

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS:—	
Craft Masonry	307
Scotland	308
Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall	308
Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk	309
Dedication of Surrey Masonic Hall	310
Consecration of Surrey Masonic Hall Lodge	310
Boys' School Festival	311
Rosicrucian Society	311
Masonic Tidings	311
The Boys' School Anniversary	312
The Admission of New Members	312
Masonic Toleration	312
The Famine in Asia Minor	313
CORRESPONDENCE:—	
Temperance Lodges	313
Bro. C. J. Burgess and the Mark Degree	313
Provincial Funds—Leicestershire and Rutland	313
Royal Masonic Institution for Boys	314
Masons' Marks	314
The Duke of Wellington	314
Boys' School Festival	314
The Rye House	314
Hospital Saturday Fund	314
Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent	314
Masonic Notes and Queries	314
Consecration of the Abercorn Lodge, No. 1459	315
Provincial Grand Lodge of Leicestershire and Rutland	315
Royal Masonic Institution for Boys	315
Royal Masonic Institution for Girls	315
Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution	315
Institutions in France	316
Masonic Meetings for next week	316
Advertisements	i. ii. iii. iv. v. vi.

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

BURY.—PRINCE OF WALES LODGE (No. 1012).—A meeting of this well-established lodge was held at the house of Bro. Handley, the Derby Hotel, on Thursday, the 1st inst. Aa has been already intimated in these columns, this lodge is at present without W.M. and S.D., through the melancholy fate which befel Bro. R. W. O'Neil (the last Worshipful Master) and Bro. R. Battersby, S.D., in Whit-week. Among the brethren present at the meeting were Bros. Henry Heys, I.P.M., of Ramsbottom; W. P. Woodcock, S.W.; Joseph T. Newbold, J. W.; John Halliwell, P.M., Chaplain, George Spurgeon, J.D.; John B. Jackson, P.M., D.C.; James Barrett, Steward; J. H. Sherbourne, I.G.; James Thorman, Tyler; Henry Maiden, (P.M. 191 and P. Prov. G.S.B. East Lancashire), Sec.; Joseph Handley, P. Prov. G.Treas., E.L., Treas.; P.M. Bro. W. Handley. Visitors: Bros. Robert Whittaker, P. Prov. G.D.C., E.L., 678 (Farnworth); H. Percival, P.M. 274 (Newchurch); G. A. O'Neil, W.M. 191; Walker, W.M. 37 (Bolton); Edmund Milnes, 1253 (Manchester); Ireland, 1129 (Rochdale); Horridge, 344 (Radcliffe); T. W. Probert, S.D. 191; and T. Barker, J.D. 42. The proceedings were opened at 4 o'clock by Bro. Henry Heys, P.M., after which the following were unanimously ballotted and duly initiated into the mysteries—Mr. George Ashworth, solicitor, Waterfoot, Rossendale, initiated by Bro. H. Maiden; Mr. Geo. McCann, wine and spirit merchant, Bury, initiated by Bro. J. B. Jackson; Mr. Wm. Henry Hoyle, manufacturer, Mossfield, Bury, initiated by Bro. Halliwell; Mr. Jas. T. Milnes, manufacturer, Oaklands, near Bury, initiated by Bro. Jos. Handley. Bro. J. T. Newbold explained the working tools of E.A. to the initiates. The general initiatory working was gone through by the officiating brethren in a highly creditable manner. At 7.15 p.m. the brethren were called from labour to refreshment, which was served in a style worthy alike of Bro. Handley's repute and the prestige of the hotel. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured, "The Initiates" and "The Visitors" receiving a due share of attention. At 8.15 such of the brethren as were Master Masons were recalled to labour, when the lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and Bro. Harry Woodcock was called upon to show his proficiency in the former degrees. Having satisfied the brethren, he was duly entrusted and retired. The lodge was then opened in the Third Degree, when Bro. Woodcock was admitted and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason by Bro. G. A. O'Neil, the efficient W.M. of Lodge 191, and brother to the late W.M. of Lodge 1012, Bro. J. T. Newbold, a worthy support to Bro. O'Neil, explained the working tools and tracing board peculiar to the degree. On the lodge being closed to the First Degree, a most interesting addition was made to the evening's proceedings by the presentation of a complete and very elaborate set of working tools to the lodge by Bro. Henry Heys, P.M. The tools (wrought in silver) were disposed in a handsome case, and had been manufactured by Bro. George Kenning, and that they were a real credit to his establishment there was a most unqualified admission. Bro. J. Halliwell, in appropriate terms, moved that a vote of thanks to Bro. Heys for this token of the esteem in which he held the welfare and interest of the lodge be passed, and recorded on the minutes. Bro. J. T. Newbold seconded the motion, which was carried with acclamation. The good wishes of the several visiting brethren having been given, the lodge was finally closed at 9.30, and the brethren adjourned to a social meet. It is understood at present that the next meeting of the lodge will not be held until September or October, but, considering the amount of work in hand, with the usual contingencies, we should certainly counsel at least one other meeting before that time. That "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," is very true, but it is much better to mix things a little than to have a long period of relaxation, and then find one's hands heavily weighed down with business.

TIVERTON.—ST. PETER'S LODGE (No. 1125).—At the last regular lodge the locale chosen for the summer

banquet was Dulverton, situate about 12 miles from Tiverton, just within the borders of the adjoining province of Somerset, and the day named the 1st of July. Accordingly on Thursday morning last a party of the brethren started by "brake" and other conveyances for a charming drive along the banks of the Exe and the Barle for their destination. The richly wooded scenery of the narrow and winding vale through which they passed wore its most picturesque and luxuriant aspect, and was the theme of constant admiration, although familiar to many present. The course then diverged from the Dulverton road to Pixton Park, permission to visit which had been kindly accorded by the Earl of Carnarvon, Pro Grand Master, and the Dowager Countess, who is at present residing there. Here the brethren, alighting from their vehicles, very pleasantly passed an hour or two in exploring the beauties of the park and gardens, under the courteous guidance of the steward and head gardener, and watching the graceful movements of the numerous deer, Bro. Gill giving additional interest to the short tour by observations on the flora and topography of the district. An adjournment next took place to the Lion Hotel, where a very excellent and well appointed dinner was provided by Bro. King. The company comprised Bros. Parkhouse, W.M.; Mills, P.M., P.G.O., Secretary; Davey, P.M.; Gill, as S.W.; Crabb, as J.W.; Partridge, Sharland, Payne, H. Melhuish, J. Melhuish, Martin, Coleby, Wood, Bartlett, Snell, Sheppard, Vaughan, King, Arbery, Capron, and others. The after dinner speeches were of the shortest description, and the brethren returned to Tiverton in the evening, highly delighted with their day's outing.

MANCHESTER.—LODGE OF TRUTH (No. 1458).—Meeting for regular business at Royal Archer, Dale-street, on Saturday, July 3rd, 1875. Business commenced at 4.30 p.m. Minutes of last regular meeting read and confirmed. Bro. Kinder, P.M., then proceeded to initiate Mr. Henry James Oldham, which he did in such an efficient manner as to merit the approval of all the brethren. The Worshipful Master delivered the charge after initiation very impressively. The next business was to take the feeling of the lodge respecting the motions to be brought forward by Bro. Turner, I.P.M., the two most important being for the raising of the subscription to three guineas per annum, and also raising the initiation fee to seven guineas, including proposition fee. The one for raising the subscription was lost, and on the other being brought before the brethren by the I.P.M., Bro. Pearson, S.W., who is noted for his eloquence by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance, very ably brought forward as an amendment that the fee should be six guineas, including initiation fee. On the votes being taken the amendment was carried by a small majority. The W.M. then announced that the committee appointed to lease private premises had been successful, and concluded a lease for five years of rooms at Newton Heath. This being the neighbourhood for which the warrant was originally granted, will no doubt meet with the approval of every member; the lease dates from December, 1875, to December, 1880. Business being concluded, the lodge was closed in peace and harmony at 6.30. Supper was provided by the worthy host, Bro. Potts, in his usual good manner, and thoroughly appreciated. The usual toasts having been given and responded to, the brethren separated at an early hour, after spending an evening where profit and pleasure were combined. All the officers were punctual with one exception, and the exception being from unforeseen circumstances.

EPWORTH.—ISLE OF AXHOLME LODGE (No. 1482).—The installation of W.M. and investment of officers for the ensuing year took place on Thursday, the 1st inst., at the Masonic Hall, Epworth. The lodge has only been in existence one year, but we are glad to find that it already numbers nearly a score of brethren, and there appears every prospect of its developing into a prosperous and useful little lodge. On the present occasion we noticed several brethren from neighbouring lodges who had assembled to do honour to the W.M. elect, and to manifest their interest in the welfare of the lodge. Amongst these were Bros. F. D. Marsden, of Louth, the P.G. Secretary for Lincolnshire; F. D. Walker, W.M.; Rigby, P.M.; Bentley, P.M.; Nicholson, P.M.; and Heaton, S.W., of St. George's Lodge, No. 242, Doncaster; and Alfred Kirke, P.M. of the Yarbrough Lodge, No. 422, Gainsboro. Bro. Alfred Parkin, who as the W.M. designated by the Warrant of Constitution had filled the chair during the past year, was again elected by the brethren to that honourable position. The ceremony of installation was admirably performed by Bro. Marsden, the P.G. Secretary, after which the W.M. proceeded to invest his officers for the ensuing year. These were Bros. W. E. Howlett, I.P.M.; Johnstone, S.W.; Bell, J.W.; Alfred Taylor, Sec. and Treas.; Rev. W. M. Anderson, Chaplain; John Campbell, S.W.; James Benson, J.D.; Henry Campbell, I.G.; and Naylor, Tyler. The lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to the Red Lion Hotel, where an excellent banquet was provided, to which ample justice was done, Bro. Howlett officiating as Director of Ceremonies. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and the brethren separated at an early hour, having spent both as regards labour and refreshment a very enjoyable evening.

ROCHFORD.—LODGE OF TRUE FRIENDSHIP (No. 160).—The annual festival of St. John the Baptist was celebrated by the brethren of this old and distinguished lodge at the Old Ship Inn, Rochford, on Thursday, the 24th June. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. J. A. Wardell, P.M. and Sec. 1000, and P.P.J.G.D., assisted by his officers. After the transaction of the usual business, the installation of Bro. Joseph Reeve as W.M. for the ensuing year was proceeded with, the ceremony being most efficiently and impressively performed by Bro. Wm. Pissey, P.M. 160, and P.P.J.G.W., assisted by Bro. A. Lucking, W.M. 1000, P.M. 160, and Prov. A.G.D.C., acting as

Director of Ceremonies. The W.M. appointed and invested the following officers:—Bros. J. A. Wardell, P.M. and Sec. 1000, and P.P.J.G.D., I.P.M.; Rev. H. J. Hatch, S.W. and Chaplain; F. V. Jillings, J.W.; H. Wood, P.M. 160 and P.P.G.O. (re-elected for the twentieth time), Treasurer; G. Burgess, P.M. 160, and P.P.J.G.D., (reappointed for the twentieth time), Secretary; W. Allen, S.D.; T. W. Gower, J.D.; A. Harrington, I.G.; A. Lucking, W.M. 1000, P.M. 160, and Prov. A.G.D.C., Director of Ceremonies; A. Winnill and J. Harrington, Stewards; J. Allen, reappointed Tyler. Besides the above the following brethren were present:—Bros. W. T. Allen, P.M. 160, and P.P.A.G.D.C.; G. F. Browning, P.M. 160, and P.P.J.G.W.; F. Wiseman, P.M. 160; Edward Judd, P.M. 160, and P.P.G.R.; E. E. Phillips, S.W. 1000, P.M. Lodge of Honour, Bath, No. 379; G. Goodman, G. Gosling, W. Bishop. Visitors: Bros. J. C. Mason, J.D., Prince Frederick William Lodge, No. 753; W. C. Bell, S.D., St. Peter's Lodge, No. 1204; Edwin Bonner, I.G., Eastern Star Lodge, No. 95; J. H. Spencer, Mount Lebanon Lodge, No. 73; G. F. Jones, Priory Lodge, No. 1000. The lodge being closed, the brethren, twenty-six in number, adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided by Host Bro. H. D. Brown, and presided over by the W.M. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and duly honoured, and the brethren spent a very enjoyable evening, which was enlivened by some very excellent songs given by Bros. H. Wood, Hatch, Bonner, F. Wiseman, Gower, Josling, Mason, J. Harrington, and others. During the evening a telegram was received from Bro. J. W. Carr, P.M. 160, Prov. Grand Secretary, announcing that the Provincial Grand Lodge for 1875 would be held at Rochford on Tuesday, the 20th July.

TEDDINGTON.—FELIX LODGE (No. 1494).—This lodge held its meeting on Saturday, 26th ult., at the Clarence Hotel, Teddington, Bro. Edward B. Grabham, W.M., in the chair, assisted by Bros. C. Miles, P.M. 1365, acting as S.W., in the absence of Major George Barlow (prevented by illness from attending); F. S. Knyvett, J.W.; Rev. P. M. Holden, M.A., Vicar of Upminster, Essex, Chaplain; F. B. Archer, S.D.; W. G. Moore, J.D.; Capt. Lathbury, I.G.; E. S. Norris, Secretary. The lodge was opened in due form with solemn prayer, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. J. Melville Curtis and Bro. Drew having satisfied the brethren with their proficiency in the former degree, were then entrusted, and afterwards passed to the Second Degree by the W.M. A ballot was taken for Mr. Hanson, Mr. Lloyd, and Mr. Smith, which proved unanimous in their favour the former two gentlemen being in attendance; were then separately initiated into the Craft. This being the regular period of installation, Bro. Knyvett, J.W., and W.M. elect, was then presented by Bro. R. W. Little, Prov. Grand Secretary of Middlesex, to the W.M. for installation, the ceremony being performed by Bro. Grabham in the most able and impressive manner, the addresses to the W.M., officers, and brethren, being listened to with marked attention. The W.M. invested Bros. Edward B. Grabham, I.P.M.; Major Geo. Barlow, S.W.; F. B. Archer, J.W.; R. Berridge, S.D.; W. G. Moore, J.D.; and E. E. Whitford, I.G.; E. S. Norris, the able and efficient Secretary, was again re-invested, to the satisfaction of all the brethren of the lodge. The initiation of Mr. A. H. Smith was then proceeded with, and the W.M. showed great ability in the performance of the ceremony. By the unanimous vote of the lodge, it was determined to submit the name of Bro. Grabham, retiring Master, to the favourable notice of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex for Provincial Grand Office. The lodge was then closed with solemn prayer, and the brethren retired to a sumptuous banquet, presided over by the W.M. On the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured. "The Health of the Grand Officers" was responded to in eloquent terms by Bro. Hyde Pullen, P.G.S.B., who gracefully alluded to the valued services rendered to the lodge by Bro. Grabham, whose year of office has been signalized by very great success. Bro. H. G. Buss, Prov. Grand Treasurer, in responding for "The Provincial Grand Officers," congratulated the brethren in having elected Bro. Knyvett to the W.M. chair, and wished every prosperity to the lodge in the coming year. The W.M. then proposed "The Health of the Retiring W.M.," and in felicitous terms referred to the considerable services rendered by him during his year of office. In the name of the lodge it afforded him sincere pleasure to present Bro. Grabham with a very handsome Past Master's jewel, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented by the Felix Lodge, No. 1494, to Bro. Edward B. Grabham, P.M., as a tribute of respect for the able and courteous manner in which he discharged the duties of W.M. during 1874-5, being the year of Consecration of the lodge, of which he was the principal founder." Bro. Grabham, in thanking the W.M. and brethren for this mark of their esteem, assured them that it gave him great pleasure to have contributed any service to the lodge, and his assistance was always at the disposal of the W.M. and brethren whenever he might be called upon. He then took the opportunity of proposing "The Health of the W.M.," whom he had known for some years, and assured the lodge that in Bro. Knyvett they would find a Master in every respect worthy of their confidence. The W.M. having thanked the brethren, Bro. R. W. Little responded to the toast of "The Charities," and expressed his feelings of satisfaction at the present satisfactory condition of the lodge, which had recently been represented by the W.M. as Steward at the Girls' Festival. Bro. the Rev. P. M. Holden returned thanks for "The Visitors," and in their name, as well as in his own, wished the lodge every prosperity. "The Health of the Officers" having been responded to by Bro. Archer, J.W., and the Tyler's toast given, the meeting separated, the visitors having expressed themselves highly pleased with the hospitality received.

Scotland.

FUNERAL LODGE IN MEMORY OF BRO. WILLIAM THOMSON, P.M. 333.

This solemn, but grand and impressive Masonic ceremony, took place in St. Mark's, No. 102, Masonic Hall, situated at 213, Buchanan-street, on Friday, the 2nd inst. The late Bro. Robertson was an old member of the lodge, and ever since his connection with it had taken a very active part in the management of its affairs. He had a considerable knowledge of Masonic law; his kind disposition, his warmheartedness, and the great regard he had for the feelings and opinions of others, rendered him a most able and popular R.W.M. About seven o'clock the proceedings were commenced, with the funeral march from "Saul," the brethren forming in procession to take up their respective places in the lodge, which, along with the clothing of the brethren, was draped in mourning suitable for the occasion, Bro. Alex. Thomson, R.W.M. of St. George, 333, taking his place in the chair, and Wardens in their respective chairs. The R.W.M. was supported by Bros. Rev. Geo. Stewart Burns, of the Cathedral, Provincial Grand Chaplain; John Winton, P.M.; Robt. Adam, P.M.; J. McFarlane, D.M.; Jas. Findlay, S.M.; Thos. S. Thomson, Treas.; Arch. McIntyre, Sec.; F. Mitchell, R.W.M., St. Mark, 102; J. Forsyth, S.W.; Robt. Anderson, J.W.; Jas. Allan, S.D.; Thos. Hill, J.D. There was a large attendance of members of the lodge, and the following sister lodges were also well represented, viz.: Mother Kilwinning, 0; St. Mark, 102; St. John, Shetleston, 128; Commercial, 360; Athol, 413; Glasgow, 441; St. John, Busby, 458; St. Andrew, 465; and Clydesdale, 556. Bro. Thos. Halket, R.W.M. St. Mark, 102, presided at the harmonium, and Bro. Rankin conducted the vocal music. The lodge was opened, passed, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, in order that the ceremony might be performed in full Masonic rite.

The oration of Bro. Burns, P.G. Chaplain, was most eloquent and powerful; reviewing in graceful terms the many virtues and noble qualities of the departed brother. He concluded as follows, referring to those whom their departed brother had left so sadly bereaved:—"Let us record our sympathy with them—let us commend them to the care of Him who has promised to be a husband to the widow and a father to the fatherless—to His care who blessed the little children—to the care of the Great Father, whose might is displayed alike in spreading the universe and in providing for the humblest of his creatures, and who has promised that He will never leave nor forsake any who put their trust in him." This concluded the programme of the evening, when the R.W.M. proposed a vote of thanks to Rev. Dr. Burns for his great kindness in being with them to take part in the ceremony, the same to be engrossed on the minutes. Dr. Burns acknowledged the compliment. The R.W.M. then proposed a vote of thanks to Bros. T. Halket and Rankin for their musical assistance. After thanking the visiting brethren for their attendance, many of them, as he remarked, having come from a considerable distance, the lodge was closed in due and ancient form.

GLASGOW.—LODGE ST. JOHN (No. 33).—The monthly meeting of this lodge took place in their hall, situate at No. 213, Buchanan-street, on the 6th inst. The meeting was exceedingly well attended, even for St. John No. 33, which invariably commands a large attendance of brethren at its meetings. Bro. W. Bell, R.W.M., presided, Bro. Louttit acting S.W.; D. Horn, J.W. The R.W.M. was supported on the dais by Bros. J. B. Walker, P.M.; J. McInnes, P.M. 27; J. Davidson, P.M. 360; Godfrey, Sec. 1074, E.C.; R. Dalziel, Treas.; J. Dick, Sec., &c. Bro. McFarlane, Doctor of Music, presided at the harmonium. Brethren from the following sister lodges were also present:—Mother Kilwinning, No. 0, Nos. 27, 51, 114, 194, 180, 215, 219, 275, 360, 408, 413, 441, 553. The Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, also those of a special meeting, which were confirmed. There were six applications for admittance into Freemasonry in this lodge, viz., Messrs. R. Pedie, proposed and seconded by Bros. Gilchrist and King; John Neilson, proposed and seconded by Bros. Bell, R.W.M., and King; H. O. B. Stevenson, proposed and seconded by Bros. Bell and Murray; Alexander Currie, proposed and seconded by Bros. Gilliland and Couper; J. H. Allan, proposed and seconded by Bros. Robb and Gilchrist; Alexander Blackwood, proposed and seconded by Bros. Gilliland and Couper. The ballot was found clear, when they were prepared for and received the First Degree, Bro. Bell, R.W.M., very ably working. The lodge was then passed to the Second Degree. Bros. William Graham and R. Wood McMurphy were intrusted with this degree, Bro. Louttit officiating. The R.W.M. said it gave him great pleasure to inform the members of the lodge that Bro. Rutherford had presented them with a very beautiful photograph of Roslin Chapel, as a memento of their annual excursion, and thanked Bro. Rutherford in the name of the lodge for his handsome present. He also said Bro. Rutherford had been successful in taking a good group of all the brethren present on the occasion, copies of which could be had from Bro. Rutherford. He then proposed that a vote of thanks should be given to Bro. Kerr, who accompanied them that day and described to them the Chapel, Castle, Hawthornden, and the various interesting objects in that beautiful district. Bro. Kerr, he remarked, was a great authority as an antiquarian, he had rendered valuable services to Masonry from time to time, and this was by no means the first time he had delighted and instructed the brethren of St. John, 33, on their annual excursions. He, therefore, thought they should transmit a vote of thanks to him, and engross it in their minutes. Bro. J. B. Walker, P.M., seconded this, which was unanimously agreed to. Bro. D. Horn, J.W., then proposed

that the fees of Lodge St. John, 33, be raised to £5 5s. He said the fees were, no doubt, raised last year, but they were, in his opinion, still too low. They were all striving to do what they could to maintain and elevate the character of Freemasonry, and he thought this a step in the right direction. Bro. R. Dalziel seconded this, which was agreed to. It will, therefore, come on for final decision in three months hence. Bro. Bell then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the visiting brethren for their presence with them that night, coupled with Bro. Godfrey, Sec. 1074, E.C., who returned thanks in a most graceful manner for the compliment paid to the visiting brethren and himself. The lodge was then closed in due and ancient form.

GLASGOW.—LODGE KILWINNING (No. 4) held their regular monthly meeting in their hall, 170, Buchanan-street, on the 7th inst. The meeting was well attended. Bro. A. Thorburn, R.W.M., in the chair; N. S. Henderson, S.W.; Geo. Holm, J.W.; J. Currie, Sec.; Dixon, Treas., and a large number of well qualified brethren. The minutes were read and confirmed. A letter was read from Bro. Dobson, asking the use of their hall from 3 to 6 o'clock on behalf of the new Masonic Lodge "Dramatic," which was agreed to. There were two applications for initiation, viz., Messrs. H. Paterson and D. Hunter all being satisfactory, they received the E.A. Degree, the R.W.M. officiating. The lodge was then passed to the Second Degree, when these two brothers were entrusted with that degree, the R.W.M. again working. This finished the business before the lodge, and it was closed in due and ancient form.

GLASGOW.—LODGE THISTLE AND ROSE (No. 73).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, 170, Buchanan-street, on the 6th inst. The lodge was opened by Bro. McDonald, R.W.M.; Bros. W. McGregor, S.W.; B. Kay, J.W.; Bannerman, D.M., Chaplain; G. W. Wheeler; T. Yuille, J.D., &c. The meeting was well attended, and a number of visiting brethren were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed. The lodge then passed to the F.C. Degree, when two brothers were instructed in that degree, the R.W.M. officiating; on the lodge being raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M., two brothers were intrusted with this, the R.W.M. again officiating, after which the lodge was closed in due and ancient form.

SHETLESTON.—LODGE ST. JOHN (No. 128).—A meeting of this lodge was held in their lodge-room, Shetleston, on the 7th inst.; the R.W.M., Bro. J. Campbell, in the chair; Bros. Chas. Webster, S.W.; Baird, J.W.; and other office-bearers, along with a number of well qualified brethren. The minutes of the previous meeting being read and confirmed, the lodge was raised to the degree of M.M. Bros. Alex. Murray and Ferner were entrusted with the Sublime Degree, Bro. J. Campbell, R.W.M., performing the ceremony in an able manner. This was all the business before the lodge, and it was then closed in due and ancient form.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CORNWALL.

The annual Grand Lodge Meeting of the Freemasons of the Province of Cornwall was held Thursday, 8th inst., at Callington, and the good people of that busy town shewed their appreciation of the visit by giving to the fraternity a right hearty welcome. Although Callington is so difficult of approach from all points on the Cornish Railway there was a remarkably strong muster of the brotherhood, not a few of whom came up from the extreme west of the county, and in spite of all the inconveniences the meeting was one of the most pleasant and successful that has been held for many years past.

Business was commenced shortly after ten o'clock in the National School-rooms, which the rector had kindly placed at the disposal of the Prov. Grand Lodge, and which were admirably fitted up for the purposes required of them. The Earl of Mount Edgecombe, Provincial Grand Master, presided, and there were also present: Prov. Grand Officers.—Bros. Sir Frederick Martin Williams, Bart., M.P., D.P.G.M.; R. Rogers, P.P.D.G.M.; E. T. Carlyon, P.P.G.S.W., and P.G. Sec.; Colonel Peard, P.P.G.S.W.; T. Chirgwin, P.P.G.J.W.; R. John, P.P.G.D.C.; Admiral Sir Henry Keppel, G.C.B.; R. A. Courtney, P.G.D.C.; G. Roseveare, P.G.S. Works; S. Tew, P.P.G.T. of Devon; R. Rodda, P.P.G.R. of Devon; T. S. Bayly, P.P.G.T. of Devon; T. Taylor, P.P.G.S.D.; H. Cochrane, P.P.G.S.; I. Latimer, P.G.J.W., Devon; E. Aitken Davies, P.P.G.S. Wks., Devon; Edward Poor, G.P.P.; J. Cardew, P.G.S.; the Rev. A. H. Cummings, P.G. Chaplain; the Rev. G. L. Church, P.P.G. Chaplain; W. D. Pearce, P.P.G.S.W.; W. Rooks, P.A.G.P.; J. B. Kerswell, P.G.S.B.; F. J. Hext, P.P.G.S.W.; Captain O'Neil, P.P.G.S.B.; the Rev. J. Sedgwick, Chaplain of Victoria Lodge, Callington, and Past Grand Chaplain of England; E. J. Worth, P.P.G.J.W.; Captain H. G. Colvill, P.G.S.W.; G. Kerswill, P.P.G.J.W.; E. Commis, P.G.R.; W. T. Parson, P.P.G.S.; W. N. Abbott, P.G.S.; P. Giles, P.P.G.S.; R. Rich, P.P.J.G.W.; J. Beswetherick, P.P.G.S. Works; J. Kempthorne, P.P.G.J.W.; J. Paull, P.P.G.S.D.; P. B. Clemens, P.P.G. Organist, Devon; E. M. Cock, P.G.S.; W. H. Bickford, P.G.S.D.; the Rev. A. H. Ferris, P.G. Chaplain; the Rev. W. H. Blossome, P.P.G. Chaplain; S. Holloway, P.P.J.D.; J. Hocking, junr., P.P.G.J.D.; J. Polkinghorne, P.P.G. Tyler; E. D. Anderton, P.P.G.S.W.; F. Dinnes, P.P.G.S.; W. Guy, P.P.G.D.C.; H. Steele, P.P.G.D.C.; G. W. Trener, P.P.G.S.B.; J. Ough, P.P.G.J.D.; G. E. Alexander, P.P.G.O., Devon; C. T. Pearce, P.P.G.S.D.; Charles Trevithick, P.G.A.D.C.; J. B. Gover, P.P.G.A.D.C., Devon.

Past Masters.—W. Tonkin, 977; C. Spear, 557; H. Sargent, 789; N. Henwood, 1164; G. Bate, 557; J. H. Tonkin, 282; J. Harris, 557; W. Foxwell,

1071; J. Deeble, 1071; J. Hill, 970; J. Gerry, 510; W. Hawkins, 789; G. C. Archer, 789; J. H. Filmer, 893; J. T. Brooking, 1071; W. J. Harris, 893; W. Coath, 893; J. Baxter, 954; J. Sims, 589; R. Hooper, 510; F. Thorne, 789; M. Dennis, 557; S. Seccombe, 510; W. Giles, 496; T. White, 510; T. Gill, 967; E. Scantlebury, 856; C. Trusscott, junr., 496; A. T. Grant, 318; M. Little, 75; W. Polkinghorne, 1191; T. Polglase, 75; W. H. Dunstan, also W.M. of 75; J. H. Mitchell, 589; G. Barnes, 1164; T. Hatherly, 1071; T. Goodall, 954; and J. Dampney, 1071.

Worshipful Masters.—R. Truscott, 1136; J. P. Creber, 1164; Isaac Dawe, 970; S. J. Goodman, 1071; J. Halcombe, 967; T. J. Rowe, 121; W. Loye, 496; T. Olver, junr., 131; J. Chegwidan, 510; T. B. Richards, 557; and J. Rendle, 1247.

Besides these there was a large number of other brethren present, there being altogether about three hundred in attendance.

After the minutes of the last Provincial Grand Meeting had been read,

The Prov. Grand Master delivered a short address to the brethren, in the course of which he said:—I must thank you for your attendance here to-day in very much larger numbers than I should have expected. I know that the situation of Callington is one very difficult of access for a great number of brethren in the county, and I regret it because I do feel that I am bound quite as much in fixing the locality for the Provincial Grand Meeting, to consider the general convenience of the brethren throughout the province as I am the claims of any particular lodge. (Hear, hear.) But at the same time I believe you will agree with me that a promise is a promise. Callington had received a promise from my respected predecessor several years ago that the next meeting should be held here. At any rate, if it was not a promise it was an understood thing, but on two occasions the brethren here expressed their willingness to waive any claims they had, on account of special circumstances which made it desirable to hold the meeting in another place. On the present occasion there was no such special reason, and therefore I thought I should only be doing what was fair and proper in holding the present meeting in this town—(hear, hear), and I think your presence in such considerable numbers shews that you are willing to support me in the course that I have adopted. (Applause.) His Lordship here made reference to the great sympathy which the Masons of the province manifested towards him in his affliction last year, but he was so greatly overcome that bursting into tears he was for some moments unable to proceed. Encouraged by the sympathetic cheers of the brethren he eventually continued:—I would remind you of the visit which H.R.H. the Prince of Wales paid to Plymouth in August last. I feel sure that that visit was a subject of general congratulation to the province, and that the meeting was in every respect a most successful one. We can all look back upon that meeting with satisfaction, not only on account of the hearty welcome which we gave to the Duke of Cornwall, but also because of the exceedingly pleasant and harmonious manner in which the two Provincial Grand Lodges of Devon and Cornwall worked together on that occasion. (Cheers.) On both sides everything was done to meet the other in the most fraternal and friendly manner. It is rather an unusual thing for Grand Lodges to meet together in that way, and it must have been a matter of great satisfaction that it was so pleasantly and successfully carried out. (Hear, hear.) I believe that up to that time there had been very seldom anywhere in England so large a gathering or so fine a display of Masonry as that which took place in the Guildhall at Plymouth, and I can assure you that the Prince expressed his sense of it in the most unqualified terms. He was distinctly and unmistakably struck with the reception that he met with. The determinations of men are often regulated by an aggregate of different motives, and if we could think that the reception which the Prince had on that occasion—showing, as it evidently did, the vitality of Masonry in this part of the country and the loyalty of those connected with it—should have been one of the causes which perhaps induced him to look as favourably upon Masonry as to accept the high office which he now holds, I think that meeting will not only be satisfactory to those who attended it, but will be considered in a certain degree to have benefited Masonry throughout the country. (Applause.) I dare say, too, that there are many Masons here who were present at the magnificent ceremony which took place in London at the installation of the Prince. I believe that was quite an unprecedented demonstration of Masons, and it certainly was a most magnificent sight. (Hear, hear.) The Cornish brethren must, I am sure, have been excessively well pleased at the position they occupied in that splendid hall, and I think we must acknowledge with pleasure the indefatigable and successful exertions on that occasion of the two Stewards, Bro. John and Bro. Courtenay, who did much to facilitate the comfort and convenience of the brethren from Cornwall. (Cheers.) You have heard that three new lodges have been formed in the province. The warrants are obtained and paid for, and I trust that the consecration of the lodges will not long be delayed. I am glad to see also that the number of Masons has increased, and I congratulate the province upon the gradual removal of lodges from houses of public entertainment to private rooms. (Hear, hear.) That is a thing which cannot be done very rapidly; it generally entails expense and trouble to get a building, and in some places it is almost impossible, but it is very satisfactory to see that it is gradually being worked out. (Hear, hear.) While speaking of the increase of Masons' lodges I don't think it out of place to repeat what I said on a former occasion. It is this, that I hope very great care will be taken by all concerned in the selection of proper candidates for initiation. (Hear, hear, and applause.) I do not say this because I have any

reason to animadvert upon selections that have already been made, but the mere fact of Masonry being at the present time so flourishing in the country, and the fact of the Prince of Wales having taken such a leading part in it to make it popular and flourishing, renders it more necessary for us to be especially careful (hear, hear), for there can be no doubt that there is a temptation when we are so successful, for men to join it simply from motives which are not in the least Masonic, perhaps not decidedly unworthy motives, but still not motives that we desire to encourage. They may wish to join it because it may be likely to assist them in their business or professions, but that is not exactly one's idea of the spirit which should actuate men who desire to become Masons. We do not want a man to join because he thinks that having the square and compasses over his door will help him in his business. (Hear, hear.) In the first instance I will address myself to the Worshipful Masters, and ask them to be especially careful not to sanction the admission of candidates of whom they cannot personally approve, but at the same time, I must impress this upon you, that whilst I do not wish to encourage factious black-balling, yet there is a great responsibility resting upon the members themselves, who should be very cautious not to vote for candidates without due and proper thought upon the subject. The test which I should recommend is this—it may be thought a very high one, but still I should keep it in view—when a candidate is proposed for initiation, I should ask myself not only whether he is a man whom I should mind having in the lodge, but whether he is a man whom I should like to see as W.M. (Hear, hear, and applause.) If this were acted upon I am quite sure you would not elect those who are unworthy of it.

In concluding his remarks his lordship referred in highly complimentary terms to the great exertions put forward by Bro. Hughan on behalf of local candidates for the different Masonic charities, and said he was quite sure the whole province felt deeply grateful to him for it. (Hear, hear.) He also read a letter which had been received from Bro. Metham, D.P.G.M. of Devon, thanking the different lodges for their contributions to the new wing of the Royal British Female Orphan Asylum at Stoke, and stating that the whole province had contributed about £150. (Applause.)

The report of the Provincial Grand Treasurer was then read, and from this it appeared that the balance in hand at the last provincial meeting was £64 13s. 2d. The expenditure during the year included the sums of £25 voted to the Cornwall Masonic Annuity and Benevolent Fund; £20 on account of festival expenses at Bodmin; and £47 17s. 4d., a moiety of the expenses of the United P.G. Lodges of Devon and Cornwall on the occasion of the visit of the Right Worshipful Bro. the Prince of Wales to Plymouth. The principal items on the other side were £13 15s., the amount of the collection after last year's sermon; £18 18s. fees of honour, and £133 7s. 6d. lodge fees. The balance now in hand is £46 4s. 11d.

The Provincial Grand Secretary, in his report, stated that the number of lodges in the province at the present time was 27, against 24 last year, the additional lodges being the Fort Lodge, 1528, Newquay; the Duke of Cornwall Lodge, 1529, St. Columb; and the Mount Edgumbe Lodge, 1544, Camborne. The initiations in the past year numbered 177; in the previous year, 176; the joining members were 54, against 36; the members were 1009, against 929; making a total of 1240 as compared with 1141 in the previous year. The total increase of members during the past year was 99.

The report respecting the Cornwall Masonic Annuity and Benevolent Fund was read by Bro. Chirgwin. It stated that the subscriptions and donations from various lodges in the province since the 1st of January amounted to £142 10s. The credit balance at the last account was £290 5s. 6d., and the subscriptions and donations for 1874, together with interest on stocks, amounted to £190 1s. 6d., making a total of £480 7s. The cost of their various stock was £1999 1s. 6d., and this realised an annual income of £95 19s. The balance at their banker's was £261 9s., and this made their total capital account £2260 10s. 6d., against £2049 15s. 3d. last year. (Applause.)

The Committee of Relief reported that they had received two petitions from two subscribing members, and, as they had ascertained that the cases were deserving ones, they recommended that £8 be given in the one case, and £10 in the other. Other relief had been given during the year.

Bro. Hughan, in his report respecting his management of the votes for the London Masonic Charities on behalf of the Province of Cornwall, said he collected the proxies in October, 1874, and polled them on behalf of a little girl whose father had been a member of Lodge Fortitude, Truro. She was elected out of twenty-nine applicants with 778 votes, only seventy-nine of which were received from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall and subordinate lodges. An old and esteemed Master of St. Martin's Lodge, Liskeard, was amongst these elected to receive £36 per annum. He received 740 votes, and was ninth on the list out of thirty-three candidates. (Applause.) Both the girl and the indigent Mason were elected on the first application, within about six months of each other, a fact hitherto unprecedented in the West. The total votes for the two candidates amounted to 1328, of which 179 were obtained directly from members in Cornwall. The remainder he obtained by exchange, and by borrowing from other provinces. Without the large number of votes which the Right Worthy Bro. Sir F. M. Williams always placed in the hands of the Secretary of the Cornwall Masonic Annuity and Benevolent Fund and himself, for the use of the province of Cornwall (directly and indirectly), it would be simply impossible to carry the candidates who had been successful during the last seven years. The total votes so obtained annually from Bro. Sir Frederick M. Williams have amounted to at least 284. (Applause.) During the last seven years

about £2500 have been secured to the province, calculating the value of the annuities and the number of years that the children had been educated, fed, and clothed, and to secure this not one penny had been spent by the province, excepting the grants made to the institution, which had been small.

These various reports were received and adopted; the Treasurer, Secretary, and Auditors of the Cornwall Masonic Annuity and Benevolent Fund, the Relief Committee, and the Provincial Grand Treasurer, and two Auditors were re-elected; Bro. Matthew Doney, of Bodmin, secured an annuity of £20 a year for life by a majority of 508 votes to 40 for Bro. Lean, of Chacewater; and a grant of £10 was voted to the widow of the late Bro. T. Vicarey, of Falmouth.

The Prov. Grand Master next [appointed the following brethren as his officers for the coming year:—Sir F. M. Williams, Bart., M.P., D.P.G.M.; Thomas Chirgwin, 131, P.G.S.W.; Bro. J. Peter, 557, P.G.J.W.; the Rev. Alfred Cummings, 131, P.G.S. Chaplain; Rev. J. Lethbridge, 789, P.G.J. Chaplain; J. P. Lyne, 510, P.G. Registrar; E. T. Carlyon, 331, P.G. Sec.; W. Middleton, 131, P.G.S.D.; H. Cochrane, 1136, P.G.J.D.; W. H. Dunstan, 75, P.G.S. Works; Charles Trevithick, 1272, P.G.D.C.; J. Sims, 589, P.G.A.D.C.; C. Truscott, 496, P.G.S.B.; W. W. Dymond, 557, P.G. Organist; F. Dennis, 75, P.C. Pursuivant; Rookes, 331, P.G.A. Pursuivant; A. Grant, 318, T. Gill, 967; J. H. Filmer, 893; W. Polkinghorne, 1151; J. Hill, 970; J. Hawkins, 789, Stewards; R. Penwarden, 510, Tyler.

The sum of £25 was voted to the Cornwall Masonic Annuity and Benevolent Fund; £10 10s to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys in London; £10 10s. to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls; and £10 10s. to the Institution for Aged Freemasons.

This concluded the business of the Prov. Grand Lodge.

At noon the brethren, headed by the band of the Callington Volunteers, marched in procession to church, where an admirable sermon was preached by the Rev. A. Cummings, P.G. Chaplain, from the words "Honour all men; love the brotherhood; fear God, and honour the King." The collection amounted to £11 14s., of which one-fifth will go to the rector, and the remainder to the Callington Dispensary. The sermon will be printed.

The annual banquet was provided at Golding's Hotel, and was partaken of by more than a hundred brethren, under the presidency of the Rt. W. Bro. the Earl of Mount Edgumbe.

After dinner the usual loyal toasts were proposed from the chair. His lordship, in proposing "The Health of the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of England," said he was quite sure they would all wish his Royal Highness the most hearty success in the great expedition he was now about to undertake in that great empire of which he would one day be the ruler.

The next toast was that of "The Earl of Carnarvon, Pro Grand Master, Lord Skelmersdale, Deputy Grand Master, and the Officers of the Grand Lodge." The Prov. Grand Master remarked that both their lordships were personal friends of his own, and he was perfectly certain that as long as they wore the collars which had been entrusted to them by the Grand Master of England they would do credit to the Grand Lodge, and maintain its authority. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. the Rev. J. Sedgwick, P.G. Chaplain of England, responded.

Bro. Col. Peard, amidst loud applause, proposed "The Health of the Earl of Mount Edgumbe, Prov. Grand Master of Cornwall." Over and over again his lordship had proved himself to be the right man in the right place, and they had great reason to be proud that he presided over the province. (Cheers.)

The Prov. G.M., who was received with hearty cheering, said it must always be the greatest possible satisfaction to him to feel, as he sincerely believed he could feel, that he had the fraternal feeling of the province with him, to assist him in the work which he had to do. (Hear, hear.) He was glad indeed that there were such cordial relations established between himself and the Masons of the province, but it would be small satisfaction to him if he thought that this was intended as a personal compliment only. He hoped those relations would always enable them to work harmoniously and unanimously for the benefit of Masonry throughout the province. (Applause.) That was the object which they all should have in view, and if they heard anything from outsiders to the detriment of Freemasonry, or if they saw anything in the conduct of Mason to justify those remarks being made, he hoped they would remember the words in Scripture which preceded the text from which such an admirable sermon was preached that morning by the Prov. Grand Chaplain, and always take care by well-doing to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. (Cheers.)

Bro. Carlyon gave "The Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Cornwall," and Bros. Sir F. M. Williams and R. Rogers responded.

Bro. Peters, P.G.J.W., in returning thanks for "The P.G. Wardens, and the other Provincial Grand Officers, past and present," thanked Admiral Sir Henry Keppel for having lent so many flags for the decoration of the town, the lodge room, and the dining rooms. (Applause.)

The Prov. G.M. proposed "The Visitors," and coupled with the toast the name of Bro. Admiral Sir Henry Keppel, who, he said, was not only the very essence of all that was plucky and brave, but his heart was as warm, and his hand as open to the assistance of a friend or brother, as any man in the country. (Cheers.)

Bro. Admiral Keppel, who was very heartily greeted, said it was so far east as Singapore that he was initiated into Masonry thirty-five years ago, but it was not until he came into the West of England, and mixed with the many noble fellows in Masonry in this part of the country,

that he began thoroughly to appreciate its advantages and its beauty. (Cheers.)

The Past Grand Chaplain, in returning thanks for the toast of his health, said the more he saw of Masonry the more he admired and revered it, and he added that he had travelled two thousand miles to be present that day.

The other toasts were "The Lodges of the Province," coupled with the W.M. of Loyal Victoria Lodge, Callington, and "The Masons' toast."

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SUFFOLK.

Monday, the 5th inst., was a gala day at Bury St. Edmund's, which, as all the world knows, is the capital of West Suffolk—a town full of interest to the Antiquarian and Archaeologist, and therefore to the Freemason. It is said by some to have been a Roman station, and to have been the Villa Faustini of Antoninus. By the Saxons it was called Beoderic-weord, and a monkish writer, Abbo Floriacensis, states that Beoderic, the lord of the town, bequeathed it to St. Edmund the King and Martyr, from whom it acquired its present name. Siegfert, on his accession to the throne of the East Angles in 630, founded a monastery and built a church here, and after a seven years' reign he became a monk on his own foundation. King Edmund was crowned and anointed King of East Anglia by Humbert, Bishop of Hulm, A.D. 856, and was killed in a conflict with the Danes, who then mercilessly slaughtered the Saxons. On the death of this unfortunate Prince in 870, in the 15th year of his reign and the 29th of his age, the Danes it is said cast his severed head and body into the thickest part of the woods of Eglesdene, where his body was sought by an affectionate band of loyal subjects. After a sorrowful search the body was discovered very indecently interred; it was conveyed to Hoxne and there entombed; but the head could not be found. Dividing themselves therefore into small parties, the mourners searched every quarter of the wood. Terrified by its thickness and obscurity, some of them cried out to their companions "Where are you?" A voice answered, "Here, here, here." Hastening to the place from whence the sound proceeded, they found the long sought head in a thicket of thorns, guarded by a wolf, "an unknouth thyng," says Lydgate, and strange "ageyn nature." The people, almost overpowered with joy, took the holy head, which the wolf gave up, and followed them to the place where the body rested; and after seeing the precious treasure which he had with so much care protected deposited near the body from whence it had been severed, with doleful mourning, and showing no fierceness, he returned to the woods. This was about forty days after the martyrdom of the saintly King.

About the year 903 the remains of Edmund were removed to Bury, when it was found on examination to be in a perfect state of preservation, with the head united to it, which was accounted a great miracle, but which was no doubt the result of embalming by some cunning monk. That the art of embalming was very well understood in the middle ages there can be no manner of doubt, and curiously enough in the same church which was built over the remains of St. Edmund was buried Thomas Beaufort, Duke of Exeter, son of the famous John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, an ancestor, if we mistake not, of the present Duke of Beaufort.

In the year 1772, workmen digging on the north side of the ancient church, which is, alas, no more (thanks to the dissolution of the monasteries, and the pious vandalism of the immortal and ever to be blessed Henry VIII.), came upon the leaden coffin containing the body of the Duke, which was in the most perfect state of preservation, though it had been buried 350 years.

Canute rebuilt the church of St. Edmund, and the body of the Royal martyr was deposited in a splendid shrine enriched with jewels and other costly ornaments, like the celebrated shrine of the Three Kings at Cologne.

Edward the Confessor, under whom Masonry revived, for it had been in a languishing state, frequently honoured the town with his presence, and in 1132 Henry I. repaired to Bury to perform his devotions at the shrine of St. Edmund.

A meeting of the barons was convoked here in the time of King John, when each of the nobles present went to the high altar of the church of St. Edmund, in which the assembly was held, and there swore that if the King should refuse to abolish the arbitrary Norman laws and to restore those enacted by Edward the Confessor they would make war upon him till he should comply. At first he refused, but in the year 1214 he met his barons at Bury, and with the utmost solemnity confirmed the charter of Henry I. (a copy of which had fallen into the hands of Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury), and bound himself by an oath to regulate his administration by the great principles on which it was founded. So that, equally with Runnymede, Bury is entitled to claim the honour of that celebrated Magna Charta by which the rights and liberties of England are secured.

Preston, in his illustrations of Masonry, says that when Henry VI. succeeded to the throne as a minor in 1422, Parliament endeavoured to disturb the Freemasons by passing the well-known and often quoted Act (3 Henry VI., cap. 1, A.D. 1425), "Masons shall not confederate in chapters or congregations." The act, however, was never put in force. It is said it was passed in consequence of the quarrels between Duke Humphrey of Gloucester and Henry Beaufort, then Bishop of Winchester, uncle of the Duke, who was Protector during the absence of the Duke of Bedford, then in France, Regent of the kingdom. Preston says—speaking of Duke Humphrey—"This Prince is said to have received a more learned education than was usual in his age, to have founded one of the first public libraries in England, and to have been a great patron of learned men." If the records of the society may

he relied on we have reason to believe that he was particularly attached to the Masons, having been admitted into their Order, and assisted at the initiation of King Henry VI. in 1442. Encouraged by the example of the Sovereign, and allured by an ambition to excel, many lords and gentlemen of the Court were initiated into Masonry, and pursued the Art with diligence and assiduity. Preston says the King in person presided over the lodges, and nominated William Wainfleet, Bishop of Winchester, Grand Master. In 1446 a Parliament was convened at Bury, under the influence of the Queen and Beaufort, now a Cardinal, the sworn enemy of the Freemasons, when Duke Humphrey was impeached for high treason. Preparations were made for bringing him to a public trial, but it is thought his enemies, dreading the triumph of his innocence, had recourse to another method to destroy the good Duke, as he was called. He was found dead in his bed the next morning, no doubt cruelly murdered. Cardinal Beaufort scarcely survived him two months, and after his death the Masons continued to hold their lodges without fear of interruption, and under the King, who had joined them, enjoyed great prosperity. Henry VI. held another Parliament at Bury in 1448, and Henry VII. paid a visit to the town in 1486. Queen Elizabeth, in her memorable progress through Suffolk and Norfolk in the year 1578, visited Bury St. Edmund's.

Preston says that the Masons remained without any nominal head from the death of Edward VI. till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when Sir Thomas Sackville accepted the office of Grand Master. Lodges were held during this period in different parts of England, but the General or Grand Lodge assembled in York, where the fraternity were numerous and respectable. The following circumstance is recorded of Elizabeth. Hearing that the Masons were in possession of secrets which they would not reveal, and being jealous of all secret assemblies, she sent an armed force to York with intent to break up their annual Grand Lodge. This design, however, was happily frustrated by the interposition of Sir Thomas Sackville, who took care to initiate some of the chief officers which she had sent on this duty. They joined in communication with the Masons, and made so favourable a report to the Queen on their return that she countermanded her orders, and never afterwards attempted to disturb the meetings of the fraternity.

We think we have now said enough to show what an interesting place Bury is to us Masons, and how connected the town is in one way and another with the time-honoured Craft.

The meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the "Ancient and honourable fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons" for the province of Suffolk would in the usual order of rotation have been held this year at Ipswich, but as it had been held within a few years at Ipswich, and Bury had not been visited for nine or ten years, the Ipswich brethren waived their claim and relegated to the Provincial Grand Master the appointment of the place where the Grand Lodge should be held, it being understood that the Bury Lodge was willing and anxious to receive it. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Lord Waveney, complying with the views of the brethren in both towns, accordingly fixed on Bury for the meeting this year, but the finance meeting, which has hitherto been held on the morning of Provincial Grand Lodges, was held the previous Monday at the Freemasons' Hall, Ipswich. The day for holding the meeting is always the first Monday in July, and every exertion was made by the Bury brethren last Monday to make the meeting of 1875 a complete success, and to give their companions a most hearty welcome. The Royal St. Edmund's Lodge has within the last few years increased largely, and has become one of the most prosperous in the province. From the windows of those belonging to the Craft, and from some houses whose occupiers were not Masons, there was a display of bunting; and the bells of the old Norman Tower rang merry peals during the day. The Grand Lodge was held at the Town Hall, which was suitably fitted up for the occasion, and the handsome furniture of the St. Edmund's Lodge was used. The banners of the several lodges of the provinces were stationed in the hall in the regular order of precedence, and under their several banners the members of the lodges assembled in full Masonic costume at the hour of "high twelve." The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Lord Waveney, having opened the lodge in due form, the P.G.A. Secretary, W. E. Bailey, read the minutes of the Finance Board, which showed a disposable balance of about £60, after paying the expenses of the past year. Of this they recommended ten guineas to be given to the Masonic Boys' School, and £10 to the Royal Masonic Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons, the remainder to be kept to meet urgent cases that might arise in the province.

The report was unanimously agreed to.

The R.W. Prov. Grand Master read a letter from Lord Henniker containing an invitation to all Suffolk brethren to attend the installation of the Prov. Grand Master for Norfolk by Lord Skelmersdale, Deputy Grand Master of England, at Norwich, in November next.

The roll of the lodges having been called over, and the representatives of the lodges having reported the progress of the year, which was in all cases most satisfactory, though it was remarked that several lodges were not represented as they should have been by their Worshipful Master, and in one or two instances lodges were not represented at all. In the latter cases the P.G.M. very properly directed the Prov. Grand Secretary to write to the lodges in question, and require an explanation of their absence.

The minutes of last Prov. Grand Lodge were taken as read, the proceedings having been printed and extensively circulated previously. Afterwards the Right Worshipful Prov. G.M. proceeded to the investiture of officers as follows:—P.G.S.W., J. Hedley Bevan, W.M. 1008; P.G.S.D., J. B. Fraser, P.M. 376; P.G.J.D., J. Turner,

P.M. 225; P.G. Chaplain, the Rev. J. B. Tweed; P.G. Supt. of Works, E. J. Robertson, P.M. 959; P.G. Dir. of Cer., Emra Holmes, P.P.G.R.; P.G. Ass. Dir. of Cer., W. Clarke, 114; P.G. Swd. B., J. R. Thompson, 1008; P.G. Purs., H. Miller, 114; P.G. Stewards, O. C. Diaper, 225; W. Sewell, 555; and E. J. Griffiths, 1008.

On the motion of Bro. W. Boby, P.G.S.W., seconded by Bro. Dr. Mills, P.P.G.S.W., Bro. Major Huddleston, P.P.G.S.W., P.M. 1008, was elected Treasurer in the room of Bro. Spencer Freeman, who was compelled to resign through ill health.

The R. W. Prov. Grand Master, in highly eulogistic terms, proposed a vote of thanks to Bro. Freeman for his long and valued services as Prov. Grand Treasurer, and expressed the unanimous feeling of regret which all the brethren felt that he was compelled to resign, and the more for the cause of his resignation. The resolution was carried most unanimously, in the manner usual among Masons.

Bro. Syer was unanimously re-elected Tyler.

Among the brethren present at the Provincial Grand Lodge were Lord Waveney, P.G.M. of Suffolk; the Rev. E. J. Lockwood, M.A., Deputy P.G.M. of Suffolk; and Bros. W. Boby, P.G.S.W., P.M. 114; W. O. Chambers, P.G.J.W.; N. Tracy, P.P.G.J.W., W.M. 376; W. Armstrong, P.G.J.D.; S. W. Prentice, P.G.P.; T. F. Lucia, P.G.S.; W. H. Lucia, P.G. Sec.; W. E. Bailey, P.G.A., Sec.; F. Spalding, P.G.S.D., P.M. 81; Dr. Mills, P.P.G.S.W.; E. Holmes, P.P.G.R., P.G.D.C.; J. P. Sorel, P.P.G.S.D.; J. F. Hills, P.P.J.G.W.; S. H. Wright, P.P.G.S.D.; W. W. Walesby, P.P.G.S.W.; W. T. Westgate, P.P.D.C.; T. J. Huddleston, P.P.G.S.W.; W. J. Jack, P.P.G.S.D.; Kent; C. J. T. Oakes, P.G.R.; J. N. York, P.P.G.S.W. Cambs.; Rev. W. W. Bird, Chap. 555; S. B. Fyfe, W.M. 388; W. Clarke, S.D. 959; J. B. Fraser, P.M. 376; R. Baker, S.D. 388; J. Marjoram, I.P.M. 355; Rev. R. Evans, Chap. 1008; H. Miller, jun., S.D. 114; O. C. Diaper, I.G. 225; J. Turner, P.M. 225; A. Barber, Sec. 225; J. Clarke, Treas. 225; George Abbot, S.W. 959; E. Robertson, P.M. 959; F. Wheeler, W.M. 1224; E. M. Fyson, I.G. 1008; G. E. Jeaffreson, W.M. 555; W. J. Nunn, Org. 1008; A. Bennett, I.G. 959; H. Miller, S.D. 1008; A. J. Barber, P.G.O.; F. Fearnside, S.W. 1008; E. J. Griffiths, S. 1008; J. B. Tweed, J.D. 114; G. Thompson, P.M. 1008; N. Garrett, P.P.G.S.W.; the Rev. J. J. Farnham, P.G. Chaplain, Bombay; H. Goldsmith, 1008; A. Webb, 1008; J. Norman, 929; G. Roper, 936; R. Postle, 1008; A. R. Barber, 225; J. Clarke, 225; H. J. Barnard, 1273; C. Emerson, 1224; E. G. Castledine, 1008; J. G. Oliver, 1008; W. M. Neale, 1008; J. Shepherd, 1008; J. M. Harvey, 936; G. E. Jeaffreson, 555; W. J. Nunn, 1008; W. Pead, 1008; Capt. Horne, 1008; H. Thompson, 1008; J. R. Thompson, 1008; A. A. Bennett, 959; F. Bennett, 959; L. Merlin, 1118; E. Huddleston, 1008; G. Cornish, 1008; E. King, 1008; G. J. Paine, 1008; E. Fyson, 1008; W. D. Paine, 1008; P. Fitch, 1008; Rev. H. Hall, 1008; Rev. C. H. Wenn, 1008; H. Sidney, 376; A. Loughton, 1008; G. J. Keeble, 1008; F. E. Aldrich, 1008; E. J. Griffiths, Steward 1008; A. Last, 1008; T. D. Taylor, 959; W. H. Smith, 1008; T. Gardner, 1008; J. Feek, 376; T. Reed, 1224; H. Deacon, 1312; A. A. Goldsmith, 1008; P. M. Browne, 1008; H. Rolfe, 1008; F. C. Fitch, 1224; Dr. W. H. Short, 1008; C. Wing, 1008; G. F. Nunn, 1008; C. Lawrence, 88; A. Hunter, 1008; N. Garrett, P.M.; H. Luff, P.G. S. of W.; and others.

At two o'clock a procession was formed under the guidance of Bro. Emra Holmes, the Director of Ceremonies, who was very ably assisted by Bro. W. Clarke, the Asst. D.C., and the brethren were marshalled under their respective banners, and headed by Tylers with drawn swords, but without any band—none having been provided—proceeded to church. The want of a band was very much felt, and we would suggest that as music is en regle, and indeed provided for in the Book of Constitutions for public processions of Masons, it would be well if the Prov. Grand Lodge should provide a band at its own expense on another occasion, if the lodge which receives P. G. Lodge is unwilling or unable to provide one. A procession without a band is like a body without a head—and we venture these remarks for the benefit of those whom it may concern.

[The conclusion of this report will be given next week.]

DEDICATION OF THE SURREY MASONIC HALL, AND CONSECRATION OF THE SURREY MASONIC HALL LODGE (No. 1539).

On Wednesday last the new Masonic Hall for the South of London was formally dedicated to Freemasonry by Lord Skelmersdale, Deputy Grand Master, and Provincial Grand Master of West Lancashire. The brethren began to assemble early in the afternoon, and shortly after half-past two o'clock Lord Skelmersdale arrived. He was received by Grand Secretary (Bro. Hervey); Dr. Woodman, Grand Sword Bearer; Ex-Sheriff Hutton, Past Grand Deacon; Col. Burdett, Prov. G.M. Middlesex; Bro. Joshua Nunn, P.G.S.B.; Bro. F. Binckes, Bro. R. W. Little, Bro. Larham, Bro. Ramsay, Bro. T. L. Green, Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, Rev. J. M. Vaughan, Rev. P. M. Holden, Bro. H. G. Buss, Pro. G. Treasurer, Middlesex; Bro. E. Clark (architect of the building), Bro. John Oliver (the builder), Dr. Goldsboro, Bro. H. C. Levander, Bro. James Lewis Thomas, and several others. His lordship immediately proceeded to consecrate the building, and a procession was formed, which conducted him to the beautiful lodge-room. Assembled there to meet his lordship was a large party of brethren from different parts of London, from the province

of Middlesex, and the province of Surrey. Lord Skelmersdale, who had appointed Bro. Little to act as Director of Ceremonies, requested that brother to open the lodge, which was accordingly done, Bro. Little taking the chair of W.M., Bro. John Hervey that of S.W., and Bro. Hutton that of J.W. Bro. the Rev. J. M. Vaughan was S.D.; Bro. Levander, J.D., and Bro. J. L. Thomas, I.G.; the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford acting as Chaplain. The lodge having been opened, Lord Skelmersdale took the chair of W.M. Bro. E. Clark, the architect, then approached the W.M. with the plans, which he laid on the pedestal, and explained all the different chambers which had been provided for the convenience of the brethren, the offices, banqueting room, large hall for public use, billiard-room, kitchens, cellars, &c., and informed his lordship that the object the promoters had in view was to give lodges on the Surrey side of the water an opportunity of meeting at a place other than a tavern, but with all the conveniences which a tavern could afford. In this scheme he hoped the promoters would be successful, and that the brethren of Surrey would profit by it. Lord Skelmersdale expressed his approval both of the plans and the objects of the promoters, and handed back the plans to Bro. Clark's keeping with the best wishes for the success of the enterprise. Bro. Henry Parker, who was presiding at the harmonium, then commenced playing a march, and the procession consisted of the Rev. A. F. Woodford, with the Sacred Law on a cushion, the square and compasses; Bro. Hutton, carrying the cornucopia with corn; Bro. Hervey, with wine, and Col. Burdett with oil. Dr. Woodman, with the Sword, and Lord Skelmersdale, perambulated the room, and the formal act of dedication was performed, the Rev. A. F. Woodford concluding it with the censer. Bro. Little declared the lodge duly dedicated to Freemasonry and universal benevolence, and the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford delivered the oration, which will appear in our columns next week.

After some further music, in which Bros. Farquharson and Kerr Kedge sang some beautiful anthems, the ceremony of dedication of the Surrey Masonic Hall was completed, and the consecration of the Surrey Masonic Hall Lodge was proceeded with. Lord Skelmersdale performed this ceremony also, in which the Rev. P. M. Holden acted as Chaplain, and opened the proceedings with prayer.

Bro. John Oliver (Secretary) read the warrant, while the brethren named in it were ranged in the usual place. The brethren of the lodge having signified their assent to the nominations in the warrant (which was headed with the autograph "Albert Edward," Grand Master), the Rev. P. M. Holden in delivering the oration spoke as follows:—Most Worshipful Deputy Grand Master and brethren,—Masonry is an institution founded, not as the ignorant and uninstructed vainly imagine, on unmeaning mysteries supported by mere good fellowship; but Masonry is an institution founded upon eternal reason and truth, whose deep recess is the civilisation of mankind, and whose everlasting glory it is to have the immovable support of those two mighty pillars, science and morality. In proof of this assertion of mine permit me on the present occasion, as appropriate to our present gathering, to touch very briefly indeed upon the antiquity, the extent, and the comprehensiveness of our mystic art, concluding with a very few words upon its excellence and utility. As to its antiquity—Masons of course are very well informed from their own private and interior records that the building of King Solomon's Temple is a most important era from whence they derive many mysteries of their art. Now, be it remembered that this great event, the building of King Solomon's Temple, took place 1000 years before the Christian era, and therefore a century before Homer, the first of the Grecian poets, wrote, and five centuries before Pythagoras brought from the East his sublime system of Grand Masonic Instruction to illuminate this our western world. But, remote as this period unquestionably is, we date not from thence the commencement of our art. Though it might owe to the great and glorious and wise King of Israel some of its many mystic forms and hieroglyphic ceremonies, yet the art itself is coeval with man, with man the grand subject of it; nay, in very truth we may say that it is coeval with the Creation itself, when the Sovereign Architect raised on strictly Masonic principles this beautiful globe, and commanded that master science, Geometry, to lay the rule to the planetary world and regulate by its laws the whole stupendous system. And as Masonry is of such remote antiquity, so is it, as might easily be imagined, of boundless extent. We trace its footsteps in the most distant ages and nations of the world; we find it in the first and most celebrated civilizations of the East; we can trace it from the first astronomers on the plains of Chaldaea, to the wise and mystic kings and priests of Egypt, the sages of Greece, the philosophers of Rome; nay, even to the rude and Gothic builders of a dark and degenerate age, whose vast temples still remain among us as monuments of their attachment to the Masonic art, and as signal proofs of the taste which, however irregular, must always, nevertheless, be considered awful, beautiful, grand, and sublime. In very truth, in no civilised age or country has Masonry ever been neglected. The most illustrious characters—kings and nobles, sages and statesmen, authors and artists, warriors and philosophers, have thought it their glory to advance, defend, protect, and honour it. And even at the present hour, when our brotherhood is successfully established in every kingdom on the earth, we are happy and proud to include in that list names which do honour to their own, and would, indeed, have done honour to any age. Of course, I have no time now to enumerate or to mention those names; but, perhaps, it would be inexcusable on my part did I not here mention one name, the name of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (cheers), our Worshipful Grand Master, the

bright northern star of Masonry, as we may fairly call him, and of whom we, as members of the Craft, are justly proud as a distinguished friend and lover of the art—that beautiful, honorable, ancient art, to spread and to dignify which lodges are formed in every quarter of the globe. Thus much as to the extent, and, so to speak, the universality of Masonry; and when to this is further added the comprehensiveness of the institution, the vast circle of arts and sciences which it takes in and embraces, then we shall no longer for one single moment wonder at its vast extent, but feel persuaded that Masonry must and ever will keep pace and run parallel with the outline and civilisation of mankind. Nay, we may state with the greatest truth, that where Masonry is not, there civilisation will never be found. And so in very fact it appears; for in those barbarous nations and savage countries where operative Masonry never lays the line nor stretches the compass, where skilful architecture never plans the structure nor rears the well ordered columns in those uncultured regions liberal science never softens, nor does elegant art refine, beautify and embellish the mind. With these very few, imperfect remarks can any man doubt for a single moment as to the excellence and great utility of Masonry, thus deep in antiquity, boundless in extent, universal in its comprehension of every science, operative and speculative; thus as it were in its wide arms embracing the whole circle of arts and morals. Indeed, the well known and often quoted eulogy which Cicero once pronounced upon philosophy may I think with equal propriety be applied to Freemasonry. He says, "Hæc studia adolescentiam alunt, senectulem oblectant. Secundas res ornant, adversis perfugium ac solatium præbent. Delectant domi, non impediunt foras. Pernocant nobiscum, peregrinantur, rusticantur." And for the information of those brethren whose Latin may be somewhat rusty, allow me to put that freely into English, and it reads thus, that Masonry, like philosophy, will be found eminently to be the improvement of youth, the delight of old age, the ornament of prosperity, the solace and refuge of our adverse hours: it pleases at home; it is not an incumbrance abroad; it lodges with us; travels with us; and adds pleasure and amusement to our rural retirement. (Hear, hear.) Allow me then, Most Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, and you, most excellent brethren, to congratulate you all upon the advancement, and the present most flourishing state of our ancient, honourable, and beautiful art. Allow me more especially to congratulate you upon the dedication to-day, with solemn pomp, song and ritual, of an edifice reflecting the greatest credit upon the architect and upon the Craft. May the Craft always meet happy, safe and secure, within its walls, and may it flourish for ever like the palm tree; may private friendship and public virtue distinguish and adorn the heart and character of every Mason who shall ever, form and fill the sacred and Masonic lodge consecrated to day; and while through Thy bounty, Omnipotent Parent of the world, rich and generous dispenser of every blessing, our cups overflow with gladness, may our hearts never be wanting in gratitude, and in the voice of thanksgiving, while earnestly and emphatically saying

Father of all, in every age,
In every clime adored,
By saint, by savage, and by sage,
Jehovah, Jove, or Lord;
'To Thee, whose temple is all space,
Whose altar, earth, sea, skies,
One chorus let all being raise,
All nature's incense rise.

The rev. brother sat down amidst hearty applause. An anthem was then sung, another prayer was offered by Bro. Holden, another anthem was sung, Bro. Little pronounced the invocation, and Bro. the Rev. J. M. Vaughan read a portion of the Sacred Law. Lord Skelmersdale afterwards scattered the elements of consecration, pronounced the purposes to which the lodges were consecrated, and Bro. Vaughan handled the censer, the organ playing all the time, and the prayer was offered by Bro. Holden. The lodge's consecration was completed, and Lord Skelmersdale requested Bro. Little to instal Bro. Mark Samuel Larham in the chair. Bro. Little having taken the chair, Bro. E. Clark presented Bro. Larham, whom Bro. Little formally installed. The following brethren were invested with office: Bro. Ramsey, S.W.; Bro. Green, J.W.; Bro. Little, Treasurer; Bro. Oliver, Secretary; Bro. N. Ritherdon, S.D.; Bro. W. Smale, J.D.; and Bro. Geider, Tyler. Bros. Little and John Hervey delivered the addresses, and Lord Skelmersdale was elected an honorary member of the lodge, with a wish that he might frequently visit it. Lord Skelmersdale, in acknowledging the compliment, said he thanked the brethren most heartily for their kindness, and congratulated the lodge on having such a W.M. From what he had seen of his work, he was sure the lodge would be well worked during his year, and under his auspices it would become one of the best lodge's in the district. He hoped on some future occasion to come and pay the brethren a visit, and when he should come he expected to find the lodge in a very flourishing state. (Hear, hear.)

Bros. Woodford, Holden, Vaughan, Hervey, and Hutton were also elected honorary members of the lodge, the W.M. also expressing a hope that they would come and visit the lodge as often as they could.

Bro. Woodford acknowledged the vote, and wished the brethren every prosperity. He also added that he and the other brethren just elected felt great pleasure on all occasions to do anything which would cement more and more the brethren of the Order, and to advance the good old Craft. Joining members and initiates were thereafter proposed, the lodge was closed, and the brethren sat down, accompanied by Lord Skelmersdale, to an excellent banquet, which spoke volumes in favour of the culinary arrangements of the new hall.

Bro. George Bridges, of Camberwell, supplied the beautiful non-Masonic portion of the furniture and the draperies, both of the lodge and the banqueting-room, and Bro. George Kenning supplied the Masonic furniture. The Master and Wardens' chairs were kindly lent by the Macdonald Lodge, 1216. The musical arrangements, under the direction of Bro. Henry Parker, were admirable. He was assisted by Bros. Farquharson and Kerr Gedge, who sang in their best style, and gave to the dedication and consecration a finish which, it was remarked by many brethren, they had never seen before. After the banquet Bros. Farquharson and Kerr Gedge also sang some pretty songs, ballads, and trios, in which they were assisted by Miss Jessie Royd. The whole of the proceedings were highly successful, and were an admirable beginning for the new hall and lodge.

The following is a list of the brethren present, as far as we were able to ascertain their names.

Lord Skelmersdale, D.G.M.; Col. Burdett, P.G.M. of Middlesex; John Hervey, G. Sec.; C. H. Hutton, J.P., P.G.D.; T. W. Goldsboro, P.P.G., S.W.; Dr. W. Woodman, G.S.B.; R. W. Little, Sec. Royal Masonic Institution for Girls; F. Binckes, Sec. Royal Masonic Institution for Boys; Rev. P. M. Holden, S.D. 907; James L. Thomas, P.M. 142; Joshua Nunn, P.M.; H. C. Levander, P.M.; P. Nairn, P.M. 176; B. Turner, 1328; H. Parkin, P.G.O.; J. H. Hastie, W.M. 1216; N. Bridges, P.M. 772, 1216; James Garner, 975; John Multon, 437; Dr. Pinder; F. Beaton; George Kenning, P.M., P.Z.; Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, P.G.C.; M. S. Larham, W.M.; W. Ramsay, S.W.; T. L. Green, J.W.; R. Little, Treas.; J. Oliver, Sec.; N. Ritherdon, S.D.; W. Smale, J.D.; D. A. Ross, I.G.; F. Geider, Tyler.

Masonic Tidings.

Owing to a mistake in our last impression we give the true return to-day as regards the ever energetic province of West Yorkshire.

Bro. Erasmus Wilson, F.R.S., is the Vice-Chairman for the Cruikshank Art Collections Fund. Bro. Wilson has also been re-elected Professor of Dermatology.

Bro. Joseph Taylor, P.M., has taken a permanent residence in Margate, where he has been appointed a Justice of the Peace.

An emergency meeting of the Ivy Lodge, No. 1441, will take place on Tuesday next, at the Windsor Castle Tavern, Southwark Bridge-road.

An emergency meeting of the Chaucer Lodge, No. 1540, will take place at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, on Friday the 30th inst.

Bro. George Ward Hunt, M.P., has kindly consented to distribute the prizes at the Royal Naval School on the 27th inst.

In recognition of the services rendered by Sir Knt. S. B. Ellis in the formation of the White Rose of York Conclave at Sheffield, the Grand Council have been pleased to confer upon him the honorary grades of Viceroy and Sovereign of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, &c.

ANONYMOUS CHARITY.—A roll of bank-notes, value £800, was last week left by a lady, under the initials of E.C., at the office of the Curates' Augmentation Fund.

We understand Bro. Captain Boyton intends giving a public entertainment on Wednesday next, the 21st inst., in aid of the funds of the Boys' and Girls' Schools. The entertainment will consist of an exhibition of the capabilities of his life-saving dress, with a number of amusing experiments, &c. It is hoped that the brethren in general will avail themselves of this opportunity for increasing the funds of these noble charities by attending in full force with their friends. Particulars as to the time and place of meeting will be duly advertised in the daily papers.

FREEMASONRY.—A controversy is being carried on in some of the American papers anent the propriety of invoking the name of the founder of Christianity in Masonic prayers; some prominent Masons permit such an invocation. To persons lacking the acuteness of vision which can see through a brick wall the problem must remain insoluble how a prayer can at one and the same time be undenominational (such as Masonry claims to be), and yet Christian. To ordinary minds this must appear as talking of a triangular or a circular square. But minds which can conceive Three to be One and One to be Three, and who can talk with assurance of a virgin who is a mother, though it be the mother of God, will no doubt find also the means of solving the Masonic problem. The term mystery is elastic enough for anything.—*Jewish Chronicle*.

ROSICRUCIAN SOCIETY.

The quarterly convocation of the above society was held on Thursday, 8th inst., at the Cafe Royal, Regent-street. Present: Fraters Wm. Robt. Woodman, M.D., as Master of the Temple, T. B. Yeoman, T. W. White, Rev. Church, Dewar Weaver, Stanton Jones, Foulger, George Kenning, Massa, E. Macartney, M.P., and several other fraters.

Frater Woodman, inducted Frater Weaver into the chair of Master of the Temple. Frater Weaver then appointed his officers for the year; some brethren were ballotted for. The M—C—was then formed, after which the Fraters separated.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

Owing to the late hour at which we received the Stewards' Lists, several inaccuracies crept in, notably the following:—

Bro. Bingemann's (Constitutional No. 55) list, amounted to £246 15s., instead of £63.

Bro. J. H. Leggott's list (Prudent Brethren), should have been £253 5s. 6d., instead of £53 5s. 6d.

Bro. Thomas Meggy (Emulation No. 21) brought up £121 16s., and is only credited in our report with £43 1s.

The entire contribution of the Province of West Yorkshire was placed to the credit of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge. The entire list of the various Stewards in this extensive province was as follows:—

LODGES.

61 Edwards, Lieut. Col. Sir Henry, Bart., Prov. G.M. (V.P.)	10	10	0
61 Scarborough, Geo.	10	10	0
61 Tasker, William, P.M.	10	10	0
139 Hayes, Simeon, W.M.	10	10	0
139 Short, William, P.M., P.P.G.D., Group of Subscribers	10	10	0
139 Morris, T. S. Ditto	10	10	0
139 Tyzack, W.A. Ditto	10	10	0
154 Simpson, Edward, S.D.	10	5	0
275 Shaw Bentley, J.P., D.L., W.P. Deputy Prov. G.M. (V.P.)	5	5	0
290 Harrop, W., W.M.	10	10	0
296 Chaundy, John F.	10	10	0
296 Edwards, Thomas Armstrong, a Lewis	5	5	0
302 Broughton, Benj., P.M. (V.P.)	10	10	0
302 Farrar, Hanson, Treasurer (V.P.)	10	10	0
306 Seanor, Samuel Exley, W.M.	10	10	0
380 Wordsworth, Capt. J., P.P.G.W., (V.P.)	10	10	0
387 Lodge Airedale, S. Warden Chair, by subscription	10	10	0
408 Lodge Three Graces, W.M. Chair	10	10	0
827 Tattersfield, Joseph	5	5	0
837 Pegler, Chas.	10	10	0
904 Fawcett, John S.W.	10	10	0
904 Perrot, Clement Hamil P.M.	10	10	0
910 Simpson, John P.M.	10	10	0
910 Tew, Thomas William, J.P., Deputy Prov. G.M.	10	10	0
971 Lodge Trafalgar, W.M. Chair	15	15	0
1018 Lodge Shakespeare, W.M. Chair	21	0	0
1018 Longley, William	10	10	0
1019 Newton, George	10	10	0
1034 Eccleshill, Chaplain of	10	10	0
" Charity Steward per Bro. C. Turner	10	10	0
" Treasurer, per Bro. Chrstr. Pratt, P.P.G. S. of Works	10	10	0
" Secretary, " Ditto	10	10	0
" Organist, by subscription	10	10	0
" Master of Cere's "	10	10	0
" I.G., per Bro. Geo. Pearson	10	10	0
" Lodge Steward, by subscript.	10	10	0
" I.G., per Bro. Geo. Pearson	10	10	0
1042 Lodge Excelsior, W.M. Chair	21	0	0
1042 Beedle, Joseph, P.M.	10	10	0
Hamilton, Mrs. Lucy	1	1	0
1221 Lodge Defence, W.M.'s Chair	10	10	0
1231 Crossley, Frederick, P.M., Prov. G. Sword Bearer	10	10	0
1231 Crossley, John Edward, P.M.	10	10	0
1311 Kitchin, George, P.M.	10	10	0
1311 Turner, Thomas, P.M.	10	10	0
1311 Lodge Zetland, J. W. Chair, by subscription	21	0	0
1462 Bustard, John	10	10	0
1513 Carter, Richard, W.M., P. Prov. G.W.	10	10	0
1513 Watson, J. H.	10	10	0
1513 Beardsall, Francis Knowles	10	10	0
1522 Lodge Olcana, W.M. Chair, per Bro. John Gaunt, P. Prov. G.D.	10	10	0
1522 " S.W. Chair, per Bro. Joe Hammond, S.W.	10	10	0
1522 " J.W. Chair, per Bro. Wm. Margerison, J.W.	10	10	0
Anonymous, per F. Binckes, Sec. R.M.I. Boys	100	0	0
Rhodes, C. T., Fearnley Lodge, Mark Masters, No. 58	10	10	0
W.M.'s Chair, Fearnley Lodge, Mark Masters, No. 58	10	10	0
W.M.'s Chair, Prince Edward Lodge, Mark Masters, No. 14	10	10	0
Prov. G. Lodge Mark Masters, per Bro. W. Cooke	10	10	0

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS ABROAD.

Colonial and Foreign Subscribers are informed, that acknowledgements of remittances received, will in future be published in the first number of every month.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—To persons of a delicate constitution, and of tender frame, also to females of all ages and young children, these remedies will be found most suitable, because they act only in such a manner (by reason of their careful preparation and selection) as to conserve nature's powers, at the same time as they act in the most efficient manner possible as purifying and cleansing agents, and so necessary are these properties for the proper cure of female disorders, and children's accumulations, that all remedies are worse than useless if they do not possess them. It is not necessary or desirable here to detail all the complaints attended to, but females and children can safely use them.—*Advr.*

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:—

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Dawson, Wm., 121, Cannon-street.
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TO OUR READERS.

The *Freemason* is a sixteen page weekly newspaper, price 2d. It is published every Friday morning, and contains the most important and useful information relating to Freemasonry in every degree. Annual subscription in the United Kingdom, Post free, 10/. Brethren in foreign parts, wishing to have this newspaper sent them regularly from the office of publication, should, in sending their remittances, add 1s. 2d. per week the postage on 20z. newspapers.

The *Freemason* may be procured through any newsagent in the United Kingdom by giving (if needed) the publisher's address, 198, Fleet-st.

All communications, correspondence, reports, &c., must be addressed to the Editor.

Advertisements, change in address, complaints of difficulties in procuring *Freemason*, &c., to the Publisher, 198, Fleet-st., London, E.C.

Careful attention will be paid to all MSS. entrusted to the Editor, but he cannot undertake to return them unless accompanied by stamp directed covers.

TO ADVERTISERS.

The *Freemason* has a large circulation in all parts of the Globe, its advantages as an advertising medium can therefore scarcely be overrated.

For terms, position, &c., apply to
GEORGE KENNING, 198, Fleet-st.

Answers to Correspondents.

All Communications, Advertisements, &c., intended for insertion in the Number of the following Saturday, must reach the Office not later than 12 o'clock on Wednesday morning.

The following communications stand over.

Reports of Lodges 177, 206, 228, 673, 913, 1057, 1085, E.C.; Royal Order of Scotland; Prov. G. Lodge, Lancaster and Chester; Red Cross Conclave, 97; Newton Abbot; No. 75, Dublin; Prov. Grand Lodge of Kent; Freemasonry at Constantinople.

We have received Bro. Tew's letter, Bro. Perrot's new circular, and a letter from the four masters, but in the best interests of the Order we adhere to our former resolution of non-publication.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1875.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.

We concluded our article last week with the words, "We congratulate Bro. Binckes." We reiterate them to-day. For certainly the meeting of Wednesday was a full endorsement of his views, and a complete justification of his proposals. No more thoroughly distinct expression of the approval of the Order, of his unremitting efforts for the Boys' School, ever was accorded to any of the officials of any of our institutions. Bro. Binckes may indeed feel deeply gratified with the result of the festival, and as deeply grateful for the marked satisfaction and support of the Order. We say nothing here of the munificent amount of £12,700, munificent though it in truth be, and reflecting the highest credit on all concerned. We may add "en passant," that we have some reason to be proud of our good old Craft, which in the year of grace 1875 collects nearly £27,000 for our three great charitable institutions. But putting even the almost startling climax of so many zealous labours, and doubts, and anxieties on one side, we are glad to look on the proceedings of Wednesday as a satisfactory proof of the deep interest in the Boys' School felt by our entire fraternity. It is to that, we think, that Bro. Binckes may fairly and rightly appeal as the best answer to any cavils, and the truest response to any idle complaints. The Boys' School is a necessity for the Order, a great, an abiding, a pressing necessity,

and anything which would tend to lessen its character, or to hinder its progress, is to be discountenanced and repudiated by every true Freemason. Some questions have cropped up lately, into which, for the best interests of the Boys' School and of Freemasonry, we did not think it befitting to enter in our columns, and we mean to continue our "reticence" in this respect. There were evidently personal feelings and personal controversies at the bottom, whether of letters, or pamphlets, or circulars, and we therefore decline to make the *Freemason* the medium of communication of all these untoward discussions to the brethren at large. We felt, too, as we feel still more strongly now, that Bro. Binckes might fairly claim, from us especially, fair play. He is placed in a most responsible position, he has carried through a gigantic undertaking, his labours of years alike untiring and praiseworthy have been rewarded with signal success, and he has, we do not hesitate to say, deserved well of his own committee, and of Freemasons generally. Sympathizing as we do alike with his past endeavours to promote the efficiency and enlarge the utility of the Boys' School, believing as we do more-over that there are very few of our brethren, if any, who could have done what he has had to do, often too amid severe difficulties, and heavy discouragements, we heartily rejoice in being able to offer to Bro. Binckes to-day, not only our "hearty good wishes" but our sincere congratulations. He may, and probably will, remember long with a grateful and gratifying memory, that amid the childish inculcations of our great Order, by the ignorant or mendacious, it has been given to him to evoke from our benevolent organization one of the largest contributions to Masonic charity which Freemasonry has ever witnessed. May all of success attend the Boys' School, and may the happy result of 1875 be the foundation for it of a new funded capital, and an augury of successful labours, and of a prosperous Institution.

THE ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS.

Bro. Herve, the Grand Secretary, at the consecration of the Chaucer Lodge on July the 2nd, directed most of his weighty remarks to this very important point. He said that "the Order was no doubt enjoying great material prosperity, a prosperity almost unexampled in its history, but that this very prosperity constituted both a trial and a danger. Freemasonry, owing to its large numerical increase, and the flourishing state of its institutions, had a good deal apparently to offer to some, and to promise to more. Hence, there was not only a very large number of applicants for the light of Freemasonry, but it was just possible, that, owing to various circumstances at the present time, the desire for admission would be continuous and increasing. He felt then it to be his duty kindly to point out to the W.M. and officers, and brethren of the new lodge, the necessity incumbent on them of caution and care. Not every one that asked to be numbered amongst our brethren had therefore a right to expect or claim to be received. The brethren were bound to observe a strict "surveillance" over all applicants for initiation, and unless they were persons who, by their respectability of character, and courtesy of demeanour, their general bearing, and their known qualifications, were likely to be careful and valuable members of lodges, the brethren ought to hesitate, and they ought to be on their guard against an indiscriminate admission of candidates, simply because they were able to pay their fees, and were at present in a position even of wealth and respectability. Many brethren hastily admitted turned out to be great nuisances in their lodges, and were very difficult indeed to get rid of. The brethren should remember that it was "quality" not "quantity," which as Freemasons they should most have respect to, and a lodge with a few good men and true was far better, in his opinion, than the most numerous lodge composed of indifferent or fair weather Masons. He confessed that he looked with some little apprehension on the present tendency to admit new members somewhat hastily, and he had thought it well specially to

call the attention of Bro. Sabine and his officers and brethren to a topic which, though not interesting, perhaps, and somewhat heavy, was yet of intense importance to the future welfare of the Craft. The drain on our charitable funds, and the claims on our Institutions, were very large, and rapidly augmenting, and he could not help ascribing some of the present pressure to a little laxity in regard of careful selection of new members." Our brother, the Grand Secretary, always speaks with great moderation and singular clearness, and his words always deserve, as they always receive, the attention of the brethren at large. We quite agree with all he has so opportunely said, and so well expressed, and we feel how important it is, that the lodges everywhere should weigh well these truthful statements, and this valuable advice. It is no doubt a temptation to new lodges, probably to all lodges, to increase rapidly the roll of its associates, but we venture to think, that in no case are those old words more true, than as regards Masonic Lodges, "festina lente." Let nothing tempt a lodge ever to overlook the Masonic and prudential duty of sifting and selection. Freemasonry is strong, as well in the character of its adepts as in the principles of its profession, and no more serious blow could be administered to its true stability and progressing permanency, than any relaxation of the time-honoured axioms of our Order, care and attention as regards all candidates for admission and acceptance in our venerable and worthy sodality.

MASONIC TOLERATION.

It seems almost superfluous to speak to Freemasons about Toleration, as it is in one respect, so to say, the keystone of the great Masonic arch which spans the world in which we live. But yet, as we all of us are aware, it is not always the most obvious and well-spoken truths which we accept and work out, if we may so express ourselves, in our daily practice and walk in life. Some truths are so well-known to us that we almost forget them from their very familiarity, or overlook them from their old-fashioned triteness. And though as Freemasons we often profess Toleration, and though Toleration constitutes a great Masonic grace and virtue in the eyes of the best teachers and the truest children of Freemasonry, yet we think we can trace some little "indicia" in the passing events and utterances of the day, which serve to convince us, at any rate, that some of us, whatever we may know of Toleration in the letter, have yet to learn its spirit. For what is Toleration? And what is, we may further ask, Masonic Toleration? Toleration in its essence is that active and gentle quality of the mind which is elevated above the depressing and contracting influences of party spirit, of sectarian difference, of national hatreds, and personal prejudice. Toleration accepts the differences of opinion, and the contradistinction of creeds, as knowing well that they do and must exist in the world, and that as there is not a monopoly of truth, just as there is not a monopoly of anything else, people must "agree to differ." Toleration does not necessarily imply laxity of opinion, or indifference, or scepticism, or stoicism, as some hot-headed writers have often hastily argued. On the contrary, Toleration may and does exist when a person is very fully persuaded of the "faith that is in him," and when he sees very clearly in his own humble and reverent mind the way in which he ought to go, and the way, moreover, at all hazards to himself. Toleration would lift itself and us, with its kindly sympathies, above the passing differences and controversies of mankind, and would bid us all believe, in the words of the wittiest poet of the nineteenth century,

"While zealots fast and frown,
And fight for two or seven,
That there are fifty roads to town,
And rather more to Heaven."

Toleration would say to us all equally, "Judge not your brother, to his own great Master he standeth or falleth. Do not suppose that you yourself alone are right, and everybody else wrong in the world." And thus it comes to pass

that while Toleration holds its own manfully, warmly, truly, devotedly, it condemns no one else who differs or disagrees, it never desires to persecute, it never proposes to burn, but leaves every thing to that great and solemn hour when all our divisions shall be healed, all our differences adjusted, and all our misunderstandings fully understood, when truth, and light, and knowledge, and sight shall be all unclouded and perfected for evermore. And so Masonic Toleration, overlooking the peculiarities of national views, and of denominational teaching, regards every Son of Adam as a brother of the dust, denounces no man's belief, asks for no man's credentials, but accepting all who acknowledge reverently the great Creator and father of all, rejects alone from its bosom sternly the avowed Atheist, and the notorious libertine. Such is the position of Freemasonry, clear, simple, and intelligible, but, of course, open to attack from various quarters on account of this very singleness and simplicity of aim and declaration. To some, in consequence, Freemasonry is too lax, to others it is still too religious, to many it is too broad, and to others unchristian on this very account. But we believe that if some minds may object to this wide and tolerant platform, a great majority of our Order admire it and uphold it. Freemasonry knows nothing of the questions of religious controversy which often so agitate the world, and as Freemasons we have no right to pass any opinion on the dogmas and creeds, and catechisms of denominational bodies. We accept all good men and true within our pale, Church of England and Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic and Lutheran, Armenians and Copts, Protestants generally, and members of the Society of Friends, in fact all denominations "who profess and call themselves Christians," as well, let us remember, as the Hebrew and the Hindoo, the Mahomedan and the Parsee, the Druse of Mount Lebanon, and the free coloured Masons in the United States (made in a lawful lodge), since Freemasonry knows no distinction of caste or country, and, saving two notable exceptions, of conditions or creeds. If even in the heat of controversy or induced by the passing polemics of the hour, we are led any of us to give expression to our feelings as regards the religious views of others, we are overpassing, let us bear in mind, the limits of Masonic teaching, we are forgetting the truth of Masonic toleration. One of our chief opponents, the Church of Rome, is often very lavish in "piling up the agony" of epithets and abuse of anathema and ban—so be it. Let us not as Freemasons, however, return "railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing." Above all, let us always keep before us, in all our Masonic professions, and in all our Masonic speeches, that as Freemasons we are really above all such harmless diatribes, and all such illogical oburgations, come from what quarter they will. In our Masonic toleration we can afford to smile at the violence of such pseudo-religionists, just as we pity the folly of those who evidently seem to hold that the true outcome of religious faith is best evidenced by violence of language, or a spirit of persecution. As Freemasons we are tolerant, and we will be tolerant, even amid the intolerance of fanatical accusers, come what may.

THE FAMINE IN ASIA MINOR.

As we said last week, hardly a day passes but we have some startling exhibition of those visitations and abnormal conditions of this earth of ours, which are such an affliction to us all, and often such a scourge to humanity. The population of Asia Minor has for some time been severely suffering from a dreadful famine in which thousands have perished, some say 150,000 we see, and much commiseration has been felt for the sufferers, and considerable sums have been remitted by benevolent Englishmen to the authorities in the district where such dire distress prevails. Mr. H. R. Munro Butler Johnstone called attention to the subject in the *Times* of July 8th, in what we venture in all deference to consider a most unwise and unpractical letter. Never was Mrs. Malaprop's famous axiom, "comparisons are odorous," more fully verified, than in that hasty communication. It has been observed before, how very often, even clever

men when they will rush into print, to use a common if somewhat vulgar expression, "put their foot into it." In order to advocate the claims of the Asia Minor population on the charitable sympathies of the British public, Mr. Johnstone, somewhat depreciates the French claims, and talks of "a few scores of people, &c., &c." In Verdun, we may observe, a town of ten thousand people, only three houses are left standing, and 22,000 people at the very least are houseless, homeless and all but penniless. Neither do we understand Mr. Johnstone's allusion to the "rich Pharisee," unless indeed he alludes to the parable of the good Samaritan in which Priest and Levite successively appear on the scene, but not as far as we are aware a Pharisee. This is one of the curious blunders of contemporary literature. We therefore entirely dissent from the tone of Mr. Johnstone's remarks, and regret to have read them. We feel bound to say this for our English people, that their hearts are "generally open" as "melting charity," for any well deserving case of sympathy and relief, and whatever may be the call for assistance of Asia Minor we are sure that no more righteous appeal ever was addressed to our true-hearted English people than that which comes from the fair land of France, and from our suffering and ruined fellow creatures at Toulouse. We may add that the list of calamities is not full. Floods near Buda have inflicted great injury and disasters in Hungary, and as there always is a great sympathy for the fine Hungarian population amongst all Englishmen, we think it well to allude to the subject in the *Freemason* to-day. Since we wrote this the Lord Mayor has also sanctioned a subscription for the sufferers in Hungary, to which we wish all success. We deeply deplore, as we said before, the famine in Asia Minor, and feel that English benevolence may well be extended to that far off scene of privation and misery. Very glad we shall be if the spontaneous efforts of English charitable impulse may tend to alleviate and mitigate the horrors of famine there. But having said this, we feel bound to add, that we rejoice to think that English sympathy is being warmly extended to our French brethren and sisters, and that the Lord Mayor's list is already so largely filling up with the liberal largesse of our ever benevolent countrywomen and countrymen. Madame Mac Mahon's letter and appeal, which we publish to-day, will be read with interest, and we trust will not remain unanswered.

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.]

PROVINCIAL FUNDS.—II. LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND.

(THE LEICESTER MASONIC HALL.)
To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In your article on the last annual balance-sheet of this province, at p. 283, ante, you have appealed to me, in complimentary terms, for an explanation of the connection of the Freemasons' Hall in this town with the Provincial Grand Lodge. This information I have pleasure in supplying. The erection of a Masonic Hall here had long been earnestly desired. Two attempts were made in the year 1824 (when a site was actually purchased), and, again in 1842, during my first Mastership of St. John's Lodge, then the only one in the town. Both of those proved failures, but a third, made in 1859, was successfully carried out by the erection of the present commodious structure, almost entirely by the contributions of the members of the two local lodges.

The intention was that these contributions should represent so many £1 shares, to be thereafter entitled, *pro rata*, as a dividend to any surplus profits which might accrue. In the then state of the law our Prov. Grand Registrar saw a difficulty in the way, and a case having been laid before Bro. Roxburgh, Q.C., he gave it as his opinion, that in order to keep the nominal purchasers of the site, &c. (the Trustees), free from personal liability, "there was no mode of carrying out legally the views suggested; that no trust could be enforced if created, and, that the subscriptions must be taken as *absolute gifts*." This was accordingly done, and up to the present time all moneys received, except the balance now in hand, have been expended upon the property (which includes an adjoining house, let off).

The total expenditure has been over £2000, a second mortgage of £350 having been paid off some years after the erection of the building, leaving the present charge of £750 still upon it

Considerable alterations and improvements of the hall were made a year or two ago, in payment for which the surplus money and the sinking fund up to that time were applied, but it is now hoped that the debt of £750 may be gradually liquidated, leaving any surplus revenue to be dealt with as the Provincial Grand Lodge may, from time to time, decide. Since the lamented decease of the late Earl Howe, P.G.M., only myself and one other of the nominal owners of the property remaining, a new trust-deed has been executed, the following brief summary of the provisions of which will show the connection of the hall with the Provincial Grand Lodge:

- 1.—The management of the Hall to be under the control of the Hall Committee.
- 2.—The Hall to be devoted primarily to Freemasonry and kindred institutions.
- 3.—Subject to No. 2, the Hall may be let for social or religious gatherings, &c., under certain restrictions.
- 4.—Revenue to be received and applied by the Hall Committee in such manner as they shall think fit, subject, however, to the direction of P.G. Lodge.
- 5.—When the Trustees are reduced to three, the vacancies to be filled to the full number of seven, and the property transferred accordingly.

The Hall Committee consists of the five principal officers of the P.G. Lodge, the W. Master of the local Craft, and Mark Masters' Lodges, and the M.E.Z. of the Royal Arch Chapter, ex-officio, together with two representatives annually elected by each of those bodies.

Should any further information on the subject be desired, I shall be happy to supply it.

Yours fraternally,
WILLIAM KELLY,
P.G.M. Leicestershire and Rutland.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I wish to correct one or two slight errors in your report of my "sayings and doings" last week.

In the first place, as regards the Masonic oration delivered at the Chaucer Lodge, in the 18th line from the close of the oration, page 304, "Masonic grace" should read "woman's grace," all the difference in the world. Indeed, "Masonic grace" is nonsense.

In the report of my little speech at the dinner my words were actually these:—"That though we had, as we often said, amongst us 'many members of rank and opulence,' the great majority of our Order might fairly be termed the middle-class of Freemasonry, and theirs for the most part were limited incomes. I pointed out that, whatever some of our opponents might choose to say of us in their idle and childish allegations, all of them equally absurd and mendacious, they could not accuse us of want of charity. That as regards the Boys' School, the boys educated were the sons of our own brethren, with many of whom we had happily associated in the genial hours of peaceful 'reunion' and innocent festivity. We had sat with them at the same board, belonged perhaps to the same lodge, and were members of our common Alma Mater."

I have thought it well just to call attention to these points, as no doubt in the hurry of the moment my few but simple words were a little abbreviated.

I am, yours fraternally,

A. F. A. WOODFORD, P.G.C.

BRO. C. J. BURGESS AND THE MARK DEGREE.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Four weeks have elapsed, and neither the Earl of Limerick, the Rev. J. R. Portal, nor any other members of the Mark Degree have thought well to come to the front in reply to my challenge, and to say why they have expelled me from that Masonic body.

I begin to see Masonry under a new phase. Hitherto I had regarded it as professing noble qualities, chief amongst them being that charity which not only feeds the hungry, tends the sick, clothes the naked, and cares for the fatherless, the widows, and the aged, but which also thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth in the truth. I begin to regard it as a powerful engine for crushing people by calumny, secretly and widely spread. As such, I fear that it can hardly continue to be regarded, either within or beyond the Craft, as an unmixed good.

The Mark Degree has never in any manner informed me that I have committed an offence against any Masonic principle, but the first act which has signalized the reign of the present Grand Mark Master has been the expulsion of me as unfit to be associated with him and his brethren of that Masonic body.

In so doing the Mark Degree has, in my opinion, offended against the first principle of British freedom, which provides that no person can be punished without having been previously warned of the accusation against him, and heard in his defence. The Mark Degree in thus acting has covered itself with the dishonour with which certain persons desire to clothe me. It has in thus acting brought a portion of Freemasonry into discredit, but it has done me no harm except in forcing upon me, regret, which I feel sure is shared by the Craft in general, that a Masonic body can, under any circumstances, be led into an act of injustice as un-English as it is anti-Masonic.

When I was made a Mark Master Mason I was solemnly assured that whilst I continued to act in conformity with the sublime precepts of the Order, should other friends forsake me, should envy traduce my good name, or malice persecute me, should dangers, doubts, or difficulties assail me, force attempt to drive, or temptation to entice me from the right path, among Mark Master Masons I should ever find friends, who would administer relief to my distress and comfort in my affliction. Where are those Mark Master Masons?

Faithfully yours,

CHAS. J. BURGESS.

"SOUTH LONDON," "P.M., &c.," AND A TEMPERANCE LODGE.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

"South London" wants to be at home with his Masonic brethren in a lodge conducted on temperance principles, and asks for information on the subject. "P.M., &c.," answers his query by saying he is a total abstainer himself, and "if side by side with total abstinence in himself he can tolerate moderation in the brethren who sit beside him, he may feel at home in any Masonic lodge."

I question if such an answer will satisfy our brother "South London," or, indeed, would be such as to please total abstainers generally, or even Masons worthy of the name. "Any Masonic lodge," I think, would not suit brethren anxious to see the principles of the Craft duly observed, according to the spirit of our Order, and the cardinal virtues by which we should be distinguished. I have been in lodges where—provided the members attend the meetings regularly, and stay to the banquets, suppers, and refreshments during the year, the Dr. and Cr. account would be as follows:—

Bro. ——— in account with the lodge No. —		s.	d.
Dr.			
"Annual Banquet," &c.	12	6	
Quarterly Suppers	7	6	
"Grogg," &c., after lodge meetings.....	8	0	
Proportion of Incidental Expenses	10	0	
	£1	18	0
Cr.		£	s. d.
Annual Subscription	1	4	0
Dues to Provincial G. Lodge	0	2	0
Dues to Grand Lodge	0	2	0
Proportion of Banquet (paid by each Member)	0	5	0
Balance, being loss to the Lodge Funds	0	5	0
	£1	18	0

I could mention instances where the loss to the lodge funds has been considerably more, and we know of a lodge which went considerably in debt in consequence of the expenses attending its annual banquet, and usually did so every year, the plan being to depend upon initiation fees to set them right again in a few months. Now, would such a state of things suit either of the two brethren mentioned above. Surely neither "South London," nor "P.M., &c.," would advocate the brethren who attended the banquets and "refreshments," enjoying the entertainment either at the expense of the lodge funds, or taking the subscriptions of absent brethren to balance the account?

I do not speak now of those lodges wherein the custom is to pay a much larger fee than is required for lodge purposes, so as to meet the additional expense of banquets. My statements have reference only to the lodges whose annual subscriptions for the members vary from twelve shillings to about a pound, which sums would only be barely sufficient to clear the ordinary expenditure of the lodge for rent, taxes, printing and other incidentals. I say for all such lodges the only safe and Masonic plan to pursue is for brethren to pay for whatever they may eat or drink (unless visitors), and so long as they do so Masonically we cannot complain.

I see no need for a total abstinence lodge in South London, or elsewhere, so long as there are lodges of the same constitution as the Eclectic, No. 1201, Freemasons' Hall, London, the regulations of which provide that "As this lodge was chartered by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Zeland, &c., &c.," under a proviso that no part of its funds should be appropriated to tavern expenses, or refreshments, this, the first by-law, clearly defines that no part of the moneys received by this lodge can or shall be used or spent in any other manner than the requirements of the lodge, the Order, or Charity may permit, and shall not be appropriated for tavern expenses or refreshments in any form, and that this law is irrevocable so long as the charter of said lodge exists and is in force." I am not desirous to argue the matter on total abstinence grounds at all, and although I am a life-long total abstainer from all intoxicating liquors myself, I cannot say my experience of society generally is such that I only wish to associate with total abstainers, neither do I believe that legislation for any particular class would accord with the spirit of Freemasonry. The ballot is our test of membership as respects admission to our lodges, and if a number of brethren who meet in their "sanctums" are in one case total abstainers, it is not likely they will admit a publican, and if, in another instance, the majority happen to be connected with the beer and spirit interests, it would be an unlikely place for a temperance advocate to be accepted; and yet both classes would be made welcome as Masons when visiting each other's lodges. "Birds of a sort flock together," and so our brother in "South London" will, doubtless, soon discover the neighbourhood that will suit his tastes, but, setting aside individual opinions, and looking mainly at the wants of the Society of Free and Accepted Masons, may we not ask, is it not needful to look more after those lodges wherein the members feast at the lodge expense, and who do not pay their fair share of the expenses? Is it right that lodges, making no provision for banquets in the subscriptions, should be allowed to spend annually such large sums as several do at their annual festivals and monthly meetings? Have we not in this fact the explanation why there are so many non-contributing members, who retire from their lodges in disgust at seeing their contributions in particular, and the fund generally, so squandered.

The Temperance Lodge in Birmingham has a by-law

prohibiting the introduction of any intoxicating beverages at their festival gatherings, but that is not what I advocate. My desire is that the Grand Lodge render it imperative that the funds of the lodge shall only be used for strictly Masonic or charitable purposes, a separate account being kept for festive occasions. Our Grand Masonic Institutions have much to gain if such were made the law of the Grand Lodge.

Yours fraternally,

W. J. HUGHAN.

MASONS' MARKS.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In the *Freemason* for 12th June Bro. Hughan mentioned the dates of four numbers of the *Builder*, containing information as to Masonic marks, and said there was another which he had unfortunately missed, the number for 27th March, 1869, contains some hundreds of marks, and also Mr. Godwin's able article; in fact, it is simply a reprint of the sessional paper of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

HENRY T. BOBART, W.M. 1085.

MASONS' MARKS.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In my note on this subject (p. 284, ante) the residence of the late Bro. Edw. W. Shaw has, by an error of the press, been given as Tamworth, instead of Farnworth, near Warrington. From a letter which I received from Bro. Shaw, not long before his illness, it appears that the work was intended to be published by Mr. Vincent Brooks (formerly Day & Son), London, that it was to be foolscap size, with sheets of illustrations twice that size, including, in addition to the Masons' marks, "the plans of 70 Cathedrals, and the Pyramid at Gizeh, all on the scale of 100 feet to the inch, and also drawings showing the geometrical principles on which the Mediaeval buildings were designed."

WILLIAM KELLY,

P. Prov. G.M.M. Leicestershire.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Bro. Squires's note in yours of 26th ult. is easily explained.

When His Grace the Duke of Wellington gave the reply in 1861, referred to by Bro. Squires, "that he did not belong to the Order," he was only giving a reply similar to that he had given twenty years before to Lodge 494, when that lodge applied to him to allow the lodge to be called the "Wellington Lodge."

In His Grace's reply to Lodge 414 he states his reason for refusing to allow the lodge to be so called, to be "that he had joined Masonry when a very young man, and had for years ceased to belong to the Order."

I am glad to say the old 494 bye-laws, with His Grace's signature (as given in the January Magazine) is at present in the possession of the W.M. of that lodge.

Yours fraternally,

JAMES H. NEILSON,

M.M. 494, and P.M. 620.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF KENT.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In the last two or three numbers of the *Freemason*, you have been drawing attention to the financial position of some of the Provincial Grand Lodges in the United Kingdom, and specially as to the sums disposed for the purpose of charity. As I think that we in the Province of Kent may justly feel proud of our position in this respect, I herewith enclose the balance sheet of the Provincial Grand Lodge for the year ending the 1st of April last, thinking that perhaps you might like to make use of it for the purpose I have named.

The total funds for disposal at our annual festival, held on the 6th inst., amounted to £436 6s. 1d. There was one lodge in default, so that in reality there was more. On that occasion we voted £320 for the purposes of charity alone; on the 1st of April we had thirty-eight lodges in the province, we have now forty. All the lodges that have been in existence six years are life governors of the three Masonic institutions, by fees paid out of the Provincial Grand Lodge Fund and Charity Fund. This is of course besides the private subscriptions of brethren in the province, and the subscriptions of individual lodges, and the list of Stewards appointed for the festivals of the institutions. We number about 2950, and the status of the initiates during the past year, will, I think, bear a fair criticism.

Should there be any further particulars you would like to have possession of, I shall be very pleased to inform you. I for one feel very pleased that you are bringing this matter into prominence, because, rightly or wrongly, I think the claims of the provinces or the position they occupy in supporting our noble Order are not sufficiently recognized in Grand Lodge and in the metropolitan area, in short, that they are falsely considered inferior to the metropolitan lodges generally.

I am, Sir, your fraternally,

ALFRED SPENCER,

Prov. G. Sec.

THE RYE HOUSE.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

A report being prevalent that the Rye House is sold, and that this is the last season;—please allow me to state, that there is no truth whatever in the rumour. The Rye House is not sold; there has not been any treaty for its purchase; this will not be the last season, and I hope to see my kind friends and patrons here a few more years yet to come.

I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

W. H. TEALE,

BOYS' SCHOOL FESTIVAL, 1875.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In your report containing the list of subscriptions read by Bro. Binckes at the recent festival, you have placed against the name of the lodge I had the honour to represent the sum of £151 14s. 0d., including a donation of £10 10s. from His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught.

The total amount is correct, but His Royal Highness was pleased to place upon my list the sum of twenty guineas, not ten, as quoted.

You have also grouped the Hampshire Lodges with those of the Province of Gloucestershire.

By inserting this in your next issue you will oblige yours faithfully and fraternally,

J. HACKER, P.M. 723.

P.G. J.D., Hants and Isle of Wight.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I have to announce, through you, for the information of the Governors and Subscribers of this Institution, and of the Craft generally, that the Rev. Dr. Morris, of King's College, London, has been elected Head-Master of this School.

I am, yours, faithfully and fraternally,

F. BINCKES, Secretary.

THE HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND, 1875.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

So as to counteract certain erroneous statements which I am informed are being maliciously circulated, to the prejudice of efforts now being made by the existing Local Hospital Saturday Committees, viz., Chelsea, Hammersmith, Greenwich, Southwark, West Ham and Stratford, and Westminster and Pimlico, I beg you will permit me to state that none of the members receive, nor have received, payment for services rendered, or time devoted to this great movement. All work gratuitously, and in some instances, in addition to devoting all their leisure time, members also gave working hours for which they would have been paid by their employers; in addition, too, they freely contributed their mites to the Hospital Saturday Fund. This being so, and as we are now rapidly approaching this year's Hospital Saturday, 31st July, let me earnestly beseech those earnest working men and women, whom it is the pride of the metropolis to call her own, to put their shoulder to the Hospital Saturday wheel, so that our collection may be a worthy one. Collection sheets and books (the latter may be carried in the waistcoat pocket), will be issued on application.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

CHARLES MERCIER,

Chairman.

7th July, 1875, Council Rooms,
28, Leicester Square, W.C.

Multum in Parvo; or Masonic Notes and Queries.

SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN.

Was Sir Christopher Wren a Freemason? At page 168 of the *Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror* for Sept. 3rd, 1859, we read:—"The Past Boy, No. 5245, from Saturday, March 2nd to Tuesday, March 5th, 1723, states:— 'This evening the corpse of that worthy Freemason, Sir Christopher Wren, Knight, is to be interred under the Dome of St. Paul's Cathedral.'"

Is it true that Wren was really a "Freemason," and if so, when and where did he become one? At page 595 of the *Graphic* for Dec. 19th, 1874, we were told that the Duke of Edinburgh was a Mason, but, as has been shown, that is a mistake; consequently if the published dictum of a contemporary cannot be relied upon as regards a living celebrity, I feel justified in doubting the veracity of the 1723 oracle respecting a dead one.

W. P. BUCHAN.

MINUTE BOOK, LODGE OF INDUSTRY, GATESHEAD.

As Bro. Hughan wishes it, I give a verbatim et literatim copy of the page on which the word "Highrodiams" occurs, and I refer him and all my readers to the Magazines for August and September for fuller information as regards the minute book.

Brought forward 1746. (25).

Bros. Hawdon, P.G.M.; J. Hawdon, S.G.W.; J. Lawther, J.G.W.; J. Foy, Dep. G.W.M. 1746; Michael Hawdon, Particular Lodge, Master; Sen. Thomas Eccles and Jun. Thomas Liddle, Wardens; Wm. Gibson, Chris. Dod, Stewards.

Memorandum. Highrodiams to pay for making in that Order only 1s. 6d.:—

1. Hendk. Jones.
 2. Thos. Dalton.
 3. John Emmerson.
 4. Wm. Hawdon.
 5. Robert Hawdon.
 6. James Foy.
 7. John Lawther.
 8. John Payne.
- Paid 2s. 6d., English, William Gibson.
John Hawdon.
Thos. Liddle.

Side by side with this entry occurs the following entry:—"Name of the Highrodiams." July 1st, 1746, Enacted at a Grand Lodge, held that evening, that no brother Mason should be admitted into the Dignity of a Highrodiams under less than a charge of 2s. 6d., or at the Domaskin or Forin, as John Thompson from Gateside, paid at the

same night 5s. Underneath these two entries we read, N.B. The English Masters to pay for entering into the said Masterhips 2s. 6d. per majority. High order continued:—Bro. Dodd, 1; Wm. Gibson, 2; M. Eccles, 3; John Howdon, 4; Michael Howdon, 5; John Lee, 6; Thos. Liddle, 7; Wm. Hall, 8; W. Burton, 9; John Gibson, 10; Stephen Chambers, 11; Thos. Hunter, 12; Thos. Wake, 13. Account carried forward.

Over the leaf follows a list of names, one paying 2s. 6d., one paying 1s. 6d., a list of "raised members," 5 in number, in 1771 and 1772, and 7 names, June 24th, 1762, either of members of the Order, of new members, or of those present on that date. The "Highrodians" seem to us to be a corruption of "Harodim," what Domaskin or Forin may be, deponent cannot even guess.

A. F. A. WOODFORD.

CONSECRATION OF THE ABERCORN LODGE (No. 1549).

The consecration of this lodge and the installation of its first Master took place on Saturday, the 26th ult.

About forty brethren assembled to do honour to the occasion; among whom were Bros. R. Helsdon, P.M. 733, W.M. designate; J. W. Garrod, 435, S.W. designate; Joshua Nunn, P.M. 134, 820, 1201, P.G.S.B., J. W. designate; R. Wentworth Little, P.M., P.G., Sec., Middlesex, Sec. to the Girls' School, &c., &c., Installing Master; Chas. Neal, P.M. 889, P.G.S.D. Surrey, to whom the lodge is principally indebted for its existence; W. A. Rogers, 435; J. Tidcombe, jun., 34; W. Hammond, P.M. 201, W.M. 1326 and of 1512, Pro G. Steward Middlesex; J. T. Woodstock, P.M. 749; W. L. Hoare, P.M. 1415; Thos. Mackintosh, Scone and Perth, 3; Jas. Squire, P.M. and Sec. 889, P.P.G.S.B. Surrey; Thos. Long, P.M. 889, P.G.D.C. Surrey; H. Llewellyn Winter, 889; John Holden, 435; G. Townsend, P.M. 820; J. Patterson, of the Euphrates; H. W. Sinton, 889; John Garrod, 889; Osman Vincent, 571; Faulkner Lee, 404; John Martin, 733, and other distinguished members of the brotherhood.

Bro. R. Wentworth Little, the officer appointed to perform the ceremonies by the R.W. Bro. Colonel Burdett, Prov. Grand Master of Middlesex, took the chair at three o'clock, and appointed his two Wardens, Bro. Hammond, S.W., as the senior officer of the province present, and Bro. Thos. Long, J.W., the procession to the lodge-room having taken place in the usual order. The lodge was then opened in the three degrees, and the ceremony commenced with the opening prayer. The Director of the Ceremonies next placed the petitioning brethren before the chair in the order of seniority, viz., Bros. Helsdon, J. W. Garrod, Joshua Nunn, W. A. Rogers, C. Veal, J. Holden, J. Tidcombe, jun., H. Llewellyn Winter, and J. Patterson, and Bro. Little having addressed them in a very impressive manner upon the nature and object of the meeting and the important part they as the first officers of the new lodge were expected to take in the Craft, called upon the Hon. Sec., Bro. Veal, to read the Warrant of Constitution from the Grand Lodge of England, one of the earliest charters bearing the authority of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, M.W. Grand Master, and designating the lodge as the Abercorn, No. 1549.

The Consecrating Master then delivered the beautiful and eloquent oration, listened to with the most profound attention by the whole of the assembled brethren, in the feeling and able manner which on all such occasions ever characterises our distinguished Bro. Little.

Bro. Winter presided at the organ, and led the musical portion of the ceremony, taking also the solo part in the anthem.

The dedication of the lodge being completed by the Installing Master and his Wardens, the former pronounced the "patriarchal benediction," and the Director of the Ceremonies presented the W.M. designate, Bro. R. Helsdon, for the benefit of installation.

The Board of Past Masters having been duly formed, Bro. Helsdon, as a P.M., was at once with the accustomed forms installed as the First Master of the Abercorn Lodge, into the chair of King Solomon.

The Board of Past Masters having been dissolved, and the lodge having assumed its normal form, the brethren in ranks and degrees were admitted, when the usual salutations took place.

The First Officers and Assistant Officers were Bro. R. Wentworth Little as I.P.M., the same brother also, for the very effective services of the day, was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Abercorn; Bros. J. W. Garrod, S.W.; Joshua Nunn, J.W.; W. A. Rogers, Treasurer; Charles Veal, Secretary; J. Holden, S.D.; J. Tidcombe, jun., J.D.; H. L. Winter, Org.; J. Patterson, I.G.; and J. Middleton, Tyler. Letters of apology for absence were read from a number of brethren, and one in particular from Col. Burdett, P.G.M. of the Province, regretting his absence from indisposition, having been ordered to the sea-side for a change of air. A number of propositions for future work having been proposed, the lodge was closed and the brethren rambled for the next half-hour in the beautiful and well kept grounds. An elegant banquet, à la Russe, was subsequently sat down to by the greater number of the brethren present at the ceremonies. Afterwards a very enjoyable evening was spent in the interchange of thought, and those fraternal amenities only to be experienced in the brotherhood.

The various loyal and Masonic toasts were then proposed, duly honoured and responded to by the various appropriate brethren, during which it was remarked that the Abercorn might very aptly assume the motto of the noble family whose name it bore, Sola Virtute Vincit.

The meeting house of the lodge is at the Abercorn Arms, in the confines of the province, in a beautiful district at Great Stanmore, about ten miles from London, and three-and-a-half from Harrow.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF LEICESTER-SHIRE AND RUTLAND.

The half-yearly communication of the above Provincial Grand Lodge took place at the Town Hall, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on the 29th ult., in the lodge-room of the Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge, No. 779, under the auspices of which the meeting was held.

The Craft Lodge was opened at one o'clock. Shortly after that time the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl Ferrers, accompanied by his Prov. G. Officers, entered the lodge-room and received the customary salute.

After the minutes had been confirmed and the ballot taken for several joining members and candidates for initiation, the principal event of the day, that of installing Bro. S. E. Johnson as W.M. of No. 799, took place, the office of Installing Master having been, by the special desire of the members of that lodge, undertaken by the Provincial Grand Master. It is almost needless to state that the duties of that important office, and the impressive ritual of the ceremony of installation, were performed in a very admirable and efficient manner.

The brethren, not only of the Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge, but of other lodges also in the province, are under deep obligations to his lordship for having on several occasions fulfilled the onerous duties of Installing Master, and too much praise cannot be accorded to him for the ready and gracious spirit in which he has always been pleased to comply with the wishes of the brethren that he should undertake those duties.

On the completion of the business of the Craft Lodge, the Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form by the Prov. Grand Master, who was assisted by the following officers:—W. Bros. the Revd. J. Denton, P.P.S.G.W., as Deputy Prov. G.M.; Samuel Love, Prov. S.G.W.; E. F. Mannwatt, P. Prov. S.G.W., as I.G.W.; W. B. Smith, Prov. G. Treasurer; T. G. Tippetts, Prov. G. Reg.; S. S. Partridge, Prov. G. Secretary; W. Johnson as Prov. G.S.D.; W. Hardy, Prov. G.J.D.; J. T. Thorp, Prov. G.A.D.C., as D.C.; R. Boughton-Smith, P.P.G.A. D.C., as Grand Sword Bearer; C. E. Stretton, Prov. G.A.P. as Grand Purs.; G. W. Statham and R. Dalgleish, P.G. Stewards; and C. Bembridge, Prov. G. Tyler.

A fuller report of the proceedings will appear in our next.

The following brethren were also present:—W. Bros. Rev. W. Langley, P.P.S.G.W.; H. Etherington-Smith, P.P.J.G.W.; Revd. F. S. Cayler, 779, P.P.G. Chaplain, Bristol; J. C. Duncombe, P.P.G.D., Leicester and Rutland, and P.P.G.D. Norths. and Hunts; H. Blood, I.P.M.; S. E. Johnson, W.M.; W. S. Allen, S.W.; R. Dalgleish, J.W.; and a considerable number of brethren of No. 779. Visitors, Bros. G. A. Taverner, S.W. 353; J. Hill, 254 and 850; and D. Field, 7.

The roll of lodges and of P.G. Officers having been first called, the minutes of the last annual meeting of Prov. G. Lodge were read and confirmed.

The report of the Earl Howe Memorial Window Committee was read, announcing the termination of their labours, and thanking the subscribers to the fund for their generous assistance, by means of which a memorial highly creditable to the Craft in this province had been placed in the Church (St. Peter's) recently erected at Leicester, in memory of the late lamented and esteemed Past Prov. Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl Howe. It was resolved that the report, with the statement of account accompanying it, be received and adopted.

A vote of thanks, proposed by Bro. Denton and seconded by Bro. Boughton-Smith, was accorded to the Memorial Committee for their valuable services.

W. Bros. Clement Stretton, P. Prov. J.G.W., and L. A. Clarke, P.P.S.G.W., were re-elected to represent the Prov. G. Lodge, as members of the committee of the Freemasons' Hall, Leicester.

Bro. Langley proposed "That when any brother who, having represented this province as Steward for two of the central Masonic Charitable Institutions, has become qualified to wear the Charity Jewel, such jewel should be presented to him by Prov. G. Lodge, and that W. Bro. Robert Waite, Prov. J.G.W., who is just completing his second year of office as Charity Steward for this province, be the first recipient of such jewel."

Bro. Denton seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Letters of apology were received from several Prov. G. Officers and others, including one from Bro. W. J. Hughan, P.G.D., and an honorary member of Lodges 279 and 523 in this province.

A hearty vote of thanks to the members of the Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge for the reception they had given to the Prov. G. Lodge, brought the business to an end, and the Prov. G. Lodge was closed in due form.

The brethren afterwards adjourned to the Queen's Head Hotel, where an excellent banquet was most admirably served by the worthy host, Bro. Love. The Prov. G.M. presided, and after the dinner his lordship proposed the loyal and Masonic toasts usual on these occasions.

The attendance, notwithstanding the very wet weather and the inconvenient nature of the railway accommodation, was extremely good, and this, the first meeting under the new arrangement for the assembling of the Prov. G. Lodge half yearly, may be considered a complete success.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The Quarterly General Court of the subscribers to the Masonic Girls' School was held last Saturday at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. Major J. Creaton, Vice-Patron, presided, and the other brethren present were John Symonds, Griffiths Smith, Thomas W. White, Robert B. Webster, H. M. Levy, Edward Harris, H. Muggeridge, Thomas F.

Peacock, H. Browse, H. Massey (*Freemason*), and R. W. Little (Secretary).

After the formal business had been transacted,

Bro. Thomas W. White said he had much pleasure in moving, pursuant to notice, that the rank of honorary Vice-Patron be conferred on Bro. T. S. Howell, the honorary medical officer of the Institution. On the 21st Oct., 1852, the committee received a letter from Bro. Howell, in which he offered to serve the Institution as its honorary medical officer. On the 13th Jan., 1853, he was appointed, and from that time downwards had most kindly and attentively acted in the capacity to which he had been chosen. The brethren would, of course, all remember the services he had rendered at the time of the outbreak of scarlet fever in the School two or three years ago. Last year, when the School was laid up with the mumps, he attended to all the girls with his usual kindness, attention, and efficiency. When Miss Jarwood, the matron, was very ill, and some of the House Committee were sent for one day, Bro. Howell's partner, Mr. Edie, saw them, and told them in case any further advice should be considered necessary they were not to wait for authorisation, but to send for it immediately. They thought it was necessary, and they sent for Mr. Hilton, whose fees Bro. Howell paid out of his own pocket. When the Committee heard of that they enquired what the amount of the fees was, and finding it was forty guineas, they drew a cheque for the amount, and handed it to Bro. Howell. He, however, returned it, and refused altogether to receive it. It had, therefore, been thought but due to Bro. Howell that he should be elected an honorary Vice-Patron, he being already an honorary Vice-President.

Bro. John Symonds said he should be very glad to second that motion. He belonged to the House Committee at the time when Bro. Howell kindly tendered his services, and had had an opportunity of witnessing the great and tender care which Bro. Howell always showed to the girls in the School. Bro. White had been able to speak for himself of the more recent period of Bro. Howell's service, but he could not speak of the much older period. He (Bro. Symonds), who was an older Mason, and a very old member of the House Committee, could speak of the early as well as the late period of their history, and he could say that whether serving more recent House Committees or the old one, or serving the interest of the School, Bro. Howell was well deserving of the compliment they proposed to pay him.

The Chairman said he also could bear testimony to the truth of all that had been said. He had been a member of the House Committee many years, and had seen that Bro. Howell had paid great attention to his duties, and had given entire satisfaction to every member of the House Committee.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

Bro. Griffiths Smith rose to propose that the rank of honorary Vice-President should be conferred upon Bro. Peter Matthews. His reason for proposing it was that Bro. Peter Matthews had been the honorary surgeon dentist of the Institution for 30 or 40 years. He was now 70 years of age, and was obliged to have a carriage every time he went to the school. As he had been so many years honorary surgeon dentist to the School, it was but right that the rank of honorary Vice-President should be conferred upon him.

Bro. H. Browse seconded the motion, which was also put and adopted without a dissentient.

Bro. Griffiths Smith proposed and Bro. H. Browse seconded Lords Carnarvon and Skelmersdale to fill the two vacant trusteeships to the Institution, which was also unhesitatingly adopted.

The Court settled the list of candidates for next election in October. There were 30 candidates, but will only be six vacancies, to make up the number of children educated in the school to 150.

A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The Quarterly Court of Subscribers of this Institution was held on Monday, July 12th, at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. Major J. Creaton, Vice-Patron, in the chair. Among the other brethren present were Bros. R. B. Webster, John Hervey, James Terry, H. Massey (*Freemason*), W. F. C. Moutrie, G. R. Ware, H. Browse, W. C. Parsons, W. Clifton Crick, and F. Binckes, Secretary. There was nothing but formal business to be transacted, and after settling the list of 57 candidates, nine to be elected, for the October election, the Committee adjourned.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The monthly meeting took place on the 14th July at Freemasons' Hall, present W. Bro. John Creaton, P.G.D., Vice-Patron, in the chair; Bros. John Newton, Griffiths Smith, Thomas W. White, Samuel Rawson, C. A. Cottelbrune, William Stephens, James Brett, H. M. Levy, William Wilson, and Thomas Cubitt. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and verified.

The deaths of two male annuitants were reported, one having received £107 and the other £159.

The Report of the Finance Committee was read and adopted, and cheques for various amounts were ordered to be signed. The Treasurer was authorized to purchase Stock for both the Male and Widows' Fund, pursuant to recommendation of Finance Committee.

Petitions were received from three male candidates. All being regular, they were directed to be placed on the list for election in May next.

Application was made on behalf of two of the newly-elected annuitants for permission to reside in the asylum at Croydon, which was unanimously granted.

The Committee very kindly granted the use of the hall for an entertainment to be given to the residents in the course of the next fortnight, similar to last year, and also resolved to defray its cost.

Some further business having been transacted, the Committee adjourned.

INUNDATIONS IN FRANCE.

The Committee of the Universal Alliance, 41, Pall Mall, London, has received the following letter from Madame la Maréchale de MacMahon, addressed to Major de Winton:—

"Versailles, 2 Juillet, 1875.

"Monsieur,

"Je vous prie de recevoir tous mes remerciements pour l'emprétement avec lequel vous avez organisé à Londres une souscription en faveur des inondés du midi de la France. Je suis très reconnaissante de ce témoignage d'intérêt donné par l'Angleterre, et je vous demanderai d'être mon interprète auprès de ceux qui ont bien voulu vous seconder dans cette bonne œuvre.

"Quant aux dons en nature, les frais de transport nous obligent à les refuser, à moins que l'on ne veuille les envoyer à Paris, au Palais de l'Industrie, en payant le port.

"Recevez, Monsieur, l'assurance de mes sentiments distingués.

(Signed) "Maréchale de MacMahon."

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS.

For the Week ending Friday, July 23, 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, JULY 17.

- Lodge 1185, Lewis, King's Arms, Wood Green.
- " 1326, Lebanon, Lion Hotel, Lion Square, Hampton (Installation).
- " 1329, Sphinx, Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge.
- " 1364, Earl of Zetland, Old Town Hall, Hackney.
- Manchester Lodge of Instruction (179), Yorkshire Grey, 77, London-st., Fitzroy-sq., at 8; Bro. H. Ash, Prec.
- Lily Lodge of Instruction (820), Greyhound, Richmond.
- Star Lodge of Instruction (1275), Marquis of Granby, New Cross-road, at 7; Bros. Macdonald and Griffin, Preceptors.

MONDAY, JULY 19.

- Lodge 1159, Marquis of Dalhousie, Freemasons' Hall.
- 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. Gotheil, 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-st., at 8; Bro. J. R. Stacey, Preceptor.
- Wellington Lodge of Instruction (548), White Swan, Deptford, at 8; Bros. Shaw and Griffin, Preceptors.
- 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, 343, Strand, at 8.
- Perfect Ashlar Lodge of Instruction (1178), Victoria Tavern, Lower-road, Rotherhithe, at 8; Bro. C. W. Kent, Preceptor.

TUESDAY, JULY 20.

- Board of General Purposes, at 3.
- Lodge 704, Camden, Bull and Gate, Kentish Town.
- " 857, St. Mark's, Half-Moon Tavern, Herne Hill.
- " 1441, Ivy, Windsor Castle, Southwark Bridge-road. (Emergency).
- Chap. 186, Industry, Freemasons' Hall.
- Yarborough Lodge of Instruction (554), Green Dragon, Stepney, at 8; Bro. Barnes, P.M., Preceptor.
- Domestic Lodge of Instruction, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New-road, at 8; Bro. Larham, Preceptor.
- Faith Lodge of Instruction (141), Refreshment Rooms, Victoria-st. (opposite Westminster Palace Hotel), at 8; Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, 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.
- Israel Lodge of Instruction, Rising Sun Tavern, Globe-road, at 7.30.
- Sydney Lodge of Instruction, White Hart Hotel, Upper Norwood; Bro. H. Frances, Preceptor.
- Royal Arthur Lodge of Instruction (No. 1360), Prince's Head, York-road, Battersea, at 8; Bro. G. King, P.M., Preceptor.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21.

- General Committee Grand Chapter, at 3.
- Grand Mark Lodge Festival (see Advt.)
- Lodge of Benevolence, at 6.
- " 619, Beadon, Greyhound Tavern, Dulwich.
- " 1044, Wandsworth, Spread Eagle, Wandsworth.
- " 1382, Corinthian, George Inn, Cubitt Town.
- Chap. 192, Lion and Lamb, Terminus Hotel, Cannon-st.
- Mount Lebanon Lodge of Instruction (73), Windsor Castle Tavern, Southwark-bridge-road, at 8; Bro. Noke, P.M., Preceptor.
- Pythagorean Lodge of Instruction (79), Prince of Orange, Greenwich, at 8; Bro. J. Robt. Nash, Preceptor.
- 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.
- Southwark Lodge of Instruction (879), Southwark Park Tavern, Southwark Park.
- Dalston Lodge of Instruction (975), Havelock Tavern, Albion-road, Dalston, E.
- United Strength Lodge of Instruction (228), the Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales's-road, Kentish-town, at 8; Bro. J. N. Frost, Preceptor.
- Mount Edgumbe Lodge of Instruction (1446), 19 Jermyn-street, St. James's, at 8; Bro. Mander, Preceptor.

THURSDAY, JULY 22.

- House Committee, Girls' School, at 4.
- Lodge 871, Royal Oak, White Swan, High-st., Deptford.
- Egyptian Lodge of Instruction (27), Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-st., at 7.30; J. Crawley, Preceptor.
- Albert Edward Lodge of Instruction, King's Arms Hotel, Peckham Rye; W. W. Ayling, Hon. Sec.
- 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, 12, Ponsonby-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.
- Salisbury Lodge of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-st., Regent-st., at 8; Bro. Mander, Preceptor.

FRIDAY, JULY 23.

- House Committee Boys' School, at 3.
- Lodge 1293, Burdett, Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court.
- " 1297, West Kent, Forest Hill Hotel, Forest Hill.
- Union Waterloo Lodge of Instruction (13), Earl of Chatham, Thomas-st., Woolwich, at 8; Bros. Davis and Macdonald, Preceptors.
- 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.
- Pannure Lodge of Instruction (720), Balham Hotel, Balham, 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 (1293), 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, Preceptor.
- 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.
- Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, 269, Pentonville-road, at 7; Bro. T. Adams, P.G.P., Preceptor.
- United Pilgrims Lodge of Instruction, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New Road, at 7; Bro. M. S. Larham, Preceptor.
- St. James's Lodge of Instruction, New Tanners' Arms, Grange-road, Bermondsey, at 8; Bro. Joshua Howes, P.M. 765, 879, 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 Coutts Lodge of Instruction (1278), Approach Tavern, Approach-road, Victoria Park, at 8; Bro. J. Crawley, Preceptor.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN WEST LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

For the Week ending Saturday, July 24, 1875.

MONDAY, JULY 19.

- Lodge 1502, Israel, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 6.
- Everton Lodge of Instruction (823), Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7.30.
- Chap. 995, Furness, Masonic Temple, Ulverstone.

TUESDAY, JULY 20.

- Lodge 667, Alliance, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 6.
- " 1276, Warren, Seacombe Hotel, Seacombe, at 6.
- " 1225, Hindpool, Hartington Hotel, Barrow-in-Furness.

- Merchants' Lodge of Instruction (241), Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 6.
- Downshire Lodge of Instruction (594), Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21.

- Lodge 823, Everton, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 9.
- " 1086, Walton, St. Lawrence's Schools, Kirkdale, at 6.
- " 1345, Victoria, Cross Keys, Eccles.
- " 1353, Duke of Lancaster, Athenæum, Lancaster.
- Chap. 580, Unity, Wheatsheaf Inn, Ormskirk, at 4.
- Harmonic Lodge of Instruction (216), Mona Hotel, James-street, Liverpool, at 8.

THURSDAY, JULY 22.

- Lodge 594, Downshire, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 6.
- Chap. 292, Liverpool, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 6.
- " 1086, Walton, St. Lawrence Schools, Kirkdale.
- Duke of Edinburgh Lodge of Instruction (1182), 150, Park-lane, Liverpool, at 7.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN EAST LANCASHIRE.

For the Week ending Saturday, July 24, 1875.

MONDAY, JULY 19.

- Lodge 1030, Egerton, George Hotel, Heaton-Norris, at 6.30.
- " 1170, St. George, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester, at 6.
- Chap. 210, Faith, Nottingham Castle Inn, Denton, at 6.

TUESDAY, JULY 20.

- Lodge 126, Silent Temple, Cross Keys Inn, Burnley, at 6.
- " 226, Benevolence, Red Lion Hotel, Littleborough, at 7.30.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21.

- Lodge 128, Prince Edwin, Bridge Inn, Bury, at 7.
- " 210, Duke of Athol, Nottingham Castle Inn, Denton, at 6.
- " 266, Naphtali, Masonic Rooms, Heywood, at 7.
- " 274, Tranquillity, Boar's Head Inn, Newchurch, at 6.30.
- " 288, Harmony, Masonic Hall, Todmorden, at 7.30.
- " 363, Keystone, New Inn, Whitworth, near Rochdale, at 7.
- " 561, Faith, Drovers' Inn, Openshaw, at 6.
- " 633, Yarborough, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester, at 6.
- " 1161, De Grey and Ripon, Corporation Hotel, Ardwick, at 6.
- Chap. 344, Beauty, Bull's Head Inn, Radcliffe, at 6.

THURSDAY, JULY 22.

- Lodge 78, Imperial George, Assheton Arms, Middleton, at 6.
- " 215, Commerce, Commercial Inn, Haslingden, at 7.
- " 269, Fidelity, White Bull Hotel, Blackburn, at 7.
- " 348, St. John, Bull's Head Inn, Bolton, at 6.30.
- " 367, Probity and Freedom, Bull's Head Inn, Smallbridge, at 7.
- " 935, Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Salford, at 6.
- " 1459, Ashbury, Justice Birch Hotel, West Gorton, at 6.
- Chap. 116, Cana, Swan Hotel, Colne, at 6.
- Preceptory, Plains of Mamre, Cross Keys Inn, Burnley, at 6.

FRIDAY, JULY 23.

- Chap. 152, Virtue, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester, at 6.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN GLASGOW AND VICINITY.

For the week ending Saturday, July 24, 1875.

All the Meetings take place at Eight o'clock.

MONDAY, JULY 19.

- Lodge 556, Clydesdale, 106, Rose Street.
- Preceptory, St. Mungo, Masonic Hall, 213, Buchanan-street.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21.

- Lodge 117, Partick St. Mary's, Partick.
- Chap. 150, St. John, Masonic Hall, Shettleston.

SATURDAY, JULY 24.

- Lodge 308, St. John's Woodhall, Freemasons' Hall, Holytown.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN EDINBURGH AND VICINITY.

For the Week ending Saturday, July 24, 1875.

MONDAY, JULY 19.

- Lodge 44, St. Luke, Freemasons' Hall, George-street.

TUESDAY, JULY 20.

- Lodge 36, St. David, Ship Hotel, East Register-street.
- " 495, Rifle, Freemasons' Hall, George-street.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21.

- Lodge 160, Roman Eagle, Iona Hotel, Nicolson-st.

THURSDAY, JULY 22.

- Lodge 8, Journeyman, Masonic Hall, Blackfriars-st.
- " 392, Caledonian, Freemasons' Hall, George-street.