

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS:—	PAGE
Craft Masonry	91
Royal Arch	92
Ancient and Accepted Rite	92
Scotland	92
Consecration of the Gladsmuir Chapter	93
Masonic Ball in Liverpool	94
Royal Masonic Institution for Girls	94
United Grand Lodge	94
An Albert Edward Commemoration Medal	96
The High Grades	96
Archaeological Progress	96
Masonic Exaggeration	97
American Freemasonry	97
CORRESPONDENCE:—	
The Installation of the Grand Master	98
Mr. Bradlaugh and Freemasonry	98
The Admission of Members	98
The Public House Question	99
The Status of Past Masters	99
The Apollo University Lodge, Oxford	99
The Right of Visiting Lodges	99
Official Visits to Lodges	99
Royal Standard Lodge	99
Lodge Meetings for next Week	100
Advertisements	i, iii, iv, v, vi.

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 172).—On Tuesday, 23rd ult., a grand ball took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, it being the 35th anniversary of the ball, and we must say that it was the most distinguished and elegant assembly we have for many years past observed. The whole suite of rooms having been re-decorated and beautified but recently, added much to the splendour of the scene, and the arrangements throughout redounded highly to the credit of all parties engaged in promoting this ball. The dancing was kept up with great animation and spirit until midnight, when the votaries of the light fantastic descended to the "Crown Room" which was most brilliantly lighted up for their reception. After the company had freely partaken of the various delicacies provided, Bro. Speight, the well-known Tyler of this lodge, acting as toastmaster, proclaimed silence for the V.P., who on rising referred in feeling terms to the unavoidable absence of the President, Bro. Vorley, through severe indisposition. The toasts being limited the President in glowing and eloquent language gave the toast of "Her Majesty the Queen, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," after which Bro. J. Emmens, P.M. the highly respected Hon. Sec., who had on rising a perfect ovation of plaudits, shewing the respect in which he is held, proceeded to give "The Health of Bro. E. A. Masterman, the chairman, which was responded to in a most enthusiastic manner. The worthy Sec. then gave the toast of the evening, viz., "The Success of the Old Concord Ball," and spoke in the warmest terms of the support rendered by the patronage of the bodies whose presence and aid had drawn forth so large a party. Contributing as it did such benefit to the charities, the proceeds resulting being at all times handed over to some one of those excellent institutions Masons hold so dear. The Secretary's (Bro. Emmens) health was then proposed by the President, who dilated most pleasantly upon the excellent qualities and the respect in which their Bro. Secretary was so universally held by his brethren, when Bro. Emmens replied that he was much gratified that his efforts had given such general satisfaction; informing the assembled company that it was 36 years since he had had the honour and pleasure of carrying out the arrangements of the ball. The President then proposed the health of the ladies, leaving it in the hands of Bro. Ward, S.D. of the lodge, and a junior member of the company to respond. Ample justice being done to the viands, which were supplied by Bro. Francatelli in a most recherché style, the company returned to the ballroom to resume dancing, which was kept up with great spirit until 4 a.m. The Stewards were Bro. E. Dottridge, I.P.M.; D. Devenish, S.W.; G. Gorton, P.M.; G. Watson, P.M.; A. J. Dottridge, J.D.; S. S. Wood, S.D.; W. P. Gosey, I.G. Bro. Frampton, who has been the M.C. for many years, acquitted himself with his accustomed urbanity. The band, under the directorship of Bro. Marriott, added very materially to the enjoyment of the company by the inspiring strains of music, from his repertoire of the most popular and pleasing compositions of the day.

LEICESTER.—JOHN O' GAUNT LODGE (No. 523).—The members of this lodge assembled at the Freemasons' Hall on Thursday evening, the 18th ult., for the transaction of business, which comprised the election of Bro. Thomas Worthington, S.W. Knights of Malta Lodge, No. 50, as a joining member, two raisings, and one passing. One of the candidates for the sublime degree, who is now travelling in Russia, was consequently absent, and the candidate for the second degree was unable to attend owing to domestic affliction. There was a numerous attendance of visitors to witness the excellent working, for which the officers of this lodge are so justly celebrated, and the W.M., Bro. S. S. Partridge, Prov. Grand Secretary, fully realized the expectations of all present by his masterly manner of conferring the third degree. Amongst those present on this occasion were the complete staff of officers, and the following brethren: Bros. F. J. Baines, I.P.M.; J. T. Thorp, S.W.; W. T. Rowlett, J.W.; W. B. Smith, P.M., Treasurer; T. A. Wykes, Secretary; A. Ross, S.D.; R. Taylor, J.D.; W. C. Shout, I.G.; A. Sargeant, Steward; R. Waite, P.G.W.; J. W. Smith, W.M. 279; G. Clifton, W.M. 1391; J. M. McAllister, S.W. 279; E. Mason, Sec. 1391; and others. We have much pleasure in observing that Bro. Partridge has been proposed as an honorary

member of St. John's Lodge, No. 279, in appreciation of his eminent services in this province.

STOKESLEY.—CLEVELAND LODGE (No. 543).—The usual monthly meeting of the Cleveland Lodge was held at the Golden Lion Hotel, on Monday evening, February 22nd, when Bro. Richardson, of Glaisdale, was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year, the ceremony being performed in a very able and impressive manner by Bro. Knowles, P.M. of the Lodge of Philanthropy, Stockton-on-Tees, and G.S.D. of the province of Durham. The W.M. then appointed and invested his officers as follows:—Bros. A. W. Johnson, S.W.; James Coulson, J.W.; W. S. Dixon, S.D.; David Dixon, J.D.; Sharpe, I.G.; Handyside, P.M. and P. Prov. G. J. W., remaining Secretary as before. Bro. Watson was re-elected as Treasurer, and Bro. Harrison, who has been the efficient Tyler of the lodge from its commencement, was re-appointed as usual. The lodge being duly closed, the brethren adjourned from labour to refreshment. The annual festival of the lodge, which had been deferred on account of the change of tenants at the hotel, was served up in excellent style by Mr. and Mrs. Laws, and the youngest and oldest Masons all showed a reasonable proficiency in "the knife and fork degree." The following toasts were then given, and drank with Masonic honours. "The Queen and the Craft," "His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, G.M. of England," "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," responded to by Bro. Handyside; "The Earl of Zetland, Prov. G.M.," "The Health of Bro. Knowles," to which he responded in a feeling manner; "The Zetland Lodge," responded to by Bro. Sutherland, S.W. of that lodge; "The Lodge of Philanthropy," to which Bro. Thomas Bowron, P.M. of that lodge, responded; "The W.M. during the past year," responded to by Bro. Wilcox; "The W.M. for the ensuing year," responded to by Bro. Richardson; "The Health of Bro. Handyside," in proposing which, Bro. Knowles bore his testimony to the valuable services which had been rendered by that brother in assisting to work the Royal Arch Chapters in the neighbourhood. Bro. George Markham Tweddell expressed the pleasure it gave to the members of the Cleveland Lodge to hear the remarks which had just fallen from a brother of the adjoining province. For the information of those present who had just been initiated, he might state that twenty-eight years ago there was no Masonic lodge in Cleveland, and now there were four. He did not think that if there had never been a Bro. Handyside that there never would have been a Cleveland Lodge; but he certainly was the founder of the lodge, and for upwards of twenty-seven years he had rarely been absent from the meetings of the lodge. Bro. Handyside responded. "The Assistant Officers of the Lodge," responded to by Bro. William Harrison, who also favoured the meeting with some excellent recitations. The proceedings were enlivened by songs from Bros. Watson, Purdy, Emerson, Wilcox, W. S. Dixon, David Dixon, Best, and others. The brethren departed about ten o'clock in peace and harmony.

TIVERTON.—ST. PETER'S LODGE (No. 1125).—The regular monthly stated lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, on Thursday, the 18th inst., Bro. Thos. Parkhouse presiding. After the confirmation of the minutes of the former meeting, Bro. Mills, P.M., Secretary, presented to the lodge an elegant album to contain the photographs of the present and future members. On the first page was a life-like cabinet portrait of their much beloved P.G.M., the R.W. and Revd. Jno. Huyshe, which that gentleman had, on the application of Bro. Mills, most courteously forwarded. Thanks having been voted to the donors for their acceptable present, the lodge was opened up to the third degree, and Bro. Luxton, who had been duly examined and entrusted, was raised by the W.M. to the sublime degree of a M.M. On resuming work in the first degree, a candidate was proposed for initiation, and the lodge then formally closed. On Monday last, the 22nd inst., all that was mortal of Bro. P. P. Beedell, deceased, late a member of Fidelity Lodge, No. 230, was interred in the family vault in St. George's churchyard, in this town, several brethren of St. Peter's Lodge attending the funeral, wearing white gloves and having a black rosette on the left arm. Upon the funeral procession entering the church, the "Dead March in Saul" was performed on the organ by Bro. Mills, P.M., P.G.O.; and at the conclusion of the service, the brethren passed round the grave, and dropped sprigs of acacia on the coffin.

DOVER.—CORINTHIAN LODGE (No. 1208).—It is the custom of the Freemasons once a year to celebrate the advent of the new Master and the retirement of the old one by a gathering of the members of the lodge in connection with which the celebration takes place, as well of other lodges in the district. A celebration of this character took place at the Corinthian Lodge, No. 1208, at the Royal Hotel, on Monday evening, when the W.M. elect, Bro. W. A. Smeeth, was duly installed in the presence of Bro. Eastes, Deputy Prov. G.M. for the Province of Kent, and a large assembly of Masons. The ceremony of installation was exceedingly well performed by the P.M., Bro. G. Adamson, sen., assisted by P.M. Bro. J. Owen Rees (who was on a visit to Dover), and P.M. Bro. Archibald Wilson. After the ceremony, 78 of the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet, provided by the host, after which the W.M. very ably gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were duly responded to. The Deputy P.G.M., Bro. Eastes, in proposing "The Health of the W.M.," who had just been installed, in a very able manner pleaded the cause of those truly charitable institutions, the Boys' and Girls' Schools, the Institutions for Aged Freemasons and Freemasons' Widows. The Secretary of the latter institution, Bro. Terry, also advocated its claims on the sympathies of the brethren, and he also availed himself of the opportunity of informing the brethren that the Corinthian Lodge in sending up Bro. H. M. Baker as their Steward, with the excellent sum of nearly £50, had done great ser-

vice to this institution, and he hoped that example would be followed in numerous instances. A very gratifying evening was spent, and we may add that during the evening the W.M. read a letter from Viscount Holmesdale, M.P., Provincial Grand Master of Kent, expressing his inability to be present, and congratulating the lodge upon its prosperity; and, just previous to the opening of the lodge, a telegram was received from Bro. Alfred Spencer, Prov. Grand Sec., stating his regret at being unable to keep his engagement. The following is a list of the brethren present:—S. Wiles, 1208, W.M., vacating chair; W. A. Smeeth, W.M., elect; W. B. Adamson, S.W.; G. Adamson, sen., P.M. 199 and 1208, P. Prov. G.D.Cers.; H. M. Baker, J.W.; J. Holmes, S.D.; C. Claydon, J.D.; G. Adamson, jun., I.G.; J. Rose, Tyler; Edw. Todd, Isaac Lester, J.D. 199; A. Wilson, P.M. 199, P. Prov. G.S.B.; J. Bourdeaux, J.W. 199; Peachey, Faechs, Chas. J. Long, S. J. Davies, H. C. Fuhr, P.M., P. Prov. G.D.C.; J. H. Welch, C. Waiter, G. R. Igglesden, Herbert E. Wright, J. Crosier, E. Fenn, S. Court, Visitors—J. S. Eastes, Invicta, 709, D.P.G.M., Kent; Hughes Hallett, Invicta, 709, W.M.; R. Elliott, Invicta, 709, and 874, P. Prov. G.R., P.M.; W. Wood, St. Michaels, W.M. 1273; H. Greenwood, Royal Military, W.M. 1449; J. Owen Rees, Peace and Harmony, P.M. 199, P. Prov. G.P.; H. Miskin, St. Augustine, 972; W. Bell, Peace and Harmony, 199; James Kennett, 558, W.M., P.G.S.; C. Gosby, W.M. 1436; F. Walker, W.M. 972; J. Sherwood, Temple, P.M. 551; J. Terry, Secretary, R.M.B.I.; W. M. Cavill, 784, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.D.; D. Osment, 155, P.M. P. Prov. J.W.; John E. Apps, 784, W.M.; R. B. Eastes, 1096, W.M.; S. Olds, 784; G. W. Moon, 784; G. H. Smith, 199; Adam Keeler, 1436; A. F. S. Bird, 784, P.M.; G. N. Chidwick, 199.

GREAT NORTHERN LODGE (No. 1287).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall on Thursday, 18th ult. The chair was taken by the W.M., Bro. James Forbes, who was supported by the I.P.M., Bro. Stator, Bros. Bescoby, S.W.; Lancaster, J.W.; Christie, J.D.; West, P.M., I.G.; Webb, Treasurer. There were also present Bros. Reed, P.M., Arkell, Hammond, Busgard, Tewkesbury, Freshwater, Harper, Owen, Bathard, Timberlake, Short, Robinson, Hawtin, and Hitchcock. The worthy Secretary, Bro. Jupe, was absent through illness. The business consisted of raising Bro. Hawtin; passing Bros. Short and Hitchcock; and initiating Mr. Jones, the candidate who was ballotted for at the last meeting, but who was then unable to be present. There were also two candidates mentioned in the summons to be ballotted for, viz.: Messrs. Barnes and Jenkins. Punctual to time on the part of the officers, the W.M. opened the lodge, and commenced by examining Bro. Hawtin, whom he afterwards raised to the sublime degree, in a manner that portends well for the future; in fact, not only in this degree, but also in all the other business brought before him. Bros. Short and Hitchcock were passed to the second degree after due examination, and Mr. Jones was then initiated. The ballot having been unanimous in favour of Messrs. Barnes and Jenkins, they were also admitted into the ancient Order. The minutes of the last meeting were then read and confirmed. The W.M. having risen in the usual manner, and no candidates being announced, the lodge was adjourned to the month of March. At the banquet that followed, the W.M. put the Grand lodge toasts through in quick time, and these having been received, as is usually the case with this lodge, in a truly loyal manner, "The Health of the Initiates" was given. The replies from the new comers were very good, showing that the ceremony they had recently undergone, had left an impression upon their minds. For that of the "Visitors," Bros. Bateson, Jones and Oldfield returned thanks, all of them expressing themselves highly gratified at the entertainment they had received. The W.M. then gave the "Past Masters," which was replied to by Bros. Stator, I.P.M.; Webb, P.M.; and Reed, P.M. "The Health of the W.M." having been proposed, it was duly honoured with the fire of the Great Northern. After a brief, but humorous reply, the W.M. gave "The Health of the Officers," stating that he was not only proud of them himself, but proud of them for the sake of the lodge, and of those who had filled the chair before him, for they had done a great deal in getting the lodge to its present efficient state, but more especially with regard to the officers. Bro. Bescoby, S.W., replying for himself and brother officers, stated they, one and all, had made up their minds to do all they could to promote the welfare and pleasure of the members of No. 1287. The Tyler's toast concluded the evening's entertainment, which was greatly enhanced by the W.M. Bros. Webb, P.M.; and Reed, P.M.; and Bros. Arkell, Bescoby, Barnes, Harper, Lancaster, and Owen.

HAMPTON COURT.—BURDETT LODGE (No. 1293).—This lodge held its installation meeting at the Mitre Tavern, Hampton Court, on Saturday, the 23rd January, when a large muster of the brethren, members of the province of Middlesex, assembled. The outgoing W.M., Bro. Phythian, in a most able manner, initiated Mr. William Jones Burdett, a nephew of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, and passed two brethren to the second degree. Bro. Little, the P.G. Secretary, then took the chair, and installed Bro. Frederick Keily, as W.M. of the lodge, with that degree of perfection which renders his working so celebrated. The W.M. then appointed and invested the officers for the ensuing year, viz.:—Bros. Pearce, S.W.; Berrie, J.W.; Rev. Shaboe, Chaplain; Little, P.G. Secretary, Treasurer; Buss, P.G. Treasurer, Secretary; Southwell, S.D.; Bindoff, J.D.; Tindall, I.G.; Gordon, M.C.; Woollard, W. Steward; Coote, Organist. The report of the audit committee was presented, which showed the lodge to be in a very flourishing condition, and a vote of five guineas was made to the Masonic Girls' School. After the banquet, the usual Masonic toasts were given, and ably responded to, and in a few remarks made by

Col. Burdett, the P.G.M., he expressed his great gratification at the success which had attended this lodge—the lodge of his adoption—and also on the general progress which Masonry had made in the province since his appointment to the office of Provincial Grand Master. Amongst the visitors were Bros. Dr. Woodman, 66; Edmands, P.G. Secretary; Grabham, W.M. 1499; Waterhouse, 255; Shirley, 1118; Probert, 8; Lemon, 159; Green, J.W. 27; McLean, 474; Clark, 266; and others. The banquet was most ably and sumptuously provided by Bro. Sadler.

KENNINGTON LODGE (No. 1381).—A meeting of this lodge was held at the Surrey Club House, Kennington Oval, on Tuesday, the 2nd inst. The lodge was opened at six o'clock in the evening, by Bro. Gardner, the W.M., assisted by Bros. Everett, S.W., W.M. 177; Painter, J.W.; Higgins, J.D.; Webb, I.G.; Koch, I.P.M.; Page, P.M., Treasurer; Stuart, P.M., Secretary; Walls, W.S.; Kohler, A.W.S. The minutes of the installation meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M. and his officers initiated Mr. Rogers into the mysteries of the Order. Bro. Richardson being in attendance, was examined, entrusted, and duly passed to the degree of a F.C. Bro. Kock, I.P.M., gave a notice of motion, to be discussed at the next meeting; that the services of Bro. Stuart, P.M., as Secretary of the lodge since February 1874, should receive some tangible recognition. He also gave notice of motion that he should move at the April meeting that a Benevolent Fund in connection with the lodge should be established. Some minor business having been transacted, the lodge was closed in ancient form, and the brethren partook of refreshment. Bro. Smith, P.M. and W.M. of the Royal Arthur Lodge, paid the lodge a visit. This being an "off night," the only toasts given were "The Queen and the Craft," and "The W.M." The W.M. and Bros. Walls and Wormald having contributed some vocal effusions, the proceedings, which were eminently successful, terminated at an early hour.

WIDNES.—LODGE OF EQUITY (No. 1384).—The brethren of this lodge met at Walker's Commercial Hotel, Widnes, on Wednesday, the 24th ult., to celebrate their annual festival and assist at the installation of the W.M. elect. There was a numerous attendance of members and visitors. The lodge was duly opened by Bro. R. D. Simpson, W.M., who was supported by a strong array of officers. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, and one candidate had been initiated, the chair was taken by Bro. J. W. J. Fowler, P. Prov. A.D.C. 86; who proceeded to install Bro. H. S. Oppenheim as the W.M. of the lodge, the ceremony being performed in that finished and impressive manner for which Bro. Fowler has long been well-known and admired. Bro. Oppenheim subsequently invested the following as his officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. R. D. Simpson, I.P.M.; W. Jamieson, S.W.; J. W. Wareing, J.W.; W. I. Thomson, Treasurer; James White, Secretary; A. Borthwick, S.D.; A. Tippet, J.D.; J. Raven, I.G.; W. Newsome, D.C.; R. Neill, S.S.; J. W. Carlisle, J.S.; and G. Brown, Tyler. The assembled brethren afterwards sat down to an excellent banquet, which was presided over by the newly-chaired W.M. During the evening the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to with great cordiality, the proceedings throughout being of a very enjoyable character.

Royal Arch.

CAVEAC CHAPTER (No. 176).—The regular convocation of this well-established chapter was held on Saturday, Feb. 27th, 1875, at the Albion, Aldersgate-street. The chapter was duly opened. There were present: Comps. T. Quihampton, M.E.Z.; W. S. Wyman, II.; G. K. Lemann, J.; P. A. Nairne, P.Z.; C. T. Dorey, P.Z.; M. Scott, P.Z.; R. S. Foreman, P.Z.; F. Walters, P.Z., Treas.; W. M. Goss, S.N.; J. B. Sorrell, 1st A.S.; S. Powneby; and others. There were no visitors. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and unanimously confirmed. Ballots were unanimous in favour of the admission of all the candidates who were proposed for exaltation. Apologies were received from all those who were absent. Comp. Scott, in an able manner, installed W. S. Wyman, II. elect, as the Haggai of the chapter. Some candidates were proposed for exaltation, and the chapter was closed, after the bye-laws had been revised. There was no banquet, but a few of the members dined together.

LEICESTER.—CHAPTER OF FORTITUDE (No. 279).—The regular meeting took place at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on Thursday, February 25th, and was largely attended by the members. In the unavoidable absence of the M.E.Z., Comp. E. J. Crow, the First Principal's chair was taken by Com. G. Toller, junr., P.Z., who was supported by Comps. S. P. Ekin, II., and W. Sculthorpe, J.; amongst those present were Comps. C. Stretton, P.Z.; S. S. Partridge, S.E.; R. W. Waite, S.N., and Treasurer; Thorpe, P.S.; Odell, A.S.; J. W. Smith, W.M. 279; F. Baines, P.M. 522; Barfoot, Stallard, Wykes, and many others. The minutes of the previous convocation having been confirmed, a ballot was taken for several candidates who had been proposed. From various causes only Bros. O. Law, I.G. 279; and T. M. Quin, 523, were enabled to be present. These were exalted in due form by the acting M.E.Z., who delivered the symbolical and mystical lectures, the historical being given by Comp. Sculthorpe, J. It is only right to mention that Comp. Thorpe discharged his duties as P. Soj. without a mistake. The ballot was then taken for the election of officers for the ensuing year, and resulted as follows:—Comps. Ekin, Z.; Sculthorpe, II.; Partridge, J.; Thorpe, S.E.; J. W. Smith, S.N.; Waite, Treasurer; Rowlett, P. Soj.; Wykes, Dir. of Cer. After discussion £10 10s. was voted to the widow of a deceased member, and £5 5s. to the Boys' School, to be placed on Comp. Waite's list. The chapter was then

closed, and the companions adjourned for refreshment, and passed a short time very agreeably, aided in a great measure by the admirable singing of Comps. Wykes, Stallard, Moore, Thorpe, and others.

LIVERPOOL.—EVERTON CHAPTER (No. 823).—The annual meeting of this chapter was held last week at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool, and was very largely attended. The chapter was opened at four o'clock by Comp. Jesse Banning, M.E.Z., and after the minutes of the previous meeting had been confirmed, he proceeded to install as Principals Comps. Joseph Holland, Z.; W. J. Lunt, H.; and W. Cottrell, J. The ceremony was performed in a faultless and impressive manner. The Z. invested the following as his officers:—Comps. R. W. Oglesby, S.E.; J. W. Edge, Secretary; T. Shaw, P.S.; J. W. C. Browne Cave, First A.S.; W. Trevitt, Second A.S.; T. Ashmore, P.Z., Treasurer; and P. Ball, Janitor. The members present included Comps. J. W. Ballard, W. Boulton, W. Maddox, F. Tuft, T. Bloomfield, R. Warriner, G. Parry, W. H. Thompson, W. H. Cooper, R. Carson, T. H. Carefall, G. Graham, J. S. Cuthbert, J. Goodman, J. White, W. Nash, J. Houlding, and H. Ashmore. The visitors included Comps. J. Wood, Treasurer 242; H. Williams, P.Z. 580; T. Williams, J. 203; J. McKane, P.Z. 216; T. Chesworth, P.Z. 1086; W. Shorter, Z. 1094; J. Jones, P.Z. 203; J. Pemberton, P.Z. 1094; J. Skeaf, Z. 216, P.G.O.; J. Parsons, Z. 213; and P. G. Gee, S.N. 249. Four candidates were exalted by Comp. Holland, M.E.Z., the work being done by the Principals and P.S., in a manner rarely equalled. Three guineas were voted for charity, and at the banquet which followed business, a jewel was presented to Comp. Jesse Banning, P.Z. The "Everton" is the largest in the province, and the funds were reported as in a flourishing condition.

Ancient and Accepted Rite.

ST. JOHN'S SOVEREIGN CHAPTER OF S.P.R.C. OF H.R.D.M.—The regular meeting of the above chapter was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Grahamstown, for the purpose of consecrating the new chapter, and for the installation of the office-bearers for the ensuing year. The usual business of the evening having been disposed of, the installation and consecration were proceeded with by Ill. Bro. R. W. H. Giddy, S.P.R.S. XXXII. degree, Treasurer-General of Griqualand West, Representative in this Colony of the Supreme Council XXXIII degree of England and Wales and the British Colonies, A.A. Scottish Rite. The following were the officers installed:—M.E.P. Bros. T. H. Addison, K.R.R.C.K.H.S., M.W.S.; W. Waller, P.M., P.P.Z., H.P.; P. H. Solomon, P.M., 1st Gen.; H. Linton, P.M., 2nd Gen.; A. S. Dudley, P.M., P.P.Z., Recorder and Organist; R. Mundy, P.M., Raphael; J. F. Darvall, Grand Marshal; T. Sheffield, T.; G. G. Locke, II.; F. W. Hepburn, Captain of Guard; A. Will, O.G. Ill. Bro. Giddy, after the installation, congratulated the brethren present upon the auspicious occasion of the installation of the first officers of the first Chapter of Rose Croix Masons formed in Grahamstown, and from the number of Knights already enrolled under the banner of this exalted degree, he predicted for it a very successful career. The brethren were afterwards entertained at a banquet by Bro. T. H. Addison, the M.W.S. elect, at his residence, given in honour of Ill. Bro. R. W. H. Giddy. The health of Ill. Bros. Giddy and Addison were drank and duly responded to by each, the brethren separating at midnight.

Scotland.

PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER FOR LANARKSHIRE.

The quarterly meeting of this chapter was held on the 26th ult., in St. Mark's Hall, Buchanan-street. Bro. F. A. Barrow, P.G. Supt., presided, and there were present Comps. William Smith, P.G.J.; Archibald McTaggart, P.G. Scribe E.; John Fraser, P.G.N.; James Duthie, Z. 67; Thomas D. Humphries, Z. 69; James Balfour, First P.G.S.; James S. Scott, II. 122; George Thallon, Z. 119; George Wheeler, Z. 43; James Annand, Z. 144; and J. O. Park, Z. 122. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and approved of, the Most Excellent Superintendent intimated that he had appointed Comp. J. Fraser to the office of P. G. Scribe N., which announcement was received with much cordiality by the companions present. Comp. Park called attention to the fact that no election had taken place since the reposal of the Supreme Royal Arch Chapter of Lanarkshire. In reference to this, it was agreed to, that the matter should be allowed to rest over till the meeting of the P.G.R.A. Chapter in November next. It was next agreed to, that a festival of all the chapters in the province be held shortly on a convenient date; and, on the motion of Comp. Halket, seconded by Comp. Wheeler, it was resolved that the First Principals of the chapters of the province should form a committee to carry out the arrangements, Comp. Halket to be convener. Comp. Duthie called attention to the payment of the annual fees to P.G. Royal Arch Chapter, when it was determined to make intimation that the fee for the past year was due. P.G. Treasurer Comp. Halket proposed that the past year's levy should be limited to £1, which motion was seconded by Comp. Wheeler, and carried unanimously. A letter was then read by the P.G. Scribe E. from Comp. J.D. Porteous, Second Grand Principal of the Province, intimating his resignation of that office, consequent upon his departure from Glasgow. Comp. Porteous therein said—"In doing so, permit me to express my sense of the kindness I have ever experienced from yourself (the P.G. Super.) and the companions, who I leave with a strong feeling of personal regard." The letter having been read, it was moved that

a copy of the minute of the present meeting be sent to Comp. Porteous, expressing the universal regret of the Chapter at his withdrawal from them, and their sincere and heartfelt desire for the future happiness of himself and his family, and for his success in the new sphere of labour to which he had been so honourably called. The P.G. Chapter was thereafter closed in due and ancient form.

GLASGOW.—INSTALLATION DEGREE.—On Friday the 19th inst., in St. Mark's Hall, Buchanan-street, an emergency meeting took place, at which a Board of Installed Master Masons was formed, consisting of Bros. Thomas Halket, P.M. 102; Arch. McTaggart, P.M. 27; and John Fraser, P.M. 87; for the purpose of conferring the Installed Masters' degree upon three brethren from Lanark. Those were Bros. Wm. McLachlan, R.W.M. Lodge 21, Old St. John, Lanark; John Currie, P.M. of same lodge; and John Annan, R.W.M. Lodge 326, Clydesdale, Lanark. The ceremony was efficiently performed by Bro. Halket.

GLASGOW.—THISTLE AND ROSE LODGE (No. 73).—The 121st anniversary of this lodge was held in the Lesser Trades Hall, on the 24th ult., Bro. McDonald, R.W.M., in the chair, and Bros. Wm. McGregor, S.W.; and J. T. Hanbridge, J.W., acting Croupiers. After an excellent supper, provided by Bro. Ancell, the chairman delivered an interesting address, referring to the age of the lodge, and its prosperity. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been pledged, Bro. McGregor, S.W., gave the "Three Grand Lodges," which was responded to by Bro. Wheeler, for the Grand Lodge of England, and Bro. Currie, for the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Bro. Hanbridge, J.W., gave "The Provincial Grand Lodge," to which Bro. G. Sinclair replied, giving valuable information as to the work done in that lodge. Bro. W. B. Pateson gave "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," to which Bro. T. Stewart responded. Bro. Grove, 116, proposed the toast of the evening, viz., "The Thistle and Rose Lodge, No. 73," to which the Secretary, Bro. Ampleford, replied, stating that during the past year the lodge had been very prosperous, and he had no doubt, with Bro. McDonald as their R.W.M., it would continue to be so. The other toasts were "The Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council," by Bro. Bannerman; "Sister Lodges," by Bro. G. W. Wheeler; "The Ladies," by Bro. W. T. Kay; replied to by Bro. Richards; "The Strangers," by Bro. T. Stewart; replied to by Mr. Bowker. The toasts were interspersed with songs, ably rendered by Bros. Pemman, Grove, Prout, and others. The concert programme having been brought to a close a spirited ball, kept up to an early hour, completed one of the most pleasant meetings held under the auspices of this lodge for some years.

GLASGOW.—LODGE SCOTIA (No. 178).—The eighty-fourth annual festival of this lodge was held in the Crown-street Assembly-Rooms on the 7th inst., taking the form of a soirée, concert, and ball. Bro. Joseph Singleton, R.W.M., occupied the chair, supported on the platform by Bros. Rev. J. C. Stewart, John Peters, R.W.M. 153 (Royal Arch, Pollokshaws); R. M. Quill, R.W.M. 275 (Shamrock and Thistle); Jno. Mathieson, Arthur Higgins, Robert Gardner, Peter Hipburn, Runcie (Gourock); and King. After tea, the chairman made a few remarks, at the outset of which he said that he much appreciated these anniversary gatherings, as he thought it was distinctly good to have at least one meeting in the year at which they could be joined by the ladies. With regard to the state of the lodge he stated further on, that during the last twelve months they had initiated forty-eight candidates, who, he added, would be an honour to Masonry and to the Lodge Scotia. They had remitted to the P.G.L. of Glasgow, for benevolence, the sum of ten guineas, and they had only had three applications for relief during the year, two of which were from the widows of Masonic brethren. For the musical programme, which was a lengthened and attractive one, there were engaged other artists, Bros. John Good and D. Alexander, and the concert was on the whole a successful one. The assembly, which followed, was kept up with spirit until an early hour.

GLASGOW.—LODGE STAR (No. 219).—The fortnightly meeting of this lodge was held in their hall, No. 12, Tron-gate, Glasgow, on Monday, 22nd February, Bro. John Morgan, R.W.M., presiding; Bros. John Garth, S.W.; Jas. Horn, J.W.; and the remaining officers in their respective places. There were also present: Bros. John Fraser, P.M. Lodge Thistle, No. 87; W. H. Bickerton (Freemason), and a large attendance of members and visitors. The lodge was opened by the R.W.M., Bro. John Morgan, the minutes of last meeting read and approved, also an application from Mr. Wm. Stewart Boyd for admittance into the privileges of Freemasonry was read and approved of, the ceremony of initiation being performed in a very able manner by Bro. John Morgan, R.W.M. Bro. John Morgan, brought to the notice of the brethren the case of a member of the Star Lodge, No. 219, being in very great distress, brought on by illness, and recommended that the lodge vote £2 2s. and that the Secretary apply for another £2 2s. from the Provincial Benevolent Fund, to assist this brother in his present wants, which was unanimously agreed to. The R.W.M. also brought to their notice the great loss Bro. Davidson, P.M. of this lodge, had sustained by the death of his wife, who had always been so faithful and dear to him. Bro. Davidson also had been always a true and faithful husband, father, and Freemason, one that the Order might be proud of, and he moved that the Secretary write a letter of condolence, on behalf of Lodge Star, No. 219, to Bro. Davidson, which was unanimously the wish of the lodge. Bro. John Morgan, R.W.M., then selected Bro. Jasper Martin as Depute Master. With the exception of a few alterations in the bye-laws and respecting the anniversary festival there was no further business before the lodge, which was closed in due form.

GOVAN.—LODGE GOVANDALE (No. 437).—The usual meeting of this lodge was held in the hall in Portland

Buildings, Govan, on the 16th inst. The R.W.M., Bro. John McFarlane, presided, and there was a numerous attendance. The lodge having been opened, two candidates received the first degree at the hands of Bro. John Monro, R.W.M. 360 (Commercial); and thereafter two more passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, by the R.W.M., Bro. McFarlane. There being no other business on the card, the lodge was thereafter closed in due and ancient form.

GLASGOW.—LODGE CALEDONIAN RAILWAY (No. 354).—The bi-monthly meeting of this lodge was held in St. Mark's Hall, Buchanan-street, on the 17th inst. In the absence of the R.W.M. (Bro. James Shaw), Bro. A. Arrick Smith, P.M., presided. There were present Bros. Wm. H. Caldwell, S.M.; Jno. W. Stafford, S.W.; Adam B. Feryman, J.W.; A. Carmichael, Treasurer; W. R. Dunn, Secretary; Jno. Harley, S.D.; and a fair number of visiting brethren. The lodge having been opened, and the minutes read, one candidate, James Poole, was duly proposed for initiation. There was no other business of importance transacted.

GLASGOW.—LODGE CLYDE (No. 408).—This lodge held its usual meeting in the hall at 170, Buchanan-street, on the 19th inst. Bro. William Harper, R.W.M., occupied the chair, with, in their places, Bros. Connie, P.M.; McInnes, S.W.; Merriam, acting J.W.; Stewart, Treasurer; and D. S. Mitchell, Secretary. Among the visiting brethren present were Bros. Wheeler, 73; and A. R. Milson, 27. The lodge having been opened, the R.W.M. informed the brethren that St. John's Operative Lodge, No. 34, Rutherglen, would hold their annual festival there on the 26th inst., and as it was very desirable the lodges should support one another, he hoped as many brethren of No. 408 as could make it convenient, would see it to be their duty to attend on the occasion. Thereafter, Bro. Jno. Lyons, who had been initiated on the 5th inst., was passed to the square degree of Fellow Craft by Bro. Wheeler. A circular was read from lodge 347 (as above), inviting as large a deputation as possible to assist at the laying of the memorial stone of their new hall in Rutherglen, which is to take place with Masonic honours on March 6th. Bro. John McKinnow was then installed as P.G.S. for the ensuing year, the R.W.M., Bro. Harper, officiating. The lodge was thereafter called from labour to refreshment, when, after the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, Bro. McInnes proposed that of "The Visiting Brethren," coupled with the names of Bros. Wheeler and W. B. Paterson, No. 27, by both of whom it was acknowledged. Among remaining toasts were "Lodge Clyde," by Bro. Wheeler; "The Press," by Bro. R. Mitchell, sen.; "Health and Prosperity to Robert Mitchell,"—who is about leaving home for Western Australia—by the R.W.M.; and "Absent Brethren," by Bro. McInnes, S.W. The brethren being recalled to labour, the R.W.M. requested the assent of the lodge to a proposal that Bro. Hugh McDougall, W.M. of a lodge in Chicago, be made an honorary member of this lodge, in recognition of his kindness to the late Bro. Parker, a member of Lodge Clyde, who died there a few weeks after his arrival. This was unanimously agreed to, and the Secretary, Bro. Mitchell, was instructed to write to Bro. McDougall on the subject. Bro. R. Mitchell, sen., P.M. 332, reminded the R.W.M. that a sum of £12 10s. was now lying in the City of Glasgow Bank, in the name of three of the subscribers to a fund, which had been raised to bury with Masonic honours an American brother who died in the Royal Infirmary here on 2nd Nov. 1873. The original idea of the committee, of whom Bro. Harper was Secretary, was to purchase a vault or vaults for the interment of foreign brethren who might happen to die amongst them, and he (Bro. Mitchell) hoped the subject would be again brought up before the members of the Craft in Glasgow. The R.W.M., in reply, stated that he had not lost sight of the matter, and he would have a meeting convened in March ensuing, and endeavour to have the intentions of the subscribers carried out to the full. Subsequently Bro. McInnes, S.W., suggested that the ground and obelisk, belonging to this lodge, in the Southern Necropolis should be put in proper order now that winter was over. The R.W.M. promised that this should be done. Bro. McInnes then presented the lodge with two covers for the protection of their paraphernalia, which were accepted, and a vote of thanks to the donor, moved by Bro. Duncan Downie, P.M., heartily accorded. The lodge was thereafter duly closed.

GLASGOW.—LODGE ATHOLE (No. 413).—The ordinary meeting of this lodge was held on the 23rd ult., in St. Mark's Hall, Buchanan-street. The R.W.M., Bro. John Wallace, presided, and there were also present: Bros. John Millar, P.M.; Jas. Louttit, D.M.; Walter Neilson, S.M.; Colin McKenzie, S.W.; and Daniel Leeds, J.W. The lodge having been opened, the following duly approved candidates received the first degree at the hands of Bro. Millar, P.M., viz.: Donald Cameron, Robert Russell, Robert Easdale, Peter Simpson, and John Connell. There being no other business before the meeting, the lodge was there after closed in due form.

The annual festival of the lodge was held on 26th ult., in the Clarendon Restaurant, (Bro. Thornton's) Argyle-st. The R.W.M., Bro. Wallace, occupied the chair, and Bro. James Louttit, D.M., officiated as Croupier. The company was a numerous one, amongst brethren from other lodges being Bros. William Bell, R.W.M. St. John's, 3½; Thomas Fletcher, P.M. 3½; Horne, S.W. 3½; D. Wilson, 3½; Sergeants May and Robertson, Lodge Maryhill, 510; and others. After a substantial supper, the chairman gave successively the toasts of "The Queen," "The Three Grand Lodges," and "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow." In proposing the latter, coupled with the name of Bro. Jno. Millar, P.G. Director of Music, the chairman remarked that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow was thoroughly deserving of the name which it held as second to none in Scotland. Bro. Millar, in acknowledg-

ing the compliment, referred to the amount of work which the Provincial Grand Lodge had to go through in the course of a year in a province which included twenty-six lodges, and gave it as his opinion that very few Provincial Grand Lodges would take the same trouble in the periodical visitations as did that of Glasgow. The toast of "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers" was then given by Bro. Fletcher, and replied to for the first-named by Bro. Sergeant Robertson, and for "The Volunteers" by Bro. Davidson. The chairman then said that his next duty was, on behalf of the lodge, to make a small presentation to their worthy Treasurer, Bro. Peter Agnew, than whom there was no one more deserving such a mark of recognition. It was but a small token of which they asked his acceptance, but it would be valued, not so much for its intrinsic worth as for the spontaneous manner in which it had been got up by the brethren. Bro. Agnew had been their Treasurer for a long period of years, and they all knew his worth in that capacity; but all who knew him would admit, in addition, that a more worthy or enthusiastic Mason never crossed the threshold of St. Mark's Hall. The chairman then presented Bro. Agnew with a large and handsome writing-desk, accompanying it with the wish of all the brethren that he might long be spared thereon to write out his accounts. The presentation was accompanied with that of an elegant brooch for Mrs. Agnew, without whose permission, the chairman humorously observed, Bro. Agnew could not have attended so well to the affairs of the lodge. Bro. Agnew, in acknowledging the compliments, said they had taken him completely by surprise. He had never heard a word about it, and it was a thing he never anticipated. Briefly referring to his term of office, he stated that for twelve years now he had had charge of the cash in Lodge Athole, during which time he had given out in the way of charity, nearly £100. He could only heartily thank the brethren for their kindness, and more especially in regard of the remembrance of his wife. The toast of the "Last Laid Stones of No. 413" having been proposed by the croupier, and responded to by Bro. Cameron, that of "Lodge Athole" was given by Bro. Fletcher, P.M. 3½. He expressed the very great pleasure he had in being present that evening, and also his conviction that if they (Lodge Athole) went on at the rate they were going, they could not fail of great prosperity; especially under the command of such a worthy Master as Bro. Wallace. The toast was coupled with the name of the R.W.M., who said it gave him great pleasure to acknowledge the same. This was now the second year that he had occupied the chair, and he could assure their friends that they were going on at least as harmoniously as when he was first elected to it; in fact he would say that there was not a lodge in the kingdom of Scotland that worked more harmoniously together than Lodge Athole. As to their progress, he might mention that this year they had already made about as many members as they had made last year together. Amongst the remaining toasts were the "Office-Bearers of Lodge Athole," coupled with the name of Bro. Stevenson, Sec., who replied; "The Visiting Brethren," by the croupier, coupled with the name of Bro. Bell, 3½; "Absent Brethren," by Bro. Colin McKenzie, S.W.; "The Press," With a hearty vote of thanks to Bro. Wallace for his conduct in the chair, on the motion of Bro. Bell, and the good old sentiment, "Happy to meet, &c." the very agreeable gathering was brought to a close.

GLASGOW.—LODGE MARIE STUART (No. 541).—The meeting of this lodge on the 22th ult., was an unusually interesting one, and by far the most successful of any since the installation of the office-bearers. The R.W.M., Bro. J. D. Porteous, presided, and there were also present Bros. Wm. Gillies, D.M.; Julius Brodè, S.M.; Robert Walker, Chaplain; S. Findlater, Treasurer; and Robert Buchanan, Secretary. The attendance of visiting brethren was on a much larger scale than usual, including Bros. J. F. Mitchell, R.W.M. 102; George Glen, R.W.M. 426; J. Millar, P.G. Director of Music; A. Morton, P.M. 369; Thomas H. Campbell, Proxy Master 489 (Lodge Caledonian, Haskien, Turkey); David Lamb, D.M. 360; Thos. Graham, J.D. 360; Wm. Wilson, J.W. 87, and others. The lodge having been opened in the several degrees in full by the R.W.M., the latter intimated that he had obtained the assistance of Bro. Lamb, D.M. of Lodge 360, in the working of the Master degree; and accordingly, Bro. Lamb proceeded to confer that degree upon Bro. Peter Martin, who had been passed to the F.C. degree on the 11th ult. As the occasion was not only the regular meeting night of the lodge, but was also the last of the series of three "instruction" meetings, commenced in December last, the ceremonial was more than usually elaborate, and the effect of it greatly enhanced by a service of music, chiefly adapted from Mendelssohn's "Antigone," performed by a vocal choir under the direction of Bro. Millar, P.G. Director of Music, Glasgow, and with Bro. W. Schob, Organist of the lodge, at the harmonium. After the working was over, and Bro. Martin having taken his seat in the lodge, the R.W.M. briefly addressed the brethren, referring first to the fact of his forthcoming departure from Glasgow, and necessarily from his position in Lodge Marie Stuart. He might say he had got his "walking ticket." He was under the necessity of leaving Glasgow, and the chances were that he should spend the rest of his days, be they few or many, in the south. Although he was glad at the change on some accounts, he was very sorry about it on others. He was a native of Glasgow, had been for twenty-six years in the establishment he was about to leave (the Glasgow Post Office), and had formed a round of friends here larger and warmer than he could hope to do where he was about to go. As the brethren would have learned from the minutes, he had informed the lodge committee of the matter at the earliest opportunity; and it had been agreed to have a special meeting on March 1st, for the re-arrangement of office-bearers consequent

upon his resignation, and also upon the recent death of Bro. James Stamm, their J.W., which he referred to in feeling terms. In concluding, the R.W.M. said that, in intimating at an earlier stage of the proceedings that he had obtained the assistance of Bro. Lamb, he forgot to mention that it was for the first time that brother was going to work the third degree. After seeing how he did it, however, he (the R.W.M.) was very glad of the omission, as he should have been ashamed at having made any prefatory apology for such admirable working. They were under a very great compliment to Bro. Lamb for his assistance, and he hoped he would accept the best thanks of the Lodge Marie Stuart. He thought by-the-bye, that the lodge might thank him also (the speaker) for having brought forward such a promising pupil. (Laughter). Bro. Brodè, who expressed his high gratification at the whole proceedings of the evening, said it would hardly be courteous not to move a vote of thanks to their musical brethren, who had come there that night to render such valuable services; and also to the visiting brethren generally, of whom he had never seen such a turn out except on their installation night. The compliment was acknowledged on behalf of the visiting brethren by Bros. Glen, 426, and Mitchell, 102. The former, in referring to the promotion of the chairman to the Postmastership of Bolton, said it showed that he was not only respected in the Lodge Marie Stuart, but by the Government of the country. Bro. Mitchell said they (the visiting brethren) owed a very hearty vote of thanks to the R.W.M. and office-bearers of Lodge 541, for the highly interesting and beautiful ceremonial they had that evening witnessed. With regard to the Master, he (Bro. Mitchell) hoped he would be happy and prosperous in his new sphere so long as he might be there. The R.W.M., in briefly replying, and in reference to what had been said about their musical brethren, took occasion to state that he had the full music arranged for all the three degrees, which, together with his rituals, he would leave behind for the good of the lodge. He had now, he said in conclusion, to bid them good-bye; and, in all human probability, he would never occupy that chair again. He was very sorry about it. However, he should take an occasional run down to Glasgow during holiday periods; and on some such opportunity he might perhaps yet be able to enjoy himself within Lodge Marie Stuart. The lodge was then closed in due and ancient form. The departure of Bro. Porteous from Glasgow is a distinct event in our local Masonic history. Few brethren of late years have been more intelligently assiduous in promoting the interests of the Craft, or more intimately identified with it generally, within, and even beyond the province. The change he is making has caused him, just now, to resign the following offices:—R.W.M. Lodge Marie Stuart, 541; P.G. Junior Warden, Renfrewshire East; P.G. Second Principal of Lanarkshire Royal Arch; P.G.D.M. Royal Order of Scotland, for the Counties of Lanark, Dumbarton, &c.; Representative in the Provinces of Glasgow and Renfrewshire East, of Captain Herriot's scheme for a Benevolent Institution. We may add that Bro. Porteous is a member of No. 188, a charter member and Past Secretary of Lodge Athole, 413; Past P.G. Marsh., Province of Glasgow; a P.M. Lodge Commercial, 360; Promoter and Charter Member of Lodge 541; Ex-Editor of the *Universal Masonic Calendar*, besides being an honorary member of, perhaps, fully a score of different lodges. He leaves, we understand, next week, to enter upon the office of Postmaster of Bolton, Lancashire, to which, as the public are aware, he has just been appointed by the Postmaster-General.

GLASGOW.—LODGE CLYDESDALE (No. 556).—The fortnightly meeting of this lodge was held within their new premises at 136, Rose-street, on 15th inst. Bro. William Phillips, R.W.M., occupied the chair, and there were in their respective places, Bros. Dr. Thomas Russell, D.M.; John McNaught, S.M.; John B. McNaught, S.W.; John Howie, J.W., and G. B. Yuill, Secretary. Among visiting brethren present, were Bros. James Shaw, R.W.M. 354 (Caledonian Railway); and R. M. Yuill, R.W.M. 275 (Shamrock and Thistle). The lodge having been opened on the E.A. degree, Bro. Frederick Stout, of Lodge 347, St. John's Operative, Rutherglen, was affiliated a member of No. 556; and thereafter, a candidate, duly recommended, James Barclay, was initiated into the mysteries of the Order by Bro. J. B. McNaught, S.W. Subsequently, the lodge was raised to the Fellow Craft degree, when the following were passed to that degree by the R.W.M., viz., Bros. James Smith, James F. Murray, Joseph Glen, James Whitehead, John Heron, and Joseph Grainger. There was no other business before the meeting.

CONSECRATION OF THE GLADSMUIR CHAPTER (No. 1385.)

On Thursday, February 25th, at the Red Lion Hotel, Barnet, a third chapter was added to the roll of Royal Arch Masonry in Hertfordshire. The ceremonies of consecration and installation were performed in a faultless and painstaking manner by E. Comp. Wilson Iles, M.D., P.Z. and S.E. of the Watford Chapter, No. 434, Prov. G. Sec., Herts, very ably assisted by E. Comp. Terry, P.Z., Secretary of the Benevolent Institution.

The chapter was opened by E. Comps. Wilson Iles, P.Z., as M.E.Z.; T. F. Halsey, M.P., P.Z., Prov. G.M., Herts, as H.; and H. L. Thomas, Z. 403, as J; with several Past Principals. The companions were admitted and were marshalled by E. Comp. Terry, who acted most efficiently as Director of Ceremonies.

The founders, Comps. Terry, P.Z.; Cocks, P.Z.; Verry, P.Z.; Hayward, Edwards, and Livingston, having declared that they approved of the companions named in the warrant to be the Principals, viz.: Comps. T. S. Carter, S.E. 403, as M.E.Z.; J. Lowthin, H.; and W. Cutbush, J.; the chapter was duly consecrated. That interesting ceremony being

ended, the installation of the Principals was proceeded with and carried out in a most able manner. The following officers were then invested:—E. Comps. Terry, First P.Z.; Cocks, S.E.; Hayward Edwards, S.N.; Verry, P. Soj.; Livingston, First Asst. Soj.; Humphrys, Second Asst. Soj.; Cutbush, Treasurer; and Goddard, Janitor. Several brethren were proposed for exaltation. The visitors present, besides those named, were: Comps. Binckes, P.Z., Sec. Boys' School; West, Berry, Wright, P.Z. 22; Heard, 11. 403; and Shilcock, 403. The companions afterwards retired to a sumptuous banquet, provided by the host, Bro. Fisher; a most agreeable evening was spent.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The General Committee of this Institution met on Thursday, 25th February, at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. Major Creton, vice-patron, presided. Among the brethren present were:—Bros. A. H. Tattershall, Walter Wellsman, F. W. H. Ramsay, Raynham W. Stewart, W. Paas, J. A. Rucker, Benj. Head, Jesse Turner, Joshua Nunn, Thos. W. White, H. Massey (*Freemason*), and R. W. Little, Secretary.

The resignation of Miss Davis, the head mistress of the school, was announced to the committee, and the vacancy in the office was declared as from June next.

A grant of £20 was made to a late pupil of the school on her obtaining an engagement. Several matters connected with the school were discussed, and one petition was read, the little girl the subject of it, passed her preliminary very satisfactorily, and was placed on the list for election, after which the committee adjourned.

FREEMASONRY IN JAMAICA.—On the evening of the 22nd Dec., the Worshipful H. P. Thompson, Master elect of the Seville Lodge, St. Ann's Bay, on behalf of the members, presented the Right Worshipful Michael Solomon, on his retiring from the chair, with a Past Master's jewel, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to the Worshipful Michael Solomon, by the members of the Seville Lodge, as a token of brotherly love, and as a mark of his attachment to the Craft, on his retirement from office. Lodge Seville, 530, St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica, 1874." Bro. Solomon thanked the brethren, in an eloquent speech, for the manner in which they had marked their appreciation of his services while he occupied the chair as Master, and assured them that he would ever feel that lively interest in the Seville Lodge which he has felt since its organization.

MASONIC BALL IN LIVERPOOL.—The third annual ball, organized and carried out by some of the leading spirits of the Alliance Lodge, No. 667, and other lodges, took place on Wednesday evening, the 24th ult., at the Royal Assembly Rooms, Great George-street, Liverpool. Happily named "our" ball, it proved one of the most enjoyable of the season, and the Alliance thereby maintained its name and fame as being one of the most fraternal in this part of the country. This was the third of the series of balls got up under the same auspices, and was largely and fashionably attended, those present including many prominent members of the Craft. The arrangements were of the most satisfactory kind, and everyone seemed to enjoy the merry meeting. The scheme was inaugurated and carried out by Bros. W. Doyle, P.M., Treasurer, 667, P. Prov. J.G.D.; A. Bucknall, 667 (who most efficiently fulfilled the combined duties of Hon. Sec. and M.C.); H. Gregory, 667; H. Firth, 667; A. C. Morrison, 594 (Downshire Lodge), and Carter, 667. Amongst those present were Bros. R. Brown, S.W. 241, Secretary to the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution; T. B. Myers, S.W. 1182; R. Martin, J.W. 1182; J. Jackson, S.W. 667; W. Savage, 241; as well as representatives of Lodges 594, 673, 1356, and 1393. Bro. Eve, Lime-street, supplied the supper and refreshments, and his catering, both as respects quantity and quality, could not have been excelled. Mr. Martin's quadrille band furnished excellent music. Dancing was kept up with spirit until after three o'clock.

UXBRIDGE YEOMANRY CAVALRY.—The annual ball in connection with this distinguished regiment took place on Thursday, 25th ult., at Willis's Rooms, St. James's, under the patronage of Bro. Lieut.-Col. Cox and the officers. The company began to assemble, and dancing commenced about nine o'clock, and was continued with great spirit, to the inspiring strains of the regimental band, under the direction of Bro. Herr Folkey. The members of the regiment (a considerable number of whom are brethren), mustered in great force, and the handsome uniforms, and truly soldierlike bearing of the men, were the theme of universal admiration. The arrangements were perfect in every degree, and reflect the highest credit on the committee, of which Bro. R. Perkins was Hon. Sec. After supper, which was of the most substantial kind, and gave the greatest satisfaction, and the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been given and responded to, the company returned to the ball-room, where dancing was resumed until a very early hour in the morning.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—Dangerous Catarrhs, Bronchitis, Asthma, and Influenza, are rife at this season of the year. Hepatic and renal congestions frequently occur as the result of checked skin action, giving rise to serious symptoms and preventing attention to business or pleasure. No time should be lost on the first appearance of any indications of the invasion of these diseases, for the symptoms may be checked effectually by the use of these valuable remedies, the penetrating local effect of the Ointment acts surely in the affected parts, and restores them to a healthy condition, and the pills, judiciously taken in accordance with the lucid directions, relieve the congestive capillaries and materially lessen the chance of serious mischief supervening.—*Advt.*

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge was held last Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall. There were several hundreds of brethren present, who, were probably under the impression that the Prince of Wales would preside. The brethren began to arrive at an early hour, and long before seven o'clock, all sitting room was occupied. By the time the Grand Lodge was opened more than half the brethren present were standing, and they so remained during the conduct of Grand Lodge business.

The Grand Master's chair was occupied by Bro. Hugh D. Sandeman, District Grand Master of Bengal, the G.S.W. chair was occupied by Lord Henry Thynne, M.P., G.S.W., and the G.J.W. chair by Bro. F. Pattison. The Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire, acted as Deputy Grand Master, and the Earl of Limerick, Provincial Grand Master of Bristol, as Past Grand Master. To the right of the Earl of Limerick were Col. Burdett, Provincial Grand Master of Middlesex, Bro. Thomas F. Halsey, M.P., Provincial Grand Master of Herts, the Rev. James Simpson, D.C.L., Grand Chaplain, and the Rev. C. J. Martyn, Past Grand Chaplain. Among the other Grand Officers, and Past Grand Officers, were Bros. John Havers, John M. Clabon, John B. Monekton, Joshua Nunn, Capt. Platt, Col. Whitwell, Thomas Fenn, Rev. A. B. Frazer, S. Rawson, Rev. R. J. Simpson, James Glaisher, Dr. Erasmus Wilson, ex-Sheriff Hutton, John Symonds, John Savage, Brackstone Baker, and Rev. Sir J. Warren Hayes.

After the opening of Grand Lodge, Bro. John Hervey, Grand Secretary, read the regulations for the government of Grand Lodge during the time of public business, and afterwards the minutes of the Quarterly Communication of 2nd December, 1874. He then read a letter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, acknowledging the receipt of the resolution of condolence passed in Grand Lodge on the 2nd of September last on the decease of the late Earl of Dalhousie, K.T., G.C.B., Past Grand Master Mason of Scotland.

The Earl of Shrewsbury then moved an address of condolence to the M.W. Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Carnarvon, in the sad affliction which has befallen his lordship by the death of the Countess of Carnarvon. In doing so he said:—"Most Worshipful Master and Brethren, I have the honour to rise to move that a sincere vote of condolence be offered to the Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Carnarvon, on the very melancholy suffering he has sustained by the loss of his wife. I have been permitted, or rather have been requested, to move this resolution because it has been thought that a personal friend of the noble lord would perhaps be the best person to do so. This was thought the best way of conveying to his lordship our sincere regret at the great loss he has sustained. I am well aware of what his bereavement is. I have had the honour and the pleasure of, first of all, being at the University with him; secondly, I knew the estimable lady who presided over his house for many years, and I would say, personally, I, in common with society and all who knew her, grieve for our noble and respected brother. I was unprepared to make this speech, but a set speech is not necessary, because as Masons we cherish affectionate regard for each other in every relation of life. We inculcate those kind feelings towards one another, which makes us regard others' afflictions as our own; and I am sure our sympathy will be extended towards our brother on this occasion. I might, perhaps, if I had been prepared, have addressed you in terms which would have moved you to sympathy, but I am glad to think that among our brotherhood there is no need of eloquence to excite you to such a feeling. In your own hearts you will feel what ought to be said."

The Earl of Limerick, in seconding the resolution, said: "Most Worshipful Acting Grand Master, I quite agree with what has fallen from the Right Worshipful Acting Deputy Grand Master, that it requires but very few words either to propose or second a resolution such as the present. Not only does it require it, but I may almost say the fewer those words are the better they are adapted to the circumstances. I therefore, Most Worshipful Acting Grand Master, will not detain you longer, but will simply second the expression of deep sympathy which I am sure we all have for the illustrious brother, the Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Carnarvon."

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

Bro. John Hervey read a communication in reference to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, in which it was stated by Sir John Macdonald, K.C.B., the representative of this Grand Lodge at the Grand Lodge of Canada, that all difficulties had been adjusted with the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The Acting Grand Master moved that a reply should be sent to this communication, and that the Grand Lodge of Quebec should be recognised, and that representatives should be interchanged.

The Earl of Shrewsbury seconded the motion, which was put and carried unanimously.

Bro. Standish Grove Grady, in rising to propose the election of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as Grand Master for the ensuing year, said: "Most Worshipful Grand Master, having had, as you have just heard from the Grand Secretary, the honour of nominating His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at the last quarterly communication as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of our Order for the ensuing year, it becomes my duty now, and I rise with feelings of very sincere pleasure to discharge it, to ask you to confirm that nomination by your election of His Royal Highness this evening to that office. (Hear, hear.) I do indeed esteem it the highest honour that I have been selected to discharge this duty, and I cannot attribute it to any personal merits of my own, but rather to it may be to the circumstances that, not many

years ago, I had the good fortune to be called upon to present to their Royal Highnesses the first words of welcome when the illustrious Princess, with whom the Most Worshipful Grand Master has so happily united his fortunes, first graced the shores of her adopted country; and still more recently to his Royal brother, the Duke of Edinburgh and his illustrious bride, the Grand Duchess, when he first introduced her to the loyalty of Her Majesty's subjects. And I again feel it an honour to discharge my present duty and to ask this Grand Lodge, so numerous and influentially attended, to confer on His Royal Highness the highest honour that the Craft can bestow on any of its members. I need not remind you of the position of our ancient Order; I need not remind you that when a recent event rendered vacant the occupancy of our throne, how the voice of the Craft throughout Her Majesty's dominions fell as one on His Royal Highness as the most fit to occupy the throne and preside over our ancient institution. I need not remind you of the manner in which His Royal Highness, when waited upon by the deputation of the Grand Lodge, which requested his acceptance of that office, how graciously, how handsomely, and with all truly Masonic feeling, he acceded to the wish and complied with their request. I need not remind you of the report which has reached us all of the able and distinguished manner in which he performed one of our most interesting ceremonies on the recent occasion of the initiation of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. The way he presided over the anniversary festival of our charitable institutions will convince you that we have in His Royal Highness a ruler who will add brilliancy to the Order, and raise it to a position of prosperity to which it has not hitherto attained in this country. I need not remind you that the most Worshipful Grand Master has still another claim upon our loyalty, and our allegiance as Masons. He is descended from an illustrious line of ancestors, many of whose members have been conspicuous at once for their attachment to the Order—(loud cries of "Time;" "Time;" and general signs of impatience, during the continuance of which Bro. Grady could not be heard to complete his sentence.) I am speaking in hearing of many brethren who knew his Royal Highness's Grandfather, the Duke of Kent, who was also a Freemason, and his Grand-uncle, the Duke of Sussex, who was Grand Master of England at the time of the union of the two Grand Lodges; and we only know the services he rendered to the Order at that time ("Time," "Time.") But brethren, His Royal Highness has still another claim on our allegiance and our love—(repeated signs of impatience, which Bro. Grady did not appear to notice, but continued speaking, although he was quite inaudible. At this point Sir Albert Woods conveyed a message to him from the Acting Grand Master, upon which he added—Under these circumstances, brethren, I shall not detain you further, but shall simply propose "That His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales be elected M.W.G.M. of Freemasons of England for the ensuing twelve months." (Cheers.)

Bro. Grey, Deputy Master of the Prince of Wales's Lodge, of which His Royal Highness is W.M., said in seconding the motion:—"After what has fallen from our brother Grady I feel that further words would be superfluous, I therefore beg to second the election of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. (Applause.)

The motion was put to the vote, when it was unanimously carried, amidst the repeated cheering of the whole assembled body.

Sir Albert Woods (*Garter*), Grand Director of Ceremonies called the brethren to "Order," and proclaimed the Prince of Wales by his full titles duly elected Grand Master for the year.

The Acting Grand Master:—"Brethren I have to ask your attention to an order from the M.W.G.M. to the Grand Secretary on the subject of nominating certain Stewards to attend the installation of the Grand Master next month. I request your special attention to the letter while it is being read."

Bro. John Hervey:—"His Royal Highness has fixed the ceremony of his installation to take place at the Grand Festival on Wednesday, the 28th of April, at the Royal Albert Hall, and with a view to assist the executive in carrying out the arrangements of the day, he proposes to authorise the appointment of a certain number of Stewards in addition to the Grand Stewards of the year, and to cause a jewel to be struck, and to permit the brethren who may be named as Stewards to wear the same." (Applause.)

The Acting Grand Master: Brethren, the next business before Grand Lodge is the election of a Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Bro. Dr. Erasmus Wilson proposed the re-election of Bro. Samuel Tomkins to the office of Grand Treasurer, which he had so honourably filled for a number of years to the benefit and satisfaction of the Craft. (Great cheering.)

Bro. Ramsey: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Bro. S. Tomkins was thereupon unanimously elected Grand Treasurer, accompanied by the most vociferous applause.

The Acting Grand Master addressing Bro. Tomkins, announced the fact of his unanimous election.

Bro. S. Tomkins: Right Worshipful Sir and Brethren, I thank you heartily for the honour you have done me in re-electing me to this important office. I have now had the pleasure of fulfilling the duties of that office for twenty-three years. (Hear, hear.) During that time I have seen a great increase in the numbers, and in the prosperity of Masonry; and now, under the auspices of the illustrious Prince who has been made our Grand Master for the ensuing year, I do not doubt that we shall see a still greater increase of members and an increase of prosperity. Every man, every brother, who feels an interest in Masonry, and who wishes well to the progress of the Craft, must be

pleased to look at it in its present position; and besides that we have every reason to hope and believe that there is a great period of prosperity before us. (Cheers.)

The Acting Grand Master: Brethren, I have an announcement to make to you which has been interpolated in the printed paper of agenda, to the effect that in the room of Bro. Llewellyn Evans, whose death you must all have heard of with great sorrow, the Most Worshipful Grand Master has been pleased to appoint Bro. Havers to the Board of General Purposes. (Applause.)

Bro. John Hervey read the report of the Lodge of Benevolence, in which there were recommendations for the following grants, which required the confirmation of Grand Lodge: £50 to a brother of No. 286; £50 to the widow of a late brother of No. 29; £200 to the widow of a brother of No. 130; £200 to a brother of No. 141; £50 to a brother of No. 879; and £100 to the widow of a brother of No. 1366. The report having been ordered to be received and entered on the minutes, the two first grants were carried after having been proposed by Bro. Joshua Nunn and seconded by Bro. Raynham W. Stewart.

Bro. John M. Clabon rose to propose the confirmation of the four last grants, and requested to be allowed to make some observations on the subject. Having reminded the brethren of the position he held, by the appointment of the Grand Master, of President of the Lodge of Benevolence, he stated how that lodge was composed—of a President, a Senior Vice-President, a Junior Vice-President, members appointed by the Grand Master, and others elected by Grand Lodge. The brethren who were appointed attended very regularly; the Masters of all lodges were entitled to be present, but of these very few attended regularly. Others never attended at all, and some only seldom, during their Mastership. These, therefore, were not acquainted with the principles on which the lodge acted with regard to the making of grants, and they voted large sums. The principle that the lodge proceeded upon was this: they divided it into two parts,—first, the distress, and second, the Masonic claim. On the subject of distress he need not dilate, but still there were subjects connected with it which they considered. They liked to give money in a way and an amount which would enable the brother who applied for relief to recover himself and set himself up in business. They did not like to give money to go to creditors; and they did not like to give money to a brother who might be said to be a pauper when he became a Mason. As to the point of Masonic claims, the number of years a brother had been in the Craft was an important question. Then came the question whether a brother had belonged to more lodges than one; then, to what extent he had assisted the work of the Craft in his own lodges, and in lodges of instruction. Another important question was, to what extent a brother had assisted the Masonic Charities; and a further, important question was whether he had still continued in Masonry up to the time of his application for relief; if he had left it, and if so, how long ago; and if he was dead, and the application was made by the widow and children, whether to use an ordinary phrase he had "died in harness." Now, he ventured to say that the Lodge of Benevolence acted on these principles exceedingly well. He was going to ask Grand Lodge to confirm the grants recommended in the report, but he felt a very responsible position in coming and asking this, and he felt bound to tell the brethren what he thought of the cases in which relief to a large amount was recommended. There were many members on the Lodge of Benevolence who understood its rules exceedingly well, but he ventured to think that if in any case his judgment went counter to theirs, and he considered they were in any case granting too much, it was his duty to come to Grand Lodge to tell them so. The first case he had to propose was that of the widow of a brother of Lodge No. 130, a Past Grand Deacon of the Order, who was 38 years in the Craft, and as it was well-known what great services that brother had rendered to the Order, no brother would think the grant of £200 too much, and he should therefore have much pleasure in recommending the confirmation of the grant.

Bro. F. Binckes, P.G.S., seconded the motion, which was put and carried unanimously.

Bro. Clabon, then proposed the next grant of £200, to a brother of No. 141, who had been twenty years' in Masonry, and who, according to the accounts which were given of him to the Lodge of Benevolence, was an excellent working Mason of all the Masonic Charities.

Bro. Joshua Nunn, P.G.S.B., Senior Vice-President, seconded the motion.

Bro. F. Binckes also added a few words, after which the grant was confirmed.

Bro. Clabon brought up the third case, the grant of £50 to a brother of No. 879. He had no doubt in the world it was a case of distress; but he thought that the Masonic claim was hardly so great as to warrant so large a grant as £50. The brother entered Masonry in 1857, and left it in 1866. No doubt he left it properly, for the cause assigned was that he could not afford to keep up his subscriptions. There was no statement of his having done much in the way of working in Masonry, or in the way of assisting the charities, and at the Lodge of Benevolence he (Bro. Clabon) expressed his opinion that £50 was rather a large grant to make. He would ask Grand Lodge however to confirm it, for the vote having been taken and the brother since then having been in the hope of receiving the grant, it would be wrong to disappoint him. But the brethren should bear in mind that the number of Masons was being added to largely every year. Grand Lodge had only £6000 or £7000 a year to give away. At last Lodge of Benevolence they gave away over £700; and if they went on at that rate they would not have enough to meet the claims made upon them. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Joshua Nunn had much pleasure in seconding the proposition, and added to Bro. Clabon's remarks that if the brethren who had only been in Masonry six or seven

years, and had done nothing for the Order, were to be assisted with such an amount as £500, the Lodge of Benevolence would not be able to do justice to those cases where the brethren had very strong claims on their bounty, by having been a long time in the Craft, and assisted it both in purse and person to the utmost of their ability.

Bro. John Havers, P.G.W., was quite aware that he was about, as he frequently was, to take the unpopular side when a money grant was asked for; but no desire to stand well with the brethren would sway him from expressing his opinion. He would do so on this occasion, and would venture to draw attention to the extraordinary fact that they were called upon to vote £50 upon the recommendation of the most worthy man in the Craft, who told them that he quite disapproved of it. He was not going to object to the giving of this poor man the grant: the unfortunate error had been committed of voting it, and it would be an act of inhumanity to disappoint his hopes of receiving it. But let him (Bro. Havers) point out this prominent fact in this case. The brother came into Masonry and remained in it for seven short years, did nothing while he was in it, either in the way of "working" or in the way of charity. He then left it for nine years, came before the Lodge of Benevolence for relief, and they gave him £50. It was impossible, if they granted according to this scale to brethren who had been ten, fifteen, twenty, or thirty years in Masonry, had toiled hard for it during all that time and "borne the burden and heat of the day" that they should have funds sufficient to relieve the distressed. For the sake of the time-honoured institution they represented, he hoped they would be careful in future what grants they made. (Cheers.)

Bro. Herbert Dicketts said that though the President of the Lodge had told the brethren a great deal about the composition of the Lodge of Benevolence he had not told them everything. On the last occasion they had a great number of newly-fledged Masters of lodges; there were any number of new collars, new aprons, and levels to be seen shining there. And what did these new Masters do? They "went in" for a large sum of money, and ignored the whole of what had been done by the executive of Grand Lodge. He had known this state of things to happen on many occasions, and that a great many of the new Masters who attended once did not attend again. They came in, they saw a great many proposals for grants on the paper, they were not guided by those who knew and thoroughly attended to their duties on all occasions, and as soon as some one proposed a £50 or £100 grant, up went their hands for the large amount, and it was carried.

Another brother fully endorsed all that had been said.

The Earl of Shrewsbury said he had listened with great interest to the remarks of Bro. Clabon, and he was sure the Acting Grand Master would agree with him (the noble Earl), that as charity was their first duty, they should be very careful how they administered it. He was not about to move a resolution, but he thought, and felt, that the executive government, the Board of Benevolence, was greatly hampered by those who came into the house, like the new Masters, as had been described by Bro. Dicketts, and swamped the votes of the executive, and carried the division. Speaking in a political fashion, he thought a committee should be appointed to enquire into the working of the Lodge of Benevolence. It seemed very hard to brethren like the President and Vice-Presidents of the Board, who had taken great pains for many years with these affairs, should be swamped when they did what they thought was right. He attended the lodge once with a case from his own province of Staffordshire, which was received most kindly. He believed there was nothing like pressing a case yourself. There were other cases brought forward on that occasion, and having succeeded so well with his own case, he rather went in for the other candidates who were brought forward, and they were carried without any discussion at all. (Laughter.) They should be very careful what they did in the matter, because charity was the great principle of the Order, and they should be cautious in the administration of its funds. (Cheers.)

A motion was afterwards made to refer the grant back to the Board, but it was lost, and the grant was confirmed.

Bro. Clabon next proposed the last case on the list, £100 to the widow of a brother of No. 1366, who had been six and-a-half years in Masonry, but in that time had been Master of more than one lodge, had supported all the charities, but was suddenly stricken down with disease of the heart, and left his wife and family unprovided for.

Bro. Binckes in strong terms supported the grant, and seconded the motion. He gave a general outline of the deceased brother's career in Freemasonry, and showed that though he had been but six years and three-quarters in the Order, they represented a long life of Masonic usefulness. What he would have done for Masonry if he had been spared a few years it was impossible to tell, but having served the Stewardship of the other charities he had consented to be Steward for the next festival of the Boys' School, and had already got together a list of subscriptions amounting to £100.

There was a general feeling in Grand Lodge in favour of this grant, the deceased brother seeming to be known to nearly all the brethren. Some, however, did not appear to agree to the general view of the usefulness of the brother to the Order if social duties were neglected; and Bro. Joshua Nunn asked the brethren, after so many remarks had been made on the great services he had performed for the Craft—What had he done for his wife and family? Numerous expressions of dissent followed this question, and several brethren got up to inform Grand Lodge what the brother had done, and Bro. John Savage, P.G.D., made a statement of the brother's services to his family. These services could not have been very fruitful, for

in three weeks after the brother's death, on the petition of the widow a daughter was placed on the list of the Girls' School candidates for next election, and came before the General Committee of that institution on the 28th of January.

The motion was carried amidst great cheering.

The reports of the Board of General Purposes and of the Colonial Board given in our last edition were then agreed to, as was also the report of Bro. R. P. Harding, Auditor of Grand Lodge accounts.

Bro. J. H. Wynne, P.M. 554, moved—"That this Grand Lodge do order to be given from the Fund of Benevolence the sum of £5 to each unsuccessful candidate at the next general election for annuitants in 1875 for old men and women belonging to the Craft of Freemasons."

Bro. George Lambert seconded the motion, and said that if this were done, Grand Lodge would merely be following in the wake of the great metropolitan charities.

Bro. J. B. Monckton, President of the Board of General Purposes, in the absence of Grand Registrar, pointed out that it could not be done, as the Book of Constitutions provided how the Fund of Benevolence was to be applied.

Another brother thought that if the motion were carried, it would be likely to encourage a great many poor brethren and widows to put themselves forward as candidates for the sake of getting the £5.

Bro. John Havers said the Book of Constitutions precluded the motion being carried. The brethren were very charitable and good, but he was afraid if they adopted Bro. Wynne's suggestion, they would be offering a premium to the needy to apply.

The Acting G.M.: I am of opinion that this motion is out of order. Putting aside the general inadvisability—I do not think that is too strong a word—of passing a law which would simply form an inducement to any poor person who was a Mason in the United Kingdom, to have a try for £5. I hold that under the Book of Constitutions, this Grand Lodge ought not, and cannot interfere in the present instance, with the management of the Fund of Benevolence, according to the statement made by my two brethren on my right hand on the dais (Bro. Monckton and Bro. Havers), and therefore I will not put this motion to the vote.

Bro. John Constable, P.M. 185, moved "That the sum of £100 be voted from the funds of Grand Lodge towards the fund now being raised for the purpose of endowing the Freemasons' Lifeboat, stationed at North Berwick in 1872."

Bro. Brackstone Baker seconded the motion, although he was generally opposed to these promiscuous grants. Still, he said, there was a peculiar popularity about lifeboats, and there were scarcely any wrecks took place in which some Freemason was not among the crew or passengers.

Bro. Havers asked Bro. Constable whether it was not the fact that if a lifeboat was presented to the National Lifeboat Institution they did not undertake the cost of keeping it up. He was strongly in favour of lifeboats, but he would like to know this before he voted on the motion. Bro. Brackstone Baker's argument was a good one as to Freemasons being wrecked if they were all wrecked at North Berwick. (A laugh.) It was one thing also to build up a charity and leave our successors to keep it up, and another thing to found and endow a charity. If the present lifeboat in twenty years were worn out, it might be safely left to the generosity of future brethren to build another. He would move that the question be adjourned.

Bro. Constable replied that Bro. Havers was correctly informed that the National Lifeboat Institution undertook the cost of all lifeboats presented to them. But societies less known and less popular than Freemasonry supported their own lifeboats, and why should not Freemasons? If the Craft was willing to raise £1300, Grand Lodge he thought might grant the other £100.

Bro. F. Binckes moved a rider to Bro. Constable's motion—"provided that the sum of £1300, required to furnish the endowment for the lifeboat, be contributed by members of the Craft"—thinking that it would stimulate the Craft at large to raise the £1300 required.

Bro. John Havers observed that having received from the mover of the resolution a reply to his question, to the effect that the National Lifeboat Institution took upon themselves the whole cost and charge of maintaining lifeboats presented to them, he thought Grand Lodge would be doing a work of supererogation by contributing towards an endowment of the Freemasons' Lifeboat. He would withdraw his motion for adjourning the question, and he hoped that Grand Lodge would negative the resolution. Bro. Constable might, on a future occasion move his resolution, with Bro. Binckes's rider; but he thought that instead of giving this £100 for the purpose named in the motion, they had better subscribe the money to build a new lifeboat.

Bro. Griffiths Smith, W.M. 569, seconded Bro. Binckes's rider.

After a few words from the Grand Treasurer, the purport of which could not be gathered for the noise created by brethren leaving Grand Lodge, a division was taken, when the motion and rider were lost by 115 against 99 votes.

Grand Lodge was then closed formally, and adjourned.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. J. BALL, No. 670.—On Thursday evening, the 25th ult., Bro. Joseph Ball, No. 670, was presented, at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, with an address and testimonial, in recognition of his services on behalf of Protestant principles, and also in the cause of the ratepayers on several occasions. The testimonial consisted of an elegant silver service and address, valued at £200.

Bro. Staveley Hill, M.P., has been appointed Counsel at the Admiralty and Judge Advocate of the Fleet, in the room of Mr. Huddleston.

NOTICE.

The Subscript on to THE FREEMASON is now 10s. per annum, post-free, payable in advance.

Vol. I., bound in cloth	...	...	4s. 6d.
Vol. II., ditto	...	...	7s. 6d.
Vols. III., IV., V., &c.	...	each	15s. 0d.
Reading Cases to hold 52 numbers	...	...	2s. 6d.
Ditto ditto 4 do.	...	...	1s. 6d.

United States of America.

THE FREEMASON is delivered free in any part of the United States for 12s. per annum, payable in advance. The Freemason is published on Saturday Mornings in time for the early trains. The price of the Freemason is Twopence per week; annual subscription, 10s. (payable in advance.) All communications, letters, &c., to be addressed to the Editor, 198, Fleet-street, 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.

NOTICE.

Many complaints having been received of the difficulty experienced in procuring the *Freemason* in the City, the publisher begs to append the following list, being a selected few of the appointed agents:—

Abbott, Wm., Great Tower-street.
Bates, Pilgrim-street, Ludgate-hill.
Born, H., 115, London-wall.
Dawson, Wm., 121, Cannon-street.
Gilbert, Jas., 18, Gracechurch-street.
Guest, Wm., 54, Paternoster-row.
Philpott Bros., 65, King William-street.
Pottle, R., 14, Royal Exchange.

Answers to Correspondents.

All Communications, Advertisements, &c., intended for insertion in the Number of the following Saturday, must reach the Office not later than 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening.

All Communications should be sent to 198, Fleet Street.

H.H.—Can a Master be proposed *viva voce*, or recommended for election. [Distinctly not.]

P.M.—If, as a P.M. of the lodge, I am present, can the W.M. ask a P.M. not of the lodge to perform the ceremony. [We believe that the W.M. is autocratic in that respect. But good taste would lead a W.M., except on some very special occasion, always to have recourse to his own Past Masters.]

Junior Warden.—Must my twelve months' service be literally counted from appointment of officers to appointment of officers. [Yes, from one annual lodge for the installation of W.M. and investing of officers, to the next annual lodge meeting for the same purpose.]

The following communications stand over:—Letters from F.S., Pilger Lodge; "Non nobis sed omnibus;" "A Visitor;" Karl Bergmann; Joseph Harper; "An Old P.M., One, &c." W. J. Hughan's letter on *Archæological Progress* in our next. Reports of Lodge, Great Grimsby, 1294.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1875.

AN ALBERT EDWARD COMMEMORATION MEDAL.

Though we are quite alive to the danger of Masonic decorations, and are not among those who make our Freemasonry depend, as some one has harshly said we do, on the "jewels" we "wear," or on the "dinners" we "eat," yet we think that the suggestion of one of our correspondents is worthy, at any rate, some little consideration by our Masonic authorities. Indeed, we fear that some of our readers may think us rather rash when we say that we have long held that every lodge might have, on the payment of distinct fees, a lodge jewel, approved of by the central authority. The increase to our funds would be very great indeed, and the "esprit de corps" of our lodges would be very much enhanced. But be this as it may, we quite think that the idea of our correspondent is a good one in itself, and deserves the attention of those who have a voice in such matters amongst us. For no one can deny, that it was at a great crisis in our history when our Royal Grand Master came to the rescue. Our universal fraternity was in a state, at any rate, of considerable depression at the

untoward state of affairs, when we were all cheered by the announcement, not only that Grand Lodge in accordance with our Book of Constitutions, had offered the presidency of the Craft to the Past Grand Master, but that he had accepted the offer with readiness and cheerfulness. Under these circumstances, and bearing in mind the unchangeable loyalty of our Masonic Fraternity, the installation of our Grand Master will be assuredly not only an "Alba Dies" to English Freemasonry, but one to be long remembered by all of the existing generation of Freemasons, as well as by those yet to be born. We therefore venture to express a humble opinion, that a Masonic medal, commemorative of our Royal Grand Master's Installation, would be truly welcomed by our zealous brotherhood. We think, too, that if the matter is managed on business principles, the Order may obtain much financial benefit from the institution of an Albert Edward Masonic jewel. We are of course aware that an objection may be made, that no authority exists in the Book of Constitutions for any such permission, though at the same time, as is well known, lodges have been authorized, by the Duke of Sussex especially as Grand Master, to establish lodge jewels. Indeed we are of opinion that there is nothing in the provision of the Book of Constitutions about honorary jewels to prevent any such authority being given, provided that the jewel is made to symbolize one of the degrees recognized by the Grand Lodge. We throw out these suggestions in all deference for the consideration of the "chief rulers" of the Craft, and we can honestly say that they are not dictated by any idle love of garish show or merely ornamental decoration, but from a sincere appreciation of Freemasonry, zealous attachment to our English Order, and much of loyal devotion to our royal and august Grand Master.

THE HIGH GRADES.

The historical investigations of late years have not confirmed the somewhat hasty claims often made by what are popularly termed the High Grades, to reality of perpetuation, or antiquity of existence. They are all, it is pretty clear, of 18th century formation. We are speaking now of those which have long been familiar alike to their devoted "alumni," and to the Masonic student. The Templars, it is quite clear, as *Praed* sang of old, "have never crossed the wave, sir." The Knights of St. John have no connection with Rhodes or Malta. The Knights of Constantine are a Masonic revival of an obsolete Order, and the Rose Croix have nothing in common with the hermetic brotherhood of the "Rosæ Crucis." These are all familiar grades, but of Bro. Yarker's startling list alike of imagination and nomenclature we know nothing, as in truth nothing can be known. But though the antiquity of the High Grades is now unmaintainable, their position is one of increasing importance, and their value to their associates is, we think, incontestable. We entirely deprecate two opposing views of the High Grades, prevalent amongst Freemasons, which, we think, are neither tenable nor tolerant. There are those, for instance, who affect to speak in harsh tones of the High Grades, and denounce them, almost as apostates to the principles of Freemasonry. Now we are of opinion that all such criticisms and all such judgments are alike unjustifiable and unmasonic in the highest degree. We lay it down without hesitation, as an axiom of Masonic teaching, that whatever may be the merit and greatness of the Craft system in our eyes, we have no right whatever to say to others, "thus far shalt thou go, and no farther," neither have we any authority to condemn them, if they even accept the principles and teaching of a more limited fraternity, even while they continue to be Craftsmen. There may be a scintilla of inconsistency apparent in such a position, but if there is one principle more sacred than another in Freemasonry, it is the inalienable right of private judgment, and the sanctity of the individual opinion, and the personal conscience. Because A does not see how these apparently antagonistic views are to be reconciled, it does not follow that B cannot and does not see, and A has no right to

impose on B, as an objective truth, what may be after all only his own subjective idiosyncrasy. Unless Masonic toleration be a "myth," we must admit that B has as much right to his opinion as A, and that we have no right to condemn B, because he does not look at things through the same coloured spectacles as A does. If these, our premises, are correct, and we think they are, the conclusion of the whole matter is that there is room in the world alike for High grades and Craft degrees. As a general rule, those who form the bulk of the high grades are Craftsmen "ab origine," and some, as we know, are zealous Craftsmen, even while fervent Templars or active Knights of Constantine. Why then should we wish to keep up an antagonism between those who have much in common, and can associate together in many Masonic works, though on one point they must agree to differ? We think, that the tone and temper of those who are always attacking the High Grades amongst us is much to be deprecated on the true principles of Masonic toleration, and that whatever may be our individual opinion of their limited principles of action and cohesion, as opposed to our own, we should ever endeavour to recognise their liberty of organization, and the great respectability and private worth of those who are affiliated to them. So too, we do object to those who sometimes like to look on the High Grades as something superior to the Craft degrees. There are some enthusiastic High Grade advocates and adepts, who often overstep the bounds of what is accurate in this respect. In their zeal to magnify their own grades they deprecate the good old-fashioned Craft degrees. A very great mistake. For whatever may be their merits to their own initiates, the Craft degrees stand on an entirely distinct and unassailable basis. They are in fact the "substratum" of every known philosophic, eclectic, or knightly system in the world; they exist from "time immemorial," they are seen through the lapse of ages, and the onward progress of human life, alike certain and precise, both in their individuality and constitution. The great principle they now embody, and which, more or less, they have ever embodied, is, that of universal Freemasonry, and independent of all other grades, they neither ask for tolerance or favour; they make up the "platform" on which all the Craft Grand Lodges, and all the symbolical Freemasonry of the world, can assemble and fraternise. But while we say all this in deprecation of hasty statements and unwise pretensions, we can sympathize and do sympathize with those many good men and true, though we do not belong to them, who compose the High Grades. Many of them we have worked with in happy Craft Lodge meetings, many we know to be elevated in mind, and a credit to the Order they belong to, and we fully recognise, once for all, their right to enter such associations if external to Craft Masonry, believing alike that they find good to themselves, and do good to others, both in the Templar Preceptory, and in the Rose Croix Chapter.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL PROGRESS.
No. IV.

The East, that favoured region of legend and romance, has long been looked upon as the birthplace of Freemasonry, and not without reason. Our oldest legends take us back to Solomon's Temple, and we yet see no reason to discredit the old traditions of our Order, which are neither *à priori* impossible, or historically improbable. Had Masonic writers stopped here, though some profane critics might have objected, they could not very seriously complain of this avowal and persuasion of our ancient brotherhood. If we cannot prove its actuality, no one can disprove its possibility, and whether some may think it a mere fable of the past or not, matters but little, it is the long established belief, it is the venerable tradition of Freemasonry. But some writers have gone further than this, and have involved themselves in difficulties not a few, and discussions which are interminable. We say nothing to-day of the early annals of An-

derson, or the bold statements of Oliver. They are based on the ancient legends of the Craft, and they but put into readable English, without any doubt or critical analysis what the old constitutions in verse and prose so continuously repeat. But other views have been propounded as to the early origin of Freemasonry. 1.—There are those for instance, who look to Egypt as the cradle of our accepted brotherhood. 2.—There are some who find its origin in the mysteries.—3.—And once more there are many who like to trace back Freemasonry to the Dionysian Artificers, and thence to the building colleges at Rome, and the Craft Guilds of the Anglo Saxons. But these enquiries and researches necessarily lead on to others, and the farther we dig down into the dust-heap of ages, the more arduous becomes our undertaking, the more uncertain is the light of actual history, much more of simple tradition. Let us face the difficulty boldly, and see what it is we are seeking to discover. So far as we can yet speak positively on such a subject, we think it may be said that we have distinct traces of Roman sodalities with much resemblance to our organization previous to the fall of Rome, and that we have in France and Germany, and England, indigenous institutions, which, like our Anglo-Saxon Craft Guilds, equally point to a Roman origin. If we assume for the moment that our present speculative Order is the lineal descendant of the operative sodalities, we have this one fact to explain, how do we account for its Hebrew colouring? It is a question in itself of very great importance. True it is that in early and mediæval times the guilds were essentially Christian, but yet the Masonic mark was all but identically the same, allowing for natural development or local usages, in lands whether Christian or non-Christian. Now, it has been said that we may trace Freemasonry back to Egypt, that the occult system of Egypt was preserved by the Jews under Moses, and that there is no difficulty in understanding the existence of a confraternity in the time of King Solomon. Others, mindful of the real difficulties of the case, have, like our lamented Bro. S. Barton Wilson, disassociated the Egyptian system from the Jews, and made Freemasonry a secret system, which had adapted itself to various nations and successive ages, but took its rise in Egypt. A class of writers have also tried to make the mysteries the prototypes of Freemasonry, but Oliver, who saw "where the shoe pinched," to use a familiar proverb, was forced to have recourse to the serious alternative of true and spurious mysteries. A third class has found in the Dionysiacs the precursors of Freemasonry, and have taken Freemasonry from Egypt and Greece and the Holy Land to Rome, and thence to ourselves. Now a good deal may be said for all these theories, but the truth, we fancy, lies in the midst of them all. Egypt had a secret system, and the artificers had a secret organization. The mysteries preserved primæval truth if overlaid with superstitious fables and disgraced by unpardonable excesses, and the Dionysiacs had a secret order, and admitted among themselves speculative Masons, that is, men of rank and wealth. But from not one of these sources in particular did Freemasonry spring; it was a compound of all. The Egyptians, and the Tyrians, and the Etruscans, and to some extent the Greeks, were the great builders of antiquity, and the marks of their buildings were originally almost the same, and constituted a sort of technical language, which the initiated knew everywhere. The Jews received the knowledge of the arts from Egypt, and worked side by side with the Tyrians even in the building of the temple of the one true God; and, as far as we know, indeed we believe there is no doubt on the subject, the marks they all use are very nearly the same. Some writers seem to wish to discard the building guilds altogether, and work out a sort of occult society, which has existed for long centuries substantially the same. Such a view of Masonic working we believe to be a "chimera of chimeras," and that nothing is left for us, on the strict grounds of cause and effect, of historical truth and evidential certainty, but the simpler and perhaps less palatable reality of a handicraft fraternity, bound together by a secret system of teaching, and of symbols, and of recognition.

MASONIC EXAGGERATION.

Freemasonry, though admittedly a great institution, is yet mortal, and Freemasons, however excellent, per se, are not exempt from the foibles of humanity. Somebody has said that man is a "swaggering animal," and the delight of being thought greater "swells" than others; is not confined to the young or the underbred. Indeed we fear that there is a tendency, a growing tendency, amongst Freemasons, to go in, as they say across the Atlantic, for "high falutin," and for a "considerable amount of Bunkum." As regards Freemasonry, whether it be in new theories or strange assertions, whether it be in some very recondite teaching or wondrous mysteries, whether it be in the startling appearance of some new, if unpronounceable degree, there is at this moment amongst us a great deal of "tall talk," and not a little amount of rubbish. We say nothing now of the supposed infallible teaching of Masonic history, which some seem to like to claim for themselves; we can afford to be very tolerant of all dabblers in Masonic Archæology and antiquarian researches, neither do we even complain of those who refuse to hear two sides of a question, and resolute in their own happy absence of critical synopsis, look on themselves as alone right and on anybody else as wrong, utterly, irremediably wrong. To none of these things do we object, as they have existed and always will exist among men and Masons. Such are the idiosyncracies of our limited intellect. But what we do deprecate, and what we do distinctly disavow is, the assumption not only that "*non vixere fortes ante Agamemnona*," but that this person or that person, this coterie or that set of associates, are all together not only the "virtuousest, the discreetest, the truest, and the best," but that they are far above the "canaille" of Freemasonry. To hear some of our brethren talk "*ore rotundo*," to read their lucubrations, or to be bored by their rapid allocutions, is to believe that they have a "patent" for all that Masonic knowledge can impart, or that Masonic literature can disseminate. Until they threw light on the dark and intricate maze of Masonic History or Archæology, nothing was known, nothing had been elucidated worthy of the name of Masonic science, or fitting to be termed Masonic exposition. But at their appearance on the scene, all is clear and easy. The knotty points of olden controversy, the debatable question of ancient warfare, the legends, the anachronisms, the doubts of the past, all vanish and yield to the dogmas of unhesitating assertion, and to the elaborate announcements of pretentious pomposity. The truth is, that, like many "*novi homines*" here and there, in this good world of ours, this modern school is but imitating the practice of their mundane prototypes, in successive ages of the world. Other men have laboured, and they have entered into their labours, they calmly appropriate, without even the expression of thanks, what has been carefully worked out for them and for Freemasons, by a little band of modest students, whose labours are unappreciated, and whose names are scarcely known. Like some other ingenious "citizens of the world," they have a very imperfect sense of the difference existing between "*meum* and "*tuum*," and so they "crib," without hesitation, the thoughts, the theories, the imaginations, the facts of others, and announce them, and treat them as original discoveries of their own. To read their essays, to wade through their laboured sentences, we should be disposed to imagine that they had made some special discoveries in the subject on which they treat, or that they referred for the first time to matters on which no one had written ever before. Now we all know how very easy it is to get up a little second-hand information, and yet profess and appear to be original. The German and American encyclopædia will furnish much available matter, while the forgotten contributions of other days, and the curious pamphlets of a bygone generation, will soon supply a ready amount of seemingly original "padding," in the hands of the skilful manipulator. But we should always remember that much of the "*pabulum lathomicum*," now reproduced with an air of intense importance, has long since been repudiated by our modern critical Masonic school. We do not want the

history of Freemasonry to be again dished up to us in all the flowery language and doubtful illustrations which pleased our forefathers. The enveloping of the plain facts of simple Masonic history, in all the hyperbole of oriental myth, in the untenable assumptions of unhistorical assertion, in obsolete theories, and in hopeless anachronisms, will not serve the cause of Masonic truth, but rather will discredit our Order in the eyes of the careful, the critical, and the intelligent. Let us beware then against that "Sciolism," which appears to be raising its head amongst us again. Let us at once reject any authority whatever which does not rest either on evidential accuracy, or incontestable documents, or is based at any rate on the perpetuated testimony of ancient traditions, common to our Order. It would indeed be a "*reductio ad absurdum*," a very trying dilemma for the Masonic student, a very ungrateful return for the patient labours of a few zealous Masonic archæologists, if there were to arise amongst us a school without any pretention, either to independent research or original collation of documents, but which yet by the loudness of its assertions, the dogmatism of its statement, and the "exaggeration" of its verbose lectures, should seek to give us instead of the careful result of actual analysis and laborious investigation, the exploded fallacies of a defunct school of Masonic teaching, and a most unreliable system of Masonic archæology.

AMERICAN FREEMASONRY.

We have read with much pleasure the following interesting paragraph, in our valued contemporary, *The Philadelphia Keystone*, of February 3rd:—"Bro. William Baird has just made a magnificent gift to Frankfort Lodge, No. 292, of this city, in the shape of a fine building for a Masonic Hall. It is situated on Greenstreet, near Frankfort-road, and cost 35,000 dollars. Here is a noble example, worth following." And we have noted this passage of our transatlantic friends, because it represents well one among many noteworthy features of the onward career of American Freemasonry. Indeed, we fancy that the real condition of the brotherhood in the United States is very little known, and certainly not realised by our English Craft. We have seen from time to time statements, arising either from recklessness or ignorance, very unfair to the American brotherhood, and not to say the truth, very Masonic either in the letter or in the spirit. There appears to be a sort of idea prevalent, especially amongst those whose acquaintance with American Freemasonry is only "skin-deep" as we say, that the confraternity in the United States is given up to pomp and parade, to show and festival. We quote, however, the paragraph from the *Keystone* to demonstrate how wisely our brethren far away are imitating and developing our home movement for the Masonic hall and dedicated lodge-room. If this were all they did, they would no doubt be blameable, but we must observe that the amount spent by the American Freemason in fraternal charity is little known by some of us, or the earnestness and thoroughness of their Masonic benevolence fully understood. California is a young Grand Lodge, but if her work be a sample, and we think it may be, then, taking the thirty-six or thirty-seven Grand Lodges in America, which are said to exist there, we shall find that the "tottle" of American Masonic benevolence is very great. The California Grand Lodge expended fifteen thousand pounds in sixteen years, and if the other American Grand Lodges have given anything like that amount on the average, we shall have a sum not far short of half-a-million at the least, distributed by Freemasons in America in sixteen years. And when we add to this, the orphanages and Masonic homes rising rapidly in all parts of America, under the various Grand Lodges and the sums raised for national disasters, we have a condition of affairs and a reality of work of which we Freemasons may well feel proud. The Craft in America is a very self-supporting, independent body of men, and everything we read of them day by day convinces us how much in earnest they are; and how, for the great part, they

honestly seek to practice what they openly profess. There are imperfections in all human institutions, there are defects in every system, but allowing, as we are bound to do for the divergencies of sometimes conflicting precedents, and multitudinous jurisdictions, the more we understand how the system is worked and is working in America, the prouder we are of Freemasonry, the more respect we feel for the American Freemasons.

Original Correspondence.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for, or even as approving of the opinions expressed by our correspondents, but we wish, in a spirit of fair play to all, to permit—within certain necessary limits—free discussion.—Ed.]

THE INSTALLATION OF THE GRAND MASTER. To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I beg to offer a few remarks on the proposition published in your correspondence of Feb. 27th, that at the forthcoming installation of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales those brethren who are entitled shall appear in court dress.

To my mind the introduction, in a Masonic meeting, provided the members come decently attired in evening costume, of any other distinctions of dress than those gained in Masonry, is altogether opposed to its true spirit, which assumes that for the purposes of Freemasonry all men meet in its assemblies on the level.

The courtly orders or honours worthily won on battlefields are the just pride of their possessors. Freemasonry, I take it, is for the world in general, and its laurels intended for the triumphs of charity, moral example, and brotherly love.

"An Old P.M.," writes, "those who are entitled to court dress can scarcely appear before royalty without wearing it." I think when he penned this, he could have formed but a slight conception of the high, noble and generous character of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, or have reflected that our Grand Master has a mind to comprehend the universe, and has travelled America and the civilized countries of Europe.

The tribute to the Prince will not be that a few appear in court dress, but that the thousands of Masons who attend to do him homage will represent all ranks of society.

The installation of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will serve a far higher purpose than that of presenting a grand spectacle to the privileged few.

From east to west, from north to south, over the whole surface of the globe, wherever Masons assemble, in all the various tongues of the earth, will it be told how a Prince of the Blood Royal of England is seated in the chair of King Solomon.

The moral effect of the heir to the mightiest empire the world e'er saw, linking his hand in brotherly love with the humblest of its subjects, the stimulus Freemasonry will receive from this event, will be the work of the historian to relate.

But let him not also have to chronicle that on that day were introduced class distinctions foreign to Freemasonry, and calculated at no distant period to undermine that brotherly love which is its foundation.

The force of example is very great, and were court dress worn on this occasion, attempts would be made in our colonies to feebly imitate the proceedings. In small communities an element of discord would be introduced, which could not fail to have a very disastrous effect on the welfare of the Order.

Men who attended the levées of the Viceroy or Governor would no doubt, consider themselves entitled to wear court dress in lodge; small coteries would thus be formed in the lodges of those who did, and those who did not, wear court dress; jealousies and bitter feelings would be engendered, and the Order would undoubtedly suffer. I think I have made out a clear case why court dress should not be introduced into Masonry, and I trust the brethren in charge of the arrangements for the installation of his Royal Highness, will, instead of making the order desired by "an Old P.M.," distinctly state that it is not to be worn. No one can esteem and respect more highly than I do, the conscientious efforts of the many distinguished noblemen who are such bright examples in Masonry, and who so worthily adorn the Order. I think if they were personally consulted they would be found to rest their claims on something higher than the court clothing they may be entitled to assume, and they would be the last to wish so to appear in a Masonic Lodge. By all means let us give our Royal Grand Master a right loyal, hearty and Masonic welcome, that will assure him he reigns over the hearts of the Masons of this country, as well as over the lodges; but let us take care not to infringe on the ancient landmarks of that which was intended for all men and all time.

I am, dear sir and brother, yours fraternally,
EDWARD JOHN WALFORD.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In your impression of to-day, I notice two letters on the above subject signed "Ich Dien," and "An Old P.M.," both of which I hope receive from "the powers that be," the consideration their importance demands.

The installation of a M.W.G.M. is not a matter of every day occurrence, and when such an event happens too much prominence cannot be attached to it. But in this instance the proceeding is of more than ordinary interest. Not only are we about to install a M.W.G.M., but we are going to place at our head a Prince of the Blood Royal, the heir

to the most powerful throne in the world, and this circumstance will of itself be sufficient to give such an impetus to Freemasonry as cannot fail to make a lasting impression on the future of the Craft. Who will not feel it an honour in days to come to say, "I was present when the Prince of Wales was installed as Grand Master," and who would not point with pride to a medal commemorative of such an auspicious occasion. Then let us have a medal by all means, but I would not restrict it, as "Ich Dien" does, to those only who attend the Albert Hall on the 28th of April. Many W.M.'s, however desirous they may be of being present, will be prevented from some cause or other of putting in an appearance, and assuming that such a medal be granted it would be manifestly unfair to deprive them, as representatives of their respective lodges, of an honour conferred on their more fortunate compeers. My suggestion then is that, in addition to every brother present at the ceremony, every W.M. for the time being, whether, at home or abroad, should be entitled to the distinction,

"Ich Dien" asks you to write "a short leader on the subject," and I hope you will do so in an early number, in order that it may be thoroughly ventilated.

With regard to the question of dress, to which "An Old P.M." alludes, it must be remembered that, comparatively speaking, very few of those who will claim admission on the day in question will be entitled to the honour of appearing in court dress, while it is scarcely necessary to remind them that evening dress will be indispensable. I cordially endorse the opinion of "An Old P.M.," that those who can affect court dress, or the uniform of the army, navy, or reserve forces should be requested to do so, and I trust that an order to this effect will be duly issued.

I remain, yours truly and fraternally,

I. J. HOOPER WILKINS, W.M. 73, &c.
Westbury Lodge, Eltham, Kent, 27th Feb. 1875.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I cannot agree with the suggestion of your correspondent "T. C. W.," and am of opinion that the foundation of scholarships would be more in accordance with the principles of the Craft. Should this not be acceptable, then a sufficient sum should be raised to secure the election of the 147 candidates now upon the lists for the forthcoming elections of our charities; this would indeed be a lasting commemoration of the accession of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as Grand Master. More tinsel is not required; we have already too much.

I am, dear sir and brother, yours fraternally,

JOHN CONSTABLE, P.M. 185.

THE ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

It is with great pleasure I see this subject is being taken up, its importance is so patent to all true Masons that it is to be hoped that now the ball has been set rolling, it will not be allowed to settle down until Grand Lodge has, Atlas-like, taken it upon its shoulders. Your correspondent, "A Sincere Mason," would seem to infer that Masons should possess great powers of discernment, if, as he says, they are to judge whether this man, or that man "will be capable of appreciating the beauties of Freemasonry," this, in my opinion, is beyond our power. My experience may be limited, but I have seen candidates recommended, privately, as being "just the men," and such men proving, so far as Freemasonry is concerned, miserable failures. I would ask, how is a man to impress his Masonic friends that the beauties of Freemasonry will make an impression upon his mind? All we can do, and the real point to aim at, is, only admitting into our ranks men of the highest order of intellect. Depend upon it, sir, that the greater the intellectual capacity, the greater the appreciation of Freemasonry. So far as holding lodges at public-houses I agree entirely with "A Sincere Mason." Nothing can be more derogatory to our glorious and noble Order, than for lodges to meet in such places now-a-days. It is to be hoped that the brethren will see this in its proper light, and that ere many years it will pass into tradition that "once upon a time" lodges were even held in taverns, &c. There is one system I have seen, which to a certain extent prevents unsuitable men being admitted, it is as follows, for instance: at January Lodge notice is given that at the next regular lodge, Mr. So-and-so will be proposed; this is entered on the minutes, and such notice is on all the summonses for February Lodge, when the gentleman is duly proposed and seconded, this is again entered on the minutes, and issued on the summons for March Lodge, when the ballot is taken. The Provincial Lodge of Yorkshire made bye-laws and issued certain forms for this purpose.

A man applies in the town where he resides, to be admitted into Freemasonry, and he is, perhaps for excellent reasons, refused; he applies elsewhere, and probably being known casually, he is admitted; so by our loose system,—had we better not say "our want of system?"—he is enabled to snap his fingers in the face of those who refused him, and who would not (in some cases) associate with the man under any circumstances. To look at things in their most cheerful light, we may ask ourselves if Masonry may not do such men some good. Never, for a man who would thus be admitted surreptitiously, feels the mistake, and what might have engendered love, engenders hate, or at least ridicule, so doing incalculable harm in lowering the standard and dignity of our institution. It is idle to conceal that such cases as these are of daily occurrence. What we must do is, not to let this subject drop until Grand Lodge affords us that protection, we must sooner or later possess. Why is the so-called higher degrees are so fashionable? The reason is obvious—it is the re-refining influence of the ballot; it is, so to speak, a process of distilling; once in, a member instinctively feels this, and once having felt it, never fails to guard his privileges.

Grand Lodge must (ultimately) make it imperative on all its lodges, that no person shall be initiated, nor a brother affiliated, in any place other than where he resides, without such lodge making certain enquiries, and such questions and the answers thereto shall be read aloud in open lodge, previous to the ballot being taken for such candidate, and a full report entered on the minutes, and further, such initiation or affiliation shall not be allowed (under these circumstances), until the next regular lodge, and not then, until the minutes shall have been duly read and confirmed.

Further, if the person seeking initiation or affiliation resides in a town or place where there is more than one lodge, it shall be incumbent on the lodge wherein he seeks admission to make enquiries at each and every lodge at or near (within a given radius) where the candidate resides.

Such regulations as these would soon render the disgrace the Craft has suffered an impossibility; for any lodge so neglecting should be liable to forfeiture of its warrant. For further protection, when applying for a Grand Lodge certificate for a candidate so admitted, such application should be accompanied by a special declaration, signed by the W.M. and Secretary, to the effect that the special Bye-Laws herein provided had been scrupulously adhered to. When this subject came before Grand Lodge, it would be a favourable opportunity to suggest the raising of the minimum fee to, say five guineas, inclusive of registration and certificate fees, and for a joining member three guineas, inclusive. I trust abler hands will tackle this important subject, and you, amongst them, give us the benefit of your powerful pen, to keep up the cry. In conclusion, I scarcely think it necessary to make any apologies for trespassing on your valuable space, for I think I express the sentiments of all your subscribers when I say that we English Masons feel that for such high purposes as these we are proud and happy in possessing such an organ as the *Freemason*.

I am, fraternally yours,

"AD REM."

[We are very happy in being able to print the above interesting communication, but the pressure on our space prevents us reproducing the two printed forms, and which we think are not necessary to our brother's lucid argument. We have written privately.—Ed.]

MR. BRADLAUGH AND FREEMASONRY.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I notice in the *Freemason* for Feb. 20th an account of the visit of the King of the Sandwich Islands to the Masonic Temple, New York, U.S.A., I have lately had forwarded to me another account of a reception still more extraordinary in the annals of American Freemasonry. Mr. Bradlaugh, of London, is now visiting America, and in the *National Reformer* gives weekly a sketch of his tour through the country. In his fourteenth letter is the following:—

"The Columbian Lodge of Freemasons had invited me to be their guest on the occasion of the reception tendered to David Kalakua, King of the Sandwich Islands and his suite. The Sandwich Islands are not precisely the largest in the world; but King Kalakua is the first live king who has made a tour in America, and is therefore a notability. In addition, malicious people say that there is a disposition to annex the Sandwich Islands to the United States, just as the Fiji Islands have been recently annexed to England.

"On reaching the Boston and Maine Depot I found my sleigh awaiting me, and it soon went scrunching and splashing through the snow and ice, with the hail pelting down furiously. At last I was safely deposited at the door of the very fine Masonic Temple in Tremont-street. On entering the lodge, under escort of the courteous Marshall, Bro. R. C. Nichols, I found more than three hundred members present, including Past Masters of other lodges, and was assigned a seat in the east by the Worshipful Master. The business of the lodge, when I entered, was the raising a Fellow-Craftsman to the Master's degree, and I had a full opportunity, for about three quarters of an hour, of studying King Kalakua, whose chair was next to mine on my left. He is a stout, lusty-looking man, with a fairly-fine broad forehead, but with the thick lips and nostrils and coloured skin, more especially found in the negro race. He was accompanied by Governors Dominis and Kapena, the first an American, the second Sandwich-born, who were seated on my right. During an interval of relaxation I was presented to his Majesty, to whom I simply bowed, just touching his hand, which he held towards me, no words being used by either; after the lodge was closed, we all ascended to the banquet hall."

"The Boston Advertiser says:—

"The reception to the King by Columbian Lodge of Masons was an imposing affair. Over 300 persons were entertained, including the Deputy Grand Master of the Boston district, with most of the deputies of the State (all in full regalia), and all the Masters of the Masons' Association. The stairways and entrance halls were crowded with persons endeavouring to gain a look at the brilliant scene. The banquet was the finest ever set in the temple, and the tables were freighted with the richest delicacies, silver ware, floral adornings, ornamental pieces of confections bearing the flags of the Sandwich Islands and the United States, &c. The banquet was concluded soon after midnight, the King and suite expressing themselves highly delighted with the entertainment and attentions they had received. The Worshipful Master, William J. Stevens, presided, and speeches, interspersed with music, were made by Dr. Winslow Lewis, John T. Hurd, Mr. Bradlaugh, the King and the two members of his suite, Lieutenant George M. Totten, U.S.N., J. B. Smith, William D. Coolidge, Joshua A. Stearus, George G. Smith, and by others.

"When called on to speak, in response to my health, pro-

posed by the Worshipful Master, I was received with a very warm greeting, and determined at least to try to say something that deserved it. The King, who had briefly spoken before I rose, had said that Masonry knew no distinctions of colour, referring to the presence of himself, Governor Kapena, and the coloured Junior Warden of Adelphi Lodge, J. B. Smith. Waiting till the cheering had subsided, I said: "Worshipful Master and Brethren,—No greater evidence may be found of the equality amongst us than is given in this presence. That true Freemasonry knows no distinction of colour has been affirmed in words by our brother opposite, and is demonstrated in fact by his presence, and that of our honoured brother, and my good friend, from Adelphi Lodge, who stands beside me. That true Freemasonry knows no distinctions of class is here made manifest by the putting myself and our brother from the Hawaiian Isles on a level at our work, at the same table at our feast; as that under the roof of this temple there is penalty for no shade of thought, so that it be honest; for no utterance of opinion, so that it be fraternal and earnest. The majesty that Freemasonry delights to honour is the majesty of earnest manhood, the kingship which comes of effort, not of birth, the heroism of endeavour for human progress. Speaking for an orient which has on its muster-rolls many uncrowned kings, for a lodge which has had amongst its brethren Joseph Mazzini, Joseph Garibaldi, and Louis Blanc, I venture to hope that all our brethren will understand that true Masonic work is in the deliverance of humankind from poverty, ignorance, and superstition. We who claim to be Freemasons should seek so to use our trowels on the steps of the world's upward pathway, that the weak and less sure-footed may climb more easily the happiness that all humanity always seeks, but, from want of light or strength, does not always find." At the conclusion of my speech, which lasted about ten minutes, the whole of those present gave me Masonic honours, and then three cheers and "a tiger;" and then the King, rising again, proposed a toast, "The Cause of Humanity," and said to me: "We have gone through the form of shaking hands before; will you shake hands with me really now, on the ground of our common humanity?" and we then shook hands amidst much cheering. Dr. Winslow Lewis, who is an eminent and liberal physician in Boston, made a most humorous address. The old gentleman is evidently highly esteemed in Boston, and his reference to Mastai Ferretti, the excommunicated Mason, who is known as Pio Nono, was warmly greeted. Governor Dominis created some pleasantry by inviting us to visit the Sandwich Islands, there being evidently a strong under-current of opinion that "roast missionary" still figured on the hotel bills of fare in those sea-girt countries."

Is not the foregoing remarkable, especially in a country containing Grand Lodges, who do not consider anyone eligible who denies the inspiration of the scripture. I have heard that Mr. Bradlaugh is an atheist. Can it be so, and yet for him to be a Mason? This is a matter of great importance, and I feel sure that the readers of the *Freemason*, as with myself, will be anxious to have the question settled. To what lodge and Grand Lodge does Mr. Bradlaugh belong? Is he an English Freemason or what? I do not desire to refer either to his religious (?) or his political opinions, because as Freemasons we have little to do with either, but surely it should be clearly established that an atheist cannot be a Freemason anywhere.

Mr. Bradlaugh has not only been to New York, but also to Boston, and in the latter city he was present, by special invitation, at a festival of a most remarkable character. In his own terse language, and hearty sympathizing tone, in which we join, the meeting is thus described: "A few years ago no coloured men were admitted to the Masonic brotherhood in any part of the United States. Last night was the first case in which a coloured Freemason was elected to be an office bearer in any regular lodge. About eight years ago the St. Andrews Lodge made Joshua B. Smith (Sumner's devoted friend) and six other coloured men Freemasons, with the intent that they might establish a coloured men's lodge. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, however, did not issue the warrant for such a lodge, and the purpose was abandoned. Joshua B. Smith, who was a Justice of the Peace for Massachusetts, and who had in the interval been elected to the Senate of that state, became a member of the Adelphi Lodge, meeting in South Boston, and yesterday evening he was formally installed as Junior Warden. We say all honour to the Boston Freemasons for so doing, and we thank Mr. Bradlaugh for the information. We would now, however, like to know if the brother mentioned is a deist. If so, his being a Mason is explained. If an atheist, what does it all mean?"

REVIRESCO.

THE PUBLIC HOUSE QUESTION.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I have read, with interest, several letters in your last number, in reference to some points in the working of our Order, which I have always held to be of vital importance; namely, the holding of meetings of lodges in taverns and public houses—care in the selection of candidates for our privileges—the discontinuance of interest in Masonic proceedings by brethren after they have passed the first chair of their respective lodges and chapters. To these I may add another, which considerable experience has convinced me is a matter well worthy of consideration and legislation by our authorities; that is a provision, that no brother shall be elected to fill the chair until he has proved his competency to perform the duties thereof. Before proceeding to enlarge on these points, allow me to state that I am a Mason of twenty-eight, and a P.M. of twenty-five years' standing, that within a year of my initiation I was able to work all the ceremonies, and very soon after to give the

ectures, and have been equally competent in the Arch and Mark Degrees within a short period of my admission to them. For about ten years, from 1857 to 1867, I was a regular correspondent of your predecessor, the "Freemasons' Magazine," generally known under the signature, which I attach to this letter, but since that time, advancing years and other circumstances have led me to restrict myself to local usefulness in the provinces in which I have been successively located, no less than four, and of my exertions in each I can produce documentary evidence.

I happen to possess the Masonic Calendar and Pocket Book for every year from 1857, and the "Freemasons' Magazine" from January, 1859, till its last date, Nov. 4th, 1871. (The last is an answer to the inquiry made by W.J.H. on page 75 of your last number.) I have also the *Freemason* from its commencement in 1869.

In respect to the holding of lodge meetings in taverns, I have just examined the Calendar for 1850, and find that at that period, 385 lodges in England and Wales met in such places of public resort, and 106, that is about one fourth of the whole number, in Masonic halls, private rooms, or other buildings, not accessible to the public and unconnected with drinking associations. Our indefatigable Masonic historian, Bro. Hughan, has repeatedly expressed to me his opinion as to the desirableness of individual brethren taking up special subjects, and while he adhered mainly to his own, he assigned to me the question of separate places for our meetings, as well as correctness and similarity of ritual; and during the period I have named, I endeavoured to carry out this division of labour, nor do I feel that my efforts were unsuccessful, assisted as they were by those of many others who held the views, and were equally impressed with the importance of the subject. I have now examined the Calendar for last year, and I find that while 533 lodges still adhere to what I deem an objectionable practice; 463 lodges meet in buildings exclusively devoted to Masonic purposes, or, at least, unconnected with such as are licensed as houses of public entertainment, that is, in round numbers, about nine-twentieths. I may mention that there are a very few, perhaps twenty, as to which the place of meeting is not specified; of these I have taken no account on either side. The number 533 is still very large, but the proportion is greatly changed during the last quarter of a century, and a great improvement is manifest. Let us hope that by the year 1900 the adoption of special buildings will be almost universal.

The next point I have mentioned is care in the selection of candidates for Freemasonry. I have seen many cases of neglect on this head, and in some instances have refused to attend meetings of my lodge, while doubtful men were taking the several degrees, and when I have felt that there has been a laxity in instituting rigid inquiry. In some lodges in one province to which I belonged, intermediate meetings of the officers were held, and no candidates were allowed to be proposed without the sanction of the brethren attending those meetings, that is, of those who were more immediately responsible for the good government and welfare of the body.

As to the third point—continued interest in, and regular attendance at the meetings of the lodge on the part of Past Masters—I do not see that there can be any interference with individual action, but in order to show my opinion on the subject, whenever I am called upon to instal a W.M., before delivering the three customary addresses at the close of the ceremony, I give a special one to the I.P.M., explaining the Masonic application of his jewel, and enforcing the importance of continued attendance at the meetings of the lodge so long as he continues a member of it.

With respect to the fourth subject, to which I have alluded, I have generally found that when a W.M. has felt himself incompetent to discharge his duties by want of acquaintance with the ritual, he has requested some P.M. to work the ceremonies for him. Indeed I think that every aspirant to the position of W.M. of a lodge, or Principal of a chapter, should be required to prove his competency before election. I am told that this course is sometimes adopted, but I imagine that it is very rare. I am aware that many Masons plead the calls of business and family engagements as an excuse, but I hold that in such case they should not undertake what they know they cannot perform, nor can I understand how they can conscientiously give the necessary pledges on installation.

In the hope that these remarks will tend to forward the views of your other correspondents,

I am, yours fraternally,

H.H.

THE RIGHT OF VISITING LODGES.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Referring to the letter of Bro. W. I. Adye, in your impression of 20th ult., I must say I was much disappointed at not finding in your last number an answer to this most important question from some brother of acknowledged influence in the Craft. I am unacquainted with "Busy Bee," but I should imagine he has not spent much of his time in flitting from "flower to flower," but on the contrary, has confined himself to the parent hive. It seems to be the general impression of the brethren of this province, inculcated by our provincial rulers in the Craft, that a Mason has a right to visit any lodge of the town in which he resides, by simply proving himself a subscribing member of the Craft, and that an examination at least cannot lawfully be denied when properly demanded. Referring to the "Summary of Ancient Charges," etc., to be read to the Master elect of a lodge prior to his installation. I find the following:—"No. 7. You agree to be courteous to your brother, etc." "No. 8. You promise to respect genuine and true brethren." Now it appears to me that Bro. Adye was not even examined by any member of the Domestic Lodge, but that he was simply informed

that he was "in the way." I would ask—"Was that courteous behaviour?" or—"Was it showing respect to the brethren?" I am led to believe that in the "Ancient Charges, at the constitution of a lodge," contained in a M.S. of the Lodge of Antiquity, it is directed—"That every Mason receive and cherish strange fellows when they come over the country, and sett them on worke, if they will worke, as the manner is; that is to say, if the Mason have any mould stone in his place, he shall give him a mould stone and sett him on worke; and if he have none, the Mason shall refresh him with money unto the next lodge."

This appears to me to be explicit as to the right of every Mason to present himself at the door of a strange lodge, and to demand an examination, which, if properly complied with, should suffice to allow of his admission.

Permit me to say that if this right be denied, the foundation of our noble fabric would appear to be built upon sand, for what becomes of our boasted "three grand principles," when one of the chief benefits of our ancient institution is hereby scattered to the wind?

I am, dear sir and brother, yours faithfully and fraternally,

F. D. MARSDEN, I.P.M. 712,
Prov. Grand Secretary, Lincolnshire.

THE APOLLO UNIVERSITY LODGE.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In the report of the celebration of the 56th anniversary festival of the Apollo Lodge, Oxford, in your last issue, I observe one or two startling announcements, and as we regard Oxford as one of the great founts of knowledge, Masonic and otherwise, I am disposed to ask a question or two. It is stated "there were ten candidates for initiation, who were all admitted to the mysteries of Freemasonry;" this by dispensation, I imagine, although it is not so stated. Was there a dispensation for the closing of the lodge in "ample form?" as described by your correspondent. I am aware Oxford has some Masonic privileges, but do not quite understand this as one of them.

I am induced to notice this statement lest they may mislead.

I am, sir, yours fraternally,

AN OLD P.M.

THE STATUS OF PAST MASTERS.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

At line thirteen of my letter on the above subject in your last issue, I am represented as having written that "An Old P.M. seems to me to be correct," instead of "incorrect." The mistake is important, as completely upsetting the intended meaning of my letter.

Yours fraternally,

BUSY BEE.

OFFICIAL VISITS TO LODGES.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Will you kindly state in your next edition, the etiquette to be observed in paying official visits to other lodges.

The W.M., officers, and brethren (of the lodge visiting), having entered the lodge and taken their seats, witness the business of the evening. After which the presiding Master rises, and in a few appropriate remarks, acknowledges the honour and pleasure of being visited by lodge (so and so). Then the W.M. (of the lodge visiting) responds.

Now, what I should like to know is, "When the presiding Master is acknowledging the visit, do all the members of his lodge rise and remain standing whilst he speaks? and do the W.M. and brethren (of the lodge visiting) stand at the same time, if so, you will perceive we are all standing at one time. I consider this wrong. That which I think correct, is, whilst the presiding Master welcomes the visiting lodge, the members of his lodge stand (when he has finished speaking of course he and they sit down), then when the W.M. of visiting lodge rises to respond, all the members of same, rise and remain standing with him.

Kindly say whether I am correct; if wrong, state what it should be.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

M.M., Bristol.

ROYAL STANDARD LODGE, (No. 1598.)

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

A "P.M." has misunderstood the meaning of the words used by Bro. Youngusband at the last meeting of the Royal Standard Lodge, the report of which appeared in your columns of the 20th ult., page 73.

Bro. Youngusband's words were:—"Permit me now, in the name of the Royal Standard Lodge, (No. 1298,) of which you were the founder, as the Consecrating Officer, and first occupant of its chair to present," &c. &c. Bro. Youngusband, having been the Consecrating Officer, of necessity became the chair's first occupier."

Yours truly,

M. M.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS.

For the Week ending Friday, March 12, 1875.

The Editor will be glad to receive notice from Secretaries of Craft Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, Mark Lodges, Preceptories, Conclaves, &c., of any change in place or time of meeting.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6.

General Committee Boys' School, at 4.
Lodge 142, St. Thomas's, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
" 1412, La Iberia, Hill-road, St. John's Wood.
" 1470, Thames Valley, Ship Hotel, Halliford, near Shepperton.

Chap. 975, Rose of Denmark, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge.
 Precep. 127, Bard of Avon, Hampton Court.
 Manchester Lodge of Instruction (179), Yorkshire Grey, 77, London-st., Fitzroy-sq., at 8; Bro. H. Ash, Prec.
 Lily Lodge of Instruction (820), Greyhound Hotel, Richmond, Surrey.
 Star Lodge of Instruction (1275), Marquess of Granby, New Cross-road, at 7; Bro. C. G. Dilley, Preceptor.

MONDAY, MARCH 8.

Lodge 5, St. George's and Corner Stone, Freemasons' Hall.
 " 59, Royal Naval, Freemasons' Hall.
 " 90, St. John's, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
 " 136, Good Report, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
 " 193, Confidence, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
 " 222, St. Andrew's, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
 " 1319, Asaph, Freemasons' Hall.
 " 1366, Highgate, Gatehouse Hotel, Highgate.
 Mark Lodge 173, Temple, Green Dragon Tavern, Stepney.
 Prince Leopold Lodge of Instruction (1445), Lord Stanley Tavern, Sandringham-road, Kingsland, at 7; Bro. T. Austin, Preceptor.
 Strong Man Lodge of Instruction (45), Crown Tavern, Clerkenwell green, at 8; Bro. Beckett, Preceptor.
 Sincerity Lodge of Instruction (174), Railway Tavern, Fenchurch-street Station, at 7.
 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. Gottheil, Preceptor.
 British Oak Lodge of Instruction (813), Bank of Friendship Tavern, Mile-end, at 7 for 8.
 St. James's Union Lodge of Instruction (180), Union Tavern, Air-st., Regent-sr, at 8; Bro. J. R. Stacey, Preceptor.
 Wellington Lodge of Instruction, White Swan, Deptford, at 8; Bro. C. G. Dilley, P.M. 1155, Preceptor.
 West Kent Lodge of Improvement (1297), St. Saviour's College, Stansted-road, Forest-hill, at 7.30; Bro. H. W. Lindus, Preceptor.
 Metropolitan Mark Lodge of Instruction, Coach and Horses Hotel, 323, Strand, at 8.
 Perfect Ashlar Lodge of Instruction (1178), Victoria Tavern, Lower-road, Rotherhithe, at 8; Bro. C. W. Kent, Preceptor.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9.

Lodge 46, Old Union, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
 " 96, Burlington, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-st.
 " 166, Union, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
 " 180, St. James's Union, Freemasons' Hall.
 " 198, Percy, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
 " 211, St. Michael, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
 " 228, United Strength, Old Jerusalem, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell.
 " 235, Nine Muses, Queen's Hotel, Cork-street, Bond-street, W.
 " 548, Wellington, White Swan Tavern, Deptford.
 " 917, Cosmopolitan, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
 " 933, Doric, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
 " 1397, Anerley, Thicket Hotel, Anerley.
 Yarborough Lodge of Instruction (554), Green Dragon, Stepney, at 8; Bro. Barnes, P.M., Preceptor.
 Domestic Lodge of Instruction, Palmerston Tavern, Grosvenor-park, Camberwell, at 8; Bro. Lailham, Precep.
 Faith Lodge of Instruction (141), Refreshment Rooms, Victoria-st. (opposite Westminster Palace Hotel), at 8; Bro. C. A. Cottelbrune, Preceptor.
 Prince Fredk. William Lodge of Instruction (753), Lord's Hotel, Lord's Cricket Ground, St. John's-wood, at 8; Bro. F. G. Baker, Preceptor.
 Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction (860), King Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7.30; Bro. Crawley, Preceptor.
 Prosperity Lodge of Instruction (65), Gladstone Tavern, Bishopsgate-st., Within, at 7.30; Bro. J. L. Mather, P.M. 65 and 1227, Preceptor.
 St. Marylebone Lodge of Instruction (1305), British Stores Tavern, New-street, St. John's Wood, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.
 Constitutional Lodge of Instruction (55), Wheatsheaf Hotel, Hand-court, Holborn, at 7; Bro. J. R. Stacey, P.M. 180, Preceptor.
 Percy Lodge of Instruction, Grapes Tavern, Little Windmill-street, W.
 Pythagorean Lodge of Instruction (79), Prince of Orange, Greenwich, at 8; Bro. J. Robt. Nash, Preceptor.
 Israel Lodge of Instruction, Rising Sun Tavern, Globe-road, at 7.30.
 Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, 269, Pentonville-road, at 7; Bro. T. Adams, P.G.P., Preceptor.
 Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement (975), Jamaica Coffee House, St. Michael's Alley, Cornhill, at 6.30; Comp. Jas. Brett, Preceptor.
 Sydney Lodge of Instruction, White Hart Hotel, Upper Norwood. Bro. H. Frances, Preceptor.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10.

Committee Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution at 3.
 Lodge 3, Albion, Regent's Masonic Hall, Regent-street.
 " 11, Enoch, Freemasons' Hall.
 " 13, Union Waterloo, Masonic Hall, William-st., Woolwich.
 " 15, Kent, Freemasons' Hall.
 " 87, Vitruvian, White Hart, College-st., Lambeth.
 " 147, Justice, White Swan, High-street, Deptford.
 " 238, Pilgrim, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
 " 749, Belgrave, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
 " 781, Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, Limehouse.

Lodge 820, Lily of Richmond, Greyhound, Richmond.
 " 1017, Montefiore, Freemasons' Hall.
 " 1306, St. John of Wapping, Gun Tavern, High-st., Wapping.
 Chap. 1260, Hervey, Freemasons' Hall.
 " 1305, St. Marylebone, British Stores, New-street, St. John's Wood.
 New Concord Lodge of Instruction, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton, at 8.
 Royal Union Lodge of Instruction, Horse and Groom, Winsley-st., Oxford-st., at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Prec.
 Confidence Lodge of Instruction, White Hart Tavern, Abchurch-lane, at 7.30.
 Peckham Lodge of Instruction, Maismore Arms, Park-road, Peckham, at 8; 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.
 Finsbury Park Lodge of Instruction (1288), Finsbury Park Tavern, Seven Sisters'-road, N., at 8. Bro. P. Dickinson, Preceptor.
 United Strength Lodge of Instruction (228), the Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales's-road, Kentish-town, at 8; Bro. J. N. Frost, Preceptor.
 Southwark Lodge of Instruction (879), Southwark Park.
 Dalston Lodge of Instruction (975), Havelock Tavern, Albion-road, Dalston, E.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11.

Lodge 19, Royal Athelstan, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
 " 91, Regularity, Freemasons' Hall.
 " 206, Friendship, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
 " 263, Bank of England, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
 " 534, Polish National, Freemasons' Hall.
 " 657, Canonbury, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-st.
 " 860, Dalhousie, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-st.
 " 879, Southwark, Southwark Park Tavern.
 " 1076, Capper, Marine Hotel, Victoria Dock.
 " 1288, Finsbury Park, Finsbury Park Tavern, Seven Sisters'-road, N.
 " 1321, Emblematic, Tulse Hill Hotel, Tulse Hill.
 " 1425, Hyde Park, Westbourne Hotel, Craven-rd., W.
 " 1471, Islington, Cock Tavern, Highbury.
 " 1475, Peckham, Victoria Tavern, Old Kent-road.
 Chap. 72, Royal Jubilee, Horns Tavern, Kennington.
 " 554, Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.
 " 619, Beadon, Mason's Hall, Mason's Avenue, Basinghall-street.
 Preceptory D., Mount Calvary, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
 Fidelity Lodge of Instruction (3), Yorkshire Grey, London-st., W., 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.
 Whittington Lodge of Instruction (862), Crown Tavern, Holborn, at 8; Bro. L. Alexander, P.M. 188, Preceptor.
 Doric Chapter of Instruction, Three Cranes Tavern, Mile-end-road, at 8; Comp. T. J. Barnes, Preceptor.
 Ebury Lodge of Instruction, Bro. Palmer's, 12, Pousonby-st., Millbank.
 Highgate Lodge of Instruction (1366), Bull and Gate, Kentish-town, at 8; Bro. J. N. Frost, Preceptor.
 The Great City Lodge of Instruction (1426), 111, Cheap-side, at 6.30.
 High Cross Lodge of Instruction (754), Coach & Horses, High-road, Tottenham.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12.

Lodge 33, Britannic, Freemasons' Hall.
 " 134, Caledonian, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
 " 157, Bedford, Freemasons' Hall.
 " 177, Domestic, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
 " 1420, Earl Spencer, Northcote Hotel, New Wandsworth.
 St. George's Lodge of Instruction (140), Globe Tavern, Royal-hill, Greenwich.
 Robert Burns Lodge of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-st., Regent-st., at 8.
 Belgrave Lodge of Instruction (749), Lyceum Tavern, 354, Strand, at 8; Bro. Pulsford, Preceptor.
 Panmure Lodge of Instruction (720), Baltham Hotel, Baltham, at 7.30.
 Unions Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.'s, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
 Temperance Lodge of Instruction, Victoria Tavern, Victoria-road, Deptford, at 8.
 Clapton Lodge of Instruction (1365), White Hart, Clapton, at 7.30; Bro. James Brett, P.G.P., &c., Preceptor.
 Royal Standard Lodge of Instruction (1298), the Castle Tavern, Holloway, at 8; Bro. W. F. Rogers, Preceptor.
 Pythagorean Chapter of Instruction (79), Prince of Orange, Greenwich-rd., at 8; Comp. W. Smith, Precep.
 Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction (1056), Portugal Hotel, Fleet-street; Bro. Stacey, P.M. 180, Preceptor.
 Westbourne Lodge of Instruction (733), Horse and Groom, Winsley-street, Oxford-street, at 8.
 United Pilgrims Lodge of Instruction, Duke of Edinburgh, Brixton, at 7; Bro. M. S. Larham, Preceptor.
 St. James's Lodge of Instruction, New Tanners' Arms, Grange-road, Bermondsey, at 8; C. W. Kent, P.M., Preceptor.
 Duke of Edinburgh Lodge of Instruction, Silver Lion, Penny-fields, Poplar, at 7; Bro. D. S. Potts, Preceptor.
 Doric Lodge of Instruction, Earl Grey Tavern, Mile-end-road, at 8. Bro. P. M. Austin, Preceptor.
 Burgoyne Lodge of Instruction, Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales's-road, N.W., at 8; Bro. P. M. Wuest, Preceptor.

St. Luke's Lodge of Instruction (144), Rose Tavern, Fulham-road, S.W.
 Chigwell Lodge of Instruction, Bald-faced Stag Hotel, Buckhurst-hill, at 8.
 Burdett Courts Lodge of Instruction (1278), Approach Tavern, Approach-road, Victoria-park, at 8; Bro. Geo. W. Verry, Preceptor.
 Stability Lodge of Instruction (217), Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue; Bro. H. Muggeridge, P.M., Precep.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN WEST LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

For the Week ending Saturday, March 13, 1875.

MONDAY, MARCH 8.

Lodge 314, Peace and Unity, Militia Mess Rooms, Preston.
 " 721, Independence, Masonic Rooms, Eastgate-row, North Chester, at 5.
 " 1021, Hartington, Masonic Hall, Barrow-in-Furness.
 " 1398, Baldwin Castle, Dalton-in-Furness.
 Chap. 148, Elias Ashmole, Chapter Rooms, Warrington, at 6.30.
 TUESDAY, MARCH 9.
 Lodge 241, Merchants', Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 5.
 " 1250, Gilbert Greenall, Masonic Rooms, Warrington.
 Chap. 537, Zion, 55, Argyle-street, Birkenhead.
 " 613, Bridson, Masonic Hall, Southport, at 7.
 Downshire Lodge of Instruction (No. 594), Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10.

Lodge 281, Fortitude, Athenæum, Lancaster.
 " 1052, Callender, Public Hall, Rusholme.
 " 1094, Temple, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 6.
 " 1356, De Grey and Ripon, North Hill-street, Toxteth-park, Liverpool, at 6.
 Chap. 673, St. John's, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 6.30.
 St. John's Lodge of Instruction (673), Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 8.
 Neptune Lodge of Instruction (1264), Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7.
 THURSDAY, MARCH 11.
 Lodge 216, Harmonic, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, at 5.
 " 333, Royal Preston, Victoria Garrison Hotel, Fulwood, near Preston.
 " 477, Mersey, 55, Argyle-st., Birkenhead, at 6.
 " 786, Croxteth United Service, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 6.
 " 1035, Prince of Wales, Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, at 6.
 " 1213, Bridgwater, Cross Keys Hotel, Eccles, near Manchester.
 Mariners' Lodge of Instruction (249), Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 8.
 Duke of Edinburgh Lodge of Instruction (1182), 150, Park-lane, Liverpool, at 7.
 Chap. 220, Harmony, Garston Hotel, Garston, at 5.
 FRIDAY, MARCH 12.
 Lodge 1289, Rock, Rock Ferry Hotel, Rock Ferry, near Birkenhead, at 7.
 Chap. 249, Mariners, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 6.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN GLASGOW AND VICINITY.

For the week ending Saturday, March 13, 1875.
 All the Meetings take place at Eight o'clock.

MONDAY, MARCH 8.

Lodge 102, St. Mark, 213, Buchanan-street.
 " 219, Star, 12, Tongate.
 " 362, St. Clair, 25, Robertson-street.
 " 541, Marie Stuart, Prince of Wales Hall, Crosshill.
 Chap. 69, St. Andrew, 170, Buchanan-st.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9.

Lodge 413, Athole, 213, Buchanan-street.
 " 419, Neptune, 35, St. James's-street, Kingston.
 " 441, Glasgow, 22, Struthers-street.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10.

Lodge 178, Scotia, 170, Buchanan-street.
 " 333, St. George, 213, Buchanan-street.
 " 510, Maryhill, 167, Main-street.
 Chap. 113, Partick, St. Mary's Hall, Partick.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11.

Lodge 553, St. Vincent, 162, Kent-road.
 " 290, Dalry Blair, White Hart Hotel, Dalry.
 Chap. 50, Glasgow, 313, Buchanan-st.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12.

Lodge 399, Royal Blues, Commercial Hotel, Kilbirnie.
 Chap. 144, St. Rollox, Freemasons' Hall, Garngad-road.
 SATURDAY, MARCH 13.
 Lodge 179, St. Mungo, Loudon Hotel, Mauchline.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN EDINBURGH AND VICINITY.

For the Week ending Saturday, March 13, 1875.

MONDAY, MARCH 8.

Lodge 145, St. Stephen, Masonic Hall, Writer's-court, at 8.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9.

Lodge 1, Mary's Chapel, Waterloo Hotel, Waterloo-place, at 8.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10.

Lodge 2, Canongate Kilwinning, St. John's Chapel, St. John's-street, at 8.

Chap. 1, Edinburgh, Freemasons' Hall, George-st., at 8.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11.

Lodge 8, Journeyman, Masonic Hall, Blackfriars-st., at 8.
 Chap. 56, Canongate Kilwinning, St. John's Chapel, St. John's-street.