

THE Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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EXHIBITIONS OF MASONIC CURIOSITIES.

AMONG the many assemblies it has been our pleasure to take part in, during the time the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE has been in existence, few were of greater interest to the lovers of the past history of Freemasonry than the exhibition of Masonic Relics which was held at York during the visit of the British Association to that city a few years back. In a Society which enjoins so much secrecy on its members, and which has always discouraged the publication of its doings, except among a restricted few, it is but natural that a great amount of doubt and uncertainty exists as to the past, and it is therefore very desirable that every means should be adopted, which may suggest themselves, to collect together old documents, relics, and curiosities, bearing on the past history of Freemasonry, in such a manner as to bring them under the notice of those who may find in them the means of tracing the Craft through some of the periods where its history is uncertain, or in confirming some of the many theories which have been put forward at one time or other, and which, at present, are looked upon more as probabilities than certainties. At the time of the York Meeting, in 1881, we urged the advisability of establishing a permanent Museum, to which articles of Masonic interest might be given or lent, and we are still of opinion that such an undertaking would prove successful, and of great interest to Masons throughout the world, and indeed to all who take an interest in the doings of the Craft a little beyond the portals of their own Lodge. There are innumerable relics of the past, scattered about the country and abroad, which would soon find their way to a properly constituted centre, and, when once a demand was established, others, which at present are forgotten or unheard of, would come to light in the general search that would follow a properly directed appeal.

The Masons of Worcester are about to follow the example of their brethren of York, which we may add was repeated early in the current year, and are now organising a Masonic Soirée and Exhibition, which is to be held at Worcester, on the 27th inst. They invite the loan of old medals, jewels, cups, glasses, seals, charters, certificates, aprons, engravings, minute books, &c., and are preparing a catalogue which will contain particulars sufficient to stamp it as a standard work of reference to all interested in Masonic antiquities. We have little doubt but that a very interesting collection will result, and we hope the efforts of the Worcester brethren will prove another step towards the foundation of a National Masonic Museum such as we have previously advocated.

As regards the arrangements for the gathering at Worcester, we may state that the Guildhall Buildings have been placed at the disposal of the Committee, and that the Mayor, Bro. W. B. Williamson, and the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Sir Edmund A. H. Lechmere, Bart., M.P., will guarantee the safe custody and return of any exhibits with which the Committee may be entrusted. All the articles lent for this year's gathering at York are promised, as also are many others which have never before been publicly exhibited. We can but repeat the request of those who are organizing this display, that all brethren or Lodges who may possess curiosities or articles of interest to the general body of Freemasons will lend them for the coming Exhibition, which we understand is to be kept open

for a week, during which time a series of Lectures and papers on Exhibits and other Masonic matters will be delivered by distinguished brethren.

The Grand Lodge of the Province is to be held the day after the opening of the Exhibition (viz. on the 28th inst.), so that visitors will have other Masonic attractions than those of the soirée, lectures, and display of curiosities, thus rendering a visit to the ancient city of Worcester an event of the greatest interest to Freemasons, many of whom will no doubt avail themselves of the opportunity.

LUX E TENEBRA.

A LUMINOUS brother whose adumbrant buncombe betrays the atmosphere, and whose *nom de plume* smacks of the vernacular of the Holy Empire, represents us, in the April Number of this magazine, as having "started out, *a la* Don Quixote, to fight wind-mills," and in the May number he again appears chewing the same cud of enticing fancy.

If it shall appear that setting the facts of history, over against the flatulent assumptions of groundless pretence, is fighting, then the aptness of the concluding portion of his figure, at least, will be established.

It is but charitable to assume that so far as the reckless assertions and pert flippancy of innuendo which mark our brother's criticism have a personal direction, they do not indicate that consciousness of a weak position which sometimes prompts an attack upon a person, in order to divert attention from his arguments; but illustrate rather that readiness to dogmatise which characterise those who wear inherited opinions of conventional cut, and that exuberant self-complacency which finds nothing in this world quite so impertinent as a fact that refuses to fit into the design before supposed to be all-embracing in its perfection.

It is hard to find a common ground for debate with one who thinks there can be any gilt in winning truth comparable to that of suppressing it; but this is no new difficulty. The world has always been full of people who looked upon that hand as impious which persisted in letting in light enough upon their fetishes to compel a re-adjustment of their conceptions of them. Nor is it a difficulty that promises to come to a speedy end; for indeed we must all confess that as no human mind is capable of comprehending truth in all its relations, so among the things most sacred to us all are our misconceptions. It will, perhaps, be a long time before we get so far rid of inherited tendencies that we can see our individual idols broken without a shudder of fear that the moral order of the universe is somehow in danger; but mankind in masses, inspired by the courage that comes of touching elbows, is getting well on to an agreement that it is safe to follow truth, no matter how time-honoured may be the error to which it runs counter, and that in the end it will prove itself to be, like beauty, its own excuse for being.

The fact that our brother may not be in accord with this general consensus does not forbid the hope that some examination of his criticism may prove profitable even to him, while for a stronger reason it ought to prove so to others less fortunate. There is little in his efforts to favour the impression that he would consciously misstate matters; yet if the lack of information respecting the results of modern Masonic research, and the confusion

regarding some of the most elementary propositions in Masonic law, evinced in his articles, are unconscious, how great must be the need of elementary instruction among the masses of the Craftsmen whose distrust of their illuminating powers still keeps them out of print.

It is to be presumed that up to the time of the publication of our recent articles in this magazine, our brother had read nothing from our pen unless it be an oration delivered in the Grand Lodge of Illinois in 1869; otherwise he would have escaped the blunder of accusing us of having been compelled to abandon the premises of our February article by since discovering that the division of Masonry into degrees was not recognized by the Grand Lodge until after the Charges of a Freemason had been collated and agreed to. Ten years ago, in a printed report, we called the attention of the Grand Lodge of Illinois to this very point.

It is convenient to refer here to another intimation of shifting. Our brother twice refers to our oration of 1869 with the implication that our present position is somehow inconsistent therewith, but just how he does not point out. If it were a matter of the slightest concern to us whether we could be convicted of inconsistency by testing our utterances of to-day by what we then said, we might take time to point out the difference between broadly referring to some of the salient features of an institution, and attempting a critical analysis of some disputed point in its polity; but no necessity for this exists. Fifteen years ago we must have believed many of the fictions current in the then standard works on Masonry (including some to which it is apparent that our critic still clings), and it is quite possible that our oration may give evidence of it. Without hunting it up to see what we did say, we think our subsequent study must have been to little purpose if we would not now be ashamed to repeat it. The question is not whether we agree with what we then said, but whether what we now say is sound or unsound; and this question is not to be settled by general charges of "shifting," or "speciousness and subtlety," or attempting "to create imaginary antagonisms and distinctions already existing."

This sort of general arraignment is easy and cheap, much easier, as we shall see, than to show wherein the speciousness and subtlety lie.

In our April article we thus formulated three essentials which we conceived to stand out broadly in the character of the Institution, necessary to its identification, and specifically recognized in the law of its being: 1st. "Its broad basis of fellowship, which obliges Masons only to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves; that is, to be good men and true, by whatever denominations or persuasions they may be distinguished." 2nd. "Its organic structure, by which the Craft is divided into Lodges each of which is represented in the supreme governing body, the Grand Lodge, by its Masters and Wardens." 3rd. "The exclusion of all distinctions from the body of the Craft, save those of Master, Fellow, and Apprentice." These our brother calls "specific new tests." How new are they? Of the first, all save the first six words is quoted from the Charges of a Freemason. On the subject of the second, the third of those Charges has the following: A Lodge is a place where Masons assemble and work; hence that assembly, or duly organized society of Masons, is called a Lodge. * * * It is either particular or general, and will be best understood by attending it, and by the regulations of the General or Grand Lodge hereunto annexed." On turning to the regulations referred to, we find (Reg. XII.) that "the Grand Lodge consists of, and is formed by the Masters and Wardens of all the regular particular Lodges upon record." The third requires no comment; it speaks for itself.

These propositions are sufficiently specific; certainly they are not new. Are they new as tests by which to determine whether a body claiming the Masonic name is legitimately entitled to it? Manifestly there was a time when every body of Masons in existence could answer all the requirements imposed by them, and as manifestly these so-called specific new tests were a part of the conditions under which only the rites of Masonry could be practised and administered. This time included the period during which some of those bodies did, and others did not confer the distinctions of Fellow Craft and Master Mason as degrees, a fact which shows that the division of the one esoteric ceremonial of Masonry into three did not affect the structure of the Lodge in its relations to the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge continued to be, both in fact and law, the only representative Masonic body known. In attempting to discredit the proposition that the Grand Lodge is the only representative body known to the law of the Institution, but without making it plain to our obtuseness what bearing the question has upon that point, our brother asks: "If, then, it was permissible and lawful to elaborate the Institution from one to two, and finally to three degrees, was it not equally lawful to elaborate it to seven or more?" If the Grand Lodge had elaborated the Institution to seven, or seventy, or seven hundred, it would then be in order to inquire whether there was the same basis for the seven or more, as for the three, in the law which—notwithstanding his assertion to the contrary—circumscribes the action of the Grand Lodge. But the pretence of elaborating to seven or more was not made by the Grand Lodge; it was made by those who had no authority whatever to say in what Masonry consists,

Nobody will claim that at the time the elaboration occurred there was anywhere in existence any governing body in Masonry save the Grand Lodge. If it could be clearly shown that that body, acting under the mistaken impression that power is equivalent to right, had violated the law to whose immutability it had solemnly assented, would the difficulty of establishing the legitimacy of the work of irresponsible degree mongers, acting without its authority, be one whit lessened? Because a powerless Craft had acquiesced in the results of such a violation on the part of the Grand Lodge, would it thereby be constrained to accept as an accomplished fact the assertion of one or a dozen individuals whom they had invested with no authority whatever, that he or they had added one or a hundred degrees to Masonry? In opposition to our showing that the change from one esoteric ceremonial to three did not change the relations of the Lodges as constituents of a representative body, nor in any essential particular the relations of the craftsmen to each other or to the law, our brother further says that the Old Charges do not mention the Master Mason's degree. It is equally true that they do not mention any degree; but they do recognise the distinctions of Fellow Craft and Master Mason, and the General Regulations "annexed" point out where the Apprentices may be admitted to those distinctions. At that time those regulations provided that the Apprentices should be admitted to those distinctions only in the Grand Lodge. It was wholly within the legitimate power of the Grand Lodge to provide, as it did subsequently, that they might be conferred in the constituent Lodges, instead of within its own body; because it is conceded that the Regulations may be altered by the Grand Lodge, so long as the landmarks are not thereby disturbed, and because in making this change the Grand Lodge did not run counter to any provision, expressed or implied, of the Charges of a Freemason, the Ancient Constitutions of Masonry.

But this brings us up against the extraordinary assertion of our critic, that "the Ancient Constitutions are no longer the fundamental laws of our Grand Lodges, for each has its own!" Here is no hint that the Ancient Constitutions of Masonry stand on any different footing than the constitution and by-laws of a Grand Lodge. Indeed, he mixes them all up together, proceeding to say: "These constitutions, charges and regulations were formulated in the misty past, changed, and revised, and amended, many times afterwards, * * * and contained an express provision that 'every Annual Grand Lodge has an inherent power and authority to make new regulations, or to alter these, for the real benefit of this Ancient Fraternity. Provided always, that the old landmarks be carefully preserved.'"

There is no evidence here of any suspicion on his part, that the Grand Lodge in asserting its authority to amend the General Regulations, was not also claiming the right to annually amend the Old Charges; none of any suspicion that the guaranties of those Old Charges constituted, almost wholly, the very landmarks to which the proviso referred.

The statement that the charges were changed, revised and amended many times contains the germ of a serious error, because it conveys the impression that the many versions published, and referred to dates prior to 1723, rest on the same sort of authority as the Charges of a Freemason. It was not until after the formation of the first Grand Lodge in 1717 (for there was no Grand Lodge at York in 925, as our brother still seems to believe, nor elsewhere until the Grand Lodge was formed in London), that

any attempt was made to collate the manuscripts scattered among the Lodges as their individual property. With this beginning of the Institution in its present form, when Speculative, or, as it is more expressively called by Bro. Gould, *Grand Lodge* Masonry, had become fully evolved, a movement was inaugurated for a definite understanding of its relation to pre-existing laws. The result was the compilation of what was held to be genuine and essential, and thus sifted, in the form of the Charges of a Freemason, it was agreed to by the Grand Lodge as the organic, the unchangeable, and—to use a word which we fear will grate upon our brother's sensibilities, but for which there is no wholly satisfactory equivalent—the “fundamental” law.

So far from its being true that “they impose nowhere metes and bounds, limits or circumscription on the definitions of Freemasonry,” they were for the express purpose of defining and identifying Masonry so far as it could be done in print; and if our brother will carefully compare the essentials of what he has received in another way with what is there printed, he will see how correct is Bro. Mackey's statement that they embody “the most important points of the ancient written as well as unwritten law of Masonry.”

For what purpose are landmarks set up if they do not impose metes and bounds?—and what purpose can metes and bounds serve if they do not limit and circumscribe the definition of Freemasonry?

Our brother says that the question of title to the Masonic name is not dependent on the three conditions formulated by us, except in so far as they embrace recognised landmarks indispensable to all Masonic bodies, and, happily for our purpose, cites the requirement of a belief in Derry as an instance of such indispensability. “Unbelief in Derry,” he says, “would at once destroy such title.” Yes, but how do we determine that this requirement is an essential part of Masonry? But finding it in the Charges of a Freemason, side by side with the guaranty of entire freedom of religious belief within the limits of that requirement, the other half of the landmark “concerning God and religion”—that landmark the observance of one-half of which our brother readily admits is essential to prove the title of a body to the Masonic name, while at the same time he accuses us of “speciousness and subtlety” for insisting that the other half is likewise essential.

He gives as a reason for his opinion that it cannot be determined whether a system is Masonic or not by the examination of its organic structure; that “the Craft, in early times, and for ages together, was often under the worst kind of an oligarchy, an absolute Grand Master, and whom they had not even always elected.” Whatever point this might have, if correct, as against our position that no system can be identified as Masonry which does not possess the structure and the form of government required by the organic law of the Institution, disappears in the face of the following facts: the Craft never had a Grand Master whom they had not elected; the government of the Craft was never vested in an absolute Grand Master; if an absolute Grand Master had existed he would not have been any kind of an oligarchy; and Grand Masters had not been known for ages, did not exist in early times, and were probably, almost certainly, unknown until the formation of the first Grand Lodge in 1717.

Whether the Capitular or Cryptic bodies are legitimately entitled to the Masonic name, he is persuaded does not depend upon the Ancient Charges, “but solely and simply upon whether they practise or administer Masonic rites.” Yes, but upon what depends it whether the rites practised are Masonic, or are only improperly called so? Until this point is cleared up they cannot be put in as evidence that the bodies administering them are Masonic bodies; and if in attempting to clear it up it shall be found that in administering these rites is involved any denial of the guaranties, exclusion from any of the franchises, or any additions to the primary distinctions of the charges under whose constraint all definitions of Masonry must be framed, it will likewise be found that our brother's conclusions, like his premises, are sometimes drawn from unreliable sources.

Something in the nature of a boomerang is his inquiry of final and annihilating tone—“By what authority does Bro. Robbins set himself up as the judge on the orthodoxy of the various Masonic bodies in the world?” It is, or ought to be, identical with that in which he finds his warrant for the exercise of similar judicial functions in the

article in which the question occurs. Both of us have been specifically enjoined to carefully preserve the ancient landmarks entrusted to our keeping, and the authority for the judgment necessary to this end is fully commensurate with our duty. We are sorry to note, however, that he overlooks this equality of responsibility, and protests in oratorical terms against the right of anybody to pass judgment upon the authority of certain bodies to administer Masonic rites, unless the exercise of such rites takes the form of that silent acquiescence which is a judgment in their favour.

He appears to have been betrayed into this protest by discovering in us, as it seems to him, the fell purpose to set up each Grand Lodge “as the exclusive power to dispense chartered authority to administer Masonic rites within its jurisdiction.” If that is our purpose our action is sadly subsequent, inasmuch as the relation which Grand Lodges from their inception have borne to Masonic rites has rarely been better expressed than in the language we have quoted.

As evidence of our design he puts in the following from our February article: “‘Among the Grand Lodges of this country, Illinois, at least, by formal declaration, holds it to be impossible for any body of men outside of the regular successors of Grand Lodge organised on the basis of ‘The Charges of a Freemason,’ identified in those charges by direct reference to the Grand Lodge Regulations thereunto annexed, and maintaining the representative form of government rooted therein, to acquire the authority to administer the rites of Masonry.’”

For two reasons, the first of which is that our brother may be able to judge whether the above foreshadows some occult design, or whether it fairly reflects what the Grand Lodge set up for itself five years ago, we reproduce the following from p 50, Ill. Proc. 1879, which was formally and unanimously concurred in by the Grand Lodge: “We utterly deny that any body save a representative Grand Lodge can by warrant or charter create a Lodge that has any claim whatever to the name of Masonry, or that can administer its rites; and as emphatically deny that any body which establishes as a condition of eligibility to membership therein, any distinctions save those known to ‘The Charges of a Freemason,’ viz.: Master, Fellow and Apprentice, or which admits that any organisation based upon, or by virtue of, distinctions other than these, may supervise, veto, or in any manner restrict its action within the sphere circumscribed by those charges, is a Grand Lodge within the meaning of Masonic law.”

Our second reason for reproducing this is to make plain to our critic what we presume we had already made clear to most, viz., that in this action the Grand Lodge was not referring to associations like the Capitular and other bodies whose members had been made Masons under the Grand Lodge system, but to so-called Masonic bodies of the “Scotch-Rite” system in other countries, which, while lacking the structure and representative form of government rooted in the Charges of a Freemason, assumed to administer the Masonry of the Lodge.

In referring to the “rites of Masonry,” or to “Masonic rites,” the Grand Lodge did not have in mind the rites conferred by chapters, councils, commanderies, and the like, and by their members called Masonic. It neither knows nor can know anything of any Masonry outside of that which is defined by the Charges of a Freemason, and of which, by the same law, the Grand Lodge, with its constituents, is made the sole conservator; and, we may add, the conservation of which is the sole excuse for the existence of that body.

It knows nothing of the rites administered under the authority of the Grand Chapter of Illinois, and it has no power to grant, or even to tender, either the privileges, rights, or authority which, through our eloquent brother, it gratuitously repudiates; and it can have no interest in the work of that or any other body made up of the Masons of its obedience, but not known to its law, unless those Masons seek to impose upon the Craft and upon the world a definition of Masonry other than that which, under the constraint of the landmarks, the Grand Lodge is alone authorised to formulate and set forth; or unless those Masons are clandestinely administering elsewhere, some portion of that Masonry which it alone is authorised to administer or define.—*Voice of Masonry.*

MASONIC SECRECY.

THE Secrecy of Masonry has given rise to some of the most absurd stories, in regard to its objects and purposes. Behind bolts and bars, curtained windows and grim sentinels, the members of the Lodge are supposed to meet and hold familiar converse with Satan, who acts as chief counsellor and adviser in maturing wicked plans to cheat honest people and make money. Of the thousand and one of these ridiculous stories, there is not one that is worth a moment's notice, for they are all the legitimate children of a morbid credulity, based upon the depths of the most profound ignorance. There are those, however, who lay some little claim to intelligence, who imagine that they have demolished all claims to good in Masonry, when they say: "The wicked seek darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil." This sentence, with all its Divine force, is not applicable to Masonry. And why? Because the reason assigned why darkness is preferred to light, because their deeds are evil, is for ever cut off and disproved by the history of Masonry as an institution. "An evil tree bringeth forth evil fruit." If there was evil in Masonry, its antiquity has certainly offered ample opportunity for the development of that evil in *deeds of fruition*. But unfortunately for the enemies of Masonry, it, as an institution, has borne no such fruit. That there have been dishonest men connected with Freemasonry at every period of its existence, is doubtless true. But this is no argument to disprove the general beneficent influence of Masonry as an institution. By the same process we might demolish the religion of Jesus; for he had a disciple that was both a LIAR and a TRAITOR. The absurdity of such reasoning is apparent.

Because secrecy has been abused and made the cloak for evil, we are not to conclude that everything which is withdrawn from the gaze of the public eye, is of wicked and direful import. God, Himself, moves in mystery, and works out his plans in secret. The operations of Nature are secret and mysterious. Can you explain to me the secret process, by which the juices of the earth, which are absorbed by the roots of trees and herbs, are some of them converted into bark, some into the harder wood, and some into the feathery foliage that spreads its mantle of green and living beauty around the earth in spring and summer? And yet what beauties and blessings flow from this mysterious and secret process! Not only are the operations of God and of Nature secret and past finding out, but man carries in his own bosom a secret laboratory which none but God can read. Secrecy is a constituent of our natures, and as God is said to have made nothing in vain, He has bestowed it upon us for wise and useful purposes. We may abuse it, as we do all of his gracious gifts, but this does not prove it to be intrinsically evil. It is a necessary principle and lies behind and controls, to a greater or less extent, the affairs of every-day life. Every man has his secrets. Every family has its secrets and private transactions; and who would wish to raise the curtain and expose the sacred privacy of the family fire-side to the sacrilege of evil eyes and idle tongues?

Secrecy is necessary in the affairs of government, and is the mainspring of all our actions, whether for good or evil. If it is absurd to say, that a man is wicked, because you cannot pierce his breast and read his thoughts, is it not equally absurd to say that the objects and purposes of a Society or Fraternity of men are wicked, because they meet and work in secret? "*By their fruits shall ye know them.*" This is the true TEST, and Masonry cordially invites it.

I trust that I have now said enough to convince the most sceptical that secrecy is not an evil, or the evidence of an evil; but that it is necessary to individual success, and the peace and harmony of the family circle; if so, I can see no good reason why it may not be used by a Fraternity or Association of men for like purposes and with like results.

The objects and principles of Masonry are not secret. True, it has a secret language, and the ceremonies and business of the Lodge are not for the eye or ear of the uninitiated. This, in my opinion, is the circumstance that gives to Masonry life, and efficiency for good. If its mystic language was unfolded, there would be no means to distinguish between the worthy and the unworthy. Its semblance would be put on by dishonest men, when its advantages were to be gathered, afterwards they would

deny its authority and neglect its duties. And, here permit me to remark, that while the Mason is commanded to be charitable towards all mankind, he must first deal kindly with his suffering Brother if worthy, then with his neighbour, and then with the stranger at his gate. "Charity begins at home," but there is no necessity for its ending there. Yet the man who would lavish his substance on strangers, to the neglect of his suffering and worthy Brother, would be considered "worse than an infidel." Our mystic language enables us to recognise that worthy Brother, and prevents those from drawing *wages*, as workmen, who have never laboured on the Temple. It enables the workmen to recognise each other everywhere and under all circumstances.—*Bro. W. D. Wood's Address.*

MEMORY.

IT has frequently been a matter of surprise that some of the best educated men among the Craft have been unable to study and retain the ritual, charges or lectures appertaining to Freemasonry. Among the faculties which furnish forth our mental outfit, there is none perhaps in which greater vagaries of variation are manifested in different people, or even in the same persons on certain subjects and at different periods of their lives, than in the power of memory. Mr. Locke calls it "the storehouse of our ideas," and if this be so, it is quite evident that although in some cases the stock in hand may be of a very miscellaneous description, in others it amounts to little else than a "beggarly account of empty boxes." There are those the retina of whose intellectual eye is so absorbently receptive and tenaciously retentive that almost everything brought within the range of its subtle and keen purview is permanently photographed, framed, glazed, and hung up, while of others the mental impressions are as transient and superficial as though written on water or traced on sand. The aforesaid philosopher evidently thought but small things of the average human being, for, he adds, "the narrow mind of man not being capable of having many ideas under view at once, it was necessary to have a repository in which to lay up those ideas which it may afterwards have use of." It is found with many that this notion of laying up has very much the same result as that over carefulness which, for safe custody, secretes some document or memento, or article of value in a remarkably private place over which "Lethe, the river of oblivion, rolls its watery labyrinth," and the seclusion of the sacred object becomes far more inviolable than was ever contemplated. The force of memory is with some people quite a marvel. The memory consecrated to the service of trifles is special and, *sui generis*, it is a distinct natural endowment, with its own charm of unlaboured spontaneity; it is an instinct, as much as that subtle reasoning and discriminating faculty which is concentrated in the nasal organ of the canine race. Apparently, the "caverns of memory" resemble so many domestic cupboards or school lockers, some of which exhibit interiors trim and tidy, while in others chaos sits and roosts. The mnemonic deficiencies of some people are exceedingly droll and occasionally tiresome. We are all familiar with cases in which the screws of some memories run loose, where the reproductive energy never seems equal to the strain of labelling anybody with his right name, and where life is dotted along with records of the unwelcome and grotesque contretemps in which this weakness is ever fruitful. The faculty of never forgetting a face or a name, and "putting asunder" what fate has "joined together," is a gift that carries with it a mighty power of pleasing, and a great personal influence. If punctuality be the politeness of princes, this intuitive gift of recognition, ministering as it does to that self love of which nobody ever yet had a scant supply, must be as politic as it is prepossessing.—*Freemason's Chronicle, Sydney.*

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Weakening weather.—The sultry summer days strain the nerves of the feeble and decrepit, and disease may eventuate unless some restorative, such as these purifying Pills, be found to correct the disordering tendency. Holloway's medicine gives potency to the nervous system, which is the source of all vital movements, and presides over every action which maintains the growth and well-being of the body. No one can over-estimate the necessity of keeping the nerves well strung, or the ease with which these Pills accomplish that end. They are the most unfailing antidotes to indigestion, irregular circulation, palpitation, sick headache, and costiveness, and have therefore attained the largest sale and highest reputation.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY'S TOURIST ARRANGEMENTS.

LAST week we spoke in general terms of praise of the excellence of the arrangements made by the different Railway Companies for the comfort and convenience of the travelling public, this excellence being particularly shown in the case of their programmes for the Tourist Season. In this, as indeed in all other respects, the London and North Western Railway Company stands well in public estimation. Their Tourist tickets, like those of other Companies, are issued under the most favourable conditions as regards price, are available in the first instance for two months, and are renewable on moderate terms for any further period that may be desired, provided the term does not exceed the last day of December of the current year. They are issued at Euston Station and at all the principal stations on the Metropolitan and Metropolitan District Railways, as well as at the termini of the London Brighton and South Coast and London and North Western Railway Companies, and the Parcels Receiving Offices of the London and North Western Railway itself. The terms of issue are likewise similar in many other respects. Thus, holders of these tickets to North Wales are at liberty to break the journey at Crewe, Chester, Flint, Holywell, Mostyn, Prestatyn, Rhyl, and any intermediate stations in the direct route between Rhyl and their destination, both going and returning. Passengers may also break the journey at Kenilworth, Leamington, and Lichfield. Then there are Circular tours for North Wales, North and South Wales, North, South, and Mid Wales, &c., &c. Thus, if we take the case of the North and South Wales Circular Tour, Tourists travel *via* Shrewsbury and Llandrindod to Carmarthen; thence to Tenby and back; from Carmarthen to Aberystwith *via* Lampeter; thence to Dolgelly and Barmouth; from Barmouth to Portmadoc and Carnarvon, *via* Afon Wen, returning from Carnarvon *via* Bangor and Chester. Or it may be worked in the reverse direction, at the option of the passenger, only he must state at the time of booking what direction he proposes to travel. So, in the case of the Carmarthen, Tenby, Aberystwith, and Mid Wales Circular Tour, passengers travel *via* Shrewsbury, Llandrindod and Builth to Brecon; from Brecon to Llanidloes and back to Builth Road Junction; thence to Carmarthen, *via* Llandovery; from Carmarthen to Tenby and back; thence *via* Lampeter to Aberystwith, returning from Aberystwith *via* Machynlleth and Welshpool. Or the journey may be made in the reverse direction, if so stated at booking. The tickets issued for these and the other circular tours are 1st and 2nd class only, and are in the former case, 1st class, £5 6s; 2nd class, £3 16s; in the latter, first class, £5 9s; 2nd class £3 19s. Tickets on the same liberal terms and offering similar facilities are issued to the English Lake District, Yorkshire, Scotland, Ireland, and Isle of Man. In all cases the Company has done all in its power to study the convenience as well as the pocket of the traveller. In certain trains sleeping accommodation is provided, while every possible facility is offered for continuing journeys, where desired, by means of the different steamship companies; while coaches, omnibuses, &c., &c., are to be found in communication with the Company at the principal stations on the line. The Company also issues Excursion tickets, and tickets for shorter periods, the public in these cases being equally benefited. However, those of our readers who may be anxious to obtain further and fuller information, will do well to place themselves in communication with the General Manager, Mr. G. Findlay, at Euston Station. Their inquiries will be received courteously, and answered, we doubt not, satisfactorily.

BY THE SEA.

IT is marvellous to note the many changes that have recently taken place in Merry Margate. Though this justly celebrated watering place cannot be described as the resort of the "Upper Ten," the well-to-do class of tradesmen continue their annual visits, and doubtless derive benefit from the healthful breezes that prevail here at all seasons of the year. And now for a few words as to the improvements we have referred to. The Fort and Cliftonville may almost be characterised as a new colony, the builders have so studded the district with substantial and handsome dwelling houses. At Westgate-on-Sea, the Jetty has been extended, and a capital band nightly enlivens the scene with well selected music. The Assembly Rooms at Margate proper, if we may so describe it, are as popular now as ever they were, and the proprietors deservedly receive the patronage they so ably cater for. It will be remembered by many of our readers that the old rooms were destroyed by fire; but the new building, inaugurated on the 19th ult., under the management of Bro. H. E. Davis, is a decided improvement on the one it has taken the place of. The principal room is 101 feet 6 inches long by 56 feet broad. The flooring, which is of figured oak, rests on indiarubber. An excellent concert is provided every evening, and in Bro. Jarvis the lovers of Terpsichore have an efficient Master of Ceremonies. Bro. Williams (of the Caledonian Hotel, John Street, Adelphi), in conjunction with Bro. Ingram has here opened a capacious room for Balls and other entertainments; the services of the Brothers Raynor have been secured, while the musical arrangements have been entrusted to Bro. Thaddens Wells. At the Theatre Royal Miss Kate Santley, with a talented company, has been the attraction. The entertainments at the Hall by the Sea, under the direction of Bro. Geo. Sanger, have also been well attended, while the menagerie has given special amusement to a large number of the smaller fry. Taken altogether, the visitors to Margate this year will find plenty to amuse and attract them.

The Revised Book of Constitutions; Critically Considered and Compared with the Old Edition. London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co., 4 Stationers' Hall Court, E.C. Sent on receipt of stamps, One Shilling, by W. W. Morgan, Freemason's Chronicle Office, Belvidere Works, Hermes Hill, Pentonville.

THE LATE BRO. E. AUSTIN.

LOCAL literature, and particularly the branch of it which is associated with journalism, has sustained a loss which will be widely and deeply regretted by the death, on 25th July, under painfully sudden circumstances, of Bro. Ebenezer Austin, the proprietor and editor of the *Clifton Chronicle*. The deceased gentleman, who was in his sixty-sixth year, had enjoyed, through the greatest part of his life, a robust state of health. Some months ago, however, he was attacked by an illness which betrayed symptoms of heart disease, and led his medical attendant to fear that his life was a precarious one, and that his death might ensue at any moment. The treatment to which he was subjected appeared so much to restore his health that the more sanguine among his friends began to hope that the mischief was not so deeply seated as had been feared. He came into the city on Wednesday, apparently in his usual health, and transacted a few matters of business, and on Thursday evening he was engaged in a business interview with the Rev. Canon Percival, during which he betrayed no symptoms of illness. Between eight and nine o'clock yesterday morning he was in the act of dressing, with a view to going to some engagements, when he was suddenly seized. Medical aid was promptly summoned, and Dr. Marshall, his usual attendant, being from home, Dr. Beddoe attended with all possible speed, but before he could arrive Bro. Austin had fallen back in his chair, and tranquilly expired. Although his death in this sudden manner may be said to have been foreshadowed, it came with a terrible shock at last, and the sensation produced yesterday in the many circles in which he was known was one of intense sorrow and profound regret.

Not only in his professional career, but amongst a very large circle of personal friends, the deceased gentleman was highly esteemed for his kind-heartedness and unfailing geniality, and some three years ago his friends and colleagues of the press celebrated his fiftieth year of journalism by inviting him to a banquet in Clifton, at which they presented him with an address as a mark of their appreciation of the ability, energy, and integrity by which he had always been distinguished in his literary career, as well as of his personal worth and kindly characteristics. He was born in October 1818, at Bath. His elder brother, the Rev. Thomas Ralph Austin, D.D., died a few months ago in America, and he leaves another brother, Mr. J. Battle Austin, of Leigh Woods; and an elder sister, Mrs. Hugh Massey, of Chester. His parents lived at Hackney, and his father, who possessed considerable literary attainments, was engaged for a time on the editorial staff of the *Bath Chronicle*, and subsequently on that of the *Bath and Cheltenham Gazette*. Deceased, who was left an orphan in 1830, was apprenticed in the following year to Mr. George Wood, proprietor of the *Bath and Cheltenham Gazette*, and he contributed his first report to that paper on 14th June 1836. After an early reporting career, whose success won repeated acknowledgment from the highest quarters, he, in 1848, became the official shorthand writer to the Bristol District Court of Bankruptcy, the proceedings of which he for many years reported, first for the weekly and subsequently for the Bristol daily papers. He was also a well-known attendant as shorthand writer and reporter at the Somerset Assizes. In August 1855, he succeeded the late Mr. William Matthews as Bristol correspondent of the *Times*, a position which he had held ever since, and latterly in conjunction with his son, Mr. Alfred Austin. In April 1864, the *Clifton Chronicle*, which he had edited for many years, passed into his hands, and he has continued to edit it from that time. In 1861, in conjunction with some friends, and a few other members of the Bristol press, including Mr. Joseph Hatton, who was then a member of the editorial staff of the *Bristol Mirror*, deceased materially helped to start the Bristol Histrionic Club for the purpose of giving amateur performances for charitable purposes. He had the honour of being elected, in March 1862, the first president of the newly-established club, and for many years he not only took a most active part in its proceedings, but there was seldom a public performance without his writing an original address for it. He also wrote for it a dramatic rendering of the trial scene from Dickens's "Pickwick Papers." In connection with the Histrionic Club he took a lively interest in a series of performances on behalf of the National Lifeboat Institution, for which no less than £150 was raised, and by this means was procured the "Bristol and Clifton" Lifeboat, since stationed at Lossiemouth (N.B.), and from that time the club has, we believe, every year contributed £50 for the maintenance of the boat at that station. From no inconsiderable amount of fugitive matter contributed to the newspapers with which he had been connected, the deceased gathered and published a series of sketches which originally appeared in the *Clifton Chronicle* as "Stray Leaves from the Notebook of a Provincial Reporter." These were reprinted, and, with some additions in 1872, were published in a small volume entitled "Anecdoteage." He was remarkably punctilious in the matter of quotations, in which he was considered more than an ordinary authority, his memory being most retentive down to the last. His wife died just seven months ago. He leaves one son (Mr. Alfred Austin), who was his partner, one married and two unmarried daughters, and an adopted niece. The late Mr. Austin as a Freemason was a member of Colston Lodge, No. 610, Bristol.—*Bristol Mercury*, Saturday, 26th July.

Bro. T. L. Jefferson, whose death occurred recently, left a bequest of 5000 dollars to the Masonic Home, of Louisville, Kentucky, and 1000 dollars to the Lodge of which he was a member.

Bro. Alfred Abrahams, of Lodge of Israel, No. 205, has recently taken possession of the King's Head Hotel, High-street, Margate, heretofore in the occupation of Bro. Chubb P.M. Bro. Abrahams intends to hold a Lodge of Instruction here; also a Chapter of Improvement.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

PRE-UNION CHAPLAINS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Several months ago I stated in your paper that the Grand Lodge of England had no Chaplain before 1313. But before my article reached you, I informed Bro. Sadler that I had made a mistake, and gave the following reasons, which misled me. First, when I copied, some years ago, the list of all the Officers from 1717 to 1791, from Northouck's Constitution, I found no Chaplain in the said list. Second, several publications of 1762 and later distinctly state that the Lodges subject to the Grand Lodge of 1717 used no prayers in their ceremonies. Third, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts had no Chaplain before 1797, and I will here add that the Edinburgh Lodge had no Chaplain before 1798. However, it is certain that the G.L. of England appointed Dr. Dodd G. Chaplain in 1775. Northouck even intimates that the Grand Lodge had a Chaplain before 1775, but whether his statement is correct, I know not. Perhaps Bro. Sadler, or some other brother, will be kind enough to inform you about it. How often the Grand Lodge had a Chaplain after Dr. Dodd lost his office has never, I believe, appeared in print. I have, therefore, copied from Northouck's Constitution of 1784, and from the printed Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of England, up to 12th May 1813, every Grand Lodge meeting when a Chaplain attended. In order to simplify it, I shall give the year, the name of the Chaplain, and the number of times he attended in each year. Dr. Dodd was appointed 1st May 1775, and up to 3rd June

1776.	Dr. Dodd attended	4 times
1781.	Dr. Sydney Sweeney attended	2 "
1782.	Rev. William Peters G.P.P.* attended	2 "
1787.	Rev. H. A. Eccles attended	2 "
"	Rev. W. Peters G.P.P. attended	1 "
1789.	Rev W. A. Eccles attended	1 "
1790.	" " "	1 "
1791.	" " "	1 "
1792.	" " "	3 "
1793.	" " "	2 "
1794.	" " "	1 "
1795.	" " "	1 "
1797.	" " "	1 "
1799.	" " "	2 "
1800.	" " "	2 "
1802.	Rev. Dr. Coghlan	2 "
1803.	" " "	2 "
2804.	" " "	3 "
1805.	" " "	4 "
1806.	" " "	3 "
1807.	" " "	3 "
1808.	" " "	4 "
1809.	" " "	1 "
1810.	Rev. Thomas Vialls P.G.M. for Radnorshire attended	1 "
"	" Coghlan	1 "
1811.	" " "	1 "
1812.	" " "	4 "
1813.	" " " up to 12th May	3 "

Sum total 58 "

Assuming that between 1st May 1775 and 12th May 1813 the Grand Lodge held only four meetings a year, then, during that period, it must have met at least 153 times. Out of the thirty-eight years, for

12 years the Grand Lodge had no Chaplain at all. For
9 years the Chaplain attended but once a year. For
8 years the Chaplain attended but twice a year. For
5 years the Chaplain attended but three times a year. And for
4 years the Chaplain attended but four times a year.

Or, in other words, out of 153 meetings of the Grand Lodge between 1775 and 1813, a Chaplain attended 58 times. I believe my figures are correct; but, if not, I shall be obliged to Bro. Sadler if he will correct me. I am very sorry that I cannot furnish similar information about the Grand Lodge of the Ancients. But I hope either yourself, or Bro. Sadler, will take the trouble to supply it.

Fraternally yours,

JACOB NORTON.

Boston, U.S., 11th July 1884.

* Can any one inform me the meaning of "G.P.P."?

[We believe the initial letters mean Grand Portrait Painter.—ED. F.C.]

The Hon. Sir J. Burford Hancock, Chief Justice of Gibraltar, has been appointed Provincial Grand Master of Gibraltar. He will be installed in his office in the course of next month.

The meetings of the Royal Alfred Lodge of Instruction, No. 780, have been adjourned, for the usual summer vacation, until Friday, 19th September.

THE AUTHORSHIP OF "A DEFENCE OF MASONRY, PUBLISHED A.D. 1730."

We have great pleasure in reproducing the following interesting communication from Bro. R. Freke Gould, Author of "The Four Old Lodges," &c. &c. :—

To the Editor of the Keystone.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I send you a few lines, trusting by the notice of a small puzzle in Masonic archaeology, to make some slight amends for a protracted silence, which your kindness in heaping favours upon me renders even less excusable. The point I wish to refer to is the following :—"A Defence of Masonry" was printed, as we know, with the Constitutions of 1738. This, according to the title or caption, was "publish'd A.D. 1730." Now, has any brother seen a copy of the "Defence," of earlier date than 1738? I have not myself, though I have examined the newspapers of 1730 with some care and attention. Next, who wrote it? It is utterly unlike anything published by Anderson under his own name, and the letter from "Euclid," which follows it in the Constitutions, unless inserted for purposes of mystification, is quite inconsistent with the theory of the editor having written the essay. Euclid begins :—"Bro. Anderson, after thanks for printing the clever DEFENCE" (I follow the typographical arrangement of the original), and alluding to the "unbiased author" says, "Tho' had he been a Free-mason," &c., &c. The Constitutions of 1738 were dedicated to Frederick Prince of Wales, who was initiated by Desaguliers in 1737. The learned natural philosopher is also one of the persons to whom the authorship of the pamphlet has been ascribed. But not to say that no pamphlet has yet come to light—at least I believe not—is there a show of evidence forthcoming, which will show us anything known to have been written by Desaguliers, expressed in a similar style, and garnished with like references to the ancient learning? Now, could the author have been Warburton? He was one of the Prince's Chaplains. The first volume of the "Divine Legation," which contains his examination of the sixth book of Virgil's "Æneid," was published in January 1737-8. Here occurs our first difficulty. If the "Defence" was really printed in 1730, either Warburton wrote it, or he borrowed the ideas of somebody else, when he composed his dissertation on the Mysteries (1737-8). But this is almost impossible. All the evidence tends to prove that in the view Warburton took of the purport of the sixth book of the "Æneid," he was considered by the learned world to have struck out for himself an entirely new path. The possibility of the "Defence" having been written after the publication of the first volume of the "Divine Legation," will next suggest itself, in which case the date, 1730, must be read 1737. The full title of tract, as given in the "Constitutions," is :—"A Defence of Masonry. Published A.D. 1730. Occasioned by a Pamphlet called Masonry Dissected." And I think we may assume that the words "publish'd A.D. 1730," refer really to Frichard's "Exposure," and should properly terminate the sentence. Upon this supposition the "Defence" may have proceeded from the pen of Warburton, who, in a sermon printed in June 1738, is described as Chaplain to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, whilst the "Constitutions," as we learn from Anderson's preface, were not published until November; or, of course, his ingenious hypothesis, as made known in the "Divine Legation," Book II., Section IV., may have been seized upon and adapted to the purposes of the "Defence," by an unknown hand. Regarding, as I do, the authorship of the "Defence of Masonry," as one of those subsidiary puzzles encountered in Masonic investigation, which are worthy of examination by "curious readers," I have ventured on the preceding remarks in the hope that the subject may be deemed worthy of more critical inquiry than the limits of a communication like the present will admit of.

Yours fraternally,

R. F. GOULD.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

ON 11th June, the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia held a semi-annual Convocation. But little business was transacted. One important measure, however, was adopted, viz.: the following change was made in the Grand Constitution :—"When a brother has been elected to receive the degrees, and an objection is entered against him, said objection shall be held to have the same effect as if a blackball had been cast against him, unless said objection shall be withdrawn; and if, after one or more of the degrees shall have been conferred upon him, and an objection shall be entered against his further advancement, such objection shall be referred to a committee, with power to inquire into the cause thereof, who shall at the next stated Convocation (unless further time be given) report thereon, and upon the reception of such report, if no cause for the objection has been assigned, or if the cause assigned be in the opinion of two-thirds of the members present not a valid and Masonic one, the Chapter may confer the degrees in the same manner as if no objection had been made."

The Grand Lodge of this District adopted a similar law in respect to objections made to the advancement of an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft Mason.

The reasons for this law will be found in the Report of the Committee on Jurisprudence of the Grand Lodge (in Annual Proceedings for 1883, pp 36-38), consisting of Past Grand Masters Robert B. Donaldson, E. G. Davis, and Noble D. Larner; based upon a well-recognised principle, that a Mason when made and received within our Fraternity is entitled to consideration, more than a profane. He has some Masonic rights which are bound to be recognised by the Fraternity, and if any Mason has a valid objection to the advancement of a brother, he should have no good reason for withholding it from a proper committee; who would, most assuredly, after proper investigation and a confirmation of such reasons, so report and be

sustained by the Lodge. This was done to prevent the too often repeated objections of spiteful Craftsmen in our midst against good and valuable material which has been laid upon the scaffolds of our Temple, and which said objectors only desire to have "kicked over among the rubbish." Almost every Lodge is cursed by some of such fellows, who delight in keeping out good men against whom they have "run foul" and been "hurt."

The 22nd June being Sunday, and so near the natal day of "John Baptist," the brethren of Stansbury Lodge, No. 24, of this jurisdiction, determined to revive the good old Masonic custom of celebrating that day by attending church, and listening to a sermon. Stansbury Lodge holds its communication at Brightwood, a "hamlet" about three and a half miles north of Washington City, and within the boundary lines of this District. Not very far from Brightwood, and immediately adjacent to the grounds of the "Soldier's Home," is the Rock Creek Cemetery; and within the grounds of that cemetery is the old historic Rock Creek Church situated on the "summit of a delicious slope." At this church, on 22nd June, Stansbury Lodge assembled in goodly number of her own membership, with the Most Worshipful Grand Master Myron M. Parker and Right Worshipful Grand Secretary W. R. Singleton, of the Grand Lodge, and Most Excellent Grand High Priest Burton R. Ross, of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, with a large number of brethren from various other Lodges in the city. The services were conducted by the rector of the church, Brother the Rev. J. B. Buck, assisted by Brother the Rev. Dr. William A. Harris 33, lately rector of St. Andrew's Church in Washington, and formerly the rector of Rock Creek Church. The sermon was on the subject of John the Baptist, and although quite short was an excellent exposition of the character of that celebrated forerunner of the Divine Master. The Lodge was in charge of its Officers:—Bros. F. G. Alexander Worshipful Master, T. M. F. Dowling Senior Warden, William E. Nally Past Master and Junior Warden, B. D. Carpenter Past Master and Secretary, and G. W. Balloch P.M. Past Junior Grand Warden Treasurer. A select number of brethren of fine musical talent and cultivation, from the city Lodges, assisted several of the members of the Lodge in rendering the sacred music of the Episcopal Service. Rock Creek Church is the oldest church building in the district of Columbia, and also of this part of Maryland. General Washington, when President and residing in Washington, attended this church.

The church had been beautifully dressed with flowers; particularly the chancel, in the middle of which, in front, was a magnificent "flower cross," quite three feet in height, and its base surrounded with flowers. This reminded us of Hood in his Ode to Rae Wilson:—

"Hard by the wayside I found a cross,
That made me breathe a prayer upon the spot,
While nature of herself, as if to trace
The emblem's use, had trailed around its base
The blue significant 'forget-me-not.'
Methought the claims of CHARITY to urge
More forcibly, along with FAITH and HOPE,
The pious choice had pitched upon the verge
Of a delicious slope,
Giving the eye much variegated scope;
Look round, it whispered, on that prospect rare,
Those vales so verdant, and those hills so blue!
Enjoy the sunny world so fresh and fair,
But—(how the simple legend pierced me through!)

"*Priez pour les Malheureux*—pray for the unfortunate."

The three principal rounds of Jacob's ladder, mentioned in this ode so very beautifully and gracefully, come in very appropriately for this Masonic occasion; but the most striking allusion is in the "forget-me-not," which flower should be remembered by all present, particularly by the Masons, who will bear in mind their first "Patron;" as in the origin of Masonry in Europe John the Baptist was their first Patron; and to complete the "lines parallel" John the Evangelist was sometime thereafter added; and the winter Solstitial festival became such to Masons to be matched with the other. The baptismal font was also beautifully adorned with flowers.

Of all the beautiful objects of creation, the ALMIGHTY has not made any more beautiful than flowers; nor is there anything more enjoyed by the cultivated, than those delicious blessings when so gracefully and tastefully offered in the house of the ALMIGHTY GIVER of them. "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these;" and thus the thought occurred to us as we there enjoyed, not only the solemn worship and interesting services of the sanctuary, but our hearts went up in grateful thankfulness, and our eyes were delighted with the exquisite play and mingling of the brilliant colours and the manifold kaleidoscopes presented in the various groups of flowers and graceful foliations. The air was deliciously pervaded with the mingled perfumes distilled from these laboratories of nature, which ascended as incense from grateful hearts to the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, the Giver of every good and perfect blessing.

Truly it is good to praise the LORD, for His mercy endureth for ever. Amen and Amen!—Voice of Masonry.

LAYING CORNER-STONES.

IT has been asked, "Why the Masonic Fraternity is selected, above all other societies, to lay the corner-stones of public edifices in this country." Our answer is, for two reasons: First, because it has become a common law practice the world over; the adoption of a custom so ancient, that the memory of man runneth not to the con-

trary; a custom which prevailed centuries before modern secret societies were thought of.

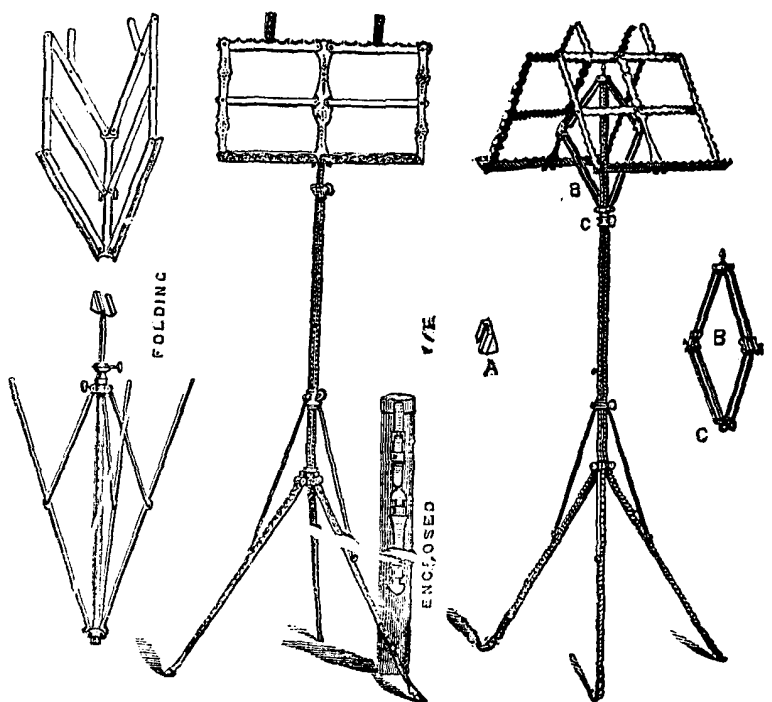
Secondly, because the Masonry of the present day is but ancient operative Masonry, with the operative portion dropped, and the speculative retained. And as our ancient brethren erected the grand old works of architecture that adorn the cities of the world, and which have come down to us covered with the mould and moss of centuries, or lie in ruins, silent data, so ancient that history fails to reach back to the distant point—so, in a speculative sense, the Masonic Fraternity of the present age are called upon to erect the magnificent works of modern architecture, by laying the foundation-stone thereof.

The first published account of the public laying of a corner-stone in this country, of which we at present have any knowledge, was that of the laying of the corner-stone of the capitol of the United States, 18th Sept. 1793, by Washington, acting as Grand Master *pro tem*: and who was also at the time President of the United States. The account describes it as "one of the grandest Masonic processions which ever took place in the United States;" from which we infer it was not the first.—*Sunday Times*, New York.

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MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER.

THE RIGHT HON. LORD EGERTON OF TATTON,
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.

A MOVEABLE GRAND LODGE will be held, on the invitation of the R.W. Provincial Grand Mark Master, the Dep. Prov. Grand Mark Master, and the Brethren of the Province of Devonshire, at the Royal Public Rooms, Exeter, on Wednesday, the 6th of August 1884, at which all legally advanced M.M.M. may be present. Grand Lodge will be opened at Four o'clock prompt.

By command of the M.W. Grand Master,
FREDERICK BINCKES (P.G.J.W.)
Grand Secretary.

Office:—8a Red Lion Square, London, W.C.
15th July 1884.

BUSINESS.—Open Grand Lodge in form. Proposed by M.W. Bro. Canon PORTAL, M.A., P.G.M.M.M.—"That the sum of ten guineas be voted to 'The Hughan Testimonial Fund.'" General Business. Close Grand Lodge.

A Banquet will take place at 5.30 o'clock precisely, at the Rougemont Hotel. Tickets 5/- each (exclusive of Wine).

N.B.—To facilitate the arrangements for the comfort of the Brethren attending the Banquet, application for Tickets must be made not later than Saturday, 2nd August, to W. Bro. G. F. Gratwicke, Provincial Grand Secretary, Raleigh Lodge, St. Thomas, Exeter.

RAILWAY ARRANGEMENTS.—The Great Western Railway and South Western Railway have consented to issue Return Tickets, 1st and 2nd Class, at a Fare and a Quarter, available from Tuesday, 5th, to Saturday, 9th August, from all Stations on their systems to Exeter, on production of Masonic Clothing to the Booking Clerk.

By command of the M.W. G.M.M.M. Brethren will appear in Masonic Mourning.

FIRE AT FREEMASONS' HALL!

LARGE photographs of the Temple, taken immediately after the fire, on 4th May (suitable for framing), 5s each; or framed in oak, securely packed, sent to any address in the United Kingdom, carriage paid, on receipt of cheque for 15s. Masters of Lodges should secure this memorial of the old Temple for their Lodge rooms.

W. G. PARKER, Photographer, 40 High Holborn, W.C.
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MASONIC LECTURE.

"KNOBS AND EXCRESCENCES."

BRO. JAMES STEVENS P.M. P.Z. is open to accept invitations for the delivery of this LECTURE in METROPOLITAN or PROVINCIAL LODGES, or LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

No Lecture Fee; travelling expenses only accepted. Address—Clapham, S.W.

PROVINCE OF MIDDLESEX.

R.W. COL. SIR FRANCIS BURDETT, BART.
PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

A PROVINCIAL Grand Lodge will be held at the Athenæum, Enfield, on Saturday, 2nd August, at 2.30 p.m. precisely.
By command of the Prov. G. Master,
H. C. LEVANDER, P.G.D.
12th July 1884. Provincial Grand Secretary.

THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON,

Adjoining the TERMINUS of the LONDON CHATHAM and DOVER RAILWAY, but distinct from the Viaduct Hotel.

THE BEST FURNISHED AND MOST COMFORTABLE HOTEL IN LONDON.
HOT & COLD WATER LAID ON IN ALL BED ROOMS.
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Monuments, Tombs, &c. at lowest possible prices.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

SCOTLAND.—Summer Service of Trains to Scotland by the MIDLAND ROUTE. The HIGHLAND EXPRESS (3.0 p.m. from St. Pancras) is now running.

DOWN TRAINS.—WEEK DAYS.						SUN.
	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	
LONDON (St. Pancras) ... dep.	5 15	10 35	8 0	9 15	9 15	
Glasgow (St. Enoch) ... arr.	4 37	8 55	...	7 40	7 40	
Greenock	5 50	9 40	...	8 12	8 12	
Edinburgh (Waverley) ...	4 32	8 40	5 47	7 25	7 25	
Perth	9 20	11 50	8 23	9 55	9 55	
Oban ... ..	...	4 45	12 15	2 31	2 31	
Aberdeen ... ..	...	3 20	11 40	2 15	2 15	
INVERNESS ... ..	...	8 0	1 30	6 20	6 20	

A.—The Train leaving St. Pancras at 10.35 a.m. on Saturdays has no connection with Inverness on Sunday mornings.
B.—The Train leaving St. Pancras at 9.15 on Saturday nights has no connection with Greenock, Oban, or places north of Edinburgh on Sunday mornings.

C.—Pullman Sleeping Cars from St. Pancras to Edinburgh and Perth.
D.—Pullman Drawing Room Cars from St. Pancras to Edinburgh and Glasgow.
E.—Pullman Sleeping Cars from St. Pancras to Edinburgh and Glasgow daily, also to Greenock except on Saturday nights.

These Cars are well ventilated, fitted with Lavatory, &c., and accompanied by a Special Attendant. First Class Passengers travel in the Drawing Room Cars attached to Day Express Trains without extra payment. For Berth in Sleeping Car the charge is 8/-, in addition to the First Class Fare.

The Evening Express leaving London at 9.15 p.m., reaches Greenock in time to enable Passengers to join the "COLUMBA" or "IONA" Steamers for the Highlands. A Through Carriage is run from LONDON to Greenock by this Train, also by the 10.35 a.m. from St. Pancras.

For particulars of Up Train Service from Scotland to London see Time Tables issued by the Company.

JOHN NOBLE,
General Manager, Midland Railway.

DERBY, July 1884.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

BROAD GAUGE Route to the West of England.—Continuous railway communication, without change of carriage, between PADDINGTON and EXETER, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay, Kingswear (for Dartmouth), Plymouth, Devonport, Truro, Penzance, and other favourite resorts in the West of England. Tourist Tickets, available for two months (first, second, and third class), are issued in London at Paddington, Westbourne Park, Notting Hill, Hammersmith, Shepherd's Bush, Kensington (Addison Road), Uxbridge Road, and certain stations on the Metropolitan and District Railways, to the West of England, including the following sea-side and other places of attraction, viz., Clevedon, Weston-super-Mare, Minehead, Lynton, Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Exeter, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay, Dartmouth, Plymouth, Devonport, Newquay, Fowey, Truro, Falmouth, St. Ives, Penzance, Scilly Islands, &c. Passengers holding first and second class tourist tickets can travel by the 11.45 a.m. and 3.0 p.m. fast trains from Paddington, which reach Exeter at 4.0 and 7.14 p.m., Torquay at 5.9 and 8.12 p.m., and Plymouth at 5.55 and 8.55 p.m. respectively. See programmes and time bills issued by the Company.

J. GRIERSON, General Manager.

PROVINCE OF WORCESTER.

MASONIC SOIREE AND EXHIBITION.

Worcester, 27th August 1884.

BRETHREN having Masonic Curios of any kind, by way of Old Medals, Jewels, Cups, Glasses, Seals, Charters, Certificates, Aprons, Engravings, Minute Books, &c., &c., are earnestly invited to correspond with the Prov. Grand Secretary, Bro. Geo. Taylor, Summerdyne, Kidderminster, who will be grateful for the loan of such. Guarantees for safe custody given, and any expense defrayed.

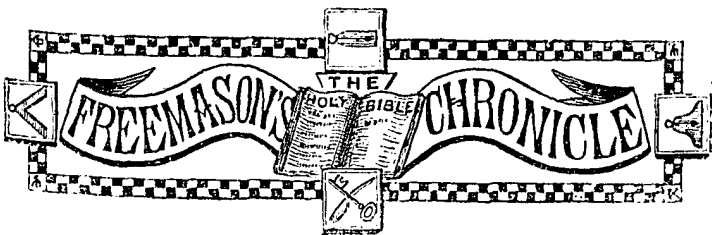
A catalogue is being prepared which will serve as a standard reference to all interested in Masonic Antiquities.

All Individuals and Lodges possessing such, should take care to be represented in this catalogue.

BRO. R. HIRST engages to provide, at short notice, an efficient Band for Annual Banquets, Dinners, Excursions and Quadrille Parties. For terms apply to "R. Hirst, The Three Crowns, 237 Mile End Road, E."

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ROYAL ARCH.

—:O:—

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

A QUARTERLY Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter will be held at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Wednesday, the 6th day of August next, at six o'clock in the evening.

The Minutes of the last Quarterly Convocation to be read for confirmation.

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have

examined the accounts from the 16th April, to the 15th July 1884, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:—

£ s d			£ s d		
Balance Grand Chap-			Disbursements during		
ter -	1458	8 9	the quarter -	212	12 8
" Unappropriated			Balance -	1653	16 1
Account -	205	3 4	" in Unappropriated		
Subsequent Receipts-	401	10 0	Account -	198	13 4
£2,065 2 1			£2,065 2 1		

which balances are in the Bank of England, Western Branch.

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received the following petitions:—

1st. From Companions Charles Gore Ring as Z, William Foster Rooke as H, the Rev. Adolphus Frederick Alexander Woodford as J, and seven others for a Chapter to be attached to the Greta Lodge, No. 1073, Keswick, to be called the Greta Chapter, and to meet at the Keswick Hotel, Keswick, Cumberland.

2nd. From Companions Barnet Nicholls as Z, Carl Otto Kopp as H, Rodham Home Cook as J, and seven others for a Chapter to be attached to the Ionic Lodge of Amoy, No. 1781, Amoy, to be called the Amoy Chapter, and to meet at the Masonic Hall, Amoy, China.

The foregoing petitions being in all respects regular, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

The Committee further recommend to Grand Chapter that the following Companions be appointed a Committee to revise the Royal Arch Regulations and assimilate the same so far as practicable with the revised Edition of the Book of Constitutions of the Craft, viz.:— E. Comp. Lt.-Col. John Creaton, Thomas Fenn, Robert Gray, Edward Letchworth, John Sampson Peirce.

(Signed) JOHN CREATON, P.G. Pr. Soj.

President.

FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON, W.C.
16th July 1884.

A convocation of the North London Chapter of Improvement was held on Thursday at the Alwyne Castle, St. Paul's Road, Canonbury, Comp. Dean M.E.Z., Hall H., Knight J., Radcliffe S.W., Shaw P.S. The various duties devolving on each officer were sustained in a most perfect manner.

MARK MASONRY.

—:O:—

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND.

THE Annual Communication of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held on Wednesday, the 23rd instant, under the banner of the Derwent Lodge, No. 282, at Workington. In the absence of the Right Hon. the Earl of Bective, M.P., Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Worshipful Bro. Lieut.-Colonel F. R. Sewell, J.P., Deputy Provincial Grand Master, presided, supported by a large body of Present and Past Provincial Grand Officers.

The minutes of the last annual meeting, held at Maryport, under the banner of Whitwell Lodge, No. 151, were read and confirmed. The Treasurer's statement of accounts were passed as read; they showed a good balance to the credit of the Province, and Bro. James Gardiner was again, by a unanimous vote, elected Provincial Grand Treasurer, and the following brethren were invested as Officers for the ensuing year:—

Bro. Wm. Court P.M. 60	...	Prov. G. Senior Warden
Richard Robinson P.M. 229	...	Prov. G. Junior Warden
James C. Mason P.M. 60	...	Prov. G. Master Overseer
Henry Peacock W.M. 229	...	Prov. G. Senior Overseer
J. W. Robinson P.M. 151	...	Prov. G. Junior Overseer
Rev. E. M. Rice W.M. 282	...	Prov. G. Chaplain
J. Gardiner P.M. 151 (re-elected)	...	Prov. G. Treasurer
J. A. Salkeld P.M. 282	...	Prov. G. Reg. of Marks
G. Dalrymple P.M. 216 (re-appointed)	...	Prov. G. Secretary
Richard Wilson W.M. 216	...	Prov. G. Senior Deacon
Thomas Atkinson W.M. 213	...	Prov. G. Junior Deacon
J. H. Raven W.M. 151	...	Prov. G. Inspect. of Works
David Bell S.W. 216	...	Prov. G. Dir. of Ceremonies
Thomas Mason 229	...	Prov. G. Assist. D. of Cers.
J. Abbott M.O. 151	...	Prov. G. Sword Bearer
F. T. Allatt Secretary 216	...	Prov. G. Standard Bearer
James Cooper Organist 282	...	Prov. G. Organist
J. H. Hartley S.W. 282	...	Prov. G. Inner Guard
Albert Bunyan J.W. 60	...	Prov. G. Stewards
John Rothery S.W. 213	...	
W. Shilton J.W. 229	...	Prov. G. Tyler
W. Wagg Tyler 282	...	

It being the year for this Province to nominate a brother to the M.W. G.M.M. for the appointment as Grand

Steward, Bro. Edward Tyson P.M. 213 P.P.G.J.W. was, without a dissenting voice, nominated for the high distinction, which he justly merits. The following brethren were appointed to serve on the Committee of General Purposes: Bros. J. Nicholson, P. De E. Collins, E. Tyson, and T. Dixon. The sum of five guineas was voted to the Dewar Fund.

The Provincial Grand Secretary then moved as follows: "That a Provincial Grand Lodge Fund be established for the purpose of granting relief to brethren of this Province who may have fallen into distress or difficulty, or who may have become disabled by accident, old age, or infirmity; and for assisting indigent widows or children of brethren of this Province, and other charitable purposes, exclusively of a Masonic character, in order to maintain the honour and dignity of this Provincial Grand Lodge, and that the sum of £30 be placed as a nucleus from the Provincial Grand Lodge funds to form the same, and a surplus only over that amount to be available for purposes as herein mentioned."

Several brethren expressed themselves as highly favourable to the scheme, and it was carried by unanimous vote.

There being nothing further, Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren subsequently sat down to an excellent banquet, served by mine host and hostess of the Central Hotel, and presided over by the Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Col. F. R. Sewell, supported by the Grand Officers. The usual Loyal and Mark toasts were given and responded to, and with the Tyler's toast ended one of the most agreeable Provincial Grand Mark meetings ever held in "canny Cumberland."

A moveable Grand Mark Lodge will be held at the Royal Public Rooms, Exeter, on Wednesday next, the 6th inst., at 4 p.m., when, among other matters, it will be proposed that the sum of ten guineas be voted to "The Hughs Testimonial Fund." A banquet will take place at 5.30 at the Rougemont Hotel. Both the Great Western and the South Western Railways offer return tickets at a fare and a quarter from any of their stations, on production of Masonic Clothing to the Booking Clerk, a system of "Masonic sign" which is becoming general under such circumstances.

YORK LODGE (T.I.)

At the regular quarterly meeting of this Lodge, held on the 15th ult., Bro. M. Millington in the chair, a Chaplain's jewel was presented to the Lodge by Bro. the Rev. W. C. Lukis P.M. Deputy Prov. G.M.M.M. of West Yorkshire. On the motion of Bro. T. B. Whytehead P.M., a guinea was voted to the Hughs Testimonial Fund, and on the motion of the W.M. a guinea was voted to the Dewar Fund. Two candidates were proposed, and there being no other business the Lodge proceeded to instruction, and the ceremony of advancement was rehearsed, the chair being assumed by Bro. J. S. Camberland P.M. G.J.O. After the close of Lodge the members met at refreshment.

CONSECRATION OF THE WHARTON LODGE, No. 2045.

THE Wharton Lodge, No. 2045, was consecrated on the 29th ult., at the White Hart Hotel, Willesden, by the R.W. Bro. Colonel Shadwell H. Clerke Grand Secretary of England, who was assisted by Bro. Frederick Davison G.A.D. as Senior Warden, Bro. George Lambert P.G.S.B. as Junior Warden, V.W. Bro. Ambrose Hall P.G. Chaplain as Chaplain, and Bro. Frank Richardson P.G.D. as D. of C. A large number of brethren were present, and after the Lodge had been opened in the three degrees, Bro. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke announced the granting of the warrant by the M.W. the Grand Master, and congratulated the founders on the success of their efforts. Bro. Frank Richardson then ranged the petitioners in due form, and read the warrant granted by the Grand Lodge of England, whereupon the Consecrating Officer inquired whether the petitioners approved of the Officers named in the warrant, and having been answered in the affirmative, called upon the Chaplain, Bro. Ambrose Hall, to deliver the oration. At the close of the oration, the acting W.M., assisted by his Officers, performed the ceremony of consecration. The ceremony of installing Bro. William Side P.M. 1507 as W.M. was then proceeded with, being rendered most impressively by the Grand Secretary, and it is due to all concerned to say that the work throughout was very ably performed. The W.M. then appointed his Officers, and Bro. the Rev. J. C. Wharton, vicar of Willesden, P.M. 375, was elected Treasurer. A banquet afterwards took place, at which the Worshipful Master presided.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. J. D. ALLCROFT, PAST GRAND TREASURER.

HIS Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, who is President of Christ's Hospital, presided on Thursday, 21st ult., at a very pleasing ceremonial, namely, the presentation to Bro. J. D. Allcroft, the treasurer, of a portrait by Mr. Hubert Herkomer, A.R.A., and a very fine group in silver. A large number of ladies and gentlemen, governors of the hospital, were present in the court-room, amongst whom were:—Mr. J. Derby Allcroft (treasurer), Alderman Sir T. Dakin, Alderman Sir B. S. Phillips, Mr. Alderman Staples, the Rev. Sir E. Graham Moon, Bart., the Rev. H. G. Watkins, the Rev. J. Dunlap Dunlap, Sir J. Tyler, Mrs. J. Long, Miss Long, Miss Walters, Mr. C. Inglis, M.D., Mr. C. Ansted, Mr. W. W. Landell, Mr. C. N. Wilkinson, Mr. C. W. C. Hutton, Mr. W. Hine Haycock, Mr. A. Powell, Mr. J. Long, Mr. W. W. Fuller, Mr. H. P. Gibbey, Mr. P. Ralli, M.P., Mr. B. A. Wilcox, Mr. W. C. Delymple, Mr. J. P. Gassiot, Mr. H. P. Leschallas, Mr. T. J. Reeves, Mr. R. Lodge, Mr. J. H. Clutton, Mr. E. R. Goodrich, Mr. H. R. Everington, Mr. M. H. Stone, Mr. C. H. Silverside, Mr. Deputy Fisher, Mr. H. Lainson, Mr. J. R. Worcester, Mr. Dipnall, Mr. W. Brown, Mr. C. Ravenhill, Mr. H. Withers, Mr. Deputy Arnold, Mr. H. Maudslay, Mr. J. Morris (receiver), and Mr. Dipnall (clerk). The Duke of Cambridge said it was his pleasing duty in the name of the Governors and Subscribers to ask Mr. Allcroft's acceptance of the picture they saw on the wall before them, and the additional piece of plate to which the surplus amount received had been applied. He really had not felt that there was any necessity to go very deeply into the question of the worth of their Treasurer. He was so thoroughly appreciated and known to every member of the Court, and by everybody connected with the hospital, that it would be useless for him to attempt to describe the sentiments they all entertained with regard to him. Going beyond their own walls, and looking around them at other institutions, for instance, that next to them—St. Bartholomew's Hospital as well as St. Thomas's Hospital—they would find the name of their Treasurer upon the list of Governors of those two great charities. He would also remind them that he was one of the Treasurers of the Sons of the Clergy. He only mentioned these points that he might have an opportunity of saying that the good work that their Treasurer performed was not entirely confined to their own body, but that it lent its beneficial influence to the assistance of various other good institutions, proving yet more fully his large-heartedness, and the feeling of generosity towards the human race which actuated him and he was a man beyond all others who was qualified in every way to undertake such work as that in which he was engaged, and in which the Governors of Christ's Hospital had had the advantage of meeting him. There was no one who had had a larger share in arriving at the conclusion that he was the fittest man they could find for the office of Treasurer than their friend the worthy Alderman, Sir S. B. Phillips, who, together with Mr. Whitbread and Mr. Help, acted as a committee at the time of his appointment. He (the Duke of Cambridge) remembered at the time going to Alderman Sir B. S. Phillips, and saying he thought they had found a man who would take the place of the former Treasurer, and how thoroughly this had been true as regarded their friend Mr. Allcroft all present knew. He (the Duke of Cambridge) thought it must have satisfied his friend, Alderman Sir S. B. Phillips, to see this day arrive when the whole body of governors so thoroughly appreciated the intelligence with which he had brought to their notice their friend, Mr. Allcroft, and how entirely he had been justified in his recommendation. He was sure also it would be very gratifying to Mr. Allcroft to see that this distinction was paid to him in the presence of his old friend, Alderman Sir B. S. Phillips, and the numerous other ladies and gentlemen who were present to-day. He (the Duke of Cambridge) took this opportunity of saying that institutions such as that in which they were interested were of immense value and importance to this great land. It had become the fashion to a certain extent now-a-days, alas! to look down upon such institutions, he did not know why. There was a very old country, and it had become very great, and they had become a very great nation, and he could not help thinking that all these kind of institutions had done much towards bringing this great nation to the proud position to which it had attained. He would remind them that they had had an opportunity of judging of the ability and talent of their friend Mr. Allcroft, in managing the institution for 11 years. He himself had had the honour of presiding at this board for 30 years, and he could only say that the respective treasurers he had had to meet, whether it was Mr. Pigeon, Mr. Gilpin, or Mr. White, or the committee of which his worthy friend, Alderman Sir B. S. Phillips, was a member, or Mr. Allcroft, each and all had devoted the whole of their talent and an immense amount of anxiety to the interests of the institution, and had supported the president in a manner for which he would ever feel most deeply grateful. In conclusion he could only beg Mr. Allcroft, on his own part and on the part of the body of ladies and gentlemen, the governors, to accept these testimonials as a mark of the feelings of respect which they entertained for him personally, or for the valuable assistance he had given in the management of this great institution.

Mr. Dipnall then opened the oak cabinet, which contained the piece of plate, which he then handed to Mr. Allcroft amidst loud cheering.

The Duke of Cambridge said there still remained the picture. He could not hand that to Mr. Allcroft—it had been handed to the institution, but they were very proud indeed to ask his acceptance of the piece of plate. He then read the inscription upon the testimonial as follows: "Presented to John Derby Allcroft by H.R.H. the President and other Governors of Christ's Hospital, on the occasion of his portrait (presented by subscription) being placed in the court room of the hospital, in recognition of his zealous and able services as Treasurer. 24th July, 1884."

Mr. Allcroft, who was received with loud cheers, said he would like just simply to express as far as he could his thanks for the shape which they had given to their good wishes with respect to himself.

With respect to the portrait he hoped that whilst hanging upon these walls it would not lead to any reflections afterwards as to the kindly words that had been used to-day. So long as it might please the governors to continue him in the office of Treasurer he trusted he would still continue to merit and receive their warm approbation and support. To His Royal Highness he begged to offer his special thanks for the uniform courtesy and very gracious condescension with which he had always received him and listened to anything he had to say. He felt that acting under His Royal Highness as President of the hospital he had had an example before him of devotedness to the interests of the school which he had never yet felt equal to following; but he had endeavoured to the best of his ability, and in his own position, to carry out the same principles. He had been Treasurer of the hospital for eleven years, and this had given him the opportunity, amongst other things, of making very sincere and warm friendships amongst the Governors. It had also given him a great amount of interest to occupy the time, which, in God's providence, had been left at his disposal apart from his business. There was, however, one drawback which had made itself felt during his eleven years of office, to which he would refer, and that was whilst when he came into office the estates of the hospital had been increasing in value, during the latter part of that period the reverse had been the case. Rents had been going down, and arrears had been accumulating, and, so far as their income was concerned, had they been dependent entirely upon their estates, they would have been in an awkward predicament. There was fortunately, however, another side of the question, and that was that the town property of the hospital had increased in value with about equal rapidity, and that thus the deficiency had been made up, so that in taking the balance they were in as good a position as before. In one respect, the hospital was very much to be congratulated. He happened the other day to have put into his hands a speech which had been made at a gathering in connection with the hospital, in the year 1738, in which he read that they had then about the same number of children as at present—that is, 1180—who were then at Hertford, Ware, and London. It was there stated that the number of deaths during the year had amounted to 13. They had fortunately no longer to regret such a state of things, owing doubtless to the better sanitary arrangements of modern days, and to the care exercised by their medical officers. When the subject of the testimonial had been first mentioned to him, the thought that had crossed his mind was, "Is this a hint that I have been Treasurer long enough?" and he had had to consider that question, but he did not believe that anything of the kind had been intended. Had he thought so he would have been most content to place himself in the hands of the governors, but so long as health and strength were given to him he was prepared to devote a little more time to the school. One especial reason why he would not like to give up the duties of Treasurer at the present time was the fact that in the coming year he was told they were to have a new school. This had modified his intentions, and he had determined for the present, subject to the approval of the governors, to continue his efforts, which, from what His Royal Highness had been kind enough to say, they had thought to be successful. His endeavour had been to continue the school and the property and the condition of every thing connected with the hospital in its prosperous state, and he had always had in his mind the wish so to act that he could feel he was acting for Him whose name the hospital bore. Alderman Sir B. S. Phillips proposed a resolution, which he was sure would be consonant with the feelings and opinions of the Governors, both present and absent. This was that the thanks of the Committee and of the Governors be tendered to his Royal Highness, the President, for the very kind, generous, and admirable manner in which he had made his presentation. If anything could add to the pleasure which must have been felt by their excellent friend, Bro. Allcroft, at receiving the testimonial, it was that the presentation was made by his Royal Highness the President. He (the Alderman) thought he might venture to say that it was a source of great pleasure that his health had permitted him to be present upon this impressive occasion. The Rev. Sir E. G. Moon, Bart., as Vice President and Chairman of the Committee, seconded the vote of thanks. Alderman Sir B. S. Phillips put the motion, which was carried with acclamation. The Duke of Cambridge in responding, remarked on the kindly feeling of reciprocity which had always existed between the Governors and himself. He assured them he had a great feeling of attachment to every one of the Governors of the Hospital because they were Governors of the Hospital. As long as God enabled him to continue at the head of the Institution, he trusted he might have the valuable assistance and advice of the present Treasurer. He had never known one more faithful, zealous and conscientious than Mr. Allcroft. The testimonial, which had been provided by the individual subscriptions of the Governors, and quite apart from the funds of the Hospital, consisted, as already stated, of a three-quarter length portrait of the Treasurer, painted by Mr. Hubert Herkomer, A.R.A. This is an admirable likeness, and, coming from such an artist, it is superfluous to say it is painted with great skill and power. Mr. Allcroft is represented seated in an arm chair, looking straight in front of the picture. It is intended to send the portrait to the next Royal Academy Exhibition. The piece of plate consists in the first place of a base of polished ebony, measuring 15 inches by 14 inches. Upon this rises a polished silver pediment, upon which is reproduced the pinnacles outside the gates of the hospital, and each angle is one of the turrets. Upon the front is the coat of arms of the hospital, and at the back the coat of arms of Mr. Allcroft. Upon this three steps lead to a plinth, upon which stands a figure in frosted silver of Edward VI., the founder, whilst on each side are figures of a boy and girl in the ancient costume—which is still worn, so far as the boys are concerned—of the children of the hospital. Upon three sides of the plinths are bas reliefs of the dining hall, the writing school, and the grammar school, and upon the other is the inscription. The whole forms a very beautiful work of art, and reflects great credit upon the designers.—*City Press*.

FREEMASONS IN AMERICA.

THE following are Bro. Josiah H. Drummond's Masonic statistics for 1884, gathered from the latest Grand Lodge Proceedings:—

Grand Lodges.	Members.	Raised.
Alabama	7,878	380
Arizona	355	44
Arkansas	10,209	602
British Columbia	293	13
California	13,579	839
Canada	18,442	1,258
Colorado	2,918	276
Connecticut	13,912	508
Dakota	1,533	217
Delaware	1,378	52
District of Columbia	2,904	152
Florida	2,117	162
Georgia	10,355	504
Idaho	438	27
Illinois	14,007	2,233
Indiana	23,700	981
Indian Territory	533	73
Iowa	19,715	1,475
Kansas	11,353	864
Kentucky	15,565	887
Louisiana	4,199	153
Maine	19,650	772
Manitoba	1,092	176
Maryland	4,759	110
Massachusetts	26,533	1,216
Michigan	27,181	1,379
Minnesota	8,065	647
Mississippi	8,897	299
Missouri	24,594	1,122
Montana	939	63
Nebraska	4,417	464
Nevada	1,247	44
New Brunswick	1,961	104
New Hampshire	7,987	303
New Jersey	11,946	546
New Mexico	321	47
New York	70,700	3,682
North Carolina	8,065	310
Nova Scotia	2,801	192
Ohio	31,359	1,818
Oregon	2,981	162
Pennsylvania	35,829	1,881
P. E. Island	454	11
Quebec	2,840	200
Rhode Island	3,654	130
South Carolina	5,201	240
Tennessee	15,434	579
Texas	17,514	998
Utah	468	24
Vermont	7,739	351
Virginia	9,053	—
Washington	1,390	132
West Virginia	3,500	226
Wisconsin	11,903	664
Wyoming	384	80
Total	587,321	30,620

Last year the membership was 579,826, the raised 28,374, showing an increase of 7495, or 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the membership, and 2246, or almost 8 per cent. on the raised.—*Keystone*.

The annual rifle match between the two teams selected from the members of the South Middlesex Lodge, No. 852, and the London Rifle Brigade Lodge, No. 1962, took place at Rainham, on the 29th ult., and was won somewhat easily by the junior Lodge, led by Corporal N. Green; the South Middlesex team being led by Colour-Sergeant Hobbiss. After the match the two teams returned to town together, the visitors being entertained to supper by their brethren of the London Rifle Brigade, at headquarters, where a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Middlesex will be held to-day (Saturday), at the Athenæum, Enfield, under the presidency of R.W. Colonel Sir Francis Burdett, Bart., P.S.G.W. of England, the Provincial Grand Master. The agenda of business, which is of the usual routine character, contains a notice of motion by the Prov. G. Master that sums of fifteen guineas each be voted to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. At four o'clock the brethren will proceed to the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, where (by the kind permission of the Vicar) a service will be held. A banquet will be served at five o'clock, the fee for which is 8s 6d, exclusive of wine. We shall give a report of the proceedings in our next.

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 Meetings, &c., as we have decided to insert only those that are verified by the Officers of the several Lodges.

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SATURDAY, 2nd AUGUST.

General Committee Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4
198—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8 (Instruction)
1275—Star, Five Bells, 155 New Cross-road, S.E., at 7. (Instruction)
1364—Earl of Zetland, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7 (Instruction)
1624—Eccleston, Crown and Anchor, 79 Ebury Street, S.W., at 7 (Instruction)
St. Paul's Chapter of Improvement, Union, Air-street, Regent-st., W., at 8
140—Peace, Private Rooms, Meltham
303—Prince George, Private Rooms, Bottoms, Eastwood
1233—Amherst, King's Arms Hotel, Westerham, Kent

MONDAY, 4th AUGUST.

37—Anchor and Hope, Freemasons' Hall, Church Institute, Bolton-le-Moors
61—Probity, Freemasons' Hall, St. John's-place, Halifax
113—Unanimity, Bull Hotel, Preston
133—Harmony, Ship Hotel, Faversham
154—Unanimity, Masonic Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield
156—Harmony, Huyshe Masonic Temple, Plymouth
236—York, Masonic Hall, York
251—Loyal, Masonic Hall, Castle-street, Barnstaple
264—Nelson of the Nile, Freemasons' Hall, Batley
302—Hope, New Masonic Hall, Darley-street, Bradford
307—Prince Frederick, White Horse Hotel, Hadden Bridge
381—Harmony and Industry, Smalley's Hotel, Market street, Over Darwen
408—Three Graces, Private Rooms, Haworth
431—St. George, Masonic Hall, Norfolk-street, N. Shields
467—Tudor, Red Lion Hotel, Oldham
597—St. Cybi, Town Hall, Holyhead
613—Unity, Masonic Hall, Southport
850—St. Oswald, Town Hall, Ashbourne, Derbyshire
928—Friendship, Masonic Hall, Petersfield
1045—Stamford, Town Hall, Altrincham, Cheshire
1050—Gundulph, King's Head Hotel, Rochester
1108—Royal Wharfedale, Private Room, Boroughgate, Otley, Yorks
1180—Forward, Masonic Rooms, New Hall-street, Birmingham
1211—Goderich, Masonic Hall, Gt. George-street, Leeds
1239—Wentworth, Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield.
1264—Neptune, Masonic Hall, Liverpool.
1302—De Warren, Masonic Hall, White Swan Hotel, Halifax
1380—Skelmersdale, Queen's Hotel, Waterloo, Liverpool
1519—Albert Edward, Albion Hotel, Clayton-le-Moors, near Accrington
1542—Legionium, Masonic Hall, Carlton-street, Castleford
1573—Caradoc, Masonic Hall, Caer-street, Swansea
1575—Clive, Corbet Arms, Market Drayton
1578—Merlin, New Inn Hotel, Pontypridd, South Wales
1676—St. Nicholas, Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-street, Newcastle
1798—Zion, Hulme Town Hall, Manchester

R.A. 100—Friendship, Crown and Cushion, Great Yarmouth
R.A. 380—Integrity, Masonic Temple, Morley
R.A. 827—St. John, Masonic Temple, Halifax-road, Dewsbury
M.M. 9—Fortescue, Masonic Hall, South Molton, Devon
M.M. 12—Minerva, Masonic Hall, Prince Street, Hull
M.M. 53—Britannia, Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield

TUESDAY, 5th AUGUST.

Colonial Board, Freemasons' Hall, at 4
55—Constitutional, Bedford Hotel, Southampton-bldgs., Holborn, at 7 (Inst)
65—Prosperity, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction)
141—Faith, Queen Anne's Restaurant, Queen Anne's Gate, St. James's Park Station, at 8. (Instruction)
171—Amity, Ship Hotel, Greenwich
177—Domestic, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30 (Instruction)
189—Joppa, Champion Hotel, Aldersgate-street, at 7.30. (Instruction)
554—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney (Instruction)
753—Prince Frederick William, Eagle Tavern, Clifton Road, Maida Hill, at 8 (Instruction)
820—Lily of Richmond, Greyhound, Richmond, at 7.30 (Instruction)
840—Dahlousie, Sisters' Tavern, Pymall-road, Dalston, at 8 (Instruction)
1044—Wandsworth, East Hill Hotel, Alma Road, Wandsworth (Instruction)
1321—Emblematic, Red Lion, York Street, St. James's Square, S.W., at 8 (Inst.)
1349—Friars, Liverpool Arms, Canning Town, at 7.30 (Instruction)
1360—Royal Arthur, Rock Tavern, Battersea Park Road, at 8. (Instruction)
1381—Kennington, The Horns, Kennington. (Instruction)
1416—Mount Edgecumbe, 10 Jermyn-street, S.W., at 8 (Instruction)
1471—Islington, Champion, Aldersgate Street, at 7. (Instruction)
1472—Henley, Three Crowns, North Woolwich (Instruction)
1540—Chancer, Old White Hart, Borough High Street, at 8. (Instruction)
1601—Ravensbourne, George Inn, Lewisham, at 7.30 (Instruction)
1695—New Finsbury Park, Hornsey Wood Tavern, Finsbury Park, at 8 (Inst)
1707—Fleanor, Trocadero, Broad-street-buildings, Liverpool-street, 6.30 (Inst)
1949—Brixton, Prince Regent, Dulwich-road, East Brixton, at 8. (Instruction)
Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement, Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, 6.30, R.A.—Camden, The Boston, Junction Road, Holloway, at 8 (Instruction)
R.A. 1365—Clayton, White Hart Tavern, Clapton, at 8. (Instruction)

70—St. John, Huyshe Masonic Temple, Plymouth
103—Beaufort, Freemasons' Hall, Bristol.
120—Palladian, Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford.
124—Marquis of Granby, Freemasons' Hall, Old Elvet, Durham
128—Silent Temple, Cross Keys Inn, Burnley
158—Adams, Masonic Rooms, Victoria Hall, Trinity-road, Sheerness
226—Benevolence, Red Lion Hotel, Littleborough.
241—Merchants, Masonic Hall, Liverpool (Instruction)
248—True Love and Unity, Freemasons' Hall, Brixham, Devon.
265—Royal Yorkshire, Masonic Club, Hanover-street, Keighley
364—Cambrian, Masonic Hall, Neath.
393—St. David, Masons' Hall, The Parade, Berwick
558—Temple, Town Hall, Folkestone.
673—St. John, Masonic Hall, Liverpool.
734—Londesborough, Masonic Hall, Bridlington Quay.
779—Ferrers and Ivanhoe, Town Hall, Ashby-de-la-Zouch
804—Carnarvon, Masonic Hall, Havant.
847—Fortescue, Manor House, Honiton, Devon.
897—Loyalty, Fleece Inn, St. Helens, Lancashire
948—St. Barnabas, Masonic Room, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard
960—Bute, Masonic Hall, 9 Working-street, Cardiff.
996—Hesketh, Grapes Inn, Croston
995—Furness, Masonic Hall, Ulverston.
1002—Skiddaw, Lodge Room, Market-place, Cockermouth.
1134—Newall, Freemasons' Hall, Salford.
1214—Scarborough, Scarborough Hall, Caledonia-road, Batley
1241—Marwood, Freemasons' Hall, Redcar.
1310—Harrow, King's Head, Harrow.
1322—Waverley, Caledonia Inn, Ashton-under-Lyne.
1343—St. John's Lodge, King's Arms, Grays, Essex
1473—Bootle, 146 Berry-street, Bootle, at 6. (Instruction.)
1750—Coleridge, Sandringham House, Clevedon.
1970—Hadrian, Freemasons' Hall, South Shields

R.A. 203—St. John of Jerusalem, Masonic Hall, Liverpool.
R.A. 681—Scarsdale, Masonic Hall, Chesterfield.
R.A. 784—Wellington, Public Rooms, Park-street, Deal
R.A. 938—Grosvenor, Masonic Hall, New Street Birmingham
R.A. 1133—Devon, Masonic Hall, Devon Square, Newton Abbey
M.M. 161—Walton, Skelmersdale Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, Liverpool

WEDNESDAY, 6th AUGUST.

Grand Chapter, Freemasons' Hall, at 6
3—Fidelity, Alfred, Roman Road, Barnsbury, at 8 (Instruction)
30—United Mariners', The Lugard, Peckham, at 7.30. (Instruction)
73—Mount Lebanon, Windsor Castle, Southwark Bridge Road, at 8. (Inst)
186—Industry, Railway Hotel, West Hampstead, at 7. (Instruction)
193—Confidence, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, at 7.30 (Instruction)
223—United Strength, Prince Alfred, 13 Crownale-rd., Camden-town, 8 (Inst)
538—La Tolerance, Morland's Hotel, Dean Street, Oxford St. at 8 (Inst)
720—Panmure, Balham Hotel, Balham, at 7 (Instruction)
781—Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, E. (Instruction)
913—New Concord, Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road, N. (Instruction)
861—Finsbury, King and Queen, Norton Folgate, E.C., at 7.30 (Instruction)
862—Whittington, Red Lion, Ponnin's-court, Fleet-street, at 8 (Instruction)
902—Burgoyne, Victoria Hotel, Farringdon Road, at 7. (Instruction)
1278—Burdett Coutts, Duke's Head, 79 Whitechapel Road, E., at 8. (Inst.)
1289—Finsbury Park, Cock Tavern, Highbury, at 8 (Instruction)
1475—Peckham, Lord Wellington Hotel, 518 Old Kent-road, at 8. (Instruction)
1524—Duke of Connaught, Royal Edward, Mare-street, Hackney, at 8 (Inst)
1604—Wanderers, Adam and Eve Tavern, Palmer St., Westminster, at 7.30 (Inst)
1682—Beaconsfield, Chequers, Marsh Street, Walthamstow, at 7.30 (Inst.)
1681—Londesborough, Berkeley Arms, John Street, May Fair, at 8. (Inst.)
1791—Creton, Prince Albert Tavern, Portobello-ter., Notting-hill-gate (Inst.)
1922—Earl of Lathom, Station Hotel, Camberwell New Road, S.E., at 8. (Inst.)
R.A. 177—Domestic, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st., at 8 (Instruction)
M.M.—Thistle, Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, at 8 (Instruction)

74—Athol, Masonic Hall, Severn-street, Birmingham
125—Prince Edwin, White Hart Hotel, Hythe, Kent
128—Prince Edwin, Bridge Inn, Bolton-street, Bury, Lancashire
258—Amphibious, Freemasons' Hall, Heckmondwike
274—Tranquillity, Boar's Head Inn, Newchurch, near Manchester
277—Friendship, Freemasons' Hall, Union-street, Oldham
290—Huddersfield, Masonic Hall, South Parade, Huddersfield
298—Harmony, Masonic Rooms, Ann-street, Rochdale
326—Moira, Freemasons' Hall, Park-street, Bristol
363—Keystone, New Inn, Whitworth.
380—Integrity, Masonic Temple, Commercial-street, Morley, near Leeds
387—Airedale, Masonic Hall, Westgate, Shipley
406—Northern Counties, Freemasons' Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne
417—Faith and Unanimity, Masonic Hall, Dorchester
580—Harmony, Wheat Sheaf, Ormskirk
594—Downshire, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7. (Instruction)
625—Devonshire, Norfolk Hotel, Glossop
645—Humphrey Chetham, Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street, Manchester.
673—St. John, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 8. (Instruction)
678—Earl Ellesmere, Church Hotel, Kersley, Farnworth, near Bolton.
838—Franklin, Peacock and Royal Hotel, Boston
910—St. Oswald, Masonic Hall, Ropergate, Pontefract
972—St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Canterbury. (Instruction)
992—St. Thomas, Griffin Hotel, Lower Broughton
1013—Royal Victoria, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
1037—Portland, Portland Hall, Portland. (Instruction.)
1063—Malling Abbey, Bear Inn, West Malling, Kent
1085—Hartington, Masonic Hall, Gower-street, Derby
1091—Erme, Erme House, Ivybridge, Devon
1167—Alnwick, Masonic Hall, Clayport-street, Alnwick
1206—Cinque Ports, Bell Hotel, Sandwich
1274—Earl of Durham, Freemasons' Hall, Chester-le-Street
1323—Talbot, Masonic Rooms, Wind-street, Swansea
1335—Lindsay, 20 King-street, Wigan
1354—Marquis of Lorne, Masonic Rooms, Leigh, Lancashire
1356—De Grey and Ripon, 140 North Hill Street, Toxteth Park, Liverpool
1363—Tyndall, Town Hall, Chipping Sodbury, Gloucester
1431—St. Alphege, George Hotel, Solihull
1511—Alexandra, Hornsea, Hull (Instruction)
1549—Abercorn, Abercorn Hotel, Great Stanmore.
1620—Marlborough, Derby Hall, Tue Brook, Liverpool
1645—Colne Valley, Lewisham Hotel, Slithwaite
1692—Hervey, George Hotel, Hayes
1903—Prince Edward of Saxe Weimar, Masonic Hall, Portsmouth
R.A. 126—Nativity, Cross Keys Inn, Burnley
R.A. 221—St. John, Commercial Hotel, Town Hall Square, Bolton
R.A. 409—Stortford, Chequers Inn, Bishop's Stortford
M.M. 36—Furness, Hartington Hotel, Duke-street, Barrow-in-Furness

THURSDAY, 7th AUGUST.

27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7.30 (Instruction)
87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth, at 8 (Instruction)
147—Justice, Brown Bear, High Street, Deptford, at 8. (Instruction)
435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8 (Inst.)
704—Camdon, Lincoln's Inn Restaurant, 305 High Holborn, at 7 (Instruction)
742—Crystal Palace, Crystal Palace, Sydenham
751—High Cross, Coach and Horses, Lower Tottenham, at 8 (Instruction)
901—City of London, Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, at 6.30. (Instruction)
1158—Southern Star, Pheasant, Stangate, Westminster-bridge, at 8 (Inst.)
1195—Lewis, Kings Arms Hotel, Wood Green, at 7 (Instruction)
1339—Stockwell, Cock Tavern, Kennington-road, at 7.30 (Instruction)
1426—The Great City, Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue, E.C., at 6.30 (Inst.)
1549—D. Connaught, Palmerston Arms, Grosvenor Park, Camberwell, at 8 (Inst.)
1614—Covent Garden, Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden Lane, W.C., at 8. (Inst.)
1673—Langton, Mansion House Station Restaurant, E.C., at 8. (Instruction)
1677—Crusaders, Old Jerusalem Tav., St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, at 9 (Inst.)
1745—Royal Savoy, Yorkshire Grey, London Street, W., at 8 (Instruction)
1950—Southgate, Railway Hotel, New Southgate, at 7.30 (Instruction)

R.A. 753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (Inst.)
R.A. 1471—North London, Alwyne Castle Tavern, St. Paul's Road, Canonbury, at 8. (Instruction)

M.M. 109—Duke of Connaught, Haverlock, Albion-rd., Dalston, at 8. (Inst.)

21—Newcastle-on-Tyne, Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-st., Newcastle.
123—Lennox, Freemasons' Hall, Richmond, Yorkshire
215—Commerce, Commercial Hotel, Haslingden
249—Mariners, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
266—Naphthali, Masonic Hall, Market-place, Haywood
269—Fidelity, White Bull Hotel, Blackburn
289—Fidelity, Masonic Hall, Carlton-hill, Leeds
294—Constitutional, Assembly Rooms, Beverley, Yorks
295—Combermere Union, Macclesfield Arms, Macclesfield
300—Minerva, Pitt and Nelson, Ashton-under-Lyne
317—Affability, Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street, Manchester.
346—United Brethren, Royal Oak Inn, Clayton-le-Dale, near Blackburn
369—Limestone Rock, Masonic Hall, Church-street, Clitheroe
419—St. Peter, Star and Garter Hotel Wolverhampton.
432—Abbey, Newdegate Arms, Nuneaton
446—Benevolent, Town Hall, Wells, Somersetshire.
456—Foresters, White Hart Hotel, Uttoxeter
462—Bank Terrace, Hargreaves Arms Hotel, Accrington
509—Tees, Freemasons' Hall, Stockton, Durham.
637—Portland, Masonic Rooms, Town Hall, Stoke-upon-Trent.
792—Pelham Pillar, Masonic Hall, Bullring-lane, Great Grimsby
971—Trafalgar, Private Room, Commercial Street, Batley
974—Pentalpha, New Masonic Hall, Darley-street, Bradford
976—Royal Clarence, Blue Ball, Bruton, Somerset

1083—Royal Edward, Commercial Inn, Stalybridge
 1182—Duke of Edinburgh, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 1231—Savile, Royal Hotel, Eland
 1282—Ancholme, Foresters' Hall, Brigg, Lincolnshire
 1284—Brent, Globe Hotel, Topsham, Devonshire
 1384—Equity, Alford Chambers, Widnes
 1500—Walpole, Bell Hotel, Norwich
 1504—Red Rose of Lancaster, Starkie's Arms Hotel, Padiham, near Burnley
 1514—Thornhill, Ma-onic Room, Dearn House, Lindley
 1580—Cranbourne, Red Lion Hotel, Hatfield, Herts, at 8. (Instruction)
 1587—St. Giles, Royal Oak Hotel, Cheadle
 1780—Old England, Masonic Hall, New Thornton Heath
 1807—Loyal Wye, Buihl, Breconshire
 1820—Burrell, George Hotel, Shoreham
 R.A. 187—Charity, Freemasons' Hall, Park Street, Bristol
 R.A. 496—Mount Edgcumbe, Masonic Rooms, St. Austell
 R.A. 581—Rectitude, Corporation Hotel, Tipping-st., Ardwick, Openshaw, Man.
 R.A. 587—Howe, Masonic Hall, New Street, Birmingham
 R.A. 758—Bridgewater, Freemasons' Hall, Runcorn, Cheshire

FRIDAY, 8th AUGUST.

Emulation Lodge of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.

25—Robert Burns, The North Pole, 115 Oxford-street, W., at 8 (Instruc.)
 144—St. Luke, White Hart, King's-road, Chelsea, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 507—United Pilgrims, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Instruc.)
 786—William Preston, St. Andrew's Tavern, George St., Baker St., at 8. (In.)
 834—Ranelagh, Six Bells, Hammernsmith (Instruction)
 933—Doric, Duke's Head, 79 Whitechapel-road, at 8. (Instruction)
 1056—Metropolitan, Portugal Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C. at 7. (Instruction)
 1158—Belgrave, Jermyn-street, S.W., at 8. (Instruction)
 1288—Royal Standard, Alwyne Castle, St. Paul's-road, Canonbury, at 8. (In.)
 1385—Clapton, White Hart, Lower Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 1842—E. Carnarvon, Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill, at 8. (Instruction)
 1716—All Saints, Town Hall, Poplar
 1789—Ubique, Guardsman Army Coffee Tavern, Buckingham Palace-road S.W., at 7.30. (Instruction)
 1901—Selwyn, East Dulwich Hotel, East Dulwich. (Instruction)

R.A.—Panmure C. of Improvement, Stirling Castle, Church Street, Camberwell
 R.A. 79—Pythagorean, Portland Hotel, London-street, Greenwich. (Inst.)
 R.A. 95—Eastern Star Chapter of Improvement, Hercules Tav., Leadenhall St.
 M.M.—Old Kent, Crown and Cushion, London Wall, E.C. (Instruction)

36—Glamorgan, Freemasons' Hall, Arcade, St. Mary's-street, Cardiff.
 401—Royal Forest, Hark to Bounty Inn, Slaidburn
 453—Chigwell, Loughton Tavern, Station Road, Loughton, at 7.30 (Inst)
 458—Aire and Calder, Private Rooms, Ouse-street, Goolse.
 480—Sutherland of Unity, Castle Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyme
 528—Honour, Star and Garter Hotel, Wolverhampton
 552—Holme Valley, Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth
 582—Dartmouth, Dartmouth Hotel, West Bromwich
 697—United, George Hotel Colchester.
 1001—Harrogate and Claro, Masonic Rooms, Parliament-street, Harrogate
 1034—Eccleshill, Freemasons' Hall, Eccleshill
 1087—Beauesert, Assembly Rooms, Corn Exchange, Leighton Buzzard
 1102—Mirfield, Assembly Rooms, Eastthorpe, Mirfield
 1121—Wear Valley, Masonic Hall, Bishop Auckland
 General Lodge of Instruction, Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham, at 7
 R.A. 81—Royal York, Private Rooms, Doric Place, Woodbridge
 R.A. 406—De Sussex, Masonic Hall, Maple Street, Newcastle
 K.T.—Hope, Freemasons' Hall, Huddersfield

SATURDAY, 9th AUGUST.

198—Percy, Jolly Farmers', Southgate Road, N., 8. (Instruction)
 1275—Star, Five Bells, 155 New Cross-road, S.E., at 7. (Instruction)
 1384—Earl of Zetland, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7. (Instruction)
 1624—Kceleston, Crown and Anchor, 79 Ebury Street, S.W., at 7 (Instruction)
 1685—Guelph, Red Lion, Leytonstone
 Sinai Chapter of Improvement, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8
 R.A. 1185—Lewis, King's Arms Hotel, Wood Green
 1637—Unity, Abercorn Hotel, Great Stanmore
 1929—Mozart, Harwood House, High Street, Croydon
 M.M. 14—Prince Edward's, Station Hotel, Stansfield, Todmorden

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

ABBAY LODGE, No. 2030.

AN emergency meeting was held at the Westminster Town Hall, on Monday, 28th ult., under the presidency of the Worshipful Master, Bro. Burdett-Contts; Bros. Spink I.P.M., Baker S.W., J. A. Jones J.W. (in the absence of Bro. Hunt P.M.), Gibson S.D., Montague J.D., P.M. Shand Secretary, Roger Treasurer, Rev. R. J. Simpson Chaplain, H. Baker I.G., C. C. Piper Steward, Walkley Tyler. Visitors—Bros. Spcon P.M. 1420, Wynman 188, Smallpeice P.M. 969, Charles D. Hume 209 742 P.P.G.D.C. Berks and Bucks, Perkins 720, W. Lloyd 145, George Grand 172, &c. After preliminaries, Bros. John Hayler, Henry Hambling, Frank B. Wyatt, William E. Wood, and John H. Montague were passed to the second degree; Bros. Wheeler, Browne, Martin, Mainwaring, Dunstan, and Smith, candidates for raising, were examined and entrusted, and afterwards raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons. Lodge was resumed in the first degree, and Messrs. A. Talbot, Charles Davies, W. G. Holland, John Douglas Dick, and George Dexter, were initiated. All the ceremonies were performed in the most accurate and impressive manner; after other business had been disposed of, the Lodge was closed in peace and harmony, and the brethren adjourned to a neat repast. Grace having been said by Bro. the Rev. R. J. Simpson P.G.C., the usual Masonic toasts were honoured. The health of the W.M. was proposed by the I.P.M., and accepted by the brethren with enthusiasm. The W.M. responded in a most satisfactory manner. The toast of the evening, that of the Initiates, came next on the list, and best wishes were expressed for their future prosperity. In reply, the Initiates thanked the W.M. for the courtesy shown them. The toast of the Visitors was responded to by all present. Bros. Hume and Smallpeice expressed their admiration at the excellent working of the W.M. in conducting the three degrees; the toast of the P.M.'s was cheerfully greeted, and then the Officers were complimented. The Tyler brought a most pleasant evening to a close. The Lodge now stands adjourned to the second week in October.

Hyde Park Lodge of Instruction, No. 1425.—A meeting was held on 28th July at the Fountain's Abbey Hotel,

111 Praed Street, Paddington, W. Present—Bros. C. Andrews P.M. 77 W.M., F. T. C. Keeble W.M. 1426 S.W., C. E. Botley W.M. 1996 J.W., G. Read P.M. 511 P.Z. Preceptor and Treas., H. Dehaene I.P.M. 1513 P.P.G.S.D. Essex Sec., J. Stevens P.M. 720 P.Z. S.D., F. Bouley J.D., C. S. Mote I.G., W. H. Chalfont I.P.M. 1425 Steward. Past Masters Bros. Geo. Davis P.M. 167 P.Z., Capt. A. Nicols P.M. 1974 P.Z. P.P.G.S. of W. Panjab, M. S. Spiegel P.M. 188, J. Higgins P.M. 1732 1381 P.Z. Visitors—Bros. P. G. N. Goldney 40 St. John's G.R.C., J. Brotheridge 1649 2021, J. Davis 169, A. Turner 1818. The Lodge was opened in duo form, and the minutes were read and confirmed. The Lodge was opened in the second and third degree, and resumed to the second. The first and second sections were worked by Bro. Davis, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Cursons was examined and entrusted; Lodge resumed to third degree when the ceremony of raising was rehearsed. Lodge closed to the first degree. Bro. P. G. N. Goldney, 40, St. John's Hamilton, was unanimously elected an honorary member. Bro. Higgins was elected a member. A vote of thanks to Bro. Andrews was recorded for the admirable manner he had performed the duties of W.M. The Lodge was closed and adjourned until 11th August, when Bro. Chandler will be W.M.

Justice Lodge of Instruction, No. 147.—On Thursday, 31st ult., at the Brown Bear, High Street, Deptford. Present—Bros. R. T. Stringer W.M., J. Bedford Williams S.W., Pitt J.W., S. R. Speight P.M. Sec., W. T. Hunt jun. S.D., Coen J.D., Catt I.G. Past Master Bro. J. J. Hutchings (Preceptor), and Bros. Penrose, Lewis, H. C. Freeman, and Emblin. Business—The Lodge was opened, and after confirmation of minutes the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Penrose candidate. Lodge was opened in the second and third degrees, and called off. On resuming, Bro. Stringer vacated the chair, which was taken by Bro. Hurst, who rehearsed the ceremony of raising, Bro. Catt personating the candidate. The Lodge was resumed in the first degree, and routine business transacted.

The Summer Entertainment to the annuitants resident in the buildings of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution was given at Croydon on Wednesday, when the Secretary of the Institution (Bro. Terry), Mrs. and Miss Terry, the House Committee, and several of the subscribers and friends of the Institution, both ladies and gentlemen, went down by special saloon carriage on the South-Eastern Railway, and assisted in contributing to the enjoyment of the Old People for a few hours. The weather was fine, and the company had an opportunity of strolling in the pretty grounds of the Institution. They also visited the annuitants at their homes before entering on the entertainment in the large hall. As usual, the proceedings, the expense of which is defrayed by subscriptions apart from the funds of the Institution, were very successful. The party broke up shortly after ten o'clock.

A strongly representative meeting of brethren was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday, the object being to present to Sir John B. Monckton, till lately, and for a period of ten years, President of the Board of General Purposes, a testimonial in recognition of his great services in that capacity. The chair was taken by Bro. Ralph Clutton, Vice-President of the Board, and among those present were Colonel Clerke G. Sec., Sir Albert Woods G.D. of C., Frank Richardson P.G.D., J. L. Mather, &c., &c. The testimonial consisted of a handsome silver punch bowl, accompanied by a suitable address on vellum, beautifully illuminated. We sincerely congratulate Bro. Sir J. B. Monckton on this testimony to his eminent abilities, it being the more significant from the fact of the principal promoters and contributors having been colleagues of the Past President.

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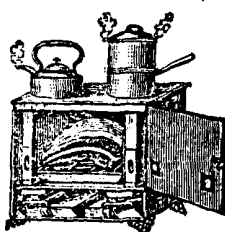
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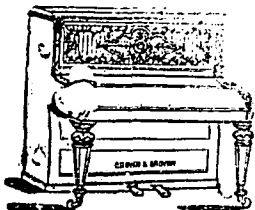
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