

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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UNDER ONE BANNER.

A few weeks since we published a circular letter—with introductory paragraph—addressed by an old Past Master of the St. Paul's Lodge, No. 374 (E.C.) to the more prominent English Masons in the city of Montreal, in which he suggests that the time is opportune for those lodges which have stood aloof from the Grand Lodge of Quebec to cast in their lot with that body, and so place the whole of the Masonic community in the Province under its banner. In offering this suggestion, the Past Master in question—Bro. DAVID R. MCCORD—is careful to point out that he alone is responsible for it, but that he has been prompted to address it, as being based on what he considers to be "in the present best and widest interests of Masonry." We are entirely of his opinion, and gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity which his letter has put in our way of urging upon our lodges the propriety of adopting the advice he tenders.

There are three lodges in Montreal which have elected to remain on the register of the Grand Lodge of England in preference to joining the local Grand Lodge. These are the St. Paul's Lodge, No. 374, which was warranted in 1824, and of which Bro. MCCORD is an old Past Master; the St. George's Lodge, No. 440, which dates from the year 1836; and the Lodge of St. Lawrence, No. 640, which was constituted in 1854. When shortly after the last-named date the troubles began between the lodges in Canada and their parent Grand Lodges in the United Kingdom, which culminated in the secession of the former from the latter, and the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada as the Supreme Masonic Authority in that part of British North America, our Grand Lodge very wisely accepted the position and agreed to recognise the newly-formed body on condition that those of its lodges which preferred to remain in allegiance to it should so remain and in the full enjoyment of the rights and privileges conferred upon them under their respective warrants of constitution; and among those which adopted this course were the three lodges we have specified. When some 23 years later difficulties arose between the lodges on the Canadian Register in the Provinces of Ontario and

Quebec, which in their turn culminated in the secession from Canada of the lodges in the latter Province and the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, the new body, as soon as it had overcome the difficulties attending its formation and set its house in order, applied for recognition to the Grand Lodge of England. This was in 1875, and our Grand Lodge at once acceded to the request, but on the usual condition that such English lodges as might prefer remaining in allegiance to their parent Grand Lodge should continue in the exercise of all their rights and privileges. The Grand Lodge of Quebec, however, declined to accept these terms, with the result that the three Anglo-Montreal lodges, and those on the register of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, have held aloof from each other, and for a time, at all events, were at variance; nor, though the members of the two Constitutions are now on terms of friendly intercourse, have the several attempts that have been made from time to time to bring them together under one supreme Masonic authority proved successful. What makes this state of things the more regrettable is that, if on the one hand the Grand Lodge of Quebec should take any steps to force a union of the two bodies, the friendly intercourse presently existing between them will be changed into a state of hostility; while, on the other hand, the Grand Lodge of England is powerless in the matter, and so long as its three daughter lodges in Montreal determine to remain under its banner, so long is it bound by the terms of its own warrants to respect their wishes. Thus the solution of the difficulty rests with the members of the English lodges, and Bro. MCCORD has done well to address his earnest appeal to his English brother Masons to reconsider their position at the present moment, when, as he says, "the colonies are occupying a larger space in the Imperial eye than ever before," and when, as with equal justice, he infers that, as no successor has been appointed to the late Bro. Judge BADGLEY as Dist. G. Master, and having regard to the alterations made in the Book of Constitutions in 1897, the union of its three lodges with those of Quebec under the one banner of the Grand Lodge of that Province would be hailed by it with satisfaction. Moreover, there is a still stronger reason, which has evidently induced Bro. MCCORD to address his circular letter, namely, that the union of the English with the Quebec lodges will materially strengthen the position of the Craft in the Province, not merely numerically, but rather by the evidence it will furnish to the world generally that the unity of Freemasonry is something more than a formal expression which may be used or abused at pleasure.

TIME IMMEMORIAL LODGES

By BRO. R. F. GOULD, P.G.D.

IV.

(Continued from page 359.)

According to its traditional history, the Mason Lodge of Scone (now Scoon and Perth, No. 3), was erected in very early times by those artificers who were employed to build the Abbey, the Palace, and other buildings which were required in this ancient capital of Scotland. When, however, Perth became the capital of the kingdom, the Lodge of Scone was removed to it, and remained there, when in the middle of the 15th century, the seat of government was transferred to Edinburgh.

The earliest records go back to 1658, and a minute of that year recites that King James the Sixth of Scotland, by his own

desire, had been "entered frieman, measone, and fellow craft," a circumstance which Bro. D. Crawford Smith—in his admirably-written History of the Lodge (1898)—thinks is entitled to our credit, and considers must have taken place in April, 1601.

The Lodge of Glasgow St. John for a long time claimed an extraordinary antiquity, by virtue of a charter supposed to have been granted by Malcolm III., King of Scots, so far back as the year 1057. But the earliest authentic notice of the lodge occurs in a document bearing the date of 1620, which refers to its existence in 1613. It was a party to the St. Clair charter of 1628, but did not join the Grand Lodge until 1850, when it was enrolled under its present name and number (3 bis). Unlike other pre-18th century lodges, its membership was exclusively Operative, and though doubtless giving the Mason Word to Entered Apprentices, none were recognised as members until they had joined the Incorporation, which was composed of Mason Burgesses. The admission of non-Operatives did not take place until 1842. A "Sketch of the Incorporation of Masons and the Lodge of Glasgow St. John" has been written by Bro. James Cruikshank (1879).

Old Kilwinning St. John, No. 6, is said to be the oldest of the "Kilwinning" Lodges, and to date from 1678, which seniority has been confirmed by the Grand Lodge. An excellent sketch of its career will be found in Bro. A. Ross's "Freemasonry in Inverness" (1877).

Hamilton Kilwinning, No. 7, has already been referred to. Of its history very little is known, but it is considered to date from 1695. The period of origin and the date of its charter from the Grand Lodge, of the other Hamilton Kilwinning, orig. No. 164 (which, and not present No. 7, Laurie thinks was represented at the formation of the Grand Lodge), are alike unknown. It was "cut off" the roll in 1809.

Dunblane St. John, No. 9, possesses records from 1696, at which date Viscount Strathalan was the Master. The following entry appears in the minutes of December 27th, 1720: "Compared John Gillespie, writer in Dunblane, who was entered on the 24 instant, and after examination was duly passt from the Square to the Compass, and from an Entered Prentice to a Fellow of Craft."

Commissions were issued by the Lodge of Dunblane authorising the entry, elsewhere than in the lodge, "of gentlemen or other persons of entire credit and reputation, living at a distance from the town"—brethren holding such licences being instructed to "have present with them such members of this lodge as can be conveniently got, or, in case of necessity, to borrow from another lodge as many as shall make a quorum without any more."

No. 9 (as we also learn from Bro. D. M. Lyon), 15 years after it had joined the Grand Lodge (which took place in 1741, and not as erroneously stated above, in 1760), constituted a number of affiliated brethren into a branch lodge, much in the same way that Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2, had been raised to that position. This circumstance occurred in 1756.

Torpichen Killwinning, No. 13, ranks under a "constitution" applied for as a kind of warrant of confirmation from Mother Kilwinning in 1728. But on joining the Grand Lodge in 1737, it again obtained the recognition of Kilwinning, on the ground of having once accepted "a charter of erection, of a very ancient date," from that source.

St. John, Dunkeld, No. 14; Montrose, Kilwinning, No. 15; and St. John, Falkirk, No. 16, were in existence (according to an extract from the Records of the Grand Lodge, 1748) in 1726. The last named (dormant 1838, revived 1863) was the lodge which recommended the petition of St. Andrew, Boston, Massachusetts, for a charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, from whom it first held. A history of No. 16, by Bro. Thomas Johnston, was published in 1887.

Ancient Brazen, No. 17, which was present at the erection of Grand Lodge, and is shown in the sixteenth place, on the roll of lodges given in Lawrie's History (1804), never had a number at all until the precedency of all the Scottish lodges was re-adjusted and new numbers issued—after the healing of the Kilwinning Schism—in 1816. Its present position on the roll was only ensured by an entry in the minutes of No. 1, showing that it visited the Lodge of Edinburgh about the year 1653.

The earliest records of St. John, Lesmahagow, No. 20, go back to 1716, and those of the Lodge at Dunse, No. 23, to 1728.

William, fourth Earl of Kilmarnock (executed in 1746), was the first Master of St. John Kilwinning, Kilmarnock, No. 22, and he held the same office in the Lodge of Falkirk, No. 16, and Mother Kilwinning, when in November, 1742, he was elected Grand Master Mason of Scotland.

Peebles Kilwinning, No. 24, was at work in 1716. It observed many ancient customs long after they had disappeared from the other lodges, such as holding an annual trial of the Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, appointing intenders (or in-

structors), and engaging in prayer at the opening ceremony with the special object of ensuing strict impartiality in the transaction of business—otherwise called "Fencing the Lodge." Sketches of No. 24, have appeared from the pens of Bros Robert Saunderson ("Scottish Freemason," and "Masonic Magazine"), and W. F. Vernon (1893).

St. Andrew, St. Andrew's, and St. John, Dunfermline, Nos. 25 and 26, are, in all probability, identical with the "Lodge of Dumferling," and "Sanct Androis," parties to the St. Clair Charter of 1601. If this be so, the latter, without doubt, must also have been present at the Convention of St. Andrew's in the previous year. Glasgow St. Mungo, No. 27, originally held its Charter from the Lodge Glasgow St. John, which being an Operative Lodge, and connected with the Incorporated Masons of Glasgow, refused to enter Speculative Masons, but granted a Charter to St. Mungo, as a Speculative Lodge. It afterwards—about 1728 or 1729—obtained a second charter from Mother Kilwinning, under the name of "St. John Kilwinning, Kirk of Glasgow St. Mungo Lodge."

Ancient Stirling, No. 30, claims a venerable antiquity, as representing the body of Masons who were engaged in the construction of Cambus-Kenneth Abbey, founded by David I., in 1147.

Passing, however, from tradition, No. 30 may be identical with the "Third Lodge of Scotland," referred to in the Schaw Statutes of 1590, as well as with "The Lodge of Stirling," one of the parties to the St. Clair Charter of 1628. A most interesting account of this lodge was given by Bro. W. J. Hughan in the columns of *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum* (VI., 108-112).

How long St. John, Selkirk, No. 32, had existed before 1736 the historian of the lodge, Bro. W. F. Vernon (1893), was unable to determine, but he gave the approximate date of 1701. It was dormant from 1849 to 1864. Very little is known of St. John, Falkland, No. 35, but there is little or any doubt that it was at work prior to 1736.

The Lodge of Dundee, present at the inauguration of the Grand Lodge, may have been, and probably was, identical with the body of the same name, represented at the Convention of St. Andrew's in 1600, which was also apparently a party to the St. Clair Charter of 1628. But whether the lodge which attended the meeting at Edinburgh, in 1736, is present No. 47 or present 49, there would seem some difficulty in determining. According to Laurie (1859) the Lodge "Dundee," party to the St. Clair Charter of 1628, and a founder of the Grand Lodge in 1736, "is supposed to have been the Ancient Operative, No. 47, which asserts a traditional antiquity of more than a thousand years. It also claims as one of its ancient Masters David, Earl of Huntingdon, to whom is ascribed the erection of a fine old cathedral, which was partly destroyed by fire in 1841."

As will be seen, however, both lodges—47 and 49—have received warrants of confirmation, bearing the date of 1745, and in the charter of No. 49, precisely the same traditional antiquity, with all its details, is recited, which [as we learn from Laurie], has been advanced on the part of No. 47!

The minutes of St. Andrew, Banff, No. 52, extend back to 1703. There is a tradition that in the early days of its existence it used to meet in the Clay-holes, on a cliff near Banff. The lodge was "cut off" in 1837, but has since been restored (after what interval I know not) to its former position on the roll.

According to the "History of the Old Lodge of Dumfries Kilwinning, No. 53," by Bro. James Smith (1892), the year 1575 is assigned as the date of its supposed origin. The minutes begin in 1687. After 1847 the lodge sank into a slumber, from which it did not awake until 1874.

The oldest record in possession of St. John Kilwinning, No. 57 (according to Laurie), is dated 1599, which sets forth that a lodge was opened in Gullane Church (now in ruins), upwards of seven miles from Haddington, probably for the initiation of candidates, as later minutes disclose that the lodge was frequently opened for that purpose in the parish church of Haddington.

It has also been asserted (and I believe remains a tradition of the lodge), that it was an offshoot of the "Lodge of Wark," in Northumberland, about the same year (1599), as that in which it was assigned (by the younger Laurie) a habitation at Gullane. No. 57 was a party to the St. Clair Charter of 1601, and Lyon informs us that the date of the oldest Masonic MS. possessed by the lodge is 1682, and that of its earliest existing minute, December 26th, 1713.

The records of the Lodge of Kelso, No. 58, begin with the year 1701, and its story has been twice admirably related by the late Bro. W. F. Vernon, on the last occasion in his "History of Freemasonry in the Province of Roxburgh, Peebles, and Selkirkshire" (1893). In the same volume will be found sketches of the Lodges of Melrose, Peebles Kilwinning, and

. John, Selkirk (Nos. 12, 24, and 32, above), and of the work as a whole, I wrote in 1893: "An equally suggestive book it has never been my fortune to review, and I shall state without any fear of contradiction, that more Masonic facts of primary importance to all true students of Freemasonry, have never been presented to their notice in a volume of the same size." (*A.Q.C.* VI., 77).

A minute of the lodge of Kelso, dated June 2nd, 1702, records the election as Master of Sir John Pringle of Stichel, the 2nd baronet, a nephew of Walter Pringle, Advocate, who, together with the Right Hon. William Murray and Sir John Harper, was received as a Fellow Craft in the Lodge of Edinburgh, No. 1, on June 24th, 1670. A later minute of No. 58, records the presence on St. John's Day, 1705, of 41 brethren, and among them were the lairds of "Greenhead, Thirlestane, Stodrig, Grubbet, Clifton, Cherrieries, and Smailholme," who are designated not by their own names, but by those of their estates.

St. Ninian, Brechin, No. 66, has records from 1714, and St. John, Jedburgh, from 1730. The latter was "cut off" in 1843, but restored to the roll in, or before, 1859.

A Kilwinning Charter was granted to the Sanquhar Lodge, No. 194, in 1738, but among the Masons' marks preserved in the records, there is one of a brother admitted in 1719. A sketch of this lodge's career—which was "cut off" in 1816, and re-admitted in 1897—has been written (though not yet published) by Bro. James Smith, the Historian of Nos. 53, 63, 79, and 140.

My list of the old Scottish lodges which are of greater antiquity than their Grand Lodge is, I fear, very far from being a complete one. But it must be taken into consideration that the attempt to produce a roll of the kind is a pioneer effort. "You are probing a new and interesting field of inquiry—a new view of Masonry," writes my friend Bro. William Officer, to whom, among other valuable assistance rendered during the preparation of the present article, I am indebted for the suggestion that there was a Lesmahagow (Lanarkshire) St. Andrew's, which may have been the lodge bearing the name of Scotland's Patron Saint (and *not* existing No. 25), that was a party to the St. Clair Charter of 1601? An extinct Lesmahagow Lodge—orig. No. 153, but without any distinctive title, is mentioned by Laurie (1859), and the Scottish "Constitutions" of 1852, inform us that it was chartered (or instituted) in 1769, and "cut off" in 1809.

This, or St. John, present No. 22, must have been the body referred to in the Scottish law case, "Masons of the Lodge of Lanark, *contra* Hamilton," reported in 1730, but, I believe, heard in 1729, in which the Lodge at Lanark sought to interdict the Masons at Lesmahagow from giving the *Mason Word* to persons resident there (Lord Kames, "Remarkable Decisions of the Court of Session," Edinburgh, ii. 4).

I have also to thank Bro. Officer for the information that Maryburgh was the original name of Fort William, and as the lodge there is of earlier date than the Grand Lodge, though only holding a nominal precedence from 1743, there is every probability that the lodge which under the name of "Mariaburgh" was present at the Convention of November 30th, 1736, is now represented by the Fort William Lodge, existing No. 43.

The only other pre-1736 lodges with regard to which any details have come to my knowledge since the tabular statement above first appeared in type, are (to begin with), St. John Operative, Forres, No. 37, and Kirkwall Kilwinning, No. 38² (both of which are shown at the year 1739 on the Grand Lodge roll). To the former (on what purports to be the authority of the Grand Lodge Records) is assigned 1706 as the date of its "Constitution," in the "Laws of the Aberdeen Mason Lodge," 1852 (Appendix I).

The latter was founded on October 1st, 1736, by two brethren from the Lodge of Stirling and Dunfermline respectively. These having admitted four others, the six formed themselves "into a proper court," of which a merchant in Kirkwall was the first Master. The lodge obtained a charter from the Grand Lodge in 1740 (*A.Q.C.*, X. 79).

Secondly,—Nos. 187, St. John, Carlisle; 189, St. John, Castle Douglas (off the roll in 1852); and 190, St. George, Aberdeen (all three of which apparently hold Charters of Confirmation granting precedence from 1704).

I shall also interpolate by way of *Addenda*, that besides the lodges already named which have sustained a break of continuity in their existence, should be mentioned Nos. 11, Maybole; and 31, St. Mary Cottness, Wishaw, the former having been "cut off" in 1848, and the latter in 1843, but with regard to their respective periods of dormancy I have no information.

The narrative clauses (or recitals) which are to be found in the various Charters of Confirmation, would doubtless supply much valuable information respecting the antiquity (legendary

or otherwise) of the old Scottish lodges. But the task of examining all these documents would be a truly herculean one.

The idea, however, has occurred to me that it might be possible to unite all the Time Immemorial Lodges now existing in a League or Association, with the special object of placing on permanent record whatever may be found to exist in their several archives, that would be of interest to the Craft universal.

It is not a little strange that for the earliest information regarding the existence of our oldest English lodges, to wit, the surviving Three who took part in the formation of the Mother of Grand Lodges, we must refer to a printed book—Dr. Anderson's "Constitutions" of 1738—as no minutes of any living English lodge extend back to the date of the famous Convention of the Four London Lodges in 1716. Nor do we possess, in South Britain, more than the actual records of a solitary representative of the numerous lodges which at one time or another must have been at work, during the dim and uncertain period of Masonic history antedating the erection of the first Grand Lodge.

The records of the Alnwick Lodge comprise a good copy of the Manuscript Constitution, certain Rules of the lodge, enacted in 1701, and the ordinary minutes, which commence in 1703 and terminate on June 24th, 1757. The last-named, however, between 1710 and 1748, while not wholly wanting, contain at best very trivial entries. This lodge, which never surrendered its independence, was still in existence until at least the year 1763, and from first to last, was an operative rather than a speculative fraternity. Indeed, that it was speculative at all, in the sense of possessing members who were not operative Masons, or of discarding its ancient formulary for the tri-gradal ceremonial of the Grand Lodge, is very problematical.

North of the Tweed, however, a far greater body of evidence relating to the early history of the Craft has happily been preserved.

Freemasonry has come down to us in two distinct channels, an English and a Scottish one. Ultimately, the two streams became united, and this "meeting of the waters" occurred in 1736. From that date a feature is added to Freemasonry, its universality, upon which I desire to lay great stress.

A system of Scottish Masonry, differing from that of England, might have continued to exist, side by side with the latter, and that it did not, is a matter of much importance, which has been almost totally overlooked. For example, it has been the habit—especially in America—to assume that Masonry was *Scottish* before 1717, and *English* afterwards.

The year 1717 is, indeed, an important one. We are supposed to pass from the domain of Ancient to that of Modern Masonry. But the change was not carried out in a day or a year. Modern Masonry, it is true, had its *beginning* at the formation of the Grand Lodge of England (1717), but Ancient Masonry still existed by its side, nor was it until the example set in London had been followed in Edinburgh (1736) that the Old System may be said to have been practically supplanted by the New.

For this reason the early records of the old Scottish Lodges become of surpassing interest to all true students of Freemasonry, and the first care of any such Society as the one whose formation I have ventured to recommend, would (or should) be to take the necessary steps to perpetuate, by the aid of the printing press, the ancient documentary evidence still existing—but entombed in the archives of private lodges—which relates to the Scottish Craft.

Other objects that would profitably engage the attention of the southern wing (or branch) of the proposed League or Society, consisting of the three Time Immemorial Lodges of English origin, might be freely cited; but here I bring my present remarks to a close, though (with the editorial sanction) I shall resume them, should either the task which has been begun of identifying the (at one time) Independent Lodges of Scotland, or the suggestion thrown out with regard to a League of Time Immemorial Lodges, be taken up by other readers of the *Freemason*.

I must not omit to say, though it involves more "last words," that besides Bro. William Officer—whose name worthily heads the list—I have received valuable assistance during the preparation of this article from the Grand Secretary of Scotland, Bro. W. J. Hughan, and Bro. James Smith, of Shotts, N.B.

M. Roth. Ronay, the Hungarian violinist, has returned to town, after a most successful tour in Eastern Europe. He has had the honour of playing at the Courts of the King of Servia and the Sultan of Turkey, who have made him an officer of the Order of St. Sava and a commander of the Mejidie.

Science, Art, and the Drama.

THE ROMANCE OF ORCHID-COLLECTING.

There is no real justification for surprise at the sometimes fabulous prices paid for orchids. The cost of obtaining them is so great, both in money and in human life, that the wonder really is they are so cheap. And some orchids are cheap. You can stock a greenhouse with specimens of 100 varieties, bought at an average of half-a-crown apiece. But you can also spend as many guineas as there are days in the year on one ugly little bulb, which is the sole representative of a new species or variety, or which is a departure from the established type of a known variety, either in colour or in some other detail. These are the orchids which daring men seek in almost unknown regions. The adventures attending the search would fill many books. Generally Germans, but sometimes Frenchmen or Englishmen, the collectors must have the patience of Job, the courage of Nelson, the lingual fluency of a courier, and the knowledge of a professor of science, combined with power to endure years of hardship. Some years ago a collector for an English firm was sent to New Guinea to look for a *Dendrobium*, then very rare. He went to the country, dwelt among the natives for months, faring as they fared, and living under very trying conditions, and he found about 400 of the plants. He loaded a little schooner with them, but he put into a port in Dutch New Guinea, and the ship was burnt to the water's edge. He was ordered to go back for more, and he did. He found a magnificent collection of orchids in a native burying-ground, growing among exposed bones and skulls. After much hesitation the natives allowed him to remove the orchids, some of them still in the skulls, and sent with the consignment a little idol to watch over the spirits of the departed. Little wonder that these plants sold at prices ranging from five up to 28 guineas each. The dangers of the collector's task are terrible. Eight naturalists, seeking various specimens in Madagascar, once dined together at Tamatve, and in one year after there was but a single survivor. Even this favoured person was terribly affected, for, after a sojourn in the most malarious swamps, he spent 12 months in hospital, and left without hope of restored health. Two collectors seeking a single plant died one after the other of fever. A collector detained at Panama went to look for an orchid he had heard of, and the Indians brought him back from the swamps to die. A man who insulted a Madagascar idol was soaked with paraffin by the priests, and burned to death. Mr. Frederick Boyle shows that these dangers must be encountered invariably, if rare or new orchids are to be found, for he speaks of one which "clings to the very tip of a slender palm in swamps, which the Indians themselves regard with dread, as the chosen home of fevers and mosquitoes." And the difficulties of the work are as great as its dangers. One collector was known to wade up to his middle in mud for a fortnight, seeking for a specimen of which he had heard; another lived among Indians for eight months, looking in untracked forests for a lost variety. To obtain the orchids which grow on trees, the collector must hire a certain area of woodland, with the right to fell the timber. The natives cannot be trusted to climb to the summits and gather the plants, and the collector cannot spare the time. So the wasteful plan of felling the trees is adopted, natives are employed to do the work, and the collector gathers his specimens from the fallen trunks. This, however, generally takes place far inland; the plants have then to be brought home. In one case they have to be carried six weeks on men's backs, from the mountains to the Essequibo River; then carried six weeks in canoes, with 20 portages to Georgetown, then to England over the ocean. Mr. Boyle talks of a journey to the Roraisna Mountain as quite easy travelling, yet it involves 32 loadings and unloadings of cargo; and in another direction "one must go into the bed of a torrent, and on the face of a precipice, alternately, for an uncertain period of time, with a river to cross almost every day." Moreover, after all this trouble, the specimens often die on the journey, and the speculator has to risk the loss of £1000 on a single cargo. What wonder that orchids are often dear? Yet it is not so much the difficulty and danger which make them dear, as rarity or peculiarity. Amongst a lot of the commonest orchids, some years ago, was found a plant similar to the rest in every characteristic, except the colour of its stem, which was green instead of brown. When it flowered, the bloom should have been green; but it was golden, and the plant became in consequence practically priceless. It was divided into two parts, and one was sold to Baron Schroeder for 72 guineas; the other to Mr. Measures for 100 guineas. This latter piece was several times divided, selling for 100 guineas each time; but Baron Schroeder's piece was never mutilated, and it is now worth 1000 guineas! It would bring that sum, say the authorities, in the public sale room. The good fortune of orchid buyers is sometimes remarkable. Bulbs which have not flowered and give no sign of peculiarity, are often treasures in disguise. An amateur once gave three francs, on the Continent, for an *Odontoglossum*; it proved to be an unknown variety, and was re-sold for a sum exceeding £100. Another variety, a rarity, bought with a lot, at less than a shilling each, was re-sold for 72 guineas to Sir Trevor Lawrence, who has one of the finest collections in England. A *Cattleya*, developing a new and beautiful flower, at once advanced in value from a few shillings to 250 guineas; it was afterwards sold, in five pieces, for 700 guineas. Simply because its flower has proved to be white instead of the normal colour, 280 guineas have been given for a *Cattleya*, and hundreds are available at this present moment, over and over again, for rare or extraordinary orchids, either in private collections, or in the market. A plant no bigger than a tulip bulb has been sold for many times its weight in gold, and "a guinea a leaf" is a common, and often inadequate, estimate of the worth of rarities. Only quite recently, there was something in the nature of a pilgrimage of orchidists, to the hothouses of Messrs. Sander and Co., of St. Albans, where a wonderful new orchid was on view. It is named "*Milionopsis Bleni Nobilis*," and carried 16 blooms, each nearly five inches in diameter. The colour is a flush white, two rose wings of colour spreading laterally, and in the centre of each blossom is a blotch of cinnamon tint, with radiating lines. But it is altogether indescribable in the exquisite beauty of its hues. Nature has rarely been so lavish as over this gem. It is the newest and probably the most magnificent of all orchids. The orchid mania is not diminishing; on the contrary, it is more active now than ever it was. In spite of the constant risk of loss, and the inevitable difficulties and dangers of the enterprise, one nurseryman in this country devotes himself entirely to the orchid trade. He deals in nothing but orchids, and trusts to the high price which the collectors will pay for a rarity, to recompense him for the expenses of the collector's journey, and the losses which occur in the transfer of the plants, from one continent to

another. And there must be rarities for many years to come; because although there are some 2000 varieties of orchids in cultivation, it is estimated that there are probably 10,000 in existence, could they all be found.

STATE OF PAINTING UNDER EDWARD VI.

(Continued.)

John Bossam, "one for his skill worthy to have been serjeant-painter to any king or emperor, whose works in that kind are comparable with the best whatsoever in cloth and in distemper colours, for black and white, who, being poor, and belike wanting to buy fairer colours, wrought, therefore, for the most part in white and black, and, growing yet poorer by charge of children, &c., gave painting clean over; but, being a very fair-conditioned, zealous, and godly person, grew into a love of God's Divine service upon the liberty of the Gospel at the coming in of Queen Elizabeth, and became a reading minister, only unfortunate, because he was English born." It is pleasant to know by this old MS. of Hilliard his frank, friendly opinion of his brother artist, John Bossam. The Protector of the young English king was magnificent, and had he lived to complete Somerset House, would probably have called in the assistance of those artists, whose works are the noblest furniture. We have already mentioned his portrait by Holbein. His ambitious duchess, Anne Stanhope, and her son, are preserved in a small piece of oil-colours at Petworth; but it is not known who the painter was, nor of the portrait of the Protector's brother, Admiral Seymour, at Long-leaf. A miniature of the same person is in the possession of Mrs. George Grenville. Of the admiral's creature, Sir Wm. Sherrington, there are two or three pictures extant; one among Holbein's drawings at Kensington. This man was Master of the Mint, and was convicted by his own confession of great frauds. He put the mint of Bristol into the hands of the admiral, who was to take thence £10,000 per month for his rebellious purposes. Yet Sherrington was pardoned and restored. It has never been observed, but we are justified in supposing, that the lightness which is remarked in the coins of Edward VI. was owing to the embezzlements of this person.

(To be continued.)

LYCEUM THEATRE.

An absence of five years brings back the Signora Duse, unchanged either by efflux of time, or through any alteration of her artistic methods. The acknowledged representative actress of Italy, since Ristori left the scene, still remains in all respects—save keen intelligence—the very opposite of her famous predecessor—a modern realist, as distinguished from the classical idealist, one an exponent of the highest passion of dramatic poetry, the other of the tender sentiment of its everyday prose. In view, therefore, of Signora Duse's exquisite gifts of histrionic expression, and of their limitations, it may be questioned whether the selection of "Magda" for her entrance was well advised; for the reason that Sudermann's defiant heroine demands for her due portrayal characteristics which, in their resolute sternness, are precisely the reverse of those gentler and more appealing traits distinguishing the actress's impersonations, and from which purpose she has never been seen to depart. For instead of being subdued, like Desdemona, "even unto the very quality of her lord," the Italian actress invariably subdues the character to her own individuality. As a consequence, the Signora is seen to exhibit the self-same delicate gradations of sensitive domesticity in assumptions of such diversity as Cleopatra, Marguerite Gautier, Magda, and even the lively hostess of the village inn in Goldoni's "La Locandiera." And it is because the actress's engaging personality, as well as her artistic accomplishments, lend themselves so naturally to the embodiment and expression of the sprightly Italian inn-keeper, that it stands out, in the appreciation of playgoers, as her most illusive impersonation. For want of characteristic assertiveness the Italian Magda lacked the enthralling grip upon the feelings of the audience, noted in the French portrayal of Mme. Bernhardt, and the English presentation of Mrs. Patrick Campbell. The result of the self-emancipated daughter's visit to her parental home is a mental duel between her father's iron will and her own, and she needs must meet force with force, or there is no crash, and the contention fails dramatically. It is this fight of nerve and brain which makes the success of the English actress's impersonation, while the want of it, at least, weakens popular interest in the assumption of the Italian player.

GENERAL NOTES.

Mr. Reynolds, the veteran principal contra bass, has retired from the Covent Garden orchestra, and we are pleased to note that his successor is Mr. Ernest Carrodus, a son of the late famous violinist. The post has been held by an Englishman for so many years, that it is pleasant to know another is to fill it again.

There has lately arrived at the Zoological Gardens a specimen of the large lizard known as the Bengal Monitor. This species has only on one occasion previously been represented in this menagerie, viz., in 1884, when a pair was received. Many examples of its relatives, however, of which there are some 28, have been exhibited in the reptile house, and it is seldom that the Society is without one or two of these remarkable creatures. In colour this species is of a brownish olive above, marked with numerous black dots and streaks. The under surface is either of a uniform yellow or yellowish, dotted with black. The total length to which it attains is about six feet, of which the tail takes up considerably more than half. Its home is in India, where it is distributed in fairly large numbers over the whole of the country, including Ceylon. The habits of the different species of Monitors vary a great deal. Some of them confine themselves to sandy deserts, others always take up their quarters near water, while others are arborescent, and spend more of their time in the branches of trees than on the ground. The Bengal Monitor is a water-loving species, and is an excellent swimmer; it also is a good climber, and if in branches overhanging rivers or streams, it may frequently be observed leaping from a great height into the water. Small mammals, birds and their eggs, reptiles and crocodile's eggs form its chief food. Although a rather formidable-looking creature, it is comparatively harmless. When alarmed or irritated it will loudly hiss and raise itself on its front legs to its greatest height, but its attacking powers are small, and the only damage it can inflict is a slight bite or a lash from its long tail. From its premonitory hiss warning off those who would molest it it may probably obtain its name. It has been said by many persons to be venomous, but this is an error. Its tongue is long, and slit for about an inch from the top.

"MODERNS" AND "ANCIENTS," 1757-1765.

In the *Keystone* for September 9th, 1899, to October 14th (both inclusive) are some very interesting excerpts from old records. They have not been duly appreciated or explained as yet, and hence, failing any local article thereon, I append a few remarks of my own that may tend to illustrate their value and importance in relation to the Craft in Pennsylvania at that period.

Though not as printed or arranged, the extracts begin in 1757, and refer to the "Modern" Lodge, warranted by the Provincial Grand Master of Pennsylvania (William Allen) in that year, the first meeting of which was held in the house of Jeremiah Smith, but then and there agreed to commence the tenancy of a room in "Lodge Alley" (Bro. Smith's?). According to Vol. I., "Grand Lodge Reprints," etc., 1877, No. 3 met in the latter place from 1753-4. This lodge, however, of 1757, was numbered *Four*, and is not noted in this work. Another lodge (say No. 2), is referred to therein, of 1749, the warrant of which is said to have been signed by *Lord Byron*, Grand Master of England, but that evidently is an error, for not one of the lodges of the "Moderns" in Pennsylvania has been found registered in the books of the "Moderns" Grand Lodge (*London*). This lodge of 1757 worked the Three Degrees, and was prosperous, but uncertain as to allegiance. The chief promoters appear to have been "Ancient" Masons, of probably Irish origin, and their work did not accord with the other lodges in the city of "Brotherly Love," so the members were taken to task. They were indignant, and in a Masters' lodge that was held, the members decided to appeal to the Grand Lodge of the "Atholl Masons," or "Ancients," held in London, England.

The petition was signed on January 3rd, 1758, and a copy is reproduced, as addressed to the Earl of Blessington, Grand Master, and therein it is clearly stated that they had declined to conform to the "Modern" ritual, hence their application, which was supported by two members of No. 2, London, then in Philadelphia, whose position on the English Roll is now occupied by "Fidelity," No. 3. The warrant was granted on June 7th, 1758, and numbered 69. Locally it was the first of the "Ancients," but on No. 89 being issued as a *Provincial Grand Lodge*, with William Ball as Provincial Grand Master, in 1764, it became and continued as No. 2. George Brooks, the Worshipful Master designate, was the Master of the "Moderns" previously.

The By-Laws have happily been preserved, and are printed in the *Keystone* for September 9th, 1899. The Warrant, or the preliminary Charter, is said to have had the consent "of forty-seven *York* Regular Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons." There would be no objection to this being perpetuated, had the word *York* been exchanged for *London*, for not one of these 47 lodges were held in the ancient northern city. The additions to 1764 are also inserted.

A long letter is reproduced, bearing date January 10th, 1758, from Bro. John Blackwood, of No. 2, "Ancients," London, to Bro. Joseph Reed, the Secretary of that lodge, in which it is mentioned that of the actual petitioners of 1758, several "are *Royal Arch Masons*," and that the local Provincial Grand Master detained the Warrant of 1757, because not satisfied with the conduct of the members, as already noted. The writer also states that as the Worshipful Master (Bro. Brooks) was a Royal Arch Mason, and a member of No. 183, Belfast, he had intended applying to the Grand Lodge of Ireland for a Warrant, but accepted the advice of Bro. Blackwood to petition to the "Ancients" of England. The brethren in Philadelphia, thus concerned, did not know previously "that the different bodies had separate Grand Lodges in England," and they generally accepted as fact that Scotland and Ireland were worked on the "Ancient system," which it seems they were.

The year 1758 is early for the Royal Arch Degree in America, and is the first time I have met with it so early in that country in connection with the "Ancients." It is, however, noted in 1753, under the "Moderns" in Virginia, which is now widely known.

The minutes reproduced extend from 1757 to 1765, and are valuable both for the period and locality. Bro. Blackwood, of No. 2, London (who died in 1763), was elected Worshipful Master of this Lodge, No. 4, Philadelphia, on June 24, 1758, and a Deputy Master and Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, and two Deacons were chosen. The latter officers (Deacons) were mostly peculiar to the "Ancients," and are first met with in Ireland, A.D. 1731. The term "raised" is mentioned in 1758, and also "the High Degree of a Master Mason" during the same year.

It appears that the brethren continued to assemble, notwithstanding the forfeiture of their original warrant of 1757, until January 23rd, 1759, when the charter from London, of 1758, was received and acted upon, "with a solemnity suitable to the occasion." The term "clandestine" is noted August 14th, 1759, as to two brethren, probably "Moderns," who had to be remade in the three Degrees.

Apparently another lodge was started in 1760, with Bro. William Ball as Worshipful Master, to be governed by the By-laws of No. 2, and Bro. James Bell was Treasurer of both lodges.

Also a third in 1764*. This would be Nos. 3 and 4, but those numbers are not noted until 1767, in the volume of "Reprints" (1877) of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Bro. Casey, a Past Master of No. 5, London, was a visitor on November 10th, 1761. This lodge, or rather number, is now represented on the English roll by the "Albion," No. 9, London.

These minutes prove that there were several lodges started before 1767, which are not inserted in the List printed in the Grand Lodge volumes already noted, and which requires revision.

W. J. HUGHAN,
Keystone, U.S.A., of the 9th inst.

Craft Masonry.

Industry Lodge, No. 48.

The regular meeting of this thriving lodge was held on Monday, the 25th instant, at Gateshead, when, considering the wet weather and the local holiday week, there was an average attendance. Amongst those present were: Bros. J. T. Pragnell, W.M.; J. Armstrong, I.P.M.; Bobt. Whitfield, P.M.; Wm. Brown, P.M., D.C.; W. J. Jobson, P.M., Treas.; Thos. Douglass, S.V.; H. H. Pitt, J.W.; J. Lawson, as S.D.; E. E. Elliott, as J.D.; G. T. Bootes, I.G.; R. Ferry, Org.; Joshua Curry, Tyler;

*Probably there was no new lodge really until 1764, being No. 3, reckoning No. 1 as the Prov. G.L. and No. 2, as the Lodge of 1758.

W. W. Nichols, W. Blythe, and T. W. Hilton, Stwds.; A. M. Blenkinsop, R. Marson, W. A. Woodson, W. Witherington, John Carr, J. G. Stephenson, W. Richardson, and others. The list of visitors comprised: Bros. H. A. Wand, W.M. 541; W. D. Sweeney, W.M. 1712; E. J. Graham, S.W. 481; J. Aitken, 481; R. G. Race, 406; T. P. Winter, 2557; J. C. Watson, 1712; H. Wrightson, 1712; R. Scurfield, 2674; and others.

After the introductory business the ballot was successfully taken for Mr. J. Lawrence Armour. Bros. A. M. Blenkinsop and John Aitken, 481, were afterwards raised as Master Masons by the W.M., who also gave the tracing board and the lecture incidental to the Degree. £2 2s. was voted to the Indian Famine Fund, and after receiving the congratulations of the visiting brethren, the proceedings closed, and an adjournment was made to the refreshment board.

Aldermaston Lodge, No. 2760.

INSTALLATION OF BRO. T. S. CAMBRIDGE AS WORSHIPFUL MASTER.

Members of the Masonic lodges in Berkshire assembled in goodly numbers in the picturesque village of Aldermaston on Wednesday, the 20th inst., on the occasion of the installation of the Senior Warden, Bro. Thomas Salway Cambridge, as W.M., in succession to Bro. Charles E. Keyser, of Aldermaston Court, who was the chief founder of the lodge. The brethren, who arrived between three and four o'clock, met with a cordial reception at the hands of the W.M. and W.M. elect, and other officers of the lodge, including Bros. E. Margrett, J. Wright, Rev. E. R. Adams, W. Bonny, W. G. Crombie, E. Prince, F. Tunbridge, Vernon Knowles, T. R. Kent, W. J. Langley, J. F. Stevens, and others. Among those attending the ceremony were Bros. J. W. Martin, Prov. G. Sec.; W. Ferguson, W. W. Ridley, L. Fleck, E. J. Lewis, Dryland Haslam, E. O. Farrer, C. H. Dodd, W. B. Biddles, E. Barwell, E. Langston, S. Knight, S. Knight, jun., G. C. Cosburn, F. Bridge, Geo. Gray, J. Bowman, D. N. Heron, W. J. Cambridge, Everett, B. Ruddock, W. B. Reed, and others.

The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. Keyser, about four o'clock, in the large room at the Hind's Head Hotel, where in bygone days the families of the district were wont to meet occasionally for a dance. After the usual preliminaries, Bro. Bonny, the Secretary, read the report and balance sheet of the first year's working of the lodge, which appeared to be in a flourishing condition, financially and otherwise. The membership already numbered 34, and on this occasion several new members were proposed. In connection with the lodge a benevolent fund had been formed, and the sum of £2 2s. was voted therefrom, in aid of the distressed Masons in the Transvaal. During the past 12 months a contribution of 10 guineas had been made from the lodge funds to each of the three great Masonic Charities. The report was unanimously adopted, on the proposal of Bro. Ferguson, seconded by Bro. Prince. The installation ceremony was then proceeded with, being performed in an impressive manner by the outgoing Worshipful Master, Bro. Keyser, who was complimented upon the complete way in which the ritual of the Order was carried out. The newly-installed W.M. then appointed and invested the lodge officers for the ensuing year as follows: Bros. C. E. Keyser, P.G.D. Eng., I.P.M.; J. Wright, S.W.; A. H. Bull, P.P.G. Stwd., J.W.; the Rev. E. R. Adams, P.P.G. Chap. Kent, Chap.; Lieut.-Col. G. C. Ricardo, Prov. J.G.W., Treas.; W. Bonny, I.P.P.J.G.W., Sec.; W. G. Crombie, S.D.; F. Tunbridge, J.D.; E. Prince, P.P.G. Supt. of Works, D. of C.; T. R. Kent, I.G.; V. Knowles, P.P.G. Org., Org.; W. J. Langley and E. Langston, Stwds.; and J. F. Stevens, Tyler. The next item on the agenda was the presentation to Bro. Keyser of a valuable Masonic jewel, in recognition of the eminent services he had rendered to the lodge. This duty devolved upon the W.M. (Bro. Cambridge) who observed that most of the brethren present knew how keenly Bro. Keyser took up the suggestion to form a summer lodge at Aldermaston, and also with what energy and liberality he took the necessary steps to carry out the proposal. Several well-known brethren gave their cordial support to the scheme, and the result was a splendid success. Indeed, it rarely happened that a Masonic lodge commenced its career under such favourable auspices as the Aldermaston Lodge. They had had the advantage of being presided over during the past year by Bro. Keyser, who had set a very high standard of efficiency before them. His remarkable zeal and great benevolence in the cause of Masonry were familiar to all who took an interest in the welfare of the Craft, and it was within his (Bro. Cambridge's) personal knowledge that Bro. Keyser devoted a considerable portion of his life and energies in advancing the best interests of the Masonic Order. They were all agreed that it was a great privilege and honour to have had Bro. Keyser as the first Master of the Aldermaston Lodge, and on behalf of the brethren he had the pleasure of handing to Bro. Keyser a Past Master's jewel as a token of their appreciation of the excellent manner in which he had discharged his duties as Worshipful Master of the lodge. They desired to tender him their best wishes, and to express their hope that he might long be spared to promote the welfare and prosperity of the Craft. (Applause.) Bro. Keyser, who on rising was greeted with applause, assured the W.M. and the brethren that he valued this presentation very highly. He could only say that he had occupied the chair of the W.M. in a number of lodges in different parts of the country, and he had always endeavoured to fulfil his duties to the best of his ability. He trusted that this would prove only the first of a series of jewels presented for good Masonic work performed by successive Masters of the Aldermaston Lodge. (Applause.) Bro. Keyser assured the brethren that it would give him much pleasure to occupy the office of Treasurer to the lodge, on behalf of Col. Gerald Ricardo, until the gallant officer's return from South Africa. He had the pleasure of receiving a letter a few days ago from Col. Ricardo, who no doubt wrote it with the idea of its reaching him just before the present gathering. In that letter Col. Ricardo desired him to mention to the brethren that he often had the Aldermaston Lodge in memory, and hoped to rejoin them all as soon as the war was over. He (Bro. Keyser) was glad to say that Col. Ricardo was filling a post at Kimberley which must be quite congenial to his feelings. He had been appointed to look after the supply of horses for the army. The colonel was a very good judge of a horse, and there could be no doubt that he would fill the responsible position in question with advantage to the army and entire credit to himself. Bro. Keyser suggested that immediately after the lodge they should telegraph their hearty good wishes to Bro. Col. Ricardo. This proposal was fully approved, and a telegram was despatched accordingly.

The lodge proceedings, which had occupied nearly two hours, having concluded, the brethren accepted the kind invitation of Bro. Keyser to stroll through the grounds surrounding Aldermaston Court. Some of the visitors with antiquarian tastes, halted within the walls of the parish church, where the work of restoration and decoration is still proceeding, the cost being generously defrayed by Bro. Keyser.

At seven o'clock the brethren returned to the hotel, and sat down to a banquet. Masonic toasts were honoured, and excellent speeches were delivered in the course of the evening, although the time at the disposal of the party was limited, most of the visitors having to drive off shortly before 10 o'clock in order to catch the last up train to Reading.

The toast of "The Grand Officers, Present and Past," was proposed by Bro. Bonny.

Bro. Martin, P.A.G.D.C. Eng., made an able response. In reply to the toast of "The Prov. G. Officers, Present and Past," Bro. Ferguson, P.P.S.G.W., made some suitable observations.

Bro. Keyser said it gave him the greatest pleasure to propose the toast of the evening—"The Health of the Worshipful Master." He (Bro. Keyser) had only been residing at Aldermaston a few years, but one of the first institutions he became acquainted with on his arrival there was their worthy W.M., Bro. Cambridge, who had been living in the place for nearly 40 years, and who was one of its leading lights. It was his privilege when Master of the Lodge of Hope at Newbury to initiate Bros. Cambridge and Wright, feeling that both would make good members of the Order. Since then Bro. Cambridge had worked assiduously, and had evinced great interest in the Craft, and they all felt glad to see him raised to the position of Worshipful Master of the Aldermaston Lodge, the duties of which he would no doubt discharge to the satisfaction of the brethren and the welfare of the lodge, as well as with credit to himself. (Applause.) The W.M. responded in graceful terms.

Bro. Martin proposed "The Health of the I.P.M."

Bro. Keyser suitably returned thanks.

Bro. Stephen Knight, jun., acting W.M. of the Lodge of Hope, replied for "The Visitors." Bro. Prince proposed the toast of "The Masonic Charities."

Bro. Margrett replied.

"The Health of the Officers of the Lodge" was also drunk, followed by the Tyler's toast, after which the company dispersed.

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11.20 a.m. to Barnsley, Bradford, Dewsbury, Guide Bridge, Halifax, Huddersfield, Liverpool, Manchester (London Road), Nottingham (Victoria), Penistone, Sheffield (Victoria), Wakefield, &c.
12.0 noon to Cleethorpes, Doncaster, Gainsboro, Grimsby, Hull, Macclesfield, Quorn and Woodhouse, Retford, Worksop, &c.
5.40 p.m. to Bullwell Common, Chesterfield, Heath, New Basford, &c.
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EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY.—To DOUGLAS (ISLE OF MAN).
EVERY FRIDAY AND MONDAY.—To Swindon, Bath, BRISTOL, Dorchester, WYMOUTH, Portland, Cirencester, Stroud, GLOUCESTER, CHELTENHAM, Ross, HEREFORD, &c.

EVERY TUESDAY (commencing July 10th), until SEPTEMBER 4th.—HALF DAY TRIP to Culham, Radley, Abingdon, OXFORD and BLENHEIM and WOODSTOCK.

EVERY THURSDAY (commencing July 12th), HALF-DAY TRIP to STRATFORD-ON-AVON, Banbury, and Leamington.

A FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND.

THURSDAYS, July 5th, 19th, AUGUST 2nd, 16th, 30th, SEPTEMBER 13th and 27th, for CORK and KILLARNEY.

FRIDAYS, July 6th, 20th, AUGUST 3rd, 7th, 31st, SEPTEMBER 14th and 28th, for WATERFORD, Dunganary, Lismore, Clonmel, Tipperary, Kilkenny, KILLARNEY, BELFAST, GIANTS' CAUSEWAY, &c.

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J. L. WILKINSON, General Manager.

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CHEAP HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS.

EACH WEDNESDAY, for 8 days, to SHERRINGHAM, CROMER (Beach), MUNDESEY-ON-SEA, YARMOUTH (Beach), SKEGNESS, SUTTON-ON-SEA, and MABLETHORPE, from King's Cross (G.N.)

EACH SATURDAY, for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days, to LIVERPOOL, SOUTHPORT, DOUGLAS (Isle of Man), SKEGNESS, SUTTON-ON-SEA, MABLETHORPE, GRIMSBY, NEW CLEE, CLEETHORPES, BRIDLINGTON, Filey, SCARBOROUGH, WHITBY, ROBIN-HOOD'S-BAY, SALTBURN, REDCAR, TYNEMOUTH, WHITLEY, and CULLERCOATS, from Moorgate, King's Cross (G.N.), Finsbury Park, &c.

FRIDAY, July 6th, and each alternate Friday, for 4, 10 or 16 days, to NORTHALLERTON, DARLINGTON, RICHMOND, DURHAM, NEWCASTLE, BERWICK, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, PERTH, DUNDEE, OBAN, FORT WILLIAM, ABERDEEN, INVERNESS, & OTHER STATIONS IN SCOTLAND, from Woolwich (Arsenal and Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E. & C.), Victoria (S.E. & C.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), &c.

SATURDAYS, July 7th and 21st, for 3 or 6 days, to the Principal Stations in DERBYSHIRE, LINCOLNSHIRE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, STAFFORDSHIRE, LANCASHIRE, YORKSHIRE, and NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT, from Woolwich (Arsenal & Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E. & C.), Victoria (S.E. & C.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), &c.

MONDAY, July 9th, for 1, 3 or 6 days, to SHERRINGHAM, CROMER (Beach), and YARMOUTH (Beach), from King's Cross (G.N.) at 6.20 and Finsbury Park at 6.25.

For further particulars see bills at Stations and Town Offices.
CHARLES STEEL, General Manager.

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* FORTNIGHTLY EXCURSIONS TO SCOTLAND.
For 4, 10, or 16 days.

From FRIDAY, July 6, to September 28, inclusive, to Carlisle, Appleby, Dumfries, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, Greenock, Helensburgh, Row, Peebles, Ayr, Kilmarnock, &c., for 4 or 10 days, from St. Pancras at 10.5 p.m., and to Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Arbroath, Forfar, Montrose, Aberdeen, Inverness, &c., at 9.15 p.m.

THIRD CLASS RETURN TICKETS at about a SINGLE ORDINARY FARE for the DOUBLE JOURNEY are also issued (except to Appleby and Peebles), available for RETURN ANY DAY WITHIN 16 days.

Also FORTNIGHTLY EXCURSIONS to NORTH of ENGLAND from FRIDAY, July 6 to September 28, inclusive, for 4, 10, or 16 days, from St. Pancras at 8.30 p.m., to Northallerton, Richmond, Darlington, Durham, Newcastle, Alnwick, and Berwick.

* To PROVINCIAL TOWNS and SEASIDE.

SATURDAYS, July 7 and 21.

To LEICESTER, BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, DERBY, Newark, Lincoln, Burton, Staffordshire Potteries, &c., MALLOCK, BUNTON, MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, Bolton, Preston, Wigan, BLACKPOOL, BLACKBURN, Bury, ROCHDALE, Oldham, Barnsley, Wakefield, LEEDS, BRADFORD, YORK, HULL, SCARBOROUGH, Whitby, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, Lancaster, MORECAMBE, BARROW & the FURNESS and LAKE DISTRICTS, Carlisle, &c., for 3 or 6 days, returning MONDAYS or THURSDAYS, July 9 or 12 and July 23 and 26, respectively.

* Bookings from Woolwich and Greenwich by these excursions.

WEEKLY EXCURSIONS.

ISLE OF MAN.

EVERY FRIDAY at MIDNIGHT, via Liverpool, and EVERY SATURDAY, until further notice, from St. Pancras at 5.15 a.m., via Barrow, also via Liverpool at 9.0 a.m., on June 30, and at 10.5 a.m. on other dates, for 3, 8, 10, 15, or 17 days, to DOUGLAS, Isle of Man.

LAKE DISTRICT, BUNTON, MALLOCK, SOUTHPORT, BLACKPOOL, LIVERPOOL, SCARBORO', &c.

For 3, 8, 10, 15, or 17 days.

EVERY SATURDAY, until further notice, to ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT, from St. Pancras, at 9.0 a.m., to Bowness and Ambleside, and at 10.30 a.m. to other stations; at 12.10 noon to MALLOCK and BUNTON; at 9.30 a.m. to BLACKPOOL, Lytham, St. Anne's, Fleetwood; at 10.5 a.m. to LIVERPOOL, and SOUTHPORT; at 9.0 a.m. to SCARBORO', Bridlington, Filey, Robin Hood's Bay, Whitby, Saltburn, Redcar, Tynemouth, Whitley Bay, and Cullercoats.

TICKETS and BILLS may be had at the MIDLAND Stations and City Booking Offices; and from THOS. COOK and SON, Ludgate-circus and Branch Offices.
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SUNDAYS.—PADDINGTON Dep. 10.5 a.m., HENLEY arrive 10.55 a.m.; HENLEY Dep. 9.0 p.m., and PADDINGTON arrive 9.52 p.m.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1900.

Masonic Notes.

Further and satisfactory progress is being made with the enrolment of ladies and brethren who are prepared to give their services as Stewards at the 102nd Anniversary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. This, as already announced, will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday,

the 10th prox., under the presidency of the Duke of Connaught, K.G., M.W. Past G. Master of England, Prov. G.M. of Sussex, and Dist. G.M. of Bombay, and the Board that will support his Royal Highness numbers up to the present time about 450 members. True those that have given in their names quite recently, and may do so between now and the appointed day will not be able to accomplish much, as the time for canvassing for donations and subscriptions will have been too short. They will probably have to content themselves with handing in their own personal donations. Still, this will have the effect of swelling the general total.

In the brief period that has elapsed since the Girls' School celebrated in 1888 the centenary of its establishment, there has been a marked increase in the number of brethren who volunteer their services as Stewards at successive anniversaries. Still, after making allowance for this increase, we are satisfied that the Board that has been constituted for the approaching Boys' Festival will compare very favourably with that of the Girls' School in 1890, that is, two years after its Centenary, and with that of the Benevolent Institution in 1894, or two years after the celebration of its Jubilee. In 1890, the late Bro. Col. Sir Francis Burdett, Bart., Prov. Grand Master of Middlesex, presided as Chairman for the Girls' Institution and the Board of 253 Stewards that supported him together raised £11,010, giving an average per Steward of £44.

In 1894, when the late Bro. Col. G. Noel Money, C.B., Prov. G. Master of Surrey, occupied the chair at the Benevolent Festival, the Board of Stewards was composed of 299 ladies and brethren, who amongst them compiled a total of donations and subscriptions amounting to £13,086, or not far short of £44 per Steward. What the Duke of Connaught's Board of Stewards may be able to accomplish on the 10th prox. remains to be seen. Experience shows that with our augmented Boards the average per Steward is not quite so high, but if we put the figure at about £38 or £40, the aggregate of the contributions will be a substantial one, sufficient to make good the year's deficiency of income and leave a fair margin wherewith to enlarge the very moderate invested capital of the Institution.

The Anniversary Festival in behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday, the 11th prox., under the presidency of the Earl of Euston, M.W. Pro G. Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales, &c. The number of ladies and brethren who will support his lordship as Stewards is up till now about 280, so that there is fair reason to hope that the efforts which are being made to beat the record will prove successful. Lord Euston is so able and zealous a member of this organisation, that every one must desire that his lordship's aspirations will be realised, and that the Mark Benevolent Festival of 1900 will surpass all its predecessors in the total of its donations and subscriptions.

The latter part of next month promises to be an exceedingly busy one in the Provinces, and already the dates are fixed for the annual meeting of the Prov. G. Lodges of Berkshire, Essex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and Hertfordshire. The Prov. Grand Lodge of Essex, as announced by Bro. Col. Lockwood, M.P., Dep. P.G.M.M., at the recent annual meeting of the Mark brethren of the Province, will take place at Clacton-on-Sea, on the invitation of the St. Osyth's Priory Lodge, No. 2063. Our Berkshire and Hertfordshire brethren will meet in annual communication on the same day, Wednesday—the 18th prox.—the former at Lockinge, near Wantage, the seat of Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Wantage, V.C., the Grand Master of the Province; and the latter at Hitchin, under the auspices of the Cecil Lodge, No. 449. The Prov. G. Lodge of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight will meet at Portsmouth on Monday, the 30th prox.

The business at these annual gatherings will be, for the most part of the usual character, nor will they differ greatly from previous gatherings except in the case of Berkshire, whose brethren will assemble at the residence of their chief, while the Hampshire and the Isle of Wight fixture will conclude with a conversation. The business programme of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire will include the obligation and investiture of Bro. F. Sumner Knyvett, P.G.D., who

has been appointed Dep. Prov. Grand Master in succession to the late Bro. George E. Lake, P.G.D., who died in Berlin in the latter part of last year, the election of a brother as Treasurer, and the appointment and investiture of Bro. Dr. O. C. Cockrem as Prov. Grand Secretary, the office having become vacant by the resignation of the former occupant.

We announce, for the benefit of those who may not have been already informed, that to-morrow (Saturday) will be Ex-Pupils' Day at the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, and that between the hours of 3 and 7 p.m. the House Committee will be very pleased to receive all former pupils of the Institution who may be able to make it convenient to attend. But, as the day is set apart for the reception of "Old Girls," and "Old Girls" only, other visitors are neither invited nor expected to be present.

Our Scottish brethren in Jamaica have sustained a great loss by the death of their respected chief, Bro. S. Constantine Burke, who had held the office of Prov. Grand Master for considerably more than a quarter of a century and during that time had rendered signal service to the Craft in Jamaica under the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Bro. Burke, as is shown in the memoir we publish in another column, died on the 23rd May, and on Thursday, the 31st ult., a special communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge was held at which there were present not only the leading members of the Scottish Craft, but also the Dep. District Grand Master and the District Grand Wardens of the English Constitution. Bro. Duff, Depute Prov. Grand Master, who presided, paid a handsome tribute to the memory of their late ruler, whom he spoke of as having "stood forth in every relation of life conspicuous by his courtesy and kindly sympathetic manner to all who had dealings with him," while as regards the members of the Craft, "none," said Bro. Duff "rejoiced more at his success than the Masons, who looked up to him with respect and esteem."

At the close of Bro. Duff's speech, and after others, had joined in paying respect to Bro. Burke's memory, a resolution of sympathy with the widow and family of our deceased brother was passed, while a further resolution was adopted, inviting the daughter lodges "to co-operate with the Provincial Grand Lodge in its efforts to raise a fund for the purpose of obtaining some suitable memorial" of their late Prov. Grand Master. A funeral lodge was subsequently held, and the service is described as having been "strikingly solemn and impressive," and as "befitting the occasion which was being used to revere" his memory. We, too, join in these expressions of sympathy with the widow and family, and of respect for the memory of one to whom Freemasonry is so deeply indebted for the services he had rendered in its behalf.

We congratulate the Aldermaston Lodge, No. 2760, on the success which has attended its proceedings during the first and most critical year of its existence, nor does it in any way lessen the extent of those congratulations because under the auspices of so zealous and able a Mason as Bro. C. E. Keyser, P.G.D., as the first W. Master that success may be considered to have been assured from the very outset. A short while since the annual meeting was held at which Bro. T. S. Cambridge was installed W.M., in succession to Bro. Keyser, and from the reports and particulars furnished on the occasion it is clear that the Aldermaston Lodge is now firmly established, with a numerous array of worthy members and its General and Benevolent Funds in a prosperous state. We trust that, as years roll by, the same good fortune may attend the lodge.

We are glad to find that substantial progress has been made with the South African Masonic Relief Fund, and that, including the contributions reported in our columns last week, the total then raised falls not very far short of £7500. This is a capital result so far, but we hope to see the Fund still further enlarged, as there can be little doubt that the number of those who will need assistance will be very considerable.

The annual Festival in behalf of the Alpass Benevolent Institution—one of the four Institutions so generously supported by the brethren of West Lancashire—will be held at Blackpool on Wednesday, the 26th September, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor of Liverpool. All necessary information can be obtained of Bros. G. A. Harradon, of Liverpool, and A. W. Taylor, of Blackpool, the Hon. Secretaries of the Festival.

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.

ROYAL ARCH IN RELATION TO CRAFT MASONRY.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

The statistical information which appeared in your paper of the 16th instant on the above subject presents very interesting features. I propose, with your permission, to make a few deductions therefrom, which may put their value in a more practical form. But, first, leaving the Colonies out of the question, let us take the numbers which are supplied in the Grand Lodge Calendar. In that valuable little book we find that at the expiration of the year 1899 there were in

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|--------|
| London: | | | |
| Craft Masons | ... | ... | 26,840 |
| R.A. Masons | ... | ... | 6,039 |
| Provinces: | | | |
| Craft Masons | ... | ... | 74,470 |
| R.A. Masons | ... | ... | 17,490 |

This gives a grand total of 101,310 Craft Masons and 23,529 Royal Arch. Considering the importance which is assigned to Chapter Masonry, it will come as a surprise to many to find that these figures work out to only 23 per cent.; in other words, that, roughly speaking, out of five Craft Masons on an average, only one has joined a chapter.

Coming to the different provinces, we find still more startling facts. R.A. Masonry is evidently much more popular in some districts than in others. For instance—and these are the highest:—

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Cambridgeshire | has 55 per cent. R.A. Masons. |
| Worcestershire | " 42 " " |
| Bristol | " 40 " " |
| West Yorkshire | " 37 " " |
| Monmouthshire | " 34 " " |
| N. and E. Yorks | " 32 " " |
| Bucks | " 31 " " |
| Notts | " 30 " " |

London, along with some of the largest provinces, shows a very low rate—only about 22 per cent. W. Lancashire, numerically the most populous Masonic province, has but 17 per cent.; whilst in Shropshire it is as low as 11, and in North Wales it is just under 12!

It is no part of my intention to attempt an explanation of this condition of things. If Royal Arch Masonry were now what it appears at first to have been—a separate and distinct Degree—the discrepancy in numbers would be readily intelligible; but when we are told that "pure and Antient Masonry consists of three Degrees, and no more" (italics mine), and includes "the Supreme Order of the Royal Arch," we are somewhat at a loss to account for this extraordinary indifference; still more is this the case in the light of the words addressed to a newly-exalted companion, who is solemnly assured that the ceremony is a "completion of the M.M.'s Degree." Grand Secretary Samuel Spencer, of the "Moderns," clearly thought otherwise, for in 1759 he said "our Society is neither Arch, Royal Arch, or Ancient."

Similar, only perhaps stronger, views are clearly held and courageously expressed by eminent Masons in our own day. When the debate on the proposed reduction of the period of probation from one year to one month took place—which alteration was to mark a new era in the progress of Royal Arch Masonry, but has not yet done so—a distinguished companion said: "Seriously speaking, the whole dramatic story" (I quote from Grand Chapter minutes), "of the R.A. is a romantic fiction founded on anachronisms and impossibilities."

I am not going to pursue the subject further. I have an absolutely open mind about it, but I am struck by these facts:

- (1). That there is considerable difference of opinion as to the validity of the claim of R.A. Masonry to be what it professes to be.
- (2). That notwithstanding the confident and emphatic assertion that it is essential as a completion of Craft Masonry, four out of five of those who enter a lodge utterly ignore it.

These statements are, perhaps, a little startling, but they are indisputable.

An expression of the views of other brethren on these points would be welcomed by yours truly and fraternally,

JOSEPH MATTHEWMAN.

36, Spencer-place, Leeds.
27th June.

BRO. THORP'S NEW BOOK.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I am very glad to know you intend drawing special attention to Bro. Thorp's able work on "French Prisoners' Lodges." In your preliminary remarks in to-day's *Freemason* you describe the tasty volume as *most interesting*, which undoubtedly it is, and the number of illustrations "naturally enhance its value."

To me its perusal has been a source of great pleasure, and profit combined, for, as you state, Bro. Thorp "has brought together much that has been unknown even to the Masonic student."

One feature of the work, which will enlighten many, is the information supplied as to several prominent Craftsmen of early this century, and the reproduction of the wonderfully artistic Certificates renders the "French Prisoners' Lodges" a book of considerable value and importance.

Bro. Thorp's address is 57 (not 65), Regent-road, Leicester, and the subscription price per volume is 5s., *post free*.—Yours fraternally,

Dunstable, Torquay,
June 23rd.

W. J. HUGHAN.

"THE FESTIVAL OF ST. JOHN."

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Can you or any brother give me and a few well-known brethren in this district the meaning and origin of calling an installation the "Festival of St. John." I have never met a brother yet who could really explain it. Thanking you in anticipation.—Yours fraternally,

D.C.

"AN UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE."

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I think it probable that the case cited by Bro. Peachey in your issue of the 23rd instant is an unusual experience, but I can refer to an instance which though not on all-fours with his, is, I think, equally "unusual." A candidate was proposed and duly initiated, and a month or two afterwards his father was proposed, and I had the satisfaction of taking him through his three Degrees, father and son being "raised," if my recollection is not at fault, on the same night. It was a joke of the lodge brethren to refer to the son—he having been initiated first—as Brother — senior, and to his father as Brother — junior. I am sorry to add that, as the result of an accident, the "senior" brother, who was a true Mason by heart, was very soon called to join "the Grand Lodge above."—Yours fraternally,

HENRY LASHMORE,
P.M. 394.

Southampton.

Craft Masonry.

Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge, No. 12.

This old lodge had the honour, on the 25th instant, of initiating a new scheme in the system of celebrations by commemorating the formation of Grand Lodge of England, which took place on St. John's Day, 1717, with Bro. Anthony Sayer, a Past Master of the Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge, as its first Grand Master. It was claimed that four Time Immemorial Lodges took part in the formation—of which there still survived the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2; the Somerset House and Inverness Lodge, No. 4; and the Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge, No. 12. Such an event as the foundation of what is now the Mother Grand Lodge of the world, is perhaps an event that should not be allowed to be passed over unnoticed, and the opinion, as well as the hope, was expressed on Monday that in future years there may be continued the plan inaugurated by the Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge of celebrating the anniversary of such a good Masonic feature, and that the other Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland, which originated with lodges having a time-immemorial record, would follow the example so well set.

The company present at the celebration, which took place, by dispensation, at the Prince's Rooms, Piccadilly, were Bros. Samuel Walter Stephens, W.M.; Sidney Stuart Walker, I.P.M.; John Joyce Telfer, S.W.; Matthew Jervoise Jarvis, J.W.; Robert Coombs, P.M., Treas.; Samuel Arthur Stanger, P.M., Sec.; Charles Rolfe, J.D.; K. S. Murray, I.G.; Octavius F. Peall, P.M., D.C.; F. Ponler Telfer, Char. Stwd.; J. A. W. Roy, P.M.; T. E. Carey Bates, P.M.; A. H. Lilley, P.M.; John R. Creasey, P.M.; J. W. Rylands, P.M.; John C. Nicholson, P.M.; F. W. Howard, J. B. Adams, and Samuel Gillis, Tyler. The visitors were Bros. Sir John Tyler, 371; J. Coutland, 662; D. L. Walle, 18; Dr. Ralph Gooding, P.G.D.; F. Gordon Brown, P.A.G.D.C.; R. F. Gould, P.G.D.; J. T. C. Winkfield, P.A.G.D.C.; J. J. Elridge, jun., 55; Dr. Clement Godson, P.G.D.; John Smithers, A.G.D.C.; W. A. Scurrah, P.G. Std. Br.; Robt. Gresley Hall, P.G.S.B.; W. B. Curlye, 1; C. Sheath, W.M. 2538; George Beech, P.G. Std. Br.; Charles Martin, P.A.G.D.C.; Robert L. Devonshire, G. Stwd.; D. F. Gellion, P.M. 1425 and 2319; J. Brocket Sorrell, P.M. 1260; J. D. A. Norris, P.M. 708; E. T. Lea, 2484; Fred West, P.G.D.; Spencer W. Morris, 99; Carl Lienard, 2077; H. Massey, P.M. 619 and 1928; J. Carns Diss. 2721; W. M. Bywater, P.G.S.B.; R. Cairley, W.M. 172; R. M. Long, and Dr. A. Ayres.

After the choice banquet which was given to celebrate the day, a special list of toasts was honoured, and Bro. Stephens, W.M., in proposing "The Queen," referred to the glorious upholding of the Imperial Flag in South Africa. In proposing "The Most Worshipful Grand Master," he said the obstacle about this toast was that when one began to enumerate the many virtues of the G. Master it was difficult to determine when to leave off. They all knew the ability with which H.R.H. presided over Masonry. Last week he was laying the foundation-stone of St. Mary's Hospital, Newcastle. How many foundations of charitable institutions had he not well and truly laid—those magnificent monuments of the charity and benevolence of the country? He had shown a good example to all operative as well as speculative Masons. In his position as the first gentleman of the kingdom, he had nobly proved the old adage that none worked so hard as those who had nothing to do, and the Prince of Wales had gained the esteem of every man in the nation.

Bro. Stephens, W.M., in proposing "The Pro G. Master, Earl Amherst, the Dep. G.M., the Earl of Warwick, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," said we all knew we owed a great debt of gratitude to the Grand Officers; it was they who were the principal instruments in keeping the Fraternity together; they did an enormous amount of work, and devoted a great deal of time to the Craft; in fact, it was not only their time they gave, for, as he had heard in Grand Lodge on the 6th inst., they gave their exertions, and were ready to starve; they either did starve or ruined their digestions in time past at any rate. But the brethren acknowledged and appreciated their services and were grateful to them. To-night the lodge was favoured with the presence of 12 Grand Officers, who were worthy assistants of the Grand Master. They were all well known, and he would call on Bro. Ralph Gooding, P.G.D., to respond.

Bro. Dr. Ralph Gooding, P.G.D., in reply, said the W.M. had made reference in his toast of the M.W. Grand Master to the fact that when he began he did not know when to leave off. He had said the Grand Officers were a half-starved lot and men whose digestion was ruined. He (Dr. Gooding) was a perfect specimen of it. But whatever starvation they might have suffered from and whatever digestion they might have ruined they were willing as Grand Officers were a 100 years ago to carry out and further the interests of the Craft. He need only point out the duties the Grand Officers had to fulfil. If the brethren would turn their eyes to the Board of General Purposes, to the Board of Benevolence, to the great Charities which had been established by G. Officers, and were now carried on by other G. Officers, he thought the G. Officers of England deserved well at the hands of the brethren. But when he saw so distinguished a Mason as Bro. Gould present, who had not only dug out the archives of England, but who had brought out the true conditions of the Craft, he was convinced the brethren owed a deep debt of gratitude to the G. Officers, and Bro. Gould was one of the best exponents of that body. He was pleased to see Bro. Gould present. He was also pleased to see the Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge so prosperous, and that it was one of the oldest lodges of the Grand Lodge of England, the Mother Grand Lodge of the world. He trusted it might be rejuvenated, and be under the careful attention of succeeding Masters, and have the goodwill and careful attention of G. Officers. He wished it a prosperous future, and that it might be well worthy the name and reputation of the lodges which had established the Grand Lodge of England.

Bro. Nicholson, P.M., proposed the toast of the evening—"The Pious Memory of the Founders of the Grand Lodge of England, the Mother of Grand Lodges." He said: W.M. and Brethren, at a late moment the W.M. has put upon my shoulders what I conceive to be the most important toast of the evening. I cannot explain why it was put upon my shoulders, except that the most eligible man was not present, and he chose the least eligible man here. But if they did so they put it upon one who has thoroughly the objects of this meeting at heart. In submitting this toast to you this evening, I conceive that I am asking you to celebrate one of the most remarkable features in Masonic history, and one that must claim your hearty sympathy and indulgence on every account. That event which we are celebrating this evening—St. John's Day—marks a wonderful transition from what was called "Operative Masonry" into "Speculative Masonry," which we now appreciate. That this being so it forms a turning point, as you will all admit, in the history of Masonry. There are some lodges that consider themselves of some repute if after 25 years of existence they still survive; others more fortunate with 50 years behind them are proud of their ancestry. There are other lodges which have a hundred years behind them; but they are few and far between. But we have here this evening lodges of older date. We have a telegram from No. 2 Lodge, otherwise we should have the representatives of the

oldest lodges of the Craft in England. We have the representative of No. 4, and ourselves. The Antiquity, established by records of Grand Lodge, has 183 years—and, who knows how much longer? We say that the event requires more consideration at the hands of Freemasons than it has hitherto had, and we hope that what we have inaugurated this evening may not die, but that it may form one of those many centres of interest which Masons all have at heart to keep going. It would be interesting if we could show some sort of history of how Masonry has developed; if after 180 years the features of Anthony Sayer, the first Grand Master, who had the pride of having been elected from No. 3 Lodge, and which is verified by the most competent authorities to be No. 12—could be produced; it would be interesting if we could have seen painted the ceremony in which the Genesis of Freemasonry was brought about; but it would require more time than is at my disposal to give the various developments that have taken place in Freemasonry, although it is certain that were it not for the continued zeal and activity shown by the Grand Officers, and were it not for them we should have had but a poor show of that progress and development. I consider the future has a very glorious vision in front of it. We hope that Freemasonry is not a thing of to-day only, but that under this consideration of those who are loving it it may become an abiding force for good in the land. There is no reason why it should be a mere clubland. If every one of the members that form part of Freemasonry would carry out the precepts that have been designed for it, and designed for ourselves, there is no reason why it should not be, as I have said, a real and abiding force for good in the land. There is no doubt that we have a glorious future, and all those, I am sure, who are here this evening will do their best to further the interests of Freemasonry; and we, an old lodge which has come to life again, are resolved to do our best to serve the good cause which you have so well supported. The point which I wish to dilate on this evening was simply the commemorating the foundation of Grand Lodge, and I ask you to drink to "The Pious Memory of the Founders of Grand Lodge of England, the Mother of Grand Lodges."

Bro. Stephens, W.M., here announced that the Household Brigade Lodge which was meeting upstairs, had sent a message of hearty congratulation, and he had replied that this lodge heartily reciprocated the good wishes.

Bro. Stephens, W.M., proposed "The Time Immemorial Lodges of England and Scotland." Bro. Nicholson had explained in a very lucid manner how Grand Lodge was established in 1717, and it was now his duty to propose the health of those lodges which had survived from that time. In 1717, four lodges created Grand Lodge of England. Of those, No. 2 and No. 4 on the present register were direct lineal descendants. They had always conformed to and obeyed the authority that they created; but they did not think fit to insist on appealing to that authority for charters for recognition of existence; they had always worked under their time-immemorial rights; and there was no doubt among Masons that they were the original lodges before the creation of Grand Lodge. Fortitude and Old Cumberland was the ancient No. 3, but they accepted a constitution, and somehow or other the fact that they existed before that constitution existed had been lost sight of in the general knowledge of its makers. But if as they were assured there was evidence of that No. 12 through various vicissitudes was down in succession to No. 3, No. 12 was also one of the lodges that existed before the creation of Grand Lodge. In Scotland Grand Lodge was created in 1736, but he did not know whether in those old days Scotland had the reputation of being canny and careful; but they were very careful of their minutes and other evidence of their existence, and there were now alive between 30 and 40 lodges that existed before 1736, when Grand Lodge of Scotland was created. Fortitude and Old Cumberland had hoped to be favoured with the company of the members of Mary's Chapel Lodge and Canongate Kilwinning, but they were not able to be present; but they had, however, received very kind letters from them, but, unfortunately, none of the active members or officers of the lodges could come to London. He called upon Bro. F. West to reply for No. 4, and Bro. Gould for the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Bro. Frederick West, P.G.D., Dep. Prov. G. Master Surrey, in acknowledging the toast, observed that he was bound to say that that night he felt himself in an awkward position having to respond to this toast, as he was not a Demosthenes, and he was a representative of one of the Time Immemorial lodges. But on their behalf he begged to say he was obliged to the W.M. for associating his name with the toast. The Book of Constitutions limited the number of Time Immemorial lodges, and that being so the number represented that night was small. He was not prepared to enter into a discussion as to whether the number should be increased or not. The W.M. had told them that somebody sneaked No. 4, and we (Somerset House and Inverness) took that number. If Grand Lodge would increase the number of Time Immemorial lodges of England, he was quite sure the present Time Immemorial lodges would be glad to extend the right hand of fellowship to others. He knew that the Scotch lodges had greater claim to antiquity; they had been more careful of their records than the English lodges; but no doubt in Scotland they could date back long anterior to our Time Immemorial lodges. He was fond of looking at old buildings, and he had seen Masonic marks on drawings and pillars which were marks recognised at the present time. Those were much earlier than our own, and we, as Masons, must recognise the ambition of the lodge which felt entitled to claim antiquity. Bro. Gould probably knew as well as he did that there were some cases where the senior counsel made a speech, and the junior had to follow. Fortunately, that night the junior had to commence, and to leave it to the senior to spoil him. He thought the lodge was fortunate in having an historian in Bro. Gould. He hoped the Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge would be successful in its endeavours to commemorate annually the establishment of Grand Lodge, and if so none would be more ready to congratulate it than No. 4.

Bro. R. F. Gould, P.G.D., in the course of his reply to the same toast, said he thought it a very happy thing indeed on an occasion like the present that the toast of the evening had been proposed by a member of that lodge—a lodge which had called that meeting—and that a brother like Bro. West, a member of one of the T.I. lodges of England, had responded on behalf of the lodges of England. They all knew of course that time did not wait, and while he could address them at considerable length on the existence of Time Immemorial Lodges, he was unwilling to do so, because that had already been done very admirably and well by Bro. Nicholson. The task of responding for the old Scottish lodges, reminded him, indeed, of a story told of a leading brother in the United States. Somebody asked him what his religion was. "Well," said he, "I am a Methodist, but I haven't done much at it lately." Now it certainly happened that he (Bro. Gould) had been for upwards of 40 years a Scottish Mason, but like the hero of his anecdote, "he had not done much at it lately." He was pleased, however, to fulfil any duty the W.M. might entrust to him, and he would try to carry out that duty to the best of his ability. With regard to the Scots' Time Immemorial lodges, there were many of them. The brethren had heard many times that night that there were four lodges which took part in forming the Grand Lodge of England. It was not a little singular that there were also four lodges concerned in promoting the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. At the time of the actual inauguration of that Grand Lodge in 1736, there were 100 lodges in the Northern Kingdom, 33 of which were

represented or present at the great Convention of that year. All the others, still surviving, subsequently joined the Grand Lodge, the latest to do so being the Lodge of Melrose, which only surrendered its independence in 1801. There were between 50 and 60 Scottish lodges which were of earlier existence than their Grand Lodge, and some of them dated back to a period of time so far remote as to reach an era which correspond with what were veritably the dark ages of English Masonry. Nor were their claims merely traditional. They were amply supported by documentary evidence. Three hundred years ago the Lodge of Edinburgh was referred to as the principal Lodge of Scotland, Mother Kilwinning was second, and Stirling third. The Lodge of Edinburgh had minutes going back to 1599, Kilwinning to 1642, Scoon and Perth to 1658, Aberdeen to 1670, and Melrose to 1674. Many had been invited to be present to-night, but their representatives had been unable to come. Telegrams, however, had been received, and one was from the Lodge of Edinburgh, "the oldest existing lodge in the world send Fraternal greetings and best wishes and thanks." Other lodges, Canongate Kilwinning, among them, sent messages. He had also received from the Grand Secretary, Bro. David Murray Lyon, and Bro. William Officer Fraternal regards. He thought, therefore, that the brethren would be satisfied of the interest taken by the Edinburgh brethren in this gathering. He had received a message from them to the effect that they heartily congratulated the Master and officers of the Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge on the celebration of to-night. They had expressed to him that they hoped that this celebration would develop into an annual festival not only of English, but of British Freemasonry, and that they hoped and believed it would tend to unite by an even closer tie of brotherhood than the ordinary bond of the Craft, each and everyone of the surviving lodges in North as well as in South Britain, which sprang into existence before the era of Grand Lodges, and whose Constitution was Immemorial.

Bro. Stephens, W.M., proposed "The Visitors." It was a privilege the Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge cherished during two centuries; they cherished very highly the privilege of seeing visitors around them. They had been favoured with the company of 12 Grand Officers, and with the support of the good wishes of all the most ancient lodges of Scotland. They had had, too, hearty greetings from the Household Brigade Lodge, and they had many visitors, whom they were pleased to see.

Bro. Sheath, W.M. 2530, replied. The Shirley Woolmer Lodge was a young lodge, but Kent sent "Hearty good wishes," and it was very gratifying to him as Master of a Kent lodge to be present. He testified to the pleasure it had given him to read Bro. Gould's report of this lodge. He congratulated the lodge on its antiquity and on the desire of the lodge to be earlier on the roll of Grand Lodge than it was.

Bro. Octavius F. Peall, P.M., D. of C., proposed "The Health of the W.M." Bro. Gould had spoken of Scots lodges, but not of Irish lodges. Those Irish lodges they had come across had been good Masons, and yet they seemed to have been left out entirely. Bro. Nicholson had made an able speech; he was a P.M. in speaking in any subject he undertook. Would the brethren allow him to point out in this toast of the Master of this lodge how the W.M. thoroughly appreciated the position the brethren had placed him in. This lodge was warranted in 1722. No doubt it lost its precedence from the inadequacy of the Master who presided at that time. When he (Bro. Peall) presided in 1886 Colonel Shadwell Clerke came as an uninvited guest to the Ship and Turtle, and he stated that the Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge was the first lodge that ever appointed a Grand Master, and that Grand Master was Anthony Sayer. Colonel Shadwell Clerke told the lodge then that that lodge, as far as he could trace, had never done anything wrong to bring it down from its original position, and he came to tell them it was the first lodge that ever appointed a Grand Master. The brethren were not now on an ordinary occasion. If it had been a summer meeting they would have been out of London, and would have had non-Masons present; but the Past Masters thought they would keep the day as a red letter day in Freemasonry. He hoped they had done so, and that they would follow in the same footsteps, and that they would have more visitors at future meetings, and four Scots lodges and Irish lodges on this St. John's day in Freemasonry. Coming to the toast of the W.M., Bro. Stephens was both a Mason and a Master of a good old lodge, and it was a pleasure at all times to work under such a gentleman. Bro. Stephens had taken a great deal of trouble to put all the work properly forward. If he had succeeded in so doing to the brethren's satisfaction (and he was quite sure he had done so), he had the gratitude of every member of the Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge.

Bro. Stephens, W.M., replying, said he thanked the brethren for their warm reception, which he thoroughly appreciated, as well as the kind words of Bro. Peall. He had the welfare of the lodge thoroughly at heart, and would do all in his power to forward it. That had been an extraordinary meeting. They had not had a summer outing; the summer roses had come to them; and he hoped the brethren had enjoyed themselves thoroughly. They had had summer outings to which non-Masons had come, and had expressed their wish to join the lodge. That had been the case that night. Sir John Tyler wished to be a joining member; Bro. Carlisle also; and Mr. Charles Tyler, at present with her Majesty's Forces in South Africa, was proposed as an initiate.

The Tyler's toast, given by Bro. Willis, closed the proceedings. The music performed was by Miss Erminie Stuart, Miss Eleanore Nicholl, and Mr. Saye Thomson. Signorina D. Negeis was pianist.

De Grey and Ripon Lodge, No. 1161.

The regular meeting was held at Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street, Manchester, on Wednesday, the 20th instant. The following were present: Bros. Walter Cockerham, W.M.; J. T. C. Blackie, S.W.; S. Richards, J.W.; J. Schofield, I.P.M.; O. M. Jones, P.M., Treas.; J. M. Moss, P.M., P.P.D.G.S.B., Sec.; J. Brownhill, S.D.; A. E. Bentley and G. J. Critchley, Stewards; E. Loebell, P.M.; Buckley Carr, P.M., P.P.G.D.C., D.C.; H. M. Massingham, P.M.; R. Dottie, P.M.; Alfred Griffiths, Geo. H. Tyler; J. M. Wnalley, L. A. Harrison, and J. R. Fletcher, Tyler. Visitors: Bros. R. A. Hanford, 2670; J. S. Derbyshire, S.W. 1555; H. Holt, 1045; A. T. Forrest, P.M. 1633; and J. H. Greenwood, 973, P.P.G.O.

The lodge having been opened by the Worshipful Master, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for Messrs. T. Thrutchley and Wm. Arnold, which proved unanimous in their favour. The ceremonies of initiation were performed by Bros. J. M. Moss, P.M., P.P.D.G.D.C., and J. Schofield, I.P.M. Bros. E. A. Harrison and G. H. Tyler were afterwards passed to the Second Degree, the ceremonies being performed by Bros. W. Cockerham, W.M., and H. M. Massingham, P.M. The whole of the ceremonies were performed in a most admirable manner, and reflected great credit upon the working of the lodge. "Harley good wishes" having been proposed by the visiting brethren, the lodge was afterwards closed.

The brethren adjourned to the social board, and spent the rest of the evening in harmony.

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Gresham Lodge, No. 869.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday, the 9th inst., in the banquet hall of the Great House, Cheshunt, when there was a large attendance of brethren to witness the installation of Bro. Charles A. Reeve as W.M. for the ensuing year. The chair was occupied by Bro. Harry Gross, P.P.A.G.D.C. Kent, W.M., supported by Bros. F. Rees, I.P.M.; C. A. Reeve, S.W.; A. E. Gooding, J.W.; C. A. Gompertz, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br., Treas.; S. M. Banker, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br., Sec.; L. J. Powter, S.D.; W. Haynes Dunn, P.M., P.P.G. Supt. of Works, D.C.; S. H. Tatham Armitage, M.D., P.M., P.P.S.G.W. N. and E. Yorks, Org.; H. M. Sternberg and T. Bulmer, Stwds.; B. Mitchell, Tyler; W. A. Dingle, M.D., P.M., P.P.G.P.; F. A. Taylor, P.M., P.P.G.S.; G. S. Elliott, P.M., P.P.C.S.B.; T. W. Chant, O. G. Mathias, W. S. Keep, and other members. Visitors: Bros. Charles E. Keyser, W.M. 1479, P.G.D.; T. A. Bullock, P.G.S.B.; A. W. Nash, W.M. 409, P.P.G.W.; T. Moysey, W.M. 2059; J. T. Stratford, W.M. 493; C. J. Weller, S.D. 2128; A. Smythson, 1070; E. W. Newman, W.M. 2518; R. Tulle, W.M. 2372; J. L. Merfeld, P.M. 258; A. L. Daniell, P.M. 28; C. W. Bailey, 1839; G. Cunningham, I.P.M. 1607; M. W. Jameson, W.M. 1607; R. Simpson, D.C. 1426; G. W. Vincent, P.M. 489; E. Head, P.M. 1681; J. Lawson, P.M. 1607; W. Bangs, W.M. 1327; S. B. Wilkinson, P.M. 350, P.P.S.G.W. Hunts; A. Macgregor, 22; M. Reeve, P.M. 720; J. A. Smith, J.W. 2264; A. Caink, P.M. 1056; Henry W. Gompertz, P.M. and Sec. 1364; H. Newland, P.M. and Treas. 28; C. Charteris, I.G. 2319; J. Dickson, P.M. 1572; E. Ardley, 2625; and W. Gibson Spence, 1694.

The lodge having been opened, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Auditors' report having been received and adopted, Bros. A. Cunningham, P.M. 1766, and J. H. Russell, 2021, were balloted for, and unanimously elected joining members. Bro. Charles Albert Reeve, S.W., was presented as W.M. elect, and a Board of Installed Masters—consisting of 30 brethren—having been formed, he was installed into the chair of K.S. by his very old friend, Bro. C. A. Gompertz, P.M., Treas. Bro. C. A. Reeve, W.M., then appointed and invested the following officers for the ensuing year: Bros. H. Gross, I.P.M.; A. E. Gooding, S.W.; L. J. Powter, J.W.; C. A. Gompertz, Treas.; S. M. Banker, Sec.; W. R. Bentley, S.D.; T. D. Gillespie, J.D.; W. Haynes Dunn, D.C.; S. H. Tatham Armitage, I.G.; H. M. Sternberg, Org.; T. Bulmer and T. W. Chant, Stewards; and B. Mitchell, Tyler. Bro. C. A. Gompertz, the Installing Master, performed the ceremony throughout in a most masterly manner, and delivered the addresses in an impressive style that was greatly admired by every brother present.

A ballot was taken for Messrs. R. E. Clark and J. W. Crawley, candidates for initiation, which proved unanimous in their favour, and Bro. Reeve, W.M. initiated them in a manner that gave great satisfaction to the brethren; and, there being no further business, the lodge was closed.

The brethren shortly afterwards sat down to an excel lent banquet in the old hall.

The covers being removed, the usual list of loyal and Masonic toasts was duly honoured, interspersed with songs ably rendered by Bros. A. Caink, P.M., and H. Newland, P.M., assisted by Bro. Alfred Smythson, who presided at the pianoforte in his usual masterly manner.

In proposing the first toast, viz., that of "The Queen and the Craft," the W.M., Bro. C. A. Reeve, dwelt in feeling terms upon the troublous times through which our most gracious Sovereign and Patron was passing, at the same time expressing the fervent wish that in the near future tranquillity and peace may be vouchsafed to her.

In giving the toast of "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of the Order," the W.M. laid stress upon the kindly interest and solicitation for the welfare of the Order H.R.H. had always evinced, and the respect and admiration in which our Grand Master was held by every member of the Craft.

The toast of "The Grand Officers" was shorn of part of its lustre from the fact that Bro. Charles E. Keyser, P.G.D. and W.M. of the Halsey Lodge, 1479, had unavoidably to leave early, he having come specially from Reading, and wished to return the same night; but in responding, Bro. T. A. Bullock, P.G.S.B., whilst expressing the wish that Bro. Keyser had remained to give due honour to the toast, thanked the brethren in a most eloquent and humorous speech for the kind expressions which had fallen from the W.M. with regard to the Grand Officers generally.

The toast of "The R.W. Prov. G. Master, Bro. T. F. Halsey, M.P.," and also that of "The Prov. Grand Officers," met with an enthusiastic reception from the brethren.

Bro. Harry Gross, I.P.M., then proposed the next toast, viz., "The W.M.," which met with a very gratifying response from the brethren present.

The W.M., in replying, thanked the I.P.M. for the very flattering terms in which he had referred to him, and assured the brethren that he would leave no stone unturned in order to render his year of office a happy one to all concerned.

The W.M. then proceeded with the toast of "The I.P.M. and Past Masters of the Lodge," in which was incorporated the Treasurer and Secretary, and informed the I.P.M. that he had the heartiest good wishes of the lodge for his future welfare, and duly presented him with a handsome Past Master's jewel, unanimously voted by the lodge, as a small token of the affection and esteem in which he was held, at the same time dwelling in felicitous terms upon the able and courteous manner in which he had conducted its affairs during the past session.

Bro. Gross made a brief but happy response in acknowledging the good feeling expressed towards him.

Bro. C. A. Gompertz, P.M., Treas., in the course of his remarks, expressed his great pleasure at having been allowed that afternoon to instal his old friend of 26 years' standing into the chair of K.S., at the same time remarking that eight years ago he also had the pleasure of initiating him into Freemasonry.

The toast of "The Initiates and Joining Members" was then duly proposed and received most cordially, both Bros. R. E. Clark and J. W. Crawley making very suitable responses.

"The Visitors" toast was next duly honoured, the list being a large one, including several Masters of lodges in the Province of Hertfordshire, all of whom testified to the great pleasure they felt at being present that day.

Time being short, the remainder of the toasts were quickly proceeded with, and the brethren dispersed after one of the most enjoyable meetings ever experienced during the existence of the lodge, universal regret being expressed that time would not permit of so happy a meeting being prolonged, which argues well for the continued prosperity of the lodge under the popular Mastership of Bro. Reeve.

Anglo-American Lodge, No. 2191.

There was a numerous attendance at the installation meeting of this lodge held at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, on the 19th inst., when some excellent working was witnessed and a capital entertainment afterwards enjoyed. The members present included Bros. J. W. Elvin, Prov. J.G.W. Kent, W.M.; A. A. P. Snow, W.M. elect; F. Kedge, P.M., Treas.; F. Jackson, P.M., Sec.; C. O. Burgess, P.M., P.P.G.W.; Walter Hancock, P.M.; L. Rotter, P.M.; J. Woolley, P.M.; G. T. Atkinson, W. H. M. Burgess, W. J. Harvey, A. Bertini, P.M.; and many others. Visitors: Bros. H. Groom, 2754; F. Schmidt, P.M. 907; A. Leighton, I.P.M. 203; R. Fitch, 87; L. Ferguson, P.M. 1997; W. Reeve, 1973; W. Humfrey, P.M. 1318; C. Freeman, I.G. 1029; A. Hammond, 1559; G. H. Wavell, P.M. 802; W. Mokler, S.D. 1579; C. Ellison, P.M. 871; F. H. H. Orchard, P.P.G.D. Devon; W. H. Cave, 1707; R. J. Robinsen, 780; W. G. Adcock, P.M. 2202; C. P. Coles, I.G. 1744; T. F. Strutt, W.M. 2664; Andrew Clarke, J.W. 2460; O. Thompson, 2470; T. Jeston White, 860; C. Peach, 1036; W. Tacagni, 2395; G. H. Foon, P.M. 1614; A. Smiley, 45; H. W. Wells, P.M. 1671; F. W. Garnham, P.M. 946; C. H. Fry,

P.M. 16; H. W. Schartau, I.P.M. 1261; W. D. Schwarz, P.M. 1305; H. Machin, P.M. 231; W. W. Lee, P.M. 2381; and others.

The minutes were confirmed, Bro. Howison was passed to the Second Degree and Bros. Prosser, Adams, and Selbach raised. Bro. A. H. P. Snow was next presented as W.M. elect, and was impressively installed into the chair by Bro. Elvin. The following officers were invested: Bros. J. W. Elvin, I.P.M.; G. T. Atkinson, S.W.; W. J. Harvey, J.W.; F. Kedge, P.M., Treas.; F. Jackson, P.M., Sec.; W. H. M. Burgess, S.D.; W. H. Kitto, J.D.; W. Stevenson, I.G.; W. Hancock, P.M., D.C.; C. Guttman, Org.; A. Goodman, W. G. Williams, and O. E. Cottrell, Stwds.; and R. F. Potter, Tyler. The I.P.M. was presented with a Past Master's jewel in recognition of his valuable services, and the lodge was closed.

After banquet in the Victoria Hall, the usual toasts received hearty recognition.

Bro. J. W. Elvin, I.P.M., in proposing "The Health of the W. Master," said they were one and all pleased to see Bro. Snow in the chair that evening. He (the I.P.M.) would not say anything in reference to a brother's Masonic career unless he was thoroughly entitled to it, but Bro. Suow was one of the most steadfast Masons they could meet. The W.M. had been some years getting to the chair, and had fairly earned the position. Bro. Snow had gone from one office to another, steadily progressing, and now that he was W.M. he would be thoroughly supported by every P.M. and member in order that he might win the success which his predecessors in the lodge had attained.

Bro. A. H. P. Snow, W.M., in his response, returned sincere thanks to the brethren for placing him in the position of the chair. He hoped his year would be acceptable and agreeable to the members and himself. The kind remarks of the I.P.M. as to the working he appreciated, and he hoped he should not be found wanting. It would be a pleasure to him to initiate, pass, or raise any candidates that came forward, and he hoped to leave a record balance behind him. He was gratified at the audit meeting to find that the I.P.M.'s balance was in excess of that previously held, and that the Benevolent Fund was flourishing. He hoped, as the evening was late, they would excuse him from making a lengthy speech, and he would therefore only thank them all sincerely.

The W.M. then proposed "The I.P.M. and Installing Master," and referred to the popularity and working ability of Bro. Elvin, whom they hoped to see with them for many years to come.

Bro. J. W. Elvin, I.P.M., Prov. J.G.W. Kent, expressed his obligation to the W.M. for the courteous manner in which the toast of his health had been proposed. His year of office had been a pleasant one, which was largely attributable to the number of initiates he had had. He thanked the members for supporting him, and hoped he should in the future have further opportunities of assisting in the success of the lodge.

"The Visitors" was cordially given, and responded to by Bros. Strutt, W.M.; Orchard, P.M.; Ferguson, P.M.; Reeve, P.M.; Schmitz, P.M.; and Lee, P.M.

"The Past Masters, Treasurer, and Secretary," gave the W.M. an opportunity of referring to the services rendered by the Past Masters, and especially by Bros. Jackson, P.M., and Kedge, P.M., the Secretary and Treasurer of the lodge.

"The Officers" were honoured, and the pleasant proceedings closed.

Bro. H. Schartau, P.M., directed the musical arrangements, and was ably supported by Miss Annie McBride, Miss Gertrude Snow, and Bros. C. Ellison, P.M., and Walter Churcher.

Isle of Axholme Lodge, No. 1482.

The monthly meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, Crowle, Lincolnshire, on Monday last. Present: Bros. J. H. Lee, W.M.; J. Franks, I.P.M.; A. W. Cundall, S.W.; M. Dowson, J.W.; T. Staniforth, Treas.; J. Constable, Chap.; J. Burtonshaw, Sec.; J. Cranidge, J.D.; W. Barratt, I.G.; H. L. Burtonshaw, Org.; J. Hemingbrough, D. of C.; G. Naylor, Tyler; and S. H. C. Ashlin. Bro. E. Hirst, W.M. 2259, was a visitor.

Bros. J. Franks and S. H. C. Ashlin were saluted with honours as newly-invested Prov. G. Officers, the former as P.A.G.D.C. Linc., the latter as P.G. Std. Br. West Yorks. The election of officers for the ensuing year took place and resulted as follows: Bro. A. W. Cundall, W.M.; T. Staniforth, Treas.; and G. Naylor, Tyler. Each brother returned thanks for the honour conferred.

The brethren afterwards adjourned to the Club Room for refreshment.

St. Nicholas Lodge, No. 2259.

The monthly meeting was held in the Masonic Rooms, Thorne, on Wednesday, the 20th instant. Present: Bros. E. Hirst, W.M.; G. Eland, I.P.M.; T. J. Smith, J.W.; J. Constable, P.P.G. Std. Br., Sec.; E. Donkin, Treas.; W. P. Robotham, Org.; T. Barber, D.C.; J. Acaster, I.G.; F. Pine, Tyler; T. R. R. Marsdin, and other members. Visitors: Bros. W. Blackburn, P.P.G.D., Chairman of the Charity Committee West Yorks; J. W. Hainsworth, W.M., T. W. Turner, I.P.M., F. H. Buckland, P.M., C. Goldthorpe, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., and A. W. Fretwell, P.M., of 242; J. W. Cole, and others.

The lodge having been opened, Bro. Blackburn gave a most interesting and instructive address on Charity, and the three great Charities in particular. He received quite an ovation, and every attention was given to his capital address, and we have no doubt his remarks and suggestions will bring forth good fruit. He thought if that little lodge could give 10 guineas to the South African distressed Masons, they could, when called upon, do something for Charity at home. A hearty vote of thanks was proposed to Bro. Blackburn, on the motion of Bro. Barber, seconded by Bro. Constable, and carried with acclamation.

The lodge having been closed, the brethren afterwards partook of light refreshment.

Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076.

The lodge met at Freemasons' Hall, on Monday, the 23rd inst., at 5 p.m. Present: Bros. T. B. Whythead, P.G.S.B., W.M.; C. Kupferschmidt, A.G.S.G.C., as I.P.M.; G. Greiner, S.W.; G. W. Speth, P.A.G.D.C., Secretary; and E. Armitage, Steward. Also 54 members of the Correspondence Circle, Bro. W. J. Songhurst, acting as S.W., and Bro. Powell, as I.G. Also six visitors, two of whom hailed from Germany and one from Massachusetts. Fifty-seven candidates were admitted members of the Correspondence Circle, as follows: The Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, London; Lodge Temperance, No. 897, S.C., Brisbane, Queensland. Bros. A. G. Mitchell, P.M. 204, Peak Hill, New South Wales; E. Pretty, P.D.G.W., C. F. R. Wearne, J. H. Hunt, D.G.I.G., D. H. Irving, and Rev. G. C. Butler, D.G.B.B., all of Perth, West Australia; C. Benjamin, 879 (S.C.), and D. Smith, 775 (S.C.), of Brisbane, Queensland; B. M. Moorhouse, P.M. 2627; L. S. Manning, 2597, Christchurch; and C. A. C. Hardy, Dep. G.M. Canterbury, New Zealand; E. W. Fern, 338 (S.C.), and Capt. S. Barcham, 549 Bombay; Dr. R. P. Crookshank, D.D.G.M. Rapid City, Manitoba, Canada; Dr. O. S. Wright, P.M., Plant City, and H. H. Schwerin, P.M. 19, Ocala, Florida; J. D. Whish, 452, Albany, New York; and J. J. Earley, W.M. 3, St. Paul, Minnesota, in the U.S.A.; L. Mackersy, P.M. 48, and K. K. Inches, 291, Edinburgh; J. Holt, P.M. 509, Yarm-on-Tees; F. J. Witter, 1723, Bolton; S. T. Weston, 269, Blackburne; Hammerslev, 418, Hanley; H. Richardson, 482, Handsworth; H. E. Hall, 296, and A. H. Allen, P.M. 2268, Sheffield; R. Potter, P.M. 275, Halifax; J. J. C. Turner, P.M. 51, Colchester; E. F. Broderip, J.P., W.M. 1303, Bristol; J. Bryant, 1099, Southsea; T. Foster, 1659, Richmond; A. Carpenter, 2536, Staines; W. B. Wood, P.M., and T. A. Washbourn, jun., both of 839, and A. V. Hatton, P.M. 483, Gloucester; L. Hann, W.M. 82, Cheltenham; Major J. J. Murphy, P.M. 913, Plumstead; R. M. Marples, 754, Bromley; and A.



AMONG THE LEADING BRANDS OF

CHAMPAGNE
Blankenhorn's "SPORTSMAN" EXTRA DRY.

ENJOYS A REPUTATION OF A QUARTER-OF-A-CENTURY.

London Offices—18, CULLUM STREET LONDON, E.C.

V. Hatton, P.M. 493; E. M. Taylor, W.M. 913; J. G. Cobb, R. S. Fairbank, P.M. 2000; T. Prior, P.M. 675; A. H. Nicholl, W.M. 2744; R. C. Leversedge, E. B. Harris, 2580; C. Cobham, J. A. Carpenter, W.M. 2565; C. Glaser, 1446; H. Tucker, 2012; E. F. Barnes, W.M. 2763; P. M. Hamilton, C. Chabot, P.M. 11; and H. J. C. Hollinghurst, 1524, all in or near London.

Letters of apology for non-attendance were received from Bros. G. L. Shackles, Hull, detained by professional duties; Admiral A. H. Markham, ditto; Dr. Chetwode Crawley, P.G.D. Ireland, unable to leave Dublin; E. J. Castle, Q.C., professionally engaged at Bristol; C. Purdon Clarke, acting on Jury at the Paris Exposition; and W. J. Hughan, Torquay.

The Secretary called attention to the exhibits before him, which had been presented to the lodge by Bro. G. H. Powley, of Auckland, P.G.W. of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, then present with them for the first time, viz., Vol. XII. of the "Republican," containing the original issue of Carlile's well-known spurious ritual of Freemasonry; a photograph of a curious apron preserved in the Masonic Hall at Auckland; and a beautiful Japanese carving in sandal wood of Masonic emblems. The thanks of the lodge were tendered to Bro. Powley, who stated in reply that his ambition for the last 10 years, to meet the brethren of No. 2076 in open lodge, had at last been realised. Bro. T. B. Whytehead read a long and intensely interesting paper on the "Relics of the Grand Lodge at York," in which he described the various possessions of that body, which, escaping loss or destruction, had now found a permanent home in the York Lodge, and gave a sketch, full of detail, of the history of that venerable Grand Lodge, now extinct. He was able to show good reason, however, for thinking that instead of dying out, as had been supposed, about 1795, it had continued in existence until well within the present century, and that visitors to York lodges were still announced so late as 1813 as G. Officers of the G. Lodge of All England. Comments followed by Bros. Speth, Lamony, and Salwey, and after a hearty vote of thanks had been accorded and acknowledged, the brethren adjourned to the Holborn Restaurant for dinner.

ANNUAL SUPPER OF THE LA FRANCE LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 2060.

The above lodge of instruction celebrated on Thursday, the 21st instant, the second season of its working by an annual supper at the Café Royal. Before the brethren sat down to table they assembled in the lodge room, where Bro. J. Oppenheim (Treasurer of the French Chamber of Commerce in London), W.M., opened the lodge, being assisted by Bros. H. Mondehare, W.M. 2796, as I.P.M.; H. Garrard, P.M. 188, as S.W.; and Pocock, P.A.G.D.C., as J.W.

After Bro. D. Brill, Sec., had read the minutes of the last meeting, and the brethren had tendered their heartiest wishes to the W.M.,

Bro. Pocock rose and, in a most eloquent speech in French, asked the three Preceptors—Bros. Oppenheim, Mondehare, and Barlet—to accept, as a slight token of gratitude from their pupils, silver cigarette cases with a suitable inscription commemorating the event.

The lodge being closed, the members adjourned to the banquet hall, where a sumptuous repast was served. From beginning to end a cheerful and happy feeling prevailed.

Amongst those present were Bros. Dr. McLearn, P.M. 2168; Dr. G. Michael, 185; J. F. Saunders, P.M. 1507; V. T. Hantke, 820; L. Franklin, 185; L. Levy, jun., 185; and J. Hewett, 2796 (all members); and the following visitors: Bros. E. Cutler, Q.C., P.G. Org.; J. Speller, P.G.D. Essex; W. Gardner, 185; M. Brill, 1507; J. B. Smith, 1693; L. Fraser, 820; G. Beverley, 820; P. Ornstien, I.P.M. 185; A. Abrahams, 2265; Dr. E. Lunge, 2796; and M. Schoeps, Port Natal Lodge.

The loyal toasts were duly honoured, and many other speeches were delivered, containing expressions of goodwill, brotherly fellowship, and hope for the future prosperity of the lodge of instruction.

During the speeches a capital musical entertainment was provided. The following contributed: Miss Beverly Sitgreaves, the clever American mimic of the Globe Theatre; Madlle. Berthe Saverny, in her delightful French songs; and the well-known violinist, F. Hervouet. M. J. A. Roger made an effective accompanist.

This lodge of instruction will begin the new session for the working of the English ritual in the French tongue on the second Thursday in September at the Café Royal, Regent-street, W., at 8.30 p.m.

Royal Arch.

Royal Alfred Chapter, No. 777.

The installation meeting of this chapter was held at the Angel Hotel, Guildford, on Wednesday, the 20th inst., when there were present Comps. E. Miles, M.E.Z.; Alred Gibbs, H.; T. P. Whateley, J.; J. B. S. Lancaster, P.Z., Scribe E.; E. H. Gale Crowdy, P.Z., Treas.; Rev. J. A. Arnan Tait, P.S.; W. Macklin, 1st A.S.; F. Dowse, P.Z.; G. H. Robinson; R. F. Gould, P.A.G.S., and C. T. Tyler, P.A.G.D.C., Prov. G. Scribe E. (Hon. Members). Comp. Gilbert H. White, P.Z. 1395, was a visitor.

The minutes of the previous convocation having been confirmed, the Principals elect were successively presented by Comp. R. F. Gould, and duly installed in their respective chairs, the M.E.Z. and H. by Comp. C. T. Tyler, and J. by Comp. T. P. Whateley. The other officers for the ensuing year were then invested as follows: Comps. J. B. S. Lancaster, S.E.; E. H. Gale Crowdy, Treas.; W. Macklin, P.S.; G. H. Robinson, 1st A.S.; and G. Hoare, Janitor. The M.E.Z. was re-elected Charity Representative. A brother of No. 2234 was proposed for exaltation, and various letters of regret were read from companions who were unable to be present, after which, there being no further business, the chapter was closed.

A banquet followed.

Allied Masonic Degrees.

Old York Council, No. 29.

In the month of June of last year we gave in these columns an account of the visit of the Earl of Euston to West Yorkshire and the formation and consecration of the Old York Council, Allied Degrees, and the *Lodis* Conclave Red Cross of Rome and Constantine. On the 19th instant the brethren of the Old York Council met in the Masonic Hall, Salem-street, Bradford, for the purpose of installing the second Worshipful Master. During the year just completed that position had been filled by R.W. Bro. C. Letch Mason, Prov. G. Master of the Mark Degree, and with a proper sense of the fitness of things the brethren elected the W. Deputy, Bro. John Barker, as his successor. But installation was not by any means the only item on the agenda for the meeting's proceedings. There were six candidates and one joining member to admit, which alone constituted a good evening's work. Of these four put in an appearance, and upon them were conferred the Degrees of St. Laurence the Martyr, Knight of Constantinople, and Red Cross of Babylon. The W.M.'s chair, in the first instance, was filled by Bro. C. Letch Mason. His officers comprised: Bros. H. S. Holdsworth, S.W.; Richard Hodgson, J.W.; R. A. Pullon, Chap.; Charles Crabtree, Treas.; C. W. Hudson, Sec.; Thomas Norfolk, S.D.; Geo. Whitaker, J.D.; Geo. Martin, acting as I.G.; and Edwin Foulds as O.G. In addition to these there were present: Bros. J. L. Atherton, P.M.; John Barker, W.M. elect; J. M.

Lawson, Joseph Smith, D. Hopkin, Robert Potter, T. G. Howell, Walker Dyson, Wright Wagstaffe, Jas. Conchar, W. Vaux, L. Crossley, Jas. Tilley, J. A. Godwin, J. P.; Wm. Foster, G. C. Gamble, Richard Gill, and Joseph Matthewman.

Bro. Barker was presented for installation by Bro. J. L. Atherton, and on the retirement of the brethren was placed with the usual ceremony in the W.M.'s chair. It may here be mentioned that Bro. Barker's installation should have taken place at an earlier meeting, but owing to his serious illness this was not possible; the new officers were, however, appointed and invested on that occasion, and now filled the positions assigned to them. The ceremonies of admission of the four Candidates to the three Degrees were most beautifully carried out, the work being distributed amongst Bros. J. L. Atherton, C. L. Mason, John Barker, H. S. Holdsworth, and R. Hodgson. No small portion of the success of the proceedings was due to the most careful and efficient way in which the Deacons—Bros. T. Norfolk and G. Whitaker—discharged their duties. The rendering of the lectures was assigned to Bro. J. L. Atherton, and they were given in that brother's own most impressive and excellent way. Masonic ritual, as all Bradford and much of West Yorkshire can testify, receives full and appreciative interpretation from Bro. Atherton, and in this instance, to the gratification of brethren and candidates alike, he fully rose to the occasion.

Influenced by the example and inspired by the earnestness of the brethren named, the success of the Old York Council from its inception was never for a moment in doubt. Although its career has been brief, its progress has been marvellous. Commencing with seven founders, it has added seven joining brethren and admitted no less than 30 new men within its portals during the year. Counting its eight honorary members it now has a roll of 52, and is not likely to stop there. Bradford, Leeds, Halifax, Huddersfield, Wakefield, and other Masonic centres have all contributed to form this harmonious whole, and this bringing together of a mass of miscellaneous units tends undoubtedly to wold into greater strength the bonds of Masonic union in West Yorkshire. There is, moreover, a breeziness about these Bradford gatherings which is stimulating and healthy: a kind of Masonic ozone (shall we say?) which brings new life into its members, and sends them home with a stouter heart and a stronger pulse, and so enables them to contend with adverse influences may be, which might otherwise produce Masonic indifference or even despondency.

"Banquets," so-called, are unknown on these occasions, but there is the usual little supper, followed by toast and song, and the brethren disperse with the pleasant feeling that, without being able to assign any special reason for it, they have had a thoroughly good time, and—well—what does mortal want more?

Obituary.

THE LATE BRO. W. A. TINNEY, P.M., Sec. 1319, &c.

On Wednesday, the 27th instant, at Brompton Cemetery, Bro. C. B. Powell, W.M. of the Asaph Lodge, No. 1319, unveiled a handsome memorial to the late Bro. William Alexander Tinney, P.M., Secretary of the Asaph Lodge, P.Z. of the Asaph Chapter, and P.M. of the Dramatic Mark Lodge, No. 487. There were present at the gathering a number of P.Ms. and P.Zs. connected with these bodies, who had chosen this particular mode of exhibiting their esteem and respect for Bro. Tinney, who, in the course of his career, had rendered such valuable services to Masonry. The memorial had been designed and executed by Bro. E. M. Lander, P.M., P.Z., of Kensal Green, in a manner that elicited the highest encomiums from all present, and to whom Bro. James Weaver, G. Std. Br., expressed the sincere thanks of the contributors to the memorial for the admirable manner in which he had carried out his commission.

BRO. SAMUEL CONSTANTINE BURKE, PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER FOR SCOTLAND IN JAMAICA.

A special communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Scotland was held in connection with the death of Bro. S. Constantine Burke, on the evening of the 31st ult. Several prominent members of the Masonic lodges working under the Scotch and English Constitutions were present, and among them were Bros. Dr. Ogilvie and W. A. Paine, Past Depute Prov. Grand Masters for Scotland; and the Hon. Dr. C. B. Mosse, C.B., Deputy District Grand Master; with the Wardens of the District Grand Lodge of the English Constitution. In opening the proceedings of the evening, Bro. William Duff, Depute Prov. Grand Master, who presided, addressed the brethren as follows: "Worshipful Sirs and Brethren—I have summoned you to meet this evening to receive from me the official intimation of the death of Bro. S. Constantine Burke, Provincial Grand Master, which melancholy event took place on Wednesday, the 23rd inst., at his residence in St. Andrew, and to ask you to join with me in placing on record an expression of our deep sorrow at the loss we and the Craft have sustained. To us, Scotch Masons, the death of the Prov. Grand Master must be an event which we all deplore, but when in it, we recognise the removal from our midst of a man and a brother who was so universally respected, the occasion becomes one of unusual interest, and is productive of feelings of more than ordinary sorrow. Bro. Burke was a man of exceptional ability, and during the long period in which he occupied the important position of Prov. Grand Master, he has, on several occasions, most successfully represented Jamaica at Masonic and other gatherings in England and elsewhere. In judging of Bro. Burke's Masonic career in connection with this Prov. Grand Lodge, we must not limit our thoughts to the later years of his life, when from infirmity of body, and the pressing cares of business, he was not able to give that attention to Masonry which in his earlier days he had so ably rendered; but there are some in this room who can recall the days when the zeal and ability of Bro. Burke were conspicuously displayed for the good of the Craft, and that this is so was fully demonstrated by his being exalted to the high position he so long held. Bro. Burke, as a citizen, was a remarkable man. We cannot here enter upon his acts as a politician, but this we can do, we can pay a tribute to his many self-sacrificing acts for the benefit of his native land, and record our appreciation of him as a man of whom Jamaica is justly proud. A self-made man, Bro. Burke stood forth in every relation of life conspicuous by his courtesy and kindly and sympathetic manner to all who had dealings with him, and none rejoiced more at his success than the Masons, who looked up to him with respect and esteem. It is our duty on an occasion of this kind to remember what is good of one who has passed away from among us, and it is in this spirit that I have asked you to meet here to-day to do honour to the memory of a great man and worthy Mason, who has in his day done much to advance the prosperity of Jamaica." The brethren named as being present, with one or two others, paid a well-merited tribute to the memory of the late Prov. G. Master in the remarks which they severally made as to Bro. Burke's excellent qualities, his rare gifts, his genial disposition, and the pleasure which it gave them to be associated with him either in the social circle, in the Legislative Hall, in the Courts of Justice, or in the Masonic temple. Bro. Dr. Mosse, in his speech, truly said that the death of Bro. Burke would create a blank in the various positions he had so ably held, which it would be found almost impossible to fill. Bro. W. A. Paine then moved a resolution, which was seconded by Bro. Dr. Ogilvie, and carried unanimously, conveying the sympathy of the lodge to Mrs. Burke and other members of the family: "That the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Scotland in Jamaica have

heard with deep and sincere sorrow of the death of Rt. Wor. Bro. S. Constantine Burke, Provincial Grand Master, and desire to place on record an expression of their high appreciation of his many excellent qualities as a citizen, a friend, and a brother Mason. The Wor. Bro. Burke for many years held the high and responsible office of Provincial Grand Master, and by his courteous and kindly demeanour on all occasions won the regard and esteem of the Craft. The members of the Provincial Grand Lodge desire to convey to Mrs. Burke and the other members of Bro. Burke's family the expression of their deep sympathy with them in their affliction, and to assure them that the brethren over whom Bro. Burke presided will long deplore the loss of so universally respected a ruler of the Craft." On the motion of Bro. M. H. Lawrence, seconded by Bro. A. H. Jones, it was unanimously agreed—"That the daughter lodges be invited to co-operate with the Provincial Grand Lodge in its efforts to raise a fund for the purpose of obtaining some suitable memorial as a tribute of the respect and esteem in which the Rt. Wor. S. Constantine Burke, late Prov. Grand Master, was held by those over whom he presided, and that a Committee of this Provincial Grand Lodge be appointed to confer with the daughter lodges on the subject." The committee was thereupon named. After some further business in relation to the object for which the meeting had been called, was disposed of, a funeral lodge service was held, which was strikingly solemn and impressive. Those who were responsible for the getting up of this service did not fail in their efforts to produce such a one as would have commended itself to Bro. Burke's well-known good judgment and taste. There was but one expression from all who joined in that service, viz., that it was befitting the occasion which was being used to revere the memory of one, of whom it can truly be said, "A great man has fallen." The lodge room, with its furniture, clothing and jewels, was draped in black. Each of the members was presented with a leaflet in memoriam, containing portions of the service with the hymns used on the occasion, printed on mourning note. The Dead March in "Saul" and the voluntaries were executed with splendid effect, together with the loading of the hymns. Bro. Whittingham presided at the organ, and the thanks of the brethren are due to him for the success which attended this portion of the service. May the mantle of Bro. S. Constantine Burke fall on the shoulders of a worthy successor to him as Provincial Grand Master for Scotland in Jamaica!

BRO. A. M. LEVY, P.M. No. 889.

Bro. A. M. Levy, P.M. of the Dobie Lodge, No. 889, P.P.A.G.D.C. Surrey, passed away last Saturday, the 23rd instant, after an illness (paralysis of the brain) which had lasted less than a month. The deceased had not been in good health of late, but he discharged the Secretarial duties of his lodge in May, in the absence of the Secretary, and hoped that rest from business would restore him to health. With that object in view he went to stay at Southsea, and the change seemed to be benefiting him; but paralysis set in, and took him away. The interment was on Monday, at Willesden, in accordance with the rites of the Jewish faith. Bro. Chapman, P.M., and Bro. W. Drewett, P.M. and Sec., Dobie Lodge, attended on behalf of the lodge, and laid a properly fashioned emblem, in white and purple blooms, on the coffin. The Noel Lodge, No. 2444, of which Bro. Levy was a P.M. and the Treasurer, was represented by Bros. Brooker, W.M.; Packington, P.M. and Sec.; and Hullett, and they also bore a tributary offering of flowers. The Kingston Traders' Association and Kingston Philanthropic Society, of which bodies Bro. Levy was chairman, were represented, and sent wreaths. Bro. Levy, who was in his 59th year, had been in business as a jeweller in Kingston for 20 years, and his death is regretted by a wide circle of friends.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF MIDDLESEX.

The annual meeting was held at the Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court, on Tuesday, the 26th instant. The brethren present included:

Bros. Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., M.P., Prov. G. Master; Sir John B. Monckton, P.G.W., Dep. Prov. G. Master; J. C. F. Tower, Prov. S.G.W.; Jas. Irvine, Prov. J.G.W.; General Astley Terry, P.G.S.B.; N. Sherwood, Prov. G.O.; Perriman, Prov. G.O.; A. H. Scurrah, Prov. G. Reg. of M.; A. Stewart Brown, Prov. G. Sec.; J. Hill, Prov. G.J.D.; Hy. Longman, Prov. G.I.W.; Lt.-Col. C. D. Leyden, Prov. G.S.B.; Dr. F. S. Toogood, Prov. G. Std. Br.; Wyndham Hart, P.P.G.W.; Major C. J. Knightley, P.P.G.W., and Prov. G.D.C.; F. G. Ivey, P.P.G.D.; Jas. M. Small, P.P.G. Reg.; George Graveley, P.P.G.W.; W. A. Scurrah, G.S.D., P.P.G.W.; A. O. Hemming, W.M.; A. E. Park, W.M.; L. Micville, J.W.; W. Ellis; and many others.

Prov. Grand Lodge was opened and the minutes confirmed. The Report of the Committee of General Purposes, which was unanimously adopted, shows the province to be in a very satisfactory condition. The Clapton Lodge had resumed working, and the number of members in the province was larger than previously. The Committee recommended that 10 guineas should be voted to the Mark Benevolent Fund, to be placed on the list of the Prov. G. Master. Bro. W. M. Stiles was re-elected Prov. G. Treas., on the nomination of Bro. Fitzroy Tower. The roll of lodges was called, and three were found to be unrepresented. Bros. Knightley, W. A. Scurrah, Graveley, and Towers were elected a Committee of General Purposes.

The following Prov. G. Officers were appointed and invested:

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| Bro. Sir John Monckton | ... | ... | D.P.G.M. |
| " L. Mieville | ... | ... | Prov. S.G.W. |
| " J. Linzell | ... | ... | Prov. J.G.W. |
| " Alfred Clark | ... | ... | Prov. G.M.O. |
| " N. Sherwood | ... | ... | Prov. S.G.O. |
| " C. H. Perryman | ... | ... | Prov. J.G.O. |
| " Rev. W. Russell Finlay | ... | ... | Prov. G. Chap. |
| " A. H. Scurrah | ... | ... | Prov. G. Reg. |
| " W. M. Stiles | ... | ... | Prov. G. Treas. |
| " A. Stewart Brown | ... | ... | Prov. G. Sec. |
| " E. B. P'Anson | ... | ... | Prov. S.G.D. |
| " Jas. Hill | ... | ... | Prov. J.G.D. |
| " Henry Longman | ... | ... | Prov. G.I. of Wks. |
| " Capt. C. J. Knightley | ... | ... | Prov. G.D.C. |
| " J. R. Ubsdell | ... | ... | Prov. A.G.D.C. |
| " Col. C. E. Leyden | ... | ... | Prov. G.S.B. |
| " Dr. S. Toogood | ... | ... | Prov. G. Std. Br. |
| " Jas. Bayne | ... | ... | Prov. G. Org. |
| " H. Clark | ... | ... | Prov. G.I.G. |
| " Dr. Warren | ... | ... | Prov. G. Stwd. |
| " F. Mitchell | ... | ... | Prov. G. Tyler. |

Letters of regret were announced from many brethren, and the Prov. G. Lodge was closed.

After an excellent banquet, the loyal toasts were heartily honoured.

Bro. Sir JOHN MONCKTON, P.G.W., Dep. P.G.M., replying for "The Grand Officers," said the proceedings in Prov. Grand Lodge were good, and they had had an agreeable evening. The Grand Officers were all veterans in the art and good workers.

Bro. W. A. SCURRAH, G.D., on behalf of the present Grand Officers, returned thanks, and expressed his gratification at having been selected for Grand Office at the last meeting of Grand Lodge. All the Grand Officers endeavoured to do the best they could to uphold the dignity and prestige of their beautiful Degree.

Bro. A. STEWART BROWN, Prov. G. Sec., proposed "The Health of the Prov. Grand Master," whom he had had the pleasure of serving under for seven years—first as D.P.G.M., and now as Prov. G.M. Although Bro. Sir Reginald Hanson had not the time to visit them as frequently as the late Prov. Grand Master, he had the welfare of Mark Masonry in Middlesex at heart. The Prov. Grand Master was with them in spirit at their meetings if not in person. When they had a brother of Sir Reginald Hanson's standing at the head of the province, it was bound to succeed and bound to grow. They would drink the toast heartily, and hope to do so for many, many years to come.

Bro. Sir REGINALD HANSON, Bart., M.P., Prov. G. Master thanked the Prov. G. Secretary for the warm terms in which he had proposed the toast. In fact, he hardly recognised himself, for "in their own merits, modest men are dumb." It was a very great pleasure to preside over them for the first time since his installation. The Prov. G. Secretary had been good enough to hope he would do so for many years to come, and if they were content with the slight amount of time he could give he also was content. He hoped they would have an accession to their numbers, including those who would take their turn at the head of affairs. Inasmuch as a Prov. G. Master was appointed for three years, it was expected there should be rapid promotion, for it was different to the Craft, where a Prov. G. Master remained until death or resignation. He hoped the time would come when there would be such men who would be able and willing to take the position of Prov. G. Master. Before he sat down, as there were such things as trains, he would propose the next toast, that of "The Dep. Prov. G.M., and the Prov. G. Officers." The Deputy had already, in another capacity, been toasted. Several Prov. Grand Officers had also attained Grand rank this year, and in honouring them the Grand Master had honoured the Province of Middlesex. The Prov. S.G.W. had been obliged to go, but the Prov. J.G.W., Bro. Linzell, had rendered special services in Middlesex by resuscitating one lodge which had long been dormant.

Bro. J. LINZELL, P.M., Prov. J.G.W., briefly replied, and the proceedings closed with the Prov. G. Tyler's toast.

Instruction.

ROYAL ALFRED LODGE, No. 780.

A meeting was held on the 21st instant, at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge. Present: Bros. T. H. Johnson, W.M.; R. H. Worth, S.W.; Justin Allen, P.M., J.W.; Larkman, P.M., Treas.; A. H. Bridger, Sec.; Botley, P.M., S.D.; E. C. St. Aubyn, I.G.; and R. H. Williams, P.M., Preceptor.

The lodge having been opened, the W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Bridger, Sec., being the candidate. Bro. Williams, Preceptor, worked the 2nd Section of the Lecture. Bro. R. H. Worth will occupy the chair next week.

HYDE PARK LODGE, No. 1425.

The usual weekly meeting was held on the 25th instant, at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Eastbourne-terrace, Bishop's-road, Paddington, when there were present Bros. W. H. Handover, W.M., 1642, W.M.; F. Spink, S.W.; G. E. Harris, J.W.; H. Dehane, P.M. 1543, P.P.S.G.D. Essex, Sec.; J. H. Beardon, S.D.; W. H. Smith, J.D.; J. Chubb, I.G.; J. Ford, Steward; W. J. Ferguson, P.M. 177, Deputy Preceptor; A. Collinan, W.M. 1425; W. Chapple, P.M., Sec. 1425; J. L. Franklin, 1543; and W. Peagram, 1425 (visitor).

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed. Bro. Peagram having been instructed, the lodge was opened in the Second Degree. After the usual preliminaries, the lodge was opened in the Third Degree, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Collinan being the candidate. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. The W.M. rose for the first time, and Bro. Peagram was elected a member, and acknowledged the compliment. Bro. Spink was elected W.M. for next meeting. Bro. Harris expressed his thanks for the congratulations of the brethren on his providential escape from injury in the railway accident at Slough. After "Hearty good wishes," the lodge was closed.

EARL'S COURT LODGE, No. 2765.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 27th instant, at the Greyhound Hotel, Kensington-square, W., when there were present Bros. C. G. Hatt, W.M.; J. Cox, S.W.; H. G. Cox, J.W.; J. Worth, Preceptor; J. Cox, Dep. Preceptor; J. W. Facey, Treas.; Albert J. Taylor, Sec.; J. Hallam, S.D.; Joel Davis, J.D.; W. James, I.G.; H. J. Cousens, P.M.; G. T. Taylor, H. O. Sanders, and Maurice Davis.

The lodge was opened in the First Degree, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The W.M. rehearsed the initiation ceremony, Bro. G. T. Taylor being the candidate. The lodge was called off and on, and Bro. G. T. Taylor answered the usual questions leading to the Second Degree. Bro. Cousens was entrusted and retired. Lodge then opened in Second Degree, Bro. Cousens being the candidate. The ceremony of passing was rehearsed. The W.M. was congratulated on his good working, and Bro. J. Cox was elected to the chair for Wednesday, the 4th prox. The Secretary announced the coming summer outing in connection with the Earl's Court Lodge, when the brethren and their friends will make an excursion to Burnham-on-Crouch, where Bro. J. Cox will provide and generally entertain the party at his hotel. All the arrangements have made, and a thoroughly enjoyable day is anticipated. The date is the 21st prox., leaving Liverpool-street Station at 8.55 a.m. All particulars can be had from any member of the Earl's Court Lodge.

DOWN TO THURSDAY NIGHT, the 27th instant, the Indian Famine Fund amounted to £306.400.

PRINCESS HENRY OF BATTENBERG, who was attended by Miss Minnie Cochrane, had an enthusiastic reception in Kennington on the occasion of her visit, on the 27th inst., to lay the foundation-stone of the New Belgrave Hospital for Children. The ceremony took place in a large marquee on the site of the projected building, and her Royal Highness was received on arrival by the Chairman of the Executive Committee (Lord Windsor), the Vice-Chairman (Mr. W. H. Warner), Sir Alfred Bevan, Mr. Douglas Freshfield, and its other members; while among the company present were Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the Countess of Bessborough, Viscountess Hood, Lady Windsor, Col. and Lady Blanche Haygarth, the Hon. Mrs. Talbot, Lady Helen Meller, Lady Lockwood, and many more.