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SUGGESTIONS on the GRANTING of MASONIC RELIEF.

BY BRO. CHALMERS I. PATON,

Author of "Freemasonry in Relation to Civil Authority and the Family Circle."

The very important but difficult question of granting relief is one which has engaged my attention for very many years. There is a class of men called tramps, who often join the Masonic Order for no other purpose than to prey upon the members, and have of late become a notorious pest to the entire misapplication of funds set apart by the various lodges for the relief of worthy brethren. We find these applicants coming into business premises at very inconvenient hours, when the pressure of business is great, when no time or opportunity is afforded to enquire who and what the applicant is, and consequently is an evil decidedly to be decried. The evil does not end here, but leads to others: Firstly, to the encouragement of unworthy brethren, following upon the hurried examination of the applicant, and the admitting of matters which ought to be carefully guarded, often picked up by the outer world; and, secondly, depriving the lodge funds often of the assistance which ought to be given to deserving brethren in a more liberal manner.

Now, it is to be supposed that a brother asking relief asks it from a vital point of view, when something more than a mere two or three shillings shoved into his hand to get rid of him is wanted. He wants relief—relief actually, not of a temporary character, which means going into a public house and boozing. Vagrancy has arrived at such a pitch that people who work and pay their way, will no longer submit to it. Masons are tired of giving money to these beggarly and unworthy Masons; and, of necessity meritorious, but unfortunate, brethren suffer in consequence. The English Masons cry out against it; at a late meeting of the French brethren the subject was fully discussed, and a remedy asked for; other countries do the same. Why is a remedy not set on foot, when the remedy is so very easy. Why not institute one broad system of relief, to protect the members of the Order who suffer so heavily from these

tramps? The Grand Lodge of England has an organisation which no other country has; she possesses the remedy in her own hands. Let the Board of Benevolence take the matter in hand, and let the new system be called the "Casual Relief Fund," dealing with those cases which really and purely do not belong to such as come under the operation of English Masons who through their lodges claim relief.

This is what I would suggest. The telegraph is now reduced to a system, to an uniform rate. When any party applies anywhere for relief, let him be strictly examined as to his claim to be considered as a Mason, and also as to the cause of his wanting assistance. Yet in all cases let mercy temper justice—to err is human, to forgive divine. What is wanted is not to refuse relief to an erring brother, but to strike at those who only join the Order to live by it. Rather let us help our erring brother out of the slough into which by weakness he has fallen. If he applies for relief in a town in which he has fallen into difficulties, it is easy to substantiate his case; if, on the contrary, he has done so at a distance, telegraph to some person residing at the place, regarding the truth of his story. In no case give money till everything is satisfactorily explained, but give a ticket to some place where he may receive food and shelter, till the necessary inquiries are made.

I throw this out as a hint for some of the brethren more experienced than myself to carry out—the Almoners, say, of Liverpool, Manchester, Hull, Leicester, &c., &c. For a year or two perhaps it may be expensive, but in the long run it will root out the whole pest of tramps who join the Order to live by it, and really be of value to a brother who by accident of fortune, has been reduced to ask our aid. To a brother who has really by no fault of his own become unfortunate, our assistance will be of great use, with this advantage, that he will afterwards not only redeem his position, but it may be hoped will earnestly subscribe to the funds of the different charities connected with Freemasonry. It must be remembered that money is not the only thing an unfortunate brother wants, but employment also.

To brethren travelling in search of work, I would grant a pass to a certain distance, but when that distance is reached another very searching inquiry should be made. On no occasion should individual charity be given. An Almoner should be appointed in each town where there is not yet one appointed, and certainly in every town where there is a lodge throughout the United Kingdom, and, if possible, one of the police should be chosen to whom all applicants should be referred. In the case of foreigners, the foreign Consul, if there happens to be one, should be applied to, or the applicant should be forwarded to the nearest seaport town where there is a Consul, from which his passage home should be paid. The Consul will examine the facts of the case, and in all probability send him home with Masonic assistance.

This is a very crude outline of the scheme, which I would suggest as a right one, but before going further, I would like to hear the opinions of brethren upon the matter. The Central Board of Benevolence should insist on having from the Almoners throughout the country every three months a report of all cases that have come before them, and how they have been disposed of. In return it should send to each Almoner for his guidance a list of the whole. I append a rude skeleton of forms:—

[FORM No. 1.]
General Board of Benevolence Masonic Casual Relief Fund.

No.
RETURN from the Almoner of the Lodge, holding of the Grand Lodge of England, No., held at, in the Province of, of Cases of Applications for Masonic Relief coming before him for the three months ending the day of, 18, enclosing the undernoted Forms, in number.

No.	Name of Applicant.	Particulars of Certificate, &c.	How disposed of.	First or other time of application.	Sum, if any, disbursed. £ s. d.

(Date.) (Signature.)

[FORM No. 2.]
General Board of Benevolence Masonic Casual Relief Fund.

No.
APPLICATION by Bro. for Relief to the Almoner of the Lodge, No., held at, in the Province of

Name, and Particulars of past and present position
Age
Dates and places of Initiation, Passing, and Raising
Date and Place of Exaltation (if a Royal Arch Mason)
What offices applicant has held in the Craft
Causes which lead to this application
References for particulars
If applied to any other Lodge for assistance.

(Date.) (Signature of Applicant.)

How disposed of, and sum granted (if any), with signature of Applicant to receipt and date

[FORM No. 3.]
General Board of Benevolence Masonic Casual Relief Fund.

RETURN of all Cases relieved by the Almoners of Lodges for the three months ending day of, 18

Province, Name, and No. of Lodge.	Masonic Particulars of Applicant.	Cause of Application	Date of Application	How disposed of.	Sum granted.

All the schedules could be prepared so as to contain details. The practice of Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham, in regard to this interchange cannot be too highly commended.

When we have the Boys' and Girls' Schools, the Old Men and Women's Institution, I think a "Central Board of Relief" with agencies in every town throughout England is requisite. The only danger would be in the Central Board absorbing too much of the fund, for every brother in the country would only be too glad to give his gratuitous assistance as an Almoner. All moneys subscribed at the usual meetings of lodges for poor and worthy distressed brethren should be forwarded to the Central Board, which should advance to each Almoner a certain sum according to the district and calls upon it to carry on with, requiring regular receipts for every three months for the money disbursed. Our society professes to regard at once the law of justice and of charity. Let us, therefore, seek to continue to be both just and charitable.

MR. JAMES BARNETT, chemist, Birmingham, writes, *June 3rd, 1869*:—"Your Pain Killer is gaining many friends in this section. Among the many cures effected by it which have come under my notice I may mention the case of a lady who, after suffering long from neuralgia, and trying many repeated remedies without benefit, was at length cured, and that almost instantly, with the first application of the Pain Killer.—To P. Davis & Son."

MASONIC CURIOSITIES.—VI.

By BRO. WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

P.M. 131, Prov. Grand Secretary Cornwall, &c.

(Continued from page 603.)

No doubt it is known to most students of Freemasonry that it was the custom for lodges to issue certificates as well as the Grand Lodge. In fact, we more frequently meet with the former during the last century than the latter. "Clearance Certificates" they were called, and were in much request. We believe in many instances they did duty for the regular Grand Lodge certificate, although such was not allowable according to the Constitutions, but the proceedings then were not so uniformly legal as they are now. At the present time many lodges issue certificates on members resigning their lodges to join others elsewhere, some of which are as remarkable for their character as works of art as they are useful to the holders of them. The following was the form generally observed for such documents in the latter part of the last century, and to it was attached a piece of one-inch watered sky ribbon and a seal affixed, with Masonic emblem and name and number of the lodge, and the one now presented has all these fairly preserved:—

To all whom it may concern—

WE do hereby certify that the Bearer hereof, our Trusty, True, and well Beloved Brother Edwd. Kinsela, is a regular Master Mason in Lodge No. 828, and during his stay with us has behaved himself as such.

Given under our hands and seal of our Lodge in our lodge-room at Drumquin, this 7th day of March, 1797, and of Masonry 5797.

JOHN O'NEILL, M.
JOHN ROULSTON, S.W.
JAM. WILSY, J.W.

BRYAN KELLY, Sec.

(Seal)

We have often regretted to find lodges without seals. Of late, especially, we have seen the trouble such has occasioned. Several brethren have left for the United States, and have written home for their clearance certificates, and "paid up to the time of withdrawal." The "clearances" have been sent, but minus the lodges' seals, and in consequence the members of the lodges they intended joining have refused them until the documents have been regularly signed and sealed by the proper officers. We know of more than one lodge lately having had seals made to secure the comfort and happiness of their brethren leaving home, and who desire to fraternise with and become united to the members of lodges abroad. In the United States, Canada, New Brunswick, &c., the laws of Masonry are considered more binding, even to minute matters, than in this country; and a document being sealed is insisted on as an essential.

The foregoing certificate is written on paper, the next one is on parchment, and most elaborately printed, &c. :—

To all whom it may concern—

WE hereby certify that the Bearer hereof, our beloved Brother Edward O'Hara is a regular registered Master Mason in Lodge No. 369, and during his stay with us behaved as an honest Mason.

Given under our hands and seal of our Lodge, in our lodge-room in Fentona, this 7th day of February, 1814, and in the year of Masonry 5814.

ROBERT HANNA, M.

(Lodge seal.) WM. CULBERTSON, S.W.

(Lodge seal.) JNO. HURST, J.W.

JOHN ARMSTRONG, Secy.

As an instance of how particular some lodges were *not* to initiate bastards, the following applications for membership and certificates as to being "born in lawful wedlock" are to the point:—

November 26th, 1813.

The Humble Petition of Charles Morgan, who wishes to become a member of your Antient and Honourable Society, and if admitted, your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES MORGAN.

To the Master, Wardens, and Members
of the Masonic Lodge, No. 332, Omagh.
Recommended by Joseph Love.

The Humble Petition of Hugh Johnston, who wishes to become a member of your Ancient and Honourable Society, and if admitted, your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

(Signed) HUGH JOHNSTON.

To the Master, Wardens, and Members
of the Masonic Lodge, No. 332, Omagh.
Recommended by Joseph Love.

Note.—"All agreed to their coming forward."

[CERTIFICATES.]

Isabella Tully, otherwise Johnston, came before me this day and maketh oath and saith, she was lawfully married to Robert Johnston, in the presence of James Higerty and Elizabeth Higerty his wife, by the Rev. James Stevenson, minister; and further saith that her son, Hugh Johnston, and daughter, Jane Johnston, were both born in wedlock.

Sworn before me this 30th
day of Nov., 1813 } CHARLES SCOTT.

her
ISABELLA + JOHNSTON.
mark

Hugh Johnston also maketh oath and saith, that he never knew anything to the contrary of what is above specified.

CHARLES SCOTT.

It is the opinion of many Masons under the Grand Lodge of Ireland that illegitimates are not eligible for initiation into Freemasonry, although it is not positively illegal for such to be admitted under that Grand Lodge. It is also allowable under the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland, and some who have been received as members with the *bar sinister* have been really zealous Masons and ornaments of the Craft. The old O.B. of a Master Mason given in Ireland is very curious, and contained clauses requiring the brother to pledge himself not to confer the degree on an "atheist, libertine, bastard, or idiot," &c., or upon a "bailiff's process-server, livery servant, travelling tinker, or on any one of a low or mean occupation." We believe that an illegitimate, or *not freeborn*, candidate for Freemasonry would be eligible for initiation, if otherwise approved of and worthy, and could be legally accepted in England, Ireland, and Scotland.

(To be continued.)

"THE RECTANGULAR REVIEW."

MASONIC CHARITIES.

We have received the following letter from the Editor of the *Rectangular Review*, with a request for its insertion in our columns. We cannot pledge ourselves to the accuracy of any of the statements.

"Although not usual for a Review to reply to observations upon their articles, yet on the present occasion, the matter being Masonic, and the subject charity, the Editor feels disposed to relax the rule. First, he must remark, that it is hardly fair for Bro. Binckes to have brought Bros. Hervey, Farnfield, and Patten into the discussion, as they were in no way referred to. The principle (*sic orig.*) intention of the article was to attack the ACTIVE members of the Committee of Boys' and Girls' Schools, and to charge them with a misapplication of the funds. The money is subscribed for special purposes. What right had these gentlemen to vote £240 for a purpose not intended by the donors nor for the benefit of the children? and who originated the proposition for this grant?

"Bro. Binckes in his remarks states that the annual office expenses of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys amount to £910. Now, if we look at the printed

statement of accounts for the year ending 1869, we find that there was collected during that year £12,847 9s. 10d., and the total expenses of the establishment at Wood Green, and the office expenses as above, are put down at £4,671 19s. 8d., or per boy £44 1s. 6d. It would thus seem that there is actually expended upon the boys' not much more than one-third of the amount collected. The question may fairly be asked, What becomes of the remaining £8,175 10s. 2d? So far as appears in the statement of accounts referred to, the amount received from Stewards' fees, amounting probably to another £1,000, is entirely excluded. Now, without desiring to scrutinise the accounts in a niggardly way, there seems to be room for retrenchment here. And would it not have been better for Bro. Binckes, as he seems desirous to court an inquiry, to have faced the position boldly, instead of conveying an impression to the superficial reader, that the total expenses of the charity, apart from what the boys receive, amounts only to £910 per annum.

"The article in the *Rectangular Review* would not have been written but for the special misapplication of the funds referred to above, and it would be better for those who 'kissed the beauty' to pay for the pleasure out of their own pockets. Bro. Binckes is undoubtedly a most valuable Secretary to the charity, but he has evidently forgotten the true Masonic secret—*Silence*.

THE EDITOR, 'RECTANGULAR REVIEW.'

PROV. GRAND LODGE OF CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND.

On Wednesday, the 23rd ult., the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Cumberland and Westmorland was held in the city of Carlisle. Members of the Order from all parts of the two counties, as well as from distant parts, assembled, and made altogether a very large muster—200 or 300. On their arrival in town, the brethren assembled at the Freemasons' Hall, Castle-street; but subsequently proceeded to the County Hall, where at half-past eleven the Craft Lodge was opened in due Masonic form. At noon the Provincial Grand Lodge Officers were admitted, and the Grand Lodge was at once opened. The following among other Provincial Officers took part in the business; Bros. Lord Kenlis, R.W.P.G.M.; John Whitwell, M.P., R.W.D.P.G.M.; Dr. W. T. Greaves, P.D.P.G.M.; Joseph Nicholson, P.G.S.W.; Rev. Jas. Simpson, P.G. Sec.; John Lemon, P.G. Treas.; Edward Busher, P.G.S.B., England; John Barr, P.M. and P.G. Sword-Bearer; J. Iredale, P.D.P.G.M.; F. W. Hayward, P.P.G.S.W.; John Barnes, Tyler; G. G. Hayward, P.P.G. Sword-Bearer; James Sumner, P.G.P.; Joseph Sealby, P.G.J.D.; E. W. Braithwaite, P.P.G.S.D.; C. G. Thompson, P.G.R.; John R. Tickle, P.P.G.S.; Garnett Braithwaite, P.G.H. 859, P.S.G.W. Cambridgeshire; W. Dodd, P.G.S.B., W.M. 1074, H. 995; T. Gawith, P.M. 120, P.G.D.C.; John Bowes, P.P.G. Reg. and P.G.S., Lancashire; Wm. White, P.G.T.; T. W. Rowland, P.G.O.; James Pearson, P.G.C.; Rev. H. L. Puxley, P.G.C.; J. Spittal, P. Supt. of Works; Crowther Moreton, W.M. 1267, P.M. 1004 and 872; Robert Butterworth, P.G.O.; Thomas B. Arnison, P.P.G.S.B.; John Hutton, W.M., P.G.S.; John Matthews, P.P.G. Steward. The business connected with the province was transacted in a most harmonious and satisfactory manner. Candidates were selected for the schools and pensions awarded to aged and infirm brethren.

A procession was formed at half-past one o'clock for the purpose of attending divine service at the cathedral. The Carlisle Volunteer Artillery Band headed the long line of Freemasons, who moved away from Botchergate in inverted order, the junior lodge in the front and

the Provincial Grand Officers in the rear. The line of route was direct down English-street to the Castle-street entrance of the Abbey, where the brethren fell back on each side of the street, and the Grand Officers, headed by Lord Kenlis and Bro. J. Whitwell, *M.P.*, and the senior lodges passed down the centre, thus entering the cathedral in the front. The procession was very large, and as the members of the Brotherhood wore the clothing and insignia of their various offices, the sight was an imposing one.

The first portion of the service and the first lesson were read by the Dean, the second lesson by Archdeacon Boutflower; and the concluding portion was intoned by the Rev. H. Whitmore. Wesley's most beautiful anthem—"Blessed be God," was sung. The cathedral was crowded in every part. The sermon was preached by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese. His lordship selected for his text part of the 8th verse of the 13th chapter of St. Paul, First Epistle to the Corinthians, "Charity never faileth," and delivered a most eloquent and timely address, which we extremely regret our space precludes inserting.

The offertory was presented to the Bishop, who divided it between the Carlisle Infirmary and Dispensary.

On leaving the cathedral, the procession was re-formed (the Provincial Grand Officers taking first order), and, headed by the Artillery band, it proceeded to the County Hall, which the brethren entered, and the out-door proceedings were brought to a close.

On re-assembling in the County Hall, the election of Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge for 1870-71 was proceeded with, and were as follows:—

Bro. John Whitwell, <i>M.P.</i>	D.G.M.
" Rev. Jas. Simpson ...	S.W.
" J. Kenworthy...	J.W.
" Rev. W. Losh	} Chaplains.
" Rev. W. Williams	
" W. Gate ...	Reg.
" John Lemon ...	Treas.
" Edward Baker	Sec.
" Jos. Robinson	S.D.
" John Wilson ...	J.D.
" W. Johnson ...	Sup. of Wks.
" John Holme ...	Dir. of Cers.
" Henry Ranthmel	A.D. of Cer.
" W. Dodd ...	Swd-Bearer.
" J. Rowlands ...	Organist.
" W. Woodhouse	Pursuivant.

The banquet was held in the County Hall in the evening, at which the brethren appeared in their Masonic insignia. Lord Kenlis, the Prov. Grand Master, presided, supported by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Captain Braithwaite, Rev. W. Cockett, Bros. Busher, Gibson, and Iredale. The Rev. J. Simpson, P.G.S. Warden, filled the vice-chair, supported by Bros. Lemon, Moreton, Bowes, Robertson, and various leading members of the Fraternity. The dinner and wines were of the best description, and reflected much credit on the County Hotel and Wine Company and their manager, (Mr. Gosling). After dinner, the usual loyal toasts were proposed and drank.

"The health of the Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese" was drank enthusiastically.

The Vice-Chairman proposed "The health of the Right Worshipful Grand Master of England, Earl de Grey and Ripon," who lost no opportunity of advancing the interests of the Order to the best of his ability.

Bro. Whitwell proposed "The health of the Deputy Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers."

Bro. Busher, of Kendal, acknowledged the toast, and in doing so spoke to the manner in which Lord Carnarvon had discharged his duties.

Bro. Whitwell, in eulogistic terms, proposed "The health of the Chairman, Lord Kenlis," who responded, and proposed "The health of Bro. Whitwell." The latter gentleman, in replying, enlarged fully on the benefits of Freemasonry, giving various instances of its value in warfare as well as in the social relations of life. A near relative of his, acting as a member of the ambulance corps for the relief of the sick and wounded, had recently been despatched with several waggon loads of provisions to the assistance of

the distressed peasantry in the neighbourhood of Metz. He was intercepted by the Germans, placed under arrest, and, in spite of all attempts at explanation, seemed on the point of being compelled to renounce the object of his journey. As a last resource he saluted the Prussian officer in command as a brother. He was immediately re-called, and subjected to a searching examination, after which a consultation was held amongst the Prussian officers who were members of the Craft. The result was that our countryman was released from surveillance, and everything was done by the Prussian officers to promote the object of his expedition.

The remaining toasts, interspersed with glees and other music, were of a complimentary character. The company separated about eight o'clock, highly gratified with the successful nature of the gathering.

The general arrangements reflected great credit on the Union Lodge, Carlisle, under whose management they were conducted. Bro. Hayward, P. Prov. G.S.W., especially deserves mention, as he devoted himself entirely to secure comfort for others.

CONSECRATION OF A NEW R.A. CHAPTER AT SCARBOROUGH.

Monday, the 21st of November, being the day named by the Grand Superintendent (Most Excellent Comp. J. P. Bell, *M.D.*), for the consecration of the Denison Chapter, No. 1248, the companions assembled in the banqueting-room of the Grand Hotel, Scarborough, and having signed the book, waited till the chapter was opened by Excellent Comps. J. W. Woodall, as Z.; Stanhope, as H.; and Fisher, as J. The companions then entered the chapter, and the Provincial Grand Officers and Grand Superintendent also entered in procession, and were received with grand honours. The Grand Superintendent took his seat, and directed the Scribe E. (nominate) of 1248 to read the summons convening the meeting, together with the minutes of the preliminary meetings.

The following Psalm was then chanted:—"Behold how good and joyful a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity," &c.

A Past Principal (Comp. Woodall) then addressed the Grand Superintendent on behalf of the members of the Denison Chapter. The Grand Superintendent replied, and requested the petition and charter to be read. The Grand Superintendent having ascertained the names of the office-bearers-elect, and their willingness to accept office, inquired if the members were satisfied with the choice they had made, and on being answered in the affirmative, they were placed round the altar.

A prayer, with musical response, "So mote it be." The office-bearers were now obligated, after which the following ode was sung:—

When orient wisdom beamed serene,
And pillar'd strength arose;
When beauty tinged the glowing scene,
And faith her mansion chose,
Exalting bands the fabric view'd,
Mysterious powers ador'd;
And high the triple union stood,
That gave the mystic word.

The chapter was then constituted and consecrated with the usual formalities, at the conclusion of which the Grand Superintendent gave a very instructive and interesting address.

Psalm (chanted), "O sing unto God," &c.
The companions below the rank of Principals now retired, when Comps. W. B. Stewart, P.M. 200, was installed 3rd Principal, or J.; W. F. Rooke, P.M. and P.Z. 200, 2nd Principal, or H.; and S. H. Armitage, W.M. 1248, 1st Principal, or Z., of the Denison Chapter, No. 1248.

The companions then re-entered the chapter, and saluted the newly-installed Principals.

The following were then invested as officers: Comps. J. W. Woodall, P.Z., Treas.; J. Groves, Scribe E.; J. C. Browne, Scribe N.; and J. E. Green, P.S.

The investiture being concluded, the following ode was sung:—

The depths obscure the favour'd shrine,
A dreary course engage,
Till through the arch the ray divine
Illumes the sacred page.
From the wide wonders of its blaze,
Our ancient signs restored,
The Royal Arch alone displays
The long-lost mystic word.

The installed Principals and officers now assumed the government of the chapter, and, agreeably to notice, balloted for Comps. J. W. Woodall, P.Z., and the Rev. H. Blane, *M.A.*, 200, both of whom were unanimously elected. Six brethren were pro-

posed for exaltation, when the chapter was closed in ancient form and with solemn prayer.

The companions retired to the banquet, which was supplied in keeping with this magnificent hotel. The viands, &c., were of the very best quality, and ample justice was done to them, as might be expected. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and a most enjoyable evening was spent—such as few but Masons know how to spend—and the companions parted expressing themselves much pleased with all that had happened.

SOLOMON, the RAVEN, and the WORM.

We extract the following from the address of the Grand Master of Arkansas, U.S.A.:—

"Much of the more interesting features of Masonry are legendary, transmitted to us through successive generations of Craftsmen, from the earliest ages of the world—from ages when there was no printing, when book-making was rare, books were few, and men learned wisdom from the Great Book of Nature.

"Not long since, a venerable Hebrew brother told me a story, which I had never heard before; and which he said he learned, when a boy, in the fatherland, from his aged uncle, who was a Mason, and who assured him that he had in a very ancient parchment manuscript, which had never been printed. Pleased with the story, I said to him that I would tell it to the Grand Lodge some day, and let it be printed, as it was no secret. So I give it to you now for what it is worth. It is the story of 'Solomon, the Raven, and the Worm.'

"Solomon, the most wise, was sitting in a grove, near his rural palace, observing a raven feeding her young. Whilst she was off in search of food, telling a servant to bring him a glass bowl, he placed it over her nest, so as to cover the young birds. When she returned to the nest, the young ravens opened their mouths to receive the supplies which the mother was accustomed to bring them; and she, meeting with the transparent obstruction, fluttered about for some time in vain attempts to reach her imprisoned children. Vexed, she made repeated but ineffectual efforts to break the vessel with her beak. Despairing of success in this mode of attack, she lighted upon a limb, near by, and sat for some time, seeming to meditate. Then leaping into the air, and spreading her black wings, she moved off with rapid flight in the direction of an island in the Mediterranean sea. Our Grand Master, who had watched with interest all her movements, sat waiting for her return. Finally she came, bearing in her beak a large white worm; and placing it on the rim of the nest, near the edge of the bowl, it crawled over the vessel, and along its track the glass instantly cracked, as if cut by a diamond, parted and fell to the ground!

"The Masons were in the quarries preparing stone for the Temple. They used the drill and the wedge, but the process of parting the stones by these simple implements was tedious. The idea flashed upon the mind of Solomon that, by the instinct of the raven, Providence had placed in his hands a wonderful but more effective instrument. Taking the worm to the quarries, he placed it upon a great stone which the labourers had heaved out from the mountain; it crawled across it, and, to the amazement of the wise man, the stone opened along its path, and tumbled apart. Thousands of stones were thus separated into suitable rough ashlers, to be finished by the chisels and the mallets of the Craftsmen!

"Such is the substance of the story. It may be a mere fable. It may be that the insect excreted from its body some mysterious chemical substance that parted the glass and the stone. Or it may be that Providence, who confounds the wisdom of men by using simple means to effect great purposes, supplied to Solomon this wonderful little craftsman to aid in the great work of erecting a temple for His worship.

"Be this as it may, I have repeated this 'strange story' to illustrate the fact that Solomon, like Job, was a student of the Book of Nature, from every great page of which—whether he looked upon the sea, into the air, upon the earth, all teeming with life, or up into the heavens, sparkling with the lamps of night—he learned, as all Masons may, lessons of wisdom."

FAITH LODGE OF INSTRUCTION. — The above Lodge of Instruction is held every Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock, in the spacious and commodious rooms at Bro. Fisher's Restaurant, Metropolitan District Railway Station, Victoria, S.W. Ceremonies and lectures worked every Tuesday, except the fourth Tuesday in the month, when the ceremonies alone are rehearsed. The DOMATIC CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION is also held in the above rooms every Friday evening, at 8 o'clock, from October until April inclusive.

Reports of Masonic Meetings.

THE CRAFT.

METROPOLITAN.

Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2.—A meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, the 23rd ult. The W.M. (Bro. J. Percy Leith, P.G.S.) being abroad, the lodge was presided over by one of the P.M.'s, the ceremony of raising Bro. Erasmus Wilson being very impressively and well worked by all the officers. The visitors present were Bros. Marris Wilson (P.M. 63), A. G. Church (W.M. 33), Magnus Ohren (W.M. 452), G. A. Roxburgh, Thompson, and Smith. A vote of £10 10s. was made from the charity fund for the relief of foreigners in distress driven to this country by the present war. No further business presenting itself, the acting W.M. and brethren adjourned to refreshment.

Pythagorean Lodge, No. 79.—At the Ship Hotel, Greenwich, this old lodge held its usual meeting on Monday, the 28th ult. Bro. T. Perridge, W.M., presided, and there were present Bros. Burls, S.W.; C. Nash, J.W.; W. C. Penny, P.M., Treas.; J. H. H. Doughney, P.M., Sec.; J. R. Nash, S.D.; Roberts, J.D.; Munyard, I.G.; R. Boney, P.M.; and many others. One brother was raised and one gentleman initiated, the work, as usual, being well done, the W.M. and officers all being proficient in their parts. The lodge was then closed, when the usual good banquet was served, and the regular toasts were given. The brethren separated at a reasonable hour. Visitors: Bros. D. Rose (P.M. 73), E. Shalles (140), West (P.M. 548), &c.

Moir Lodge, No. 92.—This ancient lodge held its election meeting at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, on Tuesday, the 22nd ult. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. Thorne, P.M., presided as W.M. After the lodge was opened and the minutes confirmed, the election for W.M. took place, and proved unanimous in favour of Bro. Brett, S.W. Bro. Potter, P.M., was unanimously re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Speight, P.M., Tyler. The Audit Committee was formed, and the lodge was closed. Banquet followed.

Lodge of Temperance, No. 169.—The regular meeting of this old lodge was held at the White Swan Tavern, High-street, Deptford, on Thursday evening, the 17th ult. Bro. John Thomas Moss, W.M., presided, assisted by Bros. Alfred Pultey as S.W., and Marshall as J.W., and the officers. The lodge being opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed, a ballot then took place for the initiation of Messrs. Richard Debar, Charles Jonathan Sowton, and George Sowton, and which proving unanimous in their favour, the two latter gentlemen were initiated into Masonry, the ceremony being most ably performed. The W.M., Bro. John Thomas Moss, then informed the brethren that he would be happy to receive the name of any brother who was willing to represent the Temperance Lodge at the forthcoming Festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution, as owing to his already representing that excellent institution as Steward for the Lebanon Lodge, No. 1326, of which he was also W.M., he could not stand for the Temperance, and the subject of a Steward was postponed until the next meeting. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren then adjourned to banquet. Visitors: Bros. Alexander Rhodes (86), J. F. Grossmith (169), and Joseph Allsopp.

Lodge of Tranquility, No. 185.—On Monday, the 21st ult., at Radley's Hotel, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, the first meeting of the season of this old lodge was held. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M. (Bro. H. Beigel, professionally engaged in France at the war), the chair was taken by Bro. Harfield, P.M., who was supported by the following members, viz., Bros. Barnett, S.W.; Bloomfield, J.W.; Peartree, P.M., Treas.; P. Levi, P.M., Sec.; Abrahams, S.D.; Moss, J.D.; Shutzler, I.G.; Kuapp, Organist; Israel, Harris, and Sydney, P.M.'s; and many others. The visitors were Bros. H. Levy (P.M. 288), and F. Walters (W.M. 1309). The work done was initiating Mr. Joseph Minuto, passing Bros. Mathewes and Kroline, and raising Bro. Simons, all of which ceremonies were well rendered. An interesting letter was read from the W.M., which was ordered to be entered in the lodge minute-book. The lodge was closed, and banquet followed, served up in the well-known superior style of Bro. Hart, which always gives great satisfaction. The usual loyal toasts, &c., followed.

Industry Lodge, No. 186.—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday, the 22nd ult. Bros. J. Price, W.M.; T. E. Tallent, S.W.; W. Mann, P.M., Sec.; C. W. Noehmer, S.D.; J. Seex, J.D.; J. Wylie, I.G.; F. Henly, Steward; Mortlock, P.M.; Cleaver, Dyne, Davis, Beck, Emmott, Thiers, J. Death, Felton, Black, Hall, and other brethren were present. Bro. C. Eldridge, 733, was unanimously elected a joining member. Bro. W. H. Davis was raised, the work, as usual here, being well and ably done. The lodge was then closed, and a first-class banquet was served, after which the customary toasts were given. During the evening Bro. Mortlock sang, "Good-bye at the Door;" Bro. Wylie, "Letter from Home;" Bro. Kirk, "Black Banner;" Bro. Henly, "Home sweet Home;" Bro. Cyrus Kirk, "How to Ask and Have;" Bro. Skeen, "The Mill Stream;" Bro. Black, "The Properest thing to Do;" and other brethren also contributed to the pleasures of the evening. Visitors: Bros. F. Walters (W.M. 1309), Kirk (S.D. 144), C. Kirk (144), &c.

The Nelson Lodge, No. 700. held its monthly meeting in the Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich, on Wednesday, the 16th ult., under the direction of its esteemed W.M., Bro. W. D. May, assisted by his officers and Past Masters. The lodge was opened in ancient form, and

with solemn prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and unanimously confirmed. The cash account was also read and approved. The ballot was taken for Messrs. Burt and Dorey, candidates for initiation, which proved in each of their favour, and Mr. Dorey being in attendance, was, with Mr. Miller (already balloted for) introduced, and duly received into the mysteries of the Craft. Bros. Lane, Ward, Attwood and Ashforth, candidates for preferment, were duly passed to the degree of F.C., and Bros. Dibblin, Bulmer, and Morris were raised to the sublime degree of M. Masons. On the motion of Bro. Rowland, P.M., in reference to providing a hall for Masonic purposes, it was resolved that a committee of five be appointed to consider the matter, and report thereon at the next meeting of the lodge. One guinea was voted from the funds of the lodge to the George Tedder fund, and the same amount was granted to the widow of a late brother. Another brother was relieved with 10s. 6d. It was resolved, that a letter of condolence be sent to the widows of the late Bros. Rose and Hawkes, expressive of sympathy at their bereavement. A gentleman was then proposed as a candidate for initiation, and nothing further being offered for the good of Freemasonry, the lodge was closed. The brethren partook of refreshment in the hall, and having spent a very pleasant evening, parted in perfect harmony.

Royal Oak Lodge No. 871.—On Wednesday, the 23rd ult., at the White Swan Tavern, Deptford, this lodge held its last meeting of the year. Bro. F. Walters, P.M. and Sec., opened the lodge, and Bro. J. Truelove, W.M., then took the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Notice of motion was given, "That at the next meeting a five guinea P.M.'s jewel should be voted from the lodge funds, and presented on the installation night to Bro. J. Truelove, for his efficient services as W.M., during his year of office." The lodge was closed, and there being no banquet, the brethren separated directly the meeting was over.

The Rose of Denmark Lodge, No. 975.—The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the White Hart, Barnes, Surrey, on Friday, the 18th ult., under the presidency of Bro. G. T. Noyce, W.M., supported by Bros. C. A. Smith, S.W.; W. H. Barnard, J.W.; and a very large muster of members and visitors. The business of the evening comprised three raisings: Bros. Angel, Harris and Taylor, after which, Bro. Little, the senior Past Master, installed Bro. C. A. Smith as W.M. The officers were then invested as follows:—Bros. W. H. Barnard, S.W.; S. H. Stephens, J.W.; Rev. J. S. Darvell, Chaplain; G. T. Noyce, I.P.M., Treas.; R. Wentworth Little, P.M., Sec.; R. B. Huddleston, S.D.; C. Butcher, J.D.; W. Bell, I.G.; H. Kelley, D.C.; and T. Farrell, W.S. The W.M. then, in a very excellent manner, initiated five gentlemen into the Order, and the lodge was closed. At the banquet table Bro. G. T. Noyce, P.M., was presented with a ten-guinea P.M.'s jewel, in recognition of his zealous and efficient services as W.M.

Victoria Lodge, No. 1056.—At the regular meeting of this lodge on Wednesday, the 23rd ult. Bro. W. George White was raised to the third degree, the other candidate, Bro. Jno. Williams, being absent through illness. Bro. William Perrin was duly passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, and Mr. James Charles Henry, regularly initiated into the Order by Bro. George Roberts, W.M., assisted by his officers, Bros. U. Latreille, S.W.; Alfred Robbins, J.W.; W. Wrenn, P.M., Treas.; Pendlebury, P.M., Sec.; W. Ashby, S.D.; Henry Wainwright, J.D.; J. Slade Brown, I.G.; F. Y. Latreille and Geo. M. E. Snow, P.M.'s. About thirty brethren were present, including the undermentioned visitors, Bros. Perrin (P.M. 101), W. Brearey (715), T. E. Hardy (S.W. 538), C. Jardine (140), W. Morris (1228), and William Roach (49). The sum of five pounds was voted from the funds of the lodge for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and the Widows of Freemasons, which will complete £10 to each fund, thereby entitling the lodge to four votes during its existence.

Southern Star Lodge, No. 1158.—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday evening, Nov. 22, at the Montpelier Tavern, Walworth. Bro. D. S. Bayfield, W.M., presided; Bro. Charles E. Thompson, S.W.; Bro. E. Ellis acted as J.W. *pro tem* (in the absence of Bro. Towers); and there were also present: Bros. H. Thompson, P.M. and Treas.; T. H. Pulsford, P.M. and Sec.; R. E. Clarke, I.P.M.; J. Thomas, P.M.; Henry Potter, P.M.; a goodly muster of members, and several visitors. The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of an Emergency Lodge and the regular meeting were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Bro. Edwin Dodson, W.M. of the Royal Jubilee Lodge, No. 72, as a joining member of this lodge, which was unanimously in his favour. A ballot was then taken for Mr. Charles Shepherd and Mr. William John Bevan, candidates for initiation, which was also unanimous in their favour; and being in attendance, they were duly admitted to the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry. Bros. Lowder and Trotman were then examined as to their proficiency in the science, and, being entrusted, retired. The lodge was opened in the second degree, and they were successively advanced to the degree of F.C., both ceremonies being very ably performed by the W.M. The lodge was resumed to the first degree, when it was announced that one of the candidates that evening had met with a very serious accident, or he would have been with them that evening. Bro. H. Thompson proposed, and it was carried unanimously, that the by-law relating to the admission of candidates be suspended in this case until such time as the candidate should be so far recovered from his accident as to be able to attend. After some other business had been disposed of, the lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer, and the brethren adjourned to the large banqueting-hall for refreshment. The banquet was served up in Bro. Allatt's usual style, and gave general satisfaction. The W.M.

(Bro. Bayfield) being unable to remain, the chair was taken by Bro. R. E. Clarke, the Immediate Past Master, and in succession he gave the formal loyal and Masonic toasts, after which he gave "The health of their Newly-Initiated Brethren," congratulating them upon their admission to the Order, and expressed his belief that they would both become good and worthy members.—The toast was very cordially responded to, and Bros. Shepherd and Bevan, in very happy and appropriate terms, returned thanks for the honour conferred upon them, promising to do everything in their power to promote the interests of Freemasonry.—"The health of the Visitors" was next given, for which Bro. T. Quelch, P.M., of the Beadon Lodge, and other visiting brethren, returned thanks.—The W.M. (*pro tem*) then gave "The health of the W.M.," whom they all regretted was unable to remain to the banquet, but remarked that they all had an opportunity of observing how ably he had discharged his duties in the lodge, and was therefore entitled to all the honours so justly due to him.—The toast was well received, as was the next one, which was "The health of the P.M.'s of the Lodge."—Bro. H. Thompson returned thanks for the P.M.'s, expressing the great pleasure it was to them to receive these renewed marks of favour from the brethren; but as he had so often to respond to this toast, he regretted he could not in adequate terms acknowledge the kindness they had always received, but assured the brethren that there was nothing the Past Masters would not do to promote the interests and prosperity of the lodge. He took this occasion of inviting the younger members of the lodge to attend the Domestic Lodge of Instruction, held close by, where they would have explained to them all they had passed through, and by attending they would also fit themselves for any office they might be called upon to perform, and so render themselves worthy officers of the lodge.—The W.M. next gave "The Officers of the Lodge," and remarked how much of its success depended upon the way in which the officers did their duty.—Bro. C. E. Thompson, S.W., returned thanks for the officers, and said it was pleasing to them to receive that recognition of their services from the W.M., which would stimulate them to do their duty to the lodge, trusting as they advanced towards the chair to receive the confidence of the brethren.—The Tyler's toast was given, and a very harmonious evening brought to a close. Bro. Dodson, Bro. Walter, and several other brethren contributed some choice songs in the course of the evening.

Sphinx Lodge, No. 1329.—The first meeting of this lodge since its consecration was held at the Stirling Castle, Camberwell, on Saturday, the 19th ult. Present: Bros. E. Clark, P.G. Supt. of Works Middlesex, W.M.; Major H. W. Palmer, S.W.; E. J. Bailey, J.W.; J. C. Reynolds, Treas.; Henry Allman, Sec.; Dr. Bedolf, S.D.; S. Saunders, J.D.; Jas. Vockins, I.G.; J. Sugden, S.; Jno. Thomas, P.M.; Percival A. Nairne, P.M. Visitors: Bros. Kelham, P.M.; Williams, P.M.; W. J. N. Quilty, P.M.; and Hastic. The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed. The ballot was then taken for Messrs. J. S. Abbott Dunbar, Alfred Campbell, Geo. S. Mansell, W. Harwell Blanch, and Alfred Hancock for initiation, which proved unanimous in each of their favour, and all being in attendance were duly admitted into Freemasonry, the ceremony being performed by the W.M. in his usually careful and impressive manner. He afterwards announced his intention of representing the lodge at the next Girls' Festival. The by-laws for the lodge having been read and confirmed, and Mr. George Champion proposed for initiation at the next meeting, all the Masonic business was ended, and the lodge was closed in due form. The brethren adjourned to substantial refreshment, and a very happy and comfortable evening was passed.

PROVINCIAL.

Luton.—Lodge of St. John the Baptist, No. 475.—This lodge held its usual monthly meeting in the Town Hall, on Friday, the 11th ult., under the presidency of Bro. F. C. Scargill, W.M., supported by the following officers: Bros. J. W. Cawdell, S.W.; E. F. Green, J.W.; T. W. Haselgrove, S.D.; W. Alford, J.D.; W. Wadsworth, I.G.; and other brethren. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Inwards was then invested with the collar and jewel of office as Organist. Bro. Wright was duly raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. by the W.M. in his usual impressive manner. Mr. Geo. Chambers and Mr. John Kingston were proposed as candidates for initiation, and the lodge was then closed in due form.

BLACKPOOL.—Clifton Lodge, No. 703.—The annual festival of this lodge was held at the Clifton Arms Hotel on Tuesday, the 22nd ult., under the presidency of Bro. R. Landless, P.M., as W.M., supported by the following officers, viz., Bros. J. Crossley, E. Banks, and T. Cookson, P.M.'s; H. Johns, S.W.; R. Rushton, J.W.; E. Brook, S.D.; G. W. Sharples, J.D.; P. Parker, I.G.; and about twenty other brethren. The lodge being opened in the second degree, the W.M.-elect, Bro. R. Whalley, was duly presented by Bro. E. Banks, P.M. The Installing Master, Bro. R. Landless, P.M., then obligated the W.M.-elect, and in a Board of Installing Masters, placed him in the chair of K.S. according to ancient custom. On the return of the brethren, he was proclaimed and saluted. Bro. Landless gave the usual charges to the W.M., Wardens, officers, and brethren. The following brethren were appointed and invested: Bros. T. C. Preston, S.W.; T. Mycock, J.W.; Landless, Treasurer; R. W. Braithwaite, Sec.; J. B. Fisher, S.D.; G. W. Sharples, J.D.; W. Bailey, I.G. The lodge being closed in the second degree, the brethren were called to refreshment, the banquet being under the presidency of Bro. R. Whalley, W.M. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been given and suitably responded to, the customary Masonic toasts and sentiments

were given and most cordially received. After spending a very pleasant evening, the brethren separated at an early hour.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—*Howe and Charnwood Lodge, No. 1007.*—The annual festival of this lodge was celebrated at the Bull's Head Hotel, on Tuesday, the 22nd ult., after a very successful year's operations under the Mastership of Bro. John Wilson, P.G.S.D., who was, unfortunately absent from this meeting through illness. The lodge was duly opened, and the ceremony of installation performed by R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. Kelly, one of the founders, and an honorary member of the lodge. There were also present the following brethren: Bros. W. Grimes Palmer, P.M. and P.G.S.W.; H. Deane, P.P.G. Reg., as S.W.; C. H. Capp, J.W., and W.M.-elect; W. White Goode, Sec.; Burrows, S.D.; Pratt, J.D.; Dougherty, I.G.; Capt. Dobell, P.P.G. Sword-Bearer; Gosling, P.P.G.P.; Bosworth, P.P.G.J.D.; Scott, Bryan, Mounstephen, W. Grimes Palmer, jun., F.R.C.S., A. Mullett, F. Amatt, Schofield, Greenwood, Walker, and others. The visitors were, Bros. Rev. S. Pyemont, D.D., P.M. 779, and P.P.G.S.W.; Leonard A. Clark, P.M. 279, and P.P.G.S.W.; and T. Thorpe 279, and P.P.G.D.C. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, and the minutes read and confirmed, the W.M.-elect, Bro. Charles Hacker Capp, was presented to the Prov. G.M. in a lodge F.C.'s, to receive at his hands the benefit of installation, which was accordingly performed according to ancient custom, and the W.M. was proclaimed and saluted in the three degrees. The W.M. then appointed and invested his officers, viz.: Bros. Deane, S.W.; Goode, J.W.; Palmer, jun., Sec.; Scott, S.D.; Schofield, J.D.; Greenwood, I.G. Bro. E. C. Middleton was re-elected Treasurer. The W.M. proposed, and the P.G.M. seconded, a vote of thanks to the I.P.M., Bro. John Wilson, for his valuable services during the past year, coupled with an expression of regret at his absence through illness, which was carried unanimously. The W.M. addressed the lodge, thanking the brethren for the honour they had conferred upon him by electing him as W.M., and the P.G.M. for doing him the honour of attending to instal him. There being no further business the lodge was closed, and the brethren sat down to an elegant banquet, under the presidency of the W.M., after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, the healths especially of the Prov. G.M. and the W.M. being most warmly greeted, accompanied with musical honours. The lodge after being almost in abeyance for two or three years, we are glad to state is once more in a flourishing and efficient condition, a considerable addition having been made to its members during the past year.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

Mount Lebanon Chapter, No. 73.—This chapter met at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, on Thursday, the 24th ult. Comps. J. W. Avery, M.E.Z.; T. J. Sabins, H.; F. Walters, P.Z., as J.; R. Watts, P.Z.; A. D. Loewenstark, P.Z., Treas.; M. A. Loewenstark, S.E.; J. F. Timms, E. Harris, A.S.; and others were present. Minutes were read and confirmed. Apologies were received from absent candidates and officers. For the sake of practice, the H. Chair was given. The chapter was then closed. There was no banquet on this occasion, and the companions separated soon after the meeting was over.

PROVINCIAL.

SHEFFIELD.—*Chapter of Paradise, No. 139.*—This old chapter held its monthly convocation in the Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, on Monday, the 21st ult. In the unavoidable absence of Comp. Short, M.E.Z. (owing to indisposition), Comp. Hay, P.Z., presided as M.E.Z. The officers and companions present were Comps. Garnett, H.; Roddewig, J.; Collinson, E.; Longden, P.Z., as N.; Brittain, P.S.; Bennett, as S.; Jervis, as S.; Drury, P.Z.; Matthews, Wostinholm, Fletcher, Hornby, and Wilkinson. The minutes of the last convocation having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for Bro. Adolph Pfeilschmidt, S.W., and W.M.-elect, of the Wentworth Lodge, No. 1239, which proving unanimous in his favour, he was duly exalted to this supreme degree. Of the admirable manner in which the ceremony was rendered by Comp. Hay, P.Z., it is impossible to speak too highly, and this, coupled with his commanding presence and patriarchal appearance, made such an impression on the candidates as will not readily be effaced. This being election night, it resulted in the following appointments, viz., Comps. Garnett, M.E.Z.; Roddewig, H.; Brittain, J.; Collinson, E.; Rooth, N.; Matthews, P.S.; and Wilkinson, J. Comp. Matthews stated his intention of appointing his assistants next meeting. The chapter being duly closed, the companions adjourned to the dining-room for refreshment, presided over by Comp. Hay.

WARRINGTON.—*Chapter of Elias Ashmole, No. 148.*—A convocation of this chapter was held on Friday evening, Nov. 25th. Present: Comp. Robert Stevenson, M.E.Z., who was supported by Comps. D. W. Finney, H.; John Bowes, P.Z., Prov. G.S.B., J.; W. Richardson, Principal Soj.; William Mossop, Scribe, E.; W. S. Hawkins, as Scribe N.; William Sharp, Rev. J. Nixon Porter, W. Crompton, John Harding, W. Pollitt, H. Balshaw, J. G. Hughes; James Hannah, Janitor, &c., &c. The chapter was duly opened by the Principals, when the rest of the companions were admitted. The minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed, after which the ballot was taken for Bro. Robert Jackson, W.M. of the Lodge of St. John, No. 104, Stockport, which proved unanimously in his favour. Bro. Edwin Robert, who was elected at a previous convocation, being also present, the two brethren were exalted by the M.E.Z., who also gave the historic lecture. The sym-

bolic lecture was given by Comp. D. W. Finney, H., and the mystic lecture by Comp. John Bowes, P.Z., &c. There being no further business, the chapter was duly closed according to ancient form.

LANCASTER.—*Rowley Chapter, No. 1051.*—The regular meeting of this chapter was held at the Masonic Rooms, Athenæum, Lancaster, on Monday, the 21st inst. There were present: E. Comps. W. H. Bagnall, M.E.Z.; Thomas Mason, H.; W. Hall, J.; Comps. Mercer, E.; Whimpray, N.; James M. Moore, as P.S.; Edmund Simpson, Asst. Soj.; W. Barker, Treas.; Edward Airey, Richard Taylor, John Watson, Janitor. Visitor: Comp. Mills. The chapter was opened in due form, minutes read and confirmed, and other business transacted. Bro. W. J. Sly, of the Rowley Lodge, No. 1051, who had previously been elected, was exalted to the degree of the Royal Arch by Comp. Moore, P.Z., the mystical, symbolical, and historical lectures being delivered by the Principals. In the absence of Comp. Fenton, the duties of P.S. was ably discharged by Comp. J. M. Moore, Asst. Soj. A candidate for exaltation was proposed, and there being no other business before the chapter, it was closed in due form.

MARK MASONRY.

St. Mark's Mark Lodge, No. 1.—A meeting of the members of this lodge was held on Monday evening at Bro. Gosden's, Masons' Hall Tavern, Basinghall-street. Bro. J. G. Marsh, W.M., presided, supported by a large number of brethren of the lodge and a great many visitors. Bros. Colonel Burdett, John Hervey, F. Binckes, James Stevens, Lord Eliot, Joshua Nunn, S. Rosenthal, T. L. Fox, C. J. B. Plestow, and James Weaver were among the brethren present, and rendered considerable assistance in effectually performing the ceremonies. Six brethren, viz., Bros. Coutts, Clark, Payne, Dawson, Weaver, and Darke took the Mark degree, and a great many more the Ark and Most Excellent Master grades, which are now given at this lodge. The Lodge of Most Excellent Masters was then formally placed under the jurisdiction of the Grand Mark Lodge of England, and the brethren afterwards sat down to a well-supplied supper, and did not separate till late. The customary compliments were paid to the visitors and the officers, both grand and lodge, and Bro. Binckes replied to the toast of the former in an exhaustive speech, which was cordially received. The business in the lodge was extremely heavy, and occupied the Master and officers an hour beyond the time expected.

SCARBOROUGH.—*Star in the East Lodge, No. 95, E.C.*—This lodge held its annual installation meeting at the Masonic Hall, Globe-street, on Wednesday, the 23rd ult., when the following were present: Bros. H. A. Williamson, W.M.; J. W. Woodall, P.M., P.G.M.O.; W. F. Rooke, P.M., G.S.D., the Worshipful Mayor of Scarbro'; Stanhope, P.M., P.P.G. Chaplain, Oxon; W. Peacock, S.W.; G. H. Walshaw, J.W.; J. F. Spurr, M.O.; W. Pattison, S.O.; R. H. Peacock, J.O.; J. A. Chapman, Treas.; H. C. Martin, Sec.; J. Inskip, J.D.; J. Verity, Tyler; and a number of others. The lodge was opened at 4.45, the minutes were read and confirmed. Bro. H. Grover was elected unanimously, a candidate for advancement. Bro. R. H. Peacock was installed as W.M. of the lodge, by Bro. Williamson, P.M., assisted by the P.M.'s herein named, when he appointed and invested the following as his officers: Bros. Williamson, I.P.M.; W. Peacock, S.W.; J. W. Taylor, M.D., J.W.; Rev. H. Blane, M.A., Chaplain; W. Pattison, M.O.; J. Hardgrave, S.O.; G. H. Walshaw, J.O.; J. A. Chapman, Treas.; H. C. Martin, Sec.; J. F. Spurr, Reg. of Marks; J. Groves, S.D.; J. S. Cook, J.D.; R. Land, I.G.; J. E. Green, Org.; J. Verity, Tyler. Bro. R. H. Peacock, W.M., returned thanks to the brethren for their kindness in having placed him in the high position he now occupied, in his usual kind-hearted eloquent language, to which Bro. Woodall, P.M., &c., answered, and in doing so, he spoke in the highest terms of Bro. Peacock as a Mason. One brother was proposed for advancement. The visitors expressed their hearty good wishes for the welfare of the lodge, when it was closed with solemn prayer, and the brethren retired to the annual banquet, which was supplied by Bro. Chapman in his usual bountiful and very superior style. Full justice having been done to the rare and good things thus provided, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were drank, and received with due honours, and the brethren parted in love and harmony.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS

For the Week ending December 10, 1870.

MONDAY, DEC. 5.

Lodge 12, Fortitude & Old Cumberland, Ship & Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-st.
 „ 25, Robert Burns, Freemasons' Hall.
 „ 69, Unity, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
 „ 72, Royal Jubilee, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
 „ 90, St. John's, Radley's Hotel, Blackfriars.
 „ 144, St. Luke's, Pier Hotel, Chelsea.
 „ 188, Joppa, Albion, Tav., Aldersgate-street.
 „ 256, Unions, Freemasons' Hall.
 Red Cross Premier Conclave, Freemasons' Tavern.
 Sincerity Lodge of Instruction (174), Railway Tavern, Fenchurch-street Station, at 7.
 Wellington Lodge of Instruction, White Swan Tavern, Deptford, at 8.
 Camden Lodge of Instruction (704), Adelaide Tavern, Haverstock-hill, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.
 Eastern Star Lodge of Instruction (95), Royal Hotel, Mile, end-road, at 7.30; Bro. E. Gottlieb, Preceptor.
 British Oak Lodge of Instruction, Bank of Friendship Tavern, Mile End, at 7 for 8.
 St. James' Union Lodge of Instruction (180), Swan Tavern, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, at 8.

TUESDAY, DEC. 6.

Colonial Board, Freemasons' Hall, at 3.
 Lodge 7, Royal York, Freemasons' Hall.
 „ 9, Albion, Freemasons' Hall.
 „ 18, Old Dundee, London Tav., Bishopsgate-st.
 „ 101, Temple, Ship & Turtle Tav., Leadenhall-st.
 „ 172, Old Concord, Freemasons' Hall.
 „ 217, Stability, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
 „ 765, St. James's, New Weston-street, Bermondsey.
 „ 1259, Duke of Edinburgh, New Globe Tavern, Bow-road.
 „ 1261, Golden Rule, Great Western Htl., Bayswater.
 Chap. 145, Prudent Brethren, Freemasons' Hall.
 „ 169, Temperance, White Swan, Deptford.
 Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, Portugal Hotel, Fleet-street, at 7; Comp. Brett, Preceptor.
 Domestic Lodge of Instruction, Palmerston Tav., Grosvenor-park, Camberwell, at 7.30.
 Royal Union Lodge of Instruction (382), Hotel de Cologne, 60 and 61, Haymarket, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.
 Faith Lodge of Instruction, Metropolitan Railway, Victoria Station, at 8; Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, Preceptor.
 Yarborough Lodge of Instruction, Green Dragon, Stepney, at 8; Bro. Isaac Saqui, Preceptor.
 Prince Fredk. William Lodge of Instruction (753) Knights of St. John's Tavern, St. John's-wood; Bro. F. G. Baker, Preceptor.
 Sydney Lodge of Instruction (829), Cambridge Hotel, Upper Norwood, at 7.30.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7.

Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, at 6 for 7.
 Lodge 511, Zetland, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
 Pythagorean Lodge of Instruction (79), Prince of Orange, Greenwich, at 8; J. Robt. Nash, Preceptor.
 United Strength Lodge of Instruction (228), Bull & Gate, Kentish Town-road, at 8; Bro. J. N. Frost, Preceptor.
 Israel Lodge of Instruction, Rising Sun Tavern, Globe-road, at 7.30; Bro. Isaac Saqui, Preceptor.
 New Concord Lodge of Instruction, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton, at 8.
 Confidence Lodge of Instruction, Railway Tav., London-street, City, at 7.
 Peckham Lodge of Instruction, Maismore Arms, Park-road, Peckham; Bro. David Rose, Preceptor.
 Temperance in the East Lodge of Instruction, George the Fourth, Catherine-street, Poplar.
 Stanhope Lodge of Instruction, Thicket Hotel, Anerley, at 7.30 p.m.; Bro. H. W. Lindus, Preceptor.
 Royal Union Lodge of Instruction, Horse and Groom Tavern, Winsley-street, Oxford-street, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.

THURSDAY, DEC. 8.

Lodge 10, Westminster & Keystone, Freemasons' Hall.
 „ 19, Royal Athelstan, Terminus Hotel, Cannon-st.
 „ 263, Bank of England, Radley's Htl., Blackfriars.
 „ 534, Polish National, Freemasons' Hall.
 „ 880, Dalhousie, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
 „ 1076, Capper, Marine Hotel, Victoria Docks, West Ham.
 Chap. 72, Royal Jubilee, Horns Tavern, Kennington.
 The R.A. Chapter of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 7; Comp. Brett, Preceptor.
 Fidelity Lodge of Instruction (3), Goat and Compasses, Euston-road, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.
 Finsbury Lodge of Instruction, Jolly Anglers' Tavern, Bath-street, City-road; Bro. Stean, Preceptor.
 United Mariners' Lodge of Instruction, Three Cranes, Mile-end-road, at 8; Bro. T. J. Barnes, Preceptor.
 St. George's Lodge of Instruction (140), Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich, at 8.
 Burdett Coutts Lodge of Instruction (1278), Approach Tavern, Approach-road, Victoria-park, at 7.30; Bro. John Saunders, Preceptor.

FRIDAY, DEC. 9.

Lodge 134, Caledonian, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street.
 „ 157, Bedford, Freemasons' Hall.
 „ 177, Domestic, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
 Robert Burns Lodge of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, at 7.30; Bro. W. Watson, Preceptor.
 Stability Lodge of Instruction, Guildhall Tavern, 33, Gresham-st., at 6; Bro. Henry Muggidge, Preceptor.
 St. Luke's Lodge of Instruction (144), Pier Htl., Chelsea Unions Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.'s, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
 Domestic Chapter of Instruction, Metropolitan Railway, Victoria Station, at 8; Comp. Cottebrune, Preceptor.
 Pythagorean Chapter of Instruction (No. 79), Prince of Orange, Greenwich-road, at 8; Comp. W. West Smith, Preceptor.
 Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, Portugal Htl., Fleet street, at 7; Bro. Brett, Preceptor.
 United Pilgrims' Lodge of Instruction, Duke of Edinburgh, Shepherd's-lane, Brixton.
 Belgrave Lodge of Instruction, Duke of Wellington Htl., Spring-gardens, Charing-cross; Br. Pulsford, Preceptor.
 Doric Lodge of Instruction, Three Cranes Tavern, Mile end-road, at 8; Bro. Isaac Saqui, Preceptor.
 Duke of Edinburgh Lodge of Instruction, Silver Lion, Penny-fields, Poplar, at 7; Br. D. S. Potts, Preceptor.
 Temperance Lodge of Instruction, Victoria Tav., Victoria-road, Deptford, at 8.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10.

Lodge 108, London, Freemasons' Hall.
 „ 173, Phoenix, Freemasons' Hall.
 Mark Lodge (104), Macdonald, Head Quarters 1st Surrey Rifles, Brunswick-road, Camberwell.
 Star Lodge of Instruction (1275), Marquis of Granby, New Cross-road, at 7.
 Mount Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, at 8; Comp. Brett, Preceptor.

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MARRIAGES.

BAGSHAW—CLARK.—On the 24th ult., at St. Peter's, Kensington, by the Rev. W. S. Bagshaw, rector of Thrapston, Northamptonshire, uncle of the bridegroom, assisted by Rev. Francis Holland, *M.A.*, incumbent of Quebec Chapel, Bro. Robert John Bagshaw, Prov. G. Master for Essex, to Emma Ann, second daughter of the late Matthew Clark, Esq., of 26, Pembroke-square. [No cards.]

VANDYKE—HARRIS.—November 23rd, at Meyerbeer Hall, Liverpool, by the Rev. J. Prag, Bro. A. Vandyke, of the Merchants' Lodge, No. 241, to Sarah Frances, eldest daughter of Julius Harris, Esq.

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.

JUSTITIA.—In lodges under the English Constitution a blind man may be made a Mason, his misfortune in that respect being no bar to his admission into the Order.

G.J.W.—The Master having opened his lodge in the three degrees may resume, reopen, or close it in any degree, provided he closes it afterwards in the first degree.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1870.

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

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All communications, letters, &c., to be addressed to the EDITOR, 2, 3, and 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.

EDUCATION.

AT the present time when our legislature and the public generally are full of the pregnant theme of education, it may be well to remember, that Freemasonry plays a not unimportant part among the many teachers of mankind; and that it advances claims as a moral institution which ought to be more widely acknowledged and understood. Light, or "more light" as the dying poet said, is the burden of our cry; irradiate the dark corners of men's hearts, and flood their souls with luminous rays of wisdom. It is the mission of every true Mason to assist in dispelling the clouds of ignorance and folly; it is his duty to aid the development of reason, and to stimulate the growth of learning. But it is also his highest and noblest privilege to promote the happiness of others, to

awaken men's faculties to a just perception of their mutual dependence upon their fellow-creatures, and to strenuously impress upon them ever to remember that the law of Freemasonry is kindness, and its religion, love. Now it is manifest even to the most superficial observer, that with the spread of education amongst the masses, the influence of a fraternity like ours must be incalculably increased and extended.

In all countries where instruction is general, we find that the adherents of Freemasonry may be reckoned by thousands, as for instance in the United States of America, where nearly every considerable village boasts a lodge. The day has now fortunately arrived, when every child in England can claim to be instructed, and apart from all religious considerations we hail the event as one which will contribute to the stability of our institutions, and the prosperity of the people. The foolish objection has been made by some, that if all are to be educated we shall engender discontent amongst the proletarian many when they find it impossible to reach the social altitude of the patrician few.

This we contend is a baseless theory, inasmuch as the whole scope of learning and the wisdom derived from the experience of great writers tend to elevate the mind without unduly elating it, and to tranquillise those passions which in a state of ignorance brutalise and degrade their unhappy victims. Again, all are not gifted with like talents, and we may be well assured that the boon of education will not produce very startling results in the great majority of our fellow-subjects, but it will at least tend to make them more self-reliant, more disposed to work for the common good, and, in a word, to discharge their duties as good citizens in an intelligent and satisfactory manner. We do not imagine that every child will become as wise as Solon, or as philosophic as Newton, but we believe that he will grow up with a better sense and a keener appreciation of his responsibilities as a sentient being, accountable to a Higher Power for his thoughts and actions. From men trained in this way we select our candidates for Freemasonry, because none but rational minds can realise the moral strength of our association or the hidden beauty of its symbolism.

An uneducated man can have little sympathy with ceremonies which must be carefully studied before they can be understood and properly valued. It is like leading a blind man into a garden of delightful blooms, and fancying he can admire the varied hues of the flowers around him. But to a mind which has received the impress of knowledge, and upon which the seal of intelligence is set, Freemasonry is a sphere of enchantment with endless vistas opening upon the horizon of thought. In theory and tradition our Order is linked with many half-forgotten mysteries of the past; its legends are shrouded in the gray mists of antiquity; its ceremonies are reminiscences of primeval rites. The alle-

gorical teachings of prophets and priests, the solemn acts of primitive worship, the dramatic representations of momentous events in the world's history, are all preserved and commemorated in the arcana of the Craft. Freemasonry is, however, not only all this, but more: it inculcates plain duties which we are but too prone to overlook and ignore; it enjoins the practice of virtues, the universal observance of which would make mankind one happy family, and if it appeals with force to the intellect, it directs with even greater power the feelings of the heart. To be just and merciful, faithful, true, and charitable, these are the lessons taught in Freemasonry; and who can gainsay the assertion that they touch the highest and best sympathies of our nature, and evoke deeds that are registered on high. We want to bring within the pale of the Craft men who are qualified by mental culture to be its ministers and interpreters; and we therefore rejoice to find that the State has undertaken, what we conceive to be its imperative duty, to provide scholastic training for the youth of the realm. An acute thinker has left on record his opinion that "it behoves the government of every well-regulated society to provide, as far as may be in its power, for each class of its subjects, as much education, and of the best kind, as the latter are capable of receiving with advantage to themselves and security to the public interests." As Masons, therefore, let us aid the good work, and, above all, let our own educational establishments be models for all others to imitate. We believe that they are extremely well conducted, and that every attention is paid to the intellectual advancement of the pupils. In fact, the local examinations at Oxford and Cambridge have amply proved that the curriculum of study at our Boys' School produces admirable results; and we are equally satisfied that sound and serviceable instruction is imparted to the female children at the Girls' Institution. The whole subject of education, we repeat, is one of the most important that can engage our attention; and, moreover, our interest in its solution is just now intensified from a national point of view. There are, beyond doubt, difficulties and obstacles to be overcome before the desired consummation can be attained; but we nevertheless look forward hopefully to the time when the ignorant and the depraved shall cease out of the land—when the money now spent in deterrent measures for the idle and vicious shall flow into nobler channels—when our prisons shall be turned into workshops, and our dark places made bright with knowledge. We hail the advent of a happier era for the human race, when such wars as the one which now desolates France, and in a minor degree Germany likewise, shall have become impossibilities, because man will have learned the utter folly and madness of invoking the sanguinary arbitrament of the sword to settle international disputes. In the progress of education and the development of refinement every Freemason is

personally interested; and as our principles become better known to the world, the Order will be enabled to wield an influence for good greater even, because more universal, than it exercises at the present moment. We have, therefore, every reason to applaud any movement for the practical education of the people.

Multum in Parbo, or Masonic Notes and Queries.

Is the Pope a Freemason? If so, when and where was he initiated; and of what lodge?

SUBSCRIBER.

We find the following in the new Masonic journal of Madrid, the "Libertad del Pensamiento":—

"Few persons know, and that is the reason we take this occasion to relate the fact, that the present Roman Pontiff, Pope Pius IX., owes his elevation to the Chair of St. Peter to the influence of Masons, whose principles he solemnly swore to sustain. Pius IX. was initiated into 'The Sons of Hiram' (*Los Hijos des Hiram*) under the symbolic name of *Savola*. He became a Knight of the Red Cross 18°. There are existing lodges at Madrid which he visited during his residence in Spain, and many brethren who remember these facts. Bro. Soussingéas has shown us a fine portrait of the Pope in full Masonic regalia, with the following inscription underneath in Latin: 'Et excommunicate fratres meos, mea culpa.' If my brethren are excommunicated, it is my fault."

It is stated that a new society has been started under the name of "The Good Templars," with the purpose of enlisting Freemasons in the cause of temperance. What would De Quincy have said to this? No Freemason himself, he yet claimed to know all about the parentage and growth of the Craft whose origin he would place no further back than 1629. We have upon his authority that the first password given to the initiated candidate is "Fork Out," which he has to do, the second word being "Brandy," which they all proceed to discuss. How, then, can temperance connect itself with Freemasonry? Certainly the two things have not hitherto been connected in the popular idea, which has always supposed the "labour" of the brethren to be by no means co-extensive with the "refreshment." Indeed, the preservation of Masonic secrets has been partly attributed to the genial character of the Masonic supper.—*Observer*.

THE APRON—THE BADGE OF OUR ORDER.

I beg sincerely to thank the various brethren who have favoured us with their remarks on this subject, but as yet I am unable to withdraw my remark made at page 545 as to the time when the white apron, as P. H. Newnham puts it, was worn as "the distinguishing badge of our Order":—

1. The "quotation" given by Bros. Newnham and "Lupus" as being contained in the *Quarterly Review*, vol. xxiv., page 146, has not, as yet at least, been verified, as per Bro. Hughan's remarks at page 593, and also remarks corroborative of Bro. Hughan which I have received privately.

2. Even although the quotation does exist somewhere in the *Quarterly Review*, it does not therefore follow that the word "white" may not be an interpolation, just as the word "Grand" was so often interpolated in other cases. I had this in view, at page 578, when I said "I should like if the exact words of the entry as it *originally stands* could be given."

3. As to *gloves* being given to Operative Masons, I think it quite possible they may have been at times given even to work with. Although not an Operative Mason myself, I know by experience that a glove on the hand that holds the chisel on a cold frosty day in winter is sometimes very acceptable.

4. A *tiled* lodge may mean a lodge covered with tiles, so that a lodge "properly tiled" some centuries ago might mean a lodge or building,

the roof of which was so covered with tiles as *effectually* to keep out both rain and wind.

5. As to chapters and congregations held by Masons, these, some centuries ago, were mere meetings of the operative masons for the purpose of discussing wages, work, &c., just as any of our present operative masons' societies may do; which, although called "lodges," &c., have no connection with our Freemasonry, which may be seen by reading the postscript to the 1723 Constitutions, which speaks of the "statutes of labourers," and also of "chapters and congregations."

6. The remarks by Chas. G. Forsyth about the "Essenian Masons" are apart from the present question; let us get fairly past last century, if possible, before going to them. And as to the pretended connection which the "Encyclopedia Metropolitana" sets up between the old Masons and the Knights Templar, that is purely imaginary, and is based upon the fact that Templars had to become "gilde brothers" for the purpose of buying and selling merchandise.

Lastly, I gladly see our Rev. Bro. Newnham saying, "Too much obscurity has been introduced into the already too obscure history of our Craft by the constant re-copying of unverified assertions." Such being the case, it becomes the duty of all who wish to see a true history of our Order to examine *thoroughly* whatever does not satisfy them. Before last century I constantly see the Masons mixed up with, and also simply on a par with the other trades—the wrights and masons being often classed together in one incorporation, hence, instead of my *abandoning* my "often-repeated comparisons of the Masons with other crafts," as Bro. "Lupus" suggests at page 593, I challenge Bro. "Lupus" to produce "Acts of Parliament," passed *before last century*, which did not also apply to other crafts connected with building, or which may not have applied to the wrights, &c., as well as to the Masons? W. P. B.

I have found my original authority for the extract in reference to the "white aprons and gloves." It is Mackey's "Lexicon of Freemasonry," 3rd edition, 1867 (revised by Donald Campbell); article, "Clothing,"

P. H. NEWNHAM.

I think the condensed summary of "indirect proof" in favour of the "white aprons and gloves being worn when not at labour" an excellent one, and well worthy of the careful attention of all students of Freemasonry, and I have much pleasure in supporting the remarks made by Rev. Bro. P. H. Newnham.

That *peculiar* secrets were known to, and worked by, the ancient Masons, differing in some respects from those of other guilds, is to me certainly proved by reference to ancient records; although I do not think such secrets were of the elaborate nature some think they were.

Without doubt the "lodge" was a *secret place* of meeting, and where cowans had no right to attend, neither were the uninitiated permitted to participate in their ceremonies, whatever (or however simple) they may have been. The *oath* alone is proof sufficient of this.

W. JAMES HUGHAN.

The small discussion on the antiquity of the Masonic apron for other than the purposes of labour appears to result in a very serious blow to the assertions of the 1717 theory, which have been of late so confidently proclaimed in all the courts of Masonry. The proof so fairly given from the records of the Warkworth and Alnwick Lodge not only demonstrates the use of the apron at religious services, but affords complete evidence to any reasonable inquirer that, on the 29th January, 1708, a lodge of Freemasons was assembled at Alnwick which was *not* an "operative" meeting. Thus, out of a simple though fortuitous discussion the very positive, if not celebrated, 1717 theory is in imminent danger of the same tragic fate as the well-known "Humpty-Dumpty," the old and lamented friend of our nursery days. It may, however, be said that this meeting only occurred nine years before the magic date so positively pre-

scribed as the year in which "Speculative Masonry" was *invented*. Upon this let me have another word to say, although I have not been a participant in the controversy. Some time since it was my good fortune and pleasure to be a subscriber to the publication, by Bro. Matthew Cooke, of a transcript made by himself from a Masonic MS. in the library of the British Museum. It is a genuine fifteenth century MS., and is called "The History and Articles of Masonry." The preamble of the MS. is devoted to the offering of thanks for knowledge vouchsafed to the Craft; next occurs a description of the liberal sciences, and then follows a detail of the origin of Masonry after the manner which many of us now deem to be somewhat apochryphal. It then continues:—

"And soon after that came Saint Adhabell into England and converted Saint Alban to Christianity. And Saint Alban loved well masons, and he gave them first their charges and manners first in England. And he ordained convenient (times) to pay for the travail. And after that was a worthy king in England that was called Athelstan, and his youngest son loved well the science of geometry, and he wist well that hand-craft had the practice of the science of geometry so well as masons, wherefore he drew him to council and learned (the) practice of that science to his speculative, for of speculative he was a master and he loved well masonry and masons. And he became a mason himself, and he gave them charges and names as it is now used in England and in other countries."

Now, whether the MS. is correct or not in its facts, we have here a statement in a document written probably before 1500, that the son of Athelstan learned the practical part of Masonry in addition to *speculative*, of which he was a master. It matters not to us whether Athelstan had a son or not, or whether he knew anything about Masonry, or ever heard of it; but it does matter, and very considerably, too, that an authentic document of this date should make a *clear and unmistakable distinction between Speculative and Operative Masonry*.

Again, referring to the Council which has before been mentioned, the MS. says: "This Council is made by divers lords and masters of divers provinces and divers congregations of masonry," &c. I have given the modern orthography as being more convenient for the present purposes.

J. O. Halliwell, F.R.S., has transcribed a fourteenth century MS. which is preserved in the Old Royal Library at the British Museum, and of which the authenticity has never been questioned. This MS. also refers to Athelstan, and thus describes his council:—

"A semblé thenne he cowthe let make, Of divers lordis, yn here state, Dukys, crlys, and barnes also, Knythys, sqwyers, and mony mo, And the grete burges of that syté, They were ther alle yn here degré."

This assembly is said to have made certain laws, the second of which declares—

"That every mayster, that ys a mason, most ben at the generale congregacyon, so that he hyt resonably y-tolde Where that the semblé schal be holde; And to that semblé he most nede gon, But he have a resonabul skwsacyon."

I leave my unprejudiced brethren to say whether these small portions of evidence alone are not enough to settle the question, unless the authenticity of the MSS. is impeached.

W. P. B. has told us, in effect, he is prepared to believe that before 1717 everything excepting the operative element of Masonry applies equally well to other guilds; but I take leave to hope and believe the preparation will be of no avail, and that our brother, with all the intelligence he possesses, will think, and admit, that the language of these old documents—one written before 1400, and the other before 1500—is inapplicable to a guild possessing nothing more in its constitution than the hewing of stone and the spreading of mortar. One of these documents recognises "Speculative" Masonry by name; and this is no mere accident of words or confusion of sound, but it is a plain fact that before 1500 this writing alleges that the son of Athelstan learned the practice of the science, "*for of Speculative he was a master*."

I am not aware of anything which even encourages a supposition that in 1717 the brethren who were then the distinguished and prominent

members of the Fraternity did aught but honorably revive a venerable system allied to the Operative Craft, and I am unable to see any other foundation for this theory without proof than that of empty belief and confident assertion. The very edifices themselves which adorn our favoured land with their magnificent and hoary grandeur, are imperishable records that the cultivated minds which originated their wondrous beauty must have required some additional associations than were to be found in exclusive communion with those by whose manual dexterity their refined and glorious conceptions were bequeathed to admiring and grateful generations—a joy for ever.

LUPUS.

BRO. E. T. T. AND OLD RECORDS.

If Bro. E. T. T. will kindly forward to me the *volume of Records* in question, I will gladly peruse them, and make known their character through the columns of THE FREEMASON. Please address, *Truro, Cornwall*.

W. JAMES HUGHAN.

Seeing that Bro. "E. T. T." at page 609 has kindly offered Bro. Hughan a perusal of these documents, I would beg to observe that in common fairness I should also have that privilege before I could fairly, under the circumstances, be expected to allow them to have much weight with me; and more especially, seeing it was in answer to me that they were first alluded to. I did not observe any statement as to whether or not this 1708 lodge was one of pure Operative Masons or not.

W. P. B.

BRO. C. G. FORSYTH.

If Bro. C. G. Forsyth has access to the "Encyclopedia Metropolitana," he would confer a favour on several of the Fraternity by copying the article therein on Freemasonry (or Masonry). I have not access to the work myself, as unfortunately it is not in our Town Library. The date of the issue of the work should also be stated, and page where quotation is to be found.

I am told the "Sloane MSS.," in the British Museum on Masonry, is referred to in the article mentioned. Bro. Forsyth, and indeed all brethren who make known the results of their Masonic studies and researches, are working, not only for themselves, but for the Craft universal. As for myself, I will gladly *receive* and *communicate* all the *Light* possible.

W. JAMES HUGHAN.

ELECTION OF PROV. G.M.'S IN SCOTLAND.

In THE FREEMASON, at page 592, line 61, second column, I read: "In Scotland and other Masonic Jurisdictions, the Provincial Grand Masters even are not appointed by the Chief Ruler of the Craft, but are elected by the local bodies." I may mention that this rule only applies to one district in Scotland, namely that of Ayrshire, and that on the election of the Right Worshipful Master of Mother Kilwinning, in virtue of his office as Master of Kilwinning Lodge, No. 6, he becomes, as such, Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire. This rule, however, does not apply to the other thirty-seven Provincial Grand Masters under Scottish Jurisdiction; they are generally nominated by a lodge or lodges in the district, sometimes only by a few members in the district, and the election is entirely in the hands of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, where, should there happen to be a contest as there often is, the majority rules as in all other matters. The difference being in Scotland that the Grand Lodge elect their Provincial Grand Masters, while in England the Grand Master appoints them.

CHALMERS I. PATON.

LONDON IN 1717.

So far as I can at present judge, London in 1717 neither saw the "revival" nor the "origin" of our system of Freemasonry; but its *institution* and *inauguration*.

W. P. BUCHAN.

Why are notices of Masonic meetings held at Scarbro' generally announced in THE FREEMASON as "*Select Lodges*"? *Vide* pages 591 and 598, and previous issues of your valuable paper.

TAURUS.

THE INITIATION OF THE BLIND (p. 611).

Bro. "Justitia" asks the question: "Is it competent for a man, who is and has been totally blind from his birth, to be made a Freemason?" I say, certainly not. Freemasonry, in one of its elements, boasts of equality.

Again, the question is asked, or rather understood, that a lodge in Scotland gives the various degrees to men who have been blackballed in England. I regret to say that Bro. "Justitia's" remarks are too true. The truth is, that in many lodges in Scotland the blind and blackballed in England have been initiated. In fact, in a lodge in Edinburgh, immediately under the eyes of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, a man was initiated who had been blind from the day of his birth, and a present chief office-bearer of the Grand Lodge of Scotland conducted the ceremony of initiation. Again, in another lodge in Edinburgh, two men who had been blackballed in their own town in England—and the fact was quite well known in Edinburgh—were initiated without any scruples. No wonder that the brethren in the north-west of England complain. However, it is to be hoped that the brethren in Scotland will desist from such practices in future, and that no complaint will be found by the English brethren, with whom it is my wish to live in harmony.

A PAST MASTER OF AN EDINBURGH LODGE.

Masonic Miscellanea.

THE "Freemason's Calendar and Pocket Book" for the year 1871 is now published, and may be had at Freemasons' Hall.

THE tenth annual festival of all the lodges in the Province of Glasgow will be held, under the patronage of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in the City Hall, Glasgow, on Friday evening, the 23rd instant. The Right Hon. the Earl of Rosslyn, Grand Master Mason for Scotland, is expected to preside, and the programme includes a soiree, concert, and assembly.

We are informed that three new conclaves of the Red Cross Order have been established in India, viz., St. Peter's, No. 32, at Bombay, Sir Knight G. S. Judge, Prov. G. Com. K.T., as M.P.S.; St. Andrew's, No. 33, also at Bombay, Sir Kt. Captain H. Morland, Prov. G. Master for Western India, S.C., as M.P.S.; and St. Helena, No. 34, at Calcutta, Sir Kt. G. H. Daly, M.D., D.D.G. Master for Bengal, E.C., as M.P.S.

OUR readers will be glad to learn that that ancient seat of Masonic doings, Warrington is about to be provided with a "home" for the Craft. A dozen years ago, the brethren—scarcely a score in number—were content to meet in a house of public entertainment. Warrington now possesses two Lodges and a Royal Arch Chapter, all very numerous supported. For some years past the meetings have been held in the Masonic Rooms, but as these may be required for other purposes, it was thought desirable to call a general meeting of the Craft to talk about the matter. The W.M.'s of the lodges and the M.E.Z. of the chapter readily gave their sanction, and with Bro. Bowes as Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, a meeting was called which has been adjourned from time to time. The majority of the shares have already been taken up, and we hope soon to lay before our readers full details of the design.

THEATRICAL.—Bros. Montague, Thorne, and James, at the Vaudeville Theatre, continue to be nightly patronised by crowded houses. Mr. Albery's enormously successful comedy, "The Two Roses," seems to be as popular as ever, and to this enterprising managers have added a new burlesque, written by F. C. Burnand, Esq., entitled "Elizabeth; or the Don, the Duck, the Drake, and the Invisible Armada." It is admirably put on the stage; the dresses (supplied by Bro. S. May and Mrs. Dolman) are magnificent, the scenery and adjuncts new and striking. The curtain nightly falls amidst applause of the warmest kind, and the burlesque may now be considered a decided success. The farce of "Chiselling" winds up an evening's entertainment we have great pleasure in commending to all our readers.

ON Saturday morning, the 10th inst., a dramatic performance, under distinguished patronage, will take place at the Princess's Theatre (by the kind permission of Bro. Benjamin Webster), in aid of the funds for the distressed French refugees. Mlle. Déjazet, Mesdames Leonide, Leblanc, Duverger, Barbe, Martin, &c., and Messrs. Lafont, Hervé, Derval, Josset, Georges, &c., are announced to appear.

Original Correspondence.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents.

BY-LAWS OF LODGES.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Although several brethren have kindly responded to my request for copies of By-laws of Lodges, preparatory to my compilation of a suggested Code of By-Laws which shall include all regulations of value for the satisfactory working and management of a Craft Lodge, I am still short of the number I had hoped to receive, and again beg to make known my request through THE FREEMASON.

Yours fraternally,

Truro, Cornwall. W. JAMES HUGHAN.

VALUE OF A DIPLOMA—WHAT IS IT WORTH?

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In a recent case which was tried before the Sheriff Small Debt Court at Glasgow for defamation of character, "Morton v. Wallace," the following facts were elicited as to the loose manner in which Masonic diplomas or certificates are frequently granted—more especially as the case referred to showed—by the officials of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The complainant, George Leopold Morton, stated that he was initiated in the Marine Lodge, Calcutta, No. 232, on the register of England; he thereafter removed to Melbourne, in 1858, and was raised in the Australasian Kilwinning Lodge, No. 337 on the Constitution of Scotland. In the course of a short period he removed to Monte Video, and while resident in that country received his certificate from the latter lodge, showing that he had been duly recorded in the books of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, under which, as stated, the Australasian Kilwinning held their warrant. On examining the certificate, however, he found that in place of Morton, he had been registered Martin. He therefore immediately returned it to his lodge at Melbourne with the request, not only of having the error in his certificate corrected, but the graver one of his name been wrongly entered in the books of the Grand Lodge, by which not only he himself but his family would be debarred from participating, if required, in the Fund of Benevolence to which he was entitled. Shortly after this the lodge-room at Melbourne, with its paraphernalia, books, &c., as well, it is presumed, of his certificate and letter of complaint, were all consumed and for ever lost, and he and his claims were alike forgotten. Matters remained in *statu quo* till September, 1870, when he, the above-named George Leopold Morton, appeared in Edinburgh, and applied to the Grand Lodge himself for a correct diploma, and on his own statement was supplied with a correct one in due form, even though no such name was found in the Grand Lodge books—but simply on the faith of the statement thus made by himself of the supposed error in registering his name, and that after a period of twelve years. Armed with this document, he immediately made application to the respective benevolent funds of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and to the local one of the Province of Glasgow. Both applications were refused, and in the heat of the moment, and incensed at the use made of the diploma thus obtained, Wallace, the defendant in the action, who is a member of Grand Committee, so endorsed the certificate that it became useless. Hence the action.

Such is the plain unvarnished statement as eliminated by the complainant Morton. It may be all true; but what Grand Officer is there who should dare to tamper with the books of the Grand Lodge and its sacred property on the *ipse dixit* or story of an individual not officially recognised as the officer of a subordinate lodge, and having no proof to produce of his even being a Mason. It is high time, indeed, that some guarantee should be given to the Craft that such documents either should be deemed worthy of confidence (as they hitherto have been), or only *quantum valiat*.

GEORGE LEOPOLD, may have been the brother intended to have been recorded as Morton, not Martin as was done—but he may not. There may have been a Brother George Leopold Martin, but he may have been "gathered to his fathers" and his name assumed by another. It may yet be found all correct, but there is no use in locking the stable after the horse has been stolen. It is impossible, therefore, that too much care can be shown in granting such documents, which serve as passports throughout the known world. They should alone be granted to the officials of a lodge and *none other*, and then care should be adopted of seeing the signature of the brother at once appended, as a further guarantee against its improper use.

So long, however, as such offices in Grand Lodge are filled by officials whose sole object and intent

is £ s. d., with a per-centage on diplomas issued—with no higher and innate desire for the purity and integrity of the Order than its *lucre*—such malpractices must exist.

Yours fraternally,
A MEMBER OF THE GRAND LODGE
OF SCOTLAND

PUBLICATION OF LODGE WORK.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I shall be very much obliged for any information on these points:—

1. How far is it allowable to publish the (communicable) work achieved in a lodge?
2. The exact bearing of the Constitutions on the matter?
3. Is there any difference in degree as regards sending short reports to local journals and to THE FREEMASON?

Any authoritative information will oblige. Personally, I think the reports (such as in the *Sunday Times*) are beneficial to the Craft. But I shall be glad of more weighty opinions.

Yours fraternally,
W. R. (132, 195, 622).

[1. Details should never be given; it is sufficient for instance, to say that "Bro. A. B. was passed."

2. So long as reports treat only of the work stated on the notice sent out to each member of the lodge, we apprehend that the Constitutions do not prohibit their publication; but the *private* affairs of the lodge—such as complaints, discussions, or dissensions, whenever they may unfortunately exist—should never be paraded in print.

3. Representing as we do a journal which publishes reports of Grand Lodge by special sanction, we are bound to state that the authorities *do* object to any portion of the Grand Lodge proceedings being made public in other than the established Masonic papers, and we may add that upon this very subject we received a letter from the Board of General Purposes not many weeks ago. The reports, therefore, to which you allude are clearly illegal, and we need not enter into the question of their being beneficial to the Craft or otherwise.—ED. F.]

(To the Editor of the Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Why not publish the *time* at which the Metropolitan lodges meet? Any one wishing to visit, and especially country brethren, do not know at what hour to go. It may be at 4 or it may be at 8, or any hour between.

Yours fraternally,
A COUNTRY MASON.

[We can give no further information than that stated in the Calendar. London lodges do not meet at fixed hours, but regulate the time according to the business before them.—ED. F.]

SCOTLAND.

A FREEMASON'S CASE.

Recently, at the Sheriff's Small Debt Court, Sheriff Murray presiding, George Leopold Morton, civil engineer, Monte Video, presently residing at 28, York-street, Glasgow, sued James Wallace, tobacconist, 262, George-street, for £12 for damages. From the statement made for pursuer, it appeared that the defender, on October 28th, took "advantage of the production of the diploma of pursuer, who had been raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in the Lodge Australian Kilwinning, Melbourne, holding of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, for his being a Free and Accepted Mason, dated September 24th, 1870, to the Committee having charge of the Benevolent Fund of the Grand Lodge, along with an application for relief, and, without warrant or authority, maliciously endorsed on the back of said diploma: "Diploma 269 Gc, 19th October, 1870, Glasgow. George L. Morton received from the Province of Glasgow £2 7s. 6d; also £1 from Liverpool—unworthy. James Wallace," which was untrue, and rendered the diploma useless. The defender admitted that he had put the endorsement on the diploma, but pleaded that he was privileged from his position, and by authority, to do so. The pursuer first made his appearance in the province about the 14th of Oct., and applied for relief from the Benevolent Fund. An investigation was made by a committee appointed for the purpose, and so satisfied were they that he was not a suitable person for relief that special instructions were given to the Treasurer (defender) to mark the diploma as stated. Several statements he made were deemed by the committee to have no foundation in fact. It was explained for the defence that the endorsement was only intended for the members of the Craft, and not for the general public; it was to prevent the brethren being imposed upon, but not to render it impossible for him to get relief from the outside world. Mr. Wallace made several statements to the effect that the pursuer was not the owner of the diploma exhibited, and that he had received money in

Liverpool, though he represented the contrary. One witness for the pursuer spoke of having examined some papers and found them correct. For the pursuer it was contended that the proceedings of the committee and the defender were totally irregular and malicious. Sheriff Murray, after the conclusion of proof, said there was strong *prima facie* evidence for the committee to act as they had done, and it was open to the pursuer to get a new diploma from the Grand Lodge. The Secretary had proceeded quite justifiably, and he would therefore assilzie him, without costs.—*Glasgow paper*.

ITALY.

MASONIC LODGE OF LEGHORN (TUSCANY) AREOPAGO.

Masonry, which is never behind hand in anything that concerns the good and progress of humanity, now, too, takes the lead in a petition to the National Parliament for compulsory education through all the kingdom in Italy. We cannot but highly praise this lofty idea, which will find an echo in every part of the world and particularly amongst Masons, and hope that the Parliament in accordance of such important request, will pass a law which will form a basis of a great nation which intend to maintain the liberty of its country purchased at so high a price. Long live Masonry, long live Italy.

[COPY.]

To the President of the Chambers, Florence.

Sir,—Whereas, the number of illiterate persons in Italy as compared with the greater part of the State of Europe is exorbitant, whereas in a free country no one has a right to be ignorant, nor ignore his duties in life as a man and as a citizen.

Whereas, the ignorance of the masses in Italy cannot but be advantageous to those classes whose monopoly they were, and who in order to exist, stop the freedom of thought bequeathed by the Almighty God to man as the greatest blessing and most distinctive feature; and whereas those who are able to read for themselves without the help of others, acquire the knowledge of their own personality and independence of their rights and duties, and thus learn to respect themselves and their fellow-creatures.

For these sensible and humanitarian considerations, the Chapter of the Grand Lodge Arcopago, true friends of the virtuous, *urgently* appeal to the National Parliament, in order, that through the length and breath of Italy, a law be passed sanctioning the primary gratuitous, but at the same time compulsory, education for all citizens.

We remain, with the greatest respect,
Yours very sincerely,
THE PRESIDENT of the Chapter.
A. CARPI, Vice-President.
A. PROGLIO, Secretary.

Leghorn, 29th Oct., 1870.

It is reported that the Grand Orient of Florence will be transferred to Rome.

GRAND LODGE.

The following is the business paper for Wednesday, 7th December:—

1. The minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 7th September, 1870, for confirmation.
2. The M.W. Grand Master will make a communication to Grand Lodge in reference to the District of Montreal.
3. Nomination of a Grand Master for the ensuing year.
4. Election of a Senior and Junior Vice-President of the Lodge of Benevolence.
5. Election of twelve Past Masters to serve on the Lodge of Benevolence for the year ensuing.
6. Report of the Lodge of Benevolence in which are recommendations for several grants.
7. The Report of the Board of General Purposes.
8. Reports of the Special General Meetings of the Governors and Subscribers of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and the Widows of Freemasons held at the Freemasons' Hall on the 27th day of January, 1870, and on the 15th October, 1870, respectively, will be laid before Grand Lodge, and the following proposed alteration of the laws which was then agreed to will be submitted for the approval of Grand Lodge, viz.,—To amend rule 17, by substituting the word "two" for "four" in the 3rd line, and the word "two" for "three" in the 9th line thereof.

APPEAL.

9. A communication has been received from the District Grand Lodge of Bombay, stating that Bro. George Bease having made his submission, had been restored to all his Masonic privileges. Bro. Bease has consequently withdrawn his Appeal, which was deferred from the last Quarterly Communication, at the request of the District Grand Lodge.

PROPOSED MOTION.

10. By Bro. Brackstone Baker, P.G.D.:—"That a sum of £100 be granted from the Fund of General Purposes to the fund now being raised under the auspices of the Dowager Marchioness of Lothian in aid of the British and Foreign Refugees from France, under the title of the 'Refugees' Benevolent Fund,' which is to be expended in this country."

GRAND MASONIC GATHERING AT BOURNEMOUTH.

CENTENARY FESTIVAL OF THE LODGE OF HENGIST.

The hundredth anniversary of the Lodge of Hengist, No. 195, was celebrated on Wednesday, 23rd ult., and it was the subject of much congratulation that the members were able to meet on that day, as it was on the 23rd of the same month, in the year 1770, that a warrant was granted to Henry Dagg, Thomas Jeans, and another, to hold a Masonic Lodge, at the New Inn, Christchurch. The lodge on this occasion was held in the Belle Vue Assembly Rooms, under the presidency of the Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Bro. W. W. Beach, M.P., who was supported by the following Provincial Grand Officers:—Bros. John Wallingford, P.G.J.W.; W. Hickman, P.G. Sec., P.P.J.G.W.; J. E. Le Feuvre, P.G. Sec.; Mark E. Frost, P.G. Treas.; James Petty Hine, P.G.S.B.; J. Montagu Haynes, P.G.S.; C. L. Emmanuel, P.G.S.; John Houghton, P.G.S.; and H. Martin Green, P.G.S.

The P.G.M. was supported on his immediate right by the W.M., W. E. Rebbeck, and on his left by the Chaplain, the Rev. P. H. Newnham, and by the I.P.M., E. W. Rebbeck. The Wardens of the lodge were requested to occupy their usual chairs. On the dais, in addition to the above, were the following brethren:—J. M. P. Montagu, D.P.G.M. for Dorset, and Frederick Binckes, P.G.S., Secretary R.M.I.B.

The lodge was opened at 1.30 by the P.G. Master, assisted by the officers of the lodge. After the warrant had been read by the Secretary, Bro. Atkinson, the P.G.M. delivered an interesting address on the progress of Freemasonry. The Chaplain, Bro. P. H. Newnham, then read the history of the lodge of Hengist from its formation to the present time, and we need hardly say that the subject was most skillfully handled by the rev. brother; it was not only a history of the lodge of Hengist for the past hundred years, but it was really the history of Freemasonry in England for that time. Our space will not permit us to give our readers even an outline of this remarkable compilation, even if we felt ourselves equal to the task; but it is with unfeigned pleasure we announce that it was resolved to have this history printed without delay for private circulation. The P.G.M. then announced that as Bro. Stebbing had been unavoidably detained at Southampton, he would not be able to give the congratulatory oration as he had promised to do, but he was delighted to add that Bro. Binckes had, at the last moment, kindly offered to supply Bro. Stebbing's place. All our readers who have been fortunate enough to hear Bro. Binckes speak will know what a treat the brethren had on this occasion.

The P.G. Master then addressed himself to the W.M., Bro. W. E. Rebbeck, and after a few congratulatory remarks, proceeded to decorate him with the centenary jewel. The W.M. thanked the P.G.M. in appropriate terms, and after a vote of thanks to the P.G.M. had been carried by acclamation, the lodge was closed in the usual way.

THE BANQUET.

About four o'clock the brethren sat down to a sumptuous banquet at the Bath Hotel. The chair was occupied by the R.W. the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. W. W. Beach, M.P., and the vice-chairmen were Bro. W. E. Rebbeck, W.M., and Bro. P. Tuck, P.M. There was a numerous attendance of brethren, including Bros. S. R. Stebbing, P.S.G.D.; F. Binckes, P.G.S.; J. E. Le Feuvre, P.G.S.; W. Hickman, P.G.J.W.; J. P. Hine, P.G.S.B.; J. M. Haynes, P.G.S.; Rev. P. H. Newnham, W.M.-elect and Chaplain; E. W. Rebbeck and D. Sydenham, P.M.'s; R. Stephens, M. Webb, A. H. Parken, J. Briggs, C. W. Wyndham, T. G. Horder, W. Roberts, C. Holloway, G. Lane, C. Phelps, S. Waters, J. Dutton, jun., Kellaway, J. B. Atkinson, G. Burt (London), Ford, Stevens, Goodridge, Booth, E. Edsall, W.M.; G. H. Gutch, P.M.; R. Sydenham, G. Burt and C. W. Kite (Lodge of Amity, Poole); G. R. Crickmay, W. Robinson, W. Reade, J. W. Luff, W. Fletcher,

J. McWilliam, P.M. Treas.; J. F. Bryant, P.M.; Peter Luck, P.M. 195; W. Smith, P.M. 170; P.P.S.G.D. Dorset; John Lundie, P.M. 170; B. J. Kerridge, P.M. 622; H. T. Bath, P.M. 319; W. Bumblecombe, Sec. 319; and H. Brounckes, J.W. 132.

Grace was said by the Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. P. H. Newnham. At the conclusion of the banquet,

The R.W. Chairman said that he would commence by saying that excuses for non-attendance had been received by the Deputy Grand Master from the Earl of Carnarvon, Prov. Senior Grand Warden; from Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, Bro. E. Haviland-Burke, *M.P.*, and many others who were unable to be present. He was sure they would be very sorry that they could not attend. He now begged to propose to them a toast which he was sure they would receive with the utmost enthusiasm. He asked them to drink "The Queen and the Craft." (The toast was received with enthusiastic expressions of loyalty.)

The R.W. Chairman said the next toast he had to propose to them was that of "The Prince of Wales and the Royal Family." His Royal Highness was Past Grand Master of Masonry, and had proved himself anxious to come forward on every occasion as a supporter of their Craft, and to take an active interest in patronising their mysteries. (Cheers.)

The R.W. Chairman said the next toast he had to ask them to drink was that of "The Most Worshipful Grand Master the Earl de Grey and Ripon, the Very Worshipful Deputy Grand Master the Earl of Carnarvon, and the Officers of the Grand Lodge of England." (Cheers.) During the past year the Earl of Zetland, who presided over their Order for upwards of a quarter of a century, had retired from the Grand Mastership, and he had carried with him into his comparative retirement the good wishes of the whole of the Masons of England. (Cheers.) He had been succeeded by a nobleman who, from the zeal he had displayed towards their Order and from the conduct he had evinced, would prove a worthy successor to him. (Hear, hear.) He was sure that from his popularity in the mode in which he had discharged the office of Deputy Grand Master for some time, he would perform most efficient service as their Grand Master. Let them therefore wish him a long and prosperous reign over them, and drink his health as their chief. (Cheers.) The toast of the Deputy Grand Master brought them much nearer home, because they had in him a nobleman who resided in that county. It was true he was Provincial Grand Master of a county removed from this, but they knew him also as the Deputy Grand Master of England, and as one who was deservedly popular in Hampshire. He need only state as a proof of the interest which he took in the interests of the Craft, that a very short time ago he went all the way to Lancashire for the purpose of installing a Provincial Grand Master of that county, and from the reception he met with there and the enthusiastic mode in which the proceedings were conducted, he (the chairman) thought they must conclude that his name was received with as much enthusiasm in Lancashire as in Hampshire. (Cheers.) To the officers of Grand Lodge they were greatly indebted for the mode in which they discharged their duties, and they were proud in having amongst them a brother so highly esteemed and so justly popular as Bro. Stebbing. (Cheers.) It did not become him to eulogise Bro. Stebbing's merits in the presence of those who knew him so well, and he would only say that he had always taken the most active interest in the work of Grand Lodge, and as Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes he was concerned for the general welfare of the Craft. They were delighted to see him amongst them that evening, and they could only regret that he was not enabled to be present at the time of the opening of the lodge. He would ask them to drink the toast, coupling with it the name of Bro. Stebbing. (Cheers.)

Bro. S. R. Stebbing, P.S.G.D., said he was extremely obliged to the R.W. Chairman for the kind remarks he had made in proposing the

toasts of the Grand Officers, and to the brethren who had been pleased to receive those expressions with so much enthusiasm. He assured them he had great pleasure in meeting the Lodge of Hengist that day, because he had a kind of hereditary connection with it, as his father took an active part in the consecration of the Lodge of Christchurch thirty years ago or more; and apart from this, it was extremely pleasant to meet the brethren on such an occasion, for when their provincial meetings were held at some distance they had not the opportunity of joining them so often as they could wish. It was very gratifying to find that at the present time their Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master were two great statesmen in this country, and it said very much for Masonry that they were men filling high and responsible offices in the State—one having the responsibility of being in office, and the other being responsible for keeping in order those who were in office—(laughter)—and that those men could lay aside those great responsibilities and join in Masonic work with all the earnestness of the smaller brethren in the ranks of the Order and of the leisured men throughout the country. (Hear, hear.) Bro. Stebbing proceeded to speak at some length on the circumstances attending the enrolment of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as a member of the Craft. He thanked them heartily for the kind manner in which they had received the toast. Bro. Binckes would tell them how the Grand Officers of England were foremost in assisting those charitable institutions in which consisted the cement of Masonry, the glory of their fraternity, the practical charity of their Order. (Cheers.)

Bro. Binckes, P.G.S., said the toast that he had to propose ought to have fallen to D.P.G.M. Deacon, but unfortunately he had been ill for some time and was unable to attend that day. As D.P.G.M. of a neighbouring province, he (Bro. Binckes) had been ordered to take his place, and he hoped, therefore, they would forgive him if he did not do justice to the toast, which was that of "The R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Bro. W. W. B. Beach, *M.P.*" (Cheers.) He asked them to drink a bumper to the Grand Master for the manner in which he had conducted the business of the day in consecrating the centenary of the lodge. He was highly esteemed and appreciated by them for the work which he did, for it was their privilege that they really stood upon their merits—that no matter what was a man's rank and position, unless he had a love for the Order and worked well, he did not meet with that reception which had been given to the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, not only in that lodge, but at that table. (Cheers.)

The R.W. Chairman said he begged to thank his worshipful brother for the very kind manner in which he proposed the toast, and also to return his most hearty thanks to all the brethren present for the cordial reception they had given to it. He assured them that it was a matter of great gratification to him to be able to attend there that day; it was indeed a double gratification because he had been lately called upon to discharge duties of a two-fold kind, for within the past fortnight he had been required to constitute a new lodge, and now he was called upon to join in celebrating the centenary festival of a lodge which had existed for that period in this province. (Hear, hear.) He was certainly deeply indebted to those who had assembled around him that day to give their support. It would not have been creditable to this province had they not been surrounded by many who joined with them in giving a cordial greeting to that lodge on such a happy occasion. They were also indebted to those who had come from a distance in order to render their support, and particularly to the brethren of the province of Dorset, who were so nearly allied to this part of the county. (Hear, hear.) He trusted there would be an opportunity afterwards of expressing their gratitude; it was sufficient then to say that they were, one and all, glad to see them present, and that they were proud to join with them in offering their common congratulations to the Lodge of Hengist on that occasion. (Cheers.) Being thus assembled in order to celebrate the centenary of that lodge, it was natural they should think, as no doubt all of them had done, of those past events which had happened since that lodge was constituted. Those events had been brought so vividly home to them that day in the excellent address of their Chaplain that it would be useless for him to attempt to allude to them. If ever there had been an occasion on which the vicissitudes of a lodge had been brought before them more forcibly than at any other time it would seem to be in connection with the history of this lodge. From time

to time it appeared that some blight had been cast upon it, but the members of their Order seemed to have been enabled to recover from their temporary abeyance and to have started with new zeal and new lustre in their onward course. (Hear, hear.) When some temporary disaster baffled them, nothing daunted, they started afresh, and the result had been the auspicious proceedings which they joined in celebrating that day. (Cheers.) When they thought for a moment how often that lodge had been nearly sunk, as might have been the case with other lodges from time to time, to what cause ought they to attribute the constant resuscitation which had occurred and had enabled it to preserve itself? To that energy, to that good feeling, to that zeal for their Order which must have animated the minds of the brethren who were determined to preserve it; and that must have arisen from the love which they bore to their Order, and from the resolution they had entered into to maintain its prosperity to the best of their ability. (Cheers.) It would have been indeed a scandal to the brethren of a lodge if, when its destiny was in their hands, they suffered it to sink into oblivion and be forgotten; they would be pointed back to as unworthy members of their Order who permitted a lodge to sink amongst them when by stretching out their hands and doing a little they could preserve it. (Hear, hear.) He was sure they were greatly indebted to those worthy members for the trouble they had taken and the zeal they had displayed. In them must have been instilled deep love for their common Order; they must have been aware that on them lay this intrinsic and important duty—that as they had been instructed in the mysteries of the Craft, that as in them had been inculcated those excellent lessons which it was the pride of the Order to inculcate in every brother at his initiation and on his making progress in the Craft—so they must act up to them if they wished to preserve their credit among men and Masons. (Hear, hear.) Those principles were such that they had enabled their Order to maintain itself for ages upon ages; they were principles which would inevitably enable it to hold its ground against any attacks that might be made upon it, because they were such as no assaults could prevail against. When they reflected for a moment that that excellent principle of charity was one of the mainstays of their Order, could they wonder that Freemasons were zealous indeed to protect it? Could they wonder that one of their greatest boasts was that they possessed something beyond a name, when they had those excellent charitable institutions which were the pride of their Order? It was that principle of charity, together with all those other excellent attributes which were connected with the Craft, that had enabled them to stand combined; and if they only held fast to those principles, if they only let them be imprinted on their hearts, they would make them better citizens of their country and would enable them to fulfil their duty in life better than they would otherwise do; for though Freemasonry boasted itself to be universal, and to include those of every degree, of every religion, and of every political creed, yet there were certain lessons which were enjoined upon Masons—that they were to be loyal to their Sovereign, and to show reverence to the great Creator of all. Meeting together as they did on such a happy occasion as the present, they could not but hope that many of those who now attended would have another opportunity of witnessing the progress which the Lodge of Hengist would make, and they wished it every prosperity and success. (Cheers.)

Bro. S. R. Stebbing, P.S.G.D., said he had to express his obligation to the lodge for having been good enough to proffer to him that day a very distinguished position, which he had not, from very pressing circumstances, had an opportunity of fulfilling. He knew, however, that the duties of that position were performed in a far superior manner by his eloquent friend Bro. Binckes, who deserved his sincerest thanks. He (Bro. Stebbing) wished to make a few remarks founded on what had taken place that evening, and not to drift into something of a heavier character, which perhaps he might have done if he had had the opportunity of addressing them earlier in the day. He looked upon this as a proud day for the Lodge of Hengist. He looked upon it as not an unmeaning compliment to say that this was the great event in the history of the lodge, for although no doubt during the hundred years that it had existed there had been some ebbing and flowing of the tide, as there would be in all human institutions, it was here that day in its strength and its power. It had grown up a goodly tree from the root which was planted by those good old Masons of a century ago; and when he saw they had brought it to its present perfection he thanked them in the name of the Masons of Hampshire that they had done so good a work. (Cheers.) One hundred years in Masonry was nothing, and therefore he could not call it an old lodge; but he could compliment them that they had reached an age to which few institutions in this country ever

attained, for they knew that many societies connected with science and art, and with all the social circumstances which caused men to form institutions and embody themselves together for some special purpose, had soon faded away and been forgotten; and it was a very rare circumstance when any association of that kind existed for so long a period as a hundred years—(hear, hear)—and although he had been told that in the Lodge of Hengist there had been vicissitudes and some things to sigh about, yet it had outlived them all, and “memory filled the past,” whilst “hope looked brightly on the future.” (Cheers.) In another hundred years he believed the spirit they had implanted in the lodge would continue to exist. He paid very little compliment to its present members, but a grateful tribute to those who started it, who lived with it, grew up with it, and handed down from father to son, and perhaps from brother to brother, those principles of Freemasonry which had made it survive the attacks of time, overcome all transient and temporary discords, and live to be the goodly thing it was, as it should live on for ever. (Cheers.) It told him that that which had wrecked so many lodges had not wrecked the Lodge of Hengist—the love of office, the worthless ambition, the desire of the members to have something they did not get quite so soon as they thought they had a right to do. (Hear, hear.) They had not had the trappings with which the person of their brother was so worthily adorned, and which he had worn so well as a man of rank and station, as a working Mason in their Order, and those who had not had those trappings so soon as the others—the quiet Mason, the generous-hearted social soul who had sat in the lodge and had not desired these things, had been the pillars of the lodge, and had enabled it to live up to its good old age. (Cheers.) It reminded him of a saying in Scripture that ought to wrap itself around their hearts when they thought of these things—that it was not the ambitious or the covetous man, not the man desirous of honour and decoration, but the quiet and humble spirit who had the right sort of Masonry within him, and kept them right when their too-soaring desires carried them along: “Consider the lilies of the field how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” The quiet Mason, who was the lily of the valley, kept the lodge together, whilst often the aspiring brother too soon wrecked the ship and cast her upon the shore. (Hear, hear.) He hoped he might not be thought to have seized an unfitting time for making these remarks, for having been associated with Masonry—and he might even say with that lodge—for more than a third part of that hundred years, he might be permitted to indulge in an old man’s garrulity to say something which really was mixed up with Masonry, to point their attention to the shoals and quicksands which existed, and to encourage them to continue to build upon the rock of true Masonic principles. (Cheers.) It was that spirit in this and in all other lodges which had kept them together, and which would make them survive, as their good old Masonic words said, “the wreck of mighty empires, and resist the destroying hand of time;” and they need not fear if that silver chord ran through the hearts of the brethren, and made them love Freemasonry for what it was worth, and love the lodge for those great principles which it upheld. (Hear, hear.) It was very pleasant to belong to Hampshire, and boast of being a Hampshire Mason. There were twenty lodges in the county, of which five had reached the goodly age to which the Lodge of Hengist had advanced, and it was a matter of no small pride to their R.W. Chairman that, whilst he had added a twentieth lodge to the roll over which he so ably and creditably presided, five of those lodges had existed above a hundred years, to the great honour of the province, and indeed to the great credit, pride, and splendour of all Freemasonry. Although Masons were so numerous and spread over every part of the globe, although Masonry existed in every land and among every people, they still realized the truth—

Ten thousand thousand are our tongues,
Yet all our joys are one.

Masonry was everywhere found; its roots were under every sea, it bloomed on every shore; but there were not many lodges that blossomed for a hundred years. Surveying the Masonic firmament, they saw countless stars, but how few planets. They had added another planet that day, and it was such lodges that formed the pillars of their Order, and made them proud of their Institution. They had shown that Freemasonry not only occupied their hearts, but that it had taken a deep root, and formed a strong basis in connection with that lodge, and whether they entered into a discussion as to whether Masonry took its rise in 1718 or went back to countless ages and tried to fix a time and place when Masonry originated, there could be no doubt of this, that among the guilds of ancient days there were societies that had secret signs and symbols,

that were bound together by signs and tokens, and existed by the influence of brotherly love and the practising of those principles which were inscribed on their banner in the immortal words of truth; and from them they learned that knowledge which in the dark times was often promoted by its being kept among kindred spirits, and handed down from child to child, from sire to son, from brother to brother, and which could not have been kept for perpetuation to society and for the advantage of the people among whom they lived, if they did not possess that soul-stirring principle which should keep them combined and united. They found this in the ever-springing principle of charity—that spirit of benevolence without which neither Masonry nor anything else in this world, save that which came from the Most High, could have existed, and without which Masonry would be no more than an ephemeral beefsteak club. (Laughter and cheers.) Masonry—which in olden times had been the receptacle of knowledge and the means of preserving the arts and sciences—was kept together by the spirit of benevolence; and when Sir Christopher Wren left it, and handed it down to them as Speculative Masons, they made it a moral Institution—they devoted themselves to establishing active principles of moral teaching, and they had handed down to this age an enlightened and practical Masonry. Whether the origin of the Craft dated back to the time of Noah or to the building of Solomon’s temple it could not have lived except for that ever-springing charity.

Her towers and monuments may fade away;
Her true and social life shall ne’er decay.

That true and social life was given to Masons, and they must hand it down by their practice in the lodge and out of the lodge, that the world should tell a Mason by his acts, and that the lodge should live by the strength which the practice of those acts should give to it. God grant that might ever be so in the Lodge of Hengist. Let them go on as they had done and prosper, and might God bless and further their good and mighty work. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. the Rev. P. H. Newnham, the W.M.-elect, responded to the toast. He said he thought he belonged to that class of unlucky men who, pursued by an adverse fate, never rose to their feet without having to make an apology. (Laughter.) His present apology was a very serious one, as he had to apologise for himself. He felt he had no right to stand there, for he was only the deputy of their worthy and Worshipful Master, the oldest Mason in the Lodge of Bournemouth, and who had been put into the chair that year in order that he might fill it at this centenary. He would thank them very sincerely and in as few words as possible for the very kind manner in which the lodge had been spoken of, not only by Bro. Stebbing, but by the R.W. Grand Master and every other brother. Speaking not only for himself, but for the brethren of the lodge generally, he could assure them they had but one object in view—that the Lodge of Hengist should in coming years be a repository of true Masonry in every sense—a true Masonic work in its ritual, a true Masonic institute in its history, and a true Masonic benefit in its charities. (Cheers.) He thought it was Baron Alderson, who, when asked how long a sermon should be, replied, “Twenty minutes, with a leaning to the side of mercy.” (Laughter.) He could not help thinking he had been guilty in this respect, for he had indulged himself in three sermons, and had devoted to each a very liberal measure of time according to that proportion. He thought he should best carry out the principle of brotherly love by sitting down at once. (Laughter.)

The R.W. the Chairman next proposed “The Masonic Charities,” coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Binckes. (Cheers.) They were delighted to see Bro. Binckes present. He had had the pleasure of knowing him for some years, and he could hardly do justice to the energy he had displayed in advocating the cause of charity. He had done so from no selfish motive, for he had never lost an opportunity of placing before the brethren the claims of other charities in connection with his own. They were deeply indebted to him for coming amongst them that day, and he (the Chairman) would ask them to drink his health in connection with the Masonic Charities. (Cheers.)

Bro. F. Binckes, Secretary of the Freemasons’ School for Boys, said nothing would have given him greater pride than to have his name associated with those institutions, the prosperity of which they had so generously wished. In his not uneventful yet not very protracted career in connection with Masonry, he had taken great interest in the various questions which agitated their Order from time to time, but whatever he might have done in other capacities he had felt no such pleasure as in furthering those institutions which the Right Worshipful Chairman had described as the pride and glory of the Order. (Hear, hear.) They might have heard various opinions as regarded the internal policy of Freemasonry, but there could be no point of dispute

when they came to consider the great binding tie which, after all, was charity; for charity, they were told, was the ground both of faith and hope, and it was the great object they had to bear in mind in their Masonic career. He would wish to deviate a little from the stereotyped mode of appeal. They were met that day under no ordinary circumstances and on no ordinary occasion—that of celebrating a centenary—that was to say, the lodge had through various vicissitudes existed for 100 years, and it was now in a condition of great and flourishing prosperity. One of the prominent facts brought before their notice that day was in connection with one of the brethren who discharged the duties of Worshipful Master of the lodge for fifteen years, he alluded to the late Bro. Bayley, whose name was held, he had no doubt, in great affection. (Hear, hear.) He thought Bro. Newnham laid great stress upon the fact that he proposed that subscriptions should be sent from the lodge towards the Boys’ School. (Hear, hear.) He would not say “hear, hear” to that, although his natural feelings prompted him to do so, and he thought they would give him credit for showing a natural delicacy in this matter. (Laughter.) He thought nothing redounded to Bro. Bayley’s credit so much as that proposition, which he had no doubt was unanimously acceded to. Bro. Bayley whilst he belonged to the Lodge of Hengist made a name for himself, and received eminent mention on that account as well as by reason of other propositions which he made, showing that the school was very dear to him. (Hear, hear.) He was glad to see that their immediate Past Master, the son of their oldest Past Master, who was now their Worshipful Master, had volunteered to accept office and represent their lodge as Steward at the anniversary festival to be held in March next. (Hear, hear.) He was sure that very graceful and spontaneous act on the part of Bro. Rebbeck, jun., would not be without due appreciation by the lodge, nor without advantage to the school of which Bro. Bayley was a very good friend; and he (Bro. Binckes) had no doubt he would be well supported by the lodge. He was also told that Gosport would render every support, but he was now desirous of tendering to Bro. E. W. Rebbeck, son of their oldest Past Master, who was now their Worshipful Master, very heartfelt thanks, as also to Bro. Eyre—but he need not say that the Boys’ School never looked in vain for help from the Province of Hampshire. (Cheers.) He wished also to express his thanks to the Right Worshipful, the Provincial Grand Master, for his assistance in a sudden emergency in March last, when the Prince of Wales presided over their festival. He (Bro. Binckes) had to go over the work again, and to appeal to the brethren of the Order, especially the Provincial Grand Masters, and the Grand Master of that province was the first to come forward and further the success of that festival. (Hear, hear.) He (Bro. Binckes) was greatly delighted with what they had done in the past, and he felt in a delicate position in making a further appeal. There were one or two matters brought prominently before them that day which afforded grounds for interesting observations. They had the old question of the “Ancients” or “Moderns”—the question of the establishment of their Grand Lodge in 1717, the secession in 1742, and the union in 1818. All those matters had been brought before them, together with subsidiary and minor occurrences during the time that those great events occupied the attention of the Masonic world; and it was, he considered, a singular fact, as a matter of Masonic record, that the first payment made in the shape of a Masonic charity was on behalf of the Boys’ School. Singularly enough, the Marquis of Carnarvon, many years gone by, attempted to do something towards educating and apprenticing the sons of Masons. The subject was taken into consideration, but it was found to be too serious a one for the Masonic body to entertain at that time. In 1740, when the secession took place, the old body, who called themselves the “Moderns,” established the Gilt’s School, and the Boys’ School, of which he was the representative, owed its origin, he supposed, to the spirit of rivalry in those who were the seceders, and who took the name of “Ancient Masons.” They had read a great deal of history repeating itself, and of events recurring in cycles, and many of the Boys’ Schools had their origin in the Seceding Body, who took an active part in the reform of Masonry, and who had survived and found that those efforts had become matters of legislative action. They had seen the results of those efforts in the great amelioration of their Masonic system, and the Boys’ School, as he had said, took its rise from the Seceding Body. He did not want to bring before them any matters of dispute, but he would say that the Seceders were not altogether wrong, and as Bro. Newnham had said, looking back dispassionately they would find that that secession was the means of doing a great deal of good. Freemasonry, as the historian of that day said, had created a great deal of rivalry; the result was unmitigated good, and brought about that happy

union in 1813, since which time the only rivalry that had existed had for its object how best to further the interests of Freemasonry. (Cheers). They had as Masons passed through various epochs. Bro. Newnham said they were on the eve of leaving the convivial epoch and entering upon the intellectual and scientific epoch. That might or might not be the case. He (the speaker) was one of those who had striven for many years to subordinate the convivial to the intellectual element, but he had always said he should be sorry to see the convivial element struck out, for he felt certain that the element of intellectuality was compatible with that of conviviality, and that the convivial added a brightness and charm to the intellectual element. He remembered having an interview at the Colonial Office with a late lamented statesman who held a high position in Freemasonry—the late Duke of Newcastle, who said to him, “I consent to take the chair, but do you mean to tell me that this affair cannot take place without a great number of brethren sitting down to a very bad dinner, and drinking a quantity of very bad wine?” (Laughter). He (Bro. Binckes) replied that he quite appreciated the case as the Duke had put it, and the influence he meant was the gathering together of a large number of brethren from all parts of the country, but he was certain if this were done their institution would materially suffer. (Hear, hear). He quoted an instance in which this was tried. It was said waste was the consequence of these dinners, and that if the money spent on a dinner were given to the object in view, the result would be much more beneficial, but the consequence was that when this plan was tried the subscriptions fell off almost to *nil*. He did not care what it was, whether the propagation of the gospel, the promotion of missionary enterprise, the laying of a foundation-stone, or what they would—man was a dining animal—(laughter)—and Englishmen would celebrate anything of this kind by something like conviviality; and he was convinced that to do away with this, would be to strike at the root of Freemasonry—(hear, hear.)—but whilst he said this he was also one of the strongest advocates for reducing conviviality to a very moderate scale. He thought when they sat down to a dinner at a guinea or 25s. per head, it was a great waste, but he must dine somewhere, and he preferred rather to dine with his brethren than alone. (Hear, hear). He was afraid they would find fault with him, for on this as on other occasions whenever he had risen to speak, he had been guilty of discursiveness—(“No, no.”)—and they would ask what all this had to do with the charities of the Order. He hoped, however, they would bear with him for a few moments. (Hear, hear). In the Girls’ School there were 100, and in the Boys’ School nearly 120 scholars, and there were 130 of the aged of both sexes who were maintained by the voluntary contributions of Masonic friends—(hear, hear.)—and he could say without fear of contradiction, that those institutions were never in such a condition of prosperity as at the present moment. (Cheers). They had a burden of £6,000 hanging around them, but on the 8th December their mortgage would be entirely paid off, though in order to do that they had had to call in the assistance of their bankers, who had advanced them a certain amount of money on the faith of their security. By this means they got their debt into their own possession and changed a fixed mortgage debt which required to be paid off in six months, and to be paid in one sum, to a current balance at their bankers, which might be reduced as they had the means, and at the same time the interest would be at a much lower rate than that on the mortgage debt. They would, therefore, by fulfilling their contract, be enabled to pay their mortgagees a cheque which would clear off the liability for the schools. This would, of course, leave a debt of £6,000, and that contrasted very unfavourably with the other institutions, which had funded property to the amount of from £30,000 to £55,000. But they had no lack of faith; they increased their benefits as much as they could by admitting the largest possible number of boys into the school, having confidence in the resources of the Craft. If he were to show them the shoal of applications that had come in during the past six weeks, they would be stirred up to fresh efforts in order to pay off the debt, and thus be enabled to admit twelve additional boys into the school. He was sure that, judging from the applications, they would have at least sixty candidates. They must not suppose that he was pleading for his own school and for nothing else; he desired to urge the other claims which Masonry had upon them, and he would mention that he had during the past ten years received no less a sum than £75,000 for Masonic Institutions. This was a large amount of money, especially when the other claims upon the brethren were borne in mind, including the fund for the sick and wounded in war, and the fund that was raised on the loss of the “Captain,” which came home especially to that district. Bro. Binckes concluded with another eloquent appeal on behalf of the Masonic Charities, and resumed his seat amid applause.

Bro. E. W. Rebbeck, P.M., then proposed “The health of the Very Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Bro. C. E. Deacon,” whose absence every one who knew him must have immensely regretted. (The toast was drunk with great cordiality.)

Bro. T. G. Horder, S.D., then proposed “The Provincial Grand Officers, Past and Present,” associating with it the name of Bro. Le Feuvre, one of the Prov. G. Secs., which was received with cheers.

Bro. J. E. Le Feuvre, P.G.S., said he felt it to be a very difficult task indeed to respond to that toast. He was a very young Mason, but he trusted his youth in Masonry would be pardoned on account of the zeal which he hoped to the best of his ability to display in connection with the Craft. There was no doubt that he was the youngest of the Grand Officers whom their R.W. Grand Master had been pleased to appoint, in order to assist him in the execution of the duties of that province; but although he felt perfectly certain that there were many who might have been called upon to assist him in the particular office he (Bro. Le Feuvre) filled, and who would do so with far greater ability than himself, yet he yielded to no one in his zeal for the interests of Masonry. Bro. Binckes had said that Hampshire was always foremost in assisting the Masonic charities, and he had alluded more particularly to the boys, of whom he (Bro. Le Feuvre) had, at the present time, but little information. He took Bro. Binckes’ testimony, however, as of very great value, for he was sure no one in England was better informed on the subject. On the other hand, he (Bro. Le Feuvre) could speak respecting the girls. Last year he went up as Steward of the Girls’ School, and the year before that his co-Secretary, Bro. Hickman, performed that duty, when his (Bro. Hickman’s) list for the province of Hampshire was larger than any other throughout the kingdom—the amount raised for the Girls’ School being something like £180 or £190. During the past year they tried to do as well, and he took up a list which was only less than that of the year before by £10. He took up £170, so that in the two years the province of Hampshire had contributed the not unhandsome sum of £350. (Cheers.) They would have been the highest on the list, except that an individual of Devonshire unfortunately gave a donation of £50. (Laughter, and a voice: “Not unfortunately.”) They could not help that; they rejoiced that the Girls’ School would benefit by it; but they would have liked a member of their own province to have given that £50 instead of the province of Devonshire. (Hear, hear.) Bro. Binckes had also told him that there was no rivalry between the Boys’ and Girls’ Schools, and there could be no better proof of this than that their R.W. Master was Steward of the Boys’ School last year, and took the chair at the Girls’ School this year. This proved that Masons did not confine their charity to one channel, but gave it to all the objects of distress that came under their notice. They saw this not only among themselves, but also on the Continent. What was the reason that so large a sum was sent out under the auspices of Bro. Burgess in connection with the Sick and Wounded Fund? Was it not because a large number of the members of the committee were Masons? (Hear, hear.) The greatest amount of faith was placed in that committee, although they were to a certain extent self-appointed, because the great majority of them were Masons. (Hear, hear.) He could not help thinking that the Masonic funds would never be devoted to a better object than they had been on this occasion, when the Masonic Brotherhood had been the means of raising more than a quarter of a million of money for the help of the sick and wounded in the present lamentable war. (Cheers.) He thanked them very sincerely for the compliment they had paid him in connecting his name with the toast of the Provincial Grand Officers. He had spoken only of himself, for he felt that at the present time he was almost incompetent to speak of his predecessors. He had bright examples before him, and he wished to follow in their steps, and if he did so he felt certain that he should deserve well of them, and that his conscience would tell him he had done all in his power to gain the approval of his brother Masons. (Cheers.)

Bro. R. W. Reade proposed “The Visiting Brethren,” coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Edsall, W.M. of the Lodge of Amity, Poole, which was received with cheers.

Bros. E. Edsall, W.M., C. W. Wyndham, and W. Robertson, of Taunton, responded.

The R.W. Chairman said they had already drunk the health of the Lodge of Hengist, and the toast had been responded to by the W.M.-elect, and he now asked them to drink the health of their Worshipful Master, Bro. W. E. Rebbeck, whom he had the opportunity of decorating with the centenary jewel which glittered on his breast. This was a very pleasing duty, and he hoped the receiving of the jewel was equally pleasing to Bro. Rebbeck. They trusted he would long take an interest in that lodge, and assist with his counsel and advice those who succeeded him. (Cheers.) Again, Bro. Horder had taken a great deal of interest in that day’s proceedings, and they were indebted to him for the manner in which he discharged his duties. He asked them, therefore, to drink “The health of the Officers of the Lodge of Hengist,” coupling with the toast the names of the Worshipful Master and the Senior Warden. (Cheers.)

Bros. W. E. Rebbeck, W.M., and T. Horder, S.W., returned thanks.

Bro. W. Reade here asked permission to suggest the desirability of a Masonic Calendar being published for the Province of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, like the *Masonic Calendar* for the Province of Dorset.

The R.W. Chairman promised that the suggestion should receive every attention.

The remaining toasts were “The Ladies,” “The Army, Navy and Volunteers,” “The Lodge of Dorset,” “All

Poor and Distressed Masons.” In giving “The Ladies,” Bro. E. W. Rebbeck, P.M., bore testimony to the kindness of Mrs. Bailey, who at a very short notice had provided such an excellent “spread.”

INSTRUCTION.

St. James Union Lodge of Instruction, No. 180, held its annual meeting for working the fifteen sections at the Swan Tavern, Mount-street, W., on the 21st ult. Bro. J. R. Stacey, W.M. of the mother lodge, in the chair; Bro. Baker, P.M. 753, acting as P.M. There was a large attendance of members of the mother lodge and several visitors. The lodge having been opened in due form, the first section was worked by Bro. Gilliard, second by Bro. Simpson (P.M.), third by Bro. Herf (S.W.), fourth by Bro. Snelling, fifth and sixth by Bro. Baker (P.M. 753), and seventh by Bro. Kench (W.M. 538). The lodge was then opened on the square, and the first section was worked by Bro. Arnett, second by Bro. Lemann (890), third by Bro. Goring, fourth by Bro. Arden (P.M. 511), and fifth by Bro. Goring. The lodge then opened on the mitre, and the first section was worked by Bro. Bubb (J.W.), second by Bro. Sedgwick (P.M.), and third by Bro. Cameron (P.M.), all the sections being carefully and correctly worked under the superintendence of the W.M. The lodge then resumed to the first degree, and the W.M. having been elected a honorary member of the lodge, and a vote of thanks for the admirable manner in which he had occupied the chair having been recorded on the minutes, Bro. Cameron, P.M., after expressing the great satisfaction of the brethren for the time and trouble bestowed by the W.M., not only in the duties of the mother lodge, but as the Secretary of the lodge of instruction for four years, presented him with a very elegant and massive Past Master’s scarf pin, subscribed for by a few of the brethren then in attendance, as a small token of the esteem and regard in which he was held by them, and which he hoped he would, on leaving the chair of the mother lodge, live for many years to wear. The W.M. having thanked the brethren in an able speech for their kind recognition of his services as Secretary, the lodge was closed in perfect harmony.

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:—“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 doctors’ bills.” Each packet is labelled—JAMES EPPS AND CO., Homoeopathic Chemists, London. Also, makers of Epps’s Cacaoine, a very light, thin, evening beverage.—[Adv’t.]

REPORT OF DR. ARTHUR HILL HASSALL, Analyst of the “Lancet” Sanitary Commission, Author of “Food and its Adulterations,” &c., &c., on Mayar’s Semolina: “I have carefully tested, chemically and microscopically, the samples of Semolina sent by Messrs. L. Mayar & Co., 36, Mark Lane, London, E.C. I find them to be perfectly genuine, of excellent quality, and eminently nutritious. They contain a very large percentage of nitrogenous matter, chiefly gluten, and are far more nutritious than any other food, such as Arrowroot, Tapioca, Sago, Corn Flour, Farinaceous Food, ordinary Wheat Flour, or any of the Cereals in use as food in this country.”—(Signed) ARTHUR HILL HASSALL, M.D., London.”—Highly recommended by the Faculty for Infants, Invalids, &c. Makes delicious Pudding, Custards, Blanc Mange, &c. After a trial no family will be without Mayar’s Semolina.

HOLLOWAY’S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Every-day Want.—Skin diseases, blotches, and unsightly eruptions which prevail frequently and annoy much, can be removed with facility by this cleansing and cooling Ointment, the salutary properties of which over all cutaneous affections have been long and indubitably established. Moderate doses of Holloway’s Pills should be taken while the outward ailment is being treated with this Ointment, they will depurate the blood, and free it from every taint that may induce a relapse, deteriorate the general health, or otherwise act injuriously. By promoting digestion and by purifying the circulation, Holloway’s Pills ever help to keep the skin clear, and to eradicate the many rashes and spots—the mortifying evidences of an infirm stomach.—[Adv’t.]

CROSBY’S BALSMIC COUGH ELIXIR.—Opiates Narcotics, and Squills are too often invoked to give relief in Coughs, Colds, and all Pulmonary diseases. Instead of such fallacious remedies, which yield momentary relief at the expense of enfeebling the digestive organs and thus increasing that debility which lies at the root of the malady, modern science points to Crosby’s Balsamic Cough Elixir, as the true remedy.—*Select Testimonial.* Dr. Rooke, Scarborough, author of the “Anti-Lancet,” says: “I have repeatedly observed how very rapidly and invariably it subdued cough, Pain, and Irritation of the chest in cases of pulmonary consumption, and I can, with the greatest confidence, recommend it as a most valuable adjunct to an otherwise strengthening treatment for this disease.”—“This medicine, which is free from opium and squills, not only allays the local irritation, but improves digestion and strengthens the constitution. Hence it is used with the most signal success in Asthma, Bronchitis, Consumption, Cough, Influenza, Night Sweat, of Consumption, Quinsy, and all affections of the throat and chest. Sold by all respectable Chemists and Patent Medicine Dealers in bottles at 1s. 9d., 4s. 6d. and 11s. each, and wholesale by JAS. M. Crosby, Chemist, Scarborough.”—“Invalids should read Crosby’s Prize Treatise on “Diseases of the Lungs and Air-Vessels,” a copy of which can be obtained gratis of any respectable Chemist.—[Adv’t.]

ERRATUM.—In the extract from the *Encyclopædia Metropolitana* at page 608, fourteenth line from bottom of third column, in our last issue, the word “disgusted” was incorrectly printed for *disguised*.

DALHOUSIE LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.—The annual banquet of this well-known lodge will take place on Tuesday, December 6th, at half-past six p.m., at Bro. Allen’s, Royal Edward Tavern, Hackney. Bro. William Bristo, P.M. and Treasurer 869, in the chair.

We are compelled to keep over till next week the following: “The Relationship of St. John to Freemasonry,” Lodge reports—Nos. 864, 148, and 293; R.A. Chapter 177 and 351; Emulation Lodge of Improvement; E.T. Emplacement, Present; Rose Croix Chapter, Bournemouth; and consecration of Palestine Chapter.