

THE Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England.

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PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR.

THE coming of age of the eldest son and heir of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales was an event which on Thursday last stirred the hearts of loyal Englishmen everywhere; and although the festivities at the pleasant country palace of the Heir Apparent were kept as private and quiet as had been desired, there nevertheless poured in congratulations of the most loyal and sincere description from all parts of the country and abroad. Especially to us, as Masons, is the event interesting, seeing that it has brought a period of happiness to our Most Worshipful Grand Master such as is hailed in every domestic circle as an exceptionally important one, more particularly in the homes of the noble and the great, where property, title, and responsibilities follow in the line of succession. In addition to the addresses which poured into Sandringham House, on Thursday, from the City of London and many other corporate, educational and other public bodies, we note that a vast number of presents were sent to the young Prince, congratulating him upon having attained his majority, and perhaps amongst them all none was more pathetic or touching than the graceful gift forwarded by our centenarian brother Sir Moses Montefiore, who was but recently the recipient of many similar expressions of felicitation. The evidences of pride and pleasure which have been manifested in all parts of the realm, from the palaces at Osborne, Windsor and Balmoral, to the lowliest cottage where loyalty finds a home, must have been of a most gratifying character to Her Majesty the Queen and the other members of the Royal Family, who will discern in them the assurance—if, indeed, any such were necessary—of the deep seated affection of a vast majority of Englishmen for the reigning House, and of fidelity to the Throne. In every Masonic Lodge that assembled on Thursday evening we may be sure that these sentiments found the most genuine and fervent expression from Worshipful Masters in submitting the toasts which always take precedence at the banquet-table; and fully remembering the august patronage which Her Majesty has extended to the Craft, over which the Heir Apparent, and father of the illustrious young Prince who on that day attained to years of maturity, we may be sure that the health of our Most Worshipful Grand Master was received with even greater cordiality than is its wont, and that is saying a good deal for a body of men over whom the Prince of Wales exercises supreme rule and sway. No doubt in due course Grand Lodge will formally add its tribute of congratulation to those which have been showered in from all sides; and it might have been considered more graceful and fitting had this been done in time for the communication to have reached our Most Worshipful Grand Master on the auspicious day. However, there are no doubt cogent reasons why this was not so; and when it does come, there can be little question that the felicitations offered by the Grand Lodge of English Freemasons to their illustrious Head will be as cordial and sincere as any that have preceded them. We are reminded that this is the first time in the history of our nation that the eldest son of a Prince of Wales has attained man's estate whilst the grand parent still sat upon the Throne; so that to Her Majesty must have come a sense of deep and glad gratitude towards the Great Architect of the Universe, who has permitted her to see the line of her dynasty thus firmly founded

amid the love of her people and the prosperity of her dominions. Our Most Worshipful Grand Master and his illustrious and beloved consort will experience in this event those tender emotions of pleasure which all parents feel when the first-born of the household emerges from boyhood into manhood, and enters upon the duties and responsibilities of maturity. We can but echo the sentiments expressed by one of our daily contemporaries when it says it would be ground enough for general satisfaction merely to recognise and to participate in this domestic happiness of the two Royal Households—happiness understood everywhere by a home-loving people, everywhere appreciated and applauded. The realm itself, however, takes a special and important part in the rejoicings of the day; every household in it, from the proudest to the humblest, participates in the fair omens of this birthday, and derives from its presage promise of good times to come for the continuance of the national greatness and security. Along with the amiable youth who has just attained his majority a whole new generation of British boyhood is ripening into manhood. Prince Albert Victor represents the third generation of the Victorian era, and, under the blessing of Almighty God, no better pledge could be granted for the stability of our ancient institutions than to witness the Queen still happily ruling those who acclaimed her coronation, the Heir-apparent in the second degree strengthening her throne by his well-deserved popularity and admirable fidelity to manifold and difficult duties, and beyond both, just entering upon public life, the Heir Designate to the splendid sceptre of Britannia learning henceforward, day after day, to know the people of his nation and to become known by them. Like a majestic river, springing from far-off sources and flowing down to an unseen and as yet long-distant issue, the stream of English history runs broad, placid and powerful before our eyes. Its noble channel is visible for the next three reaches; the volume of its widening waters pours onward without diminution through a clear and happy landscape. A rock of difficulty may now and then break its current into turmoil; an eddy of receding fortune may produce a back-water here or there; but the river sweeps stedfastly on, fed by fresh tributaries of power and wealth, while its banks widen and become more and more enriched and embellished as it fulfils its vast purpose and proud destiny. So we behold to-day the British Empire, nobler than its children know, stronger than its enemies dream, not yet arrived, nor nearly arrived, please Heaven, at that allotted term when nations, like men, must decay and die, bequeathing their task to greater and later descendants. Never in any age or nation was liberty so assured or perfect as it is now in England; never were individual rights so sacred, or the accepted law so supreme. The coming of age festivities on Thursday, therefore, were no mere palace feast day, but an occasion of thankfulness for the whole nation, which shows us the third generation of our Royal line thus substantially established, and the Queen's grandson arrived at man's estate, and learning from his illustrious father, and from the well-beloved Sovereign, by what qualities a throne is strengthened and perpetuated. The Masonic world, spread over the whole surface of the habitable globe, will re-echo these sentiments of affection for the illustrious Ruler who sways the sceptre of the Craft, as he will, in the Providence of God, some day the sceptre of the Realm; and they will with one acclamation endorse the expressions of loyalty and fealty which have been breathed in every

corner of Her Majesty's dominions, in connection with the happy event which has this week evoked such an overflow of love and spontaneous felicitation from one end of the kingdom to the other.

THE APPROACHING FESTIVAL OF THE R.M.B.I.

BEARING in mind the old adage that "Familiarity breeds contempt," we had almost felt constrained at the commencement of what we may designate another term in our existence to depart from a custom which has become a time-honoured one with us—that of making a special appeal on behalf of each Masonic Charity Institution Festival as it approaches. We feel, however, there are many reasons why we should continue to observe the custom, and say a few words concerning each of the succeeding meetings, the success of which so materially depend on the amount of publicity which is given to them. As we have said, the custom has become a time-honoured one with us, and on that account ought not to be discontinued, more especially after what we said last week, when we announced our determination to carry on our work in the future on much the same lines as have guided us in the past, but there are much stronger reasons why we should not omit a passing reference to each of the Masonic Festivals in turn. They come upon us so frequently, however, that it is next to impossible to write anything new concerning them, and for this reason we feared we might cause that contempt for them in our readers' minds which arises from too great a familiarity; but we hope the nature of the cause they are intended to benefit will prevent anything like contempt being engendered. It might, perhaps, be considered that enough has been said concerning our three Institutions and their Festivals to place every brother in possession of full information concerning them; and that for a time, at least, they might be expected to go on prospering on the reputation of the past alone, but what a different state of affairs is really the true one. We venture to think that, even bearing in mind the enormous number of brethren who have made themselves personally acquainted with the Charities, by serving the office of Steward to one or other of them; the enormous number of brethren who must have supported them in the past; and the thousands of printed references to them which have been circulated during the time of their existence; they would all but disappear in the course of a few years if left wholly and solely to themselves, left to live indeed on their reputation of the past. The only way in which it can be hoped to continue them even on their present basis alone, without any thought of extension, is to be continually urging their claims on the Masons of England, by begging of those who have worked in the past to continue to do so in the future, and by entreating others to at once make a start in securing support for them.

There is one great advantage attached to the system under which the funds are collected to carry on our Charities. It seldom happens—indeed, we might say never—that a brother repents having put himself forward as a Steward. We suppose that by far the greater number of those who serve themselves feel it their duty to induce others to do the same; it is not a question of relating personal experiences in order to deter others from a similar course, but usually the reverse. The men who speak strongest in urging others to act as Stewards are those who have tried the work themselves, and not unfrequently have tried it two or three times. They do not then refer to it as a labour, but as a duty, and in that sense consider that every Mason should undertake his share of it. It is on this basis that we now urge our readers to do their best to advance the interests of the Benevolent Institution, the Festival of which takes place on the 25th of next month.

It is true that much has been done for this Institution in the past, and what do we find is the result of this:—briefly, that the Masons of England are pledged to distribute no less a sum than £13,200 per annum as annuities to aged brethren and widows who have been elected from among numerous applicants who have proved themselves worthy of sympathy from their more fortunate brethren. Upwards of 1027 annuitants have received the benefits of the Institution since its foundation in 1842, and there are at present no less than 352 (170 Men and 182

Widows) being paid, quarter by quarter, sums of money which enable them to pass the declining years of their life, if not in luxury, at least in comfort and free from actual want. Is it too much to ask for sufficient support to enable this good work to be continued? Is it too much to ask every reader of these lines to do something for the funds of this Institution? or are our frequent appeals on behalf of it out of place or unnecessary? To each question we answer most emphatically in the negative. Nothing that we can do is too much if it only helps to secure a few pounds on behalf of our Old People, and nothing that our readers may do in response to our request will be too much recompense to us for what we write. Our desire is that the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution should be supported far and wide, that its claims should be urged on every possible occasion, and that its wants, its work and its requirements may become familiar to every Mason, not in order to breed contempt for them, but to secure for them that encouragement they so richly deserve.

AN EXCELLENT LODGE HISTORY.

EVERY one of our old Lodges has, in its series of minute books, information of deep interest and lasting value to the Craft, and every Brother who patiently and critically examines these old records, selecting from them the facts that are most curious and instructive, and composing them into a literary mosaic, merits the thanks of the Fraternity. In a large degree the history of any old Lodge is the history of the Craft in its jurisdiction, for the time covered by the recital. Customs and events are generally uniform, and from one Lodge history you may largely learn that of its contemporaries. We have recently had laid upon our table a volume, in handsome form, entitled, "A Brief History of Washington Lodge, No. 59, F. & A. M., Philadelphia, from 1793 to 1884, compiled from the records, and authenticated sources of information, by P.M. Brother William B. Reed," the present Secretary of the Lodge. Although brief, the material for it has been admirably digested, and bears upon its face the evidence of protracted and intelligent labour. No one who has not undertaken such a work appreciates the drudgery of going over old books of minutes, written in all sorts of chirography, with all kinds of ink, blurred by carelessness, pale with age, and occasionally worn out by time. Hence, those who perform this work, and do it well, are entitled to receive not only fair credit, but unstinted praise. Such we accord to Bro. Reed. We are sure that the only criticism he will receive will be—Your history is too brief; why did you not make it fuller? But brevity is a virtue; it is far better to stimulate than to satiate. The cry for more is praise; the cry, enough, would be censure.

Washington Lodge, No. 59, was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania during the Grand Mastership of Bro. Jonathan Bayard Smith, on 3rd June 1793—yellow fever year in Philadelphia, when Bro. Stephen Girard distinguished himself, and glorified Masonry, by remaining in the city to minister in the hospitals, while others fled the scourge. The Lodge then met in what was known as the "Free Quakers' Hall" (now the Apprentices' Library), S.W. corner of Fifth and Arch Streets. Among the first members were a number of the "Free" or "Fighting Quakers." This Lodge was prosperous from the outset. In four years its membership advanced from 9 to 97. It participated in the Washington obsequies in 1799-1800. In after years it was practically the mother of many Lodges. We instance a few which were formed, mainly or entirely, out of its membership: Columbia Lodge, No. 91; St. John's Lodge, No. 115; Orient Lodge, No. 289; Vaux Lodge, No. 393, and Lodge No. 432. While the Lodge occupied the "Pennsylvania Freemasons' Hall" (on the site of modern No. 814 Filbert Street), one of its members—Bro. Chas. S. Stewart, occupied the first floor of the Hall for a school room, and by contract with the Grand Lodge it was agreed that the education of the children of poor Brethren should be in lieu of rent. During the war of 1812 this Masonic pedagogue, in the language of Bro. Reed, "tired of teaching the 'young idea how to shoot,' resolved to do a little shooting on his own account. He returned safe and sound, and was appointed Secretary in 1816." One of the

Secretaries of the Lodge was Bro. Bayse Newcomb, afterwards Grand Master of Masons of Pennsylvania. The recorded minutes, during his Secretaryship, are remarkable for their legibility and beauty. On 31st May 1810, the Lodge attended the funeral of P.G.M. Bro. William Ball, who served as Prov. G.M. of Pennsylvania from 1764 to 1787, and in 1794 as Grand Master. As in all of our Philadelphia Lodges, for many years, until 1817, the W.M.'s were elected every six months, dating from St. John the Evangelist's or St. John the Baptist's Day. The first Masonic Hall on Chestnut Street was burned on 9th March 1819, while Washington Lodge was at Labour. The then Secretary, Bro. Nicholas O'Connor, in describing the event said:

"At this moment the Lodge was thrown into the utmost consternation by the heart-appalling cry of "Fire," resounding through the spacious building, which had caught fire and communicated to the roof, and had made such rapid progress before discovery that the W.M. had not time to close the Lodge, without risking the life of the brethren—for in a short time our much-venerated pile was laid in smoking ruins."

No. 69 set up "housekeeping" in 1822, by buying a set of table furniture. Ever since, this Lodge has been furnished with its own appropriately marked and Masonically-decorated ware, the admiration of all Brethren who share in their Labour and Refreshment—which with them are never divorced. Their present set of table furniture is valued at 800 dollars. Up to 1843 all the business of the Lodge had been conducted in an E.A. Lodge, as was customary prior to that time in all of the Subordinate Lodges of this jurisdiction. After that date the Grand Lodge required all business to be performed in a M.M. Lodge. In 1844, the then Secretary of the Lodge, Bro. Wm. H. Adams, was elected Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, and served in that station for twenty-two years, until his death in 1866. In 1847 a M.M. aged *nineteen years* petitioned for membership, and the Lodge, by a Dispensation issued by the Grand Master, was authorized to receive his petition. Bro. Wm. H. Adams' case was nearly a parallel one, and both of these Brethren served as W.M. of Lodge No. 59 at the age of twenty-three years. Upon the removal of the remains of Bro. Stephen Girard to Girard College, on 30th September 1851, this Lodge participated in the procession of the Craft and Masonic ceremonies, on which occasion P.G.M. Bro. Joseph R. Chandler delivered an eloquent oration, and thirty Lodges, with two thousand Freemasons, participated in the ceremonies. Always remarkable for its liberality at Refreshment, the annual banquet of December 1869 excelled, perhaps, all former occasions in brilliancy, over eight hundred members and visiting Brethren participating in the "feast of reason and flow of soul." This banquet took place in Horticultural Hall.

Washington Lodge, No. 59, now includes four hundred and seven members. It is always busy, and during its long existence has never ceased to work. During the anti-Masonic era of 1828—1840 it was active, and only during one year, 1840, did it have no initiation. Among the Past Masters we observe the names of the Rev. Henry S. Getz (present Grand Chaplain); Dr. David Jayne; Hon. William B. Hanna, President Judge of the Orphans' Court; Hon. Joseph T. Pratt, of the Court of Common Pleas; Geo. W. Kendrick jun. G. H. Priest-elect of the Grand H.R.A. Chapter of Pennsylvania, and other distinguished Brethren. Bro. Reed has placed at the close of this volume a list of the present members, alphabetically arranged; a complete list of the members from the organization in 1793 to 1884, arranged in order, by years; and an enumeration of the deceased members; concluding with an index to the body of the work. We have only praise for the entire performance. It is illustrated with three engravings—of the first Hall in which the Lodge met, the present Masonic Temple of Philadelphia, with the appropriate caption "Then" and "Now," and a copy of the old illustrated heading used for Lodge notices. This History is issued in very handsome style, on heavy paper, with broad margin, in handsome typography and with elegant binding. It is a model brief history, and does equal credit to the Lodge, and to its compiler, P.M. Bro. Wm. B. Reed.—*Keystone.*

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 THEATRES.

THE STANDARD.

HAD le Sieur Froissart, revisiting our land, found himself on Christmas Eve between Norton Folgate and Shoreditch Church he would certainly not have withdrawn his opinion as to our amusing ourselves "sadly." The great winter festival found the streets half deserted—and those who had ventured into them went their way as demurely as though it were Sunday morning, and all were bound for the Parish Church. Not an old-fashioned Christmas in any way unless all our traditions are mere picturesque fictions. Thus, nothing Christmas-like being discoverable out of doors, we will seek it in the Eastern home of Pantomime, and so proceed to the Great National Standard Theatre. The doors have been opened about ten minutes, and the smiling box-keeper announces there are still two seats unoccupied in the dress circle. We make our way to them, past the mysterious rat-trap like passages contrived by the Board of Works to ensure speedy suffocation in cases of panic, and presently find ourselves next the manager's box and facing some four or five thousand eager faces, whilst the band plays "Wait till the clouds roll by," and a thousand voices pour forth from the audience in chorus. The chorus stops, and then there is a great buzz of laughter and talk, all good-humoured, and almost as decorous as at a Lyceum first night. The curtain rises to disclose the plotting of the Spirits of Evil, engaged in forging the glass slipper (perhaps a curious process of the contemporary ironmaster). The scene changes to a sylvan glade, an exquisite piece of landscape, with tall waving grass in the middle distance and a lovely pool behind. Here the good spirits appear, in the form of scores of little girls, from five to fifteen, each armed with a golden hearth brush; and very pretty it was to see how thoroughly the young folks felt their responsible position, and how, when a laugh or titter was threatening, the little lips tightened and gravity was restored. A very graceful child (Mlle. Maroni) was première danseuse and won warm applause. We are next introduced to Cinderella's papa and step sisters. The family is in straitened circumstances, and the neighbouring pawnbroker is called upon to make advances on a flat-iron and the cruet frame. This transaction met with much sympathy from the audience. The invitation to the ball follows, and then, in due course, Cinderella's coach, worthy Queen Anne, and drawn by six lovely ponies. The ball was shown, with endless masqueraders arriving in coaches or donkey carts. Among the guests were Mr. Gladstone, Justice Manisty, Shakespeare's heroes and heroines, and various celebrities. A minuet was danced. We think the audience would prefer a good rattling country dance or jig, say by the Ghost of Hamlet. The abode of the Fire Demons is the next scene, and here Miss Neville, the Demon King, was extremely effective in her incantation scene. The costumes, all red and black, told well, lighted by the blazing torches the demons waved around them. Again to the haunts of the benevolent fairies, and here came another charming dance by the young coryphées. Then presently the magnificent transformation scene, which for beauty of colour and artistic refinement may challenge comparison with anything even in Catherine-street. An especially charming effect is produced by a scenic contrivance by which the centre of the stage seems filled with translucent water, through which the lilies and naiads rise to the upper air. The picture is so beautiful that only the youngest of the audience can see without regret the clown and pantaloons appear to scare away the vision. The harlequinade that follows is good, as the increasing laughter throughout the house proved. Mr. Douglass has spared no pains nor cost to deserve success. The young lady (Miss Minnie Marshall) who takes the part of Cinderella is quite new to the London stage—she has for some time been a favourite at Birmingham. She is very young, pretty, and with a total freedom from the ingenuousness of the stage ingénue, she trips about like some delightful little kitten. Mr. Williams was rather heavily handicapped in the petticoats of the ugly sister, but he worked with unflagging spirit and fun. Mr. Sass showed his versatility by the very effective old man he transformed himself into, while his favourite melodramatic villainy quite disappeared. Miss Nelly L'Estrange made a very fascinating Prince Charming. The audience were somewhat lacking in appreciation; the dulness of the streets had got into the theatre, but this has been remedied since, the actors feeling more confidently the pulse of the public. A few more songs, with chorus for the youngsters in the upper circles, would go far to give life and establish that feeling of good fellowship between the folks before and behind the footlights which makes the very life and soul of a Christmas Pantomime.

In our notice, last week, of the funeral of the late Bro. Norris we omitted to mention that his mother Lodge, the Sincerity, No. 174, was represented by Bros. John Newton P.M. (Secretary) and Samuel Rawley, for many years the Treasurer.

The following Festivals were held at the Freemasons' Tavern for the week ending 10th January:—

Monday—Joppa Lodge, Old Kings' Arms Chapter, Robert Burns Lodge, Eclectic Lodge. Tuesday—Albion Lodge, Old Concord Lodge. Thursday—Caledonian Society, Lodge of Regularity, Polish National Lodge, University of London Lodge. Friday—Bedford Lodge, Britannic Chapter, Eclectic Lodge, Oak Lodge, Odd Volumes. Saturday—Metropolitan Rate Collectors, Duke of Cornwall Lodge, Lodge of King Solomon.

£20.—TOBACCONISTS COMMENCING.—A Pamphlet, 80 pages. How to Open respectably from £20 to £500. 3 Stamps. H. MEES & Co., Cigar and Tobacco Merchants, 109 Euston Road, London, Wholesale only.

TWO NEW YEARS' EVES; OR, HOW I BECAME
A MASON.

(Continued from page 11.)

BY A VETERAN BROTHER.

CHAPTER II.

I REMEMBERED no more until I awoke and found myself in a dimly-lighted chamber, but in the returning moments of consciousness I could discern that it was more comfortably and richly furnished than my own was in the City. The candle was shaded (this was an age anterior to gas or even "moderator" lamps) and all was wrapped in what appeared to me a death-like hush—for in the City, at whatever hour of day or night, there is always some sound vibrating on the stillness of the air. There was some one stealing gently across my room, as I opened my eyes languidly after what seemed to me a troubled sleep.

"Who is there? And where am I?" I gasped with the first breath I could gather.

"Hush! poor fellow," whispered the faithful Jack; "you have had a narrow escape, but you must not talk more now, there's a dear fellow."

"But she! Is she—?"

"Safe," replied Jack, "thank God."

"Thank God" was the only sigh in which I could echo the whispered utterance of my friend, who with the tenderness of a woman moistened my lips with some kind of liquor, and I fell off once more into a profound slumber.

The sunlight was slanting across the meadows and into my chamber window, when I awoke and heard voices speaking in low tones, at the other end of the apartment.

"He'll be rather shaky for a week or two yet," I heard one say; but there is no danger, and he may be safely removed to-day, if necessary. He has sustained a severe shock through being so long under the water.

"I shall not hear of his quitting my roof until he has perfectly recovered," replied another. "To him—whoever he is—I owe the life of the sweetest angel out of heaven, my only daughter, and I must thank him as I ought to do. Poor Adeline! How cruel of me to have left you at home when all your friends were starting off so full of glee for our 'summer banquet.'"

And then the strong voice melted into a sob, as though a heart was breaking.

"Now, Captain," chimed in a voice, which I instantly recognised as Jack's, "you must not give way now that danger is past with them both. We would have gladly sacrificed our lives to save your daughter; but it was not required. The Great Architect of the Universe overrules all things, and we shall all live to bless Him for his interposition in our behalf this day."

"So mote it be," groaned the Captain, who I then of course knew to be the father of her who had so nearly been claimed by death.

He had by this time recovered from his emotion, and went on to relate more of the circumstances of the previous day, of which I was yearning, of course, to hear. So, feigning sleep, when they each by turns came to look upon the "patient," I heard the Captain's explanation, which I quote as nearly as I can recollect.

"Well, you know, Fenton, they did me the honour this year to elect me Master of my mother Lodge, after my return from Abyssinia, and of course I was highly delighted with the favour the brethren conferred upon me, more as a compliment, I thought, than because I deserved it. I determined to make my year a pleasant one all round, and in order to render it especially so I invented what it was my pride and whim to call a 'summer banquet.' By that I mean, we were to transact a little necessary business in Lodge, which meets in the City, and afterwards invite the ladies—sweet-hearts and wives you know, Fenton—to have a pleasant drive down here to old 'Squire Cotton's park, which he generously placed at our disposal for the day, which is no more than a good and true Brother and Provincial Grand Master should do. We accordingly met, and on leaving home early, in order to meet the rest of my Lodge, I somehow had a strange presentiment that the pic-nic would not be a success. I am not a superstitious man, as you well know, and I have faced death in more forms than one. But in some singular, indescribable way I fancied there would be a mishap of some kind—what I could not tell. My daughter kissed me on the doorstep as I left, and when I asked her if she would not like to join our party, her eyes gleamed with a strange admixture of pleasure and pain. It was a struggle between her own gratification and love for her poor mother, who has long been an invalid and cannot leave the house.

"You know, Papa, how glad I should be to accompany you on such a delightful day, but you see there is no one at home to look after our dear invalid, so I must stay;" and wishing me an enjoyable trip, I cantered off to join the brethren, who had just assembled when I arrived at the 'Claremont.' A merry party it was, and a glorious drive along the dusty roads to Bickenham; but my heart was not in tune with all the gleeful surroundings. I was ill at ease, and just as the brethren and their friends were mustering for our *al fresco*, in comes old Jinks, our Tyler, saying a brother was waiting admission, 'properly prepared' with an invite, but that he was accompanied by a friend for whom he could not vouch, and who indeed was not a Mason. I immediately refused the latter, because when the subject was first talked about in Lodge the pic-nic was flatly opposed by some of the more fastidious brethren as an innovation, and I only gained the point by promising that none of the male sex should be invited who were not Masons. However, the two visitors withdrew, in dudgeon, I dare say."

Here Jack maintained a wise and judicious silence.

"Well," continued the captain, "in less than two hours, at any rate when the dance was in full swing, and I began to laugh at the foolish fears I had entertained as to the success of my 'innovation,' a messenger arrived in breathless haste, and in a second the whisper flew round the park that the Worshipful Master's only daughter had been *drowned!*"

"I cannot relate to you the scene that followed, for my brain was on the whirl; but I know the music had ceased, and as I drove frantically out of the gates the brethren stood aside with heads uncovered in respectful silence as I was hurried along in my unutterable woe. You remember, Fenton, the scene that followed here—how that joy succeeded to frenzy when I heard that the worst had not been realised, and that both my darling and her deliverer, though not then out of danger, had not succumbed to their fearful peril. The doctor says she will speedily recover now, but a change may be necessary, and your friend there, being of a strong constitution will more speedily pull through. But, hush! he is stirring."

When Jack and the Captain came over to peep in upon me this time, I could grasp each by the hand, though my lips failed for a time to express my gratitude for the deliverance which had been vouchsafed to all of us.

* * * * *

It is not necessary to recapitulate the gratitude which broke forth from the Captain, more in action than in speech, when, later in the day, I ventured downstairs. I was anxious to get back to my own abode, to rest and quiet, and away from the hearing of such profuse, though well-intentioned, thankfulness. Moreover, if she were then to appear upon the scene, her acknowledgment of the slight service rendered would have unnerved me. So, proof against all expostulation or coaxing, it was resolved that I was strong enough to bear the exertion of two or three hours' slow journey back to town, and snugly ensconced on pillows in the Captain's own carriage, Jack and I were driven gently away for home.

In the last hearty handshake with me, as the carriage was moving off, I felt the Captain pass upon my finger a ring.

It was *hers*; and it is through the red, the azure and the gold that sparkle in the firelight now, on this bright, crisp New Year's Eve, 1884, that I see the panorama of my life from that time—forty-two years ago—up to the present moment.

CHAPTER III.

Had it been in these days the invitation would have undoubtedly come by way of delicately scented note paper and envelope, and through the "Penny Post." But in those more prosaic times things were different, and the letter came by messenger, penned on "blue post," and fastened with an enormous seal with crest. It was written in a bold soldierly hand, and ran as follows:—

Manor House, Bickenham.

MY DEAR HEWLETT,—A few choice friends have promised to join us for Christmas and the New Year, and our company will not be complete without you. I shall reckon upon your old friendship to crown the circle of our enjoyment. I have a *secret* in store for you—an agreeable surprise. I have written to your old bosom friend, Jack Fenton, and he will accompany you down. We will try to make you both happy.

Yours ever faithfully,

HENRY MAYHEW.

How it snowed, as Jack and I once more travelled along the same road we had done on that broiling Midsummer-day, when earth and sky kissed each other in very rapture of sunshine, colour, and brilliancy. Now, on this bitter Christmas Eve, as the horses' feet crumpled over the frosted roads, and the snow was hurled by the fitful gusts against our carriage windows, the contrast was intense. Yet the journey was not without its pleasantries, for two hearts linked together in the strongest bonds of love, as men only can love each other, were once more in anticipation of a happy *réunion*, and this time there was not the slightest shadow of a doubt as to the result. No cruel Tyler would be there this time to question the "invitation for two."

We dashed up the broad drive towards the Hall, in whose windows glistened a brilliancy which defied the storm without; and our gallant host was beside himself with joy in bidding us welcome—"fine old English gentleman" as he was. The holly and the mistletoe darkled on the walls, and every apartment wore an air of the most refined and luxurious elegance and comfort.

Shall I say with what warmth we were commanded—not invited only—to be "at home," and how could we be otherwise? The company was small as to number, but great in everything that tends to make life worth the living. There was scarcely a shade of that awkward hesitancy which invariably precedes an introduction, and immediately we were on a friendly footing all round. As we entered the drawing-room there came the soft strain of an old Wallachian melody, which the Captain "picked up," he told me, afterwards, in his travels abroad; and as the notes were touched by tremulous hands, could I not guess whose heart it was that breathed life into that weird yet soothing composition?

As soon as it was ended, our host walked gently to the piano and led the sweet player to the end of the room where we were seated, and in glowing terms—spoken in the brusque honesty of the soldier, who knows not the fawning platitudes of modern compliment—presented me to Adeline as the saviour of her life, and the preserver of his dearest joy.

How vividly come back to me now, even in my old age, the emotions which filled my breast on that eventful night of joy and despair, and hope. How utterly unworthy of the thanks that were spoken with such artless innocence and frankness by the angel whose loveliness and grace no pen can ever be permitted to describe. I would that I had never come to realise the joy which had been in my dreams both day and night ever since the day described in a

former chapter, and yet I would not have missed that ecstasy for worlds!

It is no excess of modesty, that I do not possess, to say that I was for a moment awed, and could only reply to the gentle pressure of the hand, which endorsed her father's gratitude, by stammering out, I fear very clumsily,

"Believe me, no thanks are due for the performance of a duty, even towards the humblest of our race; but"—(here I know I bungled most absurdly)—"where youth and beauty are in the case, the reward is ours, and it belongs more assuredly to Fenton here than to me."

Jack, I confess, was more cool under such circumstances than myself, and as Adeline extended to him her left hand, still retaining mine in the other, she spoke I thought even with more enthusiasm to him than she had just previously done to me.

Our first meeting under such joyous circumstances occupied less time even than it has taken to write this hurried outline; but into those rapturous moments were crowded an eternity of joy for me.

Was I in love? Unquestionably, I aver it at the outset; for had not that darling face and form been the guardian angel of my life ever since I first beheld her? Was I jealous? Of Jack? never; for he had often declared to me that he had no matrimonial intentions, and never should, as he had decided to go with his regiment abroad. Yet why that look of eager and passionate appreciation of Jack's prettily-rounded speech, in reply to his word of thanks?

Yes, I was in love, head over ears, and I was jealous, too,—a little!

Yet, as we parted, to mingle with the guests, I saw her glance at the diamond on my finger, and then uplift her beautiful eyes to mine. And as she smiled so graciously upon me, and in a sweet accent innocently inquired, "Have you worn it ever since for my sake?" I knew I had no rival in the field—not even my old friend Jack.

Diamonds and eyes, strings of pearls and laughing rows of teeth vied with each other then for the palm of lustre and purity, and who shall decide which were the winners?

The days passed too swiftly for the day dream which had found its realisation now. Each brought but an increase of deep, true, passionate and absorbing affection, and though the words had not been spoken yet, it needed none but lover's eyes to see that the affection was reciprocal. Why were we placed side by side at dinner, and why did the Captain improvise so many little artifices by which to leave us so frequently alone?

I see it all now, and from my soul I bless thee, Captain, though thou hast been long since called away to that land where all is love!

But New Year's Eve had dawned, and my kind host's secret had not yet been revealed. Did he mean the uniting of two young hearts whom he knew would love each other? There was something else.

And so Jack told me as we retired to rest on the night preceding the New Year's Eve. We had often spoken of my becoming one of the "Ancient Fraternity;" and although my friend sagaciously promised that if I ever became a Mason it must be of my own free will and accord, and not by any species of persuasion, I had already imbibed a strong desire to join a brotherhood of which, even from the little I could learn as an "outsider," I had formed the most admiring opinion.

"Well," exclaimed he, "it is all arranged. You asked me to propose you, and I have done so. At the last meeting you were duly proposed and accepted, and to-morrow will come the trial of your fortitude."

Surely enough, next afternoon I was duly admitted within the portals of the Ancient and Honourable Institution in which I have since found so much true happiness and solace, and the gallant Captain—I beg pardon, Brother—was never more earnest in his life than when he, with the assistance of the brethren, vouchsafed to me the predominant wish of my heart.

The meeting was made purposely brief, as I afterwards learnt; being an emergency for my special benefit, and we drove back early to the Manor House, where the crowning event of the week's festivities was to take place. The neighbouring gentry, tenants, farmers, all were there to welcome in the glad New Year with royal honours, and as the loving cup was passed around, the windows were flung open so that all might hear the wild bells ringing out to the wild sky—as Tennyson has it—from the ivy-mantled tower of Bickenham church.

Those bells rang out a still more joyous peal in the bright June following when, on the anniversary of the Midsummer-day that I snatched dear Adeline from the treacherous river, I proudly led her forth from the old church, amidst a pathway of flowers strewn by the village children along the aisle, and the congratulations of sincere and hearty well-wishers and friends.

CHAPTER IV.

Twenty-five years had elapsed, during which time more than the share of happiness that usually falls to the lot of man was mine. The same trustful heart that beat in tune to my own on that never-to-be-forgotten New Year's Eve had been unwavering in all the relations of life from our nuptial day in dear old Bickenham church to the celebration of our silver wedding at the Manor House. The three prattling children had grown to maturity, and the two boys are spending this New Year's Eve, I fervently pray, in the homes of their adoption in the colonies, where they have been more successful even than they anticipated in business. Our little daughter Adeline has been not many months a bride, and has gone to India with her husband, a smart young Captain in the —th Regiment.

New Year's Eve had come round again, and "my dear old wife and I"—as the boys used to sing when they were at home, were left to celebrate the birthday of our loves, as we pladdled down the gentle incline of a happy and unclouded life. Adeline's mother, always an

invalid, had long since passed away; but the poor old Captain, now in his ninetieth year, still survived, and it was often our duty and pleasure to visit him in his old home, surrounded by kind attendants and friends. Especially was this duty and pleasure observed on New Year's Eve, and on the night of which this is the seventeenth anniversary we were on our way, per express train, to pay our vows of filial love at the shrine of the old patriarch who had ever been so loving and true to us.

It was about five o'clock in the evening when we started from the terminus, and as usual the porters and officials were busy with the stream of passengers who were going or arriving at the station—all on a mission similar to our own. The night was black and stormy, with an admixture of rain and sleet, whilst the raw wind blew in gusts against the windows of the train as it rushed onward through the pitchy darkness.

We had proceeded, as far as I can remember—for recollection has been uncertain since that night—about seven miles when our carriages began to oscillate in most vehement fashion. For a moment I could see pallor on every cheek; the wild cry of terror still rings in my ears as the train leaped like a maddened thing of life from the line of rails, and I remember no more! Dear Adeline had clung to me in that supreme moment of danger with the confidence she had always evinced in my presence; but I never saw her again!

For several weeks I laid in the ward of a hospital, with only fitful intervals of consciousness and delirium, and not a soul amongst the medical staff ever believed I could be pulled through. I have since learnt that I was extricated from beneath the debris of the train, and sympathetic hands loosened the arms that were entwined around me in that embrace of death. I was terribly shattered and mangled, too, but after months of careful treatment and nursing I became comparatively whole again, and am still able to take part in those pursuits that are congenial to me, and of which, let me say, my Masonic duties form the principal part.

I will not weary my readers with any details of the catastrophe of my life; the columns of a newspaper, and not a simple New Year's story, are the place for these.

But can my readers wonder that ever since that awful night, when in the blackness and din and smoke, the angel spirit of her whom I had so loved was taken, I have held New Year's Eve sacred to the dearest memories of my life—our lives—and sit in my lonely chamber peaceful in the enjoyment of a good conscience and a hopeful resignation, waiting for the bright New Year which shall re-unite two souls who knew of nought but true and pure affection from first to last?

And as the church bells vie with each other all over the City, clanging a pean of delight at the birth of another, and let us hope a brighter year, the kindly embers in the grate send gleams of recollection crowding through the mind of one who never has yet regretted

"HOW HE BECAME A MASON."

The Seventh Annual Ball in connection with the Eccleston Lodge and Chapter, No. 1624, will be held at the Westminster Town Hall, Caxton Street, S.W., on Friday, 23rd instant. Single ticket, 7/6, double ticket (to admit lady and gentleman), 12/6, will include refreshments during the evening, and may be obtained of the Stewards, or of A. A. Johnston, Hon. Sec., 11 Cambridge Terrace, S.W. A dispensation has been secured for Masonic clothing to be worn.

At the regular meeting of the York Lodge, No. 236, held at York, on Monday evening, it was resolved to present an illuminated address to Brother Sir James Meek P.M. P.P.G.S.W. and Provincial Grand Treasurer, who is about to leave York and take up his residence at Cheltenham.

On Tuesday 30th December, at York, at an emergency meeting of the Agricola Lodge, No. 1991, a massive gold ring, bearing Masonic emblems, was presented by the members to Bro. P. Pearson, honorary member of the Lodge. Bro. McGachen P.M., who presided, in presenting the ring referred to the valuable services that had been rendered to the Lodge by Bro. Pearson since its formation.

Bro. James Stevens has accepted the invitation of the Selwyn Lodge of Instruction, No. 1991, to deliver his lecture, "Knobs and Excrescences," at the meeting to be held on the 6th February, at the East Dulwich Hotel, East Dulwich (near Champion Hill Station), at 7 p.m. Visitors will be welcomed.

The La Tolerance Lodge of Instruction, No. 538, has removed from Morland's Hotel, Dean Street, to the Portland Hotel, Great Portland Street, W.

FUNERALS.—Bros. W. K. L. & G. A. HUTTON, Coffin Makers and Undertakers, 17 Newcastle Street, Strand, W.C., and 7 Herne Villas, Forest Hill Road, Peckham Rye, S.E.

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.

—:o:—

FREEDOM OF DISCUSSION.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am glad to observe that you did not miss the opportunity of replying to the remarks of the *Evening News*, in which a writer would endeavour to gag the interchange of opinion on matters of Masonic interest. Of what possible value is a Masonic Press unless it is indeed made and used as the vehicle for the free discussion of such subjects as are inseparably bound up with Freemasonry? I venture to believe that amongst the great body of Masons there are many who are truly indebted to your journal, above all others, for information on many points in Masonry of which they would be otherwise ignorant, and for many suggestions and hints also that have proved an invaluable help to them in their Masonic career. I do not often "rush into print," especially on a trivial subject, but I wish to thank you and your intelligent correspondents who afford us weekly such valuable means of instruction and entertainment. It may be that occasionally the wielders of the pen evince a little more of the heroic and the cantankerous than there is any necessity for; but of course people who "go in" for literary boxing must be prepared to give and take. It is almost always the case that the writer who hits hardest in the way of personality is the first to cry out when he is castigated for his temerity; but so far from the general readers being offended by these pen and ink tournaments, I believe they are rather sources of amusement than otherwise. It is always well that writers—and especially Masonic writers—should remember that forbearance is magnanimous, and that abuse is not argument. If this were borne steadily in mind, I think there would be much less acerbity in the effusions which have called forth the strictures of your evening contemporary. As a rule, I believe correspondents write with the intention of benefiting the Craft in any possible way they can; and personalities, though they do occasionally appear "between the lines," are not intended in any unfriendly spirit. It is with this sentiment that I write to thank you for your expressed determination to continue—in spite of an endeavour to stop it—to afford your readers the best and only means at their disposal of interchanging thoughts and ideas relative to the cause we have all so much at heart.

I remain, Dear Sir and Brother,

Faithfully yours,

JUNIOR WARDEN.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—By an unfortunate oversight on the part of one of my clerks an item of £200 11s, music money, was omitted from the statement of our receipts for 1884. Below is a corrected statement.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

F. R. W. HEDGES.

Statement of Receipts for 1884.

	£	s	d
Dividends (3 quarters)	915	0	0
„ Sustentation Fund, six months	173	11	11
Donations	13,051	4	7
Grand Lodge	150	0	0
Grand Chapter	10	10	0
Do. Special	500	0	0
Legacies	95	0	0
Music money	200	11	0
Sale of Book of Subscribers	1	15	0
„ Old Stores	1	17	6
	15,129	10	0

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The idea propounded by Bro. Binckes, of starting an annual subscription in Lodges and Chapters on behalf of the Boys' Preparatory School, is by no means a new one, but has been urged over and over again in many parts of the country, and more especially in the East Riding of Yorkshire, where I resided some years. I well remember that this was a favourite theme with that active and excellent Mason Dr. John Pearson Bell, the Deputy Grand Master of that Province, who never lost an opportunity of reminding the brethren of how much could be done for the Charities of the Craft provided each would make up his mind to contribute, if even only a shilling per annum, toward some definite object in connection with Freemasonry. But, somehow or other, the idea does not appear to have taken root in anything like a general sense, as was proved by the statistics quoted in Bro. Binckes's circular. These figures certainly do appear rather bald as to any steady and constant effort; but we must not forget that there are many and continual demands upon the purses of individual members of the Craft which

do not appear upon the surface, and which, in these exceptionally depressed times, we must endeavour not unnecessarily to increase. There can be no doubt that in every branch of commercial industry there is just now an unusual strain, nor do the appearances of trade at home and abroad afford much hope of immediate improvement. Still there may be, and no doubt is, in most Lodges some department in which "retrenchment and reform" could be put to some practical test; at any rate to the extent of placing at the disposal of the executive of the Boys' School the necessary guinea per annum which Bro. Binckes, with more than his accustomed modesty, asks for for this exceptional purpose. I see it hinted that a Collector might with advantage be appointed for the Boys' Institution, similar to the course which has been so successfully adopted with regard to the Benevolent Institution. This seems to me to be a forcible and sensible course to adopt, for none of us would begrudge the comparatively small coin which would be earned by a zealous and industrious brother who could make it his business to induce others to take an active interest in any of our Charitable Institutions. It is perhaps too much to expect that individual brethren should expend more of their time and labour than they do already in advocating the claims of our respective Charities; if they do so of their own free will and accord some recognition of their extra and exceptional services should, as you have pointed out, be made. As a rule, however, brethren who undertake such duties do so as a labour of love, and to exemplify their interest and solicitude for the welfare of the Craft to which they belong. I would that no such sentiment should be stultified or even infringed upon by the appointment of a Collector; and, in point of fact, I do not believe such an officer would be regarded in that light. Rather would his efforts supplement the private exertions of brethren who may not be able to devote as much time to the work as they might desire; and the attendance of a representative of the Committee at our Lodge meetings would stimulate brethren into increased exertions who could not be approached by those who voluntarily undertake the task of raising funds for any specific purpose. It is a delicate question perhaps to be dealt with in print, especially in the face of the opinions recently expressed, and which have elicited from yourself some sound and sensible views on the matter of "freedom of discussion" on Masonic subjects; but still I see no more direct manner of impressing it upon the attention of the officers and members of Lodges than through the columns of an organ which is both professedly and in reality identified with the Craft, and devoted to the interchange of Masonic views. I shall feel it my duty to bring the subject of annual subscriptions and the appointment of a Collector on behalf of the Boys' School prominently before the members of my own Lodge on the first convenient opportunity, and sincerely trust that other rulers of Lodges will accept the very practical hints and suggestions with which you supplied us in your leading article last week. I write this in the anticipation that your "Word in Season" may be productive of such practical results that Bro. Binckes and his fellow workers on behalf of the Boys' Preparatory School may feel that they have not expended their labour in vain.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother,

Fraternally yours,

A PROVINCIAL W.M.

MARK MASONRY—INSTRUCTION—GRAND MASTER'S LODGE.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Under this heading I read in the *Freemason* this morning a startling account of proceedings, affording another instance of the reliability of press communications.

I have no wish to claim any prominence for myself, am quite prepared to be forgotten in due course, but not to submit to be quietly effaced whilst still in the flesh.

Considering that at the meeting of which your contemporary professes to give a report, I was in my place, in pursuance of my promise to attend; that I opened the Lodge, rehearsed the ceremonies of consecration and installation, and afterwards presided at supper, I am utterly lost in amazement at being completely blotted out. Let me assure you, however, that I am still,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

FREDERICK BINCKES.

London, 9th January 1885.

"STOP MY PAPER!"

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—This is an awful penalty, inflicted by thin-skinned subscribers to a newspaper upon the journalist who has the courage of his opinions, and who tolerates in his columns perfect "freedom of discussion." So long as the Editor is mealy-mouthed and handles his subjects in a gingerly and kid-glove manner, he may expect that nobody will find offence with his mild and insipid platitudes. But immediately in the consciousness of his own intelligent strength he ventures upon views and opinions with which some fastidious reader may not entirely agree, down comes the "awful avalanche" from some indignant subscriber, winding up with the injunction above quoted. It is no doubt very familiar to you, Sir, as it is to most other journalists, and it goes to show what an abject lack there is of moral courage on the part of certain individuals who must have it all their own way, and cannot bear to listen to an expression of view which is ever so little in disagreement with their own. Such people ought to have a paper printed and published for their own especial behoof, and better still, they should try the

experiment of starting and conducting such an enterprise on their own account. They would learn that an editor is too wise to perpetuate the folly of the old fable about "the man and his ass," or to dream of his ever succeeding in pleasing everybody.

The impertinence implied by notice to "Stop my Paper" is only equalled by its arrogant grievance and stupidity. Does the irate one think that because he withdraws his poor little subscription from a newspaper that the Press is entirely to collapse and that its occupation, like Othello's, will be "gone?" You may as well expect to see the ocean dry up because some old woman dips a bucket of water out of it. The loss, if any, to the cessation of an individual's support to a newspaper is his own entirely. I say, "if any," because the man who thus peevishly and impetuously casts aside what to others is a means of edification and entertainment can scarcely be expected to profit much by the sources of enjoyment which others find in literature. There is no hard and fast line to be laid down for the guidance of newspaper correspondence, which must of necessity be entirely in the hands and under the control of the editor, who if he be competent and judicious will not allow his columns to be made the vehicle or medium of mere personal quarrels or "vulgar abuse." I am pleased, as a brother journalist, to acknowledge the freedom you have ever granted to Masonic correspondents in the ventilation of subjects of interest to the Craft, and at the same time the wholesome check you have placed upon personalities which have been attempted by amateur writers in your columns. It is only to be expected that novices in journalistic work will at times "rush in where angels fear to tread;" and then it is that discreet and kindly excision is needed at the hands of the experienced journalist. Having been a regular reader of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE since its establishment, I can bear testimony to the careful study which must have been exercised in the publication of such notes and comments as you have deemed necessary for, and conducive to, the interests of Freemasonry; and I am no judge if your waste-paper basket—if it could speak—could not wondrous tales unfold of spiteful little eliminations, and friendly "toning downs" of correspondence ere the effusions appeared in their completed suit of black and white. I am very glad to notice your determination to maintain for your readers "freedom of discussion;" and, as one who may sometimes feel inclined to "trespass on your valuable space," either for inquiry or interchange of opinion, I am personally obliged to you for your able and most sensible leader of last week.

I remain, Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

A COUNTRY EDITOR.

THE LATE BROTHER NORRIS.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Does it not appear to you rather strange that, considering the high esteem in which Brother James Norris, late Warden of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, was held, there should have been no representative of his own Lodge present at the funeral of our lamented brother? The question is prompted by seeing no mention, in your report of the obsequies, of the attendance of any member of Lodge No. 174.

Yours fraternally,

ENQUIRER.

[Our correspondent will observe that the omission has been rectified in another column.—ED. F.C.]

CHAPTERS OF IMPROVEMENT.

THE Camden Chapter of Improvement has removed from its old abode, the Junction Tavern, Holloway Road, to the Moorgate, Moorgate Street, and the first meeting since the change was held at the latter trying-place, on Tuesday evening last. Comp. Edmonds acted efficiently as M.E.Z., Comps. Gregory H., Carter J., Slyman S.E., Storr P.S., and Sheffield S.N. This being the opening meeting of the year, there was a large attendance of Companions; the ceremony was conducted in an able manner, and all present realised a most instructive and profitable evening.

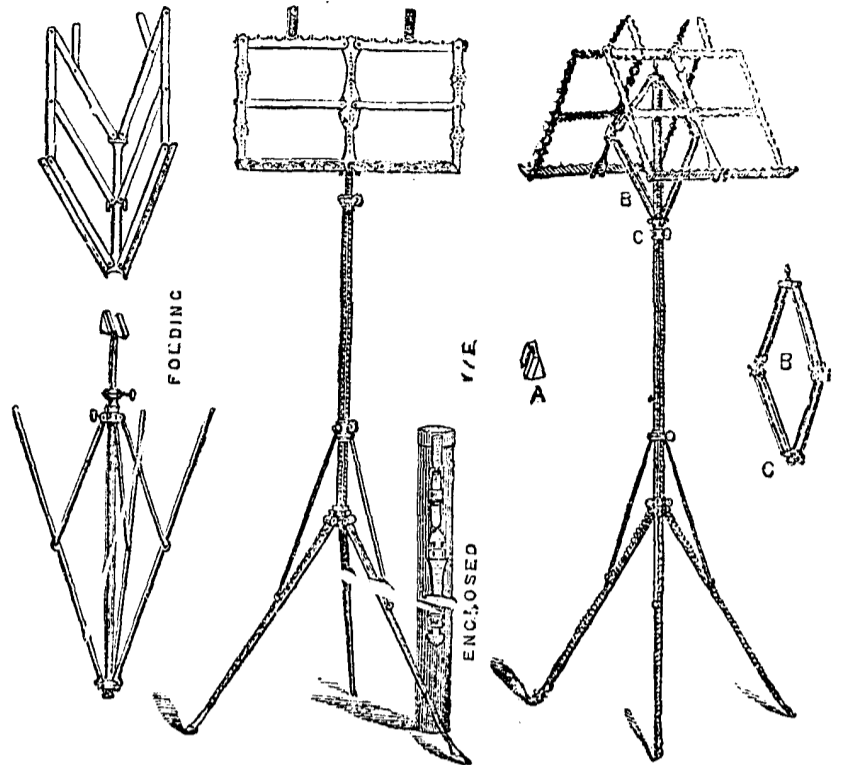
A convocation of the North London Chapter of Improvement was held on Thur day evening, at the Alwyne Castle Tavern, St. Paul's Road, Canonbury, when Comp. Dehane acted as M.E.Z., Comps. Radcliffe H., Knight J., Sheffield S.E., Mensey S.N., Edmonds P.S. This being the first meeting for the New Year, there was a goodly muster of Royal Arch Masons, notwithstanding the inclement weather. The members of this flourishing Chapter intend holding an annual banquet, the arrangements for which will be discussed at the next Convocation, on Thursday, the 15th instant. The hope is expressed that all Companions desirous of participating in that gathering will make a point of attending on the occasion of the next Convocation.

The Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement meets on Tuesday evenings, at 6.30 p.m., at the White Hart, Cannon Street, but as this hour is somewhat inconvenient for many of the brethren, it may be interesting to them to know that the Camden Chapter, not meeting till 8 o'clock, will afford an excellent opportunity to those who are unable to attend earlier, to be present at the Moorgate Tavern, whilst those who are energetic students may find it desirable, as well as convenient, to avail themselves of both means of instruction and edification.

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—:0:—

Grand Patron and President:

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., &c., M.W.G.M.

—:0:—

THE ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

OF THIS INSTITUTION WILL TAKE PLACE ON

WEDNESDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY 1885,

AT

FREEMASONS' TAVERN, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONDON,

UPON WHICH OCCASION

The Rt. Hon. Sir **MICHAEL E. HICKS BEACH**, Bart. M.P.

R.W. PROV. GRAND MASTER FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE,

has been pleased to signify his intention of presiding.

Brethren are earnestly invited to accept the Office of Steward upon this occasion, and they will greatly oblige by forwarding their Names and Masonic Rank, as soon as convenient, to the Secretary, who will gladly give any information required.

It is fraternally hoped that upon this occasion, owing to the large number of applicants and the few vacancies, Brethren will use their influence to obtain donations towards the funds of the Institution, which are much needed.

JAMES TERRY, P. Prov. G.S.W. Norths and Hunts,
 Secretary.

4 Freemasons' Hall London, W.C.

Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, WOOD GREEN, LONDON, N.

Grand Patron:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

President:

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., M.W.G.M.

A QUARTERLY GENERAL COURT of the Governors and Subscribers will be held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, on Monday, the 12th day of January 1885, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Institution.

To receive a Recommendation from the General Committee for the Adoption of a List of Forty-seven Candidates, from which Twenty-five Boys shall be elected at the Quarterly General Court, to be held on Monday, 13th of April next.

To appoint two Trustees in the room of John Wordsworth, Esq., and Lt.-Col. John Creaton, deceased.

To consider the following Notice of Motion:—

By W. Bro. William Roebuck V. Pat. on behalf of the House Committee:—
 "That, having in view the necessary regulations for admission to the Preparatory School now in course of erection, the age at which petitions on behalf of candidates may be presented be reduced to six years, and the age for the reception of elected candidates be reduced to seven years, and that Law 52 be altered accordingly."

The chair will be taken at Four o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

FREDERICK BINCKES (V. Pat. P.G. Std.), Secretary.

Office—6 Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

3rd January 1885.

THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD IN JUNE NEXT,

UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF THE

Most Hon. the **MARQUESS of HARTINGTON**, M.P.

R.W. Provincial Grand Master of Derbyshire.

The services of Brethren to represent Lodges and Provinces are most earnestly solicited.

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.
 The appointments throughout so arranged as to ensure domestic comfort.

EVERY ACCOMMODATION FOR MASONIC LODGE MEETINGS,
 Public Dinners & Wedding Breakfasts.

THE CRUSADERS LODGE, No. 1677, AND PERSEVERANCE LODGE, No. 1743,
 HOLD THEIR MEETINGS AT THIS ESTABLISHMENT.

GOOD COOKING. FINE WINES. MODERATE CHARGES.

The Edison Electric Light.

TARIFF on APPLICATION to Bro. A. BEGBIE.

Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

—:0:—

APRIL ELECTION, 1885.

—:0:—

The Votes and Interests of the Governors and Subscribers are most earnestly solicited for

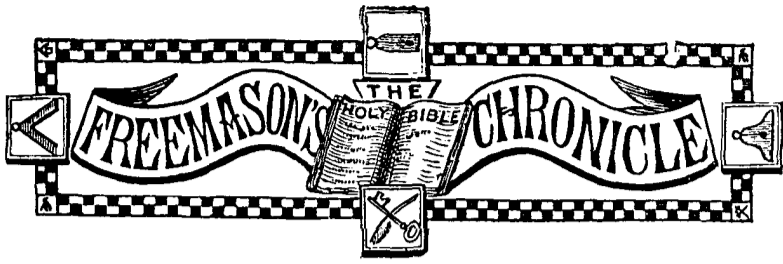
NEVILLE INNES CHAMBERLAIN,

Aged 10 years, 10th September 1885. Eldest son of the late Brother ROBERT CHAMBERLAIN, Locomotive Engineer of Rewari-Perozpore State Railway, Punjab, who died suddenly, at Hissar, on the 26th July 1884, aged 42, from Heat Apoplexy, leaving a widow and two children without adequate means of support. He was initiated in Lodge Corinth, No. 1122, Nagpur, served as W.M. and Secretary over two years; W.M. of Lodge Berar, No. 1649, Budneira; three years D.G.D. of Bombay, and a member of the Grand Lodge of England. He was a subscribing member until death.

The case is strongly recommended by the Berar, Corinth, and Bombay Lodges, and the undermentioned brethren:—

- Edward Tyrrell Leith, District Grand Master Bombay.
- Andrew Hay, P.D.D.G.M. Bombay.
- * W. Bro. J. Percy Leith P.G.D. P.D.G.M. Bombay.
- * Nathaniel G. Phillips P.G.D. P.G.S.N. England, 23 Belgrave Road, S.W.
- * G. Laurie P.D.D.M. for Turkey.
- Charles Greenwood P.G.S.B. England, 61 Nelson Square, S.E.
- Astley Cooper, M.D., Surgeon-Major, Hissar.
- * F. J. Leville G. Sup. of Works Grand Lodge Bombay.
- * J. Beavan Phillips P.M. 671 P. Prov. G.W. Western Division South Wales.
- * Aaron Stone P.M. 671 P. Prov. G.W. Western Division South Wales.
- * William Bowen P.M. 671 P. Prov. G.D. Western Division South Wales.
- * James Heywood, Constantinople.
- * W. Harvey P.M. 687 P.Z. 107 Secretary and P.D.G. Secretary for Turkey.
- * G. Kenning Vice-Patron, P.M. 192 219 1657 P.G.D. Midd., Upper Sydenham.
- G. S. Graham Past Provincial Grand Organist, St. John's Villa, Fernlea Road, Balham Hill.
- William Sugg P.M. 33 P.Z. 33, Pontroy, Nightingale Lane, Clapham Common, S.W.
- * A. Withers P.M. St. Michael's Lodge, No. 211, Panshurst Lodge, Balham Hill, S.W.
- J. Nowill, Esq., Nagpur, Corinth Lodge, No. 1122 E.C.
- * W. Wilkins I.P.M. 902, 103 Cannon Street and Battersea Rise.
- Harris P.M. Old Concord Lodge, Baron's Court Hotel, W. Kensington.
- Eugene Delacoste W.M. 1627, Café Royal, 68 Regent Street, W.
- Dr. Waters, St. Michael's Lodge, No. 211, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.
- * A. J. Pritchard P.M. 162, 9 Gracechurch Street, E.C.
- * G. Pritchard, Heath Street, Hampstead.
- G. King, Secretary Old Concord Lodge, Charterhouse, E.C.
- * Thos. Spearing W.S. 902, Garfield House, Bullen Road, Clapham Junction.
- W. W. Morgan W.M. St. Michael's Lodge, No. 211.
- Stevens P.M. Royal Kensington Lodge, No. 1627, 39 High Street, Battersea, S.W.
- W. Radcliffe P.M. and Secretary St. Michael's Lodge, No. 211, 41 Aldersgate Street, City.

Proxies will be received by those marked thus *, and by the Grandfather, Rev. J. A. Chamberlain, 1 Mallinson Road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.



OUR INSTITUTIONS.

ON Saturday last the General Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys held their first meeting for the New Year, under the presidency of Bro. Raynham W. Stewart P.G. Deacon. Amongst those also present were Bros. R. Berridge, A. Williams, C. F. Matier, J. L. Mather, W. Maple, F. Adlard, J. Mason, L. Ruf, C. H. Webb, W. Roebuck, A. E. Gladwell, F. Richardson, H. Massey, H. Hacker, Rev. R. Morris Head Master, H. B. Marshall G. Treasurer, G. P. Gillard, W. A. Scurrah, H. Venn, W. H. Saunders, J. M. Stedwell, and F. Binckes Secretary. The salary of the Organist of the School was, on the recommendation of the House Committee, increased from £25 to £30 per annum. Brother W. Roebuck gave notice, on behalf of the House Committee, that at the Quarterly Court on Monday he would move that Law 52 should be altered, making the age of a candidate for admission to the School at which a petition can be presented six years, and the age at which an elected applicant can be admitted seven years, instead of seven and eight years as at present. This recommendation was made in view of the intended opening of the Preparatory School in the autumn of this year. Out of ten boys whose petitions were received, nine were placed on the list of candidates for the April election. The sum of £40 was granted to an ex-pupil who is studying for the Church, and £10 to a pupil who has just left the School. The extra salaries of the Secretary, and Clerk in the Office, voted in consequence of the extra labour entailed by the work of the Preparatory School, were agreed to be continued for another twelve months. To fill the vacant office of Trustee, caused by the death of Col. Creaton P.G. Treasurer, the Secretary (Bro. Binckes) announced that Bros. Parkinson and Roebuck were eligible, and would esteem it an honour if the choice of the brethren fell upon either of them. It was announced that for the 25 vacancies which would have to be filled at the April Election there were 47 candidates. Bro. W. H. Saunders referred to the circular issued by Bro. Binckes—a copy of which, and a leading article referring to it, appeared in the last issue of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE—relative to the need of timely aid to the Preparatory School, by the constant and steady annual subscriptions of Lodges. The suggestion met with his entire approval, and he trusted it would be actively and practically supported by all the Lodges and Chapters under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England. This hope was endorsed by the members of the Committee, and the proceedings closed with the customary vote of thanks to the Chairman.

On Monday evening, the annual "Twelfth Night" Entertainment to the pupils who remain in the Girls' School at Battersea-rose during the Christmas vacation took place, under the most successful and happy auspices. Bro. Robert Grey, the Chairman on the rota, presided, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen availed themselves of the opportunity of being present at the festive gathering. At five o'clock the company partook of tea together, Miss Jarwood, Matron of the Institution, gracing the head of the table, supported by Miss Shepherd, as Vice-President. Subsequently, Herr Adalbert Frikell gave some admirable feats of legerdemain, which afforded infinite amusement to young and old; the intervals between the entertainment the pupils employed in dancing, the music being supplied by Mr. Arthur Lock. Twelfth cakes and other refreshments were then liberally dispensed amongst the children, and a variety of amusements were provided by the brethren present. More dancing followed, and the pleasures of the evening were maintained with unabated zest up to a seasonable hour, the entertainment being voted one of the most successful and enjoyable that had ever taken place at the Girls' School. Before separating Herr Frikell made a present to each of the pupils,

an act of kindly consideration, which was supplemented by Bro. Alderman Savory, who gave each a new shilling. The little ones entered most heartily into the amusements provided for their delectation, and were loud in their expressions of appreciation at the treat afforded them.

As usual, on the first Wednesday in the New Year, the Benevolent Institution at Croydon was the scene of quiet and happy enjoyment on Wednesday last, on which occasion the annual entertainment was given to the "Old Folks." During the afternoon a goodly company of ladies and brethren proceeded to Croydon from town, and on their arrival at the Institution were heartily welcomed by Bro. Jas. Terry, the genial and indefatigable Secretary, when hearty wishes for a "Happy New Year" were interchanged. With their accustomed liberality Bro. Edgar Bowyer P.G.S.B. and Mrs. Bowyer provided a plentiful supply of tea and tobacco for the annuitants, and it is hardly necessary to say their repeated acts of generosity were most thankfully acknowledged and appreciated. At 2 o'clock the old people were entertained at dinner in the large hall, the *menu* consisted "of all the luxuries of the season," including turkeys and roast beef, ham, fowls, &c., which had been contributed by many generous friends and well-wishers of the Institution. These gifts had been supplemented by five guineas from East Lancashire, two guineas from the Abbey Lodge, while other presents from various Lodges enabled the House Committee to place a most sumptuous repast upon the board. The hall was, as usual, prettily embellished with seasonable decorations, and when filled by the happy and contented "family" presented an air of cosy luxury and enjoyment. The chair was occupied by Bro. Dr. Strong (Hon. Surgeon of the Institution), who was assisted in ministering to the enjoyment of the party by Bros. Terry, T. Cubitt, Raynham W. Stewart, and other brethren, who acted most assiduously as voluntary waiters. The repast was served in a style which won for Miss Norris, the Matron, the deserved encomiums of all present, and as the day was the eve of the attainment of his majority by Prince Albert Victor, champagne was added to the wine list. After dinner had been agreeably and amply discussed, Dr. Strong said it was not usual to make lengthy set speeches on these occasions, but this was a special one, from the fact that since they last met they had lost their old and respected Warden, Bro. James Norris, who had been a resident in the Institution upwards of twenty-two years. He referred to the late Bro. Norris's loving care and considerate kindness for his fellow annuitants, and the assistance he had ever rendered to the Committee, and requested that the late Warden's memory should be drunk to in solemn silence. After this the loyal toasts were honoured, followed by the "Founders of the Feast," in connection with which Dr. Strong alluded to the kindness of the brethren who had provided the entertainment, and had moreover come down to assist in carrying out the amusements, and to enhance the pleasures of the guests. Amongst so many generous supporters it was almost invidious to select any one in particular to respond to the toast, but he would ask Bro. Edgar Bowyer, who was always ready to lend a helping hand, to say a few words on his own behalf and that of his co-workers, who he hoped would all live long to continue in the excellent and generous work in which they had been so long engaged. The toast having been most cordially received, Bro. E. Bowyer briefly responded, and in the course of his remarks said it was the pleasure and interest, as well as the duty, of all to do what they could to contribute to the enjoyment and happiness of the annuitants whom they had undertaken to protect. During the past year they had, unfortunately, lost some of their patrons, but no doubt their places would be supplied by others equally kind. In giving "Success to the Benevolent Institution," he expressed a hope that the coming Festival might be a success, and that Brother Terry's indefatigable efforts to that end might be brilliantly rewarded.

Bro. Terry, in reply, expressed regret at the absence of Bros. Binckes, Hedges, and others, who had been unavoidably prevented from attending. He referred to the active support which Bro. Edgar Bowyer and others had rendered to the Benevolent Institution—not to the detriment of the other Charities, but in preference to them. They were proud of the success of all three Institutions, but there were some who were peculiarly attached to one or other, to the exclusion of the rest. A considerable portion of success had happily attended this Institution during the past year. The highest amount yet known in its history was announced the other day,—£19,500

was the amount of the gross result of the year's work. This gave him the opportunity of saying that during the last seven years the Benevolent Institution had received in all £121,645, the Boys' School £109,040, and the Girls' School £99,785, which gave the following averages—the Benevolent Institution £17,300 a-year, the Boys' School £15,500, and the Girls' School £14,200 a-year in round numbers. That was a very proud position for the Benevolent Institution to have attained, when they recollected it was at first the most neglected of all, for it was then he might say, as it were, under the ban of the Grand Master, as it was only permitted to have a Festival once in three years. After a great amount of persuasion they were permitted to have a Festival once in two years. When it was found it would not interfere with the Schools they were permitted to have an annual Festival, and since then it had gone on and prospered. What was the result? The Girls School had prospered more than it had ever done. Whenever a Secretary of one Institution visited a Lodge, if the other Secretaries were not there, he spoke for them as well as for himself. But great as had been the success of the Institution he hoped it would be greater. He believed the Benevolent Institution would be the Institution of the future. It was founded on a small beginning. It was an Institution which in the future they must look to for providing a home and a refuge for the aged. The boys and girls of the present day would be, and were educated, and their prosperity was going on at a higher rate than it had hitherto done. But take the other side. When a man came to the decline of life there was very little energy left, and if he was a Mason and wanted a home this Institution afforded it. Let them look at the lists for the coming elections. For the Girls' School there were thirty girls on the list and twenty-two to be elected; for the Boys' School there were forty-five candidates (the smallest number for years), and twenty-five to be elected. For the Benevolent Institution there were something like one hundred and twenty candidates. At the present moment there was but one vacancy for a widow, and twelve vacancies for men. Therefore, unless in February next the Institution achieved as great a result as in 1884, he really did not know what would be the fate of the poor widows, of whom there were seventy-five on the list, with only one vacancy, and forty-four men on the list with only twelve vacancies. If they created only twenty additional vacancies—fifteen being widows—there was still a most appalling prospect. He relied upon the Craft, and looked forward with the same amount of confidence to the liberality of the brethren as in the past; and he ventured to think that in February next such answer would be given to their appeal, under the presidency of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, whose Province of Gloucester was supporting him most nobly, with forty-seven Stewards, as would show that this confidence was not misplaced. He appealed to those brethren who were not yet Stewards, to make themselves Stewards, and enable the Committee when they met to say that they found themselves in a position to place additional annuitants on their list. They had now 375 men and women on their funds. When he first was connected with the Institution there were 180, who were receiving, the men £26 a year, the women £25. The men were now receiving £40, and the widows £32, and for all that they had, by the liberality of the Craft, more than doubled the number of annuitants. He was certain that these facts need only be brought to the notice of the brethren for them to see that, while not neglecting their duty to the other Institutions, it was their first privilege to think of the aged. While doing that they were taking care of themselves. The children were educated, but what was to become of the aged if it was not for this Institution? There was nothing but the workhouse for them, and surely the Craft would not allow that, when there were so many thousands who had never contributed anything to one of the Charities. In June next he would have been twenty-one years connected with the Institution, and he hoped and trusted that whatever the success of the past twenty-one years had been he would be spared to achieve greater results and triumphs, and to see it placed in the position of first of the three Institutions.

The health of Bro. Shadwell H. Clarke, Grand Secretary, was also proposed and responded to, after which the company partook of tea, followed by an Ethiopian entertainment, by the Carolina (Original) Minstrels, whose performances were evidently much appreciated and enjoyed. During the evening a telegram was read by the Secretary, conveying "Heartly congratulations from the East Lancashire brethren and friends, wishing you all a Happy New Year, ample present enjoyment, and future prosperity to Croydon Institution." Bro. Terry stated that a similar day's entertainment was being given to the Old People at Manchester, and that the brethren of East Lancashire had contributed five guineas to the Croydon Entertainment. An admirable portrait of the late Warden, Bro. Norris, drawn by Bro. John Mason, was handed round for inspection, and was much admired by all present. After the interchange of heartiest good wishes for a "Happy New Year," the visitors returned to town by train, having spent a most enjoyable day amongst the "Old People."

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Dismiss your doubts; let no one be any longer oppressed with the notion that his or her malady is incurable till these purifying Pills have had a fair trial. Where ordinary preparations fail these Pills produce the best results. A course of this admirable medicine cleanses the blood from all impurities, and improves its quality. The whole system is thus benefited through the usual channels without reduction of strength, shock to the nerves, or any other inconvenience; in fact, health is renewed, by natural means. For curing diseases of the throat, windpipe, and chest these Pills have pre-eminently established a world-wide fame, and in complaints of the stomach, liver, and kidneys they are equally efficacious. They are composed of rare balsams, without a single grain of mercury or any other deleterious substance.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

LA TOLERANCE LODGE, No. 538.

A NUMEROUS assemblage of the brethren of this excellent working Lodge, with a large body of visitors, met on the 1st inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street. The Lodge was founded in 1848, and was originally worked in the French language, but under the English Constitution; however, it has since adopted the English working. The W.M., Brother S. G. Langdon, presided; Bros. Elvin W.M. elect S.W., Smale J.W., Kench P.G.P. Treasurer, Sly P.M. Secretary, Burt S.D., Bicknell J.D.; also Bros. Skinner, Child, Humphrey, Cooper P.G.J.D. Middlesex, Wolters. After the minutes had been confirmed, a Board of Installed Masters was opened, and Bro. Elvin was presented to the Lodge, and, in the presence of twenty-four W.M.'s and P.M.'s, was duly installed into the chair by Bro. Skinner P.M. Bro. Cooper acted as D.C. At the conclusion of the ceremony Brother Skinner was warmly congratulated by the brethren and visitors on the marked ability he had displayed. On the re-admission of the brethren, the W.M. was saluted, and in very appropriate terms invested as his Officers:—Bros. Langdon I.P.M., Smale S.W., Burt J.W., Kench Treasurer, Sly Secretary, Bicknell S.D., Fenn J.D., Smith I.G., Cooper P.M. D.C., Child P.M. and Andrews Stewards, Church Tyler. A letter was read from Bro. Burmeister P.M. regretting his absence through indisposition. He wished the W.M. and the Lodge every prosperity, and congratulated the members on the continued success of the Lodge. After the customary formalities of closing, the brethren adjourned to a banquet. At the conclusion of the repast, the W.M. proposed the usual toasts, coupling with that of the Grand Officers the name of Bro. Kench. He was one for whom they all had the greatest respect. Whatever he undertook he did well. They were all pleased he had received Grand honours. Bro. Kench spoke of the noble qualities of the brethren at the head of the Order. He was pleased to have his name associated with the toast. Bro. Langdon I.P.M. said it was with great pleasure he had to propose the toast of the W.M., who had done his duty in every particular. He had made his mark in Freemasonry, and knew his duties thoroughly. They were proud to see him in his present capacity. The toast was heartily received, and the W.M. in reply thanked Bro. Langdon for his kind remarks and the brethren for their reception of the toast. If he had done anything for the advantage of this, his mother Lodge, he felt gratified. It gave him great pleasure to do anything he could for the benefit of the Lodge. He wished the brethren, one and all, a year of health and prosperity. He then proposed the toast of the Visitors. They were numerous and well known and respected; it was only necessary to mention their names seriatim. He called upon Bros. Venn, Dicketts, Levy, Massey, Farwig, Hurdell, Brown, and Sharp to reply, and those brethren severally responded. The W.M. next proposed the toast of the I.P.M., Bro. Langdon. During his year of office he had done his duties well. He had, with great pleasure, to present him with a jewel which he had well earned. He hoped he would be among them for many years to wear it in health and prosperity. Bro. Langdon could hardly find words to express his gratitude. He hoped he had done his work to the best of his ability. He returned his sincere thanks for his kind reception and the valuable jewel presented to him. The W.M. next proposed the health of Bro. Kench Treasurer, and Brother Sly Secretary. These brethren were well known and respected; he might say they were unequalled for the way in which they performed their duties. The W.M. hoped he should have the pleasure of their united support during his occupancy of the chair, as they have hitherto done to his predecessor. The toast of the P.M.'s was coupled with this. The P.M.'s were brethren they were proud to see among them. They regretted the absence of one whom they all respected, and who had a good kind word for all—Bro. Burmeister; they hoped to see him again shortly in renewed health. No better array of P.M.'s could be found than theirs. He hoped they would be among them for many years. Bro. J. Kench P.M. and Treasurer, and Bro. Sly P.M. Secretary, severally responded and said their services were always at the command of the Lodge, and of every Master. If spared, they hoped in the future to continue in their respective capacities. Bro. Wolters P.M. said it afforded him great pleasure to be among them after an absence of 12 months. He had had the pleasure of initiating the present Worshipful Master in 1868, and was now proud to see him in the chair. Other Past Masters followed, with very excellent speeches. The toast of the Wardens was given and duly responded to, and then the Tyler's toast concluded the proceedings. The Worshipful Master provided a special musical melange under the direction of Bro. Turle Lee, assisted by Bros. Young, Marner, Wentworth, Lyons, Bevan, and Williams, whose singing, and the genial presidency of the W.M., rendered this one of the most agreeable evenings ever spent in the Lodge. The W.M. announced that there would be a banquet in March, when the ladies would be invited. He hoped to see many brethren and ladies present on that occasion. Among the Visitors present were—Bros. H. Massey 619 and 1928, George 957, Smith 1563, Farwig 180, Scurrell 2078, Turle Lee 1922, Latrielle 1269, Addison 1987, Dupont, Reynolds 1614, Harrison 1185, Cooper 1637, Venn, Brown 174 and 1607, Marx 957, Dicketts, Hartley 740, Green 1687, Lyon 1765, Hurdell 1348, Gunnell 1441, Harrison 1185, Hooke 463, King 180, Jesse 1556, Vickery, Wentworth 101, Blitz 177, Williams 1658, Turner 1328, Barclay 1608, Eastgate 1563, Coward 2012, Marner 1673, Brown 1706, Bellamy 1627, Sharp 1, H. M. Levy 188.

THE RICHMOND LODGE, No. 2032.

A REGULAR meeting of this young, but sound and progressive Lodge, was held on Tuesday evening, at the Station Hotel, Richmond, when there was a goodly attendance of brethren, under

the presidency of the W.M. Bro. Benjamin E. Blasby, who was supported by Bros. C. I. Digby P.M. S.W., W. Foster P.M. Treasurer, W. R. Phillips P.M. Secretary, J. P. Houghton S.D., E. Dare J.D., J. Ireland D.C., F. Albert Crew Organist, C. Maton W.S., R. Messum Steward, and many other brethren. Amongst the Visitors were Bros. G. C. Young W.M. 820, G. F. Cook P.P.A.G.D.C. Herts, W. D. Beckett W.M. 780, C. Sims 861, W. W. Morgan W.M. 211, A. Farman 107, &c. Lodge having been opened in form, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and Lodge having been advanced to the third, Bros. Nash and Williamson were raised to the sublime degree by the W.M., who acted most efficiently, assisted by his Officers. Bro. Smith was also notified to have taken this degree, but did not arrive in time to participate in the ceremony at the hour stipulated. Having resumed in the second, Bro. Burrell was passed to F.C., and subsequently the ballot was opened for Mr. Frederick Augustus Meeres, proposed by Bro. Gowing, seconded by Bro. Rowland; Mr. Edwin Peed James, nominated by Bro. Crew, seconded by Bro. the Senior Deacon; Dr. Edmund Alleyne Cook, whose sponsors were Bros. Abell and Phillips; and Mr. George Trinder, proposed by the W.M., and seconded by Bro. Covell. All were unanimously accepted, and were duly initiated by the W.M., in a manner which afforded every satisfaction. After this heavy batch of work had been got through most creditably, Bro. Smith presented himself for the benefit of raising, and although the agenda had proved a formidable tax upon the W.M., he performed the ceremony most readily. It is, however, an undesirable precedent, and considerably mars the after proceedings; candidates should strive to be ready at the time appointed; in this case it was exceptionally vexatious after so arduous an evening's work. It was stated that although the Lodge is yet in the first year of its existence, it is in a very satisfactory condition financially, all its expenses being defrayed, whilst already there is a balance in hand. The sum of five guineas was voted from the funds of the Lodge to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and one guinea to the special fund appealed for by Bro. Binckes towards the Boys' Preparatory School. At the conclusion of some other business, the brethren and visitors sat down to a sumptuous banquet, under the presidency of the W.M., and justice having been done to the repast the customary loyal and Craft toasts were given from the chair and duly honoured. Bro. W. F. Reynolds P.M. in felicitous terms proposed the health of the Worshipful Master, whom he congratulated upon the ability and intelligence he brought to bear in carrying on the work of the Lodge, of which he was the first Master. Reference had been made to the fact that since the installation of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as Grand Master, in the year 1875, upwards of 500 new Lodges had been warranted, showing how the Craft had advanced in popular favour since his accession to office. The Prince fully recognised his duties to the Craft, thus it had made rapid strides onward; and he (the speaker) might be allowed to say that the successful and satisfactory position which the Richmond Lodge had attained was in a great measure to be attributed to the zeal and ability with which it had been ruled by its first Worshipful Master. The toast was received with the utmost cordiality, and Brother Blasby suitably acknowledged the compliment, promising that his efforts should, in the future as in the past, be devoted to the best interests of the Richmond Lodge. The Initiates severally responded to their health, Brother Cook being especially happy and humorous in his reply. The whole of the Visitors also responded to the welcome given, and expressed themselves highly pleased with the hospitality which had been extended to them; after which the Past Master and Officers of the Lodge were complimented on the way in which they discharged their respective duties, and which had so greatly assisted in establishing the Lodge on a sound and solid foundation. During the evening some capital songs were rendered by the brethren, ably assisted by Bro. F. Albert Crew, who presided efficiently at the pianoforte. A very enjoyable evening was passed.

BLACKWATER LODGE, No. 1977.

THE monthly meeting of this Lodge, which was held on Monday, 5th inst., at Maldon, Essex, was availed of for the presentation to Bro. Thomas Eustace, of Colchester, as a mark of the respect in which he is held by the brethren, and of appreciation of his efforts for the prosperity of the Lodge as its first Master. The presentation took the form of a valuable gold watch, which in the unavoidable absence from illness of the present W.M. (Bro. Alfred Richardson), was handed to Bro. Eustace by the S.W. (Bro. Robt. Smith), who in a few well-chosen words, spoke of the hard work Brother Eustace had done for the Lodge; how much its prosperity was due to him, and how much the brethren were indebted to him for, with such regularity, coming sixteen miles every month to fulfil the duties of the chair. Bro. Eustace, who was very much moved, thanked the brethren for their kindness. What he had done had been a labour of love, and his work had been rendered lighter by the hearty support he had always received from his Officers and the brethren generally. He assured them he should always value most highly their handsome present, and it would become an heir-loom in his family. The watch bears the following inscription:—

Presented to

BRO. T. EUSTACE P.P.G.S.B.,

By the Blackwater Lodge of Freemasons, No. 1977,

For the valuable services rendered as first Master. 5th Jan. 1885.

—Essex Standard.

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

ECCLESTON CHAPTER, No. 1624.

THE usual Quarterly Convocation was held at Freemasons' Hall, on 24th ult., Comps. J. Galt Fisher M.E.Z., Wyer P.Z. H., Tayler J., Vincent P.Z.; Beckham and Bond Scribes E. and N.; several other companions were present. After the minutes had been passed, Comp. Wyer was elected Z. for the ensuing year, Tayler H., Bond J., Beckham S.E., Flatterly S.N., Isaacs Treasurer, Coulthard P.S., Sheppard Janitor. A jewel of the value of 5 guineas was voted to the retiring M.E.Z., for his able working, &c. The Chapter was then adjourned to March.

Justice Lodge of Instruction, No. 147.—A meeting was held on Thursday, 8th instant, at the Brown Bear, High-street, Deptford. Bros. Banks W.M., Stringer S.W., Pitt J.W., Speight P.M. Secretary, Dale S.D., J. Bedford Williams J.D., Ingram I.G. P.M.'s Bros. Hutchings Preceptor and Good; also Bros. Cooper, Vint, Prior, and Emblin. Lodge was opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed; the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Cooper candidate. Bro. Prior answered the usual questions leading to the degree of Fellow Craft. Lodge was advanced, and the ceremony of passing rehearsed. Lodge was called off, and on resuming was opened in the third degree, and the ceremony of raising rehearsed, Bro. Vine personating the candidate. Lodge was resumed in the first degree, and closed in due form.

Chiswick Lodge of Instruction, No. 2012.—A meeting was held on Saturday, 3rd inst., at the Hampshire Hog Hotel, Hammersmith. Bros. Sharratt W.M., Hayes S.W., Gardner J.W., Strong Secretary, Gomm S.D., Furze J.D., Williams I.G., P.M.'s Ayling, Johnson, &c. Visitor—Bro. Jackson 718. Lodge was duly opened, and minutes of previous meeting confirmed. The Preceptor then worked the second section of the first lecture, assisted by the brethren. The W.M. next rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Steers kindly offering himself as candidate. Lodge was opened in second degree, and Bro. Mayer answered the usual questions. Lodge was then closed.

Royal Arthur Lodge of Instruction, No. 1360.—On Thursday, 1st instant, Brother James Stevens P.M. P.Z., &c. on the invitation of this Lodge, delivered his highly interesting lecture on the Ritual and Ceremonies of the First Degree. The Lodge met at the Collegiate School, Worple Road, Wimbledon, so as to have sufficient room for a number of brethren. Brother E. Standen presided as W.M. Lodge was opened in due form with solemn prayer, and the minutes of last meeting were read, confirmed and signed. Brother James Stevens having been introduced to the brethren, then gave his admirable lecture, which was listened to with close attention by all present. After an address, which occupied more than two hours in delivery, Brother Stevens received a cordial vote of thanks and the compliment of honorary membership, for which, as well as for the encouraging remarks of the brethren generally, he returned thanks. Bro. Carter was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and the Lodge was closed.

Kingsland Lodge of Instruction, No. 1693.—On Monday, 29th December, at the Cock Tavern, Highbury. Present:—Bros. Trowinnard W.M., Western S.W., Thorn J.W., Forge Treas. and acting Secretary, H. W. Holden S.D., Youngusband J.D., T. Holden I.G., and Hall P.M. After preliminaries, Bro. Turner having offered himself as a candidate to be raised, answered the questions in a very praiseworthy manner and was entrusted. The Lodge was then opened in the third, and the ceremony rehearsed, the W.M. giving the traditional history in a very able manner. This being the last Monday in the old year, Bro. J. Baker asked the brethren to drink some punch with him, and Lodge was closed earlier than usual. Some capital harmony was rendered by Bros. Bain, Akehurst, Atterton and Snook. We may add that after the business is over the Spirit of Harmony is invoked at the meetings of this Lodge of Instruction, and generally with happy results.

On Monday last, Bros. Jordan W.M., Turner S.W., Holden J.W., Forge Treas., Collingridge Sec., Catling S.D., McMillan J.D., Dr. Neisson I.G., Western Acting Preceptor, and other brethren. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Gifford candidate. Bro. Dixie then took the chair and opened the Lodge in the second degree. Bro. Collingridge answered the questions leading to the third and was entrusted. Lodge opened in the third degree and the ceremony was rehearsed. Bro. Turner was elected W.M. for Monday next, and Lodge was closed. The brethren enjoyed some harmony, Bros. Akehurst, Baine, Snook, Woodman, Weeden, and Giffard singing, while Bro. Dixie gave a humorous recitation. Bro. Collings presided at the piano.

Bro. the Earl of Jersey intends bringing to the hammer early in the season the very valuable library at Osterley Park, near Isleworth. The house has not been lived in since the death of the Dowager Countess last year. Lord Jersey occasionally gives a garden party at Osterley during the London season. The library contains several splendid Caxtons.

The M.W. the Grand Mark Master has been pleased to appoint Bro. Frank Richardson P.G.D. to be Grand Registrar of the Mark Degree, in the place of lamented Bro. Lovander, deceased.

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, 10th JANUARY.

Quarterly General Court Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 12
176—Caveac, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street
198—Percy, Jolly Farmers', Southgate Road, N., 8. (Instruction)
1275—Star, Five Bells, 155 New Cross-road, S.E., at 7. (Instruction)
328—Granite, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
1361—Earl of Zetland, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7. (Instruction)
1426—The Great City, Cannon Street Hotel
1624—Fleeston, Crown and Anchor, 79 Elbury Street, S.W., at 7 (Instruction)
1686—Paxton, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell
1743—Perseverance, Imperial Hotel, Holborn Viaduct
1839—Duke of Cornwall, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
2012—Chiswick, Hampshire Hog, King Street, Hammersmith, W. (Instruct.)
Sinai Chapter of Improvement, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8
M.M. 211—Hammersmith, Windsor Castle Hotel, King Street W, Hammersmith
2069—Prudence, Masonic Hall, Leeds
R.A. 1293—Burdett, Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court
R.C. 43—Eureka, Masonic Rooms, Pavilion, Brighton

MONDAY, 12th JANUARY.

Quarterly General Court Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4
5—St. George's and Corner Stone, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
22—Loughborough, Cambria Tavern, Cambria Road, near Loughborough Junction, at 7.30. (Instruction)
29—St. Albans, Albion, Aldersgate-street
45—Strong Man, Excise Tavern, Old Broad Street, E.C., at 7 (Instruction)
58—Felicity, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street
59—Royal Naval, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
90—St. John, Albion, Aldersgate-street, E.C.
174—Sincerity, Railway Tavern, Railway Place, Fenchurch Street, at 7. (In)
180—St. James's Union, Union Tavern, Air-street, W., at 8 (Instruction)
193—Confidence, Anderton's Fleet-street, E.C.
212—Euphrates, Mother Red Cap, High Street, Camden Town, at 8. (Inst.)
648—Wellington, White Swan, High-street, Deptford, at 8 (Instruction)
1237—Enfield, Market-place, Enfield
1366—Highgate, Gatehouse Hotel, Highgate
1425—Hyde Park, Fountain Abbey Hotel, Praed Street, Paddington, at 8 (In.)
1445—Prince Leopold, Printing Works, 202 Whitechapel Road, E., at 7 (Inst.)
1489—Marques of Ripon, Pembury Tavern, Amhurst-rd., Hackney, at 7.30 (In)
1507—Metropolitan, The Moorgate, Finsbury Pavement, E.C., at 7.30 (Inst.)
1585—Royal Commemoration, Railway Hotel, High Street, Putney, at 8. (In.)
1571—Leopold, Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge
1608—Kilburn, 46 South Molton Street, Oxford Street, W., at 8. (Inst.)
1623—West Smithfield, Clarence Hotel, Aldersgate Street, E.C. at 7 (Inst.)
1625—Tredegar, Royal Hotel Mile End Road, corner of Burdett Road. (Inst.)
1693—Kingsland, Cock Tavern, Highbury, N., at 8.30 (Instruction)
1805—Bromley St. Leonard, Vestry Hall, Bow-road, Bromley
1891—St. Ambrose, Baron's Court Hotel, West Kensington. (Instruction)
2012—Chiswick, Bolton Hotel, Chiswick
R.A. 1537—St. Peter Westminster, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
40—Derwent, Castle Hotel, Hastings
75—Love and Honour, Royal Hotel, Falmouth
104—St. John, Ashton House, Greek-street, Stockport
151—Albany, Masonic Hall, Newport, I.W.
240—St. Hilda, Freemasons' Hall, Fowler-street, South Shields
262—Salopian, the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury
292—Sincerity, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
296—Royal Brunswick, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield
297—Witham, New Masonic Hall, Lincoln
411—Commercial, Flying Horse Hotel, Nottingham
481—St. Peter, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle
502—Rectitude, Town Hall, Rugby
587—Howe, Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham
599—Druids of Love and Liberty, Masonic Hall, Redruth
685—Montague, Royal Lion, Lyme Regis
721—Independence, Masonic Chambers, Eastgate-row-north, Chester
724—Derby, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 8. (Instruction)
797—Hanley, Hanley Hall, Dartmouth
893—Meridian, National School Room, Millbrook, Cornwall
949—Williamson, St. Stephen School, Monkwearmouth, Durham
1021—Hartington, Masonic Hall, Custom House Buildings, Barrow-in-Furness
1069—United Brothers, Castle Hotel, Southsea
1112—Shirley, Masonic Hall, Shirley, Hants
1174—Pentangle, Sun Hotel, Chatham
1221—Defence, Masonic Hall, Carlton-hill, Leeds
1253—Travellers, Queen's Hotel, Manchester
1350—Fermor Hesketh, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
1436—Sandgate, Masonic Hall, Sandgate
1449—Royal Military, Masonic Hall, Canterbury
1471—Israel, Masonic Hall, Severn-street, Birmingham
1592—Abbey, Suffolk Hotel, Bryn St. Edmunds
1611—Eboracum, Queen's Hotel, Micklegate, York
1618—Handyside, Zetland Hotel, Saltburn-by-Sea
R.A. 148—Elias Ashmole, Chapter Rooms, Warrington
R.A. 151—Unanimity, Masonic Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield
R.A. 306—Alfred, Masonic Hall, Kelsall-street, Leeds
R.A. 379—Tynte, Masonic Hall, Old Orchard Street, Bath
R.A. 495—Wakefield, Masonic Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield
R.A. 1258—Kennard, Masonic Hall, George Street, Pontypool
R.C.—Walton, Skelmersdale Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, Liverpool
R.C. 12—Red Cross, Athenaeum, Lancaster

TUESDAY, 13th JANUARY.

46—Old Union, Holborn Viaduct Hotel
65—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)
177—Domestic, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30 (Instruction)
180—St. James's Union, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
188—Joppa, Champion Hotel, Aldersgate-street, at 7.30. (Instruction)
198—Percy, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, E.C.
211—St. Michael, Albion, Aldersgate-street, E.C.
648—Wellington, White Swan, Deptford
651—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)
830—Dalhousie, Sisters' Tavern, Fynall-road, Dalston at 8 (Instruction)
917—Cosmopolitan, Cannon-street Hotel
933—Doric, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.
1044—Wandsworth, East Hill Hotel, Alma Road, Wandsworth (Instruction)
1196—Urban, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
1321—Emblematic, Red Lion, York Street, St. James's Square, S.W., at 8 (In.)
1349—Friars, Liverpool Arms, Cannon Town, at 7.30 (Instruction)
1360—Royal Arthur, Rock Tavern, Battersea Park Road, at 8. (Instruction)

1381—Kennington, The Horns, Kennington. (Instruction)
1448—Mount Edgecombe, Three Stags, Lambeth Road, S.W., at 8 (Inst)
1471—Islington, Champion, Aldersgate Street, at 7. (Instruction)
1472—Henley, Three Crowns, North Woolwich (Instruction)
1540—Chaucer, Old White Hart, Borough High Street, at 8. (Instruction)
1593—Royal Naval College, Ship Hotel, Greenwich
1601—Ravensbourne, George Inn, Lewisham, at 7.30 (Instruction)
1602—Sir Hugh Myddelton, King Edward VI., King Edward Street, Liverpool Road, N., at 8. (Instruction)
1604—Wanderers, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
1614—Covent Garden, Criterion, Piccadilly
1635—Canterbury, 33 Golden Square, W.
1668—Samson, Regent Masonic Hall, Air-street, W.
1695—New Finsbury Park, Hornsey Wood Tavern, Finsbury Park, at 8 (Inst)
1707—Eleanor, Trocadero, Broad-street-buildings, Liverpool-street, 6.30 (Inst)
1940—Brixton, Prince Regent Dulwich-road, East Brixton, at 8. (Instruction)
1969—Waldeck, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.

Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement, White Hart, Cannon Street, 6.30.
R.A. 704—Camden, The Moorgate, Moorgate Street, E.C., at 8 (Instruction)
M.M. 22—Southwark, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark

93—Social, 23 St. Giles Street, Norwich
131—Fortitude, Masonic Hall, Truro
184—United Chatham of Benevolence, Assembly Rooms, Old Brompton, Ken
241—Merchants, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
272—Harmony, Masonic Hall, Main Ridge, Boston
281—Shakespeare, Masonic Rooms, High-street, Warwick
406—Northern Counties, Masonic Hall, Maple Street, Newcastle (Instruct)
473—Faithful, Masonic Hall, New Street, Birmingham
495—Wakefield, Masonic Hall, Zetland Street, Wakefield
503—Belvidere, Star Hotel, Maidenhead
603—Zetland, Royal Hotel, Checkheaton
626—Lansdowne of Unity, Town Hall, Chippenham
650—Star in the East, Pier Hotel, Harwich
696—St. Bartholomew, Anchor Hotel, Wednesbury
726—Staffordshire Knot, North Western Hotel, Stafford
893—Gosport, India Arms Hotel, High-street, Gosport
1120—St. Milburga, Tontino Hotel, Ironbridge
1250—Gilbert, Masonic Rooms, Sankay Greenhall, Street, Warrington
1314—Acacia, Bell Hotel, Bromley, Kent
1325—Stanley, 214 Great Homer-street, Liverpool, at 8 (Instruction)
1465—Ockenden, Talbot Hotel, Sutton, Sussex
1509—Madoc, Queen's Hotel, Portmadoc
1545—Baldon, Masonic Room, Northgate, Baldon
1678—Tonbridge, Masonic Hall, Tonbridge
1713—Wilbraham, Walton Institute, Walton, Liverpool

R.A. 70—St. John's, Huyshe Masonic Temple, Princess Street, Plymouth
R.A. 253—Justice, Masonic Hall, Gower Street, Derby
R.A. 265—Judea, Masonic Club, Hanover-street, Keighley
R.A. 268—Union, Queen's Arms Inn, Ashton-under-Lyne
R.A. 289—Fidelity, Masonic Hall, Carlton-hill, Leeds
R.A. 330—St. Petrock, Masonic Hall, Turf Street, Bodnau
R.A. 510—St. Martin's, Masonic Hall, Liskeard
R.A. 600—King Edwin, Freemasons' Hall, Yorkergate, New Walton
R.A. 1055—Derby, Masonic Rooms, Bedford Street, Cheetham, Lancashire.
M.M. 6—Adams, Victoria Hall, Trinity-road, Sheerness
M.M. 15—St. George's, Masonic Hall, Gandy Street, Exeter
M.M. 75—Royal Sussex, Royal Pavilion, Brighton
M.M. 152—Dover and Cinque Ports, Royal Oak Hotel, Dover

WEDNESDAY, 14th JANUARY.

Committee Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Freemasons' Hall, at 3
3—Fidelity, Alfred, Roman Road, Barnsbury, at 8 (Instruction)
11—Enoch, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
13—Waterloo, Union Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich
15—Kent, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street
30—United Mariners', The Lugard, Peckham, at 7.30. (Instruction)
73—Mount Lebanon, Windsor Castle, Southwark Bridge Road, at 8. (Inst)
87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth
147—Justice, White Swan, High-street, Deptford
186—Industry, Railway Hotel, West Hampstead, at 7. (Instruction)
193—Confidence, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, at 7.30 (Instruction)
225—United Strength, The Hope, Stanhope Street, Regents Park, 8 (Inst.)
538—La Tolerance, Morland's Hotel, Dean Street, Oxford St. at 8 (Inst)
720—Panmure, Balham Hotel, Balham, at 7 (Instruction)
749—Belgrave, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street
781—Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, E.
813—New Concord, Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road, N. (Instruction)
820—Lily of Richmond, Greyhound, Richmond
861—Finsbury, King and Queen, Norton Folgate, E.C., at 7.30 (Instruction)
862—Whittington, Red Lion, Poppin's-court, Fleet-street, at 8 (Instruction)
902—Burgoyne, Victoria Hotel, Farringdon Road, at 7. (Instruction)
1288—Finsbury Park, Cock Tavern, Highbury, at 8 (Instruction)
1306—Lodge of St. John, Three Nuns Hotel, Aldgate, E
1475—Peckham, Lord Wellington Hotel, 516 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)
1662—Economicfield, Chequers, Marsh Street, Walthamstow, at 7.30 (Inst.)
1681—Londesborough, Berkeley Arms, John Street, May Fair, at 8. (Instruct)
1694—Imperial, Cadogan Hotel, Sloane-street, Chelsea
1718—Centurion, Imperial Hotel, Holborn-viaduct
1791—Creston, Prince Albert Tavern, Portobello-ter., Notting-hill-gate (Inst.)
1922—Earl of Lathom, Station Hotel, Camberwell New Road, S.E., at 8. (In)
1986—Honor Oak, Moore Park Hotel, near Honor Oak Station
R.A. 177—Domestic, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st., at 8 (Instruction.)
R.A. 933—Doric, 202 Whitechapel-road, at 7.30. (Instruction)
R.A. 1260—John Hervey, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
R.A. 1305—St. Marylebone, Langham Hotel, W.
R.A. 1524—Duke of Connaught, Anderton's Hotel, E.C.
M.M.—Thistle, Freemasons' Tavern, W.C., at 8. (Instruction)
M.M. 234—High Cross, Seven Sisters Hotel, Tottenham
K.T. 129—Holy Palest, 33 Golden Square, W.

54—Hope, Spread Eagle Inn, Cheetham-street, Rochdale
146—Antiquity, Bull's Head Inn, Bradshawgate, Bolton
191—St. John, Knowsley Hotel, Haymarket-street, Bury, Lancashire
204—Caledonian, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
225—St. Luke's, Coach and Horses Hotel, Ipswich
281—Fortitude, Masonic Rooms, Athenaeum, Lancaster
283—Harmony, Masonic Hall, Todmorden
433—Sympathy, Old Falcon Hotel, Gravesend
567—Unity, Globe Hotel, Warwick
668—Benevolence, Private Rooms, Prince Town, Dartmouth
753—Ellesmere, Freemasons' Hall, Runcorn, Cheshire
852—Zetland, Albert Hotel, New Bailey-street, Salford
854—Albert, Duke of York Inn, Shaw, near Oldham
972—St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Canterbury. (Instruction)

1013—Shakespeare, Freemasons' Hall, Salem-street, Bradford
1031—Fletcher, Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham
1069—Marmion, Masonic Rooms, Church-street, Tamworth
1064—Borough, Bull Hotel, Burnley
1091—Temple, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
1101—Grey Friars, Masonic Hall, Reading
1209—Lewis, Royal Hotel, Raungate
1242—Denison, Grand Hotel, Scarborough
1261—Neptune, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7 (Instruction)
1312—Walker, Hope and Anchor Inn, Byker, Newcastle
1356—De Grey and Ripon, 119 North Hill Street, Toxteth Park, Liverpool
1393—Baldwin, Dalton Castle, Dalton-in-Furness
1424—Brownrigg, Assembly Rooms, Old Brompton, Chatham
1434—Nottinghamshire, George Hotel, Nottingham

1511—Alexandra, Hornsea, Hull (Instruction)
 1520—Earl Shrewsbury, Public Rooms, Cannock, Stafford
 1547—Liverpool, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 1582—Llanidloes, Trewythen Arms, Llanidloes
 1638—Brownrigg, Sun Hotel, Kingston-on-Thames, at 8. (Instruction)
 1643—Perseverance, Masonic Hall, Hebburn-on-Tyne
 R.A. 280—St. Wulstans, Masonic Hall, 95 High Street, Worcester
 R.A. 809—Etheldreda, Rose and Crown Hotel, Wisbech
 R.A. 1177—Dinlych, Masonic Room, South Parade, Tenby
 R.A. 1345—Victoria, Cross Keys Hotel, Eccles

THURSDAY, 15th JANUARY.

23—Globe, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7.30 (Instruction)
 55—Constitutional, Inns of Court Hotel, Fleet-street, W.C.
 63—St. Mary, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth, at 8 (Instruction)
 147—Justice, Brown Bear, High Street, Deptford, at 8. (Instruction)
 160—Temperance, White Swan, High-street, Deptford
 179—Manchester, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street
 181—Universal, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8 (Inst.)
 704—Camden, Lincoln's Inn Restaurant, 305 High Holborn, at 7 (Instruction)
 749—Belgrave, The Clarence, Aldersgate Street, E.C. (Instruction)
 754—High Cross, Coach and Horses, Lower Tottenham, at 8 (Instruction)
 813—New Concord, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street
 901—City of London, Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, at 6.30. (Instruction)
 1139—South Norwood, Public Hall, South Norwood
 1158—Southern Star, Pheasant, Stangate, Westminster-bridge, at 8 (Inst.)
 1185—Lewis, Kings Arms Hotel, Wood Green, at 7 (Instruction)
 1278—Burdett Courts, Swan Tavern, Bethnal Green Row, E., 8. (Instruction)
 1287—Great Northern, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 1306—St. John, Three Crowns Tavern, Mile End Road, E. (Instruction)
 1321—Emblematic, Horns Tavern, Kennington
 1339—Stockwell, Cock Tavern, Kennington-road, at 7.30 (Instruction)
 1365—Clapton, White Hart, Clapton
 1426—The Great City, Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue, E.C., at 6.30 (Inst)
 1558—D. Connaught, Palmerston Arms, Grosvenor Park, Camberwell, at 8 (In.)
 1613—Cripplelegate, Albion, Aldersgate-street
 1614—Covent Garden, Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden Lane, W.C., at 8. (Inst.)
 1622—Rose, Stirling Castle Hotel, Church Street, Camberwell. (Instruction)
 1475—Peckham, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell
 1623—West Smithfield, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 1673—Langton, Mansion House Station Restaurant, E.C. at 6. (Instruction)
 1677—Crusaders, Old Jerusalem Tav., St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, at 9 (Inst.)
 1729—Temple Bar, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street
 1744—Royal Savoy, Yorkshire Grey, London Street, W., at 8 (Instruction)
 1901—Selwyn, East Dulwich Hotel, East Dulwich.
 1950—Southgate, Railway Hotel, New Southgate, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 1963—Duke of Albany, Masonic Hall, Shaftesbury Park, Lavender Hill
 R.A. 217—Stability, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.
 R.A. 733—Westbourne, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood
 R.A. 753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (In.)
 R.A. 834—Andrew, Bell and Anchor Hotel, Hammersmith Road
 R.A. 1216—Macdonald, Head-quarters 1st Surrey Rifles, Camberwell
 R.A. 1471—North London, Alwyne Castle Tavern, St. Paul's Road, Canonbury, at 8. (Instruction)
 M.M. 199—Duke of Connaught, Haverlock, Albion-rd., Dalston, at 8. (Inst.)

42—Relief, Albion Hotel, Haymarket-street, Bury, Lancashire
 56—Howard, High-street, Arundel
 98—St. Martin, Town Hall, Burslem
 100—Friendship, Crown and Anchor, Great Yarmouth
 203—Ancient Union, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 268—Union, Queen's Arms Inn, George-street, Ashton-under-Lyne
 343—Concord, Militia Officers' Mess Rooms, Starkie-street, Preston
 345—Perseverance, Old Bull Hotel, Church-street, Blackburn
 367—Probity and Freedom, Red Lion Inn, Smallbridge
 523—John of Gaunt, Freemasons' Hall, Halford-street, Leicester
 600—Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Salem-street, Bradford
 605—Combermere, Queen's Hotel, Birkenhead
 1011—Richmond, Crown Hotel, Blackfriars-street, Salford
 1042—Excelsior, Masonic Hall, Great George-street, Leeds
 1182—Duke of Edinburgh, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 1299—Pembroke, West Derby Hotel, West Derby, near Liverpool
 1332—Unity, Masonic Hall, Crediton, Devon
 1432—Fitzalan, Wynstay Arms, Oswestry
 1512—Hemming, Red Lion Hotel, Hampton
 1580—Cranbourne, Red Lion Hotel, Hatfield, Herts, at 8. (Instruction)
 1872—St. Margaret's, St. Mark's School, Surbiton
 1892—Wallington, Public Hall, Carshalton
 R.A. 204—Caledonian, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester
 R.A. 249—Mariners, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 R.A. 283—Wisdom, Swan Inn, Haslingden
 R.A. 327—St. John's, Lion and Lamb, Wigton
 R.A. 339—Regularity, Crown Hotel, King Street, Penrith
 R.A. 546—Etruscan, Masonic Hall, Longton, Staffordshire
 R.A. 913—Pattison, Lord Ralgan Tavern, Plumstead
 R.A. 1324—Okcover, Mar Hotel, Ripley, Derby
 M.M.—Canynges, Freemasons' Hall, Bristol

FRIDAY, 16th JANUARY.

Emulation Lodge of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
 6—Friendship, Willis's Rooms, St. James's
 25—Robert Burns, The North Pole, 115 Oxford-street, W., at 8 (Instruc.)
 143—Middlesex, Albion, Aldersgate-street
 144—St. Luke, White Hart, King's-road, Chelsea, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 201—Jordan, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 507—United Pilgrims, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Instruc.)
 766—William Preston, St. Andrew's Tavern, George St., Baker St., at 8. (In.)
 780—Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge. (Instruction)
 834—Ranelagh, Six Bells, Hammersmith (Instruction)
 933—Doric, Duke's Head, 79 Whitechapel-road, at 8. (Instruction)
 1056—Metropolitan, Portugal Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C. at 7. (Instruction)
 1118—University, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
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 1642—E. Carnarvon, Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill, at 8. (Instruction)
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 271—Royal Clarence, Royal Pavilion, Brighton
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 993—Alexandra, Midway Hotel, Levenshulme

1096—Lord Warden, Wellington Hall, Deal
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 1329—Sphinx, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, S.E.
 1364—Earl of Zetland, Old Town Hall, Marc-street, Hackney
 1364—Earl of Zetland, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7 (Instruction)
 1624—Eccleston, Crown and Anchor, 79 Ebury Street, S.W., at 7 (Instruction)
 1732—King's Cross, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C.
 1747—Kensington, Courtfield Hotel, Earl's Court, S.W.
 2012—Chiswick, Hampshire Hog, King Street, Hammersmith, W. (Instruc.)
 Sinai Chapter of Improvement, Union, Air-street, Regent-st., W., at 8
 R.A. 142—St. Thomas's, Cannon Street Hotel
 R.A. 1572—Carnarvon, Albion, Aldersgate Street
 M.M. 104—Macdonald, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham Street
 M.M. 251—Tenterden, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C.
 811—Yarborough, Royal Pavilion, Brighton
 1556—Addiscombe, Harewood House, High Street, Croydon.
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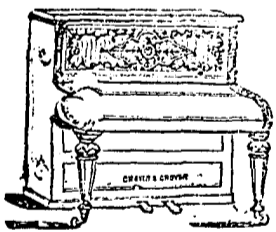
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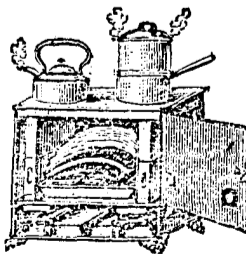
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