

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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DISPENSATIONS TO WEAR MASONIC CLOTHING.

We are not surprised that our Grand Lodge authorities should have at length set their faces against the growing custom which, of late years, has found favour with the lodges, of applying for dispensations to wear Masonic clothing at gatherings to which the general public are able to obtain admission. No one can have watched the proceedings of the Craft during the last quarter of a century without noticing the marked difference of feeling that has come upon the brethren in this particular respect. Formerly, the laying the foundation stone of some building of public utility, or of one to be devoted to pious, charitable, or kindred purposes, with the attendance at Divine service of a Provincial Grand Lodge on the day of its annual meeting, and now and again a ball or a concert in aid of a Masonic Charitable Institution, were about the only occasions on which it was considered fitting that the necessary dispensation for brethren to wear their Masonic clothing and other insignia in the presence of non-Masons, should be applied for, and the authorities were invariably ready and willing to grant the application. But of late years lodges have exhibited a steadily increasing tendency towards another kind of Masonic display, and quite a number of them have for years adopted the practice of inviting ladies and non-Masons to an annual banquet, ball, or concert, at which, having previously sought and obtained the sanction of the authorities, the members appear in all the glory of full-blown Masons. There is, too, we regret to say, a still more reprehensible habit, which has been adopted by local bodies. Knowing full well how attractive is the sight of a more or less numerous array of Masons wearing their regalia, these bodies approach the local lodge or lodges with the request that the members will attend what is commonly called a Masonic Service at this or that church or chapel, or be present at some public function, in order that the incumbent or local authorities may the better be enabled to raise the funds required for a new steeple to the church or chapel, or for establishing a new dispensary. Our lodges have generally shown a kindly disposition towards furthering these local objects, and the authorities have as invariably given the necessary

permission for them to attend as Masons. But we cannot conceal from ourselves the fact that this kind of invitation is addressed to us, not from any special feeling of love and respect for our Order, but from the belief that the local public will be the more ready to contribute to the proposed object, if something in the way of an attraction is offered as an inducement to contribution. Doubtless, there are those who will say that this is an uncomplimentary view to take of these public displays of Masonry, but however unpalatable the view may be, it is the true one. This inducement to contribute cannot, of course, be held out to the brethren, who, moreover, are, for the most part, men of influence, and would give according to their means to any object intended for the general good; nor does it detract from the kindness of the brethren that they should thus good-naturedly take part in these displays to promote a worthy object, but it cannot add to the dignity of Freemasonry that it should be made use of for purposes of mere public display.

At all events, when formerly the occasions on which Masonic bodies were seen in public as Masons, were restricted to the ceremonies of laying foundation and memorial stones of churches, hospitals, and, speaking generally, of buildings of recognised public utility; to the attendance of Provincial Grand Lodges once a year at divine service; or for the purpose of our Charitable Institutions, no objection was or could be raised, and the applications for permission to wear Masonic clothing were granted as soon as made. But the practice of applying for such permission on occasions when no special purpose is served and the pleasure of the non-Masonic guests or visitors will be as great without the display of collars, aprons, and jewels as with it, has grown to inordinate lengths and it will be seen from a circular addressed by the Grand Secretary to the Worshipful Masters of lodges on the subject, that the advisers of his Royal Highness the M.W. Grand Master are of opinion that "the wearing of Masonic Clothing and Regalia both at Religious Services in Churches and at places of entertainment when ladies and others who are not Masons are present is not calculated to increase the dignity of the Order or to raise it in the estimation of those who have not been admitted to its secrets and mysteries." They desire it to be understood that they have no desire "to discourage the meeting of brethren, either for religious worship or on occasions of their extending hospitality to those who are not members of the Order." Their sole object is "to check the exhibition in public of a costume intended to be worn only in private during the performance of Masonic Rites and Ceremonies."

THE CRAFT IN GREATER BRITAIN.

(COMMUNICATED).

I. INDIA.

In the following survey of Freemasonry in Greater Britain there are two important reasons why it will be found more convenient to discuss Freemasonry in our great Eastern Dependency apart from our other Colonies. One of these is that India is in closer touch with the old country and her relations with it are more continuous, and the other is, that in India, there is a vast alien population, which, nominally comprising British subjects, differs in creed, social ethics, customs, manners, and every other important particular, from the dominant race. It may safely be said that in course of time every one of the other colonies in which the Craft flourishes, will be governed by a Grand Lodge of its own. In India this will probably never be the case.

Nearly every European in India has only gone out to that country for a period, and looks forward to retiring on a pension after, say, 25 years' service. He may be engaged in mercantile pursuits or in one of the departments of the public service, but in nine cases out of ten he has come to the country under a covenant with his employers, which not only provides for the pension aforesaid, but also guarantees him periods of furlough at regular intervals, which are usually employed in visiting England. There is, therefore, practically a continued and uninterrupted stream of communication between English and Indian brethren. Moreover, Indian interests are always well represented at court, if we may thus designate Grand Lodge. The retired Indian brother has generally nothing to do but draw his pension, and the reports of Grand Lodge proceedings show that his claim to sit and speak in Grand Lodge is by no means an idle one. At the moment of writing, there is a goodly array of Past District Grand Masters, whose presence may be relied upon to adorn successive communications of Grand Lodge and whose voices are regularly uplifted in debate. Thousands of English brethren never dream of attending Grand Lodge and are ignorant of their right to do so. Not so the Indian brother. Whatever other interest he takes in the Craft he is sure to turn up at Grand Lodge when he is at home on leave, if he be qualified to attend. And when he returns to the land of his temporary exile he is full of reminiscences of the courteous and fraternal manner in which he was received. For this reason the Craft in India is well governed. The various District Grand Masters know their work, receiving as they do periodic inspiration from head-quarters. Very few appeals come before Grand Lodge in which they are concerned, and very few indeed are the appeals which succeed.

Let us now look at the alien brother. The admission of non-Christians to the Order was officially recognised years ago, and, therefore, we cannot go back upon it now. But the Hindu brother is a problem. He is constructed on a different plane from the European, and possesses a distinctly different set of ideas. Very often his chief motive in seeking admission to the Order is one of curiosity. When that is sated he ceases to attend meetings, and his interest declines when he finds it differs from his pre-conceived ideas. There are brilliant exceptions, especially in the north of India, and these brethren readily admit that, up to the present, the Hindu brother is not an ideal Freemason. We are at the same time bound to say that his treatment by his European brother is not always what it should be. Unless he is a very exceptional person his career generally stops short of the chair; and in more than one lodge it is perfectly understood among the European members that, whilst such natives as are already members shall be tolerated as long as they confine themselves to the floor of the lodge, any native candidate shall be blackballed. Some of this feeling is due to the difficulty of assimilation that will always exist between Eastern and Western races, and much more of it is due to the impossibility of knowing exactly what value the Brahman places on the S.O. The S.O. not only refers to the secrecy of the Institution, but includes many moral precepts. The system is based on the "practice of every moral and social virtue," and, so far, it is collateral with the Christian religion. That is, the one helps the other. But the Hindu religion is very far indeed from either moral or social virtue, as understood by the Christian, and Freemasonry comes to him, not as enforcing a set of maxims which have been familiar to him from his youth up, but as teaching him something quite novel. Hence we say the Hindu brother is a problem.

A very interesting feature of the Craft in India is the extent to which the existence of a lodge is very often dependent on the activity of one brother. In an ordinary up-country station the population is migratory to an extent unknown in England. The local bank manager is generally transferred to a distant branch after a couple of years. The Civil servants are transferred sometimes at intervals of a few months, and the same may be said of all public servants, from the Colonel or the Collector down to the Forest Officer and the *Padre*. Nearly the whole membership of a lodge may be changed within three months, and, therefore, the history and the reputation and everything else the lodge possesses fall sooner or later into the safe keeping of any influential brother whose duties keep him on the spot for any length of time. If that brother be a skilful Mason the interests of the Craft are, of course, conserved; if not, his influence still dominates the lodge and the reputation of the Craft suffers.

In India sister Constitutions work side by side. The various lodges drink to the health and success of the Constitutions concerned, with enthusiasm, and lose no opportunity of dwelling with emphasis on the harmony with which they work side by side. One is inclined to ask of what nature is that unity and harmony which needs so much public attention being drawn to

it. In Hyderabad, for instance, there are three English and two Scotch Lodges, one of the latter being formed of Muhammadan members only, and working in the Hindustani language. At Bombay the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and the District Grand Lodge of Bombay work side by side, and are jointly responsible for the building of a handsome Masonic hall recently opened.

The Masonic loafer is well developed in India. He will turn up in Madras in the possession of certificates which appear to show that he has just come, say, from New Zealand, and is on his way to find work in Patagonia, and is just short of the money to pay his railway fare to Bombay *en route*. A European in distress in India is a very pitiable sight, and the misery of the situation is not qualified by any question as to whose is the fault. Better, they say, to be deceived a dozen times rather than run the risk of sending away one deserving case unrelieved—and so the loafer flourishes.

The Parsis are an honourable exception to the remarks made above about native brethren. Ordinarily the Parsi would not describe himself as a "native." As a Freemason he flourishes exceedingly, and is in every case an ornament to the Order. He will very often be found discharging the duties of District Grand Treasurer. He generally possesses a thorough knowledge of ritual, and his conception of the Order is the highest possible.

(To be continued).

A REMARKABLE WORK.

The firm of "The Hunter, Rose, Co.," of Toronto, have just printed, bound, and published, the volume of "The History of Freemasonry in Canada, from its Introduction in 1749 to 1899," by M.W. Bro. J. ROSS ROBERTSON, P.G.M., of the G. Lodge of Canada. It is an extraordinary book, and its deeply interesting and instructive character is maintained from the first page to the end (some 2000 pages), and it is so lavishly illustrated that even the index to the latter occupies 14 pages, these being valuable aids to the understanding of the text. The volume is divided into LXXIX chapters.

It is simply impossible to do justice even to the chief characteristics of this noble and remarkable work in a brief notice such as this is intended to be, for even a more pretentious and extended review could only touch the fringe of the subject, as the author has not only provided for his readers a general history of the Craft, and a complete account of Freemasonry in the Province of Upper Canada, now Ontario, covering the period 1740 to 1899, but several of the chapters are devoted to an ably condensed digest of the geographical and political divisions of British North America and of Upper Canada; early Colonial currency is very ably treated, heraldry generally and specifically described in relation to the arms of Masonry, the Mason's Co., the Grand Lodge of England, Canada, &c., and, in fact, the whole subject of the origin and history of the Craft is both skilfully and entertainingly described, so that our Canadian brethren in particular, and the Craft in general, can now procure and study a most valuable and carefully-condensed History, the like of which, for any single Grand Lodge mainly, has neither been attempted nor accomplished hitherto.

In not a few respects, this most artistic production contains much that will be new and most acceptable to English readers; many of the illustrations we in this country have long wanted, and now, thanks to one of the most indefatigable and painstaking of authors, we have, such as views of the Masons' Hall, Basinghall-street (interior and exterior); several of the large Companies' Halls in which the Grand Lodge of England assembled early last century; the "Goose and Gridiron Tavern" (since demolished) in several pictures, and also several valuable Portraits.

The facsimile reproductions of Certificates, Warrants, and other documents from 1761 are most welcome features of this colossal volume, and all I can now do is to express my warm appreciation of its conspicuous merits, and congratulate the author, Bro. J. Ross Robertson, on its advent. More particulars should follow ere long.

W. J. HUGHAN.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The following is the business to be transacted on Wednesday next, the 7th instant:

1. The minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 1st March for confirmation.
2. The minutes of the Grand Festival of the 26th April for confirmation.

3. Appointment and investiture of President of the Board of General Purposes.

4. Election of members of the Board of General Purposes.

5. Election of Grand Lodge Auditor.

6. Election of members for the Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons.

7. Report of the Board of Benevolence for the past quarter, in which are recommendations for the following grants:

A brother of the Chorlton Lodge, No. 1387, Chorlton-cum-Hardy	£50 0 0
A brother of the Wanderers Lodge, No. 1604, London	50 0 0
A brother of the Lodge of Israel, No. 205, London	50 0 0
A brother of the St. Cecilia Lodge, No. 1636, Brighton	150 0 0
A brother of the Loyalty Lodge, No. 243, Guernsey	60 0 0
The widow of a brother of the Highgate Lodge, No. 1366, London	50 0 0
A brother of the Royal Union Lodge, No. 382, Uxbridge	50 0 0

8. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.
To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

The Board begs to report that, in consequence of the property in Wild-court, recently purchased by Grand Lodge, being included in the schedule of "the London Improvements' Bill," it became necessary to present a petition to Parliament against the Bill, and the Board is happy to report that, on representations made to the Committee by the counsel engaged, it was arranged to insert in the Bill a clause providing that the London County Council should not under the powers of the Act acquire any part of the property of Grand Lodge abutting upon Wild-court, nor stop up any part of Wild-court until they should have provided an equivalent access to the said property from Sardinia-place or the new street and Great Wild-street.

The Board has further to report that vacancies have occurred in the list of Trustees of the personal property of Grand Lodge by the deaths of the Earl of Lathom, G.C.B., and the Earl of Limerick, K.P., the surviving Trustees being the Duke of Abercorn, K.G., and the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, G.C.V.O.

The Board recommends that the following brethren be now appointed to fill these vacancies: The Earl of Lathom and the Viscount Dungarvan.

The Board has very fully considered a notice of motion proposed to be given by Bro. Frank Richardson to the effect that Rule 137 of the Book of Constitutions, which requires the Master and Wardens of every lodge in the London District, after installation, to sign their names in a book at the office of the Grand Secretary, be expunged.

The Board, in view of the exemption from such liability of Masters and Wardens of lodges without the 10 mile radius, is of opinion that the rule as it at present stands inflicts a hardship on many brethren who cannot without inconvenience attend at the Grand Secretary's office, and recommends Grand Lodge to expunge the rule from the Book of Constitutions.

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

TITLE OR OBJECT.	BY WHOM PRESENTED.
Photograph of Memorial Tablet of H.R.H. Prince Leopold	Thomas Stokoe, P.P.G.P. Suffolk.
Masonic Halfpenny Token	A. J. Moyes, P.M. 466.
Prov. Grand Master's Jewel, 1814	Charles Letch Mason, P.P.G. Treas., &c.
Curious Old Emblem, Double Triangle, &c.	Mr. Henry Chandler.
Medaillen Werk, Hamburg, Band 1	C. Kupferschmidt, A.G.S.G.C.
Three Old Masonic Books	John Mason, Past G. Std. Br.
History of G.L. Royal York of Berlin	The G.L. Royal York, of Berlin.
Behold the East	H. A. Tobias, Past G. Std. Br.
Duncan's Masonic Ritual and Monitor	James Terry, Past G.S.B.
History of Lodge of United Strength	Albert F. Calvert, P.M. 28.
Jachin and Boaz, 1776	F. B. Westlake, Past D.G.D.C.
Freemasonry for Ladies, &c.	P. Robertson MacArthur.
Masonic Musical Service	The Earl of Lathom.
Deputy Grand Master's Jewel	Gen. John C. Smith, Past G. Master Illinois.
Three Masonic Medals	John T. Thorp, P.P.S.G.W.
Early History of Knights of Malta Lodge	John Armstrong, P.P.G.H., &c.
Orations on Royal Arch Masonry	

List of brethren nominated for the Board of General Purposes:

NAME.	NOMINATED BY.
Bro. John Leach Barrett, P.M. 1201	Bro. William J. Hughan, P.G.D.
" William John Batho, P.M. 1708	" W. Heap Bailey, P.G.T.
" Arthur Blenkarn, P.M. 2381	" G. R. Langley, P.M. 2381.
" James Whittaker Burgess, P.M. 1328.	" Robert Wylie, P.G.D., Dep. Prov. G.M. W. Lancs.
" William Cleghorn, P.M. 1287	" Chas. Kempton, P.M. 1287.
" Arthur George Duck, P.M. 808	" George Graveley, P.G.P.
" William Barnes Fendick, P.M. 1321.	" Chas. E. Cottebrune, P.G.P.
" J. Vesey Vesey Fitzgerald, Q.C., P.M. 502	" Mostyn T. Pigott, P.M. 107.
" Col. Francis W. Frigout, P.M. 171	" James Terry, P.G.S.B.
" Edward V. Greatbatch, P.M. 418	" Wm. Hampton, P.M. 418.
" Joseph Brindley James, P.M. 2410	" Jacob Pickett, P.M. 2410.
" Capt. Charles J. Knightley, P.M. 1744	" W. M. Stiles, P.G.T.
" Wm. Farquharson Lamony, P.M. 962	" Charles C. McMillan, D.G.M. Auckland, N.Z.
" William James Mason, P.M. 1328	" George Read, P.G. Std. Br.
" Frederick Atkinson Powell, P.M. 457.	" Henry Lovegrove, P.G.S.B.
" Charles Pulman, P.M. 1712	" Henry Lovegrove, P.G.S.B.
" John Robertson Reep, P.M. 1260	" Henry Lovegrove, P.G.S.B.
" Henry W. Roberts, M.D., P.M. 1293.	" T. H. Gardiner, P.A.G.D.C.
" Eliab Rogers, P.M. 60	" James Stephens, P.D.G.D.C.
" J. Beresford Ryley, M.D., P.M. 1423.	" Charles E. Keyser, P.G.D.
" Arthur G. Sandberg, M.D., P.M. 3	" R. Clay Sudlow, P.G. Std. Br.
" Joseph J. Simcox, P.M. 1501.	" Viscount Valentia, M.P., P.G.W.
" James Speller, P.M. 1677	" James Stephens, P.D.G.D.C.
" Japheth Tickle, P.M. 1196	" Chas. S. Nelson, P.M. 1702.
" Charles J. Wilkinson-Pimbury, P.M. 1997	" Henry Lovegrove, P.G.S.B.
" Arthur Williams, P.M. 834	" William M. Stiles, P.G.T.
" James Willing, Jun., P.M. 1987	" James Speller, P.M. 1677.

The Board also submit a statement of the Grand Lodge Accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee held on Friday, the 12th day of May, 1899, showing a balance in the Bank of England (Law Courts Branch) of £11,556 16s. 5d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash £100, and for Servants' Wages £100.

(Signed) RICHARD LOVELAND LOVELAND, President.
Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.,
16th May, 1899.

This being the last meeting of the present Board, it was resolved unanimously "That a most hearty and cordial vote of thanks be accorded the President, V.W. Bro. Richard Loveland-Loveland, Q.C., for the skill, ability, and courtesy displayed by him while presiding over the meetings of the Board during the past year.

(Signed) "WILLIAM JAMES MASON,
"16th May, 1899." "Vice-President.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

1.—By W. Bro. JOHN ALBERT FARNFIELD, P.A.G.D.C.—

That the sum of £70 be given from the Fund of General Purposes for the purchase of coals for the residents in the Masonic Institution at Croydon during the winter season, and that the cheque be placed in the hands of the Secretary of the Institution.

2.—By W. Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON, P.G.D.—

That Rule 137 of the Book of Constitutions, which requires the Master and Wardens of every lodge in the London district, after installation and investment, to sign their names in a book at the Grand Secretary's Office, be expunged.

The annual report of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons, dated 19th May, 1899, will be laid before Grand Lodge.

APPEAL.

By W. Bro. ALEXANDER CORRIE, P.D.G.W. Queensland, P.M. of General Gordon Lodge, No. 2119, Brisbane—

Against the ruling of the R.W. District Grand Master of Queensland in declining to receive certain motions for proposed alterations in the by-laws of District Grand Lodge.

List of brethren nominated for the Committee of Management for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons: Bros. Chas. A. Cottebrune, P.M. 733; William D. Child, P.M. 1719; Lieut.-Col. Alfred Darrant, P.M. 569; Constantine Dresa, P.M. 749; William H. Hubbert, P.M. 1625; Leonard Potts, P.M. 1716; John Robertson Reep, P.M. 1260; George Graveley, P.M. 898; Alex. C. A. Higerty, P.M. 2697; and James A. Shilton, W.M. 2579, nominated by Bro. Walter Martin, P.G.P., P.M. 879 and 2500.

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

- 2748, The Clifton Lodge, Braamfontein, Transvaal.
- 2749, The Seven Kings Lodge, Romford, Essex.
- 2750, The Waltham Abbey Lodge, Waltham Abbey, Essex.
- 2751, The Arts Lodge, London.
- 2752, The Marlow Lodge, Marlow, Buckinghamshire.
- 2753, The Saint John's Lodge, Margate, Kent.
- 2754, The Thomas à Becket Lodge, London.
- 2755, The Waller Rodwell Wright Lodge, Malta.
- 2756, The Hatchlands Lodge, Addlestone, Surrey.
- 2757, The Charles Dickens Lodge, Chigwell, Essex.
- 2758, The Fylde Lodge, Blackpool, Lancashire.
- 2759, The Rolle Lodge, Exmouth, Devon.
- 2760, The Aldermaston Lodge, Aldermaston, Berkshire.

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS.

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

1. Read and, if approved, confirm minutes of Quarterly Communication of 28th February, 1899.
2. Report of the General Board.
3. A motion will be made that the report be taken as read.
4. A motion will be made that the report be received and entered on the minutes.
5. Recommendation arising out of the report—

That the Body styling itself "The Honourable United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Mark Master Masons, Ashton District," is a spurious and clandestine Body, and all members of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England, Wales, and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown, are hereby prohibited from visiting such Body, or from receiving any member thereof as a visitor in any lodge of Mark Master Masons under this jurisdiction.

6. A motion will be proposed that the report be adopted.
7. Installation of the M.W.G.M.
8. Appointment and investiture of Grand Officers.
9. Nomination by the M.W.G.M. of six members to serve on the General Board.
10. Election, by Grand Lodge, of five members to serve on the General Board. (Five only are nominated.)

LIST OF BRETHREN NOMINATED FOR THE GENERAL BOARD.

Masters and Past Masters.	Nominated by
*Richard Clowes, P.G.O.	J. Balfour Cockburn, P.G.O.
*Frederick West, Dep. Prov. G.M. Surrey	
*T. P. Dorman, P.G.I.G.	
*Alfred F. Church, P.G.O.	H. E. Cousans, P.G. Deacon.
Col and Sheriff Clifford Probyn, P.G. Treas.	J. C. F. Tower, P.G. Stwd.

*Are present Members of the Board.

GREAT PRIORY OF THE UNITED RELIGIOUS AND MILITARY ORDERS OF THE TEMPLE.

A Great Priory was held at Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street on Friday, the 12th ult. Present:

Capt. N. G. Phillips, G.C.T., Prov. Prior East Anglia, G. Seneschal (on the throne); Prov. Priors: V.E. Knights Major J. W. Woodall, K.C.T., N. and E. Yorkshire; and Charles Fendelow, G.C.T., Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Leicestershire; Sir Knights Rev. C. C. Atkinson, G. Prelate; R. Loveland-Loveland, G.C.T., G. Chancellor; C. L. Mason, as 1st G. Constable; Frank Richardson, G.C.T., as 2nd G. Constable; Ralph Clutton, G.C.T., G. Treas.; C. F. Matier, K.C.T., G. Vice-Chancellor; Charles Belton, K.C.T., G. Marshal; Rev. A. W. Oxford, G. Almoner; Dr. Cockburn, K.C.T., as G. Herald; R. M. Beachcroft, 1st G. Std. Br.; J. C. FitzRoy Tower, 2nd G. Std. Br.; the Baron de Ferrieres, K.C.T., as G. Master's Banner Br.; E. Letchworth, K.C.T.,

as G.S.B.; Edward Armitage and W. Buckler Lethbridge, G. Aide-de-Camps; Alfred King, Mus. Doc., G. Org.; Rev. J. Studholme Brownrigg, G.C.T., and Rev. C. E. L. Wright, P.G. Prelates; Richard Clowes, P.G. Constable; Ralph Gooding, M.D., K.C.T., J. E. Le Feuvre, Abraham Clegg, and Clement Godson, M.D., P.G. Heralds; C. E. Keyser and Alfred Cooper, P.G. Std. Brs.; Major T. W. Richardson and R. A. B. Preston, P.G.S.Bs.; Capt. R. Gresley Hall and Gordon Miller, K.C.T., P.G. Aide-de-Camps; A. H. Bowles, P.G. Captain of Guards; H. R. Rose, P.G. Org.; Major C. W. Carrell, K.C.T.; Walter J. Ebbetts, P. Preceptor, W. J. Songhurst, and H. Wright, Reg., of 127; Alfred Molony, 1st Constable 163; E. M. Morris, H. S. Clutton, P. Preceptor, and Imre Kiralfy, of 26; H. Thomson Lyon, P. Preceptor, A. Conyers Haycraft, P. Preceptor, and Ashton Godwin, of 129; R. M. Beachcroft, P. Preceptor 131; J. R. Carter and H. Hills, P. Preceptor, of D.; Col. Mark Lockwood, M.P., P. Preceptor, G. B. Preston, E. Nash, and F. Gordon Degge Watson, of 128; A. F. Church, P. Preceptor, John Strachan, and Rowland Plumbe, 6; A. H. Bevan, P. Preceptor 140; John Taylor, P. Preceptor 25; F. E. Remfry, P. Preceptor 24; Hubert G. Giles, E. Preceptor 2; Richard Pintner, 7; F. A. R. Neill, 1st Constable 49, the Rev. Canon John Walker, Preceptor 20; P. Colville Smith, P. Preceptor 29; G. W. Walker, P. Preceptor 79; Arthur H. Hebbert, P. Preceptor 67; F. Everitt, 1; and W. C. Rowe, Mount Zion. Past Grand Commander Sir Knight Gen. John Corson Smith, Chairman on Foreign Relations Committee of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, United States of America, was a visitor.

The knights having formed the arch of steel, the Very Eminent Captain N. G. Philips, Prov. Prior East Anglia, attended by the Great Officers, entered and ascended the throne.

The Great Priory was opened in due form.

The GREAT REGISTRAR called the muster roll.

The minutes of Great Priory held on 9th December, 1898, were read, and declared to be correctly recorded.

The V.E. Knight General J. Corson Smith, Past G.C. of Knights Templar for the United States of America, was introduced to Great Priory, conducted to the foot of the throne, and presented to the Acting G. Master.

The ACTING GRAND MASTER said: In the name of this Great Priory I greet you well, and invite you to take your place among the G. Officers of our Order.

Gen. J. Corson Smith was then conducted to a seat on the right of the Acting G. Master.

The ACTING GRAND MASTER: I have now to announce to you, brethren of the Temple, the termination of the three years for which the Earl of Euston was elected M.E. and Supreme G. Master, and I will now call upon you for nominations for that office.

The E. Knight GODSON: Brethren of the Temple, I beg to propose the re-election of Lord Euston, our popular and our highly esteemed G. Master, who has during the last three years presided over us so admirably, that I am sure we shall all agree that he is the right man in the right place, and I am sure that every brother of the Temple will rejoice to know that he is re-elected to that great office.

V.E. Knight GORDON MILLER, K.C.T.: I have great pleasure in seconding that.

The motion was put and carried by acclamation.

Four Knights Grand Cross of the Temple—Rev. Canon Brownrigg, R. Loveland Loveland, Frank Richardson, and Ralph Clutton—were then deputed to acquaint the Earl of Euston with the fact that he had been elected to the office of V.E. and Supreme G. Master, and requested to accompany him to the foot of the throne.

The M.E. and Supreme G. Master elect having been conducted to the throne,

The ACTING GRAND MASTER said: Most Eminent Brother Knight, I have the great pleasure to inform you that you have been again unanimously elected to the high position of Grand Master of the Temple in England and Wales, and the dependencies thereof. I most heartily greet you in the name of every knight of our Order, both present and absent, and I now invite you to enter on the duties of your office, but first let me ask you: Do you solemnly agree to renew the vows of fidelity to the Orders into which you entered on the previous occasion?

The GRAND MASTER, having assented, was then invested and installed.

The GREAT HERALD proclaimed as follows: By virtue of my office I proclaim Henry James, Earl of Euston, Knight Grand Cross, Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent of Northants and Hunts, Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master of Mark Master Masons, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Allied Masonic Degrees, Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, Deputy-Lieutenant for the County of Suffolk, Colonel of the First Volunteer Battalion the Northamptonshire Regiment, Justice of the Peace for the Counties of Suffolk and Northampton, &c., &c., &c., has this day been enthroned as Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the United Orders of the Temple and Hospital in England and Wales and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown.

And I call on all Knights present to salute with nine.

The GRAND MASTER announced that the next business was to consider the following:

REPORT OF COUNCIL.

Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master,

Your Council have the honour to report that in accordance with the unanimous recommendation of the Finance Committee the sum of £500, at a cost of £540 1s., has been invested in India 3 per cent. Stock on behalf of the General Fund, making the total invested capital £3800. There is also invested in Metropolitan 2½ per cent. Consolidated Stock on behalf of the Benevolent Fund, the sum of £2500.

Your Council have the utmost pleasure in recording the great advancement and continued prosperity of the Order during the three years of your rule, and they have the satisfaction of knowing that you have again consented to be nominated for re-election.

The following reply has been received in answer to the vote of condolence and sympathy on the lamented death of the late Great Prior, the Earl of Lathom: "Lathom House, Ormskirk,

"February 7th, 1899.

"Dear Sir and Very Eminent Knight,

"On behalf of my family and myself I beg to offer to the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master and Great Priory our most grateful thanks for the sympathetic resolution of condolence that you have forwarded to me.

"I am, Dear Sir and Eminent Knight,

"Yours fraternally,

"LATHOM.

"To the Very Eminent Knight C. F. Matier, G.V.C."

The annual conference of the Order of the Temple will be held at Dublin on 14th April under the auspices of the Great Priory of Ireland, and it is hoped will be attended by a large number of delegates from the various Grand Bodies.

You have been pleased to make the following promotions in the Order: To be Knights Grand Cross (G.C.T.): The V.E. Knights the Earl of Lathom, Frank Richardson, K.C.T.; and Ralph Clutton, K.C.T. To be Knights Commander (K.C.T.): The V.E. Knights Sir Francis G. M. Boileau, Bart., the Baron de Ferrieres, J. Balfour Cockburn, M.D., and Major C. W. Carrell.

The patents in each case being dated on the day of St. Patrick, 1899.

All the Preceptories in England and Wales, with the exception of two, have made the necessary return, and paid the usual fees enjoined by the Statutes, but as some of these failed to do so before 28th February, the end of our financial year, their contributions cannot be included in the accounts submitted by the Great Treasurer.

The preceptories whose returns are still outstanding are Restormel, Liskard, and St. Cuthbert, Darlington.

The following preceptories abroad are in arrears: Ardvorlich, nine years; Ascalon, nine years; Celestial, five years; Calpe, four years; Connaught and Strathearn, two years; Johannesburg, one year; Melita, one year; Pembroke, one year; Royal Deccan, two years; St. Augustine, one year; and Vasco de Gama, one year.

Your Council recommend that the Ardvorlich Preceptory and the Ascalon Preceptory, being nine years in arrears, be erased from the roll.

The Great Treasurer's accounts have been audited up to 28th February, 1899, and show the following balances, which are in the London and Westminster Bank, Limited, Bloomsbury Branch:

General Fund ...	...	...	£455	8	3
Benevolent Fund ...	...	...	131	13	10
			£587	2	1

The usual motion that the report be taken as read was proposed by the GREAT CHANCELLOR, seconded by the GREAT TREASURER, and unanimously agreed to, after which

The GREAT CHANCELLOR moved, and the GREAT MARSHAL (Sir Knight Chas. Belton, K.C.T.) seconded, that the report be received and entered on the minutes.

This was carried.

The GREAT CHANCELLOR: I have now to propose that the report be adopted. On page two will be found a reference to the fact that the annual Conference was to be held at Dublin on April 14th under the auspices of the Great Priory of Ireland. I have now to state for the information of this Great Priory that that Conference was held, and very good work was done for the Order. The knights present will also see further on in the report a reference to the fact that two preceptories had returns outstanding at the date of the report. With regard to this I have to state that we have this morning received the dues from the St. Cuthbert's Preceptory, and as the dues from the Restormel Preceptory were, as stated in the report, received since the meeting of the Council, I have the great pleasure of informing you, Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, that all the dues are now paid, and in the hands of the Great Treasurer. As to the other preceptories, it will be seen that the arrears have been outstanding for many years. With these remarks I beg to propose that the report be adopted.

The G. Registrar, V.E. Knight FRANK RICHARDSON: I beg to second that proposal.

The motion was agreed to.

The G. CHANCELLOR then formally moved, as arising out of the report, that the Ardvorlich Preceptory and the Ascalon Preceptory, being some years in arrear, be erased from the roll.

The motion was seconded by the G. REGISTRAR, and carried.

The GRAND MASTER: Our next business is the election of a Treasurer. It is my privilege to propose that we re-elect our present Treasurer. (Hear, hear.) He has done us such excellent service since 1885, that I am sure we should all desire to ask him to continue it. It is not necessary for me to review the great services he has rendered us for a large number of years; they are known to you all, and I have the greatest possible pleasure in proposing to you that we re-elect our present excellent Treasurer, Sir Knight Ralph Clutton. (Applause.)

The E. Knight BARON DE FERRIERES seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

The GRAND MASTER: It gives me great pleasure to declare that Sir Knight Ralph Clutton is elected Great Treasurer for the ensuing year. I cannot tell you how deeply grateful I am to know that he has your confidence as well as mine. (Applause.) Our funds are now in a more prosperous condition than when he took them over, and it must be a great pleasure to him to have witnessed that improvement, and to look back upon and compare it with the time when the Great Treasurer always had to find a certain amount of money.

The GREAT TREASURER: I thank you very much M.E. and Supreme Grand Master for this kind expression of your confidence, and for the unanimity with which this Great Priory has elected me to the post of Treasurer. I can assure the Knights present that no pains on my part shall be wanting to continue the faithful discharge of the duties. (Applause.)

The GRAND MASTER: I have now to announce the Officers for the ensuing year. In the first place, I appoint Viscount Dungarvan to be the Grand Seneschal. He regrets that he is unable to be here to-night owing to the fact that his military duties with his Yeomanry have detained him.

The Great Officers of the year were then invested as follows:

Sir Knight Rev. A. W. Oxford	...	G. Prelate.
R. Loveland Loveland, Q.C., G.C.T.	...	G. Chancellor.
Col. A. R. M. Lockwood, M.P.	...	1st G. Constable.
G. C. W. Fitzwilliam	...	2nd G. Constable.
Ralph Clutton, G.C.T.	...	G. Treasurer.
Frank Richardson, G.C.T.	...	G. Registrar.
C. F. Matier, K.C.T.	...	G. Vice-Chancellor.
Charles Belton, K.C.T.	...	G. Marshal.
Rev. Canon Walker	...	G. Almoner.
Col. G. Walton Walker	...	G. Herald.
Philip Colville Smith	...	1st G. Std. Br.
A. F. Church	...	2nd G. Std. Br.
A. Conyers Haycraft	...	G. Master's B.B.
Capt. H. G. Giles, R.N.	...	G.S.B.
Hubert S. Clutton	...	1st G. Aide-de-Camp.
F. E. Remfry	...	2nd G. Aide-de-Camp.

Sir Knight John Taylor ... G. Chamberlain.
 " Walter J. Ebbetts ... 1st G.C. of Guards.
 " A. H. Hebbert... 2nd G.C. of Guards.
 " Dr. H. J. Edwards, Mus. Doc. ... G. Org.

The Grand Master appointed the following as members of the Council: Ralph Gooding, K.C.T.; Charles Belton, K.C.T.; Major C. W. Carrell, K.C.T.; and T. P. Dorman, Past Preceptor.

Sir Knight T. P. DORMAN proposed and Sir Knight W. J. EBBETTS seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the following be elected to serve on the Council: Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, G.C.T.; Gordon Miller, K.C.T.; Sir George Harris, K.C.T.; A. Woodiwiss, K.C.T.; J. Balfour Cockburn, K.C.T.

The GREAT TREASURER brought forward the petition of a distressed brother of the Temple who had held high office in Great Priory, and moved that a sum of £50 be granted out of the benevolent fund to relieve his necessities.

The GRAND MASTER: I am afraid by our statutes that we cannot pass this motion at once, but we can pass it on to the Council with an instruction to deal with it at their next meeting. I am quite sure that when such a case is brought forward by one so highly esteemed as our Great Treasurer it is our duty to relieve the necessities of this distressed brother. I will therefore ask you to instruct the Council to make this grant at their next meeting.

The proposal was agreed to.

The following Knights Grand Cross were conducted to the foot of the throne and invested with the collar and star of their rank: V.E. Knights Frank Richardson, K.C.T., and Ralph Clutton, K.C.T.

The following Knights Commander were likewise invested with the insignia of their rank: V.E. Knights Baron de Ferrieres and J. Balfour Cockburn, M.D.

General Corson Smith was then presented to the G. Master by the G. Marshal, V.E. Knight BELTON, who said: Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, I beg to present to you General Corson Smith, Past Grand Commander of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois, U.S.A.

The GRAND MASTER then invested General Smith with the ribbon and cross of a Knight Commander of the Temple, remarking: I have great pleasure in placing this ribbon about your neck, not only because you are the first to whom the honour has been given outside our own jurisdiction, but also because you have so recently joined in our councils, and done so much to cement the friendship which happily exists between the two great English-speaking nations. (Applause.)

General CORSON SMITH having saluted the Grand Master, spoke as follows: Most Eminent Grand Master, I know not in what language or words befitting this occasion, in this splendid presence and with the hallowed memories which cluster around me in the portraits of your predecessors, to thank you for the distinguished honour which you have conferred upon me or on the brethren of my Grand Encampment. I have tried in my own feeble way to bring about an understanding between our two Templar bodies, as I have in my own country politically between our two nations. I, at one time, was imbued very strongly with the declaration made in a great State paper of my country, which declares all men to be born free and equal. I have long since recognised that while that may be true before the law, it is not true in life. Born they may be free and equal, but in the intelligence and mind, which makes a man influence his fellow creatures, there is no doubt that one man is greater than another. While then theoretically I recognise all people as my equals when they perform their duties in their proper manner, if they are loyal to their Government and faithful to their Creator, yet I have long since recognised that the English speaking people are ahead of all others, and that they have not their equal on the face of the earth. I feel it is fitting that we should come together to be one people in spirit, in truth, and in heart. I have been well pleased and greatly instructed by my visits to the various Masonic bodies in the United Kingdom, but, Sir Knights, I say to you that nothing that I have witnessed compares for a moment with this gathering. I have seen elsewhere no such asylum for the practice of the Christian virtues. I have been particularly touched with the recognition you have given to the character of that great Knight Templar, the lamented Earl of Lathom, whose life was one of devotion to his country and of service to Freemasonry. In my judgment he may be regarded as the Chevalier Bayard of Templary as much as the loyal and faithful servant of his Queen—for we in America love your Queen almost as dearly as you possibly can. (Applause.) Your body, Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, has impressed me with a dignity and character of true knighthood that I have not found in other assemblies. I have had experience in presiding over the Senate of Illinois for two years, and I know what turbulent assemblies legislative bodies can become, while they all lack the dignity and manly character that I have witnessed on this occasion. I thank you, Most Eminent Grand Master, for the high honour which you have conferred upon me, and I thank you, Sir Knights here present, for the cordial reception which you have accorded me. I shall return to my country to-morrow, and when I get home to my own people, to my Grand Encampment, representing 125,000 true and trusty Templars, I shall tell them of the goodwill and the hearty wishes and of the ardent friendship for all time which I bring with me from this Great Priory of England. (Loud cheers.)

The GRAND MASTER: Brethren of the Temple, before we close the business of to-night, I have a few words to say to you. It is my great pleasure to announce to you the continued prosperity of the United Orders. In April last I attended a conference held in Dublin, at which delegates from the Grand Chapter of Scotland, the Great Priory of Ireland, and this Great Priory were present. We also had as a visitor Gen. John Corson Smith, the representative of the Grand Encampment of the United States. Many subjects of great interest to the Orders were discussed, and among other matters it was agreed to interchange representatives between the various Grand Bodies. The full report of the meeting will appear in the next report of the Grand Master's Council. Under the powers entrusted to me by Statute No. 50, I have declared the office of Provincial Prior for Lancashire vacant, and I have great pleasure in announcing that I have appointed the Earl of Lathom as Provincial Prior, and I sincerely trust every member of the Orders in Lancashire will loyally support him, and do his best to bring that Great Province up to what it ought to be. For the last year or two it has not been in the position I should like to see it, but I hope we shall see a very different state of things in the near future. (Applause.)

Alms amounting to £5 15s. were collected.

Great Priory was closed in due form.

ORDER OF MALTA.

Great Priory of Malta was opened in due form. The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, the Earl of Euston, G.C.T., occupied the throne.

The Great Chancellor, V.E. Knight C. F. MATIER, K.C.T., read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were confirmed.

The Great Officers took their seats as follows—At the East Table: V.E. Sir Knights R. Loveland-Loveland, G.C.T., E. Prior; Frank Richardson, G.C.T., as Capt.-General; Ralph Clutton, G.C.T., as Lieut.-General; Ralph Gooding, K.C.T., as First Lieutenant; and J. W. Woodall, K.C.T., as Second Lieutenant. At the Octagon Table in the West: V.E. Knights Chas. Belton, K.C.T., Mareschal, and Capt. H. G. Giles, as Hospitaller; E. Knights J. C. FitzRoy Tower, Admiral; R. Gresley Hall, as Conservator; Capt. G. B. Preston, as Baillie; Edward Armitage, Turcopolier; T. P. Dorman, as Chancellor; Col. G. Walton Walker, as Treasurer; the Rev. C. C. Atkinson, as Prelate; and Major T. W. Richardson, as Capt. of Outposts.

The following were Guards to the Banners: E. Knights F. E. Remfry, Banner B.; A. Conyers Haycraft, Banner L.; and W. C. Rowe, Banner D.; Knight Imre Kiralfy, Banner R.; and E. Knight Walter J. Ebbetts, Banner A.

Knight Col. Francis Gordon Degge Watson, of the Oxford and Cambridge University Preceptory, then received the Mediterranean Pass, was afterwards admitted into the Order of Malta, the accolade being given by the M.E. and S. Grand Master.

Great Priory was closed in due form.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, the Earl of Euston, G.C.T., afterwards presided at the banquet, supported by the V.E. Prov. Prior for N. and E. Yorkshire, the Great Officers, many Past Great Officers, Preceptors, and other knights.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SOMERSET.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Board Schools, Langport, on Friday, the 26th ult., under the banner of the Portcullis Lodge, No. 2038, when about 150 brethren assembled. Bro. the Right Hon. Viscount Dungarvan, P.G.M., presided, there being also present—

Bros. W. Gough, P.S.G.D.; C. L. F. Edwards, P.G. Treas.; E. F. Wade, P.G. Sec.; G. Norman, P.M. 41; E. W. Bovett, J.D. 125; J. D. Gowan, Tyler 135; W. Warner, W.M. 285; J. Edwards, Tyler 329; W. Gill, P.M. 52; J. D. Loveday, I.P.M. 261; E. A. Purvis, W.M. 379; R. R. Hutchings, P.M. 437; S. J. Goodall, I.P.M. 446; E. Stevens, 1179, P.P.G.P.; G. James, 1179, P.P.G.D. of C.; T. H. Mitchell, 1593, P.S.G.D.; H. A. Rogers, 1883; H. Pittard, Stwd. 2038; W. G. Cozens, P.M., D.C. 2038; J. P. Chapell, P.G.S.B.; H. W. Collins, P.S.G.W.; R. S. Gough, P.I.G.W.; F. B. George, P.J.G.D.; W. Rice; E. Q. Louch, W.M. 329; S. H. Knight; T. H. Langford Sainsbury, 993, P.P.G.C. Sussex; T. J. Jaggs, W.M. 1283; H. H. Bonning, 2038; W. H. Westlake, 1966; W. C. Thomas, W.M. 1222; H. W. Marillier, 329; E. R. Babbage, W.M. 135; G. H. Kite, P.G.R.; H. Harrod, 976; W. B. Collins; H. C. Norton; G. Cox; J. T. Knight; H. R. Vereker; J. Tompsett; F. L. Hunt; T. G. Coggan; H. Davies; F. Marshall Meade, I.G.; R. P. Bicknell; W. Plank; G. B. Toms; H. Aplin; J. Wheatley; J. Pamphlett; Bishop Kennett; and W. T. Baker.

The weather proved most favourable, and the whole of the proceedings were successfully carried out.

Prov. Grand Lodge was opened at 1.30, when the roll of lodges was called, and the minutes of the last annual meeting, held at Yatton on the 3rd June last, were read, approved, and confirmed.

The Prov. Grand Lodge accounts were presented and passed, and after the offices had been declared vacant, the following officers were appointed and invested by the Prov. G. Master for the ensuing year:

Bro. E. Q. Louch, 2038	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" A. Norman, 41	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" the Rev. Barnwell, 772	...	...	Prov. G Chaps.
" the Rev. E. J. Morris, 1222	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" W. Gill, 33	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" C. L. F. Edwards	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" E. Fry Wade	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" F. W. Gaylard, 329	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" O. W. Wiltshire, 1883	...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" T. Cross, 906	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" R. H. Shrapnell, 1883	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" W. H. Westlake, 1966	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" A. O. G. Collins, 379	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" Creswell White, 437	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" C. Alford, 814	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" C. J. Parrett, 285	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" A. E. J. Creed, 976	...	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" W. Plank, 1953	...	...
" A. H. Taylor, 446	...	...
" E. R. Babbage, 135	...	...
" L. G. Loveday, 261	...	...
" A. Poole, 1197	...	...	Prov. G. Stwds.
" A. W. Metcalfe, 1999	...	...
" H. Pittard, 2038	...	...
" A. J. Salter	...	...	Prov. G. Tylers.
" S. Bigwood	...	...

After the closing of the Prov. Grand Lodge, a luncheon was partaken of by the brethren at the Langport Arms Hotel, which was served in excellent style by Mrs. Barling, the tables being most charmingly decorated for the occasion.

The Prov. Grand Master presided, and the usual Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

Viscount Dungarvan leaving before the termination of the proceedings, the chair was occupied by Bro. S. H. Knight, W.M. of the Portcullis Lodge.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, attended by Bro. Captain Holford, returned to Marlborough House on Saturday last from Great Yarmouth. The Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria were present at Divine service on Sunday.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1899.

Masonic Notes.

A Quarterly Communication of United Grand
Lodge will be held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednes-
day, the 7th instant, at the usual hour. There is a fair
amount of business to be transacted, including the
appointment and investiture of President of the Board
of General Purposes, and the election of members to
serve on the said Board, of a Grand Lodge Auditor,
and of members of the Committee of Management of
the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. It is also
satisfactory to note that the Board of General Pur-
poses have, as stated in their report, succeeded in pro-
curing the insertion in the schedule of the "London
Improvements Bill," a clause which will prevent the
London County Council under the powers of the said Act
acquiring any part of the property in Wild Court,
which has been recently purchased by Grand Lodge,

and from stopping up any portion of Wild Court until they have "provided an equivalent access to the said property from Sardinia-place or the new street or Great Wild-street."

The Board further recommend in reference to the notice of which Bro. Frank Richardson, P.G.D., has given notice, that Article 137 of the Book of Constitutions be expunged. The said article lays it down that the Masters and Wardens of the lodges in the London District shall sign their names in a book at the Grand Secretary's office before being entitled to enter Grand Lodge, the Board being of opinion that such article inflicts a hardship on the brethren to whom it refers.

The number of new lodges for the constitution of which his Royal Highness the M.W. Grand Master has been pleased to grant warrants since the March Communication is 13. Of these, two—the Arts Lodge, No. 2751, and the Thomas à Becket Lodge, No. 2754—will meet within the London district, and there are also two which will meet abroad, namely, the Clifton Lodge, No. 2748, at Braamfontein, in the Transvaal, and the Waller Rodwell Wright Lodge, No. 2755, Malta. The remaining nine will be located in the Provinces, namely, the Seven Kings' Lodge, No. 2749, Romford, the Waltham Abbey Lodge, No. 2750, Waltham Abbey, and the Charles Dickens Lodge, No. 2757, Chigwell, all in the Province of Essex; the Marlow Lodge, No. 2752, Marlow, in Buckinghamshire; the Saint John's Lodge, No. 2753, Margate, in the Province of Kent; the Hatchlands Lodge, No. 2756, Addlestone, in the Province of Surrey; the Fylde Lodge, No. 2758, Blackpool, in the Province of West Lancashire; the Rolle Lodge, No. 2759, Exmouth, in Devonshire; and the Aldermaston Lodge, No. 2760, Aldermaston, in Berkshire. These, with the 12 lodges for which warrants were granted during the quarter to 1st of March give a total of 25 new lodges warranted during the last six months.

According to the Report of the General Board of the Mark Grand Lodge, warrants for two new lodges have been granted since the Quarterly Communication on the 28th February, namely, the Kyrle Lodge, No. 524, Ross, in the Province of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, and the Haywra Lodge, No. 525, Harrogate—a report of the consecration of which recently appeared in our columns—in the Province of West Yorkshire. It appears, also, that during the quarter to the 31st March, 780 Mark certificates were issued, raising the total of registered Mark Master Masons to 39,972. One warrant for a Royal Ark Mariner lodge, namely, the Bridgman, to be moored off the Walpole Mark Lodge, No. 92, Norwich, in the Province of East Anglia, has also been granted, while 137 Royal Ark Mariner certificates were issued during the March quarter, raising the total number registered on the 31st of that month to 5935.

The Board further reports that Bro. His Honour Judge W. Masterman has been appointed Prov. G. Master for Nottinghamshire, *vice* Bro. Col. Newton, deceased; and that Bro. J. Owen Marsh has been re-appointed for a further term of three years as Prov. G. Master for Monmouthshire. It will also be seen from the report, which appears elsewhere, that Bro. the Earl of Warwick has not only been appointed but installed Prov. G. Master of the newly-constituted Province of Essex, which, till recently, formed a part of the Province of East Anglia, under Bro. Lord Henniker.

We gather from the same Report that the Board recommend that Grand Lodge should proceed to extreme measures against a body of brethren which works the Mark Degree under the style and title of "The Honourable United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of the Ashton-under-Lyne District," declaring it to be "a spurious and clandestine Body," and forbidding the interchange of visits between its members and those of lodges holding under the Mark Grand Lodge.

The Board states, on the authority of Bro. John Armstrong, P.M. No. 11, that the lodge is said to have been founded towards the end of last century by a non-commissioned officer who had taken the Degree in India, and was known originally as "The Mark Link and Ark," and subsequently by other names. Its records, however, only date back to July 11th, 1830.

It has always met and still meets, quarterly on a Sunday afternoon, under the Warrant of some Cheshire or East Lancashire Craft Lodge," as was the custom in days preceding the organisation of the Mark Grand Lodge of England.

The Board further states that as far back as 1870 the late Bro. the Rev. Canon Portal, the then M.W. Grand Mark Master, and the then Grand Mark Secretary (Bro. Frederick Binckes), "approached these brethren with a view to their giving their allegiance to Grand Lodge," offering to grant them "a Warrant of Confirmation," free of cost "on the understanding that all their members should be registered at a nominal fee," but a certain Funeral Fund established by the members stood in the way, and "the negotiations fell through."

This is the Mark body which the Grand Lodge presiding over that Degree now proposes to declare "spurious and clandestine." But it occurs to us that there are one or two serious objections to the adoption of any such course. In the first place the body worked the Mark Degree for 40 years precisely in the same way and under the same authority as the Degree was worked generally in England when there was no Mark Grand Lodge in existence, and for 13 or 14 of those 40 years without a word of opposition, so far as we are aware, from the Mark Grand Lodge when it was formed. Then the offer made in 1870 by the then Grand Mark Master and Grand Mark Secretary to grant it a "Warrant of Confirmation"—that is, of all the rights and privileges it had exercised as a Mark lodge since 1830—proves that in the opinion of those distinguished brethren it was not then "spurious and clandestine." Lastly, during the 29 years that have elapsed since such offer was made the body has continued in the exercise of its rights and privileges without opposition from Grand Lodge.

We do not doubt the power of Mark Grand Lodge to do what it threatens. Our point is—Will it be wise to do so, especially when the Secretary of the body that is threatened declares that "an edict such as you threaten can only very slightly affect a small number of our brethren," and the rest will in all probability treat it with contempt?

We congratulate the newly-created Mark Province of Essex on the very great success which attended its inauguration at Colchester on the 24th ult. There was a numerous attendance of the brethren, and the ceremony of installing Bro. the Earl of Warwick as the first Prov. G. Master was, as usual, most impressively carried out by Bro. the Earl of Euston, Pro G. Master, assisted by sundry of the Grand Officers. At the conclusion of this part of the proceedings Lord Warwick announced the appointment as Dep. Prov. G.M. of Bro. Col. Lockwood, M.P., who is likewise his Deputy of the Province in Craft Masonry, while Bro. Thomas J. Ralling, Prov. G. Secretary (Craft), and Prov. G. Scribe E. (Royal Arch), will bring to bear his great experience in the Secretarial office in respect of the Prov. G. Mark Lodge. Thus, the Province starts on its career under the best of auspices, and we have no doubt that in the course of a few years it will be one of the best organised and most zealous of the Provinces under the banner of the Mark Grand Lodge. Next month, when Lord Warwick has consented to preside at the annual Festival of the Mark Benevolent Fund, Essex will have the opportunity of showing what it is made of, and, we dare say, will exhibit its accustomed loyalty to its respected chief and its zeal for the cause of Masonic Charity.

A meeting of the General Committee of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution will be held at the Masonic Hall, Liverpool, this (Friday) evening, when applications from 14 children will be considered, namely, five to be placed on the Educational Fund; seven on the Combined Fund; and two on the Advancement Fund.

The Province of Derbyshire is to be highly commended for its intention to establish a Masonic Library, in which shall be stored all books, documents, curios, relating to Masonry that possess any Masonic value, and more particularly those of local interest to the Craft. There is no doubt that much that was calculated to throw light on the proceedings of our ancient brethren has been irretrievably lost through the negligence of those who had charge of the archives; but, thanks to the energy displayed by Bros. W. J. Hughan, R. F. Gould, and other gifted and

laborious students of Masonry, there is much that is constantly being brought to light, and it is owing to the discoveries made by these brethren that our knowledge of early Masonry in this and other countries has been so greatly extended.

The chief credit for the proposal would appear to belong to the Tyrian Lodge, No. 253, Derby, which was warranted in 1785, and has invited the other lodges in the Province to co-operate with it in carrying out the scheme, and we trust that both the lodges and chapters and individual brethren will render every assistance in their power to promote it. The idea of having a complete collection of photographic copies of all the lodge and chapter warrants is a good one, and we trust that, at no distant day, all that is of value in illustrating the Masonry of the past and present will be placed in charge of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Boys' School athletic sports were held in the playing-field of the Institution at Wood Green on Saturday last, and proved a great success. The weather was such that a larger muster than usual of friends and visitors was brought together, and the several items on the programme were for the most part exceedingly well contested. The arrangements were well carried out, and there seemed to be but one opinion as to the excellence of the sport shown by the competitors.

In our "Analysis of the Returns" at the recent Festival in behalf of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, we mentioned that the Province of Durham was "an absentee for the Benevolent Festival in February." It was so returned in our analytical account of that Festival, but erroneously, it appears, as the Province had voted 50 guineas (£52 10s.) to the Old People's Institution. The mistake is due to the fact that Durham had no brother acting as Steward in its behalf; but it has since been rectified in the reprint which is now being prepared, and will be issued at an early date.

A Masonic service was held in Battle Church, under the auspices of the Abbey Lodge, No. 1184, on Wednesday, the 24th ult., as a thanksgiving service on the Queen's birthday, and it was arranged that the offertory, which amounted to £9 5s. 6d. should be devoted to the widows of Freemasons. Since then a cheque for the amount has been received for the Widows' Fund by the Secretary of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution from the Very Rev. E. R. Currie, Dean of Battle, Past G. Chaplain of England.

According to the *Adelaide Register* (S. Australia) the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of that colony was arranged to be held on Wednesday, the 29th ult., and we gather from the Report of the Board of General Purposes, which was to be presented at the meeting, that the past year has been a highly successful one. The M.W. Grand Master, Bro. the Right Hon. Chief Justice Way—who had been seriously ill for some time—had been, fortunately, restored to health; and the Board, after remarking upon the grief and anxiety which that illness had caused among all classes of the community, expresses its belief that it is rightly interpreting the feelings of the whole body of South Australian Masons "in congratulating the M.W. Grand Master upon his satisfactory progress to recovery, and the consequent resumption of his important and arduous duties to the State."

The Board further report that the following balances stand to the credit of Grand Lodge, namely, on the General Fund, £309; on the Available Benevolent Fund, £676; and on the Permanent Benevolent Fund, £1074. In addition, the balance sheet of the Trustees of the Freemasons' Hall property showed, on the 31st December, 1898, a credit balance of £15,302. The Board recommended that fraternal relations be resumed with the Grand Lodge of Peru, and are favourable to a representative of the Australasian Grand Lodges, at the ceremonies it is proposed to hold next year in Virginia in commemoration of the centenary of the death of Bro. General George Washington.

A General Meeting of the Subscribers to the Bengal Masonic Association for Educating Children of Indigent Freemasons was held at Freemasons' Hall, Calcutta, on the 27th January last under the presidency of Bro. W. H. Fitze, P.G.D., Past Dep. Dist. G.M. It appears from the Report which the Committee presented that the contributions during the half-year to the 31st December, 1898, amounted to 3068 Rupees, being an excess of 1218 Rupees as compared with those for the corresponding half of the previous year. Three vacancies had occurred, and it was proposed that four children should be elected, thereby raising the number provided for by the Association to 41. The Treasurer's Accounts were considered and adopted, there being a small balance to the credit of the fund on the Revenue Account, but the Committee express their regret "that very few of the Stewards exert themselves to obtain subscriptions." The capital account, however, shows that the invested funds amount to 1,35,000 Rupees.

Bro. Rev. Canon Quennell, J.W. 377	...	Prov. G. Chap.
" W. S. Wright, I.P.M. 205	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" Thos. J. Ralling, P.G.D. Eng., P.M. and Sec.	...	
" 145	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" W. Scott Macdonald, W.M. 467	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" J. M. Murphy, W.M. 205	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" Robt. Cook, J.W. 342	...	Prov. G.I. of Wks.
" R. Clowes, P.J.G.O. Eng., P.M. 413	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" J. G. Mackenzie, W.M. 342	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" G. M. E. Hamilton, S.W. 205	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" J. E. Pegram, P.M. 342	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" W. G. Puttick, Org. 467	...	Prov. G. Org.
" R. Haward Ives, P.M. 145	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" Martin Bleick, S.W. 461	...	Prov. G.I.G.
" Arthur Wright, Tyler 145	...	Prov. G. Tyler.
" A. S. B. Sparling, M.O. 145	...	
" John E. Cheese, S.O. 145	...	Prov. G. Stwds.

Votes of thanks were then passed to Lord Euston and the Grand Officers who had assisted in the ceremony of the day, and to the Constantine Lodge for their excellent arrangements.

About 50 brethren afterwards dined together at the Cup Hotel, under the presidency of the Earl of Warwick, an excellent repast being well served by Mr. and Mrs. Woodward. During dinner the string band of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment performed a selection of choice music, which was much appreciated.

An interesting feature of the day's proceedings was the presentation to Bro. T. J. Ralling, the first Grand Secretary of the new province, with the undress clothing and jewel of a Past Grand Deacon of England.

The presentation was made by Bro. R. Clowes, who explained that himself and a few friends of Bro. Ralling desired his acceptance of these gifts, with their sincerest wishes for his welfare, and the hope that he might long be spared to wear them.

Bro. RALLING feelingly acknowledged the presentation.

It should be added that a liberal supply of flags for the decoration of the lodge room was lent by Bro. Fieldgate, of Brightlingsea; while Mr. Lewis, of East Hill House Gardens, supplied some handsome plants, which added greatly to the adornment of the room.

The collars and jewels were manufactured by George Kenning and Son.

CONSECRATION OF THE OLD YORK COUNCIL ALLIED DEGREES AND THE LODIS CONCLAVE RED CROSS OF ROME AND CONSTANTINE.

VISIT OF THE EARL OF EUSTON TO WEST YORKSHIRE.

Following upon the firm hold which the Mark Degree has taken in West Yorkshire, must be observed the extraordinary rise of those Degrees which are more or less closely connected with it. These, we may note in passing, are variously characterised. By some they are somewhat contemptuously described as "side" degrees and meet with bare acknowledgment; others admitting their beauty and usefulness do not hesitate to speak of them as the "higher" degrees and throw into the working of the ceremonies associated with them, a zeal and an enthusiasm which some Royal Arch chapters might usefully emulate. And yet in no sense are they rivals to the Royal Arch Degree as some very erroneously say; for in most cases admission to the Degrees can only be obtained by chapter Masons. It may, therefore, be stated with confidence that the majority of those brethren who have joined these higher Degrees are Royal Arch Masons, and that whatever may be the reason which admittedly impedes the satisfactory progress of the Royal Arch, it is not, as it has rashly been said, to be attributed to the undoubted success which has attended the Mark and its allied associations. In West Yorkshire the Mark Degree is, as we have shown, firmly planted, and that province now possesses also three Royal Ark Mariners lodges, three councils of the Allied Degrees and two conclaves of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine. In addition to this it has 10 Knight Templar preceptories and four Rose Croix chapters.

OLD YORK COUNCIL, No. 29.

Interest in Masonic matters has prevailed in Bradford for a considerable period, there being evidence to show that before the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, a Masonic Lodge existed in that town. Its Mark lodge, which was originally worked in connection with the Centenary Lodge of Hope, now 302, joined the Mark Province of West Yorkshire after a year or two's hesitation and claims the proud title of "Time immemorial." This old Mark lodge is in a most flourishing and vigorous condition and has recently attached to itself an equally promising lodge of Royal Ark Mariners. On Friday, the 26th ult., it still further extended its borders by founding the Old York Council of the Allied Degrees. Of course, advance of this kind implies that amongst the Bradford Masons, as amongst all societies, there are enthusiasts; those who take the initiative and inspire their followers with their zeal and earnestness. Conspicuous amongst these pioneers in Freemasonry are Bros. J. L. Atherton and Charles Crabtree, and it is chiefly, we believe, at the suggestion of these well-known and distinguished brethren that the Old York Council, No. 29, has originated. Always ready to promote proper Masonic enterprise, Bros. C. Letch Mason, Prov. G. Master, and John Barker, Deputy Prov. G. Master of the Mark Degree, were easily induced to join in the venture and they, with Bros. Atherton, Crabtree, G. Whitaker, Walter Whitley, and R. A. Pullan, constituted themselves founders of the council.

A dispensation was obtained to admit brethren to the various Degrees previous to the consecration, and when it is mentioned that there were 18 candidates from the Old York Lodge, Bradford; seven from Fearnley, 58 Halifax; two from Truth, 137 Huddersfield; and one from Copley, 111 Leeds; enough will have been said to show that the Old York has undoubtedly established its *raison d'être*.

The very arduous task of putting the new men (most of whom were present) through the six different Degrees was valiantly undertaken by Bro. William Vincent, G.D. of C., assisted by Bro. R. J. Voisey. This was finally accomplished, so that with the joining members, of whom there were seven, there was a goodly contingent of brethren, who were thus able to witness the ceremony of consecration.

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Euston, M.W. Grand Master of the Order, was invited to come down for the purpose, and with his usual kindness and

courtesy, he consented. Lord Euston, it will be remembered, undertook to consecrate the St. Laurence Council, Pudsey, in the early part of last year, but being at the time confined to his bed, he was obliged to depute the work to Bro. Matier, P. Dep. G. Master, G. Secretary. Particulars of this successful function appeared in our columns at the time, and though the Pudsey brethren were naturally disappointed at Lord Euston's absence, they were able with their message of sympathy to assure him that Bro. Matier, aided by Bro. Belton, had most successfully made up for his lordship's absence.

On the present occasion the M.W. Grand Master attended in person, and was accompanied by Bros. Charles Belton, Dep. G. Master; C. F. Matier, P. Dep. G. Master, G. Sec.; Wm. Vincent, G.D. of C.; and R. J. Voisey, P.A.G.D. of C. With these brethren were Bros. the Rev. C. E. L. Wright, M.A., P.M., P.G. Chap.; Dr. C. S. Brewer; and J. W. Monckman, J.P., J.G.W.

A council was opened by the M.W. Grand Master, Bro. Monckman taking the Senior Warden's chair, and Bro. Voisey that of the Junior Warden. Bro. C. E. L. Wright acted as Chaplain, and Bro. Vincent most ably discharged the duties of Director of Ceremonies. In addition to the brethren already named there were present Bros. E. Foulds, C. W. Hudson, T. M. Lawson, Geo. Martin, Thomas Norfolk, Joseph Smith, James Tilley, S. Whiteley, P. Alderson, Wm. Gaukroger, J.P., Richard Hodgson, H. S. Holdsworth, Geo. Hoyle, W. S. Milligan, Robert Potter, Walker Dyson, Richard Gill, R. J. Smith, L. Crossley, Herbert Holland, Wm. Woodiwiss, W. Wagstaffe, and W. E. Smithies. The visitors included Bros. Chas. Cromack, W.M. St. Laurence Council, and Joseph Matthewman, 27, Prov. G. Sec. for the Mark Degree.

The ceremony was most carefully and reverently conducted by the M.W. Grand Master, assisted by the Chaplain, who, during the proceedings, delivered the following oration:

It is customary at the consecration of a new lodge, or council, or chapter in Masonry for the Chaplain to deliver an oration on the nature and principles of the Order, and in this, the Allied Degrees, there is an almost embarrassing choice of subjects, for it is not only one Degree, but several that are under the regis of the Grand Council. The Grand Council of the Allied Degrees was formed to secure the union of several bodies, many of which had worked from time immemorial, and which were scattered over the country without any supreme head. But it is not a very old body, for, as you know, the council that we are to consecrate to-day is only No. 29 on the list, and, in addition, there are seven time immemorial ones. I am glad to see that three of your founders come from my own Yorkshire council, the Ebor at York, which ranks as C. among the time immemorial ones. But though the Grand Council has no ancient lineage to boast of, it has done extremely useful work, and has been very active, especially in the last few years. Since our present Grand Master was elected to the chair in 1888 no less than nine new councils have been consecrated, a fact which speaks volumes for itself, and two additional Degrees have been brought under its jurisdiction, the Secret Monitor, and the Grand Tyler of King Solomon. The first of the original four Degrees, that of St. Laurence the Martyr was originally of great importance to our operative brethren when travelling about. As the lecture informs you, we know it to have existed for 150 years, principally in Lancashire and Yorkshire, and I imagine that to be the reason why so many of the time immemorial councils are to be found in the north of England. The Knight of Constantinople teaches us the equality of all men, the Red Cross of Babylon the great importance of truth, and the Grand High Priest the purity and uprightness of life as well as the duty of being always ready to perform the sacred offices of Charity and mercy. This latter Degree can only be conferred upon an Installed Principal of the Royal Arch, and in America only upon an installed First Principal. The Grand Tyler of King Solomon points out to us the necessity of silence and secrecy, and, while warning us against judging people only by appearances, teaches us to put the best construction and not the worst on their actions, and always be ready to acknowledge our mistakes. And, lastly, the Secret Monitor, as its very name implies, shows us that we should always be ready to give or receive friendly advice, without taking offence, from those who are qualified to offer it. In founding this council, then you express your belief and assent to these moral maxims, and you wish to teach them to others. Any one of them might almost form an oration in itself. How much, for instance, might be said on "the equality of all men," for, though all men are equal in the sight of God, there must, of course, be numerous restrictions to the doctrine in other respects. Or, again, how important it is for us to remember that we should never say anything about anyone that we do not know to be absolutely true. What a lot of harm is frequently done by repeating things about people which have little or no foundation in fact. All of this and much else is taught to us symbolically, and sometimes very definitely, in the mysteries of our ritual. But especially is the almighty force and high importance of truth inculcated upon us in one of the most beautiful of these Degrees. In conclusion, then, let me just give you three thoughts derived from this subject. 1st. Be true to yourselves. Shakespeare says—

"To thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou can'st not then be false to any man."

Set a high standard before you, whether in your public, your private, or your Masonic life. Live up to your principles, and be ready to give up all, if need be, for the truth's sake. Then, secondly, be true to your neighbours—in word, in act, and manner—and especially to your brethren, being ready to assist those in distress, showing kindness and sympathy to all, living in union and harmony, and endeavouring to carry out all your Masonic duties, not only in the letter but in the spirit. And, lastly, be true to God. To Him alone can you look for comfort and assistance in any trouble or distress. How earnestly we acknowledge our need of Him in our corporate capacity when consecrating lodges or councils, the deeply religious nature of the ceremony in which we are now engaged most clearly defines, and so we must each of us do individually. We must live up to the light that we have, and pray earnestly for more light. We must be earnest seekers after the truth for the truth's sake.

"Magna est Veritas et prevalebit."

At the completion of the ceremony Bro. C. F. MATIER installed Bro. C. Letch Mason as first W.M. of the Old York Council. After the election of Bro. Crabtree as Treasurer, Bro. Mason appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. John Barker, S.W.; J. L. Atherton, J.W.; C. Crabtree, Treas.; C. W. Hudson, Sec.; H. S. Holdsworth, S.D.; R. Hodgson, J.D.; T. Norfolk, I.G.; G. Whitaker, Chap.; R. A. Pullan, D. of C.; S. Whiteley, Org.; and Geo. Martin and E. Foulds, Stewards.

Previous to closing the council, Bro. C. LETCH MASON, W.M., moved a cordial vote of thanks to the M.W.G. Master for his attendance that day to consecrate the council. In this he included, of course, the other Grand Officers, all of whom, he proposed, should be asked to become honorary members.

This was warmly seconded by the S.W., Bro. BARKER, and most heartily received and assented to.

The M.W.G. Master, Lord EUSTON, acknowledged the compliment. He assured the brethren that it had given him very great pleasure indeed to come down to Bradford to take part in the important business they had just completed. He distinctly remembered how last year he was deprived of that pleasure through illness, and he would take that opportunity of telling the Pudsey brethren, several of whom he was informed were present, that the disappointment was not all theirs, that he, too, felt extreme regret at his being prevented visiting them, and that he was most gratified with the report of the proceedings which the Grand Secretary brought to him. As to the Old York Council that day inaugurated, knowing the men in whose hands the management of affairs at present rested, and for some time in the order of things would rest, he had every possible confidence that it would be ably guided and well directed, and that he should hear nothing but what was good and satisfactory in its conduct and progress. He expressed the feelings of all the Grand Officers present when he said that, they had all been much pleased to see the keen interest displayed by the brethren in the Degree and the enthusiastic manner in which the council had been established. He and the other Grand Officers present would gladly accept the privilege of being made honorary members, and would return to London feeling that the true Masonic spirit existed in West Yorkshire, and that he and his companions had been amply repaid for any trouble or exertion it had cost them by the kindly welcome and consideration which had been so cordially given to them.

The council was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to dinner. This was given in the Salem-street *salle à manger*, and was numerously attended. The W.M. presided, supported by the M.W.G. Master and the rest of the Grand Officers.

The loyal and Masonic toasts usual on these occasions were duly proposed and suitably honoured.

THE LOIDIS CONCLAVE OF ROME AND OF THE RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE.

For some time a desire has existed amongst many Leeds brethren that an effort should be made to establish in their midst a conclave of Knights of Rome and Constantine, together with a sanctuary of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and St. John the Evangelist. Such a body up to Saturday, the 27th ult., existed in West Yorkshire only at Sheffield, though societies of this name we believe are to be found in York and Hull. A meeting of brethren likely to show interest in the proposal was called early in March, and it was taken up eagerly. An application was made to headquarters, and an Intendant General unattached was appointed, with full powers, in the person of Sir Knight C. Letch Mason, who was one of the promoters of the scheme. Associated with Bro. Mason were Bros. John Barker and J. L. Atherton, and by dispensation on the 28th March the Degree of Rome and Constantine was conferred upon 11 brethren from various parts of the province, who, with the three mentioned above, became petitioners for a warrant to Grand Conclave. In their task on this occasion Bros. Mason, Barker, and Atherton received most valuable help and advice from Sir Knight Joseph Binney, Dep. Intendant General for West Yorkshire, of the White Rose Conclave, Sheffield. Sanction having been obtained from Grand Conclave, Saturday, the 27th ult., was fixed for the consecration. This was the day following the ceremony at Bradford, and the Earl of Euston and his party, by spending the night in Leeds, were able to combine the two events with the least possible inconvenience. To suit the arrangements of the M.I.G. Sovereign, the consecration was fixed for 1.30 p.m. Previous to this event, however, by dispensation, eight additional brethren were admitted to the Order of Rome and Constantine, and were thus privileged to witness the proceedings. The arrangements and preparations for the ceremony were carefully carried out under the instructions and with the material help of Sir Knight Dr. C. S. Brewer, Grand Marshal. The value of the assistance which the Loidis brethren received from Sir Knight Brewer it would be difficult to appraise, that worthy brother having brought with him all the appurtenances which were needed for the beautiful effects produced in the working of the K.H.S. Degree.

At the opening of the conclave the chairs were occupied as follows: Sir Knights Dr. Brewer, Sov.; C. L. Mason, Viceroy E.; C. E. L. Wright, H.P.; J. Barker and J. L. Atherton, S. and J. Gs.; and Voisey, Prefect. There were also present Sir Knights W. E. Smithies, B. S. Bailey, J. Matthewman, R. J. Smith, J. W. Stead, T. G. Howell, W. Wagstaffe, and Geo. Whitaker. The following eight candidates were admitted to the Order: Bros. C. Crabtree, W. Gaukroger, J.P., Walker Dyson, John Brook, J. E. Cawthorn, E. Foulds, Joseph Smith, and Thomas Norfolk. After obligation and proclamation they were duly invested by the acting Viceroy. During the ceremony two illustrious visitors were announced, being Sir Knights Joseph Binney, Dep. Intend. Gen., and Harold Thomas, G. Almoner, from the White Rose Conclave, Sheffield.

At 1.30 p.m. the M.I.G. Sovereign, the Earl of Euston, entered under the arch of steel, accompanied by Sir Knights C. F. Matier, K.C.T., G.C.C., P.G. Viceroy, Int. Gen. Lancashire, Grand Recorder; Charles Belton, K.C.T., Int. Gen. Berkshire; the Rev. C. E. L. Wright, Past G. High Prelate; R. J. Voisey, Prefect; and Dr. C. S. Brewer, who acted as Director of Ceremonies.

The ceremony of consecration was conducted by Sir Knight C. F. Matier, and the dedicatory portion was carried out by the M.I. Sovereign. The music formed a pleasant portion of the function, for which Sir Knight John Brook was responsible. Needless to say, his share of the work was ably done. The oration, delivered by the Prelate, was very interesting, and portions of it gave rise to subsequent amusing discussion. It was as follows:

The Order of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine is one of the most ancient in existence—indeed, the Abbé Giustiniani in 1692 declared that it was the most ancient in the world—at any rate, it is the most ancient of Christian Orders, since it was founded in the year 313 A.D. to commemorate Constantine the Great's victory at the battle of Saxa Rubra outside Rome, and the still more important event of his conversion to Christianity in consequence of the vision which he beheld the preceding evening, and with which you are all well acquainted. It is an Order which we may be proud to belong to, for it commemorates circumstances which changed the history of the world. I need hardly say, then, that the ceremony in which we are now engaged is one of the deepest interest—that of the formation of a new conclave to cherish and promote the objects of our Order. The name which the founders have chosen—that of the Loidis Conclave—is a very appropriate one, being the ancient name of the city where we are now assembled; and yet Leeds has no very ancient history to offer for our consideration. She is essentially modern, a product of modern civilisation. Here are no crumbling walls or castles hoary with age for us to gaze at; here are no legends

of chivalry of Plantagenet or mediæval days; no records of those knights of the past, whose glorious deeds we would emulate, save only that at Temple Newsam a few miles away, there once was a preceptory of a kindred Order, the Knights Templar. Everything around us speaks of modern life and modern conditions, and amid all the stress and toil that life in a great commercial centre like this involves, it is good that there should be opportunities for those who appreciate the beauties of Orders and Degrees such as this, to dismiss their cares for a time and symbolically practice the teaching of the past. "Behold how good and joyful a thing it is for the brethren to dwell together in unity." The name Leeds is said to have been derived from a chief named Leod, and in its Latin form, the names Leodiensis and Loidis have been indifferently used. It never became a place of importance till modern times. As late as 1715 I have found the following quaint entry: "Loidis, two miles lower than Christall Abbey on Aire river, is a praty market town having one parochie chirche, reasonably well buildid and as large as Bradetord, but no so quick as it. The Toun standith most by clothing." The old English phraseology is most curious, but contrast this with its present aspect. Leeds to-day has a population of over 400,000, while in addition to the "one parochie chirche," there are 180 places of worship of various kinds, showing the marvellous development that has taken place. The same thing may be seen in all our great manufacturing centres. As population increases, so are fresh areas constantly brought under the Masonic sceptre, and I feel sure that amid so large a *clientèle*, there is every prospect for the Loidis Conclave of a long and useful career. I will just briefly in conclusion direct your attention to the three presiding principles which animate our Order. They are faith, unity, and zeal. A great preacher has defined faith as the vision OF and trust IN the Invisible amidst a world of delusive appearances. It is at once the eye of the soul by which it beholds spiritual verities, and the emotion of the heart by which it believes in them as realities. This is the saving faith, the highest form of which we place in the Blessed Trinity, to whom all our labours are dedicated. But there is a lesser and more human kind of faith which we must have in our Order itself and all its traditions if we wish it to flourish. No cause is ever helped forward unless those who promote it, believe in it, and we must have *faith* in our Order, *faith* in its rulers, *faith* in ourselves, and then, relying on that assistance which we can alone obtain from above, we may hope to bring our work to a successful issue. Unity is just as essential for our work as faith, for what possible good can we hope to achieve if we are torn asunder by jealousies and discord? We live in days when in the outside world the problem of how to secure unity seems more and more difficult of attainment. But in Masonry, at any rate, we have a common meeting ground, where men of every *creed*, and *nation*, and *politics*, and *position* can come together, and there is no difference in Christian Masonry, save that those who join it believe in the ever Blessed Trinity. Let us, then, do all in our power to encourage unity, avoiding all occasions of offence, showing kindness and courtesy to all; and, in the words of the Apostle, being ready to rejoice with those that do rejoice, and to weep with those that weep. Zeal has been defined in our latest dictionary as a passionate ardour in the pursuit and accomplishment of an object, and I do not think we can find a much better one. It is not merely excitement or warmth of expression. It is a working practical energy permeating the soul and constantly urging us forward. Zeal is the third guiding principle which our great founder commended to us when he formed this Order. It was the distinguishing characteristic of his own life. Let it be so of ours. Many of those who have since occupied his throne as our rulers have set us a noble example of devotion to duty. Strive to follow in their footsteps; keep constantly before you our three watchwords—Faith, Unity, and Zeal—and may this conclave which is dedicated to-day attain high rank among those enrolled on the pages of history!

The consecration ceremony completed, Sir Knight C. Letch Mason was installed Sovereign. The Viceroy E. Sir Knight John Barker was then consecrated and invested. The other offices were filled as follows: Sir Knights Jeremiah Leech Atherton 1st Gen.; William Edward Smithies, 2nd Gen.; Robert John Smith, High Prelate; Benjamin Sykes Bailey, Treas.; Joseph Matthewman, Recorder; Hugh Sugden Holdsworth, Prefect; Richard Hodgson, Std. Br.; William Hugo Rendell, Herald; Thomas Gaukroger Howell, 1st Aide; George Whitaker, 2nd Aide; John Brook, Org.; and Wheeler, Sentinel.

At the close of the proceedings the M.I.G. Sovereign and the Grand Officers were heartily thanked for their presence and services, and on the proposition of Sir Knight MASON, seconded by VICEROY E., Lord Euston and those accompanying him were made honorary members of the conclave. Sir Knight Joseph Binney, Dep. I.G., was included in the honorary list in consideration of the help he had rendered at the formation of the conclave.

The M.I.G. SOVEREIGN, in the name of the Grand Officers, as well as in his own, thanked the members of the conclave for their kind acknowledgments and for the signal mark of estimation shown, by making them honorary members. Speaking for himself, he could say that he was only too glad to be among them that day, and that he always carried back the pleasantest of bright memories of his visits to West Yorkshire.

Apologies were announced, and a congratulatory telegram from the Eboracum Conclave was received.

The M.I.G. Sovereign then left, and the conclave was closed.

A luncheon was served in the dining-hall at 2.30, at which all the company were present.

The toasts were very few, comprising "The Queen" and "The M.I.G. Sov., the Earl of Euston."

The Earl of EUSTON, who was in very happy vein, replied. He expressed his admiration for the brethren who, steeped in business cares, could yet devote so much of their time to the pursuit of Masonic knowledge. He cordially acknowledged the kind feeling which he always experienced from his West Yorkshire Masonic friends, and, whilst congratulating them upon the success with which they had commenced that day, yet he could not abstain from a word of caution to them as to the admission of new members. Before sitting down he proposed "The Health of the Sovereign and success to the Loidis Conclave."

Sir Knight MASON replied, and took occasion, in a jocular way, to refute and take exception to the very utilitarian aspect which the Prelate in his address had assigned to the city of Leeds. Whilst admitting that they were essentially practical, yet they had in their midst some relics of antiquity, and were not quite so lost to respect for the past as the Prelate seemed to think.

These remarks led to a reply from the Rev. C. E. L. WRIGHT, which was given in the best of good humour and fellowship.

The Earl of Euston and party shortly afterwards left.

The day's proceedings ended by the admission of some 17 or 18 members to the Degree of K.H.S. and St. John the Evangelist. This was most ably conducted by Sir Knight Dr. C. S. Brewer, G. Marshal, assisted by Sir Knight R. J. Voisey. The ceremony impressed the brethren greatly, and at its close many expressions of opinion as to the splendid working of Sir Knight Brewer were heard. The sanctuary is styled St. Peter's, and will be allied with the Loidis Conclave.

The use of the word "Loidis" as a name for the new conclave, as well as the pronunciation of it, came in for some discussion during the day; but our report has already attained to unusual length, and we must leave that, and, perhaps, some other lodge names, to a subsequent notice. We can only echo, in conclusion, the good wishes of Lord Euston—that the Old York Council and the Loidis Conclave may meet with all the success their promoters could desire.

Craft Masonry.

Sir Walter Raleigh Lodge, No. 2432.

A regular meeting of this lodge, which, as its name indicates, is composed of members of the tobacco trade, was held at the Inns of Court Hotel, W.C., on Thursday, the 25th ult., when there were present Bros. Bates, P.M. 1507 and 2550, W.M.; Lowry, I.P.M.; C. Ransford, S.W.; T. Rayner, J.W.; G. Ransford, P.G.S.B. Middx.; Treas.; W. H. Bullock, Sec.; A. S. Benjamin, S.D.; O. C. Moore, J.D.; George Emblin, D.C.; Alex. Jones, I.G.; T. H. Yeldham, Org.; H. Cosins, E. Grahner, W. C. Lightfoot, and S. Maier, Stwds.; H. Evenden, Tyler; W. Klingenstein, P.M.; A. Pringle, P.M.; Parkins, Lawes, Van Gelder, Morriss, Foyle, Pearson, Francott, Alberge, Naphtali, Winter, and Custance, P.P.G. Std. Br. Barks. Visitors: Bros. Garland, 742; Freeman, 1613; Todman, I.P.M. 2030; Jackson, W.M. 548; Nathan, 2626; Tooley, 2442; Mountain, S.D. 2030; W. F. Smithson, P.G.D. Eng.; and Barron, 1828.

The lodge having been opened and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Mr. Henry Robinson, and his election was unanimous. He was initiated and received the charge. Bros. Foyle and Francott were passed to the Second Degree. Both the ceremonies were rendered in a perfect manner by the W.M., who is the well-known Preceptor of the Emblematic Lodge of Instruction. The communication from Grand Lodge relative to the Grand Lodge of Peru was read as directed.

After the transaction of the usual business, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to banquet, which was presided over by the W.M. in his usual genial style.

The various toasts were honoured, and a choice musical programme gone through, the Tyler's toast bringing to a close a long and happy evening.

The lodge does not meet again till September.

Thomas Ralling Lodge, No. 2508.

An ordinary meeting of this lodge was held on the 27th ult. at the Roebuck Hotel, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. Frank Griffith. The meeting, although the usual May assembly, was exceptional by the fact that the Provincial Grand Master, the Earl of Warwick, had accepted the invitation to be present at the lodge meeting, and that the Earl of Stradbroke, Senior Grand Warden for the year in United Grand Lodge, had also accepted the invitation. The invitations which had been sent out were generally accepted, as it was known that both of these distinguished brethren, as well as other Grand Officers, would be present, and consequently there was a full attendance of brethren both from the Province of Essex and from London. The best arrangements had been made for the comfort and convenience of members of the lodge and of visitors, and the proceedings throughout were characterised by the perpetuation of the best Masonic traditions. There was a splendid assembly of brethren, the working of the ceremony of initiation by the Master and his officers was all that could be desired, and the hearty welcome accorded to visitors met with general approval. The brethren who attended, in addition to the W.M., were Bros. Percy Griffith, S.W.; Harvey Lohr, J.W.; Thos. J. Ralling, P.A.G.D.C., &c., Treas.; Matthew Clark, D.C.; F. W. Ward, Sec.; Charles Gough, S.D.; George Rankin, J.D.; H. W. King, I.G.; J. Martin, Org.; Allan B. Fuller and J. Wesley Ward, Stwds.; C. H. Kempling, I.P.M.; Walter C. Tull, P.M.; R. J. Hemmings, P.M.; Charles Lewis, P.P.J.G.D.; W. Herbert Cox, A. Lucking, P.G.P.; W. H. Oldham, R. Clowes, P.G.S.B.; Geo. E. Pryke, W. W. Holdaway, and A. E. Goodey. Visitors: Bros. Rt. Hon. the Earl of Warwick, D.G.M., Prov. G.M.; Rt. Hon. Earl of Stradbroke, Senior G.W.; Ven. Archdeacon Sinclair, D.D., Past G. Chap.; Ven. Archdeacon T. Stevens, Past G. Chap.; Thos. J. Ralling, P.A.G.D.C., Prov. G. Sec.; Richard Clowes, P.G.S.B.; Albert Lucking, P.G.P., P.G.D.C.; Rev. W. Cree, P.P.G.C.; Dr. J. H. Salter, P.P.J.G.W.; W. F. Dring, P.P.S.G.D.; J. Boulton, P.G.P.; E. J. Bowmaker, Prov. G. Treas.; Maj. H. Vane Stow, P.M. and Treas. 2578; Joseph Cohen, D.P.G.D.C.; Geo. Corble, P.P.J.G.W.; J. R. Johnson, P.P.G.D.; Dan Grinstead, P.P.G.D.; Martin J. Dickens, P.G.S.; J. W. Armour, P.G. Std. Br.; M. J. Freelove, P.S.G.D.; George F. Smith, P.G.O.; J. Woodrow Matthews, P.G.S.; H. E. Herman, P.J.G.D.; E. Thea, S.W. 391; F. Medhurst, W.M. 1692; G. H. Annetts, P.M. 340; R. C. Davis, I.P.M. 1903; E. Barlow, P.M. 180; E. D. Bailey, P.M. 2006; G. E. Gratton, W.M. 2654; James Randall, P.M. 1719; and others.

After the lodge had been opened, and the minutes confirmed, successful ballots were taken for Messrs. George Edgar Urch and Henry Robert Appleton as initiates, and Bros. W. H. Oldham, 503; Albert George Wedmore, 1791; and James Robert Vagg, 2705, as joining members. The Dep. Grand Master, the Earl of Warwick, the Earl of Stradbroke, S.G.W., and the other Grand Officers were then announced as waiting to be admitted to the lodge. On their admission, and after taking their seats, they were saluted. Bro. Frank Griffith, W.M., after the salutes of the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Wardens, and the other Grand Officers had been duly performed, said that on such an occasion, when the Earl of Warwick, Deputy Grand Master, and Prov. Grand Master for Essex, and the Earl of Stradbroke, Senior Grand Warden, had visited the Thomas Ralling Lodge, he felt that the records of the lodge would be incomplete if he did not express on behalf of the members and the visitors a hearty welcome to the distinguished brethren who had honoured the lodge with their presence. As in every Masonic lodge, loyalty to the Grand Master was one of their great privileges and pleasures, he expressed that feeling now to Lord Warwick, and with his lordship he would couple the Senior Grand Warden of England, for the lodge felt it a very high honour that he had been kind enough to visit the lodge. He (Bro. F. Griffith) did that in lodge in order that it might stand as one of their most important records that they had the privilege of welcoming such distinguished brethren, and that they did so with all their hearts. (Applause.) The Earl of Warwick, Deputy Grand Master, Prov. Grand Master, in response, said that to the gracious words the W.M. had been kind enough to address to him and Lord Stradbroke, he could only reply that it had given him great pleasure to be present and to congratulate Bro. Frank Griffith on presiding over a lodge, which, although not of great antiquity, was one of the most successful lodges in the Province of Essex; it was a lodge bearing the highly respected name of Ralling, and on that account should be in the satisfactory condition that it was. Of course, he knew that on all occasions when he came among the brethren they were good enough to give him a loyal and hearty Masonic reception as their Provincial Grand Master; and now that he had been promoted to higher honours by the Grand Master it still more became his duty to be with the brethren as much as possible, and to take part in the Masonic proceedings of his province. He also must join with the brethren of the lodge in the cordial greetings which they had extended to Bro. Lord Stradbroke, S.G.W. Eng. (Hear, hear.) Lord Stradbroke was an Essex man, and they must welcome him most heartily on joining the province. (Hear, hear.) He only hoped it would not be the last time they would have his lordship among them. He did not know what the future might have in store for Lord Stradbroke, who was known for Masonic work; but he might say with confidence that the interest Lord Stradbroke took in Masonic work would, no doubt, entitle him to still higher rank than that he held now. (Cheers.) He was glad to see the two Archdeacons present. Specially did he think it very desirable that they should recognise the pleasant manner in which they were supported by the Church. They should all consider that Charity was the first thing that every Mason should have at heart, and, therefore, it was most becoming they should be supported by distinguished churchmen such as they had there that evening. He congratulated the lodge greatly on the number of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers present, and, as he would have another opportunity of offering his congratulations to the Thomas Ralling Lodge, he would say no more at present than thank the lodge very much for the cordial welcome they had given him. (Applause.) The Earl of Stradbroke also thanked the brethren, and said it had

given him great pleasure to take part in the day's proceedings, and he thanked the brethren very much for their hearty welcome. He could not equal the record of Lord Warwick in Masonry, but he felt exceedingly proud of attaining to the high position in Masonry he now occupied in Grand Lodge, for he was comparatively a young Mason. It was a great pride to him to be in such a high position in the Craft as W.M. of the National Artillery Lodge. Thanking them again for their welcome, he echoed what Lord Warwick had said—that another opportunity would occur before long for his meeting the brethren. (Applause.) The work of the lodge then proceeded, and Messrs. G. E. Urch and H. R. Appleton were initiated by the W.M., who also delivered the ancient charge. The whole ceremony was beautifully performed.

After lodge was closed a photograph was taken of the party.

An excellent banquet was subsequently partaken of, and the usual toasts followed. Bro. Frank Griffith, W.M., in proposing "The Pro Grand Master, Earl Amherst; the Dep. Grand Master, the Earl of Warwick; and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," said the Grand Officers took an interest in the work of Masonry. The Archdeacon of London had shown an interest in the Kirby Lodge of Instruction, of which there were many members now present, and had conducted them round St. Paul's Cathedral. This they appreciated very much.

Bro. the Earl of Stradbroke, S.G.W., first regretted that Lord Warwick had been obliged to go away. He added that Freemasonry was very active in Essex, and especially since Lord Warwick had been Provincial Grand Master, for during that time the number of lodges in Essex had increased from 19 to 43. All the visitors were delighted with the way the work of the lodge had been that evening performed; nothing could have been done better, and the W.M. was to be most heartily congratulated on the way he performed the work.

Bro. the Archdeacon of London said with regard to the Kirby Lodge of Instruction the Grand Officers were pleased to take part in any work that would keep up the old traditions of Masonry. There was a great deal of work to be done month by month and fortnight by fortnight by Grand Officers, and a large number attended the Board of General Purposes and the Board of Benevolence, and took a wise and practical interest in Masonry. Respecting what had been said about St. Paul's Cathedral, he would say a new lodge had been started called the Cathedral Lodge, which was composed of members of the choir and staff of St. Paul's Cathedral. It was a very interesting lodge, and he had received a large number of congratulations upon it.

The Archdeacon of Essex, P.G.C., responded to the toast of "The Provincial Grand Officers," and said he had had the honour of being Provincial Grand Chaplain of Essex for two years, and that was his first step on the Masonic ladder, but he was astonished when he was asked to be Grand Chaplain in United Grand Lodge. He felt, however, that it was not only a compliment to him, but a compliment to the Province of Essex.

Bro. Albert Lucking, P.G.P., also replied.

Bro. Charles Lewis, P.P.J.G.D., P.M., proposed "The W.M.," and said that he and the W.M. were cousins; they had been friends ever since they were little children; for many years they met every day, they spent many of their holidays together, they had travelled together at home and abroad, and eventually they married into the same family. Bro. Griffith was a most popular and genial man, in the family circle, in the social circle, in club life, in his military duties, although at Shoeburyness Lord Stradbroke could speak more about that; but at Shoeburyness and elsewhere he had always proved himself a most kindly, genial and popular man. He was pleased there were so many representatives of lodges present to testify to the popularity of the W.M.

Bro. Frank Griffith, W.M., in reply, said he thanked the brethren for coming in such numbers to assist in welcoming the distinguished Masons who had honoured the Thomas Ralling Lodge with their presence. It was a red-letter day for the lodge. There was not a member of the lodge who did not feel it a great honour to come and take part in the ceremonies that evening. He felt it a pride and honour that Lord Stradbroke accepted the invitation. The events of the day would be looked back to by many generations with pleasure, and he thanked Lord Stradbroke for coming. He hoped the brethren had spent a pleasant afternoon, and he thanked all the brethren for the cordiality with which they had received this toast. He took it as an honour to be Master of the lodge. Although a young lodge it had already acquired traditions. It had had excellent work. Good work in Masonry invariably produced good work. The first Master of the lodge, Bro. Thomas Ralling, whose name it had the honour to bear, did his work well, and he was followed by other good workers, Bros. Lewis, Hemmings, Tull, and Kempling. All these brethren had laid the foundation of good work in the lodge, and he hoped and believed that the influence which compelled him, naturally an indolent man, to work, would act upon others, so that they might uphold the traditions of Masonry, and that the work of their lodge would always be done in a good Masonic way. In saying this he was trying to throw the good work on the Past Masters, who had set a good example, which every succeeding Master might be proud of, and he was very glad to pay this tribute to the Masters of the lodge.

The W.M. here announced that the Charity box had yielded £5.

Bro. Frank Griffith, W.M., in giving the toast of "The Initiates," said he believed that the two newly-admitted brethren would uphold in their natural lives the traditions of Masonry.

Bros. Urch and Appleton acknowledged the toast, and Bro. Lewis, Kempling, Hennings, and Tull responded to the toast of "The Past Masters," which was proposed by the Senior Warden.

Bro. George Smith, Guildhall School of Music, P.M., P.G. Org., among others, replied to the toast of "The Visitors," and the remaining toasts were given before the brethren separated.

The musical arrangements for the evening were under the direction of Bro. Charles Kempling, Prov. G. Org., I.P.M., and the brethren who performed were the Lyric Vocal Quartette (Bros. Thomas Powell, Charles Strong, Etherington Smith, and Horace Reynolds). Bro. Etherington Smith sang "God save the Queen," the Lyric Vocal Quartette sang the glee "Haste ye soft gales;" Bro. Walter Churcher gave some good recitations; Bro. Sidwell Jones sang "The Eternal Spring" (Bro. Harvey Lohr); a pianoforte duet, entitled "Rhapsodie Hongroise, No. 2," was given by Bro. C. H. Kempling, I.P.M., and Harvey Lohr "The Catastrophe;" a humorous part song was given by the Quartette; Bro. Thomas Powell sang "Mary of Argyle;" and "The Darkie's Love," plantation song, fell to the Lyric Quartette.

Royal Arch.

Era Chapter, No. 1432.

A meeting of this chapter was held at the Albany Hotel, Twickenham, on the 13th ult., when there were present among others Comps. R. Poore, M.E.Z.; B. Grant, H.; F. E. Foulger, J.; Major T.C. Walls, P.Z., P.D.G.D.C., S.E.; J. Masters, S.N.; E.H. Thiellay, P.Z., P.P.G.D.C., Treas.; A. Collins, P.S.; S. S. Holt, 1st A.S.; A. Macchi, D.C.; J. B. Ryley, M.D., P.Z., P.P.G.J.; H. Higgins, P.Z., P.P.G.D.C.; C. H. Kohler, P.Z., P.P.G.S.B.; and W. Fisher, P.Z., P.P.G.P.S., A.G.D.C.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken on behalf of Bro. C. C. Eberstein, and it being unanimous, he was impressively installed a member of the Order by the M.E.Z. Comp. B. Grant was elected M.E.Z.; and Comps. F. E. Foulger, H.; J. Masters, J.; Major Walls, S.E.; Collins, S.N.; Thiellay, P.Z., Treas.; Holt, P.S.; A. Macchi, 1st A.S.; B. A. Marshall, 2nd A.S.; A. Haine, D.C.; and G. Harrison, Janitor. A gold bar, to be suitably inscribed, was voted to the M.E.Z., to mark his second year's tenure of office, his previous services having already been recognised by the presentation of a Past Principal's jewel. Apologies for non-attendance having been read, the chapter was closed.

A banquet of a most excellent nature was then served by Host Green.

Comp. W. Fisher, A.G.D.C., acknowledged in a happy speech "The Health of the Grand Officers."

Comp. Dr. Ryley responded to the toast of "The Provincial Grand Officers."

"The Health of the M.E.Z." was given in eulogistic terms by the Treasurer, who congratulated him upon his excellent working that day.

Comp. R. Poore having replied, submitted the toast of "The H. and J." In the course of his remarks, the First Principal thanked them both for the valuable aid that they had rendered him that afternoon. In the coming year Comps. Grant and Foulger would occupy still higher positions in the Era Chapter, and, no doubt, would do thorough justice to their respective offices of Z. and H.

The Second and Third Principals having replied, the toast of "The Exalte" followed.

In reply to this toast, Comp. C. C. Ebberstein expressed his acknowledgments to his proposer and seconded, and spoke of the great impression that the ceremony of exaltation had created in his mind.

"The Past Principals" was coupled with the names of Comps. Higgins, Kohler, and Robinson, and in giving this toast, the M.E.Z. mentioned the fact that a still older Past Principal, Comp. Dr. Ryley, was a candidate for the Board of General Purposes on the 7th inst., when he (the speaker) hoped that every companion present having the entrée would attend the Grand Lodge and record a vote in the doctor's favour.

Comps. Higgins, Kohler, and Robinson having replied, the toasts of "The S.E. and Treasurer," and "The Officers," brought the proceedings to a conclusion.

' Kennington Chapter, No. 1381.

The installation meeting of this prosperous transpontine chapter was held at the Horns Tavern, Kennington Park, on the 11th ult. Among those present were Comps. A. Lundie, M.E.Z.; W. Smith, H., M.E.Z. elect; H. Whitney, J.; H. Higgins, P.Z., P.P.G.D.C., S.E.; Hale, S.N., J. elect; George Everett, P.Z., P.G. Treas., Treas.; A. Clay, 1st Asst. Soj.; C. H. Kohler, P.Z., P.P.G.S.B.; H. J. Lardner, P.Z., P.P.G. Std. Br.; W. W. Westley, P.Z.; H. Salter, P.Z.; R. Lingley, P.Z.; and W. Dennis, P.Z.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Comp. Major Walls, P.Z., installed Comp. W. Smith as M.E.Z., and Comp. H. J. Lardner, P.Z., installed Comps. Whitney, as H., and Hale, as J. Among the officers invested were Comps. E. Higgins, P.Z., S.E.; George Everett, P.Z., Treas.; Clay, P.S.; and Patrick, P.Z., Janitor. The report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted. A Past Principal's jewel was presented to Comp. A. Lundie, P.Z.

The chapter was then closed. A banquet followed.

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

Comp. George Everett responded on behalf of "The Grand Officers" in a neat and effective speech.

Comp. A. Lundie then submitted the toast of "The M.E.Z." In the course of his remarks he said that Comp. Smith was an old exalte of the chapter, and had filled all the offices leading to the First Principal's chair in a creditable manner. He had that evening shown his kindness of heart by generously presenting the chapter with a very handsome First Principal's collar and jewel. He was a most genial companion, and he trusted that his year of office would be a pleasurable and prosperous one.

The M.E.Z. having replied, gave "The H. and J., Comps. Whitney and Hale," who suitably acknowledged the compliment.

In proposing the toast of "The S.E. and Treasurer," the M.E.Z. spoke in high terms of commendation of those worthy companions. The audit report that evening was a highly satisfactory one, and proved that both the S.E. and Treasurer looked well after the interests of the chapter.

This toast having been duly honoured, Comp. Higgins, S.E., briefly replied to the toast so far as he was concerned.

Comp. Everett, after replying to the kind remarks of the M.E.Z., interpolated a few words with regard to the new caterer of the chapter, Comp. Brinkley, who had that evening made his *début* in that capacity. The dinner had been a most excellent one, and it augured well for the future of the chapter if Comp. Brinkley remained as host of the tavern.

"The Officers" came next in order, and was responded to by Comp. Clay.

"The Health of the new caterer of the chapter, and proprietor of the Horns, Comp. Brinkley," was drunk with musical honours, and the recipient of the compliment having replied, the proceedings terminated.

Ancient and Accepted Rite.

Weymouth Chapter, No. 4.

A meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Weymouth, on Wednesday, the 24th ult., under the genial presidency of the M.W.S., Bro. Herbert J. Groves, the following members being amongst those present: Ill. Bros. Sir R. N. Howard, 32; Col. W. E. Brymer, M.P., 30; Zillwood Milledge, 30; Allen McLeon, J. A. Sherrin, G. B. Welsford, S. S. Milledge, and T. Lowe.

The chapter having been opened, Bros. the Rev. J. Miller, B.D., and B. Morris, J.P., were perfected. This being the 80th anniversary of her Majesty's birthday, the following loyal telegram was despatched:

"To her Majesty the Queen and Empress, Windsor Castle.

"The members of the Weymouth Chapter, Rose Croix, No. 4, now in meeting, desire to approach your Majesty, the Patroness of our Order, with the most loyal and hearty congratulations on the attainment of your Majesty's 80th birthday, and to pray that your Majesty may long be spared to reign over a united and loyal people.

"HERBERT JOHN GROVES, M.W.S.

"ZILLWOOD MILLEDGE, Recorder."

The members were afterwards entertained at a banquet by the M.W.S.

THE MADDISON MEMORIAL WINDOW IN LEDBURY CHURCH.

Soon after the death of Bro. Edward Maddison (which occurred on March 14th, 1898), a representative meeting of Churchmen, Freemasons, and friends was held to consider what means should be adopted to perpetuate his memory. It was unanimously decided to erect a stained-glass window in the south aisle of Ledbury Church, and the suggestion soon met with general favour, Mrs. Maddison, the widow, having previously intimated that such a memorial would be very acceptable to herself, her family, and her relatives. Bro. Beddoe (of Hereford), a prominent Freemason, and Bro. Fredk. Russell (of Ledbury), Secretary of the Eastnor Lodge, Ledbury, were appointed joint Secretaries of the Memorial Committee, the form of the memorial being most acceptable to the Craft generally. Subscriptions were at once forthcoming, the result being a window at once beautiful and artistic.

Our readers will probably remember that the late Bro. Maddison (who at the time of his death had been manager of the Ledbury Branch of the National Provincial Bank for nearly 20 years) was churchwarden for 17 years—an office he served most assiduously through evil report and through good report. His

untiring labours during the recent church restoration were given with that intense love for the grand old church which was so marked, and he filled the post of hon. Secretary to the Restoration Committee with conspicuous tact, ability, and judgment.

As a Freemason he occupied the post of Master twice, and filled the office of Secretary for several years. He was connected with several local institutions, and it was most apparent that in everything he undertook the highest motives prompted him. A memorial window, then, to such a man is most appropriate.

During the restoration of the church the late Bro. Maddison had the satisfaction of seeing three stained glass windows presented to the church, all of which were fixed in the south aisle of the nave by Mr. C. E. Kempe. These were in memory of William Charles Henry, of Hasfield, and Margaret, his wife; the second in memory of William Gordon, of Hasfield; and the third in memory of E. J. Webb, J.P., D.L., banker of Ledbury (erected by his friends).

It is between the two latter that the "Maddison" window is placed, and it completes the series of four by Kempe, in which are revealed figures of apostles and saints in the upper portions and resurrection scenes in the lower portions. There are also representations of the Maries at the Sepulchre, the walk to and supper at Emmaus, the Revelation to Saint Thomas, and the last charge to St. Peter ("Feed my Lambs"). The window is surmounted by angels, and at the base is very clearly represented the credulity of St. Thomas. The following is the inscription: "To the glory of God, and in memory of Edward Maddison, born June 7th, 1840, died March 14th, 1898. For 17 years churchwarden of this parish, and an honoured member of the ancient fraternity of Freemasons. This window was dedicated by the Freemasons of the Province of Herefordshire and his other many friends."

The window is an admirable piece of workmanship, the colours being rich and the figures represented very clear.

DISPENSATIONS TO WEAR MASONIC CLOTHING.

We have received copy of the following circular letter addressed by the Grand Secretary to the W. Masters of Lodges:—

United Grand Lodge of England,
Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street,
London, W.C.,
25th May, 1899.

Dear Sir and Worshipful Master,

In view of the increasing number of applications to the M.W. Grand Master for dispensations to wear Masonic Clothing on occasions other than Lodge Meetings, his Royal Highness's advisers have very fully and seriously considered the question of granting such applications in future, and they are very strongly of opinion that the wearing of Masonic Clothing and Regalia both at Religious Services in Churches, and at places of entertainment when ladies and others who are not Masons are present, is not calculated to increase the dignity of the Order, or to raise it in the estimation of those who have not been admitted to its secrets and mysteries.

It is, moreover, thought that the wearing in public of Masonic Badges and Regalia has the effect of placing Freemasons, in the opinion of many, very much in the same category as Benefit Societies, which, although most excellent in themselves, are formed for purposes and have aims, wholly different to those for which Masonry exists.

I am, therefore, directed to ask you to be so good as to make it known to your lodge, that only under very special and exceptional circumstances, will the M.W. Grand Master be advised to grant such dispensations in future, and then only after a memorial stating the exceptional circumstances of the case shall have been lodged at the office of the Grand Secretary, for the consideration of the Grand Master's advisers at their periodical meetings.

I am to request it may be understood that it is not desired to discourage the meeting of brethren, either for religious worship, or on occasions of their extending hospitality to those who are not members of the Order; the only object of the decision which has been arrived at is to check the exhibition in public of a costume intended to be worn only in private during the performance of Masonic rites and ceremonies.—I am, Dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

E. LETCHWORTH,
Grand Secretary.

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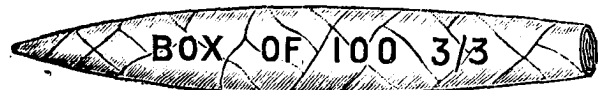
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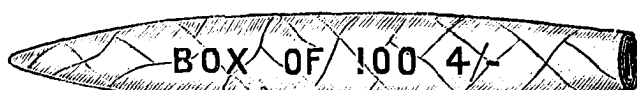
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