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The Quarterly General Courts OF THE Royal Masonic Institutions.



HE Quarterly General Courts of the Boys' and Girls' Schools, held respectively at Freemasons' Tavern on the 26th and 27th ulto., were of more than usual interest.

That of the Institution for Boys was presided over by the W. Bro. Henry Smith, D. Prov. G.M. for West Yorkshire, and was attended by a large number of metropolitan and provincial brethren, many of the latter having travelled long distances in expectation of hearing the report of the Committee which has been for several months inquiring into the management, discipline and expenditure of the school. After the reading of minutes relating to the previous Quarterly Court, and of the several meetings of the General Committee, the re-election of Bro. George Plucknett as treasurer was unanimously resolved. Bro. Roebuck (who we were sorry to notice was suffering from a recent accident resulting in a broken limb) in the absence of W. Bro. A. F. Godson, *M.P.*, proposed the addition of three candidates to the number named for election, and this being seconded by W. Bro. Venn, was carried, thereby raising the number to twenty. Subsequently the poll was declared in favour of the following:—Roberts, Frank, 2,793 votes; Kennedy, A. E., 2,784; Woodman, J., 2,775; Fry, J. B., 2,745; Kemp, A. H., 2,695; Coulthurst, R. S., 2,627; Gravenor, R. H., 2,611; Blanim, C. H., 2,606; Lister, P. O., 2,598; Laurence, H., 2,540; Michael, C., 2,539; Mundle, S. A., 2,510; Ibbotson, S., 2,447; Burgess, E. H., 2,436; Carr, H. L., 2,421; Court, W. P., 2,351; Podmore, A. E., 2,327; Bosco, W. P. C., 2,286; De Caen, J. H., 2,189; and Nicholl, L. M., 2,162.

V.W. Bro. F. A. Philbrick, *Q.C.*, Grand Registrar, as Chairman of the Committee appointed in July last, then

handed to the Chairman of the day the unanimous report of that Committee, enclosed in an envelope and under seal, and the same was formally received. It was found to occupy some fifty pages of printed matter in book form, and was evidently a record of a most exhaustive inquiry. It was at once seen that the important business of the election would be greatly interfered with if the report was to be read, and a possible debate on its merits to be there and then opened. It was, therefore, after some discussion of a resolution by Bro. Storey, resolved that "the report be printed and circulated amongst the members of the Quarterly Court," which practically means that every Patron, Vice-Patron, Life Governor and Life Subscriber, shall forthwith receive a copy. The question of the expense attending the proposed circulation in the form resolved, had an earnest consideration on the score of providing therefor in the most economical manner; and it was an unanimous opinion of the Court that under its sanction Bro. Philbrick could facilitate matters by employing the same printers—a firm in a distant part of the country pledged to secrecy during preparation of the proofs submitted—to use the standing type for the production of the large number of copies required. This was agreed to on the part of Bro. Philbrick, and a cordial vote of thanks to him and to the members of the Committee who had given their services in the preparation of what is evidently an exhaustive and doubtless a thoroughly impartial report was carried by acclamation. Bro. Philbrick acknowledged the compliment, and desired to speak personally of the support afforded him by Bros. Derby Allcroft (treasurer of Christ's Hospital), Sir Reginald Hanson, *S. Pope, Q.C.*, Col. Thrale Perkins, J. Malcolm (of Leeds), and A. C. Wylie (of Liverpool), who, after occupying fifteen days in taking evidence, brought their labours to a conclusion which he trusted will ultimately benefit the Institution. Bro. Philbrick added, "I will say this only of the Report, that we have endeavoured without fear, favour, or affection, to tell the whole truth as we believed it to be. What the result of that will be we leave to those in whose hands lies the dealing with the matter." With these ominous words the business relating to the reception of the report concluded; and as far as we could ascertain a Special Court will be called, by requisition, for its consideration.

Meanwhile, and probably within a few hours after this account of the meeting will be in the hands of our readers, the printed copies of this most important report will have reached all or mostly all who may be entitled to receive the same. We know that in many respects it will be condemnatory of the "management, discipline and expenditure" of the past few years; and that, consequently, the attention which has been called thereto has been fully

justified. More than this we will refrain from saying, not considering it fair to express the opinions of our correspondents and ourselves upon a conclusion without doubt properly arrived at upon particulars, the details of which we are not in possession of any more than other members of the Quarterly Court of the Institution. We can only hope, and we do sincerely hope, that there may be much, very much, in those details to mitigate whatever censure may be contained in the summary (if censure there be, as we have reason to suppose there is) upon the respective Committees, Staff, and Officials of the Institution; and that in any case no rash or injudicious action on the part of its supporters may be permitted to affect those who have given zealous service in former years. If there is now much to condemn there is also much to remember and be grateful for, and the past should be permitted to have its influence upon the present and the future, so long as rehabilitation of the best interests of the school can be secured.

The Quarterly General Court of the Girls' School, on the 27th, was presided over by V.W. Bro. Horace Brooks Marshall, Past Grand Treasurer, and Treasurer of the Institution. Information was conveyed to the meeting that, acting on the success of the centenary festival of the Institution, on June 8th, 1888, when the Prince of Wales, M.W. Grand Master, presided, in the Royal Albert Hall, and secured subscriptions considerably over £50,000, the House Committee had resolved to enlarge the School at St. John's Hill, Battersea Rise, at a cost of £31,000, in order to extend the benefits of the Institution to a larger number of the daughters of necessitous or deceased Freemasons. V.W. Bro. Sir J. B. Monckton stated that Bros. Hunt and Clutton, the architects under whose advice the House Committee were acting, in recommending this resolution to the Quarterly Court, found that the arrangements of the establishment were of such a character that the whole of the new work could be conducted without removing a single pupil from the larger to the smaller building. Bro. H. B. Marshall was again chosen treasurer, and it was then resolved to elect at this meeting twenty girls in addition to the seventeen for whom there were now vacancies in the course of the ordinary conditions of the Institution. The motion of Bro. J. S. Cumberland, P. Prov. G. Warden, N. & E. Yorks, "That all motions or particular business to be brought before the Quarterly Courts of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls shall be printed and distributed in the room at the meetings of such courts for the information of the brethren present" was carried; as was also the important motions by Bro. Wm. Morley, "for altering law 35 by the addition after the word 'admission' in the 9th line, of the words 'after having a report of the Petitions Committee,' and after the word 'audit' the words 'and petitions,'" and that "from the General Committee, Five or Seven Life Governors, being Freemasons, shall be elected annually to act as a Petitions Committee. They shall be nominated and elected in like manner, and at the same meeting as the House Committee. Three shall form a quorum. They shall meet from time to time as circumstances may require, and receive and examine Petitions of Candidates for admission, and investigate and make such enquiries relating to the circumstances stated in the Petition, or of the relations of the Petitioner, and may require such confirmation thereof as they may deem advisable, and they shall report the result of such examination or investigation to the General Committee, but they shall not have power to reject any Petition. The first Committee be elected at the Meeting of the General Committee next after the above propositions become Laws of the Institution." Before the proceedings closed a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Thomas Fenn, P.G.D., the stockbroker who so arranged the conversion of the funds of the institution invested in Consols that the institution had saved as much as £1,000. The General Committee, who acted on Bro. Fenn's advice, and directed that the matter should be carried through, were also included in the vote. Scrutineers having been appointed, the business of the election was proceeded with, and at shortly before 6 p.m. the poll was declared as follows:—Webster, 3,434 votes; Harling, 3,009; Thaw, 2,732; Codling, 2,731; Livers, 2,467; Hemmings, 2,223; Venables, 2,319; Lee, 2,298; Staff, 2,289; Gorton, 2,195; Pether, 2,112; Balch, 2,099; Cookes, 2,035; Schofield, 2,028; Winterbottom, 2,009;

Collard, 2,008; Towse, 1,934; Campbell, 1,910; Astington, 1,867; Greenwood, 1,859; Williams, 1,849; Roberts, 1,838; Tettenborn, 1,822; Taverner, 1,819; Gould, 1,771; Cooper, 1,767; Turner, 1,722; Sumner, 1,689; Swaebe, 1,679; Bruce, 1,678; Smith, 1,666; Jones, 1,622; Kassall, 1,615; Hall, 1,606; Michael, 1,592; Thorne, 1,579; and Young, 1,557—being a total of thirty-seven successful candidates from an approved list of seventy-three girls.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL REPORT.

IT would be well, before considering the Report of the Commission on the Boys' School about to be issued, if the subscribers and supporters would first recall to mind certain commonplace truths, and broad general facts, in order that they may be saved from the hasty action which so commonly follows the exposure of flaws and faults hitherto unsuspected. The normal subscriber to any charitable institution begins by being a warm partisan, and often indignantly repudiates the suggestion of a fault, even when it is supported by good evidence, and refuses to assist in applying a remedy, even when the case admits of one both simple and effectual. Later on, when by the accumulation of evidence the fact becomes too obvious to be denied, he becomes unreasonably angry; forgets the real, broad grounds on which he supported the institution, and is inclined to withdraw his support because of abuses which might have been remedied.

Now with regard to the Boys' School: it has received year by year the most generous and ungrudging support. The purses of members of the Craft have been ever open to its claims, and it must be said also their ears have for the most part been closed to anything but its praises. Nor has this either been the blind ignorance of partisanship. Scarce a single Mason has befriended the School without some direct knowledge of its work; and to deny that on the whole that work has been a great and good one, is to libel the general intelligence of the Craft, by whom and for whom it has been supported. A great pile of buildings has been erected, and many hundreds of the orphans of Freemasons have been fed, clothed, and educated therein, and afterwards materially helped on in life. "Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against," we ought not to do anything rashly. If there is found to be just cause for blame, let it be meted out with *fairness*; but let no feeling of indignation against individuals blind our eyes to the real worth or work of the Institution. For it is too much to expect any school—least of all one like ours—can be carried on year after year without fault. Still less is it to be expected that it can escape the imputation of a fault. Parsimony or extravagance in the management, severity or laxity in the discipline, over-pressure or under-education in one direction or the other, its critics are sure to say it errs, and if it has kept the *via media*—the safe middle path—it will probably be said to have erred in *both* extremes.

Bearing all this in mind, its best friends (and surely there are no Masons who are not really friends to the Institution), its best friends we say must feel that the time has at length come for a full, judicious and authoritative answer to certain adverse comments, some of old standing, on the management of the School. The education, "discipline, management and expenditure" have been in turn exhaustively examined by a thoroughly strong, able and impartial Committee of Enquiry, and it would be well if every subscriber would clearly formulate for himself the questions which the forthcoming Report may be expected satisfactorily to solve before committing himself to any course of action.

It seems to us that these questions admit of very explicit statement, and partial answers at any rate have been, year by year, furnished to Subscribers in the Annual Reports. We wish to know, first of all, whether the education given at the School is good; is it such as the average boy admitted to the Institution requires; is it supplied by competent men, and under proper educational conditions? And granting it to be in these respects all that Masons could wish, we still have to ask—Is it economical, and does the outlay bear a fair proportion to the result?

The same questions have to be asked as to the clothing, feeding, and what may be called "home-life" at Wood Green. First, are the results satisfactory in themselves; and second, are they obtained at reasonable cost? People generally overlook the fact that these two questions must be taken together. If we pay £20 a year for feeding and clothing a boy we may justly praise the place where he is fed and clothed for that sum, and yet bitterly blame the same food and clothing if supplied at a place where we pay £10; and the contrary is equally true. We expect from the Committee of Inquiry an opinion on these points, based on an enormously greater experience than is possible for the individual subscriber.

There is a third side to the questioning which has arisen in connection with the Institution where these same interrogatories have to be put—a side almost unique. We have an office which absolutely costs more than the expenses of Education, and this on the face of it challenges enquiry. What are the duties and responsibilities of a secretary of a school, and what should be the cost of the executive? In the same manner it may be fairly asked what are the duties of the principal of the educational department, and the cost of his office and staff? If there is any relation between the important and arduous nature of a position and its remuneration, let it be clearly stated in black and white what those duties are, and how are they performed.

But, beyond all this, there are duties of another class—voluntary duties undertaken as labours of love by members of the Craft. In a very different spirit and with a very different right, in all kindness and courtesy and yet most firmly, the general body of subscribers have, we think, a duty to ascertain how the House Committee and the Finance Committee have fulfilled their trust. In

great measure it is in reliance on the effectual nature of their oversight and control, and in perfect confidence in the care and devotion they have brought to their onerous duties, that Masons have year by year contributed their money. It is through no want of confidence in them, but by their own motion that this Commission has been appointed; and we trust that the forthcoming report will be full confirmation of the wisdom of their management.

THE MASONIC "POET'S CORNER."

To the Editor of THE MASONIC STAR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,

Whether nature abhors a vacuum or does not, it is quite certain that every Mason does, and that after labour we all want refreshment, and it is with the view of filling up a possible vacuum in the "corner" this week, that I have made diligent search and discovered what is certainly not a "ditty," nor, according to the ordinary acceptance of the term, a "lay." I think it might be catalogued as an "invocation." At any rate, whatever its genus or species may be, I enclose a copy of it. Like Wilkie Collins' novel, it has "no name," but I think it might well be christened "A Masonic Invocation to Fame." It is Masonic from top to bottom, more especially at bottom, and although I think it might be recited with effect by an able elocutionist, it would sound better set to a solemn air, composed by Sir Arthur Sullivan, to whose attention I respectfully call it—or to be more grammatical, whose attention I respectfully call to it—in case he is seeking a subject.

I trust my research will shortly be rewarded by a singable "ditty," which you can "lay" before your admirers, who don't seem to be backing you up lately with poetical contributions.

Yours fraternally.

194, Clapham Road, April 29th, 1889.

FRIAR TUCK.

Arise! and blow the trumpet, Fame!
Freemasonry aloud proclaim

To realms and worlds unknown:
Tell them 'twas this great David's son,
The wise, the matchless, Solomon,
Prized far above his throne.

The solemn temple's cloud-capt towers,
Th' aspiring domes are works of ours,

By us those piles were raised:
Then bid mankind with song advance,
And through th' ethereal vast expanse
Let Masonry be praised!

We help the poor in time of need,
The naked clothe, the hungry feed,
'Tis our foundation stone:

While justice and benevolence,
With fortitude and temperance,
Adorn and grace the throne!

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

The Annual Festival of the United Grand Lodge of Freemasons of England was held on the 24th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, London. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was not able to be present, and his place was taken by the R.W. Bro. Major Goldie Taubman, Speaker of the House of Keys, Provincial Grand Master of the Isle of Man. The Prince of Wales, who was unanimously re-elected Grand Master at the March meeting, was proclaimed by Bro. Sir Albert Woods (Garter) Grand Master for the year ensuing, and the presiding officer then announced that the Grand Master had appointed the M.W. Bro. Earl of Carnarvon as Pro-Grand Master, and the R.W. Bro. Earl of Lathom as Deputy Grand Master. The other Grand Officers appointed were Bros. Lord George Hamilton, M.P., and Sir J. E. Gorst, M.P., Grand Wardens; the Hon. and Rev. Francis Byng (Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons), and the Rev. T. B. Spencer Preston, Grand Chaplains; Edward Terry, Grand Treasurer; F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., Grand Registrar; Colonel Shadwell Clerke, Grand Secretary; Dr. Ernest Emil Wendt, Grand Secretary for German Correspondence; Sir Lionel Darrell and Sir Polydore de Keyser, Senior Grand Deacons; Colonel Addison Potter, C.B., and Charles Chester Cheston, Junior Grand Deacons; Colonel R. W. Edis, Grand Superintendent of Works; Sir Albert W. Woods (Garter), C.B., Grand Director of Ceremonies; C. Belton and G. H. Haydon, Deputy and Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies; Eugene Monteuuis, Grand Sword Bearer; T. G. Buller and G. Taylor, Grand Standard Bearers; M. Maybrick, Grand Organist; A. A. Pendlebury, Assistant Grand Secretary; T. W. Whitmarsh and D. D. Mercer, Pursuivants; and H. Sadler, Grand Tyler. Grand Lodge was duly closed after the new Grand Officers had been invested, and the brethren adjourned to dinner at Freemason's Tavern.

Major Goldie Taubman presided, and the company at dinner numbered about 300. The toast of "The Sister Grand Lodges," received with great enthusiasm, was acknowledged by Dr. Tarrant, Provincial Grand Master of New South Wales, who bore testimony to the services rendered by Lord Carrington and the Earl of Carnarvon in making Freemasonry as successful as it was at present in the Colonies.

The R.W. Bro. Lord George Hamilton, who was cordially received, responded for the Grand Officers, and said that, though he and Sir John Gorst, who, by favour of the Grand Master, had been appointed Wardens in Grand Lodge, might, by prior and more imperative duties, be called to another sphere when they ought otherwise to be devoting attention to masonic work, the time might come, to use the words of a distinguished statesman, when they would be in a position which gave greater freedom and less responsibility (cries of "Never"). Whenever that period arrived he trusted that he and Sir John Gorst would be able to make up for any lapse of duty during the present year, for, if there was one feeling which animated past and present Grand Officers, it was to improve the

organisation and administration of Grand Lodge, and to promote the growth and development of that great brotherhood whose spread in every part of the globe was synonymous with the instincts of charity, hospitality and benevolence.

Grand Lodge having been closed, the brethren attended the "feast" provided by the Grand Stewards of the year, the president of whom was the late Lord Mayor, Bro. Sir Polydore de Keyser; the treasurer, Bro. John Pullman; and the secretary, Bro. Charles Herbert Shoppee. The company included Bro. Cama, P.G. treas., Sir R. N. Fowler, M.P., S. Pope, Q.C., Sir John Monckton, Alderman Savory, Alderman and Sheriff Gray, Dr. Tarrant (Pro-Grand Master of New South Wales), Dr. Lennox Browne, J. C. Parkinson, James Ferry (Dep.-Grand Master of Aberdeenshire), Richard Eve, R. Grey, and other distinguished brethren. The feast was not "tyled" as ladies sat in the gallery for a part of the time, and for them the stewards provided a banquet in another part of the building. The loyal toasts of "The Queen" and "The Royal Family" and the toast of "Loyalty to the Craft" were given and responded to. Lord George Hamilton returned thanks for the Grand Officers, and Bro. F. Binckes, secretary of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Boys, responded for the charitable institutions. The brethren then joined the ladies in the throne room, where a concert was given under the direction of Bro. W. A. Barrett, M.B. Oxon, Past Grand Organist.

ROYAL ARCH—SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.—A Quarterly Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter was appointed to be held at Freemasons' Hall, London, last evening, the 1st inst. The business of the Agenda comprised the Installation of Principals and appointment and investiture of officers for the ensuing year; the reception of the report of the Committee of General Purposes, and the receipt of petitions for new Chapters as follows:—1st.—From Comps. William Johnson, as Z.; Joseph Witham, as H.; John Hatch, as J.; and eight others for a chapter to be attached to the Starkie Lodge, No. 1070, Southport, to be called the Southport Chapter, and to meet at the Masonic Buildings, Lord Street, Southport, Lancashire (W.D.). 2nd.—From Comps. William James Runting, as Z.; George Gordon Ross, as H.; John Brain, as J.; and six others for a chapter to be attached to the Clarke Lodge, No. 2080, Melbourne, Victoria, to be called the Clarke Chapter, and to meet at the Freemasons' Hall, Collins Street, Melbourne, in the District of Victoria. 3rd.—From Comps. Henry Walmsley Little, Mus. Doc., as Z.; William Clifford, as H.; John Knowles Hodges, as J.; and six others for a chapter to be attached to the Sterndale Bennett Lodge, No. 2182, Camberwell, to be called the Sterndale Bennett Chapter, and to meet at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New Road. 4th.—From Comps. James Eadington, as Z.; Edward Forster, as H.; James Carmichael, as J.; and six others for a chapter to be attached to the Blagdon Lodge, No. 659, Blyth, to be called the Blagdon Chapter, and to meet at the Mechanics' Institute, Blyth, in the county of Northumberland. 5th.—From Comps. John Read, as Z.; Charles Bennett Cooper, as H.; Horatio Henry Shirley, as J.; and seven others for a chapter to be attached to the Cecil Lodge, No. 449, Hitchin, to be called the Cecil Chapter, and to meet at the Sun Hotel, Hitchin, Hertfordshire. 6th.—From Comps. the Rev. Richard Peek, as Z.; Samuel Green Carley, as H.; William Minter, as J.; and six others for a chapter to be attached to the Fidelity Lodge, No. 555, Framlingham, to be called the Henniker Chapter, and to meet at the Crown Hotel, Framlingham, in the county of Suffolk. 7th.—From Comps. Eugene Monteuuis, as Z.; George Henri Bué, as H.; Ernest St. Clair, as J.; and seven others for a chapter to be attached to the La France Lodge, No. 2060, to be called the La France Chapter, and to meet at the Regent Masonic Hall, Air Street, Regent Street, London. 8th.—From Comps. Samuel Victor Abraham, as Z.; Sigismund Pollitzer, as H.; Joseph Grinebaum, as J.; and six others for a chapter to be attached to the Montefiore Lodge, No. 1017, to be called the Montefiore Chapter, and to meet at the Regent Masonic Hall, Air Street, Regent Street, London. The Committee having recommended these petitions the warrants will doubtless issue in due course. The removal of the following chapters will have most probably been sanctioned, viz.:—The Chapter of Fortitude, No. 105, from the Huyshe Masonic Temple, to the Devon and Cornwall Freemasons' Hall, 1, Princes Square, Plymouth; the Union Waterloo Chapter, No. 13, Woolwich, from the Freemasons' Hall, Woolwich, to the new Masonic Hall, Plumstead, Kent; the Grove Chapter, No. 410, from the Swan Hotel, Leatherhead, to the Spring Hotel, Ewell, in the Province of Surrey; and the Old King's Arms Chapter, No. 28, from the Freemasons' Tavern, to the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street. In consequence of the formation and recognition of a Grand Lodge of New South Wales, there are no longer English Craft Lodges in that colony to which the Chapters meeting in New South Wales can be attached, as required by Article 45, Royal Arch Regulations, and the Charters of the Chapters, Nos. 390, 547, 817, 1653, 1654, 1762, 1795, 1898, and 1943, will be withdrawn and cancelled, and the chapters erased from the Register of the Grand Chapter.

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Masonic Institution, for general business and the Election of Candidates, will take place at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Friday, the 17th inst., at 12 noon precisely. The poll will close at 3 p.m.

The General Committee of the R.M. Benevolent Institution will meet at Freemason's Hall, London, at 4 p.m., on Wednesday next, the 8th inst.

The General Committee of the R.M.I. Boys will meet at Freemasons' Hall, at 4 p.m., on Saturday, the 4th inst.

The Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls will be held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday next, the 8th inst.

The Masonic Star.

THURSDAY,



MAY 2, 1889.

Edited by

W. BRO. JAMES STEVENS, P.M., P.Z., &c., &c.

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VOLUME I.

In Masonic Cloth Cover—Now Ready—Price 3s. 6d.

Original Correspondence.

Without in any way holding ourselves responsible for, or even approving of the opinions expressed, we freely throw open our columns for the proper discussion of all matters of a general character relating to Freemasonry.

Correspondents must be as brief as possible, must write plainly, only use one side of the paper, and cannot expect the return of rejected contributions.

Every contribution must be accompanied with the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"WORKING" IN LODGES.

To the Editor of THE MASONIC STAR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,

It was with some surprise that I read your answer to "Jurisprudence" in your number of 4th April, as to his questions 2 and 3, and I have spent many hours endeavouring to satisfy my own mind upon the point; and the conclusion I have come to is that "Jurisprudence" would act *wisely* in doing no business in a Lodge unless seven were present, as I cannot but think the question is not free from doubt.

The statement of your contemporary the *Voice of Masonry* quoted in your last issue as to "every opening and closing," must allude to some working unknown to me.

I cannot find much in the books on jurisprudence; but the following extracts may interest your correspondent.

Mackenzie (*Royal Mas. Cyclo.*) says: "Quorum. The old law used to be, three rule a Lodge, five form a Lodge, and seven are necessary to be present at any initiation, not including the candidate . . . but it is not contrary to Masonic law to appoint special committees of any uneven number, not less than three, for the settlement of special business."

And he defines a Lodge to be perfect when it contains "the constitutional number of members," without further explanation.

Bro. Woodford (*Kenning's Cyclo.*) says, "Lodge, Just and Perfect.—Oliver tells us that the first symbolic definition of a Lodge which he has found is 'just and perfect by the numbers, three, five, and seven.' Gädicke declares that 'three well-informed form a legal Lodge, five improve it, and seven make it perfect.'" Bro. Robertson (*Digest of Masonic Jurisprudence*) says: "Quorum. Seven is the number necessary to form a quorum of a Lodge for the transaction of business." Dr. Mackey, in his *Encyclopædia*, states that authorities differ, and the constitutions, and old regulations being silent, he seems to consider that the ritual gives the answer, and says, "For whatever number compose a Lodge will supply us with the rule by which we are to establish the quorum in that degree."

But in his *Masonic Parliamentary Law*, Dr. Mackey, after very fully discussing the whole question, arrived at a rather different conclusion. He says that in 1857, the editor of the *Freemason's Magazine*, in reply to an inquiry, "affirmed that five Masons are sufficient to open a lodge, and carry on business other than initiation, for which latter purpose seven are necessary. This opinion, he says, appears to be the general English one, and is acquiesced in by Dr. Oliver; but there is no authority of law for it. And when in the year 1818, the suggestion was made that some regulation was necessary relative to the number of brethren requisite to constitute a legal lodge, with competent powers to perform the rite of initiation, and transact all other business, the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of England, to

whom the suggestion had been referred, replied, with an overabundance of cautious timidity 'that it is a matter of so much delicacy and difficulty, that it is thought advisable not to depart from the silence on the subject, which had been observed in all the Books of Constitutions.' At a first glance the authorized ritual would appear to promise us a solution of the problem. There the answer to the question in each degree, 'How many compose a Lodge?' ought to supply us with the rule by which we are to establish the quorum in that degree; for whatever number composes a Lodge, that is the number which apparently should authorize the Lodge to proceed to business. The ritual has thus established the number which constitutes a 'perfect Lodge,' and without which number a Lodge cannot be legally opened. According to this rule seven constitute a 'perfect' E.A.P.'s Lodge, five a F.C.'s, and three a M.M.'s. Without this requisite number, no Lodge can be opened in either of these degrees.

But in the provision of the ritual we meet with certain practical difficulties, so far as symbolic Masonry is concerned. Thus, although it has been prescribed that three are sufficient to open a Master's Lodge, it is evident to every one acquainted with the ritual, that it would be utterly impossible to confer the Master's degree with that number; and therefore, in this country '(America)' the authority of the ritual has not been generally recognized except for the mere act of opening.

"Looking to the facts that the petition for a dispensation or charter must be signed by at least seven M.M.'s; that a Lodge of E.A.P.'s must consist of not less than seven; and that originally all working or subordinate lodges were composed principally of E.A.P.'s, and were, therefore, Apprentices' Lodges, the Grand Lodges of America which have adopted any explicit rule on the subject, have generally agreed to consider seven as the proper number to constitute a quorum for business in a Master's Lodge. Chase seems, I think, to have adopted the 'proper view of the subject, when he says that, 'the minimum number to whom a dispensation can be granted may be considered as the minimum number to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If seven be the number necessary to form a lodge, then seven is the number necessary to continue a lodge and to transact its business' (*Masonic Digest*).

"In the absence of any landmark or specific ancient law, written or unwritten, on the subject, I am, therefore, inclined to think that seven should constitute the proper quorum for work or business in any of the symbolic degrees. A master would be correct in opening his lodge with two assistants on the third degree, because the ritual declares that three M.M.'s constitute a 'perfect lodge.'" (!) "But he would hardly be justified. . . . And as to work, although a candidate who had been elected at a previous communication might be present, the nature of the ceremonies would preclude the possibility of the master conferring the degree with only two assistants. It would be better, after the lodge had been opened with only three members, that the master, finding no accession to the number by new arrivals, should close it without proceeding to business or work."

I have referred back to the *Freemason's Magazine* for 1857, and find the exact questions and answers were—

"Is it absolutely necessary to have seven Masons present to open the Lodge and carry on business other than initiation, &c.!—It is not. Five are sufficient.

"Can less than seven open and close Lodge?—Yes, as shown by previous answer."

It will be seen that in these answers there is no distinction drawn as to various degrees.

A month or two afterwards the answer was discussed very ably by a correspondent of the *Freemason's Magazine*, who says he has always been taught to believe it correct "that five can open, transact business and close an E.A. or F.C. Lodge, but cannot furnish reasons to satisfy my own mind why it should be so," and he asks, "can the Lodge thus organized, or held by five only, open, transact business and close? Can five members, should the others all die off or retire from the Lodge, hold the warrant and increase their numbers by balloting for, and admitting, joining members? (I suppose it is not claimed that a Mason can be made or advanced when only five are present). Then why, if five can hold a warrant, keep it alive and work under it, must there be seven to receive that warrant originally?"

The Editor's answer is a little remarkable. "Five legally hold a charter and may ballot for members who they cannot initiate unless seven be present." There the matter seems, as far as this point is concerned, to have rested. I cannot understand where the authority for the five was found.

But my letter has run to a great length already, and I would merely say I should be grateful for any further comments or authorities you can give; but I should like to ask whether you have ever known a case in practice, or found a case in any old Minutes where the 2nd or 3rd degree has been conferred with a less number than seven Brethren present?

29th April, 1889.

LEX SCRIPTA.

Answers to Correspondents.

. Several important communications and reports from esteemed correspondents have reached us, but pressure on our space this week prevents their publication. We will do our best to comply with all requests in next issue.

SUBSCRIBER.—Your letter in reference to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution is in type, but there are circumstances in connection therewith which disincite us to publish it at the present moment. If you will call on us we will explain them.

M.M.—We should think not at present, but in certain possible events the "chance" might arise.

C. TAYLER, Dalston.—We will endeavour to comply with your request relating to Order of Masonic Degrees next week.

A SUBSCRIBER.—Kindly refer to our remarks under "Our Trestle Board" in this issue.

C.E.M., Philadelphia.—Thanks for your communication, shall be pleased to hear from you at any time.



“ For the Master to lay lines and draw designs upon.”

There is a curious case before the Superior Court at Montreal, North America, in reference to a claim for a sum of about £125 as the value of certain Masonic furniture purchased from a former W.M. of the St. George's Lodge, No. 440, E.C. The particulars of the case promise to be of considerable importance to the brethren in Montreal, and generally to the fraternity at large. They are certainly peculiar, and, briefly stated, are as follows:—In July, 1887, the W.M. in question was suspended by the District Grand Master from Masonic privileges, for refusing, during his term of office, to produce the books of the lodge. It is assumed that thereupon the then S.W. became the person legally entitled to take control of the lodge room and its effects, and he thereupon called upon the tyler of the lodge and janitor of the Victoria Chapter, R.A.M., connected with the lodge, to hand over the keys to him, and his request was complied with. In January, 1888, the lodge room in the Odd Fellows' Hall in St. James' Street was destroyed by fire, together with the furniture in question, and here, we should have thought, would have been at that time an end to all questions of proprietorship, particularly if any insurance had been effected thereon.

But it would seem that the plaintiff sets up a purchase from the suspended W.M., on the 14th February, 1888, one month after the effects had been destroyed, and alleges illegal detention by the present W.M., the Senior Warden of the previous year, and by the Janitor of the Chapter, who are jointly made defendants in the action. They, of course, say that the suspended W.M. never had any property in the furniture and regalia in question; that the lodge rooms were leased to the lodge itself and not to him; that his only right at any time to the rooms and Masonic effects of the lodge, was in a representative capacity while a member and officer of the lodge; that his suspension took from him whatever Masonic privileges he had theretofore enjoyed; and that in any case the destruction by fire renders restoration impossible. The case has been put over until the 1st May (yesterday) and we shall be curious to learn in what manner this probably unique appeal to a legal tribunal outside Masonry will be settled.

We desire to again call the attention of such of our readers as are Life Governors or subscribers to any or all of our three Charitable Institutions, to the manner in which their proxy papers for voting should be prepared to prevent the loss of their interest on behalf of candidates, and to save the time and lessen the labour of the scrutineers at our several elections. On each occasion, for many years past, the Chairman of Scrutineers, after presentation of the report as to result of the polling, has had to remark on the large number of papers which on account of informality in preparation have been compellably rejected. At the Boys' School Election last week, there were no less than 73 proxy papers, representing 163 votes, not filled in for any case: 32 papers, representing 111 votes, not signed; 31 papers, representing 78 votes, filled in for 177, and of course could not be polled; 3 papers, representing 17 votes, filled in for only 3 votes; a bundle of 100 votes not filled in for any case; and so on. No. 62 case, although successful on a last application, was very badly managed in this respect, and lost a total of 50 votes.

There is such a simple way of avoiding the losses we have above described, that it makes the result all the more deplorable. On receipt of the proxy paper, the signature of the voter should be at once affixed to it, even if the case be not named, and the proxy has to be transferred to another for polling. Before the proxies are polled, the number of votes should be plainly written in figures against the name of the candidate or candidates selected, and no other mark whatever should appear on the face of the proxy. The erasure of all or any of the names of candidates by lines over or across them is most objectionable, creates confusion, and frequently delays the declaration of the poll beyond the time usually appointed for the return of the scrutiny. Brethren, please note, and carry on the hint to others.

Here are silly ways of marking proxy papers:—Proxy worth 1 vote marked X|—Proxy worth 2 votes marked ||X—Proxy worth 20 votes marked to read 21 &c., &c. Comment on such carelessness is needless. The pity is that innocent candidates suffer for the neglect to observe simple instructions.

We hail the resolution of the Quarterly General Court of the Girls' School on Saturday last with much satisfaction. The Petitions Committee will surely be very useful in preventing the acceptance of candidates for election the circumstances connected with whom may not merit some amount of support from others than immediate friends and relatives. There will not be so many “last application” cases as we have lately had, and the scandal attached to a total poll of many less than fifty votes will be avoided. Of the “last application” cases on Saturday, four out of seven were elected, the lowest total being 1679, but of the three unsuccessful, the votes received were respectively only 31, 29 and 17. These latter were all first as well as last applications, each born in 1878, and therefore very nearly of the age which precludes election, and neither of the fathers had subscribed to either Masonic Institutions during their lodge memberships of respectively 13, 10 and 8 years. The chances of success under these circumstances were so very small, that we doubt the propriety of the placing of their names on the list at all.

A similar resolution should be adopted in the case of the Boys' School. In this Institution there were on Friday last ten “final application” candidates, of whom four only were elected. Of these the lowest polled 2,162. But of those rejected the votes recorded were severally 1,636, 1,003, 527, 439, 55, and 19: the first having applied on four occasions; the second, third, and fifth on three; the fourth and sixth on five. In only the first and second of these six cases were the fathers subscribers to the institutions during their lodge membership, and the numbers polled at once show the consideration given by the Craft to the practice of benevolence by our brethren whilst opportunity is afforded them. The lads representing these six cases were all born in 1878, and therefore age had to be considered in connection with their cases and the number of applications: nevertheless, we think that totals of only 55 and 19, after three and five applications respectively, prove a necessity for closer examination of circumstances before including applicants in the list of candidates.

We have at times received several enquiries, and have published one or more, as to the disposal of the votes which are recorded against the names of brethren and others whose addresses are unknown, in the lists of governors and subscribers issued by the respective masonic institutions. It seems to have been thought by many that the proxies were utilized and recorded in favour of some candidate or candidates at each election: a somewhat absurd conclusion, but, nevertheless, entertained in certain quarters. In order to afford assurance to those who doubt, we have personally satisfied ourselves that proxy papers are never prepared for voters whose addresses are not known, and an official authority is given for this statement.

V. W. Bro. Edward Terry, Grand Treasurer, England, has now entirely recovered from his recent indisposition, and is again appearing with his usual success as Dick Phenyl in *Sweet Lavender*, at Terry's Theatre, London.

We are requested to Notify that:—

—A new lodge in connection with the Volunteers is to be consecrated this afternoon (May 2nd), under the title of the “London Scottish Rifles” Lodge, No. 2310, at 8a, Red Lion Square, W.C. W. Bro. Capt. James Hepburn-Hastie, P.M. 1216, &c., is the W.M. designate. The ceremonies of consecration and installation will be performed by the V.W. Bro. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, P.G.D., Grand Secretary, assisted by W. Bros. R. Berridge, C. F. Matier, Rev. G. W. Weldon and Frank Richardson.

—The Richmond Lodge, No. 2032, Bro. Edward Dare, W.M., will hold its installation meeting (Bro. Henry Sapsworth, W.M. elect) on Tuesday, the 7th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Greyhound Hotel, Richmond, Surrey. Lodge will be opened at 3.15 p.m., and work in three degrees and installation ceremonies. Banquet at 6.30 p.m.

—The West Yorkshire Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons will meet at the Freemasons' Rooms, Station House Inn, Eastwood, on Wednesday next, the 8th inst., under the banner of the Prince Edward Lodge M.M.M., No. 14, at 3.15 p.m. The R.W. Bro. Charles Letch Mason, Past G.Std. and Prov. Grand Master, West Yorks. will attend with his Grand Officers. Particulars of Bro. Wm. Cook, P.G.S.O., and Prov. G. Secretary M.M.M., 3, Bull Green, Halifax.

—The Stockwell Lodge of Instruction, No. 1339, and the Stockwell Chapter of Improvement are removed to the White Hart Tavern, Abchurch Lane, E.C., London: the former meeting on Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m., and the latter on alternate Fridays at 6 p.m.

—The installation meeting of the “Ubique” Lodge, No. 1789, Bro. Capt. W. Lewis White, R.A., W.M., will be held at the Cafe Royal, Regent Street, London, on the 13th inst., at 4 p.m. There is a full evening's work in the three degrees, including the initiation, if approved, of Capt. W. B. Faber, of the Royal Artillery, Aide-de-camp to Major-Gen. Williams, commanding the Woolwich district. Bro. Major J. Ritchie, R.A., will instal Bro. W. R. Arnold, R.A., the W.M. elect, as W.M. for the ensuing year. This Lodge is composed chiefly of officers, warrant officers, and staff sergeants of the Royal Artillery, and a large attendance of members and visitors is expected on this occasion.

—The Sackville Lodge, No. 1619, Bro. William Hosken, W.M., will meet at the Masonic Rooms, East Grinstead, on Tuesday next, the 7th inst., at 6.30 p.m. Initiation and election of W.M., and treasurer for ensuing year.

—The installation meeting of the Amherst Lodge, No. 1223, Bro. Wm. Sparrowhawk, W.M., will take place at the Amherst Arms Hotel, Riverhead, Kent, on Saturday, the 4th inst., at 3 p.m. Bro. Alfred Herbert Lee, W.M. elect, will be duly installed by his predecessor. Banquet will be served at 5 p.m. Bro. J. H. Jewell, P.M., P.P.G.R., Gatlands, Westerham, is Hon. Sec. of the Lodge.

Press Exchanges and Books Received.

Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, 1889; Madras Record (April); Masonic Record of Western India (Allahabad); South African Freemason; Canadian Craftsman (Toronto).

We have to thank several of our foreign “Exchanges” for very kindly notices of our journal, and for attention called to sundry articles therein, more particularly at the present writing, *The Canadian Craftsman* (Toronto); *The Madras Masonic Record*; *the Masonic Record of Western India* (Allahabad); and the *South African Freemason* (East London, Cape Colony). Interchanges of courtesies are at all times agreeable, and are still more so when offered with such evident sincerity and friendship.

Reports of Lodges, &c.

METROPOLITAN.

RAVENSBOURNE—No. 1601.—The installation meeting of this prosperous lodge was held at the Board of Works' Offices, Catford, S.E., on the 26th inst., Bro. Geo. W. Murnane, W.M., presiding. There was a very good attendance of members and visitors, and with the exception of ordinary routine business, the installation ceremony alone occupied the attention of the brethren. Bro. Jno. A. P. Ingoldby, Past S.W., was installed into the chair of K.S., as W.M. for the ensuing year, and his officers were invested in the following order, viz.: Bros. Grazebrook, S.W. and Wright, J.W.; W. Bros. Wm. Geo. Lemon, P.M., treas., and Magnus Ohren, P.M., sec.; Bros. H. T. Bonner and Van Putten, Deacons; Hernal, I.G., and H. Shaw, tyler. A Past Master's jewel was presented to W. Bro. G. W. Mornane, as a mark of esteem and regard from the members on the termination of his year of office. The installation banquet was held at the Holborn Restaurant, W.C., where the remainder of a very pleasant evening was spent under the presidency of the new master. The musical arrangements were directed by Bro. J. A. Brown, amongst the vocalists being Bros. Albert James and Fred Bevan, and gave general satisfaction.

On Wednesday, the 24th ult., a return visit was paid by the members of the Star Lodge of Instruction to the Ravensbourne Lodge of Instruction. Present—Bros. Walter Martin, Bird, Morley Humphreys, Newell, Waterman, Wilkinson, Beat, Lazarus and Talbot, of the Star; and Noyes, Visger, Scott, Blanchard, Pickering, McCarthy, Shelton, Drew, Hardy-Smith, Clark, Norris, Skudder and Atkins, of the Ravensbourne Lodge of Instruction, and others. The lodge was opened in the first degree, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. Bro. Walter Martin vacated the chair in favor of Bro. Waterman, who opened in the third degree, and worked the ceremony of Raising. The lodge was then resumed to the first degree, when Bro. Talbot worked the ceremony of Initiation. The following brethren were elected members—Bros. Waterman, of the Justice Lodge 147; W. J. Newell, of the Mount Lebanon Lodge 73, and Lazarus, Wilkinson and Best, of the Southwark Lodge 879. At the conclusion of the meeting it was unanimously resolved that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded the visiting brethren for the able way they had worked the ceremonies. Bro. W. J. Newell acted as organist, and the musical portion was well rendered.

STAR CHAPTER.—No. 1275.—The usual convocation of this chapter was held on Tuesday, 23rd ult., at The Ship, Greenwich. Present:—Comps. J. Addington, M.E.Z.; Hilton, P.Z., Acting H.; Crook, J.; Capt. C. Woolmer Williams, P.Z., S.E.; Benedetti, S.N.; Carl Fleck, P.S.; Meierhoff, 1st A.S.; Charlie Woods, 2nd A.S.; Elliott, P.Z.; Grummant, P.Z.; Towers; C. H. Stone; Dr. Makeham; North; and Patrick, janitor. Comp. Elliott was presented with a P.Z. jewel. The companions afterwards dined together under the presidency of Comp. Addington, and a very happy evening was spent.

STAR CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—No. 1275.—On Friday, the 26th ult., at the Stirling Castle, Camberwell. Present:—Comps. Neeld, P.Z., M.E.Z.; Grummant, P.Z., H.; F. Hilton, P.Z., J. and Preceptor; C. H. Stone, S.E.; Stone, S.N.; C. Woods, P.S.; and J. Addington, M.E.Z., 1275. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Addington, candidate. Comp. Grummant was elected M.E.Z. for the meeting on Friday next (to-morrow).

The Tredegar Lodge of Instruction, No. 1625, worked the Fifteen Sections in good style, on the 25th ult., at the Wellington Arms, Bow Road, London, Bro. J. Moloney, S.W. of 1625, presiding as Section Master. Bros. W. Musto, P.M. 1349, and B. Da Costa, J.W. 1349, occupied the respective Warden's chairs. Bro. B. Stewart, P.M. 1278, assisted as I.P.M., and Bro. Charles Nash Fox, S.D. 1349, officiated as Hon. Sec. The evening's work was of a highly instructive character.

PROVINCIAL.

MIDDLESEX.—SUNBURY LODGE.—No. 1733.—The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Magpie Hotel, Sunbury-on-Thames, on Wednesday, the 24th inst. Bro. F. C. Austin Well opened the lodge, supported by Bros. Forty, S.W., W.M. elect; Covell, J.W.; Clark, treas.; Phillips, P.M. 975, 2032, sec.; Fisk, S.D.; Jobbett, J.D.; Webster, I.G.; Tucker, I.P.M.; Blackburn, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Middx.; Raymond H. Thrupp, Dep. P.G.M.; and about 30 other brethren and visitors, amongst whom were:—Bros. Axford, W.M. Hornsey 809; L. Conbro, P.M. Clapton 1365; Blasby, P.M., 780, 2032; Hopkins, 1512, &c. Ballots were taken for Bros. Col. Harfield, P.M., 143, and A. Stearns, P.M., 1637, as joining members, which was unanimous in their favour. Mr. A. Aubert was duly initiated into Freemasonry by the W.M., after which the W.M. proceeded to instal Bro. Forty into the chair of K.S. The officers for the ensuing year were invested in the following order:—Bros. Covill, S.W.; Fisk, J.W.; Clark, treas.; Phillips, sec.; Jebbitt, S.D.; Webster, J.D.; W. Clifford, I.G.; Wilkins, D.C.; Cathrow, S.; and Sapsworth, A.S. The W.M. then presented the retiring W.M., Bro. Austin, with an elegant P.M. jewel, voted to him by the lodge at the previous meeting, to mark the appreciation of the brethren of his services for the past year. The banquet was served in the usual admirable style for which the host, Bro. Freeman, is celebrated, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and duly honoured.

DURHAM.—On Easter Monday night a grand full dress Masonic ball was given by the Rose of Raby Lodge, No. 1650, in the Scarth Memorial Hall, Staindrop, in aid of the Masonic Charities. The large room was decorated with Masonic devices, surmounted by flags of all nations, the placing and arranging of which reflected the highest credit on Bro. T. Wood, of Darlington, under whose superintendence the decorations were carried out. The orchestra was tastefully arranged with palms, ferns, and other plants, kindly lent for the occasion by W. T. Scarth, Esq., J.P., D.L. and C.C. Dancing commenced punctually at 8.30 p.m., the ball being opened by Bro. J. P. Daley, W.M. 1650, and Mrs. Swales, to the beautiful strains of Bro. Boynes' band, and was spiritedly kept up till 4 a.m. Appended is a list of those present:—M.C.'s Bros. J. K. Wilkes,

Metropolitan Lodge and Chapter Meetings for the Current Week.

"All Lodges held within Ten Miles of FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON, are LONDON LODGES."—General Laws and Regulations.

No. of Lodge.	NAME OF LODGE AND CHAPTER.	PLACE OF MEETING.	No. of Lodge.	NAME OF LODGE AND CHAPTER.	PLACE OF MEETING.	
(THIS DAY) (1st) THURSDAY, MAY 2nd.			(1st) TUESDAY, MAY 7th.			
10	Westminster and Keystone	F. M. H.	18	Royal York of Perseverance	Albion Tav., Aldersgate Street, E.C.	
27	Egyptian	Anderton's Hotel, E.C.	171	Amity	Ship Hot., Greenwich	
45	Strong Man	M. H. Tav., Basinghall Street, E.C.	1257	Grosvenor	F. M. H.	
231	St. Andrew's	F. M. H.	1259	Duke of Edinburgh	Cape of Good Hope Tav., Comrel. Rd., E.	
554	Yarborough	Green Dragon, Stepney	1261	Golden Rule	Café Royal, Regent Street, W.	
1155	Excelsior	White Swan Tav., Deptford	1662	Beaconsfield	Chequers, Walthamstow	
1288	Finbury Park	Cock Tav., Highbury, N.	2032	Richmond	Station Hot., Richmond, Surrey	
1361	United Service	Café Royal, Regent Street, W.	2128	United Northern Counties	Inns of Court Hot., W.C.	
1425	Hyde Park	The Westbourne, Craven Road, W.	2190	Savage Club	F. M. H.	
1445	Prince Leopold	Three Nuns Hot., Aldgate, E.C.	R.A.C.	Marquis of Dalhousie	33, Golden Square, W.	
1724	Kaiser-i-Hind	Café Royal, Regent Street, W.	Mark.	St. Mark's	8a, Red Lion Sq., W.C.	
1765	Trinity College	13, Mandeville Place, W.	(2nd) WEDNESDAY, MAY 8th.			
1790	Old England	M. H., New Thornton H'ch, nr. Croydon	3	Fidelity	F. M. H.	
1950	Southgate	Railway Hot., New Southgate	13	Union Waterloo	M.H., William Street, Woolwich	
R.A.C.	Mount Moriah	Albion Tav., Aldersgate Street, E.C.	15	Kent	F. M. H.	
9	Sincerity	London Tav., Fenchurch St., E.C.	781	Merchant Navy	Silver Tav., Burdett Rd., Limehouse, E.	
174	Metropolitan	Anderton's Hot., Fleet Street, E.C.	820	Lily of Richmond	Greyhound Hotel, Richmond	
1507			1306	St. John	Three Nuns Hot., Aldgate, E.	
(1st) FRIDAY, MAY 3rd.			1629	United	F. M. H.	
706	Florence Nightingale	M. H., William Street, Woolwich	1694	Imperial	Pier Hotel, Oakley Street, Chelsea	
2476	Quatuor Coronati	F. M. H.	1986	Honor Oak	White Swan Hot., Upper Norwood	
2233	Old Westminsters	Café Royal, Regent Street, W.	R.A.C.	St. Marks	Surrey M. H., Camberwell	
R.A.C.	Fidelity	F. M. T.	857	St. Marylebone	Café Royal, Regent Street, W.	
3	British	F. M. H.	1305	Mount Edgemube	191, Bishopsgate St., E.C.	
8			1446			
(1st) SATURDAY, MAY 4th.			Mark.	284	High Cross	Seven Sister's Hot., Tottenham, N.
142	St. Thomas's	Cannon Street Hotel, E.C.	(2nd) THURSDAY, MAY 9th.			
2182	Sterndale Bennett	Surrey M. H., Camberwell	19	Royal Athelstan	Cannon Street Hot., E.C.	
2202	Regent's Park	York & Albany Hot., Gloucester Gate, N.W.	206	Friendship	Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall St., E.C.	
(1st) MONDAY, MAY 6th.			238	Pilgrim	F. M. H.	
16	Royal Alpha	Willis's Rooms, St. James's, W.	879	Southwark	Bridge House Hot., S.E.	
72	Royal Jubilee	Anderton's Hot., Fleet Street, E.C.	1076	Capper	Guildhall Tav., Gresham Street, E.C.	
188	Joppa	F. M. T.	1216	Macdonald	1st Surrey Rifles, Camberwell	
256	Unions	F. M. H.	1558	Duke of Connaught	Surrey M. H., Camberwell	
1319	Asaph	Ditto	1642	Earl of Carnarvon	Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill	
1924	Wickham	St. Peter's Hall, Wickham Pk., Brockley	2033	University of London	F. M. H.	
1996	Priory of Acton	Royal Assembly Rooms, Acton	2168	Derby Alleroft	Athenaeum, Camden Road, N.	
2098	Harlesden	National School, Harlesden	Mark.	Davison	8a, Red Lion Square, W.C.	
			K.T.	117	New Temple	Inner Temple, Fleet Street, E.C.

1650, and J. Robinson, I.P.M. 1650. The guests included Bros. B. S. Beckwith, P.M. 1230; W. Swales, P.M. 1650, and Mrs. Swales; J. H. Dawson, P.M. 1230, and Mrs. Dawson; T. Willis, P.M. 311, and Miss Willis; D. Todd, P.M. 1121, and Mrs. Todd; J. Lax, P.M. 1650, P.G.O., and the Misses Lax (3); J. Bailey, P.M. 111, P.P.J.G.W., and the Misses Bailey; R. S. Benson, P.M. 1359, and Mrs. Benson; C. T. Stephenson, P.M. 1650, and Miss Turnbull; T. Coates, P.M. 1650, P.G.Stwd., and the Misses Coates; R. Foster, P.M. 1650, and Mrs. Wilkinson; P. W. Dixon, P.M. 1650, and Mrs. Dixon; T. Wood, 111, and Miss Wood; J. Hodgson, 111, and Mrs. and the Misses Hodgson; T. Clark, 1230, and Mrs. Clark and Miss Atkinson; W. Johnson, P.M. 1224, and Mrs. Johnson; J. Maughan, 111; Wm. Crawford, P.M., P.P.G.O., and Mrs. Crawford; J. W. R. Heslop, 1230; J. Hartley, I.G., 1650; C. H. Sharp, S.D., 1650; M. Bradley, J.W., 1658; Pyburn, Tyler, 1650; R. A. Meacock, 1650; W. C. Barrow, J.W., 111; W. Hodgson, 111; W. Bell, 111, and Mrs. Bell; Miss Gaines; R. T. Richardson, P.M., 1230 & 1650, P.P.G.R.; T. Shipley, 1230 and Mrs. Shipley. Major A. Metcalf-Gibson and Mrs. Metcalf-Gibson, Miss Dent, Mrs. Farrow, Major Benson and Mrs. Benson, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Colbeck, Mr. T. Banningham, Mr. R. B. Franklin, Miss Gillingham, Miss Micklethwaite, Mr. and Mrs. Briggs, Mr. A. D. Kyle, Mr. R. Green, Miss Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Bell, Mr. Alfred, Miss Crawford, Dr. Homfray, Mrs. and the Misses Mitford, &c. The stewards were:—W. T. Scarth, Esq., J.P., D.L.; Bros. R. J. Dent, J.P., P.M., P.P.G.J.W.; R. T. Richardson, P.M., P.P.G.R.; L. E. Scarth, P.M., 1650; R. Hudson, P.M., P.G. Sec. Past Grand Sword Bearer of England; Babbington Boulton, P.M., P.P.G.D., P.P.G. treasurer; J. Bailey, P.M., P.P.J.G.W.; Major R. Bassett Wilson, J.P.; Wm. Lear, P.M. P.P.G.S. of W.; R. Luck, P.M., P.P.G.R.; T. M. Barron, P.M., P.P.G.R.; T. Watson, P.M., P.P.G., treasurer; H. Maddison, P.M., P.P.G.R.; C. D. Hill Drury, M.D., P.P.G.R. (Norfolk); Jon. E. Backhouse; Ed. Hutchinson; C. H. Backhouse, P.M., P.P.J.G.W.; Sam. Wilson, P.M., P.P.J.G.D.; J. Hanby Holmes, W.M., 1230; R. S. Benson, P.M.; Jos. Atkinson, M.D., I.P.M., 1230; Wm. Mitford, P.M., 111; J. M. White, W.M., 1379; J. J. Wilkes, P.M., 111; Sevier, M.D., and J. K. Wilkes. The entertainment was of the most agreeable and successful character, and we have reason to believe will benefit masonic charity.

NORTHUMBERLAND.—PROPOSED MASONIC HALL AT BLYTH.
—An influential committee was some time ago appointed for the purpose of carrying out arrangements for the building of a Masonic Hall at Blyth, for the use of the members of the Blagdon Lodge. The Provincial Grand Master (Sir M. W. Ridley, Bart., M.P.) who is Lord of the Manor for Blyth, has promised a site for such erection, and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master (Bro. R. H. Holmes, G.D.) has the matter in hand. There is no doubt but at an early date the foundation stone of a commodious building—which is much needed in that town—will be laid. Bro. Ed. Forster, I.P.M. of the Blagdon Lodge, is chairman of the building committee, and one of the chief promulgators of the scheme.

In the event of a Charter for a new Royal Arch Chapter to be attached to the Blagdon Lodge, Blyth, being granted by the Supreme Grand Chapter, the ceremony of consecration will in all probability take place at the annual Provincial Convocation, to be held at Newcastle-on-Tyne, in the month of May, to be conducted by the Provincial Grand Superintendent, Col. Addison Potter, C.B.

SUSSEX.—The annual meeting of the Pelham Lodge (No. 1303) of Freemasons, took place at the Freemasons' Hall, Lewes, on Friday, Bro. W. Wright, of Shortbridge, was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. The retiring W.M., Bro. W. W. Turner, was presented with a charity jewel in recognition of his past services to the Lodge. Subsequently about 30 brethren sat down to a banquet, at which the newly-elected W.M. presided. The usual Masonic and complimentary toasts were duly honoured, and during the evening Miss Annie Freeman and Mr. A. J. Read contributed some excellent songs.

MARK MASONRY.—On Monday last, the 29th ulto., the Berks and Oxon Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons presented a handsome testimonial to Brother Thomas J. Pulley, Past Grand Senior Deacon of the Grand Mark Lodge, in recognition of the valuable services rendered by him in the formation and subsequent development of the province, and also of his able and lengthened services as Provincial Grand Secretary.

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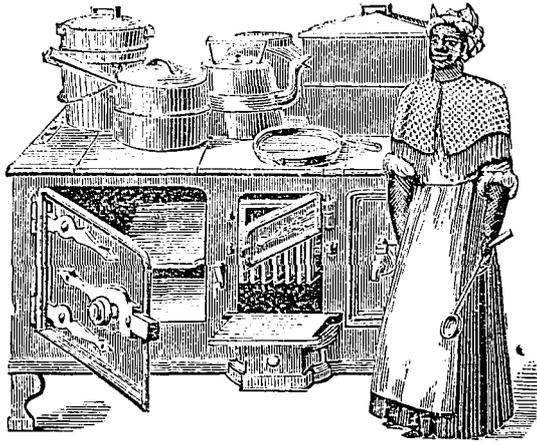
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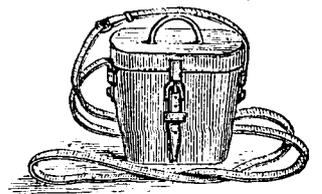
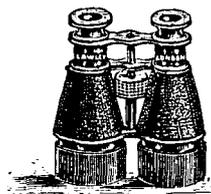
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