

THE Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

SANCTIONED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

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CHRISTMAS.

By Walter Spencer.

Now, in remotest Northern land
Where pine trees shade the snow ;
On tropic islets' glistening sand
Where coral ridges grow ;
In East, in West, in every part
Throughout Earth's peopled sphere,
With holy day for hand and heart
Men feast the dying year.

Hither he comes—the Winter's King—
Will he enter in ? He shall !
Hark, how his voice has a jovial ring !
“ Waes hael ”—“ Trink hael, old carle ! ”
The reeking puddings leap and roll,
Pies steam and caldrons fizz,
All hail of mirth the life and soul—
Old Christmas—here he is !

Let be the pen, the loom, the mill,
And tools be laid aside
That hand and heart rejoice, until
We've spent this Christmas tide.
Whether to grace the Church's feast
Or keep up Saxon Yule,
For this time every year, at least,
Must Care forego its dule.

Our lightened hearts will not forget
Upon a Christmas Day,
The tribute due, where friends are met
To friends who're far away.
And those who've left the chequered floor
To journey *farther* on—
Oh ! can our thoughts forbear to soar
Where so much Love is gone ?

For to the realm where they abide,
From toil and sorrow free ;
That we may enter by their side
To that sublime Degree
Where colours of all sects unite ;
Leads onward openly
To the Grand Master's pure white Light,
The Pass-Word *Charity*.

So turn again, from our good cheer
To those less blest than we :
To those—there may be thousands near,
Borne down by poverty.
Seek out and aid the sons of want,
With kindly smiles and food :
Wider than Earth and high as Heav'n
Is human Brotherhood !

A FEW WORDS IN SEASON.

WE have but little sympathy with those who can view the near approach of the present season of festivity without a strong sense of satisfaction that now, if at no other time of the year, there will be something like enjoyment among all classes. The not ill-natured cynic will probably remark that feasting and merry-making are oftentimes the cause of grave disturbance in the regions of the stomach, that Christmas pudding and mince-pies not unseldom create an excess of bile, that many a sharp cold and much wheeziness in the throat result from frequent exposure to the night air by those who are addicted to balls and parties and theatres. Thus, when the hours of feasting are gone, the services of the general practitioner or chemist are commonly needed in order to put us once more in train for the active business of life, and our children in a sufficiently sober frame of mind to resume their studies at school or with the governess or tutor at home. We acknowledge with all humility that just as every poison is said to have its antidote, so it is quite possible for every pleasure to have its resultant pain. It follows then that, if the well-known dynamic law that action and reaction are equal is applicable in the present instance, then the greater the amount of festivity we indulge in, the heavier will be the penalty we shall pay for such indulgence. Yet to err is human, to forgive divine ; and even if we suffer for our merry-making, we are quite ready to forgive our cynical friend for having a

quiet laugh at the folly which prompts us to risk a few days feverish unrest for a few hours enjoyment. We must further acknowledge that the season of Christmas has its array of sorrows as well as of joys. Paterfamilias, genial good fellow as he is, will certainly draw a very rueful countenance when the day of reckoning comes ; and then there are those horrid little bills which the civil trader is sure to present just now, when money is most needed, and also most scarce. We have not the courage to resist the appeal of that most obliging purveyor, Mr. Jones, when he invites us to buy a few more boxes of bon-bons and preserved fruits, a few more pounds of muscatel raisins, a few more pots of jam and jelly, and to speak generally, almost enough in the way of “goodies” to make a large army of famished Osmanlis full to repletion for a whole month. We take them meekly, though we know his little account will have to be settled just when the “Goodies” are all consumed, and there is nothing to show for our expenditure but a sharp attack of bile and a general irritation of the digestive organs. But somehow we submit to this kind of martyrdom with a tolerable grace. We know it will not be allowed to occur again till the sun has revolved upon its own axis once in every twenty-four hours for a fresh period of three hundred and sixty-five days ; and we know we should look savage and glum, and all around us would look savage and glum, if we did not so submit ourselves, with or without resignation, to the inevitable. We know too, the bilious disorders would be as certain to overtake us, only they would then arise from a distempered mind acting on an overworked body,

so we eat, drink, and rejoice rather than sit down morosely, and thank Heaven we are not as other men. We consider it is more honourable to suffer in the cause of festivity than in the cultivation of self-sufficient pharisaicism; and we face the risk of bolus and potion with a calm determination to do our festive duties loyally according to our means, and in order that those around us may know that we treat with just respect the time-honoured associations of this season of the year. Indeed, we should be ashamed of ourselves if we did not play our part in the pleasures of the time. Every one just now has the opportunity of rubbing off a little of that worldly-mindedness which is a chronic failing of even the best of men. The friendly gatherings which are on the eve of being inaugurated are well calculated to enlarge the spirit of unselfishness. We think that Christmastide should be observed with a joyous solemnity by the Christian, and that even the non-Christian, as doubtless he will do, may innocently take part in its celebration. Though an unbeliever in Christianity, he believes in the love of the Creator for His creatures, and he is fully sensible that the creature will best reciprocate that love by doing to his fellows what he would they should do towards him. There is no reason, then, why the pleasures so nearly awaiting us should not be shared among us all, be we Christians or non-Christians. The Spirit of Charity is abroad among us, especially at this winter season, and to worship and obey its ordinances is to do our duty loyally towards the Creator and all His creatures. The goodly viands, the rich gifts, the quaint entertainments, the strange old customs of the season, are one and all the simple manifestations of that love we are bound to exhibit towards all our fellows, and it is with this feeling in our minds that we wish our readers the usual compliments of the season.

But the ill-natured cynic will probably tell us that rather should we now be thinking of our sins and wickedness than of giving ourselves up to mere pleasure. There is terrible suffering abroad in every direction. There is a dreadful war raging, and the Angel of Death is almost daily traversing the battle-field and carrying off his victims by hundreds and thousands. There is the likelihood this war may affect us, and that we who now think of laughing and merry-making may, sooner or later, be heavy with grief and sorrow. But while we rejoice opportunely, we need not cast aside all care and responsibility. Were the prevalence of suffering to be made the pretext for the abolition of all seasonable festivity, there would never be a single day on which it would not be our duty to sit down and bemoan our fate. Such was the old puritanic spirit which proclaimed far and near there should be no more cakes and ale, and we all know the reaction that followed, and how intolerable Bigotry was in its turn vanquished by too easy Licence. We are not admirers of hypocrisy, and while we respect the miseries of others and would do our best to alleviate them, we see no reason why we who are not sorrowing should not rejoice and be glad in our own quiet comfortable way. It were disgraceful to intrude our pleasures on others' griefs, but indulgence in harmless and seasonable pleasure is not incompatible with a feeling of sympathy with misfortune. In fact, the sympathy and the rejoicing are due to and have their origin in the same spirit of generous kindness. And so let us take our pleasures and make much of them. There are plenty of Old Scrooges in the world, who are self-righteous because they have fared prosperously; who think every one a reprobate who is not as narrow-minded and detestable as they are; who are exacting on all occasions and in everything; who know not what a kindly feeling for others is like; and who think that, because they have gone through life, neither looking to the left hand nor to the right, and without so much as a thought for those who were running the same race as themselves, it is sinful for others to think of making themselves merry. We say there are, in the world, unfortunately plenty of these miserable Scrooges—such as Old Scrooge was in his unregenerate days—to whom we gladly abandon the business of whining and grumbling and growling because all the world is not as miserable as they are. We have no intention of inflicting a sermon on our readers, but we think "a few words in season" will not be out of place in the present number. Next week the particular anniversary, which is the cause with the majority of Englishmen of so much merry-making will have passed; and if they find that, in the interim, they have enjoyed themselves in the bosom of their families, that for a brief season they have cast themselves free from the

trammels of business, and surrendered themselves wholly to geniality and good-fellowship, then, say we, they will have proved themselves wise and good men. They will experience all the greater sympathy with the afflicted everywhere. They will feel as deeply for the wounded and dying in Bulgarian hospitals and Red Cross or Red Crescent ambulances, as though they had sat day and night hypocritically repentant in sackcloth and ashes. Just now is when we most need to be quit of all sense of humbug. We may have to brace ourselves up to still more serious duties in the future. Let us fulfil, therefore, the right we have fairly earned by the labours of the past to be merry and glad. We may even enact a folly without fear and trembling; for a poet hath sung

"Dulce est desipere in loco."

At all events, we shall be all the better if we study one another's comfort for a few days, as a change from regarding only our own interests. And this is what Old Father Christmas bids us do now. So, let us be merry and wise, but wisely, discreetly, temperately merry and merrily, with a not uncareless mind, and unpharisaically wise.

NORTH WALES AND SHROPSHIRE.

GRAND LODGE AT SHREWSBURY. PRESENTATION TO SIR WATKIN W. WYNN.

(From the OSWESTRY ADVERTISER.)

ON Friday, 14th inst., one of the largest Masonic gatherings we have ever had in the Province of North Wales and Shropshire took place at Shrewsbury, on the occasion of the Annual Grand Lodge, which this year was held in our County town, in the Lodge room of No. 262, at the Lion Hotel. The great interest attaching to the meeting was the presentation to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart. M.P., of an address of congratulation on his completing the twenty-fifth year of his rule over the province as its Grand Master; accompanied by a "Sir Watkin Presentation" to the Masonic Boys' School, which is to be purchased, at a cost of £500, by the private contribution of the brethren of the various Lodges.

The Province, as at present constituted, was formed in 1852, and Sir Watkin was its first Grand Master. He was installed on the 9th March, that year, by the Hero of Bhurtapore, Lord Combermere, in the presence of a distinguished company of Masons. That ceremony over, the new Grand Master invested his officers, sixteen in number, of whom only four are now living, and three of whom—Messrs. J. P. White, S. Wood, and T. Onions, were present on Friday; the absent one being the Rev. P. G. Bentley. Sir Watkin (as we learn from the chapter on "Freemasonry" in the gossiping book about his family, called *Wynnstay and the Wynns*) was initiated into the mysteries of the Craft at Chester in 1851, in a Lodge which contained amongst its members the late Lord Chief Justice Jervis and other distinguished brethren.

With the exception of John Fawcett, Esq., who was installed Grand Master of Durham in 1847, and the Rev. Dr. Bowles, who was appointed to the same office in Herefordshire in 1848—and who would have been present on Friday had his health permitted—Sir Watkin has been in office longer than any other Provincial Grand Master in England; and he has probably done more work than any of them. During his rule the following Lodges have been consecrated:—Admaston 1852 (removed to Wellington in 1857), Ludlow 1853, Carnarvon 1854, Llandudno 1858, Welchpool 1864, Llangefni 1866, Oswestry (St. Oswald's) 1866, Ironbridge 1866, Denbigh 1867, Wrexham 1871, Bala 1872, Oswestry (Fitzalan) 1872, Mold 1874, Amlwch 1874, Portmadoc 1874, Market Drayton 1876, Bridgnorth 1876, Llandiloos 1876, Newtown 1876, Rhyl 1877, Towyn 1877. Sir Watkin has also performed other Masonic work; such as laying the Corner-stone of Trinity Church, Llandudno, in 1864; opening the Masonic Hall in the same town, in 1867; and laying the Foundation-stone of the Oswestry Cottage Hospital, in 1869.

The attendance at the Provincial Grand Lodge on Friday included, in addition to the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, Bro. W. Bulkeley Hughes, M.P., and several visitors, including the R.W. Bro. Charles Hunter, P.P.G.M. of Aberdeenshire East, and P.G.W. of Greece. The names of the brethren of the Province (who were either present or had signified their intention of being so) are, as far as we can supply them, given below; but we must be allowed to remark that if brethren neglect to sign the Tyler's book, or when they do sign write what Tony Lumpkin called a "— cramped hand," it is no fault of ours if some are omitted and others misspelt in our list.

No. 117 (Shrewsbury): Bros. Bunny, Blockley, Deakin, Evans P.P.A.D. of C., Harries, Hankey P.P.G. Reg., Lea, Lewis P.M., Morris W.M., Moores, Newnes P.A. Tyler, Oliver, Pritchard, Robbins, Richards, Spraggon, Warren Thomson S.W.

No. 262 (Shrewsbury): Bros. Andrew P.G. Stew., Bodenham P.M., Barr, Bagnall, Brightwell P.P.G.S.W., Blakeway P.P.G.J.W., Clarke J.W., Chandler P.P.G. Reg., Clement, J. Sides Davies (of Oswestry, J.W. of 998), Downes, Dovaston, Forrest P.P.G. Org., Hickman I.G., Lowcock, Newman W.M., Onions P.P. Reg., Patchet P.P.J.W., Cresswell Peele P.M., Onions, Randal P.P.G.S.W., Redman P.M., Stuart J.D., Smith, Wakeman P.P.S.W. Oxon, Withers, White P.G. Treas., S. Wood P.P.G.J.W., Hide P.G. Tyler, R. W. O. Withers.

No. 384 (Bangor): Bro. Cameron S.D.

No. 597 (Holyhead): Bros. Elliott J.W., Peters P.P.G.S.W.
 No. 601 (Wellington): Bros. Acton, Adams P.M., Bates P.M., Brookes W.M., Felton, Hunt S.D., Henshall, King, Millington P.G.S.B., Trevor Parkins (Gresford), Poole, J. Smith, Webb P.M., Van Stranbenzee.
 No. 606 (Carnarvon): Bros. Sydney-Boucher, Ringers.
 No. 611 (Ludlow): Bro. T. Roberts.
 No. 755 (Llandudno): Bros. Bretton P.P.G.D. of C., Banks P.G.S. of W., Hazeldine, Roden P.P.G.S.W.
 No. 998 (Welchpool): Bros. Brown W.M., Collender (I.P.M. of 1582) P.P.A.D. of C., David Pryce Owen P.M., Withy P.M.
 No. 1113 (Llangefai): Bro. T. Lloyd Kyffin P.G. Chaplain.
 No. 1120 (Ironbridge): Bros. Lister, Bryce Smith.
 No. 1124 (Oswestry): Bros. Burton P.M., Christian Corfield W.M., J. C. Edwards, Homfray, G. Owen P.G.S.W., Oswell, Askew Roberts, W. H. Spaul P.G. Sec., J. Thomas P.G. Steward, E. Wood, P.G.D. of C., Walker P.P.G.S. of Works.
 No. 1143 (Denbigh): Bros. J. Davies, Jesse J.W., Lloyd S.W., Sisson P.G. Reg., Lloyd Williams P.G. Purs.
 No. 1336 (Wrexham): Bros. Benson, Oswald Bury W.M., Cooper, Howell Davies, Edisbury, Eyton Jones, Low P.G. Steward, Lloyd, Lovett, Morris, J. C. Owen, E. Smith S.W., J. Williams.
 No. 1369 (Bala): Bro. Parmeter P.P.S.D.
 No. 1432 (Oswestry): Bros. Dr. Beresford P.M., J. Williams.
 No. 1477 (Mold): Bros. Adams, Corbett W.M., Algernon Potts P.M., Salmon P.G.J.W.
 No. 1488 (Amlwch): Bro. Roose W.M.
 No. 1509 (Portmadoc): No entry.
 No. 1575 (Market Drayton): Bros. Ginders, Jones, G. G. Warren W.M.

No. 1582 (Llanidloes): No entry.
 No. 1583 (Towyn): Bros. Elliott W.M., Foulkes Jones.
 No. 1594 (Newtown): Bros. Danily W.M., Morgan, J. Owen.
 No. 1621 (Bridgnorth): Bros. Chitty S.W., Foxall, Nock, Hubert Smith, H. L. Southwell, Trevor, T. Tyler.

No. 1674 (Rhyl): Bros. Coxhead, Foulkes, Gilbank, J. E. Roberts.
 Provincial Grand Lodge was opened at four o'clock, and, we rejoice to say, we have not for some time seen our Grand Master looking so well. This was a matter of general congratulation amongst the brethren, after the long and serious indisposition which Sir Watkin has suffered. After the usual formalities had been completed, minutes read, and finances discussed, the work of presentation was performed.

Bro. W. Bulkeley Hughes, M.P., D.P.G.M., stepped forward, album in hand, and said—Right Worshipful Grand Master, I am deputed to be the organ of the Province to present to you an illuminated album descriptive of the sentiments of your Province, and which will contain the names of a great number—I hope nearly of all—the brethren of North Wales and Shropshire. It contains an address, which describes the sentiments expressed, and the feelings entertained throughout the Province for you, sir, personally, and in acknowledgment of your services as Grand Master for five-and-twenty years. For myself, together with many in the room, I can say that each succeeding year has only added to the sense we entertain of your worth, and we all beg to express to you the deep feeling we entertain of the value and the privilege the Province has enjoyed in being for so long a period under such a chief. No one amongst your countrymen and admirers can more than I do, sir, feel pride in being selected to present this address, and I beg you, Sir Watkin, to accept it with the hearty good wishes of the whole Province.

The P.G. Sec., Bro. Spaul, then read the address as follows:—

"To Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Baronet, and Member of Parliament for the county of Denbigh, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of North Wales and Shropshire—

"We, the undersigned officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, Masters, Past Masters, Officers, and Members of the Lodges in the Province of North Wales and Shropshire, beg to offer you our hearty congratulations upon having presided over this province for a quarter of a century. To commemorate this happy event we propose to establish a presentation for this province to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys at Wood Green, and we ask your permission to call it the 'Sir Watkin Presentation.' During the above period your rule has been such as to give the greatest satisfaction to all Masons, and has been so highly appreciated that Masonry has largely increased and flourished. The fact also that you have personally attended the consecration of twenty-one Lodges in the province is sufficient proof of the great interest you have taken in the Craft, and the prayer of every brother is that the G.A.O.T.U. will long spare you to continue that happy rule which has endeared the name of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn to each and all who have been connected with the province since it was formed in 1852, and of which you were the first Grand Master."

Bro. Sir Watkins Wynn, Bart., M.P., P.G.M., in reply, said—Bro. Bulkeley Hughes and Brethren, I am exceedingly honoured by this last tribute of your kindness. Twenty-five years ago I was installed in this room. It seems a long time since, but it has included many happy days spent amongst you, and I hope I may be permitted to spend a few more. With the exception of our esteemed old friend, Dr. Bowles (who would have been with us to-day but for his age), and Bro. Fawcett, I am now the oldest Grand Master in the kingdom. During my career I have had difficulties in my path in giving away the Purple, but my object has always been to do justice to brethren who were entitled, and you must bear with me if I have omitted some who have merited it. I can assure you my object has always been to confer it on such as would benefit the Craft. I beg again to thank you for your kindness. The Deputy Grand Master especially do I wish to thank for his kind words. It is to him and to me a matter of deep feeling how many familiar faces we have seen in the twenty-five years, at our Lodges, who are now gone from among us, and their faces will be seen no more here, but we trust they have gone to that place where those whose lives here have acted out the principles they professed as Masons, will obtain their reward.

The album (which had been entrusted to Messrs. Woodall and Venables, of Oswestry, to execute), is bound in morocco, Masonic colour; with Sir Watkin's Arms emblazoned on the side, lined with silk, the leaves being vellum. So far only the address and the Grand Master's heraldic shield have been emblazoned, but the book is to contain water colour drawings of Sir Watkin's seats, and the list of names of all the brethren who subscribed to the School Presentation; consequently it is desirable that any brethren who have not yet intimated their wish to subscribe will do so at once to their respective Masters, or to the Grand Secretary or Grand Treasurer.

At the conclusion of this interesting episode the ordinary routine business was resumed, all of which would be unintelligible to the outside public. But there were one or two matters discussed, and ceremonies performed that we may be permitted to record.

On the motion of Bro. Roden, seconded by Bro. Bulkeley Hughes, a sum of £50 from the Grand Lodge funds was voted to the widow of the late Bro. Dr. Goldsbro.

On the motion of Bro. White, seconded by Bro. Blakeway, £100 of the funded money of the Grand Lodge was voted to the purchase of a Vice-Patronship in the Masonic Boys' School; and £50 as part of the larger sum for the same in connection with the Girls' School.

The P.G.M., in the name of the P.G. Lodge, presented "Charity Jewels" to Bros. Algernon Potts W.M. 1477, and R. J. Sisson P.P.G. Reg., who had qualified to wear them by serving two Stewardships to the Masonic Charities; and to Bro. W. H. Spaul P.G. Sec., who had served five Stewardships.

The P.G. Master invested the following Grand Lodge Officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. W. Bulkeley Hughes, M.P., Plas Coch, Anglesea, 755 D.G.M., E. M. Wakeman, Cotton Hall, Bridgnorth, 262 S.W., Lloyd Williams, Bodgwllym, Denbigh, 1143 J.W., Rev. A. J. Van Straubenzee, Tettenthal, 601, and the Rev. J. Sydney Boucher, Carnarvon, 606 Chaplains, J. P. White, Merival, Shrewsbury, 262 Treasurer, G. G. Warren, Market Drayton, 1575 Registrar, W. H. Spaul, Bryntirion, Oswestry, 1124 Sec., E. Andrew, M.D., Hardwicke House, Shrewsbury, 262 S.D., John Thomas, Castle-building, Oswestry, 1124 J.D., William Low, Roseneath, Wrexham, 1336 Superintendent of Works, E. Wood, Shrewsbury, 1124 Director of Ceremonies, R. T. Phillips, Amlwch, 1488 Assistant ditto, J. Lloyd Griffiths, Holyhead, Sword Bearer, J. H. Redman, Shrewsbury, 262 Pursuivant, J. C. W. Lister, Ironbridge, 1120, J. Oswald Bury, Wrexham, 1336, A. McMillan, Conway, 384, John Corbett, Mold, 1477, William Spraggon, Shrewsbury, 117, W. Burton, Wrexham, 1336 Stewards; J. B. Hide, Queen-street, Shrewsbury, 262 Tyler, B. Newnes, Smithfield-road, Shrewsbury, 117 Assistant Tyler. Bros. William Blakeway, Shrewsbury, and John Bodenham, Newport, were appointed auditors.

At the close of the Grand Lodge the brethren sat down to a dinner at the Lion Hotel. The usual toasts were given and responded to; on this occasion with unusual additions; as for instance, in the health of the Treasurer, which included congratulations on his "completing the twenty-fifth year of office." Bro. White is the only officer in the Province who has for the quarter of a century of Sir Watkin's rule, been annually invested by the Grand Master. To Bro. Forrest P.P.G. Organist, the music of the evening was entrusted, and he very successfully accomplished his task by obtaining the services of Mr. Rawling, who engaged Messrs. Lea, Probert and Millward to sing, accompanying them on the piano.

The regular meeting of the Grand Lodge of Benevolence was held on Wednesday, the 19th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Bro. J. Nunn P.G.S.B. in the chair. J. Brett P.G.P. S.V.P., C. A. Cottebrune J.V.P., John Hervey G.S. Grants to the amount of £280 were confirmed. There were 33 cases brought forward, 5 of which were deferred, and applicants were relieved to the amount of £515, while one case was dismissed. There were present Bros. S. Rawson, J. Smith, Col. Burney, T. Cubitt, J. Coutts, O. Dumas, H. Dicketts, C. F. Hogard, H. Levander, T. S. Mortlock, E. Terry, L. Beck, B. Swallow, H. G. Buss, C. Atkins, J. Farnfield, W. Mann, Pendlebury, Griffiths Smith, H. Massey, Jones, Draper, H. Bartlett, J. Ireton, F. Binckes, White, Murray, M. Ohren, J. Pakes, E. White, G. Reed, J. Humphrey, Milhouse, Higgins, W. Russell, E. Stow, H. C. Soper, W. Hallet, A. J. Dickinson, Bumstead, S. R. Speight, Spinks, H. A. Stacey, H. M. Levy, &c.

On Tuesday, 13th inst., Bro. W. J. Hugan was elected to serve the office of Worshipful Master of the Fortitude Lodge, No. 131, Truro, for the ensuing year. Our talented brother filled the chair of this Lodge in 1868, and we hear that the Mayor of Truro, who installed him on that occasion, has signified his wish to repeat the same like office in 1878. We congratulate the members of Fortitude on having selected so competent a brother to preside over them.

Honour to whom honour is due. We say, elsewhere, the Spirit of Charity is abroad everywhere at the season of Christmas. One evidence of this we give with much pleasure. Bro. Herbert Rymill, of the Repository, Barbican, is distributing Christmas gifts of coals and provisions among the poor of the neighbourhood. Such men as Mr. Rymill, who use their means thus liberally, deserve to have their good deeds made public.

PUPILS' ENTERTAINMENT AT LEYTON COLLEGE.

BRO. WESTFIELD'S Winter Entertainment at Leyton College was held on Thursday. Everything passed off most successfully. The Visitors, among whom were several brother Masons, were numerous, and when they left, expressed the gratification they felt with all they had seen and heard. The programme was in two Parts. Miss Edith Westfield, Mr. W. F. Bradshaw, and Master H. Milton distinguished themselves at the pianoforte. The first named played Heller's "Tarantelle in B flat" with great skill and taste. The last a "Galop Bavarian" by Talex. Miss Westfield, too, with Mr. Bradshaw, played the overture of Masaniello and Mattei's "Ecce di Napoli" as duets, and their performance was warmly and deservedly applauded. Master James C. Jackson recited "The Inchcape Bell" very creditably, as did Master D. Bradley "The Pied Piper of Hamelin." Miss E. Westfield and Master A. Delves opened the second part with a selection from Auber's opera of the "Crown Diamonds," arranged as a duet. Master James C. Jackson sang "The Wagon," and Miss E. Westfield and Mr. W. F. Bradshaw played each a solo on the piano, the former giving D. Middleton's "Song of the Mill Wheel," and the latter a "March" by Schubert. It is needless to say the efforts of these skilled performers gave the greatest satisfaction, and that they received a just measure of praise from the audience. During the evening the prizes and certificates were presented by the Rev. E. Brewster, who addressed a few happy remarks to the recipients. The room was adorned with numerous specimens of drawing, executed by the students, notably amongst which were several mechanical, engineering, and architectural specimens, which displayed much attention on the part of the pupils, and reflect great credit on the teacher. Afterwards the company indulged in a series of terpsichorean evolutions, thus bringing a most agreeable evening to a close. The school will meet again after the holidays on the 21st January.

THE OWL CLUB.

THE members gave a "Ladies' Night" on Monday, the 17th inst., and with one slight exception, to which we shall refer in its proper place, everything passed off admirably. The programme commenced with Beale's madrigal, "Come let us join the Roundelay," followed by Spofforth's glee, "Health to my dear." Mr. Arthur J. Thompson then sang F. Clay's song, "Yes, or No," and though he sang it well, we must say we have known him to be more successful. Then came Hattou's part song, "When Evening's Twilight," and Horsley's "Blow light, thou balmy air." Mr. Edward Collins sang the solo part in Kücken's part song, "The Soldier's Love." Mr. Albert Hubbard's song, "Hybrias the Cretan," was well rendered. The Glee by Cooke, "Shades of the Heroes," in which Mr. G. Musgrave, was the soloist, went admirably. Then followed other part songs, &c., and Mr. Edwin Moss was deservedly applauded for his excellent singing of "The Bee," by Neukomm. A March, of his own composition, arranged for the pianoforte, was played by Mr. W. H. Harper, and when we say it was unanimously encored, it will serve to indicate that it was a piece of more than ordinary ability, played with more than ordinary skill. It is almost unnecessary to remark on Mr. Burgess Perry's rendering of the song, "Far down a valley lonely," for whatever Mr. Perry is called upon to sing, that he sings to perfection. We offer no opinion on the glee and finale, which concluded the Programme, for the simple reason that the audience showed a lamentable want of courtesy towards the artists by rising and leaving their seats; in order, we presume, to anticipate others by a few minutes, in procuring refreshment, and also that they might have a better chance of participating in the dances which followed. With this exception, the evening, as we have said, passed off famously.

The installation meeting of the Hotspur Lodge, 1626, will take place on Thursday the 27th inst., and the banquet will be held at the Turk's Head Hotel, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Bro. J. Armstrong W.M. elect.

We read in the *Keystone* that, on the 26th ult., the Grand H.R.A. Chapter of Pennsylvania was opened at the Masonic Hall, Chester, Pa. The Grand Officers present included Comps. Alfred R. Potter M.E. Grand H. Priest, Wm. C. Hamilton, M.D., Grand King, Hibbert P. John Grand Scribe, Thomas R. Patton Grand Treasurer, and John Thomson Grand Secretary. The business of the meeting was the consecration of the Chester H.R.A. Chapter, No. 258, and when the ceremony was over Comps. Charles Roberts, Edward S. Worrall, and James Barton jun. were severally installed as H.P., K., and S., after which Comp. the Hon. Richard Vaux, Grand Orator, delivered a masterly oration, which was listened to with the closest attention. The same evening the new Chapter held its first meeting, and the Mark degree was conferred on seventeen applicants. The Chester Chapter starts under the most favourable auspices, having already thirty-five members on its roll and some fifty candidates for admission. We learn from the same journal that the Reading H.R.A. Chapter, No. 182, of Reading Pa., celebrated its semi-centennial anniversary on the 20th ult. There was a large gathering of Companions, and everything passed off most satisfactorily.

BOMBAY:

Caledonia Lodge, No. 490 S.C.—The regular monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, 31st October last. In these columns we have already borne testimony to its intrinsic worth and admirable work; yet never since its establishment has it shone more conspicuously in carrying out the true principles of our Order than it did at this meeting, when it may be said to have eclipsed itself in the benign work of Charity. In the absence from the Presidency, on business, of the R.W.M. Bro. Lang, the chair of K.S. was occupied by the I.W.P.M. Bro. George Thompson, who was supported on the dais by R.W. Bros. Walton, Rowell, McKenzie, and Rev. Bro. Lynn, Chaplain H.M.S. Euphrates. The Officers of the Lodge present were W.D. Master Bro. A. Taylor, W.S. Master Clark, Bros. Faber S.W., Dr. Doolittle J.W., F. Cooper S.D., Sharp J.D., and a large number of members and visiting brethren, who by their attendance evinced the high respect in which Lodge Caledonia is held in Bombay. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Right Worshipful Master stated that, although on the present occasion there was no particular work before the Lodge, several applications, however, had been made on the Charitable Fund, which he hoped the brethren would meet in a liberal manner. The first he had to bring before them was the case of the Indo-British Institution, the funds of which were at present so low that unless prompt assistance was received the Committee would be compelled to lower the salaries of the teachers, and reduce the number of orphan children at present receiving a home within its walls, as well as a sound education. Subscriptions on their behalf had already been received from the Benevolent Fund, to the extent of 150 rupees, and he would like the brethren fairly to understand that 18 per cent. of the Lodge's receipts were monthly devoted to that fund, and 10 per cent. was likewise kept for the purpose of private charity, and the application now made was on their private charitable funds. He might mention that 83 children were supported on the Foundation of the Institution, and that it would be a very sad matter for Masons to think that some of these poor children should be thrown upon the world friendless and penniless. Their great object was charity, and he therefore hoped that the brethren of the Lodge would assist as far as lay in their power. It was then proposed by the W.M., and seconded by the J.W., that 50 rupees be given towards the Indo-British Schools, which on being put to the vote was carried unanimously. The W.M. then stated that the most charitable object he had to bring before the Lodge was that of the widow of a brother recently deceased, who they were all well aware had been a very active and zealous member and office-bearer of the Lodge. His untimely death had left his wife and child in very poor circumstances. He had been promised 100 rupees from the Benevolent Fund, or more; but he thought the widow and child had still a greater claim upon the brethren, and he begged to propose that the sum of 100 rupees be voted from their private Charitable Fund. This was seconded by the Senior Warden, and carried unanimously. The W.M. subsequently announced that he had still a further claim to make upon their charity, and he hoped that their liberality was not yet exhausted. It was on behalf of the orphan children of the late Bro. Bellali. He was, he believed, a friend of most members of the Lodge, and was well known to all. His unfortunate death, cut off as he had been in the prime of life, was a sad loss to most of them personally, as well as to the Masonic Fraternity. As it was proposed to send the children home to Italy, for their education, a large sum was required. Other Lodges in Bombay had subscribed towards this object, and he hoped that the Lodge would act liberally in aiding this movement. R.W. Bro. Mackenzie stated that he had already received over 1500 rupees on behalf of the children, but he hoped Caledonia Lodge would come forward with their usual liberality. After Bro. Bonnevalle had likewise spoken on behalf of the subject before the meeting, it was unanimously resolved that the sum of 100 rupees be devoted to the purpose of sending the children home to their Fatherland. The R.W.M. next intimated that an application had likewise been made on behalf of the Scottish Orphanage at Mahun. The brethren were well aware that the Lodge had been in the habit of yearly presenting them with a donation of 50 rupees for the Christmas holidays, but at present they, owing to enlarging their Schools, were sadly in want of funds. The members were well aware that many Masons' children were there, and without detaining them farther he begged to propose that 50 rupees be granted them, which was duly seconded, and unanimously approved of. A Reverend Visiting Brother expressed his wish to be allowed to subscribe something towards the Charity most in need of support, and at the R.W.M.'s suggestion, his fraternal donation was handed over to Bro. J. R. K. Johnstone, for the benefit of the Indo-British Institution. This cheerful record of good deeds done closed the charitable business of the evening, and requires no comment, as it speaks nobly for the spirit which pervades the members of Lodge Caledonia. One brother having been proposed for affiliation, and one candidate for initiation, and there being no other business before the Lodge, it was closed, in peace and harmony, at 8.30 p.m., after which the brethren and visitors adjourned to a banquet, to which their pleasant labours deservedly entitled them, and after spending a few hours around the festive board, parted in the Masonic style, "Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again."

RE-OPENING OF THE FRIENDLY LODGE, No. 239, KINGSTON, JAMAICA.

At an ordinary meeting of the Friendly Lodge, No. 239, Kingston, Jamaica, held on 8th October, Bros. E. J. Brandon W.M., A. Morais S.W., E. Degedas J.W., M. Delgado S.D., E. Finzi J.D., C. Wolfe Secretary, M. Alexander Treasurer, A. Mordecai I.G., G. Magnus Tyler. The Worshipful Master stated that this was the first meeting held in the Lodge room since it had been, for months, under very

extensive repairs and decorations. The place is now lighted with about fifty gaslights; the room is about fifty feet in length, and thirty feet in breadth, and does great credit to the building committee. The cost was over £1000. An address was delivered by the Worshipful Master. A letter of excuse, through sickness, for the non-attendance of the Right Worshipful Bro. J. W. Whithouse, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, was read. A vote of thanks was returned to the Right Worshipful Bro. S. Constine Burke, Provincial Grand Master of Scotland, and his officers, for their attendance; also a vote of thanks to the Past Masters and brethren of Sister Lodges for their attendance. The Right Worshipful Bro. S. Constine Burke returned thanks. The Officers of the Grand Lodge of East Jamaica were present, as were also the following Past Masters and Grand Officers:—Bros. A. De Cordova, G. C. H. Leins, Ashemien, Harrison, J. J. Leins Prov. Grand Secretary, Braudon Friendly Lodge, Langlay, Davis Royal Lodge, Taylor, Tait Secretary Sussex Lodge, Anstie, Jamieson Hamilton Lodge, H. Barned, D. Barned, L. Hollar, O. Delgado Secretary Phoenix Lodge, S. Constine Burke Provincial Grand Officer of Scotland, A. E. Burke P.G. Sec., B. Dias, Knox, &c. The Lodge closed, and the brethren retired into the banquet room, and partook of a sumptuous supper. The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and heartily responded to. During the evening able addresses were delivered by the Right Worshipful Bros. S. C. Burke and Dr. Allen. The band of the 1st W.I. Regiment was in attendance, and played several lively airs.

Friendly Chapter, No. 239.—At a quarterly convocation of this Chapter, held at Sussex Hall, Kingston, Jamaica, on 29th October, the following officers were duly elected:—M.E. Comps. C. H. Davis Z., T. Sherlock H., W. Andrews jun. J. The following officers presided:—M.E. Comps. R. Langley P.Z. Royal, J. Ashemien P.H. Friendly, D. Barnes P.J. Phoenix.

Friendly Chapter, No. 239.—At an ordinary convocation, in Jamaica, held on 22nd November, the following officers were elected for the year:—Comps. J. L. Ashemien Z., G. C. H. Leins H., E. Brandon J., E. De Pass S.E., A. Tripe S.N., E. Wolfe (re-elected) Treasurer, G. Magnus (re-elected) Janitor.

Caledonian Lodge, No. 554 S.C.—On Thursday, the 8th November, the officers forming the administration of this Lodge for 1878 were duly installed in the Lodge room, Port Maria, as under:—R.W. Bro. A. D. C. Levy Master, W. Bros. I. I. Lyon S.W., T. G. D. Brougham J.W., J. Nelson Treasurer, Bros. J. R. Facey Secretary, Sigismund De Pass S.D., F. R. Stanford J.D., J. A. Hinshelwood I.G., W. Cuthbert Tyler. The W. Bro. T. C. Dias Deputy Master, being unavoidably absent, was not installed.

AUCKLAND—NEW ZEALAND.

The following items are taken from files of Auckland papers to hand by the late mail, which arrived by the City of Berlin:—

The anniversary meeting of Sir Walter Scott Lodge was held on Tuesday, 2nd October, at the Masonic Hall, Owen-street, Grahamstown, and consisted of a soirée, concert and dance. The gathering was confined to the brethren, their wives, and sweethearts, the latter apparently predominating—and a most agreeable evening was passed, the programme lasting till past midnight. A numerous attendance was kept in good spirits and harmony, under the direction of Bro. T. L. Murray the R.W.M.

The installation of Bro. the Honourable F. Whitaker as Provincial Grand Master, Scotch Constitution, for the North Island, had been definitely fixed for the 30th November, St. Andrew's Day, at the Choral Hall. It had also been arranged that the installation of Bro. G. S. Graham, as District Grand Master English Constitution, should take place on the same day. This arrangement had been brought about by mutual agreement amongst the several Lodges. The brethren of all Masonic Lodges in the North Island were invited to take part in the ceremony. No doubt it will be one of the largest Masonic gatherings that has ever taken place in New Zealand. The proceedings will terminate with a grand ball in the evening. Bros. Brodie and Rawdon, of the Sir Walter Scott Lodge, Thames, have been here assisting to make arrangements for the occasion. Representatives will be present from Wellington, Wanganui, Taranaki, Napier, and other places, thereby lending additional interest to the day's proceedings. The impressive ceremonies were to be conducted by that veteran in Masonry, Bro. Lazar, of Hokitika.

THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER OF THE "PICTORIAL WORLD."—In the number there are bold and striking drawings, humorous drawings, drawings of Christmas at home and abroad, and pretty drawings. A presentation plate, called "Our Baby Clown," is given, and this will certainly be much thought of by the youngsters. In addition, there are "The Moss Troopers' Christmas: Bringing home the Beef," drawn by S. E. Waller; a fine example of E. Wagner, called "Midnight Service in the Black Forest;" a double-page picture, "A Cavalier Dinner," by E. Slocobe; "A Warm Bed for Uncle," by C. Gregory, and other drawings by G. G. Kilburn, C. Cattermole, Towneley Green ("Boxing Night at Drury Lane"), A. Lumley, W. J. Morgan, A. Laby, &c. Miss Owens E. Blackburne has contributed a story, "Till the Sea gives up its Dead;" Hain Friswell an amusing sketch, "Too True and Too False;" the Author of "The Harvest of a Quiet Eye," a Christmas Story; and following these are stories and little romances by Charles Towneley, J. Ewing Ritchie, A. T. Pask, E. Draper, Dr. Edwin Doudney, and others. Concluding with a Cavalier Lay, and a Tale of "Confirmed Bachelors," we have briefly pointed out what our readers will find in the Christmas Number of the Pictorial World.

AUSTRALIA.—NEW SOUTH WALES.

PRESENTATION TO MR. F. B. DAVIDSON.

A BEAUTIFULLY illuminated copy of the address presented to Mr. F. B. Davidson, at the last annual meeting of the Zetland Royal Arch Chapter, 390, English Constitution, Sydney, has just been completed by the artist, Mr. George Relf, and it is in every respect a highly creditable work. For the last twenty years Mr. Davidson has been annually elected to one of the highest offices in a Chapter which includes among its members many gentlemen of distinction, and his election for the twenty-first time was chosen as a suitable occasion for acknowledging his valuable services to the Order, and the courteous and generous demeanour which he has always exhibited in his relations with his brother members. The address read as follows:—"To Francis Burnand Davidson, Esq. Dear Sir and Excellent Companion, —We, the Companions of the Zetland Royal Arch Chapter of Australia, No. 392 E.C., desire, on the occasion of the completion of your twentieth year of service in the important office you have so efficiently and honourably held in this Chapter, to convey to you the expression of our esteem for you as a gentleman and a Royal Arch Mason. And in testimony of our appreciation of the courtesy, integrity, and zeal which have ever characterised your long service in connection with us as a member of our Chapter, we beg to present you with this address, and hope that it may be the pleasure of the Most High to so dispose of events that you may long be spared to be amongst us. On behalf of the Chapter, we remain, Dear Sir and Companion, fraternally yours, WILLIAM WEBSTER Z., N. J. ROBINSON H., and E. KIRCHNER J."

By the Suez mail which arrived at Sydney on 13th October, Mr. John Williams, J.P., of New Pitt-street and Bondi, received from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of England, a patent appointing him District Grand Master of the Masonic body in New South Wales under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England; also a communication congratulating him on his return (by the desire of the brethren) to his official duties as D.G. Master, which post he resigned some ten years ago.

Obituary.

Brother William Myatt, a well-known market gardener, died at his residence, Manor Farm, Upper Lewisham-road, New Cross, on Friday, 14th December, at the comparatively early age of 47 years—after a long, painful, and lingering illness. Bro. Myatt was initiated into Freemasonry in the Royal Oak Lodge, 871, on 22nd July 1868. After filling the minor offices, he was unanimously elected and duly installed W.M. in February 1873, and after his year of office was unanimously voted a Past Master's jewel. He was exalted into Royal Arch Freemasonry in the Pythagorean Chapter, No. 79, and, had he lived, would no doubt have filled the M.E.Z.'s chair. He was not unmindful of the Charities, and made himself a Life Governor of both the Girls' and Boys' Schools, while he had it in contemplation to do the same for the Male and Female Annuitants. A more amiable brother one seldom meets with; it is a truth to say he never made an enemy in the Lodge. His reputation was equally good in the world. The Lodge will mourn his loss; his memory will ever remain green.

It is with great regret we announce the death of Bro. James Ballantine, Grand Bard to the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE BRO. GODDIN, OF LODGES 1076 AND 1437.

Amounts previously acknowledged	34	15	0
Tranquillity Lodge, No. 185	3	3	0
Panmure Lodge, No. 720, per Bro. W. Steedman	2	6	0
Friars Lodge, No. 1349, do.	1	1	0
	£41	5	0

NOTICE.

We have great pleasure in presenting to our readers the usual Summary of the Year. We may remark that the amounts contributed to our three Charities are subject to additions, as they do not represent, by several days, a complete period of one year. It is further desirable we should announce that one or two interesting matters which should more properly have been included in our Summary are unfortunately, owing to considerations of space, deferred till next week.

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AGED FREEMASONS AND WIDOWS OF FREEMASONS.

THE ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL OF THIS INSTITUTION
will take place on Wednesday, the 13th February 1878, at Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, London, upon which occasion

His Grace the DUKE OF MANCHESTER,

R.W. Prov. G.M. for Norths and Hunts,

Has graciously signified his intention of presiding.

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

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

4 Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

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IN AID OF THE HOSPITAL FUND.

BRO. M. BAMBERGER, whose exertions in the cause of Charity are well known, had a Drawing for Ten Life Governorships, on Thursday, the 20th, the following are the Successful Numbers:—

99 132 757 1193 2087 2503 2620 2837 2982 3235

Brethren who have purchased Tickets should note this intimation, as unless application be made before the end of three months from this date, the money will be paid to the **LONDON HOSPITAL**, in the name of Brother Bamberger.

BILLINGSGATE MARKET.—GEORGE TAVERN.

THIS magnificent Building, now nearly completed by the Corporation of London, will be opened, in January next, by Mr. GEORGE SMITH, form Anderton's, for supplying Fish Dinners in perfection, at moderate prices.

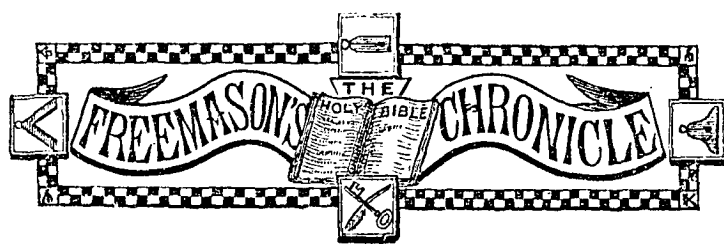
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

THE Queen, owing, we presume, to the present critical state of the Eastern Question, has resolved to pass Christmas at Windsor, instead of going, as has been her custom of late years, to Osborne. On Saturday, Her Majesty paid a visit to the Prime Minister at his country seat, Hughenden, and did him the honour to stay to luncheon. She travelled by rail to High Wycombe, which little town took occasion to decorate itself in honour of the

Royal visitor. Flags and banners and festoons of flowers met the eye in all directions; but the most unique of all the decorations was a triumphal arch composed entirely of chairs, varying from the simple "Windsor" to the elaborate drawing-room lounge, these being the one manufacture of the little Buckinghamshire town. The Queen, who was accompanied by the Princess Beatrice, was met at the station by the Earl of Beaconsfield, Lord Carington, and other local magnates, and having entered the Earl's carriage, drove to Hughenden Manor. After lunch, she walked in the grounds, and both she and the Princess planted a Wellingtonia to commemorate their visit. The visitors then drove back to High Wycombe, and returned thence by train to the Castle. Since then the Prime Minister has visited Her Majesty at Windsor, where he had the honour of dining, and having remained during the night, returned to town next morning. Friday last was the anniversary of the death of the Prince Consort, and in accordance with custom, divine service was held in the Mausoleum erected to the deceased Prince's memory; present, Her Majesty, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Princess Beatrice, with other members of the Royal Family, and the ladies and gentlemen of the Court in attendance.

Cabinet Councils are being held very frequently, nor is this to be wondered at considering the new phase on which the Russo-Turkish War has now entered. It is believed in many quarters that Russia is determined on settling the Turkish Question once and for all, without any regard to the other powers who are supposed to have or have interests in the East. Hence the Government have had it publicly announced that Parliament will meet on the 17th January for the despatch of business, this being nearly three weeks' earlier than usual. It is needless to say this news, though variously interpreted by various journals, has caused no little sensation, not only at home, but likewise in diplomatic circles abroad. The general idea seems to be that Parliament will be called together thus early in order to vote certain moneys which, in the present position of affairs, Her Majesty's Ministers consider necessary, in order to provide an increase in our naval and military forces, so that the country may be ready for any eventuality.

The weather has not been very brilliant for the sight-seers, who throng our streets at this season, and view the provision made in the way of gifts, &c., &c., for the approaching Christmas and New Year festivities. Nevertheless, in spite of fogs and slippery dirty pavements, there have been crowds in all the principal thoroughfares, showing that even dirty weather puts no damper on the determination of English people to enjoy themselves at the appointed season.

France is rapidly regaining her peace of mind, now there is a ministry, chosen from the Left Centre, and headed by M. Dufaure. So far, indeed, has this resumption of public confidence gone, that trade in all parts, and especially in Paris, is reviving. Those taxes which are indispensably necessary in order to carry on the government have been voted unanimously, and the Chambers stand prorogued till the 8th January. Thus the crisis which seemed to be inevitable has been avoided, and President MacMahon is once again on terms of amity, if not of cordiality, with the Legislature.

There is little in the way of news from either theatre of operations in Turkey. The fall of Plevna having been duly celebrated, preparations are now being made for carrying the war south of the Balkans. What new disposition of their forces will be made by the Russian generals is, of course, not known at present, but it is said that some 80,000 troops will be available for reinforcing the Czarewitch, and General Gourko, as well as for operating against the Turkish forces in other directions. The latter have evacuated Elena, which was captured only a short time since, and it is believed that Suleiman Pasha will retire his army so as to defend the attempted passage of the Balkans. The Turks still hold their position at Kamarli, and the fortresses are believed to be capable of making a stubborn defence. Moreover, the weather is now against the invaders, who will, therefore, not find their task of conquest so very easy, even though Osman Pasha and his 30,000 gallant troops are no longer available for the defence of the Sultan's empire. In Asia the only news relates to the weather. Snow has fallen, and the further advance of the Russians, nay, even the tenure of their position before Erzeroum, has become a question of grave difficulty. It only remains to add that Servia has declared war against Turkey; that her troops have crossed

THE MASONIC YEAR 1877.

YET a few more days and the year 1877 will be numbered with the past; and as with the present issue we close a further volume of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, and as in this country at all events the history of our Society is virtually, if not actually, complete for the current month, we prefer, in accordance with the plan adopted last year, giving our readers the usual sketch of Freemasonry for the last twelve months with the last number of our sixth volume rather than with the first of a new volume, which, with the exception of a few Lodge meetings, will belong to the year 1878. In presenting this sketch we have every reason to congratulate our readers on the position of the Fraternity. It is commonly said of men and things in this mundane sphere of ours, that there is no such thing as standing still. We must either move forward in order to keep pace with the times, or we must fall more and more hopelessly in the rear. As a rule, we accept this statement implicitly. This is not only an age of progress, but of rapid progress. Almost daily we note that some thing has been realised which was considered either an impossibility, or a very remote contingency, and the only means by which we keep abreast of others is to secure at all hazards our share of the general improvement. But admitting, as we do, that this holds good in ordinary societies, it does not apply with equal force to Freemasonry, whose condition is rarely, if ever, affected by external events. In saying this, we do not for one moment mean to affirm that the Craft is not more or less prosperous, according as the community of which it is part and parcel, is flourishing or otherwise. We mean simply this, that Freemasonry is a body whose teachings have endured and will continue to endure through all ages. Wars and civil commotion may break out from time to time, and though they necessarily interfere with the duties to which we are devoted, when once they are ended, we are in exactly the same position as at the commencement of this outbreak. Our organisation is the same, our ability to continue the good work we have voluntarily undertaken, remains intact. We may not perhaps be in a position to extend the same degree of assistance towards those who need it. It is very possible the thousands and tens of thousands would not flow so readily or with the same degree of regularity into the coffers of our Charitable Institutions, for there might not be to the same extent the wherewith to relieve distress. But though we should certainly have our share of the general adversity, Freemasonry as a school of science and morality, with its ramifications extending everywhere throughout the civilised world, must always remain the same. It is in this sense we mean that our Fraternity may stand still and look on, interestedly of course, yet self-reliantly, while the nations are struggling one with the other which shall grasp the largest share of gain; and it is in this sense we may add that during the past year the work in which we have been engaged has been that of consolidating our strength rather than increasing it. As we advance in our summary of the year's history we shall be able to show that the number of our Lodges has appreciably increased, that fresh measures are constantly being taken for the better governance of the Fraternity, and that, with one or two exceptions, the bonds which unite its various sections, scattered as they are throughout almost every land, have been drawn closer and closer together; but had there been no increase in numbers, it would have been still possible for us to congratulate our readers both at home and abroad on the continued prosperity of our beloved Craft. Able and experienced brethren in all countries have laboured unremittingly in order to strengthen and confirm what we have. It is no part of our system to seek additions to our strength. All who are found worthy receive a hearty welcome into our ranks, but it is they who come to us, not we who go to them. We are, we repeat, in the sense in which we have spoken, entirely independent of the external world, which may admire, or abuse and persecute us; which may encourage or forbid our gatherings, but which will find it impossible to cradicate the principles we have

laid down for our guidance, and prevent us acting on these principles. *Semper eadem* is our motto, and a proud one it is too. As long as brethren observe, even it may be perfunctorily, the grand principles by which Freemasonry is animated, the Society must retain its ancient strength and beauty. But all this is so well known to our readers, that we shall not dwell further on this portion of our subject. Our present purpose is to lay before them a summary of the events which have happened during the past twelve months, and to this duty we now betake ourselves.

The latest returns that have been issued show that in the period now under consideration, as regards Craft Masonry, no less than eighty-one warrants for new Lodges have been granted. Last year the number was seventy-two, so that as far as mere numerical increase—on which, however, we are not inclined to lay particular stress—our progress in excess of last year has been at the rate of exactly twelve-and-a-half per cent. The last number on the roll of Grand Lodge at the end of 1876 was No. 1651. We have now reached No. 1732, and the eighty-one new Lodges thus added to our roll will be found distributed as follows. Sixteen new warrants were granted in the first quarter of the year; twenty-five in the second quarter; twenty-nine in the third quarter; and eleven in the last quarter. Of these, twenty-nine are in the Metropolitan District, twenty-four in the Provinces—namely: six in the two divisions of Lancashire, three in Northumberland, three in Middlesex, and three in Kent; and one each in Cumberland, Notts, Suffolk, North Wales (Flintshire), Derbyshire, Oxfordshire, Hants, Surrey, and Sussex; and twenty-eight in Districts abroad, namely—four in New South Wales, ten in New Zealand, three in Victoria, three in Natal, and one each in Newfoundland, Queensland, Mauritius, Tunis, and Bombay, Bengal, and the Punjab. As regards these additions, we cannot say that any of them call for special remark, save perhaps, that the Orpheus, No. 1706, is composed principally of members of the musical profession, and the Evening Star, No. 1719, of civil engineers and others officially connected with gas companies, while the Kaiser-i-Hind, No. 1724, is intended for Anglo-Indians returned home from the scene of their labours in our Indian Empire. Thus, if we take the three last years, during the greater part of which the Craft in England has been governed by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as Grand Master, we note that there have been in all 205 new warrants granted, namely fifty-two in 1875, seventy-two in 1876, and eighty-one in 1877. That this is satisfactory evidence of an increasing popularity is undeniable, but whether this satisfaction must be considered as without alloy is a question which our readers must form their opinion upon. Thus, if we eliminate from the account the 110 or 120 Lodges which have dropped from the roll since the last revision of numbers in 1863, or are in abeyance, there will still remain in vigorously-active work quite 1620 Lodges under the banner of the United Grand Lodge of England, and these are to be found established in our North American possessions, our Australasian and African colonies and possessions, and in the several presidencies of our Indian Empire. This marvellous distribution of English Freemasonry is certainly subject-matter for the heartiest congratulation. No matter how distant the region to which English energy and enterprise penetrate, there we find the banner of our beloved Craft is most cordially received and most deeply respected; and the value of our Masonic system, as bringing men of different races and creeds together in one common family, will be more appreciated, if we remember that there are enrolled in our Lodges Christians, Jews, Parsees, Mahomedans, and members of every known religious faith.

Turning next to the principal changes which have taken place in the government of our Society, we note with the greatest satisfaction that in Grand Lodge itself the Senior and Junior Grand Wardenships are held, the former by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught and the latter by H.R.H. Prince Leopold. Illness in the one case, and the claims of

military duty in the other, are no doubt the reasons why these Royal brethren have been prevented from taking a very active part in the work of Grand Lodge, but there is no doubt that the reputation of Freemasonry stands higher with the community when people note that the three principal officers of G. Lodge are members of the Royal Family. Of the changes that have occurred among our Provincial magnates it will be only necessary to state that the deeply lamented Bro. Theo. Mansel Talbot, who died last year, has been succeeded in the government of the Eastern Division of South Wales by Sir Geo. Elliot Bart., M.P.; that Sir Walter Wyndham Burrell Bart., M.P., is Provincial Grand Master of Sussex, in place of Lord Pelham M.P.; and Bro. T. Montague Guest, Prov. G. Master of Dorsetshire, *vice* Bro. Joseph Gundry. The Duke of Newcastle, owing to the demands upon his time, has found it necessary to resign the Prov. Grand Mastership of Nottinghamshire, but his place has not yet been filled; and there is also, we regret to say, a vacancy in the Masonic government of Staffordshire, by reason of the sudden death of the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, to which sad event we shall have occasion to refer hereafter at greater length. However, such changes as these are in the order of things.

"Pallida Mors aequo pulsat pede pauperum tabernas
Regumque turres,"

Death takes equally the exalted as the humble brother, and their places know them no more. The firm hand, the kind heart, the genial smile are still for ever. Other, and it may be untried men succeed them, but there is always this consolation present before our minds, that "the old order remaineth."

Among the chief events of a public character must be mentioned, in the first place, the important and highly interesting ceremony which was enacted in the month of April, and the scene of which was Stratford-on-Avon, where the greatest poet of all time first saw the light. The principal actor on this occasion was the ever-active and universally respected Lord Leigh, Provincial G. Master of Warwickshire, who readily accepted the invitation of the authorities of Stratford, to lay the first stone of the buildings now being erected, to perpetuate in his native town the memory of our grand national poet, William Shakespeare. The day selected for the imposing ceremony was the 23rd of April, the anniversary of the poet's birth, and the gathering from the Province itself, as well as from Staffordshire, was worthy of the occasion. The ceremony was ably and impressively performed by his Lordship, and among those present was the eminent Shakespearian actor, Bro. William Creswick, who later in the day delivered a most eloquent oration on Shakespeare and the Drama. It may be as well to mention that the memorial when complete will consist of a theatre, which it is hoped and expected will for ages to come be a worthy home of the legitimate drama, a library, and a picture gallery. For these last two a sum of £8,000 is needed, and the half of this has been already promised by a worthy and patriotic Warwickshire man, Mr. C. E. Flower, who has already contributed largely of his means towards the erection of the theatre, and who, as we have said, is ready to still give one-half of the requisite sum if by the end of the year the other half is collected or promised. And the very day on which Lord Leigh was playing so conspicuous a part at Stratford-on-Avon, a new Masonic Hall at Exeter was solemnly dedicated to the purposes of our Craft by our Rev. Bro. John Huyshe, Provincial G. Master of Devon. There was a large and influential gathering of brethren to do honour to so important an event, the three Lodges of the venerable Western city contributing, of course, the bulk of those present. Two other events of a similar character may likewise be mentioned. On the 31st July, the Worshipful Master of the Barnard Lodge, No. 1230, laid the first stone of a new Masonic Hall at Barnard Castle, and on the 18th of the same month, the important town of Sheffield was the scene of a Grand Masonic gathering, the occasion being the opening of the new Masonic Hall and its dedication to the use of the Craft. At such a ceremony as this it was only to be expected that the Craft should be present in considerable numbers, and that the Grand Master of the Province in which the town is situated should preside in person. Of course, therefore, it is a pleasure as well as our duty to record that the popular chief of West Yorkshire, Sir Henry Edwards Bart. conducted the ceremonial in person, that the most distinguished members of the Prov. G. Lodge supported him, and

that all the leading brethren of Sheffield were there to give him the heartiest of welcomes. There are three flourishing Lodges in the town, and it was under the banner of the oldest of these, the Britannia, No. 139, which traces its origin back to the year 1765, that the gathering was held. Between two and three hundred Craftsmen witnessed the imposing ceremonial, and when the fatigues of the day were over, and the last of the long list of toasts which followed the banquet had been fittingly responded to, all dispersed to their homes, delighted with the events of the day. For many a year, the gathering of the 18th July 1877 will be the most memorable event in the annals of the Craft in Sheffield. It is, indeed, a *dies festus*, to which they are entitled to look back with pride and satisfaction.

Another event, which for obvious reasons must not be allowed to pass unnoticed, is of more recent occurrence—we allude to the Centenary Festival of the York Lodge, No. 236, which was held on the 6th of last month. Till 1870, this Lodge was known as the "Union," but in that year it obtained permission to adopt its present title. It was founded in July 1777, the Warrant for its constitution being granted by the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns). In 1862 the foundation-stone of its hall was laid, and the building itself was consecrated the year following. It is now, owing to the unwearied exertions of Bro. William Cowling P.M., in a very prosperous state. Bro. Cowling himself presided, and among those present were the Earl of Zetland, Prov. Grand Master of the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, in which York is situated, and Bro. Tew, Dep. Prov. Grand Master of West Yorkshire, the entire party mustering about one hundred and twenty. It is needless to say that the auspicious event was fittingly celebrated, and perhaps not the least interesting part of the day's proceedings was the reading of Bro. W. J. Hughan's letter on the progress of the Craft in the Archbishopric City of York. Centenary celebrations do not occur every day, and there are but few Lodges comparatively which can boast of an unbroken series of labours extending over one hundred years; but the special feature in connection with this particular celebration is the fact that the ancient city of York is so intimately associated with the history of our Society. We have no intention of carrying our readers back to the mythical times of Prince Edwin of York, nor have we a mind to lay before them a full, true, and particular sketch of English Freemasonry in the northern capital of England. For the benefit of those who are curious in these matters, we may mention that whatever is authentic in connection with Freemasonry in York will be found in Bro. Hughan's admirable account in the *Kingston Masonic Annual*, an account we have read with infinite profit as well as pleasure. Suffice it to say, there existed a Lodge of Freemasons in York at the very beginning of last century, and that when the Craft in the south of England entered upon its new career as a speculative body, York Masonry was also favourably affected, and the Lodge shortly after the year 1717 resumed its duties; and though it never fared as prosperously as its southern rival—indeed, it has been extinct now for many, many years—still for a time it held its own, and retained and exercised all the rights and privileges of a Grand Lodge. Indeed, these rights and privileges were willingly recognised by the Grand Lodge in London, and the Grand Lodge of all England held in York, was for a long period of years a sovereign and independent body, granting warrants for the formation of new Lodges, not only under its own immediate wing, but likewise in the South of England itself, our venerable Lodge of Antiquity, under Bro. William Preston, being for a short time in alliance with it. But the Lodge which only a few weeks since celebrated the completion of the first hundred years of its existence, owes its origin, not to the old York Lodge of which we have been speaking, but, as we have said, to the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns). It, however, is the fortunate possessor of such manuscripts and records as have been preserved, many of the former being very ancient, and the latter most interesting. It is impossible for the student of Masonry to consider the past, present, and future of our Society without associating with our history the ancient city of York. We cannot take up a work on the Craft which does not contain some reference to the York rite. We can hardly raise a question of any importance as to our progress without noting the confusion that reigns even in the minds of well-informed brethren as to the mysteries of what is known as Ancient York Masonry. York has played its part well.

Its principal Lodge does not date back to the pre-revival epoch of 1717, but we must still rejoice at finding that the Craft is so admirably circumstanced in the fine old capital city of Yorkshire. We trust the future career of the York Lodge, No. 236, may be ever more and more increasingly prosperous, and if there is little or nothing known in these days of the old York *rite*, that the York *rights* of the present may never be in worse keeping than they are now. We must also refer in passing to the Henry Muggeridge testimonial now being raised. "Old Mug," as he is familiarly if somewhat irreverently dubbed by his friends, is a fine old specimen of the ancient Craft. He has done loyal service in his day. As the late Collector for the Girls' School, he is known of all men; but his reputation, perhaps, stands highest as Preceptor of the Stability Lodge of Instruction, where for generations—we will not be so rude as to say how many—he has busily expounded to admiring audiences, the mysteries of the "Three Grand Principles," and "The Six Grand Periods," &c., &c. We hope this testimonial, which we are given to understand will be closed on the 31st January, will prove worthy of so eminent a brother.

But, after all, our installations and Consecrations and the changes in the *personnel* of our government are matters of course, and must be looked forward to as a part of the inevitable. There are, generally, certain events in the career of the year's history which it is imperative we should notice, and foremost amongst these is the Memorial voted by Grand Lodge in honour of, and by way of recording most emphatically, the visit of the Grand Master to, and his safe return in health and strength from, India. Opinions were divided as to the form which this Commemorative gift should assume. Many there were, and we confess we were of the number, who considered it should take the form of a presentation in equal shares to our three Masonic Institutions. Others favoured the idea that it should be presented to some Indian Charity, and others again, that it should go in part towards the decoration and renovation of St. Paul's Cathedral—that masterpiece of our Illustrious Wren—in part towards the restoration of St. Alban's Abbey, on the principal ground that St. Alban was the proto-martyr of the Anglican Church, and is freely mentioned with respect in our old operative legends, though, for anything that is ever likely to be known, he had no more to do with our Craft than St. Peter or St. Paul, or any other of the early Christian martyrs. However, none of these views found favour in the sight of the Craft. An Especial Communication of Grand Lodge was held on the 3rd January, and the Earl of Carnarvon, our Pro Grand Master, who presided, proposed, in a long and eloquent speech, that the sum of £4,000 should be handed over to the Royal National Life Boat Institution, in order to provide and endow in perpetuity two Lifeboats in commemoration of the auspicious visit, the one to be known as the Albert Edward, and the other as the Alexandra. The proposition was very warmly received, and, we need hardly add, was passed unanimously; and the vote having been confirmed, not only has the sum been paid to the credit of the Lifeboat Institution, but the boats themselves will shortly be placed—the one on the Coast of Devon, and the other at Clacton-on-Sea, the new London watering place on the Coast of Essex. It should also be mentioned that at the September Communication, the sum of two hundred guineas was voted by Grand Lodge towards the relief of the sufferers from the fire of St. John, N.B.; one hundred guineas to the sufferers by the cataclysm on the coast of Peru; and further, that on the motion of Bro. J. M. Clabon, unanimously agreed to, the sum of one thousand guineas was handed to the Mansion House Indian Famine Relief Fund. The course of the year may not have been marked by any such unusual event as the Royal Installation or the public appearance in full Masonic State of the Grand Master, as at the Post Office Ceremonial in Glasgow, but the votes by Grand Lodge which we have just recorded, will go a long way towards making the year 1877 memorable in the annals of the Craft.

Royal Arch Masonry moves quickly along, with a progress which, if not astounding, is unquestionably matter for congratulation. Last year eighteen new Chapters were added to the roll, this year the number is twenty-six, namely—six in the first quarter, eight in the second, seven in the third, and five in the fourth. Eight of them are metropolitan Chapters, thirteen are located in the Provinces, namely—five in Kent, two in Cornwall, two in Middlesex, and one each in Derby, Devon, Hants, and Herts; and five in districts abroad, of which one is in New Zealand, and four

are in the Punjab. It is worthy of mention that two of the new metropolitan Chapters, namely—those founded under the auspices of the Wanderers' Lodge, No. 1609, and the Bayard, No. 1615, were established under unusual circumstances. It is customary to grant warrants for new Chapters only in the case of Lodges which have been in existence for three years, the object of this law being to secure a sufficient number of brethren capable of filling the principal chairs. However, in the case of these two Lodges, it was shown that this object had already been secured, though they cannot yet boast of more than a full year's existence; and the rule, therefore, was very wisely relaxed in their favour. In this matter Grand Chapter showed its wisdom, by meeting the wishes of two new and vigorous and in all respects well appointed Lodges, which even thus early in their career have greatly distinguished themselves. As to the Provinces, the most noticeable feature is undoubtedly the increase of five in the number of Chapters in Kent, an increase which is mainly, if not entirely, attributable to the appointment of Viscount Holmesdale as Prov. G. Superintendent for the county. It is also worthy of mention that early in the year the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe was installed as Prov. Superintendent of Cornwall, and since then the Earl of Bective has been formally inducted into the same exalted position for the Province of Cumberland and Westmoreland. It must likewise be recorded that Grand Chapter voted a sum of One Hundred Guineas towards the relief of the sufferers by the fire at St. John's, New Brunswick. Notice of motion had also been given to vote Three Hundred Guineas towards the Indian Famine Relief Fund, but the Fund had been closed in the interim, owing to the announcement from Madras that further contributions were not required, and therefore the motion was withdrawn.

If we turn from Arch to Mark Masonry, we shall find the evidences of increasing prosperity are still more remarkable. Since last year application has been made to the Mark Grand Lodge for no less than nineteen warrants for new Lodges, so that, if we include the Time Immemorial Lodges, there are about 230 Lodges on the roll of this Grand Lodge, while close on a thousand certificates for advancement to this degree have been issued during the past twelve months. There are, consequently, between 10,000 and 11,000 Mark Master Masons in England and Wales and the colonies and dependencies of the British Crown. But these are not the only gratifying circumstances we have to record. On the 4th April, the new Provincial Mark Grand Lodge of Monmouthshire was solemnly consecrated by the Rev. Geo. R. Portal, Past G.M.M.M., and Bro. Humphrey installed as first Prov. G.M.M.M. On the 29th of last month there was a grand gathering of Mark Masons in the Province of Lincolnshire, under the presidency of their respected chief, Bro. John Sutcliffe, the meeting being held under the auspices of the recently consecrated Lodge "St. Wolfrid," No. 209. A Mark G.M.M.M. for the adjoining Province has been appointed in the person of Bro. John Wordsworth, who awaits the ceremony of installation, though his patent as Prov. G. Master has been made out. The Funds of Grand Lodge, both the General and the Benevolent, are in a highly flourishing condition. It has been formally recognised by the General Grand Chapter of R.A. Masons in the United States, and last, but not least, the late Mark Benevolent Festival, held under the genial auspices of the Earl of Donoughmore, was a greater success than in any former year, the amount of contributions by the hands of seventeen Stewards being in excess of £230.

Nor, if we turn to the Templars, the Red Cross of Constantine, the Ancient and Accepted Rite, the Royal Order of Scotland in the country south of the Tweed, &c., &c., shall we find reason to be otherwise than well satisfied with the progress made during the year. In June, the Eboracum Conclave, No. 137, of the Red Cross of Constantine, was consecrated at York. On Monday, the 11th June, the Royal Bruce Chapter of the Royal Order was consecrated by R.W. Bro. Dr. Hamilton, Provincial Grand Master of London, among the candidates advanced to the Order on the occasion being the Earl of Donoughmore, Lords Henniker and Brooke, the Hon. T. Warren Vernon, Major General Sir Charles Daubeny, the Hon. and Rev. Francis E. C. Byng, the Ven. Archdeacon Dunbar, Capt. Portlock Dadson, &c., &c. In October, the Yorkshire College of the Rosicrucian Society in *Angliā* was consecrated by M.W. Fr. Chas. F. Matier IX^o, Fr. S. B. Ellis VIII^o, being installed as Chief Adept; while the Templars and the Ancient and Accepted Rite, under the

able governance of Lord Skelmersdale, are able to show undoubted evidence of their increased strength and popularity. It is, indeed, in the order of things, that Craft Masonry having prospered during the year, the other Masonic bodies should have enjoyed their share of the general good fortune; and though it cannot be denied that all these bodies, save the Royal Arch, are extraneous to Masonry pure and simple, still their ablest and most influential members are prominent Craft Masons to begin with, and would certainly strive hard to ensure the success of any society into which they were admitted.

We now approach the most agreeable duty of all—that of recording the exploits of the Craft in the field of Charity. It was stated, shortly after the close of 1876, that close on £40,000 was contributed in the course of that year to our three Masonic Institutions; but large as was this sum, we have every reason to believe that when the figures are totalled up it will be found that the contributions to these same Charities during 1877 have been largely in excess. The first of our three Festivals—that of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution—was held on Monday the 10th February. His Royal Highness Prince Leopold had consented to occupy the chair, but, unfortunately, indisposition prevented him from playing this important rôle. At the very last moment, the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, who had presided with such success in 1875, came forward, and, to the relief of Bro. Terry, filled the vacancy so unexpectedly created. The Festival, as our readers are aware, was a magnificent success, and the indefatigable Secretary was able to announce, after the toast of Prosperity to the Institution had been duly honoured, a total subscription of £12,856,13, with fourteen lists still outstanding. These have been returned since, and the yield of this Festival is represented by the magnificent sum of £13,368, while the contributions to this Charity from all sources amount during the year, or, at least, up to Thursday, the 20th instant, to £13,909. As a result of this munificence, the Committee of the Institution, on the motion of Lieut.-Col. Creaton, agreed to increase the number of annuitants by thirty, namely, fifteen male and fifteen female, so there are now no less than 145 male and 125 female annuitants, the former receiving £40, and the latter £32, per annum, and there are likewise thirteen widows who receive each a moiety of her late husband's annuity. In fact, the amount that must be raised annually, in order to pay this body of 283 beneficiaries, is £10,035, and the total expenditure, including cost of management, cannot be set down at less than £12,500. From these figures, and from the fact that the receipts from the Festival have been considerably more than doubled in four years—they were £5,220 in 1874, when Lord Waveney presided—our readers will perceive how strenuously “A Zealous Officer” and his successive Boards of Stewards have laboured in the cause of the Benevolent Institution; and, what is still more important, how necessary it is their labours should be continued unceasingly, and how desirable it is the fruits of those labours should be at least on as large a scale as they have been this year. It must not be forgotten that the addition just made, of fifteen male and fifteen female annuitants, was only made provisionally, and unless the standard of contributions is well maintained there will have to be a reduction in the number of the beneficiaries. It should be added, in connection with this Institution, that the Collector, Bro. Lane, died very suddenly, and that in him it lost an able and willing officer, while yet in the prime of life. His place has been filled by the appointment of Bro. Knill. It should be further stated that Bro. Terry's Winter and Summer Entertainments were held as usual at Croydon, and gave the greatest satisfaction to the “Old Folks,” whom it is a pleasure, as well as a privilege, to meet on these festive occasions.

Pass we now to the Girls' School, whose Festival came next in order of sequence. It is within the knowledge of all our friends that the able Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, Bro. R. Wentworth Little, has been in very feeble health during the past year. So ill, indeed, has he been, that his ability to move about among our Lodges and personally exert himself in pleading the cause of the School to whose interests he is so devoted has been very seriously curtailed. Nor has he, moreover, been able to give that personal attention in his office which he bestowed so readily when he was in full health and strength. Therefore, it cannot have been a matter for surprise that the Festival of this School should have been less productive than those of the kindred Institutions. It was held on the

9th May, the President being Lord Suffield, who had been installed only a few months previously, as Provincial Grand Master of Norfolk, by the Prince of Wales himself. His Lordship was well supported, and the proceeds amounted to £9,757 13s 6d, with twenty-three lists still to be returned. This is over £1500 in excess of the amount in 1876, which was rather more than £8,200, with twelve lists outstanding, and this again was a considerable advance on 1875. The total result of this year's Festival was £9,969, while the contributions from all sources raise this to the very handsome sum of £10,167 18s 1d up to Thursday just past. This is eminently satisfactory; but the normal expenditure has been very heavy during the past year, owing to the provision of additional School accommodation, and as the number of pupils has been increased, and in due time will exceed 200, the annual outlay will be permanently raised. It will, therefore, be as necessary as ever that the Craft should be as liberal as heretofore. Ordinarily the Festival is preceded by a visit to the Institution of the Board of Stewards and their friends, on which occasion the prizes are distributed, and there are recitations, and performances on the pianoforte by the pupils. This year, however, owing to the prevalence of illness, the visit was not paid till the 18th June, Lord Suffield presiding. Everything passed off favourably, and the pupils gave evidence of the care and ability which are bestowed upon them. We will mention, in conclusion, the names of the principal prize-winners. These are Leila Palmer, who, in addition to other awards, carried off the Gold Medal for general proficiency, given by Bro. W. Paas, with £5 added by Bro. W. Winn; Mary Emma Baines, who took the silver medal for good conduct given by the Institution, with £5 added by Bro. Winn; Blanche E. Morris, Louisa Hole, and Francis Harzman, who divided among them Bro. Winn's further prize of £5.

Last in order we come to the Boys' School, whose Festival was held the 27th June, at the Alexandra Palace, with Bro. W. W. B. Beach, Provincial Grand Master of Hants and the Isle of Wight, as chairman. Owing to a clerical error the amount of subscriptions was announced as £12,856, with twenty-three lists still outstanding, but the amount actually subscribed was £13,160 15s, and this has reached the splendid total of £13,535 12s 6d. The contributions from all sources up to Thursday were £14,479 14s 6d, and as owing to the successful labours of Bro. Binckes and his Board of Stewards, the further sum of £3,000 has been invested in Government Securities, we must offer him and them, and the executive generally, our warmest felicitations on the success of the current year. But the future is before us, and it is a future which will bring with it still heavier responsibilities. With all that has been done of late years, we find it hardly possible to keep pace with the growing demands on the resources of the Institution. A short time since, and the number of pupils in the School was about 160. Then it grew to 170, and now, we believe, it is over 180; but at the October election there were sixty-six candidates, and only nine vacancies. However, in order to meet this growing demand as far as possible consistently with the dictates of prudence, it has been resolved to erect additional accommodation at the cost of about £3,000, and by this means the authorities will have it in their power to increase the School by thirty-two pupils. When this is done, there will be some 212 boys well clothed, well fed, and well educated at the expense of the Craft; and in order to keep the School up to this strength, it will be absolutely necessary that the contributions of brethren should be at least as much as they have been during the past two or three years. That is, the Freemasons of this country stand committed as a body to the maintenance of our Boys' School at this particular strength, and therefore a sum sufficient to cover the cost of their education, board, and clothing will have to be forthcoming annually. It will not be creditable if there should be such a falling-off in the donations and subscriptions as to entail a reduction in the number of the pupils. Before passing to the other events connected with our Boys, we will mention one pleasing circumstance, which will always be remembered with satisfaction. Last year we announced that Bro. John Constable, who had arranged to act as Steward at this Festival, promised he would somehow or other contrive to raise a list of, at the least, £1,000. The promise was amply fulfilled, for when the eventful day arrived, Bro. Binckes was able to announce—and he did so amid the heartiest cheers—that Bro. Constable's list was a few pounds over £1,200. In acknowledgment of these valuable services, Bro. Constable has been elected an

honorary Vice-Patron, with all the privileges of the rank, not only of the Boys' School, but of the Girls' and the Benevolent likewise, and we need hardly say we heartily congratulate him on his very brilliant exploit. The speech day and Distribution of Prizes preceded the Festival, and was under the genial presidency of that most genial of Masonic chairmen, the Earl of Donoughmore. The principal prizes were taken by Edward Thomas Sage, who secured the silver medal awarded by the Institution; Frank Lewis Scurr, to whom was awarded the Canonbury gold medal; and E. Pawley, who took the silver watch and chain given for good conduct by the Supreme Council of the A. and A. Rite. All present were delighted with the success of the day's proceedings, and the high standard of proficiency exhibited by the boys. Moreover, the value of the education given in the School is further shown—though further proof is hardly needed—by the success which has attended those pupils who have presented themselves for examination at the Cambridge Local Examinations, at those conducted by the Science and Art Department, South Kensington, and elsewhere. Nor, may we remark, is the physical training neglected, as was evidenced in the cricket match with the boys of the Grocers' School, when our eleven scored over 250 runs against the Grocers' 24.

We have now completed the survey of our Institutions for the year 1877, and to sum up the results we find that apart from the permanent income of the Charities the Craft has contributed £38,556 in the past twelve months, and this is devoted to (1) annuities to 283 old people; (2) the maintenance and education of about 180 girls, shortly to be increased to 204; (3) the maintenance and education of about 180 boys, shortly to be increased to about 212. This is quite irrespective of the sums disbursed by Grand Lodge in relieving distressed brethren or the widows or families of deceased brethren, whose cases are deemed worthy of being brought specially under the notice of the Lodge of Benevolence, and irrespective of the £5000 and upwards voted for special purposes. Thus we shall not be wrong if we say that the total disbursements in the twelve months still current is little if at all short of £60,000. Under these circumstances we may say with truth that Freemasonry, as it is understood in England, is essentially practical.

Of those grave questions of policy or great legal importance which occasionally arise to disturb the ordinary equanimity of our Masonic communities, there have, we rejoice to say, been none originating directly in England. At the last Communication of Grand Lodge, two important propositions were submitted to the brethren, but they had their origin abroad, and Grand Lodge met them with judicial calmness and dignity. The first of these was made by the Pro Grand Master, and had reference to a sweeping innovation upon the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, introduced into the Constitution of the French G. Orient. We have treated the matter so fully, and we hope so fairly, in successive articles, that it will suffice if we mention that a Committee has been appointed for the purpose of making all needful inquiries into the matter, and it will report the result of such inquiries and submit such proposal as may seem just at the next Quarterly Communication. We shall then know in what position we English Freemasons stand to the Grand Orient of France and its subordinate Lodges. In the meantime, all French Masons whose certificates bear date up to the 13th September last inclusive will be admissible into our Lodges. The other proposition, or rather series of propositions, was brought forward by our Rev. Bro. Simpson, their object being to induce the Grand Lodge of the Three Globes at Berlin to so far modify its Constitutions, as to allow of non-Christian candidates for initiation or joining being accepted by that Grand Lodge and its daughter Lodges. The first proposition, which was merely to the effect that the 300 petitions referring to this German question should be received, was agreed to. The other two were withdrawn, as it was questioned whether our Grand Lodge was acting within its right in offering such a suggestion to a foreign and perfectly independent Grand Lodge. We need say nothing further on the subject, as we have dealt with it so recently in these columns. One constitutional question of some importance has likewise been settled publicly, and let us hope to the general satisfaction of the Craft. We allude to the decision of Grand Lodge in support of the ruling of Grand Registrar McIntyre, that a Worshipful Master may invite any qualified brother to fulfil his duties in Lodge for him,

the work so done being to all intents and purposes that of the Master himself. We trust this will set at rest one frequent cause of difference, and even of soreness, between a W.M. and his P.M.'s, many among the latter having claimed to do the duties of the former whenever he felt indisposed to fulfil them himself. We trust after this we have heard the last of the many bickerings which have arisen from so trifling a misconception of the law even in well-ordered Lodges.

Thus far, we have dwelt fully on the events in England, and as we have noted the benefits that have accrued to us, so is it right we should devote a brief space to the losses we have sustained. Two foremost brethren have passed away. One of them, the late Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, was in the very prime of life, and we hoped he would have been spared to us for many a year to adorn the Craft he loved so well, and for which, on all occasions, he was ready to work so arduously. As the ruler of one of our Provinces he had won for himself the highest reputation as a Craftsman. Zealous, able, and obliging in all things, he was the very *beau idéal* of a perfect Mason. His last public Masonic duty was the presiding, in place of Prince Leopold, at the Festival of the Benevolent Institution. His last appearance in any Masonic body was on the Tuesday, or but two or three days, previous to his death, when he was present at a meeting of the Supreme Council A. and A. Rite. It may be some consolation to his family to know that the grief for so untimely a loss was as universal as it was profound. The other notable Mason who has departed this life during the current year had attained, if, indeed, he had not exceeded, the three score and ten years which the Psalmist has told us make up the allotted span of life. He had played his part admirably in the Province to which he belonged, having been its Dep. G. Master for a period of twenty years, and having earned the esteem and respect of all his brethren. The very first act which Prince Leopold, after his installation as Prov. G. Master of Oxfordshire, was called upon to perform was to present a handsome testimonial to Bro. Spirse for his very valuable services to Freemasonry. These, of course, are not the only victims which Pale Death has claimed for his own, but they are the most serious losses, and therefore the most grievous to bear.

We now turn our attention to Ireland, where we rejoice to say Freemasonry still occupies the same honourable position, though, by reason of the influence exercised by the Romish priesthood, it plays the part of the strong man, who wisely arms himself in defence of his own, lest a stronger than he should assail and despoil him of his goods. There is, perhaps, a certain satisfaction in feeling that by one of its recent acts the Grand Lodge has managed to extort some faint praise from one of those papers which have again and again displayed towards it a strong feeling of hostility. However, as our Irish brethren are admirably organized, and well governed by one of the most popular of our titled brethren, we do not imagine they feel more than a passing regret that some classes will persist in misrepresenting the objects for which Freemasonry exists, and who will have it the Craft exercises, in some strange way, a pernicious influence on society in general, and its own disciples in particular. It is true we have heard no more of the feeble joke—for it could never have been intended for anything else—that Freemasonry has exercised, or is exercising, a baneful influence on the flax trade of Belfast, but we should not be astonished if a similar display of nonsense were exhibited at any time. However, to deal with the events of the year, which we hope to place briefly before our readers. It is somewhat difficult to trace the losses and additions which the roll of Grand Lodge Ireland has sustained this year. Still, by a very careful comparison of the lists for 1876 and 1877, we have ascertained that three Lodges—two attached to line regiments and one in Mayo—have been struck off the roll, and seven new ones added. The province of one of them—"No. 139, Mountmellick"—is not furnished; of the others, one, No. 316, is in Co. Tipperary; one, No. 748, in Co. Wicklow; and one, No. 994, in Co. Tyrone. The remaining three are abroad, namely, No. 303 in Jamaica; No. 304 in Trinidad; and No. 462 in New Zealand. This gives a net increase of four Lodges over last year, so there are now 369 Lodges on the roll instead of 365. Of these seventy are in the colonies of the United Kingdom or in countries abroad. Thus, there are sixteen in Victoria, nine in South Australia, nine in Queensland, eight in New South Wales, eleven in New Zealand, three in Tasmania,

and four in Ceylon. There are two in Peru, and one each in Canada, Turkey, Isle of Man, Bermuda, Jamaica, Trinidad, Gibraltar, and Malta. Of those at home, Co. Antrim has seventy-two, Co. Down forty-two, Co. Dublin thirty-five, Co. Cork twelve, Co. Tyrone eleven, Co. Armagh ten, Co. Derry eighteen; and there are six military, the remainder being distributed among the other counties. So much for the number and distribution of the Lodges. The principal events are few in number, but they are, taken together, of a highly satisfactory character. The most recent are among the most important. On the 1st of November Grand Lodge passed a resolution forbidding all intercourse on the part of Irish Masons with the Grand Orient and its subordinate Lodges. This step has been taken because, at its last General Assembly, the Grand Orient accepted a resolution materially altering the Constitutions of Freemasonry in that country by striking out that part of the First Article which declares it essential that all applicants for initiation into Freemasonry must declare their belief in the existence of God and the immortality of the soul. There was, in the case of Grand Lodge, Ireland, an immediate necessity for some kind of action, seeing that it exchanged representatives with the Grand Orient, whereas there is no such interchange between our Grand Lodge and the Grand Orient. Nor do we see any reason for regarding the course adopted as a mistaken one. We here can afford to move more slowly, but we see clearly that something must be done in order to signify our entire disagreement with the grave change which has been sanctioned in the Constitutions of the Grand Orient, and to vindicate the purity of Masonic principles; and we trust that some way may yet be discovered by which, both in Ireland and here, it will be found possible to receive, as heretofore, those French brethren who still stand by the old landmarks of the Order in their integrity. It may be, as too often happens, that the innocent will be made to suffer equally with the guilty; but we hope it will not be so.

One other event must be noticed in which the Grand Lodge has taken the principal part, and that was the dedication and re-opening, on the 5th of this month, of the Masonic Hall, Dublin. The ceremony was carried out under the immediate guidance of his Grace the Duke of Abercorn, the Grand Master, in person. There was a large gathering of present and past Grand Officers, of Provincial Grand Officers, and of the Masters, Past Masters, Officers, and brethren of the Dublin Lodges. Everything was done impressively, and the Dep. G. Master thanked his Grace in a short but appropriate speech, taking at the same time the opportunity of congratulating Grand Lodge on the day's proceedings, and especially on the fact that the paintings and decorations of the Hall were the work of Irish artists.

Two other events of importance now claim our attention. The first was the annual meeting, in March, of the Belfast Masonic Charity Fund. The accounts, though dealing with small amounts only, were eminently satisfactory, and show that our Belfast brethren, with that generous warmth which is instinct in the Irish character, are not unmindful of that attribute of Masonry on which we pride ourselves, namely, Charity. The Reports in both cases were adopted unanimously; at the same time an earnest appeal was made to the members of the Lodges in the town to continue, and if possible, increase their support towards these Charities. The other gathering is also of annual occurrence, and was on a far grander scale. This was the Festival of the Dublin Female Orphan Asylum and Boys' School, and was held in the Exhibition Palace on the 18th May, His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught G.S.W. of England presiding on the occasion, supported by Bro. Rob. W. Shekleton Dep. G.M., Judge Townsend, Gen. Griffith, and a large concourse of brethren and ladies. The Female Orphan Asylum numbers forty-five pupils, while in the Boys' School there are twenty-one. The accounts of the former, show a balance on the right side of the account, amounting to £1,569 2s, of which, speaking roundly, two-thirds have been invested in India four percent. stock, while the receipts of the latter exceed those for the year 1876, by close upon £500. After the customary speeches, of which those made by the Duke of Connaught, Judge Townsend, and the Solicitor-General, were welcomed with frequent and hearty applause, and when several of the pupils had shown their proficiency in music, His Royal Highness distributed the prizes; the following being the most important, namely:—the Ffennell prize—that for 1876, which had not been awarded when the distribution took place, being

received by Grace Harte, and for 1877, by Gertrude Gill. The Astley prizes—the first division, English, were adjudged to Frances Smith and Grace Harte, and in the second division, French, to Gertrude Gill and Frances Smith. Bro. Oldham's good conduct medals, which are adjudged by the pupils themselves, were bestowed on Elizabeth E. Christian (silver), and Florence Hendly (bronze). The bands of the 3rd Dragoon Guards and the 6th Inniskillings were present, and added greatly to the pleasure of the gathering; and when the business of the meeting was over, the brethren and ladies promenaded the building, and enjoyed themselves most thoroughly. This may be set down as the great event of the Masonic year in Dublin, and every care is taken to secure its success. Both last year and this, their efforts were attended with brilliant success, the presence of His Royal Highness on this occasion giving additional *éclat* to the brilliant assemblage.

The highest number on the roll of Grand Lodge, Scotland, is, according to our Grand Lodge Calendar, No. 609; but there are only 482 Lodges in full working order. Last year the highest number was No. 581, and there were 454 Lodges in a state of active work, so that Scotland can boast of an addition to its strength of twenty-eight Lodges during the year. We cannot speak with certainty, but as far as it is possible to judge from the places at which they have been established, thirteen of these are located in Scotland, and fifteen in our colonies and possessions abroad. It is worthy of mention, at all events, that of the home Lodges, two are at Glasgow, "The Prince's," No. 607, and the "Gaul," No. 609; one at Hart-hill, in Lanarkshire, the "St. James's," No. 590; the "North British Railway Lodge," No. 597; the "Callander," No. 588, Falkirk, and one at Rosslyn, rejoicing in the singularly-appropriate and prettily-sounding title of "Rosslyn St. Clair," No. 606. Of those abroad, there is one at Surat, and one at Bombay—styled the "Islam," No. 587—two at the Cape of Good Hope, two in the Province of New Zealand, and one at Auckland, and two in New South Wales; one in Victoria, one at Trinidad, one in the island (we presume) of Grenada, and one styled the "Eureka," No. 605, at Christiansted, West Indies. Having now dealt with the mere numerical changes which have occurred, let us note the events by which the year now closing has been distinguished. Perhaps the most memorable is the appointment of Bro. D. Murray Lyon, the Scottish Masonic historian, to be Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge. Early in the year Bro. John Lauric, who had ably discharged the duties of that important office for some time, announced his intention of resigning, and the vacancy having been declared, several brethren offered themselves as candidates, the three whose claims to support were most favourably regarded being Bros. Lyon, Wylie, and Heath, the last-mentioned hailing from London. When the day of election came, Bro. Heath had only a small number of votes cast in his favour, albeit his testimonials were of a very high character, and the contest, which really lay between Bros. Lyon and Wylie, resulted in the victory of the former by 210 votes to 128 for Bro. Wylie. In making this selection, our Scottish brethren have done honour to the Craft, by showing that they are able to appreciate fully the eminent services which this most distinguished brother has rendered, in the first instance to Scottish Masonry, by his very elaborate historical works on Mother Kilwinning and St. Mary's Chapel, and in the next to Freemasonry in general, by his careful editing of Bro. Findel's history. We have no desire whatever to detract from the merits of Bro. Wylie, which are unquestionably high, but we confess that we should have regretted the issue had it been determined in his favour. The change has operated most beneficially. Bro. Lyon since his advent to office has laboured most strenuously for his Grand Lodge, and he has already succeeded in proving that his brethren by electing him have—to use a familiar phrase—put the right man in the right place.

As regards the retirement of Captain Henry Moreland from the Grand Mastership of all Freemasonry in India, it is a circumstance which none of us can contemplate without a strong sense of regret that one who has worked so long and so successfully should find himself under the necessity of yielding up his position; but if there is one thing which can possibly reconcile us to his retirement it is that so able a successor has been found as Bro. Balfour. In July, Lord Inverurie was installed Prov. G. Master of Kincardineshire, which is now separated from

Forfarshire, and forms a distinct Province in itself, and the month following, Bro. John Clark Forrest was formally inducted into the Provincial Grand Mastership of the Middle Ward of Lanarkshire. Bro. William Boyd, who has been appointed Provincial G. Master of Aberdeenshire, will be installed by Bro. Lord Inverurie, while Bro. Hislop, who has resigned the Prov. Grand Mastership of New Zealand, will be succeeded by Bro. Judge Drury. At the Communication held on the 5th November, the Grand Officers for the ensuing year were appointed. Grand Master Sir Michael Shaw-Stewart will remain in office another year, in order that he may witness the completion of the alterations which have been inaugurated during his term of office. Among the new Grand Officers will be found Bro. Henry Inglis of Torsonce, Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Col. A. C. Campbell of Blythswood, Substitute Grand Master, Bros. F. A. Barrow and Lord Inverurie Senior and Junior Grand Wardens respectively, Bro. David Kinnear Grand Cashier, and Bros. R. F. Shaw-Stewart and Sir Douglas Clark Bart., of Penicuik, Senior and Junior Grand Deacons. Sir M. Shaw-Stewart presided at the annual celebration of St. Andrew's Festival, the usual installation preceding the banquet. The gathering was both numerous and enthusiastic, and we have every reason to congratulate our Scottish brethren on the success of the day's proceedings. Of other public events associated with the Craft, we must mention that on the 20th May Lord Inverurie laid the foundation stone of the New Town Hall, Stonehaven, with Masonic ceremonial. There was a strong muster of the brethren belonging to the local Lodges, and the day was kept as one of great public rejoicing, his Lordship being heartily thanked for his services. On the 16th November the new Masonic Hall at Galashiels, the first stone of which was laid by Bro. Henry Inglis of Torsonce—at the time Deputy Grand Master and Prov. Grand Master of Peebles and Selkirkshire—was, in the absence of that distinguished brother, solemnly dedicated to Freemasonry by Bro. Dr. Middleton, the Prov. G. Senior Warden, in the presence of a large number of Galashiels' brethren, and also of deputations from several other Lodges, among the most eminent of those present being Bro. Murray Lyon, Grand Secretary. The ceremony was ably and impressively rendered, and the occasion will always be regarded as a red-letter day in the annals of Galashiels Freemasonry. On the 4th October, there was a large gathering of brethren in the Pillar Room of the Queen's Rooms, Glasgow, the occasion being the consecration of the Prince's Lodge, No. 1607. The ceremony was performed by Bro. W. M. Nelson, the Grand Master of the Province, in presence of over one hundred brethren, and subsequently Bro. Francis W. Clark was installed as Worshipful Master, Bro. Lord Provost Bain Deputy Master, and Bro. Will. J. Easton Substitute Master. This Lodge is located in the west-end of the great northern city, and by fixing the fees at a higher figure than usual, will be very select. On the 16th August, Comp. F. A. Barrow, Prov. G. Superintendent of Lanarkshire, consecrated the Hamilton R. A. Chapter, No. 172, Hamilton, and on the 31st May, Lord Inverurie, the successor of the late Major Hamilton Ramsay, as Grand Viceroy of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine in Scotland, consecrated the Inverurie Conclave, No. 9, at Dundee. The losses which the Craft in Scotland has sustained are happily but few in number, and we shall only refer to the death of Bro. Geo. W. Wheeler, of Glasgow, whose sudden decease was one that affected us immediately, as we had been for a long time chiefly indebted to him for our budget of Scotch news. He was an able and conscientious assistant; and though our interviews with him were necessarily few and far between, they were always productive of much, and we feel we are justified in saying, of mutual pleasure. Another most worthy and respected Glasgow brother has gone to his last rest—Bro. Thomas Ramsay of St. John's Lodge, No. 3 bis. Bro. Ramsay's career had been a most exemplary one, both as a member and as Master of his Lodge, and to such an extent was his death regretted that a funeral Lodge was held *in memoriam*, the oration being delivered by Bro. Dobie. Bro. Ramsay, about three years since, went to Canada, and was only fifty-seven years of age at the time of his death, which occurred at Montreal, on the 4th June.

It is now our duty to look to the colonies and dependencies of our empire, and the picture we shall unfold of Freemasonry as existent there will be in all respects satisfactory. As our readers are aware, Lodges holding under all three

G. Lodges will be found distributed about our colonies and dependencies, and wherever they muster in sufficient strength there will be found English District, and Scotch or Irish Provincial, Grand Lodges. Thus there are no less than thirty-two District Grand Lodges under the G. Lodge of England, fourteen foreign Provincial Grand Lodges under the G. Lodge of Scotland, and five foreign Provincial Grand Lodges under the G. Lodge of Ireland; but where rival fraternal jurisdictions are established in the same colony, it does not follow by any means that they include the same area. Thus we have five District Grand Lodges in India, while under the Scottish Constitution there is one Grand Lodge for the whole of India, including Aden and some other outlying Lodges. In Australasia there are five English District Grand Lodges, and four Scotch and four Irish Provincial Grand Lodges; in New Zealand, five English District Grand Lodges, one Scotch, and one Irish. It will not be possible, therefore, nor indeed, is it, in our opinion necessary, to institute a comparison between these jurisdictions. Moreover, it would require far more time and space than we can possibly devote, to follow exactly the ramifications of English, Scotch, and Irish Masonry through our colonial possessions. As far as we can, we have endeavoured to trace the numbers, and as accurately as possible. We find there are in Districts Abroad 415 English, about 150 Scotch, and 70 Irish. And to proceed with our figures. In many districts under the Grand Lodge of England, no changes have taken place in the number of Lodges. Thus there are this year, as last, three Lodges in that of Gibraltar, nine in Egypt, of which three are located in Alexandria, and five at Cairo; eleven in Turkey, four of which are in Constantinople, and six in Smyrna; four in China and four in Northern China, which has now been erected into a District, with Bro. Cornelius Thorne as the first District Grand Master; four in Japan, seven in Jamaica, two in the Bahamas, four in Trinidad, four in Montreal, and three in the Argentine Republic, South America. In the District of Malta there are now four Lodges instead of three, the additional one being located at Tunis in North Africa. In the East Indies there are, as we have said, five, or if we add that of the Eastern Archipelago, six Districts, and four Lodges in Ceylon and the Mauritius which are not under a District Lodge. Thus in India there are altogether ninety-six as against ninety-two Lodges last year; namely, thirty-two in the district of Bengal, including one new one at Allahabad; seventeen in Bombay, and as one Lodge has disappeared from the roll, and two been added to it, there is a net increase of one Lodge; eight in British Burmah, fourteen in the Madras District; eighteen in the Punjaub, of which one is a new creation; three in the Eastern Archipelago, and one in Ceylon, and three in the Island of Mauritius, one of these latter being newly-warranted. Under the Grand Master of Scottish Freemasonry in all India, there are over thirty Lodges; and there are four Irish in Ceylon, so that in this portion of our Empire there are in the three jurisdictions over 130 Lodges. Of our English Lodges there are twelve in Calcutta, eight in Bombay, three in Rangoon, four in Madras, and two in Lahore. We have already referred to the retirement of Bro. Captain Moreland from the headship of Scottish Freemasonry. The changes in the government of the English are two, Bro. J. Blessington Roberts having been succeeded by the Hon. John Pitt Kennedy as District Grand Master of Bengal, and Bro. Lieut.-Colonel Duncan having resigned, and been succeeded by Bro. Henry Krauss as District Grand Master of British Burmah. Lieut.-Colonel Duncan, on his resignation of office, very handsomely presented his clothing and regalia to the District Grand Lodge. In South Africa, there are thirty-nine English Lodges, thus distributed; twenty in the Eastern Division, with Bro. Charles J. Eden, M.D., as District Grand Master; five in the Western Division, including three in Cape Town, three in Griqualand, and eleven which are not under a District Grand Lodge. In 1876, there were thirty-six Lodges, so that there is an increase of three, of which two are located at Pietermaritzburg, and one at Richmond, both places being situate in Natal. There are likewise a few Scotch Lodges, but no Irish. There has been no increase in the number of English Lodges in the West Indies and Central America, there being, as in 1876, twenty-four, of which seven are in the island of Jamaica, two in the Bahamas, four in Trinidad, and eleven under no District G. Lodge. Two of the last are in Antigua, two in Barbadoes, and three in Bermuda. There are likewise five Scotch Provincial Grand Lodges, with some seventeen or eighteen

Lodges among them, and one Irish Lodge in Bermuda, one in Jamaica, and one in Trinidad. One of the most interesting events in connection with the Craft in these parts was the consecration of a new Masonic Hall by the St. John's Lodge, No. 492, Antigua, English Constitution. This event occurred in February, and was the cause of deep satisfaction to all connected with the Lodge. During the year the District Grand Master of Jamaica, Dr. Robert Hamilton, paid a visit to England, and experienced a most gratifying reception. Dr. Hamilton is Grand Chaplain to the Supreme Council of the A. and A. Rite, 33°, and prior to his return to Jamaica the members of that body entertained him at dinner, in order to show their appreciation of his eminent services to Freemasonry generally. In North America, it will be readily understood that there are but few Lodges under the English, Irish, and Scotch Constitutions. Masonry has firmly established itself in this part of the world, but the Grand Lodges of Canada, &c., &c., are sovereign and independent bodies. Thus we find only four English Lodges in Montreal, and these are governed by a District Grand Lodge. There are five in the Island of Newfoundland, under a District Grand Master, being an increase of one over last year; two in Cape Breton, and one in Nova Scotia. Last year there was a District Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island, with seven Lodges on the roll of England, but these have been dropped, as there is an independent Grand Lodge for this portion of British N. America. There are also a few Scotch Lodges, and one Irish. In South America there are ten English Lodges, and about a dozen Scotch Lodges, the majority of which are in Peru, under a Prov. Grand Master; and two Irish, which are also located in the same Republic. But it is at the Antipodes we find the greatest progress has been made. In Australasia there are 135 English Lodges, while in the G. L. Calendar for 1876 will be found only 125. These are distributed among six districts, but that of West Australia is as yet without a District Grand Lodge. The Lodges in New South Wales have increased by five, from twenty-eight to thirty-three. There were sixteen Lodges in Queensland last year; there are now seventeen. The number in South Australia remains the same, namely, fourteen. There is an increase of three in Victoria, from sixty-three to sixty-six Lodges; in West Australia there are five instead of four Lodges; while in Tasmania the number is still seven. There are, besides, over thirty Lodges under the Scotch Constitution contained in the four Provinces of Australia Felix or Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales, and Queensland; and not far short of fifty Irish Lodges, also apportioned under four separate Provincial Grand Lodges, namely, those of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia. Thus, in Australia, there are upwards of two hundred Lodges, subordinate to one or other of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, or Scotland. Of the English Lodges, there are ten in Sydney, the capital of New South Wales; three in Brisbane, capital of Queensland; four in Adelaide, capital of South Australia; nine in Melbourne, capital of Victoria; three in Perth, capital of West Australia; and two in Hobart Town, the capital of Tasmania. In New Zealand there are now six District Grand Lodges as against five last year, and two districts which have not District Grand Lodges as against one. Three of the District Grand Lodges are in the South Island, namely, those of Canterbury, Otago and Southland, and Westland, with three other Lodges—one each at Blenheim, Nelson, and Wakefield. In the North Island there are two District Grand Lodges, Auckland having been erected into a separate District, with Bro. George Samuel Graham as the first District Grand Master; and there are, further, two new Lodges, which are not included in either of these Districts. In all there are forty-six Lodges in these Districts, namely, nine in that of Canterbury, being an increase of two since last year; nine in Otago and Southland, six in Westland, or two more than there were in 1876, and three apart. In the North Island there was last year only one District Grand Lodge, with thirteen Lodges. Now the District Grand Lodge of North Island includes nine Lodges, of which three are at Wellington, and that of Auckland, eight Lodges, four of which are in the City of Auckland. This, with the two new Lodges, one at Newmarket and one at Warkworth, gives an increase over 1876 of six in this island, while that in the South Island is four, making a total increase of ten Lodges—from thirty-six to forty-six—for the whole of New Zealand. There are, in addition, some two dozen Scotch Lodges, under a Provincial

Grand Master, and eleven Irish Lodges similarly governed, so that New Zealand can boast of over eighty Lodges hailing from one or other of our home Grand Lodges. Among the events which have happened during the period, we must not omit to mention the consecration, in May, of a Masonic Hall at Onehunga. This event had been looked forward to for some time, especially by the Lodge Manukau, No. 586, on the roll of Grand Lodge Scotland; for it was under its auspices the consecration took place, and it was by the R.W.M. of the Lodge, Bro. M. Nichol that the ceremony was conducted. Among those present were the Provincial Grand Master under the Irish Constitutions, and the Acting District Grand Master, English Constitutions. The consecration was well done, and was followed by a banquet; and this, in its turn was followed by a concert, the whole proceedings of the day being brought to a close with a ball, which was kept up with vigour till early the next morning. Nor must we allow this sketch to be completed without referring, be it never so briefly, to the sad death of Bro. Sir Donald McLean, K.C.M.G., District Grand Master of North Island. The funeral took place on the 8th January, and was conducted with Masonic ceremonial. The deceased had not long held the District Grand Mastership, but he had presided long enough to have become very popular, not only with the English Craftsmen over whom he ruled, but among the brethren of the other Constitutions; and in proportion as he was esteemed and respected, so was his untimely death regretted. Sir Donald McLean had been the architect of his own fortune, and we are pleased to have found this opportunity of paying our humble tribute of respect to the memory of so worthy a member of our Fraternity. We have now completed our survey of Freemasonry in our colonies, and have proved the statement we made at the outset, to the effect that we have every reason to be contented with the progress made during the year. We now pass on to note, so far as we can do so, the most remarkable occurrences in other Masonic jurisdictions. The first we shall take will be France, our nearest, and we fear we have no option but to say, our errant neighbour.

There is no question that the event which will render the year 1877 ever memorable in the annals of French Freemasonry, we may almost say of the Craft Universal, is the important alteration in the first article of its Constitution to which the annual Assembly of the Grand Orient assented in September. This time last year we expressed a hope that the French Lodges would not sanction so important a change, but this hope has, unfortunately, not been realised, and it has been our painful duty, as an organ of Masonic opinion in this country, to express, not only our regret that the change should have been made, but also our strong condemnation of it. We have endeavoured, to the best of our humble ability, to point out how violently opposed to the radical principles of the Craft is the alteration now accepted by the Grand Orient. We have gone further, and endeavoured to show that, from an interested point of view, the change now inaugurated is most impolitic. The enemies of Freemasonry in France are numerous, but hitherto their denunciations of the Craft as being a Godless Society, have been untrue, and therefore, all their attempts to ignore it have been futile. Now that so much of the first Article as enunciated a belief in the existence of God as the fundamental principle of Freemasonry has been abrogated, the charge is unfortunately true, and we fail to see how it is possible for the Society to escape loss of credit in public estimation. As we have said more than once of late, by the adoption of this change the Grand Orient has been playing into the hands of its enemies. Monseigneur Dupanloup could not have found a more terrible weapon wherewith to attack the Grand Orient than that which it has gone out of the way to furnish him with. But the matter is of such recent occurrence, and we have dealt with it in so many recent articles, that we need do no more than briefly recapitulate the circumstances. Last year the question of striking out of the Constitutions the first and most important article of Masonic faith was remitted to the different Lodges for them to report upon. The Lodges reported accordingly, and the result is that, from and after the 13th September, the French Masonic creed has solemnly and deliberately excluded from its declaration of principles that of belief in God and the immortality of the soul. Thus the atheist and the theist are alike eligible to be admitted into the French Lodges, and the whole original character of Freemasonry, so far as France is concerned, is utterly and entirely destroyed. Already has the Grand Lodge

of Ireland, which was in correspondence with the Grand Orient, issued an edict forbidding further intercourse between the members of the two bodies, and our Grand Lodge, which had no official relations with it, has appointed a committee whose duty it will be to inquire into all the circumstances and report thereon at the next Quarterly Communication. None more deeply regret the action of the Grand Orient than we do, and none will more heartily rejoice if there should be found, even at the last moment, some way of rectifying this terrible mistake. However, we need say nothing further, and most gladly do we turn to the other occurrences which have marked the history of the Craft in France. Among these, at all events, we shall find but slight reason for regret.

The latest returns we have received of the strength and distribution of the Craft in France are given in *Le Monde Maçonnique* for July, the information being extracted from the Calendar of the Grand Orient. From these it appears there are 258 Lodges, 33 Chapters, 14 Councils, 1 Consistory, and 1 Grand College of Rites, making a total of 307 bodies subordinate to the Grand Orient. They are thus distributed:—in Paris 46 Lodges, 5 Chapters, 2 Councils, and the Grand College of Rites; in the Department of the Seine, 8 Lodges; in the other Departments, 164 Lodges, 16 Chapters, and 7 Councils; in Algeria, 10 Lodges, 2 Chapters, and 1 Council; in the French Colonies, 8 Lodges, 3 Chapters, and 1 Council; in foreign parts, 22 Lodges, 7 Chapters, 3 Councils, and 1 Consistory. In the way of new or revived Lodges we find that Lodge *L'Ecole Mutuelle*, which had been dormant since the war, was solemnly revived on the 30th May. Ten days previous a new Lodge in the Orient of Mantes was installed by Bro. Caubet, one of the Secretaries of the Council of the Grand Orient, assisted by Bros. Wyruboff and Blanchon, members of the same. Another new one at Neuilly-Plaisance was installed by Bro. Dalsace, member of the Council, and applications for warrants for Lodges at Cannes, Cette, Belfort, &c., have been favourably entertained by the Council. On the other hand, no less than twenty-three Lodges have been closed, by order of the civil authorities, and among these are the five Lodges at Toulouse, two at Chambéry, two at Vienne (Isère), one in Paris, and others at St. Malo, Périgueux, &c., &c. One Lodge was provisionally suspended for violating the laws relating to Masonic displays in public, and several brethren, including certain Venerables (W. Masters) were similarly punished for irregularities in initiating M. Jules Faure, formerly member of the Government of the National Defence. As to the work done by, and the position of, the G. Orient, there is nothing which is not eminently satisfactory, excepting, of course, the passing of that resolution we have already condemned. In the cause of education and beneficence, however, the G. Orient renders excellent service. Last year a course of instruction in the English language was opened, under the auspices of the Council, which was impelled to this step by the success of its German class established in 1875. And, as nothing succeeds like success, the commencement of the year 1877 was signalised by the establishment of two additional courses, one in the language and literature, and the other in the history, of France. On the 4th August, the prizes to the successful pupils in the several classes were distributed by Bro. de Saint Jean, President of the Council, in the presence of some two thousand persons. Bro. de Saint Jean was assisted in his very agreeable duty by Bros. Cambas, Caubet, and André Rousselle, members of the Council; Koch, Director of the Courses; and Albert Leroy, Professor of French; Thevenot, head of the Secretariat of the G. Orient; Poulain, President of the Masonic Orphanage; Aug. Marais, Secretary General of the Society for Elementary Instruction; and several Venerables, &c., &c. Three speeches were delivered—by Bros. de St. Jean, Leroy, and Koch, after which the prizes were awarded, as follow:—French language, Mdles. Moyeux and Mezin, M. Hourdry; German language (third year), Messieurs Labouré, Deguilhem, and Kaltenbach; second year, Mdmes. Gaudillère, Studler, and Rougier, Messieurs Dupuis and Baumann; first year, Mdle. Petitfils and Gille, MM. Lépine and Mongel; English Language, second year, Mdles Hutten and Desartre, MM. Gaillard and Nickels; first year, Mdles Chatelain and Dromery, MM. Brot and Dedieu; French History—Mdles. Mezin and Dizambourg, MM. Ernest Ducas and Dreyfus; Geography, Mdles Dizambourg, Ginier, Tafforeau and Messier, MM. Geerts and Lecordier: Stenography, Upper Class, Mdle Flock, and MM.

Lanisland Olivier; Elementary ditto, Mdle Guillemin. This work reflects the greatest credit on our French brethren; for the education in these several classes, it must be remembered, is given gratuitously, and as far as the accommodation will permit, any person may avail himself of these opportunities for self-improvement. Nor, as we have said, is French Freemasonry unmindful of its obligations in respect of Charity. On the 10th February, the Council decided that subscriptions should be opened towards the relief of the Lyons workmen. The Grand Orient itself headed the list, with a subscription of 1,000 frs., and in the course of some six or seven weeks, the amount contributed had reached upwards of 8,000 frs. Early in April the Toulouse Lodges gave a concert in aid of the same sufferers, and the amount realised exceeded 2,000 frs. The Lodge *La Parfaite Amitié*, at Albi was alone the means of raising, by means of a lottery, towards this fund the handsome sum of 3,000 frs. On the 27th October it was decided to open a subscription for the sufferers by the Russo-Turkish war, while the instances of similar deeds by individual Lodges are frequent throughout the year. Then there is a Masonic General Orphanage, in support of whose funds a grand dramatic and musical fête was given last month. The receipts of this Institution amounted during the past year to 21,365.25 frs., and the expenditure to 17,561.30 frs., leaving a balance in hand of close on 3,704 frs. Seven additional children were taken in, of whom four hailed from the Provinces, thus raising the number of children, who have been adopted by the Orphanage to eighty-three. But our readers will be able to form a better idea of the exploits of French Masonry in this field of labour, if we enumerate some of the more recent subscriptions raised among the French Lodges, as recorded in *le Monde Maçonnique*. At the outbreak of the late war, the Grand Orient formed an ambulance of fifty beds, complete in all its appointments. At the close of the war, a subscription was raised towards the liberation of the occupied territory, amounting to 91,093 frs. Another of 40,446 frs. was raised for the sufferers of the war. In aid of the sufferers by the inundations in the South of France the amount subscribed was 64,212 frs. 12,721 frs. were contributed for the Lyons workmen, and 10,157 francs for the sufferers by the inundations in Alsace and Switzerland. Many smaller sums were raised or voted by the Grand Orient towards other funds, while the *Maison de Secours*—our Lodge of Benevolence—attached to the Grand Orient, has an annual revenue of from 12,000 francs to 13,000 francs, the distribution of which is entrusted to a special Board, presided over by Bro. Cammas, a member of the Council. We may state further, in the way of news, that on the 21st April the monument erected at the grave of the late Bro. Massol in Père Lachaise, was formally inaugurated in the presence of a numerous gathering. Bro. Tajan-Rogé delivered an oration suitable to the occasion, which was received most respectfully by the audience. Among the losses which the Craft has sustained by death must be mentioned that of Bro. Armand, Vice-President of the Council, and Viel-Picard of Besançon, whose munificence may be said to have known no limits, seeing that at different times the gifts he had presented to his native town towards the relief of the indigent, and for useful public works, exceeded 600,000 francs. In the course of the year, too, the Grand Orient was complimented by the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands, Bro. Z. Mazel, the French representative at the latter, being instructed to present, on its behalf, to the Grand Orient a medal commemorative of the celebration, in 1876, of the sixtieth anniversary of Prince Frederick's tenure of the Grand Mastership of the Netherlands, together with a volume containing a full account of the auspicious event. If we add that Bro. Caubet, till lately one of the Secretaries of the Council of the Grand Orient, has been elected a Vice-President in succession to Bro. Armand, and that Bro. de Hérédia has been chosen to fill the Secretaryship thus rendered vacant by the promotion of Bro. Caubet, we think we shall have said all we have to say that is likely to interest our readers in respect of French Freemasonry. In taking leave of them now, we wish them all prosperity; and, as a first step towards the attainment of still greater fortune, we cannot forbear expressing the hope that, in order to maintain the integrity of Freemasonry, the Grand Orient may find, even at this late hour, some way of restoring its deleted article of faith, and so avoiding that state of isolation from almost the whole of the Masonic world, which it seems to us inevitably awaits it, if it resolves on pursuing the course

sanctioned at the last annual assembly in September. It is some consolation to know that the recent change is not irrevocably fixed, and that what was done a few months since may be undone a few months hence.

The next important body which claims our attention is that of the Grand Orient of Italy. The legislative assembly of this flourishing body met at Rome, on the 9th June, and there were present delegates from one hundred and twenty-four Lodges. Among the brethren were Bros. P. Messineo, Grand Secretary of one of the two fractions of the Supreme Council, and G. La Loggia, head of the other fraction. Hitherto all attempts at the union of Palermitan with the rest of Italian Freemasonry appear to have failed signally, but now the adhesion of the former appears to have been almost settled, while the presence of Bro. La Loggia excited a hope that the other might follow suit. The assembly was opened by Grand Master Mazzoni, in an able speech. The reports of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer were approved, after which a motion was carried, by a majority of forty to thirty-one—four abstaining from voting—forbidding Lodges from publishing in the journals the names of their dignitaries and officers, or any writing signed by them, and the address of Lodges. Lodges were further recommended to observe the greatest precautions in order to keep concealed from the profane world the interior working of Freemasonry. Before the Assembly broke up Bro. Mazzoni was re-elected Grand Master and Bro. L. Castellazzo Grand Secretary; and Bros. G. Tamajo, F. Serra Caracciolo, P. Messineo and P. Aporti were appointed Assistant G. Masters. The members of the Council of the Order were also nominated. The two days preceding the meeting of the Assembly, delegates from twenty-two Lodges met together, for the purpose of discussing the new ritual prepared by a special Commission, and after an exhaustive discussion the ritual which was recommended was adopted. Those present also decided that the direction of the Symbolic Rite should be in the hands of those among them who were members of the Council of the Order, but that they should in no wise be in a position to encroach on the authority of the G. Orient and its Grand Master. This Directory is composed of Bro. P. Aporti President, Bro. F. Dobelli Vice-President, Bros. Drs. V. Montenovesi and G. Pini Secretaries, and Bros. F. Muller, Curzio Antonelli, G. Conrad, and G. Mussi. The Lodge *Avvenire* of Spezzia having refused to recognise the authority of the G. Orient has been closed, but against this must be set off the establishment of the Lodge *La Propaganda Massonica* at Rome, *Taldeo da Sessa*, O. of Sessa Aurunca, and the Lodges *Annita*, *Fratellanza*, and *Fratelli Bandiera* in the Orient of Livorno (Leghorn). Among other matters worth mentioning is the resolution of the Milan Lodges to establish lay educational Institutes to counteract the influence of the clerical. The Lodge *Esule* of Palermo has decided to hold special meetings for the discussion of scientific, social, and economical questions, while as showing what is done in the way of beneficence by our Italian brethren, we may mention that during the fourteen years it has existed the Lodge *Ferruccio* of Pistoia has not only taken the initiative in establishing the National Society for aiding the Volunteers who have fought for their country, but have also established an Infant Asylum and a Working Man's Society, while certain of its members have distinguished themselves by similar acts. Italy, however, has to deplore the loss of one highly distinguished Craftsman, Bro. G. Rasponi, a member of the Council of the Order. He was a Deputy in the Italian Parliament, and died, after a protracted illness, at Ravenna. The Lodges went into mourning in order to pay respect to the memory of one who was both a distinguished patriot and a zealous Mason.

We now betake ourselves to the Western hemisphere, in the northern continent of which the condition and prospects of the Fraternity are among the brightest. And first, as to the statistics of the Craft, though, as in our own case, we must not attach too great importance to mere numbers. There are in North America fifty-three—or, if we include the New Mexico, which has hardly yet had time to shape itself into form, fifty-four Grand Lodges. Seven of these are in British territory, namely, those of Canada, Nova Scotia, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, and Manitoba. The first-mentioned has about 350 Lodges in its jurisdiction, with a membership which, according to Bro. Josiah Drummond amounts to not far short of some 17,000 brethren. This G. Lodge cannot

boast of a very lengthened existence, but it has fared prosperously, and has every reason to be proud of its position. Latterly an attempt has been made by some discontented brethren to establish a separate and independent Grand Lodge. We do not know what has become of this petty aspirant for Masonic independence. It may, or it may not be in existence; it may, or it may not have increased in mere numbers; but it certainly has failed to obtain, so far as we know, the recognition of any respectable Masonic body, and if we were to express our opinion, founded on a well known accident which befel the newspaper supposed to be the advocate of its rights or wrongs, we should say that the Grand Lodge, if it has not done so already, will very speedily experience the same fate as its Grand Organ. However, this, of course, is mere conjecture, and it is our business to record facts. The Grand Lodge of Canada, in short, under the able rule of its Grand Master, Bro. Kerr, has in no wise suffered by the defection of a few malcontent members. Of the other six Grand Lodges we have little to record, except in the case of that of New Brunswick, which in common with the rest of the worthy people of St. John has suffered heavy losses by the terrible conflagration in June. The books and the regalia were fortunately under the personal guardianship of the G. Secretary, and have therefore escaped, but the G. L. Library, the Hall, the property of many of the Lodges, and much valuable property which no amount of wealth can fully replace, have shared in the general destruction. The New Brunswickers, however, though they have felt the blow severely, have borne it manfully and with Masonic resignation. More than this, they have set themselves to the task of making good, as far as possible, the losses they have sustained, and so zealously and successfully have they worked, that it is hoped after the lapse of about a year nearly all traces of the disaster will have been removed. The Grand Lodge of New Brunswick has had the sympathy of the whole Craft, and especially of the brethren in North America and the United Kingdom. We will remark further that Nova Scotia has a membership of over 3,400, Quebec of over 2,700, New Brunswick of over 2,250, Prince Edward Island of 557, British Columbia of 300, and Manitoba of nearly the same number. In the United States there are forty-seven—or omitting New Mexico, of which we are unable to give any particulars—forty-six Grand Lodges. Ranged under the banner of these Grand Lodges are, in round figures, 575,000 Craftsmen. The returns from which we have quoted our figures have been compiled by Bro. Josiah Drummond, and as they appear to be accepted by the American Masonic journals, we cannot do better than follow their excellent example and accept them likewise. Thus, according to Bro. Drummond, New York has nearly 82,000 Masons. Then follows, but *longo intervallo*, Illinois with over 40,000, Pennsylvania with over 38,000, Ohio with some hundreds in excess of 30,000, Indiana with close on 29,000, and Michigan and Massachusetts, pretty close together, over 26,000; and so we go on, at first by a gradually, but towards the end, by a rapidly descending scale, to little Wyoming, with a membership of 255. No returns are given for Dakota. A few more figures, and we shall have done with this portion of our record. No less than 30,715 were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. Of those admitted and restored, there were 17,969, withdrawn 18,920, expelled 1,039, suspended 1,064, suspended for non-payment of dues 17,621, died 7,100, and rejected 6,142. These figures, it must be borne in mind, are made out necessarily for the year 1876, and in case of admissions, expulsions, &c., &c., include the figures for the Grand Lodges in British North America as well. Nevertheless, though it will be some months before we are in a position to record how it has fared numerically with the Craft in North America, Bro. Drummond's labours enable us to form a very good judgment as to its position during the year still current.

We will now recapitulate as briefly as we can the leading events of the year. Undoubtedly, from an historical point of view, the celebration by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts of the hundredth anniversary of its existence as an independent Grand Lodge is the most important, and claims, therefore, our first attention. This auspicious event took place on the 8th March, on which day a special Communication of Grand Lodge was held, under the presidency of Grand Master Bro. P. Lowell Everett, who was numerously supported by his officers, as well as by some two hundred brethren belonging to Lodges in the Commonwealth. There were also present M.W.G.M. John J. Bell, New Hampshire, M.W.G.M. Henry H. Smith, Vermont,

M.W.G.M. Van Slyck, Rhode Island, M.W.G.M. Edward B. Rowe, Connecticut; Past Grand Masters Bros. Josiah H. Drummond (Maine), N. P. Bowman (Vermont), Thos. A. Doyle (Rhode Island), and Bro. Henry Clark G. Secretary, Vermont. An address, setting forth the occasion of the gathering, was delivered by the Grand Master, and an oration by Past Dep. G.M. Charles L. Woodbury. Both these were attentively listened to, and the latter must be looked upon as a really valuable contribution to the history of the Craft. The Grand Lodge was then called off to the banquet, at which about 250 brethren sat down. Grand Lodge was resumed at 9 p.m., and closed in the usual form. Bro. Sereno D. Nickerson P.G. Master acted as toast master, and the toasts, one and all, were received with enthusiasm. So ended this most eventful day, to the gratification of the whole Craft. We offer Massachusetts our warmest congratulations on their having entered on the second century of their existence.

To Massachusetts, too, must this year be awarded the palm in the way of Masonic public manifestations. On the 17th September, was solemnly dedicated the monument raised on Boston Common to the Army and Navy. At the invitation of the City Council, the Grand Lodge attended for the purpose of fulfilling this imposing duty. The Most Worshipful Grand Master Bro. Percival Lowell Everett, attended by his Grand Officers, presided, and no less than 25,429 brethren took part in the procession. The Grand Master was escorted by a select body guard composed of about 200 Sir Knights of the Boston Commandery, the total number of Sir Knights forming the body guard which acted as escort to the Grand Lodge and Master being 1293, while their musicians brought the figure up to 1599. The Templars were under the personal direction of the R.E. Rev. Henry Rugg Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The procession was six miles long. The head of the column moved off from its place of assembly at twenty minutes past eleven, and the Grand Master reached the monument at twenty minutes past five. The ceremony was then performed, after which the Grand Master delivered a long and able address, in which he lauded the patriotism of those to commemorate whose services the monument was erected. Grand Lodge then returned to the Masonic Temple, and was closed in ample form at half-past six. Another celebration of a similar character was held in Providence, Rhode Island, on the occasion of the dedication of the monument to the pious memory of Roger Williams, founder of the State and city. The brethren were ranged in two divisions—the first composed of Knights Templar, the second of Craft Masons, the Grand Master and his officers, in carriages and escorted by forty mounted knights of Calvary Commandery, bringing up the rear. The procession, including police escort and band, numbered about 700 persons. At the site of the monument there was a vast gathering of people, and among them sixteen hundred children of the public schools. The ceremonial was ably and impressively conducted by Grand Master Cutler, assisted by his officers. The customary speeches were delivered, the prayer of dedication was offered up by President Robinson of Brown University, and Professor Dinan made an eloquent oration appropriate to the day. The Grand Master, with many of the brethren and ladies and their friends, dined *al fresco*,—the tent in which it had been served having been blown down—after which the Grand Lodge was escorted to the Temple, and a most successful display was brought to a conclusion.

The General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the U.S. held its twenty-third triennial Convocation on the 21st-24th August at Buffalo, N.Y., the R.A. Masons of that city fulfilling the duties of hosts right royally. The Hon. Geo. W. Clinton delivered the address of welcome, and the M.E. General G.H.P. Hon. E. H. English responded most heartily. The General Grand Chapter was then opened by M.E. Comp. English, and a great variety of business transacted. Previously, however, Comp. English delivered an address, in which he reviewed the principal circumstances which had happened, and the decisions he had made during his G.G.H.P.-ship. It is not necessary, however, we should do more than state that a grand banquet was held on the evening of the 22nd, and that on the 23rd an excursion was made to Niagara Falls. The G.G. Officers for the current term include M.E. Comp. John Frizzell G.G.H.P., Robert F. Bower Deputy G.H.P., Alfred A. Chapman G.G.K., and Noble D. Larnier G.G.S. A few days later—28th-30th August—the twentieth triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights

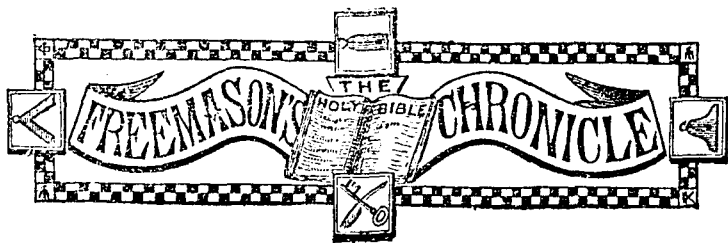
Templar of the United States was held at Cleveland, Ohio. The day previous was devoted to the reception of the Sir Knights, and the city was not only thronged, but, what with the uniforms of the Templars, the gay dresses of the ladies, and the decorations of the several halls and principal streets, presented a very animated appearance. The first day of the meeting was chiefly occupied with the procession of the different Commanderies, and their review by the Grand Commander. The Conclave was opened, and Sir Knight Hopkins delivered his address, in which he reviewed the most noteworthy events which had occurred during his term of office. On the 29th there was held the competitive drill for a series of prizes, the first being a magnificent silk banner, which was awarded to the Detroit Commandery No. 1 of Detroit; the second a set of twelve solid silver goblets in handsome case, which fell to Raper, No. 1, of Indianapolis; and the third a set of Commandery jewels, which was secured by only the narrowest of majorities over Damascus Commandery, No. 1, of St. Paul by Munroe Commandery, No. 12, of Rochester. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the transaction of business, and the election of Grand Officers. M.E. Sir Knight V. L. Hurlbutt being Grand Master for the next terminal period, and R.E. Sir Knight Walter A. Bragg Deputy Grand Master. Before the Conclave was closed, Chicago, Ill., and the third Tuesday in August were designated for holding the next Triennial Gathering. On the 20th June the third annual Convention of the Sovereign Grand Council of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine of the United States was held in Rochester, New York. Ill. Sir C. L. Stowell Sov. Grand Master presided, and when he had delivered his opening address, the subject of the proposed treaty between the Grand Imperial Council of England and Grand Council of the United States was discussed; and ultimately the treaty, which was signed by Sir Knight Alfred Creigh, LL.D., Past Grand Viceroy for England, Wales and Canada, and Sir C. L. Stowell Sov. G. Master of the Supreme Grand Council of the United States, was adopted. Ill. Sir M. J. B. Mcleod Moore, of Canada, having been elected an honorary member with the rank of Past Grand Sovereign, and other business having been transacted, the Grand officers for the ensuing year were elected and installed, Ill. Sir C. F. Knapp being chosen Sov. Grand Master, J. J. French Deputy Grand Master, and R. B. Smith Grand Viceroy. The Convention was then closed, to meet again in Philadelphia, on the second Wednesday in June 1878. Another interesting event was the installation in public, in the Asylum of the Masonic Temple at New York, of the officers of Columbian Commandery, No. 1, of that city. R. E. Sir Knight Charles Roome Past Grand Commander and a delegation of the officers of the Grand Commandery of the State having been introduced by Sir Knight E. M. E. Ehlers, Captain General and Generalissimo elect, Sir Knight Roome installed the officers in a most impressiver manner. An elegant ring was presented to the retiring Commander Dr. Fleming and E. Sir Rev. J. E. Forrester, of Damascus Commandery, No. 5, having delivered an address on Templar Masonry, the Commandery was closed. A large number of ladies was present, and the hall was beautifully decorated with choice flowers, which were afterwards distributed among the fair visitors.

As regards dedications and the other ceremonies of the year, we could fill a volume were we to record all which have taken place. However, we will mention the dedication of a new and spacious Hall at Keokuk, Iowa, by Grand Master Henry W. Roberts, on the 22nd February. The Hall covers an area of 51 feet by 110 feet, and was erected at a cost of 11,000 dols. But what is far more noteworthy than the erection or dedication of new Halls—for these are of frequent occurrence—is the strange fatality which seems to have attended these buildings, or buildings connected with the works of Freemasonry during the past twelve months. We have already spoken of the destruction of the Masonic Hall, St. John, New Brunswick, with all its records and MSS. Among others on 20th February, that at North Attleboro, Massachusetts, worth 20,000 dollars, was destroyed by fire. On the 27th September, the offices of our esteemed contemporary, the *Freemasons' Repository*, were burnt to the ground, and all the plant, back copies, &c., &c., which were insured for a small amount only, were lost. But great as has been the loss of property, the losses by death are irreparable; and among the distinguished brethren who have gone to their last rest must be mentioned the name of Bro. Geo. Frank Gouley, G. Secretary

of the different Masonic bodies in Missouri; and what has made the loss to be still more sensibly felt by Craftsmen, was the sad nature of his death. Bro. Gouley, than whom there was no brother more respected, and fewer still more devoted to the interests of Freemasonry, was yet in the prime of life. He had been absent some time from home, for the purpose of recruiting his health, and was returning again with his wife, when staying at the Grand Hotel, St. Louis, *en route*, a fire broke out, and rapidly extended to all parts of the building. Mrs. Gouley escaped, and made her way out, under the impression that her husband was following her; but he found his road checked by the smoke, and though the exact cause of death has not been determined, yet he is believed to have first been rendered insensible by the smoke, and then in that state he fell from the window, at which he had been seen standing, upon the pavement below, and was killed instantaneously. This sad event happened on the 10th April, and caused the utmost grief among his numerous circle of friends and the Craft in Missouri, as well as generally throughout the United States. Brother Gouley was a frequent and able contributor to Masonic periodicals, and it will be difficult for the Society in Missouri to find one equal to him in zeal, ability, and devotion to the Craft. Peace to his ashes! We have now recorded all that, or as much as we could find space for of what, will be most likely to interest our readers in connection with American Freemasonry. If we add that in the Southern Continent of America the Craft has certainly made great progress in the Argentine Republic and Peru, and especially in the vast Empire of Brazil, we think we shall have said almost enough. Brazilian Freemasonry has made wonderful strides during the last few years, and especially in the course of this. Not only are there more Lodges and an organ of the Grand Orient, but the Lodges work energetically, and members exhibit an enthusiasm for their work, which is truly admirable. It is time, however, we brought this lengthy survey to a close, and the short remainder of our article will be devoted to a literary review of the year, and just a few words respecting our own labours, in which, we doubt not, we shall have the special sympathy of our readers.

We do not think there is much to be said as regards this portion of our subject, or that we can possibly venture to say that Masonic literature has made any great advance as compared with the last and the preceding years. Whether this is due to the indifferent quality of the pabulum offered, or to a want of taste on the part of Freemasons is a question we shall leave to our readers. We do know this much, however, that as regards periodical literature at all events, if there has been no marked improvement, there certainly has been no perceptible deterioration; and if we may take our own case in illustration, we feel we may say that a greater interest is felt in our labours and the questions we raise, or the views we enunciate, are more freely and fully discussed than they were formerly. We may be wrong, but we fancy we can detect signs in many quarters that readers of Masonic journals are more numerous, and are more alive to the fact that so vast and influential a body of men must have its organs of opinion. In the United Kingdom there has been no change worth dwelling upon. France can boast of *La Chaîne d'Union* and that admirably conducted periodical *le Monde Maçonnique*, the numbers of which are filled with a mass of valuable information, well arranged, and concisely, as well as ably, written; in addition

to which, will be found essays on various Masonic subjects, historical notes, and reviews of Masonic and other works, all which, together, make up a highly interesting journal, such as the editor and his staff have just reason to be proud of. Our readers are aware that there are likely to be many points of difference between ourselves and our French contemporary, and especially on crucial questions; but this in nowise diminishes the hearty respect we feel for its unquestionable ability and honesty of purpose. Italy and Germany, and Holland likewise have their organs of Masonic opinion, and these, too, so far as our fluctuating experience extends, do their duty well, by striving earnestly to uphold and promote, as far as lies in their power, the interests of the Craft. America has many Masonic journals and magazines, all anxiously serving the good cause, many of long standing, and, as far as our experience goes, many likewise which exhibit unusual ability, and are in proportion worthy of that support which we hope and trust is willingly accorded to them. To mention a few of those we are best acquainted with: Where shall we find better or more ably conducted journals—or magazines, as the case may be—than the *Keystone* of Philadelphia, champion of the claims of the City of Brotherly Love to be the Mother City of American Freemasonry; the *Voice of Masonry*, published at Chicago and New York, with its agreeably written tales and excellent budget of Craft news; the *Freemasons' Repository*, of Providence, R.I., which, in spite of the calamity which so recently befel it, reads clear and bright and crisp as ever; the *Masonic Advocate*, of Indianapolis, a sturdy upholder of Craft interests; and the *Masonic Jewel*, of Missouri, the able organ of the Craft in Tennessee; or the *Masonic Chronicle* of New York, which, if modest in dimensions, contains all the local news of interest to Craftsmen? The *Masonic Record of Western India*, and the *Australian Freemason*, are worthy of all praise; and the *Hebrew Leader*, of New York, which devotes a portion of its valuable space to Masonic news, is always readable, especially by those who take an interest in the doings of the Ancient and Accepted Rite. But we need not enumerate all the journals which are wholly or in part devoted to the support of the Craft. Those we are best acquainted with will do their duty without flinching, and if by any chance we have omitted any of our friends from the short list we have given, we trust they will not regard the oversight as intentional. As regards general literature, there is little to be said. Bro. Mackenzie's *Royal Masonic Cyclopædia* is complete, and will be found a most serviceable addition to the Library. The Kane Lodge of the New York jurisdiction has completed its publication of the *Early History and Proceedings of the New York Grand Lodge to 1815 inclusive*. A like history of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, up to the present time, is in course of publication; and thus the one is, the other will be, when complete, a necessary part of the historical furniture of every Craftsman's library. Lastly, we ourselves have found the work of publishing the warrants of our "Ancient" Lodges—a work which has been so ably superintended by Bro. Constable—has prospered even beyond expectation, and we trust the new year may not be terminated without our being able to say, with honest pride, that we have been the means of completing the roll of English Lodges, so far as their dates of constitution are concerned. And having, as we said last year in reference to the same matter, blown this one justifiable blast of our own trumpet, we now bid all our readers both here and abroad a hearty farewell!



the frontier; and that a few outpost affairs have already taken place. This action of the principality has aroused a strong feeling of indignation, and is even said to be unwelcome to the Russians, whose intrigues have brought it about. We will offer no comment on the conduct of Prince Milan and his advisers; this speaks for itself.

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.

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SATURDAY, 22nd DECEMBER.

108—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)
1624—Eccleston, Grosvenor Club, Ebury-square, Pimlico, at 7. (Instruction.)
Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8.

MONDAY, 24th DECEMBER.

4—Royal Somerset House and Inverness, Freemasons' Hall.
174—Sincerity, Railway Tavern, London-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction.)
180—St. James's Union, Union Tavern, Air-street, W., at 8. (Instruction.)
1306—St. John of Wapping, Gun Hotel, High-st., Wapping, at 8. (Instruction.)
1425—Hyde Park, The Westbourne, Craven-rd., Paddington, at 8. (Instruction.)
1489—Marquess of Ripon, Pembury Tavern, Amhurst-rd., Hackney, at 7. (Inst.)
1623—West Smithfield, New Market Hotel, King-st., Snow-hill, at 8. (Inst.)
1625—Tredegar, Royal Hotel, Mile End-road, corner of Burdett-road. (Inst.)
London Masonic Club Lodge of Instruction, 101 Queen Victoria-st., E.C., at 6, on 2nd and 4th Mondays in each month.
48—Industry, Freemasons' Hall, West-street, Gateshead.
1449—Royal Military, Masonic Hall, Canterbury, at 8 p.m. (Instruction.)
1477—Sir Watkin, Savings Bank, Mold.

THURSDAY, 27th DECEMBER.

General Committee, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
3—Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-street, Fitzroy-sq., at 7. (Instruction.)
15—Kent, Chequers, Marsh-street, Walthamstow, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7.30. (Instruction.)
87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth, at 8. (Instruction.)
435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8. (Inst.)
1349—Friars, Cheshire Cheese, Crutched Friars, E.C., at 7. (Instruction.)
1426—The Great City, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, E.C. at 6.30. (Instruction.)
1612—West Middlesex, Feathers Hotel, Ealing, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
R.A. 753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (Inst.)
70—St. John, Huyshe Masonic Temple, Plymouth.
78—Imperial George, Asseaton Arms Hotel, Middleton, Lancashire.
100—Friendship, Crown and Anchor Hotel, Quay, Great Yarmouth.
360—Pomfret, Masonic Buildings, Abingdon-street, Northampton.
412—St. Peter's, Masonic Hall, Boroughbury, Peterborough.
807—Cabbell, Masonic Hall, Theatre-street, Norwich.
966—St. Edward, Literary Institute, Leek, Stafford.
1626—Hotspur, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle.
R. A. 431—Ogle, Masonic Hall, Norfolk-street, North Shields.

FRIDAY, 28th DECEMBER.

Emulation Lodge of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
25—Robert Burns, Union Tavern, Air-street, W., at 8. (Instruction.)
507—United Pilgrims, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
766—William Preston, Feathers Tavern, Up. George-st., Edgware-rd. (Inst.)
834—Ranelagh, Bell and Anchor, Hammersmith-road. (Instruction.)
902—Burgoyne, Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales-road, Kentish Town. (Inst.)
933—Doric, Lion Tavern, Carlton-square, Mile End, at 8. (Instruction.)
1056—Metropolitan, Portugal Hotel, 155 Fleet-street, E.C. at 7. (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.)
1298—Royal Standard, Castle Tavern, Highbury, at 8. (Instruction.)
1365—Clapton, White Hart, Lower Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1642—E. Carnarvon, Mitre Hotel Goulborne-rd, N. Kensington, at 7.30. (Inst.)
780—Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, at 7.30. (Instruction.)

SATURDAY, 29th DECEMBER.

198—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)
1624—Eccleston, Grosvenor Club, Ebury-square, Pimlico, at 7. (Instruction.)
Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, at 8.

WEST YORKSHIRE.

SATURDAY.

149—Peace, Private Rooms, Meltham.

MONDAY.

827—St. John's, Masonic Temple, Halifax-road, Dewsbury, Yorks.
R. A. 302—Charity, New Masonic Hall, Darley-street, Bradford.

THURSDAY.

810—Craven, Devonshire Hotel, Skipton.
904—Phoenix, Ship Hotel, Rotherham.
971—Trafalgar, Private Room, Commercial-street, Batley.
1514—Thornhill, Dearn House, Lindley, Huddersfield.
R. A. 307—Good Intent, White Horse Hotel, Hebden Bridge.
R. A. 337—Confidence, Private Rooms, Commercial Inn, Uppermill.
K. T.—Fearnley, Masonic Temple, Dewsbury.

FRIDAY.

R. A. 242—Magdalen, Guildhall, Doncaster.
K. T.—Do Furnival, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield.

SATURDAY.

1462—Wharnccliffe, Rose and Crown Hotel, Penistone.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—349—St. Clair, Freemasons' Hall.

TUESDAY—151—Defensive Band, Alexandra Hall, 429 High-street.
R. A. 40—Naval and Military, Freemasons' Hall.

WEDNESDAY—112—St. John Fishermay, Royal Hotel, Musselburgh.

THURSDAY—392—Caledonian, Freemasons' Hall.

FRIDAY—223—Trafalgar, 54 Bernard-street, Leith.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Mount Sinai Chapter, No. 19.—A convocation of this Chapter was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Tuesday, 18th inst. Present—Comps. Rev. J. M. Vaughan M.E.Z., W. T. Worthington acting H., Geo. Read J., Joseph Smith P.Z. Treasurer, E. B. Grabham Scribe E., Lewis Bryett P.S., W. Game 2nd Assistant. The minutes of the previous Convocation having been read and confirmed, Comp. Joseph Smith P.Z. then rose to announce the decease of a well known and worthy Companion of the Chapter, Comp. Thos. Lewis Fox, one of the oldest Past Principals of the Chapter, whose many excellent qualities had endeared him to a large circle of friends, both in and out of Masonry. He moved a vote of condolence to his widow and family. Comp. Birch P.Z. seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. There being no candidate for exaltation, the Chapter was closed, and the Companions adjourned to banquet, presided over by the M.E.Z.

De Swinburne Royal Arch Chapter, No. 24.—An emergency meeting of this Chapter took place on 12th December, at the Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. There were present—M.E. Companions P. O. Smith Z., T. Blinkensop H., A. M. Loads J., W. Munday E., N. Mein N., G. J. Dean P.S., W. H. Bell and Fishburn A.S., Curry Janitor. The Chapter being opened in due form, two brethren were exalted, the M.E.Z. performing the ceremony in a very impressive manner. H. and J. gave their respective lectures most correctly; each was listened to with the greatest attention. The Chapter was then closed, and the Companions adjourned to light refreshment.

Strong Man Lodge of Instruction, No. 45.—Held its usual meeting at the Old Rodney's Head, 12 Old-street, Goswell-road, on Monday last, the 17th instant, at eight o'clock. Present—Bros. Powell W.M., Read S.W., Moseley J.W., Tolmie Preceptor, Fenner Sec., J. W. Smith S.D., Wing J.D., Renshaw I.G., Christopher Tyler; also Bros. Percy, Kidder, Isaac, Crawley, Opperman, Banks, Heinrich, Halford, Hallam, Hunter, Millward. After the minutes had been read and confirmed, the Lodge was opened in the second degree. Bro. Heinrich answered the usual questions, and was entrusted. Lodge was opened in the third degree. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of raising, in an excellent manner, giving the Traditional History, Bro. Heinrich candidate. Bro. Isaac worked the first, Bro. Percy the second, and Bro. Tolmie the third sections of the lecture, assisted by the brethren. Lodge was closed down to the first degree. Bro. Opperman, of the Kingsland Lodge, No. 1693, was unanimously elected a member. Bro. Read was elected W.M. for the next meeting, which takes place on the 31st instant. Bros. Hunter, Percy, and Isaacs were elected auditors, in conjunction with the officers of the Lodge of Instruction, after which Lodge was closed in due form and adjourned.

Constitutional Lodge of Instruction, No. 55.—On Tuesday, the 18th of December, at the Bedford Hotel, Southampton-buildings, Holborn. Bros. Miroy W.M., Hallam S.W., J. H. Dodson J.W., Dickens Sec., Tranter S.D., Brown J.D., Webster I.G.; P.M. Bro. Bingham Preceptor; Bros. Tate, Abell, Corner, Sanders, &c. The Lodge having been opened in due form, the minutes of the preceding meeting were read and confirmed. The Lodge was opened in the second degree. Bro. Soper, a candidate for raising, answered the usual questions. The Lodge was opened in the third degree, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed. The three sections of the lecture were worked by Bro. Tate. Bro. Hallam was elected W.M. for the ensuing Tuesday fortnight.

Cornubian Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 87, Hayle.—At a regular meeting held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday last, Bro. James Pool P.P.G.S.O. was unanimously elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. Bro. Frank H. Pool P.M. P.P.G.M.O. was re-elected Treasurer. The annual meeting will take place the third Tuesday in January.

Prudent Brethren Chapter, No. 145.—The regular Convocation and Installation meeting of this Chapter, was held on the 12th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Comps. T. Bull M.E.Z., E. Moody H., E. H. Thiellay J., G. S. States S.E., John Boyd P.Z., and Comps. Headon, W. C. Davis, Belfrage, Haslett, Jermyn Boyd, De Silva, Wood, Chinnery, &c. The Chapter opened and the minutes confirmed, Bro. Hall 145 was exalted into R.A. Masonry. Comps. E. Moody was installed Z., E. H. Thiellay H., and J. C. Cox J., by Comp. John Boyd P.Z., in his usual faultless and impressive manner. Comps. G. S. States was invested S.E., Venn S.N., Haslett P.S., Belfrage second Assistant. It was proposed by the M.E.Z. and seconded by Comp. Cox J. that the Chapter desire to record its sense of the loss sustained, since their last meeting, by the deaths of Comps. J. Last Treas., Parkins S.E., and Rance; the same to be recorded on the minutes; which was carried unanimously. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Comp. Jermyn Boyd for his elegant present of a scroll, a perfect work of art. The Chapter was then closed, and the Companions sat down to a banquet and dessert, provided by Bro. A. Best and superintended by Bro. E. Dawkins, that gave every satisfaction. The M.E.Z., who ably and eloquently presided, proposed the usual Loyal and R.A. toasts. Comps. Col. F. Bardett returned thanks for Grand Chapter. Comp. T. Bull I.P.Z. proposed the health of the Z., which was duly responded to. Comp. Hall responded to the toast of the newly exalted Companions. Comps. Hyde Pullen P.Z. P.G.S.B. and Murray P.P.D.S. China, returned thanks for the Visitors. The toasts of the P.Z. and Officers were acknowledged by Comps. T. Bull, E. H. Thiellay, G. S. States and Haslett.

Domatic Lodge.—This Lodge met at Anderton's Hotel, on Friday, the 14th inst., under the presidency of Bro. J. Willing W.M., who after his usual perfect rendering of the ceremonies proceeded with the election of W.M., Treasurer, &c., for the ensuing year, resulting in the unanimous selection of Bro. I. Buscall J.W. to the Worshipful Master's chair; Bro. J. Smith P.M. P.G.P. was re-elected Treasurer. The Lodge adjourned to banquet, presided over by the W.M., and honoured by numerous visitors.

Tranquillity Lodge, No. 185.—A numerous attended meeting of this Lodge took place at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street E.C., on Monday, the 17th inst. The officers present were Bros. John Peartree W.M., D. Posener S.W., John Ross P.M. as J.W., J. D. Barnett I.P.M., John Constable P.M. Treasurer and acting Sec., W. D. Bayley S.D., F. Croaker J.D., Bilby P.M. Org., J. B. Barber I.G., T. Bush Steward, Potter Tyler, also Past Masters N. Gluckstein, S. Moss, R. Z. Bloomfield, M. Harris, Harfeld, E. Gottheil. The following were visitors:—Bros. W. C. Corner W.M., and Geo. Corner I.P.M. 1135, W. Drayff 65, M. Boas 141, Rev. V. Rosenstein 17, Memphis, Italy, J. Terry P.M. 228 G.D.C. Herts, W. W. Morgan 1385, Dankley and W. Speake 201, W. H. G. Rudderforth J.W. 1668, &c. After the customary preliminaries, Bro. Smith was raised to the third degree, and Messrs. S. M. Boas, Martin Kosminski, J. L. Lazarus and Karl Mubsam, were initiated. A grant of £25 to a distressed member of the Lodge, voted by the Committee of the Benevolent Fund, was approved of. The sum of £2 2s was voted in aid of the expenses incurred by Bro. Terry in giving an entertainment to the annuitants at Croydon. Notice of motion was given by Bro. S. Moss P.M., to the effect that this Lodge vote the sum of £31 for Life Governorships of the Three Masonic Institutions, and that they be called the John Constable Life Governorships, the proxies to be used by that brother during his life, and thence by any deserving brother. This being in recognition of Bro. Constable's incessant efforts in the cause of Charity. The sum of £3 3s was also voted to be placed upon the "Goddin" list. The Lodge being closed, banquet was served by Bro. Silver in a manner eliciting the highest satisfaction from all present. The usual Loyal and complimentary toasts were then briefly given and responded to. Bro. Terry in replying on behalf of the Visitors, expressed his admiration of the way in which the ceremonies were rendered, and the munificence of the various acts of benevolence he had that evening witnessed in the Lodge. Bros. Rev. V. Rosenstein, Rudderforth, Bayley and others contributed to the pleasures of the evening, by some truly excellent singing.

Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193.—Met as usual at the Railway Tavern, London-street, E.C., on Wednesday, the 19th inst. Present—Bros. Powell W.M., Fenner S.W., Chapman J.W., E. Gottheil P.M. Preceptor, Walker S.D., Posener jun. I.G., Larden, &c. The third ceremony was very ably worked by the W.M.; Bro. Fenner was elected W.M. for ensuing fortnight. A vote of thanks to the W.M. was unanimously agreed to, for the truly efficient manner in which he not only worked the ceremony but explained the traditional history; he also gave a full illustration of the five points. The next meeting will take place on 2nd January 1878, at 7 p.m., Bro. Fenner will occupy the chair.

York Lodge, No. 236.—The annual meeting for the installation of the W.M. was held at York, on Monday last. The attendance of brethren was unusually large. Amongst other preliminary business the following brethren were elected honorary members of the Lodge:—Bros. W. J. Hughan, Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, J. G. Findel, D. Murray Lyon, E. J. McIntyre, John Hervey, and G. F. Fort. A candidate for Freemasonry was initiated, and the Lodge was then raised to the second degree, and Bro. the Rev. W. Valentine P.P.G.C., who had been elected at the last meeting, was presented to the W.M., Bro. W. Cowling P.P.G.S.W., for installation, and having answered the necessary questions the Lodge was raised to the third degree, and the brethren below the rank of installed Master retired. A Board of Installed Masters was then formed, consisting of Bros. W. Cowling P.P.G.S.W., Sir James Meek P.P.G.S.W., Wm. Lawton P.P.G. Reg., Thos. Cooper P.P.G.D.C., J. Todd P.P.G. Org., G. Balmford P.P.G. Org., F. Rawling P.M. 236, Rev. J. E. M. Young P.P.G.C., S. Maltby P.M. 236, and T. B. Whytehead W.M. 1611. Bro. Valentine was then obligated, entrusted, enthroned, and saluted in ancient form, the Board of Installed Masters was closed, and the brethren readmitted. The W.M. then closed down the Lodge, and appointed and invested his officers as follow:—George C. Baskett S.W., A. Buckle J.W., G. Kirby Sec., W. Cowling P.M. Treas., W. H. Gainforth S.D., J. Tissiman J.D., G. Garbutt M.C., T. S. Camidge Org., M. Rooke I.G., Powell and Ayre Stewards, J. Redfare Tyler, after which he addressed the Lodge on the responsibilities attaching to the office of Master, responsibilities which he trusted, with the assistance of the G.A.O.T.U., he should be enabled to discharge satisfactorily, and he hoped for the cordial aid of the brethren. Heartly good wishes were given from Eboracum Lodge 1611 and Falcon Lodge 1337, and the Lodge was then closed in ancient form. An adjournment was then made to the banqueting room, where an excellent supper had been prepared by Bro. J. Toes. The W.M. presided, supported by a number of Past Masters, and about 50 brethren and visitors. The usual Loyal, Masonic and patriotic toasts were duly honoured; the health of the W.M. was proposed by the Senior Warden, and a very pleasant evening was spent. Amongst the brethren present we noticed Bros. Geo. Simpson, W. T. Gowland, E. Oates, R. S. Storry, J. E. Jones, W. Wilson, J. W. Mann, J. Chadwick, J. G. Turner, P. Matthews, J. Ward, J. Smith, H. Aitken, J. S. Rymer, Rev. W. B. B. Jones, Geo. Seller, E. Whitehead, J. F. Stephenson, J. H. Taylor, T. Tuke, J. Sanderson, T. W. Wilson, E. Houlden, &c. Amongst the Visitors were Bros. H. Rymer 1337, B. D. Linhampton 93, A. T. B. Turner 1611, T. Humphries 1611, M. Millington 1611, P. Pearson 1611, &c.

St. Hilda's Lodge, No. 240, South Shields.—The ceremony of installing Bro. Thomas Coulson S.W. as W.M. took place on the 10th December, at the Freemasons' Hall, Fowler-street, South Shields. There was a very numerous attendance of brethren, including visitors from Sunderland, North Shields, Jarrow, Hebburn, &c., and upon the dais were Bros. J. S. Denham P.P.J.G.W., J. Wilson P.P.G.S. of W., H. Claughton P.P.G.S. of W., J. Hinde P.P.S.G.D., T. Haswell P.P.G.O., G. Lawson P.P.G.S.B., J. Harcus W.M. 431, J. Ponder W.M. 1119, and T. Potter P.M. The Lodge having been opened in due form, Bro. Coulson was installed in the chair of K.S. according to ancient custom, and in a most impressive manner, by Bro. J. Roddam P.P.G.P., who officiated as Installing Master. The newly installed W.M. subsequently appointed his Officers for the ensuing year as follow:—Bros. T. G. Mabane P.S.G.D. I.P.M., J. J. Athey S.W., J. H. Morton S.W., J. Hinde P.M. Treasurer, G. S. Shotton Secretary, J. Roddam P.M. D. of C., Thomas Richardson S.D., J. T. Wilson J.D., W. W. Ridley I.G., W. C. Haswell Organist, T. G. Buchanan Tyler, J. H. Thompson and J. H. Haggitt Stewards. During the course of the evening the Lodge voted five guineas to the Ingham Infirmary, and one guinea to the Indigent Sick Society. The Lodge having been closed in due form, the brethren adjourned to Bro. J. Todhunter's, the Royal Hotel, where the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and duly honoured, and an agreeable evening was spent.

Lion Lodge, No. 312.—At the monthly meeting, at Whitby, on Monday evening, Bro. J. Stevenson P.M. was elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. Stevenson has had a long and distinguished career in the Lodge. Entering it in 1844, he was S.W. in 1847, W.M. in 1850, and again in 1851, this being therefore his third election to the chair.

Salisbury Lodge of Instruction, No. 435.—At the Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, on Thursday, the 13th inst., Bros. Docker W.M., Lowrie S.W., Collins J.W., Bentley S.D., Davis J.D., Tolmie I.G., Farwig, Mander Preceptor. Bros. Saul, E. J. Harty, Smallpeice, Parsons, Swallow, Millmow, R. P. Tate, Moss, Sadler, Cameron, Cottebrune, Leggett, Boyd, Belfrage, Woods, Burrell, Woodward, Wright, Stewart, Thomas, Foskett, Gardner, Stacey, Bull, Haslett, Lee, Taylor, Ireton, Coutts, Mason, Webb, Moss, Dodson, Brown, Soper, Watts and Stoneman. After the Lodge had been opened, the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. The first, second, third, fourth, and fifth sections were worked by the brethren. The Lodge was resumed, and Bro. Lowrie was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week. Bro. Collins, of the William Preston Lodge, was elected Hon. Sec. of this Lodge of Instruction. Bro. Farwig was elected to work the 15 sections in January. Lodge was then closed in due form.

Aire and Calder Lodge, No. 458.—This Lodge, held at Goole, celebrated the festival of St. John, on Friday evening, Bro. P.M. Cawthorn being installed Worshipful Master by Bro. T. S. Sleek P.M. of St. Oswald's Lodge, Pontefract. Bro. Tew. J.P. Deputy Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire, was present. Afterwards the usual banquet was held at the North Eastern Hotel.

North York Lodge, No. 602.—The annual festival for the installation of Worshipful Master in connection with the North York Lodge took place on Tuesday last, in the Masonic Hall, Marton-road, Middlesbro'. The ceremony of installation was performed in the presence of a large gathering of the Fraternity, by Bro. Geo. Marwood P.D.P.G.M. North and East Ridings, after which the Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, Bro. John Dunning, invested his officers as follow:—Bros. F. R. Bell I.P.M., Cowper S.W., Isaac Fidler J.W., R. W. Gibb Sec., M. G. Collingwood Treas., R. Richardson S.D., Gensey J.D., Wm. Hudson I.G., Stewart Organist, Thorrold Assistant Organist, T. Davison D.C., Henry Robinson and Wm. Thompson Stewards, and R. Chambers Tyler. After the ceremony the brethren adjourned to the Corporation Hotel, and partook of an excellent dinner, provided by Mr. Carter. During the evening a handsome jewel, subscribed for by the members of the Lodge, was presented by Bro. Dunning to Bro. F. R. Bell, Immediate Past Master, in recognition of his services during the past year.

Royal Alfred Lodge of Instruction, No. 780.—This Lodge held a meeting at Bro. Stanbury's, Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, on Friday, the 14th inst. Present—Bros. Gomm W.M., Costelow S.W., Erwen J.W., J. C. Roe I.P.M., Goss, Gardiner, Blasby, Erwen, Costelow, Tarling, Gunner, Sterndale Bennett, Matthews, Rands, Becket, Dorey, Pringle, Parsons, and others. The Lodge opened in due form, and closed until following Friday, when Bro. Costelow will take the chair. In accordance with the by-laws, the brethren adjourned to the banquet, which Bro. Stanbury provided. The table was bountifully supplied with edibles and elegant condiments obtainable at this festive season. After the Masonic and Loyal toasts had been given and received, with that fervency common to the Craft, the chairman proposed the health of Bro. Goss W.M., in felicitous phrase, congratulating the brethren on their choice of a Worshipful Master. Bro. Goss, in returning thanks, expressed himself in grateful terms for the way in which Bro. Gomm had spoken of him, and he thanked the brethren generally for the manner in which they had responded to the toast. The members of Royal Alfred were choice in the selection of their W.M. They always strove to secure a working Master, and he had worked hard to fit himself to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors. He begged to propose the health of Bro. J. Chambers Roe, the I.P.M. and Preceptor, whom he had known for many years. Had it not been for his unswerving readiness and desire to assist him and the other brethren of the Lodge of Instruction, they would not have arrived at their pre-

sent state of efficiency. It was Bro. Roe's uniform courtesy that endeared him to them all—(cheers). Bro. Roe, in returning thanks, gave the brethren a short history of the Lodge of Instruction, which though but in its infancy had shown great vitality, and from its appearance to-night might safely be left to walk alone. Bro. Gomm proposed the health of the P.M.'s. Bros. Roe, Goss, and Gardiner each returned thanks. Bro. Gardiner expressed himself delighted with the success of the Lodge of Instruction, he having been its projector. Bro. Gomm then gave the health of the Visitors and Brethren present, coupling with it the name of Bro. Kyezor 266, 820, and a joining member of the Royal Alfred 780. All present knew Bro. Kyezor, and he was sure it would have been ungrateful not to have taken this opportunity of expressing his grateful acknowledgments to Bro. Kyezor for the vast instruction he had received, as likewise had the other brethren of the Lodge of Instruction. Bro. Kyezor was always ready and willing to assist in filling up any vacancy, and although not a P.M., seemed to have a great knowledge of the Craft. Bro. Kyezor felt that the brethren had given him credit for what he did not deserve. He certainly had seen a great deal of Craft Masonry, both in Australia and England, during the last 25 years, and could testify that Masonry was a universal science, and bound men together with a stronger tie than either blood or religion. He trusted his connection with the Craft might never be severed except by death. During the dinner Bro. Gunner sang a comic song in a very clever and humorous manner. Bro. Matthew also enlivened the evening's proceedings by his singing. Bro. Gomm then proposed the health of Bro. Host Stanbury, and thanked him for the bountiful repast provided. This brought a most pleasant gathering to a termination.

Lily Lodge of Instruction, No. 820.—Held its last meeting for this year, on Saturday, at the Greyhound, Richmond. Brethren present—Digby W.M., Clayton Palmer S.W., Kyezor J.W., Harris S.W., Harrison I.G. Lodge opened in due form; ceremony of initiation rehearsed, Bro. Harrison as candidate. Lodge duly closed, and adjourned till the first Saturday in January 1878.

Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction, No. 860.—On Tuesday, the 18th inst., at Bro. Smyth's, Sisters Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston. Bros. Bonner W.M., Brasted S.W., Christian J.W., J. Lorkin S.D., Forss J.D., Smyth I.G., Dallas Sec., P.M. Walington Preceptor; Bros. Lines, Weige, Young, &c. Formalities duly observed, the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Lines candidate. Bro. Brasted then took the chair, and Bro. C. Lorkin answered the necessary questions, and was raised; the Lodge was then regularly closed down to the first degree. Bro. Bonner resumed the chair, when Bro. Brasted was elected W.M. for the next meeting. A vote of thanks was ordered to be recorded on the minutes to Bro. Bonner. The Lodge was closed in due form, and adjourned until Tuesday evening the 8th January next. This Lodge will meet in future at 8 o'clock.

Strawberry Hill Lodge, No. 946.—The regular meeting was held on the 12th inst., at the Grotto Hotel, Cross Deep, Twickenham. Bros. Wolgemuth W.M., T. Price S.W., Kipling P.M. as J.W. and P.M.'s W. Smeed P.P.G.J.W. Middlesex, McIlwham, W. Waghorn, &c. The Lodge was opened and the minutes were confirmed; the W.M. passed Bro. De Germain Newman to the second degree; and Bro. W. Smeed, by the courtesy of the W.M., raised Bro. Bliss to the third degree; both ceremonies were perfectly and impressively delivered. The brethren afterwards partook of a banquet. The W.M. proposed the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts. Bro. Smeed responded for the toast of the R.W. Bro. Col. Bardett P.G.M. and the rest of the P.G. Officers. Bro. Johnson returned thanks for the P.M.'s. Bro. Lassam 742, and Bro. Palmer, Clapton Lodge, responded for the Visitors. The health of the Officers, and Tyler's toast were given, and after some singing from Bros. Price, Garrod and Skinner, the brethren returned to town.

Tyne Chapter, No. 991.—The installation convocation of this Chapter was held, by the kind permission of the Principals of Chapter 24, in the Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Tuesday the 11th inst. The Chapter being opened, the minutes were read and confirmed. Comp. E. D. Davis P.Z., Past Prov. G.H., then installed the following brethren into their respective chairs:—M.E. Comps. G. A. Allen Z., Adderson Potter H., and M. Guthery J. The M.E.Z. then invested the following as his Officers:—Comps. Montgomery E., J. E. Robson N., J. Wood P.S., Fennick and Brown A.S.; the H. elect of the Darlington Chapter, No. 111, was also installed into his chair, by Comp. Davis P.Z., who came specially from Darlington for the purpose. The Chapter was then closed, and the Companions adjourned to the Queen's Head Hotel, where they sat down to a choice banquet, at which the three principals of Chapter 24 were specially invited. The cloth being removed, the usual Loyal and Royal Arch toasts were given from the chair, and received with all honours. The Visitors were P. O. Smith Z. 24, T. Blinkensop H. 24, A. M. Loads J. 24, G. S. Dean P.S. 24.

Upton Lodge of Instruction, No. 1227.—Held its usual meeting at Bros. Bolton and Lane's, King and Queen, Norton Folgate (nearly opposite the old Great Eastern Railway Station, Bishopsgate), on Friday evening last, the 14th instant, at eight o'clock. Present—Bros. Lane W.M., Crouch S.W., Posener jun. J.W., Fenner Preceptor, Townsend Sec., Simmonds S.D., Posener sen. J.D., Hine I.G.; also Bros. Bolton, Trewinnard, &c. The usual formalities having been gone through, the minutes were read and confirmed. Bro. Trewinnard answered the questions leading to the second degree, and was entrusted. Lodge was advanced to the second degree. The W.M.

rehearsed the ceremony of passing, in a very able manner, Bro. Trewinnard candidate. Bro. Lane vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Trewinnard. Bro. Lane answered the usual questions leading to the third degree, and was entrusted. Lodge was advanced to the third degree, and the W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of raising, Bro. Lane candidate. Lodge closed in the third degree. Bro. Fenner worked the first section of the second lecture, assisted by the brethren. Lodge closed in second degree. Bro. Crouch was elected W.M. for the ensuing week. The Lodge was then closed in due form, and adjourned.

Hervey Lodge, No. 1260.—A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 12th December 1877, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Present—Bros. J. H. Southwood W.M., J. Sandilands Wand S.W., E. J. Goodacre J.W., Geo. King jun. P.M. and Sec., W. Bro. Jabez Hogg P.G.D. P.M. and Treas., Spalding S.D., Barley J.D., King P.M. and D.C., J. R. Cox and Foot Stewards, Robins I.G., Speight Tyler; Reason, W. Gibbs, W. D. Ellis, Salmon, Latreille, Hooper, Spender, Beeton, and others. Visitor—Bro. J. E. Dawson No. 7 P.G.P. Herts. Business—The Lodge opened at 5 o'clock. Minutes read. Lodge was opened up to the third degree; Bro. Wand was raised, Lodge resumed to second degree, and Bro. Wilton passed. Lodge resumed to first degree. Mr. E. North was initiated. Bro. H. J. Dean was elected and invested as Organist. A vote of thanks was passed to the W.M. (Bro. Southwood) for the very handsome menu cards he presented at the last banquet, also for the collar and silver jewel he presented to the Organist on this occasion. The W.M. graciously acknowledged the compliment. Bros. J. R. Cox and Foot were appointed Stewards, to collect the amount to purchase the magnificent American organ used that evening. A vote of thanks was proposed to Bro. Buss Asst. G. Sec. for having kindly lent the Lodge a harmonium on previous occasions. After some routine business the Lodge was closed in due form and adjourned. We should state that the whole of the ceremonies were worked in a most perfect manner, and the musical portions were sung. This reflected great credit upon those brethren who had attended the rehearsals at the W.M.'s house. The brethren then adjourned to refreshments, and spent a very enjoyable evening, which was enlivened by some capital singing.

Earl of Zetland Lodge, No. 1364.—Held its first meeting, since the installation of the new W.M., at the Old Town Hall, Mare-street, Hackney, on Saturday, the 15th inst., at 6 p.m. Present—Bros. Maples W.M., Gompertz S.W., Fieldwick J.W., R. A. Wright P.M. Treas., J. L. Fysh P.M. Sec., Lay S.D., Cockett J.D., Fitzgerald I.G. pro tem, Cooper W.S. pro tem. Visitors—Bros. Mac Millan, Clapton 1365, and Lake. The Lodge was opened and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Stokes answered the usual questions leading to the second degree, was entrusted and retired. The ballot was then taken for a gentleman residing at Eastbourne. It proved unanimous. The Lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. Stokes was passed. The Lodge resumed to the first, when the candidate was duly initiated into the mysteries of the Order. A proposition was carried, to the effect that P.M. collars and jewels be provided, to be used by the Past Masters of the Lodge at the regular meetings; the same to become Lodge property. The Lodge was then closed, and the meeting adjourned to Saturday, 16th January next.

Sandgate Lodge, No. 1436.—Held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, the 10th of December, at the Masonic Hall, Sandgate. Present—Bros. Fred. H. Field W.M., Adam Keeler S.W., J. Dickson J.W., C. Gosby P.M. Sec., J. B. Candell S.D., J. McGonagil J.D., J. McGovern D.C., R. W. Duncan Steward, J. F. Hodgson I.G., W. Butcher Tyler. P.M. Bro. E. White P.M. 1331 P.P.G.P. Hants and Isle of Wight, and other brethren. The minutes of last Lodge meeting were confirmed. Bros. Brett and Hitchens were then raised; the ceremony was ably performed by the W.M. The sum of five guineas was voted for the Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons, the W.M. being Steward at next Festival.

Earl of Carnarvon Lodge of Instruction, 1672.—On Friday 14th inst., at the Mitre Hotel, Goulbourne-road, Notting-hill. Bros. Tettenborn W.M., Penn S.W., Adkins' J.W., Smout jun. Sec., Wood S.D., Smout J.D., Woodmason I.G., Savage P.M. Preceptor. Bros. Murlis P.M., Spiegel, Bartle sen., Bartle jun., Lichtwitz, Poulter, Newland, &c. After opening the Lodge in the first degree, Bro. Penn took the chair and rehearsed the ceremony of raising, Bro. Murlis P.M. being the candidate. Afterwards the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Poulter being candidate. Bro. Murlis proposed that a letter of sympathy be sent to Bro. Parkhouse, the S.W. of the Mother Lodge. Several new members joined the Lodge. Bro. Spiegel was elected to the chair for next meeting.

Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement.—Met at Jamaica Coffee House, St. Michael's-alley, Cornhill, E.C., on Tuesday, the 18th inst. Comps. F. Brown, J. B. Sorrell, and A. A. Drew occupied the chairs of Z., H., and J. There were also present Comps. John Boyd Treas., T. W. White S.E., J. High S.N., C. W. Noehmer P.S., E. Gottheil, J. R. Foulger, S. H. P. Moore, J. W. Berrie, G. L. Walker, &c. The ceremony was rehearsed, and the convocation adjourned to Tuesday, the 8th January 1878, at 7 p.m.

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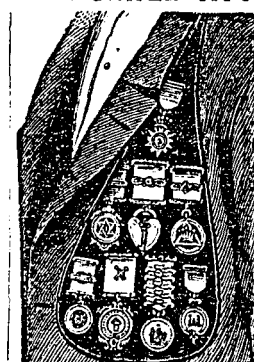
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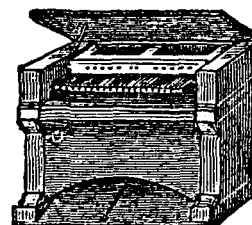
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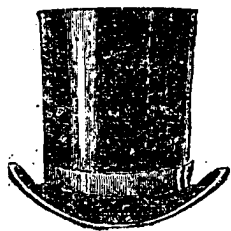
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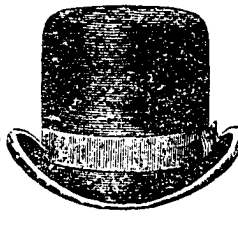
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On SATURDAY and MONDAY, 22nd and 24th December, the 5 p.m. FAST TRAIN from PADDINGTON to PLYMOUTH will be CONTINUED to FALMOUTH and PENZANCE, calling at all stations below Plymouth except Barnulow.

On the same days extra carriages will be attached to the 9 p.m. Limited Mail Train from Paddington, and First and Second Class passengers can obtain tickets for Gloucester, Cheltenham, Bristol, and stations beyond, for these trains, on and after Friday, 21st December.

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With a few exceptions, the trains on Christmas Day will run as on Sundays. For further particulars see special bills.

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This arrangement also applies to Tickets issued between London and Beckenham Junction, but not to the Cheap Tickets issued between London and Gravesend.

EXTRA TRAINS on SATURDAY, SUNDAY, and MONDAY, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th December, to nearly all parts, as may be required.

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BANK HOLIDAY and BOXING DAY.—WEDNESDAY, 26th December, a LATE TRAIN will run from Charing Cross, at Midnight, to Croydon, Redhill, Reigate, and Stations to Dorking, including the Caterham Branch. (1st, 2nd, 3rd class.) Also from Charing-cross to Strood and Maidstone at about midnight, calling at London-bridge, Woolwich, Belvedere, Erith, Dartford, Greenhithe, Northfleet, Higham, Cuxton, Snodland, and Aylesford. (1st, 2nd, 3rd class.)

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