

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;
HON. JAMES HOZIER, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

All subjects of the QUEEN, in whatever part of her Empire they may happen to reside, or to whatever creed or nationality they may belong, will rejoice at the providential escape of her eldest son from the hands of a dastardly assassin at one of the Brussels railway stations on Wednesday afternoon. Her Majesty, notwithstanding the unprecedented length and brilliancy of her reign, has had more than her share of a woman's sorrows, but she has borne them all bravely, and in spite of them has done her duty by her people in a manner hitherto unrecorded in the annals of any country. Hence the love and veneration which are felt for her by all classes, more especially at this time, when she is showing everywhere her deep sympathy with her people, and particularly with those among them who have suffered by the present war. At this moment, of all others, when she is paying the highest tribute in her power to the valour of her Irish soldiers by visiting, in State, the capital of that portion of her dominions, such a calamity as the death by assassination of her son would have been almost beyond the strength of a lady so advanced in years and with so many weighty cares of State devolving on her to bear. Hence, the feeling which now pervades all classes, not only of joy at the escape of the Prince of WALES, but also of gratitude to the G.A.O.T.U., that He, in His infinite mercy, has been pleased to spare her MAJESTY and her people this further, and more exacting, trial of her strength and fortitude.

THE APPROACHING FESTIVAL OF THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The first meeting of the Board of Stewards for the approaching Festival in behalf of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls will take place at Freemasons' Hall this (Friday) evening, and, from all we hear, there is reason to believe that the Secretary will be in a position to furnish a capital report of the progress that has been thus far made in the work of preparation. Some three weeks ago, when we referred to the subject, we mentioned that already upwards of 300 ladies and brethren had been enrolled as Stewards. Since then, we rejoice to say, the number has been very largely augmented, and the Board now musters over 400 members, the probability being that, when the day fixed for the celebration arrives, there will be almost, if not actually, as many Stewards enrolled for the Girls' School as for the recent Benevolent Festival in February. It is probable, also, that the result will be somewhat similar, and that, though it will be a record Board of Stewards for an ordinary

Festival, the total of the donations and subscriptions will be a big, but not a record, one.

The prospects are, indeed, most encouraging. In the first place, the chair will be taken by the Earl of DARTMOUTH, who, as Grand Master of a strong and influential Province and having the full sympathy of the lodges and brethren under his government, is sure of receiving from them a large and generous measure of support. The Charitable Association of Staffordshire has done some splendid in aid of our Masonic Institutions during the years it has been established, and we may be sure that it will do its utmost to make Lord DARTMOUTH'S first Chairmanship at one of our Anniversary Festivals a great success. We had evidence of what it can do on special occasions at the Boys' Centenary in 1898, when it was represented by a body of 204 Stewards, whose lists amounted in the aggregate to £3845. It may be this fine performance will not be surpassed, or even equalled, next month, but there is no doubt the Province will do its duty by its respected chief and the School whose cause he will be advocating. We realise also that London will fulfil its part loyally and well, and that the rest of the Provinces, so far as they may be represented, will gladly lend a helping hand to the utmost of their ability. Well, the Institution deserves the help that is forthcoming. During the 112 years of its existence it has more than justified the confidence reposed in its management, while during the last quarter of a century it has by the excellence of its education and training, won for itself a position that is second to none among the middle-class scholastic institutions for girls in the United Kingdom. It was but the other day we announced that out of 45 girls entered for the Cambridge Local Examinations—Senior, Junior, and Preliminary—as many as 42 passed, and of these, nine took honours, while nine "distinctions" in particular subjects were awarded. In the 10 preceding years 242 passed out of 259, so that in the whole period of 11 years there have been out of 304 candidates only 20 who have failed to satisfy the examiners. But this is only one of many evidences which are continually being furnished of the excellence of the moral, mental, and physical training of these children, and it is not, therefore, to be wondered at these appeals, when they are made annually, should be loyally—and at times most loyally—responded to. Unfortunately, these appeals are necessary. The Institution has but a small permanent income amounting to about £2500 a year, and consisting for the most part of the interest on its invested capital of about £99,000, while its permanent expenditure for the 268 children it is maintaining, clothing, and educating is about £14,000. There is, therefore, a deficiency of about £11,500, which must be made good annually, and the only source from which we can hope to obtain so large a sum is the Anniversary Festival, which this year will be celebrated at Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday, the 16th May, under the auspices of the Right Hon. the Earl of DARTMOUTH, Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire. May the prospects which appear, as we have said, so promising, be fully realised!

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

II.—THE GRAND LODGE (Continued).

[COMMUNICATED.]

In our last article on this subject we referred to the constitution—or rather the composition—of Grand Lodge, and in this and following articles we propose to discuss the nature and extent of its jurisdiction.

Articles 4 and 5 define the former, and they cover a tolerably wide area, embracing the interests of Freemasonry in every form in which they are likely to, or can possibly, appear. Grand Lodge, in fact, combines legislative, judicial, and executive powers, or, in other words, is Parliament, Queen's Bench, and High Sheriff, all rolled into one. Now, however unjust or unwise a law might be, a Judge of the High Court will always

administer and interpret it as he finds it, whereas a member of Parliament on the other hand will never dream of interpreting it, and the High Sheriff on his part asks no questions, and carries out the judicial decrees whether he thinks they are wise or the reverse. *Suum cuique*. But Grand Lodge makes, abrogates, or suspends the laws, interprets them, distributes commendation or censure, fine, suspension, expulsion, and erasure, and, in fact, whilst preserving the outward semblance of a republic, is a monarch possessing absolutely despotic powers.

The ordinary member of Parliament is not insensible to the claims of precedent, and our Judges make precedent into a fetish; whereas Grand Lodge will be guided by precedent so far only as it suits its temper at the moment, and, therefore, whilst its proceedings and decisions reflect the soundest common sense, they have been at times somewhat inconsistent.

To go back to Articles 4 and 5. It has always appeared to the writer that some geographical limitation should be added. The title page of the Book of Constitutions does not give sufficient information, and it must be remembered that the extensive jurisdiction and powers claimed, are naturally limited by, and only co-exist with, the extensive jurisdiction and powers claimed and exercised by other Sovereign Grand Lodges off their own territory. A case which came under the writer's notice will serve to illustrate what is meant. As is well known, Scottish Freemasonry differs from English Freemasonry in several important particulars, so that what might be a breach of the laws in the one, might be praiseworthy in the other. A brother in Bombay was a member of lodges holding under each Constitution, and in his English capacity he did certain things for which preparations were made to suspend him. A timely resignation saved him from this indignity, and it left him amenable only to Scottish jurisdiction. Every one else concerned was punished, only the chief offender going Scot free. He had, of course, been registered as an English Mason and, had his offence been one meriting expulsion, he would have suffered. Expulsion does not mean erasure from the rolls of the Grand Lodge concerned, but removal from the Craft, and thus resignation would not have saved him.

A great deal of Masonic business which would otherwise engage the time and attention of Grand Lodge is performed by the two Boards or Sub-Committees. These are the Board of General Purposes and the Board of Benevolence. The composition of the former is shown in Article 254, and it includes, as does Grand Lodge, nominated and elected members. Subject to the usual appeal it is enacted that the Boards' decisions may be received and acted upon as law (Article 273.) In respect of compelling evidence, production of papers, &c., they have most of the powers of a Royal Commission.

Certain of the powers of the Board, and in fact of Grand Lodge, are delegated to District Boards, and under Article 87 a District Grand Master may appoint a President of the District Board with properly defined rank and precedence.

Article 106 says that "on account of the distance from England of District Grand Lodges and the consequent delay in communications the powers of District Grand Lodges must be more extensive than those of Provincial Grand Lodges." A District Grand Lodge may, therefore, expel a brother and erase a lodge.

Any appeal from such expulsion to Grand Lodge will only lie as regards questions of law and procedure. Grand Lodge will not go into the merits of the case nor question the facts. For instance, if a Mason has been expelled without the requisite notice being served upon him, his appeal would be successful, but upon that ground only, and the success of his appeal would not debar the District Grand Lodge from taking up the case *de novo*. This power must not be delegated by District Grand Lodge to its Board or Committee of General Purposes.

But the power of investigating, regulating, and deciding on all matters relating to lodges and individual Masons in the District concerned may be exercised by the Board. In many Districts the General Purposes Committee has acquired considerable influence and power, inasmuch as the District Grand Masters prefer to fortify themselves with the opinion of the Board, even with regard to matters with which the D.G.M. himself has the sole power of dealing.

The District Grand Master differs from the Provincial Grand Master in five important respects. He may issue Grand Lodge certificates; he is furnished with a supply of such, duly signed and sealed, but with blank spaces for names and dates. As a check upon the District Grand Master, the lodge receiving such a certificate on behalf of one of its members shall make a return to the Grand Secretary direct, specifying all particulars.

Secondly, he has to serve but three years to entitle him to past rank, whereas the Provincial Grand Master has to serve for five.

Thirdly, he may, as already pointed out, appoint a President of the District Board, with rank as a District Grand Officer. In other words, he has an additional collar to give away every year. These three privileges are part and parcel of the office, but the two following are specially conferred upon a District Grand Master at the pleasure of the Grand Master—(Articles 115 and 117)—and the latter may be revoked without disturbing his powers in other respects.

The power to give dispensations for granting Degrees at short intervals is one which is sometimes entrusted to Worshipful Masters of foreign and Colonial lodges where there is no District Grand Lodge.

It may be presumed that the Grand Master could himself issue such dispensations in England if he thought fit, but the Constitutions say nothing about it. As far as Foreign and Colonial lodges are concerned, it must be remembered that, as a rule, they only exist in the larger towns, and it is not inconceivable that a brother might be resident in a remote station for 11 months out of the 12, and only be within reach of Masonic privileges for the remaining month, in which case he might be a couple of years before attaining the rank of Master Mason.

Those of our brethren who go down to the sea in ships are still worse off, as they have to make progress in Masonic knowledge when, how, and where they can, and were it not for the dispensing power referred to in Article 115, a brother might possibly never get beyond the First Degree.

The power to grant provisional warrants to new lodges is a very important one, and it exists in and for the best interests of Colonial Masonry. The reasons, given above, why there should be a dispensing power with regard to the taking degrees at short intervals, exist with much greater force when there is a question of forming a new lodge.

If it were not for the provisions of Article 117 it might happen that a couple of months would elapse between the intention of the brethren who desired to form themselves into a lodge and the receipt of a warrant which would enable them to put that intention into execution.

In that two months much might happen. The seven brethren who signed the petition might have separated and there might be no prospect of their meeting again, and thus when the warrant turned up, the brethren named in it would not be there to carry out its intentions.

An interesting case illustrating this inconvenience was before Grand Lodge at the June communication, 1893. A certain brother, a member of No. 1025, Buenos Ayres, incurred the displeasure of the District Grand Master, who suspended him for six months. Previous to this the brother had been concerned, with others, in forming a new lodge, and at the time the District Grand Master passed sentence of suspension the warrant for the new lodge was actually on its way out, with Brother A.'s name in it as Senior Warden designate. The District Grand Master duly consecrated the new lodge, but entirely ignored Brother A., telling the members to elect another Senior Warden, which they did. The District Grand Master was censured, but inasmuch as the appeal of Brother A. had reference only to his suspension, and not to the fact of his name having been struck out of the warrant, the latter transaction was practically acquiesced in. The writer is unable to say with any certainty whether this particular District Grand Master had been entrusted with the powers referred to in Article 117. Probably not, as there was no mention of a provisional warrant having been applied for.

An interesting appeal from Madras was decided about five years ago (March, 1895). A new lodge was about to be formed, a class one, membership of which was to be confined to military men. A provisional warrant was applied for, and the application was granted. The Worshipful Master designate was at the time Inner Guard of another lodge, and in that capacity came into collision with the W.M., and treated him with alleged disrespect.

The warrant had not actually been issued, and when the occurrence came to the ears of the Dist. G. Master he declined to issue one, unless the name of the brother referred to were struck out. He appealed but without success. The District Grand Master was perfectly within his right, and if his action had not been upheld Article 117 would have no meaning.

The moral of this incident was not, however, seen at the time. Why should those brethren have applied for a provisional warrant? Article 117 contemplates emergencies such as we have described above. In this case there was no emergency, and even if everything had gone on with regularity it only meant an interval of four or five weeks between the intention of forming the lodge and the receipt of the permanent warrant, and *inter alia*, the fees to District Grand Lodge for the provisional warrant would have been saved.

Science, Art, and the Drama.

SISAL GRASS IN MEXICO.

Henequen, or sisal grass, has been in use among the inhabitants of Yucatan from the earliest times. The United States Consul at Progreso, says that he has found it imbedded, in the form of cord, in the stucco figures that ornamented the façades of the mysterious ruined cities of Yucatan. There are two wild varieties of henequen, called by the natives "cahum" and "chelem." The fibre of these wild plants is used to some extent by the natives in the making of cordage for domestic use, and some claim that hammocks made from the fibre of the cahum are the best. It is, however, the cultivated plant that furnishes commerce with the fibre known as sisal grass, Sisal being the old port from which the fibre was first exported. Like the wild plant, the cultivated one is divided into two varieties—the "zacci," or white hemp, and the "yassi," or green hemp. The zacci is considered the finest and best, but the yassi is a good fibre. It has been generally supposed that sisal grass as an article of commerce has been known only within the last 50 years, but this is a mistake. Between the years 1750-1780 quite a furor was created in commercial countries of the Old World by the discovery that the fibre of a plant found in Yucatan was good for ship's cordage. Spain sent over a Royal Commission to report upon the discovery, and in a few years many of Spain's commercial and war vessels were using cordage made from henequen. For some reason, probably because of the primitive method of preparing it, the use of silk fibre gradually declined, until, at the commencement of this century, the former trade had been forgotten. In 1847 Yucatan, until then a cattle-producing, cotton-growing, and log-wood exporting country, was in the throes of an Indian war. The Maya Indians had risen in rebellion, and had succeeded in driving the white race out of the most fertile portions of the peninsula, forcing them to rely for means of subsistence upon the products of a sterile rocky belt; too poor to sustain cattle in any numbers. Henequen was the only useful plant that would grow on such a soil. The first plantation was established in 1843, and the 50 acres planted were cleared by the use of the "tonka," the primitive clearer used by the native Maya. There was a good demand for the new fibre in ship rigging, and it gradually came into general use, until sisal grass was a well-known article of commerce. The tonka was a piece of hard wood, shaped something like a hand-saw, having the end curved in. The leaf of the henequen was drawn through the sharp curve, and the fibre was stripped of the thick pulpy covering. The leaf was subjected to this operation two or three times until the fibre was left clean and free. This tedious process was not long tolerated. A machine was found to increase the output, but the demand again outgrew the supply. The machine known as the "Raspador," or the "Soles," from its inventor, came into use, and has held its own almost up to the present day. It consists of a large-toothed wheel that scrapes the pulp and leaves the fibre. Its simplicity made it peculiarly fitted for use by native servants. Plantations came to be known as plantations of one, two, or a dozen wheels. The constantly increasing trade necessitated still more rapid means of fibre cleaning. Many new machines were produced, each of which was said, by its inventor, to be far better than any of the others.

(To be continued.)

BREEDING OF REINDEER IN NORWAY.

The United States Consul at Bergen reports that a company has been formed at Irlmarken, Eastern Norway, for breeding reindeer on a large scale. At the head of this undertaking is Nobs Bohnen, one of the teachers in the people's high school, and for a time he will personally superintend the industry. The company has already bought 2,400 deer for £1,500, and by degrees they will increase the herd to between 3,000 and 4,000 deer. When this number has been reached, the company will be enabled to kill about 1,000 deer every year without diminishing the herd. When slaughtered a deer is worth about 30s., and there are good markets for this meat, especially in France and Belgium. The company also hopes to induce England to purchase it. In order to prevent the glutting of the market during the winter months, a canning factory will be attached to the farm, for the purpose of preserving the meat. This factory will also can char and ptarmigan. The company controls from 40 to 50 square miles of wild mountain land.

ART IN THE REIGN OF HENRY VIII.

Holbein was the luminary of painting in England in the semi-barbarous Court of Henry VIII., which shone with a powerful influence in efforts of ingenuity and splendour, and diffused a taste for the various works of art, and a perception of their comparative excellence hitherto unknown. The common, but somewhat injurious, consequence of this supereminence is the throwing into shade the merits of other artists, who approach them with a degree of successful competition which is not always duly allowed. Henry VII. was of too penurious a character to patronise artists, and we find that Mabuse was so little satisfied with the encouragement he received from him, that he quitted England after a residence of one year only. When Henry VIII. succeeded, his love of gorgeous ornament and his rivalry of the Emperor Charles V. and of Francis I., incited him to a display of Gothic magnificence, in which the wealth amassed by his father enabled him to surpass them. But the same motives induced a more elegant pursuit, and as those monarchs were liberal patrons of painters, who, at that period, professed likewise architecture and all works of designs, he followed their example by offers of great remuneration to some members of the Italian and Flemish Schools. And though Raphael, Primaticcio, and Titian declined to accept his munificence, others, already celebrated in their own country, were willing to try their fortune in this. The faculty of an artist at that time was to complete a palace—to plan and design it as an architect—to embellish it as an inventor of carvings and of patterns for tapestry and stained glass—to enrich the larger apartments with fresco paintings on the walls and ceilings, and the smaller with portraits and cabinet pictures. Such palaces had already risen under the royal auspices

on the Continent, by the efforts and directing genius of patrons of art. Our Henry spared neither solicitation nor expense to effect a similar purpose. Previous to the arrival of Holbein in England several of Raphael's scholars were settled and constantly employed in the court of Henry VIII. Evidences fail us in ascertaining their several works and appropriating them either separately or conjointly. We know that the palaces of St. James's, York House, Richmond, Nonsuch, and Hampton Court, were each of them built, or ornamented, during the early part of the 16th century, and that retaining pensions were paid to all these artists, but we are not supported, even by tradition, as to their individual performance. The superior talents of Holbein commanded universal praise and acknowledgment, but eminent as his powers, both of invention and execution must have been, he is familiarised to us as a painter of portraits. His immediate successors, and those who followed them in the reign of Charles I., considered his portraits as models of perfection; they were frequently employed in copying them, and were emulous to acquire his style.

(To be continued.)

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

Suburban playgoers need not nowadays journey into town at night to see the best pieces which are produced. The management of the Robert Arthur Theatres have recognised the fact, and have wisely arranged to make their pretty house at Kennington the starting point of many touring companies. They began their season excellently by putting before their patrons Mr. Pinero's play "The Gay Lord Quex," with what is practically the original company. Afterwards they produced "The Runaway Girl," and other popular pieces will follow in rapid succession. "The Gay Lord Quex" is so well known, having had such a long prosperous run at the Globe Theatre, London, that there is no need to dwell upon the special features of the play or to criticise either its construction or its language. But, after a brief spell of rest, Mr. John Hare and his company have come back to work, and are giving their very best to the public. Four characters stand out in the play, and each is treated in the most artistic fashion. Mr. John Hare's presentation of the Don Juanesque Lord Quex is natural and convincing, while as a character sketch of a rakish Colonial Governor it would be impossible to improve upon the performance of Mr. Gilbert Hare. So far as the presentation of the piece at the Kennington Theatre is concerned honours were divided, and fairly so, between Mr. John Hare and Miss Irene Vanbrugh, whose acting is a triumph of histrionic power. Sharp-witted and sharp-tongued, she presented with marvellous force the character of the girl who had risen from the nursery to the management of a manicure establishment, after graduating in the proverbial slippancy of a lady's maid. The audience fully recognised the artistic merit of her performance, and at the conclusion of the bedroom act, recalled her and Mr. Hare again and again. Mrs. Copleston made an excellent old lady as the Countess of Owbridge, and Miss Anne Beaufort proved a capital Duchess of Strood. She certainly did good work in a part which, after all, is somewhat thankless, being completely overshadowed by Sophy Fulgarney. The other roles were well filled. Miss Mona Oram did the best for the comparatively small part allotted to her, while Mr. Arthur Grenville as the palmist, Valma, Mr. J. Danson as Capt. Bastling, and Miss May Mayfrew as Muriel Eden, made the most of their opportunities. The play was well worth seeing, and the audience fully appreciated a most polished performance. The enterprise of Mr. Robert Arthur is most commendable, and we think it has met with the recognition it deserves.

GENERAL NOTES.

Although close upon two months have yet to elapse before the grand opera season opens at Covent Garden, the subscription list is already one of the largest in the annals of the opera house. Her Majesty has subscribed for the Royal box, and 74 private boxes and over 200 stalls, besides some balcony and amphitheatre stalls, have been taken for the entire season. The expenses of the management are thus more than ensured and as there is still nearly half the seating capacity of the theatre left, a large margin for profit.

* * * *

It is satisfactory to learn that absolute rest for six months has restored the voice of M. Jean de Reszke to its utmost perfection. Considerable disappointment is naturally felt by Wagner lovers in London, that the great Polish tenor will not take part in the "Ring" representations at Covent Garden in June. It is probable, that when M. Jean de Reszke makes his re-entrée at the opera, he will revive some of the melodious parts in which he first won fame. He is at present in Paris, where he and his charming wife are entertaining friends in their new house, in the Rue de la Faisanderie.

* * * *

The death has occurred, in her 91st year, of Lady Jane Scott, of Spotiswoode, who was composer of the popular ballad "Annie Laurie." It has been said that Lady Scott's version was merely adapted from an older melody, but the original has never been discovered, and as the lady was known to be an accomplished musician, and claimed to be the composer of the tune, there seems little reason to doubt the fact.

* * * *

At the spring concert of the orchestral students of the Royal College of Music, at St. James's Hall, last week, it was noteworthy that 26 out of the 32 violinists were ladies. Owing to the sudden illness of Dr. Stanford, his place at the conductor's desk was taken by Sir Hubert Parry, director of the college.

* * * *

In one of London's quietest nooks lies the grave of Oliver Goldsmith, and Wednesday, the 4th instant, was the anniversary of the sweet Irish poet's death. Upon the stone over the grave, by the side of the Temple Church, some admirers reverently placed some bunches of flowers. Three bunches of violets bearing no inscription were laid at the top of the tombstone, and in the centre was a beautiful floral tribute composed of roses, some violets and ferns. Short and simple was the written inscription:—"In Memoriam, Oliver Goldsmith, die 1 April 1774. In tender memory of the poet sleeping in the restless city."

THE "OLD MASONIANS."

On Saturday last the above Association of ex-scholars of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys held its 14th annual dinner at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C., under the genial chairmanship of the Grand Treasurer elect, Bro. Harry Manfield, P.P.G.D. Norths and Hunts, who was supported by a number of brethren prominently connected with the School, including the Chairman of the Board of Management (Bro. Richard Eve, P.G. Treas.); the Secretary (Bro. J. Morrison McLeod, P.G.S.B., P.P.S.G.W. Derbyshire); and the Head Master (Bro. the Rev. H. Hebb, M.A., P.P.G.C. Devonshire).

The company numbered over 50, nearly all of whom were "Old Boys" of the Wood Green School, many being also members of the Old Masonians' Lodge, who made this dinner their "Fourth Degree" for the evening.

After a well-served repast, the usual loyal and other toasts, interspersed with music, followed.

As indications of the increased prosperity of the Association, reference was made to the very successful social arrangements of the past season, the many new members, the highest return hitherto of subscriptions, the further issue of the *Old Masonians' Gazette*, the vitality of the athletic clubs, and last, but not least, to the flourishing condition of the Benevolent and Grant Fund, which had been the means in a few instances of giving assistance to members.

Loud cheers greeted the announcement that about a score of "ours" were at the seat of war, and all had happily come through so far without mishap.

The intimation that H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught will, on May 12th next, lay the foundation stone of the new School buildings at Bushey was duly noted, and it is expected that the "Old Boys" will be well represented.

The retiring President, Bro. Manfield, nominated as his successor Bro. R. V. Vassar-Smith, J.P., P.G.D., D.P.G.M. Gloucs., who for the past nine years has shown particular interest in the Association. The new Vice-Presidents are Mrs. George Allison, Bros. R. D. Cummings, R. Manuel, Alfred J. Thomas, and J. Fitzgerald, and Messrs. Booser and A. McLeod.

The total amount subscribed during the dinner amounted to close on £30, the whole of which is devoted to the Benevolent Fund.

Of the entertainment portion of the programme Bro. G. S. Cumming's finished rendering of "Fra Giacomo" deserves especial praise.

The following are the names of the members who were present: Bros. R. S. Chandler, Hon. Treas.; Horace Lewis, Hon. Sec.; C. O'Doherty, A. Allison, W. Parker, Whyatt, Barnes, Leyshon, W.M. 2357, Pow, Bingham, Crew Stevenson, Watson, Crabtree, S. Roberts (Neath), Cleo Jones (New South Wales), and Gough; Messrs. Lane (Southsea), Walters Booser, H. Wilson, Barber, McKay, Jardine, Tanner, Lord (Portsmouth), and Hayward.

The next important gathering is that taking place at Birmingham on Whit Monday, particulars of which are to be had of Mr. H. Lewis, Old Masonians' Association, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.

Craft Masonry.

Industry Lodge, No. 48.

The annual meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Gateshead, on Monday, the 26th ult., when there was a splendid muster of members and visitors. The retiring Master, Bro. John Armstrong, presided, and was supported by the following, amongst a numerous list of brethren present, viz., Bros. M. Corbitt, P.M.; Robert Whitfield, P.M.; Wm. Brown, P.M., D.C.; W. J. Jobson, P.M., Treas.; T. R. Jobson, P.M.; Wm. Dalrymple, P.M.; A. Dobbs, P.M.; Rev. Wm. Bowker, Chap.; J. T. Pragnell, S.W.; Thos. Douglass, J.W.; H. H. Pitt, Sec.; W. E. Peacock, S.D.; R. Ferry, Org.; W. W. Nichols and Joe Moffat, Stwds.; J. Curry, Tyler; R. Brason, W. Witherington, T. L. Hall, Jonathan Howe, W.M. 424; R. Stewart, P.M. 424; J. Burrell, P.M. 424; W. F. Phillips, I.P.M. 424; S. Brown, W.M. 2674; R. Plumptre, P.M. 481; C. W. Hodgson, W.M. 659; R. Wilson, W.M. 1342; E. Bowman, W.M. 1427; E. Hannay, W.M. 1664; F. Holmes, W.M. 2568; A. Richardson, 2571; G. Forster, W.M. 2723; W. E. Cooke, P.M. 515, Malta; Cornwall Smith, P.M. 481; W. M. Lyon, P.M. 406; Wm. Lyall, Org. 2674; W. Howe, 424; J. Lawson, J. T. Thompson, Wm. Richardson, R. Dobson, J. Lightbown, J. A. Woodeson, R. Marson, and others.

After the preliminary business the W.M. elect, Bro. J. T. Pragnell, S.W., was presented by Bro. R. Whitfield, P.M., to Bro. John Armstrong, Installing Master, for installation, which ceremony was duly performed smoothly and gracefully. Bro. Armstrong also delivered the ancient charges in capital style. The officers were appointed, viz.: Bros. J. Armstrong, I.P.M.; Thos. Douglass, S.W.; H. H. Pitt, J.W.; the Rev. W. Bowker, Chap.; W. J. Jobson, P.M., Treas.; W. E. Peacock, Sec.; R. Laverick, S.D.; T. H. Armstrong, J.D.; Wm. Brown, P.M., D.C.; Tom Smith, Asst. Sec.; R. Ferry, Org.; G. T. Bootes, I.G.; W. W. Nichols, Joe Moffat, W. Blythe, and T. W. Hilton, Stwds.; and J. Curry, Tyler. Notices of motion were afterwards given for the dispensing of Charities, and the new W.M. received a perfect shoal of congratulations from the visitors, after which the proceedings closed.

The annual festival followed, when about 150 brethren dined at the Royal Hotel, under the guidance of Bro. J. T. Pragnell, the new W.M. A pleasant and enjoyable evening was spent in harmony and speeches of a Masonic nature.

Honor and Generosity Lodge, No. 165.

The election meeting of this very old established and distinguished lodge was held at the Inns of Court Hotel, Lincoln's-Inn Fields, on Tuesday, the 27th ult., when there were present Bros. F. Howard Roshier, W.M.; John Woodhouse, S.W.; J. W. Howard Thompson, P.M., Treas.; Henry Times, P.M., Sec.; W. de B. Herbert, S.D.; W. Marcus Thompson, J.D.; Henry Bearman, acting I.G.; Alfred P. Crabb, I.P.M.; Richard Eve, P.M., P.G. Treas.; J. R. Drake, P.M.; Alfred W. Bush, P.M.; H. W. Clarkson, Org.; J. Harris Stone, Wm. C. Burt, Frank S. Gaylor, Hayward J. Strudwick, Bertram B. Van Praagh, Chas. J. Andrews, and John A. Dugdale. Visitors: Bros. Edward Terry, P.G. Treas.; E. N. Beningfield, S.W. 2278; Reginald Groome, 2620; Templer Saxe, 2190; H. Wharton Wells, P.P.G. Org.; and Sir William Murray, Bart., 1257.

After the customary opening formalities and the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, the W.M. passed Bro. John Harris Stone to the Second Degree. Bro. Woodhouse was elected Master for the ensuing year, Bro. J. W. Howard Thompson was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. R. H. Goddard was again appointed Tyler. It was proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by the Secretary, that a sum be taken from the lodge funds for the purchase of a Past Master's jewel to be presented to the W.M., Bro. Howard Roshier, as a token in recognition of his services and of his excellent working of the ritual. This resolution was carried unanimously. Sir William Murray was proposed as a joining member of the lodge. A gentleman was proposed for initiation at the next meeting, and the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet.

The customary loyal toasts were given by the W.M. in brief terms, and were duly honoured.

The toast of "The Grand Officers" was responded to by Bro. Edward Terry, Past Grand Treasurer, who met with a splendid reception on rising to return thanks. Bro. Richard Eve, P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M." in a long and eloquent speech.

Bro. Howard Roshier responded in suitable terms, regretting that that was the last occasion that he would have the pleasure of presiding over the lodge. He could, however, only hope that his successor would have as happy a year of office as he had enjoyed, and wished him cordially every success.

In proposing "The Visitors," the W.M. stated the following brethren had expressed regret at their inability to attend that meeting: Bros. Sir John B. Monckton, P.G.W.; the Archdeacon of London, P.G.C.; the Grand Secretary; Charles Belton, P.M., P.D.G.D.C.; Henry Neville, P.A.G.D.C.; and several distinguished Grand Officers.

The Secretary having read out a list of those who had favoured the lodge with their presence on that evening, the W.M. joined with the toast the names of Bros. Sir W. Murray and E. N. Beningfield, W.M. elect 2278.

Bro. Sir Wm. Murray responded. He hoped that that would be the last opportunity he would have of returning thanks for the visitors in the lodge, as he looked forward to being elected a member at the next meeting in May. He also trusted that his eldest son (elected a member of the lodge at the last meeting) would soon be back from the front in South Africa, and that he would see him go through his ceremony of initiation in that lodge before the close of the present year.

Bro. E. N. Beningfield apologised for being too late to see any of the working in the lodge. He had, however, received an invitation to see his friend, the Master elect, installed in May, and on that occasion he intended to be more punctual.

Bro. Howard Thompson, Treas. and Bro. W.M. responded in very appropriate terms to the toast of "The Officers of the Lodge."

The Tyler's toast brought to a close an enjoyable and instructive evening.

During the evening Bros. Templer Saxe and Reginald Groome sang, Bro. H. Wharton Wells, F.C.O., played accompaniments, while Bro. Edward Terry told some amusing stories, which were thoroughly appreciated by a large and enthusiastic assembly of brethren.

Three Grand Principles Lodge, No. 441.

Bro. Sultan Mahomed Khan, of Christ's College, was present at the meeting of this lodge at Cambridge on Monday, the 2nd inst., and met with a cordial reception. In responding to the toast of "The Visitors," he said that the flattering remarks of Bro. J. Catling, P.M., ought to make him blush, but he feared he was beyond the age to blush. Bro. Catling had invited him to express his opinion of England and Freemasonry in England, and also to give them some information respecting his own country, Afghanistan. As to the latter, he gave examples of its great antiquity, remarking that Bactra was the first city with a university mentioned by historians. If there was one institution in the world which more than any other taught a common brotherhood of man it was Freemasonry. Christians, Buddhists, Mohamedans, Hindoos, Parsees, and the rest, taught that their respective adherents were the only people to go Paradise. How much more embracing were the teachings of Freemasonry? Our Empire embraced the largest number of Mohamedans and Hindoos, and yet all enjoyed the liberty which Britons enjoyed under the sceptre of that noble lady Queen Victoria. In no other country did equality prevail to a greater extent than in England. The importance of his own country, with its 300,000 fighting men, as a buffer state between India and Russia could not be over estimated. Russia, notwithstanding her huge army, dare not take aggressive action for fear of internal dangers. He believed Napoleon said that England had one mystery, she had never been defeated. The more she was beaten, the better she fought. Now she had all her colonies fighting on her side. Notwithstanding the large army they had sent to the Transvaal they did not appear to miss them; there seemed just as many people in the country as before. He would remind his hearers that the present Ameer of Afghanistan was taken out of a Russian prison and placed on the throne by England, who also subsidised the country. That the Afghans would not forget, for the impression made on the king was the impression engraved on the hearts of his people. In conclusion, he referred again to the uniting influences of Freemasonry.

Metham Lodge, No. 1205.

The installation banquet of the above lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Plymouth, on the 27th ult. The W.M., Bro. J. Baynard James, presided, and amongst those present were Bros. Colonel J. Elliott, C.B., C.M.G., Past Dist. Grand Master of Barbadoes; F. B. Westlake, P.D.G.D.C. Eng., P.S.G.W.; Major J. G. Shanks, K.M.; Colonel Edyvean, W.M. 2655; J. E. Bone, J.W. 1550; and the following officers of the lodge: Bros. R. Stoneman, I.P.M.; John Perry, S.W.; J. H. Sowden, J.W.; R. Dickson, Chap.; Captain W. Powell, Treas.; P. J. Dunn, Sec.; C. Harrison, S.D.; W. H. Ford, J.W.; W. J. Waldron, I.G.; W. T. Davie, Org.; J. Pritchard, D.C.; J. F. Richards, A.D.C.; W. Fowler, G. Trout, A. H. C. Thorne, and W. H. Stanbury, Stwds.; J. Gidley, Tyler; Capt. Powell, Representative on Committee of Petitions; J. J. Facey, Charity Stwd.; H. E. Sitters, P.M.; W. J. Pearce, P.M.; J. Perring, P.M.; Maunders, P.M.; W. H. Ambrose, P.M.; G. Perkins, P.M.; and Maddock, P.M.

In giving the toast of "The Queen," the W.M. said her womanly and gracious sympathy with her soldiers had been a bright example to the whole world. (Applause.)

Bro. Dunn brought the colonial forces into the usual service toast. Bro. Lieut.-Col. Edyvean, W.M. 2655, replied. He thought the short service system had been justified in the present war—their young soldiers had fulfilled the highest traditions of the British Army.

Bro. Powell proposed "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of England, and Grand Lodge." He congratulated them on having two members of Grand Lodge present. One of them was one of the principal founders and the first Master of Metham Lodge; he alluded to Bro. Col. Elliott. He (Bro. Powell) was initiated in Metham Lodge the first night of Colonel Elliott's Mastership, and they all hoped the Great Architect of the Universe would long preserve their brother to them.

Bro. Col. Elliott, in reply, said there could be no doubt of the progress of Freemasonry during the past quarter of a century, not only in numbers, but in the manner of its government. As to their lodge, he remained amongst them to install seven of his successors in the chair, the last being Lord Charles Beresford, and he (Col. Elliott) was in the chair for a great portion of those years, because each Master was removed by the service. He could never forget the interest he took in Metham Lodge then—an interest which had never waned, nor could he ever forget the confidence placed in him and the support he received from the brethren.

Bro. Westlake, whose name was also coupled with the toast, said the great increase in their numbers caused some anxiety, and he urged them to be very cautious whom they admitted into Freemasonry.

Bro. Facey proposed "The Provincial Grand Master and Provincial Grand Lodge."

Bros. Westlake and Shanks responded. "The Provincial Grand Master, the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall" was proposed by Bro. Perkins in eloquent terms, and as the present W.M., Bro. James, was a Cornishman, he asked them to receive the toast with especial enthusiasm.

Bro. Col. Edyvean responded.

"The Health of the W.M., Bro. James," was proposed by Bro. Stoneman, the I.P.M., who said that they knew they had in Bro. James one very capable of filling the chair of their lodge.

The W.M. responded, and asked the support of the members to make the coming year memorable to the lodge and to Freemasonry in connection with it, and trusted that at the end of the year the confidence they had reposed in him would be fully justified. (Applause.)

Bro. Dickson proposed "The I.P.M.," which was cordially received.

The other toasts usual on such occasions followed, the most notable being "The Treasurer," which was proposed by Bro. Perring, who feelingly alluded to the retirement of Bro. Cross.

Bro. Powell, the new Treasurer, responded.

Ivy Lodge, No. 1441.

The annual installation meeting of this well-known South London lodge was held at the Surrey Masonic Hall, on Tuesday, the 27th ult., and passed off with so great a success as to constitute a record for the lodge. Bro. R. Carey, W.M., presided for the last time during his year of office, and was supported by the following officers: Bros. Arthur Henry Rimbault, W.M. elect, S.W.; Hugh James, J.W.; Burcham Cooper, P.M., P.Z., Treas.; Greenwood Hartley, Sec.; T. R. Chilcott, S.D.; J. T. Whitehead, J.D.; J. Peters, Org.; H. E. Lane, I.G.; C. S. Anderson, Stwd.; with Bro. J. Hills as I.P.M., and a full attendance of Past Masters and brethren, including Bros.

R. E. Lane, E. Sinclair, J. D. Murray, F. W. Butler, H. Pitt, J. D. Wiskar, E. Bradley, H. M. Sternberg, G. Austin, J. Rorke, C. King, J. Douglas Tetley (Mus. Dir.), Walter Coward, T. D. Evans, F. S. Raffaelli, C. Grigsby, and others. Among the visitors assembled to do honour to the occasion were Bros. E. Forbes Lankester, P.M. 99, and Grand Steward for his year of office; W. Tudor Howell, M.P., 108; Lyndon E. Macassey, 253 (I.C.); Major Badham, 21; W. Vincent Jull, P.M. 2264; J. W. Cain, P.M. 179; J. Pickering, 1658; H. G. Butler, 1201; W. Davies, 9; J. E. Hambleton, P.M. 1319, P.Z.; J. Elliott, 720; J. Dickason, 1901; Alfred E. Pusey, 179; F. P. Yonge, 1446; Thos. Prior, P.M.; H. Potter, W.M. 1622; G. Chandler, 2362; Harry Dearth, 1929; W. E. Hunshaw, 1837; A. Marchant, 66; W. A. Needes, 2030; Chas. Greaves, 861; Theo. Rowland, 1446; J. Mason, Past Grand Std. Br.; W. Hann, 1056; Edwin Barwick, 219; E. R. Painter, 766; W. Barry, 1507; E. Dalzell, P.M. 2000, P.P.G. Org. Middx.; H. P. Gurney, 1861; F. W. Wheeler, 1707; and others.

The lodge was formally opened, and the minutes of the last regular meeting were duly read and confirmed. Bro. G. Austin was then passed to the Degree of F.C., after which the W.M. invited Bro. Hills, I.P.M., to perform the ceremony of installation, which he consented to do, and Bro. Cooper, P.M., presented Bro. A. H. Rimbault, the W.M. elect. The solo "Be thou faithful unto death" was sung by Bro. E. Dalzell, with the accompanying violoncello obligato played by Bro. Hambleton and the organ accompaniment by Bro. J. D. Tetley. A Board of Installed Masters having been formed, Bro. Rimbault was placed in the chair of K.S., and afterwards appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. Hugh James, S.W.; T. R. Chilcott, J.W.; B. Cooper, P.M., Treas.; P. G. Hartley, Sec.; J. T. Whitehead, S.D.; H. E. Lane, J.D.; J. D. Murray, I.G.; J. Hills, P.M., D.C.; H. J. Hawkey and J. Peters, A.D.Cs.; J. D. Tetley, Org.; J. D. Wiskar and J. Rorke, Stwds.; E. Bradley, Mus. Dir.; and J. Lee, Tyler.

The business of the lodge having been completed by the proposition of seven candidates for initiation and one as a joining brother, it was duly closed.

The installation banquet was held immediately afterwards in the adjoining hall, and after a heavy attack had been made upon the very excellent ammunition provided by Mrs. Venables, the toast list and programme were proceeded with, and the evening passed right merrily and pleasantly.

The W.M., rising to propose the first toast in his new capacity, namely, "The Queen and the Craft," at once showed his admirable qualities as President of the social department of the lodge.

The toast was duly honoured, and Bro. Harry Dearth sang the solo. Then in rapid succession came the toast of "The Most Worshipful Grand Master," followed by a part song, "In this hour of softened splendour," beautifully rendered by Miss Gertrude Maxted, and Bros. Coward, Dalzell, and Dearth.

This was followed by "The Grand Officers," to which Bro. J. Mason, P.G. Std. Br., made suitable reply, and a perfect rendering of Blumenthal's "An Evening Song," by Bro. Dalzell.

The gavel was taken at this point by the I.P.M., who in proposing the toast of "The W.M." took the opportunity of thanking his officers and the brethren generally for the support accorded to him during his year, and bespeaking a like support for his successor who, he was sure, would do honour to the traditions of the chair, to the lodge, to Freemasonry, and to himself.

The W.M., on rising to respond, was the recipient of such an ovation as is rarely accorded to a new W.M. He thanked the brethren for rallying round him in such force, the I.P.M. for the kind things he had said of him, and the Installing Master for the beautiful manner in which he had done his work that evening. He would strive to so order his lodge during the coming year as to cause one and all to feel, at the end of his tenure of that high and honourable office, that he had carried out his duties with satisfaction to himself and credit to his lodge.

Miss Gertrude Maxted followed with a splendid rendering of "Il Bacio." Then came the toast of "The I.P.M. and the Installing Master." In proposing this toast the W.M. presented to Bro. R. Carey the Past Master's jewel which had been unanimously voted by the lodge, and expressed regret that he had not enjoyed better health during his year, but hoped he would soon be restored to his usual health. As for the Installing Master, he could not say anything that would be sufficient to express his own or the lodge's thanks for his admirable rendering of the ritual not only that night, but on many other occasions.

Bros. Carey and Hills suitably responded. Bro. Edwin Barwick then gave one of his delightful humorous selections to the huge amusement of the brethren, and was followed by a rare musical treat in the shape of a 'cello solo by Bro. Hambleton.

Next came "The Visitors," who were given a cordial welcome by the W.M., which was enthusiastically endorsed by the brethren.

Bros. E. Forbes Lankester, W. Tudor Howell, M.P., Lyndon E. Macassey, Major Badham, G. Chandler, and W. V. Jull suitably responded, each thanking the lodge for the opportunity of witnessing admirable working, such splendid music, and so hospitable a welcome.

The W.M. next proposed "The Treasurer and Secretary," than whom, he said, no lodge could have better or more zealous officers.

Bros. Cooper, P.M., Treas., and Hartley, Sec., duly responded. Then followed Bro. Dearth's lovely singing of Balfe's "The Arrow and the Song."

"The Past Masters of the Lodge" having been honoured, Miss Maxted sang "Cowan's 'The Swallows.'"

The W.M. proposed "The Officers," who suitably replied. Bro. Edwin Barwick once again sent every one off into roars of laughter by another of his selections.

This was followed by the Tyler's toast, and so was brought to a close what was unanimously admitted to be one of the most successful meetings ever held under the auspices of the Ivy Lodge, and which certainly augurs well for the year of office of Bro. Arthur Henry Rimbault.

As showing the interest displayed in the success of the evening, we must not forget to state that the banqueting tables were beautifully decorated with ivy and red, white, and blue silk by Miss Amy Tetley in a most effective manner, and her labour of love was admired by one and all.

The whole of the musical arrangements were directed by Bro. J. Douglas Tetley, Org. of the lodge, and were carried out by Miss Maxted, and Bros. Walter Coward (of her Majesty's Chapel Royal), Dalzell (of Westminster Abbey), Dearth (of the same), Hambleton, A.R.A.M., P.M., P.Z., and Edwin Barwick.

Bro. Skegg (at present a country member) sent up from Gloucestershire a variegated ivy button hole for every brother, and the scene as each stood at the beautifully decorated table, wearing his button-hole and Craft clothing, was most picturesque.

Royal Arthur Lodge, No. 1360.

The installation meeting of this successful lodge took place at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Wimbledon, on the 28th ult. Present: Bros. Francis Neller, W.M.; F. Butler, S.W. and W.M. elect; R. A. Houghton, J.W.; A. E. Halfhide, I.P.M.; Charles Gibbs, Treas.; F. R. Potter, P.M., Sec.; W. A. Woolgar, S.D.; C. J. Martin, J.D.; J. R. Rutter, P.M., D.C.; J. H. Mayo, P.M., I.G.; A. Williams, Org.; A. Edwards and W. J. Dann, Stwds.; T. Williams, Tyler; J. Reeves, P.M.; F. Tomlin, P.M.; R. J. C. Cawse, P.N.; W. F. Driver, P.M.; Capt. John Huey, P.M.; J. Cockburn, P.M., Prov. G.S.B. Surrey; T. Wilde, J. H. Skewes, C. Ponsonby, F. J. Rose, H. C. Caldwell, C. G. Walbourne, J. Ward, E. Bridger, G. E. Foster, T. M. Browning, W. D. Little, W. Harding, R. W. Cross, J. D. Head, J. Gould, E. G. Bowler, T. B. Cohn, H. J. Hudnott, W. Wilkins, H. W. Phillips, H. Randsom, H. Tomlin, J. Rayment, J. Johnson, C. Soper, W. Way, J. Smeal, G. Evans, C. Dunk, and R. Venep. The visitors were: Bros. J. Mason, P.G.S.B. England; C. G. Hill, W.M. 1372; F. May, I.G. 1238; H. G. Churchill, 172; W. H. Pearce, 975; Wal. Fisher, Sec. 2411; Thos. Cohn, P.P.G.W. Guernsey and Alderney; F. H. March, 1185; D. Ringrose, S.D. 1076; A. Carter, 2411; H. W. Lotts, S.W. 1347; J. Mayo, P.M. 1614; Wal. E. Jeffery, P.M. 1622; T. A. Compton, P.M. 2384; C. Johnson, J.D. 889; S. E. Ham, 899; D. Saines, S.D. 2513; C. H. Abrams, 511; F. C. Davison, S.D. 1694; A. C. Crisp, 1622; E. J. Churchill, 172; and C. H. Stone, W.M. 1641, P.M. 507.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted, and showed the lodge to be in a flourishing condition. Bros. Cross and Ponsonby were passed by the W.M. in a very impressive manner. Bro. J. R. Rutter, P.M., D.C., next presented Bro. F. Butler, W.M. elect,

to the W.M. to receive from him the benefit of installation, which ceremony was very ably carried out. The new W.M. invested his officers in an exceedingly nice manner, as follows: Bros. F. Neller, I.P.M.; R. A. Houghton, S.W.; W. R. Woolgar, J.W.; C. Gibbs, Treas.; T. R. Potter, P.M., Sec.; C. J. Martin, S.D.; J. H. Mayo, P.M., J.D.; A. Edwards, I.G.; J. R. Rutter, P.M., D.C.; W. J. Dann, A.D.C.; A. R. Williams, Org.; T. Wilde and C. E. Walbourne, Stwds.; and T. Williams, Tyler. The three addresses having been well rendered by the Installing Master, the W.M. in a very able speech presented the Past Master's jewel to the I.P.M. in recognition of his valuable services to the lodge. Bro. Neller heartily thanked the brethren for this mark of their appreciation, which he should very highly prize, and wear, he hoped, for many years in the Royal Arthur Lodge. The great feature in the lodge was the musical arrangement carried out during the ceremonies, the whole being the compilation of Bro. A. R. Williams, Organist of the lodge. A very pretty menu had been prepared by the W.M., which was much appreciated, particularly the quotations from the various authors after each officer and also after each course on the menu.

The business of the lodge ended, it was closed, and the brethren retired to a capital banquet, supplied by the worthy host, Bro. J. Gould, which was highly appreciated.

The cloth removed, the W.M. presented the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," in very loyal and becoming terms, and remarked that without the slightest contradiction her Majesty was one of the best women in the world, and God bless her!

Of "H.R.H. the M.W.G.M." the W.M. said the Prince of Wales was one of the most popular of men, a thorough English gentleman, ever ready to give his valuable time in the cause of right and benevolence. Might he long be spared to reign in the hearts of the brethren! The toasts were drunk most loyally.

The W.M. next gave the toast of "The Pro G.M., Earl Amherst; the Dep. G.M., the Earl of Warwick; and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," in terms of strong commendation. The lodge was honoured with the presence of Bro. J. Mason, P.G. Std. B., with whom he would couple the toast.

In reply, Bro. J. Mason said the quotation applied to the Grand Officers, viz., "Exceeding wise, fair spoken, and persuading," Henry VIII., the first part of which was most appropriate to our rulers in the Craft, for they were honoured, and richly deserved the thanks of the brethren for their great labours. Of the Pro G.M., Earl Amherst, he (Bro. Mason) had worked under him for 25 years, and a more genial, kind, and better man never lived. Of the Dep. G.M., the Earl of Warwick, if the M.W.G.M. had searched the whole country he could not have found a brother more fitted for that position, and he had the love and esteem of the brethren, particularly in his province, which he so worthily presided over. He had known the lodge from its consecration, and mentioned some of the vicissitudes through which it had passed, and that now it had recovered and was in a most flourishing condition. He spoke of the great exertions of Bro. Halfhide, P.M., standing as Steward to the Benevolent Institution, and taking up a list worthy of the lodge and a credit to any other London lodge. He also hoped that the list would be further swelled by the kindness of the brethren. On behalf of the Grand Officers he tendered his sincere thanks.

Bro. Francis Neller, I.P.M., next proposed the toast of the evening—that of "The W.M."—which he felt sure would be received with that enthusiasm it deserved. He had shown his ability in every office through which he had passed, and the brethren had done the correct thing in electing so worthy a brother to the Master's chair. In that position he would receive the hearty support of the brethren, and their ready and cheerful obedience in every shape and form. The W.M. had been for many years Secretary of the lodge of instruction, held at the same hotel, under the Preceptorship of Bro. Rutter, P.M., and but for such instruction the various officers of the lodge could not have performed their respective duties so creditably. He (Bro. Neller) hoped that during the W.M.'s year the lodge of instruction would mark in some tangible form the excellent services rendered by their W.M. They all wished him health and happiness, and a successful year of office.

In reply, the W.M. (who had an ovation) very cordially thanked the Bro. I.P.M. for his kind remarks in proposing the toast and the hearty reception given to it by the brethren. What he had done in Freemasonry was most hearty and because he loved it. He had done his level best, which should be the aim of all, and if that level best had satisfied the brethren he was amply repaid.

The toast of "The Visitors" was next proposed by the W.M. in most cordial terms. There were many distinguished brethren present, but he coupled the toast with Bros. Hill and Stone, both of whom were Worshipful Masters of their respective lodges.

The toast was ably responded to by Bros. Hill and Stone.

Bro. Halfhide, P.M., next proposed the toast of "The Installing Master" in most complimentary terms, which was duly and warmly responded to by Bro. Neller, I.P.M. and Installing Master.

The W.M. next presented the toasts of "The Past Masters" and "The Officers of the Lodge," each receiving from him their just meed of praise.

Having been ably replied to, the Tyler's toast brought to a close a most enjoyable and pleasant evening.

A capital programme of music was arranged and under the direction of Bro. A. R. Williams, Org., ably assisted by Messrs. J. Davis, F. Richardson, and Will Adams, and Bros. H. Franckiss, T. R. Porter, P.M.; Sidney Gandy, J. K. Skewes, C. E. Walbourne, H. W. Lotts, and Griffith Percy.

Bro. A. R. Williams was the able accompanist.

Instruction.

ISLINGTON LODGE, No. 1471.

This festival of this lodge took place on Tuesday, the 27th ult., at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, when there was a large attendance of brethren and visitors. The dinner provided reflected the utmost credit on the management of the hotel, and was served under the personal supervision of Bro. W. A. Evans. The chair was taken by Bro. C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D. Herts, Treas., who was supported by Bros. W. Hancock, P.M. 2191, Preceptor; A. F. Hardyment, W.M. 1500, Asst. Preceptor; J. Duncan, P.M. 59, Sec.; J. Petch, P.M., P.P.G.S.B. Herts, S. Napper, P.M. and Treas.; E. J. Harrison, P.M.; H. B. Harding, P.M.; T. E. Newman, J.D.; J. R. White, J. H. Thurman, W. Goring, G. A. Hopkins, F. H. Hall, Meyer, Cohen, and C. Bone, of 1471; R. W. Nicole, P.M., P.P.G.P. Herts, C. C. Renaud, W.M., D. Taylor, Sydney Butler, C. Nicole, A. C. Little, N. Pearce, and F. H. Johnson, of 2278; A. Oliver, P.M. and Treas. 820; H. Hill, P.M. 1305; F. Stallard, P.M. 1613; E. G. Line, 2698; J. Aylett, 2698; J. H. Crook, 2698; R. E. Maskall, 820; G. Coxen and A. C. Smith, W.M. 1366; G. W. Frazer, Org. 2310; R. Fox, 2048; J. Horstead, 2361; A. Williams, S.W. 1584; J. E. Thomas, S.W. 1987; R. P. Upton, P.M. 1328; A. E. Turner, J.W. 1839; G. H. Seager, R. Addis, 2048; J. Birks, P.M.; H. J. May, 11; H. J. Dunaway, 2698; W. J. Crane, 773; D. Meredew, 511; E. H. Clements, 201; F. Henderson, S.D. 1524; H. H. Brothers, 1366; A. Noel, 1839; and others.

The first toast, "The Health of the Queen," was proposed, and the solo of the National Anthem was sung by Bro. Kendal Ward.

"The Health of H.R.H. the M.W.G.M." was next proposed, and "God Bless the Prince of Wales" was sung by Bro. F. H. Johnson.

The only other toasts were "The Islington Lodge of Instruction," proposed by Bro. S. Napper, P.M. and Treas. of the mother lodge, which was replied for by Bro. W. Hancock, P.M. and Preceptor; and "The Visitors," proposed by Bro. A. F. Hardyment, for which toast Bro. H. Hill, P.M., replied.

The musical programme, which is always an important item at these gatherings, was under the direction of Bro. T. E. Newman, and was most ably carried out.

The entertainment was opened by Bro. R. P. Upton with a song entitled "The skipper in the mercantile marine," this was followed by a song, "The young British soldier," by Bro. R. W. Nicole; song, "Down the vale," Bro. W. A. Goring; song, "There's a land," Bro. Kendal Ward, for which an encore was demanded; 'cello solo, "The broken melody," and song, "The Irish Fire Brigade," Bro. H. J. Dunaway; song, "That is love," Bro. M. Cohen; bass song, "The windmill," Bro. A. C. Little; "Hunting song," Bro. F. Henderson; song, "Drinking," Bro. F. H. Johnson; descriptive song, "The Empty Frame," Mr. Will. Violet; humorous songs by Bro. Harry Hall; a stirring patriotic melody by Bro. A. F. Hardyment; humorous song and a recitation, "Ladsmith," by Bro. G. d'Albert.

This long programme did not exhaust the available talent, the time proving too short for more. The unanimous opinion was that the evening had proved one of the most successful of its kind.

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At 7.45 p.m., for Northallerton, Darlington, Richmond, Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c., calling at Harrow and Aylesbury.

On THURSDAY, 12th APRIL (for 5 or 6 days).

At 8.0 a.m., for Bridlington, Filey, Middlesboro', Newcastle, Northallerton, Scarborough, South Shields, West Hartlepool, York, &c.

At 10.0 a.m., for Knutsford, Northwich, Southport, Wigan, &c.

At 12.0 noon, for Cleethorpes, Doncaster, Gainsboro', Grimsby, Hull (Pier), &c.

At 1.30 p.m., for Goole, Huddersfield, Hull (Paragon).

At 1.35 p.m. and 8.25 p.m., for Rugby, Loughboro', Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield, Guide Bridge, Manchester, Stockport, Liverpool, &c.

At 5.15 p.m., for Brackley, Finner, Helmdon, Woodford, &c.

At 5.40 p.m., for Bulwell Common, Chesterfield, Quorn, and Woodhouse, &c.

On GOOD FRIDAY, 13th APRIL.

At 9.30 a.m., for Finner, Brackley, Rugby, Lutterworth, and Leicester (1, 4, or 5 days).

At 11.30 a.m., for Finner, Brackley, Rugby, Lutterworth, Leicester, Loughboro', and Nottingham (for 1 day, and 4 or 5 days).

On SATURDAY, 14th APRIL (for 3 days).

At 2.20 p.m., for Rugby, Lutterworth, Leicester, Loughboro', Nottingham, Sheffield, Penistone, Stockport, Warrington, Liverpool, Guide Bridge, and Manchester, calling at Harrow.

On EASTER MONDAY, 16th APRIL.

At 8.15 a.m., for Brackley, Rugby, Lutterworth, Leicester, Loughboro' and Nottingham (for 1 and 2 days).

At 11.30 a.m., for Finner, Brackley, Rugby, Lutterworth, Leicester, Loughboro', and Nottingham (for 1 day and 2 days).

For full particulars, see printed pamphlet, which can be obtained at any of the Company's Receiving Offices, or Marylebone Station, and from Messrs. DEAN & DAWSON, 55, Charing Cross, Trafalgar Square, London.

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EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 16th, for 1 day, to SKEGNESS, SUTTON-ON-SEA, MABLETHORPE, ST. ALBANS, HERTFORD, WHEATHAMSTEAD, HARPENDEN, LUTON, DUNSTABLE, HITCHIN, BALDOCK, ROYSTON, CAMBRIDGE, BIGGLESWADE, SANDY, TEMPSFORD, ST. NEOTS, HUNTINGDON AND PETERBORO', from Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), Finsbury Park, &c., &c.

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WEDNESDAY, April 11th.—To WATERFORD, Clonmel, Tipperary, Limerick, Kilkenny, KILLARNEY, (via Waterford), Belfast, Armagh, Enniskillen, Giants' Causeway, &c., for a fortnight or less.

THURSDAY, April 12th.—To Newbury, Devizes, Trowbridge, Frome, Wells, YEovil, Bridport, Dorchester, WEYMOUTH, &c., to return April 17th; to Swindon, BATH, BRISTOL, &c., to return April 16th or 17th; to WESTON-SUPER-MARE, to return April 16th, 17th, or 19th; to Taunton, Minehead, BARNSTAPLE, Ilfracombe, EXETER, Torquay, PLYMOUTH, Bodmin, Newquay, Falmouth, St. Ives, PENZANCE, &c., to return April 16th or 19th; to GLOUCESTER, CHELTENHAM, Newport, CARDIFF, SWANSEA, Llanelly, Llandovery, Carmarthen, Tenby, NEW MILFORD, &c., to return April 16th, 17th, or 21st; to CORK, for a fortnight or less; to Evesham, WORCESTER, Malvern, &c., to return April 17th; to OXFORD, Leamington, BIRMINGHAM, Wolverhampton, MANCHESTER, Chester, Birkenhead, LIVERPOOL, &c., to return April 16th or 17th; and to Shrewsbury, HEREFORD, Welshpool, Harlech, Aberystwyth, Llangollen, Dolgellau, Barmouth, Llandudno, Bettws-y-Coed, Carnarvon, &c., to return April 16th, 17th, or 21st.

GOOD FRIDAY and EASTER SUNDAY.—To READING, Pangbourne, Goring, OXFORD, &c., to return same day. Oxford Passengers can also return April 17th.

SATURDAY, April 14th.—To Swindon, BATH, BRISTOL, WESTON-SUPER-MARE, &c., to return April 16th or 17th; to CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTER, Newport, CARDIFF, Swansea, Llanelly, Llandovery, Carmarthen, &c., to return April 16th, 17th, or 21st.

EASTER MONDAY.—To READING, Newbury, Pangbourne, Goring, Wallingford, &c., to return same day; to BATH, BRISTOL, Weston-Super-Mare, &c., to return same day or April 17th; and to Swindon, CIRENCESTER, GLOUCESTER, CHELTENHAM, &c., to return same day or April 17th or 21st.

On TUESDAY, April 17th.—A CHEAP HALF-DAY EXCURSION will leave Paddington at 12.2 noon, for Banbury, Leamington, and Stratford-on-Avon.

CHEAP THIRD CLASS RETURN TICKETS will be issued by certain Trains on GOOD FRIDAY, SATURDAY, EASTER SUNDAY and MONDAY, to Windsor 2/6, Maidenhead 3/6, Henley 3/6, Goring 5/6, &c.

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J. L. WILKINSON, General Manager.

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On Saturday Night, April 14th, to LEICESTER, NOTTINGHAM, Sheffield, Normanton, LEEDS, BRADFORD, Stockport, MANCHESTER, Warrington, and LIVERPOOL, returning on the following Monday Night.

* Bookings from Woolwich and Greenwich by these trains.

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Easter Monday, April 16th, to ST. ALBANS, HARPENDEN, and LUTON, leaving ST. PANCRAS at 10.10 and 11.5 a.m. and 1.10 p.m., and to BEDFORD at 10.10 a.m.

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will be issued on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 12th, 13th and 14th, from LONDON (St. Pancras) to the PRINCIPAL SEASIDE AND INLAND HOLIDAY RESORTS, including the PEAK OF DERBYSHIRE, MORECAMBE, THE LAKE DISTRICT, YORKSHIRE, the NORTH EAST COAST, and SCOTLAND, available for return on any day up to and including Tuesday, April 17th, except day of issue.

EXCURSION HANDBILLS,

PROGRAMMES OF WEEK-END EXCURSIONS, and OTHER EASTER NOTICES, may be had on application at ST. PANCRAS STATION, also at any of the Company's Receiving Offices, or THOS. COOK & SON'S Agencies.

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NOTICE.

In consequence of Friday next being Good Friday, the "Freemason" will be published on the evening of Thursday, the 12th inst., instead of Friday, as usual.



SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1900.

Masonic Notes.

We deem ourselves fortunate in being able to place before our readers a further communication relating to the work of Masonry in Natal during the war. For this, which will be found in our correspondence columns, we are indebted to the courtesy of the Dist. Asst. Grand Secretary, Bro. F. C. Lovey, whose letter is the more interesting from the fact of its corroborating sundry of the "Jottings" sent us by Bro. Capt. Hearn, P.G.S.B., and also because it shows the influence which Freemasonry is capable of exercising, and has again and again exercised in a time of war,

when the passions of men are stirred to the utmost and brethren in the ranks of opposing armies are brought into conflict with each other. Their sense of duty compels them to uphold the honour of their flag, but Masonry has taught them that it is possible to discharge that duty and yet prove themselves amenable to the dictates of humanity.

Moreover, we have during the progress of the war heard a great deal about the wanton destruction by the Boers of the private property of British Colonials, and the inhumanity shown by them towards our women and children, who have been driven to seek refuge in other parts of British South Africa, or compelled by circumstances to remain in districts occupied by the enemy. It is, therefore, with all the greater pleasure we publish Bro. Lovey's letter, which furnishes more than one instance of the kindly influence that Freemasonry is able to exert in times of war in assuaging the bitterness of hostilities without detriment to the cause of either combatant.

One of the most successful among what are known as "Class" lodges of recent formation is the Guildhall School of Music Lodge, No. 2454, which was warranted in 1892, and has already become strong in numbers and as influential as it is strong. That such a lodge after the lapse of a few years should find it necessary to have a Royal Arch chapter attached to it was inevitable, and we are glad to know that a Guildhall School of Music Chapter, with the same number as its parent lodge, has just been consecrated by the Grand Scribe E., and that it starts on its career under the auspices of Comp. W. H. Cummings, P.M. No. 2454, Past G. Organist, as its first M.E.Z. The new chapter has our best wishes for its success.

We shall publish next week a full report—for which we are indebted to the columns of the *West Australian*—of the establishment of the Grand Lodge of West Australia, and the installation of His Excellency Bro. Sir Gerard Smith, K.C.M.G., Past Grand Warden of England, and late Dist. Grand Master of W. Australia under the English Constitution, as its first M.W. Grand Master. The ceremony was performed by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Perth—Bro. the Right Rev. Chas. Owen L. Riley, D.D., Past Grand Chaplain of England—nor does there appear to have been anything left undone which could in any way have added to the solemnity of the occasion. Grand Officers were appointed and invested, and the Grand Master delivered an able and eloquent address, in the course of which he reviewed the circumstances which had led up for the formation of the Grand Lodge, and the constitutional character of the steps that had been taken to give effect to the wishes of the brethren for independence; concluding his remarks by expressing a fervent hope that the Grand Lodge then inaugurated might in time be in a position to change its designation to that of the United Grand Lodge of West Australia.

It must be remembered that the circumstances connected with the formation of this new Grand Lodge are unprecedented in the history of British Colonial Freemasonry. To begin with, it is the first occasion on which such a body was inaugurated since the laws sanctioning the discussion of such a question by our lodges was adopted. On all previous occasions the establishment of independent Colonial Grand Lodges was carried out in spite of the law, and was in itself a revolt or secession from United Grand Lodge, though our lodges were actuated by no feeling of disloyalty to the parent G. Lodge, their one desire being to manage their own affairs. In the case of West Australia, the necessary preliminary steps have been taken under the sanction of the law, and all that has been done has been done in a strictly constitutional manner.

In the next place, so far as our knowledge goes, this is the first instance in which a local Colonial Grand Lodge has been established by the lodges working under a single constitution and without the co-operation of the lodges working under the other constitutions exercising concurrent jurisdiction in the Colony. We regret that the Scottish and Irish lodges in West Australia have taken no part in the movement which has just culminated in the formation of this Grand Lodge, but now that United Grand Lodge has recognised it, there remains for us nothing further but to echo the wish of Sir Gerard Smith, that at no very distant date—and the sooner the better in our opinion—the lodges of the three Constitutions may be found working harmoniously together under one United Grand Lodge.

The Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution will hold their regular monthly meeting at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 11th instant, at 4 p.m., when, in the course of the proceedings, the usual Committee will be appointed to prepare the report to be presented to the Governors and Subscribers at their annual general meeting on Friday, the 18th May.

Bro. Major W. Kiddle, R.A.M.C., who was murdered lately in Burmah, was a most distinguished Mason in English, Irish, and Scottish lodges. It was due to his zeal and love for the Craft that the present lodges and chapters in various Degrees were founded in Cyprus. He regularly subscribed to all the great Charities. Whatever Bro. Kiddle undertook, whether professionally, socially, or Masonically, he was bound to excel in. He met his death doing his duty, and he has left many friends to mourn his untimely fate. It is strange that one who never harmed anybody, but, on the contrary, who compelled love and esteem to be given him by all, should have perished in such a tragic manner. Cyprus, above all places, mourns the loss of a Christian gentleman and brother.

We are very much obliged to Bro. G. Robinson P.M., Cambrian Lodge of Australia, No. 656 (E.C. Sydney, N.S.W.), for the anxiety he exhibits on our behalf. In the letter of his we published last week he suggests that if we modify our statement in the Christmas number of the *Freemason* as to Lord Carrington having been the last Dist. G. Master of New South Wales under the English Constitution this paper "may then be referred to in years to come as a truthful record of one of the phases of District Grand Lodge in New South Wales." This is exceedingly kind of Bro. Robinson, though we are at a loss to understand quite what he means by the latter part of his sentence. However, we do not think any one will venture to impugn our character for accuracy, so far as this matter is concerned, when it is found that our statement rests on the authority of the official Calendar issued by United Grand Lodge.

If our correspondent will refer to Grand Lodge Calendar for 1889, he will find in the table of "Succession of Provincial and District Grand Masters," &c., under the head of "New South Wales"—see p. 179—that "Lord Carrington, P.C., G.C.M.G., 1888," is entered last of those appointed District Grand Masters for that Colony; while at p. 103 he will find Lord Carrington's name entered on the roll of District Grand Masters, the date of his appointment being given as "10th Jan., 1888." We have not asserted that his lordship was installed as District Grand Master, and thereby qualified himself to discharge the duties of his office. We have quoted an announcement which appears in our 1889 Calendar, and we do not propose to modify a statement of fact which will be on record for all time, or at all events for as long as the archives of our Grand Lodge are preserved. As no useful purpose will be served by prolonging this discussion, it will now be closed.

At the annual meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Canterbury (N.Z.), which was held at the St. Augustine Masonic Hall, Christchurch, on the 18th January, under the presidency of Bro. R. Dunn Thomas, District G. Master, a memorial portrait of the late Bro. Peter Cunningham, District G. Master, was unveiled, and in performing this very pleasant duty the District Grand Master spoke of his deceased predecessor in office as "one of the most single-hearted, kind, and liberal-minded men" they had ever known in New Zealand. He added "Those who had only met him in our lodges knew him to be an able and enthusiastic Mason, who had been an ornament to the Craft, and had worthily and firmly maintained the position of this District Grand Lodge and of English Masonry in New Zealand during a very difficult crisis."

From the Statements of Account which are appended to the Report of the proceedings there can be no doubt that the Dist. Grand Lodge of Canterbury, notwithstanding it has only eight lodges on its roll, is in a prosperous state. On the General Fund, in addition to a Fixed Deposit of £75 at the Union Bank, there is a cash balance of upwards of £75, while the assets are in excess of liabilities to the extent of £438. On the Fund of Benevolence there is a balance of £392, the assets being £440, and the liabilities nil.

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.

FREEMASONRY IN NATAL DURING THE WAR.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Thinking a few particulars concerning Freemasonry in the Natal District during war time might prove interesting to your readers, I enclose the following incidents which you may perhaps deem worthy of insertion in your valuable journal. In the first instance, I am permitted by the D.G.M. to make a transcript of a letter received by him from W. Bro. Capt. Hearn, Past Grand Sword Bearer of England, and an officer of the Army Service Corps, giving an account of Masonry in Ladysmith during its investment up to the 9th December last, which was then the 41st day of the siege. This letter only arrived after the siege was raised last week, but the D.G.R. of this District made a flying visit to the town immediately after its relief, and he reports that the Klip River County Lodge, which has its headquarters in Ladysmith, had continued working right the way through, which completed something over four months of siege.

The letter to which I refer is as follows:

"Ladysmith, 9th December, 1899.

"The 41st day of the siege.

"My dear Mr. Francis,

"As I hope the siege is drawing to a close I am writing you a few lines. I have had a fairly roughish time of it. I was with the Dundee column, and since the siege commenced things have been very lively, but although the Boers have heavily shelled the town the casualties have been very few. Everybody has behaved admirably, especially the civilians and the volunteers. In regard to things Masonic, the Klip River Lodge has had two meetings, a regular and an emergency. At the latter meeting over 50 brethren attended, nearly every lodge in your district being represented. Mr. Cairns, of this town, aged 55, was initiated, a truly unique experience in modern Masonry. The military having taken our hall for hospital purposes we had to meet at the Royal Hotel. I am applying to the D.G.S. for a covering dispensation, also to allow us to meet where we can until we can get back into our own building, which may be some time. Our new hall has so far escaped; it is ready for the roof now. Poor Taunton, whom we were borrowing the money from to build with is dead, having been killed, so there will probably be a difficulty in getting the money now from his estate. Have you seen Harward, our W.M.? If you see him you might ask him to go into matters. Mr. Lachlan, who was wounded at Dundee, is in the hospital just outside the town, and is getting on very well. I have not seen him for nearly a month. Waters is here and very fit. He desires to be remembered to you. We wish we had a few cases of whisky here. There is hardly any to be got in Ladysmith; in fact money won't purchase it. We have had two meetings of the Mark lodge and I have advanced five candidates. Hoping soon to see you.

"Yours very sincerely,
(sd) "GEO. HEARN."

The stone of the new building was laid by the D.G.M. just immediately before the town was invested, and I am pleased to say the building has escaped damage. The Taunton referred to in the letter was Major in the Natal Carabineers, and was killed in action. McLachlan is an officer in the 18th Hussars, and J.W. of the Klip River Lodge, while Waters is an officer in the Army Ordnance Corps, and an officer of the Natalia Lodge, No. 1665, Pietermaritzburg.

It may further interest your readers to know that four lodges belonging to this District are in possession of the enemy, but so far as we can ascertain no damage has been done to any of the buildings. This is the more noticeable in view of the fact that with only one exception every lodge in the Colony meets in its own building. The Masons of Dundee, one of the Natal towns in the possession of the enemy, have recently erected a very handsome Masonic temple there, and it is an interesting incident of the war that this building has been scrupulously respected by the Boers, although at one time some rebels attempted to loot the furniture. The only Englishman left in Dundee (by the way a Mason, whose wife was allowed to remain, as she was nursing a sick person, and he with her, became aware of the fact, and notifying it to a Boer whom he knew to be a Mason, he at once reported the matter to the Commandant, who immediately stopped the looting and placed a guard over the building, and it has remained intact ever since. Another incident. A prominent Mason in Dundee, who is at present in Maritzburg, informed us at a lodge meeting the other evening that he had just received intelligence from a friend of his remaining in Dundee, that, shortly after the town was occupied by the Boers, his friend discovered his Grand Lodge certificate lying outside his house in the mud (the exodus from Dundee having been so sudden that everyone left with only what they stood upright in) and on communicating this fact to a Boer Commandant, whom he knew to be a Mason, a guard was placed on the building, and that house is one of the very few whose sanctity has been respected.

I fear this letter will be considered inordinately long, otherwise I would touch upon our unfortunate brethren in the Transvaal, who, it is needless to say, have suffered far more than we have, but I will give you just one instance of the terrible effects of war there. I was informed at a recent lodge meeting held here) that out of the whole membership of the Vryheid Lodge in the S.A.R. not one was left, all having been killed in action.—Yours faithfully and fraternally,

FRED. C. LOVEY,

Dist. Asst. Grand Sec. Natal.

March 10th.

Addendum. Just as I had concluded the foregoing, I received a letter from Captain Hearn saying he had sent you an account of Masonry in Ladysmith during the siege. However, I thought I would still send this, leaving you to make what use of it you might think fit, as there may be one or two incidents not included in Captain Hearn's communication. I may add that all the lodges here have had a considerable strain put upon them in connection with the war, but all the demands have been cheerfully met, and it is satisfactory to know that the funds generously placed in our hands have been of material assistance in helping distressed brethren from the Transvaal and Free State, while several of the lodges have also assisted the local hospitals by monetary contributions, fitting up beds, &c. When the war is over, however, we anticipate having far heavier demands made upon us, as many of our brethren now serving with the Volunteer and Irregular Forces will then find themselves in a state of penury, with occupations gone and homesteads probably destroyed.—F. C. L.

EASTER HOLIDAYS IN SCOTLAND.—For the convenience of Scotchmen and others employed in the warehouses, a cheap special express excursion (for 5, 9, or 10 days) will leave King's Cross (G.N.) on the 12th inst., at 6.30 p.m., for Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, and Aberdeen. Tickets can be obtained at the Great Northern Office, 44, Bread-street, E.C., and from the representatives in the various warehouses.

Craft Masonry.

Musgrave Lodge, No. 1597.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Greyhound Hotel, Hampton Court, on the 17th ult., and was well attended. There were present Bros. William Cock, P.P.G.D., W.M.; Percy Gray, S.W., W.M. elect; G. P. Gillard, P.M., P.P.G.D., Treas.; H. F. Bing, P.M., P.P.G.D., Sec.; J. Ward, J.D.; G. E. Pecover, I.G.; Thos. Thomson, P.M.; Walter Sykes, P.M.; Oscar Rose, P.M.; Robt. Thomson, P.M.; R. Bell, J. N. Beattie, A. C. Clements, R. Langford, H. W. Merrony, J. Craig, C. H. Goldsmith, and H. Francis, Tyler. Visitors: Bros. R. W. Barber, P.M. 108; W. G. Smith, W.M. 1728; A. E. Kipps, W.M. 1275; E. Dredge, 548; H. Marriott, 1929; H. K. Ward, 1155; F. Page, 2182; J. Morriss, 2264; A. Harper, W.M. 2264; J. Huckell, J.W. 65; C. Frohlick, S.W. 2264; J. N. Smith, J.W. 2264; J. Wilson, 1804; T. Gregory, 2345; W. G. Simmons, P.M. 1135; C. G. Butler, 414; J. Poignton, P.M. 1861; T. J. Burgess, J.W. 45; F. C. Forward, 1693; C. C. Gray, 1204; T. Grummant, P.M. 1559; H. Milner, 2264; T. V. Goddard, 217; T. M. McKinlay, 767; J. D. Wilkinson, P.M. 879; and R. T. West, 1744.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M., Bro. Dr. Williams Cock, raised Bro. R. A. Langford to the Third Degree. The W.M. elect, Bro. Percy Gray was then presented by Bro. Walter Sykes, P.M., and installed into the chair by Bro. Williams Cock. The new W.M. afterwards appointed and invested his officers and addressed them in very suitable terms as to their respective duties, but made special mention of the past services of the indefatigable Secretary, Bro. H. F. Bing, P.M. They were as follows: Bros. R. J. Suter, S.W.; J. Ward, J.W.; G. P. Gillard, P.M., Treasurer; H. F. Bing, P.M., Secretary; G. E. Pecover, S.D.; H. W. Merrony, J.D.; R. A. Langford, I.G.; Dr. Williams Cock, I.P.M., Director of Ceremonies; and H. Francis, Tyler. The W.M., Bro. Percy Gray, initiated Messrs. John Craig and Charles Henry Goldsmith. The excellent working of the W.M. was much appreciated by the members and numerous visitors. The report of the Audit Committee, showing a good balance in hand, was received and adopted. In moving that the sum of five guineas be expended in providing a suitable recognition of the excellent services rendered to the lodge by Bro. Dr. Williams Cock, whilst occupying the chair of W.M. for the third time, Bro. G. P. Gillard, P.M., stated that as there was no room on Bro. Dr. Williams Cock's breast for more jewels, the executive thought the present should take the form of a brooch for Mrs. Williams Cock. The proposition having been carried unanimously Bro. Gillard handed the brooch to Bro. Dr. Williams Cock, paying a well-deserved tribute for his excellent services that evening as Installing Master. In response, Bro. Dr. Williams Cock stated that their presentation was quite a surprise, but a very agreeable one. The only recognition he required for the little he had done was the knowledge that he had given satisfaction. It would also be a great surprise and pleasure to his wife, and when he came there in June he hoped to express more adequately, than he was able then, his thanks and also his wife's for their great kindness. Bros. R. S. Sly and Joseph Huckell, 65, were proposed as joining members, and, after other business, the lodge was closed.

A good banquet followed, and at its conclusion, the W.M., in very eloquent terms, gave "The Queen and the Craft," "The M.W. Grand Master," and "The Grand Officers, Present and Past," which were duly honoured.

Bro. Gillard responded to the toast of "The Provincial Grand Officers, Present and Past."

Bro. Dr. Williams Cock, I.P.M., gave "The W.M., Bro. Percy Gray," and said it was a great pleasure to propose the toast, especially as Bro. Percy Gray was a well-known Mason, and his reputation had reached them before he was a member of the lodge. They expected great things of him, and he was certain they would not be disappointed, as he would be an ideal Master, and one of the successes in the annals of the lodge. He was a very young man, and had attained his high position in four years, and, as they had seen from his excellent working that night, he was perfect in the ritual, and in wishing him a very happy and prosperous year of office he was expressing the sentiments of them all.

Bro. Percy Gray, W.M., on rising to respond, was received with acclamation. In earnest terms he thanked them for the hearty manner the toast had been received, and for the kind words of Bro. Dr. Williams Cock, I.P.M. When he was elected he felt some diffidence in accepting the high office because he had to follow Bro. Dr. Williams Cock, who was a very eminent Mason and a great worker, but he was proud to be W.M. A Master, however good, would not make a lodge a success without the assistance of the members, and he ventured to think that he would have their support, which would be very gratifying to him.

The W.M. proposed "The Initiates," remarking that it was the toast of the evening. Bro. Goldsmith was one of his oldest and greatest friends, and he was honoured to initiate him. That day was the anniversary of the other initiate, Bro. Cray's birthday—(applause)—and he gave them both a very hearty welcome, trusting they would take to heart the ceremony of their initiation, and a great interest in the Craft, to enable them some day to fill the office of W.M. in that their mother lodge.

Bro. John Craig responded.

Bro. C. H. Goldsmith also replied, observing that he trusted to be able to do everything they could possibly wish.

In proposing "The I.P.M. and Installing Master," the W.M. stated that Bro. Williams Cock had occupied the chair in the lodge three years in succession, which was a record and spoke volumes. It was not necessary for him to extol his virtues, because he was so well known; but he might add that whenever they saw his jovial face in the lodge they were delighted.

Bro. Dr. Williams Cock, I.P.M., met with an ovation on rising to respond. He said he had been thinking what a change had taken place in the lodge, for the better, the last year or two, and he had no hesitation in stating that the W.M. was the sole cause of the happy state of affairs. He saw before him "a chiel amang ye taking notes, and, faith, he'll prent it," and it was the first time for many years that the lodge had been honoured by a representative of the Masonic Press, and it showed that the lodge was becoming more known. His association with the lodge dated back many years, and he felt, from the way he did the installation ceremony that evening, he was getting too old; but he was not sorry he was out of the chair, because he thought he had done his "little bit" in a Craft lodge, and he had tried to improve, if possible, the tone of the lodge, and, in concluding a happy speech, given with much feeling, he said don't forget the Masonic Charities.

The W.M. proposed "The Visitors," and said it was a toast which always gave pleasure to the members of the lodge, and it was ever received with great enthusiasm. Their guests that evening exceeded the members who were present, and he extended to them a very hearty welcome. The W.M. associated with the toast the names of Bros. Haynes, Temple Smith, Jas. Poignton, P.M.; J. D. Wilkinson, P.M.; T. Grummant, P.M.; and C. C. Gray—brother of the W.M.—who each responded.

The W.M. gave "The Past Masters," coupled with the name of Bro. W. Sykes, who responded in eloquent terms.

The W.M. proposed "The Treasurer and Secretary" in felicitous terms, and he joined with the toast the name of Bro. H. F. Bing, Sec.

Bro. Bing, in response, stated that both he and the Treasurer would do in the future, as they hoped they had done in the past, their very utmost to promote the interests of their good old lodge.

The W.M. next gave "The Officers."

Bro. J. Ward, J.W., suitably responded.

The Tyler's toast brought to a close a most successful and happy meeting, for which the W.M., Bro. Percy Gray, is to be congratulated.

During the evening Bros. Kendal Ward, Harry Marriott, Tom Burgess, and W. G. Simmons entertained the brethren by their vocal selections, which were much appreciated, while Bro. H. W. Merrony proved vastly interesting with some clever card tricks.

Stuart Lodge, No. 1632.

This flourishing lodge held its March meeting on the 26th ultimo, at the Frascati Restaurant, the occasion being what is generally termed the Ladies' Night. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M. (Bro. David R. Milch), Bro. J. M. Klemperer, the I.P.M., occupied the chair; Bros. John O'Connor, S.W.; C. E. Brooke, J.W.; Falkner, S.D.; Bennett, J.D.; Harp, I.G.; Arthur Briscoe, P.P.G.O. Surrey (who presided at the organ); A. Bannister, and other brethren were present.

The only business on the agenda was a notice of motion as to the appointment of Bro. A. Briscoe as Organist of the lodge, which having been proposed by Bro. J. T. Sweet, and seconded, was carried unanimously.

The W.M. and Wardens received the guests in the Temple at 6.45, and the company numbering but few short of 100 repaired to the banqueting hall, where a very choice menu was served in the style so well known to those attending these functions at this celebrated rendezvous, and where Bro. Kalla takes such a pride in giving satisfaction.

The toasts, as is usual on these occasions, were of the usual limited character (Masoric toasts being always barred), and were "The Queen," "The W.M.," and "The Ladies."

The W.M., in proposing "The Health of Her Most Gracious Majesty," spoke of the loyal and patriotic manner in which the toast was always received whenever and wherever Englishmen met, and of the peculiar enthusiasm with which it was always received at Masonic gatherings.

The toast having been duly honoured, Miss Muriel Davies sang "God Save the Queen" with marked effect.

"The W.M." was proposed by Bro. J. T. Sweet, who in doing so referred to the high esteem in which he was held by the brethren, and he asked them to drink the toast in bumpers.

The toast having been drunk in the usual Stuart Lodge fashion,

The W.M., Bro. Klemperer, on rising, referred to the unfortunate accident which had befallen the W.M., and which prevented him from being present. On his own behalf he thanked Bro. Sweet for the kind manner in which he proposed the toast, and the company for the enthusiastic way in which they had received it, and then proceeded to express the pleasure it gave him at all times to render the lodge any service in his power.

The toast of "The Ladies" was proposed by Bro. Baldwin, P.M., and very cordially received by the sterner portion of the gathering.

Mrs. Sweet's name having been coupled with this toast, she replied in a short but effective speech, thanking the company for the way in which they had received the toast, and then, on behalf of herself and the ladies, expressed the pleasure they had already experienced at the festive board, and a hope that the remainder of the evening would be as enjoyable.

The company retired whilst the banqueting hall was prepared for the concert and dancing.

Each of the ladies was presented with a souvenir in the shape of a bottle of Messrs. Grossmith's well-known perfume, in a neat case, with a card of welcome, thoughtfully provided by the W.M.

The entertainment which followed was a decided departure from the functions which usually follow a Masonic banquet—a departure which may justifiably be considered a success.

A most agreeable programme of music, with dancing at intervals, formed the scheme which Bro. John T. Sweet, the Hon. Secretary to the Ladies' Committee, for that night relied upon to minister to the pleasure of the brethren, their relatives and friends.

Thus the senior members of the lodge, their kith and kin, could sit down and be entertained in the way most desirable to it, while the intervals of dancing afforded scope for the more energetic inclinations and youthful impulses of the younger members.

The programme was most efficiently and appropriately opened by Bro. Cyril Davies, who sang "A Dream of Paradise;" he was followed by Bro. Ed. Jenkins, whose voice enabled him to render "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep" in fine style. Miss Muriel Davies's voice was pleasing and clear, and told well when singing "Il Bacio," while a banjo quartette by Mrs. Sweet and the Messrs. Ernest and Bert Mitchell and Bert Sweet was executed with dash and vigour. Special mention must be made of a most unique item in the programme, a new and original operetta entitled "The Lady Aurora," written by Bro. J. W. Woodward, and composed by his brother, Mr. F. W. Woodward. Only three characters were required to unfold the plot. In reviewing the work, which played some 30 odd minutes from beginning to end, it may be said that the dialogue is short and crisp and appropriate to the style of the piece. The music was a feature to command attention, original and melodious in every sense, evidently written by one who is a master of his technique, the various numbers being treated in a way to bring out to the best advantage all such dramatic effects as were available. It is to be hoped that we may see or hear of this composer being early engaged in more serious and responsible work. The parts were ably interpreted by Miss Elsie Cooper, who sang and acted very prettily as the Lady Aurora, her rendering of the ballad "Love divine" being specially appreciated. Mr. Arthur Ashby, as David Hilary, acquitted himself admirably, while a decided word of praise must be given to Mr. Roy Painter, who gave the true spirit to a part now extinct in England, the Italian "Buffo." Though the performance was slightly handicapped by the limited stage space at the disposal of the artists, yet it showed distinct signs of careful rehearsals, and great credit is due to all concerned.

Bros. Hancox and Whetstone were the M.Cs. for the evening, and ably seconded Bro. Sweet in his onerous duties.

At the close of the festivities, the guests had nothing but praise and thanks to bestow on the lodge for a very pleasant and delightful evening.

Orpheus Lodge, No. 1706.

The ordinary March meeting of this musical lodge was held on the 31st ult. at the Holborn Restaurant. The attendance of the brethren was very large. Bro. Charles G. Sadler, W.M., presided. The other brethren present were Bros. James Gawthrop, I.P.M.; C. H. Kempling, S.W.; Richard Clowes, P.G. Std. Br., Treas.; Richard J. Hennings, P.M., Sec.; H. Gregory Hast, S.D.; W. J. Winbolte, J.D.; H. Walmsley Little, D. of C.; George Ackerman, I.G.; R. Stokoe, Org.; C. H. Greet and R. Carrington Willis, Stwds.; R. A. Kemp, P.M.; George F. Smith, P.M., P.G. Org.; Henry Guy, P.M.; Sutton Shepley, P.M.; Harry A. Ralling, C. W. Paine, W. S. Gozma, W. G. Forington, Charles Lewis, Charles Arrow, W. Herbert Cox, R. I. Stevenson, Harvey Lohr, Mark Hubbard, Percy W. Gibbons, Courtenan M. Gray, F. Marchant, Charles Ackerman, James Chubb, Samuel Noble, W. Shorter, W. Frankland, Thomas Ward, H. J. Langton, R. J. Hawkins, Ernest N. Cullum, James Brand, John Curran, C. T. Johnson, W. Hiles Smith, J. L. Haddon, S. M. Woods, and C. Pouchonisk. Visitors: Bros. F. Macdonald, P.M. 2513; H. T. Hill, 1767; Charles Fitch, J.W. 2345; Edgar L. Hatch, 1538; Stephen Hussey, P.M. 1637; Robert Hunt, 1636; F. C. Pyke, 2191; H. Massey, P.M. 619 and 1928; J. J. Newland, P.M. 1949; L. Scones, 193; Charles Vincent, 194; Bertram Mills, 209; W. W. Holdaway, 2508; N. Linley Howlett, J.D. 2342; George Stubbs, 771; Frank Wells, 1383; and S. M. Barry, P.M. 272.

After the lodge had been opened, and the minutes of the February meeting read and confirmed, Bro. Hersey was passed to the Second Degree, and following this ceremony Mr. William Frankland and Mr. William Shorter were initiated. Bro. R. J. Hennings, P.M. and Sec., then read the circular sent out from Grand Secretary's office respecting the Fund suggested by the Grand Master for relieving the Masonic brethren rendered necessitous by the war in South Africa. In response to the appeal made in this letter the lodge, after different sums had been proposed to be contributed to the fund, voted 10 guineas, on the motion of Past Master Little, seconded by Past Master George F. Smith, P.G. Org. The subject of having a ladies' evening was not supported

by any one, and consequently it was dropped. A Committee consisting of the W.M., the Past Masters, and the members of the Benevolent Fund Committee, was appointed to consider an additional by-law that no sum of money exceeding five guineas should be voted out of the General Fund without notice.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to banquet, for which a special menu had been prepared to suitably mark the appreciation by the lodge of the efforts made by the military brethren during the present war. Following up this arrangement and to make it complete, the music provided for the after dinner proceedings comprised Hatton's part song, "The warrior's song," Sullivan's "The beleagured," and Adam's "Comrades in arms," the whole being under the direction of Bro. Henry Guy, P.M., Musical Director of the lodge. In the course of the proceedings the W.M. announced that Mr. Hedges, the son of the late Bro. John Hedges, P.M., and Musical Director of the lodge from 1880 to 1890, had kindly presented to the lodge a bound volume consisting of all the musical programmes of the lodge meetings during the time Bro. Hedges was musical director. He said this ought to have been announced in lodge, and a vote of thanks was the generous and suitable presentation made upon it. This, however, would now have to be deferred until the next meeting. The speeches in proposing and responding to the usual toasts were very brief; but an additional and special toast to the brethren at the seat of war was placed on the list.

Bro. R. J. Hennings, P.M., Sec., in proposing the toast, said it was a toast which was not very common at Masonic meetings; but, following the example of many well-known lodges, that lodge had furnished Masonic brethren who were upholding the dignity of the empire and the arms of England in South Africa. The toast, perhaps, was too stupendous for a poor Secretary to undertake, but the historian of the future might give prominence to the fact that many Masons were out in South Africa. Among those who were there who were well known were Lord Roberts, Lord Methuen, and Lord Kitchener, P.G. Wardens; and Sir Charles Warren, P.G. Deacon. Many others were officers of lodges. Indeed, that lodge might lay claim to one who laid down his life in the cause. Bro. Dr. Chapman Grigg was one of the founders of the Orpheus Lodge. He left the lodge, owing to his numerous engagements, but more than that, he left a lucrative practice to go out to South Africa, like a true-hearted man, scouted the idea of danger; yet he fell not by a bullet, but by an insidious disease—enteric fever—and he laid down his life for his country. Many other Masons, whose names were only known to the Great Architect, had no doubt done the same; many were out there doing their duty in the cause of their country. He hoped the brethren would drink to their health and success to our arms. They were writing history; the deeds they were doing were very great, and

"The great deeds through the ages
Live in historic pages,
Unconsumed by moth and rust."

The toast was enthusiastically honoured.

The Initiates replied to the toast proposed in their honour.

Bro. Gawthrop responded to the toast of "The I.P.M."

Bros. Guy, Little, and Shepley replied for "The Past Masters."

To the toast of "The Visitors" Bros. Macdonald, Hunt, White, and Parry responded.

Bros. Kempling, S.W., and Lewis, acting J.W., replied to the toast of "The Officers."

The proceedings of the evening were highly successful.

Royal Arch.

Fidelity Chapter, No. 3.

A meeting of this old chapter was held at Freemasons' Hall on the 2nd ult. Among those present were Comps. Lieut.-Col. W. Hart, M.E.Z.; C. C. Birch, H.; Major T. C. Walls, P.Z., P.P.G.D.C., as J.; W. J. Collens, P.Z., P.P.G.S.N., S.E.; J. Heming, P.Z., Treas.; Spawforth, P.S.; H. J. Lardner, P.P.G.S.B., I.P.Z.; F. McDougal, P.Z.; C. Weeks, P.Z.; W. Ratcliffe, P.Z.; and C. Mapleton, P.Z.

The minutes of the previous convocation having been read and confirmed, the chapter voted 10 guineas to the cause of Masonic Charity. A vote of regret at the death of Comp. F. Graves, P.Z., the father of the chapter, was passed with many expressions of individual regret, and ordered to be recorded on the minutes. The S.E. read communications from absent members, notably from Comps. S. Cochrane, P.G. Treas., H.; H. Birch, P.Z.; and Larcomb, P.Z. The chapter was then closed.

A banquet followed.

The usual loyal and Royal Arch toasts having been drunk the I.P.Z. gave "The Health of the M.E.Z." In submitting this toast Comp. Lardner said that the First Principal in the discharge of the duties of the various positions held by him in the chapter had been most painstaking. As yet the M.E.Z. had had no opportunity of exalting a candidate, but it was to be hoped that one would be forthcoming before he vacated the chair. As President of the Fourth Degree no one could preside more genially nor better.

The toast having been warmly received, the M.E.Z. briefly expressed his thanks.

"The Health of the H. and J." followed. The M.E.Z. regretted that through indisposition the Second Principal was absent that evening. He rejoiced that Comp. Cochrane had met the wishes of the chapter by accepting the office of H. Their Second Principal was a P.M. of the Fidelity Lodge, and should be in due time a P.Z. of the chapter. The Third Principal was the brother of an old Past Principal of the Fidelity, and, no doubt, would in due course emulate his relative's example. He should couple the toast with the name of Comp. Birch.

The toast having been received with acclamation, the Third Principal responded in cordial terms.

The pledge of "The Past Principals" followed. In giving this toast the M.E.Z. expressed his regret, which all present would share, that one of that distinguished body had passed away since their last meeting. Comp. F. Graves's presence in their midst had always been appreciated, and it was sad to think that he had been prematurely cut off. The Chapter of Fidelity was fortunate in possessing many Past Principals who had done, and were doing, good suit and service in the cause of Freemasonry. He should couple the toast with the names of Comps. Lardner and McDougal.

Those companions having replied, the toast of "The S.E., Treasurer, and Officers," coupled with the names of Comps. Collens, Heming, and Spawforth, brought a very pleasant gathering to a conclusion.

Rose Chapter, No. 1622.

The installation meeting of this flourishing chapter was held at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, S.E., on the 24th ult. Present: Comps. Wm. Dawson, M.E.Z.; T. R. Cass, H., M.E.Z. elect; G. H. Lewis, P.Z., J.; John Loader, P.Z., Treas.; G. Thompson, S.E.; W. E. Jeffrey, S.N.; W. G. Frampton, P.S.; F. W. Morris, 1st A.S.; R. J. Sobel, and A.S.; F. E. Choveaux, Org.; J. Whiteman, Janitor;

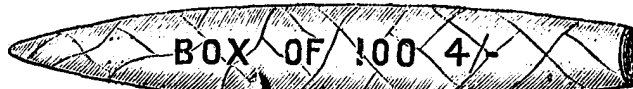
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SAMPLES AND PRICE LIST SENT ON APPLICATION.

J. Dunn, P.Z.; S. J. Derham, P.Z.; W. G. Kirby, R. Brambleby, J. Higgs, R. J. Richards, P. S. O'Brien, D.D.; W. J. Snodgrass, F. W. Sanders, S. W. Ballard, and J. H. Reap. The visitors were Comps. T. Grumant, P.Z. 1275, P.P.G.P.S. Essex; H. Cornford, J. 1329 and 1901; J. H. Cureton, P.Z., S.E. 2182; H. O. Hinton, P.Z. 1631; H. C. Turner, H. 1901; and Charles H. Stone, P.Z. 1275 and 1901.

The minutes of the previous convocation were read and confirmed. A convocation of Installed First Principals was formed, and Comp. T. R. Cass was installed into the chair of Z. by Comp. Wm. Dawson in an exemplary manner. The convocation of First Principals was closed, and a convocation of Installed Second Principals was formed, and Comp. G. H. Lewis, P.Z., was inducted into the second chair by Comp. Wm. Dawson. The convocation of Installed Second Principals was closed, and a convocation of Installed Third Principals was formed, and Comp. Wal. E. Jeffery installed into the third chair in a perfect manner by Comp. Wm. Dawson. The convocation of Third Principals was closed, after which the officers for the ensuing year were invested as follows: Comps. J. T. Loader, P.Z., Treas.; G. Thompson, S.E.; J. F. W. Morris, S.N.; W. Frampton, P.S.; R. J. G. Sobel, 1st A.S.; F. Wright, 2nd A.S.; Wm. Dawson, P.Z., D.C.; F. Choveaux, Org.; J. Parr, Steward; and J. Whiteman, Janitor. Comp. Thos. Grumant, P.Z., was elected an hon. member. Comp. T. R. Cass, M.E.Z., in very complimentary terms, spoke of the valuable services Comp. Grumant had rendered the Rose Chapter from its consecration in particular, and to Royal Arch Masonry generally, and that his working was known all over London. He had the love and esteem of all he came in contact with, not only in Royal Arch Masonry, but also in the New Cross Lodge, where many brethren of other nationalities showed him their thorough regard and loyalty. In the name of the chapter, he asked him to accept the honorary membership, with the earnest desire of the companions that he would exercise his privileges upon each and every occasion. In reply, Comp. T. Grumant thanked the M.E.Z. for the very kind and flattering manner he had spoken of him, and the companions for their mark of esteem. He should appreciate the honour greatly, because in the Rose Chapter were brethren he had known for many years who were among his most intimate friends. He had watched the progress made since its consecration, and the work of the officers was of the most exemplary kind. He did not hesitate in saying that the chapter stood pre-eminent among the chapters in South London. For their act of kindness he most heartily thanked them. The balance sheet was presented and adopted and showed the chapter to be in a financially sound position. The list of members was to be augmented, too, by the proposition of three candidates.

The business ended, the chapter was closed, and the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet supplied by Mrs. Venables, the worthy proprietress, in her usual capable style.

The M.E.Z. presided at the banquet in a very courteous and dignified manner.

In presenting the toast of "The Queen and R.A.M.," the M.E.Z. stated that all deeply regretted the present war, but her Gracious Majesty had a truly womanly heart and had shown her deep sympathy with the sick and suffering in visiting them and giving words of comfort. She had chosen to remain among her loyal subjects rather than take her usual holiday in a warmer climate, which fact showed her love for her people. Whether as a mother, or as a Sovereign Queen she was one of the best monarchs that had ever graced a throne.

In proposing "H.R.H. the M.E.G.Z.," the M.E.Z. remarked he was an excellent son of an excellent mother, and had in recent years so ably assisted her in her manifold duties, and particularly at the present troublous time. He was ever to the fore in Masonic duties and generously supported our noble institutions.

Of "The Pro G.Z., G.H., G.J., and the rest of the Grand Officers," the M.E.Z. said among the Grand Officers were distinguished noblemen who were ready and willing to devote their time and services in the cause of Freemasonry and deserved most heartily their cordial thanks.

Comp. Wm. Dawson, I.P.Z., in words of the highest commendation, presented the toast of "The M.E.Z.," and said that it gave him very great pleasure in so doing, as he knew the companions would give it the same cordial reception that they always showed to their First Principal. The M.E.Z. was one who would preserve that bond of union which had existed in the Rose Chapter since its formation, and in succeeding to the chair of M.E.Z. of his mother chapter the companions had conferred upon him the highest honour they could, and which he so richly deserved. In taking a short retrospect many companions knew how a few years ago he so ably filled the chair of W.M. of the Blackheath Lodge, and the admirable manner he performed the duties. The M.E.Z. was still that ardent worker, especially in the Blackheath Lodge of Instruction, of which he was the highly respected Treasurer, and in which he took the deepest interest. He was ever ready to give advice where it was needed, and in a kind and generous manner which endeared him to all who met him. The I.P.Z. asked them to rise and drink to his health, long life, and a highly successful year of office.

In reply, Comp. T. R. Cass, M.E.Z., thanked the I.P.Z. for his very kind and generous expressions towards him, and also the companions for so hearty a reception of the same. He also thanked several distinguished companions of the chapter for the many kindnesses received at their hands. The position of M.E.Z. had been somewhat forced upon him, for he had asked to stand over for another year on account of domestic affliction, but the companions had willed otherwise. Now that he was exalted to such an honourable position he should do his utmost to carry out the duties and uphold the prestige of the Rose Chapter, and he felt sure the companions would receive his observations in the same spirit as they were given. He was indeed grateful for the remarks of Comp. Wm. Dawson, I.P.Z., as to his Mastership in the Craft, which was one of the most joyous years he had ever spent. He again thanked the companions for so heartily receiving the toast.

The M.E.Z. next said he had the honour to submit the toast of "Comps. H. and J.," with whom he had been associated for years. Comp. H. was an old and esteemed Past Principal, and Comp. J., one ever ready to give proofs of proficiency in his work. He presented the toast most heartily.

Comps. G. H. Lewis, P.Z., H., and Wal Jeffery, J., ably acknowledged the toast.

The toast of "The Visitors" was presented by the M.E.Z. with that cordiality which ever distinguishes the Rose Chapter, and heartily responded to by Comps. F. Eddle, Cornford, Hinton, Stone, Cureton, and Hy. Turner.

The M.E.Z. next gave the toast of "The Past Principals, Comps. Dawson, Dunn, Loader, and Derham," who were indeed excellent companions. It gave the M.E.Z. the greatest possible pleasure to present to Comp. Dawson the jewel voted by the companions. All knew his devotion to Freemasonry and his splendid service rendered to the Rose Chapter, and in other Degrees likewise. It needed no words from him to endear Comp. Wm. Dawson to the companions, for his name was loved and honoured by them. One other pleasing duty was to pin to his breast the handsome jewel in the name of the Rose Chapter, for the skill, ability, and urbanity which ever distinguished him.

In reply, Comp. Wm. Dawson thanked the M.E.Z. for the flattering manner he had spoken of him. Whatever he had done was a labour of love as Freemasonry was his hobby, and he hoped to continue in the same work for years to come. He accepted the handsome jewel as a mark of their goodwill, and whether in the Rose Lodge, Chapter, or Rose Mark Lodge if he was called upon to perform any duty he should do it

most heartily. To the officers in the chapter who had so loyally supported him during the past year he tendered his most cordial thanks.

Comps. Loader, Dunn, and Derham also ably replied.

The toast of "The Treasurer and S.E." received at the hands of the M.E.Z. high eulogiums, and was duly replied to by Comps. J. Loader, P.Z., Treas., and George Thompson, S.E.

That of "The Officers" received its just merits and duly was responded to.

The Janitor's toast closed a most happy and highly intellectual convocation.

The musical arrangements were under the able and efficient Organist of the chapter, Comp. F. E. Choveaux, ably assisted by Madame Alice Sampson, Mr. James A. Bovett, Comp. S. J. Derham, P.Z. (Hautist), and Bro. James Avon. Accompanist—Comp. F. E. Choveaux.

St. Magdalene Chapter, No. 242.

The meeting was held in St. George's Masonic Rooms, Doncaster, on Friday, the 30th ult. Present: Comps. H. A. Fenton, M.E.Z.; F. J. Forth, H.; W. Langbridge, J.; A. W. Fretwell, I.P.Z.; C. Goldthorpe, P.Z.; J. Constable, P.Z.; C. E. Boomer, S.N.; and others.

It was decided to invite Prov. G. Chapter to visit in the autumn.

After several matters of interest were discussed, the companions adjourned to the ante room for light refreshment.

EASTER RAILWAY FACILITIES.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

Cheap Excursion Trains from London.—On Tuesday, April 10th, to Londonderry, via Morecambe, by direct steamer, returning within 16 days as per Sailing bill. On Wednesday, April 11th, to Dublin, Cork, Killarney, &c., via Morecambe and via Liverpool, returning any week day within 16 days. On Wednesday, April 11th, to Belfast, Londonderry, Portrush, &c., via Barrow and via Liverpool, available for returning any week-day within 16 days. On Thursday, April 12th, Cheap Excursion Trains will be run from London to Leicester, Nottingham, Newark, Lincoln, Birmingham, Burton, Derby, Manchester, Blackburn, Bolton, Rochdale, Oldham, Liverpool, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Scarborough, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Barrow, and the Furness Lake District, Carlisle, &c., &c., returning the following Monday or Tuesday; and from London (St. Pancras) to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Perth, Stirling, Aberdeen, Inverness, Nairn, Forres, Ballater, &c., returning Monday, April 16th, or Friday, April 20th. Tickets will also be issued by the Scotch Excursion at slightly more than the Single Ordinary Third Class fare for the double journey, available for returning on any day within 16 days from and including date of issue. On Saturday night, April 14th, a Cheap two days Excursion Train will be run to Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Manchester, Liverpool, &c. On Easter Monday, April 16th, Cheap Excursion Trains will be run to St. Albans, Harpenden, Luton, and Bedford. Cheap Week-end Tickets.—Cheap Week-end Tickets will be issued on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 12th, 13th, and 14th, from London (St. Pancras) to the principal seaside and inland holiday resorts, including the Peak District of Derbyshire, Morecambe, the Lake District, Yorkshire, the North East Coast, Scotland, and other parts, available for return on any day up to and including Tuesday, April 17th, except day of issue. Excursions to London.—Cheap Excursion Trains for five or six days will also be run on Thursday, April 12th, to London from Carlisle, Bradford, Leeds, Sheffield, Liverpool, Manchester, Blackburn, Bolton, Blackpool, Preston, Lincoln, Newark, &c., and from Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall, &c. Passengers will be booked by these trains at cheap fares to Brighton, and other South Coast Stations, and to the Continent; those for the Continent having the privilege of returning by any ordinary train within 16 days. On Good Friday, April 13th, from Bradford, Leeds, Sheffield, Blackburn, Bolton, Blackpool, Preston, Oldham, Manchester, Liverpool, &c., for two or four days, and from Burton, Derby, Nottingham, Birmingham, Leicester, &c., for one, four, or five days. Cheap three or five days trips will also be run to London on Friday night, April 13th, from Colne, Blackburn, Bolton, Blackpool, Preston, Rochdale, Oldham, Manchester, &c., and on Saturday, April 14th, from Liverpool and Warrington. On Easter Monday single day trips will be run from Burton, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Northampton, Bedford, Luton, St. Albans, &c., and a one or two days trip from Birmingham and the South Stafford District. Early Issue of Tickets.—To prevent inconvenience and crowding, the Booking Offices at St. Pancras and Moorgate-street Stations will be open for the issue of Tickets all day on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, April 11th, 12th, and 14th.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY.

Easter Holiday Excursions from London (Marylebone, near Baker-street and Edgware-road).—On Thursday, April 12th (for 5, 9, and 16 days), for Northallerton, Darlington, Richmond, Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c., calling at Harrow and Aylesbury. On Thursday, April 12th (for five or six days), for Bridlington, Filey, Middlesboro', Newcastle, Northallerton, Scarborough, South Shields, West Hartlepool, York, Knutsford, Northwich, Southport, Wigan, Cleethorpes, Doncaster, Gainsboro', Grimsby, Hull (Pier), Goole, Huddersfield, Hull (Paragon), Rugby, Loughboro', Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield, Guide Bridge, Manchester, Stockport, Liverpool, Brackley, Fimere, Helmdon, Woodford, Bulwell Common, Chesterfield, Quorn, and Woodhouse. On Good Friday, April 13th, for Fimere, Brackley, Rugby, Lutterworth, and Leicester (one, four, or five days). On Saturday, April 14th (for three days), for Rugby, Lutterworth, Leicester, Loughboro', Nottingham, Sheffield, Penistone, Stockport, Warrington, Liverpool, Guide Bridge, and Manchester, calling at Harrow. On Easter Monday, April 16th, for Brackley, Rugby, Lutterworth, Leicester, Loughboro', and Nottingham (for one and two days). For full particulars see advertisement.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

The Great Western Railway Company issue ordinary as well as excursion tickets at their City and West End offices, where tickets can be obtained during the whole week preceding Easter. Tickets can also be obtained at Clapham Junction, Battersea, Chelsea, Kensington (Addison-road), and the stations on the Hammersmith and City line. The booking office at Paddington station will be open the whole day on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, before Easter. On Tuesday, April 10th, an excursion, allowing a fortnight, will leave Paddington for Killarney, via Cork. On Wednesday, April 11th, excursions, allowing a fortnight in Ireland, will be run to Waterford, Limerick, Killarney, Belfast, Armagh, Giants' Causeway, &c. On Thursday, April 12th, excursions will run to Weston-super-Mare, Taunton, Minehead, Ilfracombe, Exeter, Plymouth, Bodmin, Penzance, &c., reaching Exeter in 5½ hours, and Plymouth in 7½ hours. Excursions will also be run on the same day to Bristol, Yeovil, Weymouth,

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Oxford, Evesham, Worcester, Malvern, Birmingham, Shrewsbury, Aberystwyth, Bar-mouth, Llandudno, Carnarvon, Chester, Manchester, Liverpool, Swindon, Cirencester, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Carmarthen, Tenby, New Mil-ford, Cork, &c. On Thursday, April 12th, excursion tickets, at a return fare of 24s. 6d., will be issued to Guernsey and Jersey, by trains leaving Paddington at 9.15 p.m., and Waterloo at 9.50 p.m. The service to and from the Islands being now worked jointly by the Great Western and London and South Western Railway Companies, passengers travelling on the forward journey *via* Paddington and Weymouth may, if they so desire, return *via* Southampton and Waterloo, and those proceeding *via* Waterloo and Southampton may return *via* Weymouth and Paddington. On Good Friday and Easter Sunday, cheap trains will run to Reading, Oxford, and other riverside stations. On Saturday, April 14th, excursions will run to Swindon, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Cardiff, Swansea, Carmarthen, Bath, Bristol, Weston-super-Mare, &c., and on Easter Monday to Reading, Pangbourne, Goring, Swindon, Bath, Bristol, Weston-super-Mare, Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, &c. In addition to these excursions, cheap trains will be run to London from most of the provincial towns, and between the principal centres of population. On the Wednesday and Thursday before Easter most of the long distance trains will be duplicated. On Good Friday, a special train will leave Paddington at 5.35 a.m. for Reading, Didcot, Oxford, Banbury, Leamington, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Worcester, Malvern, Kidderminster, &c. Cheap week-end tickets will be issued on Thursday, Good Friday (where train service permits), and Saturday, April 12th, 13th, and 14th, to Winchester, Southampton, Bridport, Abbotsbury, Dorchester, Weymouth, Clevedon, Weston-super-mare, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay, Dartmouth, Droitwich, Malvern, Church Stretton, Abingdon, Oxford, Leamington, Warwick, Stratford-on-Avon, Aberystwyth, Dolgelly, Barmouth, Rhyl, Llandudno, Bangor, Carnarvon, Holyhead, &c. These tickets are issued on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the year.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

The Great Northern Railway Company announce that on Thursday, April 12th, cheap fast excursions for five or six days will leave London (Woolwich Arsenal, Woolwich Dockyard, Greenwich (S.E. and C.), Victoria (S.E. and C.), Ludgate-hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.) and suburban stations) for Accrington, Barnsley, Bacup, Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley, Burton, Bradford, Boston, Cromer, Chesterfield, Cleckheaton, Darlington, Darwen, Derby, Doncaster, Edwinstone, Eggington, Elland, Fife, Grantham, Grimsby, Halifax, Hartlepool, Huddersfield, Hull, Horncastle, Ilkeston, Kimberley, Keighley, Leicester, Lincoln, Liverpool, Lynn, Leeds, Manchester, Maltby, Mirfield, Merton, Mowbray, Middlesboro', Mundesley-on-Sea, Newark, Norwich, Nottingham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Oldham, Pontefract, Preston, Pudsey, Peterboro', Rotherham, Scarborough, Sheffield, Stamford, Stoke, Stockton, Sunderland, Spalding, Sleaford, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Todmorden, Thornhill, Thornton, Wakefield, Whitby, Warrington, Wigan, York and other principal stations in the Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and North Eastern districts. On Thursday night, April 12th, cheap express excursions for five, nine, or 16 days will leave London (Woolwich Arsenal, Woolwich Dockyard, Greenwich (S.E. and C.), Victoria (S.E. and C.), Ludgate-hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), and suburban stations) for Northallerton, Darlington, Richmond, Durham, Newcastle, Alnwick, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Dundee, Oban, Fort William, Aberdeen, Inverness and other stations in Scotland. Easter Monday, April 16th, for one day to Skegness, Sutton-on-Sea, Mablethorpe, St. Albans, Hertford, Wheathampstead, Harpenden, Luton, Dunstable, Hitchin, Baldock, Royston, Cambridge, Biggleswade, Sandy, Tempsford, St. Neots, Huntingdon, and Peterboro' from Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), Holloway, Finsbury Park, &c. To prevent inconvenience from crowding at the Company's principal terminal station, King's Cross, tickets, dated in advance, will be issued at King's Cross (G.N.R.), Victoria (S.E. and C.), Ludgate-hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, and suburban stations, and at the Company's ticket offices.

Instruction.

PROSPERITY LODGE, No. 65.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 4th inst., at the Whittington, 5 and 7, Moor-lane, E.C. Present: Bros. T. Stokes, W.M. 192, W.M.; H. A. Baxter, S.W.; W. H. Hillman, W.M. 569, J.W.; Jas. Smith, P.M., Treas.; H. T. Meadows, P.M., Sec.; O. W. Rix, S.D.; W. J. Lockett, J.D.; D. Harlow, P.M., Preceptor; William Baker, P.M., Asst. Preceptor; Chas. Sienesi, I.G.; H. J. Harris, P.M.; G. T. Kinipple, P.M.; Chas. Butcher, P.M.; W. L. Barker, P.M., Org.; B. T. Mills, E. E. Salt, F. H. Farr, Jas. Collins, W. J. F. Shleigh, J. H. Shipman, H. Palmer, F. J. Thurston, F. G. Howard, and Albert Hess.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Fishleigh personating the candidate. The lodge was then opened in the Second Degree, and Bro. Shipman, acting as candidate for the Third Degree, answered the usual questions, and was entrusted. The W.M. opened the lodge in the Third Degree, and Bro. Shipman was raised. The brethren then went through Masonic drill, after which the W.M. resumed the lodge in the First Degree, and rising the usual times, Bros. Howard, 65; Thurston, 1365; and Albert Hess, 1507; were elected joining members. Bro. Baxter was unanimously elected W.M. for the next Wednesday, and the lodge was closed.

Masonic and General Tidings.

BRO. WELLSMAN, C.C., is about to be raised to the dignity of Past Grand Assistant Director of Ceremonies.

THE SHIPWRIGHTS' COMPANY, whose master is Sir J. H. Johnson, will entertain Bro. the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs at dinner on Friday, the 27th inst., at the Albion Tavern.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES AND THE WELSH HOSPITAL.—The Princess of Wales has contributed 80 mattresses towards the equipment of the Welsh Military Hospital for South Africa.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, Mr. Choate (the American Ambassador), the Chinese and German Ministers, and the Australian delegates will be among the principal guests of Bro. the Lord Mayor at the Easter banquet on Wednesday, the 25th inst.

RECEPTION AT THE MANSION HOUSE.—The Lady Mayoress held a musical reception at the Mansion House on the 3rd instant. An excellent programme of music was performed by Pitman's Blue Viennese Orchestra (under the conductorship of Mr. A. H. Pitman).

BRO. W. M. CANDY, the president at the forthcoming annual festival of the Warehousemen, Clerks, and Drapers' Schools, entertained his stewards and a few personal friends, the company numbering upwards of 80, at dinner at the Hotel Metropole on Monday.

THE ABERCORN LODGE, No. 1549, have sent a subscription of £5 to the *Harrow Gazette* Fund in aid of the wives and families of soldiers and sailors on active service.

AMONGST the latest contributions to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London is one of £250 from the Prudential Assurance Company, Limited.

BRO. SIR JOHN BLUNDELL MAPLE, BART., M.P., has accepted office as the president of a committee formed for the purpose of organising a carnival for the *Daily Telegraph* Fund in St. Pancras.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the State Apartments of Windsor Castle will be open to the public on and after Wednesday, the 4th inst., on every week-day, under the usual regulations, until further orders.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES has signified his intention of being present at the banquet to be given by the British Empire League on Monday, the 30th inst., at the Hotel Cecil. The banquet is given in recognition of the services rendered by the Colonial troops in the South African war, and to welcome the presence in this country of the delegates from Australia.

THE QUEEN has approved of the grant of a Civil List pension of £100 a year to Mr. Sims Reeves, in recognition for his eminence as a singer. Mr. Reeves' financial resources have been in a crippled state for some time past, and he has been seriously ill for months past. He is now 81 years of age.

BRO. SIR ALLAN AND LADY MACKENZIE have been greatly gratified by the gift to their daughter, Miss Lucy Mackenzie, of a very beautiful vermeil tea service presented by the North-East of Scotland Freemasons, of which body Sir Allan is a prominent member, on the occasion of Miss Mackenzie's marriage to Lord Kilmarnock.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the American Hospital Ship Maine intimate that letters addressed to invalid officers and men returning by the Maine should be sent, care of Madame von Andre, Hon. Secretary, *pro tem.*, 81, Piccadilly, London, not later than noon on Thursday, the 5th instant, when they will be forwarded to meet the ship at Madeira.

FOLLOWING on the Queen's gracious recognition of his services, Mr. Robert Green, the ex-Dean's verger at St. Paul's, has received an easy chair from the members of the Lower House of Convocation, whose ostiarius he has been for more than 30 years. The inscription it bears is as follows: "Presented to Mr. R. Green by the members of the Lower House of Convocation of Canterbury in recognition of his long and faithful services as their ostiarius."

THE GUILDHALL ART GALLERY has been closed for the last few weeks preparing for the loan exhibition of paintings and drawings by living British artists. A private view will be held on Monday, the 9th inst., when the ceremony of formally opening the exhibition will be performed at half-past 12 p.m. by the Lord Mayor. The public will be admitted free on and after Tuesday, the 10th inst., between the hours of 10 a.m. and seven p.m., also on Sundays from three p.m. to six p.m.

THE 67TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL of the Goldsmiths' Benevolent Institution will be held at the Whitehall Rooms of the Hotel Metropole, on Monday, the 30th inst., under the presidency of Sir Richard Everard Webster, Bart., G.C.M.G., A.G., Q.C., M.P., Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. Bro. Lieut.-Col. George Lambert, P.G.S.B., is the Treasurer, and Bro. Herbert C. Lambert one of the Trustees of the Institution.

THE LORD MAYOR (Bro. Sir A. J. Newton), the Lady Mayoress, and Sheriffs, paid a state visit to the People's Palace on Saturday, the 31st ult., the Lady Mayoress performing the opening ceremony of the spring flower show of the People's Palace and East London Horticultural Society. Their arrival was watched with interest by a crowd outside the palace. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress first inspected the exhibition, which had attracted 260 entries, including a large number of well-cultivated flowers. Lady Newton afterwards formally declared the show open, expressing her pleasure with all she had seen.

THE SHEPHERD'S BUSH CYCLING CLUB had a smoking concert at the Bush Hotel, Shepherd's Bush, on Saturday, the 31st ult., when, owing to a good muster of the members and their friends, and the capital singing of Messrs. Manning (the captain), Parr, Bell, Charles Sanders, Herbert Sanders, and others, a very enjoyable evening was spent. The chair was occupied by Bro. G. Blizard Abbott, who is President of the club, and who in the course of the proceedings presented the prizes won by members during last season, the principal being the Club Championship (25 miles) won by Mr. Manning; the 100 miles' Championship, won by Mr. V. C. Abbott, who covered the distance in 5 hours 40 min.; the 15 miles' Handicap, won by Mr. Tyler; and the Chief Attendance Prize, won by Mr. P. Storey, the ladies' gold watches received by the two last winners being the gift to the club of Bro. Hyams, mine host of the Bush Hotel. A handsome tassel was also presented to Mr. V. C. Abbott in recognition of his services as captain during the five years from 1895 to 1899, both inclusive.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES has accepted the presidency of an influential committee which has been formed for the purpose of providing an appropriate memorial of the late Duke of Westminster. The Duke of Fife has consented to act as treasurer, and among other members of the general committee are the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor (Bro. the Earl of Halsbury), the Archbishop of York, Bro. the Duke of Devonshire, Bro. the Duke of Portland, the Duke of Sutherland, Bro. the Duke of Abercorn, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, the Earl of Pembroke, Bro. Earl Carrington, the Earl of Coventry, Lord Avebury, the Hon. F. Leveson-Gower, the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., Sir William Karslake, O.C., and many others. Canon Rawnsley, Mr. Percival Birkett, and Mr. Lawrence W. Chubb have been appointed honorary secretaries. It is proposed that the memorial shall be connected with Westminster Abbey, and the hope is expressed that the proposal will in no way interfere with the more local Chester and St. George's, Hanover-square schemes.

THE ANNUAL REPORT and accounts of the London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow Assurance Company, Limited, for 1899 show that the company made excellent progress last year. The total premium income, exclusive of annuity receipts, amounted to £364,347, being an increase of £30,906 on that of the previous year. The sum of £146,732 was paid in claims, and, after payment of expenses and all other charges, the sum of £52,249 was added to the Assurance funds, which now stand at £272,118, and have exhibited a net increase of £157,945 during the four years which have elapsed since the last actuarial valuation. During that period the ratio of expenditure has steadily declined, whilst there has been a continuous increase in each item of receipt and in the additions to the assurance funds. To meet the growing desire on the part of the public to make provision for old age, the Consulting Actuary, Bro. Wilfred A. Bowser, has prepared a most attractive scheme of combined endowment, assurance, and pension, by which a pension or annuity commencing at the age of 55, 60, or 65, and a capital sum at death, whenever it occurs, may be obtained for a very moderate premium, together with the right on the part of the assured to withdraw the capital at any time after the agreed age—55, 60, or 65, as the case may be—the annuity thereupon being reduced by one half. Thus a man aged 30 for an annual premium of £33 3s. 10d. can secure £1000 at death, whenever it may occur, an annuity of £100 a year commencing at age 65, and the right to withdraw the £1000 capital at any time after age 65, the annuity thereupon being reduced to £50 a year. If not previously withdrawn, the £1000 is paid to his representative at his death. This is the most complete family and old age provision we have seen. The London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow is steadily improving its position, pays a steady dividend of six per cent. to its preference shareholders, and it should not be long before the ordinary shareholders receive a dividend.



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SOUTH AFRICAN MASONIC RELIEF FUND.

A FUND from which the several DISTRICT GRAND LODGES under the English Constitution in SOUTH AFRICA may be assisted to RELIEVE THE DISTRESSES OF THEIR LOYAL MEMBERS, occasioned directly by the War in that quarter.

	£	s.	d.
UNITED GRAND LODGE	1050	0	0
W. Bro. GEO. RICHARDS'S FUND (per <i>The Freemason</i>)	346	7	2
Amount previously acknowledged	856	15	6
Provincial Grand Lodge of Bristol per Bro. Pierrepont Harris, P.G. Sec.	100	0	0
Provincial Grand Lodge of Lincolnshire, per Bro. B. Vickers, P.G. Sec.	52	10	0
Merchant Navy Lodge, No. 781	26	5	0
Ermine Lodge, No. 2351	21	0	0
Sphinx Lodge, No. 1329	11	11	0
Antiquity Lodge, No. 2	10	10	0
Bro. E. Jackson Barrow	1	1	0
Chas. E. Keyser, P.G.D.	1	1	0
Major F. Tagart	1	1	0
Royal York Lodge of Perseverance, No. 7	10	10	0
St. Mark's Lodge, No. 857	10	10	0
Whittington Lodge, No. 862	10	10	0
Royal Oak Lodge, No. 871	8	8	0
Lodge Faith, No. 2438	6	13	10
Noel Money Lodge, No. 2521	5	5	0
Bro. E. A. Brown	0	10	6
Henry Budd	0	10	6
Frank Harper	0	10	6
Jno. Nouett	0	10	6
J. S. Crawshaw	0	5	0
W. H. Crawshaw	0	5	0
G. R. Dunton	0	5	0
A. E. Edwards	0	5	0
W. Rowland Edwards	0	5	0
T. D. Fisher	0	5	0
F. R. Flintan	0	5	0
J. Gosling	0	5	0
A. Grace	0	5	0
J. Sammon	0	5	0
J. B. Wood	0	5	0
Abbey Lodge Westminster, No. 2030	5	5	0
Albert Edward Lodge, No. 1714	5	5	0
Alliance Lodge, No. 1827	5	5	0
Carville Lodge, No. 2497	5	5	0
Colne Valley Lodge, No. 1645	5	5	0
Ellesmere Lodge, No. 730	5	5	0
Ebury Lodge, No. 1348	5	5	0
Collected at Banquet	4	15	0
Erasmus Wilson Lodge, No. 1464	5	5	0
Fermor Lodge, No. 1313	5	5	0
Grenadiers Lodge, No. 66	5	5	0
Hamer Lodge, No. 1393	5	5	0
Bro. J. E. Taylor	0	2	6
Hertford Lodge, No. 403	5	5	0
High Cross Lodge, No. 754	5	5	0
Leigh Lodge, No. 887	5	5	0
Lodge of Sincerity, No. 1019	5	5	0
Oakley Lodge, No. 694	5	5	0
Pilgrims Lodge, No. 772	5	5	0
St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 222	5	5	0
Southampton Lodge, No. 394	5	5	0
Sun and Sector Lodge, No. 962	5	5	0
Adelphi Lodge, No. 1070	5	0	0
Egerton Lodge, No. 1030	5	0	0
Lodge of Hope, No. 2679, Collected	4	10	0
St. Laurence Lodge, No. 2724	3	10	0
Derby Lodge, No. 724	3	3	0
St. James's Lodge, No. 482	3	3	0
W. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, P.G. Std. Br.	3	3	0
Lodge Friendship and Sincerity, No. 472	2	2	0
Collected	1	3	6
Beaureper Lodge, No. 787	2	2	0
Goderich Lodge, No. 1211	2	2	0
Langthorne Lodge, No. 1421	2	2	0
Lodge of Freedom, No. 77	2	2	0
Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 959	2	2	0
Robinson Lodge, No. 2046	2	2	0
Royal Hanover Lodge, No. 1777	2	2	0
Dalhousie and Earl's Court Lodges of Instruction, Nos. 865 & 2765, Collected at Supper	1	0	0
Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction, No. 865	1	1	0
W. Bro. Geo. C. Kent, P.A.G.D.C.	1	1	0
St. John's Lodge, No. 328	1	1	0
Bro. J. Chapman, P.P.G.D. Devon, W.M.	5	5	0
R. Douglas Renwick, P.M. and R.C.P. 328	1	1	0
Rev. J. Child	0	10	6
Wineslai Lodge, No. 2435	1	1	0
Hampshire Lodge of Emulation, No. 1993	0	5	0
Bro. John Brickwood, W.M.	0	5	0
E. A. Edwards, S.W.	0	5	0
R. H. Reed, I.G.	0	5	0
H. A. Tilly	0	5	0
A. H. Wadden	0	5	0
A. G. Brown, P.M.	0	2	6
W. Stringfellow	0	2	6
Geo. Williams, P.M. and Sec.	0	2	6
A. E. Woodrow	0	2	6

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THE "DAILY TELEGRAPH" SOLDIERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' ONE SHILLING FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged—

	Shillings
Lodges	58,018
Lodges of Instruction	1962½
Chapters	4529
Mark	3227
Knights Templar	378
A. & A. Rite	2100
Allied Masonic Degrees	210
Red Cross of Rome and Constantine	42
Great Priory of England and Wales	2100
Rose Croix	147
Secret Monitor	30
Royal Masonic Institution for Girls	120

No.	LODGES.	Shillings
	Boys of the Royal Masonic School, per Bro. Rev. H. A. Hebb	198
2024	Raymond Thripp	105

THE MANSION HOUSE REFUGEES FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged—

	£	s.	d.
Lodges	265	0	0
Chapters	10	10	0
Rose Croix	6	6	0
Lodges of Instruction	2	10	0

THE MANSION HOUSE TRANSVAAL WAR FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged—

	£	s.	d.
Lodges	2049	11	6
Chapters	32	9	0
Mark	8	8	0
Instruction	30	0	0
Rose Croix	1	1	0
Cryptic Masonry	10	10	0

No.	LODGES.	£	s.	d.
	District Grand Lodge of Barbadoes	21	0	0
	Lodge of Union	10	10	0
2041	West Kent Volunteer	7	15	6

CHAPTER.

1526	Faith, Jumalpoore	50	0	0
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LORD PROVOST FUND.

Masonic Service in St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, not including several special donations £585 0 0

MASONIC MEETINGS (METROPOLITAN)

For the week ending Saturday, April 14, 1900.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 8.

Logie Club, Cavendish Rooms, Mortimer-street, W., at 11.15 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 9.

CRRAFT LODGES.

29, St. Alban's, Albion Tavern.
58, Felicity, Prince's Restaurant.
957, Leigh, Freemasons' Hall.
1305, St. Mark's, Criterion.
1070, Adelphi, Freemasons' Hall.
2094, Elthorne and Middlesex, Cafe Royal.
2394, Garen, Freemasons' Hall.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

22, Mount Zion, Guildhall Tavern.
2191, Anglo-American, Holborn Restaurant.
2340, Warrant Officers, Freemasons' Hall.

MARK LODGES.

44, Florence Nightingale, Royal Mortar Hotel, Woolwich.
411, Ubique, Frascati Restaurant.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10.

CRRAFT LODGES.

96, Burlington, Albion Tavern.
198, Percy, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
211, St. Michael's, Albion Tavern.
228, United Strength, Guildhall Tavern.
235, Nine Muses, Grand Hotel.
781, Merchant Navy, Town Hall, Limehouse.
834, Ranelagh, Criterion.
617, Cosmopolitan, Cannon-street Hotel.
933, Doric, Anderson's Hotel.
1109, Urban, Freemasons' Hall.
1290, Stanhope, Surrey Masonic Hall.
1593, Royal Naval College, Ship Hotel, Greenwich.
1604, Waadecers, Freemasons' Hall.
1604, Covent Garden, Criterion.
1603, Kingsland, Holborn Restaurant.
1891, St. Ambrose, St. James' Restaurant.
2127, Drury Lane, Theatre Royal.
2427, Hampden, Hampden House, St. Pancras.
2022, Beach, Horns Assembly Rooms.
2751, Arts, Freemasons' Hall.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

101, Temple, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
145, Prudent Brothers, Freemasons' Hall.
185, Jerusalem, Frascati Restaurant.
2000, Earl of Mornington, Cafe Royal.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11.

Committee Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at 4.

CRRAFT LODGES.

3, Fidelity, Freemasons' Hall.
11, Enoch, Freemasons' Hall.
13, Union Waterloo, Masonic Hall, Plumstead.

15, Kent, Freemasons' Hall.
147, Justice, Ship Hotel, Greenwich.
548, Wellington, Cannon-street Hotel.
749, Belgrave, Anderson's Hotel.
1260, John Hervey, Freemasons' Hall.
1538, St. Martin's-le-Grand, Holborn Restaurant.
1586, Upper Norwood, White Hart Hotel.
1706, St. Leonard, Great Eastern Hotel.
2362, Bloomsbury Raffles, Head-quarters, Chancery-street.
2410, Esculapius, Cafe Royal.
2581, Empress, Cafe Royal.
2620, Cavendish, Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington.
2765, Earl's Court, Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

1524, Duke of Connaught, Anderson's Hotel.
1540, Chaucer, St. James' Restaurant.

MARK LODGES.

Old Kent, Mark Masons' Hall.
385, King Solomon, Mark Masons' Hall.

ROSE CROIX.

138, Grafton, Grafton Rooms.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12.

CRRAFT LODGES.

19, Royal Athelstan, Cannon-street Hotel.
91, Regularity, Freemasons' Hall.
206, Friendship Ship and Turtle Tavern.
263, Pilgrim, Freemasons' Hall.
263, Bank of England, Albion Tavern.
860, Dalhousie, Anderson's Hotel.
879, Southwark, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.
1070, Capper, Guildhall Tavern.
1155, Excelsior, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.
1471, Islington, Cock Tavern.
1558, Duke of Connaught, Surrey Masonic Hall.
1599, Skelmersdale, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
1701, Creation, Freemasons' Hall.
1804, Coborn, Bow Vestry Hall.
2047, Beckenham, Public Hall.
2090, Hammersmith, Vestry Hall.
2500, Barnet, Assembly Rooms.
2754, Thomas a'Becket, Thomas a'Becket Hotel, Old Kent-rd.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

140, St. George's, Green Man Hotel, Blackheath.
619, Beadon, Anderson's Hotel.
843, New Concord, Guildhall Tavern.
1042, Earl of Carnarvon, Ladbroke Hall, Netting Hill.
1901, Selwyn, Montpelier Hotel, Peckham.

MARK LODGE.

86, Samson and Lion, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue.

ROSICRUCIAN SOCIETY.

Metropolitan College, Frascati Restaurant.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13.

CRRAFT LODGES.

134, Caledonian, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
1559, New Cross, Hotel Cecil.
1907, John Carpenter, Albion Tavern.
2390, Ordnance, Freemasons' Hall, Plumstead.
2737, Captain Corum, Foundling Hospital.
2740, Comrades, Holborn Restaurant.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER.

34, Britannic, Holborn Restaurant.

ROSE CROIX.

3, Mount Calvary, 33, Golden-square.
101, Adoniram, Mark Masons' Hall.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14.

CRRAFT LODGES.

108, London, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
173, Phoenix, Freemasons' Hall.
1440, Mount Edgcombe, Holborn Restaurant.
1607, Loyalty, London Tavern.
1612, West Middlesex, Municipal Buildings, Faling.
1671, Mizpah, Albion Tavern.
1743, Perseverance, Anderson's Hotel.
2390, Cornish, Freemasons' Hall.
2384, Mitcham, Vestry Hall.
2570, Lewisham, St. Mary's Parish Hall.
2500, Engineer, 33, Golden-square.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER.

1928, Gallery, Anderson's Hotel.

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