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At Home



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Grand Mark Lodge and its Benevolent Fund.

THE two principal Masonic events of the past week have been the holding of a Special Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and the Colonies and dependencies of the British Crown, to receive a communication from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Most Worshipful Grand Master; and the Festival of the Benevolent Fund connected with the degree. We shall append hereto a brief report of each meeting. The proceedings associated with the first named were brief in character, but full of interest to the members of the Mark Degree. The special communication from the M.W. Grand Master formally notified the acceptance of the resignation of V.W. Bro. Frederick Binckes from the Grand Secretaryship of the Order; the approval of the recommendations of the General Board for the grant to him of a retiring allowance of £125 per annum; and the appointment of V.W. Bro. Charles Fitzgerald Matier to fill the vacant office. The resignation of Bro. Binckes has not come upon the general body of Mark Masons as a surprise. It has, however, occasioned considerable regret on the part of many of the older members of the Mark degree who are familiar with the steady progress which it has made of late years, and some of whom were associated with that worthy brother nearly a quarter of a century ago in laying the foundation of its subsequent prosperity. There will be reasons presently for remembering with much gratitude the eminent services which the late revered Past Grand Master Canon Portal rendered to Mark Masonry, and which may be said to have culminated in securing for the business purposes of the degree the new Grand Mark Lodge premises in London, which will shortly be opened. At such a time, as now, the remembrance of the talent and zealous labour with which the retired Grand Secretary supported and carried

into permanent effect the plans and designs of his chiefs, should accompany the rejoicings which may be reasonably anticipated on that auspicious occasion. Then should be remembered those who, when the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters could be amply accommodated in one small room in a moderately sized house, bore the heat and burden of the day, inspired with energy and hope by the lately deceased Past Grand Master and the lately retired Grand Secretary. We have nothing to say of the latter in his connection with Mark Masonry but what is in the very highest degree commendable, and we who write, probably the only survivor, excepting Bro. Binckes, of that small band which comprised the General Board of 1869, can vouch for a thorough conscientious service in his official position. Therefore we consider that the retiring allowance, though perhaps as much as so comparatively young an organization could be expected to afford, is not one whit more than has been eminently deserved. It is further satisfactory in that the allowance can be taken from funds which have not been accumulated for one specific purpose, but for management unconnected with any charitable object, and we feel sure that we but echo the sentiments of every Mark Master Mason under English jurisdiction in wishing our brother in his retirement long years of health and capacity for the enjoyment of that which he has honourably won.

The new Grand Mark Secretary has by his indefatigable exertions of the past few years as Assistant Grand Secretary, and his zeal in promoting the interests of the Mark Benevolent Fund, fairly "won his spurs," and enters upon his increased duties with every good wish from the general body of Mark Master Masons, and their fullest confidence that he will persevere in his discreet and able management of the affairs of the Order. We heartily join in the congratulations which attended his appointment and investiture.

The departure from the rule which governs the proceedings of a Special Meeting, and forbids the introduction of any other business matter than that expressed on the notice or agenda, which departure consisted in the reference by the M.W. Pro. Grand Master to the then approaching, and since consummated, marriage of the eldest daughter of the Most Worshipful Grand Master—the Princess Louise—with the then Earl, and now Duke, of Fife, was an exception which, although it may establish a precedent in connection with future great and important events of a cognate character, was amply justified by the surrounding circumstances. The cordiality with which the Pro. Grand Master's address was received, and the applause accompanying the unanimous acceptance of the resolution he proposed, were unmistakable evidences that

the "exception to the rule" was welcome to the Mark Grand Lodge, affording as it did an opportunity for testifying their loyalty and devotion to their Chief Head and Ruler, and their desire for the welfare and happiness of the contracting parties more immediately concerned. That the circumstance must be considered and observed as an exception only was made manifest by the instant recognition of the rule, on W. Bro. J. S. Cumberland rising to call attention to a matter which should have the attention of the General Board at once, and in respect of which their agreement with the views he briefly expressed, and action consequent thereon, may prevent the necessity of discussion elsewhere, and publicity affecting what should be kept undisclosed from those who have no acquaintance with the esoteric working of the Mark Master Mason's Degree.

With regard to the Twenty-first Annual Festival of the Mark Benevolence Fund it will be sufficient for us in this place to remark on the highly successful character of the celebration of its majority, and to accord unstinted praise to the stewards and the executive who together so ably contributed to that result. Bro. Sir Lionel E. Darell, Bart., J.G. Warden, who presided as Chairman, very aptly explained in his address when proposing "prosperity to the Fund," a difference between it and the Craft Masonic Institutions, in that, with the exception of but a trifling outlay,—partly in recognition of secretarial services, and partly in necessary expenses of office requirements,—the whole of the subscriptions to the fund were applied to masonic benevolence. The "Fund" has no occasion to provide for the erection and upholding of large buildings, and the accompanying necessity of maintaining an expensive staff of officials and servants; and we trust it never will have. To do all the good it can in the present to the greatest number of those who are unfortunately compelled to seek its assistance, and to increase its reserve so as to secure a continuance of its beneficent operations in the future, are the great and important purposes of this particular association; and it is to be hoped its managers may not at any time be led into the error of thinking that the establishment of a material "Institution" for the reception of the recipients of its bounties will add to the benefits the fund can confer. The amount contributed last week, the second largest return yet made, sufficiently indicates the favour in which the Mark Benevolent Fund is held by the Craft; and we venture to prophecy that if its management and the disposition of its effects are continued on the same lines as heretofore, the sum of £2,084 will be greatly exceeded at ensuing festivals.

SPECIAL GRAND MARK LODGE.

A Special Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown was held on Wednesday, the 24th ult., at No. 8a, Red Lion Square. Lord Egerton of Tatton, M.W. Pro.G.M., presided, and amongst those present were—Bros. W. J. Hughan, P.G.W., acting as G.S. Warden; Sir Lionel Darell, G.J.W.; W. G. Lemon, G.S.O.; H. Kynaston, G. Chap.; Frank Richardson, G. Reg.; Frank Sumner Knyvett, G.S.D.; H. E. Cousins, G.J.D.; Robert Berridge, G.D.C.; J. B. Bridgeman, A.G.D.C.; J. H. Matthews, A.G.D.C.; T. B. Purchas, G.S.B.; J. Mainwaring, G.I.G.; J. W. H. Thompson, S. Knight and J. M. Collins, G. Stwds.; Baron de Ferrieres, P.G.M. Gloucestershire and Herefordshire; J. H. Wynne, P.G.I.G.; C. F. Woodall, P.S.G.D.; J. L. Murray, P.G. Std. Br.; N. T. West, P.G.O.; Alfred Williams, P.G.M.O.; Walter Adlard, P.G.M.O.; Geo. Allen, P.G.O.; Geo. Graveley, P.G.S.B.; John A. Lloyd, P.G.C.; John Ramsey, P.A.G.D.C.; Driver, P.G. Std. Br.; R. I. Emmens, P.G.M.O.; B. R. Bryant, P.G. Std. Br.; T. Cubitt, P.S.G.O.; E. T. Hoare, P.G. Org.; J. S. Cumberland, P.J.G.O.; G. Powell, P.G.S.; James Stevens, P.G.J.O.; Geo. Mickley, P.G.D.; Jabez Church, P.G.S.; A. B. Cook, P.G.M.O.; Chas. H. Driver, P.G.M.O.; Lord Euston, P.G.S.W., P.G.B.; Thos. J. Ralling, P.G.D.; Edwin M. Lott, P.G. Org.; W. H. Kempster, M.D., P.G. Stwd.; R. Loveland Loveland, D.P.G.M.M. Hants; and others.

The object of the meeting was to receive a special communication from his Royal Highness the M.W.G.M., approving of certain recommendations made by the General Board in relation to the resignation by V.W. Bro. Frederick Binckes of his official position as Grand Secretary, which the Grand Master had been pleased to accept, and that the sum of £125 per annum should be voted to that brother from the Funds of Grand Mark Lodge, as a retiring allowance; and, further, that the office thereby vacated should be filled by the appointment of W. Bro. Charles Fitzgerald Matier, Assistant Grand Secretary. The communication having been read by the Prov. Grand Master in due form, and motion made by the R.W. Bro. Lord Euston, seconded by W. Bro. Frank Richardson, Grand Registrar, as President of the General Board, that the recommendations submitted to, and approved of by, the Grand Master, should be adopted, resolutions to that effect were carried unanimously. Bro. Robert Berridge, Grand Director of Ceremonies, then conducted Bro. Matier to the East, where he was invested by

the Prov. Grand Master with the collar and jewel of office, and amidst congratulations from the president and brethren, commenced his duties as Grand Secretary and was saluted in ancient form. After a brief address from Bro. W. J. Hughan, presenting, as the representative of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania in the Grand Mark Lodge of England, greetings and good wishes from that Grand Chapter, the Prov. Grand Master rose and said:—Brethren, there is no other business on the paper, but there is one event which is about to happen which I think, although there is no previous notice of it, I should be justified, standing in the position I do, in bringing before you, and I shall ask you to give it your favourable reception. I allude to the approaching marriage of the eldest daughter of our Grand Master, the Princess Louise, with the Earl of Fife. I am sure that an event like that which affects so closely the welfare of our Royal Family, and the welfare and happiness of His Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master must be recognised by all Mark Masons, will give every satisfaction to you, and I am sure Mark Masons would also like to testify their loyalty and affection to their Grand Master on such an occasion as this. I think, therefore, that it would not be inappropriate, without giving notice, that I should on this occasion move that an humble address be presented to His Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master, congratulating His Royal Highness on the auspicious event of the marriage of his eldest daughter, the Princess Louise, with the Earl of Fife. I am sure you will all agree with me that we should not allow this opportunity to pass by without expressing our great joy and sympathy with His Royal Highness on such an interesting occasion. We know also that Her Royal Highness, like all the members of the Royal Family, has been well known to Masons on various public occasions, and has shown her interest in all Masonic events. We also know that Lord Fife has taken a prominent part in Scotland in Masonry, as Provincial Grand Master of Banffshire, and he is also known as a Royal Arch Mason in the Scottish Order. We have, therefore, every reason also to congratulate ourselves as Masons that the eldest daughter of our Grand Master is about to ally herself to a distinguished Mason. I have much pleasure in moving this resolution, and I trust it will be received as cordially by Grand Lodge as I move it. The resolution was as follows:—"That a congratulatory address be presented to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Mark Master, on the auspicious marriage of H.R.H. the Princess Louise of Wales with Bro. the Earl of Fife, P.G.M. of Banffshire."

The Earl of Euston: I beg to second the motion. I think that no words are needed from me after what the Most Worshipful Prov. Grand Master has said to you. I have the greatest pleasure in seconding the motion. We are all loyal, and we wish every happiness to our Grand Master and his family.

The motion was carried unanimously and amidst loud applause.

Bro. Tomlin, No. 147 (Victoria), tendered to the Grand Lodge on behalf of the Mark Lodges in Victoria, congratulations on the appointment of Bro. Matier as Grand Secretary, remarking that Bro. Matier's name was as well known to those lodges as that of any mason, and that his appointment would give them great satisfaction. Bro. J. S. Cumberland referred to a matter connected with official routine, and to which he took strong objection, but as his remarks were evidently leading up to a formal resolution, the Prov. Grand Master reminded him that it could not then be discussed, and it would doubtless have the attention of the General Board. The special Grand Lodge was then closed.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND.

The 21st annual Festival was held on Wednesday, the 24th ult., at Freemason's Tavern, when a large company of ladies and brethren, presided over by Sir Lionel Darell, Grand Junior Warden, attended. Among those present were Bros. Sir Lionel Darell, Bart., G.J.W., Lady Darell and Miss Darell; Right Hon. the Earl of Euston, President Gen. Board; Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, P.G.S.W.; Major A. B. Cook, P.G.M.O., and Mrs. Cook; Seva Ram and Mrs. Ram, of Lahore; E. X. Leon, P.G.D., P.G. Sec., Jamaica; Frank Richardson, G. Reg., Vice-President Gen. Board; C. F. Matier, P.G.W., G. Sec., Sec. M.B.F.; James Moon, P.G. Treas.; Thos. Fenn, P.G.W.; Geo. Mickley, P.G.D.; J. D. Murray, P.G.D.; G. W. Marsden, Dr. Zacharie, G.S.R. Secret Monitor; Alfred Williams, P.G. Overseer; Col. Marmaduke Ramsey, D.G.M. Mediterranean; A. F. Godson, P.G.M. Worcestershire; Baron de Ferrieres, P.G.M. Gloucestershire and Herefordshire; Robert Berridge, G.D. of C.; Dr. Purchas, G. Std. Br.; R. J. Emmerson, P.G.O.; Rev. H. R. Cooper-Smith, P.G.O.; Horatio Ward, P.G.D.; Percy Wallace, P.G.D.; A. Woodiwiss, Mayor of Derby; C. H. Driver, P.G.M.O.; James Stevens, P.G.J.O.; Geo. Cooper, P.G.O.; James Terry, P.A.G.D.C., &c., &c.

After an admirably served banquet, during which an excellent string band performed a choice selection of music, Grace was sung by the professional artistes, under the direction of W. Bro. Edwin M. Lott, Past Grand Organist, and the customary toasts were then introduced. In proposing "The health of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," the Chairman remarked on the services he rendered to the Order, and the fidelity and strictness with which he discharged the onerous duties he had to perform; and continued:—"On the present occasion, especially as the festive board was graced with the presence of ladies, he must allude to the happy event which was about to take place in the family of the Grand Master, viz., the marriage of his eldest daughter, the Princess Louise, with the Earl of Fife. They were assured by their Grand Master that this marriage was one of love and affection. Lord Fife was a mason; he was a Provincial Grand Master of Banffshire; he was also a Mark Mason. On this occasion, in drinking the health of the Grand Master, he must couple the Princess of Wales and the Princess Louise and Lord Fife, the bride and bridegroom, wishing them long life, health, happiness, prosperity, and God speed. The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

To the toast of "The Pro Grand Master and Past Grand Masters,"

as named on the toast list, in proposing which the Chairman expressed the regret of M.W. Bro. Lord Egerton of Tatton that he was unable to be present, a very hearty reception was given; as was also to that in honour of the "Deputy Grand Master the R.W. Bro. the Most. Hon. the Marquis of Hertford, Prov. G.M. Warwickshire, and the Grand Officers, Present and Past," on behalf of whom the Provincial Grand Master for Kent, R.W. Bro. Rev. T. Robinson, responded.

The health of the Chairman, "Bro. Sir Lionel E. Darell, Bart., R.W. Grand Junior Warden," was proposed by R.W. Bro. Lord Euston, P.G.S. Warden, who spoke of Sir Lionel as a "thorough good mason from the crown of his head to the sole of his foot," and ever earnest in whatever work he engaged himself in. He had brought his interest and influence to bear in every possible manner to secure the success of the present festival, as he felt assured his audience would well believe when announcement was presently made of the Stewards' lists. He expected that they would find the total of contributions only second in amount to any collected at former festivals. The Chairman on rising to respond was received with much enthusiasm, and thanked Bro. Lord Euston and the company generally for the introduction of the toast and the manner of its reception. He expressed his thorough appreciation of Freemasonry, and declared that to him the word "Mason" had always a good metallic ring about it. He now had great pleasure in proposing the toast of the evening—"Prosperity to the Mark Benevolent Fund," for the future of which he now appealed. The Fund was founded some 21 years ago. It differed from other Masonic Institutions in that it had no houses to keep up and was at very little expense; in fact, with the exception of printing and postage and a grant to the Secretary of £50 a year, all the money that was subscribed to the Mark Benevolent Fund went for actual benevolence. It was divided into three branches, the benevolent, the educational, and the annuity. Sums for the benevolent were given in relief every month by the General Board, and since the year 1869 these sums amounted to considerably over £2000. The educational branch was established only in 1879, and since that time 40 children had been educated at their own homes under the care of their parents and guardians, and in the year 1886 it was resolved that £5 be annually given to each pupil for clothes. This required a yearly expenditure of something like £450. The annuity branch was founded in the year 1885 by the liberality of Lord Egerton of Tatton, who as a nucleus to the Fund gave a sum of £105. The Fund now gave to five old brethren £26 a year each, and £5 extra was given at Christmas. There were three candidates now seeking relief, but it would depend upon the liberality of the Stewards to extend those benefits. He might say that at the first Festival the Benevolent Fund realised a sum of only £50, and in the year 1887 it reached the substantial sum of £2,220. The brethren would see from this the excellent work this Mark Benevolent Fund was doing, and he called upon the company one and all to do everything in their power to increase and augment that Fund. It was that night celebrating its majority—its 21st year. They looked upon a man as not having come to full age till he had become 21 years old; then as a general rule he grew in strength and generally in size. So he trusted it would be with this Fund. He hoped that Mark Masonry would grow in strength by the increase of its members, and that it would increase in size by reason of the increase in its funds. He really did not think he need say anything further about this most excellent fund, which commended itself most heartily and cordially to each and every one of them. He now had the pleasure of making the announcement, which he was sure would be a most popular one. Most of them were aware that Bro. Binckes had resigned the office of Grand Secretary, and it had been the pleasure of the Grand Master to confer that office on their good and worthy Bro. Matier. Some of the brethren had that afternoon had the opportunity of seeing that brother invested with the collar of the office by Lord Egerton of Tatton. It would be invidious on his part, in his presence, to speak of what Bro. Matier had done for the Mark Benevolent Fund, because they all knew his good works as well as he (the Chairman) did. He should therefore content himself with asking the company to drink the future prosperity of the Mark Benevolent Fund. With that toast he would couple the name of their Grand Secretary, Bro. Matier, who, for the first time that night, appeared in that capacity before them. He should ask them to drink his very good health, long life and happiness to him, and to congratulate him on the honour which had been conferred upon him, an honour which he so richly deserved. The toast was honoured with every manifestation of pleasure, and Bro. Matier on rising to respond was greeted with loud cheers. After a modest but earnest expression of thanks for the kindly sentiments which had been uttered and endorsed, and an assurance that his best efforts should be exerted to promote the prosperity of the Order and the extension of its Benevolent Fund, Bro. Matier proceeded to announce the Stewards' lists. We again regret, as we have, unfortunately, had to do on similar occasions, the want of space which precludes publicity being given to the names of individual brethren deserving of the highest commendation for the energy of their appeals for contributions from their respective lodges, and the members thereof, and we must be content to approach the total of all their efforts by stating that the 37 stewards representing London contributed £491 19s., and the 122 stewards representing the Provincial Lodges £1,594 19s. 6d., together producing the handsome sum of £2,086 18s. 6d., which as Bro. Lord Euston expected is but second in amount to that contributed at the Festival held in the Jubilee year, 1887. After the applause with which Bro. Matier's announcement was received had subsided, the R.W. Bro. Baron de Ferrieres, P.G. Master Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, in proposing the health of the Board of Stewards, referred to the record of the evening, and remarked that for the comparatively small body of Freemasons who were members of the Mark degree, the sum of £2,000, which appeared to be about the annual average subscription, was a large sum, and one of which the Order

might well be proud. It was to the Board of Stewards, the machinery by which the collection was made, thanks were pre-eminently due: and he felt certain that those thanks would be readily accorded. This toast was also most cordially received, and was responded to by Lord Euston, as Chairman of the Board, and Bro. Murray, of the Rose and Thistle Lodge, Wigan, whose list represented a contribution of no less than 200 guineas as a gift from Lancashire. Bro. Major A. Bott Cook, P.G.M.O., proposed in a humorous and respectfully gallant speech, the toast of "The Ladies," for whom Bro. F. S. Knyvett responded in pleasing terms. With the toast of "The Visitors," proposed by Bro. the Earl of Euston, with many expressions of hearty welcome and wishes for their prosperity, the name of Bro. Leon, P.M., G. Sec. Jamaica was coupled, and with that worthy brother's effective response, the proceedings at the banquet table terminated, and the company dispersed, most of them however again assembling in the drawing-room for the conclusion of the concert. We cannot fairly close this brief report without a tribute of praise to Bro. E. M. Lott for the excellence of the musical entertainment under his direction. It was far above the average of after-dinner performances, and every lady and gentleman who took part in it is equally entitled to recognition. These were Madame Larkcom, Miss Minnie Freeman, Miss Minnie Kirton, and Bros. Reginald Groome and Stanley Smith. Miss Kate Chaplin, accompanied at the pianoforte by her sister, Miss Nellie Chaplin, charmed the company with her delightful violin solos. It would be invidious to select any special performance for prominent notice, where each and all merited the highest appreciation of their services, and it was gratifying to observe that such appreciation was expressed by frequent encores in some instances, and unmistakable applause in all.

SUMMER EXCURSION OF THE QUATUOR CORONATI LODGE, No. 2076.

A most enjoyable trip, which even the showery weather of the forenoon was unable to seriously mar, was undertaken by this lodge on Saturday, the 20th ult. We have it on good authority that "absence makes the heart grow cold," and the chief object of the brethren in undertaking the excursion was possibly to break the long interval between the stated lodge meetings in June and October; thus by a timely outing, renewing the pleasures of social intercourse. True, however, to the antiquarian tastes and studies encouraged by the lodge, a spot of abiding interest to Freemasons was chosen, the city of St. Alban, England's proto-martyr and the traditional founder of the craft in these isles. Does not the Grand Lodge MS. of the "Old Charges" (which is dated 1583) state distinctly "Inglande in all this season stoyde voyd of any chardge of Massonrie untill St. Albons' tyme and in his dayes the Kyng of England that was a paynym he did wall thee towne aboute that is called St. Albons. And St. Albon was a woorthy knyght and stewarde of the kyngs householde and had the gou'ment of thee realme and also of thee towne walls and loved massons well and chyrished them muche and he mayde their paye right good (standing as the realme did) for he gave them ijs vjd a weeke and three pence to their cheire, for before that tyme throue the land a masson toke but a peny a daye and his meate untill St. Albone amended it and gave them a charter of thee kyng and his counsell for to houlde a gen'all counsell And gave it the name of an Assemblye And was thereat himself and healped for to make massons and gave the chardges as yee shall heare afterwarde right sone."

Bro. W. Simpson, the W.M., was unfortunately detained at Balmoral on business, and a few other brethren who rarely miss a lodge meeting were unavoidably absent, but the following members assembled at St. Pancras under the S.W., Bro. Col. S. C. Pratt, viz.: Bros. W. M. Bywater, P.G.S.E., J.W.; Professor T. Hayter Lewis, S.D.; Dr. W. W. Westcott, J.D.; G. W. Speth, sec.; Professor W. Mattieu Williams, and Dr. W. J. Chetwode Crawley (of Dublin). With these were the following members of the Correspondence Circle, viz.: Bros. Dr. W. B. Woodman, P.G.S.B.; S. Richardson, C. B. Barnes, F. A. Powell, J. S. Cumberland, C. E. Ferry, Col. J. Mead, and G. H. Piper (of Ledbury), D.P.G.M. Herefordshire; and the following visitors, Dr. Benj. W. Richardson, F. Pegler, Sydney T. Klein, C. Bowley (of Belfast), Mahaim (of Liege), and Reg. T. Webster (of Margate).

A saloon carriage attached to the 11.10 a.m. train took the party comfortably to St. Albans, where a frugal lunch awaited them at the "Pea Hen" Hotel; after which a visit was first paid to the church of St. Peter's. Here they were met by the curate, Bro. Rev. Valentine Faulkner, under whose auspices the church was inspected, the chief point of interest being the monument of Edward Strong the elder, for whom Dr. Anderson claims the honour of having been appointed Junior Grand Warden, under Grand Master Sir Christopher Wren, in 1685. The truth of this can scarcely be admitted, but the Strong family appeals to our sympathies as masons in a high degree. Timothy Strong was a quarry owner and builder, in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. His son Valentine was a notable builder in his day, and on his tomb at Fairford, Oxfordshire (1662) is described as "Valentine Strong, Freemason." Valentine's son, Thomas, was engaged at Trin. Col., Oxon, in 1665, under Sir C. Wren, and in 1675 made the first contract with the commissioners for re-building St. Paul's. According to the family memoirs, written in 1716, he laid the first stone in the foundation with his own hands. Dying in 1681, he was succeeded by his brother Edward, buried at St. Peter's, St. Albans, who associated with himself his son Edward the younger. The "memoirs" state "about the year 1706, Edward Strong, junior, began the lanthorn on the Dome of St. Paul's, London, and on the 25th Oct., 1708, Edward Strong, senior, laid the last stone upon the same." This last claim is re-asserted on the monument in question.

Skirting the city, the old church of St. Michael's was next visited.

(Continued on page 306.)

PROPOSED UNITED GRAND LODGE FOR NEW ZEALAND.

In a recent issue (July 18th) we published particulars in relation to the movement in New Zealand for the formation of a Grand Lodge in that colony. In support of that movement a "New Zealand Masonic Union" has been established, from the Auckland Branch of which we have received, through its secretary, Bro. Thomas W. Kitt, a copy of a circular addressed to the several lodges in the district, accompanied by financial statements, which cannot fail to be of interest to the Craftsmen generally of the three constitutions, English, Irish, and Scotch, and especially to those of the United Grand Lodge of England. The circular sets forth reasons for the establishment of the proposed Grand Lodge of New Zealand under the following heads:—(1.) The amalgamation of the three constitutions; (2.) In such amalgamation lies the only true hope of stimulating and fully carrying into effect the charity of the Craft; (3.) Disadvantages of being governed from a distance, instead of by a local governing body; (4.) Evils of concurrent jurisdiction; (5.) Rivalry of Constitutions; (6.) New lodges and small lodges; (7.) Numerical comparison; (8.) Cost of maintenance of United Grand Lodge; (9.) First Grand Master; and (10.) The constitution of a United Grand Lodge of New Zealand is a duty which (in the interests of Freemasonry), the brethren of this colony owe to the rising generation. The arguments under these respective headings are very fair and reasonable in favour of the project, and we should have been glad, in the interests of our colonial brethren, if we could have found space for them *in extenso*. Failing such reproduction, we can, however, and do, express our opinion that the framers of the circular, in legal phraseology, "prove their case." To strengthen their arguments the following financial statements have been compiled, setting forth in a practical form the result of Freemasonry under its present divided government in the Auckland district, and to show that, "as at present constituted, it is an utter failure in carrying out that 'Charity' which should be the leading characteristic of every Freemason's heart, and is the foundation and keystone of the whole Masonic structure." These statements have been prepared by W. Bro. W. H. Cooper, P.M., P.Z., &c., of Auckland, a Past Master of a lodge under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Lodge of West Lancashire, and the contrast which he submits is certainly most interesting and important.

Practical results of Freemasonry as at present constituted under three Grand Lodges in Auckland.

Receipts and Expenditure of the three Grand Lodges as per their Balance Sheets for 1888.

Grand Lodge.	Number of Craft Lodges.	Receipts 1888.		Expenditure.			Accumulated Funds and Assets, 1888.	
		£	s. d.	Secretaries' Salaries & Expenses.	Remitted Home.	Charity.	£	s. d.
English	19	197	13 10	108 16 11	19 17 6	10 3 0	846	0 0
Irish	15	145	1 10	53 15 0	58 11 6	3 1 0	99	6 2
Scotch	17	189	8 8	110 19 3	51 19 6	0 12 0	418	10 4
Totals	51	532	4 4	273 11 2	130 8 6	13 16 0	1,363	16 6

These figures are contrasted with the following:—

Synopsis of Charitable Funds subscribed by Masons of West Lancashire in year 1886. 64 Lodges.

Local Masonic Charities.	Income.	Working Expenses.	Funds.			
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
West Lancashire Educational Institution educated, clothed, maintained and advanced in life this year 189 orphan children of Masons. Established 1850	2,030	0 0	62	0 0	14,526	0 0
Hamer Benevolent Fund for distressed and aged Masons. Established 13 years ..	589	0 0	18	0 0	2,457	0 0
West Lancashire (Alpass) Benevolent Institution for relief of widows of Masons. Established 1 year ..	1,344	0 0	27	0 0	1,344	0 0
Provincial Grand Lodge. [Income this year, £685] ..	360	0 0	2,506	0 0
	4,323	0 0	107	0 0	25,833	0 0

In addition, a Relief Committee meets every Friday for the purpose of granting assistance and forwarding to their homes destitute Masons of all countries and Constitutions. There are no paid Secretaries to any of these charities, and West Lancashire is a munificent subscriber to all the London charities.

Next week we shall hope to set before our readers an "estimate of saving" which it is thought will be effected by the establishment of the United Grand Lodge of New Zealand, and also a statement showing the annual receipts and expenditure of the District and Provincial Grand Lodges under the three Constitutions it is now sought to bring into union. In the meanwhile we note with surprise that "the three existing Grand Lodges (with their funds of benevolence), having an annual income of £532, with accumulated assets of £1,363 in a year of great distress like 1888 only contributed to the aid of distressed Masons, widows, and orphans, the pitiable sum of £13 16s. 0d." Surely such a state of things calls for some measure of reform, and if be that nothing short of a United Grand Lodge of New Zealand will effect it, that in itself is an all important and imperative reason for its establishment.



"For the Master to lay lines and draw designs upon."

Several of our correspondents, and others whose esteemed communications are always acceptable, may be disappointed by the omission from this number of their contributions. We must express our regret, and appeal to their kind consideration. They shall have attention next week.

* * * * *

In our advertisement columns will be found a letter addressed to the Patrons, Governors, and Subscribers of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, by Bro. R. F. Tomlin, surgeon, of Lordship Lane, Wood Green, close to the Schools, who is a candidate for the appointment rendered vacant by the recent resignation of the medical officer of the Institution.

* * * * *

Our attention has been called to an omission in our notice of the summer outing of the Burgoyne Lodge, No. 902, in our last week's number, and which we desire to rectify. This the more readily as we recognise an injustice in not mentioning the names of brethren who zealously strive to carry out the end we should all have in view, "the being happy and communicating happiness," and succeed in the endeavour. The pleasures of the day recorded were materially enhanced by the energetic labours of Bros. Jeffery and W. Batty, both Past Masters of the lodge, and the former its greatly esteemed secretary; and to them we express our regret for the perfectly unintentional absence of their names from the report.

* * * * *

A very pleasant relief from editorial labour was afforded us on Saturday last by a visit to our esteemed Bro. Augustus Harris, who entertained a large party of private and public friends, including many members of the Craft, "At Home," at his charming residence, The Elms, Avenue Road, Regent's Park, on that afternoon. A very delightful hour or two was spent as well within as without doors, the *al fresco* portion of the festivity being, however, somewhat marred towards its close by the heavy storm which passed over the locality between 6 and 7 o'clock. Good fellowship and hospitality were nevertheless paramount to meteorological influences, and the distinguished company evidently appreciated the hearty welcome which the genial host and his amiable wife gave to each and all.

* * * * *

The jubilee of the Sutherland of Unity Lodge, No. 460, Newcastle-under-Lyme, was celebrated on the 26th inst. by a banquet. We have been favoured with a very interesting account of the lodge since its constitution in 1839, and to such of our readers as take note of masonic progress in our several lodges, and thereby obtain much valuable information, recommend a perusal of the columns of the *Staffordshire Advertiser* of Saturday last. The length of the article precludes re-production in our paper, but it will remain for awhile on our "Trestle Board" for useful reference.

* * * * *

We hear of the purchase of a piece of vacant land at Deptford Bridge, S.E., as a site for the erection of a new Masonic Hall. We hope this rumour is true, and shall be glad to congratulate the brethren in that district interested in securing for themselves a temple fitted for the purposes of masonic work. May we express the hope that they will never permit that portion of the building to be set apart for esoteric work to be desecrated by use for any other purpose.

* * * * *

The contiguous premises of the *Kentish Mercury* were also sold we are informed, and upon the ground will be erected district offices for the London School Board. The proposed masonic hall will therefore be "in good company."

THE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—The annual summer entertainment to the residents of the Asylum, at Croydon, took place on Thursday last, and was fairly attended by brethren and ladies interested in the institution. Amongst those present were Bros. C. J. Perceval, who officiated as chairman of the day, W. Eckersall, C. H. Stone, T. Cubitt, J. G. Tongue, G. F. Cook, E. S. Boulter, J. Newton, C. F. Hogard, W. W. Morgan, G. Plucknett, J. S. Fraser, C. G. Hill, H. G. Thompson, Hugh Cotter, A. H. Tattershall, W. Massey, H. M. Hobbs, James Stevens, A. T. Faull, F. E. Terry, J. A. Farnfield, E. Terry, H. A. Lovett, &c., and Mesdames and Misses James Terry, E. Eckersall, James Stevens, W. W. Morgan, Stone, Newton, Tongue, A. R. and C. Massey, Hill, Clara Cooke, Cissie Crutch, K. S. Terry, M. Rucker, Aida Crutch, Jessie Terry, Lillian Rucker, Cotter, Angelina Hill, Lovett, &c., &c. The majority of the party left Charing Cross and Cannon Street Railway Stations respectively at 3.22 and 3.32 p.m., and after the customary renewal of visits to the residents to the mutual satisfaction of all, partook of high tea. Subsequently, under the direction of Bro. A. G. Pritchard, who was assisted by Miss Emily Pritchard, Miss Lizzie Holmes, Miss Frances Grahame, Mr. John Crosse, and Bro. George Cronin, a very successful musical entertainment was given before the residents and their friends. The performances of all concerned were meritorious and much appreciated, and a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to them at its termination. Bro. Pritchard gracefully acknowledged the same on behalf of his company and himself, and shortly afterwards the visitors took leave of the residents and separated *en route* for their respective homes.

We Notify that:—

—The Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset will be held in the Town Hall, at Weston-super-Mare, on Friday next, the 2nd inst. The Earl of Carnarvon, Pro Grand Master of England, Prov. Grand Master of Somerset, will preside. Lodge will be opened at 1 p.m.

—The Southwark Lodge of Instruction, No. 879, held at the Sir Garnet Wolseley Tavern, Warndon Street, Rotherhithe New Road, S.E., has adjourned until the 1st Thursday in September.

—The Annual Provincial Lodge of the Province of Essex will be held in the library at Easton Lodge, Dunmow, the seat of the R.W.Prov.G.M., the Right Hon. the Lord Brooke, *M.P.*, on Tuesday next, at 2 p.m. The Grand Lodge will be opened punctually at 2.30 p.m. Brethren should attend in dark morning dress, and no jewels are to be worn but those appertaining to Craft Masonry. Carriages will be in waiting at Dunmow Station. Railway fares, single for double journey, on production of summons.

—THE UBIQUE LODGE—No. 1789.—Bro. W. R. Arnold, Royal Artillery, Worshipful Master, will hold its usual quarterly meeting at the Regent Masonic Hall, Café Royal, Air Street, Regent Street, W., on Monday, the 12th inst., at 5.30 o'clock p.m. The agenda paper shows that the following brethren will be balloted for as joining members, viz., Bros. Capt. A. Crawford, *R.A.*, Ockenden Lodge No. 1465; Capt. E. H. Elliot, *R.A.*, Friendship Lodge No. 6; Lieut. V. F. W. A. Paget, *R.H.A.*, J.W. Aldershot Army and Navy Lodge No. 1971; Lieut. W. Jarvis, *R.A.*, P.M. 491, P.P.G.J.D. of Jersey, and the Military Jubilee Lodge No. 2195—and to initiate the undermentioned gentlemen (if approved) viz., Capt. S. W. Lane, *R.A.*, and Sergt. Major G. Allen, *R.A.*; to pass Bro. Capt. W. V. Faber, *A.D.C.* to General Williams, Commanding the Woolwich Garrison, and Capt. T. Y. Osmond, *R.A.*; and to raise Bro. Lieut. R. J. Wilson, *R.A.* Bro. Geo. Mason, *R.A.*, P.M. 139, Alderney Street, S.W., is now the secretary, to whom all communications concerning the lodge should be addressed.

—The next General Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys will be held on the 10th inst., and not on the 3rd as per calendar.

Press Exchanges and Books Received.

South African Freemason; Report of Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge of Scotland, 2nd May, 1889.

W. Bro the Rev. T. W. Lemon, *M.A.*, Prov. G.J.W. of the Masonic Province of Devon, P.S.G.W. of Prov. Mark Grand Lodge of Devon, and Prov. Prior of the Knights Templar of Devon, presented on the 26th inst. a donation of one hundred guineas to the Masonic Institution for Boys, and completed his gift of one hundred guineas to the Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons. He had previously constituted himself a vice-patron of the Masonic Institution for Girls, and by his recent donations is now vice-patron of all three of the London great masonic charities.

ALLIED DEGREES.—Metropolitan Council, T.I.—The usual meeting of this Council was held on Friday, the 26th ult., at 8a, Red Lion Square. The chair was occupied by Bro. Baron de Ferrieres, W.M., who was supported by Bros. Loveland Loveland, as S.W.; W. G. Lemon, J.W.; Thomas Cubitt, C.; Geo. Powell, Treas.; T. C. Walls, as Sec.; and various other members of the Order of St. Lawrence. Bro. Poore was elected a joining member. The treasurer's accounts were produced and approved. Bro. Sweeney was appointed auditor, and after transacting the business of the Council the brethren adjourned to refreshment at the Holborn Restaurant.

THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.—The Quarterly General Court of the subscribers to this institution was held on Friday, the 26th ult., at Freemasons' Hall, V.W. Bro. Richard Eve, P.G.Treas., presiding. The provisional committee appointed in June last to manage, temporarily, the institution made a further report, in which they stated that since their last report Miss Harcome, matron of the Royal Asylum of St. Ann's Society, had been appointed matron of the institution; and that they had appointed Dr. J. J. Lough medical officer to the school for two months, during which time advertisements inviting applications for the more permanent appointment would be published. The committee had conferred with Bro. Binckes, the secretary, in regard to the terms of his retirement, but the matter was still under consideration. Bro. Beevir proposed that the report of the provisional committee should be received, that its recommendations should be sanctioned and confirmed, and that the Quarterly Court should authorise them to carry the same into effect. After some discussion the resolution was carried by a large majority.

CONSECRATION OF "THE SCOTS LODGE,"
No. 2,319.

This newly-founded lodge was consecrated on Saturday last, at the Scottish Corporation Hall, Crane Court, Fleet Street, by the V.W. Bro. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, Grand Secretary of England, who was assisted by Bros. Sir John Monckton, P.G.W. as S.W.; Thomas Fenn, P.B.G.P., as J.W.; the Rev. G. W. Weldon, P.G. Chap., as Chap.; and Frank Richardson, P.G.D., as D.C. Amongst the large assembly present were Bros. Sir Henry Morland, Grand Master of All India (Scottish Constitution), Mullet, P.G.D.; Sir Lionel Darell, Bart.; W. B. Fenwick, Grand Registrar of Queensland; Tilden, from America; R. Berridge, P.M.; C. O. Driver, P.M.; Shoppee, P.M.; Levick, P.M.; E. C. Mulvey, P.M.; R. H. Dillon, P.M.; Col. T. Tully, W.M., 1,718; Capt. C. Probyn, P.M., 18; J. R. Stacey, P.M., 1,541; W. W. Snelling, P.M., 1,541; J. Edmeston, P.M.; P. H. Jones, P.M.; D. Forbes, P.M.; A. A. Pendlebury, A.G.S.; Pozatti, 756; Gilbert Marsh, 1,185; E. Massey, P.M., &c. Amongst the founders were Bros. the Earl of Euston, Prov. Grand Master Norths and Hunts., W.M. designate of the new lodge; Vero Shaw, S.W. designate; John Whitehead, P.M., 1425, J.W. designate; George Shaw, P.M. 59, treas.; George Henderson, sec. designate; John Page, W.M. 753, S.D. designate; Thomas Grant, J.D. designate; Charles F. Matier, P.G. Standard Bearer, who was appointed D.C., and James Thomson, steward. Amongst the other founders of the lodge who were at the ceremony were Bros. D. F. Gellion, P.M. 1425, D. Charteris, J. Plenderleith, and Roderick Mitchell, but unfortunately Sir Michael R. Shaw Stewart, Bart., Past Grand Master of Scotland, Bro. George Edward, and Bro. H. Campbell-Beaver, I.G. designate, were prevented from taking part in the proceedings. The lodge having been duly consecrated, and the Earl of Euston having been installed as W.M., Bros. Colonel Shadwell H. Clerke, Sir John Monckton, Thos. Fenn, the Rev. G. W. Weldon, Frank Richardson, R. Berridge, Capt. Sir Henry Morland, and D. Murray Lyon, Grand Secretary of Scotland, were elected honorary members of the Scots Lodge. The W.M., on behalf of the Founders, presented a Founders' jewel in 18-carat gold to the Grand Secretary as a memento of the ceremony, and the Secretary, Bro. George Henderson, having read a letter of apology from the Grand Secretary of Scotland, who was prevented at the very last moment by his masonic duties from attending, the lodge was closed in due form. A most *recherché* banquet, accompanied by the music of the pipes, was served in the lower hall, the menu including a variety of Scotch courses, such as the traditional cock-a-leekie, hotch potch, sheepheads, and haggis. The usual patriotic toasts having been drunk with enthusiasm, the Grand Secretary of England, in proposing "The Health of the Earl of Euston," took the opportunity of congratulating him upon the brilliant prospect that lay before the Scots Lodge, and most heartily drank his health as its Worshipful Master. —Sir Henry Morland, in replying for the Grand Lodge of Scotland, expressed his profound conviction that a great future lay before the lodge, which has for its main object the drawing closer of the bonds that bind English and Scottish Masons together, and Colonel Clerke having responded for the Consecrating Officers, and the S.W., V. Bro. Shaw, for the officers, a most enjoyable and instructive evening was brought to a termination. In fact it may safely be prophesied that a great future lies before the Scots Lodge, which, it may be observed, is the only central lodge in London that can boast of having its own premises, kitchen and cellar of wine. It may, however, be added that the *cuisine* on Saturday was in the hands of Messrs. Hill and Son, of Bishopsgate Street, as the large number of guests necessitated special arrangements being made for the occasion; whilst the music was superintended by Bro. E. Bryant, of Messrs. Novello's, with the happiest results. It should likewise be stated that Bro. Charles Thomas, Provincial Grand Tyler of Herts, was elected Tyler of the Scots Lodge.

Answers to Correspondents.

The following, amongst other communications, are in type, but must stand over for next number:—Review: "Constitutiones Artis Generis Secundum Enclydem." Questions and Answers:—M.M.M. and R.A.; J.G.R., W.M., 697, "A Masonic Glee."

UNITED MILITARY LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.—The usual weekly meeting was held on Monday, 29th ult., at the Earl of Chatham, Woolwich. Present—Bros. Wheeler, W.M.; Bilton, S.W.; Sayle, J.W.; Sinnette, S.D.; Carr, J.D.; Benstead, I.G., and Charlie Woods. The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Woods candidate, after which the lodge adjourned till Monday, 12th inst.

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.
(THIS DAY) (1st) THURSDAY, AUGUST 1st.		
1790	Old England	M. H., New Thornton IIth, nr. Croydon
(1st) FRIDAY, AUGUST 2nd.—Nil.		
(1st) SATURDAY, AUGUST 3rd.—Nil.		
(1st) MONDAY, AUGUST 5th.		
Bank Holiday.		

No. of Lodge.	NAME OF LODGE AND CHAPTER.	PLACE OF MEETING.
(1st) TUESDAY, AUGUST 6th.		
COLONIAL BOARD, AT 4.		
171	Amity	Ship Hot., Greenwich
(1st) WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7th.		
GRAND CHAPTER, AT 6.		
(2nd) THURSDAY, AUGUST 8th.		
1073	Copper	Goldhall Tav., Gresham Street

MARRIAGES.

Mr. Thomas Sangster, C.C., M.P.C.F.S., &c., of Hayford House, Kennington, whose name is well known to a large number of our readers in connection with "Ye Antiente Fraternite of ye Rahere Almoners," was married on the 27th inst. at St. Mary's Church, Lewisham, to Mrs. Rosa Riches, sister of Bro. George Skudder, P.M. of the Temperance Lodge, No. 169, and of Arundel House, Belmont Park, Lee. There was a large attendance of relatives and friends of the contracting parties present at the ceremony and subsequent breakfast and garden party which was given at Bro. Skudder's residence. Amongst other members of the Craft present with their respective wives, and in some instances daughters, were Bros. John Lobb, C.C.; J. Greenaway, C.C.; James Stevens, P.M.; Harper, J. Eidmans, &c. A heavy downpour of rain somewhat marred the *al fresco* portion of the day's enjoyment, but in every other respect the newly wedded pair and their numerous guests had reason to be satisfied with all the arrangements made by Bro. Skudder for "communicating happiness."

Bro. Charles A. Itter, J.W., of the Cyclist Lodge, No. 2246, also well-known in swimming circles, was married on Thursday, the 25th ult. to Miss Horton, second daughter of Mr. T. G. Horton, of St. Paul's Lodge, Camden New Town, in St. Thomas' Church, Wrotham Road, N.W., before a large gathering of friends of the two families, several brethren being also present. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the wedding party adjourned to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Horton for breakfast, and later in the afternoon the newly-wedded pair left for Lowestoft on their honeymoon.

"WHITE FOR—BLACK AGAINST."

IN a recent issue we made mention of a paper on Voting in Lodges, bearing the above attractive title, prepared by W. Bro. E. B. Greatbatch, P.M. 418, P.P.G. Supt. Wks., Staffordshire, and read by him before the brethren of the Menturia Lodge, No. 416, at Freemasons' Hall, Hanley, on the 14th May, 1889, the W.M., Bro. H. Windle, in the chair. By the kind permission of Bro. Greatbatch, we purpose to re-produce this very interesting and valuable address in parts as may be convenient, and of which the following is the first:—

There is an old saying that "Familiarity breeds contempt," and possibly the frequent recurrence of the duty and privilege of Voting in Lodge may have caused us sometimes to cease to remember how much hangs upon what we are then about to do. The constitutions of our Craft lay it down as a law that every candidate shall be submitted to the acceptance or rejection of the Brethren through the medium of the ballot, or more strictly speaking, "Secret Voting," by means of two balls, one white and one black, and our traditional style is to proclaim "White for, Black against." The constitutions further set forth that in every case of three black balls being deposited the candidate shall be rejected, but it is left to each individual Lodge to decide, when framing its bye-laws, whether or not less than three black balls shall establish the negative. Up to now, in the "Menturia," two black balls have been held to be sufficient, but I believe some Lodges go a step further and accept one black ball as decisive. This method of Voting was no doubt adopted in order to secure absolute freedom of action on the part of every brother present, so that each might silently record his vote without necessarily indicating how he voted, and moreover, to prevent any brother being prejudiced by having voted in any particular direction—by this means every man is left to his own course and to his own conscience—the power is absolute and unrestrained, though the effect is great and far reaching.

At the outset, brethren, before we consider the effect of our votes, I think we may study the initial factor, and reasonably submit ourselves—as Voters—to some consideration and thought, because I fear that we do not always remember, whilst we are availing ourselves of the privilege of Voting, that we are performing a *Masonic duty*—a duty to the Craft in general. Whenever a deacon puts in our hands a black and white ball, they are entrusted to us as *Freemasons*, that is, as "Just and upright men, of sound judgment, mature age and strict morals," and it is then our bounden duty to vote strictly upon Masonic lines, viz., "By acting towards our neighbour on the square, and doing unto him as in similar cases we would wish him to do to us." This power to vote is not accorded to us to be flippantly, lightly, or maliciously used, but calmly, thoughtfully, honestly and honourably. As members of the great body of Masonry, it calls upon us to decide whether or not—in the case of a proposed initiate, he is a fit and desirable person to become a member of the Craft—as members of an individual Lodge it calls upon us to decide whether or not he will probably strengthen our Lodge and become an advantage to her generally. The Craft calls upon us, as far as we are able, to restrict her secrets to "Worthy men, and to worthy men alone."—our Lodge calls upon us to protect her harmony, welfare and prosperity, and to guard her portals against improper admissions, but at the same time we must remember that we owe a further duty to the Craft and our Lodge. Whilst it behoves each and all of us to keep improper persons outside the Craft, it is also incumbent upon us not to close the door against any suitable candidate—if we believe Masonry to be good, then we ought to do all we can to extend its borders, on safe and good lines, and gladly to admit to its ranks every person of whom we have reason to believe that "He will ultimately reflect honour on our choice." As just and upright men we are bound to exercise our vote fairly and squarely. It is quite true that the black ball is put into our hands to be used, if circumstances demand it, but it is not to be used for private pique, or without calm deliberation. Each and all of us ought to remember that it is an extremely serious matter to black ball a candidate, and consequently we ought to weigh it over well with ourselves before we proceed to that extreme step—it is our plain duty to black ball an unsuitable Candidate *if he is forced upon us*, but I think it would be well for

us to reserve the black ball as a final issue. Certainly, we ought never to use it of malice aforethought, or without carefully remembering that the result of the vote may affect very many besides ourselves; and whilst we are bidden to remember "That peculiar moment when we were admitted into Masonry, poor and penniless," we might also with advantage think, as we vote, of the time when our name was submitted to a similar ordeal. The vote is ours by right, and the power to use or abuse it rests with us, but when we have put the ball in the box our power over it has ceased. Not so the result—that may make its mark in a manner totally beyond our ken or desire, and on it may possibly depend the prosperity or misfortune of our Lodge, and whether or not in time to come the genuine tenets and principles of our Order shall be transmitted pure and unsullied through the medium of our lodge.

(To be continued.)

HOTELS

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To the Governors and Subscribers of the

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS,
WOOD GREEN, LONDON, N.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Doctor Hall having resigned the post of Medical Officer to the above Institution, I crave your suffrages for appointment to the vacancy caused thereby.

Within the course of a few days I hope to place in your hands, by means of testimonials, proofs of my abilities.

To those whom it may interest, I may state that I am a member of the Craft. I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Lordship Lane, Wood Green, R. F. TOMLIN, M.R.C.S.E., &c.
July 31st, 1889.

JUST PUBLISHED.—M.S. BIBL. REG. 17A., or REGIUS M.S.
This celebrated poem, the oldest document of the Craft (late 14th century), reproduced in fac-simile with a glossary, introduction and transcript, by Bro. H. J. Whymper, C.I.E., Past. Dep. Dis. G.M., Punjab, author of "The Religion of Freemasonry," bound in exact imitation of the original in the British Museum, and deemed by all authorities to be a most beautiful work of art. Price 12s. 6d., or in sheets, unbound, 7s. 6d. Spencer & Co., 15, Great Queen Street, W.C.

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