

# 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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### PORT ELIZABETH MASONIC EDUCATIONAL SCHEME.

We have been favoured with the report for the year 1898-99 of this South African Charitable Fund and are gratified to find that though the income and expenditure are not on the same imposing scale as in the previous, or Queen's Diamond Jubilee year, the Charity has well-maintained its position. In addition to the three children holding Presentations in the Grey Institute, there are 18 who are being educated by the Fund, the amount paid in School Fees being £89. The amount received in Subscriptions and Donations, including "Alms Box" and grants by the lodges and other Masonic bodies, was upwards of £126, which, with the balance brought forward from previous account and a half-year's interest on loan, gave a total on the Receipt side of £191, while the Expenditure, consisting of the School Fees already mentioned, between £3 and £4 for Printing, &c., and £50 paid into the P.O. Savings Bank, was close on £143, the balance remaining in hand at the close of the account being upwards of £48. The Assets at the same date—30th June last—were not far short of £950, together with the three Perpetual Presentations to the Grey Institute of the value of £200 each. Thus, the Scheme has a fair amount of capital, while the Subscriptions and Donations from lodges and individuals more than suffice to meet the expenditure.

The annual meeting of the Subscribers was held on the 4th August, when the Report of the Committee was adopted, certain children were confirmed in their election to the benefits of the Charity, and other routine business transacted. In the course of the proceedings, a very pleasing announcement was made. A Mr. J. C. FRASER, who, we are told, is not a member of the Craft, having heard of the scheme, and that it held three Scholarships or Presentations in the GREY Institute, made inquiries of the Secretary and another member of the Committee as to the work done by it, and spontaneously offered to present another Presentation in the GREY Institute, to be held and administered by the Charity. It is needless to say, the generous offer was accepted, and a vote of thanks to the donor unanimously passed by the meeting.

In estimating further the excellence of the work done by this Colonial Charity we must bear in mind that the Masonic bodies in Port Elizabeth comprise two Craft lodges (Nos. 711 and 863), one Royal Arch chapter (No. 711), one Mark lodge, one Knight Templar preceptory, and a Rose Croix chapter. Yet this Educational scheme of theirs provides annually for the

education of 21 children—including the three scholars in the GREY Institute, and besides meeting all its liabilities, has a substantial amount of assets to fall back upon in the event of a rainy day overtaking it. Our Port Elizabeth brethren are to be congratulated on the excellent provision they make for the children of their deceased and indigent members.

### ARS QUATUOR CORONATORUM.\*

The second part of the current year's volume of Transactions is full of interesting matter, the most attractive of the numerous contributions being the paper read by Bro. H. P. FITZGERALD MARRIOTT on "The Secret Tribal Societies of West Africa." It is evident from Bro. MARRIOTT'S opening remarks that he has studied the subject very deeply. Not only does he appear to have read most, if not all, of the accounts compiled by the best known writers of these Societies, but he has also during his sojourn in West Africa studied the subject very carefully and by the inquiries he made among Europeans and natives seems to speak with a weight and authority, which materially enhance the value of his Essay. It would be presumptuous on our part to offer any minute criticism of such a paper. We realise at the outset that the subject is one that can be dealt with competently only by those who have studied the writings of others, and like Bro. MARRIOTT have been at the trouble of verifying or otherwise by personal inquiries and study in the country itself the theories which such writers have formed. That Secret Societies of various kinds exist in West Africa is beyond question, and so, too, is it beyond question that these Societies are oftentimes employed as channels of active opposition to the Government. But it seems quite feasible that they might be used "as a means of administration in the hands of European authority." He speaks of them as being "in reality tribal institutions, and as such, so to speak, the storehouse for native knowledge, laws, and customs." He holds that "the extinction of those innumerable tribal societies not practising human sacrifices would be very injudicious in the present state of native civilisation." The very ample particulars he furnishes of very many of them—among which are included what seem to be the most important—justify, in our opinion, the statement that they "undoubtedly contain the religious and social principles of the people, and administer justice, according to native law and custom, and are in many parts decidedly necessary to the continuance of order and even of the higher moral welfare of the people." At all events, a study of this paper cannot be otherwise than interesting to Masons, and if the study is conducted in the generous spirit recommended by Bro. the Rev. J. W. HORSLEY in the discussion that followed the reading of the paper, that study cannot fail to be, as we have more than once said, not only interesting, but also profitable.

Among the Reviews we notice one by Bro. W. J. HUGHAN of Bro. JOHN T. THORP'S "Early History (1803-1859) of the Knights of Malta Lodge, Hinckley, Leicestershire," and another by Bro. G. W. SPETH, of Part I. of a German book, entitled "Der Giftige Kern," and which, he explains, when done into English, is "The Poison Germ, or the True Purpose of Freemasonry," documentarily proved by HILDEBRAND GERBER (Father HERMANN

\* ARS QUATUOR CORONATORUM.—Being the Transactions of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, London. Edited for the Committee by G. W. Speth, P.A.G.D.C., Sec. Volume XII., Part 2. H. Keble, Printer, Margate, 1899.

GRUBER, S.J.). Bro. SPETH, when he is so minded, can strike hard, and he does not spare Father GRUBER. He allows in one place that "the book is intensely clever;" that the descriptions of occurrences on which he relies "are copied from genuine Masonic sources;" and, speaking from memory, that "the quotations are not garbled;" but in another place he remarks that "the devilish ingenuity with which Father GRUBER manages to pervert his text to his own ignoble purpose is simply marvellous, and not a little amusing, just as the dexterity of a thimble-rigger is marvellous and amusing withal." We trust the author will be satisfied with Bro. SPETH'S plain speaking. We are also indebted to Bro. SPETH for a readable account of a work entitled "Leicester Masonry, 1103-1327," being, in fact, a review of a portion of a work recently issued from the Cambridge University Press—"Records of the Borough of Leicester. Being a series of Extracts from the Archives of the Corporation of Leicester, 1103-1327." Edited by MARY BATEMAN, Associate and Lecturer of Newnham College, Cambridge \* \* \* 1899. There is also from his pen a record of the Summe Outing of the Lodge to Exeter, with much else relating to that event, the letter press having the further merit of being fully and adequately illustrated. Among the other contents are the usual Chronicle and Obituary and reviews of "The Builders; the Story of a Great Masonic Guild; by LEADER SCOTT; 83 Illustrations," London, Sampson Low, Marston, and Co., 1899, by Bro. HAMON LE STRANGE, and "KENNING'S Archaeological Library, Vol. II." &c., &c., in which Bro. SPETH does full justice to Bro. W. J. HUGHAN'S labours in the compilation of the volume. In addition to the Illustrations already mentioned in connection with the lodge's visit to Exeter, there are others, among them being a portrait of Bro. E. T. SCHULTZ, a prominent American brother, who has been compelled to retire from active Masonry by failure of his eyesight.

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### LODGE OFFICERS.

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#### No. II.—THE SECRETARY.

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[COMMUNICATED.]

The virtues of regularity and punctuality are more desirable and, indeed, essential in Brother Secretary than in any other officer of the lodge. What we mean is that every other officer's place can be filled by a substitute at a pinch. If anything detain the Worshipful Master, there is generally some other Worshipful Brother present, who can, at all events, carry on the routine, and, as to the other offices, the private brother is rather glad than otherwise when a casual vacancy gives him a chance to assume office, if only for one evening. But Brother Secretary has charge of the minute book and the declaration book, and is in possession of information about the candidates, and has all the lodge correspondence with him, and he, therefore, bears a double share of the responsibility which devolves upon every officer.

The Secretary's duties are of three kinds. First, and most important, are those concerned with candidates; then the keeping of the lodge records; and, lastly, making the returns. The last of these is little more than routine, and we cannot understand why any Secretary should ever allow his returns to Provincial Grand Lodge to get into arrears. The quarterly return is at most an hour's work, and when one is being drawn up, that for the succeeding quarter can be copied from it—eliminating the resignations, and leaving open spaces for the additions to be made when it is actually due.

The annual return of Master, Wardens, and Past Masters is only a ten minutes' business once a year, and the registration return of new members takes but the same time once a quarter. And yet, strange to say, these are the only secretarial duties ever allowed to get into arrears. The minutes are always up to time: everything with regard to candidates is done at the proper time, and in each case a certain amount of physical and mental work is involved—but how many Secretaries are there who make a point of having their returns in the hands of the Provincial Grand Secretary on due date. And the effects of his negligence in this respect are not confined to himself. In fact, they scarcely affect him at all personally. It is the Past Masters of the lodge who fail to get Provincial Grand rank because their existence is not officially known to the Provincial Grand Master, who have a right to complain. Or it may be the Master and Wardens who go to Grand Lodge, and are sent

back again because no record of their appointment has come to hand. It is the Worshipful Master who is blamed by the authorities for all this; and though he may, and doubtless does, pass it on, still the stigma remains.

The Secretary has charge of the lodge records, and has to keep them up to date, which means he has to write up the minutes every month. Every lodge has its traditional way of expressing things, and some lodges positively wallow in archæological phraseology. A new Secretary will do well, then, to study his predecessor's records before writing out the minutes from his rough notes. He ought to regard any subsequent decision of the lodge to erase or alter any part of his minutes as a reflection upon his Secretarial capacity.

Writing up minutes seems a simple enough operation, but there are several things which may be touched upon. A list of the brethren present comes first, and though he will be quite justified in relying only upon the attendance book, it is equally desirable that he should make a list of his own. He should be careful about the order in which he places them, *e.g.*, Past Masters of the lodge will take precedence of worshipful brethren, who are only members of the lodge.

Much as archæological phraseology may be admired, superfluity of expression might be avoided. For instance, "The lodge was opened in due and antient form *with solemn prayer.*" The last expression is unnecessary, as it is included in the fact that the lodge was opened in due form and in antient form.

Absent members are often very sensitive on the subject of their apologies for non-attendance being duly recorded, and this is a matter that should be carefully noted at the time, so as to avoid the necessity of interpolating them when the minutes are subsequently read. Especial tact is needed when there has been a debate in lodge, and the remarks of various brethren have to be chronicled. To report one brother *verbatim*, and simply to record the fact that the discussion was continued by other brethren, is calculated to cause a certain amount of soreness. To make a careful abstract of each brother's speech demands a professional experience which possibly brother Secretary lacks. He should consult the Worshipful Master in such matters, and, in fact, it would be well to submit a rough copy of the minutes to the Worshipful Master in every case.

After the minutes have been read the usual thing is to confirm them. What confirmation of minutes really means requires some explanation, because the Constitutions have meddled with the subject. It is contrary to common sense to suppose that by refusing to confirm the minutes or any portion of them, a lodge meeting should thereby have the power of revising what has been done at a previous meeting. Yet the article in the Book of Constitutions relating to the election of a Worshipful Master is so worded that the power of revision is not infrequently exercised. When the Worshipful Master puts the minutes for confirmation he simply means "Do you consider this a correct record of what took place." He does not say "Do you approve of what took place." Non-confirmation should not imply disapproval but only a doubt as to accuracy. And yet we have been in a lodge where a majority of the members declined to confirm a portion of the minutes which referred to the black-balling of a candidate, with the result that the latter thus escaped the provisions of a by-law which would have made him wait six months.

The Secretary has to see that a candidate's papers are in order, and to certify that all fees are paid. In the case of a joining brother the papers include the application, duly signed by proposer and seconder, the Grand Lodge certificate and a no-dues certificate from the last lodge, and it would only be carrying out the spirit of the Constitutions, though not required by the letter, to ask for a no-dues certificate from each lodge the brother belongs to at the time of his joining. In the case of an initiate, a declaration is required and an application form. These should all be filed in a convenient way.

Since the summons is issued in the name of the Master, it goes without saying that a proof of it should always be submitted to the W.M. before it is issued. The only business that is absolutely necessary to appear in the summons is that concerned with the admission of new members and elections, &c. The conferment of subsequent Degrees is usually added, and controversy is avoided if proposals for grants of money are inserted. There is one point more to be mentioned with regard to Brother Secretary—the performance of his duties should not make him oblivious of the necessity of standing to order during lodge ceremonies.

A good Secretary is never forgotten. He may not receive promotion immediately, but he is practically sure of a Warden's chair. He can do wonders for his lodge if so disposed. All its business arrangements are in his hands, and it is equally true in Freemasonry, as in other concerns of life, that business is business. We have not said anything yet about the corres-

pondence with which he may have to deal. It ought to go without saying that every letter demanding an answer should be acknowledged, even if not answered by return of post. The fact that it is the Worshipful Master and not himself who is held responsible for all *laches* should make him if anything more determined that nothing should go wrong or be wanting in which himself is concerned. He voluntarily accepts a post of considerable responsibility, hard work, no profit, and little gratitude. In course of time he may reach the chair, and it is then that he reaps the benefit of good honest work as Secretary in the sense of power and independence that he feels. Meanwhile he is entitled to all the respect and honour the brethren can show him.

## Scotland.

### MASONIC CEREMONIAL AT INVERGORDON.

#### ERECTION OF A NEW LODGE.

An interesting event in the history of Invergordon took place on the 25th ult., when a new lodge was erected and duly constituted in the seaport town. There was a very large turn out of brethren from all parts of the province. Bro. Col. Sir Hector Munro of Fowlis, Prov. Grand Master of Invernesshire, was in charge of the function, and was assisted by Bros. Joass, Sub. Prov. G.M.; Captain Monro, Prov. G. Master of Ceremonies; Naughty, Prov. S.G.W.; Henderson, Prov. J.G.W.; James Maitland, Tain, Prov. S.G.D.; Junner, Cromarty, Prov. J.G.D.; Mackenzie, Inverness, Prov. G.I.G.; Cumming, Prov. G. Sec.; Brodie, Prov. G. Treas.; and Fraser, Prov. G. Tyler. The other members of the Provincial G. Lodge present were: From St. Duthus, Tain—Bros. Charles Rattray, S.W., and Dr. Ross, J.W.; from Dingwall—Bro. John Macpherson; from Cromarty—Bros. Lumsden, Macleod, Ross, and Ken. Mackenzie, Prov. G. Org.; from Alness—Bros. Hugh Mackay, R.W.M., and F. M'Iver, S.W. Other brethren to the number of 70 or so were also present.

The Prov. G. Master having constituted his Prov. G. Lodge, the Prov. G. Chaplain, Bro. Wilson Dingwall, delivered an eloquent oration on the "Nature and Objects of Masonry." Thereafter, Bro. Jas. Cumming, the Prov. G. Secretary, handed to the P.G.M. the charter in favour of Lodge Ness, No. 888. After prayer by the Chaplain, and the customary perambulation of Prov. G. Lodge, the P.G. Director of Ceremonies proclaimed "Lodge Ness, No. 888," duly constituted a regular lodge of Freemasons.

The P.G. Master then proceeded to instal the office-bearers of the new lodge as follows: Bros. John Thomson, of the Fortrose Lodge, Cromarty, R.W.M.; Inglis of Newmore, S.M.; W. G. Paterson, S.W.; James Ross of Pollo, J.W.; Macfarlane, S.D.; Brook, Sec.; and Mackay, I.G.

The Prov. G. Master handed over to the R.W.M. the charter, and Bro. THOMSON, in reply, thanked the P.G.M.

Bro. Col. Sir HECTOR MUNRO, P.G.M., charged the Master and office-bearers to give the greatest attention to their respective duties, and said he hoped that on the occasion of the first visit of the Prov. G. Lodge they would see from the working of the Ness Lodge that the Provincial Lodge had not erred in recommending that a charter be granted.

After the ceremony the Provincial G. Lodge and the visiting brethren were entertained to a cake and wine banquet, excellently purveyed in the Science and Art Room of the Town Hall by Bro. Mackay, of the Victoria Hotel. Bro. John Thomson, as R.W.M., occupied the chair.

The loyal and patriotic toasts having been given from the chair and responded to,

Bro. INGLIS proposed the "Grand Lodge of Scotland," and Bro. NAUGHTY replied.

Bro. W. G. PATERSON gave the "Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty," and, in doing so, paid a high compliment to Sir Hector Munro, as Prov. G. Master. He also took occasion to refer to Sir Hector's recent appointment as Lord-Lieutenant, which had given him, he said, the utmost satisfaction. The toast was coupled with the name of Sir Hector, and heartily pledged, followed by the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Sir HECTOR replied, and subsequently gave the toast of "Ness, No. 888." During this time a terrific storm of thunder and lightning prevailed, and was still continuing when Sir Hector rose to speak. He said it seemed to him that the lodge was started under most auspicious circumstances. The thunder roared and the lightning flashed, but they still remained immovable. (Laughter and applause.) Again, in the choice of their Master they were particularly fortunate. Bro. Thomson was a Master second to none in the province. (Applause.) If any Mason in the province knew Masonry, it was Bro. Thomson. This was the second time he had had the pleasure of handing Bro. Thomson a charter, and he had every confidence he would carry on his work well. (Applause.)

Bro. THOMSON suitably responded.

A number of other toasts followed.

#### Maryhill Lodge, No. 510.

##### FAREWELL TO THE ROYAL SCOTS.

On the occasion of the approaching departure of the Royal Scots from the Maryhill Barracks, the above lodge held a special meeting in their hall, Gairbraid-street, on the 30th ult., to take farewell of the brethren of the regiment. There was a large attendance of members and visiting brethren, and in the course of the evening two deputations arrived from Lodge Plantation, No. 581, and Lodge Thistle, No. 87. Bro. Robert Crawford, R.W.M., presided; the office of Senior Warden was filled by Bro. T. Wylie, and that of Junior Warden by Bro. R. Morrison. On the dais beside the Master were seated Bros. D. Baxter, R.W.M. 408; Falconer, 556; D. Masterton, R.W.M. 117; James Kenney, R.W.M. 581; Ferguson, P.M. 581; Robert Millburn, R.W.M. 87; Fraser, P.M. 87; Booth, D.P.M. 87; A. S. M'Bride, P.M. 170, and Prov. D.M. Dumbartonshire; Mackay, P.M. 510; James Kay, P.M. 510; Wm. Aitken, P.M. 510; Robt. Bryan, P.M. 510; Bain, P.M. 510; Bailie Cleland, D.M. 510; Mathieson, D.M. 510; Samuels, Asst. Chap. 510; Wm. Henderson, Sec. 510; and M'Dougall, Treas. 510. The First Degree having been worked, the lodge was called from labour to harmony, and in a few remarks,

The Chairman explained the object of the meeting. They had met that evening, he said, to take farewell of their military brethren who were soon to leave the district. While stationed at Maryhill, the brethren of the Royal Scots had been very popular in the lodge, and he assured them that it was with deep regret that the members learned of their approaching departure. He hoped, however, that they would carry away with them a good opinion of the Provincial Lodge of Glasgow, as well as pleasant recollections of their fellowship with the members of Maryhill Lodge. His own intercourse with their military brethren had always been of the most pleasant character. He had been received by every one of them in the way that one brother ought to be received by another, and on behalf of the lodge he could assure their friends of the Royal Scots that the members of Maryhill had always endeavoured to make them feel at home on every occasion that they came amongst them. He hoped that they had succeeded. (Applause.)

The toast of "The Queen and the Craft," followed, the sentiment of "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow," being responded to by Bro. Falconer, Clydesdale.

Bro. Wylie, S.W., proposed the toast of the evening—"The Military Brethren." He regretted their departure from the district, where their presence had been a source of great pleasure to the brethren of Maryhill, and assured the Scots that in their departure they carried with them the best wishes of the whole lodge. (Applause.)

The toast was pledged with the highest honours.

Bro. Colonel-Sergeant Farrell thanked the members for the manner in which the military had been received that evening, and assured the brethren of Maryhill that everyone of the Royal Scots would cherish the memories of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow, and especially the happy intercourse they had all enjoyed with Maryhill Lodge. (Applause.)

"The Visiting Brethren" was next proposed from the chair, the R.W.M. acknowledging the satisfaction with which he welcomed the large number of visitors who were present that evening. Almost every lodge in the Province of Glasgow was represented, and they had them from an even wider radius, Dunblane, Perth, and Dumbarton all being represented amongst them.

This toast, which met with an enthusiastic reception, was replied to by Bros. Millburn and M'Bride.

Bro. M'Bride remarked that the social spirit which prevailed in Maryhill helped to relieve the monotony of barrack life, and he was sure when the time of departure arrived, and the band struck up "The girl I left behind," everyone of them would remember Mary Hill. (Laughter and applause.)

Bro. Fraser, S7, proposed "Continued Prosperity to Lodge Maryhill," which was acknowledged by Bro. Crawford, R.W.M., who said he had been looking forward with fear and trembling to that evening, but now that it had arrived he felt proud of being Master of such a lodge. The work had been hard and arduous for some time, but the office bearers and members alike had been enthusiastic, and it was due to that combination that the past year had been such a prosperous one in the history of the lodge.

After "The Past Masters" had been pledged, and the usual votes of thanks awarded, the lodge was recalled from harmony to labour, and thereafter closed in due and ancient form.

In the course of the evening an excellent vocal programme was sustained by the brethren present, including Bros. Callaghan, Hughes, A. Cumming, S73, Goudie, John Cowan, Sergeant Burke, Anthony, 333, Wilson, S7, A. Wilson, 488, Kay, P.M. 510, Henderson, and others.

## Instruction.

### PROSPERITY LODGE, No. 65.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 6th inst., at the Whittington, 5 and 7, Moorlane, E.C. Present: Bros. J. Brown, P.M., W.M.; J. G. Robeson, W.M. 192 S.W.; Gernon, J.W.; H. T. Meadows, P.M., Sec.; Reid, S.D.; Jas. Smith P.M., J.D.; William Baker, P.M., I.G.; D. Harlow, P.M., Preceptor; and F. Norman.

Although the attendance was small, a very pleasant and instructive evening was enjoyed by the brethren present. The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The W.M. then opened in the Second Degree, and rehearsed the installation ceremony, Bro. Norman, W.M. elect 1767, acting as candidate. Bro. Norman rehearsed the investiture of officers, and Bro. Brown gave the usual addresses, after which Bro. Norman worked the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Brown acting as candidate. The W.M. then resumed the chair, and resuming the lodge in the Second Degree, opened it in the Third, and the brethren went through Masonic drill.

The lodge was then closed in the Three Degrees, and the meeting adjourned. Bro. John G. Robeson, W.M. 192, will occupy the chair next Wednesday.

### ISLINGTON LODGE, No. 1471.

The first meeting after the recess was held on Tuesday, the 5th instant, at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, when there were present Bros. W. Hancock, P.M., Preceptor, W.M.; H. B. Harding, P.M., S.W.; H. R. Bower, J.W.; J. Petch, P.M., P.P.G.S.B. Herts, Treas.; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D. Herts, and J. Duncan, P.M., Secs.; C. C. Renaud, S.D.; S. Cload, J.D.; T. E. Newman, I.G.; R. Philip Upton, P.M.; A. Oliver, P.M.; H. J. Kembell, jun.; H. A. House, T. A. Spencer, F. H. Johnson, R. E. Maskall, W. J. Townsend, C. Bone, and Owen, Mass., U.S.A.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. House being the candidate. The ceremony of raising was afterwards rehearsed, Bro. Spencer being the candidate. Bro. Harding was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed the officers in rotation. The lodge was then closed.

### STAR CHAPTER, No. 1275.

A meeting was held on Friday, the 1st instant, at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell, S.E. Present: Comps. T. Grummant, M.E.Z.; Wm. Dawson, H.; Hy. Cornford, J.; Thos. Grummant, P.Z., Preceptor; C. H. Stone, P.Z., Scribe E.; J. H. Cureton, P.Z., Scribe N.; H. Barratt, P.S.; Growse, Reed, Wal. Jeffery, and J. Loader.

The minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Wm. Hy. Growse personating the candidate. Comp. W. Dawson, H., was elected M.E.Z. for to-day (Friday). The installation of the third chair was rehearsed by Comp. Thos. Grummant, Comp. G. W. Reed being installed. The chapter was then closed.

## Secret Monitor.

### Royal Sussex Conclave, No. 10.

A meeting of the above conclave was held on Saturday, the 12th ult., at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton. Present: Bros. J. Mennich Mennich, S.R.; Jno. Oliver Cook, C.; E. Mitchell, Treas.; Louis Beale, Stwd.; E. T. Cox, Org.; C. J. Gillard and Tom Ryder, V.Ds.; H. H. Hughes, Sentinel; A. Coe, Asst. Sentinel; Dr. G. F. W. Mugliston, P.S.R., G. Treas., acting I.P.G.S.R.; Dr. H. Pearce, P.S.R.; and E. Mitchell, P.S.R., acting Guide and Sec. Bro. C. H. Malden, P.G.G., P.S.R. Madras, was a visitor.

The conclave being opened, the minutes of the last regular meeting were read and passed. Bro. Gen. Charles Wilson Randolph, P.C.G. Oxon, M.E. Comp. Grand Supt. Prov. Grand Chapter, 33, was unanimously elected an honorary member. Bro. Dr. E. T. Cox was made Prince of the Order. The conclave was then closed.

THE ARCHDEACON OF LONDON, Bro. the Ven. William M. Sinclair, D.D., has been appointed Chaplain to Bro. Alfred H. Bevan, Sheriff elect.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1899

**Masonic Notes.**

The Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 6th instant, under the presidency of the Right Hon. the Earl of Warwick, Dep. G. Master. As will be seen from our report of the proceedings, which appears elsewhere, a discussion took place over that portion of the Report of the Board of General Purposes having reference to the Cambrian Lodge, No. 656, Sydney, N.S.W., which has elected to remain under the Grand Lodge of England in preference to joining the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales. The principal speaker was Earl Carrington, who, it will be remembered, was installed first M.W.G. Master on the establishment of that Grand Lodge.

The announcement made later in the evening to the effect that his Royal Highness the M.W.G. Master had been graciously pleased to appoint Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, P.G.W., Dist. G. Master of the Soudan, was received with enthusiasm.

\* \* \*

The Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons for England and Wales, &c., was held at Mark Masons' Hall on Tuesday, the 5th instant, under the presidency of the Earl of Euston, M.W. Pro G.M.M. Fortunately, in view of the further spell of hot weather which appears to have set in, the proceedings did not last long, the Report of the General Board being the only business that came before the brethren.

\* \* \*

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall will be held at the Public Rooms, Launceston, on Monday, the 11th instant, and as it is upwards of 20 years since the Prov. Grand Lodge assembled in that town under the auspices of the local lodge—the Dunheved, No. 789, which was warranted in 1859—and the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, Past Dep. G. Master of England, is one of the most popular and respected among Prov. G. Masters, there is reason to believe that the meeting will be well attended. The Province, as will already have been seen from the brief particulars we published last week, is in a prosperous state. Since last year's annual gathering there has been a move in the direction of increase, and a new lodge under the style and title of the St. Michael, No. 2747, and meeting at Newquay, has been added to the roll, it being about 13 years since the last addition was made. The Annuity and Benevolent Fund, too, is flourishing, and the Provincial Charity Association is doing some excellent work in behalf of our Central Institutions. Add to this that during the present year the Province has been represented at the three Anniversary Festivals and raised upwards of £500—and that notwithstanding the heavy work of 1898 in respect of the Boys' Centenary—and it will be allowed that next week's Provincial meeting at Launceston will take place under very encouraging circumstances.

\* \* \*

The congratulations addressed by the Committee of the Cambridgeshire Masonic Charity Association in their 15th annual Report in respect of the year ending 31st October, 1898, are fully justified by the success it has been their duty to record. The Province, though at the time it mustered only half-a-dozen lodges, raised last year £890 8s., of which £42 was subscribed at the Girls' School Festival, and £848 8s. at the Boys' Centenary Festival, no less than £714 of the latter sum having been paid at the date of the Report—11th November, 1898—while the balance, it was declared, would be paid before the 31st December following. In previous years the Province has done well, but never before have its contributions amounted to so large a figure.

\* \* \*

The Association was started in 1883, and the contributions from the commencement to the close of 1897 reached £4613 16s. 3d.; while to the close of 1898 they are returned at £5369 16s. 3d. This is a total of which even a larger Province than Cambridgeshire would have good reason to be proud, the average per annum being in round figures £358. The success it has achieved during this period may be taken as due principally, if not entirely, to the establishment of the organisation, and we trust that, as the years roll, still more of our Cambridgeshire brethren will enrol themselves as members.

\* \* \*

The District Grand Chapter of Burmah has but five chapters on its roll and, therefore, it would be unreasonable to expect that its convocations should be very numerously attended. Moreover, the month of June, when people appear to be busily occupied in attending to their private avocations, is not favourable to large attendances, but the meeting on the 23rd of that month appears to have attracted a somewhat smaller muster than usual. However, Comp. Dr. Parakh, who presided in the unavoidable absence of Comp. J. Copley Moyle, the G. Superintendent, was able to report that things were going on well. The chapters were working satisfactorily, the Returns and Dues were all up-to-date, and the finances, if not exactly flourishing, were sufficient for present purposes. More than this we need not look for.

\* \* \*

It is clear from the letter we published last week from Bro. "Thomas D. Foreman, P.P.J.G.W. Lancs.," that the position of the Mark Lodge in the Ashton-

under-Lyne District in the difficulty which has lately arisen between it and the Grand Mark Lodge of England is far stronger than we had supposed when we wrote our former article on the subject, and more than confirms the opinion we then expressed—that the Mark Grand Lodge has acted unwisely in declaring "spurious and clandestine" a Mark lodge which it had previously expressed its readiness to acknowledge as regular, if only it would enter into the fold of what Bro. Foreman calls the "Royal Mark." Next week we purpose offering a few remarks on the subject.

\* \* \*

A correspondent has forwarded us a letter requesting our opinion on certain matters which appear to us to be of a private nature. Under any circumstances we should have declined to insert it, as he has omitted to send us his name and address, not for publication, but in evidence of his *bona fides*, and hence we have placed it with other rejected matter. However, there is one piece of advice we offer to our unknown correspondent, namely, that he will prove himself a truer and better man and Mason if he keeps his petty business differences with other brethren and his Masonry as distinct from each other as possible. Masonry has nothing to do with the money squabbles of brethren, in respect of which the proper tribunal to approach is a court of law.

\* \* \*

We must necessarily feel flattered at finding that our opinions upon the question of brethren wearing their Masonic clothing when they attend divine service or take part in public processions are shared by a brother who hails "From Far Fiji." But there is one contingency we did not provide against in our Article. If any of the natives have been initiated into the mysteries and privileges of our Order, it will be better, even in every day life, that they should wear their Masonic clothing than no clothing at all.

\* \* \*

We agree with "From Far Fiji" that a ball or concert given by a regular lodge cannot be regarded as a public entertainment, but we do not look upon this as a reason why brethren attending it should appear in their Masonic clothing, unless, indeed, it is arranged beforehand that any profit arising from it shall be handed over to one of our Masonic Charitable Institutions. This furnishes an excellent reason to the lodge for asking for a dispensation, and to the authorities for granting it, but there is in it the same vanity on the part of the members and the same curiosity on the part of the guests as at a church service at which the former appear Masonically clothed. Still Charity covers a multitude of sins, and amongst them the very venial offence of attending as Masons a ball or concert that is given privately by a lodge. It is a case in which the end may be held to justify the means, and compares favourably with what is commonly spoken of as lodge "ladies' nights."

\* \* \*

By the lamented death of Bro. William Simpson, Freemasonry, but more particularly the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, has sustained a great loss. Bro. Simpson had done splendid service in various parts of the world, from the year 1854, when he was sent to the Crimea by Messrs. Colnaghi to make a series of illustrations of the war. Subsequently he visited India under an engagement with Messrs. Day and Son, and in 1866 joined the staff of the *Illustrated London News*, since when he had gone through the Abyssinian Campaign, the Franco-German War, the Commune, and accompanied the Prince of Wales on his memorable visit to India. He was the first joining member of Lodge Quatuor Coronati, and had he not been in Afghanistan, would have been one of the founders. He was the third brother elected to preside over it as W.M., read many papers before the lodge, and contributed several able reviews to its Transactions. He was greatly respected by the members and maintained his interest in the proceedings to the very last, nor is it a mere conventional expression when we say that all will sympathise with the widow and daughters he has left behind him and who are now mourning a loss which to them must be irreparable, but which, as we said last week, is in some measure assuaged by the knowledge that he was held in the highest esteem, admiration, and affection by all who had the privilege of his friendship and acquaintance.

\* \* \*

We regret to hear that Bro. W. A. Tinney, P.M. of the Asaph Lodge, No. 1319, has had an apoplectic seizure. However, his medical adviser declares he is making slow progress towards recovery, and we hope to hear soon that he has been fully restored to health.

## Correspondence.

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

## THE ASHTON DISTRICT MARK LODGE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

There is much in Bro. Foreman's letter upon which, with your permission, I may be able to throw additional light.

I was made a Mark Master in this "Travelling Lodge," or "Cheshire Mark Lodge," as it was then designated, on Sunday, 15 July, 1855, at the meeting place, and under the warrant of the Lodge of Loyalty, No. 402, Mottram, this form of meeting, there is no doubt, being a survival of the older custom of the Craft lodges conferring various other Degrees under their warrants. At this time there was a small subscription, constituting an optional membership, which went to form a Sick and Burial Fund for its members. A tea was also provided for those who chose to attend.

My Masonic instructor in the lectures of the Craft was one of the older Past Masters of this Mark Lodge, and he informed me that its founder was a non-commissioned officer who had served in India, who had received the Degree or Degrees—for it went originally under the designation of Mark, Link, and Ark—and settling in Ashton, had combined with other members in developing the system then in vogue some 35 or 40 years previously. Hence, the lodge has an uninterrupted and prosperous career of some 80 to 85 years. I am not aware that in these years the participation of the Craft lodge amounted to more than this, that the members allowed the use of their rooms and furniture, a permission with which, I take it, Grand Lodge has no right to interfere. As to the desirability of Sunday meetings, it is a matter of opinion, on which the less that is said the better.

When I was advanced to the Degree by Bro. Edward Bell, of Dukinfield, the ceremony differed very little from that of Lord Leigh's Grand Lodge, which had not then adopted the formal Overseer's ceremony. At a revision a short time previously to 1855 the Ark had been dispensed with, but was afterwards given to a few of us by an older Past Master.

In 1858 I arranged with half a dozen other members to join me in the establishment of a lodge, Fidelity, 31, under Lord Leigh's Grand Lodge. My certificate was sent up to Bro. Alex. Ridgway and never returned, but a new one was granted, in similar terms to that which Bro. Foreman prints in your pages. With the exception of myself, who had not joined, all the seven original members continued subscribing members of the older body, which had a very numerous membership.

The officers of Fidelity, No. 31, were installed by the Craft Instructor and old Past Master of the Mark lodge, to whom I have more than once alluded, on the 8th September, 1858. I cannot be supposed to have any particularly grateful feeling for the old body, inasmuch as I could produce the names of some score of members who were proposed for the new body, at various times, and "nobbled" by the older one. Spiteful remarks were sometimes reported such as this, that the members we were receiving would sometime be glad of their benefit fund.

I often advocated, at this time, that the older body should split up into district lodges, as branches of Lord Leigh's Grand Lodge, whilst continuing their benefit fund under a committee. Had this been done, both Cheshire and Lancashire would have developed Mark Masonry very rapidly.

I have, however, said enough to show, with Bro. Foreman, that the designation of "spurious and clandestine," as applied to this old Mark lodge, is altogether uncalled for; as a lodge it is as regular as any lodge under the London Constitution. But as a Grand Lodge, or even as a Provincial Grand Lodge, it must be held to come under the opprobrious designation. As a first step to conciliation I would suggest to Bro. Foreman that he should advocate the discontinuance of the high sounding title and return to the ancient style.

Whilst writing on this subject, there is a matter I should like to advertise the loss of in your pages. The attendance book, and Mark book of Fidelity, 31, are missing, and probably in the hands of some brother or his family at Hyde. I should be glad to hear that they had been restored to the lodge, which now meets at Birkenhead.—Fraternally yours,

JOHN YARKER, P.M. 31, and Honorary Member.

## THE TYLER.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Your article upon the subject of "Tyler" is one of the most interesting I have read, as it so clearly sets forth the true position of that indispensable officer. It was brought forcibly home to me when visiting a lodge a short time since, for, arriving late, I had to spend a quarter of an hour outside the portals with the Tyler.

He was a man between 50 and 60 years of age, quiet, gentle, but firm withal, in his demeanour. He was a P.M., and I think, by the jewel he wore on his collar, a Past Principal in "R.A." My conversation with him clearly told me he was a gentleman, and had seen better days. I need not say my good impressions of this lodge were considerably augmented by the personality of this Tyler. Every brother had a pat on the back and a kindly word as he passed. Your letter has brought all this to my mind, and I do hope that the result of it will be that only brethren who are Past Masters and have passed the meridian, and can show a record of good Masonic work, will in future be appointed to the office of Tyler.

R. S., 240S.

## THE TERM "COWAN."

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

In an article in your issue of 26th August last is given a definition of a "Cowan." He is described as "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 by a drawn sword."

Letting that pass, the writer goes on: "The word has been derived from the Greek *κῶνος*, and with more probability from *Chouan*, a term used to describe a certain class of rebel during the first empire."

Many opinions have been expressed as to the derivation of the word "Cowan," but the suggestion that it comes from the French *Chouan* is just a little startling.

The Chouans, moreover, were no rebels, but true men, who stood by monarchy in France, and fought to the death against the *sous-officiers* in the cruel war of La Vendée. These indomitable Bretons, led in the first instance by a peasant named Jean Cottreau, who was slain in 1794, were known as "Chouans,"

from the fact that their signal cry in this bitter guerilla conflict was that of the screech owl—"Chathuant."

The "probability" of there being any connection or association between the terms "Cowan" and "Chouan" is not, therefore, too evident.

It may also be worthy of remark that the war of La Vendée commenced in 1792, was terminated by General Hoche in 1796, and that up to that time there was not even a Consulate, not to name an Empire.—I am, faithfully yours,

JOSEPH MATTHEWMAN.

Leeds, September 8th.

## Masonic Notes and Queries.

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## ASHTON DISTRICT MARK LODGE.

I have been much interested in reading the communication from Bro. T. D. Foreman relating to the "Ashton District Mark Lodge and the Grand Lodge of M.M.M. of England," and can assure him that nothing but the union of the former with the latter Body, will secure permanent peace and prosperity for the old Mark Lodge which has so long kept alive the customs and traditions of Mark Masonry. I do not consider that the words "spurious and clandestine" rightly express the relationship of the Ashton Lodge to the Mark Grand Lodge. It is really *irregular* in not having a warrant from the Mark Grand Lodge, but its right to work the Degree in a separate and independent form, so long as it keeps from any improper use of Craft Charters, or other such documents of an official character cannot be questioned. But Bro. Foreman sees, as many else do, undoubtedly, that the prosperity of the Mark Degree locally is much interfered with, and considerably lessened by the present unhappy difference and opposition. Surely the brethren have had plenty of time to make up their minds, and I earnestly hope they will soon petition for a warrant, and thus end the difficulty. In the heat of controversy words are used that are not quite Masonic in character, and the monopoly of such is not confined to any one side. However, pass these by, my brethren, and unite with us for the good of the Craft locally and generally! You will not complain of any lack of warmth in the welcome accorded by the R.W. Bros. Loveland and Matier, and we will all rejoice together.

W. J. HUGHAN

(P.G.W. of England).

## Reviews.

THE CATHEDRAL BUILDERS. The Story of a Great Masonic Guild. By Leader Scott. (London, Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Ltd.)—This is a most interesting volume, lavishly illustrated, and, undoubtedly, ably written by one completely fascinated by the subject. In many respects the author has triumphed over considerable difficulties, and with linguistic attainments numerous works relating to the *Magistri Comacini*, have been consulted, which else would be sealed books. The result is a really fine volume of considerably over 400 pages, printed in a perfect manner by Richard Clay and Sons, with more than 80 marvellous plates, and published by the eminent firm aforesaid at one guinea per copy. It is not an easy work to thoroughly digest, as there are many startling statements, which, to a Freemason, are sometimes novel, occasionally incorrect, but always suggestive and original in character. In the *Proem* the scope of the book is clearly described, being no less a task than to bridge over some seven centuries, *i.e.*, the *hiatus* between the *fifth* and that early use of ART in the 12th which led to the Renaissance. This "Leader Scott" does in a most graceful and convincing manner by quoting from traditions, records, and other evidence of the *Comacine Masters*, "who form a firm, perfect, and consistent link between the old and the new, filling completely that ugly gap in the History of Art." "Leader Scott" (*a nom de plume*) maintains that the different Italian styles "are nothing more than the differing developments in differing climates and ages of the art of one powerful guild of Sculptor-Builders, who nursed the seed of Roman Art on the borderland of the falling Roman Empire, and spread the growth in far off countries. We shall see that all that was architecturally good in Italy during the dark centuries, 500 and 1200 A.D., was due to the Comacine Masters, or to their influence." The author also states that through these Masons, architecture and sculpture were carried into foreign lands, France, Spain, Germany, and England, and there developed into new and varied styles according to the exigencies of the climate and the tone of the people. Looking at the matter practically, we find that "the flat roofs, horizontal architraves and low arches of the Romanesque, which suited a warm climate, gradually changed as they went northward into the pointed arches and sharp gables of the Gothic; the steep sloping lines being a necessity in a land where snow and rain were frequent." We read that it was "the brethren of the *Liberi Muratori*, who, from their headquarters at Como, were sent by Gregory the Great to England with Saint Augustine, to build churches for his converts." How and why such a powerful and influential Guild sprang from a little island in Lake Como, and how their world-wide reputation was obtained, is entertainingly narrated in the artistic volume. The subject has been overlooked to a great extent in this country, though Bro. R. F. Gould, in his great "History of Freemasonry," alludes to it several times, and quite at length occasionally. The author was led to examine into the matter through a perusal of the "two ponderous tomes on the *Magistri Comacini* by [the late] Professor Merzario" (*Milan*, 1893), and deplores the neglect of these celebrated Masters by Art Historians generally. The work, however, admirably supplies what has long been lacking in this respect. It is a great pity that the author failed to become acquainted with the History of Freemasonry by Bro. Gould, and such works as have recently been published relating to the Craft, especially Bro. Conder's history of the Masons' Company, London, for surely, if light on this subject had been desired, the author might have done much better than have faith in a useless book published at Venice in 1788. Even had Findal's history been studied, it should have prevented anyone from looking down on modern Freemasonry with such disdain, for its title deeds to antiquity, resting on veritable documents dating from the fifteenth century, or earlier, are not evidences to be lightly treated or ignored. Leader Scott does not appear to be at all familiar with the literature of the *Steinmetzen*, and their preserved Regulations of 1459, 1462, and 1563, which in many respects so resemble (and yet are quite independent of) the "Old Charges of British Freemasons" from the 15th century. This volume should be so soon exhausted that a second edition will likely be in preparation ere long, and we much err if the author would not considerably soften several remarks as to the Masonic fraternity, if the works indicated were duly consulted. The book is divided into four sections: I. Romano-Lombard Architects; II. First Foreign Emigrations of the Comacines; III. Romanesque Architects; IV. Italian-Gothic and Renaissance Architects; these again being composed of four to six chapters each. The information as to the Siena and Orvieto Lodges, the Florentine, Milan, and Roman Lodges, is both curious and valuable, and the Epilogue is written in quite a jubilant strain, as the results have been greater than was foreseen, "the chain of Art History takes a new and changed aspect, and instead of several loose strands, with here and there detached links, it becomes one continuous whole, from early Christian Rome to the Rome of Raphael and Michael Angelo." The "authorities consulted" make an imposing list, though there is not one of our reliable British Masonic works included; but, apart from this evident slight to Craft literature, Leader Scott has done yeoman service even on behalf of our own Fraternity. It is, undoubtedly, a remarkable work—textually, artistically, and typographically.

THE PASSMORE EDWARDS HOME for the Orphans of Teachers at West Hill, Sydenham, S.E., will be opened on Saturday, the 22nd instant, the ceremony being performed by Bro. J. Passmore Edwards himself, who will be accompanied on the occasion by Mrs. Passmore Edwards.

## UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Convocation of the United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England was held on Wednesday evening at Freemasons' Hall, London. The Earl of Warwick, R.W. Dep. G. Master, presided. Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Prov. G. Master for Hants and the Isle of Wight, acted as Dep. G. Master; and Bro. Earl Carrington as Past G. Master; Bro. Sir John B. Monckton, P.G.W., as S.G.W.; and Bro. Thomas Fenn, P.G.W., as J.G.W.

Among other brethren present were

Bros. Dr. Balfour Cockburn, Prov. G.M. Guernsey and Alderney; John Strachan, Q.C., G. Reg.; R. Loveland Loveland, Q.C., Pres. Bd. Gen. Purps.; W. Lake, Asst. G. Sec., acting for the G. Sec.; Rev. C. J. Martyn, P.G. Chap.; Rev. F. Norman Lee, Chaplain to the Forces, P.G. Chap.; Richard Eve, P.G. Treas.; George Everett, P.G. Treas.; S. Cochrane, P.G. Treas.; Robert Grey (who later in the evening acted as S.G.W.); Frank Richardson, James Lewis Thomas, G. Pitt Lewis, Q.C.; C. Kupferschmidt, Asst. G. Sec. for German Correspondence; Dr. Laurance, P.G.D.; J. H. Matthews, President of the Board of Benevolence; Dr. Mickley, Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, P.G.C.; W. F. Lamonby, F. R. W. Hedges, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.G.; J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B.; C. E. Keyser, P.G.D.; W. H. Cummings, G. Org.; T. H. Gardiner, and Lennox Browne.

Grand Lodge having been opened in due form, the minutes of the last quarterly communication of June 7th were read by the Asst. G. Secretary, and confirmed.

The Earl of WARWICK said he understood that there was a message from the Most Worshipful Grand Master, which the Grand Registrar would now communicate to Grand Lodge.

Bro. JOHN STRACHAN, Q.C., G. Reg., then rose and said: Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, I have the honour to bear a message from his Royal Highness the Grand Master to this effect: his Royal Highness has been recently pleased to appoint under the title of District Grand Master of Egypt and the Soudan, the Right Honourable Lord Kitchener, Past Grand Warden of England. (Loud cheers.)

On the motion of Bro. J. H. MATTHEWS, President, seconded by Bro. H. GARROD, Junior Vice-President, the Report of the Board of Benevolence for the months of June, July, and August was adopted, and the following recommendations of grants were confirmed:

A brother of the Sidney Lodge, No. 827, Sidcup ...	£50 0 0
The widow of a brother of the Union Lodge, Carlisle ...	50 0 0
A brother of the Carnarvon Lodge, No. 1572, London ...	75 0 0
A brother of the Fortitude Lodge, No. 281, Lancaster ...	75 0 0
A brother of the Welchpool Lodge, No. 998, Welchpool ...	50 0 0
A brother of the Royal Kensington Lodge, No. 1627, London ...	50 0 0
A brother of the Prince Arthur Lodge, No. 1570, Liverpool ...	50 0 0
A brother of the Clapton Lodge, No. 1365, London ...	100 0 0

On the motion of Bro. R. LOVELAND LOVELAND, Q.C., President, seconded by Bro. W. J. MASON, Vice-President, the Report of the Board of General Purposes was taken as read, and ordered to be received and entered on the minutes.

On Bro. LOVELAND LOVELAND moving, and Bro. W. J. MASON seconding, that the Report be adopted, the Deputy Grand Master rose.

The Earl of WARWICK said Lord Carrington had spoken to him before the meeting of Grand Lodge about addressing a few words to the brethren, and he asked them to listen to him for a short time. He was sure Lord Carrington thoroughly understood that there would be no motion made upon it, and he trusted there would be no discussion upon the motion that the report be adopted. Lord Carrington was one who was closely connected with the Colonies, and had a thorough knowledge of them. He was sure he would obtain the greatest attention.

Bro. THOS. FENN, acting J.G. Warden, thought the usual course was if anyone wished to speak on the proposition that the report of the Board of General Purposes should be adopted that first of all the President of the Board brought forward the proposition and made a statement. He thought, on this occasion, as the report was rather a strong one, the proper course to be adopted was that he should do so.

Bro. STRACHAN, Q.C., G. Reg., said, in order that there might be no misunderstanding in regard to the matter, he might say that there was no discussion on the motion for the adoption of the report, for the simple reason that the Board having dealt with the subject of charges of irregularities by the lodge, their report was final, unless it was appealed from by one of the parties to the proceedings. Therefore, there would be no such motion, if he might say so. Lord Carrington had spoken to him as to the course he suggested, and he understood there could not be a motion on the matter. His lordship was a brother who took much interest in all that concerned Freemasonry within the Australian Colonies, and he wished to make a few remarks. It might not be necessary to have a discussion on what their brother brought forward.

Bro. THOS. FENN said it was matter for Grand Lodge to decide. It was a matter brought before Grand Lodge by the report of the Board of General Purposes.

Bro. STRACHAN said he had carefully looked to see what was the law on the subject, and as the constitutional adviser of Grand Lodge, he might say that in 1893 Grand Lodge settled the question of the recognition of the Cambrian Lodge. But that was not the question as it came up now. The question which came up arose upon certain irregularities committed by the Cambrian Lodge which constituted a Masonic offence. The lodge was summoned to show cause, and the law said that on such a matter being entertained by the Board of General Purposes they might deal with it either by deleting everything that the lodge had done or they might proceed to deal with the lodge by fine or suspension and their decision would be final unless appealed from. He (the Grand Registrar) could not go beyond the Constitutions, and by the Constitutions that was the law.

The Earl of WARWICK said the point seemed to him, although he could not bring a legal mind to bear upon the question, whether the decision of the Board of General Purposes is final or not. They were advised by the Grand Registrar that it was final. They always supported their legal adviser and he thought it would be a dangerous precedent to open the question. If they took such a course he thought they would find themselves in difficulties. Therefore, the course he adopted before putting the motion was to ask Lord Carrington, as a matter of courtesy to say a few words to them, and with all deference to their brother, the Junior Grand Warden, to

whom he bowed on the occasion, he thought it was a course they ought to adopt to support their legal adviser on this subject. He therefore asked Lord Carrington to say a few words to them.

Bro. Lord CARRINGTON said he took advantage of the courtesy of the Earl of Warwick and the Grand Lodge to say a few words, and they should be few, on the final stages of this matter—a matter which was of the most paramount importance. He apologised for not bringing the matter before Grand Lodge before, but he saw the matter for the first time on its appearing in the summons which was sent to him for this meeting of Grand Lodge. He hoped he was not out of order—the question before them was of the most absolute and vital importance as concerning the welfare of the Craft. He might say when he was first sent out to New South Wales in 1885, he had a distinct message from the Grand Master to heal, if he possibly could, the differences which unhappily existed in Freemasonry in the Colony, and when he got there he found those differences very acute indeed. He need not go into the differences before that time, but a kind Providence sent out Lord Carnarvon to New South Wales, and by his courtesy, geniality and tact, and by his inducing them to give way a little on both sides, a *modus vivendi* was arrived at, a sovereign Masonic body for New South Wales was formed and all the warrants of the different lodges were handed in to that Sovereign Grand Lodge which soon afterwards became recognised by the Grand Lodge of England. When the recognition was granted this Grand Lodge elected him as representative of the Grand Lodge of England in that Grand Lodge, and he was made the first Grand Master. There were then 4400 Master Masons who assisted in that ceremony, and he believed it was the most enthusiastic meeting of Freemasons that had ever taken place in the Colony. The first act of that Grand Lodge which showed the excellent Masonic feeling which existed in New South Wales was that the Prince of Wales was requested to be the Patron of the new Grand Lodge, and nothing could be more satisfactory than the feeling that there was between the mother country and the colony of New South Wales. Unfortunately, there was one lodge, the Cambrian Lodge, which stood out of joining the new Grand Lodge. The Cambrian Lodge met, and the question before it was whether they should join the new Grand Lodge. There were 10 on one side and 10 on the other. There was a deadlock, the Master gave his casting vote, and the warrant was handed in to the new Grand Lodge, so that the lodge was not absolutely unanimous for joining the New South Wales Constitution. The 10 members who would not come in took possession of the original warrant, and they petitioned Grand Lodge of England to recognise them as a lodge working direct under the Grand Lodge of England. He thought that was the most unfortunate thing which ever happened. There were, he thought, 185 working lodges then in Australia. In 1889 he installed the Sovereign Grand Master of the great Colony of Victoria, which was on the best of terms with the mother country. He installed another Grand Master in Tasmania in the next year, and he believed New Zealand had a Grand Lodge of its own, and South Australia had an independent lodge of their own. The feeling of the Colonies to the mother country he could not describe to them; but the feeling there towards the Masons of England was as good and as true as it could be. His wish was, and the wish of every Englishman also was that nothing should be done to disturb the grand cordial feeling which existed between the mother country and the Colonies at that time. He most deeply deplored and regretted the decision which had been come to. He did not say that they were not right, or that what they had done was not most legal. There was no accusation or charge against anybody. He had no doubt that everything had been done that ought to have been done, but he did say that the lodge, after it got its warrant back, was guilty of grave irregularities. Those grave irregularities had occurred, but the Board of General Purposes had condoned them. They said that owing to the difficulties that there were they excused those irregularities, and they had recognised the lodge, and sent out certificates to the brethren, and put down the lodge on the register as 656 among the lodges of England. The agenda paper said "this is a way out of a difficulty, and a troublesome occurrence has been swept away"—he did not use the words as they occurred on the paper. He did know the feeling of Australia, and he thought that grave troublesome times were yet to come, if he did not misunderstand the feeling of the Colony, and he feared this might be the beginning of dark and troublesome times which might destroy and upset the *entente cordiale* which had hitherto existed, and which he did not wish to see impaired. He could not say anything more which would undo it. It had been done; the Board of General Purposes had put the matter before them, and said that all had been done that could be done, and it had to be ratified. It remained for him only to say that he thought that he should have been guilty of gross cowardice towards the brethren in Australia if he had not risen to place his views against that which had been done. He thought it was a mistake, and that it was likely to lead to grave consequences, but he could not but pray to T.G.A.O.T.U. that there might yet be found a *modus vivendi*. The Cambrian Lodge did not, he thought, number more than 30 or 40 members, but he did hope that the friendship of the new Grand Lodge towards this country might not be impaired, but that some *modus vivendi* might be found. He had to thank the R.W. Dep. G. Master and the Grand Lodge for having allowed him, although out of order, to make that statement, but, representing as he did the Colony of New South Wales, he could not help saying that such a mistake as this should not have been made without some notice being taken of it from the chair. He again thanked the Earl of Warwick and the Grand Lodge for the patience with which they had listened to him.

Bro. JOHN STRACHAN, Q.C., G. Reg., said it would be better at all times that the laws they had passed should be read to the brethren assembled on the points under their notice. His ruling was challenged, and it was said to be better to abide by the advice they gave. He should read the two sections which referred to such a matter as was then before them. Rule 272 said that the Board of General Purposes "has authority to hear and determine all subjects of Masonic complaint or irregularity respecting lodges or individual Masons when regularly brought before it, and generally to take cognisance of all matters relating to the Craft;" and Rule 273 said "the Board may proceed to admonition, fine, or suspension, according to the laws (that was when punishment was determined on), and its decision shall be final unless an appeal be made to Grand Lodge." The next was who were entitled to appeal. "But should any case be of so flagrant a nature as to require the erasure of a lodge or the expulsion of a brother the Board shall make a special report thereon to the G. Lodge." And that would require to be adopted by Grand Lodge before it could be of any validity. He was sure Bro. Lord Carrington would pardon him for suggesting that the Board of

General Purposes was not assuming in any way the duties of Grand Lodge and it did not aspire so to do. It had no control over it, but Grand Lodge had laid down laws on which special reports should be made—that was if a lodge was to be erased or a brother expelled from the Order, but when dealing with an offence of an individual brother or of individual lodges it was not necessary for the Board to report anything to Grand Lodge at all. It was merely because this matter had been troublesome for many years and had been before them many years, that it was deemed advisable to let the brethren know in a formal manner that the matter had been settled and done with. They must all feel that Bro. Lord Carrington had placed his point of view before them in as courteous and amiable a manner as could be wished and he had done so very fully. The Grand Lodge in June, 1893, settled the great principle, and the Board of General Purposes had nothing to do but carry out what it confirmed in September, 1893—it confirmed the principle that the minority was entitled to hold the warrant of a lodge, and that the minority was entitled to be recognised as a lodge and to be in the *Calendar*. This was done with the exception of two years. The Cambrian Lodge was on the register of Grand Lodge, which they were responsible for. It had been so up to the present time, and the question arose what was to be done in the event of certain irregularities being committed, because the majority had gone away before the new Grand Lodge of New South Wales had been recognised by Grand Lodge of England, and therefore those who remained were incompetent to deal with the affairs of the lodge. The Master and Wardens were in the majority, and the question was what should the other brethren do. They did not hold any meeting from 1894 to 1898 because they were not in possession of the warrant. They said that as loyal Masons, and wishing to be loyal, they felt they could not meet, and ought not to meet unless they had a warrant. Since they had got possession of the warrant, and Grand Lodge determined in 1893 they could meet, they met as members. One brother sat, not on the dais, but on the floor of the lodge; and not having Wardens or officers, it was an irregular meeting. He could not say they acted constitutionally, but they proceeded to elect from other lodges under the Grand Lodge of New South Wales—they were very friendly at the time—some joining members.

Bro. THOMAS FENN asked if this was the question before Grand Lodge.

The Earl of WARWICK said he thought, as he had ventured as an act of courtesy to ask Bro. Lord Carrington to address a few words to them, and he was allowed to do so, that it was only fair to allow Bro. Strachan to say something in reply. It would be as well, perhaps, that Bro. Strachan should curtail his remarks.

Bro. STRACHAN said he was not at all anxious to inflict a speech on the brethren. He was in hopes that the report would have passed without any question at all. He was pointing out that what the brethren did was irregular. They had Boards of Installed Masters and everything was done regularly after that, but they pointed out to us that all the Masters, Past Masters, Wardens and officers were carried off by the lodge of New South Wales and asked us what could be done in the circumstances. What they did was irregular. That was all that had been done and the Board of General Purposes had chosen to say they would not impose a penalty. If they had imposed a penalty the decision would still have been final. They did not come and ask that and it was simply a question of entering what they had done on the minutes.

Bro. the Rev. NORMAN LEE, Chaplain to the Forces, G. Chap., enquired when the Grand Lodge of New South Wales was not working under the Grand Lodge of England.

Bro. STRACHAN, Q.C., said the Cambrian Lodge was working under the Grand Lodge of England, and not under the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales. As there was now a Grand Lodge of New South Wales no new warrants could be issued from England for lodges in the new territory. The Cambrian Lodge was a lodge which, according to the decision of the Grand Lodge of England, never went out of the English jurisdiction. In Victoria it was the same, there were English lodges on the English roll.

Bro. the Rev. NORMAN LEE said that in Nova Scotia, where he had the privilege of serving many years, there was a lodge which owed allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, and yet it worked in love and harmony with the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia. Therefore, he failed to see why this Cambrian Lodge should not work in perfect harmony with the Grand Lodge of New South Wales. He was foreign representative some years. The United States wrote a letter to know how it was that a lodge, holding under the jurisdiction of another Grand Lodge, could be possibly allowed to work in the jurisdiction of another Grand Lodge. They settled it, and the Grand Lodges of the United States of America were perfectly satisfied. If the Cambrian Lodge was now working under the Grand Lodge of England, it might work in perfect harmony with the Grand Lodge of New South Wales.

The Earl of WARWICK said: Brethren, I feel rather nervous this evening, as it is the first time I have presided over you, and if I have allowed any irregularities in the proceedings of Grand Lodge I hope to be excused. But I feel there are occasions when one ought to allow a certain amount of latitude. The discussion that has taken place has not been a harmful one. I think now we may come to the resolution that has been moved and seconded, and which I put before you. At the same time, I think we ought to thank Lord Carrington for the view he has put before us. He does not dispute our authority or that of the General Purposes Committee to come to the decision that they have come to. All I can gather is

that he regrets the advice we are obliged to adopt. All I can say is I trust that those who have the duty of remitting it to the Sovereign Grand Lodge of New South Wales, will remit it in every feeling of kindness and amity. I think the question may now be closed by my putting the resolution which has been moved, that the report of the Board of General Purposes be adopted.

The motion was carried unanimously, and the Grand Lodge was closed in due form.

### MARK GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown was held on Tuesday evening, at Mark Masons' Hall, London. The Earl of Euston, M.W. Pro G.M., presided. Bro. Capt. C. Driver Wise, Deputy Grand Master of all Scottish Freemasonry in the Colonies, acted as Deputy Grand Master; Bro. Thomas Fenn, P.G.W., as S.G.W., Bro. Frank Richardson, P.G.W., G. Reg., as J.G.W.; Bro. Major C. W. Carrell, G.M.O.; Bro. Charles Belton, as S.G.O.; Bro. John Strachan, Q.C., as J.G.O.; Bro. R. Loveland Loveland, Q.C., P.G.W., Pres. of the Gen. Board; Bro. C. F. Matier, P.G.W., G. Sec.; and Bro. John Smith (Bedford), Asst. Inner Guard, as I.G.

There were also present Bros. Richard Clowes, Rev. V. D. Wyatt, F. B. Westlake, H. Massey, Rev. F. B. N. Norman Lee, P.G.C. (Chaplain to the Forces), John Ramsey, Dr. J. Balfour Cockburn, W. A. Scurrah, W. F. Stuttafirm, Rev. Richard Peek, John Williams, E. Walford Weigall, W. M. Angus, Dr. Clement Godson, Richard Eve, F. P. Dorman, Dr. Frederick Laurance, and several others.

After the minutes of the last Communication had been read by GRAND SECRETARY and confirmed, the report of the General Board—as described in the *Freemason* last week, was, on the motion of Bro. LOVELAND LOVELAND, Q.C., seconded by Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON, G. Reg., taken as read, and ordered to be received and entered on the minutes.

On the motion of Bro. LOVELAND LOVELAND, seconded by Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON, the said report was then unanimously adopted.

Grand Lodge was afterwards closed in ample form.

### Craft Masonry.

#### Obedience Lodge, No. 1753.

The 22nd annual festival of the above lodge took place at the White Hart Hotel, Okehampton, on Monday, the 28th ult., when Bro. G. J. Gibson, W.M., installed as his successor Bro. the Rev. Thomas Ward Brown, M.A. In the installation ceremony Bro. Gibson was assisted by Bros. F. Edwards, P.M.; J. C. Pierce, P.M., P.P.A.G. D.C.; and Charles Piper, P.M., P.P.D.G.D.C.; and amongst the other members of the Board of Installed Masters present were Bros. W. Cocks, P.M. 106, P.S.G.D.; C. Stebbing, P.M. 156, P.P.G. Treas.; W. A. Gregory, P.M. 1753 and 1254, P.P.G. Treas.; S. Edwards, P.M. 53 and 1753, P.P.G. Reg. Somerset; Major Matthews, P.M. 282, P.P.G.S. of W.; C. J. Fitcher, P.M., Treas.; W. Allsford, P.M. 202, P.P.G. Treas.; Edwin J. Knight, P.M. 202, P.P.G.P.; John Algar, P.M. 39, P.P. S.G.W.; and J. Wells, P.M. 94. The brethren of the lodge present were Bros. Rev. F. Wilberforce Saulez, P.P.G.C.; Rev. G. Reed Lucas, Rev. J. Downie, W. Pollard, J.W.; A. R. Bray, Reg.; A. Amand, Sec.; W. L. Palmer, J.D.; T. H. Chamings, I.G.; J. F. Willis and T. H. Few, Stewards; E. H. White, Asst. Org.; T. K. Bickell, E. J. Thorburn, G. N. Roberts, W. H. Hunt, A. Hodge, J. Coombe, Tyler; and S. Coombe, Asst. Tyler. Amongst the other visiting brethren present were Bros. A. Webb, 223; T. J. Edwards, 847; A. Wright, 489; C. H. Stevenson, 1254; G. Easterbrook, 282; and C. Kerslake, 106.

The W.M. afterwards invested the following brethren as the officers for the ensuing year: Bros. G. J. Gibson, I.P.M.; Wm. Pollard, S.W.; A. Amand, J.W.; Rev. J. Downie, Chap.; C. Fitcher, P.M., Treas.; Rev. F. Wilberforce Saulez, P.P.G.C., Reg.; F. Edwards, P.M., Sec.; T. H. Chamings, Asst. Sec.; Wm. L. Palmer, S.D.; G. Glanfield, J.D.; J. F. Willis, I.G.; H. E. White, Org.; J. A. Jones, D.C.; T. H. Few and E. J. Thorburn, Stewards; W. A. Gregory, P.M., P.P. G. Treas., Rep. Committee of Petitions; Chas. Piper, P.M., P.P.D.G.D.C., Charity Steward; J. Coombe, Tyler; and S. Coombe, Asst. Tyler.

The installation banquet was afterwards held at the Assembly Room of the White Hart Hotel, which had been tastefully arranged for the occasion. The newly-installed W.M. presided.

The W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft," and "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the M.W. Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past."

The W.M. proposed "The Prov. Grand Master, the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, and the rest of the Prov. Grand Officers, Present and Past."

Bros. W. L. Cocks, P.M. 106, P.G.S.D., and Allsford, P.P.G. Treas., responded.

Bro. J. C. Pierce, P.P.A.G.D.C., proposed "The Worshipful Master."

Bro. F. Edwards, P.M., proposed "The Immediate Past Master."

Bro. A. Amand, J.W., proposed "The Visitors."

Bros. S. Edwards, P.P.G. Reg. Somerset, Major Matthew, P.P.S.G.W., and J. Algar, P.P.S.G.W., responded.

Bro. C. Stebbing, P.P.G. Treas., proposed "The Masonic Charities," and Bro. Chas. Piper replied.

Bro. Gregory, P.P.G. Treas., proposed "The Wardens and Officers."

Bros. C. J. Fitcher, P.M., Treas., W. J. Downie, Chap., and T. Channing, Asst. Sec., responded.

The Tyler's toast concluded the list.

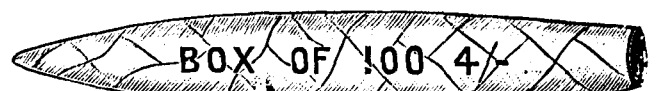
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