

THE MASONIC STAR

A Weekly Journal and
At Home



Record of Freemasonry
and Abroad.

VOL. III.—No. 1.]

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The Fifth Point of Fellowship.



THE Third Volume of the MASONIC STAR is commenced, as the Second Volume was concluded, with a diminution of reading matter which may probably occasion some disappointment to many of our readers, but for which there are abundant reasons. Amongst these is the prominent fact that during the height of the Masonic vacation, August and September, when Lodges and Craftsmen generally "cease from labour and go to refreshment," there is a dearth of events in which the Craft generally can or will take interest. It is better, therefore, for the journalist to merely record with brevity such items of masonic information as may suffice to keep his paper before his subscribers during a recess, and strengthen his potentiality for more energetic and vigorous work when labour shall re-commence.

But a much more important reason is, at this juncture, the necessity for reducing the first cost of our paper until we can secure a much stronger support than has, as yet, been afforded us. Frankly, we consider it advisable to appeal to the brethren generally to do more than they have hitherto done if they desire to see the MASONIC STAR a larger and more useful weekly magazine than we now present to them. A *succès d'estime* is all very well in its way, but a *succès d'argent* is far more profitable, and is, as times go, a necessary, as well as a somewhat stronger incentive to improvement, as a "reward which sweetens labour." The Craft should certainly not expect to have the benefit of a cheap periodical devoted to its interests on any other basis than that which ordinarily affects commercial undertakings. "'Tis for money, 'tis for money!" is now the refrain of the universal song; and the MASONIC STAR must be made to pay, or it must cease to shine. It should become a very important organ of the Craft if it is but fairly well supported; and it will be for the members of the Masonic Order themselves to decide as to its continued existence or more or less early dissolution.

We have now the past year's experience to guide us, and from that we learn the necessity of seeking greater encouragement from the brethren than we have yet received, if we would attain to the position we aim at, and they would have the benefits we could give in return for their favours. To jog along as at present is no difficulty, considering the support already accorded, and for which we are grateful; but that is not, nor should it be, enough for us or them. We are integral parts of a progressive whole, and in this age of progress should be content with nothing short of the utmost perfection attainable. In so large a body as that of Freemasons should there be difficulty in that respect? Surely not! Is it too much to ask that each Lodge in England should afford us even the unit of support which is comprised in a *Lodge* subscription? We cannot think it! But whatever may be the case in regard to brethren generally dispersed, we have but very few Lodges, *as Lodges*, on our subscribers' lists as yet.

We had contemplated the enlargement of our paper on the commencement of this Volume, with a view to afford more lengthy reports of some of our principal Lodge meetings in London and the Provinces during the approaching session, and devoting space to other interesting matters of Masonic importance and even of amusement; and the formation of a Company with that object appeared to some of our friends as the most likely method for that purpose. But whether or not we have put forward the project at an unfortunate season of the year, or there are other causes of which we are not cognisant, it does not seem to meet with sufficient support to justify a continuance of the effort at present. The few brethren who made application for shares have therefore had their deposits returned, and for awhile the matter will remain in abeyance; probably to be revived at an early opportunity, with a modification of the original proposals. It may be thought that our friends, the promoters, were wrong in their judgment as to the probable successful outcome of Company association; but if we take account of results which have attended similar undertakings in other parts their anticipations were certainly justified, although for the present they have been disappointed. In another column will be found interesting particulars relating to such an association in connection with one of our Colonial contemporaries. We submit the same for consideration of all our home brethren who can take an interest in Masonic journalism; and we have yet hopes that they in turn may share with us in a similar manner whatever profits may arise from future endeavours to improve the MASONIC STAR, as a useful organ for the spread of Masonic information and a commercial success.

We want more subscribers, and to induce an increase of

our present list we will reduce the annual subscription to Six shillings payable in advance, and address and post direct to each subscriber without further charge.

And now it may be asked, what has all this to do with the title heading of the present article? Only this: we have endeavoured to shew that a necessity exists for the further support of our undertaking, and such support can be rendered only by those who are connected with us in the bond of Masonic brotherhood. As a class publication, and thereby debarred from catering for a general public, it is to members of that class alone that we can submit our requirements. It will be for them to determine the ultimate success or failure of the journal. For ourselves we can but say that our endeavours have been earnestly and sincerely devoted to what we believe is in the interests of Freemasonry, and we respectfully, on behalf of the MASONIC STAR, claim the privilege which is accorded to every Master Mason—a practical illustration of *the fifth point of fellowship*.

MASONIC ORATIONS.

"*Masonic Orations*," by Bro. L. P. Metham, P.G.D. (England) P.D. Pro. G.M. Devon. &c., delivered in Devon and Cornwall, from A.D. 1866, at the Dedication of Masonic Halls, Consecration of Lodges and Chapters, Installations, &c. With an introduction by Bro. Wm. James Hughan, P.G.D. (England), &c., on Freemasonry in Devon and Cornwall. Edited by Bro. John Chapman, P.M. 1402, &c. London: George Kenning, 10, Great Queen Street, W.C.

It was a happy thought of the editor of this handsomely printed volume to gather together, in the life-time of the Orator, and to publish the Orations which, during a period of fifteen years, Bro. L. P. Metham, M.R.C.S., was accustomed to deliver to his brethren in the provinces of Devon and Cornwall on occasions of important public events, such as Grand Lodge meetings, the Consecration of Lodges and Chapters, and the Installation of the Grand Masters. These orations, which were heard with great pleasure by many of the older Masons of the two western provinces, were published at the time of their delivery in some of the papers, but hitherto they have remained uncollected, and were, of course, not available to the Masons generally. As each of the speeches, which were prepared by their author with great care, contains an embodiment of the high and lofty principles of Freemasonry, the whole of them may be read with interest and with profit, not only by those who are either old or young in Masonic life, but by the uninformed in the mysteries of the Order. Since the last of these orations was delivered by Bro. Metham, on the Installation of the R.W. Viscount Ebrington, its Grand Superintendent of Devon, on June 4th, 1881, we are not aware that any brother has taken the place which was so worthily filled by him from the date of the Consecration of H.R.A. Chapter "Harmony," in Plymouth, in February, 1866, down to the time that he, on account of increase of years, gave up the position which he so admirably filled. For fifteen years he should be regarded as the Public Orator of the two western provinces, and Masonic literature will be benefited, as will be intelligent brethren everywhere, by the collocation of this treasury of well-defined Masonic principles.

In the preface Bro. Chapman says "The wise counsel—the faithful caution—that marked the unstinted admonitions of the able orator, indicated how much he loved our fraternity: for while he dilated in glowing terms upon the distinctive basis of our society, he failed not to point out the dangers and difficulties attending those unmasonic elements that sometimes force their unhappy way into our institution." Having remarked upon the leaps and bounds of late years that have taken place in the increase of the Order, the Editor says it is most essential that the Rulers in the Craft should guard more closely the sacred precincts of the Masonic Temple from the approach of the unworthy and profane.

The Editor has had the great advantage of being able to associate with himself Bro. Hughan, who is the Masonic Historian of the West, standing probably second to none in England for the attention that he has given to the great historic past of the Masonic world, to whose study he has devoted a large portion of his life. He commences his account of Freemasonry in Devon and Cornwall with a few words on the Masonic career of the Orator, prior to a short history of the fraternity of the two counties. It appears that Bro. Metham was initiated in Lodge Sincerity, No. 189, East Stonehouse, on March 21st, 1844, and from thence he proceeded through various degrees till in 1867 the Earl of Zetland invested him as Junior Grand Deacon of England, "in commemoration of which the brethren of the Three Towns presented our brother with a full dress suit of Grand Lodge clothing." The further career of Bro. Metham is briefly stated, and his great work of honorary secretary of the Royal British Female Orphan Asylum, which has lately been so fully set forth in these columns, is ably condensed. The fraternal feelings and the high regard in which his brother Masons held his work is shown in their generous contributions towards the Asylum, amounting to nearly £1,800, while he has been equally regardful of the claims of the orphans of those who have died in the country's service by obtaining the election of thirty-five orphans into the Asylum. Bro. Hughan then gives details of the earliest of the Lodges of the two counties, the premier Lodge being formed in Exeter in the year 1732. We must leave the reader who is interested to consult the work itself for an account of the progress of the brotherhood in both counties. In 1866 the late beloved Rev. John Hayshe was appointed Provincial

Grand Master of Devon. The Freemasons of the province subscribed for and presented him with a beautiful and costly gold chain, as an heirloom to the province, to descend from each retiring Prov. Grand Master to his successor. They also subscribed 500 guineas, at another period, to purchase the "Hayshe Presentation Fund" in the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. The gold chain is now worn by Lord Ebrington, who has, in the kindest manner, effected an insurance on his own life, so that the privilege of presentation to the Boys' School may be continued by his lordship's successor. We are obliged to be brief in our summary of these events; but what an amount of generous doing we have thus briefly chronicled! The Masons have certainly lived very much up to the great standards that they have set up, for their works are seen in many other benevolences to which we have not even alluded. We pass on to say there are lists of the Lodges and Chapters in the two counties and twenty-five orations. The book closes with a list of subscribers. The price of the work is five shillings, and whatever profit may accrue from its publication will be given to the Royal British Female Orphan Asylum, of which the distinguished Orator still remains the zealous honorary secretary. —*Western Daily Mercury*.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FREEMASON NEWSPAPER COMPANY, LIMITED.

The *South Australian Freemason* is an eight page sixpenny monthly journal, published at Adelaide, South Australia. In its July number it addresses the members of the fraternity in that province, in reference to the company which undertakes its publication, in language so well expressed and so entirely applicable to our own venture, that we are impelled to quote from its pages such portions of its allocution as are pertinent to the present position of the MASONIC STAR. The *South Australian Freemason* Newspaper Company held its third general meeting on the 18th June last, when the directors presented the following report:—

"Your directors herewith present their third report and balance-sheet for the half-year ending May 31st, 1889. At that date there was a credit balance of £148 8s. 11d., and so far as can be calculated after deducting a certain amount for printing expenses, commission for collecting, and making a small allowance for bad debts, there will probably remain, at the end of its second year of issue, a balance of £78. During the half-year thirty-two new subscribers have been added to the list, which now numbers 268—a very small proportion out of the 2,000 odd affiliated Masons in the colony. Less space is now devoted to advertisements to the gain of the reading matter, but there is still a wish on the part of your directors to enlarge the scope of the organ in this direction if proper inducement is offered. The *South Australian Freemason* continues to maintain its reputation as a high-class literary representative of the Craft in this colony, and has been very favourably reviewed by many of its contemporaries in various parts of the world."

Commenting on this report and the published balance sheet, which shows a dividend to the shareholders of twenty per cent., the *South Australian Freemason* says it marks a further stage in the history of the undertaking, ventured upon by a few brethren who volunteered their services in initiating and carrying on the required effort, and whilst recording this further stage it feels urged to bring before the subscribers and shareholders the need of making an increased and decisive effort to extend the circulation of the paper, to the end that funds may be provided thereby for its enlargement and improvement. Success so far has been achieved by the aid of the generous support of a minority of the Craft; it has made headway by the abnormally low ratio of cost and price, and the confidence and support already accorded is gratefully recognised. But it is by no means satisfied that it has reached the summit of its possibilities, and summarises its wishes as follows:—

"Firstly.—We want our circulation to be at once trebled.

"Secondly.—We want our subscribers to take a more active interest in the paper, by contributing items of news, original articles, and communications of interest.

"Thirdly.—We want our subscribers to relieve us of both the expense and work usually necessary for the collection of subscriptions, by remitting the small annual sum needed promptly, and without forcing us to make repeated applications therefor.

"All these requirements can easily be satisfied if the brethren will but give us the benefit of a little attention. If each present subscriber will make it a serious duty to get us two subscribers more, and see that the necessary remittances are forwarded at the same time, the end will be achieved. Once we reach that stage we may then hope to witness the realization of our wishes, namely, to increase the size and scope of our paper, and thus make it more worthy of the proud position held by Freemasonry in South Australia."

Can any words of ours add force to the foregoing arguments and requests? The circumstances under which they are made are so closely akin to those associated with our own journal, that we adopt them at once as an appeal to the English Craft on our own account, and trust that they will have sufficient weight with the large majority of intelligent brethren to secure for us that increased support which will be necessary to maintain the MASONIC STAR as the cheapest medium in England for obtaining general information in relation to current Masonic events.

Within the past few days enquiry has been made of us in reference to the late resignation of Bro. Binckes from the secretaryship of the Mark Degree which enquiry suggests that intrigue has had more to do with the retirement than "free will and accord." Our querist is amongst the dignitaries of the Craft, and the question itself affords food for reflection.

The Masonic Star.



THURSDAY,

AUGUST 22, 1889.

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

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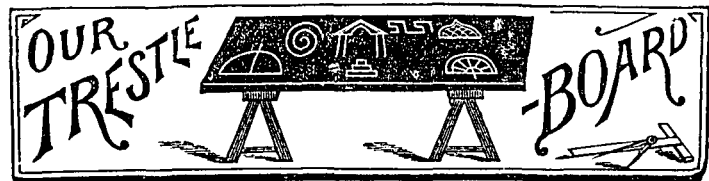
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"For the Master to lay lines and draw designs upon."

In order to prevent any misunderstanding amongst the brethren concerned in the approaching election of a Secretary to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys we call their attention to the following law on the subject. It is No. 71 of the code and provides that "the election and removal of the Secretary shall be vested in the General Committee; the voting to be by balloting papers duly forwarded to each qualified member not less than fourteen days before the election; such balloting papers must be signed by the party entitled thereto, and may be presented by a member of the General Committee, on his or her behalf, at the time of the election."

* * * * *

We hear that our Grand Treasurer V.W. Bro. Edward Terry is about to discourse before the forthcoming Church Congress, the subject of his address being the "Amusements of the People." In reference to this rumour *The Daily Telegraph* remarks—"We may frankly say that, even if the report, to which wide circulation has been given, turns out to be an unfounded one, we should not regard the possible hoax as being of an altogether silly nature, but should the rather choose to look upon it as a story of the class aptly described as "ben trovato," if not exactly "vero." It is precisely because Mr. Edward Terry knows a great deal about popular amusements, and because the members of the Church Congress and similar bodies have a great deal to learn on the topic in question, that an exhaustive and well-reasoned discourse from the genial comedian named might be of considerable moral and social value. . . . Now Mr. Edward Terry knows his subject thoroughly; whereas a majority of his hearers are, in all probability, in the dark concerning the things on which he might propose to discourse, and should it even happen that a proportion of the members of the Church Congress are conversant with theatrical matters, their familiarity with things pertaining to the drama and the stage would be additionally valuable, since it would afford a means of checking the speaker's statements, and testing the validity of his arguments.

* * * * *

At a trial in the Crown Court at Birmingham last week, before Mr. Justice Hawkins, and in which the defendant, a member of a Derbyshire Lodge, was honourably acquitted from a scandalously outrageous charge, an important part of the evidence in his favour rested upon proof of his whereabouts on a certain evening. He was not only able to prove his attendance at his Lodge, but also the introduction of another brother as a visitor. But the colloquy which accompanied the proof surprises us. In answer to the Judge the defendant is reported to have said "Strangers who were Freemasons were admitted for the evening without introduction on going through their examination as Masons," and further that "in the case of any visitor entered in the Masonic Lodge book no name of any introducer is given." It is possible that the reporter is not a member of the Craft, and has got "mixed" over the questions and answers, for surely such laxity is not in accordance with the customary exercise of those who have been "taught to be cautious" in respect of admission to our Lodges, and none should be misled by the foregoing statement.

Of course there was on this occasion, as on most others when Freemasonry crops up in Court, the inevitable chaff. Says the prosecuting Counsel (Q.C. and M.P.) "Suppose I said I were a P.P.G.M.W., would they admit me?" (laughter); to which replies the defendant's Counsel (Q.C. only) "Oh, but you are only an M.P." (loud laughter). Clever, perhaps, but somewhat foggy!—Can any member of our Order tell us what P.P.G.M.W. is meant to represent? We have had a pretty considerable acquaintance with the magical "caps," but this riddle we unhesitatingly give up.

"The Masonic Poet's Corner."

(Original and Selected.)

MY MOTHER LODGE.

BY BRO. JOHN FAWCETT SKELTON, P.M. 146 (Bolton), P.Z.

Tune—"Ye Banks and Braes." (Scotch.)

MY Mother Lodge! a hymn of praise
And gratitude I'll sing to thee;
For in thine arms I first was raised
To life Masonic, full and free.
The cowl-crowd outside the doors—
Thy doors so closely prov'd and ty'd—
Know not of joy the secret stores
Thou hast for ev'ry faithful child.
Chorus—My Mother Lodge! My Mother Lodge!

May all within thy walls be blest—
Thy labours all in love abound;
May ev'ry son thou dost invest,
One true Freemason more be found.
My Mother Lodge inspires my muse,
To sing with filial love unfeign'd;
Nor would I her sweet favour lose
For all that monarchs ever gain'd.
Chorus—My Mother Lodge! My Mother Lodge!

There first I learn'd our sacred signs,
And how to "act upon the square;"
And saw throughout our grand designs,
The hidden truths of Nature fair.
Can happiness on Earth be found,
Or blissful harmony like thine!
Thou art a bit of holy ground,
And thy good spirit shall be mine.
Chorus—My Mother Lodge! My Mother Lodge!

Written for THE MASONIC STAR.

We Notify that:—

—The Panmure Lodge, No. 720, Bro. Lewis Jones, M.D., W.M., will hold an Emergency meeting at the Balham Hotel, Balham, S.W., on Tuesday next, the 27th inst., at 6 p.m., for work in each of the three degrees. A supper will be served after labour.

—The Pythagorean Chapter of Instruction, No. 79, now meets at the Dover Castle, Broadway, Deptford, every second and fourth Thursdays, at 8 p.m. throughout the year. Up to a recent date it met at Greenwich on Fridays and the change of dates and place of meeting is for the better. Royal Arch Masons in the S.E. district should avail themselves of the excellent instruction its members can afford them.

—The Provincial Grand Lodge of Cheshire is to be held at Hyde, on the 18th September. The R.W. Bro. Egerton, of Tatton, Provincial Grand Master, is expected to be present. There will be the usual investiture of Officers for the ensuing year. A motion for a grant of Fifty Guineas to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys will be made and considered.

—The foundation stone of the new Church of St. John, at Barmouth, which will cost £15,000, is to be laid by Princess Beatrice, on Tuesday, the 27th inst., and the ceremony will be conducted with full Masonic honours. Prince Henry of Battenberg it is expected will accompany Her Royal Highness, and the Royal party will be received at the station by Lady Londonderry, Lord and Lady Harlech, the High Sheriff of Merionethshire (Mr. Wood), the Bishop of the Diocese, the Bishop of London (who is staying at Dolgelly), and the clergy and leading laity of Barmouth and district. A guard of honour will be formed by the Carnarvon Naval Artillery Volunteers. Lord Harlech (Provincial Grand Master of North Wales), with many of the brethren, will be present at the ceremony. (See page 6.)

The "Paper on Voting 'White for—Black against'" which, by permission of Bro. Greatbatch, of Hanley, Staffordshire, we have reproduced in our latest issues, has attracted considerable attention. We have several letters enquiring if it is printed in a separate form. It is,—by the New Press Printing Company, Foundry Street, Hanley. We have no particulars as to price, or indeed whether or not it has been printed for private circulation only, but doubtless all information can be obtained from the printers.

UNITED MILITARY LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.—On Monday, 19th inst., at the Earl of Chatham, Woolwich. Among those present were Bros. Gooding, P.M., Preceptor, W.M.; Bilton, S.W.; Sayle, J.W.; Sinnett, S.D.; Lackland, I.G.; Godden, Abrehart, and Woods. The lodge having been opened in the first and second degrees, Bro. Godden answered the usual questions and was entrusted. The lodge was opened in the third degree. The ceremony of raising was rehearsed with great care and exactness, Bro. Godden personating candidate.

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight was held at the Guildhall, Andover, on the 13th inst., R.W. Bro. W. W. B. Beach, Prov. G.M., presiding. There was a numerous attendance of brethren, who subsequently dined together at the Foresters' Hall.

Lord Skelmersdale, the eldest son of the R.W. Deputy Grand Master, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Lathom, was married at Britford Church, near Salisbury, on the 15th inst., to Lady Wilma Pleydell Bouverie, daughter of Lord and Lady Radnor. Among the bridal presents were handsome gifts from the M.W. Grand Master, the Princess of Wales, the Duchess of Fife, and the Princesses Victoria and Maud of Wales.

The *Western Mercury* ably reviews the "Masonic Poem" of A.D. 1390, which under the title of "The Halliwell MS." we noticed in our impression of the 8th inst., and concludes its criticism thus:—"We use only measured language when we say, that this volume should be in the library of every Freemason who has any desire for culture. It is handsome, it is curious, it is valuable—to our mind one of the most valuable monographs ever issued on Freemasonry."

As a memorial of the late Canon Portal, Past Grand Chaplain, Craft, Past Grand Master of the Mark Master Masons of England and the Colonies and the Dependencies of the British Crown, and for many years rector of Burghclere, the M.W. Pro-Grand Master the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, himself a Past Grand Master in the Mark Degree, has presented a site for the erection of a reading and coffee room at Burghclere, near Newbury, towards the construction of which liberal subscriptions have already been made.

Bro. R. F. Tomlin, a candidate for appointment as medical officer to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, is a West of England man, hailing from Devonport, where his family have been for many years well-known. He was an articled pupil of Mr. Joseph May, a celebrated practitioner in that town, whose testimonial in his behalf heads a very creditable list of similar recommendations. The *Western Mercury* remarks that amongst the qualifications Bro. Tomlin puts forth is one that should not be overlooked—"that he resides close to the institution," whilst as regards testimonials those he submits speak highly of his ability as a surgeon and general practitioner. . . . His friends in the West will be glad to hear of his being successful in his application.

COLONIAL ITEMS.

From Brisbane we learn that Lord Carrington was installed for the second time as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, at Sydney on the 24th June last. Upwards of 300 Freemasons were present. Bro. C. F. Stokes was installed Deputy Grand Master.

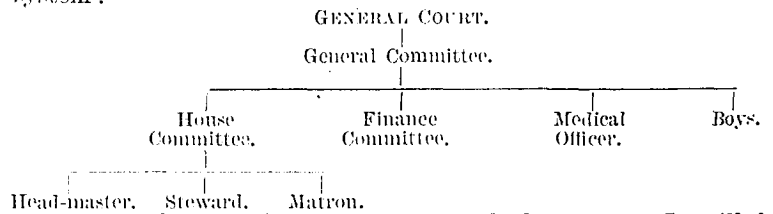
At Bathurst, New South Wales, Lord Carrington, on the 9th July, laid a memorial stone, from the celebrated Cow Flat, amidst general rejoicing, and with full Masonic ceremony, of a new Masonic Hall in Keppell Street, one of the main thoroughfares of that city. The building is estimated to cost at least £4000, and when finished will be second to none in the colony. In celebration of the event a public holiday was proclaimed and general festivities added greatly to the importance of the occasion.

From Chicago, under date of 30th July, we learn that an action has been commenced in the District court at Marion that will startle Masonic circles more than anything else perhaps of late years. Judge Preston, of the Eighteenth Judicial district, on the petition of C. E. Barnes, of Burlington, J. C. Graves and Henry Bennet, plaintiffs, and grand officers of the Iowa consistory of that branch of Scottish Rite Masonry commonly known as the Cerneau, ordered a temporary injunction against the Grand Lodge of Iowa Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, restraining them from putting into effect the legislation of the last session of the grand lodge, referring to the Cerneau bodies, and which commanded Master Masons to leave the consistory of Iowa of that rite, under punishment of expulsion. The petition states that as the body represented by the plaintiffs does not confer the blue lodge degrees and the Grand lodge or its subordinate lodges do not confer the twenty-nine higher degrees, the Grand lodge has no jurisdiction whatever, and its action is illegal, arbitrary, oppressive, proscriptive of their individual consciences and Masonic relations and hurtful to their standing as good and reputable citizens. This is the first time a masonic body has appealed to the State courts and the action of the Supreme court to which it will finally go will be a precedent for other States. The time for hearing the argument for a perpetual injunction will be in the October term of Court at Marion.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

From an article in *School* for this month on Reform of the Masonic Boys' School, we extract the following:—"That the work of reform will not be accomplished until the governing body is constituted on a more satisfactory basis is proved by the following facts:—The whole body of subscribers to the charity is convened once quarterly as the *General Court*. We need hardly say that very few subscribers would be likely to appear except such as had 'an axe to grind' in the matter, either from good or from dubious motives. The *General Court* elects the *General Committee*, which meets monthly, and appoints the medical officer, the *House Committee* and the *Finance Committee*. It also elects the boys on the foundation. The *House Committee* meets at the School once a month; it elects the head-master, the steward, and the matron, and has the management of the School. The *Finance Committee* meets quarterly, and we will speak of its work hereafter. A table

will best illustrate the hierarchical order of this extraordinary system:—



"Now could anything be more absurd than this? It will be observed that while the medical officer is elected by the General Committee, the highest body actually concerned in the management of the School, the head-master, who is by far the most important of all the officials, is, like the upper servants (steward and matron), appointed by a sub-committee, the only other important function of which would appear to be that of dining monthly at the cost of the institution.

"Of the *Finance Committee* it would be gross flattery to say that it does nothing. It does much more than that. It tolerates the absence of cash books and of details of payments into the bank; when it spends £145 on refreshments, it allows this expenditure to be thrown in with some small items, and recorded as "Visit of stewards, distribution of prizes, £178"; and finally it spends on each boy two-thirds as much again as the Board of the Commercial Travellers' Schools, and twice as much as that of the Yorkshire Society's School.

"It is well that the matron and steward, who were appointed under a misunderstanding that ought not to have been allowed to exist, who assume independence of the head-master, and who absent themselves at their discretion, should go. It is a matter for more satisfaction that the secretary, who has so long lain heavy as a nightmare on the School, should go. It is even still more pleasant to learn that the distinguished head master and his able staff are not only retained, as common justice required, but will be placed in a clear and fitting position. But before the School can be worked properly it is absolutely necessary to get rid of the cumbrous and complicated system which has allowed so much evil to grow up, and to appoint a single indivisible governing body of moderate size, which shall really work and be really responsible."

Press Exchanges and Books Received.

Canadian Craftsman for August; *Sydney Freemasons' Chronicle* for July; *Latonia*; *South African Freemason*; *Society*.

As we go to press we learn that contradiction is given to our notification on page 3, in reference to the laying of the Foundation Stone of St. John's Church at Barmouth, in so far as relates to Masonic Ceremonial.—*Ed. M.S.*

FREEMASONRY.

To MEMBERS of the various LODGES in the SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT.

A MEETING of the Members of the Craft will be held at the New Cross Hall, on Friday, the 6th day of September next, at 8 o'clock in the evening, to consider the advisability of forming a Masonic Company for the purpose of erecting a Hall upon a site which has been purchased situate on Deptford Bridge, adjoining Holland & Co.'s Distillery.

All members of the Order are cordially invited to attend.

Communications on the subject kindly solicited by

N. BROKENSHIRE.

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