

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

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, K.G., ETC., 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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MISUSE OF THE BALLOT.

It seldom happens nowadays, when a new lodge is constituted, that the Consecrating Officer neglects the opportunity afforded him of impressing upon the Master, officers, and members of the newly-formed body the importance of exercising the utmost caution in accepting candidates for the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry. Other brethren high in authority in the Craft, such as Provincial and District Grand Officers, gladly utilise every similar opportunity that may present itself of inculcating in the minds of those they may be addressing the very obvious truth that the well-being and security—nay, the very existence—of a lodge depends primarily on the class of men who are received into its ranks, either as initiates or joining members. There is admittedly a very grave necessity for these admonitions on the part of our rulers. There is, especially in these days when new lodges are continually being formed, a tendency on the part of Masters and members to determine as to the measure of progress which their lodges have made or are making by the number of recruits they have enrolled, or have good reason to believe are coming forward for enrolment. At the installation of a new Master it has come to be one of the stereotyped compliments which the I.P.M., in proposing the health of his successor in the chair, considers it a duty to pay him, to affirm that the new W.M. is well qualified to perform all the ceremonies of the Craft, while the W.M., after modestly acknowledging the compliment, goes on to promise that, if only the lodge will give him enough work to do, he will do it to the best of his ability. Here, then, we have the two strongest incentives to lodges and their members to disregard the caution so frequently and so wisely impressed upon them by the rulers of the Craft, namely:—

- (1) the habit they have contracted of looking upon increase of membership as necessarily indicating increase of prosperity;
- (2) the readiness of Masters and lodges to consider the amount of ceremonial work done in any given year as unquestionable evidence of successful Mastership. Thus, on the one hand, we

have consecrating officers and Provincial and District Grand Masters laying it down that it is quality not quantity which is essential to the successful conduct of lodges, and therefore that it is impossible to be careful as to whom they accept as members; and on the other hand there is the growing tendency on the part of lodges to regard numbers as the one great criterion of success. These views are not necessarily antagonistic. Quality and quantity may advance together, but as a rule the standard of merit in the matter of character is less pronounced among a large number of people than among a small number, and hence it seems to be far the wiser policy to be cautious in this as in all other matters of moment connected with Masonry.

One of the commonest, and at the same time one of the worst consequences, that follow from a due want of care in guarding the lodge portals of our lodges is the admission of persons who neither know nor care much for the principles and tenets of the Craft, but regard the lodge as a kind of club, of which sundry of their friends and acquaintances are members, into which they consider that, for this and other reasons, they are entitled, as, undoubtedly, so far as means are concerned, they are eligible, to be admitted, and in which, when once they have been admitted, they consider they will have a splendid opportunity for exhibiting what they conceive to be their best points, without the slightest consideration for the feelings and opinions of the brethren to whom they are indebted for this acceptance as members. In the case of a lodge which is enriched by the admission of such a member or members, all goes well as a rule so long as the views of the brethren and these recruits coincide, but when the latter has become a full-fledged M.M. and finds himself, as such, firmly established, he exhibits a tendency to assert himself "nilly-willy" as regards his brother members and those who differ with and venture openly to oppose him, become at once, if not his mortal enemies, at all events persons whom must be made to understand and accept his wishes. Then follows the stage in which he resents opposition by blackballing the candidates recommended by his opponents; and then, when this and other kinds of dirty underhand trickery have set all the members at loggerheads, the lodge suffers in repute as well as financially, and may consider itself fortunate if it does not come to an untimely end. This is no imaginary picture. There is hardly a Mason of long standing in the Craft in this or other jurisdiction who has not known of lodges being wrecked, or just escaping being wrecked by the skin of their teeth, through the admission of such a person as we have described into their membership; and such admission would, in the majority of cases, have been impossible had the advice of brethren in authority been followed and due caution exercised as to the *quality* of those who sought admission into our Order. Only last week we mentioned that in his address at the recent annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, Grand Master EATON vehemently denounced the abuse of the ballot by black balling, pointing out that "the absolute right to cast a secret ballot is a landmark of this fraternity, but this right ought never to be exercised through unworthy or un-Masonic motives." In the July number of the *Canadian Craftsman*, a correspondent writes to know what can be done to help a lodge which "has been held by the throat for four years from initiating candidates through the exercise of the black ball privilege and as to which he adds that a candidate having been at length elected at a meeting of the lodge, during the absence of a member who had been suspected of casting the black ball," "at the next regular communication of

the lodge, the candidate elect being in waiting in readiness to have the First Degree of Masonry conferred, the member alluded to above arises and states he objects to the initiation of the candidate, and asks for a new ballot." Thereupon, we are told, "the Master calls the lodge from labour to refreshment, and going to the objecting brother asks him, if there is any Masonic reason why the candidate should not become a member of the lodge, and receives as a reply: 'I don't know why I am compelled to give any reason for my action, and therefore decline to give my reason.'" We are left to infer that as "the right to demand a new ballot must be respected and granted," the demand was granted, and the candidate was blackballed. Our own opinion—in expressing which, however, we labour under the very serious disadvantage of being ignorant of the laws of the Grand Lodge and the by-laws of the private lodge—is that the successful ballot at the preceding regular lodge should have been allowed to stand, as it was an accomplished fact, and that the brother's objection should have been taken to the confirmation—not verification—of the minutes of its proceedings, and if they—or the portion of them relating to the ballot—were non-confirmed, then and then only would the election be void and a fresh ballot become necessary. But whether we are right or wrong in this respect, the case we have quoted is a further and very flagrant instance of the Misuse of the Ballot, and an additional proof of the wisdom of our rulers in impressing upon lodges the necessity for caution in accepting candidates.

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

[COMMUNICATED.]

THE ROYAL ARCH. SUBORDINATE OFFICERS.

The subordinate officers in a Royal Arch chapter are the two Scribes, the Principal and two Assistant Sojourners, and the Janitor. There are, of course, other officers, Directors of Ceremonies and Stewards, whose functions assimilate to those of corresponding officers in the Craft, and need not be referred to in detail in the present place.

The two Scribes bear the names of Ezra and Nehemiah. These two names have an importance in Jewish history not adequately represented by the somewhat scanty references in the Canonical Books of the Bible. Ezra was concerned with the building of the second temple, Nehemiah rebuilt and repaired the walls of Jerusalem, or, as one might say, E. was concerned with the spiritualities, and N. with the temporalities of the Jews, return from exile. E. was of priestly race, but devoted himself to literary work chiefly, and hence is known as the Scribe. Nehemiah is better known to us from the short memoir in the book known by his name. When he preferred his request to the king to be allowed to go to Jerusalem, it is expressly mentioned that the queen was sitting by, whence it is inferred that N. was a eunuch, and Psalm 127 is said to have been directed against him.

Scribe E. usually performs the duties of chapter Secretary, and it is to be regretted that his secretarial functions appear to be more insisted upon than his actual position in R.A. Masonry as the representative of E. At the same time he is in that capacity, the companion to whom may be most fitly entrusted the preservation of the chapter records and the writing of its history.

Inasmuch as there is no regular chapter officer whose functions correspond with those of Inner Guard, those duties devolve to a certain extent upon Scribe N. Tradition tells us that Nehemiah worked with the trowel in one hand and sword in the other, and, therefore, the association is not altogether inapt. At the same time, the office of N. is one of dignity and ornament rather than of utility like his companion Scribe.

The duties of a lodge Secretary have been so fully described in the *Freemason* (September 9th, 1899) that there is the less necessity to recapitulate them. Scribe E. is practically responsible for the regularity of the candidate's papers, and the procedure differs somewhat from that found in Craft lodges. The proposition of a candidate may be made and seconded either at a regular chapter meeting or by notice in writing transmitted by the proposer to Scribe E., 14 days at least before the meeting at which the ballot shall take place. In addition to the particulars required of a candidate for initiation, the name and number of the lodge of which he is, or was, a member must be sent in, but a statement of his age is not obligatory. Whilst the Principal Sojourner conducts the pre-

liminary examination of the candidate's Craft qualifications, it is nevertheless highly desirable that his Grand Lodge certificate should have been seen by the Scribe as well as his clearance certificate. It is not expressly stated in the Regulations, but may very allowably be inferred from the Constitutions, that every candidate must be of good Masonic standing, and possess a satisfactory certificate from his lodge.

The three Sojourners are not heard of outside Masonic legendary history. According to that history, they were three pious Jews, who remained longer at Babylon than their compatriots, and only arrived at Jerusalem when the excavations were being made for the temple foundations. Mackey alludes to a tradition that the Sojourners were the three holy children who were cast into the furnace of Nebuchadnezzar.

Now this occurrence took place B.C. 586, and the temple was in process of building about B.C. 520, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego could, therefore, not be less than a hundred years of age at that date, since they are first heard of in Daniel I., as boys, 607 B.C.

This makes the legend improbable, and, moreover, it has not the justification that other Masonic anachronisms possess.

The duties of the Principal Sojourner are both interesting and important. Those of his assistants would be purely nominal, but for the fact that it is customary to delegate to them many of the functions assigned to the Deacons in the lodge.

The first duty of the P.S. is the examination and preparation of the candidate. The writer would take this opportunity of impressing upon companions who occupy the important post, that such examination ought to be thorough, and by no means a mere formality. It may be said with perfect truth that the Principal Sojourner is responsible for the Masonic capacity of every person who becomes a Royal Arch Mason. The ceremony cannot be proceeded with, cannot even begin, till he has made his report, and it is far better that an inefficient candidate should be sent back and given an additional period in which to increase his Masonic knowledge, than that the chapter should be filled with incompetent Masons. The Royal Arch chapter should be regarded—and kept—as the cream of Masonry. In the Craft, candidates have to be taken in on trust, and disappointments cannot be helped.

There should be no room for disappointment in the Royal Arch however. The candidate's capacity as a Mason is known. Previous to 1893, incompetent candidates were rare, but since the reduction of the qualifying period from 12 months to one the danger to be guarded against is a real one. The P.S. is the officer upon whom the chapter relies to admit only such brethren as are competent Masons, and his duty should be performed without fear or favour.

The origin of the term Sojourner has been speculated upon, but it probably has no other origin than the statement made by the P.S. in the course of his opening request.

The legend recited by the Principal Sojourner is one of the most interesting in Freemasonry. What actual historical truth underlies it, the writer is not prepared to say. It may not be considered irreverent or profane to look at it somewhat closely. The proclamation of Cyrus is the first historical event alluded to. This was uttered 536 B.C. In Ezra iii., 10, we are told the builders laid the foundation of the House of the Lord (in the same year). Owing to the opposition of those "menial tribes who were left behind to till the land," and who had thus obtained "squatters' titles," and keenly resented the return of the Jews at all, no further work of importance was done on the temple for 17 years. In 519 B.C. Artaxerxes made a new proclamation (Ezra vii., 12), under the influence of Ezra, who is mentioned for the first time, and the temple was rapidly completed.

It must not be supposed that the building thus hastily put together was that of which Haggai had prophetic foresight. The Temple destroyed by Titus was indeed the Temple of Zerubbabel, but beautified and enlarged and enriched in the time of Herod, under whom it became almost one of the wonders of the world. "Forty years was this temple in building," said the Jews in referring to it. That was the period occupied by the restoration and beautifying.

The very precise inquiry made by Z. into the ancestry of the Sojourners, and their equally precise reply, illustrates the extreme and jealous care with which the Jews, even to-day, maintain their racial purity. The genealogical Tables found in Ezra and Nehemiah are evidence of the pains taken to exclude, even from the performance of the most casual and menial functions, any not of unblemished birth. Those who are so scornfully alluded to in the lecture, and who afterwards confederated under the name of Samaritans, were what may not improperly be described as the "scum" of the surrounding nations. They were the most hybrid race imaginable, without law, religion, or morals, and owing only nominal allegiance to the Persians. The promises of God and his pro-

phets were addressed to descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and thus those descendants were rightly jealous of the purity of their lineage. They haughtily declined to receive proselytes. Mixed marriages were forbidden, and such as made them were expelled and excommunicated. They would not receive even menial assistance from them.

It might be inferred from the lecture that the new temple was practically built over the remains of the old one; but there is absolutely no real historical foundation for the account of the discovery of the subterranean gallery.

Equally gratuitous is the statement that the sacred name was pronounced by the High Priest on the great day of atonement. The commonly received theory is that K.S.T. was as utterly destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar as the second temple was by Cyrus.

We shall next discuss the form and ornaments of a Royal Arch Chapter.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CORNWALL.

The Prov. G. Lodge of Cornwall met on the 17th instant at Bodmin, under the banner of Lodge One and All, No. 330, whose members made excellent arrangements for the occasion. The whole town was decorated, and the brethren coming from a distance were entertained with refreshments on their arrival. The Earl of Mount Edgcumbe arrived overnight, and, with the Dep. Prov. G. Master, was entertained by Bro. R. J. Collins. The weather was unfortunately wet and gloomy.

The Prov. G. Lodge was constituted as follows: Bros. the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, Prov. G. Master; P. Colville Smith, Dep. Prov. G. Master; G. H. Chilcott, 331, Prov. S.G.W.; J. M. Carne, 75, Prov. J.G.W.; the Revs. H. K. Southwell, 330, and W. G. Kerr, Prov. G. Chaps.; E. A. P. Broad, 450, Prov. G. Treas.; A. Walters, 1544, Prov. G. Reg.; B. F. Edyvean, 330, Prov. G. Sec.; F. J. Lee, 1544, and John Tonkin, 131, Prov. S.G.Ds.; John Crossman, 970, and T. A. Taylor, 1272, Prov. J.G.Ds.; F. J. Gardenner, 1544, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; H. Downing, 589, Prov. G.D. of C.; C. Webber, 2747, Dep. Prov. G.D. of C.; G. R. Brown, 856, Prov. Asst. G.D. of C.; W. Andrew, 977, Prov. G.S.B.; J. Smith, 1006, and T. C. Jeffery, 1136, Prov. G.Std. Brs.; C. H. Whetter, 496, Prov. G. Org.; T. E. Roach, 967, Prov. Asst. G. Sec.; E. J. Goodfellow, 330, Prov. G. Purst.; G. Anderson, 1954, Prov. Asst. G. Purst.; A. Bowhay, 2166, R. Colenso, 121, C. Mitchell, 510, P. Blake, 1785, W. Stephens, 893, and J. Brooking, 1071, Prov. G. Stwds.; J. V. Bray, 450, Prov. G. Tyler; and J. C. R. Crews, Clerk-Assistant to the Prov. G. Secretary.

The Prov. J.G.W. being unable to attend, his place was taken by Bro. W. Rowe, 330, who was Prov. J.G.W. in 1887. The other Prov. Grand Officers unable to attend were Bros. the Rev. W. G. Kerr, Gardenner, Roach, Anderson, P. Blake, and Jas. Bray.

Among the brethren who wrote regretting their absence were Bros. W. J. Hughan, Col. Prideaux-Brune, the Revs. E. F. Nugent and R. F. Fraser-Frizzell, Gilbert P. Pearce, E. Forbes Whitley, R. Harvey, and J. Tonkin.

Bro. E. Symons, W.M. elect of the Cornish Lodge, London, attended the meeting as a representative of that lodge.

The P.G.M., on putting the minutes for confirmation, said the two new lodge rooms alluded to in the minutes had now been completed, one at St. Austell, and the other at Calstock. He was sorry he was not able to be at the consecration of the Calstock Lodge, but his faithful Deputy, who took his place and did the work better than he could, was there. The more new lodge rooms they could get the better they should be pleased.

The P.G. TREASURER called particular attention to one item on the receipt side of his accounts, namely, £5 9s. 8d., 12 months' interest from the bank. There was no difficulty in getting the bank to agree to that interest. He had noticed that the P.G. Treasurer's account book began 50 years ago. In 1851 there was a balance against the Prov. Grand Lodge of £9 15s. 3d.; now there was a credit balance of £304 9s. 10d. In 1851, £5 8s. was given in Charity; in 1901, the sum was £128 6s. The income in 1851 was £26 6s. 4d.; in 1901, £301 16s. 5d. (Applause.)

The P.G. SECRETARY announced that he had received an intimation from the Grand Lodge that Fort Lodge, No. 1528, Newquay, having ceased to work, had been removed from the register of the Grand Lodge of England. Fort Lodge was founded on January 15th, 1875. The total membership in the province was 1995, against 1984 in 1899, an increase of 11. A reply had been received to the address they had presented to the King on his accession. Bro. Edyvean also presented a statement of their Masonic War Fund. The total receipts were £473, and £14 9s. was sent inadvertently to the *Western Morning News* Fund. £157 had been disbursed at the discretion of the P.G.M., and £314 9s. remained still in the bank.

The PROV. GRAND MASTER said with regard to the address to his Majesty, he invited the Cornish Lodge in London to join with them—a compliment that he knew was appreciated, because they liked very much to be associated with the province. He hoped they would think he was right in doing so. (Applause.) They had had the gracious reply of his Majesty, who had now ascended the Throne of the Empire, and his brother—alas! his only brother—had ascended the throne of the Craft. (Applause.) He believed the installation of the Duke of Connaught was largely attended by brethren from Cornwall; he (the Prov. Grand Master) was sorry to say he was unable to be there, but he was quite sure the loyalty they had always felt towards his Majesty the King would be shown to his brother. (Applause.) He (the Prov. G. Master) had ventured, with the assistance of Bro. Edyvean, to sanction the expenditure of certain sums, and he hoped he had kept within such limits as they would desire. (Applause.) Part of it had gone to pay postage of newspapers which Bro. Edyvean had collected for men at the front. That work had been extremely well appreciated, and more than a hundred letters of thanks had been received. The regiment had not known what other regiments were doing sometimes until they had received the newspapers, all communication having been cut off. His lordship read extracts from one letter from a Cornish volunteer, in which, after expressing appreciation of the papers sent, he made allusion to the loss his company had sustained by the death of Mr. G.

Cowland. He said Mr. Cowland brought them the news of the death of the Queen, and took 15 of them to a Dutch farmhouse to church for a memorial service.

The report of the Cornwall Masonic Annuity and Benevolent Fund was presented by Bro. E. M. MILFORD, the Treasurer of the Fund. The year began with a balance in hand of £46, the receipts from investments were £238, and from donations and subscriptions £400; total, £684. Forty-five pounds was granted to aged Masons, £81 to widows, and £45 for education. The expenses were £35, and the balance at the bank £478. The existing annual charges on the fund are five annuities to aged Masons, £90; 11 annuities to widows, £162; and six education grants, £75; total, £327. The Committee recommended the addition of five annuities to widows, £90, and three educational grants, £55; making the total annual charges, £472. The capital of the fund was £7199, an increase on the year of £481.

Bro. MILFORD said this report was the best they had ever had. He thought the balance would enable them to give a little larger grants than in times past, and he should later on propose one or two alterations of rules to enable this to be done.

The PROV. GRAND MASTER said that was a very satisfactory statement. No doubt, one of the functions of Masonry was to give relief to brethren and their families in time of need; but he would again urge on them great care in admitting to their lodges persons not in a position to contribute to their funds, but who were, on the other hand, likely to stand in need of receiving something. (Hear, hear.) It was contrary to the principles on which the Order was based, and was not fair to the individual or his family because it rendered him liable to have a grant refused; that had been done by Grand Lodge on the ground that the member was not in a position to become a Mason at the time he was initiated. Never having been in a position to assist Masonry he had no real claim to assistance from the Craft. Therefore, it would be unfair to admit men into the Craft under such circumstances, as they would find that one of the objects for which they joined would turn out a disappointment.

The report of the Committee of Relief on Petitions stated that three grants had been made to widows of members of lodges 131, 495, and 1164, and they recommended that 100 guineas should be divided among the Masonic Charities.

The P.G. TREASURER proposed that as their Deputy Prov. G. Master had kindly undertaken to represent the province as a Steward at the Girls' School Festival, 50 guineas out of the 100 guineas should be placed on his list.

This was agreed to, 20 guineas being given to the Benevolent and 10 guineas to the Boys' Institutions.

At this point the lodge adjourned, and went in procession to church, headed by a band and with the banners of the lodges. There was a drizzling rain at the time, but a large number of people witnessed the procession.

The Volume of the Sacred Law was carried by four Lewises in front of the Prov. Grand Master. The procession was met at the west door of the fine old church by the clergy and choir, Mr. Vining (the organist) playing the National Anthem as they entered. The service was sung by the Rev. I. Jones, the senior assistant curate; and the special lesson (1. St. Peter ii.) was read by Bro. the Rev. T. Kendall, P.P.G.C. (now rector of Hols-worthy).

The Prov. G. Chaplain (Bro. Canon SOUTHWELL) preached an admirable sermon from St. John ii., 18-19. "Then answered the Jews and said, What sign shewest thou? . . . Jesus answered and said, I will destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up, but He spake of the temple of His body." No wonder the Jews were angry with our Lord when He spake as He did of their temple; but they misunderstood Him; He spake of the temple of His body. Beautiful as that old temple was, our Lord spoke of a temple which was far higher and nobler, for His body was the shrine of God Himself. Our Lord did not mean that they should detract from their reverence for the House of God. Twice in His life He cleansed that temple; but the Jewish worship of that day was so much occupied with outward ritual that it wanted in heartfelt reverence. So we learnt that no outward expression of reverence in connection with religion could possibly be pleasing to Almighty God unless accompanied with a true and heartfelt reverence. The heart of the worshipper was wrong if he did not reverence the House of God; but, on the other hand, no amount of external grandeur or ritual would compensate in the sight of God for the lack of that which He most desired, the spiritual worship of His people. Where men did really love and worship God, there would be no lack of external reverence. The principles of Masonry were sublime; they were divine in their moral teaching. No man who had worked through Masonry could possibly think otherwise; no man who understood the spirit of Masonry and the ritual they used could fail to see that the truth of Masonry was hidden in the heart. It was quite right that its ritual should be carefully framed and rendered; it was quite right that the temples in which they met should be appropriately and fittingly cared for; it was right they should be of serious demeanour whenever they were in those temples, because they were there as Masons in the name of God, and could not forget that they were not a mere worldly society. At the same time they should remember that temples built by men's hands were not after the true shrines of the Masonic Craft. The spirit of Freemasonry was to be looked for in the hearts and lives of Masons. It was not the outward ritual and pomp that made Masonry: it was the spirit within the heart, and the life the Mason lived in the world. They did not forget the first question put to them after they had become an entered apprentice Freemason. It had been said to him, "How can you possibly be a Mason? Masonry is not Christian." But was not the Old Testament Christian? Was not Christ written in every page of the Bible? The first home of Masonry was, according to their traditions, the old Jewish nation and Church. It was their purpose and work to build a mighty temple for the worship and service of God, a type of the far higher and greater temple which should not be built with hands—the temple of the body of Jesus Christ Himself. Never let them forget that the great Architect had designed them to be nobler temples in which should be enshrined the true principles of Masonic life.

On the return from church, the PROV. GRAND MASTER, as usual, presented a beautiful copy of the Bible to each of the four lads who had carried the Volume of the Sacred Law in procession. Addressing the lads, his lordship said they were called Lewises because they were sons of Masons, and it was very likely they would become Masons when they grew up. He was going to present them each with a Bible in remembrance of that day. They were being told at school that the studies they undertook were neces-

sary to enable them to get on in the world; he would remind them that the book they had carried in procession, and the teaching of that book was also absolutely essential as the motive, and to give them the power, to live such a life as would make them a credit to Freemasonry, should they ever join it, as he hoped they would, and should make their lives happy here and happier in the world that is to come. (Applause.)

The names of the Lewises were F. H. Spear, H. C. Edyvean, L. Goodfellow, and B. Trevorton.

The TREASURER presented Bro. Gilbert Pearce's report of the Cornwall Masonic Charity Association, which showed the total amount raised 345 guineas, an increase of 48 guineas on the year. Redruth headed the list this year instead of Liskeard, but it was admitted there were special circumstances which enabled Redruth to do this.

Bro. E. A. P. BROAD presented his statement as manager of the votes for the great Masonic Charities. He mentioned that they were running a girls' case next month, and he hoped all the votes of the province would be sent him. Their contributions to the great Masonic Charities last year amounted to nearly £600.

The officers of the Cornwall Masonic Annuity and Benevolent Fund were re-elected.

On the proposition of Bro. H. D. SPEAR, seconded by Bro. W. HAMMOND, Bro. Albert Bowhay was elected P.G. Treasurer.

The P.G.M. pointed out that they usually appointed a P.G. Treasurer from East and West Cornwall alternately, and this year it was the turn of the West, but no one else was proposed.

Bros. H. Downs and Alford were elected Auditors.

The P.G.M. announced that the collection at church amounted to £10 12s. 7d. (with £1 sent by Bro. Sholto Hare). It was devoted as to two-fifths to the Cornwall M.S. and A.F., two-fifths to the East Cornwall Hospital, and one-fifth, as usual, to the vicar.

Bro. Broad was, on the motion of the DEP. PROV. G.M., who paid a tribute to his worth, re-elected Charity Representative.

Bro. MILFORD, pursuant to notice, moved a number of alterations in the rules of the Cornwall M.A. and B. Fund, which would enable the Committee to be a little more liberal.

Agreed to, with one small exception.

Bro. CARUS WILSON reported that subscriptions to the fund for a memorial of the late Bro. Anderton, Prov. G. Sec., amounted to £290.

The P.G. TREASURER suggested that the sum should be made up to 300 guineas and placed on the list of the Deputy P.G.M. for the next Girls' Festival.

It was thought, however, that it should be something permanently and specially associated with the province.

On the motion of the PROV. G. MASTER, the question of the form the memorial should take was referred to the Committee to bring up a scheme to put before the Prov. Grand Lodge next year.

Bro. Gilbert Chilcott had a motion on the paper to vote a sum of 25 guineas towards the national memorial to her late Majesty.

The PROV. G. MASTER observed that he had put before the county alternative memorials—the memorial in London and the Queen Victoria Nursing Institute. Half of what was given to the latter came to the county branch.

Eventually it was agreed that the sum should be 30 guineas—15 to the London Monument and 15 to the Nursing Institution.

The Prov. G. Master then appointed and invested the Prov. G. Officers for the ensuing year as follows:

Bro. P. Colville Smith	...	...	Dep. Prov. G.M.
" R. P. Edyvean, 330	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" R. Pearce Couch, 121	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" the Rev. W. G. Kerr, 331	...	...	Prov. G. Chaps.
" the Rev. A. Hawken, 789	...	...
" Dr. Bowhay, 2166	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" A. W. Venning, 510	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" B. F. Edyvean, 330	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" W. H. Pope, 1785	...	...	Prov. S.G.Ds.
" J. W. Manger, 967	...	...
" T. P. Tonkin, 330	...	...	Prov. J.G.Ds.
" H. Tredinnick, 450	...	...
" S. Hill, 589	...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" F. Trimmer, 789	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" R. Edgecumbe, 970	...	...	Prov. D.G.D.C.
" J. Pengilly, 1544	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" W. F. Clarke, 131	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" F. A. Cousins, 331	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" W. Pidgeon, 318	...	...
" G. Lakeman, 577	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" Bruce Gregg, 75	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" W. H. Watson, 1136	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" T. Cundy, 893	...	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" J. G. Hewitt, 1954	...	...	Prov. G. Stwds.
" R. Roscorla, 330	...	...
" J. M. Cornish, 121	...	...
" J. H. Beswarick, 856	...	...
" T. Tidy, 699	...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.
" W. J. Doney, 496	...	...
" J. Hawke, 1164	...	...

Lodges Fortitude and Phoenix invited the Prov. G. Master to hold the next Prov. G. Lodge at Truro.

The Prov. G. Lodge was then closed, and a luncheon was afterwards held at the Guildhall, under the presidency of the Dep. Prov. G. Master.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CHESHIRE.

The annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held on the 18th instant in the Public Hall at West Kirby. Bro. the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, M.P., Prov. Grand Master, presided, having with him his Honour Bro. Judge Sir Horatio Lloyd, the D.P. Prov. Grand Master; Bros. R. Wylie, D.P.G.M. of West Lancashire; W. Goodacre, Prov. G. Sec. of West Lancashire; and many Present and Past Officers. Bros. J. F. May and W. Booth were in the Wardens' chairs during the earlier part of the proceedings. There was a good attendance, considering the somewhat remote position of the locality from many parts of the province. Every lodge of the 55 upon the roll, with one exception, was represented, the entire company numbering about 400.

Bro. F. BROADSMITH moved the adoption of the Prov. Grand Treasurer's statement of accounts in relation to the Cheshire Masonic Benevolent Institution and the Cheshire Educational Masonic Institution.

This was seconded by Bro. MAY, and carried.

On the motion of Bro. H. JACKSON, seconded by Bro. LILLEY ELLIS, the annual report of the Committee of Benevolence was approved of. This report showed that the accounts of the festival recently held in aid of the local charities were not yet made up. Apart from the proceeds of the festival, there was a sum of £73 standing to the Fund of Benevolence, after £50 had been granted therefrom, and in addition to this £247 had been granted from the Grand Lodge Board of Benevolence and applied for the benefit of aged Freemasons in their province. Six old men and three old women from the province are receiving the benefits of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and six boys and five girls from Cheshire are inmates of the Royal Masonic Institutions for Boys and Girls. The Benevolent Institution of the province had received £119 in subscriptions, and £69 in extra donations. An accompanying report of the Committee of Management of the Cheshire Educational Masonic Institution stated that the cost of educating the 64 children now on the books of that Institution during the past year was £389. As the income from investments was only £194, subscriptions and donations had to be looked to for providing the difference between these two sums. It was a matter of regret that several lodges in the province had not sent in any contributions, although some of these non-contributors were drawing considerable sums for the maintenance of children.

The PROV. GRAND MASTER said that as this was the first occasion on which he had had the honour of addressing the brethren since his installation in office in December last, he had to say that he felt a very great amount of diffidence in having undertaken the work and in carrying it out. But as a Mason, and as one who had progressed and who tried to follow out what was inculcated at his initiation, he felt that it was his duty to accept the position which his present Majesty offered to him, (Hear, hear.) He should not have done so unless he had felt that he had the hearty support of all the brethren in the province. Such support he had received during his first year of office, and he thanked the brethren for it. During the many years that his brother, Earl Egerton of Tatton, was the Prov. G. Master, Masonry made very great strides indeed. It was difficult to follow in the footsteps of one who for so long reigned over them, and who assisted in creating the increase and improvement of Masonry which took place during his term, but he had no hesitation in saying that Masonry not only was maintaining its own, but was enlarging its borders. He understood that before very long he would be called upon to consecrate two new lodges within a short distance from where they were assembled. (Applause.) That end of the province was undoubtedly the one in which the greatest movement in their Order was taking place. He hoped, however, that the eastern portion of the province would not go to sleep, to put it plainly. There was, unfortunately, a little tendency in some of the older lodges, where there was not the vigour of youth, and where when they were young they did not at once go on recruiting, to refrain from bringing in fresh blood and fresh members. Some of the lodges were undoubtedly suffering from that kind of thing. They rested on their oars at a stage of their life when they thought they were strong enough and were doing well enough. It was an unfortunate fact that lodges would lose their members by force of circumstances, and it was incumbent upon every lodge to lay down a programme of the number of new members that they ought to recruit as a minimum in each year. In their private businesses they were always preparing for the future. So in Masonry in their lodges they should look forward to getting young, vigorous, active members, because it was upon such that the future of the lodges must depend. But in all this it was of the highest importance that they should see to it that all whom they admitted were fit and proper men to become members. He thanked the brethren for their noble response to his appeal at the festival of the present year in aid of their local Charities.

Bro. John Morris, 2690, was unanimously elected Provincial Grand Treasurer.

Bros. G. Ibeson, P. Davies, J. Cookson, Armstrong, and H. Gordon Small were appointed Auditors.

The investiture of Prov. Grand Officers for the ensuing year was afterwards proceeded with in the following order:

Bro. James Cookson, 287	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" Dr. T. W. A. Napier, 2132	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. R. H. Pring, 533	...	...	Prov. G. Chaps.
" Rev. W. Hollowell, 2690	...	...
" J. Morris, 2690	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" W. Shepherd, 287	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" R. Newhouse, 321	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" W. Firth, 830	...	...	Prov. S.G.Ds.
" Samuel Hall, 324	...	...
" R. L. Bourne, 2368	...	...	Prov. J.G.Ds.
" J. W. Leathley, 1126	...	...
" T. A. Jackson, 2375	...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" J. Stanley Derbyshire, 1565	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" Ernest Hampson, 1166	...	...	Prov. Dep. G.D.C.
" Henry Newton, 323	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.Cs.
" W. H. Jones, 1045	...	...
" W. O. Callow, 2619	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" John Smith, 322	...	...
" P. D. Heyes, 104	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" W. Birch, 320	...	...
" Bridge Hopkinson, 1166	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" Jno. Ferguson, 1045	...	...	Prov. Asst. G. Sec.
" Fredk. Johnson, 2793	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" J. C. Armitage, 2799	...	...	Prov. Asst. G. Purst.
" John Appleton, 721	...	...	Prov. G. Stewards.
" Henry Binns, 1088	...	...
" Alfred Sharpe, 425	...	...
" George Austin, 2690	...	...
" Frank Pinder, 605	...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.
" William Severs, 1565	...	...
" S. Thompson, 1045	...	...

The PROV. GRAND MASTER presented, on behalf of the brethren, an address to Bro. H. Gordon Small, P.P.S.G.W., in which was expressed very high appreciation of his services during the past 10 years as Prov. G.D.C., on his retirement from that office. The ceremony was followed by

much applause, and Bro. Small had a cordial reception on acknowledging the address.

At the close of the business of the Prov. Grand Lodge, the PROV. G. MASTER said he must refer before they separated to one matter which was present to all their hearts—the loss that their American cousins had sustained in the death by murder of their President. They could not forget that Masonry existed very strongly indeed in America, and that they were practically all one cousinship. (Hear, hear.) He thought on that occasion they should record their sympathy with the American nation in the loss they had sustained, especially in view of the fact that to the policy of the late President there was due that very great increase in the brotherhood between the two nations which had been achieved.

The expression of sympathy was agreed to in silence.

It was stated that invitations had been received from Knutsford and Runcorn to hold the next Prov. Grand Lodge at each of these places, and that the place selected would be announced later.

At this meeting, Bro. John Armstrong, P.P.G.W., had the pleasure of placing before the R.W.P.G.M. a copy of his new work on the History of Cheshire Freemasonry. The "get up" of the work, as well as its contents, elicited high approval.

Ireland.

NEW MASONIC HALL AT KELLS.

BRO. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY LAYS THE FOUNDATION-STONE.

A very interesting ceremony took place at the village of Kells on the 18th instant, when the foundation-stone of a new Masonic Hall in the course of erection there was laid by R.W. Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, P.G.M. More than ordinary importance was associated with the event, inasmuch as this was the first occasion on which the Earl of Shaftesbury had attended a Masonic meeting since his accession to the earldom.

The building is being erected at the end of the village towards Connor, almost opposite the school in connection with Kells Presbyterian Church. It is being built by the Connor Lodge, No. 189, and promises to be a credit and an ornament to the place. The site for the new hall was granted by the representatives of Major Gray on very reasonable and satisfactory terms, and the building is being erected by Mr. William McKeown, contractor, Connor, to plans prepared by the architect, Mr. John Frew, Antrim.

The weather was beautifully fine, and there was a large attendance, not alone of the members of the Masonic brotherhood, but of their friends and supporters. Prior to the ceremony the brethren met in one of the local halls in the direction of Connor, and Bro. Henry J. Hill, Prov. G.D.C., marshalled them in the following processional order: Tyler, Bro. Gault; Stewards, Bros. Joyce and Andrews; Prov. G.I.G., Bro. Harpur; Prov. G. Stewards, Bros. D'Evelyn and Boyd; Architect, Bro. A. Boyd; Organist, Bro. T. Given; Superintendent of Works, Bro. Cordner; Trowel, Bro. John Dinsmore, J.P.; Three Lesser Lights, Bros. D. H. Mathews, Murdock, and Henderson; Great Light, Bro. Wallace; Prov. G. Secretary, Bro. W. Rankin; Prov. G. Treasurer, Bro. John Kirkwood; J.G. Warden, Bro. Erskine; S.G. Warden, Bro. the Right Hon. W. Ellison Macartney, M.P.; D.G. Master, Bro. Hilton, J.P.; Deacons, Bros. McCormick and Leech; and Sword Bearer, Bro. J. H. Woods.

The procession marched to the site of the new hall, where, after the usual ritual on such auspicious occasions, the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone was performed by R.W. Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, Prov. G.M. of Antrim, assisted by Bro. R. J. Hilton, J.P., and the Prov. Grand Officers.

After the interesting ceremony and the closing benediction, the procession re-formed, and returned to the place from whence it came.

Afterwards a luncheon was provided in the schoolhouse connected with Kells Presbyterian Church, the interior of which was beautifully and artistically decorated with flags and bunting, amongst which the Union Jack was tastefully conspicuous. The tables were chastely and charmingly laid by Mr. Thomas Carroll, Clarence Hotel, Ballymena, who did the catering.

The chair was occupied by Bro. John Dinsmore, J.P., Crebilly House, who was supported by Bros. the Earl of Shaftesbury and R. J. Hilton, J.P.

Bro. WILLIAM RANKIN, Prov. G. Sec., read letters of apology from Bros. S. Leighton, A. Tate, James Watson, — Montgomery, and Colonel James McCalmont, M.P.

The CHAIRMAN proposed "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim." In giving the sentiment he asked who had not heard of Bro. the Earl of Shaftesbury's illustrious grandfather, the good Lord Shaftesbury, who was celebrated for everything that was good, and high, and noble. (Applause.) But by Lord Shaftesbury's mother's side of the house they knew more about him, as they were aware that that great Lord Deputy ruled in Ireland, and planted in that Northern province their English and Scotch forefathers. In that Plantation of Ulster the name of Sir Arthur Chichester would for ever be associated as the Sir Alfred Milner of that age. Through many vicissitudes and very many dark and evil days their forefathers held all the land that Sir Arthur Chichester gave them, and they, he thought, intended to do the same in the years that were to come. They hoped that, as in the centuries past, their Grand Master and his noble house would be connected in the future with the county of Antrim. Some of them who heard their Grand Master speak last year in the Ulster Hall at the banquet given to Sir George White formed a high opinion of his abilities, and concluded that at no distant date he would rise to some noble place in the British Empire, as he (the Chairman) was sure that day he was an ornament to the branch of Legislature to which he belonged. (Applause.) They had been successful in procuring a site for their hall, thanks to their friend and brother, H. D. M. Barton, the estate agent, who a few days previously wrote him (the Chairman) saying that he would be unable to be present at the ceremony that day, and in his letter enclosed £5 towards the building fund. Mr. Gray, the lord of the soil, in the most generous and kindly manner gave them the site where they saw the foundation-stone laid for their future hall. He not only gave them it for ever, but gave it on terms that were merely nominal. He asked them to drink "The Health of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim," coupled with the name of the Rt. Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury. (Loud applause.)

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY, who was enthusiastically received, said he thanked them very heartily for the reception they had given their Prov. Grand Master. It was with the greatest pleasure that he came to Kells to perform the ceremony which he had already accomplished. Perhaps they were aware that had it not been for the generosity, and the ability, he might say, of the Northern Counties Railway, the Provincial Grand Master would have been a few minutes too late to perform the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of their hall. He would treasure most earnestly the beautiful gift which they had given him for performing the ceremony, and he would also treasure it as a memento of the first

ceremony he had executed as their Provincial Grand Master. (Applause.) On behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge, he desired to thank Bro. Dinsmore and the brethren for having so kindly entertained them that day. There were other things he would like to talk to them about—one was that he sincerely trusted that that building, of which he had laid the first stone that day, would be a means of establishing friendship and brotherly love throughout the district and neighbourhood. He could not help thinking but that they were lacking a little in kindly feeling towards one another. They very often found fault one with another in matters of little importance, but he anticipated that Masonry in that village would be a help in some way to establish a friendly feeling one towards the other, and, therefore, it was with sincere pleasure that he presided on that occasion as their Provincial Grand Master and took part in the ceremony they had performed that day. They lived in wondrous times. They knew not what to-morrow might bring forth, and even at that moment a great nation was suffering from a great shock. They knew that across the great Atlantic Ocean Masonry had grown to a very large degree, and in the United States they had many brethren, and true Freemasons. He could not help thinking that that was a very fitting occasion upon which to show their sympathy from the brethren there in Antrim for their brethren across the seas in the loss they had sustained by the death of their President. Therefore he could not help feeling that they should lament him from their very hearts, and pour out their sympathy to their brother Masons in their irreparable loss. He should say that they could do nothing without money, and he sincerely trusted that, when the appeal went forth from the representatives of the Prov. G. Lodge to assist them in putting up that building, that it would meet with a very ready response from all the lodges in the Province of Antrim. He thanked them for the hearty reception they had given him coming there as their Prov. G. Master, and also of the kindly reception they had given the Prov. Grand Lodge of Antrim. (Loud applause.)

The proceedings then terminated, and as Bro. the Earl of Shaftesbury left the room to proceed to the railway station he was greeted with the hearty strains of "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Through the kindness and courtesy of Mr. James Cowie, traffic manager, Belfast and Northern Counties Railway, the brethren from the northern metropolis were provided with a saloon carriage.

A notable incident of the ceremony lay in the fact that the Earl of Shaftesbury missed the 12.5 train, and, in order that he might not disappoint the brethren of Kells and the district, he engaged a special train on the Northern Counties Railway, and arrived but a few minutes late, amidst great enthusiasm.

Craft Masonry.

Lodge of Research, No. 2429.

INSTALLATION OF BRO. J. J. W. KNOWLES.

The installation meeting of this well-known literary lodge was held on Monday, the 23rd instant, at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester. There was a very large attendance of members and visitors, among whom were the following: Bros. Rev. H. S. Biggs, B.A., P.P.G. Chap., acting W.M.; J. J. W. Knowles, P.P.S.G.D., S.W., and W.M. elect; H. Howe, P.G.D.C., J.W.; W. D. Grant, P.P.J.G.D., Treas.; J. T. Thorp, P.P.S.G.W., Sec.; G. Neighbour, P.P.S.G.W., S.D.; L. Staines, P.P.G. Org., D.C.; W. A. Lea, P.P.G.P., I.G.; R. W. Maries, Tyler; S. S. Partridge, D.P.G.M., P.A.G.D.C. Eng.; F. W. Billson, I.L.B., P.P.G. Reg.; and J. R. Frears. Visitors: Bros. A. C. Smith, P.M. 50, P.P.G.S.B.; J. Clifton, P.M. 279, P.P.G.S.B.; F. B. Wilmer, P.M. 2028, P.P.J.G.W.; A. Smith, P.M. 1007; W. Tyler, P.M. 1007, P.G.S.B.; A. Fergusson, P.M. 1391, P.P.J.G.D.; J. Cleaver, W.M. 1330; A. Laurence, P.M. 523, P.P.G. Org.; H. G. Marriott, P.M. 2028, P.P.A.G.D.C.; Geo. Newsome, P.M. 523, P.P.S.G.D.; G. J. Rodway, J.D. 2028; A. S. Nice, 1391; A. J. Marshall, 279; G. Gibbons, 1391; G. D. Potts, 523; E. R. Fox, 2081, P.P.G. Org.; A. H. Hampson, 523; H. E. Clayton, J.D. 523; C. Poyner, 523; E. A. Morris, Org. 2028; H. Westron, 523; W. A. Porter, 523; W. Bream, Stwd. 523; R. W. Harvey, J.W. 523; A. J. Stork, 523; G. F. Black, 1391; S. F. Poyner, 523; and many others.

The minutes of the last meeting having been confirmed, a number of brethren were elected to the Correspondence Circle of the lodge, a similar system prevailing in this lodge as in the famous Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, London. The installation of the W.M. elect, Bro. J. J. W. Knowles, followed, the ceremony being carried through by the D.P.G.M. of the province, Bro. S. S. Partridge, assisted by Bros. Geo. Neighbour and F. W. Billson. The W.M. appointed and invested the following brethren as the officers of the lodge for the ensuing year, viz.: Bros. H. Howe, S.W.; W. D. Grant, J.W.; Rev. H. S. Biggs, Chap.; F. W. Billson, Treas.; J. T. Thorp, Sec.; G. Neighbour, S.D.; R. B. Starkey, J.D.; L. Staines, D.C.; W. A. Lea, I.G.; and R. W. Maries, Tyler. The Treasurer's accounts were submitted, and being considered satisfactory, were passed, after which representatives were elected to the local Masonic Committees. Other matters of lodge business were considered and disposed of, a long list of apologies for inability to attend was read.

"Hearty good wishes" from visiting brethren were tendered, and the lodge was closed.

As usual, the meeting was followed by a conversazione, which was exceedingly well attended. The W.M. welcomed the brethren in a short speech, refreshments were provided, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

During the evening the Secretary exhibited and described the fine collection of English Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter certificates belonging to the Leicester Masonic Museum, which, supplemented by a few specimens from the Secretary's own collection, comprised examples of nearly every variety known to have been issued. Among the 97 documents exhibited were some of the oldest specimens of the various classes known to be in existence. It is scarcely necessary to add that this exhibition formed a rich treat for all who were interested in the study or collection of similar documents.

The meeting was a success in every way, and adds one more to the red-letter days of the Lodge of Research.

Instruction.

ISLINGTON LODGE, No. 1471.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday, the 24th instant, at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, N., when there were present: Bros. R. E. Maskall, W.M.; E. Lucas, S.W.; H. Coxon, J.W.; W. Hancock, P.M., Preceptor; A. F. Hardyment, P.M., P.G.D.C. Norfolk, Asst. Preceptor; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D. Herts, Treas.; J. Duncan, P.M., Sec.; D. Taylor, S.D.; M. Relph, J.D.; G. Mortlock, I.G.; J. Birks, P.M.; C. Nicole, H. J. Dunaway, W. E. Ranger, W. Lee, E. Richards, C. Weston, M. Cohen, J. Foxcroft, E. Morris, A. Noel, H. C. Kerly, Dr. C. M. Simpson, F. Hollis, A. E. Maskall, G. Wales, J. W. White, F. H. Johnson, F. Linfoot, J. Horstead, and J. Graves.

The lodge was opened and the minutes read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was then rehearsed, Bro. Dunaway being the candidate. The ceremony of raising was afterwards rehearsed, Bro. Horstead as candidate. Bros. Frank Hollis and Alfred Ernest Maskall were elected members of the lodge. Bro. E. Lucas was elected W.M. for the ensuing week and appointed the officers in rotation. The lodge was then closed.

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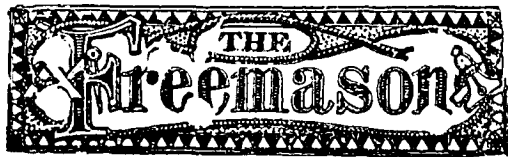
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1901.

Masonic Notes.

We have much pleasure in announcing that Sir A. F. Godson, Knt., R.W. Prov. Grand Master of Worcestershire, has very kindly arranged to preside as Chairman at the next Anniversary Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, which will be held in February, 1902. Sir A. F. Godson has always taken a deep interest in our Institutions and his Province of Worcestershire, though not a strong one numerically, is as generously disposed towards them as its chief. From these facts we have every reason to hope that the next Anniversary in behalf of our "Old People" will prove a success.

The calls upon the time of the Grand Secretary are just now more serious than we have known them for some time past. On Friday, the 20th instant, he consecrated the Forest Hill Lodge, No. 2846, and on Wednesday the Borough of Islington Lodge, No. 2861, at Beale's noted Restaurant, in the Holloway-road; while on Monday, the 30th instant, as announced in our Notes of last week, the Welsh Lodge, No. 2867, will be constituted, with Bro. Sir J. H. Puleston as the first W.M. But this does not represent the whole of the demands on his leisure. To-morrow (Saturday) the duty will devolve upon him of consecrating, at the Polytechnic Institution, Regent-street, a new lodge, which will be henceforth known as the Polytechnic Lodge, No. 2847, and which will start on its career under the auspices of Bro. A. G. Lee as the first W.M. It is hardly necessary for us to add that all the new lodges have our heartiest wishes for their success. They start well, and there is every reason to hope that they will go on and prosper.

The authorities of our Royal Masonic Institution for Girls are to be congratulated on the further evidence afforded by the recent State visit of the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and Under-Sheriffs of the City of London, not only of the public favour in which the School is held, but also of the high character it enjoys among middle-class scholastic institutions. As Masons they must have been proud of what they saw

and heard on the occasion of their visit, while as civic dignitaries they must have rejoiced to know how admirably the children were being educated and trained for the weightier cares and responsibilities of adult life. We trust that for years to come successive Lord Mayors and Sheriffs of London will similarly honour our Institution for Girls, and derive as much pleasure from their visit as Bros. Lord Mayor Green and Sheriffs Morgan and Lawrance, M.P.

The welcome letter we published last week from our respected Bro. W. E. Chapman, P.A.G.D.C., shows that Masonry in far off Kimberley and Port Elizabeth is firmly established, and that the lodges and chapters located there, if not as attentive to the lesser, but still important, observances of the Craft, are strict disciplinarians in essentials. Bro. Chapman tells us that though vouched for by a P.M. of his own lodge in Kimberley, he was not admitted to the Port Elizabeth lodge (Goodwill, No. 711) until he had undergone the usual strict examination, and that he was informed by the examining brother that even the King himself would be required to go through the same ordeal. On the other hand he suggests—and we think he is right in his suggestion—that it would not have been discourteous had the visiting "P.O. of the Grand Lodge of England" been introduced to the lodge, or the toast proposed in his honour of "The Grand Officers, Present and Past." Bro. Chapman appears also, through an unaccountable oversight on the part of somebody, to have failed to gain admission into the R.A. chapter. Our Port Elizabeth brethren and companions will be none the worse as Masons for the observance of the usual amenities to the sojourners in their midst.

The annual meeting of the Provincial G. Mark Lodge of Lancashire will be held under the presidency of the Earl of Lathom, P.G.M.M., at the Town Hall, Todmorden, on Wednesday, the 2nd prox., at 1.30 p.m. The business to be transacted is of the usual character, and on the Prov. G. Lodge being closed, the brethren will adjourn to the White Hart Hotel, where a cold collation will be served. Tickets, price 4s. 6d. each, must be obtained from Bro. James Fielden, Halifax-road, Todmorden, or the Prov. G. Secretary, Bro. W. Goodacre, 67, Lord-street, Liverpool, to-morrow (Saturday) being the last day for all such applications.

The office of Prov. Grand Mark Master of Sussex having become vacant by the resignation of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, K.G., on his election to the Grand Mastership of the Degree, it has been arranged that the annual meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge shall be held at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, on Saturday, the 12th October, when the Very Rev. the Dean of Battle, Bro. E. R. Currie, D.D., will be installed as successor to his Royal Highness. The Earl of Euston, M.W. Pro G. Mark Master, has been deputed to perform the ceremony. We are informed that Bro. P. Slingsby Roberts is the Dep. Prov. G. Mark Master who has been chosen to succeed Dean Currie in that office, and when he has been obligated and installed, the Prov. G. Officers for the ensuing year will be appointed and invested.

The stated meeting of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, will be held at Freemasons' Hall on Friday, the 4th prox., at the hour of 5 p.m. In the course of the proceedings two papers will be read, one by Bro. the Rev. W. E. Windle on "Solomon's Testament," and the other by Bro. A. F. Calvert on "Anthony Sayer," who was installed the premier Grand Master of England on St. John's Day in summer—24th June—1717. On the conclusion of the lodge business, the brethren will dine together in the Gordon Saloon of the Holborn Restaurant.

We are indebted to the courtesy of Bro. Alfred A. Murray for a copy of the St. John's Card, 1901, of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2. The booklet, as Bro. Murray designates it, is not only a useful guide as to the present constitution of this venerable Scottish lodge, but it also contains a sketch, in outline, of the most noteworthy events in its career, together with a highly interesting account of the origin and formation of Lodge St. Clair, No. 349, Edinburgh, in 1847, and its subsequent history. To this latter record we shall have occasion to refer in some future issue of the *Freemason*. The section of the contents relating to Lodge Canongate Kilwinning include lists of the Office bearers and Committee of the lodge for 1901-2; a table showing the lodges and their places of meeting

in Edinburgh, Leith, and Portobello; dates of the meetings in St. John's Chapel, 1901-2; and particulars as to candidates for Freemasonry, the Fees payable to the lodge, and publications issued under its authority. It has been well and carefully compiled, while as regards its general appearance nothing could well be neater or more elegant.

We most sincerely condole with our Scottish brethren in India on the grievous calamity they have recently sustained by the death of their able, experienced, and most popular Grand Secretary, Bro. Captain Charles Driver Wise, Past G. Warden, who had held the important and arduous office of Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India for the last 12 years. Bro. Captain Wise died suddenly on the 27th July last, and though his loss is not irreparable, it will be some time before another brother is found who will exhibit the same zeal and ability as our late lamented brother. The *Indian Freemason* of the 15th ult., in referring to the weight of responsibility that devolved on the shoulders of our late respected brother, remarks that it is only by making full allowance for this that we are in a position to "comprehend, in a measure, the wide-reaching influence of a man with so attractive a personality and such strength of will and purpose as that presented by our late brother."

The jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, which has its headquarters in Bombay, is not a large one so far as the number of lodges is concerned, but, as the title indicates, it embraces the whole of Scottish Freemasonry in the Empire of India. Hence the duties of Captain Wise as Grand Secretary of an organisation that was spread over so vast a continent must have been unusually exacting, and yet he discharged those duties in such a manner as to secure to himself the respect and goodwill, not only of the Scottish brethren with whom he was brought officially into contact, but also of his English brethren of the several District Grand Lodges in India, but more especially of those in Bombay, to whom he was personally as well known, and by whom he was as greatly respected as by the brethren under the Scottish Constitution. We can only add that we sincerely sympathise with the family and brethren of the late Grand Secretary.

Our contemporary also remarks that while of late years there have been frequent changes in the Grand Mastership, there has always been a rallying point for Scottish Freemasons in India "in their Grand Secretary, where the hearty grasp of a Mason's hand could be felt, where advice of the soundest and best was always available, and a kind word to smooth over difficulties was always sure." Such remarks as these speak volumes for the merits of the deceased Grand Secretary to whom, as we have said, it will be a work of time and difficulty to find a successor.

The triennial meeting of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in the United States was held in Louisville, Kentucky, towards the close of last month. The sir knights kept pouring into Louisville in their thousands from all parts of the States, and it is estimated that fully 10,000 must have been present in the city on Sunday, the 25th August, when the templars attended Divine service in the Broadway Methodist Church. On Tuesday, the 27th, the Grand Parade took place, when the sir knights, to the number of 10,140, escorted Grand Master, Sir Knt. Reuben Lloyd, to the place chosen for the meeting. On reaching the Central Park, the Parade was dismissed. The customary competitive drills in which prizes were awarded to the best of the competing commanderies were also held.

Lastly, came the proceedings at the Grand Conclave, from which we learn that the finances of Grand Encampment are flourishing, and that in the 45 States and Territories in which the Order is established there are 1059 subordinate commanderies, while the number of subscribing members is 125,108. The newly-elected principal officers of the Grand Encampment are Sir Knights Henry Bates Stoddard, of Texas, M.E. Supreme Grand Master; George M. Moulton, of Chicago, Dep. G. Master; the Rev. Henry M. Rugs, Rhode Island, Grand Generalissimo; William B. Melish, Ohio, G. Captain-General; Joseph A. Locke, of Maine, G.S.W.; Frank H. Thomas, District of Columbia, G.J.W.; H. Wales Lewis, Massachusetts, G. Treasurer; and John A. Gerow, Michigan, G. Recorder.

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.

A SCREW LOOSE SOMEWHERE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Can you enlighten me on the following question: On arrival one evening at a lodge of instruction, I found everything ready for opening the lodge, but no one in attendance. The doors were open, and a stranger near by.

Will you tell me whether means ought or ought not to be taken to prevent strangers intruding when the lodge of instruction is ready to be opened?—Yours fraternally,

P. T.

London, 18th September.

Reviews.

A Hundred Years on Dartmoor: Historical Notices of the Forest and its Purlieus during the Nineteenth Century. By William Crossing, author of the *Ancient Stone Crosses of Dartmoor*, &c. Plymouth: *The Western Morning News Co., Ltd.*, 31, George-street. 1901. This remarkable work is already in a *Second Edition* (which is now before us), and a third edition is now preparing. Typographically and artistically it is a great credit to this well-known Company; for its staff are really responsible for its production as a book, even the photographs for the choice illustrations (23 in number) having been taken by the Manager (Mr. Ernest Croft), Mrs. Croft, Mr. Hill, and others. The size is quarto, there are over 130 pages of closely printed matter on art paper; it is well bound in cloth (gilt), and is sold for half-a-crown nett (postage, 4d. extra). Mr. Crossing is one of the best authorities on the subject, and writes from an intimate knowledge, basing his most interesting and accurate account upon actual perambulations and explorations of Dartmoor; seeing for himself the objects that other writers have been content to take on trust or obtain from hearsay, and thus affording his readers a most trustworthy history of one of the most famous and grandest regions in England. "Devonia's Resort," however, is not all wildness, nor does "solitude reign supreme" throughout. The charming illustrations will dispel that notion, though, of course, the captivating portion of Dartmoor is still without a trace of man's occupancy or contains "vestiges of enclosures, the ruined foundations of huts, moss covered cairns and other sepulchral monuments, that speak of an early people." The handsome volume includes all needful information on this *domin of Nature*, "so unlike any other that England can show," and beyond question, is the most entertaining, reliable, complete and accurate work ever published on the subject.

"An Illustrated Catalogue of Old and Rare Books. Part IX." (Pickering and Chatto, 66, Haymarket, London, S.W.)—The final part of this most remarkable publication devoted to particulars of a number of scarce and valuable books and MSS. for sale, with prices affixed, is now to be obtained for sixpence only (postage 2d. extra), and reflects great credit on the enterprise of Messrs. Pickering and Chatto, for the artistic brochure is of large quarto, and lavishly illustrated; the reproductions of so many of the old and rare plates being simply perfect. The frontispiece to the present part is devoted to a reproduction of a portion of an Italian manuscript in colours, the original being richly illuminated, of about A.D. 1400. There is a fine portrait of Christopher Wren (the son) of 1750, and other special features, which make this part one of the best of the set, and the finest work of the kind ever published in this country.

AN IRISH SHRINE.

CLONFERT CATHEDRAL AND ITS SAILOR SAINT WHO DISCOVERED AMERICA BEFORE COLUMBUS.

By ROBERT DENNIS.

Nestling amid magnificent elms and beeches on a knoll overlooking the Shannon, in the very centre of Ireland, stands a building which, dating its foundation in the sixth century, is now approaching complete restoration. Surrounding it is a churchyard, the gravestones of which are in themselves monuments of antiquity, and yet they are infants in comparison with the small but beautiful structure standing in their midst. The building is Clonfert Cathedral.

Here our footsteps touch the threshold of the dawn of Christianity in the British Islands. While Anglia was still wrapped in the darkness of heathenism, the light of the new religion had already risen upon Hibernia; and it was here, on this very spot, that St. Brendan nearly 1,400 years ago laid the foundations of a monastery, of which the present cathedral is the successor. Here in the chancel lie his bones, and they have a jealous guardian in the present rector of the parish, the Rev. Canon McLarney.

The romance of religion was never better illustrated than in the career of St. Brendan and in the history of the cathedral which enshrines his remains. The saint is known as "the navigator," and he is the patron saint of sailors. He was born at Tralee, in Kerry, in the year 481. At an early period of his life he crossed to Great Britain, and thence to France, founding monasteries or schools in his progress. But it was not until 545 that he undertook the voyage with which his name is chiefly associated. This event, which was called "the Setting Sail of St. Brendan and his Crew," was commemorated in the calendars of the Christian Church on March 22nd every year for many centuries afterwards.

THE VOYAGE TO AMERICA.

Whither did the saint sail, and what did he discover? This is a question upon which light has only recently been thrown. The late Bishop of Iowa, at a meeting in Dublin a few years ago, asserted that St. Brendan not only landed in America 900 years before Columbus was born, but also evangelised a portion of the country at that time. It is certain that the voyage lasted altogether a period of seven years.

The belief that St. Brendan was the first European to visit America rests upon a number of isolated but significant facts. That the Icelanders and the Norsemen preceded Columbus is generally admitted; and when Columbus required information about his proposed voyage he sought it in Iceland and Ireland. One of the sailors whom he took with him to America was an Irishman named Patrick Maguire. Maritime intercourse between Ireland and Iceland was frequent from the earliest days of navigation. To various voyagers from time to

time the great western continent was known as "Ireland the Great" (Irland ed Mikla).

Professor Rafn, of Copenhagen, is of opinion that this Great Ireland of the Northmen was the country south of Chesapeake Bay, including Carolina, Georgia, and East Florida. There is a remarkable tradition preserved among the Shawanese Indians, who emigrated more than a century ago from West Florida to Ohio, that "Florida was once inhabited by white men who used iron instruments." Traces of Irish origin have been observed among some of the original tribes of North and Central America, which suggest a presumption that those countries had been colonised from Ireland at some remote period.

A DISCOVERY BY CORTEZ.

The history of early Irish Christian missions to America affords another proof of that country having been discovered by St. Brendan 900 years before Columbus was born. In the year 1519, when Cortez and his 600 companions landed in Mexico, they were surprised to find that their coming was welcomed by the Mexicans as the realisation of an ancient native tradition to the effect that many centuries before, a white man had come across the great ocean from the north-east in a boat with "wings" (sails) like those of the Spanish vessels.

In the year 558, six years after St. Brendan's return to Ireland from his voyage to America, he founded the cathedral of Clonfert, in co. Galway. When he came to Clonfert he said: "This shall be my rest for ever; here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein." When he was dying at Annaghdown, near Galway, on May 16th, 577, when he was 96 years of age, one of his last requests was: "Bury me in my dear city of Clonfert." His wish was granted. He was buried in the place of honour: in the chancel of the cathedral.

Clonfert Cathedral has suffered so many vicissitudes during the long period of 1343 years of its existence that it is surprising anything ancient has remained. It suffered greatly from the incursions of the Danes, who frequently sailed up the River Shannon from Limerick and attacked it. It was burnt six times between the years 949 and 1065. In the year 1541 it was almost totally destroyed, Bishop Wolley repaired the cathedral in the year 1664. From that time up to the present no general restoration was undertaken till Canon McLarney took the work in hand.

A VANISHED CITY.

There is now no city of Clonfert; there is not even a village. In ancient times a city did exist, and was celebrated as a seat of learning. The present University of Dublin narrowly escaped being established on that spot, because, being so central in the island, it was considered a convenient place for students to assemble. With the exception of the Bishop's Palace, now a private residence, and a single cottage, the cathedral stands alone. War, revolution, tribal feuds, industrial stagnation, fire, famine, and pestilence have done their work with exceeding thoroughness. Not even a vestige of the former city can be traced. The parish of Clonfert, although 27 Irish miles in circumference, contains a very small population. It is dotted about with a few private houses and a number of cabins; yet the land is good, and the scenery is of great sylvan beauty. There is, indeed, no part of Ireland that is fairer to look upon.

One of the curiosities of Clonfert is the yew tree avenue, planted in the form of a cross. This is supposed, judging from the size of the trees, to be many hundreds of years old. Indeed, it was possibly the approach to some heathen temple which existed on the spot long even before the time of St. Brendan. It presents at this moment a remarkably beautiful appearance, and is certainly a unique spectacle.

The war has greatly interfered with the collection of the funds still necessary to complete the restoration.

It certainly would be a pity that an ancient historic cathedral, which has been used as a place of worship for 1343 years, should be allowed to decay. Clonfert Cathedral, having been founded in the year 558, existed as a place of worship 39 years before St. Augustine landed in England, and thus dates before Canterbury Cathedral, York Minster, Winchester Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Salisbury Cathedral, or many of the ancient cathedrals existing at the present day.—*Daily Express*.

Craft Masonry.

Isle of Axholme Lodge, No. 1482.

The monthly meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Rooms, Crowle (Lin.), on the 24th instant, when the following officers were present: Bros. T. Stanforth, W.M.; A. C. Cundall, I.P.M.; J. Constable, acting S.W.; R. Wood, acting Sec.; J. Barratt, J.W.; W. Cranidge, S.B.; C. Fox, acting J.D.; J. Hemmingsbrough, D.C.; H. L. Burtonshaw, Org.; W. W. Scholey, S.D.; A. Alexander, I.G.; and G. Naylor, Tyler. Bro. T. J. Smith, W.M. elect 2259, was a visitor.

Mr. E. J. Middlebrook, who had received a unanimous ballot at a previous lodge, was duly initiated by the W.M.

The brethren afterwards adjourned to the club room for light refreshment.

Chaucer Lodge, No. 1540.

On Tuesday, the 24th instant, the members of this lodge met for the first time since March last at the St. James's Restaurant, the principal business being the election of a W.M. for the ensuing 12 months. There was a goodly gathering, including the following officers and Past Masters: Bros. W. Miles, W.M.; A. Barclay, S.W.; A. F. Sarjeant, J.W.; L. Weil, P.M., Sec.; S. Russell, S.D.; E. H. Parry, I.D.; W. Cooper, I.G.; G. W. Cooper, Org.; T. H. Brooke Hitching, P.M.; V. Cahn, P.M.; J. Polak, P.M.; and I. Genese, I.P.M.

The ballot proved unanimous in favour of Bro. Alfred Barclay, S.W., as Master elect, and the W.M. congratulated him on the occasion. Bro. A. J. Bailey was also re-elected as Treasurer of the lodge, and Bro. Young as Tyler.

The usual dinner followed, and when the loyal and Masonic toasts had been duly honoured, Bro. G. W. Cooper, Org., presided at the piano, and with the assistance of Bros. Heney, Simon, and several other brethren gave the members an excellent musical entertainment.

Viator Lodge, No. 2308.

INSTALLATION OF BRO. C. F. W. CROWTHER.

This highly successful City lodge held its installation meeting at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Saturday, the 21st inst. Present: Bros. R. B. A. Lodge, W.M.; C. F. W. Crowther, S.W., W.M. elect; C. H. Stone, P.M., acting J.W.; W. Sanders, P.M., Treas.; T. H. Hobbs, P.M., P.P.J.G.D. Bucks, Sec.; F. A. Pratten, S.D.; H. Loveless, J.D.; J. Hodden, D.C.; W. Carnor, I.G.; R. Leach, Stwd.; R. W. Whiting, P.M., Tyler; H. H. Pinkney, I.P.M.; E. W. Hobbs, F.M.; W. Chapple, P.M.; W. Waterman, E. G. Reed, E. Young, F. J. Jewson, J. P. Chiles, N. H. Ramsden, C. Naylor, J. M. Owen, R. Beer, J. Bell, C. F. Brown, W. Roylance, F. G. Schoolridge, T. Morris, W. H. Birch, J. Lodge, J. E. B. Romer, and H. C. Stephens. The visitors were Bros. W. H. Pendlebury, 2030; A. Wareham, 2421; H. Dailey, W.M. 1567; F. A. Sherrin, S.W. 1608; A. C. Green, 2622; T. Pope, 834; H. S. Lee, D.C. 2729; W. J. Ross, 2421; T. S. Smith, W.M. 177; J. Anley, jun., I.P.M. 177; W. Bridger, 902; E. Bailey, 991; J. Eyre, 1321; and C. H. Stone, P.M. 507 and 1641.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. C. F. W. Crowther, W.M. elect, was presented by Bro. T. H. Hobbs, P.M., acting D.C., to the W.M. to receive from him the benefit of installation, which ceremony was performed in

ful ceremonies one could sit and listen to, and their hearts were permeated with gratitude to Installing Master E. Letchworth and Bros. Rev. J. S. Brownrigg and Frank Richardson, three brethren conspicuous for their work, although others, if called on as Grand Officers, would doubtless have performed the duties as satisfactorily. He was sure the oration, as delivered by Bro. Brownrigg, ought to be read by all brethren interested in municipal affairs, and hoped all municipal brethren present would take it to heart. He had known Bro. Frank Richardson longer than he liked to say, and whenever he had done any duties in Masonry he was always absolutely perfect. As regarded Bro. E. Letchworth, he knew he had the confidence of all Masons, but he did not know until that night any Mason who was capable of doing work in such a polished and intellectual way as Bro. Edward Letchworth did it; and the memory of it would go down to posterity. It gave him great pleasure at this juncture to ask Bro. Letchworth to accept the founder's jewel.

Bro. E. LETCHWORTH, G. Sec., briefly and forcibly replied, expressing the pleasure it had afforded all the Grand Officers to be present, and said that he saw a good future before the lodge, especially in connection with municipal matters. He never lost an opportunity of acknowledging the services of Bro. Frank Richardson, and to thank the W.M. for taking the chair at the last meeting. He had known Bro. Crump for many many years. He thanked them for the very beautiful jewel, which he regarded as a charming memento of a most interesting occasion.

Bro. JOHN SMITHERS then proposed "The Health of the W.M.," remarking on the great appropriateness in his doing so, as they had been side by side ever since his initiation, on which occasion Bro. Crump was in the chair, owing to the W.M.'s illness. He had occupied every office in their mother lodge, and in his hands as Treasurer the accounts greatly improved.

Bro. CRUMP, in reply, said that in starting a new lodge there was always a certain amount of detail and anxiety. All the officers and he were connected and associated "in another place," and were sure of harmony and success. He and his brother Secretary both could plead being young in their offices. He hoped that the principles underlying the institution of this particular lodge would be copied by other municipalities in London, its inception had caused some comment in the Borough. He had been asked whether Masonry would not take the sting out of their official speeches; well, it might, and he hoped that there being less acrimony public life might become more agreeable and make them moderate, charitable, and kind, which he trusted would be the tone of the Borough from this year, as he believed in the dignity of public affairs as much as in that of Masonic affairs. No institution in the land can compare with Masonic aspirations and deeds.

Bro. ALEX. GRANT said that he thought the idea of the being of the lodge was a step in the right direction, as it gave them the opportunity, as public men, of seeing more of one another than they otherwise might, and he was proud to be one of those taking part in its inception.

In proposing "The Officers of the Lodge," the W.M. observed that they would have the help of two good officers in the persons of Bros. Geo. Samuel Elliott and Major Wenborn, the latter of whom could teach him (the W.M.) many a lesson as he had seen by his work in the Council Chamber. Bro. Wenborn, we may mention, was the originator of the County Council Lodge.

The Tyler's toast being given, a memorable Masonic occasion terminated. The Consecrating Officers were Bros. E. Letchworth, as W.M.; W. Vaughan Morgan, P.G. Treas., S.W.; Thos. Hy. Gardiner, J.W.; J. S. Brownrigg, Chap.; Frank Richardson, D.C.; and W. H. C. Crump, I.G.; and eight founders signed the book.

PRESENTATION TO THE SHERIFFS ELECT.

The presentation of a chain and badge of office to Bro. Sheriff Elect Brooks Marshall, J.P., took place at the St. Bride's Institute on Monday last, Sir EDWARD LAWSON, Bart., presiding, said the inscription was as follows: "Presented to Horace Brooks Marshall, Esq., M.A., J.P., &c., by his civic and personal friends on the occasion of his election as Sheriff of the City of London, 1901-2, as a token of their esteem and regard. September 23rd, 1901." He had also to ask Mrs. Marshall to accept a diamond brooch bearing the following inscription: "Presented to Mrs. Horace B. Marshall on the occasion of the presentation of Shrieval chain and badge to her husband. September 23rd, 1901." This was accompanied by an illuminated album containing the names of the contributors to the fund. In handing these presents to the recipients, he might be permitted to say that all wished that the Sheriff's civic honours might not stop there, but that in the fulness of time he might achieve the highest position it was possible for a citizen to attain, confident as they were that, if that should be so, he would be fully worthy of it, and would maintain the position with infinite dignity and credit. With regard to Mrs. Marshall, all must be aware how much a man in the position of Sheriff, with responsibilities and hard work always pressing upon him, owed to her who gave peace, happiness, and sympathy in his own home. (Cheers.) In that respect he had no doubt that Mr. Marshall had all that his heart could desire, Sir Edward then placed the chain on the Sheriff-Elect's shoulders, and concluded by wishing him health, comfort, prosperity, and every possible good.

Bro. Alderman and Sheriff elect Bell's numerous friends met at the Institute of Chartered Accountants on Monday last, Dr. EDWIN FRESHFIELD presiding. In making the presentation, he said that all present were personal friends of Mr. Alderman Bell, and most of them were citizens of the ward of Coleman-street. They had met for the purpose of giving their Alderman a tribute of the respect in which they held him, and in thus conferring an honour upon him they were conferring an honour upon themselves. He looked upon the Alderman as an able representative of the devoted class of citizens who had carried on the work of their great City throughout so many ages. In the case of the Alderman, they were particularly indebted to him because he came forward and accepted the aldermanic gown of the ward at a critical time. He had watched the career of the Alderman since the first day he became a member of the Court of Common Council. As a Common Councilman he occupied the different important chairs which had to be filled by those who did their duty on the Council, and afterwards he donned the aldermanic gown in the circumstances alluded to. They all knew how well, conscientiously and disinterestedly, he had discharged his duties. Now, it was particularly pleasing that they should be called upon to welcome him as a Sheriff-elect at this particular time. They knew full well that, if it pleased God to preserve the life of the King, Mr. Alderman Bell would have the satisfaction of being one of the Sheriffs during the Coronation year. (Cheers.) They were particularly glad that that honour should have fallen upon the Alderman of Coleman-street, and even more glad

that it should have fallen to Mr. Bell's lot. (Hear, hear.) It was his duty that day to ask Mr. Bell to accept at their hands the chain and badge which was usually worn by the Sheriffs during their year of office, and thereafter as Aldermen. Most of them remembered the meeting at which it was determined to form a small committee to arrange for the presentation. He himself was asked to accept the position of chairman, and, whilst he thought that there were others who had more right to occupy that position, he was very pleased to be able to show thus publicly the deep respect he entertained for the Alderman. The real work, perhaps, had fallen on a few, and amongst them he would mention the two hon. secretaries, and Mr. Lonsdale, the designer of the gift. (Hear, hear.) Dr. Freshfield then read the illuminated address which accompanied the chain.

CONSECRATION OF THE UNITED SERVICE LODGE OF ROYAL ARK MARINERS, No. 489.

The consecration of the above lodge took place at Mark Masons' Hall, W.C., on Wednesday, the 25th instant.

A Royal Ark Mariners Lodge was opened at five p.m. by Bro. J. Percy White, P.G.N. 364, and eight brethren were elevated to the Degree. Bro. C. F. Matier, P.G.W., G. Sec., then took the chair, and assisted by the following Grand Officers: Bros. Chas. Belton, as S.J.; C. Carroll, as S.S.; Rev. C. E. J. Wright, as Chap.; J. Tower, as D. of C.; W. Kipps, as G. Org.; H. Thorpe, as Guard; and E. Mills, as W., performed the consecration ceremony with due solemnity, a very interesting oration, on the principles of the Degree, being ably given by Bro. Rev. C. E. L. Wright.

A Board of Installed Commanders was then formed, and Bro. Vice-Admiral W. H. C. St. Clair was duly enthroned as W.C.N. by the Grand Secretary in his usual able and impressive manner, after which the following officers were invested: Bros. J. Percy White, P.C.N., as I.P.C.N.; Capt. N. J. Hopkins, R.E., Sen. J.; C. E. L. Wright, P.C.N., as S.S.; Rear-Admiral H. Campbell, Treas.; John Maitland, Scribe; Lieut.-Col. N. Newnam-Davis, D. of C.; W. F. Trydell, S.D.; E. J. Walker, J.D.; J. Bampton, Guard; T. Owen Hutchinson, Org.; and G. F. Beetham, Stwd.

A very hearty vote of thanks was given to the Grand Officers for their kind assistance, and honorary membership of the lodge was conferred upon them. A handsome commemoration jewel was presented to the G. Secretary by the founders.

A vote of thanks was given to Bro. J. Percy White for so ably performing the ceremony of elevation; also to Bro. J. Maitland for his valuable services as Secretary to the founders.

A Committee, consisting of the W.C.N., I.P.C.N., and Scribe, was appointed to draw up and submit for approval the by-laws for the governing of the lodge.

The whole of the founders were present, except one, who was unavoidably absent, two are serving their King and country in South Africa, and one in Malta. Letters of congratulation from the brethren in South Africa and a cablegram from Malta were received.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren dined together at Freemasons' Tavern, where the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

Obituary.

BRO. ODGER EVA, 318.

The funeral of Bro. Odger Eva, borough surveyor, Helston, Cornwall, took place on Thursday afternoon, the 19th instant, and was largely attended. Our departed brother was for nearly 30 years a member of Helston Volunteer Company, holding for many years the rank of colour-sergeant. For a long time one of the best shots in the battalion, he won many valuable prizes at the annual competitions. He was S.D. of the True and Faithful Lodge, No. 318, meeting at the Masonic Hall, Helston. Great sympathy and respect were shown; blinds were drawn and shutters closed along the line of the cortege, as well as in other parts of the town. A detachment of Volunteers, without arms, under the command of Capt. Pengilly and Sergeant-Instructor Keats, marched in front of the hearse. The mourning carriage contained Messrs. A. and T. Tredinnick, nephews; Mr. J. Roberts, and E. C. Truscott. The maces, draped with crape, were borne before the Mayor (Mr. G. Beringer), Mr. E. P. Kendall, Aldermen A. E. Radcliffe, T. Taylor, and Councillors J. O. Eva, J. James, A. R. Thomas, F. W. Jeffery, J. Toy, H. Toy, R. G. Rapsom, W. Harris, D. H. Thomas, H. T. Anthony (assistant town clerk), Dr. Wearne (medical officer of health), J. Hendy (borough accountant), W. E. Oats and R. H. Cade (borough auditors). Then followed a large contingent of Freemasons and friends, including Messrs. W. Blackwell, P. Perring, J. Trenoweth, T. Bragg, W. Coombe, T. Munday, N. Hocking, E. Jory, J. Bassett, J. Lander, W. Edwards, S. R. Harris, W. Trezise, E. Dunstan, T. Bath, E. Quintrell, W. Carne, W. Staple, and T. Prisk. The coffin was of unpainted oak with brass mountings, and on it were placed two beautiful wreaths—"With the Mayor's deepest sympathy" was on the card, and "With deepest sympathy to an old friend from John and Madam Roberts, Maenherne." Rev. W. F. C. Rogers, vicar of Sithney, officiated. By the passing away of our brother the Craft loses a valuable worker, and Helston a useful townsman.

DEATH OF BRO. E. T. E. BESLEY, K.C.

Bro. E. Thomas Edmunds Besley, K.C., we regret to learn, died on the 18th instant at his residence, Sydenham-hill. The deceased was the son of Mr. Thomas Besley, formerly the proprietor of the *Devonshire Chronicle* and *Exeter News*, and one of his uncles, Bro. Alderman Besley, served the office of Lord Mayor in the year 1869-70. Bro. Besley received his education at the Exeter Free Grammar School, and on coming to London joined the Parliamentary staff of the *Morning Chronicle*, subsequently representing the *Times* in the gallery from 1854 to 1864. He was called to the Bar in 1859, and thenceforward practised at the Central Criminal Court and on the Home and South-Eastern Circuits. Even in those early days Bro. Besley was considered a clever advocate regarding criminal law, while in after years he enjoyed great eminence in the department of the profession he made peculiarly his own. Bro. Besley, who was in his 76th year, was on the livery of the Fishmongers' Company and a director of the Lambeth Waterworks and of several gas companies. Many members of the Bar attended the interment of the mortal remains of our late brother, on the 21st instant. It may be mentioned that Bro. Besley was one of the selected candidates on the occasion of the appointment of the present Town Clerk in 1865, and that he frequently acted as the Vacation Judge at the City of London Court in the absence of Mr. Commissioner Kerr. On Friday, at the County of London Sessions, Bro. McConnell, K.C., the chairman, paid a touching tribute to the late Bro. Besley, stating that all who were associated with him at the Bar had learned to value him as a friend and as a distinguished member of the profession. Mr. Grain afterwards spoke for the Bar, and cordially endorsed the chairman's eulogy. Bro. Besley was a Mason of nearly 40 years' standing, having been initiated in 1863 in the Grenadiers Lodge, No. 66. He continued a subscribing member until 1893, but owing, no doubt, to the demands of his profession he never seems to have aspired to office.

Science, Art, and the Drama.

SOME ELECTRICAL PHENOMENA.

What would be thought of a lady who, when saluting her dearest friends, gave at the same time an electric shock from her lips? Who, presenting a hand to her acquaintances, made their hands tingle again with electric sparks? What would you think if the knob of your friend's parlour door sent a severe twinge up your arm? or, if a similar twinge paralysed your legs on passing from the front to the back drawing room. No matter what you would think; such things are, and the marvels of fiction fade to insignificance before them. New York, as everyone knows, is an extraordinary city, famous for many things, with edifices of almost palatial architecture. Great pains are bestowed on the workmanship of the interior, the doors and windows being made to fit with the utmost accuracy, to keep out the fierce winter cold; and the arrangements for heating the apartments with hot air are such that the houses are as dry and warm as an oven during the cold season. Too warm, indeed, for health. Well, within the past years, the occupants of some of these houses have been the subjects and witnesses of unusual phenomena, something more than they bargained for in their lease. They have had to endure the visitation, if not domiciliation, of what may be called domestic electricity, exhibiting itself in vivid sparks, without apparent cause or warning. As described by Prof. Loomes, of New York University, the shocks were at times of considerable intensity. "A stranger," he says, on entering one of these electrical houses, in attempting to shake hands with the inmates, receives a shock, which is quite noticeable and somewhat unpleasant. Ladies in attempting to kiss each other are saluted by a spark. A spark is perceived whenever the hand is brought near to the knob of a door, the gilded frame of a mirror, the gas pipes, or any metallic body, especially when this body communicates freely with the earth. In one house a child, in taking hold of the knob of a door, received so severe a shock that she ran off in great fright. The lady of the house, in approaching the speaking-tube to give orders to the servant, felt a very unpleasant shock in the mouth, and was much annoyed by the electricity until she learned first to touch the tube with her finger. In passing from one parlour to the other, if she chanced to step upon the brass plate which served as a slide for the folding-doors, she caught an unpleasant shock in the foot. When her finger approached the chandelier, or gaselier rather, suspended from the ceiling, there appeared a brilliant spark and a snap, as in the discharge of a Leyden jar of good size. Strange as these facts appear, they are not difficult of explanation. They are most conspicuous in the coldest weather, and in the best finished and most highly heated houses. Here are presented materials for the development of electricity; in addition to which the floors of the rooms are covered with velvet pile carpets, and it admits of proof that electricity may be excited in a close, thick worsted carpet by the leather of the shoe in walking over it. Dryness is essential to the phenomenon, and the American winters, as is well-known, are remarkably dry; at any rate, the anthracite coal furnace, pouring its stream of hot air into every room of a house, effectually checks any approach to moisture. For this reason to shuffle across the carpet in such a house, or even to walk slowly, would so charge a person with electricity that sparks would be given off by touching another person or any metallic substance. And although the cause may seem scarcely adequate to the effect, we ought to remember that the friction is accompanied by the whole weight of the body. Let any one rub a piece of carpet with a piece of leather, and apply the electrometer; the effect will be surprising. These electrical houses give feebler signs of electricity as warm weather comes in; and during the summer, with its damp oppressive heat, they almost entirely disappear. There is nothing mysterious in this. The phenomenon is easily understood; but it has the peculiarity—reversing social usages—of staying most at home in dry weather, and going abroad when damp and rainy. We have read of a natural philosopher who, persecuted by an obstinate dun, charged his knocker with a strong shock to punish his tormentor; the hapless savant should have lived in an electrical house. We have heard of other houses where a spark could always be drawn from the looking glass frame above the mantle-piece, a fire burning at the time in an open grate beneath. And in many parts of America, and on board steamboats, persons sitting round the fire have drawn electric sparks by presenting their knuckles to the stove. In the scientific journals have been published a few remarkable particulars concerning an "electrical lady" at Oxford, in New Hampshire. This lady, one day towards the end of January, during an appearance of the aurora, happening to pass her hand near her brother's face, saw sparks fly from each finger; the pricking sensation being felt by both, to their mutual astonishment. A professor from Dartmouth College, who came in shortly afterwards, expressed his incredulity when the lady, presenting her knuckle to his nose, he was convinced of the fact by a spark three-fourths of an inch long. This electrical condition remained in full vigour up to the end of February, after which it decreased, and was lost in May; but during this time the lady observed the effect to be greatest when her mind was tranquil and cheerful, and least when she was agitated or cold. She had no inward consciousness of the presence or absence of the electric power; when it existed in intensity, while sitting at her needlework, she was tormented by the sparks every time she touched her scissors, knitting-needle, the poker, or anything metallic; and when quietly reading near the stove, three or four sparks a minute would pass from her to the mass of iron. Her health was delicate, and she continued subject to similar manifestations till her death, a few years after. These phenomena open views of electricity which some day will be understood and made practically useful to mankind.

ARTISTIC CHARACTER OF CHARLES I.

The accession of this King, 1625, was the first era of real taste in England. As his temper was not profuse, the expense he made in collections, and the rewards he bestowed on men of true genius and merit, are proofs of his judgment. He knew how and when to bestow. Queen Elizabeth was avaricious with pomp—James I. lavish with meanness. A prince who patronises the arts, and can distinguish abilities, enriches the country, and is at once generous and an economist. Charles had virtues to make a nation happy; fortunately he had not thought that he knew how to make them happy, and that he alone ought to have the power of making them so! Mr. Gilpin (Western Tour) has drawn the portrait of King Charles I. with a felicitous hand. "If Charles had acted with as much judgment as he read, and had shown as much discernment in life as

he had taste in the arts, he might have figured among the greatest princes. Every lover of picturesque beauty, however, must respect this amiable Prince, notwithstanding his political weaknesses. We never had a Prince in England whose genius and taste were more elevated and exact. He saw the arts in a very enlarged point of view. The amusements of his Court were a model of elegance to all Europe; and his cabinets were the receptacles only of what was exquisite in sculpture and painting. None but men of the first merit in their profession found encouragement from him, and these abundantly. Jones was his architect, and Vandyck his painter. Charles was a scholar, a man of taste, a gentleman, and a Christian; he was everything but a King. The art of reigning was the only art of which he was ignorant. His character is thus quaintly given by old Lilly, the historian: "He had many excellent parts in nature, was a skilful horseman, would shoot well at a mark, had singular skill in limning, was a good judge of pictures, a clever mathematician, not unskilful in music, well read in divinity, excellent in history and law; he spoke several languages, and writ well, in good language and style." Perinchief is still more particular: "There was not any one gentleman of all the three kingdoms that could compare with him in a universality of knowledge. He encouraged all parts of learning, and he delighted to talk with all kinds of artists, and with so great a facility did apprehend the mysteries of their professions, that he did sometimes say, 'He thought he could get his living, if necessitated, by any trade he knew of but making of hangings.'"

THE TWO BOSTONS—ENGLAND AND U.S. AMERICA.

The famous "Old Stump," the tower of the fine church of Boston, in Lincolnshire, has been from early times a well known landmark to ships at sea. The town is built upon the site of the monastery of Ivanhoe, founded by St. Botolph in 654, and being rebuilt by the Danes in 870, was an important commercial town in the 13th century, and was made a staple for wool by Edward III. in 1357. The other Boston, in the United States of America, was settled in 1630, and to-day, Christ Church, built in 1723, is shown to the visitor as an antiquity. These latter facts accentuate the meaning of the "Old World and the New." St. Botolph's Church, in the English Boston, was founded in 1309, and to-day, its tower, 223 feet high, is still a noble landmark by sea and land. The Boston of Massachusetts was named after this Boston of Lincolnshire in England; and the mother city has always taken a deep interest in the progress and welfare of the beautiful city by the Charles River. The country all round the English Boston is full of strange interest. The adjacent sea washes a coast line as flat as the fens to which St. Botolph's Tower, once upon a time, was as important a beacon to landsmen, as to sailors. For many a long year after the Normans had literally conquered the Saxon land, the native islander stood out in this district, often going out to meet the foe on stilts, so that, having delivered their assault, they could retreat in safety into the fastnesses of their bogs and marshes.

GENERAL NOTES.

If precedent is followed, some special music will certainly be written for the Coronation next year. It is supposed that the Coronation Anthem will be composed by Dr. Cresser, who is organist and composer to the Chapel Royal, and a suggestion has also been made that the "Te Deum," written by the late Bro. Sir Arthur Sullivan for the thanksgiving service to be held in St. Paul's on the proclamation of peace in South Africa, might be used. Another musical question mooted in reference to the Coronation is whether "a composer to the Court" should not be appointed, to do for music what the Poet Laureate does for verse. Of course, there is the Master of Music to the Court, the appointment being held by Bro. Sir Walter Parrett; but he does little more than conduct the King's private and State bands.

The new opera, by Mr. Edward German, which is eventually to succeed "The Emerald Isle," at the Savoy Theatre, is to be entitled "Merrie England."

By Mr. C. Hawtrey's own desire, the farewell supper to have been given him by his friends, prior to his departure for the United States of America, did not take place.

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Masonic and General Tidings.

"THE NIGHT OF THE PARTY" was presented by Mr. Weedon Grossmith at the Avenue Theatre on Wednesday, the 25th instant, for the 150th time.

EIGHT GIRLS and 16 boys will be admitted to the benefits of the Merchant Seamen's Orphan Asylum at the election to be held at the Cannon-street Hotel on Monday next.

FROM AMONGST 69 candidates, 22 boys and eight girls will be admitted to the benefits of the Orphan Working School at the election to be held at the Cannon-street Hotel on the 30th prox.

IN MEMORY of the late Mr. John Deacon, his father, Mr. J. F. W. Deacon has promised to contribute £1000 towards the £30,000 required for the new Home and Colonial Training College.

THE MEETING for the installation of Bro. Edward J. Mills, S.W., as W.M. of the Rothesay Lodge, No. 1687, is to be held at the Frascati Restaurant on the 2nd prox., and will be full of interest, as the meetings of the Rothesay Lodge always are.

BRO. ROOSEVELT, the new President of the United States, declares that he entertains an "old country-cousin feeling" for London. "I like," he says, "its size, the swing and rush of its life, and the importance of the interests of which it is the centre."

THE NOTTINGHAM GOOSE FAIR.—In connection with the Voluntary Early Closing Association, 64, Cheapside, there will be a day trip on the Great Central Railway on Thursday, the 3rd prox., to Nottingham (for the Goose Fair), Loughborough, and Leicester.

A MEETING of the Committee of the Devon Masonic Educational Fund was held on the 20th instant at the Freemasons' Hall, Plymouth, to decide whether there should be an election in October, and also to make arrangements for the annual concert in aid of the Funds of the Institution. Bro. F. B. Westlake presided.

THE GOLDEN LETTER of the present year is certainly "P" as far as the chiefs of the City are concerned, not only the Lord Mayor, but each of the Sheriffs, being closely associated with papers and printing. The coming year will have "B" as its golden letter. The incoming Lord Mayor is a banker, the senior Sheriff a brewer, and his colleague a bookseller.—*City Press*.

THE SIR JOHN CASS INSTITUTE.—Three more workshops are to be added to the Sir John Cass Technical Institute, South Hackney, the Technical Education Board having allocated the sum of £3000 for this purpose. The creation of the central branch of the institute will soon be proceeded with on the site of the existing North-East London Institute, Dalston-lane. The cost will be about £50,000.

ON THE OCCASION of the visit paid on the 21st instant by the members of the Garden City Association to Bournville, the model village founded by Messrs. Cadbury, and recently ceded to a body of trustees for the people, Mr. Matthew Wallace, C.C., J.P., the Mayor of Camberwell, proposed the resolution that was passed thanking Mr. Cadbury for his hospitality, and expressed the meeting's intention to follow, as far as possible, the example he had set at Bournville.

MASONIC DISTINCTION.—Bro. the Rev. Dr. Chetwynd Atkinson, a Mason well known in Cheshire circles, has just been elected by the Supreme Council of the 33° to the 31°, of which the number is limited to 90. Dr. Atkinson has received high honours in other branches of Masonry, having served as Grand Chaplain of England in Mark Masonry, Great High Prelate of England in the Knights Templar Degree, and Grand Chaplain of the Allied Degrees, besides holding Past Provincial rank in all the Masonic bodies.

THE WRECK OF THE COBRA.—Bro. the Lord Mayor is in negotiation with the Admiralty on the subject of the proposed raising of a Mansion House fund for the relief of the sufferers through the loss of H.M.S. Cobra. The Admiralty have pointed out to his lordship that the dependent relatives will be assisted with pensions and gratuities according to the scale. They suggest the making of an inquiry as to the contractors' men. That is the state of affairs at present, and it is probable that no fund will be established.

THE CORPORATE VACANCY IN BISHOPSGATE.—The wardmote for the election of a representative to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Deputy Dadswell will be held at the Schoolroom, Bishopsgate-churchyard, on Monday at noon. The following candidates are seeking the suffrages of the electorate: Mr. E. Ardley, 17, Great St. Helen's; Mr. G. J. Hunt, 10, Bishopsgate-street Within; Mr. G. Noah Johnson, 34, Bishopsgate-street, who was unexpectedly defeated last St. Thomas's Day; and Bro. Horatio Saqui, of 28, 29, and 31, Liverpool-street.

THE NEW PALACE STEAMERS successfully concluded their sailings between London and Southend, Margate, Ramsgate, Calais, Boulogne, and Ostend, for this season on Monday last, and the La Marguerite, Royal Sovereign, and Koh-i-noor, will now lay in Tilbury Dock to be thoroughly overhauled before commencing another season's sailings. During the past season the steamers have carried 326,950 passengers, being an excess over the previous year of 25,000, and in view of the present depression of trade and traffic, the Company have every reason to be satisfied with the season's result. La Marguerite's Thursdays' trips to Calais and back have been extremely well patronised, and have, no doubt, helped considerably to bring that historic town, with its countless attractions to the English visitor, more prominently before the holiday public.

THE SURREALTY is often regarded as the stepping-stone to Mayoral office. In the case of Colonel Probyn, the further honours will probably be conferred in connection with the borough of Westminster. The Duke of Norfolk, it is understood, is not desirous of serving a further term as Mayor, and in these circumstances it is likely that Colonel Probyn, who is the senior Alderman on the Council, will be returned unanimously on November 9th next. Such a choice will certainly be an admirable one. The colonel is a past master in municipal work, and, further, through his year of office as one of the Sheriffs for the City of London, is thoroughly conversant with ceremonial duties. That the coming year will be a notable one goes without saying. All the more necessary, therefore, is it for Westminster to elect as its chief so genial and experienced a gentleman as the colonel.—*City Press*.

BRO. THOMAS SEWARD GREEN has been appointed assistant manager, Royal Gun Factories, in the place of Mr. H. W. Jones, retired. He will remain in special charge of the Torpedo Factory, of which he has been principal foreman since 1888. Bro. Green entered the Royal Arsenal as a lad, and his gradual rise to his present high position has been due to a combination of intellectual ability with a continual study of the technicalities of his profession. His attainments, indeed, though mainly devoted to the Government service, have something to spare for other walks of life, and his advancement is a matter of congratulation no less outside than inside the Royal Arsenal, for Bro. Green has served the public as a vestryman of Plumstead, and is at present a sidesman at St. Margaret's Church, and manager of the Central Schools. Nor do we forget the part he took when a member of the Plumstead Burial Board in getting the cemetery opened on Sunday mornings. He is also W.M. of the Capper Lodge, No. 1076, and president of the Torpedo Factory Chrysanthemum Society, which indeed owes in a large measure its popularity and success to his fostering hand.

AS FREEMASONRY has the King as its patron, gives the Bible the place of honour in its lodges, and goes to church and hears sermons such as that preached by Canon Southwell at Bodmin on the 17th instant, it is difficult to understand why here in England it should be condemned in such unmeasured terms by the Roman Church. At the Roman Cathedral, at Plymouth, Canon Courtenay alluded to "Anarchists, Socialists, Freemasons, and all such, under whatever guise they conceal their real aims," which he claimed to be subverting obedience, respect, and loyalty due to the authority appointed by God. No one who has the smallest acquaintance with English Freemasonry could ever have given expression to such a sweeping statement. There is no body, not even the Roman Church itself, in which loyalty to God and to a lawfully-constituted authority is more strongly inculcated than in the Masonic body, and to class them with Anarchists and subverters of social order is simply absurd to anyone who has any knowledge on the subject at all. It is a pity Canon Courtenay did not make some little inquiry before indulging in such a sweeping accusation against Freemasons.—*Western Morning News*.

BRO. EMRA HOLMES, Staff Paymaster R.N.R., has received the thanks of the King, "by command," for his poem on the death of the Empress Frederick, which recently appeared in our columns.

MR. WEEDON GROSSMITH has postponed until Tuesday next, the 1st prox., the production at the Avenue Theatre of the new one act play "Between the Dances," which is to precede "The Night of the Party."

THE FOUNDATION STONE of the Freemasons' Hall, Oswestry, will be laid by Bro. Sir Odlley Wakeman, Bart., the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master for Shropshire, on the 17th prox. The Provincial Grand Lodge will meet at the Victoria Room, Oswestry, at 12.30 o'clock.

OWING TO bad weather, it is believed that there will be a great shortage in the world's supply of tea this year. In all probability, there will be a decrease of at least 20,000,000 lb. in the production. Shipments from India to London already show a deficit of 5,000,000 lb. Consequently, the price is rising.

"INTERVIEWS IN HELL" is the title of a new satire from the pen of "Greaves Molyneux," which will be published by Messrs. Dean and Son, Limited, 160A, Fleet-street, E.C. The work is uniquely illustrated by the late Mr. Irving Montague, so many years associated with the *Illustrated London News*.

THE FOUNDER OF LONDON'S MUNICIPAL LIFE.—At the luncheon at Winchester in connection with the celebration of the millenary of King Alfred, Bro. the Lord Mayor, in acknowledging the toast of "Alfred and English Civic and Municipal Life," said he found from the City records that King Alfred was practically the founder of the municipal life of London.

BRO. ALDERMAN SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE, who to-morrow (Saturday) will be elected Lord Mayor of London for the year ensuing, presided at a wardmote of his ward of Cornhill on the 26th instant, when Mr. T. Goldney and Mr. M. R. Sewill were returned unopposed to the Court of Common Council. Bro. Sir Joseph also appointed as his deputy Mr. Millar Wilkinson.

AFTER ENTERTAINING some friends at luncheon at the hall of the Mercers' Company, of which he is a liveryman, Major-General Baden-Powell, on the 26th inst., visited the Charterhouse, where he took tea with the Principal, Dr. Haigh-Brown, and Mrs. Haigh-Brown. At the time the General was a pupil at Charterhouse the school had not been removed from the City.

PRINCESS HENRY OF BATTENBERG has been entertaining the Maharanee of Kooch Behar at Osborne Cottage. The distinguished visitor concluded her visit to her Royal Highness on the 26th instant, and the Princess accompanied her to Portsmouth in the Sheila. Prince Maurice of Battenberg has left the Isle of Wight to commence his first term at Wellington College Preparatory School.

THE MANAGEMENT of the Court Theatre wishing to provide an attraction of a more varied nature for the early patrons of the theatre than the usual one-act play, have decided on Monday next, in addition to Mr. Robert Ganthony in his laughable recitals, to introduce Colby and Way in their ventriloquial and dancing doll act, and the celebrated Chanteuse Parisienne Mdlle. Eugene Pougere. These attractions will appear each evening in front of "The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown."

SHAMROCK II. failed on the 26th instant to realise the hopes which had been entertained. The contest was exciting, but indecisive. Owing to the light airs the race could not be finished within the time limit, but nevertheless the challenger suffered what may be termed a moral defeat. At 10 minutes past 11 the Columbia crossed the line, being first by 12 seconds. The boat out to the mark-boat was made in a seven-knot breeze, which was puffy and uncertain. The American boat turned six minutes and a half ahead of her rival, though the latter had led for a time. On the run home, however, the Herreshoff craft to draw away from the English yacht. At 20 minutes to five she was about three miles from victory, when the encounter was declared off.

THE FIRST regular railway ever constructed to carry passengers and goods, the old Stockton and Darlington line, was on this day, in 1825, opened for public use. It is amusing to read of the excitement, alarm, and astonishment the first journey created; but the directors seem to have anticipated this, for, in front of the engine, they had men riding on horseback with red flags, to give notice that the locomotive was approaching. The inaugural train consisted of some 33 "wagons," weighing 80 tons, and the whole was drawn in some places at a speed of 10 miles an hour. It took the train, however, three hours and seven minutes to go from Darlington to Stockton, a distance of only 12 miles, but the time includes stoppages, of which there were several long ones. Some of the directors of the railway were the Peases and Backhouses, and, in consequence, it was locally known as the "Quakers' line." As engineer, Stevenson got £650 a year, with which he was expected to pay his assistants' salaries and expenses.—*Daily Telegraph*.

CORN CARNIVALS.—In "Cassell's Magazine" for October Mr. D. A. Willey describes a species of harvest festival on a large scale which is becoming increasingly popular in the corn-growing States: Weeks before harvest time preparations are made for the festivities. The prominent citizens of the town contribute to a fund for decoration, music, and usually the entertainment of town-people and guests at a banquet. The services of some leading orator are secured, and the President of the United States and his Cabinet and the State Governor are invited to attend with other notables. A special week is set apart at a time when the farmers have finished gathering the grain, and have leisure to a tend. Their presence is very desirable, as they take occasion to make their purchases for the winter, and spend their money in other ways, nearly all of which benefit the tradespeople, hotel-keepers, and the town in general. The railroad companies are induced to offer special rates of transportation, and with others offer prizes for the best designs and decorations of buildings, and in other ways encourage the display of emblems. A programme is arranged consisting of processions, public meetings, concerts, and other attractions, which will interest the townspeople and visitors. Generally a committee of leading citizens, headed by the mayor, takes charge of the event, and large sums of money are expended in arranging the carnival.

"NO ROAD WITHOUT ITS THORN."—In September the cyclist finds wild country life rather aggressive, and his path a thorny one. Every gleam of the watery sun, especially at morning and evening, fills the vista of the highway hedgerows with dancing swarms of tiny flying things. There is poetry, perhaps, in the multitudinous farewell of insect life to summer, and they shimmer in the sunlight pleasingly; but they have an exasperating habit of getting into the cyclist's eye, and one of them, a little elongated beetle, exudes an essence which stings like a drop of vitriol. With one of these infinitesimal anarchists in his eye, the cyclist finds it no easy matter to watch carefully where he is going; and, since September is also the season which the farmers select for hedge-cutting, he has every facility for getting a thorn into his tyre. The cyclist then, with agony in the eye and a puncture in the bicycle, may be excused, as he sits by the roadside five miles from anywhere, if he takes a gloomy view of the country life amid which he is spending a fine autumn afternoon. The Pretty Side of Thorns and Flies.—To the philosophic mind and the unstung eye, however, an interesting parallel appears between the flies that fill the air and the thorns that litter the road in fine September weather. Nature seems to know that her lingering favourites among the insect-eating birds, the swallows and the fly-catchers, must soon start upon their long and perilous journey to the South, and so she goes out of her way to provide them with food before they start. They have come from afar to reap her superabundant harvest of summer insect life, and in the September swarms of tiny-winged things she seems to be deliberately providing them with a sumptuous banquet before they go. In the same way the farmer, whose harvest has been reaped with the aid of labourers, who have come many of them from distant towns, finds men lingering after the harvest in the hope of further work, and for these he provides the makeshift employment of tidying up the hedges, a job which may as well be done now as at any other time, and that provides employment for hands that the slack time which follows a finished harvest would otherwise leave idle. The beauty of this parallel might be more generally appreciated if the men thus employed did not leave the thorns in the road, for these tempt the cyclist to draw a different parallel, and compare the farmer to one who finds some mischief still for idle "hands" to do.—*Country Life*.

ANGLO-INDIANS AND OTHERS seeking genuine Indian-manufactured condiments, currie stuffs, chutneys, preserves, poppudums, Bombay ducks, Nepaul pepper, &c., send to the original firm. C. Stenbridge and Co., 18, Green-street, Leicester-square, London; and Calcutta. Established 1821. Write for price list. (Removed from 33, Leicester-square).