

Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

Reports of United Grand Lodge are published with the Special Sanction of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England.

VOL. XXI.—No. 532.

SATURDAY, 21st MARCH 1885.

[PRICE THREEPENCE.
13s 6d per annum, post free.]

CHRISTIANITY AND FREEMASONRY.

UNDER the above title we last week reproduced a letter that had been sent to the *Nottingham Daily Guardian*, in which was given a long extract from one of Freiderich von Schlegel's lectures on the "Philosophy of History," delivered about the year 1828. Freiderich was the younger of two sons, but he was far less distinguished than his brother August Wilhelm Schlegel. Born a Protestant, he subsequently became a Roman Catholic, and this fact must be borne in mind when estimating his opinions on matters referring to secret societies. The ban of the Romish Church was not less bitter against Freemasonry in the latter part of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth centuries than it is now, and it is not at all likely that Freiderich Schlegel would be more tolerant of the Craft, being himself a pervert and therefore zealous, than the heads of his own Church. His brother was the intimate friend of Madame de Stael and Goethe. The latter was a Freemason, and the lady was an admirer of the Order. This simple record is suggestive, and points to the inference that care should be observed in admitting, without question, even the statements of a man of the character of Freiderich von Schlegel. In the extract referred to, he is careful in discounting the authority of eye witnesses of events, because he says: "We never know, or can know, what their particular views and interests may lead them to say or conceal, to suppress wholly or in part." Just so, and therefore, for the reasons already given, we should be somewhat sceptical in receiving the views even of the great German philosopher, especially when he omits the grounds upon which his conclusions have been founded.

Freiderich von Schlegel assumes at the outset that "the Order of the Templars was the channel of which this society [Freemasons] in its ancient and long preserved form was introduced to the West." Without attempting to contest this assumption, it may be stated that men quite as capable, if not more capable, than this authority, are by no means agreed as to the relative positions of Templarism and Craft Freemasonry. The evidence is not so overwhelming as not to admit of doubts, and this fact alone is sufficient to arouse caution in accepting as *ex cathedra* what is a matter of opinion. As if apprehensive of a damaging conclusion being drawn from his own premiss, the philosopher hastens to show that spiritual associations could not long exist among Christians and Mahomedans; that "an esoteric society for the propagation of any secret doctrines is not compatible with the very principle of Christianity itself, for Christianity is a divine mystery, which according to the intentions of its Founder lies open to all." With regard to the first statement it may be boldly asserted that spiritual associations between Christians and Mahomedans do exist, through the medium of Freemasonry. This is one of the grandest features of the Order—that it can retain its spiritual essence without being crippled in its operation by creeds and dogmas. It embraces men of all creeds, and only closes its doors to the atheist. It teaches a belief in God and the immortality of the soul, and although the name of Christ is not invoked there is nothing in the Craft that can offend the most earnest disciple of the Saviour. "Christianity," says Schlegel, "is a divine mystery." So is the religion of the Jews, and is just as open to all as is Christianity. It is hardly correct to say that Freemasonry

is founded for the propagation of secret doctrines. Its secrets are not of principles, but of methods of salutation and recognition. It is founded on a universal basis, and never can become a "church within a church." In this sense it stands out in noble contrast to Roman Catholicism, which is, what our author condemns, an *imperium in imperio*. With a strange perversity he urges that such a Church as he opines Freemasonry to be, "would unquestionably be very soon transformed into a secret directory for political changes and revolutions." Surely he had in view his own Church, which has contributed so much to political strife and dynastic changes. The harsh, imperious sway of Rome, the usurpation of all power over the civil and religious life of mankind, the boasted claim of infallibility, shocked the natural love of liberty. Against all this Freemasonry revolts, and hence the enmity of Pope and priests, who must have the obedience of the dumb brute or no tie at all. This clashing of interests so diverse has led to a bitter antagonism on the part of the Church of Rome, and as her methods of working are violent and unscrupulous, charges have been brought against Freemasonry which are altogether untrue and contrary to its very nature.

If we had not known that Schlegel was a Roman Catholic, we should have been very much surprised at the attitude he has taken up. His connection with the Church, however, explains everything, and certainly detracts from his authority on any matter connected with the Craft. He alleges that the latter is the "secret laboratory of revolution," from whose bosom have proceeded the "Illumines, the Jacobins, and the Carbonari." This is an old fallacy, and scarcely worth refuting. It is enough to say that Freemasonry has nothing whatever to do with affairs of State, except to be loyal citizens; and the secret societies, such as those we have named, were organised because there was no room for the hot spirits that founded them within the extensive boundaries of the Craft. But Schlegel gets more than ordinarily weak towards the close of his argument. He seems afraid of the boldness of his accusations, and modifies them by stating that "the oldest of secret societies appears to be split and divided into a multitude of different sects and factions, and that on this account we must not suppose that all those fearful aberrations and wild excesses of impiety, all those openly destructive or the secretly undermining principle of revolution, were universally approved of by this society." He continues to say that such a supposition would be utterly false, and admits that there were many estimable persons in the eighteenth century connected with Freemasonry, against whom charges of wild excesses could not be brought. Then comes the reference to this country, which can hardly be considered a compliment. He says, "In no country did this esoteric society so well harmonise with the State and the whole established order of things as in that country where all the conflicting elements and morals of society are brought into a sort of strange and artificial equipoise—I mean England."

The admission made in the last quotation explains much of the difference that exists between English and Continental Freemasonry. Here the Craft has been free and unsuspected, and has remained loyal to law and religion. It has grown into a moral power of great magnitude, and the secret of success lies in its cosmopolitan character. It speaks one universal language and proclaims one universal principle. All Masons can recognise each other, and all

can claim a Brotherhood of Charity. On the Continent priestly power has contended for the supremacy, and in the struggle for freedom from a corrupt and tyrannical church, men deserted the legal Institution of Freemasonry and established other secret societies. They were driven to desperate resources, and, in the wild excesses that followed, the good suffered with the bad. But, notwithstanding all that took place, there was much to pity in the offenders. Freemasonry could not find a remedy for their grievances, and it ought not to be made responsible for their crimes.

INITIATION OF PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR OF WALES.

THERE can be no question as to the views entertained by our Grand Master in regard to Freemasonry. The Order evidently has his Royal Highness's warmest sympathy; not only in his official capacity as Grand Master, but also in private life as a citizen and a father. That such is the case was amply demonstrated on Tuesday, when His Royal Highness personally initiated his eldest son into the mysteries of the Craft, and conferred on him membership of an Order which must be held in high repute by our future King, for he has taken the earliest opportunity of introducing his son into its ranks. The ceremony took place in the Royal Alpha Lodge, No. 16, at Willis's Rooms, St. James's, and was of all but a private character; simply the members of the Lodge being present to witness the initiation, which, in all probability, will be recorded as one of the principal events of English Freemasonry of the nineteenth century. The Prince of Wales was supported by the leaders of the Craft, who filled the respective offices, and assisted in the admission of the Royal Initiate, who we trust will take as much interest in the welfare of the Order as has been displayed by the members of his Royal Family in the past.

FROM THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, 17TH MARCH 1885.

Ever since the Prince of Wales was initiated into the rites of Freemasonry by the King of Sweden at Stockholm in 1868, His Royal Highness has taken a close personal interest in the welfare of the Craft. He has not been content to appear occasionally among the brethren as a mere ornamental patron of their ancient and widespread society, but has worked in Lodge with industry and assiduity, and is, indeed, apart from other high qualifications, an accomplished Craftsman. When, on the resignation of the Marquis of Ripon, the Prince accepted the duties and responsibilities of Worshipful Grand Master, eight thousand Officers in Masonry assembled at the Albert Hall to witness a sight which for splendour and impressiveness was probably never equalled among Free and Accepted Masons since the time of King Solomon, Hiram, King of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff. His Royal Highness has served the office of Worshipful Master in the Apollo University Lodge at Oxford, in the Prince of Wales' Lodge—in which he initiated his brother, the Duke of Connaught—and in the Alpha Lodge, in which he will receive his eldest son, Prince Albert Victor. Freemasons throughout the world—wherever brethren are known to one another by the occult mysteries which bind them together—will rejoice at the latest accession to an Order which, though founded on the principle of the equality of mankind, is yet full of veneration and respect for rank and precedence. Prince Albert Victor will be the seventeenth of the Blood Royal of Great Britain and Ireland to join the Freemasons since the year 1737, beyond which period the records of the Craft are occasionally vague and not always to be relied on. Without going outside the confines of England, the historians of the society claim for it an antiquity further back than the invasion of the Romans under Julius Cæsar. St. Austin, assumed to be a zealous Mason, helped to found the Cathedrals of Canterbury, Rochester, St. Paul's, and St. Peter's, Westminster, all in the seventh century; and, if the records may be trusted, the Craft has continued to flourish here, with the exception of a period of stagnation during the Heptarchy, from these days to those. According to Anderson's account, St. Augustine, Alfred the Great, St. Dunstan, and Edward the Confessor were all Grand Masters before the coming of the Normans. Nevertheless, the list of the holders of this exalted position among the brethren is not generally accepted without reservation until the end of Queen Anne's reign. Undoubtedly Henry VII. and Henry VIII. were Freemasons, and Inigo Jones and Sir Christopher Wren Masters of Lodges. An historic list of Grand Masters, however, accurate beyond all possibility and dispute, only begins with the Grand Mastership of Henry Sayer in 1717, followed by that of George Payne in 1718. In the year following the office was conferred on Dr. Désaguliers, who initiated Frederick Lewis, twentieth Prince of Wales, eldest son of King George II., at the Palace of Kew, on the 5th November 1737. If we are to place implicit reliance on the Memoirs of Lord Hervey—Pope's "Sporus"—the character of Prince Frederick Lewis was not above criticism. Certain it is that his father, a vain and selfish old man, despised him, and he was

hated by his mother, the generally acute Queen Caroline. The Prince, however, was popular with the multitude, and that he must have been popular with the Craft is manifest from the fact that the Book of Constitutions for the year 1748 was dedicated to his Royal Highness.

The uninitiated are in the habit of asking: If Freemasonry be such an admirable institution, why is it not thrown open to everyone; and, furthermore, if it be good for men, why are not women also entrusted with its secrets? To this the Freemasons reply that were the privileges of the Order to be indiscriminately dispensed, its mysteries, becoming familiar, would lose their value and sink into disregard, and, when pressed, they are fain to admit that upon one occasion a lady was actually passed through the degrees of the Craft and emerged a full Freemason. It would appear that at some time during the second quarter of the eighteenth century the meetings of Lodge 44 used to be held at Doneraile House, the seat of Lord Doneraile, in Ireland, his lordship being then Worshipful Master. Lord Doneraile had a sister, the Hon. Elizabeth St. Leger, afterwards the Honourable Mrs. Aldworth, and the young lady so managed affairs that she possessed herself of all the secrets of the Lodge workings. The St. Legers, it will be remembered, were an enterprising family. "Handsome Jack Sellinger," one of the founders of the "Hell Fire Club" and the Doncaster St. Leger, a boon companion of the "First Gentleman in Europe," inherited all the curiosity and liveliness of the Doneraile blood. Some say that the Honourable Elizabeth secreted herself in a clock-case, others that she witnessed the working through a crevice in the wall of the apartment sacred to the mysteries of the Craft. What were the members of Lodge 44 to do under the circumstances? Having discovered her, had they let her go free she might have revealed secrets, close kept since the days of the building of the Temple, to all the parish, and so to society at large. We may suppose that her brother the Worshipful Master, and the Officers and brethren assembled, were hard put how to act for the best. Women might not become Freemasons. Yet here was a woman who, so far as a knowledge of some of the most important secrets, never revealed to the outer or popular world, was already one. The Constitutions did not provide for such a contingency, and it became necessary to create a precedent. Thereupon the Honourable Elizabeth St. Leger, only daughter of Arthur, first Viscount Doneraile, was brought before the authorities of Lodge 44 and solemnly inducted into the secrets and mysteries, the signs and tokens, of a Free and Accepted Mason. What was imparted to the lady is not likely to be made public. For, as one of the most learned of Masons had laid down, "of all the arts which Masons practise the art of secrecy particularly distinguishes them; and that it is agreeable to the Deity Himself may be easily conceived from the glorious example which He gives in concealing from mankind the ways of His Providence. The wisest of men cannot pry into the Arcana of Heaven, nor can they divine to-day what to-morrow may bring forth." Indeed, Harpocrates and Angerona were not more sacred to silence among the Greeks and Romans than is all that goes on in a Lodge close-tiled to the discreet Freemason. Whatever was told to Miss St. Leger, under the seal of secrecy, she possessed the conscience and prudence never to let pass her lips. The Irish Masons revere her memory, and her likeness in full Masonic clothing is still preserved.

When, at the Royal Alpha Lodge, to be held at Willis's Rooms to-day, Prince Albert Victor is received into the Craft by his father, he will become the member of a society illustrious alike for its antiquity and "respectability," and for the innumerable works of charity with which its name is associated. The word "respectability" is used advisedly. It is a word understood and applied according to its best and truest meaning—respect-worthy by the Craft at large. Freemasonry is, in this sense, before all and above all, a respectable institution. Its tenets teach the principles of honour and the practice of virtue. The society aids and assists the sick and the poor, and the widows and orphans of its members. Fond of good fellowship and lavish in the cause of Charity, the typical British Freemason is a good man and a decent citizen. Although it is a secret society, religion has nothing to fear from an Institution based on belief. Only lately the English Lodges have cut themselves adrift from the Grand Orient of France, not, as has been erroneously supposed, because the Orient favours freedom of thought, but because the Grand Commander of French Freemasonry and his Officers refuse to admit that the very life of the Institution is founded on the Masonic acknowledgment of faith in the Great Architect of the Universe. For the Grand Commander of the Orient, or for any lesser Mason, native or foreign, to pretend that the Craft in its purity is possible without a profession of faith is to misunderstand the first principles of Masonry, to misinterpret its injunctions, and to misread its records. Freemasons are, or should be, brethren wherever they meet. The Craft, like Art, speaks a universal language understood by all races of the initiated—East, West, North, and South. In the past it has left its traces upon almost every sacred Jewish and Christian fane famous in the annals of architecture. When the Freemasons really handled the tools of the mason's trade they were a guild by themselves, protected by every enlightened Monarch throughout the civilised world. And now that there are speculative Masons more particularly devoted to ethics and morality, Kings and Princes equally delight to honour an institution which upholds the safety of the State and the stability of the Throne. As of other learning, so of the knowledge of Freemasonry, there is no Royal road to all that it teaches. With the aid of an instructor, however, as able and accomplished in the lessons of the Craft as his illustrious father, Prince Albert Victor enters upon his Masonic career under a most auspicious star.

With respect to some of the remarks as above, a Past Master writes to the *Daily Telegraph* as follows:—

In your able leading article on Freemasonry, of last Tuesday, you say, "that on one occasion a lady was actually passed

through the degrees of the Craft and emerged a full Freemason." Permit me to add that no less than four of the softer sex have been initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. These were the Hon. Mrs. Aldworth, in Lodge 44, about 1735, whom you mention; Mrs. Beaton, a native of Norfolk; a certain landlady of a Devonshire hotel; and Madame de Xaintrailles, in France.

We may add that reference is made to "Women in Freemasonry" in the "Occasional Papers," which may be had of our publisher, price 1/.—[Ed. F.C.]

THE UNRECORDED YEARS OF THE CRAFT.

WHEN we consider that from the beginning the established policy of Freemasonry has been to commit to writing as little as possible concerning the actual life of the Craft, and when we remember that the art of printing is a modern invention, only some four centuries old, it is not matter for surprise that we know so little of the history of the Masonic Fraternity, not only in the primitive times, but even in the Middle Ages, comparatively near to our own era. Indeed, it is remarkable that we have so many manuscript Constitutions and Old Charges preserved as are now in the possession of old Lodges, or of public or private libraries, when we recall the fact that at the so-called "Revival" in England, in A.D. 1717, the policy was to destroy rather than to preserve the old records of the Craft. Notwithstanding all this, though year by year the past is becoming more remote, the possibility of recovering some of these documents, long hidden away or lost, is improving. Old muniment chests and old garrets, when compelled to give up their possessions, sometimes present records of the greatest value. Thus are old Minute Books and MS. Constitutions discovered, and little by little our vista is extended into the centuries anterior to those now regarded as historic. Yet what we are now absolutely certain of is inadequate to the demands of an enlightened curiosity. We crave a knowledge of the details of Lodge life when Sir Robert Moray was made a Mason at Newcastle, England, in A.D. 1641; when Elias Ashmole was initiated at Warrington, in Lancashire, in 1646; when Randle Holme was a member of the Chester Lodge, in 1665; and generally prior to 1686, at which date, according to Aubrey's "Naturall Historie of Wiltshire," then just completed, "the Fraternity of Free-Masons" * * * "have Severall Lodges in severall Counties" [of England]. Then, prior to that, how gratifying it would be to know something at least concerning the inner history of the Lodges of the Cathedral-builders in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe; the particulars of their connection with the monasteries, the transmission of their art to them from the prior building corporations and guilds, and their derivation, in turn, from Byzantium and the Orient. Then what would we not give to penetrate to the arcana of Lodge life in Palestine in King Solomon's era, and in Egypt in the Mysteries of Osiris? How we should like to learn of the stimulus given by all of these instrumentalities to the impulses of genius among the elder Craftsmen, which resulted in the triumphs of architecture in ancient and mediæval times. How we should delight to verify legend, and change it into history. The poet Longfellow was right:—

"The legend, I feel, is a part
Of the hunger and thirst of the heart."

Now, we have only the paucity of a few attested facts, while, if the past were unfolded to us, we should see as we are seen and know as we are known. Will this ever be? We have faith to believe that it will—measurably, at least. The delving, antiquarian, archæological spirit is actuating not a few prominent, able, and laborious Brethren, and their efforts have already revealed many interesting facts in the past, and have stimulated Freemasons everywhere to be on the *qui vive* for the discovery of other ancient records. There is a growing demand for information concerning that long period which now includes the unrecorded years of the Craft, and all analogies justify us in expecting that the demand will be gratified, and light gradually be shed upon these dark ages. A few years ago the histories of Nineveh, Babylon, and Egypt were almost closed books to us, but since the labours of Layard, Bunsen, Wilkinson, Mariette, Lenormant, and Rawlinson have uncovered the ruins and discovered the relics of those

mighty empires, we have come to feel almost familiarly acquainted with their peoples, who flourished millennia ago. So it may be in Freemasonry. The events of the past are irrevocable, but evidence concerning them is not irrecoverable. Even in the case of a mystic fraternity like that of the Freemasons, sufficient *dissecta membra* of its once complete records may yet be found, out of which may be reconstructed a satisfactory sketch of its continuous career, and of the early manners and customs of the Craft. The last twenty years have been marked by remarkable discoveries in this respect, which justify us in anticipating a continuous succession of fortunate "finds." Indeed, we have only just set out upon the quest. Not only is the literature of Freemasonry a rapidly growing one, but not a few of the Brethren who are engaged in the labour of diffusing light to the Craft are gifted with rare ability. They are patient, laborious workers, critical scholars, bold and fortunate discoverers, and actuated, withal, by the most loyal affection for our ancient and honourable Fraternity. We wish them "God speed" in their labour of love. "More light" is the earnest cry of earnest Craftsmen, and more light is dawning, year by year. We can bear the full effulgence of the sun of truth. We crave to know all of the past. Little by little this knowledge shall be ours, until the unrecorded years of the Craft are crowded off the pages of Masonic history.—*Keystone*.

Several installation meeting reports are unavoidably held over.

The ceremony of installation will be rehearsed at the Joppa Lodge of Instruction, Champion Hotel, Aldersgate Street, on Tuesday next, 24th instant, by Brother A. G. Dodson P.M. The Lodge will be opened at seven o'clock precisely. Brethren are invited to attend.

The following Dinners were held at the Freemasons' Tavern during the week ending 21st March:—

Monday—Grand Masters' Lodge, British Lodge. Tuesday—Benevolent Society of St. Patrick, Cadogan Lodge, Salisbury Lodge. Wednesday—Grand Stewards' Lodge, Oak Lodge, Buckingham and Chandos Lodge. Thursday—Home for Little Boys, St. Mary's Lodge, Globe Lodge. Friday—Jordan Lodge, London and Suburban Railway Officials, King's College Hospital Clerks and Dressers. Saturday—Highland Society.

An International Exhibition of French Cookery, "Concours Culinaire Artistique," will be held on the 22nd and 23rd of April, at Willis's Rooms. Exhibitions of this character have been held in Paris, New York, Vienna, and Berlin, but never before in England. Prizes, consisting of medals and diplomas, will be presented. A committee, consisting of Bros. M. Ponard President, Bohers, E. Devien Secretary, Allibert, Lecomte, Mandin, Penet, &c., has been formed.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of the Crystal Palace District Gas Company was appointed to be held on Friday, the 20th instant (yesterday), at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, for the reception of the Report, the confirmation of the Balance-Sheet by the auditors, the election of a new auditor in the place of Bro. James Glaisher P.G.D. resigned, the declaration of a dividend, and the transaction of other business. We learn from the Report, which is of a satisfactory character, that the Directors have resolved on reducing the price of gas to 2s 10d per 1000 cubic feet from and after the date of the Lady Day accounts, and that the following are the rates of dividend which it had been resolved to propose for declaration, namely:—6 per cent. on the Preference Stock; 7 per cent. on the Ordinary 7 per Cent. Stock; 10 per cent. on the Ordinary 10 per Cent. Stock; and 7 per cent. on the New Ordinary 7 per Cent. Shares. These Dividends, which will be payable less income tax, will absorb over £11,938 out of the balance of net profits for the half-year—over 19,704. We note further that Bro. Glaisher has succeeded the late Bro. Sir Erasmus Wilson on the Board of Directors, hence his resignation of the Auditorship, and that Messrs. R. J. S. Beeton and Charles Beeton are candidates respectively for the latter office. We may also mention—and we do so with pleasure—that one of the Board's recommendations is that a substantial addition be made to the salary of the Secretary, Bro. Magnus Ohren P.G.A.D.C., whose valuable services to the Company are evidently appreciated as they deserve.

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INSTALLATION MEETINGS, &c.

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VITRUVIAN LODGE, No. 87.

ON Wednesday, the 5th inst., the installation meeting was held at the Bridge House Hotel, under the presidency of Bro. W. H. Bale, the Worshipful Master. There were present Bros. W. R. Davis W.M. elect S.W., T. Minstrell P.M. 1928 J.W.; P.M.'s Timothy Thurkle Treasurer, Stuart Secretary, T. Janeway, J. Harnor, R. Whiting, R. T. Hopkins, J. C. Walter, and a large number of Visitors and members of the Lodge. After previous minutes had been confirmed, the ceremony of passing was performed in the usual excellent style which has characterised the working of the W.M. The installation ceremony was then proceeded with, the retiring W.M. performing the first portion, and P.M. Whiting the last part. The newly-installed W.M., Bro. Davis, invested his Officers—Bros. Minstrell S.W., Birch J.W., Stuart Secretary. P.M. Thurkle, who, like P.M. Stuart, has done good suit and service in the Lodge, again received the collar of Treasurer. The other Officers appointed were Bros. Watson S.D., Lamborne J.D., Chamberlain I.G., Irwin D.C., Payne and Nicholls Wine Stewards, Knollys Organist. The new Worshipful Master afforded ample proof of the Masonic ability which it was known he possessed, in the initiation ceremony which he subsequently performed. Brother Davis is the author of a new song, "The Initiate." During the evening a valuable P.M.'s jewel was presented to the retiring Master, who, as a further mark of respect of the brethren, was presented with a beautifully emblazoned address, which recorded his services in the Lodge during the year. The address was signed on behalf of the Officers of the Lodge. A suitable speech accompanied the presentation, and the same was warmly acknowledged. After Lodge had been duly closed, the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet. A suggestion has been made that the Lodge should have affiliated with it a Chapter; and although the brethren have not yet been asked to sanction the necessary application to the Grand Chapter for a warrant, the movement has been very heartily taken up by the members, very many of whom have expressed a desire to be associated with it. Bro. Minstrell has kindly undertaken the necessary preliminary arrangements.

LODGE OF TRANQUILLITY, No. 185.

AN ordinary meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, the 16th instant, at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham Street, E.C., Bro. Sydney Boas W.M. in the chair. There were present Bros. Barnett I.P.M., Staley as S.W., Tipper J.W., Bayley P.M. Treasurer, Myers Secretary. Several of the minor Officers were absent, but there was a goodly muster of Brethren. It is the custom in many Lodges for the retiring Master to clear off his work, and not infrequently recourse is had to an emergency meeting for this purpose, generally held about a week before the night of installation, and thus leave the course clear for the new Master. However, such an arrangement is sometimes aggravating, especially when no new candidates are forthcoming, and the newly installed W.M. is up to his work and eager to convince the members that their choice was justified. On the other hand, it is by no means pleasant to a brother, tolerably efficient, but of a nervous temperament, to commence his career with three or four passings and the eventual working of the Master Masons' degree, when, in all probability, the performance of an initiation, in which perhaps he is more at home, might have imparted to him the confidence necessary under such circumstances. Brother Boas had to commence his duties by conferring the second degree upon Bros. M. Marks, Stanley, Bamberger, Van Gelder, T. Davis, Frisher and Lazarus, no easy task for a beginner. After the termination of the Lodge business, an ample supper was served, and the usual toasts were proposed and responded to with very commendable brevity. The Worshipful Master, in response to the toast of his health, expressed his sincere thanks for the cordiality with which the brethren deemed it proper to receive his name. He confessed to a certain amount of nervousness, which every one must have noticed, during the proceedings, but he assured the brethren that his future efforts would be found satisfactory. Brother Barnett I.P.M., who replied for the Past Masters, dilated upon the readiness of that body to render services whensoever and wheresoever they were called upon; this was evidenced that evening, when one of them was required to fulfil duties which he had not attempted for the last four years. Brother Bush P.M. announced his intention to serve a Stewardship at the next Festival, unattached and independent of any Lodge of which he is a member, but he requested the aid of the brethren in the matter. Brother Bush deserves all recognition. He is an indefatigable worker for the Charities, and through his influence no mean amount has been contributed during the last few years. Brother Bayley P.M. and Treasurer, whose name is always received with the most sincere affection, could assure the brethren that he most heartily reciprocated the kind feeling ever shown to him. Brother Asher Myers, the able Secretary, is making rapid strides in securing the esteem of the members, by his unfailing courtesy. A very pleasant and enjoyable gathering came to a close with the Tyler's toast. Bros. Bayley, Tipper, and Thompson amused the brethren by their vocal efforts. The Visitors were Bros. Harris 177, Hills 754, Durrant 34, Hamilton 53, Sheffield 1896, Skipton 1603, Hawkis 107, Rexworthy 1728. The P.M.'s present were Bros. Staley, Bush, Barnett (Organist), Harfeld, Ross, Gluckstein, and Gottheil.

PORTSMOUTH LODGE, No. 487.

THERE was a large attendance of members and visiting brethren at this Lodge on Thursday, the 12th instant, to witness the installation of Bro. Horace E. Loader as Worshipful Master for the

ensuing year. Lodge was opened in due form by the outgoing W.M. (Bro. H. Poulden Holley), who in suitable language acknowledged the services rendered by the retiring Secretary (Bro. J. T. Thackara) and the Organist (Bro. G. Pearman), each of whom were presented with a gold medal, and the recipients severally returned thanks. The impressive ceremony of installation was ably performed by one of the "fathers" of the Lodge, Bro. M. E. Frost, after which Bro. Loader invested his Officers as follows:—Bros. Holley I.P.M., Cowd S.W., J. T. Thackara J.W., T. P. Palsgrave P.M. Treasurer, J. W. Boughton Secretary, J. Rae Assistant Secretary, G. Whitehall S.D., W. Bates J.D., W. M. Outridge P.M. D. of C., G. Pearman Organist, J. Jenkins I.G., Brough and G. C. Sanderson Stewards, J. Exell and T. Smith Tylers. The new W.M., who had a most cordial welcome, after a few well-chosen remarks, presented his predecessor with a Past Master's jewel, subscribed for by the members, in recognition of the excellent manner in which he had discharged the duties of his office. The musical portion of the ceremony was effectively rendered by a choir, comprising Bros. G. Pearman (who presided at the harmonium), R. W. Downing, J. Jenkins, T. P. Palsgrave, T. Batchelor, G. Grant, C. Larkins, and W. H. Sperring. The ceremonies in the handsome Lodge concluded, an adjournment took place to the banquetting-room, which was tastefully decorated with bunting, while on the tables were candelabra and other plate and choice flowers, the *tout ensemble* being exceedingly effective. The name of each guest was inscribed on an artistically-executed *menu* card, which, besides the toasts, contained the following programme, played by the band of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, under the direction of Mr. W. O'Keefe, the Bandmaster:—March, "Triumphal," Robinson; overture, "Le lac des Fees," Anber; valse, "Mariana," Waldtenfel; selection, "Falka," Chassaigne; cornet solo, "The lost chord," Sullivan; valse, "Moonlight and starlight," Dobrowolske. A *récherché* banquet was served from the Albany Hotel, Landport, and the wines were of the first quality. The arrangements were excellent, and the W.M. received valuable assistance from Bro. J. T. Thackara and others. At the conclusion of the banquet the usual toasts were honoured, Bro. Major Shalden Smith responding for the Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Provincial Grand Officers. The toast of the Worshipful Master, proposed by Bro. M. E. Frost, had a very warm reception, and elicited an appropriate reply from Bro. Loader. With the aid of harmony a very pleasant evening was spent.

ERME LODGE, No. 1091.

THE brethren of this Lodge held their annual meeting at their rooms, at Ivybridge, on Wednesday, 11th inst. The W.M. elect, Bro. Velvin, was installed by the retiring W.M., Bro. Cobeldick, assisted by Bro. Lavers P.M. and an efficient Board of I.M.'s. At the close of the installation the W.M. invested the following brethren as his Officers for the year:—Bros. Cobeldick I.P.M., Henwood S.W., Lavers J.W., Cole Treasurer, Ford Secretary, Strain S.D., Shepherd J.D., Sellick D.C., Baker A.D.C., Hy. Shepherd I.G., Gullely and Mudge Stewards, Coyte Tyler. Bro. Cole was reappointed the representative of the Lodge on the Committee of Petitions and Lodge Steward for the Devon Educational Fund. A handsome P.M.'s jewel was presented to Bro. Cobeldick, with the following inscription engraved thereon:—

Presented to
W. BRO. COBELDICK, by Erme Lodge, No. 1091,
On his retiring from the chair 11th March 1885.

Bro. Cole made the presentation, remarking in laudatory terms on the zeal and industry shown by Bro. Cobeldick in carrying out the duties of the Lodge during his year of office. In the evening the brethren dined together at Bro. Sandover's, Erme Hotel. Bro. Velvin presided, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

JORDAN LODGE, No. 1402.

BROTHER W. J. HUGHAN P.G.D., &c., lately delivered a lecture, under the banner of the above Lodge, at Torquay, the Master (Bro. B. Knight) in the chair. There was a good attendance of the Past Masters and members of the Lodge, and also of the Master and members of the sister Lodge St. John's, No. 328, as well as of the Masters and members of neighbouring Lodges from Paignton, Brixham, Teignmouth, &c. Bro. Westcott P.M. 70 P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works attended as Treasurer of the Devon Educational Fund. The subject of the lecture was "The Four Grand Lodges of England," the first having been formed in 1717 by four old Lodges meeting in London; the second originated at York in 1725, and was started by a Lodge assembling in that city—in all probability for centuries before; the third was started as a rival to the first in London in 1751; and the fourth was in existence only for ten years from 1779, under the wing of the Lodge of Antiquity during a temporary secession. The York Grand Lodge collapsed in 1792, the first and third continuing as opposing bodies until December 1813, when under the Grand Master'ships of their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Sussex and Kent respectively, they joined hands and formed the United Grand Lodge of England, peace and harmony having since happily prevailed, the difficulties during the last century being in part incident to the change of the Society from a partially operative to a wholly speculative Institution. Many questions were asked and answered at the close of the lecture, and a collection was made on behalf of the Devon Educational Fund, which has benefited that Institution to the extent of five guineas. On behalf of the same Society Bro. Hughan will lecture on the 26th instant, at the Hayshe Masonic Temple, under the banner of the Lodge Fortitude, No. 105, on the "Connecting Links between Ancient and Modern Freemasonry," being the last of the series for the season, when the whole of the proceeds, as hitherto, will be devoted to the Educational Fund.

THE GREAT CITY LODGE, No. 1426.

THE last meeting of this Lodge for the season was held on Saturday, 14th inst., at the Cannon-street Hotel. Bro. Baber W.M. presided, supported by his Officers, Brethren and Visitors:—Bros. Venn P.M. 23, Simpson 1196, Crosbie 1635, Baxter 1296, Doyle 146, Tallent P.M. 186, Parkinson 57, Cozens 907, Goodwin 1768, Deacon 29. The minutes of the last Lodge having been read by Bro. Blackie P.M. and Secretary, some motions concerning the government of the Lodge were discussed and disposed of; the next business was the election of a W.M. for the ensuing year, Bro. Fendick being unanimously chosen to fill that office. The same unanimity was shown in the case of Bro. Headon P.M., who was re-elected to the responsible post of Treasurer of the Lodge, an office which he has filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to the brethren for many years past. Bro. Potter was also re-elected Tyler of the Lodge. The Audit and Almoners' Committees were appointed. An application came from a person who represented himself to be a Spanish Mason; after an investigation of the case, it was dismissed as unworthy the assistance of the Lodge. There being no further business Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment, the W.M. presiding. At its conclusion, the toast of the Queen was given, followed by the National Anthem, Bro. Cozens presiding at the pianoforte. The W.M. said the next toast he had the honour to propose was that of the Most Worshipful Grand Master the Prince of Wales, who at all times felt the greatest interest in Freemasonry, and, as proof of this, if any were wanting, he heard that on Tuesday next he intended to introduce his eldest son and initiate him into the ranks of Freemasonry. Therefore, there was every probability that at some future time the Craft would greet him as Most Worshipful Grand Master. It showed how deeply his Royal Highness had the interests of the Craft at heart by thus early initiating his eldest son as a Freemason. Their Grand Master was always engaged in some good work; it was only the day before that he and the Princess of Wales were at the Mansion House, rendering whatever services they could to do honour to the memory of General Gordon. The W.M. gave the health of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Most Worshipful Grand Master, which was enthusiastically responded to, followed by "God Bless the Prince of Wales," by Bro. Cozens. The other formal toasts were given and responded to. Bro. Keeble I.P.M. said that was the last time he should address the brethren as I.P.M., and therefore he should ask their indulgence while he proposed the health of their W.M. He no doubt felt that it was his misfortune not to have done a greater amount of work, for had it been given him to do he would have performed it with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the Lodge; but as it was, he would leave the chair with the best wishes of every member, adding lustre to the noble band of Past Masters, of whom he would become a worthy member. As this was the last opportunity he should have of addressing them, he was determined to make the most of it, but if he was interrupted, he feared he should break down; he therefore thought he had better stop at once and propose the health of the W.M. Brother Baber said he thanked their I.P.M. for the manner in which he had proposed, and the brethren for the cordial way in which they had received the toast; he was sorry that the term of his office had come to an end, for it appeared to be a very short one. He was rather dissatisfied he had had so little to do, and that was why the time appeared so short. He thanked them sincerely for the manner in which they had received the toast of his health, and for the uniform kindness shown him since he occupied the chair. The W.M. said the next toast he had to propose was that of the Visitors; The Great City Lodge always gave them a hearty welcome. Bro. Tallent returned thanks. The W.M. then gave the P.M.'s, and alluded to the services they had rendered to the Lodge. Bro. Keeble returned thanks; he was much obliged to the W.M. for the manner in which he had proposed the toast. It had been to him a great pleasure to be at the right hand of the W.M. during his term of office. He had already mentioned that that would be the last occasion on which he should return thanks in the capacity of I.P.M., and from henceforth he should take a lower seat amongst the Past Masters with a deal of pride. Other Past Masters likewise returned thanks. The W.M. said the toast he had next to propose was that of the Treasurer and Secretary. Their Treasurer had that night been re-elected with unanimity, and he doubted not that he would be so re-elected for some years to come. The same remark would apply to Bro. Blackie, the Secretary, who although labouring under disadvantages in necessarily being away so much from London, yet still had devoted his best energies to the good of the Lodge. The toast was cordially received. Bro. Headon P.M. and Treasurer said it almost appeared idle on his part to say that he heartily returned thanks for the compliment which he had received for many years past, as the brethren were always kind in the manner in which the toast of the Treasurer was received, but he must say that he had endured a certain amount of agony for years past, as all his ideas were worn out. He wanted some new ideas; they had the same old toast and the same old thanks; he looked forward with anxiety to the time when he should have something new to say, but that was exceedingly difficult to find. At present he was placed in much such a dilemma in returning thanks as in singing "God save the Queen" over and over again; he was exhausted in speech, but at the next meeting he would endeavour to give them something new; they must be content with his formal thanks for the favour they had conferred upon him. Bro. Blackie P.M. and Secretary, in returning thanks said, in delivering up his collar, from that night he should not again have to respond to the toast of the Secretary, but he should leave everything in order and a perfect state; when a successor came in and took possession he would find the duties of his office a much easier task than he had found them. That was the last time he should address them as Secretary; although he had occupied the position for five years he had always been received with courtesy, and he believed that during the whole

of that time he had never given offence to any one. In conclusion he thanked the brethren for the honour they had conferred upon him. The W.M. proposed the health of the W.M. elect, saying that they had worked together for some years past; it was a pleasure to be associated with him, and it would be a satisfaction to him to instal him into the chair, certain that he would fulfil all the duties and add lustre to the Lodge. Bro. Fendick S.W. returned thanks. The Tyler's toast brought the meeting to a close.

HONOR OAK LODGE, No. 1986.

THE installation meeting was held on the 11th instant, at the Moore Park Hotel, Honor Oak, S.E., and the brethren must be congratulated on the arrangements made for the convenience and comfort of those who attended. Sixty brethren were present in Lodge, of whom fifty-five afterwards sat down to refreshment. Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, Bro. C. H. Phillips, who was well supported by his Officers. The minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. There were three candidates for initiation, viz.:—Mr. Joseph Andrews, Dr. Robert Lockhart Lawson, Mr. Wm. Henry Cloake; these gentlemen were approved by Ballot, and were admitted to the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry; the working of the ceremony being most creditable to the W.M. and Officers. The Lodge having been advanced, the W.M. elect, Bro. H. Maunder Williams, was presented by Bro. John Hammond, for the benefit of installation. The Board of Installed Masters numbered twenty. In due course the new W.M. appointed his predecessor I.P.M. and invested his Officers, as follow:—Bros. Henry Stokes S.W., J. W. Hartley J.W., W. Hopekirk P.M. (elected) Treasurer, John Hammond P.P.G.D. Middlesex Secretary, Herbert Hooper S.D., Aug. Darch P.M. J.D., T. W. Aldwinckle I.G., F. France D.C.; J. H. Worstencroft A.D.C., W. H. Simons Organist, W. Bartlett Wine Steward, J. Fuller A.S., A. Pitman Assistant Organist, G. R. Langley Assistant Secretary, C. Thomas Tyler. The installation ceremony was concluded by the Installing Master Bro. Phillips giving the several charges most impressively. The W.M., in the name of the Lodge, presented a P.M.'s jewel to Bro. Phillips, as a mark of esteem and in appreciation of his valuable services as one of the Founders of the Lodge and Worshipful Master for the year 1884-5. He had also to ask his acceptance of a collar and P.M.'s jewel, from some of his friends in the Lodge, as a token of Brotherly Love. He added that the brethren valued Bro. Phillips' services most highly, and trusted that he might long be spared to them, to his Lodge, and to his family. Bro. Phillips acknowledged the gifts in suitable terms. Visitors present:—Bros. E. Bowyer, J. L. Mather, R. A. Matthews, G. Beavis, H. Baldwin, P. T. Breary, W. H. Williams, A. R. Cranch, C. H. Spiller, T. H. Spiller, J. R. Johnson, C. W. Fox, A. J. Bellis, S. Richardson, Sidney Hill, R. Walden, C. Wise, S. R. Smith, J. W. Williams, E. A. Francis, A. E. Albert, James Leutchford, W. T. A. Mayer, W. M. G. Cooper, R. R. Johnstone, J. H. Hudepohl, A. Gooch. The ceremonies were accompanied throughout by Bro. Sidney Hill, Org. 1216, whose improvisations on the organ were extremely appropriate. An excellent banquet was provided by the host, Bro. Bye, and after the cloth was removed the W.M. gave The Queen and the Craft, following this with the M.W.G.M. To the toast of the Grand Officers Bro. Edgar Bowyer P.G.St.B. responded. The I.P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., said they had worked shoulder to shoulder in Masonry for several years. No more worthy brother than the W.M., nor one who worked more zealously for his Lodge and the interests of the Craft generally, could be found. He predicted a most successful year of office. The W.M., after thanking them, assured the brethren he would do all in his power to maintain the credit of the Lodge. He had no doubt he should have the cordial co-operation of each Officer and member. Each of the Initiates responded to the toast given in their honour. The W.M. welcomed the Visitors to the Lodge. Several personal friends had come from long distances to support him and to favour the Lodge with their presence. Many brethren from Cheshire and Lancashire, with whom he spent the early days of his Masonic career, had sent their congratulations and best wishes to the Lodge. Bros. Williams, Beavis, Matthews, Mather, Breary, King, Baldwin, and Bellis responded. Bro. Binckes acknowledged the toast of the Masonic Institutions, and made a powerful appeal to the brethren to practise the great Masonic Virtue—Charity—and to support Bro. C. H. Phillips, their I.P.M., who had promised to represent the Lodge at the next Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. It was incidentally mentioned that the brethren of the Lodge had an especial interest in the approaching election, as the son of their late Brother Ambrose would be a candidate. After some other toasts Lodge was closed. The vocal music between the toasts was contributed by Bros. Simons, Cranch, Johnstone, Pitman, and S. S. Young, Bro. Sidney Hill as pianist. As the result of Bro. Binckes' appeal, we are gratified in being able to state that a considerable sum was added to the I.P.M.'s list.

ABBEY LODGE, No. 2030.

PROBABLY the career of the Abbey Lodge, Westminster, has no equal in Masonic annals. As its number—2030—indicates, it is of recent creation; its first anniversary was, indeed, only celebrated on the 9th inst., at Westminster Town Hall, yet it has a roll of membership of nearly eighty, and applicants to participate in its benefits rather increase than diminish. Doubtless much of the success of the undertaking is due to the interest which Mr. Burdett-Contts and the Baroness Burdett-Contts have taken in its welfare; the former has now for a year occupied the chair, and is about to retire from office with the thanks and esteem of his brethren; the latter, at its inception, presented the Lodge with one of the handsomest sets of furniture to be found in a young Lodge. That the brethren of the Lodge fully appreciated the labours of their W.M. was shown on Monday, when they informally offered him th

chair for a second year. The W.M. was courteous in his answer, ascribing his non-acceptance of the honour to business engagements; but those who know him best shrewdly suspect that the welfare of the Lodge and the promotion of the present Officers influenced his decision. After his refusal to continue in the chair, Mr. W. H. Baker was unanimously chosen W.M. elect, and the installation will be proceeded with at the next Lodge meeting. Meanwhile a handsome P.M.'s jewel was voted to the W.M., and a vote of £10 10s made from the Lodge Funds to the W.M.'s list as Steward of the Boys' Festival. An incident of the evening was the presentation to the Lodge, by the Rev. R. J. Simpson P.G. Chaplain, of a handsome album, the only condition of gift being that the Baroness should adorn the first page. This, the W.M. remarked, her ladyship had done, and he expressed the hope that the members would render the album complete by adding their likenesses. The business of the Lodge included the raising of Mr. J. E. Smith, Mr. H. H. Bridgeman, C.C., Mr. Z. A. Berry, the passing of Mr. S. Hodges, Mr. A. W. Hillier, Mr. G. White, and Mr. Pilkington, all of which work was excellently performed by the W.M. Joining members were elected as under: Mr. H. W. Roach, Mr. B. Genner, Mr. T. Vaughan, and Mr. J. M. Hughes. At the banquet the W.M. of course presided, supported by Mr. H. Bowman Spink I.P.M., Mr. W. H. Baker S.W., Mr. F. Seager Hunt J.W., Mr. J. C. M. W. Rogers P.M. Treasurer, Mr. J. E. Shand P.M. Secretary, Mr. W. Sugg P.M. S.D., Mr. R. Montague J.D., Mr. J. Gibson A.D.C., Mr. H. R. Baker I.G., Mr. H. W. Schartau Organist, Mr. R. E. H. Coffin, Mr. C. C. Piper Stewards. The list of thirty-seven Visitors included Mr. Horace Jones P.M. Grand Superintendent of Works, Mr. F. Davison S.G.D., Rev. J. S. Brownrigg P.G. Chaplain of England. The loyal and Masonic toasts were, of course, duly honoured, Mr. F. Davison and Mr. Horace Jones responding for the Grand Officers, the latter of whom, in a jocular speech, wished the Lodge long life and increasing prosperity. It would be impossible to over-estimate the enthusiasm with which the toast of the W.M. was received, at the instance of the I.P.M., and loud was the applause when, having congratulated the members and himself upon the establishment of the Lodge, Mr. Burdett-Coutts expressed the hope that his year of office had rendered him and his brethren life long friends. To the Officers he expressed his thanks for their able cooperation. In submitting the toast of the Visitors the W.M. paid a tribute to the memory of General Gordon, "that most soldierly saint and saintly soldier"—the members impulsively rising to their feet whilst he spoke the words. Gordon was a grand exemplification of the great principle on which the Masonic Order was founded, of Charity in the highest sense of the word, of Charity and kindness to his fellow creatures, of fidelity to the trust reposed in him, of cheerful obedience to the will of God. He was, he felt sure, in sympathy with his brethren when he paid that tribute to the just and virtuous man, to whom death had no terrors equal to the stain of falsehood and dishonour—a tribute in full sympathy with the spirit of a loyal, faithful God-fearing body of Masons. Col. Lugard, of the Army and Navy Lodge, and Mr. Trevannion, P.P.S.W. of Essex, replied. The good services of the Treasurer and Secretary and the other officers were of course recognised in toasts, the W.M. elect being spoken of by the W.M. as "the organiser" of the Lodge. Over £50 was collected in the banquetting room for the W.M.'s list on behalf of the Boys' Charity. Mr. Burdett-Coutts remarking that he knew of no grander or more efficient form of Charity than was to be found in the Masonic Institutions.—*The Citizen*.

LODGE LA FRANCE, No. 2060.

THIS newly-consecrated and flourishing Lodge, the membership of which is confined to representatives of French nationality, was held on the 16th inst., at the Café Royal, Air-street, Regent-street, under the presidency of the W.M. E. H. Thiellay P.P.G.S.B. Middx., supported by Bros. Montnuis P.G.S. S.W., H. Bué J.W., A. Coiffier P.M., L. Mesrouze P.M. Sec., Dubois S.D., E. Cadot Treas. J.D., Leon Clerc I.G., E. Casabianca D.C., Grummant 1559 as P.M. Visitors—E. Daoust 1627, E. Ponard 1627, H. M. Levy P.M. 180. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes, which were read in French, were confirmed. Satisfactory ballots were taken for the admission of Messrs. L. A. Cabuzet and A. Chiboust, who were duly initiated into the Order. A book of the Constitutions was presented to each candidate. Bros. Sauve, Fournet, and Lacoste, were passed to the 2nd degree, and Bros. St. Clair, Aret, and Benoit were raised. All the ceremonies were performed in a perfect and impressive manner by the W.M., while each Officer was perfect. The Treasurer, Bro. Coiffier P.M., being about to leave England, resigned office, but will continue a member. Expressions of regret at his leaving this country, and wishing him health and prosperity on his retirement, was then proposed, and a vote of thanks was ordered to be recorded on the minutes for his efficient services as Treasurer. This was carried unanimously. After a hearty response Bro. Leon Clerc was elected as Treasurer, and Bro. St. Claire, who was the first Initiate, was invested as I.G. Hearty good wishes were then given, and the Lodge was closed until the third Monday in May. The brethren sat down to a very excellent dinner and dessert, provided by Bro. Nicols, and superintended by Bro. De La Coste. The W.M. proposed the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts. In speaking to the toast of the Prince of Wales M.W.G.M., he said it truly showed how his Royal Highness's heart and soul was in Freemasonry that he was about to initiate his eldest son. The W.M. next proposed "Our Country—La France." He would associate with it the name of the President, M. Grèvy. He regretted that the time was so short for toasts, or he would expatiate more fully. Bro. Grummant P.M. 1559 in a very able speech proposed the health of the Worshipful Master, whose good qualities were well known; the brethren had seen in other Lodges what he had done. Great credit was also due to him for what he had done in this Lodge. The W.M. in reply said all his energies would be at the service of the members; they knew what his feelings were

towards them; his aim was to secure the success of the Lodge. Before resuming his seat, he would propose the toast of the Initiates; they had two present, and he was proud to meet them, and hoped one day to see them wield the gavel he now held. This having been responded to in appropriate terms, the W.M. complimented the Visitors. Bros. Grummant and Levy responded. The W.M. next proposed the toast of the Treasurer and Secretary. To the latter brother great credit was due for his services, and also the brother who assisted him. This toast having been responded to, the toast of the Wardens followed. In due course, the Tyler's toast was given, and a very enjoyable evening was closed, Bros. Montnuis and Bué contributed to the harmony. The motto of the Lodge—"Union est Force"—is delineated in a garter; this shows the title, Lodge La France 2060; the Union Jack and the French tricolour firmly bound together, with excellent effect.

ECCLESTON LODGE, No. 1624.

TO the minds of many a step in the right direction has been taken by Lodges occasionally having a Ladies' Night, as well as a Summer Banquet. The Eccleston Lodge had a very successful gathering last year, and a second Ladies' Night was held on the 18th instant, at the Criterion, Piccadilly. The regular meeting was held at an earlier hour the same day, under the presidency of the W.M. Bro. R. Bottle; Grist as S.W., A. A. Johnston J.W., A. W. Beckham Treasurer, Isaacs Secretary, Moorman S.D., J. W. Wray J.D., E. Hooper I.G., Weston D.C., G. R. Egerton Organist, C. Lee and Bignold Stewards, J. Grist Tyler; P.M.'s C. Tayler, W. Vincent, J. E. Flattery, E. Powell, I. G. Fisher. Visitors—Bros. H. Dehane P.P.G.D. Essex, C. Pugh 1346, James Terry P.P.G.J.W. Herts, W. H. Baker W.M. elect 2030, R. Goffin W.M. 1572, A. Fenn 1614, J. Hayler 2030, Aitcheson 2021, H. M. Levy P.M. 188. Lodge was opened and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. C. Pugh was elected a joining member. Bro. Smith was raised to the third degree, and Bros. G. Lane, W. E. Lane and Pope were passed; while Mr. E. Nice was duly initiated into the Order by Bro. Powell, who had expressed a wish to initiate his friend. It is almost needless to say (our readers knowing the qualifications of Bros. Bottle and Powell) that the ceremonies were perfectly rendered. Lodge was then closed until September. The Ladies were now introduced, by the Director of Ceremonies, and the guests, eighty-nine in number, sat down to a sumptuous and recherché banquet, provided by Messrs. Spiers and Pond (Limited), and superintended by Bro. Bertini. The tables were artistically decorated, and the service gave unqualified satisfaction. After the cloth had been cleared, the W.M. said he did not wish to take up time with long speeches, but in no assemblage of Masons was the toast of Her Majesty the Queen omitted. On this occasion he would associate with it the name of His Royal Highness our Most Worshipful Grand Master. Only yesterday the Prince of Wales had initiated his eldest son into the Order, and it is said he performed the work in a most efficient manner. Bro. Tayler I.P.M. most cordially proposed the health of the W.M. Bro. Bottle, in reply, thanked the brethren for their kind expressions. Their last meeting of a similar character to this had been held under the direction of the I.P.M. Bro. Tayler; it was a great success; he hoped the present one would be equally so. The W.M., on again rising, said he did so to propose the toast of the evening,—the Ladies,—and he would call on the youngest Mason in the room to respond to it; he referred to Bro. Nice, who had been initiated that night. After a snitable response had been made, the Ladies retired, and several other toasts were introduced. Bros. Terry P.P.G.J.W. Herts, and Dehane P.Prov. Grand Deacon Essex, responded to the compliment paid the Visitors. In the interval the ladies listened to some excellent singing, by Bros. Roberts, Lee, and Tayler. A ball afterwards took place, when all assembled thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The band was under the direction of Bro. Kinkle, while Bro. Chilcott efficiently acted as M.C. To Bro. Vincent P.M., who acted as Director of the Ceremonies, great credit is due for the success of the meeting. It was suggested, before leaving, the brethren should drink to the health of the worthy manager, Bro. Bertini, whose efforts to make every one comfortable had proved so effective. Bro. Bertini gracefully acknowledged the compliment.

Metropolitan and King's Cross Lodges of Instruction.

—A joint annual banquet of these two Lodges of Instruction took place on Monday, the 16th inst., at the Holborn Restaurant, under the presidency of Bro. W. M. Stiles P.M. 1507, 1732, &c. There was a large attendance of brethren, close upon one hundred being present, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. A substantial repast having been done ample justice to, and grace having been said, the President proposed Loyalty to the Throne and Devotion to the Craft. Those around him were such loyal subjects that he knew it was not necessary to say anything to ensure a hearty reception being accorded to the toast of Her Majesty the Queen. Of the heads of the Order—H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the Earl of Carnarvon, the Earl of Lathom, and the other Grand Officers Present and Past—Masons were exceedingly proud, and in coupling their health with the toast of the Queen, the President felt sure additional enthusiasm would be accorded to it. The toast having been honoured, was followed by the National Anthem, after which Brother Michael P.M. 1107, 1507, 1732, &c. assumed the gavel to propose the next toast—the health of the President of the evening. He had had the pleasure of a long acquaintance with Bro. Stiles; had seen him initiated into Freemasonry, and had watched his career ever since. He had seen Bro. Stiles occupying every office that a Mason could be called upon to fulfil, and in every one he had carried out the duties creditably and in a way of which any one might be proud. Bro. Michael's position was that night an unfortunate, but at the same time a most pleasurable one. He stood there to propose the health of their President, and he supposed the fact of his having

been the second Master of the Metropolitan Lodge and the first Master of the King's Cross Lodge somewhat entitled him to the honour; yet he felt his position was an unfortunate one, as he was wholly incapable of doing justice to the task before him; tax himself how he would, he could not speak of Bro. Stiles as that brother deserved. His position was also a most pleasurable one, from the fact that it afforded him another opportunity of paying a compliment to their esteemed President, Bro. Stiles, than whom a more energetic or painstaking brother it would be difficult to discover. He was, however, speaking to those present on a subject with which they were almost, if not quite, as intimate as he was himself, and therefore he should not do any more than call upon them to honour their President. The toast was drunk in the most enthusiastic manner, and in due course Bro. Stiles replied. He felt unable to adequately express his thanks for the hearty manner in which he had been received among them, not only on that occasion, but also on many previous ones. He did not think he deserved anything like so much praise as had been given him, still, he had endeavoured to deserve it, and accordingly hoped some part of it was due. He was very happy in being associated with the two Lodges the festival of which they were then celebrating, and proud, as their founder, that they had prospered as they had done. It was indeed gratifying to be called upon to preside over such a body of brethren as were assembled around him. He next proposed the King's Cross Lodge of Instruction. It was within a day of seven years since its foundation. During the term of its existence it had had a most prosperous career. Much of its success was due to the exertions of its executive Officers. Bro. Solomon, the Secretary, was particularly to be mentioned in this regard. He was painstaking, energetic, and persevering in his work, and had had no small share in securing the success which had characterised this Lodge of Instruction. The Preceptor, Bro. James Hemming (whose name was greeted with hearty cheers) had only to be mentioned to call forth such a burst of enthusiasm as unmistakably proved the estimation in which he was held; he also had a very great share in securing the success which had attended them in the past. Known throughout the Craft for his ability, Bro. Hemming was universally respected and esteemed. He had been the tutor of many of the shining lights of Masonry of the present day, and could point to many Lodges, now noted for the superiority of their working, whose Officers had perfected themselves under his direction. Bro. Hemming had certainly tried his utmost to carry out his duties satisfactorily, and all praise was due to him for the success he had achieved in his self-imposed task. Speaking of the company present, Bro. Stiles felt that the members of the Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction were very pleased to be associated with the King's Cross Lodge of Instruction on such an occasion as the present, although it must be admitted there were very few members of either but who belonged to both. Deeds were louder than words, and the actions of those present far in advance of anything he had said or could say. He would therefore at once proceed to the task which he had been asked to undertake, which was to present to Bro. Hemming a memento in appreciation of the manner in which he discharged the duties of Preceptor of the King's Cross Lodge of Instruction. The presentation took the form of a handsome gold watch and chain, the former bearing the following inscription on the case:

Presented, with a Gold Chain,
To Bro. JAMES HEMMING, J.D. 1287,

By members of the King's Cross Lodge of Instruction, No. 1732,
In appreciation of his valued services as Preceptor, and in token of the high esteem and regard in which he is held by his numerous Masonic friends.

March 16th, 1885.

We do not remember having seen a more substantial or handsome present during the many years we have been associated with the Craft. It reflected the greatest credit on those who contributed towards it, and was a speaking testimonial of the taste and ability of Bro. Kauffmann, to whom was entrusted the procuring and engraving the articles. In presenting it Bro. Stiles hoped that Bro. Hemming would long be spared to be among his fellow members of the King's Cross Lodge of Instruction, and continue to give them the benefit of his ability, Masonic knowledge, kindly and gentlemanly conduct, and true brotherly bearing. All they desired was a continuance in future of the same services that had been rendered in the past. Bro. Stiles concluded by calling upon the brethren to drink the toast of the King's Cross Lodge of Instruction, coupling with it the name of their esteemed Preceptor. Bro. Hemming replied. He thanked the brethren for the cordial way in which they had associated his name with the Lodge of Instruction, and for their truly Masonic reception of the toast. As Preceptor of the Lodge he had striven to do his very best. It was quite true that seven years had all but elapsed since the foundation of the Lodge. Then there were some eight or nine brethren who desired instruction, and eventually he was asked to undertake the duties of Preceptor. From the proceedings that night it would appear he had given some amount of satisfaction. They had had some grand Masons, and they had had some grand meetings in the King's Cross Lodge of Instruction, and among the results had been the sending up by the members of something like four hundred guineas to the Masonic Charities—this of itself was a result of which they were justly proud. The gift he had received at their hands that night was a far more difficult matter to acknowledge than was the toast he had just spoken to. It came quite as a surprise to him, he having no idea that anything of the sort was proposed—it was, indeed, a grand present and one which he felt he never could repay them for. He had made many friends in Freemasonry, many of them in the King's Cross Lodge of Instruction. He hoped their friendship would continue for the remainder of his life. That day, and the handsome gift of his brother Masons, would ever be stamped on his mind as one of the red letter days of his life. Bro. Stiles next proposed the health of the Vice-President of the evening—Bro. Solomon. The speaker had the pleasure of giving Brother Solomon his first instruction in Freemasonry. Since that time he had done a great deal of good work for the

Order. Both in the Lodges of Instruction and in regard to the Masonic Charities had Brother Solomon displayed his energy, and both had felt the benefit of his exertions. Brother Solomon had laboured hard to secure the success of the evening's Festival, and a great share of its success was due to him. Brother Solomon was much delighted in filling the honourable position of Vice-President. It was a very great compliment to fill the post in connection with such a Chairman as they then had, and the pleasure was much enhanced when he considered the special event of the evening—the presentation to their worthy Preceptor. When the Lodge of Instruction was started, its members were seven in number, and those seven had considerable difficulty in even opening the Lodge. Now he felt that any one of them could acquit himself creditably in the matter, and they had to thank Brother Hemming for their proficiency. Brother Solomon next proposed the toast of the Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction. He had never been called upon to submit a toast more sure of a hearty reception than this was. Brother Solomon briefly reviewed the history of the Lodge, referring to the active part taken in it by Bro. Stiles, the President of the evening, who, first as Secretary and since as Preceptor, had secured for it a reputation enjoyed by few such institutions. In Bro. Storr, the present Secretary, the Lodge had a worthy successor to Bro. Stiles, but the work had outgrown even that brother's ability, and it had been found necessary to appoint an Assistant Secretary. Bro. Davis filled that office, and he was doing his best to emulate the good example of his predecessors. Bro. Scales was an efficient Treasurer, and completed a roll of permanent officials who would do credit to any Lodge of Instruction. The Metropolitan he looked upon as a pattern school of Freemasonry. If all other Lodges were conducted in the same unanimous manner it would materially add to the credit and reputation of Freemasonry. Bro. Stiles was the first to respond. He very much appreciated what had been said of the Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction on various occasions. He felt that its success was owing rather to the kindly feeling existing among its members than to anything done by the permanent officials. He felt it a great honour to occupy the exalted position he did in connection with it. Brother Storr followed. The aim of the members of the Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction was to secure good working and good fellowship. Bro. Scales spoke of the great success they had achieved in the past, and hoped they would go on with even improved prospects. They were always pleased to see new members, and usually gave them such a welcome as induced them to continue their association with the Lodge. The fees were small, but mounted up in such a manner as enabled them to do some good with them. They had already contributed four grants of five guineas each to the Charities, and hoped shortly to be able to vote two more such sums. Bro. Davis also spoke to the toast, which was followed by that of the Visitors, given by Bro. Stiles. He hoped the welcome given to the Visitors that night had been sufficient to induce them to seek further acquaintance with the Lodges of Instruction, and that many of those present who were not members would soon become so. Bro. Griffiths replied. As Past Master of two Lodges he fully appreciated the value of Lodges of Instruction; if what he had seen that night was a criterion of what was usual in the two Lodges of Instruction whose festival they were celebrating, they must indeed be models of perfection. Bro. Roberts was also much struck with what he had seen that night. It proved the class of men who were connected with the Lodge when they could present such a testimonial as had that night been given to their Preceptor. They were also mindful of hospitality, which, although perhaps not a leading feature in Freemasonry, was at least an important adjunct. Bro. Easman, Murch, Hemming sen. and others replied. Bro. Hemming was pleased, to an extent he did not know how to express, to see the way in which those assembled honoured his son. He was much gratified to find he was so beloved and respected as he evidently was by those with whom he was associated. The toast of the Officers of the Mother Lodges was next given. Bro. Stiles was pleased to see Bro. Edwards, the present W.M. of the Metropolitan Lodge among them, and regretted the absence of the presiding Officer of the King's Cross Lodge. They had, however, a worthy substitute in Bro. Michael, the first Worshipful Master of that Lodge. The Lodges of Instruction were much indebted to the parent Lodges for permission to hold their meetings; they endeavoured to faithfully discharge the trust reposed in them. Bro. Edwards expressed the pleasure he felt in being present. Although not able to attend the meetings of the Lodge of Instruction as often as he desired, he yet appreciated what was done in them for the welfare of the Order. He considered Freemasonry owed much to the exertions of brethren who gave their time and ability in Lodges of Instruction. Bro. Michael replied on behalf of the King's Cross Lodge, and then the Committee and Stewards of the Festival were toasted. There were not many, said Bro. Stiles, who had any idea of the amount of work which had been performed by those who had had the arrangement of the banquet and testimonial. They had thoroughly done their work, and were to be highly complimented on the result of their exertions. Bro. Kauffmann had been particularly active in the matter and he would be called upon first to respond. This brother expressed the pleasure it had been to him to act as he had done. He was amply repaid for the time he had devoted to the matter when he saw the success the meeting had been. The seventh anniversary of their Lodge of Instruction, and the presentation of the testimonial to their worthy Preceptor, would ever be pleasurable associations to him. Bros. McKay, Scurrah, Bolton, Knight and others having spoken, Bro. Stiles resumed the active duties of Preceptor, and gave the Tyler's toast "in true Masonic style"—sympathy for the brethren in their distress, with hearty expression of good feeling towards them. The meeting was thus brought to a conclusion.

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THE NINETY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL of this
 Institution will take place

On WEDNESDAY, the 13th MAY next,

UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF

SIR WALTER W. BURRELL, Bart., M.P.
 R.W. PROV. GRAND MASTER OF SUSSEX.

* * Brethren willing to serve the office of Steward are *very urgently*
needed; they will much oblige by forwarding their names as *early* as
possible to the Secretary, who will gladly give any information
 required.

F. R. W. HEDGES, Secretary.

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Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. APRIL ELECTION, 1885.

The favour of the Votes and Interest of the Governors and Sub-
 scribers is earnestly solicited on behalf of

WILLIAM FORREST MORLEY
 (AGED 8 YEARS),

Son of the late Bro. Thomas Morley, of the Cambrian Lodge,
 No. 472-361, Neath, who died in 1878, leaving a Widow with nine
 children only partially provided for.

The case is strongly recommended by the following brethren:

- * Sir James Joseph Allport, 197.
- * Sir Michael Arthur Buss, Bart., M.P., P.M. 621 P.P.G.S.W. Staffordshire.
- * W. Burdett Coutts W.M. The Abbey Lodge, Westminster, 2030.
- * W. Walters P.M. 253 621 353 P.P.J.G.W. Derbyshire.
- * W. L. Ball P.M. 802 P.G.D. Derbyshire, Vice-Patron R.M.I.B.
- * C. W. Radway P.M. 41 335 P.P.S.G.W. Somersetshire.
- * Dr. J. Hogg P.M. 1260 P.G.D.
- * J. Willing jun. W.M. 1987 P.M. 177 1597 1741 1319, &c.
- * J. Brockett Sorrell W.M. 1260 P.M. 176 and 2176.
- * J. Heaton P.M. 1260, Midland Railway, St. Pancras, London, N.W.
- * P. Wallis P.M. 850 P.G.D. of C. Derbyshire.

Voting Papers, duly signed, will be thankfully received by any of
 the Brethren marked thus *, or they may be sent to the Widow,
 Mrs. Morley, 1 Rose Hill Cottages, Rose Hill Street, Derby.

Girls' and Aged Freemasons' Votes will oblige, as
 they can be exchanged.

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ROYAL Masonic Benevolent Institution.

VOTES AND INTEREST ARE SOLICITED FOR
MRS. JANE TRIBE, aged 64,

WIDOW of Brother George Henry Tribe, who was initiated 1858
 in No. 604, Lyttelton, New Zealand; joined No. 609, Christchurch, New
 Zealand; was first Worshipful Master of No. 1241, Ross, New Zealand; sub-
 sequently District Grand Chaplain Westland; and District Grand Treasurer
 North Island, New Zealand.

Votes thankfully received by

Mr. C. BECKINGHAM, 415 Strand; or by
 Bro. C. J. PERCEVAL (V.P.), 8 Thurloe Place, S.W.

The Widow, being almost a stranger, earnestly hopes the
 "Brotherhood" will help her at the next Election.

Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

—:O:—

APRIL ELECTION, 1885.

—:O:—

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 Rowari-Ferozpur 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. 192 249 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 Com-
 mon, S.W.
- * A. Withers P.M. St. Michael's Lodge, No. 211, Penshurst Lodge, Balham
 Hill, S.W.
- J. Nowill, Esq., Nagpur, Corinth Lodge, No. 1122 E.C.
- * W. Wilkins L.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.

Promises will be received by those marked thus *, and by the Grand-
 father, Rev. J. A. Chamberlain, 1 Mallinson Road, Wandsworth
 Common, S.W.

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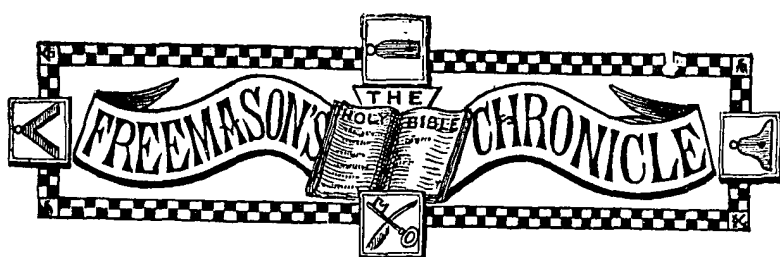
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CORRESPONDENCE.

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.

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LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In a recent issue you gave me an opportunity of airing my views with regard to the character and conduct of Lodges of Instruction. I now propose to recur to the subject, taking in view some of the points suggested by your leader of the 28th ult. It was hardly to be expected, with the facilities possessed by Lodges generally, that the prevailing tendency to selfish indulgence should not have found its way into them, and that the pleasures of the table should not be regarded with greater solicitude. The habits of the time affect all classes more or less, and however much we may philosophise on the matter, the fact stares us in the face, that the desires of the carnal appetite have to be satisfied, whatever else may be sacrificed. It is the universal practice, so far as my experience goes, and it has been rather large, at Lodges of Instruction to drink and smoke while business is progressing. The incongruity of beer and divinity, the absolute profanity of combining drinking with the exposition of the most sublime system of morality, seem never to have struck the minds of those who smoke and drink while performing or listening to the performance of a ritual the grandeur and sublimity of which cannot be over-estimated. Why what is forbidden in a regular Lodge is permitted and encouraged in a Lodge of Instruction is a puzzle I cannot explain. I deplore the fact, and put its existence down to the spirit of self indulgence which in the present is so dangerously rife. Not only is the habit tolerated, but, as you say, if a brother does not drink, he runs the risk of being derided. Lodges of Instruction should be schools to all intents and purposes, and while at work the mind should be drawn entirely to the lessons to be learned. The soul should be attuned to the splendour of the ceremonies, and nought should be allowed to interfere with the contemplation of moral and divine truths, which are scattered like gems in a noble setting. If brethren must drink and smoke, let the Lodge be called off, according to the ritual in that case made and provided. Better still—shorten the hours of labour, and let those who wish for social enjoyment remain, while others not so inclined might retire. No one would be the worse for such an arrangement, but many would be gainers, and certainly the Institution would be put more in harmony with the genius of the Craft.

The other evil you allude to, namely, urging visitors to join Lodges of Instruction, has not struck me very forcibly, although I have seen

what may be described as the touting system freely indulged in. It is only prudent and courteous to inform visitors upon what terms they could become members, and when that has been done they should be left to their own free action. It is a mistaken zeal to force membership, a practice that would be more honoured in the breach than in the observance.

Now, Sir, after having had my grumble, I can turn to the pleasing side of the subject. For some years past I have watched the charity movement in connection with Lodges of Instruction with pride and pleasure. The weekly meetings are suited for the collection of subscriptions, and the machinery is ready to hand for giving effect to the charitable instincts of the brethren. The periodical ballots provide the necessary excitement, and the constant example affords the requisite stimulant. A brother might go through his life without being able to get together ten guineas in one sum, and sincerely lament his inability to help on the Charities connected with the Order. Nearly all, however, can afford the customary weekly shilling, and in due time arrive at the happy consummation of being a life subscriber to one of the Institutions. Many continue to subscribe, until they have obtained the same position with regard to the three Charities. And, after all, the money is not missed, while the reward is beyond description. I am always pleased to hear of these charitable associations, and welcome them, not only for the good they do of themselves, but for the noble discipline of the heart, when the world, the flesh, and the devil strive so hard to corrupt.

With many thanks for past favours,

I remain,

Yours fraternally,

WATCHMAN.

THE QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I desire emphatically to endorse the criticism of "A PAST MASTER" which appears in your issue of the 14th inst., upon the disgraceful mismanagement of the last meeting of Grand Lodge. I cannot conceive anything more calculated to bring contempt upon what ought to be the most cherished exponent of the dignity and decorum of our Masonic assemblies.

I think the main cause of all the confusion and actual danger which characterised the struggle to enter the Temple may be attributed to the unwise arrangement of keeping the doors closed until almost the last moment. It seems to me that if the brethren, in their desire to be present, arrange to attend early, they should be allowed to proceed into the Temple as they arrive.

If this simple course had been adopted, all the unseemly confusion and the dangerous crowding would have been avoided.

There should be no such difficulty as that which was offered as an excuse, viz., that the early attendance of the officials could not be secured.

I consider the suggestion of a ballot being taken in every Lodge a very valuable one. Such a course would be infinitely preferable to bringing the proceedings of Grand Lodge into disrepute.

I am,

Yours fraternally,

ANOTHER PAST MASTER.

The opening ceremony of the International Inventions Exhibition has been fixed by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, President of the Exhibition, for Monday, the 4th May.

On the day of the University Boat race the old civic barge, the "Maria Wood," will be moored near the winning post, at Mortlake. A limited number, who desire to see the finish, will be accommodated by Bros. Ritter and Clifford, of the Guildhall Tavern, at 15/ each. The menu states that hot soups and a cold collation will be supplied. A military band will be in attendance.

We are requested to state that on Friday, 27th March, the ceremonies of Installation and Exaltation will be rehearsed in the Pythagorean Chapter of Improvement, No. 79, by Companion E. J. B. Burnstead, P.Z. 548, at the Portland Hotel, London-street, Greenwich. The Chapter will be opened at seven p.m., when the attendance of Principals and Past Principals is particularly requested. Bro. Burnstead has rehearsed the above ceremonies for several years past, and therefore we hope to see a large attendance of brethren present on the occasion.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Diseases of Advanced Years.—The grand climacteric being passed, mankind passes to old age. Then the digestion becomes impaired, the nervous system grows feeble, and the physical powers become enervated. Now arises congestion of the liver, lungs, or head, followed by dropsy, asthma, or apoplexy, which frequently afflict and often destroy the aged. As the liver usually becomes torpid, its activity may speedily be revived by rubbing Holloway's Ointment thoroughly over the pit of the stomach and right side, at least twice a day, and taking the Pills at the same time. This treatment also disperses all other congestions by varying the parts rubbed according to the situations of the mischief.

THE THEATRES.

SAVOY.

ONE of the dramatic memorabilia which will mark the season was presented at the Savoy Theatre on the evening of the 14th inst., when Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's new opera, the "Mikado," saw the foot-lights. The dark places of the Embankment were alive with multitudinous carriages, all wending to the new Japan. Hours before the doors opened enthusiasts sat down at the pit and gallery doors of the beleaguered citadel. Thirty years ago no London theatre could have hoped to bring together such a gathering of notables as were in attendance when Sir Arthur took up his baton. The densely crowded house was hushed when the overture commenced; it was listened to without enthusiasm; its characteristic feature is an adaptation, greatly Europeanised, of a native air. It concluded with applause, for the composer rather than for the music. The curtain rose upon a picture, real yet unreal—the very men and women of the land of Nippon, surely no inhabitants of our own prosaic isle. We turn to the bill of the play, half expecting to find that these wonderful folk were really come in a body from the village at Knightsbridge. They were grouped in the quaint attitudes in which we have seen them on tea-trays and tea-pots, and when they presently sing the sparkling opening chorus, we are startled to find that they can speak English. The scene represents the court-yard of Ko-Ko's Palace at Titipu. The costumes have been supplied by Liberty and Co. for the ladies, and by Wilhelm for the gentlemen, after native authorities, and for beauty of colour and richness of fabric nothing more beautiful has been seen. The most exquisite embroidery in silk and gold thread, upon stuffs that an Eastern Sultan might wear on feast days. The pretty girls of the chorus looked fascinating in their clinging robes, dainty sandals, and coiffures of jet black hair, wonderfully braided and dressed in orthodox Nippon taste. The story told is simple enough. Ko-Ko (Mr. George Grossmith) holds the office of Lord High Executioner for the town of Titipu, on condition he performs its duties at least once in ten years. There has been a plethora of virtue; his term approaches its end, and he must find a "subject" or kill himself as a substitute. It happens that Nanki-Poo (Mr. Lely), son of the Mikado, has escaped from court to avoid marriage with the "elderly-ugly" lady chosen for him by his papa. He loves the beautiful Yum-Yum (Miss Leonora Braham), and in the disguise of a minstrel woos her. He sings a very effective "minstrel lay" refrain, closing with a Dibden-like "Yo heave ho." In the chorus the assembled multitude of lords and ladies join with a vigour of action rather suggestive of the deck of the Pinafore. Nanki-Poo relates how he has fallen in love with the beautiful Yum-Yum, and having heard that Ko-Ko, to whom she has been betrothed, has, through a new law against flirting, incurred the penalty of death, hurries back in the hope of finding her free. Pish-Tush, a noble lord (Mr. Bovill), informs him of the state of things, and then enters Pooh-Bah (Mr. Barrington), who on all the other ministers resigning has embodied their various offices in his own person. He informs the lover that

"This very day,
From school, Yum-Yum
Will wend her way,
To wed the Lord High Executioner."

The song and chorus following was bright and effective, with that factastic touch of which Sullivan is so great a master. From the opening no doubt of the success of the work had suggested itself, but still a chief factor in a Savoy triumph had to appear, and the audience were impatiently awaiting its Grossmith, who now entered, disguised with the shaven crown, sandalled shoon and gold embroidered robe of Ko-Ko, the Lord High Executioner. Mr. Grossmith's crisp incisive style told admirably, and if the role had not the opportunities of H.M. First Lord, or of Wellington Wells, it was fitted to the special gift of its exponent, and delighted applause followed his first song. Presently enters Yum-Yum (Miss Braham), Peep-Bo (Miss Sybil Grey), and Pitti-Sing (Miss J. Bond). Nothing more fascinating or fantastically delightful has ever been given on the stage than the delicious trio,

"Three little maids from school are we."

Each of the ladies evidently enters into the grace of the situation; they fairly carry away their audience. The trio was thrice re-demanded. It would be impossible to praise too highly the manner in which the intention of composer and author was rendered; nor have these talented ladies ever seemed more to enjoy the work assigned them. It would be worth a visit to the Savoy to hear this trio. How the story proceeds and Yum-Yum is united to her Prince, whilst Ko-Ko escapes the doom pronounced, it is needless to say. There is a pretty fanciful duet between the lovers, and Mr. Grossmith has a good patter song, with which, perhaps, the audience expected a little political sauce piquante, but Mr. Gilbert discreetly leaves blanks for the names of the apologetic statesmen. As the "elderly-ugly" fiancée of the Troubadour Prince, Miss Brandram has some of the finest numbers allotted her, and she rendered them with artistic finish. In Act II. there is a merry duet between Mr. Grossmith and Mr. Lely. In short, Sullivan has never produced music brighter or more dramatic. That the story has nothing of Japan in it but the costumes is true enough, while the dialogue might have been put into the mouths of any of the pleasantly preposterous forbears of these youngest heirs of the Babgins. Perhaps the Savoyards prefer the mirror held up to reflect the nature familiar to the Strand. In any case it would be unreasonable to carp at a work which will produce smiles and laughter through hundreds of nights and matinées yet to come.

THE EMPIRE.

GLAD tidings for our "golden youth." At the magnificent temple in Leicester-square there is now offered a spectacle more brilliant and costly than the London stage has seen since the days of "Babil and Bijou." Five thousand pounds have been spent in mounting the "Lady of the Locket." The scene opens near the Grand Piazza, Venice, with the Ducal Palace in the distance. A youthful and well-favoured chorus represent the population. When we think of the choruses of earlier days—which were composed of severe matrons and lean-shanked patriarchs—we cannot praise too highly the careful drilling through which those who now fill the stage must have passed. Moreover, they sing with spirit, and more like living men and women, a characteristic at one time difficult to realise. The music, though possessing no marked originality, is graceful and refined, and deserves a better "book" than the words supplied by Mr. Hamilton. Both Miss St. John and Miss Edith Brandon were evidently suffering from the East winds, and though both won deserved applause, will certainly sing with greater effect when the evil influence to which we have referred is dispersed. The story is simple enough. Francesca, the lovely daughter of Baron Bombazine, is betrothed to Cosmo (Mr. Coffin). She, of course, prefers another (Mr. Bracy), who loves her, though he has only beheld her picture in a locket. Cosmo is devoted to the lovely Stella, a ballad singer (Miss Brandon). The story carries us through the hall of the Doge's palace, a magnificent scene, crowded with brilliant costumes, more or less archæologically correct, but all picturesque, and as rich as brocade and cloth of gold can make them. Here there is a very fantastic ballet of Turkish slave girls, dressed in the late popular dual garment, and wearing yashmaks of light gauze, though why Almées should veil their faces we know not; perhaps they were more bashful in the fifteenth than in the nineteenth century. Francesca consents to elope with her adorer, and to this end she is to be assisted by the son of the Doge. Here Miss St. John has a very taking chansonette, "I'm such a pretty girl," and that is followed by a charming quintette, "When you want to elope," given with much spirit by Miss Brandon, Miss St. John, Mr. Bracy, Mr. Coffin, and Mr. Ryley. The political allusions on the first night produced a good deal of opposition from the audience. The Venetian ballet of the last act, in the moonlit gardens of the palace, is very graceful and fantastic, recalling the triumphs of the Alhambra. The ladies represent sea-nymphs, with the colouring of brilliant marine creatures. A dancer from La Scala, Mdle. Zanla, as the Adriatic, won great applause. She wore a curious costume of darkest blue below, and vapoury skirts of dark blue trrenched with green. Mdle. Sismundi made a fascinating Neptune. Mr. Coffin's drinking song was the success of the evening; he sang it with a spirit that merited the enthusiastic applause it evoked. A good part of the dialogue might be curtailed with advantage; it serves no purpose but to drag out the performance to an unreasonable length. Among the crowd on the stage there is a youthful black, who may be in training for a future Othello, but is now draped most picturesquely in a leopard skin, and enters into the humour of the situation with such evident relish that one wishes the author had found a few lines for him. We are greatly mistaken if he is not the Moorish slave whose dagger made us shudder in the "Clandian" prologue.

GAIETY.

ON Thursday, 12th inst., "Mazeppa," a new three act burlesque by F. C. Burnand, was produced at this house, and, judging from the applause of a large audience, it may be regarded as a success;—to our mind, deservedly so. The dialogue is full of humour, the music bright and taking, and the acting excellent throughout. In this latter respect Miss E. Farren, in the part of Casimir, an orphan Tartar boy, bears away the palm. From start to finish she has the weight of the piece on her shoulders, and splendidly she carries her burden. Her unceasing vivacity and ability cannot be adequately described—these qualities must be seen to be appreciated. Edward Terry makes the most of a comparatively unimportant part, and the other characters are satisfactorily represented, by Messrs. Royce and Dallas, Misses P. Broughton and Clara Jecks—the latter of whom deserves an especial word of praise for her artistic rendering of the small part of a Tartar conspirator. At the conclusion of the performance both author and actors received a hearty call before the curtain.

PRINCESS'S.

OF all farewells we have sorrowfully had reference made to, none have been received with more regret than the announcement that on the 28th of this month the curtain is to fall on "Junius" for the last time. The magnificent scenery, the poetic elevation of the dialogue, the admirable interpretation by the leading artists, to say nothing of Mr. Barrett's own perfect rendering of a classic ideal, have not ensured the success the lessee had a right to expect. "The Silver King" will doubtless be welcomed back, with all its old popularity, but for those who love the loftier heights of tragedy "Junius" will remain a recollection of unfading delight.

COURT.

EMILE ANGIER is to give place to Mr. Pinero, and the hero of the Denhams, in the original made so grand a tradition by Mons. Got, and translated for us by Mr. Clayton with no less tenderness, earnestness, and manly dignity, is to pass away. "The Denhams" is a play full of strong interest, and at the Court it has been admirably staged, except in one instance, where the temptation to bid for cheap applause forced one of the personages grotesquely out of drawing. It is surely well that "Die lustige person" say no more than is put down to him—or her.

CONSECRATION OF THE MONTAGUE GUEST CHAPTER, No. 1900.

WHEN we take into consideration the spirit and energy displayed by the Montague Guest Lodge, and the position it has secured for itself in the estimation of the Craft, we are not surprised that the earliest opportunity should be taken to form a Chapter in connection with it. The popularity of the esteemed First Principal of this Chapter is sufficient to justify us in predicting as grand a success as has already been secured by the Lodge, while those who have been appointed to subordinate positions in it are Companions well able to support the First Principal in all that may be required of them. The consecration took place on Friday, the 13th instant, at the Inns of Court Hotel, Lincoln's Inn Fields, the consecrating officer being Comp. Shadwell H. Clerke Grand Scribe E., who was assisted by Comps. Philbrick, Q.C., Grand Superintendent of Essex as H., Rev. C. W. Arnold P. Grand Chaplain as J., Fenn President of Board of General Purposes as S.E., R. Costa P.G.D.C. as S.N., and Frank Richardson as D.C. At the conclusion of the consecration ceremony Comp. Clerke installed the three Principals:—John Montague Guest, M.P., P.G.N. Z., Giovanni P. Festa J. 77 H., and F. R. W. Hedges 1319 J. In due course the other Officers were appointed, as follows:—Comps. S. Brooks Z. 975 S.E., John Goddard Treasurer, Harry Slyman P.Z. S.N., A. R. Carter P. Sojourner, W. H. Gardener First Assistant Sojourner, E. J. Petts Second Assistant Sojourner. The thanks of the First Principal having been expressed towards the Consecrating Officers, and the names of several brethren handed in as candidates for exaltation, the Chapter was closed in regular form, and the company adjourned to the banquet room, where, after a most enjoyable repast, the customary Loyal and Royal Arch toasts were honoured. The M.E.Z. proposed the first in order—that of the Queen and Royal Arch Masonry—which was followed by that of the Grand Z. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The head of Royal Arch Masonry in this country devoted himself to further its interests in every way that lay in his power. The benefit of his well-known energy and perseverance being felt in this, as in everything else with which he associates himself. He was about to introduce his eldest son into Freemasonry, a step which would give to the Order a worthy successor to the present head, when he should vacate that position, which, however, all hoped would not occur for many years to come. The next toast was that of the Pro G.Z. and the rest of the Grand Officers Present and Past, and with it was coupled the name of Comp. Philbrick. That Companion in the course of his reply referred to the presence among them of nine Grand Officers—equal in number to the Muses—and competent by themselves to form a Chapter. He took this as a happy augury of the success of the one they had assisted in constituting. The toast of the Grand Officers was always well received. Both the Earl of Carnarvon and the Earl of Lathom well deserved the thanks they secured from all quarters, while the same might be said of the other G. Officers. Comp. Clerke gave the health of the Three Principals, complimenting the Chapter on having secured so distinguished a Companion as Montague Guest—who had shown to advantage in all his Masonic connections—for its First Principal. Comp. Festa was one well able to support him, and the same might justly be said of Comp. Hedges. The M.E.Z. replied, tendering his best thanks to those present. It was always interesting to witness the birth and watch the life of a new Institution. Like a man, a Lodge or a Chapter had its up and downs. He looked forward with confidence to a successful career for the Montague Guest Chapter. He then proposed the health of the Consecrating Officer—a Companion known and respected wherever Freemasonry was practised. Comp. Clerke responded. It had been a great pleasure to him to fulfil the duties he had undertaken in connection with their new Chapter. Companions Goodchild and Bush responded on behalf of the Visitors, and then the toast of the Officers was given from the Chair. The Most Excellent felt he had good material with which to creditably build the structure just commenced. They were particularly indebted to Comp. Brooks for the way in which he had carried out the duties he had undertaken, and this was also the case with Comp. Slyman. He could not, however, omit a special reference to Comp. Festa. Much of the success of the Montague Guest Lodge was due to him, and to him was also due most of the credit for having brought the Montague Guest Chapter into existence. This toast having been replied to, that of the Charities was given, and to this Comp. Frank Richardson responded. With the Janitor's toast the meeting was brought to a conclusion. The musical arrangements were entrusted to Comp. Seymour Smith, who was supported by Comps. Hodges and Carter. Madame Festa contributed some very handsome floral table decorations, which were objects of general admiration.

The first meeting of the Board of Stewards in connection with the coming Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls was held at Freemasons' Hall on Monday, the 16th inst., under the presidency of Bro. H. B. Marshall, Past G. Treasurer. The Officers of the Board of Stewards were chosen, as follows: Lieut.-General Randolph, Prov. S.G.W. Sussex, President, Bro. D. P. Cama, P.P.G.S.B. Middx., Patron of the Institution, Treasurer, J. H. Matthews, Chairman of Ladies' Stewards, F. R. W. Hedges, Secretary of the Institution, Hon. Sec. of the Board. Music and Dinner Committees were appointed, and the Stewards' fee fixed at the usual sum,—two guineas. Other formal business having been disposed of, the meeting was brought to a conclusion with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Percy Lodge of Instruction, No. 198.—The annual supper was held on Tuesday, the 17th instant, at the Jolly Farmers', Southgate Road, N., (where the Lodge of Instruction holds its meetings every Saturday evening), under the presidency of Brother I. P. Cohen P.M. 205, the Preceptor, who was supported by Bro. A. J. Powell 186. The creature comforts were bounteously provided by Brother Langdale, whose efforts to give satisfaction were duly appreciated. The cloth having been cleared, the President in able terms gave the Loyal and Masonic toasts. Success to the Percy Lodge of Instruction was proposed by Brother Powell, who was one of the brethren who aided in its resuscitation, some ten years since. Boasting an existence of over one hundred years, it claims to be the oldest Lodge of Instruction, being originally part and parcel of the mother Lodge, whose members met together for the purposes of mutual instruction. It has passed through stages of prosperity and adversity, even sometimes lapsing into obscurity altogether. However, for the last ten years, under the patronage of the Officers of the mother Lodge, it has had an unequalled time of prosperity and usefulness, of which the members may well be proud. All work together with that harmony and brotherly love so essentially requisite for the well-being and success of a Lodge. The toast was enthusiastically received by the brethren, and responded to by Bro. Cohen. The Officers of the Lodge of Instruction was very flatteringly proposed by the President, and responded to by Bro. A. W. Fenner Treasurer, and R. W. Galer Secretary, who, in a few words (brevity was the order of the evening) thanked the brethren for the support at all times accorded to his efforts, in conjunction with those of the Preceptor, to maintain the efficiency of the Lodge, and to inculcate the grand principle of Freemasonry—Charity. In furtherance of this, sixteen months since, a Masonic Association was inaugurated; it has been so far successful that in that period 22 ballots have taken place, thus benefitting the Institutions to the extent of £231. The health of Bro. G. Lambert P.G.S.B., W.M. for the fourth time of the mother Lodge, with his Officers, was well received, and we trust that the kindly feeling existing between the parent and its offspring will be maintained. Much regret was expressed at their unavoidable absence. The President could not allow the evening to pass without referring to the ceremony which was being performed at that time in the Royal Alpha Lodge, where Prince Albert Victor was being initiated into Freemasonry by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales Most Worshipful Grand Master. Bro. Cohen, with a few appropriate remarks, proposed the health of the Royal Initiate. Votes of thanks to the host, to the pianists—Bros. Baynes and Wright—for their kindness in favouring with their services, were unanimously accorded. Thus a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close. Bro. Mullord undertook the musical arrangements. He was supported by Bros. Bayne, Wright, Gifford, Money, Snook, Woodman, and Langdale.

Rose Lodge of Instruction, No. 1622.—On Tuesday evening the annual supper of the above flourishing Lodge of Instruction was served at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell, the W.M. of the mother Lodge, Bro. Goldschmidt, presiding, Bros. D. Rose Preceptor, T. Grummant Secretary, and Stone Assistant Secretary, being present, with the following brethren:—Martin, Penney, Vickery, Kettlewhite, Woodwell, Terry, Hilton, Smith, Hamlyn, Addington, Burnett, Beneditti, Petherbridge, Sturdee, Channon, Dunn, Sadler, and J. J. Brinton. Bro. Hill, the host, in order that the repast should be supplied in ample form, had secured the services of Bro. C. G. Slawson, the popular chef, of 736 Old Kent-road, who served a *récherché* meal, which elicited praise from all the guests. On the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal, patriotic, and Masonic toasts were given from the chair, and heartily pledged. Brother W. Hamlyn proposed the health of the President, the I.P.M. of the Rose Lodge. Bro. Hamlyn referred to the care and forethought of Bro. Goldschmidt as W.M. of the mother Lodge, and the time and energy he devoted to furthering the cause of the several Masonic Charities. The President acknowledged the compliment, and stated that the knowledge he had acquired in Freemasonry had been due to the instruction of Bro. Preceptor Rose, who had, from the time of his initiation, most carefully directed his steps. For this he cordially thanked him, and concluded by proposing his health, to which Bro. Rose responded in his usual able manner. The President next proposed the health of the Visitors; and then the Treasurer and Secretary, Bros. Cowley and Grummant, were complimented. The latter responded in a most feeling speech. The President next proposed the Stewards, to which Bro. Stone responded; other toasts followed. The brethren who contributed to the enjoyment of the evening, musically and vocally, were Bros. White, Briant, C. White, Hamlyn, Voisey, and Murché, the editor of *Funny Folks*. Upwards of forty brethren were present, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

The regular meeting of the Lodge of Benevolence took place at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, when the President, Bro. Joshua Nunn P.G.S.B., and the two Vice-Presidents, Bros. James Brett P.G.P. and C. A. Cottebrune P.G.P., occupied their respective chairs. Last month's recommendations—to the extent of £265—having been confirmed, the consideration of the forty-four new cases on the list was proceeded with. Three of these were dismissed, seven deferred, and the remainder relieved to the extent of £755. The grants made or recommended included two of £5 each, eight of £10, five of £15, six of £20, one of £25, seven of £30, four of £40, and one of £75.

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, 21st MARCH.

- 198—Percy, Jolly Farmers', Southgate Road, N., 8. (Instruction)
 715—Panmure, Cannon-street Hotel, E.C.
 1275—Star, Five Bells, 155 New Cross-road, S.E., at 7. (Instruction)
 1329—Sphinx, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, S.E.
 1361—Earl of Zetland, Old Town Hall, Mare-street, Hackney
 1364—Earl of Zetland, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7. (Instruction)
 1624—Eccleston, Crown and Anchor, 70 Ebury Street, S.W., at 7 (Instruction)
 1732—King's Cross, Anderton's Hotel Street, Fleet, E.C.
 1767—Kensington, Courtfield Hotel, Earl's Court, S.W.
 2012—Chiswick, Hampshire Hog, King Street, Hammersmith, W. (Instruct.)
 Sinai Chapter of Improvement, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8
 M.M. 104—Macdonald, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham Street
 M.M. 251—Tenterden, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C.
 811—Yarborough, Royal Pavilion, Brighton
 1194—Villiers, Albany Hotel, Twickenham
 1556—Addiscombe, Harewood House, High Street, Croydon.
 1597—Musgrave, Angel and Crown Hotel, Staines
 2035—Beaumont, Royal Hotel, Kirkburton
 R.A. 69—Royal Clarence, Freemasons' Hall, Park Street, Bristol

MONDAY, 23rd MARCH.

- 4—Royal Somerset House and Inverness, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 22—Loughborough, Cambria Tavern, Cambria Road, near Loughborough Junction, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 26—Castle Lodge of Harmony, Willis's Rooms, St. James's
 28—Old King's Arms, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 45—Strong Man, Excise Tavern, Old Broad Street, E.C., at 7 (Instruction)
 174—Sincerity, Railway Tavern, Railway Place, Fenchurch Street, at 7. (In)
 180—St. James's Union, Union Tavern, Air-street, W., at 8 (Instruction)
 183—Unity, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall Street, E.C.
 212—Euphrates, Mother Red Cap, High Street, Camden Town, at 8. (Inst.)
 548—Wellington, White Swan, High-street, Deptford, at 8 (Instruction)
 902—Burgoyne, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street
 905—De Grey and Ripon, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 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—Marquess 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.)
 1608—Kilburn, Queen's Arms Hotel, Kilburn
 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.)
 1632—Stuart, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell
 1693—Kingsland, Cock Tavern, Highbury, N., at 8.30 (Instruction)
 1828—Shepherds Bush, Athenaeum, Goldhawk-road, W.
 1891—St. Ambrose, Baron's Court Hotel, West Kensington. (Instruction)
 R.A. 25—Robert Burns, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 R.A. 188—Joppa, The Albion, Aldersgate Street
 R.A. 1201—Eclectic, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 R.A. 1237—Enfield, Court House, Enfield
 M.M. 5—Mallet and Chisel, Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge
 48—Industry, 34 Denmark-street, Gateshead
 724—Derby, Masonic Hall, Liverpool at 8. (Instruction)
 899—Robert Burns, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester
 1440—Royal Military, Masonic Hall, Canterbury, at 8. (Instruction)
 1894—Herschell, Masonic Rooms, Slough
 R.A. 241—Friendship, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 R.A. 1045—Stamford, Town Hall, Altrincham
 M.M.—The Old York, Masonic Hall, Bradford

TUESDAY, 24th MARCH.

- 14—Tuscan, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C.
 55—Constitutional, Bedford Hotel, Southampton-bldgs., Holborn, at 7 (Inst)
 65—Prosperity, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction)
 92—Moir, Albion, Aldersgate-street
 141—Faith, Queen Anne's Restaurant, Queen Anne's Gate, St. James's Park, Station, at 8. (Instruction)
 145—Prudent Brethren, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 177—Domestic, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30 (Instruction)
 186—Industry, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 188—Joppa, Champion Hotel, Aldersgate-street, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 205—Israel, Cannon-street Hotel, E.C.
 259—Prince of Wales, Willis's Rooms, St. James's
 554—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney (Instruction)
 753—Prince Frederick William, Eagle Tavern, Clifton Road, Maida Hill, at 8 (Instruction)
 820—Lily of Richmond, Greyhound, Richmond, at 7.30 (Instruction)
 840—Dalhousie, Sisters' Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston at 8 (Instruction)
 1044—Wandsworth, East Hill Hotel, Alma Road, Wandsworth (Instruction)
 1158—Southern Star, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark
 1321—Emblematic, Red Lion, York Street, St. James's Square, S.W., at 8 (In.)
 1348—Ebury, Regent Masonic Hall, Air-street, W.
 1349—Friars, Liverpool Arms, Canning Town, at 7.30 (Instruction)
 1360—Royal Arthur, Rock Tavern, Battersea Park Road, at 8. (Instruction)
 1381—Kennington, The Horns, Kennington. (Instruction)
 1441—Ivy, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New Road
 1446—Mount Edgumbe, Three Stags, Lambeth Road, S.W., at 8 (Inst)
 1471—Islington, Champion, Aldersgate Street, at 7. (Instruction)
 1473—Henley, Three Crowns, North Woolwich (Instruction)
 1540—Chaucer, Old White Hart, Borough High Street, at 8. (Instruction)
 1601—Ravensbourne, George Inn, Lewisham, at 7.30 (Instruction)
 1695—New Finsbury Park, Hornsey Wood Tavern, Finsbury Park, at 8 (Inst)
 1707—Eleanor, Trocadero, Broad-street-buildings, Liverpool-street, 6.30 (Inst)
 1719—Evening Star, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 1744—Royal Savoy, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 1949—Brixton, Prince Regent Dulwich-road, East Brixton, at 9. (Instruction)
 Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement, White Hart, Cannon Street, 6.30.
 R.A. 21—Cyrrus, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall Street
 R.A. 229—United Strength, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham Street
 R.A. 704—Camden, The Moorgate, Moorgate Street, E.C., at 8 (Instruction)
 R.A. 1275—Star, Ship Hotel, Greenwich
 24—Newcastle-on-Tyne, Freemasons Hall, Grainger-st., Newcastle 7.30 (In)
 160—True Friendship, Old Ship Inn, Rochford
 241—Merchants, Masonic Hall, Liverpool (Instruction)
 253—Tyrian, Masonic Hall, Gower-street, Derby
 624—Abbey, Masonic Hall, Union-street, Barton-on-Trent
 897—Loyalty, Fleece Inn, St. Helens, Lancashire
 986—Hesketh, Grapes Inn, Croston
 1016—Elkington, Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham
 1214—Scarborough, Scarborough Hall, Caledonia-road, Batley
 1312—St. Mary, White Hart Hotel, Bocking
 1343—St. John's Lodge, King's Arms, Grays, Essex
 1609—Dramatic, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 1676—Antient Briton, Masonic Hall, Liverpool

- R.A. 103—Beaufort, Freemasons' Hall, Park Street, Bristol
 R.A. 815—Blair, Town Hall, Hulme, Manchester
 R.A. 827—St. John, Masonic Temple, Halifax-road, Dewsbury
 R.A. 1094—Temple, Masonic Hall, Liverpool.

WEDNESDAY, 25th MARCH.

- 2—Antiquity, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 3—Fidelity, Alfred, Roman Road, Barnsbury, at 8 (Instruction)
 30—United Mariners', The Lugard, Peckham, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 73—Mount Lebanon, Windsor Castle, Southwark Bridge Road, at 8. (Inst)
 193—Confidence, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, at 7.30 (Instruction)
 212—Euphrates, Masonic Hall, Masons' Avenue, Basinghall-street, E.C.
 228—United Strength, The Hope, Stanhope Street, Regents Park, 8 (Inst.)
 538—La Tolerance, Portland Hotel, Great Portland Street, at 8 (Inst)
 720—Panmure, Balham Hotel, Balham, at 7 (Instruction)
 753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood
 781—Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, E. (Instruction)
 913—New Concord, Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road, N. (Instruction)
 861—Finsbury, King and Queen, Norton Folgate, E.C., at 7.30 (Instruction)
 862—Whittington, Red Lion, Poppin's-court, Fleet-street, at 8 (Instruction)
 898—Temperance in the East, 6 Newby Place, Poplar
 902—Burgoyne, Victoria Hotel, Farringdon Road, at 7. (Instruction)
 1017—Montefiore, Regent Masonic Hall, Air Street, W.
 1056—Victoria, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, E.C.
 1288—Finsbury Park, Cock Tavern, Highbury, at 8 (Instruction)
 1475—Peckham, Lord Wellington Hotel, 516 Old Kent-road, at 8. (Instruction)
 1524—Duke of Connaught, Royal Edward, Mare-street, Hackney, at 8 (Inst)
 1589—St. Dunstan's, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street
 1604—Wanderers, Adam and Eve Tavern, Palmer St., Westminster, at 7.30 (In)
 1662—Beaconsfield, Chequers, Marsh Street, Walthamstow, at 7.30 (Inst.)
 1681—Londesborough, Berkeley Arms, John Street, May Fair, at 8. (Instruct)
 1768—Progress, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 1791—Creston, Wheatsheaf Tavern, Goldhawk Road, Shepherds Bush. (Inst)
 1818—Clapham, Grosvenor Hotel, Victoria Station
 1820—Sir Thomas White, Holborn Viaduct Hotel
 1922—Earl of Lathom, Station Hotel, Camberwell New Road, S.E., at 8. (In.)
 R.A. 177—Domestic, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st., at 8 (Instruction.)
 R.A. 435—Mount Lebanon, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall Street
 R.A. 907—Royal Albert, White Hart Tavern, Abchurch Lane
 R.A. 933—Doric, 202 Whitechapel-road, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 M.M.—Thistle, Freemasons' Tavern, W.C., at 8. (Instruction)
 R.C.—St. Andrew, Cafe Royal, Regent Street, W

- 32—St. George, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool
 86—Loyalty, Masonic Hall, Prescott, Lancashire
 117—Salopian of Charity, Raven Hotel, Shrewsbury
 163—Integrity, Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street, Manchester
 220—Harmony, Garston Hotel, Garston, Lancashire
 258—Amphibious, Freemasons' Hall, Heckmondwike
 277—Friendship, Freemasons' Hall, Union-street, Oldham
 304—Philanthropic, Masonic Hall, Great George-street, Leeds
 380—Integrity, Masonic Temple, Commercial-street, Morley, near Leeds
 439—Scientific, Masonic Room, Bingley
 580—Harmony, Wheat Sheaf, Ormskirk
 697—United, George Hotel Colchester.
 724—Derby, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 755—St. Tudno, Freemasons's Hall, Llandudno
 910—St. Oswald, Masonic Hall, Ropergate, Pontefract
 972—St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Canterbury. (Instruction)
 996—Sondes, Eagle Hotel, East Dereham, Norfolk

- 1039—St John, George Hotel, Lichfield
 1083—Townley Parker, Mosley Hotel, Beswick, near Manchester
 1085—Hartington, Masonic Hall, Gower-street, Derby (Instruction)
 1119—St. Bede, Mechanics' Institute, Jarrow
 1218—Prince Alfred, Commercial Hotel, Mossley, near Manchester
 1219—Strangeways, Empire Hotel, Strangeways, Manchester
 1264—Neptune, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7 (Instruction)
 1283—Ryburn, Central-buildings, Town Hall-street, Sowerby Bridge
 1392—Egerton, Stanley Arms Hotel, Stanley-street, Bury, Lancashire
 1511—Alexandra, Hornsea, Hull (Instruction)
 1633—Avon, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester
 1638—Brownrigg, Sun Hotel, Kingston-on-Thames, at 8. (Instruction)
 1723—St. George, Commercial Hotel, Town Hall-square, Bolton
 1953—Prudence and Industry, George Hotel, Chard, Somersetshire
 1967—Beacon Court, Ghuznee Fort Hotel, New Brompton, Kent
 R.A. 225—St. Luke's, Freemasons' Hall, Soane Street, Ipswich
 R.A. 226—Benevolence, Red Lion Hotel, Littleborough
 R.A. 605—De Tabley, Queen's Hotel, Birkenhead
 R.A. 606—Segontium, Carnarvon Castle, Carnarvon
 R.A. 625—Devonshire, Norfolk Arms Hotel, Glossop
 M.M.—Howe, Masonic Hall, New Street, Birmingham
 M.M.—Northumberland and Berwick, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle
 M.M. 174—Athol, Masonic Hall, Severn-street, Birmingham

THURSDAY, 26th MARCH.

- General Committee, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4
 22—Neptune, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, E.C.
 27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7.30 (Instruction)
 34—Mount Moriah, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 65—Prosperity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, E.C.
 66—Grenadiers', Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth, at 8 (Instruction)
 99—Shakespeare, Albion, Aldersgate-street
 147—Justice, Brown Bear, High Street, Deptford, at 8. (Instruction)
 435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8 (Inst.)
 507—United Pilgrims, Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge
 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)
 766—William Preston, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, E.C.
 861—Finsbury, London Tavern, Fenchurch-street
 901—City of London, Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, at 6.30. (Instruction)
 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 Road, E., 8. (Instruction)
 1306—St. John, Three Crowns Tavern, Mile End Road, E. (Instruction)
 1339—Stockwell, Cock Tavern, Kennington-road, at 7.30 (Instruction)
 1421—Langthorne, Swan Hotel, Stratford
 1426—The Great City, Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue, E.C., at 6.30 (Inst)
 1524—Duke of Connaught, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.
 1558—D. Connaught, Palmerston Arms, Grosvenor Park, Cauborwell, at 8 (In.)
 1602—Sir Hugh Myddelton, White Horse Tavern, Liverpool Road (corner of Theoberton Street) N., at 8. (Instruction)
 1614—Covent Garden, Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden Lane, W.C., at 8. (Inst.)
 1622—Rose, Stirling Castle Hotel, Church Street, Camberwell. (Instruction)
 1658—Skelmersdale, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, S.E.
 1673—Langton, Mansion House Station Restaurant, E.C. at 6. (Instruction)
 1677—Crusaders, Old Jerusalem Tav., St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, at 9 (Inst.)
 1744—Royal Savoy, Yorkshire Grey, London Street, W., at 8 (Instruction)
 1816—Victoria Park, Queen's Hotel, Victoria Park Road
 1950—Southgate, Railway Hotel, New Southgate, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 R.A. 5—St. George's, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 R.A. 177—Domestic, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street
 R.A. 753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (In.)
 R.A. 1471—North London, Alwyne Castle Tavern, St. Paul's Road, Canonbury, at 8. (Instruction)
 M.M. 13—Hiram, Greyhound, Richmond
 M.M. 118—Northumberland, Masons' Hall, Basinghall-street

- 51—Angel, Three Cups, Colchester
 78—Imperial George, Assheton Arms Hotel, Middleton, Lancashire
 111—Restoration, Freemasons' Hall, Darlington
 116—Royal Lancashire, Swan Hotel, Colne
 203—Ancient Union, Masonic Hall, Liverpool. (Instruction)
 208—Three Grand Principles, Masonic Hall, Dewsbury
 249—Mariners, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 8 (Instruction)
 275—Harmony, Masonic Hall, South Parade, Hullersfield
 278—Good Fellowship, White Hart Hotel, Chelmsford
 283—Amity, Swan Hotel, Market-place, Haslingdon
 286—Samaritan, Green Man Hotel, Bacup
 337—Candour, New Masonic Rooms, Uppermill, Saddleworth
 341—Wellington, Cinque Ports Hotel, Rye
 344—Faith, Bull's Head Inn, Radcliffe, Lancashire
 348—St. John, Bull's Head Inn, Bradshawgate, Bolton
 449—Cecil, Sun Hotel, Hitchin
 594—Downshire, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 636—Ogle, Masonic Hall, Morpeth
 651—Brecknock, Castle Hotel, Brecon
 659—Blagdon, Ridley Arms Hotel, Blythe
 784—Wellington, Public Rooms, Park-street, Deal
 807—Cabbell, Masonic Hall, Theatre Street, Norwich
 904—Phoenix, Ship Hotel, Rotherham
 935—Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Salford
 966—St. Edward, Literary Institute, Leek, Stafford
 1000—Priory, Middleton Hotel, Southend on Sea
 1164—Eliot, Private Rooms, St. German's, Cornwall.
 1313—Fermor, Masonic Hall, Southport, Lancashire
 1325—Stanley, 214 Great Homer-street, Liverpool, at 8 (Instruction)
 1437—Liberty of Havering, R.sing Sun, Romford
 1459—Ashbury, Justice Birch Hotel, Hyde-road, West Gorton, nr Manchester
 1505—Emulation, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 1576—Dee, Union Hotel, Parkgate, Cheshire
 1580—Cranbourne, Red Lion Hotel, Hatfield, Herts, at 8. (Instruction)
 1626—Hotspur, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle
 1892—Wallington, King's Arms Hotel, Carshalton. (Instruction)
 R.A. 57—Humber, Freemasons' Hall, Hull
 R.A. 292—Liverpool, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 R.A. 303—Benevolent, Holland's Road East, Teignmouth
 R.A. 394—Concord, Freemasons' Hall, Albion Terrace, Southampton
 R.A. 442—St. Peter's, Masonic Hall, Boroughbury, Peterborough
 R.A. 732—Royal Sussex, Royal Pavilion, Brighton
 R.A. 1037—Portland, Masonic Hall, Portland, Dorset
 R.A. 1130—De Mowbray, George Hotel, Melton Mowbray
 R.A. 1235—Phoenix of St. Ann, Court Hotel, Buxton
 M.M. 32—Union, Freemason's Hall, Cooper-street, Manchester
 K.T. 8—Plains of Mamre, Bull Hotel, Burnley
 K.T. 34—Albert, Masonic Rooms, 23 Ann-street, Rochdale

FRIDAY, 27th MARCH.

- Emulation Lodge of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
 25—Robert Burns, The North Pole, 115 Oxford-street, W., at 8 (Instruc.)
 60—Peace and Harmony, Freemasons' Tavern, W.C.
 144—St. Luke, White Hart, King's-road, Chelsea, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 197—Jerusalem, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 507—United Pilgrims, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Instruc.)
 569—Fitzroy, Head Quarters, Hon. Artillery Company, E.C.
 766—William Preston, St. Andrew's Tavern, George St., Baker St., at 8. (In)
 780—Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge
 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)
 1158—Belgrave, Jermyn-street, S.W., at 8. (Instruction)
 1298—Royal Standard, Alwyne Castle, St. Paul's-road, Canonbury, at 8. (In.)
 1365—Clapton, White Hart, Lower Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 1602—Sir Hugh Myddelton, Agricultural Hall, N.
 1642—E. Carnarvon, Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill, at 8. (Instruction)
 1789—Ubique, 79 Ebury Street, Pimlico, S.W., at 7.30. (Instruction)
 1901—Selwyn, East Dulwich Hotel, East Dulwich. (Instruction)
 R.A. —Panmure C. of Improvement, Stirling Castle, Church Street, Camberwell
 R.A. 79—Pythagorean, Portland Hotel, London-street, Greenwich. (Inst.)
 R.A. 95—Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall Street
 R.A. 134—Caledonian, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street
 M.M. —Old Kent, Crown and Cushion, London Wall, E.C. (Instruction)
 K.T. 26—Faith and Fidelity, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C.
 401—Royal Forest, Hark to Bounty Inn, Slaidburn
 404—Watford, Freemasons' Hall, Watford
 453—Chigwell, Loughton Tavern, Station Road, Loughton, at 7.30 (Inst)
 460—Sutherland of Unity, Castle Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyme
 652—Holme Valley, Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth
 810—Craven, Devonshire Hotel, Skipton
 1143—Royal Denbigh, Council Room, Denbigh
 1303—Pelham, Freemasons' Hall, Lewes
 1385—Gladsmuir, Red Lion, Barnet
 1391—Commercial, Freemasons' Hall, Leicester
 1393—Hamer, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 1621—Castle, Crown Hotel, Bridgnorth
 1712—St. John, Freemasons Hall, Grainger Street, Newcastle upon Tyne
 1821—Atlingworth, Royal Pavilion, Brighton
 General Lodge of Instruction, Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham, at 7
 R.A. 152—Virtue, Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street, Manchester
 R.A. 242—Magdalen, Guildhall, Doncaster
 R.A. 471—Silurian, Freemasons' Hall, Dock Street, Newport, Monmouthshire
 R.A. 897—Loyalty, Masonic Buildings, Hall Street, St. Helens
 R.A. 945—Abbey, Abbey Council Chambers, Abingdon
 R.A. 1086—Walton, Skelmerdales Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, Liverpool
 K.T. 20—Royal Kent, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle

SATURDAY, 28th MARCH.

- 198—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8 (Instruction)
 1275—Star, Five Bells, 155 New Cross-road, S.E., at 7. (Instruction)
 1297—West Kent, Crystal Palace, Sydenham
 1364—Earl of Zetland, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7 (Instruction)
 1624—Eccleston, Crown and Anchor, 79 Ebury Street, S.W., at 7 (Instruction)
 1679—Henry Muggeridge, Masons' Hall Tavern, E.C.
 1706—Orpheus, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 1871—Gostling-Murray, Town Hall, Hounslow
 2012—Chiswick, Hampshire Hog, King Street, Hammersmith, W. (Instruc.)
 Sinai Chapter of Improvement, Union, Air-street, Regent-st., W., at 8
 149—Peace, Private Rooms, Meltham
 308—Prince George, Private Rooms, Bottoms, Eastwood
 453—Chigwell, Forest Hotel, Chingford
 1462—Wharnccliffe, Rose and Crown Hotel, Penistone
 1464—Erasmus Wilson, Pier Hotel, Greittheenh
 1531—Chiselhurst, Bull's Head Hotel, Chiselhurst
 1777—Royal Hanover, Albany Hotel, Twickenham
 1982—Greenwood, Public Hall, Epsom

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.

REVIEWS.

All Books intended for Review should be addressed to the Editor of The Freemason's Chronicle, Belvidere Works, Hermes Hill, Pentonville, London, N.

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"The Cosmopolitan Calendar, Diary, and Pocket Book for 1885." London: George Kenning, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, and Little Britain, Aldersgate-street.

It is only necessary to observe the title of this work to realise its ambitious character. A book that claims to be a complete storehouse of Masonic reference, and to contain "full particulars of every Grand Masonic body throughout the globe," sets up a bold position, and one that challenges criticism. It is, however, almost enough to say that as time has rolled on the work has been improved, until now it may be said that it defies criticism. We do not mean to say that it is without error, or that improvements might not be suggested, but we do affirm that as a reference book of the Craft and its cognate legitimate branches throughout the world, it is a marvel of comprehensiveness. Started, we believe, in 1871, this Diary is now in its fifteenth year. It has been long enough in existence to test both its strength and weakness, and the fact that it grows in popularity is proof enough that strength is developing with age, while the weakness is vanishing. It is impossible to test the accuracy of much that appears in this work. We may, however, by inference conclude that as the labour of compilation must be both great and full of detail, that accuracy would naturally form one of the most essential features of the compiler's duties. We may, therefore, confidently assume that the "Cosmopolitan" is to be relied on in every respect. Those who travel ought not to be without the book, and those who stay at home would do well to consult its pages, for therein is to be found a record of one of the mightiest movements of this or of any other age. The book is a study, and although it is little better than a mere directory in form and character, it is suggestive of an institution the origin of which is lost in the midst of time, and the future of which none can foresee.

"The Freemasons' Calendar and Directory for the Province of Oxfordshire and neighbourhood, for 1885-86. Oxford: W. R. Bowden, High-street.

A MELANCHOLY interest attaches to the present issue of this handy and useful directory. Bro. Bowden is editor, as well as printer and publisher, of his work, and as a matter of duty as well as of advantage, he sought and obtained the official sanction for his labours. The Duke of Albany was Provincial Grand Master of the Province, and he was a patron of Bro. Bowden's Calendar. Here is an extract from the letter, dated 10th February 1884, giving official sanction for the last time: "H.R.H. will renew his patronage, but begs you will not style him 'Prince Leopold' Duke of Albany, but simply Duke of Albany." The death of H.R.H. followed very shortly afterwards, and Oxfordshire lost its valued head, and the Craft a noble brother. Bro. Reginald Bird, as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, took charge of the Province, and from him Bro. Bowden has received official authority for the present issue of his Calendar. It contains a portrait of the late Duke of Albany, and a brief account of his Masonic career, couched in terms of brotherly sympathy and affection. The work before us is rather bulky for a Province, but in addition to information respecting the Craft and Arch in Oxfordshire, it contains an account of the Mark Degree in alliance with Berkshire, also a list of the United Provincial Grand Lodge of Berks and Bucks, and the Lodges contained therein. An enlarged digest of the schemes of the several Charities is given, and for the first time is published "lists of brethren in the Province holding votes in the Girls', Boys', and Benevolent Institutions, corrected to January in the present year." All the usual information is given, and Bro. Bowden deserves the support of the brethren of the Craft for the very excellent reference book he has provided for them. The next meeting of Prov. Grand Lodge will be an important one for them, the successor to the late Duke of Albany must be appointed. Bro. Bowden has anticipated that event in the following suggestive manner: "Rumour has already sketched the portrait of a nobleman residing in our midst as the more than probable successor to the much lamented Royal Duke; let us hope and pray 'so mote it be!' for no brother could be more supreme and acceptable to the hearts of Oxford Freemasons."

Royal Freemasons. Sketches of Scions of Reigning Houses in Europe who have donned the lambskin apron since A.D. 1717. By G. William Speth, of Margate, England. Philadelphia: Masonic Publishing Company. 1885.

WE welcome the appearance in book form of these interesting sketches. They appeared originally in the columns of the Philadelphia *Keystone*, whose readers must have been pleased to make the acquaintance, through this medium, with so careful a compiler as our Bro. Speth. Great pains have evidently been taken in order to obtain all possible information as to the Masonic doings of Royal members of our Society, and to present that information in the most readable form, and Bro. Speth deserves credit for the success which has attended his efforts. Some portions of his task must have been comparatively easy, as in the case of the Masonic members of our own Royal Family, but, on the other, there are some Royal Masons about whom it must have been a work of very considerable difficulty to procure even the barest particulars. However, Brother Speth seems to have gone about his task in a determined and methodical kind of way, and the result is a handy little volume, which will probably find a place in most Masonic libraries. We congratulate both Bro. Speth and the *Keystone* on the re-appearance of their "Royal Freemasons" in so compact and pleasant a garb.

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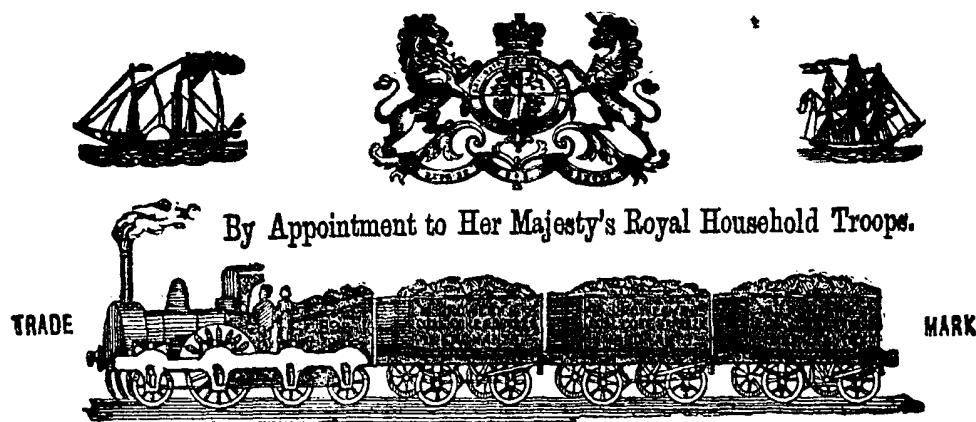
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(AGED 9 YEARS.)

Whose father was Initiated in the Corinthian Lodge, No. 1382, on the 17th day of April 1878, and was a subscribing member until his death, which took place on the 8th November 1881, after a severe illness of 6 days, he leaving a wife with four children totally unprovided for. This case is earnestly recommended by

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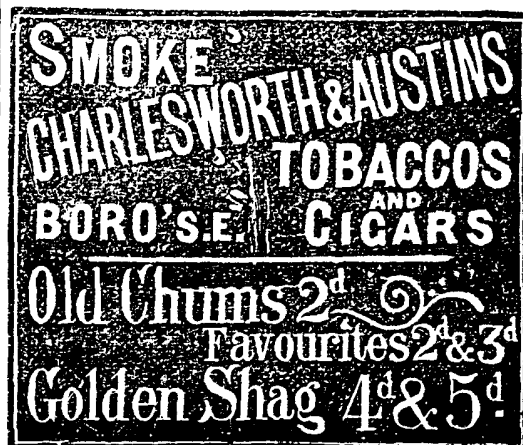
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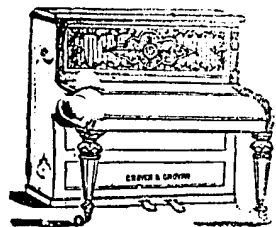
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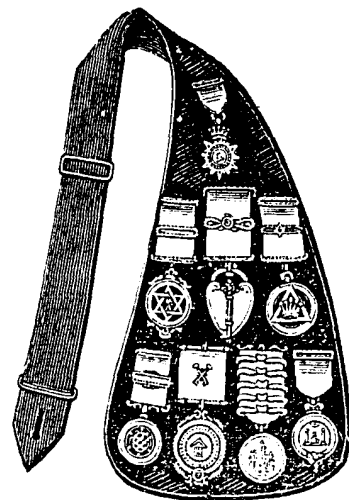
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