Wales' Hotel, Bishops' road, Paddington, on the 24th ult., when there were present Comps. M. Speigel, P.Z. 834, P.P.G.S.B. Surrey, M.E.Z.; H. Foskett, P.S. 185, H.; A. J. Taylor, P.Z. 186, J.; H. Dehane, P.Z. 890, P.P.G.P.S. Essex, S.E.; J. Bailey, P.Z. 1602, S.N.; W. J. Lewis, P.S. 173, P.S.; F. J. Manning, 180; and A. L. Butters, 1st A.S. 890.

The chapter was declared open, and the minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Manning being the candidate, and was afterwards elected a member and acknowledged the compliment. A communication from Comp. H. J. Thomas was read. The M.E.Z. having risen the usual number of times, the chapter was closed.

STAR CHAPTER, No. 1275.

A meeting was held on Friday, the 24th ult., at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell, S.E. Present: Comps. Thomas Grummant, P.Z., Preceptor, M.E.Z.; Wm. Hy. Growse, H.; C. Patrick, J.; C. H. Stone, P.Z., Scribe E.; Frampton, Scribe N.; J. H. Cureton, P.Z., P.S.; Cass, and Everett.

The minutes of the previous convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Wm. Jas. Everett personating the candidate. Comp. J. H. Cureton, P.Z., was elected to the chair of M.E.Z. for to-day (Friday), and Comp. Wm. Jas. Everett, 2191, was elected a member. The business being ended, the chapter was closed.

ISLINGTON LODGE, No. 1471.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday, the 28th ult., at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, when there were present Bros. W. F. Roberts, W.M.; C. Nicole, S.W.; A. F. Hardymont, J.W.; W. Hancock, P.M., Preceptor; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D. Herts, and J. Duncan, P.M., Secs.; A. Williams, S.D.; J. Ewings, J.D.; S. Cload, I.G.; T. E. Newman, J. R. White, H. R. Bower, F. H. Johnson, J. Berks, P.M.; A. E. Hubsch, C. Bone, R. H. Nichols, G. A. Hopkins, R. Fox, R. Philip Upton, P.M.; and E. J. Harrison, P.M.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was then rehearsed, Bro. Nichols being the candidate. The charge having been given, the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. Bro. R. H. Nichols was elected a member of the lodge. Bro. C. Nicole was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed the officers in rotation. The lodge was then closed.

THE RECENT FESTIVAL OF THE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The following new lists, and additions to lists, have been received since our report of last week:—

Lodge	LONDON.	£ s. d.
10 Bro. J. W. Woodall, additional	... (raising his list to £10 10s.)	5 5 0
192 „ Frederick Hughes, additional	... (raising his list to £42.)	10 10 0
193 „ George Spice, additional	... (raising his list to £63.)	10 10 0
1150 „ S. J. Notley, additional...	... (raising his list to £48 16s.)	6 6 0
1288 „ G. T. Harrop, additional	... (raising his list to £69 4s.)	5 5 0
1635 „ F. C. Van Duzer, additional	... (raising his list to £41 6s.)	5 5 0
1962 „ F. F. Grimes, additional	... (raising his list to £70 12s.)	15 12 0
2233 „ T. Wakley, jun., additional	... (raising his list to £200)	1 11 0
2632 „ W. Gladding, additional	... (raising his list to £34 10s. 6d.)	1 1 0
2694 „ Robert Colsell, additional	... (raising his list to £36 15s.)	5 5 0
Unattached	Bro. D. C. Robinson, additional	1 1 0
	(raising his list to £27 6s.)	
	Small sums under £1, which will be properly distributed in the reprint, amounting to	1 13 6

THE PROVINCES.

DURHAM.

The Prov. Grand Lodge, new list ... 52 10 0

HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

Lodge		
359 Bro. L. Steele, additional	... (raising his list to £114 15s.)	3 3 0
1069 „ Jas. Watson Gieve, additional	... (raising his list to £17 13s.)	7 3 0
1331 „ G. H. Atkinson, additional	... (raising his list to £36 13s.)	10 14 0
2150 „ C. T. Miles, additional	... (raising his list to £36 15s.)	5 5 0

KENT.

Lodge		
2404 „ Capt. Francis Powell, additional	... (raising his list to £87 7s.)	12 7 0

LANCASHIRE (E.D.)

992 „ Charles Truby, new list...	...	10 10 0
----------------------------------	-----	---------

Unattached	Bro. C. D. Cheetham, additional	10 10 0
	(raising his list to £136 10s.)	

SUSSEX.

Lodge		
2434 Bro. A. H. Thomas, additional	... (raising his list to £52 10s.)	15 15 0

YORKSHIRE (N. & E. RIDING.)

The Province Bro. T. B. Whythead, new Steward and list 67 4 0

We have also to announce that sundry new Stewards have come forward, and will have their names inserted in the Returns as finally corrected; that Bro. Lieut.-Col. G. J. Parkyn was not Unattached, but represented Lodge No. 1528, Cornwall; and that under West Lancashire one of the Stewards for Lodge No. 1561 was "Thomas Baxter" not "Thomas Barker."

Craft Masonry.

Lodge of Tranquillity, No. 185.

This lodge commenced its 112th year in a most happy and auspicious manner on Monday, the 20th ult., at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, W. There were present Bros. J. A. Witthaus, W.M.; P. J. Ornstein, S.W.; N. Bloomfield, J.W.; Harry Tipper, P.A.G.P., Treas.; David Hills, M.E.Z. 185, P.M., Sec.; J. Gerson, S.D.; H. Braham, J.D.; L. Franklin, I.G.; J. Eisenmann, P.M., D.C.; F. Mortimer, Stwd.; S. Barnett, P.M.; W. Hinds, P.M.; Asher J. Myers, P.M.; J. M. Levy, P.M.; Myer Harris, P.M.; I. Lazarus, P.M.; A. E. Sydney, P.M.; A. Levy, P.M.; L. L. Bloomfield, P.M.; Sidney Rosenfeld, P.M.; A. E. Staley, P.M.; Lewis Levy, P.M.; Joseph Cohen, P.M. 2184; H. Chetham, P.M. 1017; and others. Amongst the visitors we noticed Bros. C. W. Cole, W.M. 2105; F. Heilbrunn, W.M. 1017; H. J. Phillips, P.M., Sec. 205; E. Parry, I.P.M. 879; J. Marcus, W.M. 205; B. Marcus, P.M. 205; T. H. Currie, 2099; J. Goldstein, S.W. 2265; J. Warren, J.D. 2090; A. E. Samuel, I.P.M. 766; Louis Harfeld, 2705; E. Emmanuel, W.M. 688; R. Mare, I.P.M. 1828; H. T. Telling, P.M. 2182, 2348; J. D. Hood, W.M. 1668; J. Worth, S.W. 834; M. Heilbrunn, Chap. 1668; J. J. Lamigeon, P.M. 2551, W.M. 1929; R. Reid, W.M. 1275; W. Hide, P.M. 1275; W. Jenkinson, P.M. 2046; G. Rees, S.D. 1733; S. C. Kaufman, P.M. 1766 and 2374; G. H. Clark, P.M. 1766; C. Robinson, J.W. 1540; J. Grunebaum, P.M.

1017; H. Saqui, W.M. 2264; J. Wontner Smith, 2705; Percy House, 1585; Hedges, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.G.; M. Kohnstan, Freundschaft Lodge, Furth; and Nicokog, Lodge La bien Aimée, Amsterdam.

The lodge having been opened in due form, a ballot was taken for the following gentlemen: Mr. Solomon Davis, Mr. Joseph Susmann, Mr. Jacob Fless, Mr. Henry Barnett, and Mr. Frederick Skelsey, and they were duly initiated, the ceremony being most ably performed by the W.M., Bro. W. Hinds, I.P.M., and in the case of Mr. Henry Barnett, by his brother, S. Barnett, a Past Master of the lodge. The W.M. elect, Bro. P. Ornstein, was then presented to the W.M. for installation, and in a Board of 35 Installed Masters, was impressively placed in the chair. The newly-installed Master was then saluted by the brethren, and the following officers were appointed: Bros. N. Bloomfield, S.W.; J. Gerson, J.W.; Harry Tipper, P.M., P.A.G.P., Treas.; David Hills, P.M., M.E.Z., Sec.; L. Franklin, S.D.; B. Cohen, J.D.; F. R. Mortimer, I.G.; J. Eisenmann, P.M., P.Z., D.C.; Harold Allen, Stwd.; and J. Rawles, Tyler. It was proposed and carried that the sum of £14 3s. 3d. be voted by the lodge to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, Bro. D. Hills explaining that this odd amount was necessary to bring the total of the contributions made by the lodge to a level sum. After the W.M. had, with a few well chosen words, presented Bro. J. A. Witthaus, the outgoing Master, with a beautiful Past Master's jewel, and two gentlemen had been proposed for initiation at the next meeting, the lodge was closed the brethren adjourning to the banqueting hall for refreshment, covers being laid for 120.

The W.M., in proposing the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," said that loyalty to the Throne was one of the watchwords inscribed on our banner. It was not only with our lips, but with our hearts we spoke, as we exclaimed "God save the Queen," for her Majesty's reign has, indeed, proved a blessing to the innumerable peoples who have the privilege of living under her benign sway. He felt sure that on the present occasion it would be in consonance with the feelings of the large assembly present that he should say a word of respectful sympathy and regret at the loss which her Gracious Majesty had recently sustained, and to express the ardent hope that the Great Architect of the Universe would send peace and consolation to the Royal mourners.

The toast was drunk with Masonic honours.

The toasts of "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," and "The Grand Officers, Present and Past" were severally proposed and honoured.

Bro. Witthaus, I.P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M.," and referred in kindly terms to his services to the lodge, and expressed the hope that his year of office would be a success.

In replying to the toast, Bro. P. Ornstein, W.M., said: Although I have frequently spoken in this room, and I am no stranger to you, yet it is with some diffidence that I speak to-night. The reason is, perhaps, not far to seek. I appear to-night in a new character, and I think it an acknowledged fact that every actor, no matter how great his histrionic ability—and I can plead no ability whatever—suffers from stage-fright on first night appearances. I am in a similar quandary. The whole aspect of the room is changed to me, and from this elevated position I view the scene from a different standpoint; but in the picture which is in my mind's eye I can see plainly and visibly your hands outstretched to me in brotherly goodwill. I am thus reassured, feeling that I possess your confidence, that your help is only to be asked to be given freely, and with the desire to afford that loyal assistance which it is the W.M.'s prerogative to command. Brethren, how true it is that "all the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." We all have our allotted tasks to perform, and if I can but successfully perform the duties of the high office, which by your grace I now occupy, I feel that my Masonic career will not be wholly wasted. What are the duties of a W.M.? You have heard to-night in the lodge the conditions under which the W.M. assumes the chair. Whilst it is an undisputable fact that he can command the obedience of the brethren, it is no less true that he owes a duty in return to the brethren for their loyalty. After dwelling on the principles which should guide a W.M., he concluded by remarking that a Master should have a heart to resolve, a mind to conceive, a head to contrive, and a hand to execute. This is the keynote of a Master's programme, and I hope I may be successful in carrying it out, so that when I hand down my gavel of office to my successor it shall be as unsullied as I have received it.

The W.M., in proposing the toast of "The Initiates," (five in number) said: The next toast which I have the honour and pleasure to submit to you is that of "The Initiates," and I unhesitatingly say that no more important, as well as pleasant, task can fall to the lot of a W.M. If ever I felt the want of words to adequately convey the sentiments which are uppermost in my mind, and I think I am justified in saying in your minds likewise, it is at the present moment. First impressions are supposed to be the most enduring, and, therefore, I feel it incumbent on me to-night to say a few words to our Bro. Initiates in order to endeavour to bring home to their minds the beauty, the grandeur, and the solemnity of our ancient Order. Seated as we are around the festive board, it might justly appear to a newly-made brother at first sight that the essence of our meetings is festivity. No greater fallacy could exist. It is true that Freemasonry has its social side, and well that it should be so, for we are taught to remember that we are human, that part of our time should be spent in refreshment, equally with prayer and labour, and not to live the lives of ascetics, but in so spending a part of our time we must not lose sight of the primary objects of our Order. What some of those objects are you, Bro. Initiates, have heard to-night in the lodge, all grand, all beautiful, and all honour, and there were certain characteristics on which emphasis was laid, namely, Benevolence and Charity. The W.M. then dwelt on certain forms of charity, and asked the initiates to believe that Masonic Charity consisted of something more than mere alms-giving. There was that grander form of charity which seeks to attenuate rather than to accentuate a brother's failings, which seeks to minimize rather than to exaggerate a fault, which is ready to hold out the hand of fellowship, should a brother be found unfortunately straying from the right path, and thus, perhaps, save him from a sad and bitter fate. It is only human to err, and we in our small sphere of life know full well that a kindly act performed at the right moment, is felt that an ounce of practical sympathy is worth a ton of preaching. In short it may be urged that in quiet unostentatious and self-denying acts of kindness lies true Masonic Charity. The W.M. after dwelling on some of the beautiful lessons taught by Freemasonry, concluded his address to the initiates as follows: You assume to-night certain great responsibilities. Four of you belong to a race which has tasted the bitter pill of persecution. All of you have now joined an Order which has in its time undergone the severe ordeal of persecution and vituperation, and although in this happy country of ours Freemasonry flourishes and grows apace, yet in some parts of the continent of Europe it is to this day divided and vilified. More than ever now that you have become Freemasons it is your duty to be circumspect both in your private and public avocations for an erring Freemason affects not only his own personality, but reflects his credit on the Craft as a whole. Let me exhort you, therefore, to be true to your obligation, to be true to all you hold nearest and dearest to you, and, above all, to be true to yourselves, then, as sure as the night follows the day, you will not be false to any man.

The toast was drunk with enthusiasm, and responded to by the initiates.

The toast of "The Visiting Brethren," of which there were 65, was proposed by the W.M., and responded to.

The toast of "The Masonic Charities" was proposed by Bro. J. Eisenmann, P.M., and responded to by Bro. F. R. W. Hedges, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.G.

The following toasts were proposed and responded to, viz.: "The Immediate Past Master (Bro. J. A. Witthaus);" "The Past Masters;" "The Treasurer (Bro. H. Tipper, P.M.);" "The Hon. Secretary (Bro. David Hills, P.M.);" and "The Officers of the Lodge."

During the evening, Miss Lilla Morton, Miss Jessie Berg (whose violin solos were played with great skill, and were deservedly appreciated), and Bro. R. A. Roberts. Mr. Leslie Stuart also kindly accompanied on the piano two of his own songs, which were sung by Mr. Haskell.

La Cesaree Lodge, No. 590.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Temple, Jersey, on the 23rd ult. Bro. A. W. Godfray, W.M. and W.M. elect presided, being supported by a large number of influential brethren, amongst whom were Bros. Col. E. C. Malet de Carteret, P.G.M.; Dr. J. Le Cronier, D.P.G.M.; Dr. A. C. Godfray, Prov. S.G.W.; Dr. M. Le Cronier, Prov. J.G.W.; F. E. Remfry, P.P.S.G.W. South Wales, West; E. W. Jaquet, P.M. 2323; C. E. Malet de Carteret, Prov. G. Sec.; T. Le Seelleur, P.M.; Major F. J. Godfray, P.M.; H. Becker, P.M.; G. Roy, W.M. 877; W. Rowcliffe, W.M. 245; J. H. Elliott, P.M. 245; F. Mauger, P.M. 1003; E. Oldridge, P.M. 1003; and F. P. Averty, W.M. 1003.

The lodge having been opened, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and the report of the "Conseil d'Administration"—showing the lodge to be in a very flourishing condition—adopted. The W.M. then vacated the chair in favour of Bro. M. Le Cronier, who re-installed Bro. A. W. Godfray as W.M. for the ensuing year in a most admirable manner. The newly re-installed W.M. then appointed and invested the following brethren as his officers, viz.: Bros. C. E. Malet de Carteret, S.W.; P. F. Le Boutillier, J.W.; T. Le Seelleur, Treas.; M. Le Cronier, Sec.; D. P. Vincent, S.D.; T. J. Le Seelleur, J.D.; C. Malet, D. of C.; J. T. Vétier, I.G.; and G. H. Rogers, Tyler. The I.P.M. was unable to be present, and his investiture was therefore postponed. The customary addresses by the Installing Officer ended the ceremony. The W.M. announced that the R.W. Prov. G.M. had consented to present, on behalf of the lodge, a Past Master's jewel and a clock to Bro. M. Le Cronier, and he would now call upon him to do so. The Prov. G. Master said he had been very pleased to attend the meeting to present these tokens of the gratitude of the lodge to Bro. Le Cronier, not only because he was the son of the esteemed Dep. Prov. G. Master, but also to testify his own appreciation of the services rendered not only to this lodge but also to the Craft in general in the island by Bro. Le Cronier. He had much pleasure in making the presentation, and hoped the recipient would live long to serve the province and to enjoy the gifts. Bro. Le Cronier suitably responded, thanking the brethren for their kindness to him, and assuring them of his intention to continue to further the welfare of the lodge.

The lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet in the refectory, after which the usual toasts were proposed and responded to.

In replying to his toast, the Prov. G. Master said that he had been specially pleased to visit the lodge, inasmuch as it was the elder of the only two lodges under the Grand Lodge of England working in the French language. He had visited La France Lodge in London, where the French ritual was likewise worked, and had been struck by the admirable manner in which the various ceremonies were gone through even by the English members. He was sure that the members of La Césaire would create an equally favourable impression on visiting brethren, especially as the French language was their mother tongue, or rather, in the case of the Jersey brethren, their stepmother tongue. He wished the lodge all prosperity in the coming year.

The intervals between the toast were enlivened by some capital recitations and songs by Bros. Proust, Le Feuvre, Vincent, Bowles, A. C. Godfray, Averty, Weston, and Remfry; whilst exquisite pianoforte selections were rendered by Bro. T. L. de Faye.

Yarborough Lodge, No. 551.

There was a numerous attendance at the Masonic Hall, Belgrave Chambers, Ventnor, on the 21st ult., when Bro. Wavell Knight, S.W., was installed W.M., the ceremony being conducted by the retiring W.M., Bro. W. J. Knight, in an impressive and highly satisfactory manner, for which he was afterwards highly complimented. Bro. Wavell Knight appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. W. J. Knight, I.P.M.; J. G. Jolliffe, S.W.; John Williams, J.W.; S. Tuddenham, Treas.; E. G. H. Wetherick, Sec.; H. F. Grant, S.D.; W. H. Littlefield, J.D.; F. H. Sheppard, P.M., P.D.G.D.C., D.C.; J. Corbould, Org.; A. Prentice, I.G.; G. Burroughs and W. H. Bull, Stwds.; and G. King, Tyler. Past Masters' jewels were presented to the I.P.M. and to Bro. Swane; and a Treasurer's jewel to Bro. S. Tuddenham, in recognition of their past valuable services.

On the conclusion of the business, the installation banquet [was held at the Royal Hotel, Ventnor, a *recherche* repast being served.

The customary Masonic toasts were duly honoured, interspersed with vocal and instrumental music, a most enjoyable evening being spent.

Camalodunum Lodge, No. 660.

The annual festival was held on the 21st ult., at the Masonic Hall, Malton, when Bro. Samuel Ridge, S.W., was duly installed as W.M. for the ensuing year, the ceremony being ably performed by Bro. Frank Godfrey, P.M. 200, assisted by Bro. F. H. Halliwell, P.M. The newly-installed W.M. afterwards invested his officers as follows: Bros. W. G. Thurley Rose, I.P.M.; the Rev. W. G. Chilman, P.P.G.C., S.W.; T. P. Longster, J.W.; the Rev. E. A. B. Pitman, P.P.G.C., Chap.; Tatton H. Bower, Treas.; H. Lakeman, Sec.; William Copley, S.D.; E. Allen, J.D.; R. C. Lucas, P.M., D.C.; J. W. Marshall, P.M., P.P.G.O., Org.; C. C. Freer, I.G.; G. P. Eardley and J. A. Raymond Thompson, Stewards; and W. Stockdale, Tyler. The following officers were also appointed: Bros. James Buckle, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br., Charity Representative; E. K. Spiegelhalter, P.M., Librarian and Curator; and T. M. Goldie, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Almoner.

After the business of the day, the brethren adjourned to the Talbot Hotel, where the annual banquet was held.

The W.M. presided, and was supported by a good number of the brethren and Provincial Grand Officers, as well as visitors from York, Scarborough, and other places.

Gladsmuir Lodge, No. 1385.

A stated meeting was held at the Red Lion Hotel, High Barnet, on Friday, the 24th ult., when there were present Bros. R. Cranston, W.M.; H. W. Grimwade, S.W.; Charles Gray, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.B., Sec.; W. Baddeley, P. Prov. G. Stwd., S.D.; Dade, J.D.; W. Lewis, P.M., P. Prov. G.A.D.C., D.C.; Dr. Haskins, Org.; Inglis, and other members; together with Bros. Rainsford, I.P.M.; J. Brittain, P.M., P. Prov. G.W.; G. Blizard Abbott, P.M., P. Prov. G.D.; F. G. Mason, P.M., P. Prov. G.W.; and Bro. Scott, as visitor.

The minutes of the January meeting having been read and confirmed, the report of the Audit Committee was submitted, adopted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes. The report of the Hertfordshire Masonic Charitable Association was also read and noted. Bros. Baddeley and Dade, who had been unavoidably absent from the previous meeting, were invested as S.D. and J.D. respectively. The resignation of two members having been accepted with regret, and three candidates for initiation announced for proposal at the next lodge—which, as it falls on Good Friday, will be held on Thursday, the 30th instant—lodge was closed, and the brethren dined together, and spent a pleasant evening.

Hemming Lodge, No. 1512.

A meeting of this lodge was held at the Greyhound Hotel, Hampton Court, on the 23rd ult. Among those present were Bros. C. Wheatley, W.M.; H. Gale, S.W.; C. F. Davis, J.W.; J. C. Jessett, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Treas.; Major T. C. Walls, P.M., P.P.G.W., P.G. Std. Br., Sec.; W. Hill, J.D.; G. Ransford, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., D.C.; H. Wheatley, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., A. Macchi, A. Z. Schultz, R. Ruff, and R. S. Fox, Stwds.; T. W. Ockenden, P.M., P.P.G.D.; W. Spearing, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; P. Cronin, I.P.M.; and J. Gilbert, P.G.T., Tyler. Among the visitors were Bros. R. F. Tyler, P.M. 1599, P.P.G.O.; J. Lockett, P.M. 2145; and F. P. Hill, P.M. 2146.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Bros. Vidal and Col. F. Hemming were passed to the Second Degree, and Bros. Parkhurst, Allen, and Lonsley raised to the Third Degree, both ceremonies being well performed. A petition to the Board of Benevolence was signed and recommended on behalf of a distressed member of the lodge. It was proposed by Bro. J. C. Jessett, P.M., the senior member of the lodge, seconded by Bro. T. W. Ockenden, P.M., the first initiate, and carried with acclamation: "That the members of this lodge desire to convey to Bro. A. O. Hemming their cordial thanks for his very interesting and valuable gift of a framed portrait in oils of his late grandfather, the V.W. Bro. the Rev. Dr. Hemming, P.M., P.G. Chaplain of England, Vicar of Hampton, &c., and a silk banner emblazoned with the family crest. The members of the lodge are proud of being associated with the name of him after whom their lodge was named. They value the gifts most highly, and they trust that their descendants will cherish them as interesting souvenirs not only of the kind donor, Bro. A. Hemming, but in memory of one who in his day had occupied so high a position in the Craft, and had done so much to further its best interests." Bro. Hemming, in reply, briefly said that he felt flattered by the vote that had been so kindly proposed, seconded, and carried. He thought that the members of the lodge would like to have something to remind them of the brother after whom the lodge was named, and he sincerely trusted that No. 1512 would always have a representative of the Hemming family in it. Apologies for non-attendance were

received from Bros. W. Fisher, P.M., P.P.G. Treas.; G. J. Tagg, P.M., A.G.P. Middx.; H. Webster, S.D.; and others. The lodge was then closed.

A banquet followed, and it was excellently served under the personal supervision of Bro. E. Beltramo.

Upon the removal of the cloth, the customary toasts were duly proposed.

Bro. G. Ransford responded on behalf of "The Provincial Grand Officers."

The I.P.M. gave the toast of "The W.M." in very flattering terms. He said that the work that evening had been performed in a manner that would be creditable to any W.M., and to any lodge. He felt confident that the respective candidates were impressed and gratified with what they had seen and heard.

The W.M., having replied, gave "The Visitors," to which toast Bros. Tyler, Lockett, and Hill, responded.

Bro. T. W. Ockenden acknowledged in an interesting and fluent speech the toast of "The Past Masters."

The toasts of "The Treasurer and Secretary" and "The Officers," terminated the proceedings, which were greatly enhanced by the instrumental and vocal abilities of several brethren; Bros. Tyler and Hill's efforts in particular being highly appreciated.

The banner was manufactured by Bros. George Kenning and Son, London.

Sandown Lodge, No. 1869.

There was a strong muster of brethren at the lodge room, Wilkes-road, Sandown, on the 16th ult., when Bro. W. Garland, S.W., was very ably installed in the chair by Bro. Major Gordon. Among those present were Bros. R. Guy, W.M.; C. F. Fox, I.P.M.; G. W. S. Withers, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.; A. J. Firth, P.M., P.P.G.O.; A. G. Prickett, P.M., Sec., P.P.G.S.B.; T. E. Porter, P.M.; T. Ford, P.M.; J. Whitehead Smith, P.M., P.P.J.G.D. Dorset; C. B. Field, J.W.; L. H. Shoebridge, S.D.; A. Douglas, J. Ellis, A. Field, J. Collicson, P.M.; W. J. R. Gordon, P.M. (I.C.); F. Woollings, A. J. Callaway, E. B. Key, T. G. Addley, and others. The W.M. appointed the following officers for the ensuing year: Bros. R. Guy, I.P.M.; C. B. Field, S.W.; S. H. Shoebridge, J.W.; W. H. G. Gordon, P.M., Treas.; A. G. Prickett, P.M., Sec.; T. Ford, P.M., D.C.; A. J. Firth, P.M., Org.; A. Douglas, S.D.; J. Ellis, J.D.; F. Woollings, I.G.; A. Field and W. J. R. Gordon, Stwds; and A. J. Callaway, Tyler. Bro. R. Guy, the retiring W.M., was presented with the Past Master's jewel of the lodge.

After the lodge ceremonies an excellent banquet was served at Child's Hotel. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were submitted and cordially received.

The enjoyment of the evening was much enhanced by excellent recitations from Bro. Hutton, and songs from Bros. Marlow, Alderslade, Withers, Smith, Key, and others.

Earl of Mornington Lodge, No. 2000.

The regular meeting was held on Friday, the 24th ult., at the Cafe Royal, Regent-street, W. There were present Bros. R. S. Fairbank, W.M.; W. Turner, S.W.; H. T. Taylor, J.W.; H. R. Rose, P.M., P.G.O., Treas.; W. A. Bowser, I.P.M., Sec.; A. D. Jones, S.D.; J. Davidson, J.D.; J. H. Lavies, P.M.; R. C. P. Gardner, P.M.; R. Lake, P.M.; Budd, Schorstein, Ryall, Lewin, Walsh, Dunning, Bartlett, Bird, Probyn-Williams, and F. Bowler, Tyler. Visitor: Bro. H. C. Houndle, P.M. 1826, P.P.G.W. Surrey.

The lodge having been opened, the Secretary reported that the alterations recently made in the by-laws had been confirmed by the M.W.G.M. Bros. C. Ryall, G. I. Schorstein, and F. A. H. Walsh were passed to the Degree of F.C. by the W.M., Bro. Fairbank. The W.M. then vacated the chair in favour of the I.P.M., Bro. Bowser, who raised Bro. Dunning to the Sublime Degree of M.M., and gave the traditional history and explanation of the working tools. The W.M., having resumed the chair, presented Bro. J. H. Lavies, P.M., the late Secretary of the lodge, with a beautiful Secretary's breast jewel, which had been voted to him at the previous meeting, and stated how much the lodge was indebted to Bro. Lavies for having undertaken the arduous duties of Secretary during the last two years. Bro. Lavies thanked the W.M. and brethren for their handsome gift, but still more for the very kind and flattering resolution passed at the last meeting of the lodge, during his temporary absence, and which he had only just seen. He assured the brethren that he should continue to do everything he could to promote the interests of the lodge.

The lodge having been closed, the brethren dined together informally.

Mark Masonry.

Sir Francis Burdett Lodge, No. 181.

A meeting of this lodge was held at the Albany Hotel, Twickenham, on the 15th ultimo, when there were present, among others, Bros. James Hill, W.M.; R. Ubsdell, S.W.; H. Higgins, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., as J.W.; W. Fisher, P.M., P.G.S., Treas.; Major T. C. Walls, P.M., P.G.S.B., Sec.; R. W. Forge, P.P.G.D., I.P.M.; C. H. Kohler, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.; and E. W. Davis, P.M., P.P.G.O.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. R. Ubsdell, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M., subject to a dispensation from the M.W.G.M. being obtained, Bro. W. Fisher, P.M., Treas., and Bro. G. Harrison, Tyler. A Past Master's jewel having been voted to the W.M., the Secretary reported the sudden death of Bro. Lieut.-Col. A. B. Cook, J.P., Prov. G. Master of Middlesex. A vote of condolence to the widow and family was passed, with many individual expressions of regret. The Treasurer submitted his balance-sheet, which had been duly audited. A resolution was passed that the same be received, adopted, and entered on the minutes. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Bros. G. Everett, P.M., P.G.D.; F. F. Bonney, P.P.G.D.; J. T. Briggs, P.M., P.G. Std. Br.; W. Thomas, P.M., P.P.G.O.; and others. The lodge was then closed.

A banquet followed.

Bro. W. Fisher, P.M., responded on behalf of "The Grand Officers."

The pledge of "The revered memory of the late P.G.M., Bro. Lieut.-Col. A. B. Cook," was feelingly submitted by the W.M., and drunk in solemn silence.

"The Health of the D.P.G.M. and the rest of the Prov. Grand Officers" was coupled with the name of Bro. H. Higgins, who briefly replied.

The toast of "The W.M." followed, and was warmly received.

Bro. Hill, in his reply, regretted that his year of office had thus far been a barren one. He hoped, however, that at the next meeting a candidate would be forthcoming. He had had a very pleasant time of it in the chair, and how could it be otherwise, when he had been so loyally supported by the Past Masters, who were, without exception, a jolly set of fellows.

The toast of "The Master Elect" followed, and this gave Bro. Ubsdell an opportunity of returning thanks for the honour conferred upon him that evening. It had not been his good fortune, he said, to pass the chair in the Craft or Arch yet, therefore he hailed with pleasure the opportunity that the Mark Degree afforded. He could not hope to perform the work well, but he would do his best to sustain the reputation of the Sir Francis Burdett Lodge.

Bros. C. H. Kohler and E. W. Davis acknowledged the toast of "The Past Masters."

The W.M. then gave, in exceedingly flattering terms, the toast of "The Treasurer and Secretary." He said that the members of the lodge were under great obligation to the distinguished brethren who had held those positions so long, and it would be a great loss to the lodge if one or both were to cease active membership.

To this toast Bro. W. Fisher made an effective response.

The proceedings then terminated.

Royal Arch.

St. Magdalen Chapter, No. 242.

The installation meeting of this chapter was held on Friday evening, the 24th ult., in the Masonic Rooms, Doncaster. Present: Comps. A. W. Fretwell, M.E.Z.; C. Goldthorpe, I.P.Z.; J. Fitzgerald, H.; H. A. Fenton, J.; J. F. Forth, Treas.; J. Constable, P.P.G.O., P.Z., S.E.; R. Brew, P.S.; C. E. Boomer, 1st A.S.; J. W. Chapman, 2nd A.S.; J. W. Pawson, and W. Langbridge.

After the minutes had been confirmed the companions retired. Comp. Fretwell installed his successor, Comp. J. Fitzgerald, in the chair of M.E.Z.; Comp. Constable installed Comp. Fenton in the chair of H., and Comp. Fenton installed his successor, Comp. Forth, in the chair of J. The whole of the work was done in a most efficient and praiseworthy manner, especially when it is considered that this is the first time in the history of the chapter that each principal has installed his successor. The other officers were invested as follows: Comps. A. W. Fretwell, I.P.Z.; W. Langbridge, S.E.; C. E. Boomer, S.N.; F. J. Forth, Treas.; R. Brew, P.S.; J. W. Chapman, 1st A.S.; J. Constable, 2nd A.S.; and J. Mason, Janitor.

After the chapter was closed the companions partook of supper in the ante-room, when the usual Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

Red Cross of Rome & Constantine.

Premier Conclave.

A meeting of this old and distinguished conclave was held at Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C., on the 6th ult. Among those in attendance were Sir Knights J. Purrott, P.M.P.S., as M.P.S., in the unavoidable and regrettable absence through indisposition of Sir Knight Lawrence Steele; H. J. Lardner, P.M.P.S., P.G.C., Treas., as V.E.; E. P. Moore, J. General; Major T. C. Walls, P.M.P.S., P.G.G., Recorder; R. Barnes, Prelate; and Frater F. Reinardt, Sentinel.

The minutes of the previous conclave were read and confirmed. The Recorder announced that a meeting of the Grand Conclave of England and Wales would be held at the Mark Masons' Hall, on Monday, the 6th prox., when the Degrees of K.H.S. and St. John the Evangelist would be conferred upon duly qualified candidates. He believed that the work would be partly or wholly performed by the members of a well-known provincial conclave, and that the illustrious Grand Sovereign would preside. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Sir Knights the Rev. R. C. Fillingham, M.A., V.E. elect; H. Humphries, Orator; G. Graveley, P.M.P.S.; G. Powell, P.M.P.S.; T. G. Robinson, P.M.P.S.; and others. A vote of sympathy was passed and ordered to be entered on the minutes to E. Sir Knight George Powell, whose health for the time being has completely broken down. The conclave was then closed.

The banquet was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, and was well served.

The only toasts proposed were "The Queen and Christian Masonry;" "The Grand Sovereign;" and "The M.P.S."

The proceedings terminated at an early hour.

Ancient and Accepted Rite.

Mount Calvary Chapter, No. 3.

A meeting of this chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Golden-square, on the 10th ult. Among those present were Comps. James Speller, M.W.S.; A. W. Humphreys, Prelate; T. E. Biddlecombe, 1st General; Major A. E. Baldwin, 2nd General; H. J. Lardner, 30°, P.M.W.S., Treas.; Major T. C. Walls, P.M.W.S., Recorder; H. J. Adams, 30°, G.M.; H. Hills, 30°, Raphael; W. Bigg, Herald; Egbert Roberts, Asst. Org.; Dr. J. W. Hinton, M.A., Asst. Org.; F. W. Driver, M.A., P.M.W.S.; Lieut.-Col. F. J. Stohwasser, 30°, P.M.W.S.; and Dr. Victor Jagielski, P.M.W.S. Ex-Comp. C. Meirhoff was a visitor.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken on behalf of Bro. J. Vaughan-Sherrin, 1772, and he being in attendance was ably performed by the M.W.S. The ballot was also taken for W. Bro. Capt. H. J. Bertram, W.M. 569, but he was unavoidably prevented from attending. Communications regretting inability to attend were received from Bros. Capt. Dadson, 33°, Dr. E. M. Lott, 31°, Major J. E. Anderson, 31°, P.M.W.S.; G. Graveley, 30°, P.M.W.S.; L. Steele, 30°, P.M.W.S.; C. Slater, F. F. Bonney, J. M. Carrick, W. Fisher, the Rev. R. C. Fillingham, M.A., and others. The chapter was then closed.

The banquet was held at the Cafe Royal, Regent-street, W., and gave unqualified satisfaction.

Upon the removal of the cloth the customary toasts received full justice.

"The Health of the M.W." was given in fluent terms by the I.P.M.W.S. In the course of his speech he congratulated Ex-Bro. James Speller upon the highly creditable manner in which he had performed the ceremony of perfection that day.

The M.W.S., having briefly replied, gave the remaining toasts in quick succession. An agreeable feature of the proceedings was an excellent programme of vocal music under the management of Bro. Egbert Roberts.

The members adjourned at an early hour.

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

MASONIC MEETINGS (METROPOLITAN)

For the week ending Saturday, March 11, 1899

The Editor will be glad to receive notice from Secretaries for Craft Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, Mark Lodges, Rose Croix Chapters, Preceptories, Conclaves, &c., of any change in place, day, or month of meeting.

MONDAY, MARCH 6.

CRAFT LODGES.

12, Fortitude and Old Cumberland, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
25, Robert Burns, Freemasons' Hall.
72, Royal Jubilee, Anderson's Hotel.
188, Joppa, Freemasons' Tavern.
256, Unions, Freemasons' Hall.
1319, Asaph, Freemasons' Hall.
1321, Emblematic, Criterion.
1025, Tredegar, London Tavern.
1069, Royal Leopold, Surrey Masonic Hall.
1924, Wickham, St. Peter's Hall, Brockley.
2093, Harlesden, National Schools.
2342, Tyssen Amherst, Amherst Club House, Stoke Newington.
2335, Fellowship, Frascati Restaurant.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

97, Regularity, Freemasons' Hall.
1056, Victoria, Holborn Viaduct Hotel.
1891, St. Ambrose, St. James's Restaurant.
2108, Empire, Criterion.

MARK LODGE.

139, Panmure, Holborn Restaurant.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

131, Holy Sanctuary, 33, Golden-square.

LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.

Blackheath, Stirling Castle, Church-street, Camberwell, at 8.
Commemoration, Star and Garter, Arbour-square, Commercial road, E., at 8.
Cripplegate, Goldsmiths' Arms, Gutter-lane, at 6.30.
Dalhousie, Town Hall Tavern, High-street, Kensington, at 8.
Duke of Cornwall, Whittington Arms, Moor-lane, Fore-st., at 7.
Eleanor, Red Lion, High Road, Tottenham, at 8.
Euphrates, Ye Olde Greyhound, Balaam-st., Plaistow, E., at 7.30.
Friars, The White Horse, 94, White Horse-lane, Mile End-rd., E., at 8.
Hyd: Park, Prince of Wales Hotel, Eastbourne-terr., Bishop's-rd., Paddington, at 8.
Kingsland, Cock Tavern, Highbury, N., at 8.30.
La gia Italia, Restaurant, Fiumagalli, 12 and 13, Wilton Road, Victoria Station, S.W., at 9.
Marquess of Ripon, Weaver's Arms, London Wall, E.C., at 6.45.
Metropolitan, Moorgate Tavern, 15, Finsbury-pavement, at 7.30.
Neptune, Gauden Hotel, Clapham, S.W., at 7.30.
North London Chapter, Cock Hotel, Highbury, at 8.
Perseverance, Ridler's Hotel, Holborn, E.C., at 7.
Queen's Westminster, Criterion, Piccadilly, at 8.
Regent's Park, Frascati Restaurant, 39, Oxford-street, at 8.
Royal Arthur, Prince of Wales Hotel (opposite Wimbledon Railway Station), at 8.
Royal Commemoration, Railway Hotel, Putney, at 8.
Scots, Holborn Restaurant, Holborn, at 7.30.
St. James's Union, St. James's Restaurant (Piccadilly entrance).
St. Mark's, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New-road.
St. Michael's, Richmond Hotel, Shepherd's Bush Road, W., 8.
Sincerity, Blackwall Railway Hotel, Fenchurch-street, at 7.
South Norwood, Goat House Bridge Hotel, Penge-rd., at 8.
Stockwell, White Hart, Abchurch-lane, E.C., at 6.
Tyssen Amherst, Amherst Club, Amherst-rd., Rectory-rd., N., 7.30.
United Military, Earl of Chatham, Thomas-st., Woolwich, at 7.30.
Upton, Great Eastern Hotel, Bishopsgate-street, at 8.
Walthamstow, The Chequers, High-street, Walthamstow, at 8.
Wellington, New Cross House, New Cross, at 8.
Woodrow, Stone's, 24, Pantion-street, Haymarket, S.W., at 3.
Zetland, "The Falkland," Falkland-road, N.W., at 8.
Doric Chapter, Duke's Head, 79, Whitechapel-road, at 6.
Lewis Chapter, Fishmongers' Arms Hotel, Wood Green, N., at 8.
North London Chapter, Cock Tavern, Highbury, at 8.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7.

CRAFT LODGES.

6, Albion, Freemasons' Hall.
18, Old Dundee, Cannon-street Hotel.
101, Temple, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
166, Union, Criterion.
172, Old Concord, Freemasons' Hall.
217, Stability, Anderson's Hotel.
765, St. James', Bridge House Hotel.
1159, Marquis of Dalhousie, 33, Golden-square.
1257, Grosvenor, Freemasons' Hall.
1250, Duke of Edinburgh, Three Nuns Tavern.
1261, Golden Rule, Cafe Royal.
1301, Kennington, Horns Tavern.
397, Anerley, Clarence Hall.
472, Henley, Three Crowns, North Woolwich.
602, Beaconsfield, Lord Brooke Hotel, Walthamstow.
803, Cornhill, Cafe Monica.
128, United Northern Counties, Inns of Court Hotel.
150, Tivoli, Frascati Restaurant.
199, Savage Club, Freemasons' Hall.
398, Holborn, Holborn Restaurant.

SECRET MONITOR.

1, Premier, Holborn Restaurant.

LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.

Brixton, Prince Regent, Dulwich-road, Herne Hill, S.E., at 8.
Capper, City Arms, St. Mary Axe, at 6.
Clarence and Avondale, Green Man Hotel, Leytonstone, E., at 8.
Constitutional, "Apple Tree and Mitre," 30, Cursitor-street, Chancery-lane, W.C., at 7.
Chaucer, Grapes Tavern (Slee & Pike's), 121, Borough High street, at 8.
Corinthian, George Hotel, Cubitt Town, Poplar, at 8.
Croydon Lodge of Concord, King's Arms, Katherine-street, Croydon, at 8.
Dalhousie, Lord Truro, Dalston-lane, at 8.
Egyptian, Salutation, Newgate-street, at 7.
Emblematic, St. James's Restaurant, Piccadilly, at 8.
Enfield, Rose and Crown, Church-street, Edmonton, at 8.
Euphrates, Ye Old Greyhound, Balaam-street, Plaistow, E., at 7.30.
Excelsior Commercial Dock Tavern, Plough-road, Rotherhithe.
Faith, Fiumagalli Restaurant, Wilton-rd., Victoria Station, at 8.
Finsbury, The Bell Hotel, Old Bailey, at 7.
Florence Nightingale, M.H., William-street, Woolwich, and and 4th Tues., at 7.30.
Hendon, Railway Hotel, West Hampstead, N.W., at 8.
Islington, Cock Tavern, Highbury, at 7.30.
Joppa, "The Moorgate," 15, Finsbury Pavement, E.C., at 7.30.
Kensington, Town Hall Tavern, High-street, Kensington, at 8.
Kirby, Midland G and Hotel, St. Pancras Station, at 7.30.
Mount Edgcombe, Buckingham Arms, Newington Causeway, S.E., at 7.30.
Nelson, Star and Garter, Powis-street, Woolwich, at 8.
New Cross, Chester Arms, Albany-street, N.W., at 8.
New Finsbury Park, Hornsey Wood Tav., Finsbury Park, at 8.
Pythagorean, Portland Hotel, Greenwich, at 8.
Richmond, Station Hotel, Richmond, at 8.30.
Robert Burns, Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, W.

Rose of Denmark, Brunswick House, Wandsworth-road, at 8.
South Middlesex, Beaufort House, Walham Green, S.W., at 7.30.
St. Kew, Masonic Hall, Weston-super-Mare, at 8.
St. Leonard's, Bedford Hotel, Victoria Park-road, South Hackney, at 8.
Southwark, White Hart Hotel, New Cross Gate, at 8.
Wandsworth, St. Mark's School-room, Battersea Rise, S.W., at 8.
Westbourne, Oliver Arms, Westbourne-terrace North, Harrow-road, at 8.
Yarborough, Mitre Tavern, Fish-street-hill, E.C., at 7.30.
Camden Chapter, The Moorgate, Moorgate-street, at 8.
Metropolitan Chapter, Eastcheap Restaurant, Eastcheap, at 6.30.
Kinore Mark Lodge, Stirling Castle Hotel, Camberwell Green, S.E., at 8.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 8.

Committee Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at 4.

CRAFT LODGES.

11, Enoch, Freemasons' Hall.
13, Union Waterloo, Freemasons' Hall, Plumstead.
15, Kent, Freemasons' Hall.
87, Vitruvian, Bridge House Hotel.
136, Good Report, Albion Tavern.
147, Justice, Ship Hotel, Greenwich.
548, Wellington, Cannon-street Hotel.
749, Belgrave, Anderson's Hotel.
1228, Benevolence, Guildhall Tavern.
1639, United, Freemasons' Hall.
1769, St. Leonard, Great Eastern Hotel.
1815, Penge, Clarence Hall.
1827, Alliance, Guildhall Tavern.
1964, Clerkenwell, Holborn Viaduct Hotel.
1986, Honor Oak, White Swan Hotel, Upper Norwood.
2362, Bloomsbury Rifles, Head-quarters, Lennox-street.
2470, Telegraph Cable, Hotel Cecil.
2484, Second Middlesex Artillery, Freemasons' Hall.
2528, Lancastrian, Frascati Restaurant.
2697, St. Michael-le-Querne, Holborn Restaurant.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

1260, John Hervey, Holborn Restaurant.
1446, Mount Edgcombe, Great Eastern Hotel.
1615, Canterbury, 33, Golden-square.
1900, Montague Guest, Inns of Court Hotel.

MARK LODGE.

415, Grafton, Blanchard's Restaurant.

ROSE CROIX.

14, Belgrave, 33, Golden-square.

LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.

Belgrave, The Woolpack, Moorgate-street, at 7.
Bromley St. Leonard, Bromley Vestry Hall, Bow-road, at 8.
City of Westminster, Cafe Royal, "B" Room, at 8.
Confidence, Bunch of Grapes, 14, Lime-street, E.C., at 7.
Creighton, Bush Hotel, Shepherd's Bush, W., at 8.
Crusaders, The St. John's Gate Tavern, St. John-square, Clerkenwell, at 8.30.
Derby Allcroft, Midland Grand Hotel, at 8.
Doric, Moorgate Tavern, Moorgate-street, at 8.
Duke of Connaught, Royal Edward Hotel, Triangle, Hackney, 8.
Earl of Lathom, Station Tavern, Camberwell New-road, S.E., 8.
Fidelity, Castle Hotel, 81, Holloway-road, N., at 8.
Gallery, Press Club, Wine Office-court, Fleet-street, at 7.
Guelph, Plough and Harrow, Leytonstone-road, E., at 8.
Langthorne, Angel Hotel, Ilford, at 8.
La Tolerance, Frascati Restaurant, 32, Oxford-street, at 8.
Londesborough, Criterion, Piccadilly, at 8.
London Scottish Rifles, Albert Hotel, Victoria-street, S.W., 8.30.
Merchant Navy, Town Hall, Limehouse, at 7.30.
Mitcham, Vestry Hall, Mitcham, at 8.
Mount Lebanon, Foresters' Arms, 204, Boro' High-street, at 8.
New Concord, Farleigh Hotel, Amherst-road, N., at 8.
Panmure, Balham Hotel, Balham, at 7.30.
Plucknett, Railway Hotel, Finchley, at 7.45.
Prosperity, The Whittington, 5 & 7 Moor-lane, Fore-st., at 7.
Royal Jubilee, the Crown, Lambeth-road, S.E., at 8.
Royal Oak, Lord Clyde, Wotton-road, Deptford, at 8.
Royal Savoy, Earl Russell, 2 Pancras-road, King's Cross, at 8.
Royal Savoy, Prince of Wales, Hampstead-road, at 8.
St. Leonard, Prince of Wales Hotel, Bishop's-rd., Victoria Pl., 8.
Southgate, Railway Hotel, New Southgate, at 8.
Strong Man, Blue Anchor, 164, Fenchurch-street, E.C., at 6.30.
Temperance-in-the-East, Greenwich Pensioner, Bow-lane, Poplar, at 7.30.
United Mariners, Duke of Albany, Kitto-road, Nunhead, at 7.30.
United Strength, Hope Tavern, Stanhope-st., Euston-road, at 8.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9.

CRAFT LODGES.

19, Royal Athelstan, Cannon-street Hotel.
91, Regularity, Freemasons' Hall.
206, Friendship, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
238, Pilgrim, Freemasons' Hall.
203, Bank of England, Albion Tavern.
534, Polish National, Freemasons' Hall.
860, Dalhousie, Anderson's Hotel.
879, Southwark, Bridge House Hotel.
1076, Capper, Guildhall Tavern.
1471, Islington, Cock Tavern.
1599, Skelmersdale, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
1642, Earl of Carnarvon, Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill.
1738, Plucknett, Woodside Hall, North Finchley.
1791, Creighton, Freemasons' Hall.
1820, Sir Thomas White, Cafe Royal.
1987, Strand, Criterion.
2033, University of London, Freemasons' Hall.
2090, Hammersmith, Vestry Hall.
2108, Derby Allcroft, Midland Grand Hotel.
217, Bolingbroke, Municipal Buildings, Lavender Hill.
2509, Barnet, Assembly Rooms.
2523, Roll Call, Oddfellows' Hall, Hounslow.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

65, Prosperity, Guildhall Tavern.
72, Royal Jubilee, Anderson's Hotel.
907, Royal Albert, White Hart Tavern, Abchurch-lane.

ORDER OF SECRET MONITOR.

29, Earl of Warwick, Great Eastern Hotel.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10.

CRAFT LODGES.

33, Britannic, Freemasons' Hall.
134, Caledonian, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
157, Bedford, Freemasons' Hall.
177, Domestic, Anderson's Hotel.
780, Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge.
1201, Eclectic, Freemasons' Hall.
1602, Sir Hugh Myddelton, Agricultural Hall.
1704, Anchor, Cafe Royal.
1907, John Carpenter, Albion Tavern.
2109, Ordnance, Freemasons' Hall, Plumstead.
2552, Stoke Newington, Assembly Rooms.
2593, Hugh Owen, Frascati Restaurant.
2693, Commemoration, Holborn Restaurant.

MARK LODGE.

431, Hibernia, Mark Masons' Hall.

RED CROSS.

129, Tuscan, Mark Masons' Hall.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11.

CRAFT LODGES.

108, London, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
173, Phoenix, Freemasons' Hall.
176, Caveac, Albion Tavern.
1328, Granite, Holborn Restaurant.
1426, Great City, Cannon-street Hotel.
1607, Loyalty, London Tavern.
1686, Paxton, Surrey Masonic Hall.
1743, Perseverance, Anderson's Hotel.
1839, Duke of Cornwall, Holborn Restaurant.
2029, King Solomon, Freemasons' Hall.
2206, Hendon, Midland Grand Hotel.
2599, Engineer, 33, Golden-square.
2664, Hygeia, Holborn Restaurant.
2630, Alfred Newton, Queensgate Hall, S. Kensington.

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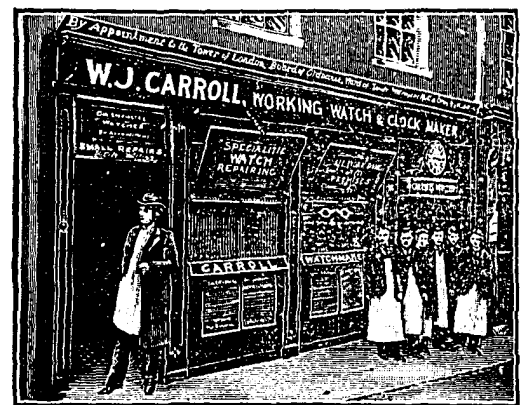
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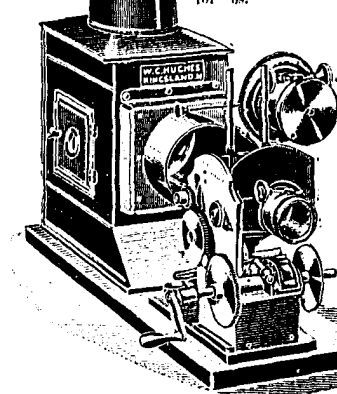
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Masonic and General Tidings.

THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution will hold their regular monthly meeting at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 8th inst., at 4 p.m.

MR. CHOATE, the American Ambassador to Great Britain, arrived at Southampton at four o'clock on Wednesday from New York.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of Provincial Grand Chapter of East Lancashire will be held in the Freemasons' Hall, Bolton, on the 29th inst.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK, attended by Sir Charles Cust, R.N., on Tuesday evening returned to York House, St. James's Palace, from Portsmouth.

THE ARCHDEACON OF LONDON, P.G.C., will be Canon-in-Residence at St. Paul's Cathedral during March, and will preach on Sunday afternoons at the 3.15 service. All seats are free.

THE DUCHESS OF FIFE concluded her visit to H.R.H. the Princess of Wales at Sandringham on Tuesday and returned to London. The Duke met her Royal Highness upon her arrival at St. Pancras in the afternoon.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, Grand Prior of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, has nominated Bro. Earl Egerton of Tatton to the office of Chancellor, vacant by the death of the Earl of Lathom.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, attended by the Hon. Sydney Greville, C.B., his new Equerry, left Charing Cross for the South of France at 11 o'clock on Thursday. His Royal Highness was accompanied to the station by the Duke of York.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, attended by Bro. Captain Holford, Sir Dighton Probyn, V.C., and Bro. Sir Francis Knollys, reached St. Pancras on Monday evening from Newmarket, and drove to Marlborough House, where his Royal Highness remained for the few days preceding his departure for the South of France.

WELSH RESIDENTS in the Metropolis assembled in great numbers at St. Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday, where was held the eighth annual National Festival on the eve of St. David's Day. An energetic committee, of which Bro. Sir John Puleston was Chairman, and Mr. R. A. Lloyd Organising Secretary, had charge of the arrangements, and a large number of stewards, both English and Welsh, assisted in carrying them out.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION.—At the annual meeting of the City of London Branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, held at the Mansion House on Wednesday, it was announced that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales had consented to preside at a Festival Dinner to be held in May next in aid of the Lifeboat Saturday Fund, with which the City Committee is associated.

BROS. THE EARL OF ONSLOW, Colonel T. Davies Sewell, and J. E. Smith, F.S.A., as well as other brethren associated with them, may be sincerely congratulated on their unflagging endeavours during the last two years to secure for Westminster the benefit of Incorporation. The ancient City will now be able to revive some of the traditions attached to a district so replete with places of old-world interest and incidents fitting thereto. It is already pretty well understood that its first Mayor will be one of the leading inhabitants, and in this connection the Duke of Westminster naturally comes first.

THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY have again issued a handy little book containing a list of the principal Agricultural Shows, Cattle, Sheep, and Horse Fairs, Racing Fixtures, Dog and Poultry, &c., Shows for 1899. Copies can be obtained gratis of the Company's Agents in the various towns, or on enclosing stamp for postage to the Superintendent of the Line, Great Northern Railway, King's Cross Station. A card list of the principal Agricultural Shows to be held during 1899 has also been prepared, and may be obtained gratis of the various Agents of the Company, or on enclosing stamp for postage to Mr. F. Elliott, Chief Goods Manager's Office, Great Northern Railway, King's Cross.

SOUTH AFRICAN SHARES.—There are signs of an approaching mining boom in the shares of Matabeleland Rhodesian Companies since the surprising possibilities attaching to these shares received another illustration in a cablegram just to hand announcing a sensational discovery on one of these properties, the reef being stated to give 17½ ounces of gold to the ton. The shares of Matabele Mines have risen to over £3 10s., and those of Matabele Gold Reefs to over £9 within the last week. Taylor's Matabele Goldfields £1 shares, before the slump which took place in mining shares in 1895 were selling at over £2 15s. per share. On the company's "Battery Reef" there are very extensive old workings, and on this property a shaft has been sunk to the depth of 35 feet, exposing a reef of more than 4 feet in width, and panning well over two ounces of gold to the ton. These shares are now selling on the London Stock Exchange at under their par value, and as they have raised all the additional working capital they require, and own some of the most valuable gold properties in Matabeleland, close to where the latest strike of 17½ ounces of gold to the ton has been made, those in the know have been quietly picking up the shares at their present low prices, and say they expect to see the price of the shares of Taylor's Matabele Goldfields in the near future standing at as many pounds as they are now shillings.

THE NEWSVENDORS' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—Bro. H. B. Marshall, M.A., C.C., presided on Tuesday, the 28th ult., at the Memorial Hall, over the 60th annual general meeting of the Newsvendors' Benevolent and Provident Institution. The report read by Bro. Wilkie Jones, the Secretary, stated that the past year had been one of exceptional prosperity for the Institution. The annual subscriptions had been considerably in excess of those of any previous year, and the donations had enabled the Committee to invest a sum of £1156 11s. 6d. The Committee regretted the loss by death of their late Secretary, Mr. W. W. Jones. In consequence of the concessions made by Bro. H. B. Marshall, it was added, the Committee had been able to resume control of the Horace Marshall Pension Fund, under a rule which would be submitted to the meeting, and which had already been approved by the Registrar of Friendly Societies. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, warmly congratulated the members on the position of the Charity. He regretted, however, that more members of the trade were not members of the Institution. In conclusion, Bro. Marshall announced that the Earl of Rosebery had consented to preside at the next annual festival. On the motion of Mr. P. Terry, seconded by Mr. Knight, votes of thanks were passed to the Patron, Lord Rosebery, and the Presidents, Bro. Lord Glenesk and Sir Richmond Cotton, for their support of the Institution. The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman for his kindness in presiding.

Freemasonry as an Ethical Religion.

ON SUNDAY MORNING NEXT,
DR. WASHINGTON SULLIVAN
WILL LECTURE

AT
Steinway Hall, Lower Seymour St., Portman Sq.,
AT 11.15,
On 'Freemasonry as an Ethical Religion.'

GEORGE BRIGGS, P.M., P.Z., C.C. (Hon. Treas.),
15, Highbury Grove, N.

THE DUCHESS OF ABERCORN has left Hampden House for Baron's Court, County Tyrone.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERRY left Victoria by the nine a.m. boat express train on Tuesday morning for the Continent.

BARONESS BURDETT-COUTTS has arrived at Stratton-street from Worthing. Bro. Burdett-Coutts, M.P., left Corsica on Sunday, on his way home.

BRO. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH has arranged to deliver his inaugural address as Lord Rector of Edinburgh University, on Tuesday, the 14th instant.

THE DATE fixed for the opening of the Grand Central Railway to general traffic is the 9th instant. The President of the Board of Trade is to take the leading part in the ceremonial.

THE TREASURER of St. Thomas's Hospital has received a donation of £1000 from "G.R." for the endowment of a surgical bed "In Memoriam." This is the fourth bed endowed by this generous benefactor.

THE COUNTESS OF STRAFFORD arrived at the Castle on Friday last, and had the honour of being presented to the Queen by the Dowager Lady Churchill. The Countess of Stafford is remaining at the Castle.

BRO. SIR MATTHEW WHITE RIDLEY, the Home Secretary, has appointed Capt. Josceline F. Bagot, M.P., to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary (unpaid), in the place of Mr. W. Bromley-Davenport, M.P., resigned.

THE DUCHESS OF YORK has given her patronage to the Hungarian Village Festival, which will be held on April 27th, 28th, and 29th, in aid of the Hungarian Association of Benevolence, at the Portman Rooms, Baker-street.

ON THE OCCASION of the visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to the Hackney Show, on Tuesday, afternoon, between 3.30 and 4 p.m., there was a parade of the prize-winning stallions in those classes which had been judged earlier in the day.

BRO. THE EARL OF STRAFFORD, who remains at Windsor Castle, is progressing satisfactorily, and it is expected that he will be able to leave the Palace in a few days. The Countess of Stafford and Lady Susan Byng are still with him.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, in addition to her annual subscription of 10 guineas has been pleased to give a donation of 25 guineas to the Clergy Orphan Corporation, in connection with the fund now being raised to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Clergy Orphan Schools.

THE NEW LABORATORIES in connection with the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, we understand, are now completed, and are equipped with all the best modern appliances for the purpose of instruction and original research. A conversazione will be held on the evening of the 15th inst., in the new buildings, when many objects of interest will be exhibited.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES, Princess Victoria of Wales, and Princess Charles of Denmark came to London on Wednesday morning, and left in the afternoon for Windsor on a visit to the Queen. The date on which their Royal Highnesses leave to join the Royal yacht Osborne in the Mediterranean is not yet fixed, but it will probably be towards the middle of next week.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES was present on Saturday morning last at a meeting of the Standing Committee (Natural History) of the Trustees of the British Museum, and afterwards presided at a general meeting of the Trustees. His Royal Highness, attended by Bro. Captain Holford and Sir Francis Knollys, left Marlborough House in the afternoon for Sandringham. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Louise Duchess of Fife, Princess Victoria, and Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark, attended by the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Household, were present at Divine service at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, in the Park, on Sunday morning.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE presided at the annual meeting of Governors of Queen Charlotte's Hospital on Monday, the 27th ult., when the following, among others, were also present: The Rev. Sir Falbot H. B. Baker, Bart., Capt. N. Gilpin, Dr. W. S. A. Griffith, Col. H. B. Hamilton, Mr. F. W. Hunt, Major W. McMahon, and Mr. R. Martin. The report stated that during the year 1112 patients had been delivered in the hospital, and 1070 at their own homes. The expenditure had amounted to £4123 11s. 11d., and the ordinary income to £3501 17s. 1d. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's Fund had made a grant of £300 to the Hospital and £50 to the Convalescent Home. The enlargement of the Hospital was nearing completion, and the new Nurses' Home would be opened about Midsummer. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, made an urgent appeal for contributions towards the £7000 still needed for the works to the Hospital and the new Nurses' Home.

THE GUILDHALL CRICKET CLUB.—The members of the Guildhall Cricket and Athletic Club assembled in large numbers on Friday, the 24th ult., at the Guildhall Tavern on the occasion of their annual smoking concert. Bro. H. Homewood Crawford (the President) occupied the chair, and was supported, among others, by Bro. Sir John B. Monckton (the late President), Mr. Alderman Truscott, Mr. J. H. Batty, C.C., Mr. F. S. Jackson (the Registrar of the Lord Mayor's Court), Bro. Col. T. Davies Sewell (the Treasurer), Mr. C. F. Crawford, Mr. W. S. Singer, Mr. P. O. Pickering, Mr. A. Stannier, Mr. E. R. Hornblower (the late Secretary), Mr. C. J. Lungley (the Hon. Secretary), and Mr. J. L. Douthwaite. It was appropriate that at such a gathering some recognition should be made of the services rendered by the late President to the club during the many years he had occupied that position, and the President asked Sir John to accept on behalf of the members a handsomely-embazoned and framed vote of thanks, and, in addition, an album containing the signatures of the members. The address was as follows: "At the annual general meeting of the members of the Guildhall Cricket and Athletic Club, held at the Guildhall on May 4th, it was resolved unanimously: That the resignation of the President, Sir John Braddick Monckton, F.S.A., Town Clerk of the City of London, be received with sincere regret. His acceptance of office 13 years since laid the foundation of the club's prosperity, and individually the members gratefully acknowledge that his constant presence among them brought with it the invaluable influence of a thorough gentleman and a true sportsman, and so conducted year by year to increasing good-fellowship throughout the club. The club are assured that nothing but the pleasantest memories will surround his presidency, and in the firm belief that he will continue to take a lively interest in their welfare, the members trust he will accept the heartiest expression of esteem and gratitude of those whose pleasures he has ever promoted." The presentation was made to the accompaniment of loud cheers, with which Sir John was again greeted on rising to accept the gifts. In a genial and amusing speech the late President thanked the members for their kindness. The musical portion of the entertainment was then proceeded with.

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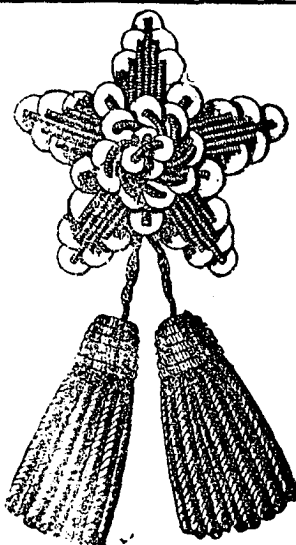
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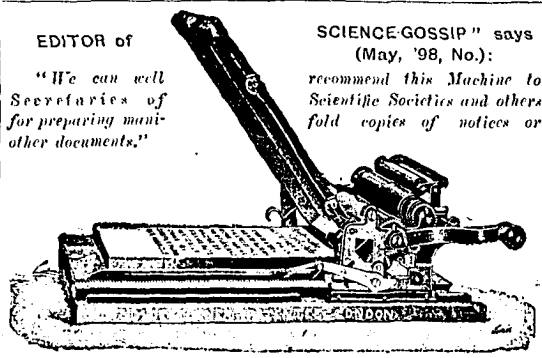
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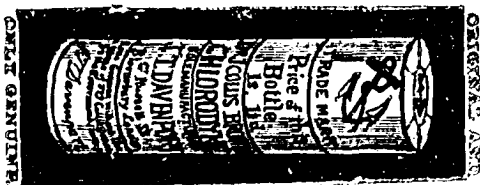
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This caution is necessary, as many persons deceive purchasers by false representations.

DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE.—Vice-Chancellor Sir W. PAGE WOOD stated publicly in Court that Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE was UNDOUBTEDLY the INVENTOR of CHLORODYNE, that the whole story of the defendant Freeman was deliberately untrue, and he regretted to say it had been sworn to.—See The Times, July 13th, 1884.

DIARRHOEA, DYSENTERY. GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH, LONDON, report that it ACTS as a CHARM, one dose generally sufficient.

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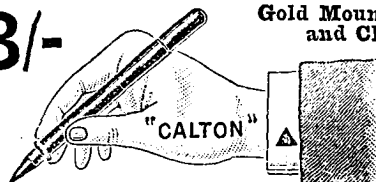
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LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

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ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ending 31st December, 1898.

Presented at the Thirty-Fifth Annual General Meeting, held at the Offices of the Company, London Bridge, City, E.C., Friday, February 17th, 1899.

The Directors are once more able to make the gratifying announcement that the progress of the Company during the past year has been greater than any they have previously recorded, notwithstanding the fact that for five months during the year the business was partly paralysed in one of the largest Divisions by the South Wales trade disturbance. The Company's operations are now of such magnitude that even a grave struggle such as this has been, with its far reaching consequences, is not sufficient to stem the tide of the Company's progress. The Directors think that the following figures will be more eloquent than words in illustrating the Company's advance during the past three years:—

		Premiums.		Funds.
1896	... ..	£485,029	... ..	£593,459
1897	... ..	£540,928	... ..	£697,870
1898	... ..	£622,782	... ..	£813,108

In the ORDINARY BRANCH the Premium Income for 1898 amounted to £63,881, being an increase of £11,492 over that of the previous year. The Funds amount to £190,843, shewing an addition for the year of £44,953.

The Premiums on New Policies issued during the year amount to £22,961 8s. 8d., assuring the sum of £555,977.

By virtue of the new methods of weekly classification of statistics referred to last year, Mr. Rea, the Company's Actuary, was enabled immediately after the close of the books to complete the valuation of the whole of the Company's business, with results that reveal a surplus of

IN THE ORDINARY BRANCH	... ..	£18,336
„ INDUSTRIAL BRANCH	... ..	£113,737
		<u>£132,073</u>

The Directors recommend that the sum of £118,402 10s. 0d. be carried forward, leaving £13,670 10s. 0d. to be divided as a bonus among the participating Policy-holders and Shareholders.

INCOME.

The total income for the year amounted to £652,820 3s. 11d., being an increase of £87,581 11s. 6d. over that of last year.

PREMIUMS (DECEMBER, 1898).

The Premium Income on the policies in force on the Company's books, including 809,582 new policies issued during the year, amounted to £717,528 0s. 7d.

CLAIMS.

The Company has paid 34,913 Life Claims, Grants, and Matured Endowments during the year, amounting, with Bonuses to £222,834 13s. 8d., which, added to the sums previously paid in claims since the establishment of the Company, make a total of £2,187,398 15s. 8d.

ASSURANCE FUNDS.

The Life Assurance Fund, with capital paid up, now amounts to £833,562 0s. 7d., showing an increase for the year of £115,237 12s. 5d.

The Directors heartily thank the staff of the Company for the continual care, zeal, and ability with which they have devoted their time and attention to the Company's interest during the year.

By Order, **P. J. FOLEY,**
Managing Director.

See Reports and Opinions of the Press as to the remarkable progress made by the Company. Wanted, additional representatives in all districts. To good business men liberal terms and certain success. Apply to the Managing Director, at the Chief Office, Adelaide Buildings, London Bridge, City, E.C.