

# 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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## HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

That Hampshire and the Isle of Wight should have no difficulty in maintaining the reputation it has long enjoyed as one of our chief strongholds of Freemasonry will surprise no one who has any, albeit even a restricted, knowledge of the present condition of the English Craft. In the first place, it has been for the last 30 years presided over by a ruler than whom there is no Prov. G. Master who has greater knowledge and experience of Masonry, who is more zealous and active in the discharge of his duties, and who at the same time is more generally beloved and respected. Bro. W. W. B. BEACH, M.P., has been a member of the Order for upwards of half a century, having been initiated in the Apollo University Lodge of Oxford, No. 357, in 1848. In 1851 and 1852 he was Prov. S.G.D., and in 1853 Prov. S.G.W. of Oxfordshire; two years later he took a leading part in reviving the fortunes of the Westminster and Keystone Lodge, No. 10, as a London home for Oxford University brethren; and on the 1st June, 1869, he received his patent of appointment as Prov. G. Master of the combined Provinces of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, having, in the interval, served as W.M. of the Lodge of Economy, No. 76, and Prov. S.G.W. of Hampshire. Of the 48 lodges in the Province exactly one half have been warranted during his tenure of office; while 13 out of the 24 Royal Arch chapters have been constituted during the years he has been G. Superintendent. These few particulars will suffice to give some idea of the length and variety of the service rendered to Freemasonry by the Grand Master of this Province, while as regards his zeal and activity and the respect in which he is held, not a year passes but some event occurs which illustrates the character of the work he does and the feelings entertained towards him by his brethren. But it is not alone in the attributes of its Provincial Grand Master that Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is fortunate. It includes in its ranks many brethren who have not only attained high rank in our Order but who have likewise done it valuable service. Lastly, the lodges on its roll are apt in the discharge of their duties both severally and collectively; they work together in perfect harmony, and their members are thoroughly imbued with the principles of Masonry, but more particularly with their devotion to that spirit of Charity, which we are taught is characteristic of our Order.

In these circumstances it will not, as we have already said, surprise any one who is even moderately familiar with the state of our English Craft to hear that Hampshire and the

Isle of Wight is one of the most prosperous among our Provinces. At the recent annual meeting at Southampton—of the proceedings at which it was our privilege to publish a full report last week—there was not only an exceptionally large attendance—only one of the 48 lodges on the roll being unrepresented—but, better still, there was an exceptionally favourable report of the work done during the past year. It appeared from the Prov. G. Treasurer's statement of account that the assets of Prov. Grand Lodge amounted to £1443, while its liabilities were *nil*, and this notwithstanding that last year the Province voted 500 guineas to the Boys' Centenary. The Province, too, had, by borrowing votes, succeeded in carrying the election of most of its candidates for the Central Institutions, while its own Provincial Educational and Benevolent Fund was well maintained. There had been one notable function in which the Province had recently taken part at Boscombe, where the Prov. G. Master had laid the foundation-stone of the new Hospital, and by way of emphasising the good work in which our Hants and Wight brethren assisted the meeting, on the proposition of Bro. BEACH, voted a donation of £25 towards the cost of erecting the new building. Lastly, as regards membership, the returns from the several lodges showed an aggregate of 3878 subscribing, which, seeing that the number of lodges is 48, gives an average of rather more than 80 members per lodge. Of such a record as this the Province must needs be proud, and we congratulate the brethren and their distinguished chief that Freemasonry in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has attained to such a position of prosperity.

## LODGE OFFICERS.

### I.—THE TYLER.

[COMMUNICATED.]

As the Tyler is the first lodge officer the candidate comes in contact with in a fraternal or official capacity no apology is needed for considering this very useful brother first. The comfort of the lodge depends much upon him and in practice a considerable amount of the Master's responsibility devolves upon him also. This arises by reason of the Tyler being the only permanent officer of the lodge, his post being practically a freehold. Now the Tyler deserves sympathy and consideration. His knowledge has to be picked up in a way. He never has the chance of seeing a ceremony after the conclusion of those in which he bore a prominent part. Other officers of the lodge have the advantage of hearing their duties recited to them at successive meetings, but the Tyler never has that advantage. At the annual installation and investiture of officers the Worshipful Master frequently has some words of encouragement for his subordinates as one by one he places the collar of office around their necks, but the investiture of the Tyler year after year is not, as a rule, characterised by any such custom. Moreover, a closed door separates him from all that makes lodge worth attending. In addition to the disadvantage he thus labours under of being deprived of the ordinary course of instruction in Freemasonry, consider the circumstances under which many serving brethren are admitted into the Order. The brother who has occupied the post for many years, dies suddenly, we will suppose. It is necessary to select his successor. Now and then some old Past Master who has come down in the world offers his services, and, as a rule, they are eagerly accepted. But if not, a suitable person has to be selected from among the profane. In order that his services shall be at the disposal of the lodge as early as possible the

Second and Third Degrees are conferred upon him under dispensation and at emergent meetings, and then, with no further chance of learning anything save such as his natural aptitude for acquiring information may afford him, he becomes a landmark of the Order. In addition to his own special duties Brother Tyler is expected to understand a good many of those appertaining to the Inner Guard. He is expected also to know all about the internal arrangements of the lodge room, *e.g.*, he must see that the respective columns are in their proper places, whilst possibly he has not the slightest idea of the structural difference between an Ionic and a Corinthian column. Many brethren come to lodge decorated with many and strange jewels. In practice, the Tyler has to know what jewels are appropriate and what are not. What his duties are, according to the ritual, the reader needs not to be told. The comfort of the brethren depends, therefore, in a marked degree upon the brother without the portals. The legality of the proceedings may also often depend on him. Whilst the Master is the official custodian of the lodge warrant, it is not infrequently virtually left in charge of the Tyler; whilst the Inner Guard is supposed to see that candidates enter the lodge in fitting manner, he practically depends upon the Tyler to see that everything fitting has been done; whilst Brother Secretary is nominally responsible for making a correct record of those attending the lodge, is it not Brother Tyler who is supposed to see that the attendance register is properly filled up in the ante-chamber?

Few brethren think to what an extent Brother Tyler contributes to the reverent conduct of those proceedings in which he never takes a part. He has to take care that no interruption occurs during the performance of ceremonies. Brethren may come late and grumble at the prospect of cooling their heels in the ante-chamber, and demand instant admission, but brother Tyler knows better, and keeps the impatient crowd to pay the penalty of their dilatoriness until such stage of the ceremony has been reached at which they can be admitted without causing serious interruption.

Does the Tyler know what a cowan is? He ought to if it is part of his duty to repel such. He is an eavesdropper, a person who surreptitiously tries to gain information to which he is not entitled, in other words, a secret intruder, as contrasted with the open intruder who can be repelled with the drawn sword. The word has been derived from the Greek *κῶων*, and with more probability from *chouan*, a term used to describe a certain class of rebel during the first empire. In addition to cowans and intruders, the ancient charges describe a third class of individual against whose approach the lodge is to be protected, this is the brother "in a state of inebriation."

There is what used to be called the Tyler's obligation, administered to strange visiting brethren who were asked to swear that they had never been excluded from a lodge, nor suspended by competent authority from Masonic privileges, nor laboured under any other Masonic disability. This solemn obligation was not only taken by the visitor, but by the Tyler, who administered it, and all others present in the room, or who proposed to be present at the esoteric examination to which it was a prelude.

This recalls to the writer an incident in which a visitor somewhat scored off a lodge which had the reputation of making things hard where strange visitors were concerned. He took the Tyler's obligation with readiness, but before submitting himself to any examination he requested to see the lodge warrant, after which he demanded the Grand Lodge certificate of the brother who proposed to examine him. As that brother had not seen it himself for a considerable period, this was not practicable, and after strong protests against what he described as the irregularity of the proceedings, the visitor submitted himself for examination. He was, however, not admitted to the fourth Degree subsequently worked.

The word Tyler is derived from the Latin *Tegulator*, and is, therefore, self-explanatory. The last structural act with regard to a building is the completion of the roof, and, therefore, in operative masonry the Tyler is the last operative mason engaged upon it.

The Tyler's emoluments are in some cases considerable. In addition to his regular salary he very often receives fees in proportion to the number of candidates passing through his hands. He is often caretaker, and lives on the premises rent free. Sometimes he is the lodge caterer, and sells Masonic clothing to the brethren and draws commission from the sale of Masonic periodicals, and, as we have already pointed out, his position is virtually a freehold, as no lodge would ever dream of dispensing with the services of a good Tyler so long as health and strength permit him to discharge the duties of the office.

Having regard to the importance of first impressions, the Tyler's office is a very responsible one. He is the first lodge officer with whom a candidate comes into official contact, and

an ineffaceable impression is often created by the manner in which the neophyte is received in the first instance. The Tyler shares with the Worshipful Master and the Most Worshipful Grand Master the dignity of being a landmark of the Order. Other offices may be abolished or created by constitutional authority, but the three offices named go on for ever. Some writers even doubt whether the Worshipful Master is a landmark, but, in any case, the Tyler's post is one of the most honourable and important in the Craft.

### THE "OLD CHARGES."

There are several missing MSS. of the "Old Charges" I am still most anxious to trace, as well as to hear of any fresh discovery of any such documents; and I shall be glad to correspond with any brother or person who may know of such scrolls, or references to such, either as a purchaser, transcriber, or possible identifier.

Since the publication of my "Old Charges of British Freemasons" (*London*, George Kenning, 1895) one of my List of Missing MSS. XI. to XII. has been discovered, viz., The "*Henery Heade MS.*," (X. 9), which I have numbered C 4, is dated A.D. 1675, and is in the Library of the Inner Temple, London.

There have also been four other MSS. traced as follows: D 40 "*Langdale MS.*," Transcribed for the *Freemason* of December 7th, 1895, by that zealous Bro. F. F. Schnitger, with an Introduction by me. Date apparently of late 17th century.

E 16. "*John T. Thorp MS.*,"—This valuable Roll is dated A.D. 1629, and has been transcribed and published in the "*Ars*" of the "Quatuor Coronati" Lodge, No. 2076, and also in the Transactions of the "Lodge of Research," Leicester (1899), by the present able Editor and owner, Bro. John T. Thorp, P.M. 523, P. Prov. S.G.W. Leicester.

E 17. "*Bohns' MS.*,"—This roll was found and then lost sight of by the lamented Bro. Colonel John Mead, who wrote me thereon, as explained in my "Old Charges." It has since been traced and purchased by a gentleman, who lent it to me for examination and to settle as to its text. The MS. somewhat resembles the "Alnwick" Branch, the chief of which, MS. E 10, has been most exactly reproduced, the editor thereof being Bro. Schnitger, of Newcastle-on-Tyne (Copies half a guinea each).

F 5 "*Macnab MS.*,"—This paper roll is happily in the West Yorkshire Masonic Library, and has been published in the Series of Reproductions, edited so carefully by Bro. William Watson, P.M., &c., the Honorary Librarian (*London*, George Kenning, 2s. 6d., post free.) It is a scroll of importance, having the *New Articles* and the *Apprentice Charges*, as pointed out by me in an Introduction to that most opportune issue.

Some of the missing MSS. may be really among those already traced, but not identified, such as X 9, the "Newcastle Lodge, MS.,"; the "Wilson, MS.," X 5, seems, however, to be still undiscovered, so also, the "York MS.," No. 3, of A.D. 1630, "the Masons' Company, MS.," and others. I am in hopes one or more will soon be recognised, and I solicit the fraternal co-operation of all Masonic students to make search, or renewed search in all probable quarters.

W. J. HUGHAN.

### MASONIC DISUNION IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

In 1888, when the English and Scotch lodges, as well as those owing allegiance to the hitherto unrecognised Grand Lodge of New South Wales, formed themselves into a united and sovereign body in the mother colony of Australia, it was universally imagined, at this end of the world, that Masonic unity was at last an accomplished fact, and that all the old conflicting interests and spirit of antagonism had been wiped out for ever. I do not believe there are a dozen Masons in England at the present time who have ever supposed of anything to the contrary.

Let it not, however, be assumed that I am referring to the Cambrian Lodge of Australia, No. 656, the full status of which as an English lodge has at length been conceded by our Board of General Purposes, after a light extending to more than 11 years. On the other hand, the above caption is intended to apply to the present peculiar state of affairs prevailing in New South Wales in connection with the Mark and Royal Arch.

It would be almost unnecessary to observe that in Scottish Freemasonry the chapter degrees and grades have no connection whatever with the Grand Lodge of Scotland, whilst in England it is almost the opposite. Herein lies the New South

Wales difficulty. At the time the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales was inaugurated there were a few English Royal Arch chapters, and these were formed into a Supreme Grand Chapter. Following, a Grand Lodge of Mark Masons was founded. While these events were being consummated there were a number of Royal Arch chapters holding under the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, in which the Mark and other degrees are worked. But all these years the Scottish chapters have retained their connection with the supreme authority which originally chartered them, and, strange as it may sound, the Provincial Grand Chapter of New South Wales, Scottish Constitution, is about double the strength of the Supreme Grand Chapter of New South Wales.

But the enthusiast for Masonic union will, no doubt, urge, "Why do not these conflicting elements amalgamate, and form a strong Supreme Grand Chapter?" On paper this desirable climax appears simple enough; but to those acquainted with the local surroundings, the situation will remain unchanged for many a year to come. In the first place, the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland has never recognised the Supreme Grand Chapter nor the Grand Mark Lodge of New South Wales; secondly, overtures from New South Wales for an amalgamation have been declined by the Scottish Chapter Masons; and thirdly, the latter are forbidden to visit chapters belonging to the New South Wales body. Amalgamation, as I have suggested, is in the dim, and possibly very distant, future; as a matter of fact, the Scottish Chapters reply: "We will admit individual members into our chapters through the affiliating medium of the ballot; but we will never desert the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland."

Doubtless, it will be presumed that there is more in this revealed antagonism than appears on the surface. So there is, and I know it; but I conceive it would be impolitic to say more on that head at the present juncture. All the same, it is a curious commentary on the Masonic autonomy that is popularly supposed to have prevailed in New South Wales since the foundation of the United Grand Lodge 11 years ago.

W. F. LAMONBY.

#### GENERAL COMMITTEE OF GRAND LODGE AND BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The quarterly meeting of the General Committee of Grand Lodge and the monthly meeting of the Board of Benevolence were held on Wednesday evening at Freemasons' Hall. At the Committee of Grand Lodge Bro. J. H. Matthews, President of the Board of Benevolence, presided, and after the minutes of the May meeting had been read and confirmed, the business paper for the next Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge in September was read to the brethren, and the Committee was then closed.

Bro. J. H. Matthews presided at the Board of Benevolence; Bro. Henry Garrod, Junior Vice-President, acted as Senior Vice-President; and Bro. George Graveley, P.G.P., as Junior Vice-President. Bro. W. Lake, Asst. G. Sec.; George S. Recknell, Lawrence, and Henry Sadler, G. Tyler, represented the Grand Secretary's office; and the other brethren present were

Bros. George B. Chapman, Lewis Lazarus, Henry A. Tobias, E. W. Nightingale, W. Fisher, Charles Henry Stone, W. H. Caton, Wm. Bywater, P.G.S.B.; Walter Martin, William H. Sinclair, S.G.D.; F. W. Hancock, Henry Neville, P.A.G.D.C.; Charles Pulman, John Strachan, Q.C., G. Reg.; J. Buckley, F. Linfoot, Wilfred A. Bowser, T. S. Mellville, R. W. Ker, C. J. Delmett, H. Massey, C. E. Wettar, Palmer Bryant, C. H. Webb, G. H. Lister, H. J. Abraham, A. J. Swash, F. G. Barns, F. J. Burdett, J. Woodrow Matthews, W. Athol Bray, W. W. Parkinson, W. Motbrow, J. D. Geddes, P. J. Machin, R. W. James, J. Lewis Morgan, D. Campbell, R. J. Coatts, Justin Allen, W. T. Wilkinson, Frederick Ashby, Richard Carey, and H. Trask.

The brethren first confirmed recommendations made at the last meeting in July that the Grand Master should approve of grants over £20 to the total amount of £400. There were only 14 cases on the new list, and these were qualified through lodges in the London district, and at Devonport, N.Z.; Kingstown, St. Vincent, W.I.; St. John's, Antigua, Altrincham, Honiton, Liverpool, Colchester, and Bristol. One of these cases was deferred. The remainder were voted a total of £395. One case was recommended to Grand Lodge for £100 and one for £50. The Grand Master was asked to confirm a grant of £40, and four grants of £30 each; while £20 was granted in each of three cases, £10 in two, and £5 in one case.

#### NEW MASONIC HALL FOR LEEDS.

Since the Masonic Hall in Great George-street was acquired some months ago for conversion into business premises, a large section of Leeds Freemasons have been in some doubt concerning their permanent home. From the beginning of the year eight of the nine Leeds lodges have held their regular meetings in the Carlton Hill Hall, but this is necessarily only a temporary arrangement, for that building, though convenient enough for a limited number of lodges, is obviously unequal to meet practically the whole of the Masonic requirements of the city. One scheme for the erection of a new hall, suggested a little while ago, fell through, but now the

difficulty has been overcome by the inauguration of an entirely fresh project. A plot of land, covering about 650 yards, on the south side of Great George-street, between Woodhouse-lane and Cookridge-street, has been secured by the Leeds Masonic Hall Company (Limited), which has recently been registered with a nominal share capital of £10,000, and of which Bro. J. Barraclough, W.M. of Philanthropic Lodge, No. 304, is Chairman.

The site, which is opposite the new buildings in course of construction in connection with the Higher Grade Schools, is centrally and conveniently situated, and yet has the advantage of being sufficiently removed from the main streets to ensure the quietness which is supposed to be the necessity of Masonic gatherings. The directors have offered premiums of £50, £20, and £10 for designs of premises, which, apart from furnishing, are to cost about £6000. It is intended to have a building which will be ample for all the lodges (Craft and Mark), chapters, and meetings of other Degrees now existing in the city, together with six or more additional lodges which might be formed in future. The building is to be so planned that if it should be decided to remove to the new premises the offices of the Prov. G. Lodge, which were transferred from Wakefield to Leeds last year, suitable accommodation can be found for them. Provision is also to be made for adapting certain of the rooms for balls, receptions, and similar social functions, and there will likewise be apartments available during the day for arbitrations, shareholders' meetings, and like gatherings. As to the style of the building, that is to be left to the competing architects. A good outline, in consonance with the improving character of the locality, is, of course, indispensable, but the internal arrangements will be the first consideration.

#### PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS AND THE OLD CHARGES.

Bro. Hughan, the English historian, writes as follows to the Correspondence Writer of the Grand Lodge of Colorado:

Dunscore, Torquay, England,  
February 11th, 1899.

Dear Bro. Greenleaf,—In consideration of the subject of "Physical Qualifications" in your able "Report on Correspondence, Grand Lodge of Colorado," and my article thereon in "Proceedings Grand Lodge of Manitoba," you observe, "Bro. Hughan in his letter intimates that the law has been ignored since the formation of the Grand Lodge of England, in 1717. . . . The burden of proof, therefore, rests with those who contend that the physical requirement belonged to the operative craft, and that it has no place in speculative Masonry."

In reply, allow me to point out that the so-called "Charges of a Freemason," as arranged by Dr. Anderson, and printed in the premier "Book of Constitutions" of A.D. 1723, never existed before, but substantially the one in question as to physical qualifications occurred in all the veritable "Old Charges" of the Operative Fraternity, as I explain fully in my two works on the subject, 1872 and 1895.

Now it is an undoubted fact, from 1723 to the present time, that the Grand Lodge of England has never accepted these "Charges" as possessing any legislative authority or as representing the laws for the government of the modern Brotherhood,\* but only as indicative of the character of the obsolete "Old Charges" of the operative régime. With occasional alterations the "Charges" of 1723 have been inserted in all our Books of Constitutions from 1723 to 1896, but never as Regulations passed for the guidance and control of the Craft.

This being so, it is clear that these "Charges" are simply and exclusively intended as specimens, archaeologically considered, of the usages and customs of the society anterior to the Grand Lodge era, but which, even prior to the last century, were looked upon as obsolete and were not used as obligatory laws, as formerly.

"Free-born" has been altered to "freemen" by the Grand Lodge of England—one indication that the "Charges" were not considered binding, and, as a matter of fact, no Grand Lodge accepts (or ever has) these "Charges" in their entirety, because unworkable. Wardens were to be selected from Fellow Crafts, Masters must have served as Wardens, and honest parentage was a condition of initiating a candidate. Even the age of admission has been altered, and other serious changes might be cited.

Above all, the "Old Charges" before 1717, and even for some time after, as circulated, required all candidates for Freemasonry to be Christians. Dr. Anderson altered that condition in his fanciful digest, and the Grand Lodge accepted his summary to insert before the Laws that the members agreed to, doubtless because they intended that the Craft should no longer be confined to that narrow basis.

With all good wishes, fraternally yours,

WM. JAMES HUGHAN.  
—Masonic Tidings.

#### Royal Arch.

Patriotic Chapter, No. 51.

At the quarterly meeting of the above chapter, on the 10th inst., the following were elected as officers: Comps. H. G. Giles, M.E.Z.; Claude E. Egerton-Green, II.; Harry E. Baker, J.; W. F. Reed, S.E.; A. S. B. Sparling, Treas.; George F. Wright, P. Soj.; J. E. Cheese and George Gardiner, Asst. Sojs.; and Arthur Wright, Janitor.

BRO. SIR MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH, M.P., and Viscount Castlereagh will lay the foundation stones of new docks at Seaham Harbour to-morrow (Saturday). On the same day the Marchioness of Londonderry and Lord Castlereagh will cut the first sods of two new collieries at Seaham.

\* The "Atholl Masons" appear to have adopted the "physical qualification" in part, from 1756 or so, and then introduced the usage into America; but the Freemasonry in your great country prior to that period, and all since obtained from the Premier Grand Lodge, was never so ordered, required or used by the Grand Lodge regulations that were for actual legislative objects.—Square and Compass.

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Dedicated, by Special Permission, to H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF ENGLAND, whose Portrait and fac-simile Autograph form the frontispieces, beautifully executed by the new Collotype process.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1899.

**Masonic Notes.**

Considerable progress has been made in Devonshire during the three years Bro. the Hon. Sir H. Stafford Northcote, Bart., M.P., has presided over the fortunes of the Craft in that Province. As many as seven new lodges have been constituted in that brief space of time, and by these additions the number on the roll has been increased from 52 to 59. The roll of subscribing members is also a formidable one, the number reported at the recent annual meeting at Tiverton being 3872 or 202 in excess of the previous year's return, while the average per lodge is 65. The amount received in dues and fees during the year was stated at £439.

But the progress under Bro. Sir Stafford Northcote's auspices has not been restricted to figures. There has been manifested a far greater degree of

activity among the lodges, and, above all—though in this respect there is still room for improvement—greater efforts have been made in behalf of our Charitable Institutions. Last year the Province raised not far short of £2000—the actual figures being £1961 4s. 10d.—of which the bulk was subscribed towards the Boys' Centenary. This year, too, it has taken part in all three anniversary Festivals, and though its contributions leave much to be desired from so strong a Province, yet they show a distinct advance on the far scantier returns of former years. There are, of course, the Provincial Annuity and Educational Funds which, as they have a first claim upon the support of our Devonshire brethren, are responsible to a certain extent for the smaller support that is given to the Central Institutions. But a Province with close on 60 lodges and 4000 subscribing members is in a position to help both the local and Central Charities, and doubtless this all-round support will be forthcoming when the efforts of such Masons as Bro. F. B. Westlake come to be more generally understood.

It does not often fall to our lot to record so important a gathering of our Irish brethren as that which was recently held at Lurgan, when the foundation stone of the new Masonic Hall about to be erected in that town was laid with befitting pomp and circumstance by the Deputy Grand Master of Ireland. Not only was Bro. Sir Jas. Creed Meredith supported by several officers of the Grand Lodge, but there were likewise present in considerable force the officers of the Prov. Grand Lodges of Antrim, Down, and Armagh, together with the representatives of the private lodges. The ceremony was carried out most impressively, and in strict accordance with ancient usage. Moreover, the townsfolk, and, in particular, the ladies, thronged the streets through which the brilliant procession wended its way to the site of the new Hall, so that Lurgan itself was *en fête*, not merely Lurgan as it is constituted Masonically.

Nor must we pass unnoticed the very cordial welcome which the Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Sir J. Creed Meredith, received from the assembled brethren not only on the score of his high rank in the Grand Lodge of Ireland, but also as one whom our gracious Sovereign had herself delighted to honour. At the luncheon which followed the ceremony, special reference was made by Bro. R. J. Hilton, J.P., Deputy Prov. Grand Master of Antrim, to the Queen having created Sir Jas. C. Meredith a Knight in recognition of his great public services, and universal expression was given to the hope that he might long be spared to discharge his Masonic duties and enjoy the proud distinction so recently conferred upon him by his Sovereign.

It appears from the *Canadian Craftsman* that Bro. John Leslie, of Winnipeg, has just been elected M.W.G. Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. Bro. Leslie served as Dep. G. Master during the year 1896-7, and well merits the honour which has been conferred upon him.

According to *Masonry*, of Melbourne, Bro. S. T. Bonner, W.M. of the Robert Burns Lodge, New South Wales Constitution, recently invested his father—W. Bro. James Bonner—as D. of C., and his brother—Bro. Frederick Bonner—as J.D. In performing the former ceremony it devolved upon the son as W.M. to admonish his father as D. of C. to be regular in his attendance at the meetings of the lodge, &c. So unusual a circumstance caused a smile to appear upon the faces of the brethren present.

Statistics show that during the last 10 years there has been an average per year of 302 petitions for relief laid before the Board of Benevolence of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria, and that the average number of applicants relieved has been 225, at an annual outlay of £1275, the total sum thus distributed in the course of the 10 years being £12,750. This is certainly no inconsiderable sum, having regard to the fact that it was only in 1889 that the United Grand Lodge of Victoria was constituted.

We publish elsewhere a full account of the Masonic career of Bro. Asher Barfield, Past Grand Treasurer, by whose lamented death on Monday the Craft in London and the Province of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has sustained a heavy loss. Our deceased brother had been a member of our Order for considerably more than half a century, and in the course of his

career had divided his affections between town and country, having served as Worshipful Master in the Province in which he first saw the light of Masonry and in more than one London lodge. He had done good service as a lodge and chapter Treasurer, was a Past Provincial Officer, and in 1888 had the honour of being elected Grand Treasurer of England. He was also among the most generous supporters of our Institutions and showed by the large number of Stewardships he served in their behalf that he was as ready with his advocacy as with his purse to do what lay in his power to promote their interests. He was, indeed a veteran of whose services the Craft has reason to be proud, nor should we be discharging our duty becomingly if we allowed his death to pass without tendering our sincerest sympathy with his relatives and the numerous body of brethren who were privileged to call him friend.

"R. M." jun., in the *Masonic Journal* relates an anecdote of the late General Andrew Jackson, formerly President of the United States, the record of which he found among the papers of the late Bro. Dr. Rob. Morris. It bears date, Troy, Tennessee, September 1, 1855, is signed with the initials T.B., and tells how the writer was, in 1828, one of a deputation of Past Masters told off by Lodge No. 60 to wait on Andrew Jackson at the hotel at Brownsville Pa, at which he was staying *en route* to Washington to take his seat as President, and invite him to visit their lodge. The President elect, at the moment the deputation were ushered into the room was engaged in conversation with two gentlemen, who, it appears, were staunch supporters of the Anti-Masonry Crusade then raging throughout the States. Jackson was told the purpose of the deputation's call, and at once and most cordially accepted the invitation, and having called for his hat and cloak, rose and left with the P. Masters, but not without apologising to the Anti-Masonic gentlemen he had been conversing with, telling them he had been invited to visit Lodge 60, and that he always took great pleasure when he could make it convenient "to join in the labours of the Craft." The feelings of his Anti-Masonic visitors may be more easily imagined than described.

A correspondent of the *Masonic Standard*, as quoted by the *Kansas Freemason*, states that last month foreigners in Japan were to come under Japan laws, and as, according to those laws, secret societies are forbidden, there were at one time fears that Masonry would be under the necessity of clearing out. Pressure, however, says the writer, had been brought to bear at Tokio, and the belief had gained ground that, though there was no absolute certainty in the matter, the brethren would be allowed to carry on their work. The writer likewise mentions that there is a flourishing Masonic Lodge at Kobe, styled the "Hiogo and Osaka," No. 498, which he opines is under the Grand Lodge of England.

As regards the suggestion that the lodge No. 498 referred to in the preceding Note is under the English Constitution, we remark that it is the senior of three lodges warranted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and was founded in 1870. The other Scottish lodges are the Star in the East, No. 640, Yokohama; and the Nagasaki, No. 710, Nagasaki, which were warranted in 1878 and 1884 respectively. In addition, there is a District Grand Lodge of the English Constitution, of which Bro. W. H. Stone has been District Grand Master since 1886, and which was constituted in 1873 with the late Bro. C. H. Dallas as the first District Grand Master. On the roll of this District Grand Lodge are four private lodges—the Yokohama, No. 1092, founded in 1866, and the O'Tentosa, No. 1263, founded in 1869, both meeting in the city of Yokohama; the Rising Sun, No. 1401, Kobe, founded in 1872; and the Tokio, No. 2015, Tokio, dating from the year 1882. Thus a period of 33 years has elapsed since the senior English lodge was established and now there are four English ones presided over by a District Grand Lodge and three Scottish lodges and for aught, we know to the contrary, there may be other lodges which have been warranted under other Constitutions. The Japanese, therefore, must know something of our Masonry, and we do not fear that they will place a veto upon our work.

The third installation meeting of the Yeatman-Biggs Lodge, No. 2672, which was held in Freemasons' Hall, Calcutta, appears to have been a great success, and Bro. C. H. M. Rustomjee, the second son of Bro. H. M. Rustomjee, P.A.G.D.C., Prov. G. Sec. Bengal, was installed W.M. by his respected father, at a Board of 33 Installed Masters, among whom was included the District G. Master—Bro. the Hon. Sir H. Thoby Prinsep.

## Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents, but we wish, in a spirit of fair play to all, to permit—within certain necessary limits—free discussion.

### PROVINCIAL GRAND RANK.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

After carefully reading the article of July 29th, it seems as if the point which has called forth criticism is the opinion expressed regarding the P.G.M.'s consultation of Worshipful Masters before conferring P. Grand Rank. If your correspondents will read the article again they will observe that it was not the procedure that was commented upon unfavourably, but the District Grand Master's official announcement of the course he proposed to take and embodying the same in the printed proceedings. Whatever the P.G.M. does in this way, however excellent it may be, it is necessarily an unofficial and private transaction and should not therefore have gone into the printed proceedings. The rest of the article was put together with the object of consoling the vast majority who never attain the purple—and the best and most effectual way of doing so seemed to be to show how comparatively limited the patronage of the P.G.M. actually was, and an argument well fitted for the purpose was to reduce the nominal patronage to its actual working dimensions.

I still maintain that this duty is one of the most difficult a P.G.M. has, because however carefully he performs it there will always be some who will feel left out in the cold. Anything that can tend to alleviate any feeling of being neglected should therefore be welcomed. I might add my experience is extensive both at home and abroad and under foreign Constitutions as well as the E.C.—Yours fraternally,

THE WRITER OF THE ARTICLE P.D.G.W.

### A REAL CASE OF CHARITY.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I beg respectfully to bring before your kind notice the case of two orphan children of the late Bro. B. C. Curtis, P.M., P.Z., who died in February last, at the Bexley Arms Hotel, Bexley Heath, Kent, and who left behind him a widow and nine children, eight girls and one boy, the oldest just 15 years of age, the youngest a girl of two years. He had put the savings of twenty years' hard work into the business; was only in it seven months; and died suddenly, after a few days' illness. The poor widow and the fatherless children have had to sell the house, and are at the present moment existing on the charity of her relatives and a few friends who loved her husband, and pity her.

Bro. Curtis had been 11 years a Mason, and I wish to show you what a good man he was. He was initiated in the Henley Lodge, No. 1472, at North Woolwich, and passed the chair. He was one of the founders and first W.M. of the Zodiac Lodge, holden at East Ham, E., and was its Secretary at the time of his death. He was exalted in the Henley Chapter, No. 1472, and had filled the office of M.E.Z. twice. He was for some time Secretary and Preceptor of the Henley Lodge of Instruction. He was a most genial hard-working Mason, and was Life Governor and Steward of two of the Charities. He was the institutor of the Henley Benevolent Association, and through him over a £1000 was sent up to the Charities. He was a grand cricketer, and had in his day played for his county, Essex, and was very much beloved, and is deeply regretted.

A Committee has been formed to try to get two of his children, a boy and a girl, into the Masonic Schools, and I respectfully ask for your support and the patronage of the brethren generally for the achievement of that object. May I therefore be permitted to plead for every support of this deserving case.—Your most obedient servant and respectful Brother,

C. JOLLY,

P.M. and Sec. 1472, P.M. and Sec. 2184, and P.P.A.G.D.C.  
Essex, P.Z. 1472, P.Z. and S.E. 2184, and  
P.P.G.S.B. Essex.

143, Burrage-road, Plumstead, S.E.,  
August 23rd.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir,

We have the pleasure of giving you below copy of letter received from Sir Arthur Bigge, writing on behalf of her Majesty the Queen, and shall thank you if you will kindly take notice of same.—Yours faithfully,

E. ASCHERBERG AND CO.

Osborne,  
August 4th, 1899.

Messrs. E. Ascherberg and Co.,

Sir,

It has only now come to the Queen's knowledge that under ordinary circumstances the opera of "Pagliacci" could not have been performed at Windsor Castle without the payment of fees to you as the owner of the performing rights, which, however, in this instance I understand you were good enough to waive.

I am accordingly desired to express to you the thanks of her Majesty for your consideration in this matter.—Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR BIGGE.

46, Berners-street, London.

## Craft Masonry.

### St. Lawrence Lodge, No. 2078.

The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 14th inst., at the Masonic Rooms, Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire. The officers present being Bros. Robert Ingham Swaby, W.M.; J. H. Dewhurst, I.P.M.; T. Morrison, S.W.; T. A. Robinson, J.W.; Rev. E. M. Weigall, P.P.G.C., Chap.; W. Campbell, P.M., Sec.; J. W. B. Hanby, S.D.; J. W. Graham, J.D.; W. Langbridge, P.M., P.P.G.S. of W., D.C.; F. T. B. Smith, I.G.; J. Long, Std. Br.; J. Long, J. T. Pallister, and A. M. Corban, Stwds.; and S. Hadley, Tyler.

Bros. J. Constable and E. Donkin attended from St. Nicholas Lodge, No. 2259, to advocate the case of a widow of that lodge in her petition for relief from Prov. Grand Lodge Charity. The application received the unanimous support of all the brethren present. Bro. Campbell, who is leaving for America, paid his farewell visit to the lodge when an address and a purse of gold were presented to him as a memento of the good feeling every member of the lodge felt towards him wishing him truly "God speed." Bro. Trippett was passed to the Second Degree, and Bro. Woodley raised to the Sublime Degree of a M.M.

The brethren afterwards partook of light refreshment.

### Kingswood Lodge, No. 2278.

A regular meeting of this lodge was held at Broxbourne on the 12th inst., those attending being Bros. C. C. Renaud, W.M.; E. N. Beningfield, S.W.; H. R. Bower, J.W.; J. Petch, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Treas.; J. F. Bell, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br., Sec.; F. Page, P.M., S.D.; C. Nicole, J.D.; D. Taylor, I.G.; H. Rackham, Stwd.; T. Williams, Tyler; R. W. Nicole, P.M., P.P.G.P.; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D.; A. C. Little, F. H. Johnson, O. P. House, A. Palmer-Palmer, J. Perceval, S. Butler, G. H. Redding, and S. L. Brewer. Visitors: Bros. S. Napper, P.M. 1471; S. Reichenheim, 2579; W. Pearson, 382; and W. Marr, 2047.

The business of the meeting was to pass Bro. S. L. Brewer, and the ceremony having been admirably performed, the lodge was closed.

After dining, the brethren were entertained, during the intervals between the toasts, with songs by Bros. R. W. Nicole, H. R. Bower, A. C. Little, J. Perceval, F. H. Johnson, and Harry Hall. Bro. C. Nicole at the pianoforte, and the time for departure came all too early.

## Obituary.

### BRO. ASHER BARFIELD, PAST G. TREASURER.

Bro. Edmund N. Asher Barfield, whose death on Monday, the 21st instant, it is our mournful duty to record, was a brother of high rank and long experience, who had played a distinguished part both in Metropolitan and Provincial Masonry. He was initiated, upwards of 53 years ago, in the Medina Lodge, No. 35, West Cowes, Isle of Wight, on the 1st June, 1846, and was in due course elected and installed its W. Master. In 1850 he joined the Zetland Lodge, No. 511, was elected W.M. in 1853, and in 1855 undertook the duties of Treasurer, retaining the office for many years. In 1877 he assisted in founding the Londesborough Lodge, No. 1681, was installed W.M., and subsequently elected Treasurer; while in 1878 he had a hand in founding the Kensington Lodge, No. 1767, which for some years after its consecration he served as Treasurer, and of which, at the time of his death, he was an honorary member. In 1881 his services to the Province of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight were recognised by his appointment as Prov. J.G. Deacon; and two years later he became a founder of the Lodge of Emulation, No. 1990, Portsmouth, membership of which is restricted to Installed Masters, and in 1887 had the honour of presiding over it as W.M. In 1888 he was elected by an overwhelming majority of votes Grand Treasurer of England; and at the Grand Festival the following month was invested with the insignia of his office. He was exalted in the Mount Sinai Chapter, No. 19, in March, 1853, was installed its First Principal in 1858, and subsequently was elected Treasurer. He was also a P.Z. of the Andrew Chapter, No. 834, Hammersmith, a founder and honorary member of the Stuart Chapter, No. 504, Bedford, and in 1895, became a founder and at his death was Treasurer of Chapter No. 35, Cowes, which is named in his honour the Asher Barfield Chapter. In addition, he was a member of the Chapter of



Harmony, No. 309, Fareham, and in 1888, was invested Grand Treasurer of Supreme Grand Chapter. He had likewise been advanced to the Mark Degree, and elected to the chair of A. in the Medina Lodge, No. 140, Cowes, but he resided at too great a distance from the place of meeting and was compelled to decline the honour. But after all his greatest claim to the respect of his brethren rests on the generous support he was always ready to give to our Masonic Institutions and a reference to the published lists of Governors and Subscribers will show not only that he was a Patron of the Boys' and Benevolent Institutions and a Vice-Patron of the Girls' School, but likewise that he had served as many as 45 Stewardships, namely, 17 for the Boys' School, 16 for the Benevolent Institution, and 12 for the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.

Last year he was the recipient of an exceedingly handsome illuminated address from his mother lodge (Medina, No. 35), congratulating him on his jubilee Masonic year. In 1884 he received from the Londesborough Lodge, No. 1681, an illuminated address. This set forth that it was given "by the brethren of the Londesborough Lodge, No. 1681, as a slight acknowledgment of the eminent services he had rendered to the lodge from its consecration as Founder, Worshipful Master, and Treasurer, as an expression of affectionate regard and esteem in which he is held by all the members, and also to mark their sincere appreciation of the uniform kindness, attention, and ability with which those services have been performed." This was signed by Bro. Lord Londesborough. At his beautiful home, "The Maylings," Fareham, Herts, which he made for himself, and at which he died in the 82nd year of his age, one entire room was devoted to Masonic insignia, pictures, and literature—a veritable museum; and the walls, crowded with addresses, bore silent testimony to his useful life, and the esteem in which he was universally held. It was here, also, that many of the

brethren enjoyed his hospitality; and many, doubtless, will carry with them memories of pleasant days spent on Bro. Barfield's yacht in the Solent.

Such a record of service is an enviable one, and the lodges and chapters with which he was connected will deeply feel his loss. The funeral will take place this (Friday) afternoon at Kensal-green Cemetery at 2 p.m.

#### BRO. CHARLES LORIMER.

In the presence of a large gathering of friends, the remains of the late Bro. Charles Lorimer were on the 16th inst. interred at Anfield Cemetery. The deceased was a teamowner and forwarding agent, and an old and very much respected member of the Liverpool Cartowners' Association, occupying the position of Chairman in the years 1886 and 1887, and also that of Treasurer for 11 years. He was the first member to join the Anfield Lodge, No. 2215 when it was formed 12 years ago, and was the first of the Worshipful Masters initiated in the lodge. Prior to interment a service was conducted at the residence of deceased, Claremont, Victoria-road, Great Crosby, by the Rev. Douglas M'Lellan, M.A., minister of Everton-valley Presbyterian Church, who also officiated at the graveside. The chief mourners were Messrs. Charles J. R. Lorimer and Thomas B. Lorimer (sons), Robert C. Lorimer and James A. Lorimer (brothers), Henry Haworth and Isaac Wood (brothers-in-law), Thomas Binnie (nephew), Peter Atkinson, James S. Dinwoodie, and Dr. A. M. Stafford. The Cartowners' Association (who attended in their own carriages) were received by Messrs. Fred Norbury, Vice-Chairman; James Harper, R. Procter, John Taylor, R. Woodroffe, J. H. Simms, R. Cavanagh, G. Johnstone, G. Marsden, W. Clare, Fred Younge, H. Peach, A. Scroggie, W. J. Jones, T. Whiting, T. R. Francis, and C. A. Still, Secretary. The Anfield Lodge by Bros. H. P. M'Loughlin, I.P.M.; E. Pritchard, P.M., P.D.G.D.C.; J. Ramsay, P.M., P.G.D.C.; Griffiths, P.M.; C. W. Gordon, P.M.; Rev. S. Gasking, Chap.; Frank Lott, Org.; J. Basnett, R. H. Webster, P.M., Treas.; A. J. Studdart, S.W.; G. A. Jones, W. A. McGuffie, W. J. Jones, W. H. Parry, Joseph Fairburn, Peter Thomas, George W. Whittaker, R. P. Davis, John Bain, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; Edward Taylor, W.M.; and Henry Hallard, Sec. Also Bros. J. C. Langley, P.M. 2114; E. Andersen, 1325; G. Marsden, 1756; A. M'Dougall, 1756; Philip Ogden, 1325; W. M'Donald, 249; W. E. Williams, 2042; Captain Keay, Messrs. Robert Bell, Andrew Howard, W. V. Kearne, R. Graham, J. H. Macfarlane, R. Binnie, Robert Lunt, James Johnstone, Thomas Hall, Fred Turner, James Hughes, Thomas Prescott, C. M. R. Dickson, W. J. Carmichael, George G. Senior, and Tim Clarkson (Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway), J. Nowell (Great Central Railway), R. Gillies (London and North-Western Railway), E. Rigby (Thompson, McKay, and Co.), S. Donkin (Great Northern Railway), A. Kidd, R. Howat, and others. The coffin bore the inscription—"Charles Lorimer, died August 13th, 1899, and 58 years." Floral tributes were sent by the widow, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. R. Lorimer, Mr. T. B. Lorimer and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Wood and daughter, Thomas Binnie and nephew, Mr. and Mrs. John Bain, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. C. Lorimer, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Lorimer, Mr. and Mrs. Dinwoodie, Mr. and Mrs. W. Carson, Mr. and Mrs. P. Atkinson, Cartowners' Association, and Anfield Lodge.

#### ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

In the examinations conducted in June last by the Science and Art Department of South Kensington, our Boys have again scored high honours.

IN MATHEMATICS—Stage 2, Class 2, 3 passed; Stage 1, Class 1, 3 passed; Class 2, 10 passed.

THEORETICAL INORGANIC CHEMISTRY—Elementary Stage, Class 1, 3 passed; Class 2, 15 passed.

GEOMETRICAL DRAWING—18 passed.

FREEHAND DRAWING—Elementary Stage, Class 1, 4 passed; Class 2, 16 passed.

MODEL DRAWING—Elementary Stage, Class 1, 2 passed; Class 2, 7 passed.

Total 81 passed, being the same number as in 1898, the best for some years.

In addition, an ex-pupil, now engaged as a pupil teacher, passed in Stage 3, Class 2 of Mathematics.

We are also pleased to report that Mr. J. A. Coupland, who is the first holder of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys "Grand Lodge Scholarship," has passed with Second Class Honours in Anatomy the Intermediate Examination in Medicine of the University of London.

#### Scotland.

##### Lodge St. Ninians, No. 66.

On the 16th instant a deputation of nine brothers of the Prov. G. Lodge of Perthshire East, visited the above lodge at Alyth in the course of their yearly visitation. Bro. Lieutenant-Colonel John Campbell, Prov. G. Master, headed the deputation. St. Ninians Lodge was the first lodge visited since the appointment of the present Prov. G. Master, and amongst the first duties was the appointment of a Prov. Dep. G. Master. Bro. Thomas Chalmers, Perth, who was present as one of the deputation, was appointed, and accepted the office, and was decorated with the jewels of his office. The Prov. G. Master conferred the Degree of Installed Past Master on Bros. Col. Robertson, William Harris, and John Stewart, all of whom had occupied the chair of Lodge St. Ninians. The Prov. G. Master, after the examination of the books by the Prov. G. Secretary (Bro. A. J. Stevenson), said he was pleased to find, as was always the case with the Alyth Lodge from his past experience, that the books were properly kept, and that everything was in Masonic order. It was owing to his confidence in the Alyth Lodge that he had visited it first of all the lodges since his appointment. He was pleased to see in the books a balance to the credit of the lodge, and it pleased him more to see that they had a considerable balance at the credit of the Benevolent Fund, which fund he considered the backbone of Masonry.

The deputation was afterwards entertained by the members of Lodge St. Ninians before they left for Blairgowrie.

#### INDIANA AND WASHINGTON.

While the Grand Lodge of the State of Washington was in annual session at Seattle, on June 15th, 1898, a message was flashed along the wires conveying the startling information that the said Grand Lodge had departed from the position heretofore maintained by all American Grand Lodges, and given full fraternal recognition to Negro Masonry, so called, as being restricted to the Negro race. Some three months passed, after this information was sent broadcast over the country, before we received an official circular giving the full action of the Grand Lodge, and the report of the Committee on which it was based. This we then fully discussed in our September, 1898, issue, in which we declared that the Grand Lodge of Washington had made a grievous mistake in her recognition of Negro Masonry, and should not be sustained in this action by any other Grand Lodge. Subsequent events have clearly proved the correctness of our position as then taken.

The Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Washington was slow in getting out the printed proceedings for 1898, and it was not until October of that year that other Grand Lodges began to take action concerning its fraternal alliance with Negro Masonry. Kentucky was the first to speak, and in no uncertain tone passed resolutions severing fraternal relations with Washington, and forbidding Masonic intercourse between the Masons of these two Grand jurisdictions. Other Grand Lodges, as soon as they met, followed the lead of Kentucky, and severed fraternal relations, or called upon Washington to rescind her action. Grand Master Upton, of Washington, the real author of this disturbance in Masonry, addressed long communications to a number of Grand Masters, in an effort to stem opposing Masonic opinion and action in their respective Grand Lodges, but he soon found them wholly irresistible. His logic and eloquence, that had so effectively swayed the Grand Lodge of Washington to what would have been ultimate ruin, had no force or power beyond the confines of that jurisdiction. In fact, the only comfort he received, so far as came under our observation, was given him by Dr. Joseph Robins of Illinois, in his review of the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington in his report on correspondence in 1898. This, however, was only his personal indorsement, as, for some reason unknown to us, Dr. Robins did not bring the matter before the Grand Lodge of Illinois, and no action concerning it was had by that body.

In view of the facts recited above, the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Washington, which was to convene in the city of Seattle, on June 13th, 1899, was looked forward to with great anxiety by Masons generally, all wondering whether Washington would stand by her action in 1898, in defiance of the action taken by the other Grand Lodges. *The Pacific Mason*, published at Seattle by Past Grand Master Joseph M. Taylor, and which was the mouth-piece of Grand Master Upton, in its June number, issued only a few days prior to the meeting of the Grand Lodge, was most emphatic in its adherence to the action of last year, and in concluding an editorial on this subject used these words:

"In 1899 the question will be up for the third time. Does anyone suppose that the Grand Lodge will recede one inch from the advanced and courageous position which at two successive annual communications it took upon this question? Such a supposition is dishonouring and offensive to the Grand Lodge. It will in 1899 ratify, confirm and approve the action taken by it in 1897 and 1898. Anything else would be disgraceful."

Our esteemed contemporary seems to have been misinformed as to the true state of affairs at home. The Masons of Washington had evidently been studying this important matter for themselves, and had become better informed than their would-be leaders, and were prepared to act intelligently, by their representatives, when the Grand Lodge met. It was no pleasant thing for them to realise that the doors of all lodges in many of the United States had already been closed against them, and that when all others would be was only a question of time.

Remembering how quickly the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, one year ago, came to us over the wires, we carefully watched the same source of information for its action when the Grand Lodge was in session this year, but nothing came. The suspense becoming somewhat intense after the close of the Grand Lodge, on the 20th June, Grand Secretary Smythe sent a telegram of inquiry to Seattle, and in a short time received an answer which read: "Grand Lodge rescinded its action on Negro Masonry. Secretary instructed to notify all Grand Lodges."

It was to us joyful news indeed, and we know it will be so to every Grand Master when he receives the official notice from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Washington, which will enable him to remove the edict of non-intercourse against the Masons of that Grand Jurisdiction, and if our esteemed contemporary, *The Pacific Mason*, will stand as loyally by this action of its Grand Lodge as it did by that of 1898, we will gladly forgive all it said about us "little Masons," who differed from it in the late unpleasantness, and will extend the right hand of fellowship in token of brotherly love and friendship, being assured that clandestine Masonry will not soon again disturb the peace and harmony of the great Masonic Brotherhood. So mote it be.—*Masonic Advocate*.

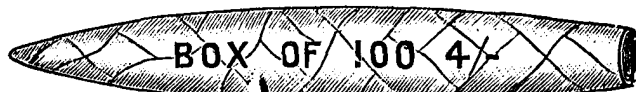
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## Masonic and General Tidings.

BRO. STANLEY CLARKE will shortly relieve Commander the Hon. Seymour Fortescue as Equerry in attendance on H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND, Bro. Gerald Balfour, M.P., arrived in Dublin on Tuesday and was engaged during the day at the Castle transacting official business.

BRO. EARL AND COUNTESS CARRINGTON and Lady Marjorie Carrington have left Daws Hill, High Wycombe, Bucks, on a visit to Mr. C. H. Wilson, Warton Priory, Pocklington, Yorkshire.

IT IS stated that the Committee which is to consider the means of providing bearskins for the Foot Guards' headdress, the supply of which has latterly been decreasing, is to meet at the War Office on September 13.

WITH A POPULATION of 5,500,000, London entertains every day 120,000 strangers. Some may remain a week, some a month; but all the year round there is a daily average of 120,000 visitors within the metropolitan boundaries.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN and her daughter, Princess Victoria, terminated their visit to the Queen on Wednesday, and, attended by Major E. Martin, crossed to Flushing in the Royal yacht Victoria and Albert.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES has intimated his intention of visiting Sir Archibald and Lady Edmonstone, at Duntreath Castle, Stirlingshire, during the first week of October. His Royal Highness previous to that will visit Deeside.

BLACKHEATH LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1320.—The duties of the above will be resumed at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell, S.E., on Monday, the 4th prox., at 8 p.m., under the able Preceptor, Bro. Wm. Dawson, P.M. 788 and 1622.

THE ROSE LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1622.—The duties of the above will be resumed on Thursday, the 7th prox., at eight p.m., at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell, S.E., under the able Preceptorship of Bro. David Rose, P.M. 73 and 1622.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES is expected to arrive at Copenhagen tomorrow (Saturday). Admiral Stephenson left London on Wednesday evening for the Continent, to relieve Bro. Major-Gen. Sir Stanley Clarke as Equerry in attendance on her Royal Highness.

BY THE KINDNESS of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales the Sandringham Park and grounds were thrown open on Wednesday to the public. A large company availed themselves of the opportunity afforded, and many visitors staying at Hunstanton, Heacham, and Snettisham drove over.

STAR CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1275.—The weekly convocations of the above will be resumed at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell, S.E., on Friday, the 1st prox., at 8 p.m. Comp. Thos. Grumant, P.Z., Preceptor. R.A. Masons will be most cordially welcomed.

THE QUEEN, according to present arrangements, will probably leave the Isle of Wight on or about the 31st instant for Scotland. Her Majesty and suite cross from East Cowes to Gosport, and travel by special train over the London and South-Western, Great Western, North-Western, Caledonian, and Great North of Scotland Railways to Ballater, where they arrive early in the afternoon following their departure from the South. Thence her Majesty will drive to Balmoral.

THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL summer band performances in the metropolitan parks closed on Sunday last. The Council's band and those subsidised by it have given 929 performances during the season. A special autumn programme has, however, been arranged, by which there will be four extra performances on Tuesdays at the Embankment Gardens, on Saturdays at Waterlow and Clissold Parks, and on Sundays at Battersea, Brockwell, Finsbury, Southwark, and Victoria Parks, Parliament-hill, Clapham-common, &c., &c. These will all be given by Volunteer and local bands.

BRO. VICTOR CAVENDISH, M.P., has come to the front as the possessor of one of the finest studs of Shire horses in the country. At Lancaster Show, noted for its strong Shire classes, he secured on Wednesday three firsts and two seconds against some of the leading winners. He also won the Shire Horse Society's silver medal and valuable special for the best Shire filly—seven prizes altogether. Mr. Lees Knowles, M.P., carried off the Hackney Horse Society's silver medal.

FOR THE annual ploughing match and exhibition next October of the Royal South Bucks Agricultural Association, whose headquarters are at Slough, the Queen has promised a silver cup of the value of 20 guineas, to be competed for among the farmers in the root crop classes, and a prize of five guineas for the best ploughman in the field. The Master of the Royal Buckhounds (the Earl of Coventry) gives a prize of 10 guineas for roots, and the Master of the Household Brigade Dragoon (Captain Algernon Trotter) one of five guineas. Viscount Curzon, M.P., Treasurer of the Queen's Household, Bro. Sir Edward Lawson, Sir Robert Harvey, Sir Charles Palmer, Bro. W. H. Grenfell, Bro. H. E. Allhusen, M.P., and others also present prizes.

TAKE CARE OF HIM.—Take care of the new member. He has just entered upon a new life. He may have been acquainted with many in the lodge, even with all of them, yet he is still a stranger. Care for him, assist him, nurture him, and he may be made a useful, working member, says an exchange. We do not mean by this that he must be pushed into office or that he should be appointed on every Committee, and caressed and dandled as we would a "first-born," but that he should be treated with all courtesy and kindness, and caused to feel that he is an integral part of the lodge. Give him work, give him encouragement, if he is diffident, and help him along in every proper way. By this means he must be made a useful member.—*Square and Compass.*

THE LORD-LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND AND COUNTESS CADOGAN have been entertaining a large party of guests at the Viceregal Lodge, Dublin, during the present week for the horse show and I. Zingari cricket, among them being the Duchess of Abercorn and Ladies Alexandra and Gladys Hamilton, the Earl and Countess of Coventry and Lady Dorothy Coventry, Viscount and Viscountess Down and the Hon. Faith Dawson, Lord and Lady Langford, Lady Lurgan, the Hon. A. E. Parker, Sir Henry Edwards, Sir Timothy O'Brien, Lord George Scott, A.D.C., Hon. Gerald Cadogan, A.D.C., and Mr. Fetherstonhaugh, private secretary, and Captain Cecil Feilden and Lord Athlumney, Aides-de-Camp-in-Waiting. Their Excellencies and their guests were present at Leopardstown Races on Saturday last, and again on Monday. I. Zingari played the Gentlemen of Ireland on Monday and Tuesday, and on Wednesday and Thursday Lord and Lady Cadogan visited the horse show in state. On Thursday and to-day (Friday) there has been another cricket match—I. Zingari v. Na Skulas—and to-day their Excellencies give a garden party at the Viceregal Lodge.

LORD AND LADY ALINGTON left Down Place, Windsor, for Alington House, on the 22nd inst., for a few days, before proceeding to Brighton.

BRO. SIR W. H. PREECE, K.C.B., a native of Carnarvon, is to be presented with the freedom of the borough on September 21. The ceremony, which is to be followed by a banquet, will take place at the Guildhall.

TWENTY-FIVE WORKMEN who are accompanying the material to be used in the construction of a viaduct in the Gokteik Gorge, to the west of Mandalay, left New York on the 23rd instant on board the Majestic. The party have taken with them British and American flags to be unfurled on the completion of the work.

A FEW WEEKS AGO Messrs Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, 35, Old Jewry, E.C., offered the renowned Ship and Turtle, in Leadenhall-street, established in the days of Charles I., for sale by auction. No purchaser came forward at the sale, but the firm have since sold it for £60,000, exclusive of the valuable cellar of wines.

THE SELWYN CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION is held at the Montpelier Hotel, Choumert-road, Peckham, S.E., on the first and third Mondays, at 8.30 p.m., in each month (Bank Holidays excepted), under the able Preceptor, Comp. Thos. Grumant, P.Z. 1275, Prov. G.P.S. Essex. All R.A. Masons will be heartily welcomed.

THE FOLLOWING were among the donations received on the 23rd instant in aid of the Mansion House fund for the relief of the distress caused by the hurricane in the West Indies: Messrs. Wernher, Beit, and Co., £105; Messrs. Coutts and Co., £100; Miss H. Scott, £25; Sir Nevill Lubbock, £10 10s.; the Duke of Rutland, £10; Sir Francis Fleming, £10; D. J., £10; and Lady Fleming, £5.

HER MAJESTY went out on Tuesday morning, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, and Princess Henry of Battenberg. Subsequently the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Prince Arthur, and the Princesses Margaret and Victoria Patricia left Osborne for Bagshot, crossing over to Portsmouth on board her Majesty's yacht Alberta, Vice-Admiral Sir John Fullerton, A.D.C. Mr. Hansell (tutor to Prince Arthur) was in attendance.

THE PATRIOTIC DINNER, which has been held at High Wycombe in recent years on the anniversary of the Battle of the Alma, will not, it is stated, take place this year; and in consequence some 150 old soldiers and sailors from Buckinghamshire and neighbouring counties will be deprived of what has in previous years been looked forward to as a most happy reunion. Although the dinner had the patronage of Lord Wolseley, Lord Roberts, Sir Francis Grenfell, and General Sir George Higginson, and the Commander-in-Chief sent a handsome donation out of the Tournament Patriotic Fund, the executive do not feel justified, with the meagre monetary support which comes from other sources, to continue the annual function, which, therefore, for one year at least, will not be held.

THE *Shields Daily Gazette*, in a review of the Grand Registrar's recent work on the Craft, says: "The author of this latest addition to Masonic literature is well-known on Tyneside. A South Shieldsman by birth, Mr. Strachan is now one of the leading legal luminaries of London. In the course of a busy career he has found time to write a most interesting and valuable history of the Masonic Craft in Northumberland. . . . Too much praise cannot be bestowed on Mr. Strachan for the way in which he has accomplished his self-imposed task, and it is not too much to say that he has rendered local history an inestimable benefit, while on the dark places of the story of ancient Freemasonry, not only in Northumberland but throughout the country generally, much wished-for light has been thrown."

THE DUCHESS OF YORK visited the Royal Castle Glass Works, at Hatton, and subsequently the Photo Decorative Tile Company adjoining. At the first-named place her Royal Highness ordered a number of articles to be made, and herself assisted in the process. At the Tile Works she sat for her photograph, to be reproduced in photo models. Her Royal Highness was accompanied by Lady Katharine Coke, Bro. the Earl and Countess of Lathom, Hon. A. N. Hood, Mrs. Crutchley, and Mr. Reginald Coke, and the entire party were photographed for reproduction in a group on the glazed tiles. From the works the party drove to the Old Castle at Tutbury, when John of Gaunt's Gateway and the dungeon in which Mary Queen of Scots was a temporary prisoner were inspected, and the visitors partook of tea in the castle before returning to Longford.

ROUGH ON THE COUNSEL.—Many a bar mess in the United States has been enlivened by a story circulated by the *New York Tribune*: "A youthful graduate of the Harvard Law School went out West and opened an office in a small frontier town. His first client was a man accused of stealing a horse. The case came to trial before an old judge and a jury composed of bewhiskered ranchers, and, though there was no doubt of the guilt of the defendant, he had a regiment of friends who swore he was 40 miles away when the horse was stolen. This evidence the prosecution was unable to break down, and the young lawyer plumed himself on a certain acquittal. The jury retired, and five minutes later came back into court. 'Have you agreed on a verdict?' asked the judge. 'We have,' answered the foreman, as he shifted a gun he carried on his hip. 'We find the defendant not guilty, an' recommend the defendant's lawyer, owin' to his youth an' innocence, to the mercy of the court.'"

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