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OPINION OF FREEMASONRY EXPRESSED BY THE LATE LORD DERBY.

THE motives of the ancient and honourable Order of Freemasons have often been regarded with suspicion by those who do not belong to it, and who have no knowledge of its affairs. It might be supposed, indeed, that the rules and principles of Freemasons were so far known that the public mind should be inclined to regard them with respect, and the character of the members of the Order is generally such as to command respect in all circles of society. All this, however, does not prevent a feeling of doubt and suspicion on the part of some who can give no reason for it, but who are perhaps ready to entertain such a feeling as to everything beyond the sphere of their own immediate observation. There are many, however, who do not belong to the Masonic Order who judge more justly, and a strong testimony in favour of its high and estimable character was recently borne by the late Earl of Derby in a speech made by him in the House of Lords on the 7th of June, 1869. Referring to the Order of Freemasons, he said:—"I am not a member of that body, but I believe that a more loyal, peaceable, charitable, and benevolent body does not exist." Higher commendation could hardly be given, nor could it be given by one whose opinion is more worthy of respect. Such a testimony borne by Lord Derby cannot but be very gratifying to the members of the Order of Freemasons, and ought to have some effect on the minds of those who do not belong to it. Freemasons themselves, indeed, are well aware of the high and noble principles on which their ancient Order is founded, and of the excellence of the rules by which it is governed—of the landmarks in constant adherence to which its true nobility is maintained. These ancient landmarks have not often been over-looked, and can never be broken down. Whilst they subsist, and are kept clearly in view by Freemasons themselves, the character of the Order must appear in the eyes of the world, such as Lord Derby declared it to be. Loyalty, is, indeed, one of the essential principles of Freemasonry; and a Freemason is bound by

the most solemn obligations to live as a good member of society, observing the laws of God and of his country. Peaceable he therefore must be, whilst these obligations are remembered. As to charity and benevolence, we need hardly say that Freemasons are distinguished by their readiness to aid any brother in circumstances of want or distress; and instances could easily be adduced, in very great number, of the relief of the poor by the Masonic Lodges both of this and of other countries. Let a brother from any part of the world come to England or Scotland and make himself known, he will find himself amongst brethren, and the money requisite for his relief will be forthcoming, even to a large amount. There have been many recent instances of distressed foreigners—sufferers from the political troubles of their native countries, or from other causes—being not only relieved from destitution here, but provided with the means of proceeding home again, when circumstances became such as to permit it, by contributions from Masonic lodges. Nor are the lodges in other parts of the world less attentive to this great law and duty of charity.

OUR EXCHANGES.

We have to welcome to our desk many valuable Masonic magazines, or newspapers with Masonic departments, from all parts of the world. The United States, as usual, heads the list.

We continue to receive the *New York Dispatch*, so ably edited masonically by Bro. Holmes.

There is also *Pomeroy's Democrat*, with the political views of which we need not concern ourselves, though anything more piquant or rousing than some of Mr. Pomeroy's articles it is impossible to conceive. He wields a hammer like that of Thor, and every stroke is a thunderbolt. The Masonic department is managed by Bro. F. G. Tisdall, 33°, and among other interesting matter it contains a series of articles on "Masonic Rites," which we hope to quote from when the pressure on our space of home items becomes less intense.

The *Keystone*, published at Philadelphia, is another addition to our file, and one at which we rejoice. The number for Nov. 13 is a double one, and replete with Masonic information in the shape of sketches and news. The paper itself is a beautiful specimen of typography, and altogether we do not wonder at the popularity which, it is said the *Keystone* has achieved in the "City of Brotherly Love."

MASONIC ADDRESS TO H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH IN NEW ZEALAND.

The following address was presented to His Royal Highness Prince Alfred Ernest Albert, Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., K.T., &c., when in New Zealand:—

"We, the District Grand Master, Deputy District Grand Master, and Officers of the Ancient Order of Freemasons in Canterbury, New Zealand, desire on behalf of the District Grand Lodge, and of the Masters and members of the various lodges of the district, to express our gratification, as dutiful and loyal subjects of Her Majesty, at your visit to this distant part of her wide empire.

"We gladly avail ourselves of this opportunity of expressing our undiminished loyalty to the Queen, and our attachment to all the members of the Royal Family.

"We heartily bid your Royal Highness welcome to Canterbury. We pray that the Great Architect of the Universe may vouchsafe every blessing and a long life to Her Majesty the Queen, and may conduct you safely through every peril by sea and land, and accord you a brilliant and happy future."

NEW ZEALAND.—A Masonic lodge, constituted under a dispensation from the Provincial Grand Master of Canterbury, New Zealand, was opened at Greymouth on the Queen's birthday. Applications for dispensation and warrant of constitution to open a Masonic lodge at Charleston have been forwarded to Brother Vincent Pyke, R.M., P.G.M., S.C. for New Zealand.

WHAT BETTER THEME THAN MASONRY?

MASONIC SONG.

Words by Brother JAMES STEVENS, P.M. 720, S.W. 1216, P.Z. 720, &c.

Music by Brother WILHELM GANZ, P.M. 435, Org. No. 4, and of British Chapter, No. 8.

HORWOOD AND CREW, Publishers, 42, New Bond-street, London.

What better theme can claim our lays,
And lend its aid to Harmony;
What noble art sheds brighter rays
Than glorious Freemasonry?
What other virtues can compare
With those 'tween "compasses and square"?
For Faith and Hope and Charity,
Brotherly Love and Unity,
With Order, Peace, and Harmony,
Are found in true Freemasonry.

When first to us the light is shown
That governs true morality
Others' distress we make our own
In natural equality.
Our steps are then taught to ascend
The ladder staves that upward tend—
Faith, first upon the muster-roll,
Hope, the sheet-anchor of the soul,
And Charity, that crowns the whole
Foundation of Freemasonry.

When Craftsmen's labours we attend
We're taught the hidden mystery,
By science led to comprehend
The scope of nature's history;
From nature up to nature's God
Our minds are raised above the sod,
And Wisdom comes to shield from harm,
Strength our hurtful passions to disarm,
Whilst Beauty lends a crowning charm
To all our works in Masonry.

And next, as Master Masons, we
Share the sublimest mystery,
And prove how potent then can be
Fortitude and Fidelity;
The terrors of the darkest hour
Are lessened by the Mystic Power,
And Virtue's portal opens wide
Our steps to Honour's fane to guide,
Whilst Mercy pleads upon our side
To Him who rules Freemasonry.

And when, our glorious labours o'er,
We meet for brief hilarity,
Amidst our joys, our Brethren poor
Remembered are in charity:
Each thankful heart expands to bless;
Each willing hand relief will press;
With Temperance God's gifts we share;
Prudence extends her watchful care,
And Justice, symbolled by the Square,
Perfects our works in Masonry.

CONSECRATION OF THE KENLIS LODGE, EGREMONT.

The consecration of the "Kenlis" Lodge, Egremont, took place last week, under the auspices of Bro. Whitwell, D.P.G.M. of Cumberland and Westmorland, assisted by Brothers Simpson, Cook, M'Kelvie, Kenworthy, Robertson, Spittal, and others. A large number of the fraternity from various parts of the province were present at the interesting and somewhat rare ceremony of constituting a new lodge, on the completion of which Brother Morton, P.P.S.G.W., was installed as the first Master, the officers selected being Brothers Lawson, S.W., Chapman, J.W., and Sandwith, T.

There was not sufficient brethren belonging to the Kenlis Lodge to fill each office, but such offices as remain unoccupied will be filled by officers from the two lodges at Whitehaven until they have members of their own; this will soon take place, as there are several who have applied for admission. The lodge is in a central position, surrounded by numerous influential families, and will ere long prove to the Masonic body that it is really the "Kenlis Lodge" in the right place.

The brethren afterwards partook of a banquet in the Oddfellow Hall, the newly-installed master presiding, the chair being supported by Bros. Whitwell, Cook, W. B. Clarke, Puxley, Faithful, M'Kelvie, and others. After the usual loyal toasts, several speeches of unusual excellence were given by the D.P.G.M. and other brethren, the intervals being filled up by some first-class music rendered by Bros. Cook, Glover, and Cooper.

After a most enjoyable meeting the brethren departed for their respective abodes shortly after six o'clock.

Mrs. Roberts, the caterer for the banquet, supplied every delicacy of the season in first-class style.

[A fuller report will appear in our next.]

ANCIENT AND MODERN MYSTERIES.

By BRO. ROBERT WENTWORTH LITTLE,
President of the London Literary Union, Editor of
"The Rosicrucian," &c.

(Continued from page 240.)

Among the ancient Jews we find there were many sects, some of a secret character like the Essenes, and others which made an open profession of their peculiar doctrines, like the Sadducees.

The origin of the former sect is unknown, but certain writers maintain that it may be traced to the Kassideans, a fraternity of pious men who devoted themselves to the service of the Temple.

From Mackey's "Lexicon of Freemasonry," I extract the following information respecting the Essenes, it being more copious than the account given by Dr. Oliver in his Dictionary of "Symbolical Masonry":—

"They were divided into two classes, *speculative* and *operative*; the former devoting themselves to a life of contemplation, and the latter daily engaging in the practice of some handicraft. The proceeds of their labour were, however, deposited in one general stock; for they religiously observed a community of goods. They secluded themselves from the rest of the world, and were completely esoteric in their doctrines, which were also of a symbolic character. They admitted no women into their order; abolished all distinctions of rank, "meeting on the level," and giving the precedence only to virtue. Charity was bestowed on their indigent brethren; and, as a means of recognition, they adopted signs and other modes similar to those of the Freemasons. Their order was divided into three degrees. When a candidate applied for admission, his character was scrutinized with the greatest severity. He was then presented with a girdle, a hatchet, and a white garment. Being thus admitted to the first degree, he remained in a state of probation for one year; during which time, although he lived according to their customs, he was not admitted to their meetings. At the termination of this period, if found worthy, he was advanced to the second degree, and was made a partaker of the waters of purification. But he was not yet permitted to live among them; but after enduring another probation of two years' duration, he was at length admitted to the third degree, and united in full fellowship with them. On this occasion he took a solemn oath, the principal heads of which, according to Josephus, (*Bell. Jud.* II. 8), were as follows: 'To exercise piety toward God, and justice toward men, to hate the wicked and assist the good; to show fidelity to all men, obedience to those in authority, and kindness to those below him; to be a lover of truth, and a reprover of falsehood; to keep his hands clear from theft, and his soul from unlawful gains; to conceal nothing from his own sect, nor to discover any of their doctrines to others; to communicate their doctrines in no otherwise than he had received them himself; and, lastly, to preserve the books belonging to the sect, and the names of the angels in which he shall be instructed.' Philo, of Alexandria, who, in two books written expressly on the subject of the Essenes, has given a copious account of their doctrines and manners, says, that when they were listening to the secret instructions of their chiefs, they stood with 'the right hand on the breast a little below the chin, and the left hand placed along the side.' A similar position is attributed by Macrobius to Venus, when deploring the death of Adonis, in those rites which were celebrated at Tyre, the birthplace of Hiram the Builder."

(To be continued.)

ERRATA.—We regret that the following errors were printed in Bro. Little's article, "Ancient and Modern Mysteries," last week:—"Maji" should read *Maqi*, "Shebers," *Ghebers*; "inextinguished," *inextinguishable*; "exoteric religions," *exoteric religious ceremonies*; "Paulinius" (twice), *Paulinus*; "emerged," *merged*.

THE SUNDERLAND MASONIC HALL COMPANY (LIMITED).—The first general meeting of the Shareholders of this Company was lately held at the Queen's Hotel, Sunderland, under the presidency of Mr. S. J. Wade, chairman of the Company. The report was read by Mr. R. Hudson, hon. secretary, and showed that the affairs were in a flourishing condition. It was moved by the chairman and adopted. The election of officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with. Mr. S. J. Wade was re-elected chairman; Mr. W. H. Crookes, vice-chairman; Mr. R. Hudson, honorary secretary; Messrs. John Bell, Robert Dixon, P. Hvistendahl, W. H. Craven, Thomas Riley, and Mark Douglas, directors; Messrs. Wood and Co., treasurers; and Messrs. W. Beattie and Thomas Johnson, auditors. The formation of the new Masonic Club, which will be held in the new building, was next the subject of discussion, after which a large number of the shareholders present, handed in their names to the chairman as members of the new club. The proceedings terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

CHAPTER OF PRUDENT BRETHREN,
No. 145.

On Thursday last week a new chapter attached to the Lodge of Prudent Brethren, and to be called after its name, was consecrated at Freemasons' Hall. This is almost the latest London Chapter for which a warrant has been obtained, and very few months have been allowed to elapse between the obtaining of the charter and the launching of the chapter. It starts under most favourable auspices, and in the persons of Comp. J. Boyd, Z.; G. J. Sharpe, H.; and W. Carter, J., possesses three principals who, being well tried in craft and Royal Arch Masonry, will govern the companions with firmness and discretion. With the assistance also of one of the best of Masons, Comp. G. States, as S.E., nothing is wanted to make this a prosperous chapter but unanimity and zeal on the part of all who join it. The lodge of Prudent Brethren is both a numerous and a prosperous lodge, and as the chapter has been opened for the purpose of giving an opportunity to Prudent Brethren of becoming Prudent Companions, the members of the lodge will doubtless appreciate the founders' intentions and place their names down for exaltation immediately.

The ceremony of consecration was performed by Comp. J. Hervey, G.S.E., who took the Z. chair, having Comp. Tepper, as H., Comp. James Brett, as J., and Comp. R. W. Little, as D.C. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Comp. F. W. Taylor, P.Z., who presided at the harmonium, and the vocal parts were sustained by Comps. Theodore Distin, Robt. Barnby, and Donald King with remarkable sweetness and exactness. The formal programme observed in the consecration of chapters was strictly observed; the whole ceremony was most perfectly performed, and if possible showed a greater degree of excellence than has ever been attained in the consecration services. The Principals opened the chapter, and the Comps. of the new chapter entered in order, when the introductory prayer was offered and the D.C. addressed the Principals, who replied. The petition and charter were then read by the S.E., and the M.E.Z. enquired of the Comps. if they approved of the Officers named in the charter. The Companions having signified their assent, Comp. Hervey constituted the Comps. into a regular Chapter. Comp. Brett, the acting J., afterwards delivered an oration on the nature and principles of the institution, and the anthem, "Behold, how good," was sung. The dedication prayer, the scripture portions, the "Gloria Deo" and the further prayers, and the anthem, "I have surely built thee an house" followed, and the dedication and constitution of the Chapter by the M.E.Z., with the chant and patriarchal benediction, concluded the ceremony.

Comp. BRETT, subsequently installed Comps. John Boyd, M.E.Z.; George J. Sharpe, H., and Wm. Carter, J. The M.E.Z. invested Comps. G. States, S.E.; H. P. Allender, S.N.; J. Last, Treas.; G. Pitt, P.S.; John Hervey, I.P.Z., and W. Y. Laing, Janitor. The other officers were Comps. J. Lancaster, 1st. A.S.; J. Bull, 2nd A.S.; W. Watson, Steward, and G. Wood, D.C. The S.E., Comp. States, read a list of thirty-three members of the Prudent Brethren Lodge who were candidates for exaltation at the meeting on December 7th, and a further list of fifteen Comps. who wished to become joining members. The M.E.Z. proposed, and the J. seconded, that Comps. Hervey and Brett, be elected Hon. Members, which was carried unanimously, and Comp. Hervey in replying said, that it had given him great pleasure to give his humble powers in the consecration of this Chapter. He had been ably supported by his Comp. Brett, and the other officers who had assisted, and he was more than amply repaid by the compliment which the Chapter had paid him by electing him an Hon. Member. Comp. Brett also said that he was proud at being elected an Hon. Member, inasmuch as the founders, petitioners, and members of the Chapter, were all his oldest and most sincere friends. He was sorry that his engagements would prevent him coming very frequently among them, but he should nevertheless feel that an honour had been conferred upon him by being made a member of this Prudent Brethren Chapter. The M.E.Z. then closed the Chapter, and the next meeting will take place on the 7th prox. The following were the Comps. present during the evening:—John Hervey, G.S.E.; James Brett, P.Z., 177; F. Avrillon, 742; W. Farnfield, P.Z., 5; Louis Mercik, Z., 534; H. Massey, J., 619; Theodore Distin, Edmund Bingham, Melita Chap., Malta; John Boyd, M.E.Z.; Geo. J. Sharpe, H.; W. Carter, J.; Geo. States, S.E.; J. Last, Treas.; W. F. Taylor, 68; W. H. Pyne, 534; Donald King, 180; F. W. Gilbert, J., 531; R. W. Little, Z., 177; J. Tepper, Z., 8; H. G. Buss, P.Z., 177; R. S. Warrington, P.Z., 8; W. Platt, P.Z., 19; John Coutts, Z., 382; C. J. Watson, P.Z., 11; J. H. H. Douglass, S.E., 206; R. Barnby, 820; H. P. Allender, 742; D. R. Still, 975; Jas. Horwood, 28. There was no banquet.

The chapter furniture, which was of the very finest description, was manufactured by Comp. Platt, of 6, Beaufort-buildings.

CENTENARY OF LODGE "SINCERITY,"
PLYMOUTH.

The members of this lodge, No. 189, met on Thursday evening last week, at the Royal Hotel, Plymouth, to hold one of their annual banquets, and to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of their existence. All the members of the Lodge that could attend were present and the brethren of Lodge Sincerity had with that liberality which influences the brethren of other lodges, sent out a number of invitations including one to each of the Masters of the other lodges in the three towns. The Earl of Mount Edgcumbe and Lord Eliot, who were members of the lodge, sent letters expressive of their regret at not being able to be present, as did also Bros. Col. Peard, who is a P.M. of the lodge, General Staveley, Capt. Shanks, R.M., and others. There was a good attendance. Amongst those present were the following brethren:—F. P. Balkwill, W.M.; on his right, R.W. Rev. J. Huyshe, M.A., Prov. G.M. and P.G. Chap.; R.W. Metham, D.P.G.M.; Rev. Carwithen, P.P.G.C.; Dr. Dowse, P.M., P.P.S.G.D., Treas.; Rae, P.M., P.P.G.O. Sec., 189; on the left, the R.W. Augustus Smith, G.M. of Cornwall; Bayley, I.P.M., Prov. G. Treas.; W. Yates, Prov. J.G.W. of Devon; Rev. J. E. Risk, P.P.G.C.; Bate, P.M., P.P.G.R.; Latimer, P.P.G.S.; J. J. Clase, P.P.G.D.C.; R. R. Rodd, P.M., P.P.G.S.W. of Cornwall, as S.W. 189; Foster, J.W. 189; J. Saw, S.D. 189; S. B. Rawling, J.D.; J. W. Coffin, D.C.; G. F. Laity and E. Bisset, Stewards; J. C. Radford, P.M., P.P.G.D.; J. Sadler, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; T. Wade, J. Lewis, J. Dampney, R. J. Laity, W. Roberts, S. Hutchings, R. B. Oram, C. G. Gibson, P.M.; A. N. Innes, M. Coates, G. Jackson, J. Mc. W. Graham, A. R. Mulley, P. J. Pidditch, R. M. Clay, M.D.; B. Browning, R. G. Callaway, Langdon Morcom. The following W. Masters of the sister lodges: St. John Baptist, 70; J. Richards; Fortitude, 105, Geo. Hilson; Harmony, 156, R. B. Triplett; Brunswick, 159, — Amery; Charity, 223, J. M. Hifley; St. Aubyn, 954, J. Hawton; Prov. D.C., Huyshe, 1099, J. Brown; Dundas Lodge, 1255, T. B. Hervey, P.P.G.D.C.; S. Chapple, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; Thomas, Fewens, H. Broad, of Metham Lodge, and Windeatt.

The dinner was an excellent one, worthy, in every respect, of the character of the Royal, and it was well attended. Bro. Windeatt presided at the piano, and Bros. Gibson and Laity contributed by their admirable singing to the spending of a most agreeable evening. The W.M. (Bro. Balkwill) proved a most excellent chairman. He is a good speaker, and his short terse speeches, threw an excellent tone into the meeting. Grace before dinner was said by Bro. Risk, and after by Bro. Carwithen. After the dinner the lodge was close tiled. The Chairman then read letters of apology from absentees who were unable to attend. In the letter from Bro. Shanks he enforced the importance of supporting the Masonic Charities, which he said he should do himself.

The W. MASTER, in an appropriate and admirable speech, proposed, "Her Majesty the Queen," which, with all the other toasts, was drunk with due Masonic honours.

The Rev. Bro. Risk next proposed the "Prince of Wales and the Craft," and at some length eulogised the Prince for walking in the steps of his Royal father, Albert the Good, mentioning several instances of late in which, by his public services, he had evinced a conduct gratifying to the country.

The next toast was that of the "Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, G.M.," which was drunk with enthusiasm, regret being expressed that this would be the last year in which he would preside over the Masonic body.

In responding to the toast of the R.W. the Prov. G. M. of Devon, the Rev. J. Huyshe expressed his gratification at being present at the centenary of the lodge. He had come down at considerable inconvenience, having to leave on the following morning by 6.45 in order to be at his public duties at 11 o'clock. After some observations on the pleasure he always felt in being amongst them, the R.W. brother proceeded to speak on matters of a practical character. He said that their Province had been charged—not quite fairly he thought—with not giving a proper support to their Masonic charities. There was some truth in the charges, but not so much as had been stated, for they had a Benevolent Fund which no other Province could show (loud cheers). There were in the Province 37 lodges, and 1,600 subscribing members. If they made their contributions from all these lodges 1s. more from each member to the Grand Lodge, that would give them 1,600 shillings more than was at present subscribed. This would be twice as much as at present and would give them £160 a year. This might be divided into four parts: One part should go to the Portescue Annuity Fund, which stood out prominently before the Masonic world. That was a fund of their own. They took care of their own poor brethren (cheers). They had £1,300 or £1,400 invested. If they would add to the proceeds from this fund £40 more, they would be able to put on another annuity, if not two. Then they should have

for the other charities £80 a year—one-half of which might be given to the General Masonic charity of the kingdom. They should give £20 to the Grand Lodges and £20 more to the schools. He thought that they should have a meeting of the Grand Lodge purposely to consider this subject (cheers). He did not think that any brother in the province would object to an extra farthing a week—one shilling a year—being so appropriated; and he asked the Masters of the lodges then present to bring this matter before their lodges, and let him know what the brethren thought of it (cheers). The R.W. Brother then proposed, in warm terms of eulogy, the next toast, that of "The Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of Cornwall," whom he described as almost one of themselves, so warmly, so cordially did he enter into all Masonic matters which were interesting to them. The toast was most enthusiastically received.

The R.W. Bro. AUGUSTUS SMITH responded in a speech marked by his accustomed pleasantry of manner. He expressed his gratification at being present at the centenary meeting of Lodge Sincerity, and said that the year in which it was founded was a memorable year in the history of Europe, for it was the year in which Napoleon—not memorable for "sincerity"—was born; it was also the year in which a man greater than he—Wellington, who excelled in the virtue of sincerity—also first saw the light (cheers). He also spoke of its being the year of the foundation of the Royal Society, with which a near townsman of theirs, Sir Joshua Reynolds, fame was linked. He hoped that the lodge would live to celebrate a second centenary, and that its members might be able to look back with pleasure on that which had passed (cheers).

Bro. SPENCE BATE, P.M., then proposed "The R.W., the D.P.G. Master and Officers of the P.G. Lodge of Devon," present and past, to which the R.W. Bro. Metham and Bro. Major Yates, on behalf of the officers, briefly responded, Bro. Metham reserving some further observations to a later hour.

Bro. R. R. RODD, a P.M. and one of the Past G. officers of Cornwall, responded to a similar toast for that Province.

Bro. L. P. METHAM, the D.P.G. Master, next rose and said: As the one link which still connects the past history of our mother lodge with its present energetic life; as the single remaining member who has walked and talked with brethren who, in their youth, had walked and talked with the still older brethren who founded Lodge "Sincerity," and who, on this day one hundred years ago, and probably at this very hour, held high festival in honour of its birth and consecration, I know you will hold me excused if, individually, I regard this, our centenary celebration, with feelings of more than usual interest, and if I dwell on the event at greater length than the toast entrusted to me, "The Worshipful Master and Officers of Lodge Sincerity," would at any other festival warrant. Of our Worshipful Master, I will only say that he bids fair to rival that long array of Masters who for a century have filled the chair before him. He belongs to a sect which peculiarly professes peace, and he has a strong and deep-seated religious feeling. Not only in the Master's chair but in every relation of life, I believe that all his thoughts and actions will be directed by prudence, chastened by temperance, supported by fortitude, and guided by justice. But he and the other officers will excuse me if I again pass back to the subject of our festival to-day. The names of the brethren who founded the lodge, are doubtless, recorded in the books of the Grand Lodge, but to us they are unknown; their doings and their sayings, their outer life in the world, their inner life in the world, are to us as if they had never been. Their position in life, their talents, their virtues, their joys and sorrows, their failures or successes, are all a sealed book to us. In the charity of our craft we must believe that they banded themselves together in the hope of doing good in their generation, of erecting a column of mutual defence and safety, and of pursuing—in moral and upright lives, and in the daily exercise of brotherly love, relief, and truth—the noble precepts of our Order. Of the decadence of the lodge in the town of Devonport, then Plymouth Dock, where it was first planted, close to the house in which I was myself born, we can learn nothing. Most probably it but partook of that general decline of Masonry which took place about the close of the last century. Be that as it may, about fifty years ago the warrant was transferred to Plymouth, and after a brief sojourn in the Masonic Hall, and in Westwell-street, it found a home for some years in the Royal Hotel, where we are now assembled. In this town, Lodge Sincerity rose, almost at a bound, like a phoenix, from the ashes of neglect and decay to which it had been so long condemned. On its books of that date are entered the names of the foremost men of Plymouth and the neighbourhood. Philanthropists, professional men, merchants, magistrates, country gentlemen, officers in the army and navy, and literary men, of whom Plymouth possessed a perfect galaxy in that day,

were initiated in rapid succession. Again a period of considerable depression occurred, and when I was initiated, more than a quarter of a century ago, the meetings were infrequent and the numbers very greatly reduced, although those who still subscribed to the funds, without attending the meetings, were men of influence, position, and elevated Masonic rank. I was initiated in a room within ten yards of this in which we are now assembled, and the ceremony was performed by the then Acting Master, Bro. Major Symons, who had achieved for himself the proud position of Grand Warden of England, by his Masonic diligence, erudition and perfect oratory. Of the six or seven other brethren present, one other was a Grand Lodge officer, the others held high office in the province. When I took my place as the newly-initiated brother, it may easily be imagined that I drew a very dispiriting comparison by my own lowly apron, no longer of pure and unsullied lambskin, but worn and sullied by repeated use, and the gorgeous array of gold and silver by which I was surrounded. But I was not discouraged for long, the desire to achieve equal honours grew upon me, with a strong belief that if I deserved them they would come in their own good time. I bore with equanimity preference given to those whom I had myself initiated into Masonry, my own brother being in the number. Honours came at last, and then they came unsought, as one chief who sits by my side can testify, and they were the more prized because unsought. The low numbers on the books at the time of my initiation, were a type of Masonry throughout the kingdom at the time, but Lodge Sincerity long before the period of general revival which came some years after, started forward on a career of prosperous success, which rivalled, even if it did not exceed, the period to which I have alluded. That I aided in that success by unremitting, unflagging devotion to its interests, will always be a subject of pleasant retrospection. The young, who live for what the years to come may bring, and who find their greatest delight in ambitious charms and struggles which are to crown their future with happiness, think that the old have no pleasures that can equal theirs; but that is a great mistake, for if memory carries with it no sting of an ill-spent and useless life, but if, on the contrary, there are green spots on memory's waste on which the mind can dwell with satisfaction, advanced life must possess many pleasures unknown to those who have realized no hope, and who are yet struggling forward to the goal which we have reached. As in my private world, I live again in my children, and my children's children, so in my Masonic world, I live over again many a happy hour spent, and many a firm friendship formed within the lodge, some broken by death, but hallowed by memory still, others lasting to this hour, defying time and distance alike. Our lodge carried to St. George's Hall, where it is now located, the prestige of its fame, and very few private lodges have enrolled so many members whose position in life, and whose mental and social qualities are so well calculated to sustain the reputation of their mother lodge. That Old Sincerity may long prosper, and that the brethren who meet to celebrate the close of the second century, which, as I speak, is already some hours old, may find her happy in her sons, and united in the bonds of brotherly love, relief and truth, as we are who to-day place a footstep on either century, is my earnest prayer, and no effort of mine will ever be wanting to ensure the fulfilment of my hope and prayer. The event we celebrate to-day, and on which I still linger as if clinging to the past, in which I have been myself a part, and in which I have found so much delight, like the knell which tells of the dying, and the joy bells which tell of the new-born year, will, I hope, awaken in each of us the enquiry, how have I fulfilled the mission I so solemnly took upon myself at my initiation, and how can I best redeem mis-spent time and mis-used talents in the time to come? For myself, Masonry has brought to me much pleasure and much advantage; it has softened asperities which otherwise would have been active; it has awakened sympathies which otherwise would have been dormant; it has taught me duties which otherwise might never have been acknowledged; it has given me influence which, I trust, I have exercised for good, which otherwise I should never have possessed. My regret is that I have done so little, and so much of that little wrong. My hope and prayer are that in the brief space of life still permitted to me I may do more, and do it better (prolonged cheers).

There were several other toasts, including those of "The Worshipful W. Masters and Sister Lodges of the Three Towns," "The W. Master and Officers of Lodge Sincerity," "Our Visiting Brethren," and "Our Poor and Distressed Brethren."

ISRAEL LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 205.—We are requested to inform our readers that the future meetings of this lodge will be held on Wednesday evenings instead of Sunday, at the Rising Sun Tavern, Globe-road. Brother Isaac Saqui is the Preceptor.

Reports of Masonic Meetings.

THE CRAFT.

METROPOLITAN.

William Preston Lodge, No. 766.—This lodge met at the Clarendon Hotel, Anerley, on Thursday, the 25th ult., when there were present, Bros. F. E. Wilkinson, M.D., W.M.; J. Newton, P.M., acting as S.W.; W. I. Miller, J.W.; W. H. Harper, S.D.; G. Newman, J.D.; also W. Worrell, G. Leman, A. Brand, R. Stiegerwald, R. H. Whiteman, M.D., P.M.; G. J. Knin, P.M., Sec. and Treas.; B. Abbott, P.M.; J. Henley, G. Cragg, and A. Duke, M.D., and visiting brethren John Sampson Pierce, P.P.M. 2, and P.G.S.; James Stevens, P.M. 720, S.W. 1216; H. Thompson, P.M. 742; Roberts, P.M. 181; L. E. Harvey, I.G. 9; R. Stanton, 181; C. Panlee, 33; D. Dore, 742; and Wimhurst, 917. The lodge having been opened in due form, the ballot was taken for Bros. Dr. Duke, 742, and John Ledger, 463, as joining members; both brethren were unanimously elected. The office of I.G. being vacant, the W.M. conferred the appointment on Bro. William Worrell, and invested him with the collar of that office. A P.M. jewel was presented to Bro. J. Newton, the I.P.M., the W.M. taking occasion to pass a well-deserved eulogium upon the Masonic abilities of that worthy brother. A ballot was then taken for Mr. Peter Scherangers, proposed for initiation, and the same being unanimous and the candidate in attendance, the ceremony of initiation was most ably performed by the W.M. There being no further business before the lodge, it was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to banquet. The usual loyal and masonic toasts were given and cordially responded to, and the evening was enlivened by the excellent vocal efforts of several of the brethren, accompanied on the piano by the newly-appointed I.G., Bro. W. Worrell. To the very great satisfaction and enjoyment of all present, Bro. J. Stevens sang a Masonic song, written by himself, and the music composed by Bro. W. Ganz, which met with warm approval. The brethren separated at an early hour to return to their respective homes.

PROVINCIAL.

WARRINGTON.—Lodge of Lights, No. 148.—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening last, at the Masonic Rooms, Sankey-street. The W.M., Bro. D. W. Finney, was supported by Bros. I. Hepherd, P.M.; W. Mossop, S.W.; W. Richardson, J.W.; H. B. White, P.M., P.Z., Prov. G. S. Deacon; Shaw Thewlis, P.M., Past Prov. S.G.D.; Jos. Maxfield, P.M.; John Bowes, P.M., P.Z., Past Prov. G. Reg. C. and W.; W. S. Hawkins, S.D.; Dr. Cooper, J.D.; Dr. Pennington, Rev. J. Nixon Porter, Rev. W. Whitelegge, T. Walker Nelson, T. Mee Pattison, Org.; John Wilson, William Smith, W. Fletcher-Wood, Robt. Richardson, Jas. Curry, Jas. Robinson, John Gooddried, P. Pearce, J. Harding, C. Wood, B. P. Coxon, C.E.; J. Laithwaite, W. Woods, Thos. Morris, Jas. Jackson, W. Bryce, H. Syried, W. Savage, Geo. Blackhurst, Jas. Cassidy, Jas. Hannah, Jas. Johnson, Tyler. Visitors: Bros. P. J. Edelsten, 1134; W. Compton, 1250, and H. Houlst, 1250. The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting read and declared to be correctly recorded. Bro. Sec. then read the by-laws according to annual custom. The W.M. announced that the next business was the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, and he would first call upon Bro. Sec. to read the names of those brethren who were eligible for that office, and then each brother would be supplied with a slip of paper upon which they would write the name of the brother in whose favour they voted. The ballot box was then sent round, and on its return to the East the W.M. declared Bro. William Smith, Past Senior Warden, duly elected. Bros. H. B. White, was re-elected Treasurer. Mossop, S.W., B. P. Coxon, were re-elected Auditors; Coxon and Dr. Pennington were elected Stewards, James Johnson, was re-elected Tyler. There being no further business, the lodge was closed with the usual solemnities, and the brethren separated in harmony.

HEBDEN BRIDGE.—Prince Frederick Lodge, No. 307.—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 22nd inst., when there was a good attendance of the officers and members. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, and the minutes read, the lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bros. James Hoyle and R. Whitaker, passed their examination as F.C.s, after which the lodge was opened in the third degree, and those two brethren raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by Bro. F. Whitaker, W.M., in a very effective manner. The lodge was then closed in the three degrees, in harmony, and the brethren afterwards spent an hour or two very pleasantly. The only visitors were Bro. J. Copley, P.G.S. of W., E. Lanc., and Bro. E. Hartley, of Todmorden.

TORPOINT, CORNWALL.—Carew Lodge, No. 1136.—The regular lodge was held on Monday, Nov. 15, to transact the business and to install the W.M. for the ensuing year. Officers present: Bro. J. B. Ryder, W.M., in the chair; Bros. March, S.W.; Potts, J.W.; W. Poor, S.D.; E. Poor, J.D.; Hicks, G.G.; Mortimore, Tyler, &c. The W.M. then announced that the first business was to install W.M.-elect for the year, Bro. W. H. Moses. The lodge having been opened and raised to the 2nd degree, Bro. Kent, P.M.; took the chair and proceeded in the preliminary part of the ceremony. All the brethren below P.M. having retired a Lodge of installed M's was formed, when Bro. W. H. Moses, was duly installed in the chair of King Sol. in due and ancient form. The Lodge was then opened for admission of the brethren and was then worked down to the first degree by the newly-installed W.M., who invested the following brethren as his officers for the year ensuing: Bros. Ryder, J.P.M.; Potts, S.W.; E. Poor, J.W.; Smith, Sec.; W. Poor, S.D.; Hicks, J.G.; Welsh, J.G.; Mortimore, Tyler. It was then proposed by Bro. Ryder,

P.M., and seconded by Bro. Poor, that Mr. Roushlmou, be a candidate for admission into Freemasonry, the next regular Lodge, night providing the ballot be clear. The Secretary then read the financial account of the lodge for the past year, which was considered very satisfactory for this young lodge. The lodge then closed down in solemn form at 8.30. when the brethren then adjointed to Bro. Haymain's for the annual banquet, which was served up in the usual style, where the brethren spent a pleasant evening and left at 11.30. p.m. in peace and harmony. Visiting brethren Bros. Williams, P.M., 70; Nicholls, 202; Tretheway, S.W., 159; Elliott 215; Kent, P.M., 1091; Welch, P.M., 1136 Elphinstone, Walsh, Courm, Truscott.

DENBIGH, NORTH WALES.—*Royal Denbigh Lodge, No. 1143.*—The installation festival of this well-managed and prosperous lodge was held at the Town Hall, Denbigh, on Friday, the 19th inst., present Bro. John Copner Wynne Edwards, W.M., attended by his Wardens, Officers, and a goodly number of brethren, members, and visitors. The lodge having been opened in due form, and Bro. John Ormiston, of Wig air, Flintshire, the W.M.-elect, being presented, he engaged to accept the office of Master, and was afterwards, before a board of Installed Masters, duly installed in the chair by Bro. John Preece, P.P.S.G.W., P.M., (who, an accomplished Master in Craft Masonry is about removing from Denbigh to the city of Lichfield.) The W.M., upon the lodge being resumed in the third degree, proceeded to appoint and invest his Officers, viz:—Bros. J. C. W. Edwards, P.M.; Richard Lloyd Williams, S.W.; the Rev. J. H. Roberts, J.W.; the Rev. Henry Parry, Bylchau, Chaplain; John Parry Jones, Treasurer; W. P. Beecham, Secretary; Martin Underwood, S.D.; Robert James Sisson, J.D.; John R. Hughes, I.G.; and Bros. Thomas Sleight and Robert Harrison, Stewards. Bro. Preece having retired, the W.M. brought forward the subject of their approaching loss of his valuable assistance, which all—whilst feeling glad at his preferment by the eminent banking company (the N. P. Bank of England) whose successful and faithful manager he has been for many years in Denbigh—deeply regretted. And it was resolved—“That the brethren of this lodge have heard with regret of the intended departure of Bro. Preece, P.P.S.G.W., North Wales and Shropshire, out of the Province; and that fully recognising the great services rendered by him to the Craft, and in order to mark their sense of the loss which will be sustained by his departure, do invite the neighbouring lodges that have benefited by his experience, to unite with them in some suitable expression of their lasting regard.” A subscription amounting to nearly £30 was at once entered into in the lodge. The business of the circular, including the initiation of Dr. Evan Pierce Williams, of the Abbey, Denbigh, having been satisfactorily concluded, and the lodge closed in ancient form, the brethren adjourned to a banquet at the Crown Hotel, supplied in the best taste by mine host Bro. H. Creswell Murless, late of the Isle of Wight. The Royal Denbigh Lodge, so much distinguished for its having been presided over in the last century by H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, and by that Prince in Wales. Sir Watkin W. Wynne, Bart, M.P., P.G.M.; recently, possesses in its new rank some very worthy and distinguished brethren, maintains its character for hospitality, and is already noted, since its resuscitation some few years ago, for its constant and liberal support of the charities. The good Masonic spirit of many of its members always insures an evening of pleasurable enjoyment, and amongst them—well-deserving of the posts of honour given them—have been Bros. J. Preece, R. Vaughan Williams, J. C. W. Edwards, P.M., and the W.M.; who, by their genial warmth of disposition, kindness of manner, and courteous attention have contributed materially to the success of the lodge. On the present occasion, the usual loyal and masonic toasts were proposed and responded to in excellent speeches, intermixed with some good singing, which rendered the evening a most pleasing one. The visitors attending the festival were Bros. C. Hunter, Lodge of St. Tudor, No. 755, and John Jones, Zetland Lodge, No. 15, Montreal, Canada.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

Domestic Chapter, No. 177.—At a meeting of this Chapter on Thursday week at Anderson's Hotel, Comps. R. W. Little, M.E.Z.; John Coutts, H.; H. G. Buss, S.E.; Thos. Cubitt, P.S.; J. W. Barrett, 2nd A.S.; Joseph Smith, Treasurer; T. A. Adams, P.Z.; C. A. Cottebruno, P.Z.; Jas. Brett, P.Z.; E. Sisson, P.Z.; and Thomas Tyrrell, P.Z. were the officers present. Bro. J. Lawrence was exalted. No other business was before the Chapter, and the Comps. sat down to an excellent banquet supplied by Comps. Clemow, and superintended by Comp. Smith. The usual R.A. toasts followed the banquet, and a very pleasant evening was spent. Amongst the other Comps. present were Comps. J. H. Williams, Mont. Scott, John Hervey, G.S.P., Richd. Lee, H. Geddes, J. M. Thistleton, Arthur T. Hayward, D. H. Still and H. Massey, J., 619.

PROVINCIAL.

HALIFAX.—*Chapter of Regularity, No. 448.*—The regular monthly meeting of this chapter was held at the new Masonic Temple, on Monday, the 29th ult. The acting officers were: Comps. S. W. Cooke, P.E.Z.; G. Norman, P.Z. as H.; R. Lord, J.; W. J. Laidler, as E.; J. Seed, as N.; H. N. Bates, P.Z.; W. S. T. as S.; T. M. Dolan, as P.S.; A. Roberts, A.S.; N.W. Scholesfield, as A.S.; and J. Greenwood, P.Z., Janitor. The usual routine business having been transacted, the ballot was subsequently taken for Bro. Richard Jessop, of the St. James's Lodge, No. 448, who was unanimously elected, and he was subsequently exalted to the degree of R.A. by Comp. Cooke the historical portion being very ably given by Comp. A. Lupton; after which the Chapter was closed with solemn prayer.

LIVERPOOL.—*Temple Chapter, No. 1094.*—This young and prosperous Chapter held its regular convocation, at Masonic Temple 22, Hope-street, on Tuesday evening, the 23rd inst., the officers present being R. H. C. Johnson, M.E.Z.; J. K. Smith, H.; J. Hamer, J.; Comp. Speer, Treas.; Sheldon, S.N.; Danson, S.E.; Robinson, P. Soj.; and other Comps. were also in attendance. Five brethren of the Temple Lodge were balloted for and approved of. Bros. Morley and Walters, having presented themselves, were exalted to the Supreme degree of H. R. A. Masonry. This being the night for the election of officers during the ensuing year, the following were declared by the M.E.Z. duly elected, J. K. Smith, as Z.; Hamer, H.; Robinson, J.; Danson, E.; Winstanley, N.; Pemberton, P. Soj. Comp. Speer was again elected Treas., the ballot being unanimous. The Chapter was afterwards solemnly closed, and the Comps. sat down to a substantial repast. After dinner, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed by the M.E.Z., and cordially responded to. The principal toast of the evening being the newly-exalted Comps. After some appropriate remarks upon the subject by the 1st Principal; Comp. Morley responded, and in doing so remarked that he was much pleased with the ceremony he had passed through, the kindness which had been shown him, and trusted that so long as he lived he should be always actuated by true Masonic principles, and that the Temple Chapter would never have occasion to regret having admitted him into Companionship. The Chapter has not yet been in existence twelve months, and already numbers nearly forty members.

MARK MASONRY. GRAND MARK LODGE.

The half-yearly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters took place at Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday evening. The Grand Master, the Rev. G. R. Portal, presided, with Bro. John Udall, Acting S.G.W.; Bro. Sir John Conroy, J.W., and Bro. Sir E. H. Lechmere, D.G.M. There was a numerous attendance of the brethren of the degree, and among those who were present we noticed Bros. T. Meggy, T. Wescombe, Joshua Nunn, James Stevens, T. J. Sabine, H. C. Levander; the Revs. T. F. Ravenshaw, John Huyshe, and D. Shaboe, A. D. Loewenstark, M. A. Loewenstark, R. Spencer, J. H. Wynne, Geo. Lambert, Major Brewin, Langley, Morton Edwards, F. Binckes (G. Secretary), T. Penn, W. E. Gumbleton, C. Swan, S. Rosenthal, F. Davidson, J. G. Marsh, W. H. Warr, James Weaver, and H. Massey. Previous to Grand Lodge being opened a Lodge of Improvement was held, at which the ceremony of advancement was exquisitely performed with Bro. Meggy as W.M.; Bro. Sabine, S.W.; Bro. A. D. Loewenstark J.W.; Bro. H. C. Levander, M.O.; Bro. R. Spencer, S.; Bro. Jas. Stevens, J.O.; Bro. Wynne, I.G.; and Bro. Binckes, D. The performance gave the G.M. so much satisfaction that he immediately appointed Bro. Meggy as W.M. of that Lodge of Improvement.

Grand Lodge having been formally opened Bro. BINCKES, G. Secretary, read the minutes of last half-yearly communication, and the next business being the nomination of a Grand Master for the ensuing year:

Bro. LEVANDER rose and said; I have great pleasure in bringing before the notice of Grand Lodge, and to nominate as Most Worshipful Grand Master for the ensuing year, the Brother who so excellently fills that office at present. I feel that all the brethren here present will agree in electing him to fill the office of M.W.G.M. for next year. (Cheers).

Bro. A. D. LOEWENSTARK seconded the motion, and mentioned that as Bro. Goulty, G. Sup. of Works, had died since his appointment, it would be necessary to invest some one else.

Bro. BINCKES said the matter had not been forgotten, and would be considered later in the evening.

The Report of the General Board was then read by the G.S. Among other matters it alluded to the Scotch Grand Chapter, which had advised its own Mark Lodges in the Colonies not to admit Mark Masters advanced in Lodges holding warrants from this Grand Lodge. It also referred to the subject of the Hebrew letter on the reverse of the Mark Jewel, and then took up the question of the Benevolent Fund attached to Grand Lodge. Respecting the Festival held in July, at which ladies were present, it stated that the festival was most successful, something like £80 having been contributed to the Benevolent Fund on that occasion. The funds of Grand Lodge were in a prosperous state, 150 new brethren having been advanced, and £291 11s. 7d. having been received. Against this £123 9s. had been expended; leaving a balance of £168 2s. 7d. in hand. Two brethren had been relieved with sums of £5 each.

Bro. MEGGY moved that the Benevolent Fund Festival be repeated next year, that the Board of Stewards should be entrusted with its promotion, and that ladies should be admitted to it. On the last occasion that festival was very successful, although power to organise it was given to the Stewards only in June. Such a result, he thought, justified them coming again and asking Grand Lodge to empower them to do a similar thing next summer. The M.W.G.M. deserved the best thanks of the brethren for the kind way in which he came forward and presided at that festival. He thought that if Grand Lodge gave the powers asked for to the stewards at once they would be able to get more brethren and ladies together than before, and obtain a still larger contribution to the Benevolent Fund next year. Perhaps next festival might be conveniently held a little earlier in the year.

Bro. SABINE in seconding the motion, said that as one of the festival Stewards he could bear his testimony to the success of the experiment. It was true it was the first of the kind, and was imperfectly understood; added to which the short notice the stewards had of it, prevented

so large an attendance as he was sure would be the result of a future trial. The M.W.G.M., the D.G.M., and the other brethren present, who were partakers of the enjoyment of that *fete* must be impressed not only with the necessity of such a gathering, but with the advantages it gave to the Fund of Benevolence. He hoped however that in future ample provision would be made for the accommodation of an increased number of visitors.

Sir E. LECHMERE thought there should be some understanding whether the brethren should wear Mark clothing at these festivals. There was no doubt that the last festival was most successful, but there was the one defect to which he had alluded—no one knew whether he was to appear in Masonic clothing or not. The circulars to brethren might state what was expected in this way. Again, a larger room might be engaged; the festival was numerously attended both by brethren and ladies, and it was certainly a most pleasant gathering, but it was a hot day and the room was small, which he thought slightly marred the pleasure of some ladies who felt a little inconveniently crowded.

Bro. ROSENTHAL explained that on account of the doubts expressed at last Grand Lodge that the festival would be successful, the Stewards were very cautious about engaging a large room.

Bro. UDALL would suggest that in future the tickets should state that brethren should attend in Mark Master's clothing.

Bro. BINCKES believed that was the general feeling. With regard to the size of the room, the G.M. would remember the doubts which had been entertained by many brethren of the possibility of the festival succeeding. Those brethren were now converts to the views of the promoters. Next time there would be a larger room; but it was felt that success depended much on the filling of the apartment; that it was better to have a moderate sized room well filled than a large room scantily filled.

Bro. MEGGY informed the G.L. that up to the day of the festival only 40 replies had come in, and the Stewards engaged a room capable of holding 40 persons; but 53 came, and as the dimensions of some of the brethren were considerable, the room was rather closely packed (laughter).

Bro. WYNNE testified to the encouraging results of the experiment. Bro. Rosenthal provided the harmony, and a vote of thanks to him and the professional ladies and gentlemen who assisted was but thir due, seeing that no charge was made for their services; and he (Bro. Wynne) would move such vote of thanks.

Bro. SHABOE seconded it, M.W.G.M. then asked the Grand Lodge.

The motion that the festival be repeated next year, and that the brethren wear Mark clothing on that occasion was then put and carried unanimously.

The motion that the thanks of Grand Lodge be given to Bro. Rosenthal for providing the music was also put and carried *nem. con.*

It was also proposed to give the Grand Master further powers with respect to the action which had been taken by the Grand Chapter of Scotland in advising Mark Lodges in the colonies holding Scotch warrants not to recognise English Mark Masters. At a time when the English Grand Mark Lodge was trying its best to get the Scotch Grand Chapter at any rate to admit its members into their lodge on producing their English certificates, he thought it a very aggressive attitude for their Scottish brethren to assume, and it would strengthen, he thought, the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England if power were given to him to grant, if he saw fit, warrants for English Lodges in Scotland.

Bro. HUYSHE would not be willing to see such a power used towards a friendly body; but when he found that the Grand Chapter of Scotland not merely cast us off, but actually compelled their own lodges abroad not to receive Mark Masters acting under the authority of this Grand Lodge, it became necessary that the G.M. of English Mark Masonry should have the additional power he sought. Such power might be used in a very tyrannical manner no doubt, but in the hands of such a Grand Master as Bro. Portal, he was sure it would not be used in a way that would not redound to his courtesy.

After a few remarks from Bros. LAMBERT, GUMBLETON, BINCKES, and LOEWENSTARK, as to different jurisdictions,

Bro. JOSHUA NUNN wished to ask, if he was not treading on dangerous ground, whether as a new Grand Master of England was about to be proposed it would not be better to seek recognition by Grand Lodge, of the Mark Degree. He thought it would be a happy thing for all branches of Freemasonry if such a proposition was put forward at the proper time.

Bro. SHABOE thought the suggestion a good one, and Bro. Sir E. LECHMERE highly commended it. Not being recognised by the United Grand Lodge grated on Mark Masters' feelings. If there was the slightest opportunity or the slightest hope of such a recognition being secured, it ought not to be lost sight of. The brother who it was expected would be chosen for Grand Master was a brother of broad and enlarged views, and of great liberality of feeling, and would most likely look on this question most favourably. In the meantime he thought they should place in the hands of Bro. Portal the power he asked for, and he hoped Bro. Nunn would bring his suggestion forward again.

Several brethren having recommended that the subject should be brought before Earl de Grey and Ripon, Bro. JAMES STEVENS thought that no name should be mentioned on the minutes of this meeting, as the new Grand Master was not yet even proposed: he was merely spoken of as likely to be nominated head and chief of the craft, and if this Grand Lodge were to place anything on its minutes which took it for granted that Earl de Grey would be Grand Master, when it was not a matter of certainty that he would be elected, it might give offence. Under those circumstances it would be as well

that the minutes should state that the matter should be brought before the Grand Master, on the change of Grand Master, whoever that Grand Master might be.

Bro. Sir R. Lechmere said the matter required a great deal of diplomacy and tact.

Bro. JAMES STEVENS having moved in accordance with his remarks, Bro. NUNN seconded the motion.

MAJOR BREWIN, from Leicester, invited Grand Lodge to hold the next moveable Grand Lodge in that place, promising the G. M. and his officers a suitable reception.

The W.V.G.M. then invested Bro. J. G. MARSH, with the collar of G.S. of Works, in place of Bro. Goulty deceased, and afterwards closed the Grand Lodge.

The brethren subsequently dined together, and spent a most pleasant evening. The G.M. proposed the various toasts, which was drank with enthusiasm. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. James Weaver, W.M., Whittington Lodge (No. 862), who was assisted by Bro. H. Baker, Globe Lodge (No. 23). In the course of the evening the music of which the following is the programme was given. Humorous song, "The Leather Bottel," Walcot; Selection "Il Trovatore," (cornet obligato), Bro. H. Baker; Masonic song "What better theme than Masonry?" Bro. J. Stevens, humorous song, "Little Binks," Walcot; cornet solo, Bro. H. Parker; humorous song "King James and the Tinker," Walcot. Post Horn Galop, Bro. H. Baker.

The banquet was supplied by Bro. C. Gosden, and gave every satisfaction.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF LEICESTERSHIRE.

The annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on Thursday, the 25th ult., under the presidency of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Kelly. Apologies for absence were received from the D.P.G.M., the Rev. Bro. Robinson, B.A., from the P.G.J.W., Bro. Douglas, on account of illness; and from a number of other P.G. Officers and members of the Howe Lodge, No. 21, Melton Mowbray, owing to the annual dinner of the Agricultural Society for the county of Rutland, being fixed for the same day. Among the P.G. Officers present, were Bros. Major Brewin, W.M. No. 19, P.G.S.W.; Rev. W. Langley, M.A., W.M., No. 21, P.G.C.; W. B. Smith, M.O.; W. Weare, S.O.; C. Stretton, P.G. Reg.; A. M. Duff, P.G. Sec.; T. H. Buzzard, P.G.J.D. J. E. Hodges, P.G.S.B.; C. Johnson, P.G. Org.; W. Moor, J. B. Leadbeater, and John Hunt, M.R.C.S., P.G. Stwds; Bembridge, P.G. Tyler; W. Pettifor, P.P.G.S.W.; Toller, Partridge, Sculthorpe, the Rev. N. Haycroft, D.D., and others.

The Prov. G. Lodge having been opened in due form, and the minutes of the last annual meeting read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for the Prov. G. Treasurer for the ensuing year, when Bro. Stretton, Treas. of No. 19, was unanimously elected.

The P.G.M. announced that the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters had ordered a change to be made in the names of two of the officers, viz., Grand Recorder, in lieu of Grand Registrar, and Grand Timekeeper, instead of Grand Pursuivant. The following brethren were then appointed as the P.G. Officers for the ensuing year, and those who were present were invested, viz.: Major Brewin, W.M. No. 19, Dep. Prov. G.M.; Rev. W. Langley, M.A., W.M. No. 21, P.G.S.W.; W. B. Smith, P.G.J.W.; the Rev. N. Haycroft, D.D. P.G. Chap.; Geo. Brown, P.G.M.O.; Wm. Adcock, P.G.S.O.; A. M. Duff, P.G.J.O.; C. Stretton, P.G. Treas.; J. E. Bright, P.G. Recorder; S. S. Partridge, P.G. Sec.; T. Markham, P.G.S.D.; J. B. Leadbeater, P.G.J.D.; Chas. Johnson, P.G.D. of C.; R. W. Johnson, (Melton), P.G. Asst. ditto; J. Jevons, Past P.G. Insp. of W.; W. Mann, P.G. Sword-bearer; G. Toller, P.G. Timekeeper, and Clarke, G. M. Ashforth, M.D., and W. Sculthorpe, P.G. Stewards. Bro. Bembridge was re-appointed P.G. Tyler, and the P.G.M. intimated that the collar of P.G. Org. was retained for Bro. E. J. Crow, Fellow of the College of Organists, who was to be advanced at a latter period of the day.

On the suggestion of the P.G.M., it was unanimously resolved that in lieu of giving an annual subscription of two guineas to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, the sum of five guineas should be contributed every alternate year, so as, in course of time, to give to each of the Provincial Grand Officers for the time being, a life subscription in one or other of the Masonic Charities. It was unanimously resolved that an invitation should be given to the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters, to hold the next moveable Grand Lodge in this town, and that such invitation be conveyed by the D.P.G.M., and the P.G.S.W., they intending to be present at the meeting of Grand Lodge, on Tuesday, the 30th inst.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was then closed in due form and with prayer.

DEVONPORT.—Lodge of Friendship of Mark Masters, No. 16.—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Oct. 21st, for the purpose of installing the W.M. and electing officers the ensuing year, also to advance Bro. Potts to the degree of M.M. Officers present, Bros. Tripp, W.M.; Price, P.M.; Ryder, S.W.; Elms, J.W.; Rockett, M.O.; Harrington, S.O.; Harper, J.O.; Nicholls, S.D.; Kerswell, J.D.; Elphinstone, P.M., I.G., and March Readmore, Tyler. The minutes of the last lodge were read and confirmed. The installation of the Master, Bro. Murch, was then performed by Bros. P.M. Chapple and Gover in a most able manner. The W.M. then appointed his officers for the year as follows, Bros. Ryder, S.W.; Elms, J.W.; Rockett, M.O.; Harrison, S.O.; Harper, J.O.; Nicholls, S.D.; Smith, Sec.; Price, Treas.; Rogers, R.M.; Kerswell, J.D.; Readmore Tyler. Bro. Potts was then balloted for, and having been found accepted was advanced to the degree of M.M., by the newly-installed W.M., assisted by his officers in a most able manner. The business having been ended, the lodge was then closed in due and ancient form at 8.40 p.m., and adjourned to the refreshment

board, to which they did ample justice, and spent a very pleasant evening together, left at 10 p.m. Visiting brethren, Bros. Metham, P.G.W.; Gover, P.M.; Chapple, P.M.; Rae, P.M., and Radford, P.M.

LEICESTER.—Pouke Lodge of Mark Masters, No. 19.—A bi-monthly meeting of this lodge was held immediately after the Prov. G. Lodge was closed, the same brethren being present; The W.M., Bro. Major Brewin, D.P.G.M. in the chair. A ballot was taken for Bro. Frederic Eachan Wilkinson, M.D., Sydenham, Kent, W.M., No. 766, and P.M. 181, as a candidate for advancement, when he was unanimously elected, but was unable to be present on this occasion. Bro. E. J. Crow, Sec. and Org. of St. John's Lodge, No. 279, was regularly advanced by the W.M., who subsequently invested him with the collar of office as Organist of the lodge, and from the P.G.M. he received the appointment of Prov. G. Organist. The Rev. Dr. Haycroft was invested as Chaplain of the Lodge. Two brethren were elected as members of the Freemasons' Hall Committee, and Bros. Dr. Pearce, John Wright Smith, and Alfred Palmer, all of the John of Gaunt Lodge, having been proposed as candidates for advancement, the lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to refreshment and spent an hour or two very pleasantly.

SCARBOROUGH.—Star in the East Lodge of Mark Masters, No. 95, E.C.—This select and prosperous lodge met in the Masonic Hall, Globe-street, on Wednesday, the 24th of November, at four o'clock. The following officers and members were present:—Bros. W. T. Farthing, W.M.; J. W. Woodall, P.M., G.M.O.; Walter Reynolds, P.M., P.G.D.C.; R. H. Peacock, S.W.; W. Peacock, J.W.; J. Spurr, M.O.; J. Groves, S.O.; J. Parker, J.O.; H. C. Martin, Sec. and Regr.; J. A. Chapman, Treasurer; G. H. Walshaw, S.D.; J. Hardgrave, J.D.; J. E. Green, Organist; W. Pattison, I.G.; J. Verity, Tyler; Surtees; J. W. Taylor, M.D.; Donner, Allan, Williamson, and Kendall. The lodge was opened at half-past four. The minutes were read and confirmed. Bros. W. H. Smyth, P.M., D.P.G.M., Lincoln; E. Loock, P.M., P.S.G.W., Lincoln; J. Fisher, P.M. and P.Z., were balloted for, and elected candidates for advancement, and they were, with Bro. R. Land, previously elected, prepared, admitted, and advanced to the degree of Mark Masters. Bro. J. Kendall, of the York Mark Lodge, was also affiliated a joining member, the ceremony being ably and beautifully performed by the W.M. and his officers. Bro. Reynolds now took the chair as installing-officer, and with the assistance of Bros. Woodall and Farthing, installed Bro. H. A. Williamson as W.M. of the Lodge for the ensuing year, who invested the following brethren as his officers:—Bros. W. T. Farthing, I.P.M.; W. Peacock, S.W.; J. O. Surtees, J.W.; H. C. Martin, Sec.; R. H. Peacock, Reg. of Marks; J. F. Spurr, M.O.; W. Pattison, S.O.; J. W. Taylor, M.D., J.O.; J. A. Chapman, Treasurer; J. Hardgrave, S.D.; J. Inskip, J.D.; J. E. Green, Organist; A. Allin, I.G.; J. Verity, Tyler. The S.W. and J.W. proposed a vote of thanks to Bro. Reynolds, for his kindness in having attended the duties of Hull, and so ably and efficiently performed the duties of Installing Master. In returning thanks, Bro. Reynolds stated, in his usual very kind and fraternal manner, that he would always feel a pleasure in attending, knowing as he did so many able and worthy Masons in Scarborough. Bros. Fisher and Walshaw were elected to audit the lodge accounts. Bro. the Hon. Percy Stanhope and Bro. Cooke, of 1248, were proposed for exaltation at the next meeting. Bros. Woodall, P.M., G.M.O., and Peacock, Regr. of Marks, proposed a vote of thanks to Bro. Farthing, for the conscientious manner he had performed the duties of W.M., and an expression of hope for his future welfare, which was carried unanimously. Bro. Farthing returned thanks for the good feeling shown towards him. The lodge was closed in due form at seven o'clock. The brethren then adjourned to the annual banquet, which was provided by Bro. J. A. Chapman in his usual very superior style, and we feel bound to say that everything in connection therewith gave the greatest satisfaction, both in quality and quantity. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and responded to, including that of the newly-advanced candidates (three out of the four of whom are P.M.'s, R.M., and K.T. Masons, including that of D.P.G.M. and S.G.W. for the Province of Lincoln). Bro. Fisher P.M., P.Z., K.T., &c., returned thanks for the newly advanced, and in doing so stated that the Mark, of all the degrees he had taken he believed to be the most instructive and interesting, the other distinguished brethren also bore testimony to the same, which is very pleasing to all Mark Masons. On retiring, the brethren stated it seldom had been their good fortune to spend a more social or agreeable evening.

ORDERS OF CHIVALRY.

RED CROSS OF ROME & CONSTANTINE.

ORIGINAL OR PREMIER CONCLAVE OF ENGLAND.

A quarterly assembly of this the mother Conclave of England was held on Monday, the 29th ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, when in consequence of the expected installation of the V.W. Brother John Hervey, Grand Secretary, there was a large muster of the leading members of the Order. The chair was occupied by the Grand Recorder, Sir Kt. R. Wentworth Little, who was supported by the following members of the Imperial Council and Senate, viz.:—Edward Busher, G. S. Gen.; Col. F. Burdett, G.H.C.; Wm. H. Hubbard, G. Treas.; Henry G. Buss, G.H.A.; Wm. E. Gumbleton, J.P. G.O.; J. G. Marsh, G.A.; H. C. Levander, M.A., G. A. Treas.; T. Wescombe, G. Stand. B.; Geo. Powell, G.S.B.; H. Parker, G.O.; Angelo J. Lewis, M.A., G.A.M.; T. Cubitt, G.H.; and Sir Knt. A. B. Cook, S.B.; E. J. Applebee, J. Hills, J. Dyer, H. B. Dean. Visitors:—W. F. N. Quilty, K.G.C., P.S., No. 6; A. A. Pendlebury, K.G.C., P.S. and Rec., 6; G. A. Taylor, S.G. 18; E. Silli-

vant, H.P. 13; C. B. Payne, No. 2. The conclave was duly opened and ballots were taken for several candidates when the following brethren being in attendance were duly installed as Knights of the Order:—

V.W. Bro. John Hervey, P.G.D. Grand Secretary.

W. Bro. John W. Barrett, P.M.

Bro. Christopher Gardner Thompson, Coroner for Kendal.

Bro. Morton Edwards

Bro. Thomas W. Boord.

A College of Viceroy and a Senate of Princes were subsequently held for the admission of Bros. Hervey, Barrett, Thompson, and Edwards, all of whom were enthroned as Princes of the Order. The Knights were then requested to withdraw, when a special meeting of the Grand Council was held, a majority of members being present. Col. Burdett took the chair, and the G. Recorder informed the Councillors that the meeting was called in accordance with Lord Keulis's directions, to elect a qualified Knight to the vacancy in the Council. His Lordship therefore recommended that, as Sir Kt. Busher had kindly consented to retire from the position of G.S.G., the Earl of Jersey be promoted to that office, that Col. Burdett be elected G.J.G., and Sir Kt. John Hervey G. High Chancellor, a post formerly held by his predecessor in the Craft, the late lamented Sir Kt. William Henry White, for more than forty years; and finally that Sir Kt. Busher be elected Grand Marshal, thus completing the Council.

The various recommendations of the Grand Sovereign were put *seriatim*, and agreed to by unanimous votes. The new Grand Chancellor was then called in, and informed by the Chairman of the honour conferred upon him, and Sir Kt. Hervey, in accepting the appointment, expressed his thanks to the illustrious brethren for his election.

The ceremonies were compelled to be considerably abbreviated, as Sir Knt. Hervey had to leave town to attend the installation of R.W. Bro. Beach, M.P., as Prov. Grand Master for Hants and the Isle of Wight, but notwithstanding this drawback everything went off in a most satisfactory manner.

Ballots were then taken for the undermentioned Knights as joining members, and they were declared duly elected:—Henry C. Levander, G. A. Treas., M.P.S. (6); Wm. Robt. Woodman, M.D., G.A. Rec., M.P.S.-elect (6); Thomas Kingston (6).

Sir Knt. Little moved, Sir Knt. Hubbard seconded, and it was resolved without a dissentient voice that the rank of Honorary member be conferred upon the following distinguished Knights:—

T. Douglas Harington, 33rd (P.G.M. of Canada), Inspector General, Ontario and Quebec; Colonel John Whitwell, M.P. (Deputy Prov. Grand Master Cumberland and Westmoreland), Grand Preceptor; John Daniel Moore, M.D. (Prov. G. Supt. Works, West Lancashire), Inspector General, North Lancashire; William J. Hughan (Prov. G. Sec. Cornwall), Grand Vice Chancellor. Joseph Andrew Horner, Inspector General, Norfolk.

The conclave was then closed, and the chevaliers adjourned to the banquet hall, where the usual "Premier" banquet was served and gave entire satisfaction. In the course of the evening the Red Cross Song, "Let's rally round the Standard," and other appropriate songs were sung, accompanied by Sir Knt. H. Parker, the highly efficient Grand Organist, whose musical abilities at all meetings are greatly appreciated. The customary loyal and chivalric toasts were duly honoured. The brethren then adjourned to the banquet, which was of a recherche description.

The musical arrangements were under the able direction of Bro. James Weaver, W.M., of the Whittington Lodge, No. 862.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

SCARBOROUGH.—Geoffrey-de-Bouillon Encampment.—This Encampment met at the Masonic Hall, Globe-street, on Friday, the 26th ult., at seven o'clock. The following Sir Knts. were present: J. W. Woodall, P.E.C. as E.C.; H. W. Garnett, 1st Capt.; J. O. Surtees, 2nd Capt.; J. Sleade, Prelate; W. H. Smyth, Expert; J. F. Spurr, Captain of Lines; H. C. Martin, Reg. and Treas.; J. Verity, Equerry, and J. A. Chapman. The Encampment was opened at 8 p.m. The minutes were read and confirmed. Sir Knt. J. O. Surtees was elected for the ensuing year, and Sir Knt. H. C. Martin, the Registrar, was re-elected Treasurer. Sir Knt. J. Kendall, of the Hull Encampment, was proposed as a joining member. After which the Encampment was closed in due form.

THE Macdonald Mark Lodge, No. 104, will meet on Saturday, 11th December, at the Head Quarters of 1st Surrey Rifles, Camberwell New-road, at 4 p.m.

WE have the greatest pleasure in announcing that our revered Grand Master has been pleased to appoint, Col. F. Burdett, P.G.W., and Representative from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, to the post of Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex, information which will be hailed with intense satisfaction, not only by the brethren more immediately interested, but by all who have known the gallant Colonel during any part of his eminent Masonic career.

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The size will also be permanently enlarged to Sixteen Pages, and, with other improvements contemplated, **THE FREEMASON** will then be the leading weekly organ of the Craft throughout the globe.

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And all Booksellers and Newsagents in England, Ireland, and Scotland.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

COCKERELL.—On the 29th ult., at 18, Manchester-square, the wife of Bro. Frederick P. Cockerell, of a son.
JEFFCOTT.—On the 25th ultimo, at 8, Upper Castle-street, the wife of Bro. Robert Jeffcott, M.M. Lodge 379, Tralee, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

ANDERSON.—On the 22nd ult., at 92, West-street, Tradeston, Glasgow, Bro. William Anderson, late chief cook s.s. Britannia, Anchor line, M.M. Lodge Clyde, 408.
FISHER.—On the 30th ult., Harriett, the wife of Bro. W. Fisher (Manchester Lodge, 179), of the Restaurant, Victoria Station, Pimlico, after giving birth to twins, both of whom are living.
HARTNESS.—On the 24th ult., at Cokeremouth, Sarah, the beloved wife of Bro. W. J. Hartness, aged 33 years.

Answers to Correspondents.

All communications for **THE FREEMASON** should be written legibly, on one side of the paper only, and, if intended for insertion in the current number must be received not later than 10 o'clock a.m. on Thursdays, unless in very special cases. The name and address of every writer must be sent to us in confidence.

M.M., 432.—1. A Quaker can be admitted into Freemasonry upon taking an affirmation instead of an oath. 2. The mode of administering it will be the same as that observed in a court of justice when Friends are witnesses, the terms being varied to suit the case.

Reports of meetings of Lodges Nos. 141, 145 and 161, the Finsbury Lodge of Instruction, 861, and other communications are unavoidably left over until next week.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1869.

THE FREEMASON is published on Saturday Mornings in time for the early trains.

The price of **THE FREEMASON** is Twopence per week; quarterly subscription (including postage) 3s. 3d.

Annual Subscription, 12s. Subscriptions payable in advance. All communications, letters, &c., to be addressed to the Editor, 3 & 4, Little Britain, E.C.

The Editor will pay careful attention to all MSS. entrusted to him, but cannot undertake to return them unless accompanied by postage stamps.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

We have frequently had occasion to indicate to our foreign friends the position which the Craft holds in England, and we have endeavoured, however feebly, to exemplify its teachings and to demonstrate the harmony which exists between Masonic precepts and the broadest principles of free thought and action.

But at the same time we have been careful to lift our voice, and to record our protest, against the doctrine that Freemasonry may be made a political engine, or a lever for the advancement of communistic views. It is this misconception of the object and aims of the institution which has given rise to so much abuse and persecution on the part of our ill-informed antagonists—it is the erroneous idea that in every Masonic lodge religious and social questions are debated, and that Masons are banded together in an unholy alliance against all laws human and divine. It is this which strengthens the hands of our enemies, and gives point to a thousand satires on the Fraternity. Unhappily, the language of some of our Continental brethren is not calculated to remove this impression, and their rash utterances in favour of democracy and scepticism are accepted as the real doctrines of the Brotherhood. It has been truly said by a writer well versed in the subject, that “one evil to which secret societies are always exposed is, the chance of the objects and principles of their members being misrepresented by those interested in resisting their power and influence;” to which we are bound to add that a greater danger arises to a society like that of Freemasonry when some of its neophytes presume to engraft upon its pure and simple morality, which embraces the whole duty of man, dogmas of a nature not only foreign to those primeval principles, but in the highest degree opposed to them in scope and operation.

It cannot be said with truth that we have advocated in these columns any but the most comprehensive views of Freemasonry, and the most cosmopolitan interpretation of her mission and importance; we may therefore, without the fear of being misunderstood, candidly avow that sooner than see our Order made a cloak for conspirators we would multiply the tests for admission, and allow neither anarchist nor atheist to approach our sacred retreat. In England they cannot, as we all well know; but a different spirit prevails abroad, and should it continue to spread we may assert without dread of contradiction that Freemasonry on the Continent will soon be an empty name—or rather, it will have become the home of all that is evil, the abode of revolutionary and bloodthirsty men. This is no fanciful picture; we appeal to brethren who have visited French lodges, Italian lodges, aye, and even German lodges, whether the ancient landmarks have not been removed in those countries to such an extent as to render Freemasonry “a mockery, a delusion, and a snare.”

It is not only that the Bible has disappeared

from the pedestal, and that men are obligated on the sword or on a book of constitutions—grave as we admit such a fact to be—but it is also unfortunately the case that political discussions are not only permitted, but form the staple business before the lodge; that sentiments the most profane and theories of the wildest and most anti-social character are not only broached but approved; while of the latitude allowed to the Voltairean school of scepticism, the less we say the better. Now the question arises, to what extent are we—that is to say, English Freemasons—supposed to fraternise with such men? It is true that they may know our signs, our pass-words, and—so far as it suits their purpose—our ceremonies, but we contend nevertheless that they have lost the true essence of Freemasonry; that they have wilfully severed themselves from that great family of brethren which, thanks to the vast increase of the Anglo-Saxon race, now encircles the earth, and which holds the future in its grasp. We contend that they are darkening the glory of the noblest fraternity ever established amongst men; that by their own acts they are sully the purity of that banner under which they profess to march. We would, however, fain believe that this is but an exceptional state of affairs with our Continental brethren; that it is but one of the phases of our intensely intellectual age, when all things seem narrowed within the compass of scientific definition, and truth itself is overborne by dogmatism. It may be that out of the clouds and darkness which now obscure her divine aspect, Freemasonry in Europe is but approaching a grander era of splendid utility, a more superb recognition from the sons of civilization and progress. Be this as it may, it is our bounden duty to sound a warning note—like the sentinel on the watch-tower, let us desery the danger, and arouse the garrison. From the position of the Grand Lodge of England in the world of Freemasonry, she is eminently qualified for the task of pointing out to erring brethren in other lands their divergencies from the true path, and their proclivities to new and anti-masonic ideas.

In this duty—for duty it is—we look for the support of our Scottish and Irish brethren; and we confidently reckon upon the influence of the vast Masonic confederation in the New World.

There, as here, no political hydra pollutes the hallowed halls of Freemasonry; there, no spectre of blood haunts the minds of the Craft. If what we have stated be no delusion—and we know that facts are stubborn things—it is surely not much to ask that those who value the real principles of the Order will unite with us in one great effort to demonstrate to the world that Freemasonry is founded upon a sincere belief in the Supreme Architect of the Universe; a desire for knowledge and enlightenment, and a rational hope that in following those sublime maxims which are taught to every brother, we are not only promoting the good of our fellow-creatures, but the eternal welfare of our immortal souls.

THE Annual Banquet of the Faith Lodge of Instruction will be held on Tuesday next, 7th Dec., at 8 o'clock, at Bro. Fisher's Restaurant, Metropolitan District Railway, Victoria Station, where tickets may be obtained, 4s. each.

We have great pleasure in calling the special attention of our readers to Bro. Henry Parker's Concert, full particulars of which will be found in our advertising columns. Bro. Parker is himself a musician of great ability, and has acquired an honourable name in the profession, and with the galaxy of talent he has secured for next Monday evening we are satisfied his concert will be an entire success.

Multum in Parbo, or Masonic Notes and Queries.

"LEO" AND THE TEMPLARS.

"Leo" ventures to express an opinion as to the Knights Templars of Scotland. It is evident that he does not belong to the order, and is quite ignorant of their workings, as he calls them *Masonic* Templars, whilst the fact is that they are not a Masonic Order, and that men who are not Freemasons have been admitted as members. The Order of Knights Templars in Scotland, indeed, consists chiefly of Freemasons, but Knight Templar is not a Masonic degree. It might be expected that any one who writes to THE FREEMASON, and professes to give information on any point, or to correct an error into which some other writer has fallen, should know something of the subject on which he writes. In the present case, "Leo" certainly knows nothing, for the statements which he makes are thoroughly erroneous. Had he belonged to the Order of Knights Templars, he would not have fallen into such mistakes. He would have expressed an opinion more worthy of respect, but it would have been to a different purpose. However, I respect "Leo" although I differ in opinion from him. CIPES.

BRO. HUGHAN AND THE MAIMED, ETC.

Worth and zeal are not all that are required of a soldier in the battle-field; he must have his arms and his legs, that he may perform his part there. So must every one who is to act up to his obligations as a Master Mason, if required to do so. A Mason not having arms and legs could not save a brother in danger. It is to little purpose that Bro. Hughan adduces the fact of the initiation of "Mr. Kavanagh, the extraordinary M.P., by the authority of the Duke of Leinster, the M.W. Grand Master of Masons of Ireland." The question is not what has been done, but what ought to have been done or what ought to be done; and it is to be determined solely by reference to the ancient rules and landmarks of the Order. These I have already shown to exclude the possibility of the acceptance of a deformed or maimed man into the Order, and I only ask Brother Hughan to read and consider my last letter on this subject in THE FREEMASON. I lately heard from a brother, an Englishman newly returned from America, that a few months since he heard bastards and maimed persons declared to be inadmissible, by a Grand Master in a Grand Lodge assembled. If it were proclaimed or known that a candidate is a bastard, before he is ballotted for in a lodge, I believe his chance of admission would be very small. As to maimed or deformed persons, their admission is not only contrary to the landmarks, but to the whole symbolism of Freemasonry. CIPES.

SWEDEN.

Freemasonry was introduced into this country in 1735 by charter from the G. Orient of France granted to the Governor by Count Sparre. But little is known of this lodge, as its operations were closed in 1738 by Royal Decree, forbidding Masons to meet on pain of death. This prohibition was rescinded in 1740, when the order spread and flourished. It soon enjoyed such a position that the brethren did not hesitate to publicly acknowledge their association with the institution. In 1762 King Adolphus Frederick declared himself the protector of the Swedish lodges, and desired to participate in the labour and expenses of the fraternity. In 1765 Lord Blaney Grand Master of England, granted a dispensation to Bro. Charles Fullman, Secretary to the English Embassy at Stockholm, to establish a Prov. G. Lodge for Sweden. In 1799, a union of the Grand Lodges of Sweden and England was effected, which was the cause of great rejoicing among the fraternity. In 1809, Charles XIII. ascended the throne of Sweden, who, May 27th, 1811, founded an order of Knighthood under the title of "Charles Thirteenth," for the purpose, it is stated in the manifesto, of establishing the Order, to do honour to those virtues which are not pre-

scribed by law, and which are seldom offered to the public. The statutes exacted that this Order, the distinctive badges of which were to be worn openly, should only be communicated to Freemasons; it therefore formed the highest degree of Swedish Freemasonry. The reigning King was always to be Grand Master of the Order, and, besides the Princes of the Royal House, the order could only consist of twenty-seven secular and three ecclesiastical members. Charles XIII. remained an active and zealous member of the order during his lifetime. Freemasonry is still protected by the Crown, and is therefore one of the most respectable institutions in the country.—*Macoy's Cyclopaedia.*

SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.

A special meeting was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, on the 9th November, for the installation of the M.E. Grand Principals. The chapter was opened in due form by Comp. Dr. Somerville, of Ampherlaw, M.E. Deputy Grand Z., assisted by the Grand Officers. All Comps. below the rank of Installed Principals having retired, a conclave of Installed Principals was opened, and the degree of 3rd Principal was conferred on Comp. Lord Erskine, M.E. Grand J. Comp. the Earl of Dalhousie, M.E. Grand 1st Principal Elect, was then presented, and received the three installation degrees of J., H., and Z. The passages of Scripture were read by Comp. the Hon. and Rev. Arthur C. Baillie Hamilton, 3rd Grand Sojourner, Rector of Wovorn, Berks., who had travelled especially from England to be present. The charges were most efficiently delivered by Comp. Lindsay Mackersey, Grand Scribe F., and the Grand Principals were invested by Comp. Somerville. The Comps. were then admitted, and Comps. the Earl of Dalhousie and Lord Erskine were installed respectively as Grand Z. and J. Comp. the Earl of Haddington was unfortunately not able to be present, although elected Grand H.

The Supreme Chapter was then closed in ample form, and the Comps. adjourned to the banquet, which was presided over by Comp. Lord Erskine. The duties of croupier were effectively discharged by Comp. F. A. Barrow, 1st G. Sojourner. Among the Comps. present we noticed Dr. Somerville, 33°, D.G.Z.; Lindsay Mackersey, 30°, G.S.E.; Wm. Mann, 30°, G.S.N., G.S. Warden Grand Lodge and Representative of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina; Alex. Hay, 30°, G. Recorder; Hon. and Rev. A. C. Baillie Hamilton, 3rd Grand Sojourner; W. A. Laurie, G. Sec. Grand Lodge; Captain W. H. Ramsay, Sec. of the Chapter General of the Religious and Military Order of the Temple; Dr. McCowan, 30°; D. Bryce, jun., 30°; A. Mitchell, 30°; Dr. Loth, 30°; P. Cowan, 30°; A. Cockburn, 18°; Jas. Ballantine, Grand Bard of Scotland, &c. &c.

After a delightful evening, the Companions separated at an early hour in peace and harmony.

A QUERY.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—Will you kindly inform me through your correspondence column, if a W.M. or P.M. should visit a lodge of which they are not members, are they entitled to wear their collars, W.M. or P.M. as the case may be; or are they only allowed to wear their aprons? Your early answer will oblige, Yours fraternally, H. BRAITHWAITE.

BRETHREN holding subscription cards for Bro. Brett's Testimonial are requested to forward the same, with the amounts collected, to Bro. H. G. Buss, 127, Oxford-road, N., or to the Hon. Secretaries, Bros. R. Wentworth Little, 7, Gilbert-road, Kennington, S.E., and R. Tanner, 18, North-street, Westminster, S.W., as the list will shortly be closed.

TO CONSUMPTIVES.—A grateful father is desirous of sending by mail, free of charge to all who wish it, a copy of the prescription by which his daughter was restored to perfect health from confirmed Consumption, after having been given up by her physicians and despaired of by her father, a well-known physician, who has now discontinued practice. Sent to any person free.—Address O. P. Brown, Secretary, 2, King-street, Covent-garden, London.—ADVT.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The usual Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge of England, took place on Wednesday evening, at the Freemasons' Hall, and was probably the largest gathering of Grand Officers Past Grand Officers, Officers and Past Officers of private lodges ever witnessed. About 660 brethren being present, seats were not to be obtained for all; and a great number of the brethren remained standing during the whole of the evening. The cause of such an assemblage, was the announcement that the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, would on this night, which is the regular night for the nomination of a Grand Master for the ensuing year, state that it was his wish to retire from the office he had held for twenty-six years, and not allow himself to be put in nomination. A visit to hear his valedictory address, and an anxiety to have the earliest information of who should be his successor, consequently brought together brethren from all parts of the kingdom; and had it been known, that on this occasion the Heir to the throne of England would be introduced to Grand Lodge, invested, and placed in his position as a Past Grand Master of the Order, probably a still larger gathering would have been witnessed. When the brethren entered lodge, they found the Past Master's chair surmounted by the Prince of Wales's plume, and were much disappointed when the Grand Master entered to find that the procession did not contain His Royal Highness; forgetful of the rules of Grand Lodge that until the minutes of the former meeting which elected him a P.G.M., were confirmed he could not be admitted in that character among the rulers of the Craft. When it was made known that the Prince of Wales was waiting outside Grand Lodge, the greatest enthusiasm was displayed by the brethren.

Among those brethren who occupied seats on the dais and in the body of the hall, we noticed the following:—

The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M.; the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy G. Master; Algernon Perkins, as S.G.W.; John Dobson, M.P., J.G.W.; the Duke of St. Alban's, Prov. G.M. Lincolnshire; Sir Daniel Gooch, Bart., Prov. G.M. Berks and Bucks; J. Fawcett, Prov. G.M. for Durham; S. Rawson, P.D., Prov. G.M. for China; A. M. Ritchie, D.G.M. for Madras; Col. de Carteret, P.G.M. for Jersey; Lord Sherborne, Prov. G.M. for Gloucestershire; R. J. Bagshaw, Prov. G.M. for Essex; Col. F. Burdett, P.G.W., and Rep. G.L. of Ireland; John Greig, Rep. G.L. of Pennsylvania; J. Havers, P.G.W.; Col. A. Lowry Cole, C.B., P.G.W.; V. A. Williamson, P.G.W.; Revs. T. F. T. Ravenshaw, J. Martyn, G. Chaplains; Revs. R. T. Simpson, J. Huyshe, Joseph, Senior LL.D., E. Moore, Sir J. W. Hayes, Bt., P.G. Chaplains; J. Ll. Evans, P. of B. General Purposes; J. Hervey, G. Secretary; A. E. John McIntyre, G. Registrar; Samuel Tomkins, G. Treasurer; W. Farnfield, P.A.G. Sec.; W. A. F. Powell, S.G.D.; S. Leith Tomkins, S.G.D.; J. Cooper Forster, J.G.D.; Brackstone Baker, J.G.D.; H. Browne, B. Head, H. Griswell, J. Savage, J. Newton Tomkins, G. Cox, G.W. K. Potter, J. R. Stebbing, W. P. Scott, Jabez Hogg, E. J. Fraser, J. King, J. Udall, J. M. Clabon, E. S. Snell, C. H. Gregory, W. E. Gumbleton, P.G. Deacons; F. P. Cockerell, G.S. of Works; Sir Albert W. Woods (Garter) G. D. of C.; C. C. Dumas, A.G.D.C.; J. Symonds, P.G.D.C.; Joshua Nunn, G.S.B.; G. E. Pocock, H. Pullen, W. Young, E. Busher, R. J. Spiers, J. Mason, H. Empson, E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B.'s; Ransford, P.G. Org.; Wm. Ough, G. Purst.; James Brett, A.G.P.; Joseph Smith, P.A.G.P.; Major J. A. L. Creaton, P.G.D.; T. A. Adams, P.G.P.; A. H. Tattershall, Alfred Avery, P.M.; George Lambert, James Stevens, Henry G. Buss, E. Spooner, R. Wentworth Little, F. Deering, J. W. Halsey, E. Cox, A. A. Pendlebury, S. Wells, J. H. H. Doughney, and W. Dodd.

Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form and with solemn prayer, the G. Secretary, (Bro. John Hervey), read the minutes of the Quarterly Communication of 1st September, which were afterwards put by the Grand Master, and carried unanimously.

THE GRAND MASTER then rose and said, Brethren, I have now to inform Grand Lodge that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, is waiting to be admitted into this Grand Lodge. (applause). By the confirmation of the minutes His Royal Highness is now a member of Grand Lodge, and enjoys the title of Past Grand Master. I am sure there can be but one feeling of rejoicing, at the accession of our illustrious brother as a member of Grand Lodge. (Hear, hear, and loud applause). As His Royal Highness, is now waiting I do not think it necessary to say

another word. I am quite sure you all rejoice, and feel as I do the highest gratification at our illustrious brother coming among us. (Hear, hear, and cheers). The two Grand Wardens, the Grand Director of Ceremonies, the Grand Deacons, and four Grand Stewards, will therefore retire and conduct His Royal Highness into this Grand Lodge. (Cheers,) and on the entering of His Royal Highness every brother will rise.

The brethren then, on the on the announcement by Bro. C. B. Payne, G. Tyler, of His Royal Highness's approach, rose *en masse*, the sight was one not easily to be forgotten. The hall being closely packed the brethren near the walls could not get a sight of the new brother without standing on the seats, and this gave the concourse the appearance of a shelving sea of heads, the collars and jewels forming a groundwork of blue and gold. Up the centre of this mass was left a narrow avenue just sufficient for the procession to move, and as it approached the Throne the Prince appeared to be quite impressed with the imposing sight. The plaudits which greeted His Royal Highness were loud and long-continued, and the brethren then maintained absolute silence while the following address was delivered by

THE GRAND MASTER: May it please your Royal Highness, it is my duty, sir, to welcome most cordially your Royal Highness to the Grand Lodge of England; and I assure your Royal Highness that this epoch has long been wished for and expected by the body of Masons forming the Craft of England. (Hear, hear). I can further assure your Royal Highness that the advent of your Royal Highness to Masonry was welcomed most enthusiastically by every private lodge in England. The Craft in general in England is so much indebted to the patronage of your Royal House that they cannot but be most desirous to shew their cordial good wishes and gratitude to your Royal House, and their delight at receiving your Royal Highness amongst them as a Brother Mason. (Hear, hear, and applause). It is hardly necessary for me to enumerate the members of your Royal House who have been Patrons, Grand Masters, and members of the Craft in England. Your Royal Highness has only to look around [*pointing to the Paintings of Royal Masons which adorn the walls of the Temple*] to see George IV., the Duke of York, and your Royal Highness's more immediate ancestor, the Duke of Kent. (Hear, hear, and cheers). To know what great advantages the Craft in general have derived from such illustrious patronage, and to make your Royal Highness well aware of the delight which your coming into Masonry has caused in this Country (Hear, hear, and applause). There is one member more especially, I may allude to, your Royal Highness's immediate ancestor, the Duke of Kent, who was Grand Master of the Athol Lodge, and associated with his late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, in forming the Union between the Grand Lodge of England and the Athol Lodge, so much to the advantage of the Craft in England. I will now ask your Royal Highness to allow me to have the honour of investing you with the clothing of a Past Grand Master, and I invite you to take your seat in Grand Lodge as a member of the Grand Lodge of England. (Great cheering).

Bro. Payne then handed the clothing to Sir Albert Woods, who handed it to the Earl of Zetland, and the noble earl invested Bro. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales with the gorgeous insignia of his rank. The Prince had, up to this time, worn only the ordinary Master Mason's apron as Masonic clothing, but the blue riband of the Garter was also observable.

SIR ALBERT W. WOODS read aloud the numerous titles by which the Prince is honoured, and proclaimed him a Past Grand Master of the Order. Taking the time from Sir Albert, the brethren saluted the new Past Grand Master with the Grand or Royal Sign.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS before taking his seat said: Most Worshipful Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Officers of Grand Lodge, and Brethren, allow me to tender you my warmest and most sincere thanks for the great honour that you have conferred upon me this evening. For a long time past it had been my wish to become a Freemason and a member of the ancient Craft; and although, brethren, I was initiated in a foreign country, I at the time felt—and you will all agree with me—that Freemasonry is one and the same in all countries (hear, hear), you are all fellow Craftsmen, and I can assure you I feel it a great honour to be here to day, and to be admitted into the Grand Lodge of England (hear, hear). Allow me Most Worshipful Grand Master to thank you once more for the kind words you have spoken, and to the brethren for the kind and cordial manner they have received me this evening (applause).

THE GRAND MASTER: May it please your Royal Highness, Brethren, I have another communication to make to Grand Lodge, which I assure you is a very painful duty for me to perform; but nevertheless I feel confident that you will all agree in the conclusion that I have come to, namely, that I am too old longer to continue Grand Master of England (no, no). I assure you, brethren, it is with great regret I have come to this conclusion myself, because I hope by my

conduct and by my assiduity and attention to the duties of my office I have proved myself a zealous Mason (hear, hear). But, brethren, after a period of service of 26 years as Grand Master, and of two years previous to that as Pro. Grand Master to H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, I think I may fairly say I have earned my retirement (hear, hear); and I must beg you therefore not to put me in nomination again to fill the office of Grand Master. After having succeeded in carrying out that great work which was finished and inaugurated in the course of this year, namely, the building of a new Freemasons' Hall, and seeing all the charities in a most flourishing position, I do not think that I could select a more happy opportunity of asking you to accept my resignation of office, and to select a younger man in my stead. Although I may no longer fill that distinguished office, to which your kindness has so often re-elected me, yet I cannot but assure you that as long as the Almighty spares me health and strength I shall take a lively interest in everything connected with you (hear, hear). I cannot conclude this address without expressing what I have so often expressed before that it must be almost tiresome to you to hear me express again—but I must express it for the last time—the gratitude I feel to my brethren for the kind support they have invariably given to me, and for the confidence they have placed in me by electing me seven-and-twenty times to the highest office in the Craft. I assure you, brethren, though I wish to retire from the office of Grand Master I shall not cease to take an interest in everything that concerns Masonry so long as life remains (hear, hear, and great applause). I now request, brethren, that I may not be put in nomination for the office of Grand Master for the ensuing year.

The noble Earl, who was deeply affected during the delivery of this address, then resumed his seat amidst loud and long-sustained applause.

THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER gave notice that at next quarterly communication in March, he should move a resolution expressive of the regret of the brethren at the retirement of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, from the Grand Mastership.

Bro. RAYNHAM W. STEWART said that while thanking the Grand Master for the able and zealous manner in which he had performed his duties the brethren were also much gratified that the Prince of Wales had come among them. As the Grand Master had expressed a wish not again to be put in nomination it became their duty to ask another Brother who so nobly followed his Lordship's example to take that office. In doing so they would be guided by no feeling to choose one who was not well versed in the duties and responsibilities attached to that office. He (Bro. Stewart) thought they would not have occasion to look very far from Grand Lodge for a brother who was capable of discharging those duties, one who with hearty respect he would say although he occupies a very important position in the councils of Her Majesty had always found time to discharge his Masonic duties (cheers). Brethren (said Bro. Stewart), wherever the name of the Earl de Grey and Ripon is heard (applause), it is received with the greatest respect and regard. Long may that name remain illustrious in England! May that name grace the roll of the Grand Masters of England! and that it may, brethren, without detaining you longer,—for we have a long list of business before us—I beg to nominate the Earl de Grey and Ripon for Grand Master for the year ensuing (loud cheers).

THE GRAND MASTER having put the question whether any brother had some one else to put in nomination for the office as Grand Master there was a simultaneous cry of "No, no."

The brethren already on the Board of Benevolence were re-appointed.

The report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter was then submitted for confirmation, when a grant of £50 to a brother of No. 539, and £30 to the widow of a late brother of No. 116 were made. Upon a grant of £30 being proposed to a brother of No. 13, Bro. John Henderson objected on the ground, that having enquired into the merits of the case, the lodge had found that they could not honestly and fairly support the case before the board.

After some remarks from the Grand Registrar in defence of the vote,

Bro. HAVERS advocated referring the matter to the Board of Benevolence. Bro. Binckes, as the brother through whose instrumentality the case was brought before the board, supported the grant. Bro. Joseph Smith thought a case had been made out for referring the matter back to the board. Bro. Udall also defended the grant. The recommendation was put to the lodge and lost, and the amendment to send the case back to the board was carried.

THE GRAND MASTER: I am anxious to interrupt the business of Grand Lodge for one minute. I beg to inform the brethren that our Illustrious Brother, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, is anxious to retire from Grand Lodge at this time, and I believe he wished me to give the reason why, viz., this day is the birth day of Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales. (Immense cheering.) I perceive it is quite unnecessary for me to say more. You are perfectly aware how

anxious His Royal Highness must be on such an occasion as this to be present at his own table to celebrate the birth-day of his Illustrious Consort.

The brethren hereupon rose, and the Prince of Wales accompanied by the Duke of St. Alban's, and escorted by Bro. Havers and Sir Albert Woods, left the hall amid the ringing cheers of the brethren.

The following grants were then passed, £30 to a brother of 87, £100 to a brother of 29, and £30 to a brother of 461.

Bro. L. EVANS then brought forward the report of the Board of General Purposes, which was taken as read, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

G. SECRETARY announced that by an omission, the blame of which he took entirely on himself, the second report of the Masonic Benevolent Institution had been omitted from the agenda paper.

Bro. SAVAGE thought the matter would keep very well till next meeting, and after a discussion in which Bros. Browse, Savage, Clabon, and Udall took part, the subject was ordered to stand over till the next meeting.

Bro. Udall's motion, seconded by Bro. Clabon—

"That the sum of £50 be given from the Fund of General Purposes. That the money be placed in the hands of the Secretary of the Asylum of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and the Widows of Freemasons, to supply the inmates at Croydon with Coals during the winter season," was carried.

Bro. J. H. WYNNE then brought forward the following motion:—

"That those brethren, who were candidates at the last election, and did not succeed to be elected on the Annuity Fund, shall receive £15 per annum from the Benevolent Fund, until they shall be elected on the Annuity Fund," (sic.)

and was proceeding at great length when

The G. REGISTRAR interposed, and submitted that Bro. Wynne was out of order in that he asked Grand Lodge to deal with the Fund of Benevolence, when the constitutions committed the care of that Fund to a Board.

Bro. HAVERS made a few observations respecting the effect of the motion being carried.

The motion, being out of order, was withdrawn.

Bro. RAYNHAM W. STEWART, W.M., Nos. 12 and 453, rose to move—

"That in future the issue of free votes in consequence of the grants from Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter be hereafter discontinued, and that the rules and regulations of the Institution be amended as follows, viz.:—

"Rule 17. Expunged."

"Rule 31. To omit the words 'Lodge Chapter and' in the 7th line."

Bro. JOHN SYMONDS said it was out of order The Benevolent Institution was an independent body, passing its own laws, although it was enacted that those laws and every alteration in them should be submitted to Grand Lodge for approval.

Bro. R. W. STEWART had felt the same difficulty. Grand Lodge was asked to give up a privilege, and he apprehended it was quite within the power of Grand Lodge to send this motion down as an instruction to the Committee to consider it.

Bro. HAVERS thought it was quite in order.

Bros. COL. COLE, H. BROWSE, J. SAVAGE, JOSEPH SMITH, and F. BINCKES, continued the discussion, and the general feeling appeared to be that all the resolutions Grand Lodge had at any time made on the subject would have to be brought forward and compared, the searching out of which, G. Secretary said, would take a considerable time.

After some remarks from Bro. SYMONDS, Bro. J. R. STEBBING, said they ought then to go back to Bro. Clabon's motion, and have a discussion on all his scheme.

Bro. STEWART then consented to postpone his motion.

Bro. JAMES STEVENS, P.M., No. 720, in introducing his motion,

"That with a view to securing greater uniformity of working and observance of the 'same usages and customs' throughout the several lodges held under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England, a Committee of Past Masters be appointed to enquire into the merits of the respective systems of working now in practice, and to report to Grand Lodge thereon, with such recommendations as they may think necessary to prevent deviation from the established mode, such deviations being according to the Constitutions of Freemasonry, improper and not to be justified or countenanced."

observed that he would have preferred that it should have been brought forward by much more able brethren than himself, but as it was a recognised principle among them that even the most humble might be able at times to do some good to the Craft he did not consider himself out of place in submitting this motion to Grand Lodge. He chiefly desired to call the attention of Grand Lodge to the fact that the Book of Constitutions stated that there was an established mode, and that any deviations from that could not be justified and ought not to be countenanced. He used the words of the clause in the Book of Constitutions, in order that the subject

might be fully understood. After some other remarks Bro. Stevens concluded by asking Grand Lodge to appoint a Committee of Past Masters to consider the question; he did not care how many members the committee was composed of, whether ten, twenty, thirty or forty, he wished that they should be selected from all grades in Freemasonry, and only asked that they should be men who had a little common sense. (Cheers.)

Bros. STEBBING, BROWSE, and MATTHEW COOKE, made a few remarks, and the motion was carried.

Bro. J. RANKIN STEBBING, P.G.D., moved,

"That in the opinion of this Grand Lodge no future Grand Master should hold that office for more than three years in succession, unless in the case of a Royal Prince, when, the restriction should apply to the Pro. Grand Master."

but did not wish to oppose himself to the general wish of the majority of the brethren if they were in favour of five or seven years. After passing a high eulogium on the Grand Master, who in everything he had done had ennobled himself and gilded Freemasonry, he thought that, like a change in our ministries, there should be a change in Grand Masters now and then. He found that during sixty years after 1721 there were thirty-two Grand Masters, all of them peers of England. That would not be more than two years on an average to each. Yet the institution flourished and was indeed eminently successful. At one time, there sat on the dais no less than ten or twelve peers of the realm. It was no uncommon thing then to have five or six peers on committees, and 400 brethren at Grand Festival. And then the number of Masons in England was only one-third of what it was now. If the limit of duration of one Grand Mastership was three, or five, or seven years, there would be a greater possibility than now of men of rank attaining that position; consequently more men of rank would join Masonry, and it would become more influential.

Bro. BENNOCH seconded the motion.

Bro. VICTOR WILLIAMSON enquired whether the brethren thought it desirable to limit the tenure of Grand Master's office. If they did, then let them pass their motion. But he would earnestly entreat them to pause before committing themselves to so suicidal a course. He had as a young Mason the profoundest respect for Bro. Stebbing as an old and valued Mason; but he thought that under the present regime, the brethren enjoyed more freedom—electing a Master annually—than they would if they appointed him for three or more years. They might have a highly-efficient Grand Master; they might have the reverse. Was that desirable? He thought not. The qualifications for the office of Master were no ordinary qualifications. The office required an immense amount not only of intellect, but of willingness to devote that intellect to the good of the Craft. When they got a Grand Master who could do all this, was it expedient or wise to replace him by some one else?

Bro. HAVERS opposed the motion; he could perceive that the discussion was not directed at the Grand Master, but at the advisers of the Grand Master, and he perfectly admitted the right and title of every individual brother to question their acts. He had listened to the very able and eloquent speech of Bro. Stebbing, but had not heard one argument or a reason for agreeing with the motion. He would say at the outset—they would forgive him for being egotistical—that having enjoyed a large share of his Lordship's confidence, and worked very hard for the brethren, his powers would expire in a few days, and some fresh blood would come in. He was not there to pronounce a panegyric on Lord Zetland, but although Bro. Stebbing had, stated how Masonry flourished in former years, it had never flourished so much as during his Lordship's reign. His wise conciliatory judgment and good management of the Craft after the storms it had weathered, had produced harmony, peace, and contentment, which had paved the way for the prosperity the Craft now enjoyed. There were certain qualifications necessary for the office. The first was high rank, next influence, a man who could influence his peers to take office under him, then assistance for the charities, and great administrative capacity. Among the large number of noblemen whose names graced Masonry's roll there were many who would be most willing to accept the office of Grand Master, and yet how few would be able to do the work. They wanted men high in the councils of the Sovereign, men whose opinion carried weight, and would those men be Grand Masters and perform all the onerous duties of Freemasonry while they had to perform the duties of the State. Let them take such men, and see if they possessed another necessary qualification—zeal in the cause of Masonry. It was very difficult to find a man qualified for Grand Master. It took him some time to get into working order, and if Bro. Stebbing's motion was carried, a man who had learned the duties would be thrown out just at the time he had acquired a knowledge of them. It appeared to him (Brother Havers) that the carrying of this motion would be tantamount to Masons acknowledging that they distrusted themselves. He was one of those who believed that the occasion had not yet arisen when a Master has given proofs

that there should be a change, but he was also one of those who believed that when the occasion did arise Freemasons would make that change. He had the fullest confidence in Freemasons; they were the most intelligent of men, who would not be humbled by having a Grand Master who it was felt ought to be removed. He was not one to deny for a moment that circumstances might occur in which it might be held desirable to make a change in the Grand Master, and he was quite sure Grand Lodge would make it when the time arrived. But it was first their duty to decide whether the change proposed by the motion was a beneficial one. The difficulties which would surround a Grand Master removable every three years were insuperable. He (Bro. Havers) would trespass still further by drawing attention to the fact that what was true of the Grand Master was equally true of the Provincial Grand Master. If the whole of England were polled and asked whether under the present system they had the right men in the right place, the answer would be "yes." And yet if a new Grand Master was appointed every third year, they must *a fortiori* make a similar change in the Provincial Grand Masters. It would take three years for a Master to become competent, and then, when they began to feel the benefits of a good Master, they found their hands were tied, and they were obliged to get rid of him.

The GRAND REGISTRAR supported Bro. Havers and contended that the brethren had the greatest liberty at the present time.

Bro. Col. Cole, Clabon, Udall, Stewart, Symonds, and Nunn, added a few words, and after Bro. Stebbing had replied a division was prepared for, but as the numbers upon careful inspection appeared to be as nearly as possible 3 to 2 against the motion in a lodge then mustering 500, Bro. Stebbing waived the division and Grand Lodge was thereupon duly closed.

GRAND LODGE NOTES.

The Meeting of Grand Lodge, on the 1st December, 1869, will long be remembered. After considerable experience, we can safely say that we never witnessed such a muster of the brethren—it was indeed an assemblage of which the Craft may well be proud. For the first time since the death of the Duke of Sussex, an English Prince has taken his place amongst his brother masons in the Grand Lodge of England, and the enthusiastic, the rapturous cheers which greeted the entrance of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales into Grand Lodge on Wednesday, was an evidence of the high importance attached to such an illustrious accession to our ranks.

The reception accorded to the Heir Apparent was truly royal—it was magnificent; and as an expression of feeling on the part of six hundred and sixty representative English Masons, it is an assurance that they believe His Royal Highness will persevere in the path of usefulness in which he has hitherto held so conspicuous a place, and will in every respect emulate the virtues of his father, who was foremost in every good work.

We are glad to notice that Bro. Stevens' motion for a committee of enquiry into the various modes of working was carried, and we trust it will lead to a practical result.

With reference to Bro. Stebbing's proposition for the limitation of the Grand Master's tenure of office, we say deliberately that the decision arrived at is not the conviction of *one-tenth* of the Freemasons of England.

The strongest argument that can be used in favor of the limitation is this—that by the present arrangement we in reality exclude all other distinguished masons from even the chance of obtaining the Grand Mastership.

It is true that the Grand Master is nominated annually—so he would be if the limitation were adopted, but it is also true that a most invidious task would be imposed upon any brother who desired a change, if he were compelled to oppose the nomination of the Brother who wielded the power, and prestige of actual Grand Master.

We feel so certain that we have not heard the last of this question, that our disappointment at the defeat of Bro. Stebbing's motion on this occasion is not so great as it would otherwise have been. *It will be brought on again*, and all the eloquence and talent that may be arrayed against it will not, we are assured, prevent the members of Grand Lodge from asserting the principle involved, and reserving to themselves the real power of selection instead of the nominal choice they exercise at present.

DEDICATION OF THE FREEMASONS' TEMPLE AT HALIFAX.

If the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the Freemasons' Temple, on the 30th of June, 1868, was a dletter day in the annals of Freemasonry in Halifax, in an especial manner was Wednesday week a day ever to be remembered by the fraternity, not in Halifax only, but throughout the province of West Yorkshire. The dedication of the building to Masonic purposes by Earl de Grey and Ripon was an event which Halifax Freemasons had looked forward to with very considerable interest, and no effort on the part of either of the two lodges interested had been spared to carry out the ceremony with success. Their efforts were abundantly crowned with success, for there never was seen in Halifax so large a gathering of Freemasons as assembled on Wednesday when the spacious and handsome lodge room was densely crowded by Masons from all parts of the province of West York, from London, Lincolnshire, and East Lancashire; and at the banquet which was held subsequently to the ceremony of dedication there were nearly 250 present.

The Temple has been erected in the Italian style of architecture, having in the front a projecting portico of 7 ft. 6 in. The lodge room, which is on the principal upper floor, is 48 ft. long by 24 ft. wide, and 24 ft. high, and is enriched with a handsome cored and panelled ceiling with ornamental marginal counter lights. The walls are divided into compartments by pilasters, having carved bases and capitals, and a Corinthian cornice with full enrichments. The east end is adorned with a large canopy, supported by two massive pillars with carved capitals; and the west end of the room has single columns, forming central projections. This room is approached by a spacious staircase of stone and opposite the foot of the staircase is the entrance to the dining room, which is the same size as the lodge room, except that it is only 14 feet high. The interior also contains instruction and other rooms, for both the lodges of Probity and St. James, together with smoke rooms, cloak rooms, lavatories, &c.; and the basement contains living apartments for hall-keeper, with every requisite for cooking, &c. The architects were the late Bros. J. E. Oates, B. W. Jackson, W.M. of Probity, and W.H.D. Horsfall, J.W. of No. 408. The cost of the building is about £4,254, exclusive of furnishing, which is calculated to cost £500, so that when completed the entire cost will be £4,754.

The ceremony was commenced shortly before two o'clock, by the lodge of St. James, No. 408, being opened in the three degrees by Bro. Richard Lord, W.M. From that time to the entrance of the P.G. lodge the room began to fill, and by the time the business of the P.G. lodge commenced, the room was densely crowd. The P.G. officers formed a procession in the corridor of the hall, and entered the room in the following order:—Prov. Grand Tyler, two Prov. Grand Stewards, the Past Prov. Grand Pursuivants, and Assist. Prov. Grand Pursuivants, the Prov. Grand Pursuivant, Past Prov. G. Swd-Bearers, Past Prov. G. Dir. of Cere., Past Prov. G. Supt. of Wrks., Past Prov. Grand Deacons, the Cornucopia with corn, two ewers with wine and oil, borne by Masters of Lodges, Grand Supt. of Wrks., with plans of building, Members of the Building Committee, Past Prov. Grand Registrars, the Prov. Grand Registrar carrying the seal of the P.G. Lodge, the Prov. Grand Treas. and Prov. Grand Sec., Past Prov. Grand Chaplains, Past Prov. G.W's. Visitors of distinction, the Column of Prov. Junior Grand Warden, borne by the Master of a lodge; Prov. J.G.W. with plumb rule, the Column of Prov. Senior Grand Warden, borne by the Master of a lodge; Prov. Senior Grand Warden with level, Prov. Junior Grand Deacon, the Prov. Grand Chaplain bearing the Sacred Law, the Dep. Prov. Grand Master with square, the Grand Sword Bearer, Steward, the Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master, Steward, the Prov. Senior Grand Deacon, two Prov. Grand Stewards, and Prov. Grand Tyler.

The Right Worshipful the Grand Master of West Yorkshire, Earl de Grey and Ripon, having formally opened the P.G. Lodge, prayer was offered by the Rev. J. Hope, M.A., P.P.G.C., after which the roll of lodges was called, there being, with two exceptions, representatives from every lodge in West Yorkshire, with visitors from East Lancashire, Lincolnshire, &c. The ceremony of consecration and dedication was performed by Earl de Grey and Ripon, according to ancient usage and custom. Amongst the P.G. Grand Officers Past and Present, were:—W. Bentley Shaw, P.G.D. of E., D.P.G.M.; W. Hon. and Rev. P. Y. Savile, Prov. S.G.W.; W. E. Armitage, Prov. J.G.W.; W. Anton Engelmann, P.P.G.W.; V.W. Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, P.G.C., P.P.G.W.; V.W. Rev. J. Senior, L.L.D., P.G.C., P.P.G.W.; W. Sir H. Edwards, Bart, P.P.G.W.; W. James Franklin, P.P.G.W.; W. James Peace, P.P.G.W.; W. Thomas Perkinson, P.P.G.W.; W. Manoh Rhodes, P.P.G.W.; W. Chas. Oldroyd, Prov. G. Treasurer; W. John Fisher, Past Prov. G. Treasurer; W. R. R. Nelson, Prov. G. Secretary; W. George Normanton, Prov.

J.G.D.; W. John Booth, P.P.G.D.; W. John Ward, P.P.G.D.; W. Thomas Hill, P.P.G.D.; W. Wm. Blackburn, P.P.G.D.; W. John H. Abbey, P.G.S. of W.; W. Isaac Booth, P.P.G.S. of W.; W. Samuel Binns, Prov. G.D.C.; W. William Smith, P.P.G.S.B.; W. Arthur Briggs, Prov. G. Pursuivant; W. Thomas Higgins, Prov. G.A. Pursuivant; W. William Patman, P.P.G. Pursuivant; W. W. Elliott, M.D., Prov. G. Steward; W. Henry Day, Prov. G. Steward; W. A. W. Ramsden, Prov. G. Steward; W. Christopher Pratt, Prov. G. Steward; W. Fred. Whitaker, acting as Prov. G. Steward; W. Joshua Lee, Prov. G. Tyler; Jonas Sheard, Prov. G. Tyler; and about 350 members of various lodges present, including W. John Copley, Prov. G.S. of W.E.L.; W. J. H. Tweedale, P.P.G.R., E.L.; W. C. E. Lucas, P.G.S., Linc.; W. P. Binckes, Sec. Boys' School; T. Alexander, Masonic Life Assurance Co.; Capt. Coates, Capt. Malcolm, and several other visiting brethren.

At the conclusion of the ceremony of dedication, his lordship congratulated the brethren on the successful completion of the building. Other P.G. Lodge business having been transacted, the P.G. Officers retired in the same manner of procession as they entered, and the lodge was subsequently closed in the three degrees by the W.M. and Officers of No. 448.

THE BANQUET.

A banquet was provided in the Assembly-rooms, Harrison-road. The orchestra was occupied by Bro. Hemingway's quadrille band, which played a selection of music during the banquet. Earl de Grey and Ripon presided, and was supported on his right by Bro. Bentley Shaw, P.G.D. of England, D.P.G.M.; Rev. J. Senior, L.L.D., P.G.C. of England, and P.P.G.W. of West Yorkshire; Bro. R. Nelson, P.G.S.; Bro. Fred Binckes, Secretary of the Boys' School, London; Bro. Lucas, P.G.S., Linc.; and Bro. T. Alexander. On his left hand were Sir Henry Edwards, Bart., P.P.G.W.; Rev. James Hope, M.A., P.P.G.C.; Bro. E. Armitage, P.J.G.W.; Bro. C. Oldroyd, P.G.T.; Bro. S. Waterhouse, M.P.; Bro. J. H. Tweedale, P.P.G.R. of East Lancashire; and the Hon. and Rev. P. Y. Savile, M.A., P.S.G.W.

After dinner, the noble Chairman gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were responded to with musical honours, Bro. Hemingway presiding at the pianoforte.

Captain Malcolm, of the 10th Regiment of Foot, responded for the army, Major Waterhouse, M.P., on behalf of the Yeomanry, and Captain Coates for the Volunteers.

The CHAIRMAN next proposed "The M.W.G. Master of England, the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland" (loud cheers). He said it had always been to him a source of great gratification to have the honour of proposing that toast upon occasions like the present. It was with feelings, he might almost say of deep emotion, that he rose to ask them to drink the toast at the present time; because within the last few days it had been made known to the Craft at large that it was the intention of his lordship at the conclusion of his present year of office finally to resign into the hands of the Craft the trust twenty-six years ago they for the first time placed in his hands. If they desired to rear a monument to the Masonic fame of Lord Zetland they would have to write upon it the famous one of the great architect, "Si monumentum quarum circumspice." If they wished to see his monument, look around. Look at the increase of the Order in numbers and its advance in public estimation, its numerous lodges, its wide-spread influence, its enlarged charities, its beneficent labours and then they would know the best proof to which they could appeal for the spirit in which Lord Zetland during that lengthy period had governed this illustrious fraternity; and, indeed, those who knew as he knew, the unwearied spirit of devotion and of zeal for the interests of the Craft in which that distinguished man had laboured with a single object—for the good of his brethren—and the advancement of the sound principles of Masonry, must be impressed with a deep sense of the loss which was about to fall on the Masons of England by the retirement of their chief; but they could not begrudge him at the close of a valued life the repose which he sought, but they would give him a double amount of esteem and affection to follow him in that retirement. In that spirit he gave them the "Health of Lord Zetland" (loud cheers).

The CHAIRMAN then proposed, "The Right Worshipful the D.P.G.M. of England, the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the rest of the Officers of the Grand Lodge past and present" (cheers). He spoke in high terms of the way in which the business of the Grand Lodge was conducted by its present staff of office bearers, and they showed, he said, that they were worthy of the trust which was reposed in them.

The Rev. Dr. SENIOR responded, and spoke of the time when he first had the pleasure of seeing the present Grand Master placed in his office, 26 years ago, and valued as the present Earl of Zetland was,

he was rejoiced to believe that in their present chairman they possessed one who would fill that lofty position with great ability.

Sir H. EDWARDS, Bart., rose to propose the next toast, and was received with immense cheering, the whole company rising. The toast was "The Right Worshipful the P.G.M. of West Yorkshire, the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon." Sir Henry said that never had he stood forward with greater satisfaction and purer pride than at that moment (loud cheers). He had to propose the health of a man who was esteemed above every other man in the craft, not only in Yorkshire, but throughout Great Britain (cheers and applause). He had the honour to propose the toast of the man who presided at that great meeting—that magnificent meeting of Freemasons (loud cheers). It was indeed a proud pleasure to him to have such a toast to propose to them, and he thanked the brethren for having placed it in his hands (cheers). No man in West Yorkshire was more highly esteemed or more deeply respected than Lord de Grey and Ripon (loud cheers). He (the noble chairman) had long been a Mason—he had long presided over this province, not only with great credit to himself, but he had done great credit to the Masons of this great riding, which will never be forgotten. He had presided over its councils with firmness, and had shown an ability which had fascinated every member. The loss of such a man to West Yorkshire would be very difficult to fill. He did not mean to say Lord de Grey was about to depart never to return, but one who would depart from them as their chief in Freemasonry (No, no). He deeply regretted to say that from infirmities and age the noble Lord Zetland was about to retire from the position of chief amongst Masons in England. A successor must be found, and who more likely for a successor than that noble lord who sat at his right hand (loud cheers oft repeated)? No man would deplore more than he did the loss of Earl Zetland to Freemasonry, and no man would be more delighted to place their present chairman in that position than he (Sir Henry) would. Earl de Grey was popular everywhere, and he would be popular still throughout the country. Again he deeply regretted the loss of Earl de Grey from West Yorkshire, but should be delighted to be associated with him in carrying on the work of Masonry in his exalted position of Grand Master (loud cheers). He was delighted to inform his lordship that he would have the votes of the entire province of West Yorkshire (cheers). The toast was drunk with Masonic honours.

The CHAIRMAN rose to reply amidst a perfect ovation, the company rising to cheer again and again. His Lordship said he had often received from the brethren of West Yorkshire proofs of their regard, but had never risen with deeper feelings of emotion to reply to the toast which had just been offered to them as he did upon this occasion, for never as it seemed to him, had they been pleased to accord to it a warmer or more cordial reception. No man could have exercised the high office which he had filled in that riding now for several years, among such a body of men as the Masons of West Yorkshire, without having become united to them by ties closer and closer (hear, hear, and applause). No man be his heart ever so cold—and his, he trusted, was not of such material (hear, hear)—but must have been warmed by that hearty zeal for the interests of Masonry, by that cordial confidence which they had displayed towards him, and by the hearty co-operation which he had received from them on every hand, for it was the happy constitution of the Craft, whether they looked to its organization in the Grand Lodge and under the Grand Master, or whether they looked to those minuter grand lodges which were spread throughout the Provinces of the country—it was their happy constitution that, while sufficient power was placed in the hands of those who presided over the councils of the Craft, they had of necessity constantly to apply to the co-operation of their brethren of every order; and without that co-operation it would be impossible for any man to conduct the government of Masonry. He had always held it to be the duty of those who were set to rule in the Craft, whatever might be the position which they held, steadily to set before them the ancient landmarks of the Order (hear) and firmly and constantly to enforce adherence to those landmarks, and the time-honoured traditions upon which the Craft was based, but at the same time always to exercise whatever authority might be placed in their hands by the confidence of their brethren or the choice of their chiefs, with an earnest desire to merit and secure the confidence of the brethren over whom they were called to rule, with an earnest and ever-present conviction that unless they could secure that confidence and the co-operation which followed it they had no hope of being able to do good to the craft. It had been in that spirit that he had endeavoured to discharge the duties of the high office that he had held in that province, and that he had learned as he watched the conduct and principles which guided the rule of his great chief, Lord

Zetland—a rule which, as they now knew, was about to cease among them, and hard indeed would be the task of the man who might be chosen, whoever he might be, to succeed to such a ruler. It was only by endeavouring, however unequally, to follow the footsteps of him who was about to retire from the greatest position in the art, with the spirit that animated Lord Zetland, that any man could hope to discharge the duties of so great an office; and the more they reflected, as naturally they were led to do at such a moment, upon the past history of Freemasonry in this country, and upon the great and improved position which it now occupied here, the more deeply must every one be impressed with the duty which lay upon them in their respective spheres to demean themselves both within the walls of their lodges and to the outer world as became good and honourable Masons, for they were taught by their ceremonies of the deeper meaning which underlay the outward things of the craft; and when they learned almost now from day to day of the progress of their institutions, of the new lodges which were being added and the new members being enrolled, the greater, naturally must they feel, especially those who might be called upon to take any government of the order, the responsibility which rested upon them to maintain unsullied and unimpaired those great and noble and lovely principles upon which the order was built centuries ago, and which amidst all the changes of the past had imprinted upon their order an imperishable stamp (applause). It would ill become him to touch upon the delicate ground upon which some of the speakers had not unnaturally entered that evening. No man who felt the responsibility that attached to the office of Grand Master would put himself forward for such a post. If it should fall to the lot of any man to be called upon to fill it by the suffrages of the craft, then indeed he would be called upon to consider whether it would not be his duty to accept the office. Deep as his regret was at the loss which they were about to sustain, he felt confidence that even the loss of so great a man as him who had ruled over them for the last 26 years would not wreck the stability of Masonry, would not weaken the foundation or impair their progress, because that progress was not dependent upon the presence of any single man, however good, for those foundations had been laid in times the memory of which had almost perished, upon one eternal and enduring basis (applause).

The CHAIRMAN next gave the toast of the W.D.P.G. Master and the Officers of Provincial Gaand Lodge Past and Present, to which Bro. Bentley Shaw, replied.

The following toasts were then given and responded to:—"The Visiting P.G.O.'s from other districts," responded to by Bro. Lucas, from Lincolnshire; "The health of W.M.'s and Officers of the Lodges of Probity and St. James's," responded to by Bro. B. W. Jackson, W.M. of the Lodge of Probity, and Bro. R. Lord, W.M. of St. James's Lodge; "Success to the Masonic Temple," "The Chairman, Vice-chairman, and Members of the Building Committee," responded to by Bro. Fisher; "The Secretaries," responded to by Bros. Harry J. Franklin and Austin Roberts; "The Architects," responded to by Bros. Jackson and Horsfall; "The Visiting Brethren," responded to by Bro. Binckes, Secretary of the Boys' School, London; "The Countess de Grey and Ripon, Mrs. B. Shaw, and the Ladies," proposed by Sir H. Edwards, and responded to by the Chairman on behalf of Lady de Grey, and by Bro. Bentley Shaw; "The Distressed Masons."

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—Grateful and Comforting.—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favourite. The *Civil Service Gazette* remarks:—"The singular success which Mr. Epps attained by his homoeopathic preparation of cocoa has never been surpassed by any experimentalist. By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctor's bills." Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold by the Trade only, in ¼ lb., ½ lb. and 1 lb. tin-lined packets, labelled JAMES EPPS & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London.—ADVT.

THE BLOOD PURIFIER.—Old Dr. Jacob Townsend's Sarsaparilla. Other Medical Testimony.—In speaking of the "Blood Purifier," old Dr. Jacob Townsend's Sarsaparilla, G. C. Kernott, M.D., L.S.A. Lond., says:—"I strongly recommend it in cutaneous diseases and all impurities of the blood." March 24, 1869.—In a letter to the proprietors, June 6, 1869, Dr. Irvine, of Irvine's-town, says:—"I have been in the habit of ordering your Sarsaparilla for my patients with the best results. Send me six quarts and six mammoth bottles." For all skin diseases, for purifying the system of mercurial poisons, and building up the broken constitution it is the only safe and certain remedy.—In Bottles 2s. 6d., 4s., 4s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 11s. Sold by all Druggists Pills and Ointment each in Boxes, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d. Testimonials also from the Hon. the Dean of Lismore; General William Gilbert, of the Indian Army; ordered also by Apothecaries Hall, London. Caution—Get the red and blue wrappers, with the Old Doctor's head in the centre. No other genuine.—ADVT.