

THE Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

SANCTIONED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

VOL. IV.—No. 104. SATURDAY, 23rd DECEMBER 1876. [PRICE THREEPENCE.
Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

FREEMASONRY IN PERU.

WE have received certain documents, which enable us to place before our readers some very interesting particulars as to the rise and progress, as well as the present position of the Craft in the Republic of Peru. The regular Session of the Grand Lodge was held at Lima, on the 26th July, when the officers for the ensuing year were elected, Bro. Arthur M. Wholey being appointed Grand Master, Bro. Charles Elizondo Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Roman S. Perez Senior, and Bro. L. Murguia Junior Grand Warden, Bro. Marian Arias G. Treasurer, Bro. Charles Prince Grand Secretary, and Bro. Jos. Navarro Grand Orator. Among the other documents is the first instalment of a history of the Craft from its earliest appearance in the country to the year 1857. This sketch has been compiled and translated into English, from original documents, and may therefore be accepted as the authoritative record of Peruvian Freemasonry. So long, of course, as the country remained under the domination of Spain, the Fraternity had no existence in the country; but when, in 1821, the Declaration of Independence was made, free intercourse with other countries was at once opened, and Freemasonry quickly found itself extending among the inhabitants. Four years later—that is in the year 1825—when Peru had succeeded in achieving its complete independence, Bro. General Valero, a member of the Grand Orient of Columbia, visited Lima, and having full authority from that Grand Orient, proceeded at once to regulate the different Masonic bodies he found working in the new Republic, and to organise and found others under the letters patent issued to him. All his proceedings appear to have received the sanction of the Grand Orient of Columbia, so that Peru is indebted to this Grand Body for the organisation of its Masonic powers and privileges. The following were the Masonic bodies in existence in 1825 and up to the year 1830, namely, four bodies in Lima:—No. 1. *Paz y Perfectu Union*, founded in 1821; No. 2. *Orden y Libertad*, 1822; No. 3. *Vistud y Union*, 1823; and No. 4. *Constancia Peruana*, 1824; a Lodge at Cuzco, with the style and title of *Sol de Huayna Capac*, founded in 1826; one at Lembeyeque, known as the *Union Justa*; the *Constancia Heroica* at Piura, and the *Filosofia Peruana* at Ica, both of which were chartered in 1829. Other five bodies likewise existed at this time in Arequipa, Trujillo, Cajamarca, Puno, and Huamachuco, but their several names and dates of Warrant are lost. In addition were three chapters of Rose Croix, 18°, namely, the *Regeneracion Peruana* at Lima, founded in 1826, the *Benevolencia Universal* at Lambayeque, in 1827, and the *Fidelidad Peruana* at Piura, in 1829. A Supreme Council of the 33°, A. and A. Rite, was founded in Lima, on the 27th of November 1830. A consistory of the 32° was founded in the same city on the 2nd of November 1831, and the same year, at the same place, an Arcopago of the 30°. There were present at the foundation of this Supreme Council nine brethren of the 33°, and it was established as above, under the Presidency of the senior member of the degree, Ill. Bro. José Maria Monson, Roman Catholic Chaplain in the Army of Independence, and afterwards a Canon of the Cathedral in Trujillo. On its constitution, Ill. Bro. General Domingo Tristan was obligated and installed Sov. Grand Commander; Bro. Juan Elizalde, Lieut. Grand Commander; Bro. L. B. Cabillos, Grand Treasurer; Bro. José Salzar, Grand Chancellor; and Bro. D. Castaneda, Grand Secretary. Five other brethren in possession of the degree were afterwards elected members of Council, and

subsequently four others were elected to the degree, and again four incorporated as members.

When the Fraternity was thus established and duly organised, it soon became apparent that the constitution of an Independent Peruvian Grand Lodge must follow sooner or later. The distance from Bogota, the seat of the Columbian Grand Orient, was such as to make communication with it very difficult. Accordingly, on the 23rd of June 1831, the Masters and Wardens of the Symbolic Lodges, as well as Deputies Elect from the Supremo Council, the Consistory, and Rose Croix Chapter in Lima, together with representatives from the other Masonic bodies in other cities and towns, met in Lima, under the presidency of the Ill. Grand Commander Bro. Don Juan Elizalde, and constituted themselves a Grand Lodge of Freemasons for Peru, Bro. T. Ripley Eldredge being chosen Grand Master, Bros. Manuel Bosco and Dr. D. Luciano M. Cano Grand Wardens, and Bro. Pablo Romero Grand Secretary. In due time the Grand Orient of Colombia recognised this action of the Peruvian Lodges. On the 11th August following the Grand Lodge met, and commenced the task of preparing Constitutions for the Order, and also agreed to change their title from Grand Lodge to that of Grand Orient of Peru. Unfortunately no long time had elapsed after these proceedings when political disturbances broke out in the country. Men obtained the reins of Government who were opposed to progress, and who exerted themselves to the utmost to drive Masons and their Society out of the country. It was only, indeed, by closing the Lodges that the members managed to escape the violence with which they were threatened. In lieu of Lodges, secret political societies were established, but these, in turn, were extinguished, and as they died out Freemasonry again raised its head. In 1845, after a dormancy which had lasted some twelve years, several of the more enthusiastic members of the Lodge *Orden y Libertad*, and the Rose Croix Chapter, *Regeneracion Peruana*, recommenced their labours, and continued to work regularly till 1848, when, on the 1st November in that year, a general assembly of the brethren was held, and the Grand Orient reopened, by the deputies elect and the representatives of the Lodge and Chapter above mentioned. On the 30th January 1849 the Supreme Council 33° was reconstituted by the M.P. Sov. Grand Commander, Don Juan Elizalde, having been in recess from 1833. The Council obligated and installed Bro. Dr. D. Matiasaon as Sov. Grand Commander, Bro. Fr. J. Mariategui Lieut. Grand Commander, Bro. Blas José Alzamora Grand Secretary, and Bro. Ant. de Souza Perreira Grand Treasurer. In 1850 three Sov. Grand Inspectors-General were installed by the Council, one in 1851, and in the year 1852, General José Rufino Echenique, the then President of the Republic. On 13th July 1852, the Grand Orient of Peru was re-constructed, as the National Grand Orient of Peru, with Bro. Dr. D. Matias Leon as Grand Master, Bros. Mariategui and Quiros as Grand Wardens, and Bro. Miguel Saldivar as Grand Secretary. There were present at this meeting twenty-five brethren, representing various Masonic Lodges, among which must be enumerated the Lodge "*Orden y Libertad*," one of the Lima Lodges, Lodge *Estrella Polar*, also of Lima, warranted by the Supreme Council of Peru, on 28th May 1855, and Lodge *Concordia Universal* of Callao, founded by the Grand Orient of Peru, when Bro. San Roman was Grand Master. In the same year a Royal Arch Chapter was warranted, at Callao, by the Supreme Grand R.A. Chapter of Scotland, but its existence was ignored by the Supreme Council and National Grand Orient. In 1855, a Lodge *Virtud y Union*

was chartered in Lima, a Lodge bearing the same name, and formerly (in 1823) organised in the city, having apparently ceased. In November, the National Grand Orient was acknowledged by, and exchanged representatives with, the Grand Lodge of New York. In March 1856 the Grand Lodge of Hamburgh followed the example of New York, and exchanged representatives with the Peruvian Grand Orient, while, in the same year, the Supreme Council 33° for the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States, accredited a representative to the Supreme Council of Peru. On 5th May 1856, a Code of Statutes for the Order in Peru was adopted and promulgated, but they were found to be very defective, and, as they placed the government of the Society entirely in the hands of the Supreme Council, great dissatisfaction, which afterwards broke out into open rebellion, resulted among the members of the Symbolic Lodges. On 17th August 1856, Bro. Quiros was elected Grand Master of the Orient, and the same year was succeeded by Bro. Ferreira. At this time there were in all fourteen Lodges under this Government—namely, seven Lodges, of which three were at Lima, one at Callao, one at Guayaquil in Ecuador, one at Huaraz, and one at Concepcion in Chili, together with five of the 8th, 10th, 25th, 30th, and 32nd degrees in Lima, and one each of the 8th in Callao and Guayaquil. In May 1857, a Supreme Grand Chapter of Rites was assembled, and issued four new regulations; these, however, gave great dissatisfaction, and three Lodges, two at Lima and one Callao Lodge, met and formally expressed their independence. By the Constitution of 1864, the passing and enforcement of all laws rests solely with the Grand Orient. This is the limit to which the sketch furnished to us is carried. We shall continue the history as we receive the further account.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

All Letters must bear the name and address of the Writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

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THE BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION AND THE PROVINCE OF DEVON.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Referring to the report in your contemporary of the last Committee Meeting of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at which meeting Bro. John Constable, P.M. 185, is reported to have asked Bro. James Terry, the Secretary of the Institution, the number of annuitants on its funds, and whether the Province of Devon was not the largest in that respect? Bro. Constable suggesting that the Province and its Grand Master be solicited to aid the Institution at the coming Festival in February next.

For the information of Bro. Constable, knowing the deep interest he takes in our Charities, and for all whom it may concern, I beg to say this suggestion has been fully anticipated. Since August last the Provincial Grand Lodge of Devon has voted the sum of £100 to the R.M.B. Institution, the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Devon £10. Various private Lodges and Chapters in the Province have, since August last, voted sums to the same Institution, to be placed on the lists of Bros. Charles Godtschalk and J. E. Curteis, Stewards for their Province for this year. The amounts so voted from these private Lodges and Chapters in the aggregate doubtless reach £200, and will be augmented before the date of the Festival in February next.

Out of the monies voted by the Province since August last, the sum of £110 was actually in the hands of Bro. James Terry, the Secretary, at the moment Bro. Constable asked the question.

Allow me also to remark, that if Bro. Constable will refer to the published list of the R.M.B. Institution he will find our beloved Prov. G. Master, the Rev. J. Hyshe, is a larger supporter to that particular Institution than any other Prov. G. Master in England, he being in possession, by self and family alone, of over 150 votes, and that he is handsomely represented on the lists of our other Masonic Charities, and that his name is another word for benevolence.

Believe me, yours fraternally,

CHARLES GODTSCHALK,

P.M. 70 and 1255, P.G.D., Steward for Devon for R.M.B.I. 1876-7.

"ERRATIC SHILLINGS."

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I quite agree with your correspondents, Alpha and R. C., that uniformity of subscription to our three Charities is desirable, and I trust those whom it may concern

principally, that is, the Committee of the Benevolent Institution, will lose no time in making the needful alteration. I can say, honestly, that if a collector called upon me for a subscription to me matters not what Institution, it would make no difference to me whether I subscribed a guinea or a pound; that is, I should not feel the difference between a guinea and a pound, while by taking the aggregate of say five hundred subscriptions, the Institution would derive a very substantial benefit from the difference between them. Or, to reduce the matter to actual figures, five hundred guinea instead of pound contributions mean an additional receipt of £25. In the case of our Benevolent Institutions, as the subscriptions amount to several thousands of pounds, the addition would be several hundreds. Truly a difference worth advocating!

It will be urged, perhaps, by some, that as a vote at one election is given to every one who subscribes five shillings to the Benevolent Institution, while no such privilege is accorded to the supporters, to a like amount, of the other Charities, some difficulty may perhaps arise, from the fourth part of a guinea, unlike the guinea itself, being an awkward sum. I do not myself see this. If it is deemed politic to retain the five shilling vote, let it be retained, by all means, but let the same privilege be extended to five shilling contributors to the Boys' and Girls' Institutions. Or, let it be abolished. This, I think, would be the juster plan to follow. Why should A have a vote for the Benevolent Fund, for the small sum of five shillings, while B, who figures in a Stewards' list for one of the other Charities for a like amount, has none? If the object of assigning a vote for this amount is to secure as much support as possible from the less wealthy, then it should be extended to all the three Charities, or, if it turn out to be comparatively worthless as an inducement in the cause to which it is now applied, the regulation should be struck out. I think that uniformity is desirable, especially as the substitution of guineas in lieu of pounds will be so profitable a change to the Charity for which Bro. Terry labours so diligently.

Yours fraternally,

AN OLD FILM.

ADDRESS OF CONGRATULATION TO THE D.P.G.M. OF SUFFOLK.

AT a recent meeting of the Stour Valley Lodge, No. 1,224, it was proposed by the Worshipful Master, Bro. H. Welham, seconded by Bro. W. L. Lewis, that an address of congratulation be presented to the Rev. C. J. Martyn on his appointment as Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk. The W.M. and P.M.'s were appointed as the deputation, and the address was afterwards drawn up by them, and most beautifully illuminated on vellum, by Miss Berry, of Ballingdon. The corners are illuminated with the Masonic emblems; headed with the jewel of the D.P.G.M. in gold; the Master's emblem, Sec. and P.M.'s emblem at the sides; at the bottom the Past Grand Chaplain of England's emblem. The deputation, consisting of the W.M., Bro. H. Welham, Bros. G. Grimwood I.P.M., J. F. Hills P.M. and P.P.G.J.W., and F. Wheeler P.M., presented the address, on Wednesday morning, at the Rectory, Long Melford, and were entertained at luncheon. The following is the address:—

"To the Very Worshipful the Reverend Charles J. Martyn, P.G.C. of England, D.P.G.M. of Suffolk, &c., &c.

"We, the undersigned Worshipful Master, Past Masters, and Officers of the Stour Valley Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, of ourselves and brethren, in conformity with a unanimous resolution of a Lodge of Emergency held November 21st, 1876, beg to offer to you our most sincere and hearty congratulations upon your succession to the honourable office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Suffolk.

"We are deeply sensible of the great privilege so long enjoyed by our Lodge in having amongst our members so distinguished and zealous a Mason. We feel that the worthy selection made by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master will not only add to the stability and good working of Masonry in this province, and meet with the unanimous approval of all its members, but will also reflect honour and credit upon our Lodge.

"That it may please the Great Architect of the Universe to spare you many years to enjoy the privileges of the exalted position so justly bestowed upon you, will ever be the prayer of your faithful and sincere Brethren in Masonry.

"The Members of the Stour Valley Lodge, No. 1224."

Signed by the following officers:—H. Welham W.M., G. Grimwood I.P.M., F. Wheeler P.M., J. F. Hills P.M., C. Emmerson S.W., W. H. Smith J.W., A. O. Stead S.D., N. Aprile J.D., E. R. Boulter I.G., C. J. Cardmall D.C.

Friends in Council Chapter of the Holy Royal Arch held a Meeting of Emergency, at 33 Golden-square, on Saturday, the 16th inst. The Right Hon. the Baron Henneker, S.W. of Lodge 1629, Robert Fyers, J.D. of the Bayard, and Dr. Thomas Beswick Purchas, P.M. of Lodge 420, were exalted. The Right Hon. the Earl of Donoughmore, Sir George Henry Scott Douglas, the Chevalier C. E. Habicht, the Rev. Arthur Bruce Frazer, the Rev. Frederick Kill Harford, and Samuel Graham Bake Esq. were elected joining members. Dr. Robert Hamilton, Grand Superintendent of Jamaica, presided over the ceremony, with his well-known customary ability.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

We shall be obliged if the Secretaries of the various Lodges throughout the Kingdom will favour us with a list of their Days of Meeting, &c., as we have decided to insert only those that are verified by the Officers of the several Lodges.

SATURDAY, 23rd DECEMBER.

198—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)
Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, at 8.

TUESDAY, 26th DECEMBER.

14—Tuscan, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
65—Constitutional, Wheatshaf, Hand-court, W.C., at 7.0. (Instruction.)
65—Prosperity, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C. (Instruction.)
205—Israel, Cannon-street Hotel.
1306—St. John of Wapping, Gun Hotel, High-st., Wapping, at 8. (Instruction.)
1472—Henley, Railway Tavern, Stratford New Town, at 8. (Instruction.)
1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)
253—Tyrian, Masonic Hall, Gower-street, Derby.
310—Union, Freemasons' Hall, Castle-street, Carlisle.
573—Perseverance, Shenstone Hotel, Hales Owen.
1016—Elkington, Masonic Rooms, New-street, Birmingham.
1138—Devon, Masonic Hall, Devon Square, Newton Abbot.
1353—Torbay, Town Hall, Paignton.
R.A.—103—Beaufort, Freemasons' Hall, Bristol.
R.A. 823—Everton, Masonic Temple, 22 Hope-street, Liverpool.

WEDNESDAY, 27th DECEMBER.

662—Whittington, Black Bull, Holborn, at 8. (Instruction.)
1185—Lewis, King's Arms Hotel, Wood Green, at 7. (Instruction.)
1196—Urban, The Three Bucks, Gresham-street, at 8.30. (Instruction.)
1288—Finsbury Park, Finsbury Park Tav., Seven Sisters'-rd., at 8.0. (Instruction.)
1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
R.A. 177—Domestic, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st., at 8.0. (Instruction.)
R.A.—1385—Clapton, White Hart Tavern, Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
68—Royal Clarence, Freemasons' Hall, Bristol.
137—Amity, Masonic Hall, Thames-street, Poole.
199—Peace and Harmony, Royal Oak Hotel, Dover. (Instruction.)
360—Pomfret, George Hotel, Northampton.
613—Unity, Freemasons' Hall, Southport.
972—St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Canterbury. (Instruction.)
996—Sondes, Eagle Hotel, East Dereham, Norfolk.
1008—Royal St. Edmund's, Angel Hotel, Bury St. Edmunds.
1039—St. John's, George Hotel, Lichfield.
1511—Alexandra, Masonic Hall, Hornsea, at 7. (Instruction.)
R.A. 226—Benevolence, Red Lion, Littleboro'.

THURSDAY, 28th DECEMBER.

General Committee, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
3—Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-st., Fitzroy-sq., at 7.0. (Instruction.)
15—Kent, Chequers, Marsh-street, Walthamstow, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C. (Instruction.)
435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8. (Instruction.)
1426—The Great City, 111 Chancery, E.C., at 6.30. (Instruction.)
1499—Marquess of Ripon, Albion, Albion-road, Dalston, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
78—Imperial George, Assheaton Arms Hotel, Middleton, Lancashire.
100—Friendship, Crown and Anchor Hotel, Quay, Great Yarmouth.
807—Cabbell, Masonic Hall, Theatre-street, Norwich.
866—St. Edward's, Literary Institute, Leek, Stafford.
1343—St. John's, King's Arms Hotel, Grays, Essex.
1612—West Middlesex, Railway Hotel, Ealing, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
R.A. 57—Humber, Freemasons' Hall, Osborn-street, Hull.
R.A. 279—Fortitude, Freemasons' Hall, Halford-street, Leicester.

FRIDAY, 29th DECEMBER.

766—William Preston, Feathers, Upper George-st., Edgware-rd. (Instruction.)
933—Doric, Earl Grey Tavern, Mile End-road, at 8. (Instruction.)
1227—Upton, King and Queen, Norton Folgate, E.C., at 8. (Instruction.)
1260—Hervey, Punch's Tavern, 99 Fleet-street, E.C., at 8. (Instruction.)
1278—Burdett Courts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park, at 8. (Instruction.)
1365—Clapton, White Hart, Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
R.A. 355—Wiltshire, Swindon, Wilts.

SATURDAY, 30th DECEMBER.

198—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)
R.A.—Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W.

WEST YORKSHIRE.

TUESDAY.

1214—Scarborough, Wilton Arms Hotel, Batley.

WEDNESDAY.

258—Amphibious, Freemasons' Hall, Heckmondwike.
304—Philanthropic, Masonic Hall, Gt. George-street, Leeds.
380—Integrity, Masonic Temple, Commercial-street, Morley.
910—St. Oswald, Masonic Hall, Pontefract.
1283—Ryburn, Private Rooms, Town Hall-street, Sowerby-bridge.

THURSDAY.

208—Three Grand Principles, Masonic Hall, Dewsbury.
275—Harmony, Masonic Hall, South-parade, Huddersfield.
337—Candour, Private Rooms, Commercial Inn, Uppermill.
810—Craven, Devonshire Hotel, Skipton.
904—Phoenix, Ship Hotel, Rotherham.

FRIDAY.

R.A. 242—Magdalen, Guildhall, Doncaster.

SATURDAY.

309—Prince George, Station House, Bottoms, Eastwood.
1462—Wharfedale, Rose and Crown Hotel, Penistone.

DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND.

TUESDAY.

1167—Alnwick, Masonic Hall, Market-place, Alnwick.
M.M. 39—Eclectic, Freemasons' Hall, Upper Church-street, West Hartlepool.

WEDNESDAY.

1119—St. Bede, Mechanics' Institute, Jarrow.
M.M.—Northumberland and Berwick, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

THURSDAY.

111—Restoration, Freemasons' Hall, Archer-street, Darlington.
636—De Ogle, Masonic Hall, Morpeth.
659—Blagdon, Ridgway Arms Hotel, Blyth.
1418—Fraternity, Freemasons' Hall, Wellington-road, Stockton-on-Tees.
R.A. 431—Ogle, Masonic Hall, Norfolk-street, North Shields.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—319—St. Clair, Freemasons' Hall.
TUESDAY—151—Defensive Band, Alexandra Hall, Cockburn-street.
R.A. 40—Naval and Military, Freemasons' Hall.
WEDNESDAY—112—St. John, Fisher-row, Royal Hotel, Musselburgh.
THURSDAY—392—Caledonian, Freemasons' Hall.
FRIDAY—223—Trafalgar, 54 Bernard-street, Leith.

IRELAND.

WEDNESDAY—178—St. John's, Castle-street, Lisburn, County Antrim.

SCOTLAND.

WEDNESDAY—6—St. John, Old Kilwinning, Caledonian Hotel, Inverness.
" 14—St. John, Grant's Hotel, Dunkeld.
" 20—St. John, Masonic Hall, Lesmahagow.
" 21—Old St. John, Masonic Hall, Lanark.
" 43—St. John, Fort William.

GLASGOW AND THE WEST OF SCOTLAND.

All the Meetings are at 8.0 p.m., unless otherwise stated.

MONDAY—102—St. Mark's, St. Mark's Hall, Buchanan-street, Glasgow.
" 103—Union and Crown, 30 Hope-street, Glasgow.
" 219—Star, 12 Trongate, Glasgow.
" 362—St. Clair, 25 Robertson-street, Glasgow.
" R.A.—122—Thetis, 35 St. James's-street.
TUESDAY—413—Athol, 213 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.
" 419—Neptune, 35 St. James's-street, Glasgow.
" 558—Clydesdale, 106 Rose-street, Glasgow.
" R.A. 67—Cathedral, 24 Struthers-street.
WEDNESDAY—510—Maryhill, 167 Main-street, Maryhill.
" R.A. 73—Caledonian of Unity, 213 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.
THURSDAY—570—Kenmuir, Freemasons' Hall, Springbourne, Glasgow.
" R.A. 117—Govan, Partland Hall, Govan.
FRIDAY—153—Royal Arch, Freemasons' Hall, Cogan-st., Pollockshaw.
SATURDAY—28—St. John's, Black Bull, Kirkintilloch.
" R.A. 143—Robert Burns, Freemasons' Hall, Holytown.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Kilwinning Lodge, No. 4, Glasgow.—The installation meeting of this old and highly respected Lodge was held at the New Hall, St. Vincent-rooms, Dumbarton, on Tuesday, 19th December. In the absence from the city of Bro. R. Prout, Bro. Henderson took the chair, Bros. T. G. Jameson acting S.W., G. Holmes J.W. A. B. Thorburn P.M. and R.W.M. elect said, in the absence of the retiring master, he would request Bro. G. W. Wheeler to instal himself and the office bearers, unfortunately there were two or three of these absent. Bro. Wheeler then proceeded, to instal Bro. A. B. Thorburn for the third time, as R.W.M., John Dixon as D.M., G. Holmes S.M., J. H. Mc Naughton J.W., James M. McKean and Treasurer, John McNair Sec., A. Rowan Chap., J. Barr S.D., C. Struthers J.D., Thomas G. Jamieson Architect, Chas. Henderson P.G.S. and David Ramsey I.G. The new Master thanked Bro. Wheeler for attending, and for the efficient way in which he had performed the ceremony, as well as for former services. Bro. Wheeler said, having had the pleasure some time since to be made an honorary member of No. 4, the least that he could do in return was to render what little aid he could, and there was no more pleasant duty than installing a worthy Brother, such as he knew Bro. Thorburn to be, into the chair of a Lodge. He trusted a year of prosperity was before them. Bro. Holmes S.M. proposed thanks to Bro. R. Prout, the I.P.M. regretting that he had been called away to England that day. Bro. G. Wilson 27 replied for the Visitors.

Kent Lodge of Instruction, No. 15.—This Lodge held its weekly meeting on Thursday, the 14th of December, at Bro. Hallowses, "The Chequers," Marsh-street, Walthamstow. Present—Bros. Baddkins W.M., Franklin S.W., Brand J.W., Saunders Secretary, W. G. Hallowses Treasurer, Saunders S.D., Tollis J.D., W. G. Hallowses I.G.; also Bros. Christian, F. Hallowses, Upwood, Groome, Weston and Mumford. Visitor—Bro. Varley. Business—The Lodge was opened in due form with solemn prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, and the ceremony of passing rehearsed, Bro. Groome acting as candidate. The Lodge was closed in the second degree. The W.M. worked the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Varley acting as candidate. Bro. Varley of Lodge 1598, and Bro. Fisher of Lodge 1364, were elected members of this Lodge of Instruction. Bro. Franklin was elected W.M. for the ensuing Thursday evening. The bye-laws were agreed upon, and ordered to be printed. The Lodge was then closed, and adjourned to the 21st of December.

St. Cuthbert Lodge, No. 41.—This Lodge held its anniversary meeting on Thursday, 30th Nov., at the Masonic Hall, Kirkcudbright. Present—Bros. James Cowan R.W.M. W.M., John Halliday S.W., J. Stuart Moody J.W., Laurentins Norin Sec., A. Jack Treas., David Clark S.D., David Hair J.D., R. G. Blair Chaplain, W. Mackenzie, J. Legge and D. G. Williamson Stewards, William Monney I.G., James Livingston Tyler. Past Masters Bros. James Clark, David Craig. Visitors—Bros. James Campbell R.W.M., James Halliday S.W., Thomas Dalrymple J.W., Thomas Tait Sec., Joseph Tait, John Biggam, a deputation from Lodge No. 141, Gatehouse. The business consisted of the election of office bearers, when the following brethren were elected:—Bros. John Erskine R.W.M., James Cowan W.M., Thomas Campbell D.M., James Slater S.M., John Grant S.W., David Clark J.W., Laurentins Norin Sec., A. Jack Treas., David Hair S.D., Daniel Campbell J.D., David Conning Chaplain, John Logan I.G., James Livingston Tyler. The business being finished, the Lodge was closed in due and ancient form. The brethren then proceeded to Bro. Stewart's, Commercial Hotel, where they, together with the deputation from St. Stephen's, No. 141, Gatehouse, partook of an excellent supper. After the cloth had been removed, the usual toasts were gone through, "The Queen and the Craft"

was proposed by the chairman (Bro. John Erskine), also "The Prince and Princess of Wales." "The Grand Lodges of Scotland, Scotland, and Ireland," was proposed by P.M. J. Cowan; also "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," coupled with the name of Captain Craig, who responded. He was quite proud of being commander of such a company as the 1st Kirkcudbright Rifle Volunteers, many of them he now saw round the table, and he had no doubt, if they were required to defend their country, they would do their duty. A number of other appropriate toasts followed, diversified by songs and recitations.

St. John's 3 bis.—This Lodge held an emergency meeting on Tuesday, 19th Dec., at five p.m., for the purpose of initiating the Rev. John Dabbie D.D. and Captain James Menzies. The Lodge was opened by D. M. Nelson R.W.M., Wm. Bell I.P.M., P. Bramlie S.W., A. Cameron J.W., G. W. Wheeler acting S.D., J. Harn acting J.D. The ceremony of initiation was very carefully worked by Bro. Wm. Bell I.P.M.

Angel Lodge, No. 51.—The monthly meeting of this old established and flourishing Lodge, on Tuesday last, was rendered particularly interesting, from the fact that the W.M. had issued a *carte blanche* to the members of the sister Lodge in Colchester—the United, No. 697—to pay their brethren of the Angel a friendly visit, besides invitations to several officers of the garrison. The result was, that when the Lodge opened, about 7 p.m., between 50 and 60 brethren were in attendance, and the Lodge-room presented an imposing appearance. The W.M., Bro. G. Gard Pye, occupied the chair of K.S. The S.W. was represented by Bro. Charles Colt P.M.; in the absence of Bro. Crookes, the J.W., Bro. T. J. Ralling, was in his place, and those present included Bros. A. Welch I.P.M., W. A. Bowley P.M. (father of the Lodge), T. R. Quilter P.M., Samuel Chaplain P.M., P.S.G.W., John Coppin P.M., Thomas Rix P.M., W. Richey P.M., I. Harris S.D., J. Hanly J.D., J. J. C. Turner Org., Geo. Mercer and W. Ablitt Stewards, W. S. Sprent Assist. Sec., S. Stallard, Colonel R.A., T. Mothersole, C. E. Denton, F. B. Capon, C. Wilson Atkins, R. Nash, B. Barber, and C. Gunner Tyler. The visitors present included Bros. Capt. Kane, 105th Light Infantry, Leslie O. Patterson, Surgeon Major A.M.D., J. H. Staddon W.M. 376, W. Clarke W.M. 959, N. Tracey P.M. 376, J. E. Wiseman P.M. and Sec. 433, W. L. Ling 433, J. Englefield 434, John Salmon, formerly of 51, and the following members of No. 697:—Bros. A. R. Clench W.M., E. H. Crates P.M. P.P.G.C., T. Eustace P.M., W. Potton, W. W. Wilkin, H. J. Everett, W. Jelley, T. Mellonie, G. Eustace, G. Guiver, John Inwood, G. Smith, and D. Higgins. The ceremony on the agenda was a passing, which was well performed by the W.M., and on its conclusion the lecture was ably given by the I.P.M. Bro. Welch. Three candidates for initiation, and one joining member were proposed, and the representatives of the visiting Lodges gave the W.M. the accustomed fraternal greeting. Among the "communications" was a letter from the widow of the late Bro. John Wright Carr, Prov. G. Sec., acknowledging the vote of condolence passed last Lodge night; and a note was read from the D.P.G.M., setting forth the serious loss Bro. Carr's death was to the Province, and the difficulties which surrounded the selection of a successor. The Acting Secretary also presented an application, written on a mourning card, purporting to come from "A Freemason of twenty years' standing," suggesting "a whip round," to supply his immediate need, he having "in vain advertised his most painful position." A brother present said he heard the same application read at his London Lodge, the other night, and suggested a doubt as to its genuineness. It was decided that, as the application was not "vouched for," no notice be taken of it. The brethren subsequently adjourned for refreshment, and a truly Masonic evening was spent. The post prandial proceedings were greatly enlivened by the vocal renderings of Bros. S. Chaplin, T. M. Bear, C. Wilson Atkins, and W. Wilkin, under the direction of Bro. Turner, the Organist.

Thistle Lodge, No. 87.—This Lodge held an emergency meeting on the 11th inst., in their own hall, 30 Cathedral-street. The R.W.M., Bro. Jas. Booth, initiated one gentleman, after which he raised two of the brethren to the sublime degree.

Cornubian Mark Lodge, No. 87, Hayle.—At the meeting, on Tuesday, the 19th, Bro. Frank H. Poole P.P.G.M.O. was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year.

Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193.—The regular weekly meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday last, at Masons' Avenue, under the presidency of the following officers:—Bros. Loewenstark W.M., Walker S.W., Croaker J.W., Staley S.D., Lay J.D., Sayer I.G., Christopher Tyler. Upon the minutes of the previous meeting being confirmed, the W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of raising Bro. Biddle candidate. We have seen Bro. Loewenstark work better on former occasions. Bro. Abbott then gave the second of his series of Lectures, taking up the history of our Craft from the installation of the Duke of Montague, in 1721, and continuing it to the Grand Mastership of the Duke of Norfolk, in 1730. The lecturer enumerated the most interesting events during this period, particularly the extension of the Craft to other countries, and the establishment of Lodges in Paris, Gibraltar, Bengal, and Philadelphia respectively, in the years 1725-7-8-30. He also gave a capital sketch of the general career of the Duke of Montague, illustrating his Grace's kindness of heart and love of frolic. Due notice will be given in the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE when the third Lecture will be delivered. In consequence of the Christmas Holidays, standing orders were suspended in this Lodge; and the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, the 3rd January, at 7 p.m., when Bro. Walker will preside. We noticed the absence of Bro. Gottheil, which, we regret to say, was owing to illness. We hope he may be speedily restored to health. The following were present:—Bros. Bloomfield, Abell, Bobol, Bulve, Cohen, Powell, Peartree, Rudderforth, Stephens, St. John, Constable Treas., Pitt Sec., Jesse, Larkin, Colthrup, Burdon, Davis, &c.

St. Luke's Lodge, No. 225.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, the 13th inst., it being the installation of W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. W. Daking, the W.M. elect, was duly installed. Amongst those present we noticed W. T. Westgate P.M., J. Whitehead P.M., P. Whitehead P.M., F. Prontice P.M., Bros. G. Abbott, Hillyard, Garrett, Orton, Byford, Cannon, J. King, and about twenty other brethren. The ceremony of installation was well performed by Bro. J. Whitehead P.M. The W.M. appointed his officers as follows—Bros. Charles Hillyard S.W., Philip Whitehead J.W., Alexander Barber Secretary, John Orton S.D., G. A. Garrett J.D., Thomas Prontice P.M. D.C., Thomas Wentworth I.G. The W.M., although a native of Ipswich, was initiated, in 1862, at Bermuda, in the Loyalty Lodge, Ireland Island, No. 353, R.E., and afterwards became affiliated to the Virgin Lodge, No. 396, R.E., Halifax, Nova Scotia. The members of this Lodge presented Bro. Daking with a beautiful Past Secretary's jewel on his leaving for England in June 1871. We trust that the coming year will be a successful one for the Lodge; in fact the new W.M.'s inherent energy is almost certain to make it so.

York Lodge, No. 236.—The annual meeting of this Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Duncombe-place, York, on Monday evening, the 19th instant, the principal business before it being the installation of Bro. William Cowling P.M., P.P.S.G.W., the Worshipful Master elect for the ensuing year, which will be the most important one in the history of the Lodge since its formation. Within the next few months the Lodge will complete the 100th year of its existence, it having been constituted by the Grand Lodge of England in June 1777, and as it is contemplated shortly to celebrate the centenary of the Lodge in a manner commensurate with its high reputation, and worthy of the ancient city with which it is associated, a special interest was attached on this occasion to the installation of the W.M. elect, as was evidenced by the large number of brethren and visitors from other Lodges who were in attendance. The ceremony of installation was performed with great ability by Bro. Ralph Davison P.M., after which the W.M. (with the view of the proceedings attendant upon the proposed celebration being most effectively carried out) appointed and invested the following distinguished members of the Lodge as his officers for the year, viz.:—Bros. Sir James Meek P.M. P.P.G.W. S.W., William Beuson Richardson P.M. P.P.G.W. J.W., Rev. H. V. Palmer P.M. P.P.G.C. Chaplain, William Lawton P.M. P.P.G.R. Treasurer, Josh. Todd P.M. P.P.G.O. Secretary, John March P.M. P.P.G.W. S.D., Charles Smith P.M. P.P.G.D. J.D., Ralph Davison P.M. P.P.G.S.B. D.C., and Thomas Smurthwaite P.M. P.P.G.W. I.G. Bro. Kirby was also appointed Assistant Secretary, Bros. Camidge P.P.G.O. Organist, Tissiman and Garbutt Stewards, and Redfare Tyler.

Lion Lodge, No. 312, Whitby.—At the monthly meeting, on Monday last, Bro. J.M. Bottomley was elected W.M. for the ensuing year, in succession to Bro. J. S. Moss.

Union Lodge, No. 332.—At the regular meeting, on Monday, after the installation of a candidate by the R.W.M., Bro. J. McKirdy, Bro. John Servas, of Lodge St. John 347, who is a working joiner, presented the Lodge with some beautiful specimens of his own work, in the shape of three turned mauls, a large square, level and plumb rule, fit to carry in processions, two columns for the Wardens' chairs, and also two batons, all elaborately finished and highly polished. Bro. McKirdy, in accepting this valuable gift, highly extolled the good qualities of Bro. John Servas, whom he proposed for honorary affiliation. Bro. Servas hoped the Lodge would have as much pleasure in using the articles as he had had in preparing them.

Royal Preston Lodge, No. 333.—This Lodge held its Festival of St. John on Thursday, 14th of December, at the Castle Hotel, Preston. Present—Bros. Quarter-Master-Sergeant William Menzies, Royal Engineers, W.M., Richard Banks Preston S.W., Robert Jones J.W., George Stevenson Sec., William Thompson S.D., William Osbaldeston J.D., John Poole Steward, George Ireland I.G., William Brunt Tyler. Past Masters Bros. D. Wilson and H. P. Burton; Bros. McConnell, Bilsbrough, Rev. J. P. Sheppard M.A., W. Wilson, Howarth, Harrison, Porter and others. Visitors—Bros. Henry Johnson P.M. 113 P.G.S., Thomas Nevett P.M. 113, L. Barnes P.M. 113, R. Clitheroe W.M. 343, and M. Mather W.M., L. Spencer, C. Spencer, Beattie, Ashton, Walker, Badger, Jolly, Bibby and Barber. The usual preliminaries having been disposed of, Bro. Payne was passed to the degree of F.C., after which Bro. J. Porter was appointed Tyler, and Bro. S. Cragg Almoner for the next twelve months. The S.W., Bro. R. B. Preston, was then installed W.M. for the year, and appointed his officers as under, viz., Robert Jones S.W., George Stevenson J.W., John McConnell S.D., George Ireland J.D., Wm. Osbaldeston Sec., Rev. J. P. Sheppard M.A. Chaplain, Samuel Cragg P.M. 333 Treasurer, William Bilsbrough I.G., William Wilson and William Knowles Stewards.

Cornubian Lodge, No. 450, Hayle.—Bro. Gilbert B. Pearce S.W. will be installed as W.M. on St. John's Day, viz., 27th December, by Bro. George Stevens, the retiring W.M.

Mersey Lodge, No. 477.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on the 14th instant, at the Masonic Chambers, 55 Argyle-street, Birkenhead. Present—Bros. John Gloave Adams W.M., William Palford S.W., John Dutton J.W., Donald Fraser I.P.M. Sec., Robert Gracie P.M. Treas., Thomas Brown S.D., William Worrall J.D., Robert Ridyard D.C., Robert Hamilton Steward, William Bennett I.G., James H. Holtway Tyler. Past Masters Bros. Samuel Jones, John Griffiths, J. H. Johnstone, and seventy members. Visitors—Bros. Thomas Shaw S.W. 605 and Pink 1353. There were three initiations—viz., W. H. Golightly, Henry Bolton, and James Henry Dillon; after which Bro. William Palford S.W. was elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. Donald Fraser I.P.M. and Sec. was elected

Treasurer. The demise of Bro. D. H. Whalley was feelingly commented upon, and Bro. W. M. Asker was deputed by the Lodge to see if any assistance was required, and how it might be applied to assist the widow and children of the deceased brother.

Clyde Lodge, No. 408.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Friday, the 15th Dec., at St. Mark's Hall, Glasgow. Bro. John McGivins presiding, supported in the east by T. M. Campbell P.M., also by W. Bell P.M. 3 bis, G. W. Wheeler 73, D. Reid R.W.M. 465, and J. Harn R.W.M. 592. One brother was raised to the sublime degree by the new Master, Bro. Campbell P.M. giving the traditional lecture. A board of Installed Masters was then formed, consisting of Bros. Bell, Wheeler, Campbell, and Harn, when Bro. McInnis was duly installed into the chair of King Solomon, and saluted by the brethren.

St. Helens Lodge, No. 531.—This Lodge held its installation meeting on Thursday, the 7th of December, at the Masonic Hall, Regent-square, Hartlepool. Present—Bros. Thomas J. Johnson W.M., Thomas H. Fleetham S.W., William Fleetham J.W., John Horsley Secretary, Walter Shaw Treasurer, Frederick Bennett S.D., P. Venlles J.D., John Hunter P.P.G.J.W. D.C., L. Salt Steward, M. Spofforth I.G., James Mowbray Tyler. Past Masters Bros. John Hunter, James J. Armstrong, J. H. Atley, William Pearson. Visitor—Bro. Liddell, Williamson Lodge, Sunderland. Business—Bro. T. H. Fleetham was installed W.M., John Horsley S.W., F. Bennett J.W., J. W. Shotton S.D., M. Spofforth J.D., P. Venlles Secretary, W. Shaw Treasurer, G. W. H. Winter I.G., James Mowbray Tyler, John Hunter D.C. After this the brethren adjourned to Bro. Humbles' Cleveland Hotel, where a banquet was prepared, and partaken of by about 30 brethren. At the after meeting Bro. Horsley, in the name of the Lodge, presented Bro. Thomas J. Johnson with an elegant Masonic jewel, as a token of esteem and respect, for the very able manner in which he had discharged the duties of Worshipful Master for the past year.

Clydesdale Lodge, No. 556.—The election and installation of the officers of this young but highly flourishing Lodge took place on Tuesday, 12th December, in the hall belonging to the members, 106 Rose-street. That great interest was felt in the event was shown by the crowded state of the Hall, and the fact that 140 recorded their vote—73 for Bro. Phillips, and 67 for Bro. G. H. C. McNaught—for the office of Master for the ensuing year. The Lodge was opened by the R.W.M., Bro. Wm. Phillips, Bros. Hugh McCulloch D.M., Jas. Boyle S.M., John McNaught S.W., and Thos. Phillips J.W. The auditors' report showed that, after defraying the expenses of fitting up their hall, providing clothing and furniture, and above £20 extra expenses incident on the visit of the Prince of Wales,—though the Lodge has only been in existence two and a half years,—yet they had paid all demands, and had a balance in Treasurer's hands of £30 1s 2d. Thanks were given to the Master for such a satisfactory result, and also to the Sec. and Treas., for their labours. The R.W.M., being a candidate for re-election, handed the maul to Bro. Hugh McCulloch D.M., to preside, and Bros. G. W. Wheeler 73, McFarlane 175, and G. Stein 592, were appointed to superintend the ballot, and act as tellers. The contest was keen, there being two candidates for nearly every office, and the votes in each case were nearly equal. The following was the result:—Bros. Wm. Phillips R.W.M. (re-elected third time), Hart S.M., Thos. Phillips S.W., L. McKechnie J.W., J. Groggins Treas., John Webster Chaplain (re-elected), Main Sec., J. Reid S.D., R. Gardner J.D., R. Middleton P.G.S., J. McMillan S.S., G. Malcom J.S., H. Gillespie B.B., J. Geddies Architect, A. Middleton D. of M., R. Maben S.B., R. Wilson I.G., Wm. Graham Tyler. The R.W.M. elect then appointed Bro. R. Gardner as his Deputy, and requested Bro. G. W. Wheeler to instal him, and Bros. Gardner and Hart as the D.M. and S.M. for the ensuing year. At the wish of the Lodge, Bros. Wheeler 73 and Stein 592 were affiliated as honorary members, and the Lodge, after four hours of labour was called to refreshment, when, after all the contests, peace and harmony reigned.

St. Bryde's, Udderston, No. 579.—This Lodge held an emergency meeting on Tuesday, 11th inst., when the R.W.M. Bro. H. J. Shields, very carefully initiated two gentlemen into the Order.

St. John's Lodge, No. 673.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Tuesday, the 5th inst., at the Masonic Temple, 22 Hope-street, Liverpool. Present—Bros. Thomas Roberts W.M., Henry Burrows S.W., David Jackson J.W., William May P.M. and Secretary, Thomas Clark P.M. and Treasurer, William Bruckenburg S.D., Louis Herman J.D., John Thornton P.M. and D.C., J. Fulshaw Steward, John Seddon I.G., W. E. Bull Tyler. Past Masters—Bros. Digges, Collow, Hocken, Corless, Pearson, and a considerable number of visitors. Business—The Lodge having been regularly opened, Messrs. Etchells, Atherton, and Bebington were initiated, after which three brothers were passed to the 2nd degree. A sum of five guineas was voted for the purpose of charity, and the Lodge having been closed, the brethren adjourned to supper, after which the usual toasts were given and responded to. During the evening about seventy brethren were enrolled as subscribers to the West Lancashire Educational Institution.

Panmure Lodge, No. 720.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Monday, the 18th inst., at the Balham Hotel, Balham, S.W. Present—Bros. Daniel Truslen W.M., Sheard S.W., Payne P.M. as J.W., Thomas Poore P.M. Secretary, McKay S.D., Woolfe J.D., McMurray D.C., Smith I.G., Steadman Tyler. Past Masters—Bros. Pulman and James Stevens; also Bros. Lilley, Saunders, Max-Brenner, Willshire, Mills, Kerr, Gunner, Treves, Mitchell, Holliday King, &c. The business comprised the passing of Bros. Treves Gunner, Holliday, and King to the degree of F.C., and the initiation

of Mr. Charles Alfred Blogg. In consequence of the lamented decease of Bros. J. B. Wolpert P.M. and E. Clarke, the brethren appeared in Masonic mourning, and in the course of the evening votes of condolence with the widows of the respective deceased were passed. Two candidates for initiation sent apologies for non-attendance, and four others were proposed for admission at the ensuing meeting. The Lodge was then closed, and refreshment followed labour.

William Preston Lodge of Instruction, No. 766.—This Lodge held its third meeting on Friday, 15th December, at the Feathers Tavern, Upper George-street, Edgware-road, W. Present—Bros. W. H. G. Rudderforth 12 W.M., Kidman S.D. 766 S.W., D. Gellian 1425 J.W., A. Brawn P.M. 766 Sec., J. Kennard Treas., G. West 1287 S.D., Nichols 1287 J.D., Gadden I.G. Visitors—Bros. Ridley, C. J. Reddie, Atkins, Whall 742, Dunham, W. Forster. Business—The Lodge was opened in the first degree, and the minutes having been read and confirmed, the Lodge was opened in the second. Bro. Ridley answered the questions, and was entrusted; the Lodge being then opened in the third. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of raising, Bro. Ridley giving the traditional history. The Lodge was resumed to the first, and the fourth section worked. Bros. Gellian, Kidman and Whall were elected joining members, and Bro. Kidman appointed W.M.; the officers in rotation. The Lodge was closed in due form.

Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction, 860.—Met on Tuesday, Bros. Hewlett W.M., Barker S.W., Saunders J.W., Dallas S.D., Johnson J.D., Williams I.G., Worsley Secretary, Wallington Preceptor; also Bros. Smith, Brown, Perry, Webb, Davies, Cambridge, Perrin, Defriez and P.M. Ashburner. After preliminaries, the Lodge was opened in the 2nd, Bro. Perry answered the questions, and the Lodge was advanced to the 3rd, when the ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Perry as candidate. Bro. Ashburner gave the traditional history. Bro. Webb worked the 1st and 3rd sections of the lecture, assisted by the brethren. The Lodge closed down to the 1st. Bro. Barker was unanimously elected W.M. for Tuesday, 2nd January 1877 (the meeting being adjourned till then). He appointed his officers in rotation. A unanimous vote of thanks was accorded Bro. Hewlett for the efficient rendering of the ceremony, it being the first time of his taking the chair in this Lodge. His perfect working and delivery delighted all present. We are pleased to hear that £10 was voted to the Masonic Benevolent Fund for Old Men and Women. Bros. Wallington and Webb have been elected by their respective Lodges to act as Stewards. Five pounds was ordered to be placed on each of their lists. This is as it should be, pleasing to both, and satisfactory to the Lodge, which will now be able to have more votes in future. We wish this Lodge all the success it deserves: it is always well attended, and is doing its utmost to support the Charities.

The Metropolitan Royal Arch Chapter of Improvement.—A meeting was held at the Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, on Tuesday, the 19th inst. Present—Comps. E. S. Norris Z., J. C. Cox H., C. Nash J., J. Boyd Treasurer, Thomas W. White S.E., Thomas Massa S.N., J. W. Berrie P.S., E. H. Finney, A. G. Medwin, J. J. Pakes. Business—The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed. Comp. Thomas Massa, of the Bardett Chapter, No. 1293, was elected a member. It was resolved that the Chapter be adjourned till Tuesday, 2nd January 1877.

Strawbury Hill Lodge, No. 946.—The usual monthly meeting was held at the Grotto Hotel, Twickenham, on Wednesday. Bro. Johnson W.M., Wolgemuth S.W., Skinner J.W., W. Platt P.M. Sec., C. B. Woodman S.D., Argyle I.G., and P.M.'s Bro. W. Smeed G.J.W. Middlesex, and W. Waghorn. The Lodge was opened and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. W. Smeed P.M. then raised Bro. Russell to the 3rd degree, and ballots were taken for the admission of Messrs. E. D. Garwood and R. J. Garwood, who were afterwards duly initiated by the W.M. The Lodge was then closed and the brethren partook of a very excellent banquet, provided by the worthy host. The W.M. proposed the usual toasts. Bro. W. Smeed P.M. returned thanks for the health of the Provincial Grand Officers. The toasts of the Initiates, P.M.'s, Wardens and Officers were given, and the brethren returned to town. Bros. S. Jewell 1559, Miller and Parkes were present as visitors.

Erme Lodge, No. 1091.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 6th of December, at Erme House, Ivy Bridge. Present:—Bros. James Hill Toms W.M., Stephen Sandover S.W., Thomas Searle J.W., William Bofall P.M. Secretary, Henry Cole P.M. and Treasurer, William Henry Mackay S.D., Richard Lavers J.D., Richard Tring jun. Steward, John Sawyer I.G., Thomas Ford Tyler. Past Masters—Bros. William Boxall I.P.M., Henry Cole P.M. Visitors—Bros. Gidley P.M., Avery S.W., and Glover S.W. Business.—Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. Ballots were taken for Messrs. Thomas Blackmore and Richard Tring, which proved unanimous in their favour; they were then prepared and initiated, the ceremony of initiation being very ably and impressively performed by the W.M., assisted by the Past Masters present. The Lodge closed at 8 p.m. The brethren retired to refreshment, and some very eloquent addresses were given to the newly-initiated brothers by the Past Masters.

Grey Friars Lodge, No. 1101.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Wednesday the 13th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Reading. Present—Bros. Edward Margrett W.M., Arthur Welch S.W., W. G. Flanagan J.W., Rev. R. C. Honey Chap., W. P. Ivey P.M. Sec., J. T. Stransom Treas., J. Early Danks S.D., William Ferguson J.D., Richard Dowsett D.C., Thos. Newman Steward, E. J. Blackwell I.G., W. Hem.

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| 14. OUR HERCULES. | 30. AN ART STUDENT. |
| 15. A MERCHANT PRINCE. | 31. THE MARINER. |
| 16. THE CHURCHMAN. | 32. A SOLDIER OF FORTUNE. |
| | 33. "OLD MUG." |

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

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MRS. JOHN WRIGHT CARR wishes to return her sincere Thanks to the numerous Friends and Brethren of her late lamented Husband for their letters of Condolence, which have been most consoling to her, bearing, as they do, strong testimony to the high esteem in which her Husband was held in his public character, and how much he was appreciated by the large circle in which he moved.

Mrs. CARR regrets that she cannot thank each kind writer, but the large number renders this impossible.

Newland Hall, Roxwell, Essex,
19th Dec. 1876.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION

FOR

AGED FREEMASONS AND WIDOWS OF FREEMASONS.

THE ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL OF THIS INSTITUTION will take place on Monday, the 12th February 1877, at Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, London, upon which occasion

H.R.H. Prince Leopold, K.G., &c., &c.

R.W. Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire,

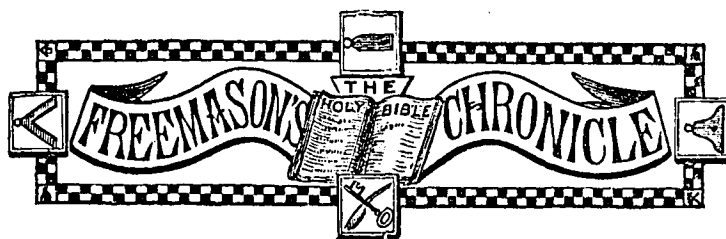
has graciously signified his intention of presiding.

Brethren desirous of accepting the office of Steward upon this auspicious occasion will greatly oblige by forwarding their names, as soon as convenient, to the Secretary, who will gladly give every information required.

JAMES TERRY, Prov. G.D.C. Herts,
Secretary.

* H.R.H. Prince Leopold has been pleased to alter the day of the Festival from Wednesday the 14th February (being Ash Wednesday) to Monday the 12th.

4 Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.



67 BARBICAN, E.C.

OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

THE Queen is still at Windsor, where she takes her daily drive with her daughter the Princess Beatrice. On Monday and Tuesday, her Majesty's Royal Bounty was distributed at the Almonry Office in Middle Scotland-yard by the Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor, Lord High-Almoner, assisted by the Rev. E. R. Wilberforce, Sub-Almoner, and Mr. John Hanby, Secretary. The recipients exceeded a thousand in number, one-third of them being over threescore years and ten, while some had reached the patriarchal age of ninety-five. Whether these latter indulged in any outbursts of joy on the occasion, and returned home, singing the old familiar song—

"I'm ninety-five, I'm ninety-five,
And to keep single I contrive—"

or not, our informant has not said. No doubt they rejoiced exceedingly over their gifts, which varied in amount from five to thirteen shillings. A number of blind and otherwise sadly-afflicted persons were included among the deserving body selected as worthy objects for the bestowal of the Queen's alms.

This, of course, being the week preceding Christmas, people are thinking far more about the provision of good cheer than even of the most serious political questions. However, several Members of Parliament and others have been addressing different assemblies on the Eastern Question. Among them we note the Earl of Carnarvon, who, naturally, defended the conduct of the Government of which he is so distinguished a member. Another prominent personage, Mr. Russell Gurney, the Recorder of London, has been also expressing his views on this important topic. The annual dinner of the Southampton Conservative Association, at which Mr. Gurney was present, afforded the Right Honourable gentleman the needful opportunity. He, too, as a Conservative, spoke at some length and very earnestly in support of the Ministry, defending their policy, and calling upon all Englishmen to lay aside party feeling and back them up at a time so critical.

But the interest of the hour centres, as we have said, in

the preparations for our Christmas festivities. Everywhere in London are to be seen attractive commodities offered for sale, and if the usual amount of rejoicing over Christmas Boxes is not as demonstrative this year as at former Christmastides, it will certainly not be the fault of our London shopkeepers, who for months past have been busying themselves to secure the patronage of the public. The provision shops—especially the butchers, Italian ware-housemen, and greengrocers—are in admirable form just now. Prize sheep and bullocks are on view in the shops of the first; all kinds of dainty preparations in the way of jams, preserved fruits, bon-bons, and the like, are noticeable in those of the second; while the latter seem to have had their places converted all of a sudden into one huge holly hedge, relieved here and there by small firs for Christmas trees, and branches of mistletoe, under which Cousin Jack will pay his dear Angelina the compliments of the season in good old English fashion. As for the poulterers, there seems to be no end to the turkeys, geese, pheasants, and other game and poultry which they have laid in for our benefit when the eventful day arrives. In the bazaars are to be seen piles upon piles of toys, both English and foreign, including musical boxes, warlike implements more or less dangerous, magic and Chinese lanterns, bon-bon boxes, and such-like ornaments for the Christmas tree, with flags and banners of every nationality which ever boasted an existence, either actual or in the imagination only. Elsewhere are to be seen books of all kinds, handsome picture cards, and Christmas and New Year cards, on which some pretty sentiment, appropriate to the season, is inscribed; and likewise albums, varying in price from a few shillings to a few pounds. The difficulty which, it seems to us, is the likeliest to befall the purchaser, in the first place is that he may contrive not to buy all that is offered him without unpleasantly snubbing the pretty girls who serve behind the counter, and how to get out of a shop, when once he has entered, with enough to pay his cab fare home. Speaking with the experience of many, many years, we advise our friends, if they contemplate purchasing Christmas gifts, to do so as quietly and as knowingly as possible, and without having their little dears in company with them. The appetite of children for toys and the like is well-nigh insatiable, and Paterfamilias will probably find his face a little longer than usual, when, having bought incautiously he finds it necessary to reckon the cost of the little ones' amusements.

One person, at all events, has been doing some good hard work this week, and that is the American pedestrian, Weston, who is for the second time in London essaying the task of walking five hundred miles in six days. It will be remembered that some months ago Weston attempted this unparalleled feat at the Agricultural Hall, but covered a distance of only 450 miles. This was a great achievement, though it fell short of absolute success. Since then he has been starring it in the provinces, and, financially speaking, we imagine he must have been turning his pedestrian ability to very good account. This week he has, as we have said, devoted to a second attempt to cover 500 miles, but additional attractions have been offered on this occasion. The managers of the Exhibition at the Agricultural Hall, though not contemplating more than a display of Weston's marvellous powers, have invited certain comparatively untrained Englishmen to test their powers of endurance against him, and have offered a series of three prizes of £60, £30, and £20 respectively to the three men who shall together walk a distance longer than Weston covers, each of the three walking 48 hours, and to cover at least 160 miles in that time to entitle him to the first prize, 150 miles for the second, and 140 for the third. The giving, however, of these prizes at all is conditional on the total of the three men's distances exceeding that walked by Weston. Up to the first hour of yesterday morning, or to be exact, at five minutes past midnight, Weston had completed 326½ miles, while the three so far had done only 318 miles, namely, Ide 152 miles and 5 laps, Parry 163 and 1½ laps, and Crossland about two miles. Thus Weston is ahead on the first two-thirds of his journey, but he labours under the disadvantage of having to keep his lead against a fresh, and, as it happens, a very good man, who has already walked his 114 miles in the 24 hours. It seems that Weston in some manner broke down the third day. He had a slight abrasion of the skin on one of his heels, which for a time proved very painful, and the weather, which was anything but seasonable during the first half of the week, appears to have affected him, irritating his throat, and

making him feel very drowsy. But on Thursday he picked up again, and the last accounts we had left him walking steadily. Long distance walking has never been tried in this country as a sport, so that the performance has attracted a goodly number of spectators. It is not unlikely, however, we may hear of a contest shortly, Sir J. Astley having staked £500 on Weston walking 500 miles against any man in the world. The stake has been covered, so we shall doubtless witness a match in the course of the next three or four months. So large a sum is worth going in for a course of training to win.

In the City, the Wardmotes in the different districts for the election of Common Councilmen were held on Thursday. In the majority of Wards there was no contest, but in some a poll was demanded, and that was to have been taken yesterday. By the way, a vacancy has been caused in the Court of Aldermen by the death, at the advanced age of 80, of Alderman Besley, the well-known type founder, who had filled the office of Sheriff and Lord Mayor, with great credit to himself and great satisfaction to his fellow-citizens.

Our news from the East, if not very alarming, is not particularly reassuring. In some quarters it appears to be taken for granted that war is inevitable between Russia and Turkey. Others are more hopeful that the efforts of the Conference will be successful in securing a firm and honourable peace. We hope so most sincerely, but, without being alarmists, we confess we do not see our way to indulging in this hope. When the two Powers which are supposed to be most concerned go on arming to the teeth, laying up warlike stores, and preparing for the victualling of their armies, when fortresses are being provisioned, and the ordinary railway traffic is interrupted, that soldiers and material of war may be conveyed to their appointed destination, it looks very much as though they meant fighting. Moreover, the matter is becoming more complicated and critical. The Magyars are growing as excited as the Slaves are said to be, while another outrage on the Austrian flag has been perpetrated by the Servian officer in command of Belgrade. This will certainly not help forward the cause of peace, for Austria is said to be dissatisfied with the apologies offered, and the increasing excitement of the Hungarians, whose hatred of the Russians is well known, may force the Emperor Francis Joseph into a conflict. However, let us hope that the Conference will pass off well, and that the last week of the present year of anxiety may bring forth good fruit, so that we may enter on the year 1877 with a fair prospect of peace.

It has already been announced, in our Advertisement columns, that H.R.H. Prince Leopold, Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire, will preside at the annual Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution on Monday, the 14th of February next. We are now in a position to supplement this agreeable piece of intelligence with another equally gratifying, namely, that Lord Suffield, the newly-installed Provincial Grand Master of Norfolk, will preside on the occasion of the Eighty-ninth Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, which is fixed for Wednesday, the 9th May.

St. George's Preceptory of Knights Templar met at the Albion Tavern, on Friday, the 15th inst. The Rev. D. J. Drakeford was installed a Knight of the Order by the Preceptor, W. Spencer, assisted by W. Hyde Pullen.

The annual ball of the Stockton Freemasons was held on Friday evening, the 15th inst., in the New Masonic Hall, Wellington-street, and was largely attended.

CONSECRATION OF A LODGE AT BRIGHTON.

(From *The Brighton and Sussex Daily Post*.)

ON Wedne day, at the Royal Pavillion, Brighton, a Special Grand Lodge of the Province of Sussex was held, for the purpose of consecrating a new Lodge, the St. Cecilia, No. 1,636, a warrant for the establishment of which had been granted by the Grand Lodge on the application of the following:—Bros. Kuhle (Grand Organist of England), Everall, Sandeman, Broadbridge, Nell, Foat, Belcher, Devin, Hawkes, Nye and H. Payne. The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened, at three o'clock, by the Acting Prov. G.M., Bro. E. J. Furner (in the absence of the Prov. G.M. Bro. Lord Pelham). The Acting Grand Master was supported by Bro. Sir W. W. Burrell, Bart., M.P. (Prov. D.G.M.), and by his Provincial Grand Officers as follows:—Bros. T. Trollope S.G.W., C. Pocock J.G.W., E. Walker (Rev.) G. Chaplain, G. Tatham G. Treasurer, C. Woolley G.

Registrar, J. H. Scott G. Secretary, B. H. Thorpe G. S. Deacon, R. Bramwell G. J. Deacon, —. Tomes G. Superintendent of Works, J. Dixon G. D. of C., T. H. Cole G. Assistant D. of the C., Walter Smith G. S. B., E. Gladstone G. Organist, J. Eberall G. Pursnivant, Bros. J. M. Read, C. Sandeman, G. Money, and T. S. Byass, G. Stewards, T. Hughes, G. Tyler. The brethren present included the following:—Bros. W. Marchant, J. M. Cunningham, J. Fabian, E. Bright, W. J. Harriss, H. Belcher, V. P. Freeman, A. King, A. Partridge, R. J. Pope, J. Butler, G. De Paris, G. B. McWhinnie, J. Glass, C. J. Smith, W. Kuhe, H. W. Hawswell, C. W. Arnold, E. M. Norris, G. S. Gray, J. F. Eyles, G. H. Day, W. Wright, H. F. Mackay, J. M. Reid, H. Payne, James Curtis, G. Vickers, F. C. Woodman, R. Grey, J. F. Capon, W. F. Nell, W. A. Butt, W. Withers Moore, T. J. Sabine, W. Winn, C. Beckett, J. Hedges, H. Freeman, H. Collet, W. H. Gibson, H. Duval, J. P. M. Smith, W. T. Clarke, F. Noakes, T. Fenn, L. F. Noakes, G. Smith, W. S. Evershed, J. W. Stride, C. Warwick Orme, S. G. Foxall, R. Willard, T. C. Abell, C. Butt, H. M. Jenner, J. Sergison, E. Histed, E. Byass, W. G. Poundall, H. C. Davis, S. T. Foat, J. Wood, C. Winstanley, C. Hudson, S. R. Legg, W. R. Wood, J. H. Ross, J. Farncombe, S. Tanner, F. J. Holman, W. A. Stuckey, A. Whitefield, B. Roberts, A. J. Hawkes, R. W. Willat, T. R. White, H. W. Wells, F. Holford, B. Ford, T. Chandler, T. S. Watts, Mark Tanner, J. T. Whatford, J. C. Stratford, &c.

The brethren having assembled in the Music Room, a procession of the Acting Grand Master and his officers was formed in the Drawing Room, and on the Acting Grand Master taking his seat, the Lodge was opened with the usual formula. The petition and warrant were then read, and the petitioning brethren signified their approval of the officers named in the warrant.

The Prov. Grand Chaplain (Bro. Rev. E. Walker) then, at the call of the Acting Prov. Grand Master, delivered a short oration on the nature and design of Freemasonry. He observed that the occasion on which they were assembled was one of those convincing proofs that the principles of Freemasonry were generally extending. Persecution in former days, and in still later times, had done its utmost; yet here, thanks to the G. A. of the U., it stood, holding its own; and if the brethren carried out their professions of fidelity, love, and truth, it still would hold its own against all persecution. Tracing Masonry down from the earliest ages, he observed that if the brethren would but continue to maintain in their breasts the unity of the Godhead, they would ever be found carrying out the principles of the Craft in brotherly love, relief, and truth. Unless these principles were exhibited in all their doings, then Masonry was spurious; but, on the other hand, if carried out, how grand was the link binding them all together, making them better subjects, and giving proof to the world that their professions were more than a name. Might all present in the good time of the G. A. of the U., be brought to the Grand Lodge above, from whence all goodness emanated.

After other formula peculiar to the Craft, the ceremony of consecration was admirably performed, the musical portion of the ceremony being ably given, under the direction of Bro. Gladstone P. G. Organist, by Bros. Hodges, Thornton, Becett and Winn.

All this being ended, Bro. W. Kuhe was then installed as the W. M. of the Lodge, and he then proceeded to appoint his officers as follows:—Bros. Everall S. W., Sandeman J. W., H. Payne Treasurer, Belcher Secretary, Nell S. D., Foat J. D., Hawkes D. of C., Nye I. G., Hughes Tyler.

The following were then proposed as candidates for initiation, and to join the new Lodge:—Messrs. W. R. Wood jun., G. L. Fenner, H. E. Cox, W. Smithers, J. Sayers, F. Morganti, G. H. Clements, — Marks, G. A. Mellisen, J. B. Mellison, E. Hall, J. Crapps, G. Cole, H. S. Gates, R. Roe, W. Roe, J. Maynard, T. K. Pelham, and J. M. Newnham.

On the proposition of the S. W., seconded by the J. W., it was unanimously resolved that the Acting Grand Master and the Grand Secretary should be elected honorary members of the Lodge, and the following were then proposed as joining members:—Bros. J. Wood, Yarborough 811, R. J. Pope, York 315, W. H. Gibson, York 315, H. C. Davis, Mount Lebanon 73, L. Grandel, York 315, R. Paige, Industry 421, C. Hudson, York 315, E. Bright, Clarence 271.

The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banqueting room, where Messrs. Mutton Brothers, of King's-road, had provided a banquet which gave the greatest satisfaction, and redounded highly to their credit as public caterers. The W. M., Bro. Kuhe, presided, supported by Bro. Sir W. W. Burrell, Bart., M. P., Bro. Furner (Acting Grand Master), Bro. J. H. Scott (P. G. Secretary), and by the following officers of the Grand Lodge: Bros. C. W. Arnold Grand Chap., Foxall Grand Pursnivant, Henn P. G. Deacon, Grey P. G. Deacon; also by Bro. Barnet Ford, General, and the brethren whose names we have already given.

Bro. Kuhe, on rising to respond, was received most heartily. He assured the brethren that, accustomed as he had long been to kindness from his fellow men, this last act of theirs was most grateful to him. He hoped in the future they would overlook his shortcomings. It was his desire to do his best for the Lodge, and it would not be from want of desire if he did not carry out his duty to the utmost. But they were aware that his avocations were onerous, and that he had a deal to think of. He might not be able to do all he could wish, but he could assure them, with regard to the nineteen proposed that night for initiation, that it was his intention to perform all the initiation ceremonies himself. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. Belcher gave "The Worshipful Masters of the Province of Sussex," to which the Master of the Derwent Lodge, Bro. C. M. Norris, responded.

Bro. Kuhe, W. M., here, at the request of the company, as expressed to him by Bro. J. Scott, contributed a most brilliant performance on the pianoforte.

Bro. J. H. Scott proposed "The Visitors," remarking that the Lodge had celebrated its consecration aright by inviting 70 guests, 50 of whom had accepted, and were present that evening. He coupled with the toast the name of Bro. General Barrett Ford, a

distinguished Mason recently returned from India, who most ably responded.

The W. M. then gave "The Officers of the Lodge," to which Bro. Eberall (S. W.) responded.

"The Tyler's" toast brought a very agreeable evening's proceedings to a close.

ENTERTAINMENT AT LEYTON COLLEGE.

ON Thursday evening we enjoyed the privilege of being present at the Winter Entertainment given by the pupils of this College, and highly gratified were we with our visit. Everything passed off most pleasantly. The various items in the programme of the Concert were capitally rendered, as also a short Dramatic Cantata by Messrs. Arthur Sullivan and W. S. Gilbert, entitled *Trial by Jury*. The prizes were then distributed, and the evening closed with dancing. It must have been a subject of pride and pleasure to Bro. Geo. J. Westfield, who is the respected Principal of this establishment, to find the boys placed under his charge acquitting themselves with so much credit, not to themselves only, but likewise to the merits of the system of education in force at the College. Having spoken thus far generally, we gladly enumerate certain of the performances which struck us as being specially well rendered. The Concert began with the overture from the *Caliph of Bagdad*, which was executed with taste and feeling by Miss Edith Westfield and Mr. W. F. Bradshaw. Then followed part songs, and a duet by Masters J. Povey and D. Bradley. Master Slater played a solo on the piano very carefully and with judgment. After the well-known glee of *The Chough and Crow* came a recitation by Master J. Jackson, which that young gentleman gave most effectively. Miss Edith Westfield then enchanted the company with a pianoforte solo, *Chanson à Boire*, and after a patriotic and part songs, Mr. Bradshaw followed with a *Fantasia Dinorah* on the piano. The other items included pieces on the piano by Master W. Milton, Miss Westfield, Mr. Bradshaw, Masters A. Delves, and T. Hamilton, this portion closing with a funny song, with chorus, by Master R. Hamilton, entitled "The Pig with the Roman Nose." *Trial by Jury* was rendered very effectively, all fulfilling their parts well. It is also right we should mention that among the specimens of drawing and writing exhibited, some were admirable, showing unusual skill and pains on the part of those who executed them. The drawings of A. Delves and H. Webster entitle us to hope that they may occupy a high position hereafter as engineering draughtsmen. H. Milton shone in general subjects, and R. Hamilton and C. Wilson in architectural drawing; but what was, perhaps, most generally admired was a dog's head, in crayon, by R. Hamilton. The writing of J. Slater, Grant, D. Bartlett, and T. Hamilton was much praised. We understand that Mr. Bradshaw, whose musical ability and genial disposition are highly appreciated by the pupils under him, is about to enter upon a matrimonial venture, and we take this opportunity of wishing him long life and happiness. We likewise congratulate Bro. Westfield on the signal success of his entertainment. Among those present as guests were Bros. Jackson, Milton, Delves, West, the Rev. — Lucas, Yolland, Hill, W. W. Morgan, &c.

A MASONIC PROTEST.—Freemasonry pursues an exalted object. It aims at uniting those on common ground whom difference of race, religion, and social position is apt to separate. It is the symbol of the equality of all men before God. It appeals to man's highest and noblest qualities, where passion addresses itself to his lower feelings and animal instincts. It has the laudable ambition to promote peace and goodwill on earth, to bring out all that is good in man and to keep down all that is mean and selfish in him. It is the pursuit of this object alone which has won for the Craft the esteem of so many excellent and high-souled men, and has introduced into it its best and most valuable members. Its secrecy, its passwords, gorgeous badges, conviviality and charity have no doubt contributed their share towards its success. But these, after all, are only accessories which it has in common with other secret orders, which have, nevertheless, never been able to exercise attractive power similar to Freemasonry; and this because the former after all acted only the part of friendly societies while the latter soared up to a much loftier ideal, which shone like a brilliant star beckoning to a much higher goal. The moment a Lodge loses sight of this object it forfeits its right of existence as a constituent of the Craft. It may continue to play at the worshipful but the essence is gone. All that has remained is the husk. Such a Lodge has clearly committed high treason against the vital principle of the Order. It is clearly guilty of apostasy, although it may hypocritically still cant in the phraseology of the Order and parade forth all its paraphernalia. Such a Lodge should, without delay, be warned of its iniquity, and, if remaining impenitent should forthwith be denounced and excluded from Masonic fraternity. It is therefore astonishing how Germany could have tolerated for so many years the existence of the Berlin Lodge, "The Three Globes," and the Lodges affiliated to it, which refuse admission to Jews on no other than religious grounds; and still more astonishing that the English, French and American Lodges should hold any communion with these apostates. We can only account for this tolerance by the assumption that this treason to the fundamental principle of Masonry has never been brought under the notice of the English Grand Lodge. Great credit is therefore due to the Lodge of Tranquillity for having resolved to draw the attention of the Grand Lodge to it by entering its protest against this outrage. The protesting Lodge should do still more; it should endeavour to induce as many sister Lodges as it could rouse to join in denouncing this defiance of Masonic Fraternity and extend the agitation to other countries. All members of the offending German Lodges should be excluded from Masonic fraternity wherever there exists Lodges, while the defiance is preserved in and all intercommunion with the apostates be broken off. The time has come when such a demonstration would have an excellent chance of being successful.—*Jewish Chronicle*.

(Continued from page 405.)

mings Tyler. Past Masters Bros. Egginton, Hurley, Brown, Weightman, Biggs (Hon.) and Bros. Robinson, T. Simonds, Creed, Bailey, Hawkes, Hilder, Barnicoat, White, Pulley, Rolfe, Rhind, Tabor, Hammett. Visitors—Bros. Pocock S.W. and W.M. elect 414, Bradley J.D. 414, A. M. Yetts W.M. 414, Nichols 1046, J. Dormor 340, Butler 414, Mount J.W. 1328. Business—The Lodge was opened in the first degree, and the minutes of the last regular Lodge read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for Mr. Edwin Hunt, who was declared to be elected. The Lodge was opened in the second degree. Bro. Hilder satisfactorily replied to the questions leading from the second to the third, when he retired to be prepared. The Lodge was opened in the third degree, and Bro. Hilder was raised. The W.M. performed the ceremony in a most correct and masterly manner. This being the first raising since his installation, in October, it took the brethren rather by surprise to witness the beautiful ceremony so correctly carried out, not only by the W.M., but by the Wardens as well. The sublime hymn in the third degree was sung as a solo by Bro. Pulley, and afterwards by all the brethren in full chorus. The effect was most impressive. The ceremony of raising being ended, the Lodge was closed down from the third to the second degree, and from the second to the first degree, when Mr. Hunt was announced as a candidate for initiation. The perfect working throughout shows the great advantage of the Lodge of Instruction, which was held on Monday, the 11th inst., under the Preceptorship of the Secretary. At the conclusion of the labours of the evening, the W.M. announced his intention to be present as Steward at the Festival of the R.M.B.I., in February. He hoped the two Lodges in Reading, and those in the province, would support him on the occasion by sending up a good round sum. After receiving nominations the Lodge was closed. The brethren retired for refreshment to Bro. Robinson's, the Broad Face Hotel, where they spent a pleasant evening.

Perfect Ashlar, No. 1178.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, 14th inst., at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark. Bro. W. Lover W.M. Bros. W. Batchelor S.W., F. Garbett J.W., F. H. Ebsworth P.M. Treas., F. Walters P.G.J.D. Middlesex P.M. Sec., J. Stock S.D., T. Simpson I.G., P.M.s J. A. Smith and C. Deakin, and Bros. E. H. Vagg, E. Amans, Quincy, Shaw, Bridges, J. R. Fenwick, G. Taylor, J. J. Bell, J. Wakelin, J. S. Hood, Stamp, Bridges, Challoner, T. Edsworthy, T. Parratt, G. G. Judge, J. J. Gibbs, J. Gehringer, W. Young, &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. W. Royal was raised to the 3rd degree, and five gentlemen were introduced into the Order. Several candidates were proposed for initiation.

Eclectic Lodge, No. 1201.—The members of this Lodge met on Monday, the 18th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Bro. J. H. Watts W.M. occupied the chair. Bros. E. J. Harty S.W., Taylor J.W., R. Watts P.M. Sec., Mander P.M. Treas., Saul S.D., Barber J.D., Moss I.G., Joshua Nunn P.G.S.B. P.M. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Names of candidates were on the agenda paper for passing and raising, but the brethren were not present. The election for W.M. then took place, and Bro. E. J. Harty S.W. was elected without a dissentient voice. Bro. Mander was unanimously re-elected Treas., and Grant Tyler. The audit committee was appointed. In pursuance of a notice of motion by Bro. Mander P.M. and Treas., a committee was appointed, to consist of the W.M., Wardens, P.M.'s, and four brethren, to revise the by-laws. These were discussed, and met with the cordial approbation of the brethren. The resignation of Bro. Joshua Nunn P.G.S.B., late Treas., was accepted. Bro. Mander P.M. proposed, and Bro. Barber seconded, that a P.M.'s jewel be presented to the W.M., Bro. J. H. Watts, on his retirement from the chair, in recognition of the able manner in which he had conducted the duties of the Lodge during his year of office, and the high regard and esteem he is held in by every brother of the Lodge.

Macdonald Lodge, No. 1216.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Thursday, the 14th inst., at the head-quarters of the First Surrey Rifles, Camberwell, S.E. Present—Bros. Mark S. Larham W.M., Henry Hammond S.W., T. Woodbridge Carnell J.W., James J. Curtis Sec., Captain A. Hyan Treas., C. Fountain S.D., Thos. Edmonstone J.D., W. C. Hale D.C., A. Woodcock I.G., W. Grant Tyler. Past Masters Bros. James H. Hastie I.P.M., James Stevens, S. H. Wagstaff, G. H. N. Bridges, and W. J. Messenger; Visitors Bros. Watkin and Collam, of the Wandsworth Lodge. Amongst others present were also Bros. Dicker, Nevill, Jarman, Goldring, Bradley, Yonge, &c. The Lodge was opened and minutes read. Bro. H. Bridges proved his proficiency in the first degree, and was subsequently passed to the F.C. A grant of ten guineas was unanimously made in favour of a distressed brother, whose present unfortunate position called forth expressions of deep sympathy. Other Masonic business having been despatched, the Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment, the customary loyal and Masonic toasts being duly honoured.

Upton Lodge of Instruction, No. 1227.—This Lodge held its weekly meeting on Friday, the 15th inst., at the King and Queen, Norton Folgate, E.C. Present—Bros. Broom W.M., Oldroyd S.W., Lano J.W., Percy S.D., Barnett J.D., Keapes I.G., and Bros. Townsend, Bolton, Cleverley, &c. Business—The Lodge was opened to the third degree, and the ceremony of raising rehearsed by the W.M., after which the last section of the lecture was worked by Bro. Gross, assisted by the brethren. The Lodge was closed down, Bro. Oldroyd being elected to fill the chair at the next meeting.

Talbot Lodge, No. 1323.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, 6th December, at the Masonic Rooms, Mackworth Hotel, Swansea. Present—Bros. John Jones Hewson W.M., Evan Francis Daniel S.W., William John Rees J.W., Thomas Thomas

Secretary, E. Sidney Hartland S.D., A. F. Baynton J.D., David Imrie D.C., R. A. Burnie Steward, Henry Simons Tyler. Past Masters Bros. G. B. Brock, James G. Hall, and George Allen Business—Lodge opened and minutes read. Ballot taken for Mr. Walter Dalton, resulting in his unanimous election. Lodge opened in 2nd degree, when Bro. Camus came forward, answered the usual questions and retired. Lodge opened in 3rd degree, when Bro. Camus came forward, properly prepared, and was duly raised. Lodge closed down to 1st degree. Lodge of Emergency arranged for Wednesday next, the 13th inst., for the initiation of Mr. Walter Dalton.

Beaminster Manor Lodge, No. 1367.—This Lodge held an emergency meeting on Monday, the 18th inst., at the White Hart Hotel, Beaminster, Dorset. Present—Bros. Edward Gapper Legg W.M., James Andrews P.M. as S.W., Edward Holland J.W., Samuel Cox Sec., James Andrews Treasurer, Edward Toleman S.D., George Rugg J.D., J. S. Webb P.M. D.C., W. H. W. Toby P.M. Steward, William Murrant I.G., F. Long Tyler. Past Masters Bros. John Hine, C. G. Purkis and George Squire. Business—Brother Charles George Purkis was raised to the sublime degree, and Mr. James Broad was initiated. The lectures on the 3rd and 1st Tracing Boards were ably given by Bro. Past Master Toby, after which the Lodge was closed, and the brethren retired from labour to refreshment, a very agreeable evening being spent. From its steady increase of members, and the great unanimity among them, this promises to be a flourishing Lodge.

Brownrigg Lodge, No. 1424.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 13th inst., at the Assembly Room, Brompton, Kent. Present—Bros. Cottrell S.W., Fowler J.W., Magee Secretary, Walker Treasurer, Johnstone S.D., Ramsden J.D., Bliss Steward, Pickering I.G., Drago Tyler. Past Masters Bros. J. A. Bates, J. Jervis P.G.S.B. Visitors—Bros. Neate W.M. 77, Andrews P.M. 615, Hewett P.M. 184, Major Hunt 183 P.M. 532 and P.P.G.S.W., Dr. Fleming P.M. 1174 and P.P.G.S.B., Gamon S.W. 20, Spinks S.W. 1536, Warne P.M. 20 and P.P.G.S., Thompson J.W. 1174, Lieut.-Col. Burton 1174, Weston W.M. 1536, Picken S.W. 1536, Turner W.M. 1449, Eastley 184 and P.G.T., Barfield P.M. 20, Dr. Penfold P.M. 1173 and P.P.G.O., White P.M. 1174, Wyles P.M. 1050 and P.P.G.S.W., Wood P.M. 20 and P.G.S.W., Dr. Butler 1174, Attwood 569, Henderson 87, Spurrell W.M. 615, Thornton W.M. 20, Edwards P.M. 20 and P.P.G.J.W., &c., &c. The Lodge was opened in the three degrees by Bro. Jervis P.M. and P.G.S.B., who then raised Bro. Milne to the sublime degree of M.M., in his usual excellent manner. Bro. Bates P.M. then occupied the chair, and proceeded, in conjunction with Bro. Jervis, with the ceremony of installing Bro. H. Fowler as W.M. of the Lodge. The ceremony was most beautifully and impressively performed, Bro. Buck officiating at the organ. After a vote of thanks had been carried to the Installing Officers, Bro. Warne P.M., on behalf of the Visitors (of whom there were nearly sixty present), thanked the Lodge for the enjoyment they had experienced in witnessing such excellent working. Upwards of 100 brethren were present at the installation. The brethren adjourned to the Lecture Hall, Chatham, where an excellent banquet was prepared by the host of the Mitre Hotel. The following were the officers invested for the ensuing year—Bros. Jervis I.P.M., Cottrell S.W., Ramsden J.W., Walker Treasurer, Johnstone Secretary, Magee S.D., Pickering J.D., Bliss I.G., Langshaw Organist.

Era Lodge, No. 1428.—An emergency meeting was held last Saturday, at the Red Lion Hotel, Hampton. Bro. J. Baxter Langley W.M. in the chair. Bro. J. Quincy was appointed Steward for the next Anniversary Festival of the R.M. Benevolent Institution, on the 12th of February. The Lodge was then closed, and adjourned to 1st February 1877. Visitors—Bros. J. W. Adams S.W. 1623, E. W. Kent P.M. 879, T. White P.M. 22, J. Brown 1507, J. Smith 1257, &c. There was no banquet. It was settled by the votes of the brethren, that in future the meetings of the Lodge should be held on the second Friday in the month, in lieu of the third Monday. It was announced that another emergency meeting would be held previous to the Installation. The Lodge was then closed.

Francis Burdett Lodge, No. 1503.—This Lodge held its twenty-fifth meeting on Wednesday, 13th December, at the Albany Hotel, Twickenham. Present—Bros. W. H. Saunders W.M., S. H. Kuaggs S.W., H. Court sen. J.W., W. Higginton P.M. I.P.M. &c., Sec. J. Tomlinson I.P.M. Treasurer, W. Taylor S.D., J. W. H. Vaughan J.D., Rev. L. M. D'Orsey M.A., Assistant Chaplain, H. Court jun. Assistant Organist, C. Palmer LL.D. D.C., B. Coben Stew. and F. M. Ashley, G. Harrison Tyler. Past Master Bro. C. Horsley, &c. Visitor—Bro. Captain Elliott. Business—The ballot was taken and declared unanimous for Mr. Basford Bennett, who will be initiated in January. After one or two motions had been discussed, and the report of the Committee appointed to arrange alteration of nights of meeting had been received and adopted, Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to banquet, where peace and harmony reigned supreme. The photos of the brethren, taken in November, as a group, were much admired, and distributed. This is to be continued every year, and a copy hung up in Lodge—together with a large photo of the W.M. and his successor.

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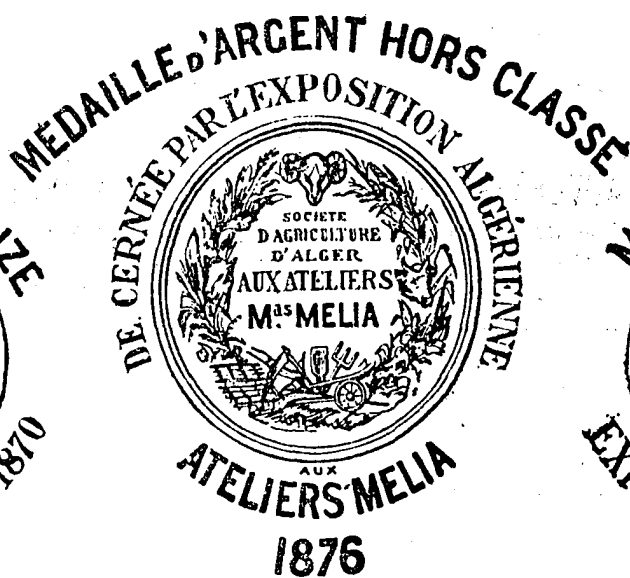
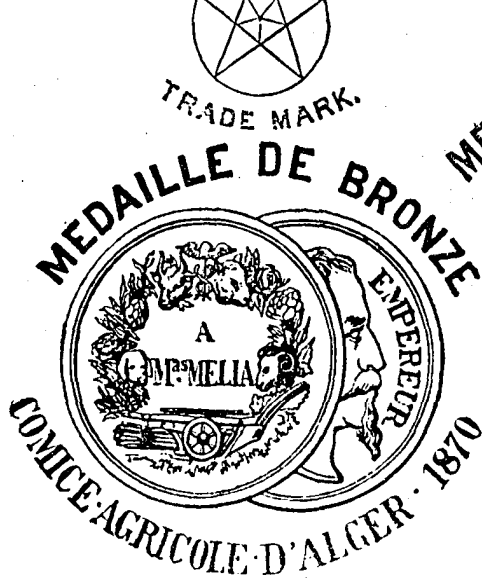
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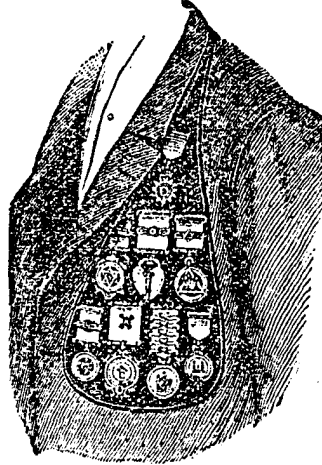
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THE MASONIC YEAR 1876.

THE year that will have closed to-morrow week has not been marked by any such noteworthy event as the Installation as Grand Master of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, but its career, nevertheless, has exhibited an evenly-maintained rate of progress. If it has been characterised by no unusual incident, it has at least shown that Freemasonry retains its firm hold on the affections of men of all classes and creeds. We are now more prosperous than we were this time twelvemonth. The efforts we have made towards demonstrating more unmistakably the beauty and the utility of our system have been in every respect worthy of the Craft; and the success of these efforts has been eminently satisfactory, even beyond our fondest hopes and aspirations. Of course our readers will clearly understand that in speaking of these endeavours to strengthen and confirm the Craft in the affections of the community, we have had recourse to no unusual means. It is a well-known and very proper rule of Freemasonry, that even the semblance of proselytising is strictly forbidden. We seek no additional strength from without; it comes to us. When, then, we refer to the efforts made during the past year to extend the influence of our Fraternity, we naturally allude to the greater activity of our Lodges, the greater earnestness they have shown in fulfilling the aims and purposes of the Order. If it is one of the privileges which we, as a recognised organ of Masonic opinion, enjoy, to laud the efforts of the Craft to perfect its organisation, and promote its usefulness, it is likewise one of our duties—albeit occasionally a painful one—to note irregularities and condemn them, so that the Craft universal may not sink in the estimation of the profane world. We have our enemies; for it is in human nature that people should speak enviously, and oftentimes even maliciously, of an Institution that is prosperous. Moreover, we respect all religious and political creeds equally, and therefore those governments and religious sects which have reason to be in dread of freedom of conscience, are certain to oppose us by every means in their power, be they lawful or unlawful. Yet, in spite of all opposition, and without seeking additional strength from without, we have gone on prospering more bravely than ever this year. Turn we in what direction we may, whether towards the United States of America, the Continent of Europe, or the United Kingdom with its numerous colonies and dependencies, everywhere will be found evidences of the growing strength of our Society. We have, indeed, strong reason to be thankful to the Great Architect of all things, for that He has been pleased to watch over and protect us far beyond our deserts.

We have said that in England, to which our attention is in the first instance most properly directed, if there has been no event of surpassing interest to mark our career during the last twelve months, the tenour of our progress has been uniformly satisfactory. The first evidence of this will be seen in the establishment of seventy-two additional Lodges—namely, 26 in the Metropolitan district, 33 in the provinces, and 13 in foreign parts. The provincial are thus distributed—1 Herts, 2 Montgomeryshire, 1 Merionethshire, 3 Surrey, 2 Middlesex, 5 Lancashire, 5 Yorkshire, 1 Staffordshire, 2 Warwickshire, 2 Durham, 2 Suffolk, 2 Sussex, and 1 each in Bucks, Northumberland, Salop, Essex, and Stafford. The 13 foreign Lodges are composed of 4 in South Africa, 4 in New Zealand, 3 in Queensland, and 2 in Bombay. The increase for 1876 is represented by these 72 Lodges, as against 52 for last year, and this irrespective of increase of members in Lodges already existing.

Among other evidences of progress two stand out prominently before the other events of the year—not so much because they were outside the regular course, but because of the part played in them by two of our most illustrious brethren. We allude, of course, to the installation of His Royal Highness Prince Leopold as Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire, and the installation, by M.W.G.M. the Prince of Wales, of Lord Suffield as Provincial Grand

Master of Norfolk. We note these in the order in which they occurred.

It will be remembered that Prince Leopold was initiated into Freemasonry on the 1st of May 1874, and that early in the following year he was appointed to the Senior Warden's chair in the Apollo University Lodge, No. 357, Oxford. On the 22nd of February of this year His Royal Highness was installed as Worshipful Master of this Lodge, in the presence of a number of distinguished members and visitors, among whom were conspicuous Bros. the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire; Lord de Tabley, Provincial G.M. Cheshire; Lord Methuen, Provincial G.M. Wilts; Colonel Burdett, Provincial G.M. Middlesex; Æ. McIntyre, Grand Registrar, in charge of the Province of Oxfordshire; J. B. Monckton, President of the Board of General Purposes; the Rev. C. J. Martyn, Past G. Chaplain; Captain Philips ("Bayard"); and R. J. Spiers, D.P.G.M. Oxon. A banquet followed at the Clarendon, when the health of the new W.M. was proposed by the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, and gracefully acknowledged by His Royal Highness. The following day the Prince was formally installed as Grand Master of the Province of Oxon. The ceremony was held in the Sheldonian Theatre, and, as may be imagined, was very numerously attended by brethren from all parts of the country. The Lodge was opened by Bro. Æ. McIntyre, Grand Registrar, in charge, and there were present, in addition to the majority of those enumerated above, the Earl of Limerick, Provincial G.M. Bristol; Lord Leigh, P.G.M. Warwickshire; General Brownrigg, Provincial G.M. Surrey; Colonel A. W. Adair, Past Prov. G.M. Somerset; W. B. Beach, M.P., Prov. G.M. Hants and Isle of Wight; Alderman Stone, G.J.W.; Lord Balfour of Burleigh, P.G.S.W. England; the Earl of Jersey; Colonel Campbell of Blytheswood, Provincial G.M. East Renfrewshire; Captain Hunter, Provincial G.M. East Aberdeenshire, and many others. Shortly after the opening of the Lodge, Lord Skelmersdale, Deputy Grand Master, was announced, and having been introduced and saluted, took the chair vacated for his Lordship by Bro. McIntyre. Prince Leopold's patent of appointment as Provincial Grand Master having been read, and it having been announced that His Royal Highness was in waiting, a deputation was formed, and he was conducted into the Lodge, the procession being headed by three Prov. Grand Stewards, and including Prov. G.D.C., Prov. G. Registrar, Prov. G. Treasurer, Grand Chaplains, and Grand Wardens, as well as two Masters of Lodges, carrying the insignia of the Provincial Grand Master. Prince Leopold, having taken his seat to the left of the Deputy Grand Master, prayer was offered by the Prov. Grand Chaplain, and then the ceremony of installation was most impressively gone through. The usual salute followed. The Prince then appointed his officers, and having received the congratulations of the Grand Orient of Italy, and transacted the remaining business, to a portion of which we shall have occasion to refer to later, closed the Provincial G. Lodge with the customary formalities. At the banquet which followed, and was held at the Corn Exchange, His Royal Highness very gracefully presided in person.

The other event is of more recent occurrence, Lord Suffield having been installed, by the Prince of Wales in person, as Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk, on the 20th November. The ceremony was a very brilliant one. The Provincial Lodge was held on this occasion in the Volunteer Drill Hall, and it is calculated that over 900 brethren were present, among them being the Deputy G.M. Lord Skelmersdale, Lord Waveney Prov. G.M. Suffolk, the Earl of Hardwicke Prov. G.M. of Cambridgeshire, and a number of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers present and past from different parts of the country, but especially from the Province of Norfolk itself and the neighbouring Provinces. The Lodge was opened by Bro. Major Penrice, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Designate, and shortly afterwards His Royal

Highness the Grand Master, having claimed admission, was ushered in by a body of Stewards previously selected for that purpose. Having ascended the throne, he was saluted with enthusiasm, and, making due allowance for the difference in numbers, quite as effectively as at his installation in the Royal Albert Hall. Lord Suffield, Provincial Grand Master elect, was then announced, and his patent of appointment having been given in and read, his Lordship was introduced by certain of the Stewards, and duly installed by the Grand Master. His Royal Highness then offered his congratulations to Lord Suffield, who, in acknowledging them, expressed a hope that he might be found worthy of the high office to which he had been appointed, and his determination to do all in his power to promote the welfare of the Craft. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren dispersed, His Royal Highness being greeted with the same enthusiasm on leaving as on his arrival. In the evening the six Norwich Lodges met together, again to celebrate the auspicious event in the usual manner among Masons, and those who had the pleasure of being present as guests will ever look back with pleasure to the abounding kindness and hospitality of the Norwich brethren, one of whom, Bro. A. M. P. Morgan, Past Deputy Grand Master of the Province, deserves to be mentioned by name, as having exerted himself to the utmost to receive and entertain the visitors who had flocked to the city from all parts. We almost have it in our heart to envy our Norfolk brethren the high distinction they enjoyed in having their Provincial Grand Master installed thus ceremoniously by the highest Masonic dignitary in England. As an incident of the week in which this event occurred, we may mention that Prince Leopold was present as a visitor at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire, held at Warminster, two days later. On this occasion the respected Provincial Grand Master, Lord Methuen, was presented with a magnificently emblazoned banner, in honour of his prolonged tenure of the Provincial Grand Mastership, and the many valuable services he had rendered to Freemasonry. After replying to the toast of his own health, His Royal Highness proposed "The Health of the Provincial Grand Master," in terms of well-merited eulogy, and his speech was most enthusiastically applauded by the brethren present. It is also worthy of mention, while referring to the connection of our Royal brethren with Freemasonry, that, early this year, Prince Leopold was advanced to the 30°, on which occasion the Earl of Carnarvon, Sovereign Grand Commander, 33°, presided; and further, that during his term of service on the Staff at Gibraltar, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught had conferred upon him the 18th degree of Rose Croix.

But while we sincerely congratulate the Fraternity on these accidents, for such they really are, of our growing fortune, we must look for the more substantial evidences of our progress to the regular working of the Craft. In doing this, we find our statement more than justified. At no period in our history has there been greater zeal and energy displayed than during this year. Not only have our Lodges met on the appointed days with their wonted regularity, but they have done so in more considerable force than heretofore. There has, likewise, been a greater amount of earnestness displayed in the labours of the Lodge, a greater desire to be perfect in rendering the ceremonies and working the Lectures, a deeper anxiety manifested to be Masons actually, as well as nominally. Craftsmen individually have fulfilled their duties in more workmanlike fashion, as though they had been to the manner born; while collectively, as Lodges, they have left no stone unturned in order to accomplish their allotted task. Grand Lodge, at its regular Quarterly Communications, has been more numerous attended than ever, and this is explicable, at least as much owing to the increased sense of our Masonic responsibilities as to the interest excited in one important question not yet fully determined, so far as regards the character it shall assume. The same may be said of the various Provincial Grand Lodges that have been held throughout the country; while in the case of unusual celebrations, such as attended the consecration of a new Lodge-room at Havant, for the use of the Carnarvon Lodge, No. 804, and the laying of the foundation-stones of new Masonic Halls at Launceston and Redruth, the occasions have proved not only a source of pride and pleasure within the Craft, but a matter for envious comment—always, as we have said, a sign of increased prosperity—among profanes. And here it seems fitting that we should go just one step further, and mention some of the most conspicuous instances

in which the more zealous among our members have received some acknowledgment for their valuable services. The presentation of these special testimonials of respect and esteem has occurred too frequently for us to enumerate them all, but certain of them deserve attention. Thus almost the first duty that devolved upon Prince Leopold, as Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire, was the presentation to Bro. Spiers of an inkstand and a purse of 500 guineas. Bro. Spiers had held the important office of Deputy Grand Master of the Province for over twenty years, during which period he displayed unwonted energy and enthusiasm in the discharge of his duties. His Oxfordshire brethren were fully sensible of this, and very wisely determined that Bro. Spiers should receive a substantial token of their affection for him, both as a man and as a brother. Accordingly, Prince Leopold had barely been installed and appointed his officers, when the pleasing task fell to him of handing the testimonial we have mentioned to Bro. Spiers. A suitable address accompanied it, and in discharging his duty, the Prince added a few words of his own, in graceful allusion to the Past Deputy P.G. Master's admirable career in Masonry. Among other instances of a like character must be mentioned those of Bro. Hervey, our respected Grand Secretary, and Bro. Sutcliffe, a leading Mason in the Province of Lincolnshire. Bro. Hervey, as our readers are no doubt aware, has filled the important office of Treasurer to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement for upwards of thirty years, and on the 24th November a handsome inkstand was presented to him by our Pro Grand Master the Earl of Carnarvon, in the presence of between 600 and 700 brethren. On the 29th of the same month, Bro. Sutcliffe, in his capacity of Provincial Grand Master Mason of Lincolnshire, was presented with an oil painting, containing portraits of himself and his first Provincial Grand Officers, the handsome frame being enriched with suitable Masonic emblems.

Let us now, however, pass to the most important achievements of the year—we mean the work done for our various Masonic Institutions. Whenever the world is inclined to be distrustful of the true purposes of Freemasonry, when it tells us we are little better than an irreligious, immoral society of men, bent on the destruction of all that is valued and valuable in all countries, a Brother has merely to point to our three noble charities, and ask—"If an Order which has established and maintains such noble institutions is truly eager for the overthrow of Governments, religions, and moralities?" He may say, "By our fruits ye shall know us!" And how magnificent are these fruits of our beloved Freemasonry—a Benevolent Institution, which relieves aged and distressed brethren, and the widows of distressed brethren, to the number of *two hundred and forty-six*; a Boys' School, which clothes, maintains, and educates *one hundred and eighty* boys; and a Girls' School, which now receives *one hundred and fifty*, and will shortly be enlarged to receive over *two hundred* girls—the sons and daughters of deceased or indigent Masons. These are, indeed, a legitimate subject of pride with all Craftsmen, and should satisfy the world that our Society is an honest and an honourable one. And how is all this done? By the voluntary contributions of Craftsmen, gathered and presented annually, at the regular Festivals of the three Charities. This year the Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution was held at the Freemasons' Hotel, on 9th February. Our Deputy Grand Master, Lord Skelmersdale, presided, and was ably and energetically supported by nearly 400 brethren. Towards the close of the evening the indefatigable Secretary, Bro. Terry, announced the total amount of the subscriptions as £9,184 10s 6d; West Lancashire, of which Lord Skelmersdale is the Provincial Grand Master, nobly supporting his lordship to the extent of over £1,500. The substantial result of this magnificent success was the increase of the several sums payable to the male annuitants from £36 to £40, and to the female annuitants from £28 to £32; truly a great boon to our worthy patriarchal friends, who have seen more fortunate, if not happier times! Before closing our reference to the Benevolent Institution, we may as well add, that the last year or two, Bro. Terry has provided a Summer and Winter Entertainment for our Old Folks, and on these occasions there is always a numerous gathering of the friends and supporters of the Institution, who lay themselves out specially to please our ancient fellows.

In May was held the eighty-eighth Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. Sir Henry Edwards Bart., Provincial Grand Master for West Yorkshire, pre-

sided, and the subscription list—announced in the course of the proceedings—presented the very handsome total of £8,214, with twelve Stewards' lists still outstanding. Thus we are justified in setting down the full amount of the year's contributions handed in at the Festival at £8,500, and that irrespective of other sums subscribed at different periods of the year. Two days previous, the Stewards of the Institution paid their annual visit to the School, when certain of the pupils delivered recitations, and the prizes were distributed, in the presence of a very strong muster of friends and brethren, among whom, as a matter of course, the ladies were fully represented. We cannot enumerate all the prize-winners, nor, indeed, is it desirable we should do so, as the list was given in our columns at the time when the meeting was held. It is right, however, we should commemorate the names of those who secured the most important prizes. These were Miss Lilian Mary Nelson, to whom were awarded the Gold Medal for Proficiency, given annually by Bro. Paas, and £5 given by Bro. Winn; Miss Lucy Kate Clemence, who took the Silver Medal for good conduct, given by the Institution, together with £5 given by Bro. Winn; and Miss Jane P. Pattison, who received £5, given by the same brother, for General Proficiency. It is desirable, also, we should mention, as evidence of the excellence of the education provided in the school, that prizes were also awarded to those pupils who had passed successfully the Cambridge Examination, among them being Miss Leila Lucy Caparn, who passed with honours, and obtained special distinction in Religious Knowledge. We have mentioned incidentally that it is intended to enlarge this school, so as to accommodate over two hundred pupils, but it is necessary we should give some fuller particulars. Several schemes were submitted for the consideration of the General Court of Governors and Subscribers. In some it was proposed that the school should be removed into the country, while in others various suggestions were offered for the purpose of further accommodation in the neighbourhood of the present building. However, after a patient examination of all the requirements, it was resolved, on the motion of Lieut.-Colonel Creaton, to erect a large Assembly Hall or School-room, with dormitories, &c. over, sufficient to accommodate additional fifty-six girls, thus raising the total number of pupils to 204. The cost of this enlargement will amount to £9,400, according to the original contract; but, doubtless, before the work is complete, a further sum will have been expended. Such, at least, is our experience of all contracts of this description, that they invariably exhibit a tendency to *expand* instead of *contracting* their limits. Be this as it may, but a short time will elapse ere the requisite building is completed, and then we shall have a magnificent school for the maintenance and education of over two hundred girls. We may add that no time has been lost in giving effect to the above resolution. The first stone of the new building has already been laid, Lieut.-Colonel Creaton, as the proposer of the scheme, appropriately taking the leading part in the interesting ceremony, and the work is being pressed forward with all the diligence of which the contractor and his staff are capable. One other pleasing duty we have to perform in connection with this Institution, and that is to record that a testimonial of fifty guineas was presented by the Governors to Miss Moss, on her retirement from the post of governess.

It next becomes our duty to chronicle the fortunes of the Boys' School 1876. It is doubtless within the recollection of some of our readers that in the summer of last year a fierce controversy arose between certain of the brethren of the Province of West Yorkshire on the one hand, and the Governing Body of the School on the other, as to the government and expenditure of the school. The former alleged that the educational staff did not receive that amount of consideration to which it was justly entitled, and that the funds were not as wisely and economically administered as they should be. The latter, of course, maintained that every thing was being done that could be done to promote the welfare of the school, and to make it a first-class educational establishment. A good deal of acrimony was imported into the controversy, but as time passed on, and it was found that the position of the Executive was impregnable; when, the more the matters in dispute were sifted the more apparent it became that the committees had acted on the whole wisely, and beyond all doubt honestly and honourably, in the interests of the

Institution entrusted to their care, a strong feeling prevailed that the controversy must be summarily closed, or the school would suffer. Accordingly, at the Quarterly General Council held on the 10th April, Bro. the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford moved a resolution expressing the unabated confidence of the whole body, governors and subscribers, in the House Committee and Executive generally. This resolution was met by the brethren of West Yorkshire with a direct negative. A sharp debate followed, and was prolonged far beyond the usual hour for closing the business of the Court, the result being that Bro. Woodford's resolution was carried, in a full house, by an overwhelming majority. Since then, we believe, a feeble attempt has been made to revive the controversy, but it was a last flicker. The candle of discontent has burnt out, and we trust, in the interests of the school, we shall hear no more of these unpleasant differences. It is evident, however, that the disputes can have had no effect whatever on the main body of the Craft. The canvass for subscriptions was, if possible, more energetic than in previous years. There were no less than 280 Stewards, a number greatly in excess over all previous Festivals. Lord Leigh, Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire, occupied the chair, and among his supporters was a very numerous sprinkling of the fair sex, who, thanks to the gallantry of Bro. Binckes, have been permitted these last two years to play an active, as well as an ornamental, part in the proceedings of the day. When Lord Leigh had proposed the toast of "Prosperity to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," and the toast had been enthusiastically welcomed, the Secretary announced a subscription list amounting to £12,100, there being, however, twenty lists still outstanding. Thus, it will be rather under than over the mark, if we set down the labours of the 280 Stewards as having resulted in the contribution towards the funds of the Institution of the handsome sum of £12,500. But this, as is the case with the other two charities, is very far from representing the total contributed during the year. There has, indeed, been paid this year into the Bank no less a sum than £14,400. Thus over £32,000 must have been raised this year by voluntary subscriptions among the Craft for the maintenance of our three magnificent charities. That Our Boys should receive the largest share of support is only to be expected, for the Institution has but little invested property, and every year an increase is made in the number of pupils. Seventy-eight years ago the school was started, with *six* boys, and there are now in it somewhat over *one hundred and eighty*, and we note with satisfaction that it is contemplated next year, at least by the worthy secretary, Bro. Binckes, to found a preparatory school that will suffice to accommodate one hundred little boys, the sons of Masons. The cost of this additional school is reckoned at £10,000.

At the distribution of prizes, which was held on the Monday preceding the Festival, the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite presided, Bro. J. M. P. Montagu, Grand Chancellor, occupying the chair, and among those present to support him were Major Clerke, the Grand Secretary-General, Hyde Pullen, Assistant Secretary, S. Rawson 33°, and R. Giddy, Inspector-General 33°, for South Africa. Prior to the distribution of prizes, Bro. Binckes offered a few remarks as to the state of the School and the result of the year's work. He mentioned, with just pride, that while the number of boys who passed the Cambridge middle class examination averaged 55·3 per cent. of the whole number who submitted themselves for examination, fourteen out of eighteen boys from the Royal Masonic School, or a percentage of 77·7-9, were successful last December. An even greater degree of success attended the examination early this year, for while, for the whole of London, only 21 passed out of 44, 9 out of the 11 Masonic boys passed, or 81·9-11 per cent. Then two pupils, named Bryant and Shaw respectively, obtained second-class certificates from the Science and Art Department, South Kensington, and he added that three pupils took first-class honours at the Cambridge local examination (for juniors), namely, Beaumont, Bryant, and Shaw. These, he very properly pointed out, were highly satisfactory proofs of the value of the education given in the Boys' School. Then followed the annual speeches, and dramatic representations, the various prizes being distributed in the intervals. The Canonbury Gold Medal, given by Bro. Edward Cox, was awarded to W. H. Packwood, and the silver medal for good conduct, presented by the Institution, to H. G. Shaw.

Before quitting the subject of the Masonic Institutions, it seems fitting we should mention that Grand Lodge, having unanimously agreed to commemorate the visit to, and safe return from, India, of His Royal Highness, the Grand Master, has appointed a Special Committee for the purpose of determining the most appropriate form which the Memorial shall take. It is announced that a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge will be held shortly, for the express purpose of receiving this Report, but it is not yet known what will be the nature of the recommendations they will submit. There is, however, a very general idea prevailing that nothing more suitable could be devised than the presentation of a certain sum of money to each of our three Charities, the appropriation of such sum being left to the wisdom and discretion of the respective governing bodies. We certainly consider this would be an excellent scheme for commemorating so auspicious an event. We gladly announce that Bro. Binckes, with that energy for which he is so remarkable, has a plan of his own, namely, that the sum of £6000 shall be distributed, in equal shares, among the three Institutions. We cannot say this is a better scheme than that of the Special Committee, for, as we have remarked already, the said Committee have not allowed the nature of their proposition to become public. This, however we do affirm, that it is a scheme in every way worthy of the Craft, as well as of him in whose honour it is propounded. A Prince of Wales's Endowment attached to each of the Charities will, indeed, be an excellent commemoration of his visit to India.

Another event of sufficient importance to record in our history of the year's doings is the opening of the Masonic Club, in Queen Victoria-street. This is a matter for hearty congratulation. Brethren now have a place, outside the Lodge, where they can meet and enjoy the pleasures of social intercourse. It is not creditable to so numerous and influential a body of men—and men so clubbable as Masons are generally esteemed to be—that they should have been so long without their club; and it speaks well for the energy and enterprise exhibited by the directors, and notably by Bro. Langton, chairman of the Sub-Committee of Management, that they have carried out their plans so expeditiously and successfully. The formal opening of this London Masonic Club was celebrated, in the customary manner, by a banquet, at which the Deputy Grand Master, Lord Skelmersdale, presided with his wonted geniality. Those present were delighted beyond measure with the arrangements made for their entertainment, and especially with the very practical illustration they received of the excellence of the *cuisine*. Profanes, of course, will laugh at us for laying stress on this, but a club without a good culinary department would very soon go to the wall. The rooms are handsomely, but not ostentatiously furnished, the comfort of members having been the main consideration of the managers. There are billiard rooms and smoking rooms, a reading room, and a very handsome suite of apartments, which is used for Lodge purposes, as occasion demands. Though all London was out of town, as the saying is, when the opening ceremonial was held, the directors have since had every reason to be satisfied with their venture, and we trust the new Club may go on prospering more and more every year.

As regards Royal Arch Masonry, the year has been equally satisfactory as with Craft. Eighteen new Chapters have been added to the roll of Grand Chapter. Of these, six are on foreign stations, namely:—three in the East Indies, one in Jamaica, one in New Zealand, and one in South Africa. Of the remaining twelve—three are in the London district, and nine in the Provinces; namely, one in each of the following:—Devon, Cornwall, Monmouth, Middlesex, Lancashire, Hants and Isle of Wight, Northumberland, South Wales, and North Wales. One of the most interesting events is certainly the consecration, on the same day, by the Rev. J. Hyshe, Provincial Grand Superintendent of Devon, of the Dundas and Devon Chapters. Our Rev. Comp. is known for his earnest zeal in the cause of every branch of Freemasonry, and so unusual an event will be looked back upon by him with the kindest recollections, as it certainly will be by those who enjoyed the privilege of witnessing and taking part in the impressive ceremonials. Of course, as the Royal Arch is so intimately associated with Craft Masonry, there is little additional matter to record of it which does not likewise concern the latter. We note however, with great pleasure, the appointment of Lieut.-Colonel Creaton to be President of the Grand Chapter Committee, in the room of the late lamented

Comp. John Savage. Colonel Creaton is a man of energy and ability, and is further distinguished by such essential qualifications for this particular office, as firmness, tact, and discretion. We feel that we are but echoing the opinion of all Royal Arch Masons, when we state that the Pro Grand Z. could not have made a happier use of the right in him vested, than when he selected so worthy a Companion for this important office.

In Mark Masonry, the year has been one of unwonted activity. The half-yearly communications of Grand Lodge in June and December were very numerous attended; the Grand Master, the Earl of Limerick, being re-installed at the former, amid very general enthusiasm, and at the same time a further sum of £200 was directed to be invested on account of the General Fund. We have it, indeed, on the authority of Sir F. W. Williams Bart. M.P., the Provincial Grand Master of Cornwall, that at the present time there are in England some 200 Mark Lodges and 10,000 Mark Master Masons. The Moveable Grand Mark Lodge took place on the 25th of October, at Leicester, under the presidency of Grand Master the Earl of Limerick. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Fowke Lodge, No. 19, and there was a very strong muster of the brethren. After Grand Lodge was closed, a new Lodge, bearing the title of the Simon de Montfort Lodge, No. 194, was consecrated by the M.W. the Grand Master, and subsequently Bro. Barfoot was installed as the first Worshipful Master. The ceremony, which, thanks to Bro. Barfoot, was conducted in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, was very impressively rendered, and the occasion was honoured with the usual banquet. On the 29th November, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Lincolnshire held a meeting in the Old Hall at Gainsborough. Bro. John Sutcliffe, Provincial G.M. Master, presided, and as he had issued invitations to the brethren in the provinces of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Northumberland, Durham, Cheshire, and North Wales, the gathering was on a far grander scale than usual. There was, moreover, a special interest attaching to the occasion, as a testimonial was presented to the Prov. G.M. Master, for his eminent services on behalf of Mark Masonry. To this allusion has already been made; we need not, therefore, enter into any further detail here. But, perhaps, the most important event connected with this degree is the installation of Lord Skelmersdale as Provincial Grand Mark Master Mason for Lancashire, in succession to the late respected Bro. William Romaine Callender M.P. The ceremony was performed by the Earl of Limerick in person, and it is almost needless to say that the attendance of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers, past and present, as well as of Mark Master Masons generally, was very numerous and influential. One other event deserves to be recorded—namely, the issue of a warrant of confirmation to the York Mark Lodge, which till quite recently had persistently declined to recognise the Grand Mark Lodge. Many attempts have been made to induce it to take its place among the rest of the Mark Lodges of England and Wales, but these were all of them unsuccessful, till a few weeks since, when the new W.M. for the year was duly installed in his office by Bro. Binckes, Grand Mark Secretary. Nor must we omit to mention that the annual Festival of the Mark Benevolent Fund was held at the Alexandra Palace, on the 19th July, under the presidency of Lieut.-Gen. Brownrigg, Grand Senior Warden. On this occasion, the Stewards' subscription lists amounted to within a few shillings of £130. It is also worthy of notice that H.R.H. Prince Leopold has been advanced to this degree.

A few other matters deserve to be recorded in connection with Freemasonry in England. It is worthy of notice that a new Lodge, the Eboracum, No. 1611, was this year constituted in the ancient City of York—a city which, both traditionally and in fact, is associated with the very earliest history of our Society. It is with deep regret, also, that we announce the death of sundry among the leading members of the Craft, the most prominent amongst them being the late Hon. F. Walpole, M.P., who survived his installation as Provincial Grand Master of Norfolk only a few months; Bro. W. Romaine Callender, M.P. P.G.M. of East Lancashire and Prov. Grand Mark Master for Lancashire; the Rev. Bro. Lockwood, Deputy Prov. G.M. Suffolk, and Sir Cordy Barrowes, Provincial G.M. Master of Sussex. It is also fitting we should pay a slight tribute of respect to the memory of our late Bro. Richard Spencer, who died on the 21st July, at the ripe age of 76. Bro. Spencer, during his career, rendered many valuabl

services to Freemasonry, and was always a most active supporter of our charities. But it is chiefly for his encouragement of Masonic literature that Bro. Spencer will be known to future generations of Brethren. He it was who published so many of the works of the late Rev. Bro. Dr. Oliver, and other Masonic works. In this way, perhaps, did Bro. Spencer help to raise the Craft in public estimation to a far greater extent than even the ablest and most zealous of his contemporaries. It must be a source of satisfaction to his family to know that his long service as a Mason was fully appreciated, and that he was as greatly respected outside the limits of his family circle as he was beloved within.

As to the so-called high and side degrees, we may state generally that their condition leaves nothing whatever to be desired. The most eminent among the Craft Masons are among the most active supporters of them, and it follows naturally that though the numbers are somewhat limited, the A. and A. Rite, the Rose Croix, and Templarism are flourishing, even beyond all precedent.

We turn now to Freemasonry in Ireland, and we rejoice to say that there too it is highly respected by all loyal men. Some attacks are occasionally made upon the Order, but these have the effect of promoting its welfare rather than of causing it any serious damage. A Belfast journal, more ingenious than wise, contrived, in a roundabout-way, to describe Freemasonry as exercising a pernicious influence on the flax trade. The absurdity of such a connection was apparent to every one, and we experienced no difficulty whatever in demolishing the weak assertions of the journal in question. But, save these harmless attacks, the progress of Freemasonry in the Sister Isle has been one of uninterrupted satisfaction. On the 22nd May, Grand Master his Grace the Duke of Abercorn, Her Majesty's Viceroy, visited Belfast, and was presented with an address, by the brethren of the province of Antrim. The Duke was accompanied by his daughter, the Lady Georgina Hamilton, and their reception by the brethren, in the Music Hall, was most enthusiastic. There was a very strong muster of the Craft, and his Grace most cordially thanked all present for the very kind wishes they had expressed in his behalf. On the 28th April, was held, in the Exhibition Palace, Dublin, the annual festival of the Female Orphan School, Dublin, the Grand Master presiding, and his daughter, the Lady G. Hamilton, gracefully fulfilling the very agreeable task of distributing the prizes to the successful pupils. On no previous occasion has this festival been so brilliantly attended. There was a very large gathering of the brethren, including the Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Shekleton, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Lords Dunboyne and Plunket, and Bros. Oldham, Dr. Elrington, and G. Hill Major. When the report had been read, from which it appeared that the number of pupils in the school was forty-five, the Grand Master delivered a very eloquent address, in which he expatiated at some length on the excellent condition of the Institution, and the benefits it conferred on the less fortunate members of the Craft. A selection of music was then given by the girls, after which the prizes were distributed, in the first instance to the girls, and then to the pupils of the boys' school attached to the Asylum. The good conduct medals (girls) were awarded to Emily Christian and L. A. M. Bardge, and the Oldham ditto ditto for boys to Edward Shields, in the first class, and Crosbie Hervey in the second. After a vote of thanks to the Duke of Abercorn for presiding, the meeting closed. It is, of course, a subject of regret with most people, and especially with the Freemasons, that his Grace has been compelled, by the ill-health of his wife, to resign the Viceroyship, but this will not sever his connection with Freemasonry. Long may his Grace of Abercorn live to preside over the destinies of the Sister Craft in Ireland!

Scotland enjoys the honour this year of having witnessed the largest and most imposing assemblage of the Craft—hardly even exceeded by the ever memorable gathering last year in the Royal Albert Hall—since the revival of Freemasonry in 1717. The Prince of Wales, as we all know, is not only Grand Master of England, but Patron of the Order both in Scotland and Ireland; and it was in his capacity of Patron that His Royal Highness was invited to be present at, and play the leading part in, the important ceremony of laying the Foundation Stone of the new Post Office, Glasgow. For some time previous the most elaborate preparations had been made for the reception of the Prince. At one time, it was officially announced that the stone would

not be laid with the customary Masonic formalities. But His Royal Highness, on the intercession of the Craft, graciously waived all objection to a Masonic inauguration of the new building, and on Thursday, the 17th October, Glasgow was in a state of enthusiasm at the approaching event. The evening previous, the Prince and Princess of Wales reached Blytheswood, the seat of Colonel Campbell, Provincial G.M. of East Renfrewshire. On the eventful day, the brethren began to assemble shortly after twelve o'clock in Burnbank Park, and ultimately the muster reached the magnificent total of very little short of 8000. No less than 228 Lodges, headed by Mother Kilwinning, were represented, and the Grand Lodge mustered in strength befitting so important an occasion. The procession along the prescribed route was watched with great interest by the inhabitants, and, had the weather been more propitious, nothing perhaps could have exceeded the brilliancy of the spectacle. The ceremony itself passed off most successfully. The various officers fulfilled their task admirably, and the Prince completed it most impressively. This is the second occasion on which His Royal Highness has discharged this duty in Scotland. On the first, he laid the foundation of the New Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, in the presence of Grand Master the late Earl of Dalhousie and some four thousand brethren. In both cases the Princess of Wales was a witness of the ceremony. Among those present who took part in the Masonic duty was Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, Bart., Grand Master Mason of Scotland.

But this, though the most important, is far from being the only occasion on which Freemasonry has played the chief part in events of public interest. On the 22nd of May, the Foundation Stone of the new Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh; was laid with Masonic ceremony, by Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, Bart., Grand Master Mason, in the presence of a large gathering of the Craft. The previous month the foundation stone of a new block of buildings, intended for the accommodation of working men, was laid, Masonically, by Bro. Steel, Sheriff of Dumbartonshire, acting as Grand Master of the Province; while in September the first stone of the New Docks at Ayr was laid by Bro. Sir James Ferguson, Bart., P.P.G.M. Ayrshire, acting on behalf of Sir M. Shaw Stewart, who was unfortunately prevented, by illness, from attending. About a thousand Craftsmen were present, representing some thirty-four Lodges. We should also mention, as an illustration of the increasing vitality of the Royal Art in the provinces of Scotland, the interesting gathering of the Perthshire Craftsmen on the occasion of their visit to the Right Hon. Lord Kinnaid, Prov. G.M. of the County, at his residence at Rossie Priory. His Lordship has always evinced a steady support of Freemasonry. It is to his energy particularly that so much activity has been shown in the province of which he is the respected chief, and the visit paid to Rossie Priory on St. John the Baptist's day, affords some slight indication of the extent to which his Lordship's labours are appreciated.

It is further worthy of record that, on the 21st of August, a Grand, Imperial Council of the Order of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine for Scotland was inaugurated, by a deputation sent to Edinburgh especially for that purpose. Sir Knight R. Wentworth Little presided, as Grand Sovereign, and Colonel Burdett was duly installed as Grand Sovereign of the Order. After the installation of the Grand Council, and the appointment of the Grand Senate, the Knights adjourned to a banquet at the Windsor Hotel, when the toasts usual on such an occasion were given and responded to with much enthusiasm.

If we turn to our colonies and dependencies, we shall find that, in these likewise, as well as in the mother country, the Royal Art is flourishing. The Grand Master's visit to India very naturally aroused the brethren in that magnificent empire to a high pitch of enthusiasm. Bombay had the honour of leading the way in congratulating the Prince on his arrival, and the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Elphinstone West Dock, together with the grand Masonic Ball that was given about the same time, will always be remembered with pleasure and pride by our Bombay brethren. It was expected that on his arrival in Calcutta the brethren in the Bengal Presidency would enjoy a like opportunity of congratulating the Grand Master on his presence in the capital of India; and possibly also that he might find time to lay the foundation stone of

the new Freemasons' Hall about to be erected in the city. Unfortunately, the Prince's numerous engagements prevented the wishes of the Craft from being carried out. All that could be done, however, was done. A few days before His Royal Highness's departure from Calcutta, a deputation from the District Grand Lodge of Bengal, consisting of District Grand Master Roberts, the Deputy Grand Master and Past D.D.G.M., together with the District Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, had an interview, for the purpose of presenting an address. This address was beautifully engrossed and illuminated, and enclosed in a silver casket, appropriately ornamented with miniature Craft tools and jewels, and Royal Arch symbols and jewels, all in gold. The Prince expressed his acknowledgments in a few well-chosen and kindly words, and the deputation retired, much gratified with their reception. These, however, as we have pointed out in the case of England, are merely the accidents of the year. The evidence of a substantial progress must be looked for in the ordinary labours of the various Lodges, but especially in the activity of the several District Grand Lodges and other ruling bodies. If these pursue their work half-heartedly, and only as a matter of course, we justly conclude that the star of Freemasonry is under a cloud; but if the Lodges are well attended, if the duties required of members are fulfilled earnestly, as well as with ability, the inference is that the Craft is prospering. We have this evidence in the case of India. The District Grand Lodges meet regularly, and are well attended. Moreover, not only are the Lodges becoming numerically stronger, they are likewise becoming more numerous. There are now eighty-nine Lodges in the East Indies, grouped in six districts, namely, the Eastern Archipelago—which may certainly be regarded as East Indian—with three, Bengal with thirty-one, Bombay with sixteen, British Burmah with eight, the Punjaub with seventeen, and Madras with fourteen Lodges. In addition, there are twenty-three Lodges under the Grand Lodge of all Scottish Freemasonry in India, with its head quarters at Bombay, and presided over by Bro. Henry Morland as Grand Master. Royal Arch Masonry is represented by thirty-five Chapters, including the three warranted this year, arranged in five District Grand Chapters—namely, Bengal, Bombay, British Burmah, Madras, and Punjaub. All this is eminently satisfactory, and we take this opportunity of congratulating our Indian brethren upon the earnest manner in which they pursue their Masonic duties. Every year they grow stronger, meeting numerous, building themselves new Temples, and last, but most important feature of all, they have their benevolent institutions, in order to meet the claims of the indigent and friendless members on the charity of the Society. We can only say to India,—Go on prospering in the future as heretofore.

In Australia and New Zealand, as well as in South Africa, the same picture is presented. Australasia is divided into six districts, including Western Australia, which, however, at present has no District Grand Lodge. First comes New South Wales, with its 28 Lodges, 8 of which are located in Sydney, the capital of the colony. Queensland has 16 Lodges, of which 3 belong to Brisbane, the capital. South Australia has 14 Lodges, 4 of them being in Adelaide, while in Victoria there are no less than 63 Lodges, of which 9 are in Melbourne. Western Australia has 4 Lodges, and Tasmania 7. This gives a total of 132 Lodges, distributed throughout our Australasian colonies. In New Zealand there are 36 in the five districts of Canterbury, Otago, Southland, Westland—South Island—no District Grand Lodge as yet—and Northland. Of these 5 are located at Auckland, which is somewhat anxious to be constituted as a separate district, and two each at Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington. South Africa embraces 3 districts—namely, Western Division with 5 Lodges, Eastern Division with 21, and Griqualand with 3—making together 29; and there are besides 3 Lodges in Natal, 1 at Cape Coast Castle, 1 at Lagos, and 2 in St. Helena, making in all 36 Lodges in Africa, but omitting the 9 English Lodges (3 at Alexandria, 5 at Cairo, and 1 at Ramleh) in Egypt. There are as yet no District Grand Chapters in Africa, but there are 5 R.A. Chapters in Cape Colony, and 1 in St. Helena, besides certain others that have been warranted this year. But this is very far from representing the full extent of Masonry in these countries. Both the Irish and Scotch Grand Lodges have numerous Lodges under their respective jurisdictions. Under the Irish jurisdiction there are Provincial Grand Masters for Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and South Aus-

tralia, as well as one for New Zealand, while under the jurisdiction of the Scottish Grand Lodge there are exactly the same districts presided over by officers of the same rank. In addition, there are sundry Dutch Lodges in Cape Colony. But perhaps it is in New Zealand that the Craft has made the greatest strides this year. It is only recently that the North Island of New Zealand has been erected into a separate District Grand Lodge, and the most memorable event we have to record is the installation, on the 20th June, of Sir Donald McLean K.C.M.G. as the first District Grand Master. The ceremony was very ably performed by Bro. John Lazar, District Grand Master of Westland, South Island, in the presence of a large concourse of brethren. Bro. Sir D. McLean, having been formally proclaimed and congratulated, expressed his sense of the honour conferred, and his determination to spare no effort in order to carry out the arduous duties of his office. We regret to say, however, this election has not given universal satisfaction. The Brethren at Auckland muster strongly, and they consider this would justify the establishment of an Auckland District Grand Lodge. We believe, indeed, that steps are being taken—they are certainly in contemplation—to secure this result. If Masonry will be still further strengthened hereby, we see no reason why their wishes should not be gratified. This, however, is the sole cause of dissatisfaction, as in all other respects the appointment of Sir D. Maclean has been well received by the New Zealand Craftsmen.

Still one event remains to be chronicled in connection with New Zealand, which especially illustrates the deep sense our brethren there entertain of the duties of hospitality. Early in the year a submarine telegraph was successfully laid between Australasia and New Zealand, and when the cable ships "Hibernia" and "Edinburgh" arrived in Nelson Harbour, it was known this task was completed. The members of the Southern Star Lodge, No. 735, located in that town, held an emergency meeting, for the express purpose of inviting those among the officers of the ships who were Craftsmen to a banquet. This, accordingly, was held in the month of March, at the Commercial Hotel, when the W.M. of the Lodge, Bro. Moutray, presided, and a most agreeable evening was passed. The example thus set by the Masons was quickly followed by the general public, and a picnic and ball were held, to which the officers of the expedition were invited. This, of course, was the "right thing" for the citizens of Nelson to do, but the merit of having led the way puts another bright feather in the cap of New Zealand Freemasonry.

We are now approaching the close of this portion of our record of the year's events. The balls and picnics and other pleasant *réunions* which have been held at different times in different parts of the country do not need to be referred to particularly. There is one, perhaps, which deserves special mention, and that is the dramatic entertainment given under the auspices of sundry Cheshire Lodges, when Bro. Charles Duval took the lion's share of the work of entertainment, and generously placed the lion's share of the proceeds to the credit of the Cheshire Masonic Educational Institute. When we find a brother turning his talents to so excellent an account, it were churlish, indeed, if we did not express to him our hearty thanks for his devotion to the cause of charity. This cannot, of course, be done very frequently, but when it is done, the event must be recognised. Other items there are, which are likewise worthy of introduction. On his return from India, the Prince of Wales put in at Gibraltar, and during his brief stay there his Royal Highness laid the first stone of a new Market, with Masonic ceremonies. There was, too, a Masonic ball in honour of the occasion, at which both he and his brother the Duke of Connaught were present. It is well, also, to note that among the first to welcome the Prince on landing at Portsmouth were the brethren of the Province of Hants and the Isle of Wight, under their respected Provincial Grand Master, Bro. W. B. Beach, M.P. On this occasion an address of welcome was presented, at the railway station, at the moment of the Prince's departure for London. Last, but not least, Sheffield enjoys the honour of having set an admirable example to brethren in other parts of the country. Early in the year a scheme was prepared for the establishment of a Masonic Library, and a goodly array of useful Masonic works were announced as having been collected for the purpose. We should like to see this example very generally followed. Good must come if the doings of the Craft are—within proper limits, of

course—made public, while the more brethren study our literature, the more enthusiastic will they become as Masons. The example shows that our Craft blades in Sheffield are true as steel. Thus much for Freemasonry in the United Kingdom. Pass we now to a review of the Craft in foreign countries.

In France the Grand Orient has pursued the task of controlling and directing the destinies of Freemasonry with unabated vigour, and with its usual success. One unfortunate question was raised at the General Assembly held in October, and this has certainly caused among English Craftsmen a grave sense of disquietude. But, apart from this, to which we shall shortly refer at greater length, there is nothing in the conduct of our French brethren which affords us other than the sincerest pleasure. We should, indeed, be wanting in our duty if we did not offer them our hearty congratulations on the general activity that has been noticeable in Paris and throughout the provinces during this year. In those works of charity which it is the duty of all Masons to encourage and promote, in accordance, of course, with the means at their disposal, our French brethren are continually doing honour to the Craft. Nor are these labours directed to this duty alone. French Masonry has certain attributes peculiar to itself. The Lodges under its jurisdiction are encouraged both by precept, and the example of the Grand Orient, to assist in promoting whatever will conduce to the general welfare of the community. Thus, in the month of January, a course of lectures on the English language was commenced under the auspices of the Grand Orient. A course of German study had already been tried, and with a success so signal, that the G.O. made a further experiment with our language, and at the inaugural meeting, which was presided over by Bro. Armand, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Council of the Order, assisted by Bro. Caubet, one of the Secretaries, and Bro. Seinguerlet, no less than five hundred persons were present. The instruction is given gratuitously, and it is hoped, as time progresses, that tuition in other subjects may be attempted with equal success. On the 28th of July a meeting was held, under the presidency of Bro. de Saint Jean, President of the Council of the Grand Orient, at the hotel of the G.O., for the purpose of distributing the prizes to those students who had distinguished themselves above their fellows in the study of German, English, and geography. About one thousand persons were present, and among the Masonic celebrities who supported Bro. de Saint Jean were Bros. Armand, Caubet, Garnier Moreaux, and André Rousselle, members of Council, and Bro. Koch, director of studies. Bro. de Saint Jean opened the proceedings in a very eloquent speech, and was followed by Bro. Koch, who furnished some very interesting particulars as to the different branches of study it was his duty to preside over. One point we note with pleasure, that the various sets of lectures are attended by about one thousand students. A number of recitations were then given, and after the successful pupils had received the rewards of their ability and zeal, the assembly dispersed, well pleased with all they had heard and witnessed. Again, at one of the sittings of the Grand Orient, in October, certain medals and certificates were distributed to those brethren and Lodges which had rendered themselves deserving of some kind of testimonial. The last occasion on which this custom was observed was in 1869, and we are pleased to note its revival in this instance. The medals were six in number, and were awarded as follows:—(1) To Bro. Bonnet, for his very active support of the Masonic Benevolent Institutions established at Bordeaux; (2) to the Lodge *Les Sages d'Héliopolis*, Orient of Bucharest, for its exceptional activity in erecting Schools and Benevolent Institutions; (3) to Bro. Baverel, Orient of Caen, for exceptional acts of devotion; (4) to Bro. Ponsolle, Orient of Toulouse, for eminent services rendered during the inundation; (5) to Bro. Menen, Orient of Tours, for signal services during fifteen years of Masonic labour; (6) to Bro. Poullain, Orient of Paris, for exceptional activity and eminent services rendered on behalf of the Masonic Orphanage. The honorary certificates were fifteen in number, and were adjudged to as many brethren, who had, in some way or other, distinguished themselves, either in the cause of Masonry or in their labours for the public good.

Equally zealous are our worthy French brethren in the sacred cause of Charity. In 1862, a Masonic General Orphanage was established. Its progress was at first

uncertain, but those most interested in achieving a success persevered with an energy beyond all praise, and now this Institution is capable of supporting no less than eighty-six children, many of its pupils having already turned out to be brave workmen. The receipts of the Orphanage from its foundation have reached the highly respectable sum of 147,000 francs. During the past year the amount realised by contributions from all quarters, was 20,000 francs, while the expenditure reached 17,000. It is also noteworthy that the Grand Orient contributed the sum of 200 francs towards defraying the expenses of workmen dispatched to the Philadelphia Exhibition, at the same time recommending to all the Lodges under its jurisdiction that contributions should be raised towards the same laudable purpose. Another illustration is worth recording, of the manner in which the cause of Charity is promoted. In March the Lodge at Versailles gave an entertainment, at "La Salle des Variétés, in aid of the funds for its Orphanage, and the sufferers by the then recent inundations. The house was crowded everywhere, and every item in the programme was admirably rendered and enthusiastically applauded.

But it is time we noted the events which occurred at the Grand Assembly of the Grand Orient in October. The assembly was first constituted and Bro. de Saint Jean appointed President. The various Committees were then nominated. Several questions were next discussed, the majority of which, however, displayed rather a local than a general interest. But the decision on one subject will be read with regret by all English Masons. This was a proposal to strike out from the second paragraph of the First Article of the Constitutions the passage in which the existence of God and the belief in a future state are declared to be the leading principles of Freemasonry. The grounds on which this proposal was urged were, that Freemasonry recognised absolute freedom of conscience, and to insist upon the reception of these principles by Masons would be in direct violation of the grand system of equality. Freemasons, it was argued, should enjoy full liberty to accept or reject these principles. After a long and animated debate, in which an attempt was made to shelve the question, by passing to the order of the day, a vote was taken, when the order of the day was rejected by 110 to 65. The result of this important decision is that the question is now being brought under the notice of all the subordinate Lodges, and these must make their reports within a stated time. When these reports have been received, the General Assembly, in October next, will decide finally on this grave question. We have already expressed our very deep regret at the result of the discussion. We, in England at all events, hold most devoutly that the ruling principle of Freemasonry is a belief in God and the immortality of the soul. There is no place in our English Lodges for him whom the Charges describe as "the stupid atheist." The day following this decision Bro. de Saint Jean addressed the Assembly, on the vote that had been arrived at, pointing out that it by no means involved a negation of God's existence, but simply left it open to every brother to believe or disbelieve in it, according as his conscience impelled him. The explanation was no doubt well meant, but the fact of its being submitted shows there was reason to fear some misinterpretation. We, however, consider the explanation in no way mends matters, and we repeat the expression of our sincere regret, particularly on the ground that it interposes a barrier which ought not to be erected between two sections of the Craft universal. There is, perhaps, a hope that between now and the next General Assembly our French brethren will view the subject in a manner more consonant with the true principles of our Fraternity.

The remaining business of the Assembly was then proceeded with. Thirteen members of Council were elected from certain lists, eleven in the place of as many members who had retired in the usual course by rotation, and two in lieu of other two deceased. The Report of the Financial Committee was then submitted and agreed to, and, after a long and able address by Bro. Wyrnoff, the session closed, and the brethren adjourned, till the hour appointed for the banquet. But before this was held, the Council of the Order held a brief sitting, for the election of officers and committees, the result as regards the former being, that Bro. de Saint Jean was re-elected President, Bros. Cousin and Armand Vice-Presidents, and Bros. Caubet and Pouille Secretaries. At the banquet, about two hundred and fifty brethren were present, and President de Saint Jean occupied the chair. The usual loyal and

Masonic toasts were given, and at the hour of ten o'clock the assembly rose, and departed to their several homes. A few words as to the financial condition of the Grand Orient, and we have done. The accounts opened on the 1st March 1875, with a balance in hand of Fr. 2653.10, receipts to end of February 1876, Fr. 214,230.40. Total receipts, Fr. 216,933.50. Expenditure, Fr. 212,209.65, leaving a balance on the right side of Fr. 4723.85, which, added to the amount already to the credit of the Grand Orient, in the *Crédit Foncier*, of Fr. 8278.25, gives the very respectable sum in hand of Fr. 13,002.10. This is a very healthy evidence of the state of Freemasonry in France, as regards, at least, its financial interests, the more especially as not many years since the Grand Orient was largely in debt.

In Germany the progress of Freemasonry has been marked by many vicissitudes of fortune. Nor has there always been that harmony of feeling among the different Masonic organisations which might have been expected. We believe, however, we are fully justified in saying that now, at all events, the Craft is firmly set, and if its chiefs continue to be animated by wisdom and that conciliatory spirit which alone will hold the various sections together, we doubt not its present state of prosperity will be enduring. At the beginning of the year there were in all Germany no less than 325 Lodges, with an aggregate of over 36,000 members. Of these the Grand Lodge of the Three Globes at Berlin comprised 112 Lodges, with 12,265 members; the Grand Countries' Lodge, Berlin, 81 Lodges, with 8,762 members; and the Grand Lodge Royal York of Friendship, the third Berlin Grand Lodge, 43 Lodges, and 5,387 members. The Hamburg Grand Lodge numbered 23 Lodges, and 1,818 members; the Bavarian 22 Lodges, with 1,673 members; the Grand Lodge of Saxony 18 Lodges, with 2,908 members; the Eclectic Union, Frankfurt-on-the-Maine, 12 Lodges, and 1,396 members; the Grand Lodge at Darmstadt, nine Lodges, 896 members. In addition there were five Lodges, independent of the above Grand Bodies, and mustering among them 1,300 brethren. There are various funds and societies for the relief of Masons' widows and children in different parts of the country, and there are, too, a number of Masonic Clubs, as well as a Central Masonic Educational Union in Berlin, to which some 40 Lodges pay each an annual contribution. But while we readily concede that Freemasonry has done, and is doing its appointed task on the whole satisfactorily, there is one signal blot on the escutcheon of the German Craft. They are not, or at least all of the existing organisations are not, true to the fundamental principles of Freemasonry as regards freedom of conscience. While our French brethren err in excess of freedom, and allow members to believe or not believe in the existence of a God; on the other hand the German Lodges, or, as we have said, certain of them, hold extremely circumscribed views upon this point, in so far as this, that they set their faces obstinately against the admission of Jews into the brotherhood. Once already the subject has been brought under the notice of our Grand Lodge, and we believe a remonstrance, based, if we remember rightly, on the refusal of a Berlin Lodge to admit a visiting English brother of the Jewish persuasion, was made to the ruling Masonic authorities. Latterly, however, we understand the question has been again brought forward, and report has it that more than one of the Berlin Grand Lodges has decided that Jewish applicants are not admissible into the Society. This, as every one acquainted with the Society is aware, is directly opposed to the principles of Freemasonry. The matter was lately mentioned in one of our Lodges—we think it was Tranquillity, No. 185—and we trust some measures may be taken to remonstrate with the offending Grand Bodies; or that the latter will, without such remonstrance, recognise the propriety of following strictly the old and sound law of Freemasonry, which requires that all its members shall worship God, but leaves the manner of that worship to the conscience of each individual. We may further add, and it is in the highest degree creditable to those German Lodges which have adopted the system, that lectures are frequently given and published for distribution among the Craft generally. This shows, at all events, that Germany does not lose sight of the intellectual business; we have already pointed out that it does not neglect the Benevolent.

§ In other countries in Europe there is little to record which is not subject for congratulation. In July, our Dutch brethren celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the accession

to the Grand Mastership of the Netherlands of His Royal Highness Prince Frederick. A large gathering of the Craft were present to witness the interesting ceremony, among them being the Imperial Crown Prince of Germany, and many distinguished members of the Fraternity. In honour of the occasion, a gold mallet, set with diamonds, was presented to His Royal Highness. We also hear that Prince Alexander, the younger son of the King, was initiated into Freemasonry in the summer, by his great uncle, the Grand Master. In Denmark the Grand Lodge held its annual Festival in January, when Grand Master H.R.H. the Crown Prince presided. Prince Hans, the King's brother, and some four hundred brethren were present. A most hearty reception was accorded to the Grand Master, and the meeting passed off most successfully. In Hungary a very noteworthy increase of Masonic strength is perceptible. There is now a Grand Orient, as well as a Grand Lodge, and both interchange representatives with our Grand Lodge. One of our representatives there is Bro. Dr. Herman Beigel, a Past Master of our Lodge of Tranquillity, No. 185, and editor of a new Masonic journal, *Der Freimaurer*, the first number of which appeared in January. These two grand bodies number together 33 Lodges, of which 21 are under the Grand Orient, and 12 under the Grand Lodge. Of the former, six are located in Buda-Pesth, and nine in the Provinces. There are, in addition, four other Lodges in foreign parts, holding under the Grand Lodge. A remarkable occurrence must be mentioned in connection with Hungarian Freemasonry. It appears that a lady, a certain Countess Hädick, having studied the literature and history of our Craft, conceived a strong desire to be made a Mason. She accordingly sought admission into one of the Lodges subordinate to the Grand Orient, and, strange to say, in spite of her sex, was not rejected. The ceremony of her initiation was duly performed, and the lady obtained a knowledge of, at all events, the secrets entrusted to a Masonic novice. On hearing of this, the Grand Orient declared the initiation void and of no effect. The case stands thus, therefore,—The Countess Hädick having been solemnly initiated into Freemasonry is, *ipso facto*, a Freemason. The Grand Orient, however, by a stroke of the pen, has deprived her of all her Masonic privileges. The matter is one of considerable difficulty, but, with all due deference to the Grand Orient, we fail to see how its action has in any way mended matters.

The Craft in Spain has this year sustained a serious loss by the death of Bro. Calatrava, Grand Master of the National Grand Orient. The vacancy has been filled by the appointment of Bro. the Marquis de Seoane. Under this Grand Orient there were, at the beginning of the year, six Lodges in the important Spanish West Indian Dependency of Cuba, while at the same time there was a Grand Orient of Colon in the same island, with no less than twenty-five Lodges under its jurisdiction. It is almost needless to say that Spain ignores the existence of the latter Grand Body. However, in August, a new Grand Lodge of Cuba was formally established. Nine Lodges, which had been warranted by the Grand Lodge of Colon, met together, in the persons of their Masters, Wardens, and Deputies, and passed a series of resolutions, to the effect that henceforth they hold themselves free and independent of the Supreme Council of Colon, which had usurped an absolute authority over the Grand Lodge of the same, that they no longer recognise the latter as a regularly constituted Grand Lodge, and that they have constituted themselves an Independent Grand Lodge, with the style and title of "Grand Lodge of the Island of Cuba." It was further determined, that only the three degrees of Craft Masonry, together with that of Past Master, should be granted by the new Grand Lodge, and that, till its code of laws had been promulgated, they would take Bro. Dr. Mackey's *Masonic Jurisprudence* as their guide. The assembly then proceeded to the election of Grand Officers, when Bro. Enrique Verdeja was chosen Grand Master, and Bros. Arvelio Almeida and Gregorio Gonzales Amador Grand Wardens, Bro. Em. Mola Grand Treasurer and Bro. Carlos Ruiz Grand Secretary. The Grand Officers were then solemnly installed, by the oldest Master present, and Grand Lodge took the oath of obedience and respect to the Grand Master and his Wardens. A circular, bearing date the 22nd August 1876, was then ordered to be sent to the various Grand Lodges and Grand Orients, and the proceedings thus terminated. Portugal is lamenting one of its foremost chiefs in Masonry. It is only a very short time since that we recorded the death of the

Duke of Saldanha, Portuguese Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Queen Victoria. The Duke was a member of the A. and A. Rite, 33°, in Portugal, and for a great portion of his life had taken a very active part in Freemasonry.

In Italy, the business of the year has been directed chiefly to consolidating the work so auspiciously commenced in the spring of 1875. These efforts have been so far successful that only a feeble number of dissentients, at Palermo and in Central Italy, refuse to cast in their lot with the bulk of Masonry. One Palermitan Lodge went so far as to seek affiliation to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, but the request was summarily rejected, and the petition dismissed with a severe, but just rebuke for their un-Masonic conduct. This, however, is almost the only event calculated to excite a feeling of dissatisfaction. With these trifling exceptions, Italian Freemasonry has firmly established itself, and every day that passes will serve to make the fusion of the several Lodges in different parts of the country friendlier and more intimate. Many new Lodges have been added to the roll, while, on the 15th March, the three Lodges at Rome, the Chapter of Rose Croix, and many members of the Grand Consistory and Grand Orient, met together, for the purpose of celebrating the first anniversary of the foundation of the Masonic Temple at Rome. Bro. Joseph Petroni presided, and Bro. Ul. Bacci, as orator for the occasion, delivered a very eloquent address, in which he congratulated the Craft on the high position they had attained, and expressed a hope that only those would be admitted members of the Vatican who were noble in heart, elevated in mind, and manly in character.

In Egypt a new Grand Orient, to which recognition has been accorded by our Grand Lodge, has been constituted. It includes a national symbolic Grand Lodge, with Bro. Zola as Grand Master, Bros. de Beauregard and Sciarrone as 1st and 2nd Assistant Grand Masters respectively, and Bro. Oddi as Grand Secretary, as well as a Supreme Council of the A. and A. Rite, with Bro. Zola as Sovereign Grand Commander, Bro. Beauregard as Lieutenant Grand Commander, and Bro. Oddi as Grand Secretary. The Grand Lodge has under its jurisdiction fifteen Lodges, the last of which, the Lodge *Ibraïmia*, No. 15, was chartered this year, at Manfalud, and is the first Lodge established in Upper Egypt. The official organ of the new Orient is the *Memfi Risorta*. In other countries, too, the efforts which Freemasonry is making to strengthen and confirm its position are very laudable. In Brazil the United Grand Orient comprises a Grand Orient, a Supreme Council, 185 Lodges, 107 Chapters, and 5 Lodges of superior degrees. No less than 9 Lodges and 5 Chapters were constituted during the last three months of 1875.

The pleasing duty now devolves upon us of chronicling the principal events of the year in those countries of the New World in which the English language is the language of the community; and the first among these is unquestionably the United States. Here, within a very few years of the Revival in 1717, speculative Freemasonry found an abiding-place. In June 1730, a deputation was granted by the Duke of Norfolk to Bro. Daniel Coxe, appointing him to be Provincial Grand Master for the then British colonies of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. We believe it is a fact thoroughly well established now, that a Lodge of Freemasons met at the Hoop, in Water-street, Philadelphia, towards the close of the year 1730, or the early part of 1731. At all events, evidence has been recently discovered, in a contemporary Philadelphian journal, that a Lodge was in sound working condition in 1732. Hitherto the general belief has been that the patent granted by Viscount Montagu to Bro. Henry Price in 1733, was the earliest evidence obtainable as to the establishment of Freemasonry on the continent of North America. But, in the face of this latest Norfolk testimony, accepted, as it is, by eminent English brethren—who at least have no part in the rival claims of different States to the honour of priority as a regular Masonic body, and are therefore quite impartial—as well as of the best informed American, it seems hardly possible to doubt that Philadelphia is the mother city of American Masonry. We have, however, gone carefully into the evidence on a previous occasion, and it is not therefore our present purpose to enter now into any consideration of the subject. We merely refer to it, in order to show how great is the interest which everything Masonic excites in the minds of our transatlantic brethren, how narrowly they

inspect the history of our Fraternity in their own land,—how justly proud they are when any fresh discovery is made which throws further light on the early development among them of the Craft. It may seem to the careless and uninitiated a very trifling matter indeed whether the fraternity was established in 1730 or 1733. What, it will be asked, can the difference of two or three years make? What does it matter if Freemasonry found its first home at Philadelphia or in Boston? Its home now is everywhere throughout the whole of the United States. It is one immense family of reputable men, numbering at this present moment 600,000, more or less. But all States and Cities have in them some sense of pride, it may be about the beauty of their buildings, their rare collection of antiquities, the historical events with which they have been associated, the illustrious men and women they may have given birth to. We may take it, indeed, generally, as an evidence of decadence in any people when they cease any longer to take a legitimate pride in what is honourable,—we use the word in its two-fold sense, of worthy of honour and conferring honour. Now we take it there are few Craftsmen who truly respect the Society of which they are members who do not experience a sense of pride when they hear that Freemasonry was received into the place or country of their birth at an even earlier period than had previously been supposed. We understand, therefore, and appreciate the rejoicing which our Philadelphian friends must have indulged in, when, at each fresh step of the inquiry, it became more and more apparent that the Coxe Deputation, and the establishment of a Lodge almost immediately after, were authentic. This pride we have been commending has nothing about it of envy and malice, but is exactly that feeling of honest pride which a man has who has led the way in some brilliant enterprise. And Philadelphia, having been the first—it may have been only through an accident—to recognise the value of Masonry as an institution, is justified in being proud of this fact. Moreover, Philadelphia enjoys the additional honour of having been the city in which the famous Declaration of Independence of Great Britain was made and signed. Thus, when a century had elapsed since that important political event, it was quite in the natural order of things that the hundredth anniversary of the National Independence should be celebrated in this City of Brotherly Love. Equally natural was it that on the occasion of so important a national thanksgiving the Masonic Fraternity, or a portion of it, should play their part in the public rejoicing. Masons are not a political body of men, but their laws enjoin them to be good and loyal citizens of the State, and in this instance they were merely illustrating, in common with the rest of their fellow citizens, that love of their country which all honest men and Masons feel. Then a very favourable opportunity offered for a public parade. Last year it was arranged that the Annual Session of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania should be held, on the 30th and 31st May, and 1st June. Invitations were issued to the other Commanderies at home and abroad to take part in the parade, which was fixed for the last of the three days mentioned, and these, in many instances, were cordially accepted. Accordingly, early on the 1st June the procession was formed. First came the Home Commanderies, 37 in number, with 3,369 Knights Templar; New York, 10 Commanderies, 848 Knights; New Jersey, 10 Commanderies, 661 Knights; District of Columbia, 3 Commanderies, 322 Knights; Massachusetts, 2 Commanderies, 127 Knights; Michigan, 1 with 113 Knights; Virginia, 6 with 74 Knights; Delaware, 1 with 59 Knights; Ohio, 1 with 54 Knights; and St. John's, New Brunswick, Rhode Island, and Maryland, with 14, 10, and 8 Knights respectively. The procession marched proudly through the most important thoroughfares of the City, and as the weather was brilliant, the whole length of the route was thronged with admiring spectators. In Broad-street the line countermarched, and on reaching Filbert-street passed in review before the Grand Encampment of the United States and the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania. It is estimated that there were 8,000 persons in the procession, of whom close on 6,000 were Knights Templar fully equipped, while the others were composed of musicians, those who took part in the display in carriages, and others. In the procession were many of the most distinguished members of the Order, men eminent not only by reason of their rank in Grand or Subordinate Commanderies, but likewise by reason of their virtues as citizens of the United States; men of position, either as regards their intellectual power or

their wealth, and the respect in which they were held by their countrymen. It was, indeed, a worthy sight to behold. Not only was it a magnificent pageant, with the waving plumes, gleaming swords, and gorgeous clothing of the Knights, such as is not often witnessed in these days; it also gave evidence of the deep-seated love which the leading citizens in the States feel for Freemasonry. For though in England Templarism is only an offshoot of the Craft, and is, indeed, in no way recognised by our Grand Lodge, still, in America, the most eminent among Craft Masons enrol themselves in the Order of the Temple, and, in fact, the association between the two is far more intimate, and also more publicly allowed than in this country. Hence, this grand Re-union at Philadelphia, of the Knights Templar, must be looked upon in some measure as a Masonic display, and as on that account evincing the public interest in the doings of the Craft. In the evening there was a grand reception at the Academy of Music and Horticultural Hall, at which about 4,000 persons, including a large proportion of ladies, were present. The scene was a magnificent one, what with the Knights in full costume and the ladies in evening dress. In the course of the reception, an address of welcome was delivered by the Hon. Sir Knight James H. Hopkins, M.E. Grand Master of Knights Templar in the United States. The audience listened to it with pleasure, and applauded the speaker at intervals, and especially at the conclusion, with great enthusiasm. On the whole, this Templar Parade, albeit less numerous than other parades we have heard or read of in Philadelphia or New York, was a unique event, and will be remembered with peculiar pride, especially by those who took part in it, and also by those who had the rare pleasure of witnessing it. Were this the first, instead of being the last, of a long series of great events connected with Pennsylvanian Masonry, it would still entitle it to a foremost place among the States who encourage our Society and its off-shoots.

But it is to the inner life of the Craft we must look especially for that which most forcibly illustrates the progress or otherwise which it has made. The outer and visible signs of Masonry make an effective, if harmless, display in public; but it is by means of the inward and invisible tokens of the labour achieved that we must hope to trace the career of the Fraternity. As in England, so in America, the duties of the Grand and Subordinate Lodges have been numerous and regularly attended, and faithfully discharged. If we are to judge of American Freemasonry simply by its numerical strength, we shall find some details which will, on the whole, prove very gratifying. From a tabular statement prepared by Bro. Drummond, and published in the June number of the *Masonic Jewel*—the official organ of the Grand Lodges of Mississippi and Tennessee—we glean the following interesting particulars: There were in the whole of the United States, when Bro. Drummond prepared his table, 594,617 Craft Masons—that is, only a few thousand short of the enormous number of 600,000, and doubtless this number by this time has been appreciably increased. During the period of a year, for which the return has been made out, the number raised is 34,204, the number admitted and restored 19,231, withdrawn 18,452, expelled 908, suspended 775, suspended for non-payment of dues 15,984, died 6,804, and rejected 6,340. These are truly formidable figures, and though we have said that, “on the whole,” they may be regarded as satisfactory, the qualification was undoubtedly necessary, for there are two or three items which betray a great laxity in the admission of candidates. Change of residence will in some measure, no doubt, explain the large number of withdrawals from the privileges of Freemasonry, but the figures that follow tell a somewhat ugly tale. It is not a wholly satisfactory report to read when we find included in it no less than 908 expulsions, 775 suspensions, and close on 16,000 suspensions for non-payment of dues. Indeed, if we understand the statement rightly, it seems to us that, in respect of numbers, Freemasonry must have lost instead of gained during the period it refers to. Thus, there were 19,231 admissions and restorations, against which we must set the expulsions, suspensions, and suspensions for non-payment of dues enumerated above, and amounting in the aggregate to 17,667, which, together with 6,804 deaths, makes a total loss (partly absolute and partly, of course, for a time only) of 24,471. We cannot, of course, venture to interpret a tabular statement of this kind, with the preparation of which we have had no concern. The above, however,

appears to be a fair interpretation of the figures as recorded, and, if it be so, Craft Masonry must have lost, as regards numbers, over 5,000 members. This will probably prove no loss whatever, but a gain, for it is doubtless only the drones, the lazy, the indifferent, and the worthless, who thus either sever their connection with the Craft, or have it severed for them. The room of these is better than their company. As, however, we have already said, these formidable figures suggest the necessity for exercising the greatest caution in the admission of candidates. We have more than once drawn the attention of our readers to this matter, and we commend it to our American brethren as well. Masons are, or ought to be, a select body of men, not one that is composed of “anybodies,” who may turn out to be nobodies, or even worse. Before dismissing these statistics, it will be as well to note those referring to the more prominent States. In New York there are 80,701 Masons; 1,374 were admitted or restored, 44 expelled, 24 suspended, and 3,660 suspended for the non-payment of dues. The returns for Pennsylvania are for the year previous, and show there were then 37,546 Masons, 659 admissions and restorations, and 736 suspensions, both for un-Masonic conduct and non-payment of dues. In Ohio, the number of Craftsmen is 30,608, with 1,391 admissions, &c., 91 expulsions, 44 suspensions, and 1,134 suspensions for non-payment of dues. In Illinois there are 40,468 Masons. There were admitted and restored 1,191, expelled 86, and suspended for un-Masonic conduct or non-payment of dues 978. In Tennessee the numbers are, members 17,994, admitted, &c., 1,157, expelled 42, suspended 284, and ditto for non-payment 844. In a later number, for October, of the same Masonic periodical, is a second table, giving, among other particulars, the number of Lodges in the different Masonic jurisdictions. The compiler is Bro. John Carlowitz, and he sets down New York as having 750 Lodges, Pennsylvania 501, Ohio 498, Illinois 735, Tennessee 485.

We pass on now to notice a subject which has long excited the attention of the whole Masonic world, and has managed to somewhat seriously disturb that harmony and good feeling which it is the aim of all true Masons to promote. This is what is called the Coloured Question. We have latterly had more than one article on the subject in these columns, and an esteemed brother on the other side of the Atlantic has favoured us with more than one exposition of his views. It would therefore not be seemly in us to pursue the subject any further in a *résumé* of the year's history. Let it suffice, therefore, if we state that in Ohio, where the battle of the Colours has been creating the greatest furor, the question is, for the present, shelved. The Grand Lodge of Ohio met at Columbus on the 11th October, and on the following day, a point of order having been raised to the effect that the proposition to recognise the Coloured Grand Lodge could not be entertained till the constitution of the Grand Lodge itself had been amended, the Grand Master ruled that the point of order was not well taken. From this decision an appeal was made by Deputy G. Master Cunningham, when the appeal was sustained by 401 votes to 332, the vote being taken by Lodges. This decided the point, that the proposition to recognise the Coloured Organisation was unconstitutional, and there the matter rests for the present. We regret, in common with our American friends, that any subject should have arisen to disturb the peace and harmony of the various Masonic bodies in the United States. We cannot, however, expect that our career will always be free from disturbing elements. Meantime, the Coloured Organisations exist, and according to a table published in *le Monde Maçonique*, they are a tolerably substantial body as far as numbers go. On the authority of our French contemporary, we learn that there are in the United States 35 Coloured Grand Lodges, having under their respective jurisdictions 500 Lodges, and an aggregate membership of 13,360. We may add that in April of this year the Council of the Grand Orient of France recognised the Coloured Grand Lodges of Ohio and Missouri, and Bro. Caubet has since been appointed their representative, the compliment being at the same time paid of conferring upon him the honorary rank of a Past Grand Master. Thus much as to the Coloured Question.

But we must not dwell too long on particular matters. Our desire is to give a kind of panorama of Freemasonry in the United States, so that our readers may judge for themselves what manner of work it is which is being done in the way of regular duty. We have seen accounts at

divers times and in different periodicals, of the meetings of nearly all the Masonic Grand Bodies in the country, and it is a pleasure to us to be able to record that, almost without exception, these meetings have been well attended, the labours of the various Committees appointed to report on matters financial, constitutional, jurisprudential, and the like, have ably, promptly, and satisfactorily discharged their duties, while the numerous petitions submitted for charters for new Lodges afford evidence that the influence of Masonry is extending either in districts already occupied, or to new districts wherein Masonry has hitherto not established for itself a local habitation. All this, we say, is intensely gratifying, but we do not see there is anything special which need occupy our attention now. The following, however, are worthy of record. On the 24th of June a new Masonic Temple at Buffalo, New York State, was solemnly dedicated to the purposes of Masonry, and this occasion was made one of great rejoicing. Five Commanderies of Knights Templar were present, and acted as an escort to the Grand Lodge. In the line were eleven Lodges, and the Grand Lodge was under the supreme direction of Grand Master Husted. The ceremony of dedication having been rendered, Bro. the Hon. Judge Clinton, son of the eminent Bro. De Witt Clinton, delivered an oration, on the value and beauty of Masonry. At the conclusion of his address the speaker was rapturously applauded. In the evening a reception was held in the Temple, and was followed by a banquet, at which the Grand Master presided in person. Everything passed off most satisfactorily, while the procession through the streets in the forenoon attracted large crowds of spectators, who were highly delighted with the pageant.

An event even more interesting still, was the celebration on the same day, at Marietta, Ohio, of the hundredth anniversary of the *American Union*, No. 1 on the roll of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. We have already quoted from the recently published records of New York Masonry, some few particulars respecting the history of this old Lodge. Briefly we may state here—that the Warrant of Constitution was granted by Bro. Richard Gridley D.P.G.M. of the St. John's Grand Lodge, Massachusetts, on 15th February 1776, and that it held its first meeting at Roxbury. It was composed of officers and soldiers in Washington's army, which it accompanied to New York. On its arrival, it applied to Deputy Grand Master Middleton for a confirmation of the Warrant. This was refused, but a new one was granted to it, under the title of *Military Union* Lodge No. 1, and so long as it remained within the jurisdiction of New York it retained this title, but when outside it returned to its first love again, and became *American Union*. Its first W.M., Bro. Joel Clarke, and other of its members were killed or taken prisoners at the battle of Long Island, on 27th August, same year. Bro. Joel Clarke died in captivity—and the next we hear of it is at Reading, Conn., in 1779, when Bro. Parsons was W.M., and Jonathan Hart S.W. In the summer of the same year it was located at West Point, on the Hudson, and from 1781 to 1783 was at Newburg. Subsequently the warrant was taken to Marietta, West of the Ohio, by the W.M. Bro. Hart, and from this place a letter was despatched to the Grand Lodge of New York, in October 1791, in which the Lodge proclaimed itself the principal Masonic authority in the territory West of the Ohio. Not very long after this—on 4th November, Colonel Hart fell, at the battle of Port Recovery, in Darke County, Ohio, but the Lodge survives him, and has lived to see the roll of Ohian Lodges exceed 500. This is certainly a proud position to have enjoyed, and we offer, in all sincerity, our fraternal congratulations to the brethren of *American Union* No. 1, Ohio, on its celebration this year of so auspicious an event. The festivities were on a grand scale, and the address in honour of the occasion, was delivered by the Hon. Richard Vaux, Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania.

On the 14th June, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was the scene of yet another grand Masonic celebration, the occasion being the assembly in this city of the Wisconsin Grand Lodge. Unfortunately, the weather was not all that could be desired, but everything was done to give a hearty welcome to the brethren, and along the line of route the houses were decorated with the usual holiday paraphernalia. Eight Commanderies, with 361 Knights Templar, headed the procession, and these were followed by two divisions, comprising together close on two thousand Master Masons. The fourth and last division was composed of Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, aged members, and others. On reaching the Park, the usual religious

ceremonial was observed, after which the Hon. A. R. R. Butler, who is not a Mason, addressed some very eloquent, and at the same time hearty words of welcome to the assembly, words which, coming from a non-Mason, were highly appreciated. Afterwards, Bro. the Rev. S. Fellows delivered an address, which was likewise applauded; and, then, after sundry other ceremonies, the procession re-formed, and having returned to the city, dispersed. Later in the day, excursions were organized, and in the evening a ball was given at the Academy of Music, and also a festival at Quentin's Park. In fine, the celebration proved a great success.

These are a few only of the public festivals which have been held in different parts of the United States during the year. Were we to give particulars of all of them, we should find it necessary to enlarge the narrow limits of our space to those of a large octavo volume. We wish, indeed, it were in our power to record at some length how the various Grand Bodies and subordinate Lodges have conducted their labours, and how they have met in various places, at divers times, and for particular purposes. In such case might we find space to dilate on the eloquent addresses delivered by the more eminent brethren, to chronicle how worthy brethren—such, for instance, as the Immediate Past Grand Master of New York, Bro. Ellwood Thorne—were made the recipients of handsome, and in some cases costly, testimonials to the eminent services they have rendered in the cause of Freemasonry. All this we should wish to do, but we cannot. We can only conclude this brief and necessarily imperfect record of United States Freemasonry by saying that, taking into account all the circumstances, the Craft has prospered for the most part during the year now so shortly about to close. We trust the future may be as productive of good as the past, and even though our American contemporaries may occasionally have cause to lament a certain degree of apathy in respect of Masonic literature, we firmly believe they will, sooner rather than later, begin to enlarge the sphere of their operations, and not only work hard for the Craft, as thus far they have generally done, but also encourage that Masonic literature to which we are indebted for the materials of this sketch. We wish our brethren in all parts of the United States what, in England, we designate "The Compliments of the Season," and may the Great Creator of all things shower down upon them, one and all, His greatest blessings!

The Grand Lodges in British North America are to be congratulated generally on the even progress they have made during the year. The Grand Lodge of British Columbia has some eight Lodges, with an aggregate membership of close on 300. In Canada there are over 300 Lodges, and very nearly 16,000 Masons. New Brunswick has 30 Lodges, and just over 2,200 brethren; Nova Scotia 70 Lodges and 3,295 brethren; Quebec 37 Lodges and 2,704 brethren; while Prince Edward's Island musters a very respectable contingent, in the shape of eight Lodges. One deplorable event has happened, during the year, within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada. Certain brethren, conceiving themselves to be aggrieved, have been guilty of the heinous Masonic offence of erecting themselves into an independent Grand Lodge. All their proceedings, so far as we have been able to follow them, have been most irregular. A fancied grievance, or it may be a real one—in which case this offence against Masonic usage and courtesy is all the greater—we say a real or fancied grievance has induced certain brethren, placed under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, to meet together irregularly, and proclaim themselves to be, within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge of Canada, an independent Masonic Body. Thus far, we rejoice to say, this conduct has met with its just reward. Their advances towards a friendly intercourse with neighbouring Grand Lodges have been repelled with scorn, so far at least as Masons permit themselves to exhibit that feeling. It may be the errant brethren will see the ignominy that attaches to their conduct, and in such case, no doubt, the Grand Lodge of Canada will receive again the repentant Craftsmen. We hope so, but in the meantime we sincerely trust that all American Grand Lodges will follow the noble example set them by the Grand Lodges of New Brunswick and Maine, and repel summarily the advances of these most irregular Ontarian brothers.

We have now traversed, as nearly as circumstances permit us, the whole field of Masonry. We have shown that, though the year has not been productive of any particularly brilliant results, the progress made has been solid and

substantial, and will, no doubt, prove enduring. It is not every year which can boast of the installation of a Prince of Wales, or the dedication of a new Masonic Temple at Rome, at New York, or at Philadelphia. But, after all, the silent but substantial work of Masonry will never fail to be matter for hearty congratulation, and of this we have given evidence enough to satisfy even the most sceptical. It only remains for us to direct attention to the literary achievements of the year. These have not been many; indeed, the bulk of Masonic literature is confined to journals and other periodicals. The work these have done has, on the whole, been well done, nor do we think that the support accorded to Masonic journalism is less than formerly, but, on the contrary, has increased, though it is by no means in the ratio it should be, considering the additional numerical strength which has been made by the Craft, and the greater interest which is taken in its proceedings. We note with extreme regret the stoppage of two excellent Masonic organs. One of these is the *New England Freemason*, of which Bro. Sereno D. Nickerson, a Past Grand Master of Massachusetts, was the editor. The other is the *Canadian Masonic News*, edited by the Rev. Bro. Myers. These are, indeed, a loss to Masonic literature which it could ill afford to bear. They were ably conducted. A large portion of their contents was set apart to the discussion and illustration of matters of historic interest. The leading articles might almost be described as learned and elaborate essays, so admirably were they put together, so clear and concise their enunciation of sound Masonic policy. We do not offer our congratulations to the brethren in Massachusetts and Canada, through whose default these model periodicals have died a premature death. We consider it is the bounden duty of Freemasons to support liberally the organs which are started, not in the way of commercial speculation—for no Masonic periodical, past or present, of which we have any knowledge, ever made a fortune for its proprietor—but in the maintenance of their especial interests. This rests, of course, on the assumption that the Masonic organ which seeks to fulfil this serious yet honourable office is worthy of such support. In the case of the two we have mentioned, this was undeniably the case. We believe, however, we are correct in saying, that these are the only friends of ours whose place knows them no more. With these exceptions, the various periodicals in different countries have held their ground fairly well, if they have made no considerable advance towards being remunerative. The *New York Square* has latterly passed through a series of changes. It passed from a monthly to a weekly. Then it ceased to be a square, and became an oblong. Now, we believe, it has reverted to its original form, and is again our old familiar friend, fair and square in form, as it has always been through all its vicissitudes of fortune fair and square in its policy and teaching. The *Keystone* is half way through the tenth year of its existence, and those who are privileged to read it know well its merits, and appreciate them. It is sound in doctrine, and the attention it pays to Masonic history and archæology is in the highest degree creditable to the energy and ability of its editor. It is, perhaps, a little vain at times of its position, as the representative organ of Philadelphian Freemasonry, but who, we ask, is not honestly and justly proud when he feels and knows that he is doing good service? We are all prone to blow our own trumpets, even though the blast may be a gentle one, and we confess our surprise would indeed be great if

the *Keystone* omitted to luxuriate in an occasional outburst of legitimate pride. The *Masonic Journal* of Greensborough is always welcome; so, too, are the *Freemasons' Repository*, the *Voice of Masonry*, the *Masonic Review*, and *Masonic Jewel*. India now boasts of two Masonic journals—the *Masonic Record of Western India* (removed from Bombay to Jubbulpore), and the *Standard*, started this year, and published at Bombay. Australia, also, has its representative organ, in the shape of the *Australian Freemason*, while the *Craftsman* is still flourishing as an earnest advocate of the interests of our Canadian brethren. To say of our French contemporary, *Le Monde Maçonique*, which has nearly completed its seventeenth year of work, that it fulfils its duty admirably, is simply to say the truth. We never take up a number of it but we find some record of interest, some practical illustration of the enterprise of French Freemasonry, or the enunciation of some valuable idea as to the part which Freemasonry is called upon to play in the world's history. *Der Freimaurer*, ably edited by Bro. Beigel, P.M. of our Lodge Tranquillity, is a very clever exponent of Hungarian Masonic ideas. All these, however, are the continuous literary supports on whose able advocacy the Craft must rely in its time of need, as well as in its prosperity. In the way of special literary ventures, the year has but few to boast of, but the few have the merit of possessing a rare excellence. What has been published must prove invaluable in the illustration of our ancient Craft and its history, and there is the promise of more still to come. Bro. Hughan has published another of his Masonic reprints, which, besides affording additional evidence of his energy and ability in the field of Masonic literature, throws additional light on the early history of our Craft. The "Royal Masonic Cyclopædia," edited by Bro. Mackenzie, is approaching completion, there being only one more number to appear. In America Bro. Fort has published a history of Freemasonry, which is highly spoken of by the general Masonic public, as well as by his numerous friends and admirers, while Kane Lodge, in the jurisdiction of the New York Grand Lodge, has extended our acquaintance with the early history of Freemasonry in the State of New York, by publishing, with the authority of the Grand Lodge, the early records of the Craft in the Empire State. The work is not yet complete, but six parts have already appeared, and we are justified in saying that the Masonic world has never seen a more important contribution to its history, albeit the records are, in the first instance, of a purely local interest. We, too, in our small way, have been enabled, through the zeal and ability of Bro. Constable, to promote the interests of Masonic history. The warrants which have appeared in these columns from time to time are of the utmost importance. The general public has thus far had but a very limited knowledge of the early history of the Grand Lodge of the "The Ancients," and the bulk of the documents we have published relate to the Lodges under that jurisdiction. Should we succeed in completing this work, we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that whatever else we may have done or left undone, we have helped to enlighten our brethren as to the early history of one of our two English Grand Lodges, which played so important a part in the history of the Craft during last century, but which now is happily reunited to our older Grand Lodge, or as it used to be called, the Grand Lodge "Moderns." With this one, and perhaps excusable, blast of our own trumpet, we say to our readers, *Valeta!*

