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GRAND FESTIVAL.

The annual meeting of Grand Lodge for the installation of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, was held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall. As His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has not yet returned from his eastern tour, his place was occupied by the Pro Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, who had Col. Burdett, Prov. Grand Master of Middlesex, on his right, as Deputy Grand Master, while Bro. F. Pattison took the chair of Senior Grand Warden, and Bro. John Havers, that of Junior Grand Warden. The throne occupied by the Prince of Wales last year at the Albert Hall, surmounted by the Masonic banner, was placed for the Pro Grand Master, and the beautiful special carpet, woven expressly for the installation of the Prince of Wales, was again laid down the whole length of the temple for the procession of Grand Officers. The arrangements for accommodating an additional number of brethren was admirable. The Senior Warden's chair was placed nearer the porch, and the Junior Warden's chair was brought several feet forward. The extra space thus given was filled with seats, all of which were occupied. Grand Lodge was fully attended. Among the brethren present were Bros. Lord Tenterden, S. Rawson, J. M. Clabon, Rev. R. J. Simpson, McIntyre, Q.C., F. Roxburgh, Q.C., Dr. Woodman, the Rev. Sir J. Warren Hayes, Rev. S. R. Wigram, Rev. C. J. Martyn, Sir Michael Costa, Raynham, W. Stewart, A. J. D. Filer, R. J. Spiers, Major Platt, S. Tomkins Grand Treasurer; John Hervey, Grand Secretary; W. Speed, Grand Deacon; H. Browse, James Glaisher, J. A. Rucker, John B. Monckton, Peter De L. Long, Dr. Erasmus Wilson, Col. Creaton, J. C. Parkinson, Dr. Alfred Meadows, F. A. Philbrick, Q. C., Benj. Head, Thos. Fenn, C. A. Milton, Hyde Pullen, Brackstone Baker, Ex. Sheriff Hutton, Rev. Dr. Cox, James Mason, Wilhelm Ganz, and others.

At five o'clock the organ was played by Herr Wilhelm Kuhe, and headed by Sir Albert Woods, Garter, Grand Director of Ceremonies the Grand Stewards of the year and Grand Officers entered, the Earl of Carnarvon, as Pro Grand Master, entering with the others, and taking his seat on the throne amidst the applause of the brethren.

Grand Lodge having been formally opened

The Earl of Carnarvon said,—The next duty I have to perform can be stated in a very few words; indeed, it is simply to announce to this Grand Lodge that His Royal Highness our Most Worshipful Grand Master, absent to-day, I regret, from the midst of us, has been pleased to appoint me as Pro Grand Master. (Loud applause). On this, of course, all comment on my part is necessarily superfluous, and the ordinary course of proceedings will follow.

Sir Albert Woods then proclaimed the Earl of Carnarvon as Pro Grand Master, and the customary salute followed.

The Earl of Carnarvon again rose and said—Brethren, I do not address you now to thank you for the manner in which you have received the announcement which it was my duty as

a matter of form to lay before you. I have had already too many and too long evidences of your good will towards me to say anything on that point; but it is my duty now to make a second announcement to you, and one which I am satisfied will give great gratification to all who are in Grand Lodge, that His Royal Highness, the most Worshipful Grand Master, has been pleased to name my noble friend Lord Skelmersdale as the Deputy Grand Master (Applause), and take this opportunity of explaining, on behalf of my noble friend and brother, how deeply grieved he is to be unable to-day to be present. His absence is due to a great family affliction which effectually prevents him from being in attendance here to-day. Brethren, I have to announce that Lord Skelmersdale is the Deputy Grand Master.

The following brethren were then invested with the insignia of Grand Office, the Earl of Carnarvon first announcing that the Prince of Wales had been pleased to appoint them:—The Earl of Donoughmore, Senior Grand Warden; the Hon. William Warren Vernon, Junior Grand Warden; the Revs. Spencer Robert Wigram and Charles William Arnold, Grand Chaplains; Samuel Tomkins (Willis, Percival, and Co., bankers, Lombard-street), Grand Treasurer; Æ. J. McIntyre, Q.C., Grand Registrar; John Hervey, Grand Secretary; E. E. Wendt, Grand Secretary for German Correspondence; Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Burchell and T. W. Boord, M.P., Senior Grand Deacons; Ed. Barron and John M. Case, Junior Grand Deacons; F. Pepys Cockerell, Grand Superintendent of Works; Sir Albert Woods (Garter), Grand Director of Ceremonies; Dr. W. Rhys Williams, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies; Wm. F. Nettleship, Grand Sword Bearer; Wilhelm Kuhe, Grand Organist; E. P. Albert, Grand Pursuivant; S. G. Foxall, Assistant Grand Pursuivant; and C. B. Payne, Grand Tyler.

After these brethren had been formally saluted, the Grand Secretary read the following list of Grand Stewards for the year:—Bros. Thomas Taylor Smith, 1; John Boyd, 23; John Lewis Geiger, 8; Wm. Hope, M.D., 2; Arthur Curtis Valey, 4; John Cory Havers, 5; Winthrop Mackworth Praed, 6; Edmund Nash, M.D., 14; Robert Berridge, 21; Thos. Clarke Tatham, 26; Arthur Jas. Rickens Trundell, 29; Leonard Alfred Kew, 46; Felix Sumner Knyvett, 58; John Giles Chancellor, 60; Henry John Reynolds, 91; Geo. Marshall, 99; Wm. George Cusins, 197; Gabriel Prior Goldney, 259.

Grand Lodge was thereupon closed and the brethren adjourned to a splendid banquet at Freemasons' Tavern, at which the Earl of Carnarvon presided. This banquet, which was admirably supplied, was superintended by Mr. Dawkins, of the Freemasons' Tavern, and gave general satisfaction. The providing of it, and the general arrangements reflected the highest credit on the Grand Stewards, of whom the following is a list:—President: Bro. George N. Johnson, 1; Treasurer, Bro. George R. Thervill; Hon. Sec., Bro. Charles J. Morgan, 8; Bros. Stephen Pearce, 2; Alfred Meadows, 4; William H. Clarke, 5; William B. Colman, 6; Augustus C. Sadler, 14; Thomas Wilson, 21; W. N. C. D'Arcy, 26; F. Farnan, jun., 22; George F. Humphrey, 49; Alfred J. Hollington, 58; William L. Wheeler, 60; John T. Wimperis, 91; William R. Winch, 99; Thomas G. Bullen, 197; John Scott, 259.

After the banquet and before the cloth was uncovered the Earl of Carnarvon rose, and said: Brethren, I sincerely regret that through unexpected circumstances I shall be obliged to retire from the chair this evening. I had hoped indeed that His Royal Highness, our Grand Master, might have returned to England in time to fill the chair on this great anniversary of the Masonic year. Unfortunately he has not been able to complete his journey and to reach this country in time. I had hoped also that my noble friend and brother, Lord Skelmersdale, might, as Deputy Grand Master, have also been present on the occasion. He has, unhappily, as I mentioned in Grand Lodge, been obliged to absent himself in consequence of a great family affliction. The task, therefore, suddenly, and without notice, fell upon me, and I regret to say that business over which I have really and literally no control, obliges me at this moment to

ask your indulgence, and to leave you. It is personally a matter of extreme regret to me—I can hardly say how great regret. At the same time I know that all of you in this room know me so well that they are aware how reluctantly I tear myself away from such an assembly, and that I would not do so were it not that the necessity is absolutely imperative. Brethren, in taking my leave of you, I will only venture to express the hope which I know exists in the minds of every Mason in this room, that before very long His Royal Highness, may once more be with us. (Hear hear). I am satisfied that whenever he does return he will receive one of those cordial and enthusiastic welcomes such as he can receive nowhere out of the craft. Brethren: His Royal Highness has during the last few months not merely pursued a journey of great personal interest, but he has also performed a great and high political duty. (Applause). He has passed through the length and breadth of our Indian Empire. He has conciliated affections; he has cemented those blocks—those colossal blocks—of empire by his happy temper by his kindly consideration, by his political tact; and he has come away from the East, having discharged, and successfully discharged, a great public duty. (Hear hear.) On the other hand, we may also feel, and feel with great satisfaction, that while discharging those great political duties, he has never been forgetful of those Masonic obligations which he undertook here. Through the length and breadth of India he has received deputations; he has attended spectacles with reference to Masonry, which have given us all the greatest delight. He has discharged Masonic duties at Gibraltar; and he is, I observe, about to do the same at Lisbon; and if, as I saw lately in the newspapers, he has deliberately omitted to perform a Masonic duty in Malta, it was due to his political tact, and his knowledge and appreciation of the political circumstances of the Island. In a single word, I am satisfied that wherever His Royal Highness had been during the last three or four months he has maintained, and he has raised to a still higher point the credit and the character of English Masonry. (Cheers.) Brethren, I have nothing further to add except to express my deep personal regret at being obliged to absent myself, and I hope that under the presidency of my Right Worshipful brother on my right (Col. Burdett) who will now take my place, everything that is good and everything that is agreeable will ensue during the course of the evening. I wish you all an extremely good night.

His lordship then left the hall, conducted by Bro. Hervey and Sir Albert Woods, all the brethren standing. Col. Burdett took the chair in his lordship's absence, and grace was afterwards sung.

In giving the toast of "Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen," the Chairman said that all Masons were pleased that Her Majesty should return to this country after her Continental trip, refreshed with the change of air and scene, and with renewed strength.

The Chairman next proposed "Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales," and in doing so said that all the brethren would receive it with great delight. They all knew that Her Royal Highness felt considerable reluctance to the Prince going to what was felt to be an unhealthy country; but her feelings of patriotism prompted her to resist any personal objection to the step. We all know the influence a wife exercises over a husband; but she refrained from objecting to his travelling and smothered those feelings which she felt at parting with one so near and dear to her for the sake of the country to which we were happy to say she now belonged.

The Chairman next proposed "His Royal Highness the Grand Master." All Masons had the greatest wish to see him once more among them, and they hoped to do so. He did his duties as a Mason in a most enthusiastic manner, of which all classes had had experience. There never had been the slightest whisper of any deficiency of duty on his part, and Masons were all gratified that he performed his Masonic duties not only in this country but wherever he went. His journey to the East would produce most valuable fruits to Masonry. Whether in India, Spain, or Portugal, he had shown himself

anxious to assist in every way he could the cause of Masonry. When he came back he would be received with the greatest enthusiasm. (Great applause.)

The Chairman next proposed "The M.W. the Pro Grand Master," and said that his lordship was so completely overwhelmed with public business that he had been obliged to leave the brethren earlier than he wished. Although in a short time he had suffered severe domestic affliction and been burdened with political work, he had never deserted his allegiance to Freemasonry. He had stuck to the Order in the kindest and most enthusiastic way, and he would always be well remembered by the brethren.

The Chairman then gave "The R.W. the Deputy Grand Master," and expressed his regret that domestic affliction was the cause of his absence. In all parts of England Lord Skelmersdale was well known to Freemasons, and those who did not now know his lordship, when they came to know him would be pleased not only with his Masonry but his kind and genial nature.

The Chairman next said that he had hitherto had to speak of individuals; he had now to speak of large bodies, and would propose "The Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland." Grand Lodge of England was intimately connected with them, and was on terms of the warmest and closest friendship with them. (Cheers.)

Lord Tenterden proposed "The R.W. the Provincial Grand Masters." Every Mason knew how ably these brethren discharged their duties, and with what energy and tact they performed their functions. The chair could not be better filled than by Col. Burdett, Prov. Grand Master of Middlesex, whose health as Chairman he would propose at the same time. It was not necessary to speak of Col. Burdett's abilities in that hall, as they were known to the whole Craft. The mere mention of his name was sufficient to secure a cordial reception. (Applause.) With the toast he would couple also the name of Bro. Ramsay, the District Grand Master of the Punjab. They had heard a great deal that evening of the reception of the Prince of Wales in India by Masons; and he might inform them that the District of the Punjab had seventeen active working Grand Lodges, and five chapters. To the provinces he wished prosperity.

The Chairman, in reply, said how much gratified he felt at the complimentary remarks of Lord Tenterden; but he could assure the brethren that he had only performed his duty, and he was glad that he had done so to the satisfaction of the Craft. Some people might perhaps find fault with Provincial Grand Masters; but they were few; and as long as he was a Prov. Grand Master, he would endeavour to do his duty.

Bro. Ramsay also replied.

The Chairman next proposed "The R.W. the Grand Wardens, and other Grand Officers, Past and Present," and complimented them on the way in which they one and all discharged their responsibilities.

The Hon. W. W. Vernon, J.G.W., responded.

The Chairman then proposed "The Masonic Charities," which he strongly recommended to the attention of the brethren. He alluded to the growth of these institutions, and felt confident that every one would exert himself to the utmost to maintain them in their condition of prosperity. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. James Terry, in reply said, he was completely taken by surprise in being called upon to respond, as it was a well known rule in Grand Lodge that the Secretary of the Institution whose festival was immediately following Grand Festival, should have the opportunity and pleasure of replying to so acceptable a toast to the great body of Freemasons. In the absence of the Secretaries of the other Educational Institutions, however, it devolved on him to reply. He could only but express the hope that the success, and what he might term the only increased success which attended the festival of the Benevolent Institution in February last, might be renewed at the approaching festival of the Girls' School and the Boys' School. When he told the brethren that the three Institutions received over £30,000 last year, he ventured to hope that

when the month of June came, they would be able to announce a much larger sum. The reason he said so was that the demands on the Institutions were largely increasing, and therefore they called on the body of the Craft to give them the means of meeting them. They had 40 applicants for the Girls' School, 59 for the Boys', and 57 for the Benevolent Institution. Not more than one-third could be accommodated at the Educational Institutions, and therefore it behoved the Craft to do all they could and more than they were now doing. With respect to the Benevolent Institution whose festival had just been held, more than £9400 had been received. Permit him to say that the committee of the institution, being mindful of the obligation devolving upon them, had resolved to respond to this liberality by the addition of £4 to each annuity. At a meeting held only the day before they resolved to do this; but the brethren must remember that this involved an additional outlay of nearly £1000 a year. He appealed to the new blood, the incoming members, to lend their assistance. (Great cheering.)

The Chairman then gave "The Grand Stewards of the year," and thanked them for their kind attention to the comforts of the brethren.

Bro. Johnson replied, and said that nine-tenths of the work fell on the Secretary. This office was filled this year by Bro. C. J. Morgan, without whom the Grand Stewards would have fallen into complete confusion. His exertions certainly deserved praise, and if anything should be in the gift of Grand Lodge all the Stewards hoped it might fall on Bro. Morgan. (Cheers.)

The remainder of the evening was spent in the Temple, where a beautiful concert was given under the conductorship of Herr Wilhelm Kuhe and Herr Wilhelm Ganz. Madame Liebhart, Miss Annie Sinclair, Madame Osborne Williams, and Bros. George Perren, Large, Carter, and Theodore Distin were the vocalists engaged.

Bro. Harker was toastmaster.

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

POLISH NATIONAL LODGE (No. 534).—The annual gathering of this celebrated lodge was held on Thursday, April 13th, at Freemasons' Hall, for the installation of the W.M. Bro. F. Rath, and a right noble meeting it was, some 70 brethren being present, besides numerous visitors. The lodge was summoned for 4.30 p.m. The working of this lodge was most excellent, and the installation ceremony was duly performed, much to the credit of the Installing Master, after which the newly-elected W.M. initiated five new members, and did the work admirably, as well as the officers, who were equally well up in all they had to do. Splendid order and equally splendid attention were given. The following brethren are the officers:—S.W., J. H. Cumming; J.W., G. T. Ebner; S.D., J. Aspinall; J.D., J. S. Taylor; I.G., A. N. Jagielski; M.C., G. E. C. Jackson; Treas., our right worthy Bro. John Boyd; and the ever-active and well-known Bro. W. P. P. Sec. A lodge thus constituted can only be a success and worshipful. Amongst the visitors on this occasion were many well-known brethren, Bros. Colonel Peters, F. Binckes, Adlard, Hyde Pollen, S. White, T. Burdett Yeoman, and many others. After the business of the lodge was finished, the brethren adjourned to the banquet room and sat down to a table sumptuously laden with all the delicacies of the season. Here again the W.M. had evidently done his duty, in company with the Wine Steward, Bro. Paas, who studied the taste of every brother present. Such attention does honour to the lodge. Grace was said by the W.M., and the cloth removed. After some few minutes the W.M. called the brethren to order, and gave the toast of "The Queen and the Craft;" said,—As your W.M., nothing gives me greater pleasure, than to pay a tribute of attachment and loyalty to the sovereign lady of these realms, who adorns the throne, and lovingly and mightily sways its sceptre: we are bound to admire and love her, because of her attachment to our royal and ancient Order. Brethren—"The Queen and the Craft." After the National Anthem was sung the W.M. gave the next toast, "The Grand Master of the Craft, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," remarked there was unfortunately a great deal of cheap praise and adulation lavished on those who often by mere chance were called upon to occupy places of trust in the Government, but in our G.M. we have one who, when our noble Order stood in jeopardy, accepted the Masonic throne, and thus made firmer than ever the strength and unity of the brotherhood, for which we pay him all honour. Brethren, a good fire for the M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. Brethren, I will now give you the toast of the Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Carnarvon, who is a gentleman and nobleman well suited and fitted to fulfil the high and responsible office which he has been called to. It is well known how thoroughly he acquits himself of the duties

imposed upon him. He is the right man in the right place; we will therefore pay him the honour which is his due. To his health, and may he long continue in the midst of us and have our confidence. To order, brethren, whilst with great pleasure I give to you "The Deputy Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers." I cannot say more of the D.G.M. and officers than I have of the Pro Grand Master. We know that he has the full confidence, and they also, of the Craft, otherwise they would not have been called to those high and most honourable offices. Bro. P. M. Cooke proposed "The Health of the W.M." in eulogistic terms, and the W.M. Rath responded by saying how grateful he felt by having the confidence of the brethren of the lodge, and that whilst he ruled he trusted peace and prosperity would go hand in hand together. He felt that the duties of governing so large a lodge involved much time and seriousness, especially when this lodge was composed of men of so high an order of intellect. I shall do my duty, and state, like Marshal MacMahon, "J'y suis, j'y resti." With heartfelt thanks please accept the same. The toast of "The Initiates" was given with enthusiasm and heartily responded to. The W.M. said that there was no more pleasing duty to perform that evening than that of having to propose "The Health of the Visitors." The toast was responded to by Bros. Hyde Pollen, and Binckes in terms of acceptability. The toast of "The Tyler" brought one of the most pleasurable evenings to a close that one might ever wish to experience. "Vive la" Polish National Lodge.

GREAT NORTHERN LODGE (No. 1287).

The last meeting of the season was held on Thursday, 20th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Bro. E. Lancaster, W.M., presiding, supported by Bros. E. Staton, P.M. and Sec., acting S.W.; Jupe, J.W.; West, S.D.; Robinson, J.D.; Arkell, I.G.; Rawles, Tyler. There were also present I.P.M. Forbes, P.M. Webb, Treas.; and Bros. Buszard, Owen, Schmerl, Hawtin, and others. The business before the lodge was the raising of Bros. Kempton and G. Buszard and the passing of Bro. Farey, which was very carefully done by the W.M. On the completion the brethren adjourned for refreshment, and the pleasure of the evening was greatly enhanced by the singing of several of the brethren.

STOCKWELL LODGE (No. 1339).

The installation meeting of the above lodge was held on Thursday, April 22nd, at the Tulse Hill Hotel, there being present Bros. Benham, W.M.; J. Pain, W.M. elect; Bowyer, J.W.; Frances, P.G.S.D., Sec.; Coe, S.D.; P. Mirjer, J.D.; Harris, I.G.; Brighton, P.M.; Klenck, P.M.; Dubiney, F. Sawyer, Cocks, Grist, C. H. Benham, jun.; Kay, Wm. Harris, H. Hart, Turner, W. H. Boswell, Horncastle, Hinksman, H. S. Hart, Clarke, F. Knibbs, R. J. Knibbs, Mason, Footman, and others. Visitors: Bros. Simpson, P.G. Chaplain; Coward, P.G. Org.; Stork, Boddy, W.M. 1044; Alfatt, 192; Atkins, P.M. 813; Quellerton, 1329; Goldsmid, 419; Mellick, 857; Dodson, P.M. 72; Dann, S.D. 72; Hancock, 1329; and Newman, 1385. The business of the evening consisted of the initiation of Mr. Wm. Scrase, the passing of Bros. Turner and Cocks, the raising of Bros. Boswell, and Mellick, 857; and Benham, jun.; and the installation of Bro. J. Pain. The initiation and passings were performed by the W.M., and the raisings by Bro. Frances, P.M., P.G.S.D.; the installation by the W.M., and all the ceremonies were very ably rendered. Officers appointed: Bros. Bassett, S.W.; Bowyer, J.W.; Frances, P.M., Sec.; Hammerton, P.M., Treas.; Coe, S.D.; Bowyer, J.D.; and Harris, I.G. The incoming W.M., as a final duty, presented, in the name of the lodge, with a few appropriate words, a jewel to the immediate P.M., Bro. Benham, who acknowledged the gift. This being a Banner Lodge, the W.M. presented the lodge with a banner of his arms. The brethren then adjourned to the grounds to witness a beautiful display of fireworks, which had been provided by the W.M., Bro. Pain, and were much delighted at the artistic skill which had been employed in blending in a brilliant harmony pyrotechnic colours of every hue. The brethren gave three hearty cheers at the conclusion, and returned to the lodge-room, where an excellent banquet awaited them. Afterwards the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given. The immediate P.M. proposed the toast of "The W.M.," remarking that he was one of the founders, and he had no doubt the prosperity of the lodge would continue under his care. He was sure he would be found quite equal to the work of the lodge, and that the brethren would feel quite satisfied with the choice they had made. Bro. Pain, in reply, said he was one of those who formed the lodge in 1871, and he had been S.W. of it for three years in succession, but his business avocations would not allow of his taking the chair till this time, for he did not wish to have the office of W.M. until he felt quite sure of being able to fill the post with satisfaction. He thanked them sincerely for the manner in which they had drunk his health. The toast of "The Initiate" was received and replied to. "The Visitors" was replied to by Bro. Simpson, P.G.C., who testified to the delight he had experienced in being present that evening. He was much pleased at the manner the various ceremonies had been gone through. The ceremonies in Freemasonry were very beautiful, and he was sure the most indifferent would not fail to be impressed with them, by hearing them repeatedly so well done as they had been by the brethren he had heard that evening. As the constant dropping of water on the hardest stone would in time wear its way into it, so must the constant hearing of the tenets of Freemasonry leave its impression on the minds of those who listened to them. He thanked them for the cordial manner in which they had received the toast. Bro. Coward, P.G.O., also replied in a few appropriate words. The toast of "The Immediate P.M. and the P.M.'s" were given, and replied to by Bros. Benham, Klenck, and France. The toast of "The Officers" was replied to by Bro. Brighton, P.M., S.W. pro tem., and the Tyler's toast concluded the evening.

DUKE OF CONNAUGHT LODGE (No. 1558).

—On the 13th inst. this prosperous lodge held its sixth regular meeting at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell regular meeting. Present: Bros. W. Snowden, W.M.; W. S. New-road, S.W.; T. Sleaf, J.W.; Dann, P.M., Sec.; W. Cacklen, S.W.; A. Runacres, J.D.; E. W. Boyton, D.C.; Mitchell, S.D.; F. Geider, Tyler; and the following W. Chalk, W.S.; as D.C. Bro. C. E. Power was appointed as W.S. Bros. Fish and Bott, who were candidates for passing, gave proof of proficiency, were entrusted, and retired. The lodge was then opened in the Second Degree. Bros. Dixon and Emms, who were candidates for raising, were examined, entrusted, and retired. The lodge was then opened in the Third Degree. The W.M., left the chair and Bro. Dann, P.M. and Sec., officiated as W.M. Bros. Dixon and Emms were duly admitted and raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons. The lodge was then resumed to the Second Degree, and Bros. Fish and Bott were admitted on the square and duly passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. The W.M. again took the chair. In rising, he said: It affords me great pleasure to state that the lodge owes no man anything and is in a most flourishing condition. The consecration and installation only took place in October last, and we are now 27 in number with proposing members and initiates ready to join. The funds are in hand for Grand Lodge dues; we have also a fund for benevolence. I would suggest that £5 5s. from the general fund be given to B.O. Mitchell for the Girls' School, and I shall be pleased to hand him a guinea on my own account for the same purpose. I think the brethren will admit that I have provided liberally after the labours of the lodge, although not extravagantly, and this, too, upon every occasion of meeting. This I think, brethren, is a success that few lodges can equal in so short a period of seven months. This statement was received with applause. Bro. Mitchell, S.D., proposed a vote of thanks to the W.M., and that the same be recorded in the minutes of the lodge, for his very able and efficient management of the business and funds of the lodge. This was seconded by Bro. Cacklen, S.W., and carried unanimously. The W.M. thanked the brethren for their kind expression of approbation, which he valued very much, and it would be still his constant endeavour to do all he could to promote the interests of the lodge. The W.M. rose for the second time. Brother Scott questioned the propriety or justice of charging the full amount of half-yearly subscriptions to those brethren who had recently been initiated, and contended that a reduction should be made fairly. The W.M. was quite disposed to make some reduction, but not to go into fractions. It was very difficult to draw the line. After some discussion, in which several brethren took part, Bro. Cacklen, S.W., proposed that the subscriptions be paid as usual without deduction. This was seconded by Bro. Grayson, and carried by a majority of eight to four. Proposed by Bro. Power, and seconded by Bro. Dann, that Bro. C. Lawrence, P.M. of late Lodge Castle, 36, be balloted for as a joining member of this lodge. The W.M. rose for the third time, and all Masonic business being ended the lodge was closed and adjourned till the 11th May next. The brethren then retired to the banquetting hall, where the usual provision was made in the way of a good dinner, which all seemed to enjoy. The usual toasts given upon these occasions were done justice to by the W.M., and well responded to by the brethren.

ST. DUNSTAN'S LODGE (No. 1589).—This new lodge held an emergency meeting at Anderton's Hotel on Friday, the 21st inst. Present: Bros. Dwarber, W.M.; Wellsman, S.W.; Dalwood, J.W.; Maxwell, P.G.S., I.P.M.; Tisley, Sec.; Turner, J.D.; Woodbridge, I.G.; and Bros. C. H. Stephenson, W.S., and H. F. Cox, D.C., of the Asaph Lodge, No. 1319, as visitors. The W.M. in his well-known impressive manner passed Bros. Manners, Bull, Low, Thurgood, and W. H. Clewlow to the Second Degree, and duly initiated into the Order Mr. F. C. Platts (the son of the late Bro. Platts, of No. 188). A ballot was taken and declared to be unanimous in favour of Bros. E. D. Maddick, of No. 171, and F. Farrington, of No. 55, as joining members. After the labours of the evening were concluded the brethren adjourned to "refreshment," when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the brethren spent a most enjoyable evening, agreeably enlivened with songs and recitations.

WOOLWICH.—Union Waterloo Lodge (No. 13).—A well-attended meeting of the members of this good old lodge took place on Wednesday, the 12th inst., at the Masonic Hall, William-street, Bro. T. J. Carnelly presiding, assisted by the following officers of the lodge:—C. Young, P.M.; G. Davies, P.M.; F. G. Pownall, S.W.; G. Reed, J.W.; J. Henderson, P.M. and Treas.; H. S. Syer, Sec.; J. Moore, S.D.; T. Hutton, J.D.; N. Brown, I.G.; and B. Norman, Tyler. The visitors included A. Penfold, W.M. 913; J. Laverack, 1255; J. F. Ryder, 145; J. Gregg, 687; A. J. Collier, 220; J. Coghlan, 898; and C. Jolly, 913. The lodge having been duly opened, Messrs. James Pook, of H.M.S. Buffalo, and J. F. Bell, of Plumstead, were after approval initiated into Masonry. The brethren then adjourned for refreshment, and on resuming labour Bros. Wells, Morley, Baker, and Macdaniel were passed to the Second Degree, the W.M. performing the ceremony twice, two of the candi-

dates at a time, and it is needless to say in a most excellent and impressive manner. The lodge was then resumed to the First Degree, and Bro. Pownall took occasion to thank the W.M. for placing in his hands 10 votes belonging to the lodge for the benefit of Mrs. Brown, the widow of an old and esteemed member of the lodge, she being now a candidate for the benefits of the Aged Widows' Benevolent Institution. The lodge was then closed, and again the brethren assembled round the social board, which was spread in the hall, doing away with the necessity of their adjourning to a neighbouring tavern, and there in brotherly love and harmony passed a few pleasant hours together most happily.

WOOLWICH.—Lodge Nelson (No. 700).—The usual monthly meeting of the above lodge took place at the Masonic Hall, William-street, on Wednesday, the 19th inst., and, as is the rule with this popular and excellent lodge, there was a good muster of both brethren and visitors. Among the latter were three Indian brethren, that is to say, members of a lodge in that land of "beauty and of death" just visited by our Grand Master and future King, they having lately arrived in England with detachments of the Royal Artillery, to which important branch of the service they have the honour to belong. Their mother lodge is the Rock of Gwalior, No. 1066, and from the well-known hospitality of the Nelson it may be imagined better than described the hearty reception they met with. Bro. T. Ward, the W.M., presided, supported by the following officers:—G. Bowles, P.M.; S. C. Norman, P.M.; C. W. Hobson, P.M.; S. Goddard, P.M.; T. Butt, S.W.; S. Waters, J.W.; F. Dawson, P.M. and Treas.; J. Henderson, P.M. and Sec.; A. Woodley, S.D.; J. Warren, J.D.; C. Cooke, Org.; and B. Norman, Tyler. Among the visitors were W. T. Vincent, S.W. 913; W. Weston, S.W. 1536; T. Hastings, S.W. 829; G. Spinks, J.W. 1536; E. Humphrey, 1066; R. Fletcher, 1066; W. Towers, 1066; C. Morris, 1331; W. A. Watkins, 1536; and C. J. Jolly, 913. The business before the lodge was the balloting for and initiating of Mr. J. H. Buckley, if approved, which was happily effected, and the passing of Bros. Mitchell and Challis, both ceremonies being worked by the W.M. in a style worthy of the lodge's fame; relief was then voted to two distressed brethren, and notice of motion in reference to an alteration of one of the by-laws, and then the lodge was closed in due form and the brethren adjourned to refreshment to the Red Lion, where the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and honoured by the W.M. and brethren most heartily. Bro. Humphreys responded for "The Brethren of the Rock of Gwalior Lodge," Bro. Weston for the "United Military," and Bro. C. Jolly for "The Pattison," in reply to "The Visitors," most cordially proposed by the W.M. The initiate neatly responded to his health, and Bro. Butt to a very flattering reception of "The Officers of the Lodge." The W.M. of course received, as is so well and worthily his due, an ovation, and "God Save the Queen" concluded the pleasures of the evening.

MAZAGON.—Lodge Concord (No. 757, E.C.).—The meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, on Saturday, March 18th, 1876, at 6.15 p.m. There were present W. Bros. Henderson, W.M.; W. C. Rowe, I.P.M.; B. Robinson, P.M.; O. Tomlinson, S.W.; J. Speirs, J.W.; G. Macdonald, acting Secretary; F. Bardett, Treas.; W. G. Danic, S.D.; Watson, J.D.; F. Grew, acting I.G.; J. Luke, Steward Members, Bros. May, Lean, Wilson, Visitors, W. Bros. Barrow, P.M. 944, E.C.; McKenzie, P.M. No. 944, E.C.; Rev. C. Gilder, 1100, E.C.; C. Parker, J.W. 1100, &c. The lodge was opened with prayer, and the minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed, also those of the Permanent Committee were read and adopted. The first business before the meeting was to ballot for Mr. L. Valentine Jones as a candidate for initiation; he having been elected and present was duly initiated into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry, the address, &c., being given by the S.W. in a very impressive manner, which called forth the applause of the brethren. The lodge was then opened in the Second Degree, and Bro. Watson examined as to his qualifications in the former degrees, and having passed a very creditable examination was entrusted and passed out. The lodge was then raised to the Third Degree, and Bro. Watson duly admitted and raised to the High and Sublime Degree of a M.M.; the lodge lowered to the First Degree, in due form, and all E.A. admitted. W. Bro. Henderson then rose and said he had now to claim their attention for a few minutes, while he performed the very pleasing task of presenting the testimonial which they had voted to their Immediate Past Master, W. Bro. W. C. Rowe, for his valuable services to the lodge during the year 1875, which had been of such a nature that it had not been thought right to let them pass by altogether unrewarded. They trusted that he would long be spared to appear among them wearing the Past Master's jewel and the clothing which they now asked him to accept, with the warm expressions of their affection for him as a brother Mason, and of his services as their Master. W. Bro. Henderson then pinned on to W. Bro. Rowe's breast the P.M.'s jewel of the lodge pattern, and handed to him the full set of a P.M.'s clothing. W. Bro. Rowe, who, on rising was warmly applauded, in acknowledging the gift, said: W. Master, Past Masters, officers, and brethren,—You have so taken me by surprise in presenting me with this very handsome gift, that I do not know how to return my thanks to you for the same; but I cannot allow the very unexpected compliment you have just paid me to pass by unacknowledged, although I am not prepared to thank you as I could wish, for the handsome present which has just been made to me by the lodge. I cannot feel that I have deserved such a gift, because I have simply done my best, which it was my duty to do as Master of this lodge, during the past year, and I should have been sufficiently rewarded by the knowledge that my ser-

vices and endeavours to do my duty have met with your approbation. Nevertheless, since you have been pleased to honour me in this way, I can only assure you that I shall always regard this beautiful jewel as among the most valued of the Masonic decorations which I am permitted to wear, and as regards the clothing, I trust I may be spared by the G.A.O.T.U. for many years to come, to appear here as one of your Past Masters, month after month, clothed in this or a similar costume. Again, brethren, I thank you for this very handsome gift. There being no further business before the lodge, it was closed in peace, love, and harmony at 8.30 p.m.

MAZAGON.—Lodge Truth (No. 944, E.C.).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Freemasons' Hall on Monday, the 3rd March, 1876. Present: W. Bros. W. C. Rowe, I.P.M. 757, E.C., W.M.; Alex. Mc Kenzie, P.M. and Treas.; H. W. Barrow, P.M.; Bros. C. Tudball, S.W.; C. Parker, J.W. 1100, as J.W.; Capt. S. Babington, Sec.; Rev. G. Gilder, S.D.; G. Claridge, J.D.; R. Simkins, I.G.; J. W. Seager, Tyler. Members: Bro. Claridge, and others. Visitors: Bros. Rev. C. Gilder and C. Parker. The lodge was opened with prayer at 6 p.m. punctually. The summons convening the meeting was read. The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. informed the brethren that as there was no work before the lodge in the way of initiations, &c., he had arranged for the sections of the First Degree to be worked, in which Bro. C. Tudball, S.W.; J. O. Weeks, J.W.; Capt. S. Babington, Sec.; and R. S. Simkins, I.G., had promised to take part with him in the working of the same, and should therefore proceed. W. Bro. W. C. Rowe asked all the questions, which were answered by Bros. C. Tudball, Capt. S. Babington, and Simkins in a most able manner, which was a credit to any lodge, and the W.M. expressed his entire satisfaction to those brethren who had assisted him, and hoped that they would still continue with their labours, and he had no doubt of the lodge gaining its former position in a very short time, and stated that it was his intention to continue the working of the sections at the next and other meetings, until they had gone through the whole of the fifteen sections of the First, Second, and Third Lectures, and still to do without the banquets, as every brother that was present must acknowledge that a large amount of work was gone through, and they were all enabled to return to their homes again to their own dinners, which met with the approval of all present. W. Bro. Mc Kenzie, P.M., apologised for the non-attendance of W. Bro. C. E. Mitchell, I.P.M., on account of the death of his father. The W.M. said the brethren would, he was sure, join with him in expressing their regret to their oldest P.M., and said that he would propose that a letter of condolence be sent to W. Bro. Mitchell in the name of the lodge, which was carried. There being no further work before the lodge, it was closed in peace, love, and harmony at 7.45 p.m.

WALMER.—Lord Warden Lodge (No. 1096).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Public Rooms, Deal, on the 21st inst. Bro. R. J. Emmerson, P.M., P.P.G.J.W., 1206, presided as Installing Master, and was supported by a large number of the members of the lodge and visitors. It was the most successful of such meetings ever held by this lodge, not only on account of the number present, but also by the very admirable manner in which every detail of the ceremonies was carried out. Shortly after the lodge was opened Bro. J. Eastes, D.P.G.M., was announced, and received by the members of the lodge with the customary honours, suitable music being played during the procession. The following were present:—Bros. W. E. Cavell, W.M.; T. Ayling, S.W.; A. H. des Barres, S.D.; J. B. Harrison, P.M.; H. Bolting, Org.; E. Kirby, Steward; S. Holgate, Tyler; G. Wood, J. C. Cross, W. Hazell, W. Carterfield, J. E. Lawrence, T. Smith, J. Laggett, W. Pritchard, J. Miller, T. Bowling, J. Ringland, J. Nottage, J. Herson, W.M. 199; J. Bordeaux, S.W. 199; J. Goodwin, J.W. 199; G. R. Igglesden, 199; W. Gorton, 199; W. W. Watts, 734; T. Bent, 784; W. Hayman, 784; G. W. Moon, 784; A. F. S. Bird, 784; W. A. Norris, A. Gardner, 1206; L. A. Hill, F. Baker, W. W. Woodruff, T. Browning, 784; E. Terry, 1206; W. Harding, 784; H. M. Baker, 1208; W. A. Smeath, 1208; H. S. Watts, 1206; W. Watts, 784; S. Olds, 784. After the minutes had been read and confirmed, Bro. Emmerson installed Bro. T. Ayling, S.W., into the chair of King Solomon, who afterwards invested his officers, addressing to each a few appropriate words on the duties he undertook:—Bros. A. H. des Barres, S.W.; F. Kirby, J.W.; J. B. Harrison, Chap.; T. Smith, J.D.; H. Bolting, Org.; W. Hazell, I.G.; S. Holgate, Tyler; G. Wood, D.C.; and W. Carterfield and J. Laggett, Stewards. Bro. Emmerson concluded by delivering a telling address to the W.M. and his Wardens and all Masons generally, which was loudly cheered, as was also a proposition to record on the minutes a vote of thanks to him. The lodge was then closed by Bro. Ayling, and the manner in which it was done was most efficient, auguring well for the work of the ensuing year. The banquet was served up in a highly creditable manner by Bro. Hurst, who carried out every arrangement that could conduce to the comfort of those present. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and heartily responded to. Bro. Ayling, in replying to the toast of his health, gave a concise account of the charities in which he takes an active and energetic part, and concluded by asking all present to bring forward among their brethren the claims of these admirable institutions. He was also unanimously elected to represent his lodge on the Charity Committee of the province. The D.P.G.M., Bro. J. Eastes, addressed the meeting on matters relating to the province, which were very heartily received. Bro. des Barres, S.W., responded on behalf of "The Officers," saying it was their intention to make themselves worthy of their W.M.'s choice. Bro. Baker, S.W. 1208,

also brought forward the claims of the charities, urging those who had been content hitherto to act passively should now actively and heartily cooperate with the Stewards going from the different lodges. The party broke up about 11 p.m., separating with hearty good wishes and all unanimous in the opinion that they had spent a very enjoyable evening. Regret was expressed that the Secretary was unable to be present on account of illness.

BIRMINGHAM.—Lodge of Israel (No. 1502.) The first meeting of this prosperous lodge under the new Mastership was held on the 17th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Severn-street. There being a large amount of work to do the lodge was opened at 3.30, Bros. S. Lyon, W.M.; J. Silverstone, S.W.; B. Lazarus, J.W.; H. Harris, S.D.; P. Roberts, J.D.; W. Wood, I.G. The minutes of the March meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M., assisted by his officers, raised Bro. Ball and Gordon to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason; afterwards passed Bros. Deal and Cohen to the Second Degree; afterwards initiated Mr. Saul Abrahams, Mr. A. B. Newman, and Mr. S. Druiff (a Lewis by dispensation), the whole of the three degrees being rendered by the new W.M. in a very able manner. Afterwards the Rev. J. G. Emanuel, B.A., Chaplain, in a very feeling and eloquent manner proposed a vote of condolence to the family of the late Bro. M. Wilcox, who lost his life in the recent football match at Derby, also to Bro. A. Jacobs, on the loss of his wife. Before closing the lodge £30 was voted from the benevolent fund for Masonic charities. The brethren then adjourned to the banqueting room, where the W.M. presided, and gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts.

LIVERPOOL.—Lodge of Israel (No. 1502.)—At a recent meeting of this lodge, held in the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, March, 1876, the following resolution was proposed by Bro. Dr. S. Lewis, seconded by Bro. Rev. J. Prag, Chaplain, and carried, "That a letter of congratulation from this lodge be sent to the Freemasons' Lodge in Jerusalem, and that the same be transcribed in English, German, and Hebrew." The following is a copy of the letter forwarded:—"To the W.M., Officers, and Brethren of the Masonic Lodge at Jerusalem: Worshipful Master and Brethren,—In the name of the Great Architect of the Universe, I, Alfred J. Henochsberg, W.M. of the Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons, No. 1502, of Liverpool, Great Britain (our lodge being duly opened and properly consecrated) assisted by the principal officers, and in the presence of brethren from North, South, East and West, hereby convey to you our fraternal greetings and hearty congratulations on this occasion of the formation of a Masonic lodge at Jerusalem. With satisfaction and delight we hail the tidings of such a lodge having been established within the confines of the Holy City. Masonry has achieved an illustrious reputation in the past, and rejoicing as we do in acknowledgment of its origin and fundamental principles, it becomes to us a source of sincere pleasure to recognise that this time-honoured institution is experiencing an active and manifest revival in that sacred spot which centuries ago contained its cradle. Masonry, like other channels of amelioration and mercy, has been subjected to persecution, and in the operation we are bold to affirm that a chief agent for ennobling the individual mind, and for benefitting humanity at large, has been unjustly assailed. The effect we know has been analogous to the shooting of arrows against walls of granite. Still we observe with a lively sense of pleasure that a totally different regime is extant in the country ruled by your exalted and enlightened sovereign H.H. the Sultan (under whose benign sway it is your privilege to live) for which Masons and mankind in the main accord him unequivocal thanks. In Great Britain our Craft is flourishing. H.H. the Prince of Wales, heir-apparent to the throne of this mighty empire, is one of us, and the nobles of the land and the worthies of the nation, are proud to enrol themselves under our banner. Our Lodge of Israel is not exclusive, as its name might indicate. Amongst its members are worthy men, representatives of various denominations, and similarly disciplined to your lodge at Jerusalem, neither creeds nor nationalities are allowed to interpose invidious distinctions. The only qualifications for admission that we demand are those which are wisely insisted on in all Masonic Lodges, and which are unquestionably essential with men who desire to live in conformity with the pure principles of piety and virtue, and who are also anxious to be united and identified with the wise and good of every clime. In conclusion, we pray that the Almighty Father and Supreme Ruler of the Universe may grant to you and to all Freemasons His gracious aid, that we may be enabled to dedicate and devote our lives to his service, and that prudence may direct us, temperance chasten us, fortitude support us, and justice guide us in all our actions. Finally, that as true Freemasons, we may always practice brotherly love, afford relief to the needy to the utmost of our power, pay due obedience to the laws of the country in which we are called to reside, and that in happy union with these beneficent duties, we desire that the Angel of truth may be the pioneer, the guiding star of all our words and actions. With fraternal greetings, Alfred J. Henochsberg, W.M.; Maurice Hart, S.W.; Alexander Jones, J.W."

Royal Arch.

BATH.—Royal Cumberland Chapter (No. 41).—At a regular meeting, held at the Masonic Hall, on Tuesday, April 18th, the Board of Installed Principals was opened by Ex. Comps. Moutrie, P.Z., acting as Z.; Dr. Hopkins, P.Z., as H.; R. Carey, J.; and Mann, P.Z. The following companions were then admitted, and the chapter was duly opened: Hill, E.; Hearne, N.; Brown, P. Soj.; Young, S. Soj.; Falkner, J. Soj.; Howes, Gummer, and Williamson. Bigwood was in his place as Janitor. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Letters of apology for absence were read from the 1st and 2nd Principals, Comp. Davis, and the candidate for exaltation. The voting papers for the several Masonic charitable institutions were ordered to be placed in the hands of Ex. Comp. Ashley, to be used in favour of candidates from this province. On the proposition of the acting H., seconded by J., the following resolution was passed:—"That, considering the recent extension of R.A. Masonry in the Province of Somerset, which now contains 10 chapters, it appears desirable to unite them in closer bonds, with a view to the further promotion of the general interests of the Order, and to the bestowal of provincial rank on many members who have distinguished themselves by long and efficient services. That, with this object, it be a recommendation from the Royal Cumberland Chapter to the constituted authorities to consider the propriety of establishing a Provincial Grand Chapter, and if the suggestion be favourably entertained, to take the necessary measures for carrying out the project, in conformity with the Constitutions of Royal Arch Masonry. No other business offering, the chapter was closed at an early hour.

Ancient and Accepted Rite.

ST. GEORGE'S CHAPTER, ROSE CROIX.—A meeting of this chapter was held at 33, Golden-square, on Monday last, Bro. F. Davison, M.W.S. The meeting was fully attended by the members of the chapter, and there was a goodly array of visitors. Bros. C. T. Sparkes, Chaucer Lodge; F. Burgess, Asaph Lodge; G. J. Smallpiece, 777; J. T. Gibson, Earl Spencer Lodge; and W. Moore, Burgoyne Lodge, were perfected very ably by the M.W.S., after which the ceremony of installing the M.W.S. elect, Bro. James Stevens, was performed by Bro. Hyde Pullen in a most impressive manner.

BOMBAY.—Bombay Chapter, Rose Croix, 18.—The regular convocation of this chapter was held in the Masonic Hall, Mazagon, on the 17th December. Ill. Bros. Dr. J. Anderson, M.W. Sov.; Bro. C. E. Mitchell, P.M.W. Sov.; Ill. Bro. W. C. Rowe, High Prelate; Bro. Walton, 1st General; Ill. Bro. W. H. Hussey, 2nd General; Bro. H. Stead, Grand Marshal; Ill. W. Barrow, Raphael; J. Thomas, Recorder; J. L. Madden, Captain of Guards; J. W. Seager, Guard. The chapter was opened in due form. The minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The M.W. Sov. said that the business before the convocation was the installation of the M.W. Sov. elect, Ill. Bro. W. C. Rowe, 30°. The M.W. Sov., Ill. Bro. Dr. J. Anderson, after eulogizing the services of Ill. Bro. W. C. Rowe to the different degrees and orders to which he belonged, and the services which he had rendered to this chapter in particular, said he was sure that during his year of office the chapter would flourish, and proceeded to instal him into that high office in ancient form. Ill. Bro. J. Anderson then proclaimed Ill. Bro. W. C. Rowe, 30°, M.W.S. of the Bombay Chapter, 18°, for the ensuing year. Ill. Bro. W. C. Rowe then rose and in suitable terms returned thanks to the Ill. brother who had just installed him, and said that he would use his utmost endeavours to maintain the dignity and high standing with which the Bombay Chapter of S.P.R.C. had hitherto been held, and he hoped he should have the hearty co-operation of the officers to assist him in working the chapter, and begged that they would attend regularly and punctually to the duties of those several offices which he was about to appoint them to, and proceeded to invest the following brethren:—Ill. Bro. W. H. Hussey, 30°, H.P.; Bros. R. G. Walton, 1st G.; H. Stead, 2nd G.; J. Thomas, R.; H. W. Barrow, G.M.; C. Yudball, R.; J. L. Madden, C. of G.; J. W. Seager, G. P.M.W.S. C. E. Mitchell, 18°, was elected Treas., and warmly applauded in taking the post again for another year. Ill. Bro. W. H. Hussey, 30°, H.P., returned thanks to the M.W.S. for the honour he had done the officers, and himself in particular, by appointing them to the posts which he had done, and said that he was sure that he (the M.W.S.) would have the united assistance of the officers to enable him to carry out the working of the degree with that efficiency which he was sure it would be worked by their newly-installed M.W.S.

Scotland.

VISITATIONS OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF GLASGOW. The annual "visitations" of the different lodges throughout the province by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow for the current year (1876) have now begun. A commencement was made on Thursday, 20th inst., with Lodge St. Mungo, 27, and Lodge St. Andrew, 465; and, according to the syllabus, the work will be completed with the visitation of Lodge St. John's, Shettleston, 128, on Wednesday, 7th June. The amount of time and labour perforce expended in this periodical task by the office-bearers of the Prov. Grand Lodge is, we feel certain, but imperfectly comprehended by many of the brethren, who only see them once, at their own lodge, and do not follow them throughout. It may assist toward forming some idea of the matter when we state that, as regards this year, the number of lodges to be visited during the short period indicated is 28; that in one week (that commencing 1st proximo) no fewer than seven are to be overtaken; and that on ten occasions, two lodges—in some cases remotely apart—are to be visited on the one evening.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. John (No. 312).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in their hall, 213, Buchanan-street, on Tuesday evening, 18th inst. Bro. W. Bell, I.P.M., informed the brethren that the W.M., Bro. D. M. Nelson, was unavoidably in England on business, and could not be present that evening, and under these circumstances called upon Bro. J. D. Young, D.M., to open the lodge, which was accordingly proceeded with; Jas. Sellars, S.W.; P. Brownlie, J.W.; J. Dick, Sec.; A. Cameron,

S.D.; D. Paton, J.D.; A. Peddie, I.G.; and the other office-bearers in their places. The meeting was particularly well attended by the members and a large number of visiting brethren, among whom we noticed Bros. J. Miller, P.M. 413; J. S. Adam, Doric, 58, Canada; W. Harper, W.M. 408; J. McInnes, S.W. 332; W. Murray, S.M. 332; J. R. McKay, Neptune, 375, Aberdeen; W. Ferguson, I.P.M. 543 ("Freemason"); and brethren from Lodges 73, 103, 129, 197, 360, 370, 419, and 465. On the lodge being opened, Bro. Dick, Sec., read minutes of last regular and one emergency meeting, which were approved of. Bro. the Rev. Joseph Rice, M.A., of Lodge Acacia, 225, I.C., Dublin, who was proposed and seconded at last meeting for affiliation to the lodge, was then obligated by Bro. Ferguson, I.P.M. 543. The lodge was then opened in the Third Degree, when Bros. W. Weir, J. Morrison, G. R. Morrison, Alex. Murray, H. Tennant, A. M. Robertson, and R. Weatherston were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by Bro. Miller, P.M. 413, in a very impressive manner.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. Mungo (No. 27).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in St. Mark's Hall, Buchanan-street, on Thursday. In the absence, through illness, of the W.M. (Bro. Dugald Butler), the chair was occupied by his S.M., Bro. David Dick, with Bros. Dr. J. McInnes, S.W., and G. McComb, J.W., in their respective places. Amongst those present were Bros. D. Ronald, W.M. 275; W. J. E. Dobson, W.M. 571; W. Morrison, P.M. 215; R. Jack, W.M. 128; W. Ferguson, P.M. 543 (Freemason); W. Taylor, Treas. 581; M. Stork, 553, &c. The lodge having been opened in the First Degree, it was announced that the Provincial Grand Lodge were in waiting. The chairman at once gave orders for their admittance, and they were received by the brethren upstanding and with the customary formalities. The deputation consisted of Bros. George Sinclair, acting Prov. Grand Master; James Gillies, Treas.; Archibald McTaggart, Sec.; A. Allison, Jeweller; A. Bain, B.B.; James Balfour, Dir. of Cir.; and David Reid, I.G. The deputation having taken their seats upon the dais, the Chairman acknowledged the supremacy of P.G.L. in the usual form, by presenting his mallet to the acting P.G. Master, and as usual had it immediately returned to him, with a request to retain command of his lodge. Bro. McTaggart, P.G. Sec., said that before submitting to the lodge the report of the deputation he had to sympathise with them in the circumstances under which they had met that night in the absence, through indisposition, of their W.M. He was sorry also at having to state that, from a similar cause, the Prov. Grand Master, Bro. W. M. Neilson, would not be with them on the occasion. He thought, however, that they had something to congratulate themselves upon in the history of the Province of Glasgow and the progress it was making, as to which he might just mention that one-half of the Masons made in Scotland during the past year were made within it. They (the P.G.L.) were very glad to meet an old lodge like St. Mungo. They could ill afford to find a lodge with such a history and reminiscences dropping into the shade, and they were glad to find that it was not so. The number added to the membership during the past year was, as formerly, very respectable. They had made the average number of 26, and a very respectable average indeed. Moreover, he was proud to say, from personal knowledge and report, that they had had no better or more firmly-laid stones in the past than those they had laid last year. Thereafter Bro. McTaggart stated that the deputation had gone over the books carefully, and found them, on the whole, remarkably well kept—the sederunt book, the minute book, the roll book, and the receipt book. The official report which they had to make would be to that effect, and also that the lodge generally was working in strict harmony with the Grand Lodge of Scotland. After a few remarks from the acting P.G.M., Bro. Sinclair, the Chairman said that on behalf of the W.M. he had very great pleasure in thanking the Prov. G. Lodge for their favourable report, and hoped the lodge would always continue to merit the like. The P.G. deputation then withdrew in order as they had entered.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Scotia (No. 178).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held in Kilwinning Hall on Wednesday evening, the 12th inst., Bro. J. Singleton, W.M., presiding; P. Heyburn, S.W.; A. Mercer, J.W.; W. Higgins, D.M.; H. Killin, Sec.; W. King, Treas.; J. Matheson, P.M., Chap.; W. McDonald, S.D.; W. Hart, J.D.; R. McEwan, B.B.; and W. King, jun., I.G.; Bros. W. Bell, I.P.M. 31; D. Murray, W.M. 103; R. Munro, D.M. 103; J. Gillies, P.G. Treas., and Sec. 103; N. Cameron, Treas. 103; J. Wilson, 31; J. Wilson, 18; A. McGregor, 321; J. Reid, 354; W. Ferguson ("Freemason"); and others. On the lodge being opened, Messrs. R. Chalmers, Jos. Kelly, and W. Dalglish were initiated into the E.A. Degree by Bro. Matheson, P.M. The last-named gentlemen was initiated on behalf of the Lodge Union and Crown, 103, for which Bro. Gillies, Sec. 103, thanked the W.M. and members of Lodge Scotia. The members were engaged the remaining part of the evening in framing a new code of bye-laws.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Star (No. 219).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in their hall, Trongate, on Monday evening, the 10th inst., Bro. J. Morgan, W.M., in the chair, J. Brown, S.D., acting S.W.; D. Mearns, J.W.; J. Martin, D.M.; W. Anderson, S.M.; F. Dow, Sec.; B. Smart, Treas.; R. Watson, Chaplain; D. Taylor, J.D.; J. Duthie; and J. Pearson, Tyler. Present: Bros. D. Sinclair, Treasurer of the Provincial Benevolent Fund; J. Gillies, P.G. Treas.; A. Bain, P.G.B.B.; D. Reid, P.M. 465 and P.P.I.G.; R. Campbell, 22, New Brunswick; R. Young, 195, I.C.; R. Prout, W.M. 4; D. Murray, W.M. 103; R. Munro, D.M. 103; W. Forsyth, J.W. 103; N. Cameron, Treas. 103; J. Singleton, W.M. 178; P. Heyburn, S.W. 103; A. B. Ferguson, W.M. 354; J. Harley, S.W. 354; C. McKenzie, J.W. 354;

Leitch, S.D. 354; Jas. Harley, J.D. 354; W. B. Paterson, 360; W. Gardner, 360; A. Paterson, 360; D. Gilchrist, W.M. 465; G. B. Paterson, S.W. 465; W. Chalmers, J.W. 465; W. Campbell, Sec. 465; W. Ferguson, I.P.M. 543 ("Freemason"); J. Houston, D.M. 571; and others, and a number of deputations from several other lodges in the province and neighbourhood, the hall being completely filled, nearly 200 being present. On the lodge being opened, and the minutes of last meeting read and adopted, Bros. L. Cooke and C. Hathorne, of Lodges 347 and 458 respectively, were affiliated joining members, and Messrs. S. Cruden, T. Ferguson, Jas. Watson, and W. Stark were initiated into the E.A. Degree by Bro. Morgan, W.M. Bro. D. Mearns, J.W., then presented the lodge with a handsome square and compass, for which he received a hearty vote of thanks, and the same to be recorded in the minutes. There being no further business before the meeting the lodge was called to refreshment, when the W.M. gave the following toasts in succession, which were warmly received:—viz., "The Queen and the Craft," "The Prince of Wales and other members of the Royal Family," and "The Three Grand Lodges." The W.M. in proposing "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow" complimented the office-bearers on the efficient manner they had hitherto done their duty, but regretted very much that the visitations of the lodges had this year been neglected. Bro. Bain, P.G.B.B., replied on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The W.M. then proposed "The Sister Lodges." Bros. Singleton, W.M. 178; Prout, W.M. 4; and Gilchrist, W.M. 465, suitably replied. "The Health of the W.M." was ably proposed by Bro. Gillies, P.G. Treas., and enthusiastically responded to by the brethren. Bro. Morgan replied. "The Newly-Laid Stones" was proposed by the W.M., and replied to by Bro. Cruden. During the evening the musical portion was pleasantly furnished by Bros. J. Houston, W. Stewart, the well-known professionals, and others. After the Tyler's toast the brethren separated, having spent a most enjoyable evening.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. George (No. 333).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held in St. Mark's Hall, on Wednesday evening, the 12th inst., Bro. A. Thomson, W.M., in the chair, supported by Bros. J. Findlay, S.M.; J. Forsyth, S.W.; R. Anderson, J.W.; A. Dunn, Treas.; Archd. McIntyre, Sec.; A. Boyd, S.D.; T. Hill, J.D.; W. Neilson, and others. Visitors present: Bros. W. B. Stevenson, 15; J. Twoart, 28; J. Bannerman, D.M. 73; J. Geddes, 354; J. Stewart, 360; A. Sheiden, 484, New York State; W. Ferguson, I.P.M. 543 ("Freemason"); and others. The Secretary read the minutes of last monthly meeting, which were adopted. Bros. J. Robertson and G. Kennedy were passed to the Fellow Craft Degree by Bro. Findlay, S.M., and in consequence of Bro. Robertson having to leave this country in a few days he was raised to the Degree of Master Mason by Bro. Findlay, S.M., who again officiated in an able manner.

At an emergency meeting of this lodge, held in St. Mark's Hall, on Friday evening, 14th inst., for the special purpose, the Mark Master Degree was conferred upon the following brethren, members of the lodge, viz., T. Stewart, P.M.; R. Fairbairn, J. K. Adams, C. P. Douglas, and John Findlay. Thereafter a proposal was submitted to, and ultimately adopted by the meeting, that the fee for receiving the Mark Master Degree should be raised from the present figure of 1s. 2d. to 2s. 6d. in the future. It was proposed by Bro. Jas. Findlay, S.M., seconded by Bro. T. Hill, and agreed to that the office-bearers of the Mark Lodge in connection with No. 333 should be as follows:—Bros. A. Thomson, M.M.; Jas. Findlay, acting M.M.; J. Forsyth, S.O. R. Anderson, J.O.; A. Dunn, Treas.; A. McIntyre, Sec.; A. Boyd, S.D.; T. Hill, J.D.; A. Wright, I.G.; and W. G. Hickson, Tyler.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Caledonian Railway (No. 354).—At the regular meeting of this lodge, which was held in the Masonic Hall, 30, Hope-street, on Wednesday evening, the 19th inst., Bro. A. B. Ferguson, W.M., presiding; D. Buchanan, D.M.; J. Harley, S.W.; C. McKenzie, J.W.; D. T. Colquhoun, Treas.; J. Reid, acting Sec.; Jas. Harley, J.D.; and the other office-bearers in their places. The meeting was very well attended by visitors and members of the lodge, and among the former were Bros. J. Morgan, W.M. 219; D. Reid, I.P.M. 465, P.G.I.G.; W. Dobbie, P.M. 362; W. Ferguson, I.P.M. 543 ("Freemason"); J. Bannerman, D.M. 73; J. Scott, D.M. 579; G. B. Davidson, S.W. 465; J. Conner, G.M.; L. L. Sicilia, Palermo; A.C. L. Gray, 102; James Balfour, P.G.D.C.; R. Campbell, 22, Canada; E. Arthur, Org. 87; J. Duthie, 219, first 2, Chap. 67; A. R. Wilson, Chap. 27; and others. The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed, after which Mr. R. Crichton was initiated into the First Degree by Bro. J. M. Oliver, S.W. 360. Five brethren were passed to the Fellow Craft Degree by Bro. Ferguson, I.P.M. 543, and six brethren were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by Bro. J. Morgan, W.M. 219.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Commercial (No. 360)—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in their hall, 30, Hope-street, on Friday evening, 21st inst., Bro. J. Monro, W.M., in the chair; J. M. Oliver, S.W.; T. Graham, J.W.; D. Lamb, D.M.; W. Findlay, S.M., acting Treas. The hall was well filled with the members and visiting brethren. Among the latter were Bros. J. Peters, W.M. 153; W. Mc G. Mason, W.M. 541; W. Bell, I.P.M. 34; R. Jack, W.M. 128; W. J. E. Dobson, W.M. 571; W. Gemmell, S.W. 129; W. Ferguson, P.M. 543 ("Freemason"); and others. On the minutes being read and confirmed, Bro. W. Stalker was passed to the F.C. Degree by Bro. Oliver, S.W. At this juncture it was announced that a deputation of the P.G. Lodge of Glasgow was in readiness to be admitted into the lodge, they having examined the books in the interval. The deputation consisted of Bros. J. Baird, P.G.S.M., acting P.G.M.;

A. McTaggart, P.G. Sec.; G. Thallon, P.G.S.D.; A. Allison, P.G. Jeweller; A. Bain, P.G.B.B.; G. Sinclair, Treas. and Con. of the P.G. Benevolent Fund; D. Reid, P.G.I.G.; and J. Hardie, P.G. Tyler. On their entrance into the lodge-room they were received with the usual honours. After the customary formalities, Bro. Mc Taggart said they had to congratulate Lodge 360 on their present highly prosperous condition. The report of the deputation had to make was simply that they (office-bearers of the P.G.L.) certified that they had that evening visited Lodge Commercial, No. 360, had examined the various books of the lodge and found them in a very excellent condition, and that the lodge generally was working in strict harmony with the constitution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Bro. Baird said for his part he did not think that in the Province of Glasgow it was possible to find better kept books than those they had just inspected in Lodge 360. The W.M., Bro. Monro, said that when they (Lodge 360) had the pleasure of seeing the P.G.L. last year there were a few little holes in which the deputation found it necessary to pick in their coat, owing to some little acts of omission or commission in their working hitherto. He thought they had now looked to the matter and reformed these, and he was glad they had been able to do so. On behalf of the lodge he begged to return the deputation sincere thanks and best wishes for their kindness on the present occasion. Bro. Baird having briefly acknowledged the compliment, the P.G.L. deputation retired. Bro. R. C. Bell, of Lodge Argyll, Dunoon, No. 335, was elected a joining member and duly obligated by the W.M. Bros. A. Paterson, W. Gardner, A. Stalker, and R.M. F. Watson were then raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in a most impressive manner by the W.M. The lodge was then closed.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. Andrew (No. 465).—The deputation of the Provincial Grand Lodge proceeded to visit this lodge on Thursday, 20th inst., immediately on their leaving No. 27. They were received in due form by the W.M., Bro. David Gilchrist, the officers and brethren, and after the usual preliminaries the P.G. Sec. stated the result of the inspection made by the deputation. It was his pleasing duty, he said, to submit to that lodge a very satisfactory report. It was simply this—"We (under-signed), office-bearers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow, hereby testify that we visited Lodge St. Andrew, No. 465, on the evening of Thursday, 20th April, examined the various books of the lodge, and found them correctly kept, and that generally the lodge is working in strict harmony with the Grand Lodge of Scotland." It had been said, Bro. McTaggart observed, that the visitations of the P.G. Lodge were, on many occasions, a "bore," but if they admitted that, they would undermine the fabric of their noble constitution. After dwelling at some little length on the salutary influence of periodical inspections or examinations of an inferior by a superior body, he reverted to Lodge St. Andrew. Their audit, he said, had been properly attended to in December last, and the funds found carefully kept and judiciously expended. The deputation had applied many tests to various portions of the books, every one of which had been fully stood; and in fact it would be doing injustice to the office-bearers of the lodge to say that they (the deputation) had found a single flaw. The number of members added to the lodge during the year had been 41, and the amount handed over to the Treasurer of the P.G. Benevolent Fund was £10 15s., to be disbursed in the shape of benevolence during the ensuing twelve months. He (the speaker) need not assure them that it had been very kindly received, and would be very judiciously applied. Bro. Sinclair having briefly endorsed the tenor of Bro. McTaggart's remarks, the Chairman said he had to thank the deputation kindly for coming there, and also for the favourable report they had made; and he hoped that next time they came they would find everything as correct as they had done that night. On the motion of Bro. David Reid, P.M. of 465, Bro. A. Allison, P.G. Jeweller, then received the compliment of honorary affiliation to the lodge—the ceremony being performed by Bro. McTaggart. The deputation thereafter retired.

HASSKIEU.—Caledonian Lodge (No. 489).—A meeting of the members of this lodge was held on the evening of Thursday, 6th April. Wor. Bro. Rand, on proof that none but worthy brethren were present, constituted a lodge for labour in the Apprentice Degree, the business, per circular, being to initiate Messrs. Mark G. Bingley and Thos. J. Stevenson, neophytes balloted for in the earlier part of the year, but, owing to storm and distance, were prevented thereby. The initiation ceremony, notwithstanding it was Wor. Bro. Rand's first essay at the altar, satisfied the brethren that the choice they had made in electing Bro. Rand as a ruler in the East for the year 1876 would redound to the special welfare of 489, as well as to the credit of the Craft throughout the Orient. A pleasing duty, or rather a privilege, next devolved upon the W.M., viz., the presentation of a Past Master's jewel to his predecessor in the East, Bro. Wm. Dorrell. The remarks of Bro. Rand in formally giving over the gift of the lodge were well chosen, appropriate, and altogether void of empty laudation. P.M. Bro. Dorrell, in reply, feelingly thanked the brethren for their golden present, then briefly reviewed the labours in the lodge during his two years of supreme command, frankly adverting to the able and willing services of his officers, and the attention and regular attendance of the brethren generally. Alluding to the jewel—splendid as it was—its value was doubly enhanced from the fact—it came to him in the "maternal" home, where light first dawned upon him Masonically. In grateful terms, mention was made of the honours bestowed since he joined the Order. 1st. He was the first initiated member of this lodge who was elected to preside over it (former W.M.'s were affiliations). 2nd. On the expiry of the first term they were pleased to renew it. 3rd. Brethren in the district had lately placed him in the exal-

ted position of Principal of the Lodge Leinster, R.A.C. And now! this rare gem. The trusts reposed, and the value intrinsic, would ever remain internal and external memories. But cheapest and best memory of all the compliment conferred, that in the "home" where his Masonic vows were registered, he had been deemed worthy to occupy in the East. The worthy brother concluded by wishing the brethren present God-speed, the Great Architect of the Universe's protection over brothers absent, and to all, home and abroad, comfort of body and peace of mind. Bro. Frazer, enumerating the good their Bro. Dorrell had effected with and for the Caledonian, spoke of the great interest his friend had always taken for the interests of the shareholders of the Masonic Temple—work of itself more than sufficient for one man—independent of the many duties Bro. Dorrell did carefully fulfil when W.M. of 489. The Secretary here gave over to Bro. Dorrell the P.M.'s certificate. The jewel was from the establishment of Bro. Kenning, London, and is justly admired for neatness of design, artistic finish, and correct proportion. The following inscription is engraved on the reverse of the medal:—"Presented to P.M. Bro. W. Dorrell by the Lodge Caledonian, 489, in respect of his zeal, integrity, and labour, 1874-5." Nunquam non paratus. The business following was routine, and the lodge was closed by ancient rite, when the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and an hour of social enjoyment brought "an evening to be remembered" to a happy close.

DALMUIR.—St. John's Lodge (No. 543).—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday 5th inst., Bro. S. Leckie, W.M., in the chair; J. F. Wilson, S.W.; A. McNaughton, jun., D.M.; acting J.W.; and the other office-bearers in their respective places. Mr. D. Hillhouse was initiated into the E.A. Degree by the W.M. The regular meeting was held on the 11th inst., Bro. S. Leckie, W.M., presiding, supported by Bros. W. Ferguson, I.P.M. ("Freemason"); A. McNaughton, jun., D.M.; J. Barrie, S.M.; J. F. Wilson, S.W.; J. Muirhead, J.W.; J. Alexander, Sec.; J. Morrison, jun., S.D.; J. Stairs, J.D.; J. Morton, Chap.; A. Smith, I.G.; J. Adair, Tyler; J. Burton, W. Colquhoun, T. Miller, D. Bell, R. Hillhouse, J. Malcolm, J. Alexander, &c. On the minutes being read and confirmed, Bro. W. Goudie, 437, was affiliated a joining member, and Bro. J. Thomson was raised to the degree of Master Mason by Bro. Ferguson, I.P.M. The lodge was then assumed on the E.A. Degree, when it was arranged to hold a harmony meeting on Tuesday evening, the 25th inst.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Clydesdale (No. 556).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in their Masonic Hall, 106, Rose-street, S.S., on Tuesday evening, 18th inst., Bro. W. Phillips, W.M., in the chair, supported by Bros. H. McCulloch, D.M.; J. McNaught, S.W.; T. Phillips, J.W.; J. McKechnie, Treas.; G. B. Yuill, Sec.; P. Young, S.D.; J. McCammon, J.D.; and others. Present: Bros. W. J. E. Dobson, W.M. 571; C. G. H. McNaught, P.M. 275; R. Allan, Sec. 581; Brodie, 360; Stewart, 360; and others. Mr. R. H. Simpson was initiated into the First Degree by Bro. Phillips, W.M., and afterwards Bros. G. McFarlane and Lappin were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, the W.M. again performing the ceremony in a most careful and impressive manner.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Dramatic (No. 571).—This lodge held its regular meeting on Wednesday, the 19th inst., at 3 p.m., in St. Mark's Hall, 213, Buchanan-street, Bro. W. J. E. Dobson, W.M., in the chair, supported on the dais by Bros. Ct. H. de Rochetiu, P.M. Etoile du Bosphore Lodge, Constantinople, of Grand Orient of France; A. C. Wylie, W.M. Gresham Lodge, 869, E.C., P. Prov. G.S.B. Herts; J. H. Sutcliffe, King Solomon Lodge, 422, Australia, 422, I.C.; J. S. Adam, Doric, 58, Canada. Present: Bros. Arch. Lander, S.M.; H. W. Jackman, S.W.; W. Sivewright, J.W.; W. Barbour, Treas.; D. Campbell, Sec.; L. Mitchell, J.D.; J. Robertson, acting I.G.; J. B. Hurdie, Tyler, and a large number of visiting brethren. Amongst those we noticed Bros. J. Prentice, M.C. 34; P. Brownlie, J.W. 34; G. W. Wheeler, 73; J. Annand, 87; J. McLaughlan, S.D. 87; J. M. Oliver, S.W. 360; W. Ferguson, I.P.M. 543 ("Freemason"); W. Phillips, W.M. 556; J. Law, I.P.M. 570; R. Allan, Sec. 581; and others. The lodge was formally opened, and minutes read and confirmed. Mr. W. Buchanan was initiated by the W.M., and Bro. G. Connell was passed to the Fellow Craft Degree. Both degrees were rendered in Bro. Dobson's usual able style. Previous to the F.C. Degree being performed Bros. Ct. Rochetiu and A. C. Wylie were obliged to leave. Before doing so, however, the former (who does not speak English) expressed, through the latter, acting as interpreter, the gratification he had experienced by his visit to Lodge Dramatic, and his satisfaction with the working of the E.A. Degree, so far as he could understand. Bro. Wylie, on his behalf, expressed himself similarly, and took occasion to add that, although a Scotchman, and born in the city of Glasgow, he had never before been inside a Scotch Masonic Lodge, and he was glad to have this opportunity of stating that in England reports went that Masonry in Scotland was not what it ought to be. He could now say to the contrary, and passed a high compliment on Bro. Dobson for the efficient manner the First Degree was performed. Before retiring, they requested to be permitted to give a small donation to the charitable fund of the lodge, and thanked the W.M. for his courteous reception of them. The two brethren withdrew amidst the applause of the meeting. It may be stated that this young lodge is progressing favourably under the able management of the respected W.M., Bro. Dobson. In the month of August last a charter was granted by the Grand Lodge, and was chiefly intended to supply a want greatly felt by the brethren of the dramatic, musical, and equestrian professions, whose calling or occupation made it impossible for them to attend regular meetings of any lodge. The lodge meets on the first and

third Wednesdays of every month at 3 p.m., in St. Mark's Hall, 213, Buchanan-street, and we are proud to say that the brethren of the sister lodges embrace the opportunity of meeting with the brethren of Lodge Dramatic, 571, on almost every occasion. Professional brethren intending to visit Scotland will have satisfaction in knowing that they can meet with brethren of their own profession in Glasgow at the above hour and dates.

PLANTATION.—Lodge Plantation (No. 581).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the new Masonic Hall, Craigiehall-street, Glasgow, on Monday, the 3rd inst., Bro. T. Stobo, W.M., in the chair; Bros. A. Bain, P.M. 103, acting S.W.; J. Henry, J.W. The other office-bearers present were Bros. W. Ferguson, D.M.; A. Gow, S.W.; W. Taylor, Treas.; R. Allan, Sec.; A. Imrie, S.D.; J. Halley, J.D.; J. Campbell, S.S.; J. Dowell, J.S.; Henderson, B.B.; and Cumming, Tyler. The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. Messrs. W. T. Mabon, J. Wilson, and J. A. Campbell were initiated into the First Degree by Bro. Alex. Bain, P.M. 103, in that brother's usual impressive manner. Bros. E. Garraway, R. H. White, J. Nish, and Neil Thomson were passed to the Fellow Craft Degree by Bro. W. Ferguson, D.M. The meeting was well attended by visiting brethren, including Bros. W. Bell, I.P.M. 32; R. Dalziel, 32; Dempster, 32; Chalmers and Davidson, 68; Grant, 197; McGregor, 321; Gilbraith, 362; Spay, 413; Gardner, 413; and M. Gray, 543; also brethren from Lodges 32, 117, 175, 419, and 437.

The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, 17th inst., in the new Masonic Hall, Craigiehall-street, Glasgow, Bro. W. Ferguson, D.M., presiding; D. Peacock, S.W.; J. Henry, J.W.; W. Taylor, Treas.; R. Allan, Sec.; A. Imrie, S.D.; J. Halley, J.D.; J. Campbell, S.S.; Paterson, acting I.G.; and Cumming, Tyler. Present: Bros. D. Smart, W.M. 347; W. Phillips, W.M. 556; J. Simpson, S.W. 419; J. McNaught, S.W. 556; J. McKechnie, Treas. 556; J. Stewart, 360; and a large number of other visiting brethren. On the minutes of last meeting being read and confirmed, Bro. Brown, No. 114, was elected a joining member and obligated by Bro. Phillips, W.M. 556. Bros. Phillips, W.M. 556; Simpson, S.W. 419; and McNaught, S.W. 556, were obligated honorary members of the lodge by Bro. Ferguson. The committee appointed at last meeting reported that the code of bye-laws as drawn up by them would be read at next meeting. Bros. W. F. Mabon, J. A. Campbell, J. Wilson, and A. Gow were passed to the Fellow Craft Degree. The lodge was then assumed on the Third Degree, when Bros. N. Thomson, E. Garraway, R. H. White, and Jas. Smith were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by Bro. Ferguson. Afterwards Bro. Paterson was elected I.G., and installed into office by Bro. Phillips.

ERRATA.—"Uddington.—Lodge of St. Bride, No. 579," as appeared in "Freemason," 22nd inst., should read "Uddington.—Lodge St. Bryde, No. 579."

Masonic and General Tidings.

On Tuesday afternoon, at Ruabon, 5000 people welcomed home to Wynnstay Bro. Sir Watkin and Lady Williams Wynn and family, after a five months' absence in the Mediterranean for the benefit of Sir Watkin's health. Three addresses of welcome were presented and acknowledged. Over 1000 school children were present, wearing medals struck in honour of the event, and the day was kept as a general holiday.

At Bangor Steeplechases, Wrexham, an address was presented to Bro. Sir W. W. Wynn, M.P., Prov. Grand Master North Wales, by Viscount Combermere, on behalf of a thousand members of the Wynnstay Hunt, the occasion being the return home of Sir Watkin, after a long cruise for the benefit of his health; and the address congratulated him on his recovery, and thanked him for the princely manner in which, at his own expense, he kept up the hunt. Bro. Sir Watkin returned thanks.

Bro. Sir Michael Costa will conduct the congratulatory concert in the Royal Albert Hall to the Prince of Wales, in honour of the return of His Highness to England, on Wednesday evening, the 17th of May.

Bro. Brackstone Baker has been elected churchwarden at St. Mark's, Lewisham.

The Knights Companions of the R.S.Y.C.S. will meet in Council, at their Provincial Grand Lodge, 33, Golden-square, on Thursday, the 11th proximo, at three o'clock precisely.

The Percy Lodge of Instruction, No. 193, meets every Saturday evening, at eight o'clock, at Bro. Fysh's, Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road, corner of Church-road, Islington. On Saturday (this evening) the 15 sections will be worked by Bro. G. Ward Verry, P.M. 554. On this occasion the lodge will open at seven o'clock.

RAVENSBORNE LODGE, No. 1601.—The consecration of this lodge took place yesterday (Friday) at the offices of the Lewisham Board of Works, Catford. The Rev. Wm. Taylor Jones, M.A., P.M., 181, 708, and P.P. G.C. Middlesex, was installed W.M. Bro. Charles Wm. Thompson, S.D. 969, was appointed S.W., and Wm. Bache Roberts, P.M. 181, J.W. The banquet was held at Bro. Spencer's Bridge House Hotel.

The Sir Hugh Myddelton Lodge, No. 1602, will be consecrated this (Saturday) afternoon at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, at 4 o'clock. The ceremonies of consecration and installation will be performed by our esteemed Grand Secretary, Bro. John Hervey. The officers designate are Bros. E. Somers, W.M.; E. G. Sim, S.W.; T. J. Coombs, J.W.

Bro. H. S. Marks has painted a portrait of Alderman Sir E. S. Phillips for the forthcoming Royal Academy Exhibition.

The foundation stone of a new church proposed to be erected on the ruins of an old abbey at Nuneaton was laid on Wednesday last, with full Masonic honours by Lord Leigh, Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire. A considerable number of the Craft from various parts of the country attended. The mallet used was the one with which King Charles the Second laid the first stone of St. Paul's Cathedral 200 years ago.

The fifty-ninth anniversary festival of the Stability Lodge of Instruction, No. 217, took place on Friday. A full report of the proceedings will appear in our next.

THE SHAKESPEARE MEMORIAL.—At the annual meeting of the Stratford-on-Avon Shakespeare Club it was announced that Mr. Chas. Flower, chairman of the Memorial Association, in addition to his previous handsome donation, has just given £100 in furtherance of the memorial project. It is understood that the erection of the structure will be commenced forthwith.

ANCIENT RELICS.—During some excavations among the ruins of an old abbey at Nuneaton the workmen have discovered a stone coffin, containing human bodies. Along side it were two stone coffin lids, one bearing a Maltese cross, the other a Latin cross. Some tessellated pavement has also been laid bare, as well as some encaustic tiles, sculptured stone, &c. The work of excavation is still proceeding, and the operations of the workmen are watched with the keenest interest, it being thought probable that many additional relics illustrative of the former grandeur of the abbey will be turned up.—"Sheffield Daily Telegraph."

Spiritualism meets with scant favour in Russia. The commission deputed by the Physical Society of the St. Petersburg University to investigate spiritualist phenomena has finished its labours, and issued a report declaring that "spiritualist phenomena are the result either of unconscious movements or wilful imposture, and Spiritualism is a mere superstition."

The Prince of Wales has consented to be present at a "soirée" to be held by the Royal Geographical Society within the Exhibition buildings on the 14th of May. His Royal Highness will be attended by the members of his suite who were with him in India.

RE-OPENING OF CHESTER CATHEDRAL.—The Prince of Wales is to be invited to attend the re-opening of Chester Cathedral, the restoration of which, at a cost of many thousands of pounds, is now complete. The date will be fixed to suit His Royal Highness, but it is hoped that the ceremony will take place the same week as the Wrexham Eisteddfod, and that the Prince will be present at both.

Messrs. Elkington and Co., of which firm our Bro. Elkington is a member, are sending, on the 29th, a selection of choice objects in art metal work which have been manufactured by the firm for the Centennial International Exhibition at Philadelphia.

THE VICTORIA CLUB.—The many advantages afforded by the Victoria Ladies' Club, 25, Regent-street, are deserving of more than a passing notice. To professional men, and those resident in the suburbs, the difficulty of arranging a meeting with wives, daughters, sisters, or mothers, subject to the many delays incidental to business and professions, is overcome by the accommodation afforded by this club, and should ladies visit the West End either for business or pleasure, light refreshment, luncheons, dining, drawing, writing, dressing rooms, and lavatories are at their command, secure from the possibility of annoyance; in a word, the privacy and comfort of home, with the convenience of a town house, is secured, within easy walking distance or shilling cab fare of the principal shops, theatres, railways, &c. The situation of the club (corner of Jermyn-street, Regent-street) is most convenient. Based on the model of gentlemen's clubs—exclusive for ladies—without the elaboration, the appointments are perfect, and our fair readers will learn with satisfaction that ladies wishing to dress for evening enjoyments, every requisite for the toilette is provided, with the assistance of a maid, without additional charge. When we mention the small annual subscription securing these many advantages, we feel assured our suburban readers especially (not forgetting Town) will gladly avail themselves of membership. Family tickets, three guineas; single, two guineas. Established under distinguished patronage, it cannot but prove a great success. In the meantime any information required will be afforded on application to the lady manager, to whose courtesy in visiting the club we are indebted for this brief outline. The difficulty attendant on ladies accompanying gentlemen to Town engagements, incidental to the Masonic programme, now is overcome, and we heartily wish the club the success it ensures.

The complimentary dinner and presentation of a testimonial to Bro. Wm. Herbage, on his retiring from the managership of the City Bank, Ludgate Hill, will take place on Wednesday next at the City United Club, Ludgate Hill Circus. The chair will be taken by Bro. Alderman S. C. Hadley, at 7 o'clock punctually. A report of the proceedings will appear in our next. Further information may be obtained of Bro. F. Kent, 8, Red Lion-court, Cannon-street.

A large deputation from the West India Committee waited, on Tuesday evening, upon Lord Carnarvon, at the Colonial Office, Downing-street, with reference to the present state of the Island of Barbadoes, and to ask Her Majesty's Government to recall the Governor, Mr. Pope Hennessy.

A Grand Council of the Illustrious Knights K.H. 30° will be held on Tuesday, the 9th May.

Reports of 697, Colchester; 1391, Leicester; and 376, Ipswich, stand over.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

A Special General Meeting of the Governors and Subscribers of this institution was held on Tuesday, in the library, Freemasons' Hall, for the purpose of considering the propriety of altering Law 4, page 12 of the rules and regulations, by substituting the figures £40 for £36, and Law 4, page 13, by substituting the figures £32 for £28, and any motion or proposition which might be made thereon. To those subscribers and brethren who may not have a copy of the Laws of the institution we may explain that the effect of this is to increase the annuities of the male annuitants from £36 to £40, and of the females from £28 to £32. Lieut.-Col. Creaton, P.G.D., V.P., was called to the chair, and the other brethren present were Bros. S. Rawson, P.D.G.M. China; Griffiths Smith, P.G.S.; Levy, P.M.; Charles Hill, H. Massey ("Freemason"), Thos. Cubitt, P.G.P.; W. Dodd, P.M. 1194; H. G. Buss, Prov. Grand Treas. Middlesex; W. Lane, P.M. 28; H. C. Levander, P.P.G.R. Middlesex; Charles Webber, Benj. Head, P.G.D.; and James Terry, Prov. G.D.C. Herts (Secretary).

Bro. James Terry first read the requisition for the meeting and then the advertisement calling it.

The Chairman afterwards said that it was not necessary that he should take up the time of the brethren by again stating his reasons for proposing the alteration in the laws of the institution. Its object was simply that the annuities should be raised £4 a year, both to men and women. He would therefore only move "That Law 4, page 12, of the rules and regulations be altered by substituting the figures £40 for £36." This increase would not commence till the 1st of June, or be paid till September.

Bro. Levy seconded the motion, which was put and carried.

The Chairman said his next business was to move "That Law No. 4, page 13, of the rules and regulations be altered by substituting the figures £32 for £28."

Bro. S. Rawson seconded the motion, which was then carried.

Bro. Griffiths Smith moved "The best thanks of the meeting to the Chairman for presiding, and also for having raised the annuities of the old men and women."

Bro. Levander seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman, in reply, said he thanked the brethren very much for their vote. The meeting certainly had had little to do; but as they had been pleased to pay him the compliment of considering he had rendered a service he must accept it.

Bro. James Terry informed the brethren that the alterations which had just been made would involve an additional outlay of £950 a year from the funds of the institution. There were 240 annuitants. (Hear, hear.)

The meeting then separated.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The General Committee of this Institution met on Thursday, at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. Thomas W. White in the chair. There were also present Bros. H. Browne, John Boyd, Thos. Massa, Griffiths Smith, T. F. Peacock, Joshua Nunn, Herbert Dicketts, W. F. C. Moutrie, Henry Venn, F. C. Baker, R. B. Webster, John George Marsh, H. A. Dubois, Levy, Dr. Woodman, W. Peters, Benj. Heal, John Symonds, John A. Rucker, A. H. Tattershall, H. W. Hemsworth, J. Rosenthal, Major Finney, J. K. Stead, H. Massey ("Freemason"), Edward Clark, Thomas Kingston, and R. W. Little, Secretary.

One little girl was placed on the list for the next election, after which nominations for the House and Audit Committee were made, and scrutineers were appointed for the election of these brethren at next meeting.

The brethren afterwards separated.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

The following is the agenda of business for the Quarterly Convocation of Grand Chapter on Wednesday:—

The regulations for the government of the Supreme Grand Chapter during the time of public business, to be read.

The minutes of the last Quarterly Convocation to be read for confirmation.

Installation of Principals, and appointment and investiture of Officers for the ensuing year.

The Report of the Committee of General Purposes:—The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the Accounts from the 19th January to the 18th April, 1876, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:—

To Balance Grand Chapter	£349	9	6
„ „ Unappropriated Account...	163	5	5
Subsequent Receipts	454	0	4
	£966	15	3
By Disbursements during the Quarter	£189	5	4
„ Balance	627	17	0
„ „ in Unappropriated Account	149	12	11
	£966	15	3

which balances are in the hands of Messrs. Willis, Percival and Co., Bankers of the Grand Treasurer.

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received the following petitions:—

1st. From Comps. John Jones, as Z.; Richard Henry Evans, as H.; Henry Jackson, as J.; and six others for a chapter to be attached to the Hamer Lodge, No. 1393, Liverpool, to be called the Hamer Chapter, and to meet at the Clarence Hotel, Everton-road, Liverpool, Lancashire.

2nd. From Companions John Wallingford as Z.; Henry Sleeman as H.; George Felton Lancaster as J., and seven others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Gosport Lodge, No. 903, Gosport, to be called "The Gosport Chapter," and to meet at the India Arms Hotel, Gosport, Hampshire.

3rd. From Companions John George Richards, as Z.; John Dampney, as H.; William Foxwell, as J.; and six others for a Chapter to be attached to the Zetland Lodge, No. 1071, Saltash, to be called "The Zetland Chapter," and to meet at the Masonic Hall, Saltash, Cornwall.

4th. From Companions Thomas Joseph Sabine, as Z.; Eugene Henry Thiellay, as H.; John John Baxter Langley, as J.; and eight others, for a chapter to be attached to the Era Lodge, No. 1421, Hampton Court, to be called "The Era Chapter," and to meet at the Kin's Arms Hotel, Hampton Court, Middlesex.

5th. From Companions Arthur Leared, as Z.; George James Row, as H.; Alfred Durrant, as J.; and six others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Lewis Lodge, No. 1185, Wood Green, to be called "The Lewis Chapter," and to meet at the King's Arms Hotel, Wood Green, Middlesex.

These petitions being in all respects regular, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

(Signed) JOHN CREATON, President.

ADDRESS TO OUR ROYAL GRAND MASTER.

On the 28th of March a deputation from the G.O. of Egypt, viz., Marquis T. de Beauregard, 1st D.G.M.; Chev. P. L. Dilberogtue, G.K. of T.; and Bro. Oddi, as G. Sec., presented to the British Consulate the following address:—

"Valle del Nilo, Or. d'Alessandria,
"28th March, 1876.

"To His Royal and Imperial Highness the Prince of Wales.

"May it please your Royal and Imperial Highness and Most Illustrious Brother.

"In the name of the Egyptian Masonry, the Grand Orient of Egypt, whose Grand Master I have the honour to be, avail themselves of the happy occasion of your Royal and Imperial Highness's passage through this country to greet you, and through you the British Craft, and to convey their salutations to that illustrious nation, which stands worthily at the head of modern civilization.

"We trust your Royal and Imperial Highness will please to accept this our fraternal greeting and manifestation of our admiration for the happy and great country of which your Royal and Imperial Highness is Grand Master and Prince.

"We shall pray the G.A.O.T.U. that all civilized nations may follow the track of glorious England, and that all Princes and Kings may imitate the example of your Royal and Imperial Highness.

"Please your Royal and Imperial Highness to accept the M.K., which in the name of the Grand Orient of Egypt I offer to your Royal and Imperial Highness, and through you to all British brothers.

"Meanwhile, I have the honour to be of your Royal and Imperial Highness the most humble servant and brother.

(Signed) "S. A. KOLA, G.M.
"F. F. ODDI, G. Sec."

DAYLIGHT reflected in dark rooms. Gas superseded in day time. Health, comfort, and economy promoted by adopting Chappuis' Patent Daylight Reflectors.—Manufactory, 69, Fleet-street, London.

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE FROM FRANCE.

By the "Monde Maconique" of April, just received, we learn that the "Conseil de l'Ordre" has suspended for six months (and very properly) the Lodge Orion, Orient de Gaillac, for the violation of Article 122 of the "Statuts et Reglemens Generaux de l'Ordre." The suspension begins from January 8th. The Council of the Order has also determined to add a course of Geography to those of German and English.

As the "Monde" informs us, "numerous and brilliant Masonic fetes" have been held by several of the French Lodges during the last month, such as that of the Lodge "Les Freres Unis Inséparables," which gave on the 19th March, at the Grand Hall of the Hotel of the Grand Orient a "Matinee Musicale" for the benefit of its adoption of orphans. Bro. Beer presided at this "seance," to which the most eminent performers lent their kindly aid.

Bro. Caubet, the able editor of the "Monde Maconique," mentions, as "parmi ces charmantes soirees," those of the Lodges L'Union Maconique, Les Amis Bienfaisants, L'Ecole, Les Hospitaliers Francais, La Renaissance, and the united Lodges L'Amitie and L'Athenee Francais, et la Fraternite des Peuples. The two lodges, Les Amis Bienfaisants and L'Ecole, celebrated their winter fete by a grand banquet, at which ladies were present, followed by a ball, both magnificent and successful. Bro. Blanchon, "Venerable," or W.M., of the Amis Bienfaisants, and Bro. Paillet, Venerable of the L'Ecole, presided jointly at this fete.

Three addresses were furnished at this fete, one by Bro. Tallandier, Deputy for the Seine, by Bro. Martin Nadaud, Deputy; and by Bro. Hubert, we presume the able editor of the Chaine de l'Union, and Venerable of the Lodge "Le Temple" des Amis de l'Honneur Francais.

Bro. Caubet also mentions favourably two other fetes, one of the Lodge Renaissance on the 27th March, and of the triple union of lodges already alluded to, L'Amitie, L'Athenee Francais, La Fraternite des Peuples, on the 1st of April.

We note also a list of the lectures delivered in the Lodges "de Paris et de la Banlieue," which shows that much activity still pervades French Masonry, or rather Parisian. If we in our simpler view of the end and objects of Freemasonry, its right position, and its true character, might demur to many subjects proposed as lectures in lodges by our French brethren, yet we must always bear in mind that each national system has its own manner, to use a French expression, of "envisager," alike the tenets and the development of Freemasonry.

We might wish that in France as in England all questions bordering on the domain of politics, or religion, or social controversies, were rigorously excluded from the "syllabus" of Masonic lectures, but as such a "consummation," though devoutly to be wished for in the best interests of French Freemasonry, in our humble opinion is not likely to be arrived at, we must learn as Freemasons to practise the great lesson and art of toleration! We are requested to state that in the "Masonic Magazine" for June will appear Bro. Caubet's interesting article, "Du Role de la Francmaconnerie dans l'Avenir," and, making allowance for the French "point de mire," we can commend Bro. Caubet's eloquent French and Masonic sentiments to the notice of those of our Order who fraternally patronise that interesting and useful publication.

LORD SKELMERSDALE, D.G.M., ON CHURCH EXTENSION.

The foundation stone of the new Church of St. John the Evangelist, at Walton, near Liverpool, was laid last week by Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, D.G.M. England, R.W.P.G.M. West Lancashire, in presence of a large number of spectators. The distinguished company included Lady Skelmersdale, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chester, John Torr, Esq., M.P., and a large number of clergy and leading laity.

After the ceremony, an elegant luncheon was served in the Walton Institute, where there was a most fashionable assembly. After several toasts had been proposed and responded to, Mr. Councillor A. B. Forwood proposed "The Health of Lord and Lady Skelmersdale." In doing so he said it was a fortunate thing that they saw the highest representatives of the laity and the Church uniting together, as they were that day, in inaugurating a new church in the district. There was every opportunity, he was sure, for good work by the clergy and laity, and he was satisfied that the clergy only wanted leading and suggestions to follow in any work for the good of the community. (Hear, hear.) The toast he had to propose was that of a nobleman who took a very leading part in the county, and also in one of the most benevolent institutions of the day—(hear, hear)—and he believed his lordship would look upon no period of his Masonic career with greater pleasure than upon what he had done that day in laying the foundation stone of their new church. (Applause.)

Bro. Lord Skelmersdale, in acknowledging the toast, said it had given him great pleasure to be present. He took a very deep interest in church extension. There was not a county, he thought, which had made a greater stride in this respect than that of Lancashire, and the progress in this direction seemed to him perfectly marvellous. He saw the new church was to have half of its seats free and open. He took a great interest in that portion of church work, and he could not help saying that he thought the time to advocate the free and open system was when the foundation stone of a new church was being laid. (Hear, hear.) It was the beginning of a new era in a church, and why should they not begin it as a free and open church at once? Here they were in a community knowing each other, and not likely to have heart burnings

about this seat or the other, and he wished he could persuade them to think the matter over again and do what he should like so much to see in their new church. (Hear, hear.) His lordship then proposed "The Health of the Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese," and said there was no bishop in the country who spared himself less than the Bishop of Chester did in doing the work he was called upon to perform.

The Bishop briefly acknowledged the toast, and the proceedings shortly afterwards terminated.

THE RED CROSS BALL.

The annual ball given by the Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine (Grand Council of England) took place on Monday night at Willis's Room's, King-street, St. James's, when a company of 180 Sir Knights, ladies, and gentlemen assembled. It was given under the patronage of the following Grand Officers of the Order, many of whom were Stewards on the occasion:—

GRAND COUNCIL.—Sir Frederick Martin Williams, Bart., M.P.; Colonel Francis Burdett; The Right Hon. the Earl Ferrers; William Edward Gumbleton, J.P.; Rev. William Benjamin Church, M.A.; Rev. Joseph Mary church Vaughan; Henry Charles Levander, M.A. Robert Wentworth Little; William Robert Woodman, M.D.; Raynham William Stewart; Anglo John Lewis, M.A.; John Boyd, Thomas Cubitt, George Toller, jun., Thomas W. White, the Right Hon. the Earl of Bective, the Right Hon. the Earl of Jersey, the Right Hon. the Lord Skelmersdale, James Percy Leith, Robert Jones, Rev. Thomas FitzArthur Tovin Ravenshaw, M.A.; Rev. Chas. John Martyn, M.A., Hyde Clarke, John Hervey, William Henry Hubbard, Henry Gustavus Buss, Colonel John Whitwell, M.P., John George Marsh, James L. Thomas.

GRAND SENATE.—Joseph Charles Parkinson, William Roehuck, Charles H. Rogers-Harrison, F.R.C.S.; Rev. Philip H. H. Brette, D.D.; George Powell, Henry Arthur Dubois, George Kenning, Lieut.-Col. Jas. Peters, Alfred A. Pendlebury, Herbert Dicketts, John Mason, Rev. P. M. Holden, Eugene H. Thicllay, Thos. Burdett Yeoman, Frederick Kelly, Chas. Frederick Hogard, John William Ellison Macartney, M.P.; John Robert Gospel Joshua Nunn, William Thomas Howe.

STEWARDS.—Colonel F. Burdett, President; R. Wentworth Little, Treasurer; Henry A. Dubois and Charles E. Hogard, Secretaries; E. Amphlett, W. J. Vesler Blindon, W. H. Bittain, C. J. Burgess, E. Clark, Captain G. Cockle, B. Cook, A. H. Edwards, W. Forster, J. R. Foulger, R. G. Glover, C. W. Gray, R. G. Hall, C. Hammer-ton, J. Hancock, J. Harper, L. Hirsch, C. Horsley, Captain L. L. Howell, W. D. Jones, W. Kelly, F.R.G.S., T. Kingston, J. M. Levick, T. Massa, C. F. Matier, G. Moren, W. T. Murley, E. S. Norris, M. Ohren, H. Phythian, F. W. H. Ramsey, M.D., W. Richards, S. Rosenthal, H. H. Shirley, S. Spencer, J. E. Symons, F.R.G.S., W. Wilkinson, L.R.C.P., W. Winn, M.C., &c. &c. &c.

Dancing commenced at nine o'clock to the music of Coote and Tinney's band, under the conductorship of Sir Knt. Coote, B. O. Jarvis being Master of the Ceremonies. Several of the Sir Knights wore the jewels (other than those of Craft and Royal Arch), which, added to the elegant dress and jewels of the ladies, gave great brilliancy to the scene.

Although all the Sir Knights above named were not present, many of them were, and among them we observed Col. Burdett, G. Viceroy; Sir Knts. Little, G. Treas.; J. Boyd, H. E. Levander, J. L. Thomas, C. F. Hogard, T. B. Yeoman, E. Thiellay, E. Hammerton, T. Cubitt, G. Kenning, Lieut.-Col. Peters, T. Kingston, F. Kelly, H. Hand, H. A. Dubois, J. T. Moss, and Bros. J. Keen and W. H. Pannell, C.C.

Col. Burdett did not stop during the whole of the evening, and when supper, which was a very elegant one, was served shortly after midnight, Sir Knt. R. Wentworth Little took the chair. There were no speeches, and after the repast was finished dancing was resumed, and kept up with great vigour till past four in the morning. The ball was a most successful undertaking, and all the company expressed themselves highly delighted with it. The profits will be devoted to the Masonic charities.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

On Wednesday, the 26th of April, at the Masons' Hall Tavern, a room of which was kindly lent for the occasion by Messrs. Bell & Co., a meeting was held for the purpose of establishing an "Old Scholar's Re-union." Dr. Morris, the head master of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, was in the chair. A very pleasant evening was spent, to which the kindness of Messrs. Bell & Co. greatly contributed. The old scholars present subscribed to a prize to be given, with the sanction of the House Committee, to the best boy in "science." The Secretaries of the "Re-union" are Messrs. S. W. Martin and F. H. Reid (17, Offord-road, Barnsbury, N.) who will be glad to receive the names and addresses of former pupils. They will have much pleasure in having the names of such subscribers to the school as may choose to become patrons of the "Re-union."

Sea water for the tanks in the Westminster Aquarium is now being brought from Brighton to London 500,000 gallons will be required.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT are expressly adapted for a those derangements of health which arise from impure, depraved or impoverished blood. The circulation of the blood is the process by which nutriment is conveyed to every part of the body, and is the medium by which all effete and used up material is removed. So important a process and function is this, that any derangement of the circulation of the blood is invariably attended with loss of health. These twin remedies have the valuable property of acting directly on this, and cannot be too highly extolled in inflammations, fevers, etc. Females will also find them invaluable in the complaints peculiar to them, as they modify so materially the circulatory system.—ADVT.

TO OUR READERS

The *Freemason* is a sixteen-page weekly newspaper, price 2d. It is published every Friday morning, and contains the most important, interesting, and useful information relating to Freemasonry in every degree. Annual subscription in the *United Kingdom*, Post free, 10/- P.O.O.'s to be made payable at the chief office, London.

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.

E. H. Allgrett in our last was a misprint for G. H. Wyatt.

We have received the circular from the Supreme Conseil Rite Ecosais, France, with reference to a correspondence with Bro. Albert Pike, U.S.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

[The charge is 2s. 6d. for announcements, not exceeding four lines, under this heading.]

BIRTHS.

HORROCKS.—On the 20th inst., at Ainsworth House, near Bolton-le-Moors, the wife of Mr. J. Horrocks, of a daughter.

HUTCHESON.—On the 30th inst., at Oporto, the wife of S. S. Hutcheson, Esq., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

CREWE-ADDERLEY.—On the 20th inst., at Lea Marston Church, Vauncey Haipur, son of Sir J. H. Crewe, Bart., of Calke Abbey, Derbyshire, to Isabel, daughter of the Right Hon. Sir C. B. Adderley.

DAVIS-CRAWFORD.—On the 20th inst., at Stratford-on-Avon, Arthur Staden Davis, M.A., of Cheltenham College, to Rose Duncombe, daughter of the late Rev. J. R. Crawford, M.A.

DEATHS.

BLAND.—On the 23rd inst., at Worton Hall, Isleworth, Middlesex, James Sparling Bland, Esq., aged 56. Friends will please accept this intimation.

BLACK.—On the 26th inst., Bro. C. W. Black, of 9, Catherine-court, aged 67.

FAIRMAN.—On April 18th, at Golden Cross Hotel, Havelock-road, Hastings, Bro. Geo. Fairman, aged 39 years.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1876.

OUR ROYAL GRAND MASTER'S RETURN.

Since our last impression our Royal Grand Master has been to Cadiz and Seville, where he was warmly received, and assiduously visited the many scenes of local interest and attraction. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Connaught arrived at Cordova on the 24th from Seville. Having visited the Moorish Cathedral and other objects of interest in the town, their Royal Highnesses dined, and subsequently left at 7.10 p.m., by special train, for Madrid. The two Royal brothers reached Madrid at 10.45 on the 25th, and were received at the railway station by the King, accompanied by his Ministers and Chamberlains, and also by Mr. Layard, Her Majesty's Minister, and the members of the Legation, all of whom were in full uniform. The Prince looked in perfect health. After he had taken his seat in the Royal carriage to the right of King Alfonso, the cortège proceeded to the Palace, which was reached at 11 o'clock, and where several high dignitaries were in attendance. The crowd cheered loudly when the carriages left the station, the Prince sitting on the right of King Alfonso with the Duke of Connaught and Prince Louis of Battenberg opposite. The other carriages followed with the suite. The full dress liveries were very handsome, and the whole equipage well appointed. The cortège was preceded by a Royal Guard on horseback, a very fine body of men. The Royal party drove from the station to the Palace through a mile and a half of crowded streets. The people were very respectful, but there was no cheering. It is not the habit in Spain to cheer unless under excitement of a political character or of warlike demonstration. The reception at the Palace was stately, the approaches to the staircases being lined by halberdiers in very effective dresses, cocked hats broad lapelled coats, blue and white facings, white breeches, and

long black gaiters. Upon reaching the grand apartments King Alfonso presented the ladies, the grandees, and officials to the Princes, who then presented the members of their suites to his Majesty, who gave them a most gracious reception. The King and the Prince of Wales visited the Museum in the afternoon of the 25th. The military review in honour of the Prince of Wales was very successful. His Royal Highness was on horseback on the King's right, and behind were the Duke of Connaught, Prince Louis of Battenburgh, the Spanish Minister of War, and several generals. The uniforms of the English officers in the suite of the Princes greatly attracted the attention of the crowd. The King and their Royal Highnesses drove along the front of the troops, the line extending from the Atoch Church to the Castellane fountain. They then witnessed the march past, which lasted an hour and a half. They will go to Toledo on Thursday or Friday, returning in the evening to Madrid. After the Opera on Thursday there will be a ball at the Palace of the Duque Ferran de Nunez, and on Friday and Saturday balls will be given by Mr. Layard and the Duque de Bailen. The Ministers are invited to meet His Royal Highness at a tea party at the Palace. The inhabitants of Madrid have given the Prince a very hearty reception. The Prince of Wales will probably stay at Madrid until Friday or Saturday. The Prince of Wales has telegraphed from Madrid direct to the King of Portugal, announcing that he will arrive at Lisbon on Monday, the 1st of May, at three in the afternoon. He will be present at the Italian Opera on the 2nd, and at a Royal ball on the 3rd. On the following day there will be a display of fireworks, on the 5th a military review, and on the 6th a grand banquet. His Royal Highness will sail for England on the 7th of May. The Lodge of the Grand Orient of Portugal, which contains a large number of British members, intends to make the Prince of Wales an honorary member. A Masonic deputation will wait on him with the diploma specially engrossed on vellum.

THE QUEEN'S RETURN.

By the time these lines meet the eyes of our readers Her Majesty the Queen will have been for some days back again in old England. We are among those who think that a great deal too much has been said, and unwisely said, about the Queen's visit to Germany. It was alike, we venture to think, both natural and reasonable, and in itself as an act of simple family life and detail, to be greatly commended instead of being criticized, to be praised instead of being questioned. It was a little holiday to the Queen, a domestic and seasonable arrangement, by which cherished souvenirs might be renewed, and affairs of business regulated. We never could understand why any remarks should have been made in Parliament, or out of Parliament, upon what was alike clearly a personal act of duty and affection, contributing some few hours of relaxation and retirement, both from the ceremonies of a Court, and the unavoidable claims of public business. The late Prince Consort, with his rare prescience, saw years ago that, in England at any rate, the position of the Crown, always exceptional, was rendered easier as a fact, and the prestige of the throne was increased, by the careful development of the inner side of private and family life. The English are, happily, a home-loving people; the associations and sympathies of all classes, high and humble, are bound up with the quiet discharge of social duties and the elevating tastes and gentle virtues of family relationship. No public life is worth anything which does not rest on the home circle as its solace and strength, its charm and comfort, amid the "whirligig of time" and the strange conceits of mortal men in their mundane struggle. A Court has its attractions and its greatness, its splendour and its allurements, but it has also its dangers and its drawbacks, its snares and its sorrows. Hence the only counterpoise to the wearing toils and overweening influences of a merely public life, arising from the fact that Sovereigns are always "en evidence," and have but little spare time for self-refreshment and self-reflection, is to be

found in the safe path and restraining sympathies of family association, interest, and affection. How well and wisely the Prince Consort judged, time has already surely shown, and we regret that, misled by a little "mirage" of that perversity which often comes over society, any should ever have thought it well or befitting to criticize the Queen going to Germany, or her visit to Baden or to Cobourg. We shall all be glad to think that, amid all the greatness of the greatest of sovereignities, amid all the splendour of the English Court, the Queen, the daughter of a Freemason, retains her intense love of home and family life, and, bound deeply by those ties of personal and intimate relationship which constitute, we may say, the best guarantee for the happiness of home, the peace of nations, and the progress of mankind, leaves the great realm of England for a short "retraite," and some few simple moments of peaceful and unartificial family intercourse. Who can venture to blame her, or any one in her exalted position, who seeks, amid scenes and memories very dear, to strengthen herself for the duties of her great rank, and to live out that happy inner life of domestic sympathy and attachment, which has brightened even the enduring grandeur of her diadem with the noblest and tenderest sympathies of this earthly existence of ours?

ENGLISH FREEMASONRY.

Well! they may say what they like, Ultramontane accuser and intolerant defamer, but this good old English Craft of ours is going on its way to-day, impelled by a very prosperous "trade wind," over a tranquil sea, and under a blue sky! Time has run on since, say, Lord Lovel was installed in succession to the Duke of Norfolk, on the 19th of March, 1731, very nearly 150 years ago, and these small beginnings have led to wonderful results. A very able brother of our Order once observed that the Craft was a very remarkable institution, and that, considering all the unavoidable drawbacks and weaknesses of humanity, it was a very noble Order, and did a great amount of good. We feel strongly the truth of his forcible words as we sit pen in hand to-day. What other Order can boast such a career of usefulness, kindness, benefit to others, good to mankind? We may well remember to-day that the revived Grand Lodge of 1717 is the mother of all speculative Masonry, and that if Cosmopolitan Masonry exists at all, it is owing to those humbler brethren of ours who met at the Apple Tree Tavern, in Charles-street, Covent Garden, in February, 1717. They probably little foresaw to what a mighty tree the petty seed they planted there Masonically would grow, neither could they estimate the effect and influence that Freemasonry was to exercise over individuals and nations. For we may lay this down as a fact, that wherever Freemasonry, in its true principles, is at active work, there peace and toleration, home life, and national well-being are pretty sure to be found abounding on every side. And English Freemasonry has always kept, even amid most troubled times, the even tenour of its way, it has never turned to the right hand or the left, it has never been seduced by party cries, or passing applause, to let go its ancient landmarks, it has remained moored safely to its own unchanging principles, amid the follies, and frivolities, and perversities, and blunders of other portions of the Masonic family. Hence in the eyes of some writers English Freemasonry is alike in a sleepy and comatose state, obstructive and retrograde, insensible to the awakening theories of more ardent minds! Be it so; but we in England prefer this very state of "coma," if you like, to that fictitious life which Masonry here and there is living, to that pretentious and ever-lurid glare which seems to fall as if with menacing mien, alike on the protestations of some, and the public proceedings of others who claim to be like us, brethren of the Masonic Order. For in England certain characteristics have marked our good old Order along the dusty highway of time, and have preserved it, happily, from the quack "nostrums" of the empiric, have saved it from the "facilis descensus Avernus" of the unreasoning reformer. English Freemasonry has ever been religious and reasonable, liberal and loyal, tolerant and truth-

ful, peaceful and progressive, but sternly opposed alike to iconoclastic absurdities and to revolutionary changes. It has ever inculcated reverence of God, and love for man, fealty to the throne, and obedience to the laws. It has advocated unceasingly the obligations of citizenship, and the feelings of patriotism, while it has surrounded home life and social duties with all those attractions which lend grace and dignity to this human and gregarious existence of ours. It has never faltered in urging the claims of suffering and sorrow, of poverty and distress, in upholding the sanctity of toleration, in proclaiming the brotherhood of man! It is this combination, alike sympathetic and yet fraternal, sensible and yet emotional, which has so endeared the Craft to its children, and has so served to commend it to the minds of the educated and intellectual, the student and the statesman, the man of business and the man of the world, the most elevated in earthly rank and the toiling bread winners of the great middle class. And, as the old saying runs, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating," we in England, nay, Freemasons generally, fully recognise, with some few exceptions, the reality of the position and work of English Freemasonry. At this very moment our lodges are increasing rapidly, some say too rapidly, and our one only danger lies in our very numbers, in that large admission of members which is now taking place. But with caution and care even this difficulty and peril may be overcome, and we have, ourselves no fear, but that like others in times past, these symptoms of evil will yet be overmastered for good. It is with legitimate pride, that as English Freemasons, we may note the onward progress of our ancient and useful Craft. Its works of charity are deepening and extending, material well-being is apparently only an incentive to increased well doing, and never at any period of our history was there, we believe, a more faithful realization amongst our brethren generally, both of the excellences and claims, the duties and demands, of Freemasonry. So long as we keep firmly to the great landmarks of our Order, so long as we uphold its genuine principles, and preserve its wholesome enactments—so long as we practise what we preach, and carry out what we profess—so long will our English Craft, humanly speaking, endure, alike useful and beneficial for ourselves and for mankind. But the highest prosperity and the greatest numbers will not save us from the inevitable re-action which ever follows close upon the great tide of human affairs and institutions, if ever we forget our duties in our privileges; if ever we lose sight of the truth, that talking is one thing, doing another; if ever we look lightly at the sure and solemn fact, that Freemasonry, like everything else of earth, is on its trial, and can only be judged, and will only be judged by its "facta," not by its "verba," by the fruits it evidences, by the work it performs.

THE PROVINCE OF WEST LANCASHIRE.

A meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of this distinguished province took place at Liverpool on April 10th, 200 brethren being present, under the distinguished presidency of our amiable and popular D.G.M., Lord Skelmersdale, also Prov.G.M. Among the other business was the proposition to grant £100 towards the "Sedilia" of the cathedral of Chester, now under process of restoration. For some reasons this resolution was opposed, apparently on the ground that it was a denominational vote. So, no doubt, in one sense, it was; but yet it was a vote which appealed alike to the sympathies of the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge as Freemasons, and also as lovers of art, and promoters of æsthetic improvements. For in England we Speculative Freemasons must never forget that we are the descendants of those who built those very glorious fanes, on which time's destroying hand has fallen, and which pious care would preserve, and loving religion would seek to renovate and restore. The remarks of Bro. Alpass, I.G. Secretary, are deserving of much attention, not only from his long services to our Order, but his perfect ac-

quaintance with the teaching and temper of Freemasonry. It is a fact that, as a rule, the Clergy of the Church of England are more favourable to Freemasonry than almost any other religious body. And long may this friendly "Concordat" continue, long may this entente cordiale prevail. None are more careful than we are to uphold the non-political and non-controversial character of Freemasonry, but when a proposal comes to endeavour to assist a good work, like the restoration of Chester Cathedral, not only do we hold it is perfectly fair to act as Freemasons to do so, but we are not infringing on our avowed neutrality when we show our good will towards a great denominational body, from which we have as a rule, always received so much friendly consideration, and from which to-day out of every 100 of our Chaplain brethren 99 actually are recruited for our fraternal ranks. We are glad to see that West Lancashire makes so distinct a move, supported by so large a majority, in favour of the religious building art, and the good work of Church Restoration, as though we do not deny that there is at first sight a little difficulty in the case, apparently, on the strict grounds of denominational neutrality, yet we also feel assured that it is only in the appearance and not in the reality. Bro. Alpass's argument is, we think, a very fair one, "ad Latomos," and practically unanswerable; and we are pleased to note for the information of our readers how good sense and kindly feeling and sound practical judgment dominate, fortunately for us all, for the most part, the meetings of our ancient and benevolent Craft.

THE GRAND FESTIVAL.

We publish in another column a report of the Grand Festival, but, as it is too late for our notice this week, shall recur to it in our next.

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.]

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Can you, or any of your numerous readers who are versed in the laws and customs of our Order, give me a reply to the following queries:—

1. Has a definite decision ever been given as to whether a Warden who has not served a complete and current year as such (i.e. from one annual installation to the following one) but who has served for upwards of twelve months in two periods, is qualified for the chair? In the only English work on Masonic Jurisprudence that I am acquainted with—Dr. Oliver's—it is laid down that such a one would not be qualified, and that the twelve months' service must be continuous.
2. Are Wardens, who served as such under the sister constitutions (Irish or Scotch), eligible to be elected to the chair of an English lodge?
3. In the case of a lodge losing its W.M. by death, removal, or otherwise, and also losing one or both of its Wardens from either of the above causes, or by resignation, is the I.P.M., who is ruling the lodge, competent to appoint another brother as Warden? and if so, would the Warden so appointed count the time as qualifying, supposing broken periods do count? I am of opinion that, under these circumstances, the I.P.M. cannot appoint a fresh Warden, except pro tem. at each meeting, he not being the actual Master of the lodge.
4. When appointing a brother to the office of Warden at a meeting other than the installation meeting, is it sufficient to say, "Brother so and so, take the Warden's chair," and for the said brother to put on the collar and take his seat? or should not the W.M. formally appoint, invest, and instal the Warden, such to be entered on the minutes of the meeting?

A reply to the foregoing will oblige, Yours truly and fraternally,
23rd April, 1876.

ENQUIRER.

MEMBERSHIP OF A PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Will you kindly allow me to ask Bro. W. J. Hughan to be kind enough to point out the authority of the "P.G.M. to appoint a brother not officially a member of the P.G.L. owing to his being neither a Master, Past Master, nor Warden of a lodge in the province (though a contributing Master Mason therein) is conferred by the Book of Constitutions."

I find that "brethren of eminence and ability, who have rendered service to the Craft, may, by a vote of the Grand Lodge, duly confirmed, be constituted members of Grand Lodge, with such rank and distinction as may be thought proper."

The Craft in general ought to be thankful to Bro. Hughan for his contributions to the "Freemason."

I have a P.G.L. balance sheet, in which the Deputy G.M. is styled R.W.D.P.G.M., and the P.G. Officers from the P.G.S.W. to the P.G.S. are styled V.W. both included.

If Prov. Grand Lodge is in error, no wonder for members of private lodges to be wrong.

Yours fraternally,

R.W.O.

THE INSTALLATION PICTURE.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In consequence of my absence from town whilst superintending the engraving I was not aware that my advertisement had been inadvertently (on my part) omitted from your issue. In re-inserting it will you kindly permit me again to call the attention of those brethren who have not yet forwarded their portraits for insertion in the engraving to at once favour me with same. I find, on close examination, that we can insert about 300 more, in addition to those now in hand (nearly 700), and I am quite sure that the excellence and fidelity of the portraits already engraved will ensure the utmost satisfaction. Surely it is not too much to ask 1000 brethren out of the 8000 present, to assist me in producing such a memento as will make the great event of double interest to our Royal Grand Master. Permit me also to add that it is of the utmost importance that no delay should take place in complying with my wish.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, fraternally yours,

EDWD. J. HARRY.

213, Regent-st., W., 25th April, 1876.

REGALIA.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

While reading the article by "Ad Rem" on the above in your last he touched a cord that I often wished some one to pull.

The 3rd paragraph. "How is it that (say) ninety-nine out of every hundred Past Masters wear a gold or gilt jewel when the Constitutions distinctly say it shall be in silver, &c.?"

Oy. Are the jewels worn by the ninety-nine, referred to above, those that the P.M.'s attach to their coat collars on the left breast? If so, are they in reality jewels, according to the Book of Constitutions, any more than those which are attached to the watch chain, &c., by many a brother.

By the reading of the Constitutions, p. 122, I presume that a Past Master's jewel is to be worn pendant to a collar of light blue ribbon four inches broad, or as in p. 124, where the emblem of their office is in silver or white in the centre of the apron.

Yours fraternally,

R.W.O.

"WHAT NEXT, INDEED?"

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Under the caption "What Next, Indeed," an article appeared in your issue of the 11th March, and I have to request permission to make a few remarks thereon. You seem to apprehend disaster to the aged frame of Past Master Dobbin, and in fancy hear him exclaim, "What! admit women to an installation—it's scandalous—never heard of such a thing in my life before—it will ruin Freemasonry altogether, &c., &c., &c."

What dreadful forebodings are concealed under the three et ceteras my imagination fails to conceive, but doubtless, despite of such, Freemasonry will still live, and I sincerely hope that the worthy Past Master may survive long enough to meet the lady friends of Montgomery Lodge at their centennial in 1925. And you, too, most worthy "Freemason," cannot understand how ladies could be present at an installation, but presume some means are found for squaring the matter so as to be in accord with Masonic ritual. Squaring Masonic ritual is either a vile pun or a very slang expression, unworthy of place in your well edited columns—excuse me.

If your Masonic library does not contain a copy of Ahiman Rezon and Freemason's Guide," by David Sickles, 33rd Sec-Gen. of the Superintending Council, Northern Jurisdiction, and which is dedicated to John W. Simons, Past Grand Master of Masons and Knights Templar of New York, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Encampment of the United States, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of New York, and Sovereign Grand Inspector-General, &c., make haste and obtain a copy. This book is our standard in all matters of ceremony.

The directions for "The Installation of the Officers of a Lodge" are accompanied by the following notes.

1. "A private examination is understood to precede the installation of the Master."

2. "If the installation is performed in a public place, this as well as other private ceremonies are omitted."

In point of fact nothing Masonic is done before "Cowans," be they male or female, with the exception of "The Grand Honours." I will endeavour very soon to write out the entire ceremony for your guidance and instruction, and possibly inform you of a similar proceeding in a lodge in Great Britain, so that you may see there is precedent for our action.

I sympathize with Bro. Simmons, who you say is in love, and am sure if such be the case he does endorse your opinion as to the extent of welcome to be given—"within due limits"—to well disposed gentle and graceful sisters, but this I know, that the admission of sweethearts, wives, daughters, and sisters to great educational and benevolent festivals, to special soirees, to organized banquets, and to agreeable re-unions (balls, I presume) will never do half so much good in removing the impression, prevalent among women, that Freemasonry is but another name for conviviality, as listening to language such as the fo-

lowing, taken from the Grand Master's charge to the officers of a lodge.

"Forcibly impress upon them (the brethren) the dignity and high importance of Masonry, and seriously admonish them never to disgrace it. Charge them to practise out of the lodge those duties which they have been taught in it, and by amiable, discreet and virtuous conduct, to convince mankind of the goodness of the institution, so that when a person is said to be a member of it, the world may know that he is one to whom the burdened heart may pour out its sorrows to whom distress may prefer its suit, whose hand is guided by justice, and whose heart is expanded by benevolence."

In this country there are no "banquets" after lodge meeting, and thus the time taken from the family circle is freely given by our "dear creatures" who know that "the brethren" are engaged in rather more Masonic work than "charging glasses" at the re-union from which they are excluded. Let me assure you, dear sir and brother, that the Masonic fraternity here yield to none in devotion to the Craft, they are jealous of its honours, of its secrets, but without they know the value of female influence and support, and are proud to show to those whose lives and homes are made happier by the exercise of Masonic virtues that in lodge such virtues are inculcated. Thus, instead of the words, "I am going to the lodge" being heard with alarm, they are listened to with pleasure, because those to whom they are addressed know, "it is good to be there." The next time I visit London, I hope to make your personal acquaintance, when it will at the same time afford me pleasure to learn that Past Master Dobbins has vanished all fear, and ceases to believe in negligence of Masonic ritual, that Bro. Simmons has not only thriven in love, but the gentle, well-dressed partner of his joys and sorrows has been present at his installation, and with delight heard the words, "Brethren, behold your Master," spoken to her beloved lord and master, then will she re-echo the closing sentence of the Grand Master's address! "Within your peaceful walls may your children's children celebrate with joy and gratitude the annual recurrence of this auspicious solemnity, and may the tenets of our profession be transmitted through your lodge, pure and unimpaired from generation to generation." "So mote it be,"

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours truly and fraternally,
MARY'S CHAPEL, No. 1.

THE FREEMASONS AND BURNS.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Referring to the paragraph on this subject in your publication of to-day, it may be interesting to point out to the Craft, that in various Masonic works, published in the U.S.A., the "Farewell" has a verse added which is not to be found in any edition here of Burns's poems, nor is it believed to be his composition. The verse is as follows:—

And you, kind-hearted sisters fair,
I sing farewell to all your charms,
The impression of your pleasing air,
With rapture oft my bosom warms.
Alas! the social winter's night
No more returns while breadth I draw,
Till sisters, brothers, all unite
In that Grand Lodge that's far away.

I think the construction of the last verse in our editions alone sufficient to prove that the above is not genuine; but if spurious it is not of recent manufacture, as I have seen it in an American book, published about forty years ago.

Yours fraternally,

JOHN HOGG.

THE MARK DEGREE.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Will you kindly inform me through your columns whether it is in accordance with the Scotch Constitutions to confer the Mark Degree, a special meeting being called for this purpose and a charge being made for conferring the same.

The Scotch Grand Lodge Laws and Constitutions distinctly state (chap. 2, par. 1.) that they recognise no degrees of Masonry but those of E.A., F.C., and M.M., denominated St. John's Masonry (including the Mark, which, however, G.L. does not recognise as a separate degree).

I hold that to call a special meeting for the purpose of conferring the degree and charge a fee for the same is unconstitutional and a violation of Grand Lodge laws.

The special meeting I allude to was held in St. Mark's Hall, Buchanan-street, Glasgow, on Friday evening, the 14th inst., and appeared in the columns of the "Glasgow Daily Mail," and at the same meeting a proposal was made and adopted that the fee for conferring the degree should be raised from 1s. 2d. to 2s. 6d. in the future. I regret to say that in Scotland the Grand Lodge laws are too frequently violated, and should be enforced.

Yours fraternally,

A. R. A. MASON.

MASONIC PREFIXES.

To the Editor of The Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Whilst thanking Bro. W. J. Hughan for his interesting letters on this subject, I would call his attention to the following.

On April 1st he said the Dep. G.M.'s prefix was *Right Worshipful*, on April 22nd, he states it to be *Most Worshipful*. Which is correct? Presuming the latter to be correct I give a complete recapitulation of prefixes.

MOST WORSHIPFUL, Nos. 1 to 6 inclusive.

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL, Nos. 7 to 10 inclusive.

VERY WORSHIPFUL, Nos. 21 to 34 inclusive, and Masters, and Past Masters of lodges.

(N.B.—The above numbers refer to the collective body styled "United Grand Lodge," &c., see Constitutions, pp. 16 to 18.)

As M.M.'s (whose designation is brother only) may be appointed to certain offices in Grand, or Prov. Grand Lodges, it is clear that—

Office in Grand Lodge gives a prefix.

Office in Prov. Grand Lodge does not.

So the whole affair lies in a nut-shell.

To be beyond doubt, will Bro. Hughan kindly say if the foregoing list of prefixes is perfect? Then your readers may mark same in their copies of the Constitutions, and so set a vexed question at rest.

Fraternally yours,

"AD REM."

In Bro. Hughan's letter on this subject last week, the paragraph "(5) Deputy Grand Master and Prov. G.M. are to be styled Most Worshipful," should read as follows:—

(5) Deputy Grand Master, Provincial and District Grand Master, and Grand Wardens are to be styled Right Worshipful.

(6) The Grand Master and Pro Grand Master, Most Worshipful.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF A MASONIC HALL AT HAVANT.

The brethren of Lodge Carnarvon, No. 804, have for some time past been anxious to secure a "local habitation" exclusively their own, and having succeeded in obtaining an eligible site in Victoria-road, opposite the Star Hotel, arrangements were made for the erection of a hall. Bro. H. R. Trigg, of Hayling, prepared the plans for a building 45 ft. by 35 ft., including a lodge-room, retiring-room for the W.M., committee-room, Tyler's room, and the usual offices. The edifice, which will be without architectural pretensions, is to be of brick, with cement ornamentation, and its erection has been entrusted to Bro. G. Barnes. Arrangements had been made for laying the foundation-stone of the building with full Masonic ceremonies, and it was anticipated that there would be a very large attendance, not only of members of the craft, but of the uninitiated outsiders. Unfortunately, however, the weather, which so frequently mars out-door spectacles, was most unpropitious, and the brethren did not attend in anything like the numbers looked for, while the heavy and almost continuous downpour effectually prevented a strong muster of the public. Mr. Arthur Locke, of the Bear Hotel, Havant, kindly placed the large room over his carriage repository at the disposal of the Masons, and herein a lodge was held and duly "tiled." The R.W. P. Grand Master of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P. for North Hants), who is ever ready to do all in his power to promote the interests of Freemasonry, came specially from London to be present, and he was supported by the V.W. the P. Dep. Grand Master (Bro. William Hickman, of Southampton), Bro. H. Ford, P.G.S.W.; Bro. J. E. Le Feuvre, Prov. G. Sec.; and Bro. Mark E. Frost, Prov. G. Treas.; J. W. Fardell (Ryde), P.G.J.W. Among the brethren present in lodge were Bros. Lintott, W.M. Carnarvon Lodge; H. R. Trigg, P.M., Prov. G. Sup. of Works; J. N. Hillman, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; H. Cawte, P.P.G. Warden; John Lillywhite, P.M., Prov. G. Registrar; J. C. Wheeler, W.M. 257; J. Whale, W.M. 309; R. Eve, P.M., P.P.G.S. Warden; G. R. Johnson, Prov. G. Swd. Bearer; T. Francis, P.M.; R. Newland, P.M., Prov. G.A.D.C.; E. Good, P.M.; R. Barber, P. Prov. G.S.B.; R. Osborne, Prov. G. Org.; J. Harrison, I.P.M. Carnarvon Lodge; J. Southwood, C. H. Liddell, H. T. Cecil, P.P.G. Steward; F. White, R. R. L. Rosoman, F. Spurgeon, F. Lemmon, C. N. Burr, W. Payne, P.G. Steward; H. F. Cox, S.W. Carnarvon Lodge; G. Barnes, O. C. Harries, H. Coles, E. Salter, G. A. Eaton, G. Woodman, W. Sims, J. Blount Thomas, P.P.G.S.D.; Major Paxton, T. Hall, C. B. Payne, Tyler of the Grand Lodge of England; G. Carter, J.D. Carnarvon Lodge; W. Bull, Eugene E. Street, G. L. Green, J. P. Paice, and others. Bro. H. R. Trigg acted as M.C. The cornucopia, or horn of plenty, and other golden vessels used on such occasions had been sent from the Grand Lodge, and oil, corn, and wine were placed in them, but in consequence of the bad weather were not used, it having been determined to shorten the ceremony as much as possible. At three o'clock the P.G.M. and his officers, with the brethren, preceded by the band of the 21st North Fusiliers, under the direction of Mr. Daniels, moved in procession from the temporary lodge to the site of the hall, where Bro. Johnson, in the absence of the Prov. G. Chaplain (Bro. the Rev. E. B. C. Churchill), impressively read a short prayer, after which the P.G.M. "proved" the stone and declared it "square, level, and well-wrought, and fit for the purpose intended." The stone was then lowered and the usual taps were given. Bro. Trigg produced the plans, which, having been examined by the P.G.M., were declared "well executed, and the limits and proportions accurately defined." The procession then re-formed and returned to the lodge-room, which having been "close tiled,"

The Prov. Grand Master said the ceremony in which they had been engaged was such as was always interesting to Freemasons. Although they did not take part in operative Masonry, as their forefathers were wont to do in former days, they never shrank from showing the interest they took in the erection of buildings. They were incited to do this by the fame of those who had gone before. Many magnificent buildings remained as masterpieces of art, and modern Freemasons had not only engrafted many valuable lessons upon the work which their forefathers wrought, but they had taken an active part in the erection of buildings in the present day. But there was something specially interesting and coming home to their hearts in a practical manner when the building which was proposed to be erected was for the purposes of Freemasonry. When that building was in future time to be

a lodge, in which the purposes of Freemasonry were to be carried out, it indeed came home to the heart of every man, and led him to take a more active interest in it than he might otherwise do. It became them to think of the work in which they were engaged. When a building was being erected for the purpose of Freemasonry they had to think, "What is this which we are promoting?" and it brought home those lessons which were inculcated by their Masonic Craft. It was well-known to them all that those lessons were most valuable; they were founded upon the Sacred Volume, which lies open in every lodge. In that Sacred Volume were contained those lessons which were most valuable for the life of man. If they could but act up to the lessons therein inculcated, and which every Master of a lodge was bound to impress upon the brethren under his rule, they would have their lives improved, and they would feel that Freemasonry had brought home to them lessons which were most valuable for their future. The building which was to be erected was founded on wisdom, strength, and beauty—wisdom to devise, strength to execute, and beauty in embellishment. But the construction of the building was as nothing compared with the purposes for which it was devised. Therein he trusted in future years would be impressed on those who attended lessons in harmony with the purposes of Freemasonry. He trusted that those lessons would bear fruit, and that those brethren who attended would feel themselves called upon to act up to those valuable precepts which were instilled among them. If a Freemason was really impressed with the value and the necessity of acting up to those lessons, it could not but have a most important effect upon his future life. Supposing a Master who was impressing those lessons upon the brethren were not to act up to them himself, would he not feel that he was falling away from what he was impressing upon them? Would that not lead him to act better, to do more to promote the welfare of man, and to show his reverence for the Great Architect of the Universe, than he might otherwise do? He trusted it would. No one who made himself well acquainted with the principles of Freemasonry could fail to be aware of the importance of the precepts which were taught; and therefore if any one who was well acquainted with them failed to carry out in his own person those precepts, he must feel that he was derogating from the high position which he ought to occupy. Such was not, he trusted, the case with any one there. He trusted that all who attended within this lodge would have the lessons of Freemasonry amply and well explained to them, and that those who had them impressed upon them would act up to them. He hoped this building, the foundation stone of which had been laid that day, would be powerful for good, and that it would exercise an important influence upon Freemasonry in that town and neighbourhood. He could only say, for himself, that he wished it hearty good-speed, and that the work they had inaugurated that day might be prosperous and efficient. (Applause.)

Bro. Lintott, W.M., in proposing a vote of thanks to the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, said they would all agree with him it was a great kindness on his part to come so many miles to be present with them. They had long been looking forward to that day. They knew that the R.W. Prov. Grand Master had many important and arduous duties to perform, not only in Freemasonry, but in many other matters.

Bro. F. Cox, S.W., seconded the resolution, saying he was sure it must have been an exertion on the part of the P.G.M. to find time to visit so small a lodge as this.

The Prov. Grand Master, in acknowledging the vote, said it gave him very great pleasure indeed to be present, and he thought he should have been very deficient in his duty if he had failed to attend when the brethren of the Carnarvon Lodge were making such a noble effort to erect a building fit for the purposes of Freemasonry. It reflected such infinite credit on them that it deserved every encouragement on the part of Freemasons in other parts of the province, and being at the head of the province he should have failed in his duty if he had not come to show by his presence that he heartily approved of their good work, and that he was anxious to say a few words to encourage them, and wish them prosperity in the future. He hoped and trusted that on his next attendance there he should see the building assuming full proportions, and promising to be worthy of, and efficient for, the purposes of Freemasonry. (Applause.)

The lodge was then closed in the usual Masonic form.

At half-past four a banquet was served in the Town Hall, under the presidency of the Prov. Grand Master. The catering was entrusted to Bro. Purnell, of the Dolphin, who had prepared a choice menu, and served the repast in a manner reflecting great credit upon him. At the conclusion of the dinner,

The Prov. Grand Master said that loyalty to the Sovereign of their native land was an integral portion of their Masonic creed, and therefore they, as Freemasons, in common with other of Her Majesty's subjects, were ready on every occasion to prove their loyalty and affection. But had they not any inducement to do so it would be found in the manner in which Her Majesty, during a lengthened reign, had endeared herself to the hearts of her subjects. And, indeed, during that long time she had proved herself a true constitutional Sovereign, and that she was ready on every occasion to consult their welfare and adapt herself to their wishes. (Applause.) He was sure that as Freemasons he need not appeal to their hearts to join in the toast with every sense of affection that they were capable of showing.—The P.G.M. then gave "The Queen and the Craft." (Applause.)

The Prov. Grand Master said the next toast that he had the honour to propose to them was that of their Grand Master, the Prince of Wales. (Applause.) Those who were present on the occasion of his installation would not readily forget the magnificent spectacle presented, and they must also have realised the fact that the Prince of Wales, in assuming the office of Grand Master, was not

insensible to the duties he was taking on himself. (Hear, hear.) He had shown himself a great friend to the Craft, and during his recent journey in India he had lost no opportunity of attending a Masonic ceremony whenever it was in his power to do so. It must be a source of joy and congratulation to them to find that during his journey throughout that great empire he had not only endeared himself to the hearts of their countrymen there, but also of the natives of that country. He was sure that though he had not thrown aside pleasure, yet he had never neglected duty to pursue it. (Hear, hear.) He had, he was quite sure, worked during his tour in a wonderful manner. The enormous number of processions and ceremonies that he had attended required a very strong constitution to get through. But he had been enabled to surmount all, and he was sure that the manner in which he had conducted himself throughout the whole of that tour had redounded to the honour of England, and had shown that he who held the highest position, next to the Queen, in England, was able to conduct himself towards all those with whom he came in contact in a manner to reflect honour on the position he occupied. (Applause.) He trusted that on his return to this country he would meet with a reception that would repay him in some measure for the labour he had undergone. (Applause.)

The Prov. Grand Master said that however ready the Prince of Wales, their Grand Master, might be to attend Masonic ceremonies, yet it was quite impossible for him to discharge those duties all over the country. The consequence was that it was necessary to have a Pro Grand Master to represent him, and the Craft were fortunate in having a brother of such eminence and talent as the Earl of Carnarvon. (Applause.) He was very much associated with this county, although he held the office of Provincial Grand Master of Somerset. But he had shown himself ready to take a great interest in Freemasonry in this province, and extremely zealous in discharging the duties of Provincial Grand Master. He had also been a staunch supporter of their Masonic charities, and, in short, had reflected honour upon the cause of Freemasonry since he had been a member of their Order. (Applause.) He would couple with the toast "The Health of Lord Skelmersdale, the Deputy Grand Master," who in Lancashire, in particular, was held in the very highest repute. Those who had the opportunity of meeting him, as he frequently had, on Masonic occasions, knew that the able manner in which he performed his duties commended itself to the hearts of all who came near him. He would couple with the toast "The Health of a Past Grand Officer," whose name ordinarily would be coupled with another toast, but whom it would be convenient on this occasion to give an opportunity of saying a few words before he left—Bro. William Hickman. (Applause.) He gave "The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the Officers of the Grand Lodge, Present and Past." (Applause.)

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Hickman, in responding, said he could assure them that in the Earl of Carnarvon the Grand Lodge of England had a nobleman who conducted the proceedings, in the absence of the Prince of Wales and on his behalf, in a most satisfactory manner. (Hear, hear.) He need not remind them of the manner in which the installation ceremony of the Prince of Wales—that glorious meeting of Masons throughout England—was conducted by his lordship some twelve months ago. That was a day that would rest in the memory of all Masons in England for many, many years to come, and even for generations. (Hear, hear.) Lord Skelmersdale was only too pleased to second the exertions of the Pro Grand Master, and to do his duty as Deputy Grand Master, and all the officers, present and past, of Grand Lodge were only too pleased to do what in them lay for the furtherance of Freemasonry. He only hoped that today's proceedings, although they might have been to some extent marred by the weather, over which they could have no control, would be remembered in Havant, they having laid the foundation of a lodge which he trusted would last for many years, and cement the bonds of Freemasonry, particularly the support of their charitable institutions, and he hoped also that many lasting friendships and kindly relations might exist in this lodge. (Hear, hear.) He expressed the thanks of the Provincial Grand Officers who had been summoned, and who had been so pleased to accompany their Provincial Grand Master on this occasion, for the very kind manner in which they had been received. They would be only too pleased at a future time, when the building was completed, to come there and inaugurate the proceedings therein, and they trusted that this lodge might exist for many years and be held in the new building, which would be a very handsome one, according to the plans they had seen that day, and that it might be from generation to generation a rallying-point for Freemasonry in this district. (Applause.)

Bro. Lintott briefly proposed "The R.W. Prov. G.M.," who had come there that day from a long distance to be present, although, as they knew, he had many other important and arduous duties to perform. (Hear, hear.) The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm.

The Prov. Grand Master, in responding, said he certainly could have wished that circumstances had been more propitious. If the weather had been only favourable they should have had, no doubt, a large attendance, anxious to witness such an interesting ceremony. But as they were not so favoured they were obliged to put up with a comparatively small attendance. But he might congratulate their Worshipful Master that the brethren who were present were animated by a sincere desire to take part in that interesting ceremony. It must be gratifying to any one to have a Masonic lodge constituted in a locality. Those brethren who had taken part in the formation of a lodge, and in its sustentation, must have been animated by a sincere desire to promote the welfare of Freemasonry, and they then set themselves to work to get a building proper to re-

ceive them. There was something, no doubt, repugnant to the feelings of true Masons when they met in a building not adapted to them and unworthy of holding them. (Hear, hear.) Therefore it reflected the more credit on them when they set to work and put their shoulders to the wheel, to erect a building which should be worthy of them. (Hear, hear.) Such, he trusted, would be the result of the proceedings of to-day. What had they resolved to do? To make a building for the purposes of Freemasonry. Was it an Order worthy of support, or a mere ignoble Order, which would flourish for a few years and then die away? Freemasonry had existed for centuries, its votaries had been well aware that it was an Order which could not die, because its principles would ever keep it alive. Other societies had died out, but Freemasonry still flourished and increased, because those who had succeeded their forefathers had gone on, feeling that the lessons they had received were lessons which were well worthy of being acted up to and perpetuated. Amongst the lessons of Freemasonry there were some which could not but reflect credit upon those that devised them, as upon those who were determined to act up to them. They had the lessons of benevolence and charity—charity, let him say, acted upon to its fullest extent, not that charity which lavishly gave away to the first comer, but that charity which had an influence upon the inner man, which led them to act honourably and benevolently to every one with whom they came in contact. That was the true charity which should influence the human life, and could they see it acted up to throughout the outer world they would have fewer disputes and fewer disturbances, and they would have something more benevolent than had ever as yet existed in the world. But that was too much to expect. Let them, however, as Masons, resolve so to act, that however much the outer world might cavil at their principles, they would be compelled to say—"We cannot but admit that they do not neglect them in their own lives. (Hear, hear.) That was a reflection which should induce all of them to act in an honourable and proper manner, so that others might say when they looked upon a Mason—"He has acted up to the principles which have been instilled into him." (Hear, hear.) In presiding over that province, which he had had the honour to do for some years, he had taken the warmest interest in the progress of Freemasonry throughout its precincts. Impressed himself, at his first entrance into the Order, with a belief that Freemasonry would confer the greatest benefits upon the human race, he had tried, far as in him lay, to support it, and he could only hope that he might have the pleasure of seeing Freemasonry flourish, not only throughout the province, but throughout the country. (Applause.) He thanked the W.M. and brethren of the Carnarvon Lodge for the very kind and hospitable reception they had given them that day, and he trusted, as their Deputy Grand Master had said, that on a future occasion he might have the opportunity of coming there and seeing the result of the auspicious proceedings which had taken place that day. (Applause.)

Bro. Lintott, W.M., proposed "The Provincial Officers, Present and Past," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Henry Ford, P.G.S.W. (Applause.)

Bro. H. Ford, P.G.S.W., in responding, said he was much obliged to them for having an opportunity of joining in this festive occasion. He came there, hoping that they might have a fine day and a large gathering. They had not either, but at least they had had the leaders of their Craft present among them, showing them they were still earnest in their attachment to the principles of their Order, and, although the weather was unpropitious, doing their duty to the best of their ability. He was quite sure that all present must have derived some lessons of instruction and some lessons to guide them in the future from the ceremony in which they had taken part. The ceremony was necessarily curtailed in consequence of their great enemy, the weather, but still enough had been performed to show they had laid the foundation of a building which, they believed, would take deep root, and, by the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe, bring forth fruit a hundred fold. They did not come there to take part in an empty or idle ceremony, or merely to grace a procession or show themselves in Masonic clothing to the ignorant multitude; but they came there for the purpose of strengthening the hands of a body of men in that town, who had done so much to cultivate Freemasonry and establish its principles and precepts. (Applause.) Let them hope that the proceedings of that day would emanate in Freemasonry being more firmly established than ever among them, and that the Carnarvon Lodge, which was about to have a habitation of its own, might continue to flourish. (Applause.) Following so closely after their excellent Right Worshipful Grand Master, it would be affectation in him to detain them with a long speech. But he could not allow the opportunity to pass without expressing his deep sense of the obligations of Freemasonry, as he had often done in that town in days gone by. The name of a Freemason was not a mere empty word; it had a meaning and significance which they ought never to forget. (Hear, hear.) It imposed upon them self-restraint, which they ought to practise whenever the necessity for it arose. He could not help feeling sad for a moment, even although they had every appliance for festivity before them. He could not help remembering that the hand of Death had been among Freemasons, as well as among other bodies, and that if it had not been for his inroads in the Order he (Bro. Ford) would not be occupying the position he now filled. They missed from among them on that occasion the face of a genial brother, who had recently been taken to, he hoped and believed, an abode of bliss; a brother who had been wont to make them as happy as it was in his power to do, even at the sacrifice of his own personal comfort. Let them for a moment pause and reflect that the time might come—nay, must shortly come—when they would have to follow him

to that bourne whence no traveller returned. He knew their excellent Brother Forbes between forty and fifty years, and he always found him to be a good friend and a sincere and trustworthy man; and, as a Mason, his heart was enshrined in the principles of their Order. Let them follow in his footsteps, although all could not gain the position he occupied, and strive to emulate his example. While on this melancholy topic he could not help remembering that they had formerly a brother among them who, on occasions like this, was the life and soul of their proceedings—he referred to their late excellent Bro. Stebbing, the Deputy Prov. Grand Master. They always missed his genial countenance whenever anything was to be done for the good of Freemasonry. Let them strive to emulate the example of those who had gone before them. They were apt to forget what the meaning of Freemasonry was. It was not merely the practice of one of the social virtues. Brotherly love, relief, and truth were its three cardinal points. He urged the brethren of the Carnarvon Lodge to continue to live together in brotherly love. If that principle had not been acted upon they could never have gained the predominance they had in this town, or have been in a position to go through that day's proceedings. (Applause.)

The Prov. Grand Master referred to the presence amongst them of an Irish Mason, and proposed "The Grand Lodge of Ireland," which was responded to by Bro. Charles H. Bamber, Sphinx Lodge, 263.

The Prov. Grand Master said he rose to propose a toast which he was sure would be received with the greatest enthusiasm—"The health of their Worshipful Master." It would have been much more pleasing to have proposed this toast could he have congratulated him upon all the proceedings of to-day having gone off in the most favourable manner, but was sure he might congratulate him that as far as he (the W.M.) was concerned everything had gone off in the most admirable manner. They must thank him for the arrangements which had been made and for the manner in which he had conducted them. The Worshipful Master had important duties to perform. He had to rely upon the support of the brethren of neighbouring lodges assisting him upon any occasion when they might be called upon to do so. He was sure the Worshipful Master of the Carnarvon Lodge might rely upon the support of the brethren of his neighbouring lodges. (Hear, hear.) They would therefore drink his health, and wish that the remaining part of his year of office might be most prosperous. (Loud applause.)

The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm, and Bro. Lintott briefly responded, and proposed "The Visitors."

Bro. Eve, P.P.G.S.W., in responding, said nothing could be a greater source of enjoyment to all true Masons than to assemble on the occasion of laying the foundation-stone of a Masonic Hall. They all felt that if Masons could possibly get funds sufficient to have a place of their own it was their duty to do so. For a small locality, as Havant was, compared with Portsmouth and other towns, they had shown a great deal of pluck in getting a building of their own, and he was sure would receive the congratulations of all the brethren of the province. The visitors could only regret that they had not been better favoured in respect to the weather, and he trusted that next time they had occasion to have a meeting of that kind they would take the opportunity of coming in still larger numbers than they had that day, for the purpose of expressing their feelings towards them, for the manner in which they had conducted Masonry in this town. When they saw what a small body had done, it brought a number of larger towns rather into disrepute. (Hear, hear.) Other towns ought to emulate the example which they had set, and he hoped it would be followed. (Hear, hear.) He proposed, "Success to the Carnarvon Lodge. (Applause.)"

Bro. Good, P.M., briefly responded, and promised a donation of £10 towards the building fund. (Applause.)

INAUGURAL BALL AT THE SURREY MASONIC HALL.

Owing to the large increase of members, and of necessity, lodges, a want has long been felt in the southern part of London for a building in which the solemn rites of the Order can be performed, without having resort to establishments but poorly suited to the requirements of the Masonic fraternity. The Surrey Masonic Hall, which has been in course of erection now very nearly two years, was formally opened on Wednesday, the 19th inst., by an Inaugural Ball. The foundation-stone was laid as far back as the 29th of May, 1874, by Colonel Francis Burdett, J.P., Prov. Grand Master of Middlesex, in the presence of a large number of distinguished brethren, and many ladies. The dedication of the hall took place on the same day as the consecration of the new lodge, No. 1539, which was named after the hall. The Rt. Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, Deputy Grand Master for West Lancashire, formally dedicated the new hall to Freemasonry on Wednesday, July 13, 1875. The hall, as its name implies, was built for the special accommodation of Masonic lodges, and the portion of the premises more especially devoted to this purpose has been in use several months, a number of lodges, chapters, and instruction lodges having already taken up their quarters within the building.

In addition to this portion, however, the building also comprises a large public hall 95 feet long, 40 wide, and 35 high, and this having now approached completion, was inaugurated, as we have already stated, by the ball, and in order to identify the opening of this hall with one of the three great principles of Freemasonry, the proceeds will be given to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. Of the boon which this hall will prove to the neighbourhood there is little need to speak.

Bro. M. S. Lartham, a director of the Surrey Masonic Hall

Company, obtained permission for the members of the Order to appear in Masonic costume, which gave great effect and *clat* to the assembly. Bro. D. Goifrey's band was in attendance and performed some choice music, Bro. John Jarvis proving himself an able Master of the Ceremonies. Supper was supplied about one o'clock in the rooms adjoining the hall. The usual toasts were given and duly responded to. During the evening the following Inaugural Ode, on the completion of the Surrey Masonic Hall, written by Bro. Samuel Poynter, P.M. 902 and 1491, barrister-at-law, was delivered by Bro. Dawson in a very able manner.

ODE.

"And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither; so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building."—1 Kings, VI., v. 7.

"An house not made with hands."—II. Cor., V., v. 1.

In Israel's holy city, when the word
Went forth to build a Temple to the Lord,
The pious prince, who swayed the sceptre then,—
Wiseest alike of monarchs and of men,—
Inspired by zeal, by light divine illumed,
To give command unparalleled presumed.

"The fane we build"—so mused his mighty mind—
"Is for no earthly potentate designed;
"For human ruler, howsoever great,
"Whate'er the pomp, the pageantry, the state,
"His throne surround, how loud soe'er th' acclaim
"With which the sycophantic shout his name,—
"Let mortal hands with lusty strokes attest
"A mortal's lodging 'tis they build at best!
"The maul for luxury's use now deftly plied
"Shall ring on nails that clinch the coffin's side;
"The pick that cleaves the earth to found the throne
"Breaks up the ground beneath the cold grave stone;
"Each sound of toil that jars on royalty's ear
"Proclaims that e'en to monarchs death is near!
"E'en as at Pharaoh's feasts, o'er pomp and power,
"The grisly, grinning, skeleton would tower,*
"So, as the sumptuous palace stone by stone
"Rises in beauty, rings the dirge-like tone,—
"Whomsoe'er thou art for whom these toilers ply,
"Thou shar'st their lot in this—thou too must die!"
"Not so that Being"—thus the king's thoughts ran,
"For whom this regal edifice we plan;
"How grand soe'er, yet all too mean for One
"Whose Temple is the Universe alone,—
"Ruler of all, e'en of the gruesome king;
"Cedes grave no vict'ry, knows in death no sting!
"Let then no harsh discordant noises break
"The solemn silence in the house we make;
"No stroke disturb, or clang of tool dispel,
"The stillness where we pray our God to dwell!"

The king decreed, and wond'ring Israel viewed
The logs well shaped, the ashlar squared where hewed,
In forest and in quarry, leagues away
From that all hallow'd site, where, day by day,
Conveyed by tedious toil o'er sea and land,
All ready fashioned to the builder's hand,
The precious freight arrived; and fingers skilled
The pieces fitted—and, with reverence filled,
The Jewish people saw before them rise
The stately fabric—mounting to the skies;
The world's new wonder growing—tower by tower—
In symmetry and silence hour by hour!

So the first Temple sprung—how changed the tone
Upon that spot, when, ruined and o'erthrown,
The pious builders of the second sought
The ancient glory to restore—and wrought
With sturdy arms—the hammer swinging high,
Trowel and pick in hand, but sword on thigh!
Thus to all time they the example set
That lawless violence must by force be met,
Proclaiming in the patriot's loftiest strain
What toil produces valour must maintain!

Shall these great lessons of time passed away
Be told in dull, deaf, nay, dead, ears to-day?
Shall we, whom God has blessed with peace and means,
With sceptic sneer turn from these old-world scenes?
Or read with pride that goes before a fall
The unregarded writing on the wall?
Not so! The Temple that the wise king planned,
Too great almost for work of human hand,
So grand, so glorious, that it seemed to grow
By nature's process from the earth below,
We builders speculative, in our state
Of mortal sojourn, strive to imitate.

Ah! would our skill could from the world around
All evil banish, as metallic sound
Was stilled within the Temple's gorgeous walls!
But here sin's ringing conflict still appeals;
Yet work we on, our house the human soul;
The sounds we seek to banish or control
Are vice's promptings, passion's fierce appeal;
Or avarice hampering tender hearts to steel;
These sounds discordant silenced, we could hear
The "still small voice" that whispers "Peace is here!"

Nor yet alone the earlier Temple's rise
Exhausts the lesson Holy Writ supplies;
The careless and indifferent may cease.
To heed the conscience, and may call that peace;
But lethargy, like this, so dense and deep,
Is, as to peace, as death is unto sleep.
Be ours, while silencing the angry din
Of raging passions jarring all within
The human temple—ever to incline
Our mental ears unto the voice Divine!

And, as the builders, when they sought to raise

*An allusion to the well-known traditionary custom at Egyptian banquets.

Again the Temple to Jehovah's praise,
Toiled with their hands, but carried at their side
The sword to guard the work their skill supplied,
We, too, must learn, when right's by force withstood,
Like men to 'quit us for the common good!

The common good! Our revels here to-night
Remind us of an enemy to fight.
Grim foes we Masons face; the strife we'd win
Is waged with want, with ignorance, with sin!
Whom threaten they? Hark! where in yonder walls
The tiny foot of blooming girlhood falls.
Our Brethren's orphans! Brethren whom hard care
Their feet through life kept on the dark'ned square.
Poor girls! Ye gentle fair, whose witching eyes
To-night our festal scene's chief charm supplies,
From joyful thoughts with which your bosoms glow,
One warm pulsation of your hearts bestow
In gentle sympathy with this our aim,
In sanctioning the privilege we claim
To succour those for whom to-night we plead—
Our orphan sisters—in their hour of need!

Hold! I have said enough. You'll say there's quite
Sufficient moralising for one night.
All harsh, discordant noises from this scene
Be banished now; while tranquil and serene,
Sole interruption of the stillness round,
Shall be sweet music's joy-inspiring sound;
The only strokes upon our ears to beat,
The joyous pattering of youthful feet,
Threading the circling maze; and if, by chance,
Some cheery voices break the pleasant trance,
The heartfelt wishes on our ears will fall
Affection's welcome—warm good-will to all.
Success to this our roof, and, to have done,
As Tiny Tim says, "God bless every one!"

VISIT OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF DERBYSHIRE TO THE PHOENIX LODGE OF ST. ANN, BUXTON, No. 1235.

The Phoenix Lodge of St. Ann, Buxton, was on the 16th inst. honoured for the first time by the visit of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Derbyshire, with Bro. H. C. Okeover, R.W.P.G.W. of England, D.P.G.M. Lodge was opened in the Court House at 1.30 p.m. by Bro. E. C. Milligan, W.M. of the Phoenix, and after the transaction of the usual business of the lodge the arrival of the Provincial Grand Lodge was announced. There was a very large attendance, the Court House being so well filled that the gathering of so many distinguished Masons had a very imposing effect. The meeting was a very satisfactory one, and several suggestions in connection with the charities and the Freemasonry of the province were discussed in a manner which will doubtless bear good fruit. After the lodge had been closed with the usual impressive ceremonies, the numerous brethren adjourned to the Palace Hotel, where tables, decorated with the choicest flowers from Chatsworth through the kindness of the Marquis of Hartington, P.G.M., had been spread for a sumptuous banquet. At one end of the room, also, was a fine acacia from the conservatory of Bro. R. R. Duke. A photograph of the artistically laid tables was taken by Mr. Hobbs, of the Market Place. Bro. E. C. Milligan, W.M. of the Phoenix, presided, supported by Bro. H. C. Okeover, D.P.G.M., and Bro. W. Smith, I.P.M. of the Phoenix; and the Rev. A. A. Bagshawe, M.A., P.P. S.G.W., and P.P.G.C., Chaplain, said grace. The menu was served "à la Russe," and in such a manner that it elicited from the D.P.G.M. the remark that "it was the most elegant banquet he had ever seen."

After dinner the following toasts were submitted, and honoured in the usual loyal and Masonic manner, the presiding W.M. performing his arduous duties admirably:—"The Queen and Freemasonry," "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, G.M. of England; the Princess of Wales; and the Royal Family;" "Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon, acting G.M.; and the Grand Lodge of England;" Bro. the Marquis of Hartington, R.W.P.G.M.; "H. C. Okeover, Esp. R.W.D.P.G.M.; and the Officers of Prov. Grand Lodge, Past and Present;" "The Phoenix Lodge of St. Ann;" "The Visitors;" "The Charities;" "Tyler's Toast."

Altogether it was a most enjoyable day, and the brethren of Provincial Grand Lodge expressed their satisfaction again and again; and hopes were entertained that, though it was the first, it would probably not be the last visit of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Amongst those present at the lodge and at the banquet were the following (but the list is not complete in consequence of many of the brethren omitting to enter their names in the Tyler's book):—Bros. E. C. Milligan, W.M. Phoenix Lodge of St. Ann, 1235; Rev. A. A. Bagshawe, Chaplain, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., P.P. Ch., &c.; W. Smith, I.P.M., &c.; R. Duke, P.M., P.P.G.J.D.; Josiah Taylor, P.M., P.P. Std. B.; F. Turner, P.M., P.P.S.D.; G. J. Sykes, S.W.; J. H. Lawson, J.W.; W. D. Sutton, Treas.; C. Adams, Sec.; P. Le Gros, S.D.; W. Boughen, J.D.; G. Marsden, P.G.O.; C. Wilkinson, I.G.; G. Goodwin, Stwd.; C. Winnell, Stwd.; T. Bragg, P.M. 74, 1016, P.Z. 74, P.P.G.S.D. Warwick; W. C. Moore, G. F. Barnard, Joseph Martin, J. C. Bates, and others. The visitors included the following brethren:—H. C. Okeover, R.W. P.G.W. and D.P.G.M.; R. Darwin, P.P.G.W., P.M. 654; T. Cox, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., P.G.T., &c.; J. Casson, P.P. G.O.; G. K. Baines, S.W. 1495; T. Bramwell, S.W. 654; W. Lomas, W.M. 884; T. Parker, 1495; W. Sperry, 1495; T. Cox, P.P.S.G.W., P.M. 253; S. Pipes, W.M. 1085; W. W. Jeudwine, J.W. 681; C. Busby, I.G. 681; W. Chippendale, 44; W. L. Barrow, S. 1495;—Grindrod, 654; J. W. Wright, I.G. 654; T. Hibbert, 654; J. Hawthorn, 654; W. Platt, 654; J. Platt, 654; J. Wyatt, 654; C. Bennett, 654; J. D. Simpson, 654; S. W. Ready, P.M. 654; W. Bembridge; C. Wright, 884; John J. Bingham,

W.M. 128; T. Horsley, P.P.S.G.W. 253; T. Slinn, P.G. Tyler; T. Wright, W.M. 654; and others.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST LANCASHIRE.

An especial Provincial Grand Lodge of the Western Division of the county of Lancashire was held at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, on Tuesday, the 18th inst., for the purpose of taking into consideration a letter which had been received from the Rev. E. Deacle, precentor of Chester Cathedral, with regard to the proposed contribution by the Freemasons of West Lancashire towards the restoration of Chester Cathedral. Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, D.G.M. England, R.W.P.G.M. West Lancashire, was present, and accepted the place of honour at the proceedings. Amongst the others present were Bros. A. C. Deeley, P.G.J.W.; Dr. J. K. Smith, P.G. Reg.; T. Armstrong, P.G. Treas.; H. S. Alpass, P.G. Sec.; J. F. Goggin, P.P.G. Chap.; R. Wilson, P.P.G.S.D.; T. Wylie, P.P.G. Reg.; R. Wylie, P.P.G.J.D.; W. J. Turley, P.P.G.J.D.; J. R. Goepel, P.P.G.D.C.; J. Lunt, P.G.D.C.; G. Broadbridge, P.P.G.D.C.; J. Skeag, P.G.O.; S. E. Ibbis, P.P.G.S.B.; J. Bell, W.M. 1356; R. Brown, W.M. 241, Hon. Sec. West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution; J. Wood, Treas. 1094 ("Freemason"); J. W. J. Fowler, P.P.G.A.D.C.; W. Johnson, 241; J. Houlding, J.W. 823; W. Healing, W.M. 1094; W. S. Vines, P.M. 220; J. H. McQuistan, 241; S. J. McGeorge, P.M., Treas. 241; H. Liversage, 1299; R. Bennett, W.M. 1299; A. Jones, J.W. 1502; J. T. Callow, W.M. 1505; H. Nelson, P.M. 1505; T. Clark, P.M. 673; J. Hocken, P.M., Treas. 673; Dr. F. J. Bailey, 786; H. Ashmore, W.M. 1325; G. Turner, P.M. 823; R. Young, P.M. 86; W. Tyrer, W.M. 86; H. Vaughan, J.W. 86; J. A. Edginton, P.M. 1182; P. R. Gee, W.M. 1264; J. Higson Johnson, P.M. 1350; A. Woolrich, S.D. 1356, &c.

The P.G.M. said it would be remembered that at the last P.G. Lodge meeting a letter was read from the Rev. Mr. Deacle with reference to the restoration of Chester Cathedral, but it was then thought advisable to postpone the consideration of the matter, as the brethren were then engaged in raising funds for the Benevolent Institution. He then took it upon him to say that the brethren would raise money for the purpose of helping on the restoration, and he had promised that their gift would take the form of a sedilia, which he thought would be a much more appropriate gift to come from Freemasons than either a pavement or coronna, the other gifts which had been named by Mr. Deacle in his letter. He now asked the brethren to give him their opinion on the subject, and say what they thought the P.G. Lodge should do in connection with the matter.

Bro. R. Wylie, P.P.J.G.D., now moved that the sum of £100 be given towards the restoration of Chester Cathedral.

Bro. Deeley, P.G.J.W., seconded the motion.

Bro. Broadbridge, P.P.G.D.C., said he thought they should hesitate before voting the funds of the P.G. Lodge to this purpose. They had amongst their number many brethren who were Dissenters, Roman Catholics, and members of other persuasions, and in relation to these they stood in a very peculiar position. Moreover, they ought to remember that they had the greatest difficulty in raising the sums required to get their children elected in connection with their institutions. Besides, he thought that before they parted with their funds they ought at least to furnish that hall properly.

In answer to a brother, the P.G.M. said the sedilia would cost about £450.

A brother from Barrow also objected to the vote, remarking that the clergy of Carlisle, in which part of that province was situated, might as well ask for a similar vote.

After several other brethren had spoken for and against the proposal,

Bro. T. Wylie, P.P.G. Reg., called attention to the Masonic gift which had recently been made to the cathedral at Gloucester, and urged the brethren to see that the pledge or promise of their P.G.M. should be redeemed with what he might call "flying colours."

Bro. H. S. Alpass, P.G. Sec., in supporting the motion for the vote, pointed out that amongst the 4400 Freemasons in the province of West Lancashire no fewer than 3200 were resident in the diocese of Chester. With regard to the objection raised as to the different creeds to be found in the Masonic body, he stated, as the result of a long experience, that the clergymen of the Church of England were almost the only ministers who joined the Order, a fact which he considered a complete answer to the repeated charges of irreligion which had been made against Freemasonry. When so many clergymen of the Established Church became Masons and took part in the ceremonies of the Craft, the members of that Order could be neither infidels nor deists, as many had alleged. They owed a debt of gratitude to the ministers of the Church, and they could show this in some measure by their aid in this work of restoration.

After Bro. R. Young, P.M. 86, had spoken against the proposition,

Bro. R. Wylie said this was not a question of religion, but a Masonic question, in which they were called upon to contribute to the restoration of a building in which they ought to have a special interest.

The motion was carried by an overwhelming majority and it was also resolved that the P.G.M. should recommend the members of private lodges within his province to supplement the vote of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

Lord Skelmersdale intimated his intention of subscribing £25 towards the object.

After £55 had been voted for relief and assistance in the education of deceased Freemasons' children, the proceedings of the special meeting terminated.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF WEST LANCASHIRE.

The annual Provincial Grand Chapter of the Province of West Lancashire was held on Tuesday afternoon, the 18th inst., in the Chapter-room at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool. Comp. the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, Prov. G. Superintendent, was present, and presided over one of the largest gatherings of companions seen in Liverpool for a long time.

After the P.G. chapter had been opened, and some formal business transacted, the P.G. Supt. appointed and invested the following as his Provincial Grand Officers for the coming year:—Comps. J. Prescott, P.G.H.; G. D. Pochin, P.G.J.; Dr. J. Kellett Smith, P.G. Reg.; T. Armstrong, P.G.T. (re-elected); H. S. Alpass, P.G.S.E. (re-appointed); Dr. S. J. McGeorge, P.G.S.N.; W. Sharp, P.G. Soj.; R. Dodgson, P.G.A. Soj.; J. Holland, P.G. Second A. Soj.; T. Nevett, P.G.S.B.; J. T. Callow, P.G. St. B.; H. Nelson, P.G.D.C. (re-appointed); J. Skeaf, P.G.O.; J. Wainwright, P.G.S.; and P. Ball, P.G. Janitor (re-elected).

On the motion of Comp. Thomas Wylie, it was resolved to vote £25 from the funds of the Provincial Grand Chapter towards the Masonic contribution from West Lancashire in aid of the restoration of Chester Cathedral; and it was further agreed that a recommendation should be sent by Comp. Lord Skelmersdale, P.G. Supt., in name of the Provincial Grand Chapter, to all the chapters within his jurisdiction to supplement that amount by private subscriptions.

This was all the business of importance, and the Prov. Grand Chapter was closed in due form. The majority of the companions subscribing sat down to an excellent banquet, provided by Comp. W. Vines, P.Z. 220, of the Canton Hotel, whose catering gave general satisfaction.

TESTIMONIAL TO A WORTHY BROTHER.

On Saturday last a deputation of gentlemen of the county of Chester assembled at Bradwall Hall, Sandbach, the seat of Bro. G. W. Latham, P.P.G.S.W. Cheshire, whose name is a household word amongst the Masons throughout the province, to present to him a testimonial in recognition of his public services to the county during the last 20 years in connection with the Court of Quarter Sessions and the Bradwall Reformatory. The deputation was a most influential one. The testimonial consisted of a subscription of £500, out of which had been purchased a golden vase, 30 inches in height, which was an exquisite specimen of the goldsmith's art from Nuremberg, together with an illuminated scroll, bearing the signatures of the subscribers.

Bro. Lord de Tabley, R.W.P.G.M. of Cheshire, in making the presentation, said that, in the name and on behalf of the county of Chester, he had very great pleasure in presenting that testimonial as a mark of their high appreciation of Bro. Latham's philanthropic endeavours in respect to the Bradwall Reformatory, the origin of which and its gratifying results were very generally known. It would be idle to disguise the fact that in a certain degree the testimonial was more or less of a public protest against what was generally regarded as ungrateful and unworthy treatment of Bro. Latham in connection with the business of the Cheshire Quarter Sessions. But this was a matter upon which he refrained from dilating. A hundred and twenty gentlemen had offered this mark of their sympathy with Bro. Latham, and desired in that way to testify their high appreciation of his career in the county as a magistrate, a philanthropist, and a Cheshire landlord.

Bro. Latham said that the presence of the gentlemen around him that day was a very gratifying evidence to him of their sincere and generous sympathy. As to the unfair treatment at quarter sessions to which his lordship had referred, he would abstain from commenting upon it, further than to say that he perfectly recognised the rights of the magistrates concerned in the transaction in question to choose their own chairman of quarter sessions. Still perhaps he had some little right to complain that he had been hardly treated. Some reason, at any rate, might have been given for so unprecedented and abrupt a dismissal. He had, however, the satisfaction of feeling that he at least had done nothing to Americanise our institutions in the county, for he had at least disdained to canvass for votes for that office.

After the presentation the company adjourned to luncheon.

Obituary.

BRO. WILLIAM BROOKS GATES.

Many brethren will regret to learn of the death of Bro. W. Brooks Gates. His long connection with the Pomfret Lodge, 360, Northampton and the Chapter, and his provincial duties made his name familiar to all in the province. He was Provincial Treasurer (with Bro. E. E. Welchman, one of the oldest P.M.'s of the Pomfret Lodge now left) for many years, and was always careful to husband the funds so as to be able to contribute to the Masonic charities. "The Northampton Mercury" says:—"Yesterday (Friday) afternoon the funeral of this well-known and respected inhabitant took place at St. Giles's Church, the Rev. Canon Robson and the Rev. J. T. Drake officiating. Mr. Gates was registrar of the Bedford district of the Court of Probate, to which he was appointed in 1857, on the death of his father, who had previously held the office for many years. He was for a considerable period a member of the Town Council, of which he was made an alderman. As chairman of the Sanitary Committee he was known for his punctuality and business capacity, and rendered great assistance in schemes brought forward by the exercise of good judgment upon matters in which he took great in-

terest. His name was always found amongst the most charitable of the supporters of the clerical and legal institutions. We understand that he has bequeathed his most valuable library of legal works to Mr. A. J. Jeffery. Mr. Gates's memory will be long cherished by the poor, who by his death have lost a kind benefactor. The following was the order of the procession:—Pomfret Lodge of Freemasons, Rev. R. T. Drake, Rev. Canon Robson, two churchwardens, Messrs. Phipps and Son, undertakers; Mr. Utley; pall bearers, Mr. John Hanson, Mr. James Weatherell, Mr. Goodman, Mr. Cattell, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Jeffery; mourners, Miss Bull, Mr. William Reed, Rev. W. J. Gates, man-servant, Mr. E. Bull, Mr. H. Gates, Mr. C. Gates, Mr. Neville. The Freemasons who attended included members from Towcester, Wellingborough, Kettering, Peterborough, and Huntingdon. The deceased gentleman filled the office of Provincial Grand Treasurer of the Order of Freemasons for many years. A large number of the inhabitants of the town assembled to pay a mark of respect to the deceased gentleman."

Amongst the brethren who attended the funeral were:—Of the Pomfret Lodge, 360: Bros. P.M.'s M. A. Boeme, W.M.; M. W. Flewitt, W. Kingston, G. Cotton, J. T. Green, G. Robinson, J. U. Stanton, E. W. Tuffley; and Bros. T. Whitehouse, H. W. Parker, J. S. Norman, M. E. Jones, Luke Knight, Jas. Watkin, G. R. Swallow, T. E. Melsheim, A. Dorrell, T. Warren, A. Richardson, H. Brown, H. J. Atkins, G. Ellard, C. E. Ashford, Aldridge, C. Barnes, J. H. Williams, J. J. Hart. From Socrates Lodge, 373: Bro. J. Marsh, P.M., P.P.D.C., &c. From St. Peter's Lodge, 422: Bros. E. Vergetti, P.M., P.P.G.S.W.; G. F. Buckle, P.G. Sec. From Lodge of Fidelity, 455: Bros. G. Osborn, P.M., P.P.G.S.W., &c.; R. Howes, P.M., P.G. Treas.; S. Jacob, P.M.; T. Davies, P.M.; J. Tunnard, P.M.; W. Tomalin. From Perseverance Lodge, 455: Bro. J. H. Hall. From Wentworth Lodge, 737: Bros. T. Cook, P.M.; T. Miller, P.M.; Rev. R. T. Drake, P.P. Chaplain; Rev. T. Stimpson, Chaplain; Rev. Jas. Phillips, F. Cant, 1164. Bro. J. T. Green officiated very ably as Director of Ceremonies, being assisted by Bros. J. Marson and J. W. Stanton.

BRO. CALATRAVA, GRAND MASTER OF SPAIN.

We find in the "Monde Maconique" for April a "Necrologie" of Bro. Calatrava, 5th Grand Master of the National Grand Orient of Spain, who died a short time back, aged 93. Bro. Calatrava was the youngest brother of the former President of the Council of Ministers, and had himself been Minister of Finance. He was nominated Grand Master of Spanish Masonry December 27th, 1847. The great object of Bro. Calatrava was to withdraw Spanish Freemasonry from those political influences which had too long dominated Freemasonry in that interesting country, and have been a bar to its progress, and the great stumbling block in the way of its success and extension. That he did not fully succeed is not to be wondered at, but we will hope that better days are in store for Spanish Freemasonry. Let them adopt our Grand Master's words, "Loyalty and Charity," superadded to the determination, "point de politique," and all will yet be well with them. If Freemasonry everywhere would confine itself to its proper and happy mission, its eventual triumph is assured, despite the ravings of the intolant, and the persecutions of the irreligious.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS.

For the Week ending Friday, May 5, 1876.

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, APRIL 29.

Lodge 1602, Sir Hugh Myddelton, Agricultural Hall, N. (consecration.)

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Lily, Greyhound, Richmond.
Percy, 113, Southgate-rd., N.
Manchester, 179, London-st., Fitzroy-square.
Star, Marquis of Granby, New Cross Road.

MONDAY, MAY 1.

Lodge 16, Royal Alpha, Willis's Rooms, St. James's.
" 25, Robert Burns, F.M.H.
" 188, Joppa, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
" 256, Unions, F.M.H.
" 1319, Asaph, F.M.H.
Mark Lodge, 139, Panmure, Balham Hot., Balham.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Prince Leopold, Lord Stanley Tav., Kingsland.
Strong Man, Jerusalem Tav., St. John's Gate.
Sincerity, Railway Tav., Fenchurch-st. Station.
Camden, Stanhope Arms, Up. James-st., Camden To.
Eastern, Royal Hot., Mile-end-road.
St. James's Union, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.
Wellington, White Swan, Deptford.
West Kent, St. Saviour's College, Forest-hill.
Perfect Ashlar, Victoria Tav., Lower-rd., Rotherhithe.
Sydney, White Hart Ho., Church-rd., Upper Norwood.

TUESDAY, MAY 2.

Colonial Board, at 4.
Lodge 18, Old Dundee, London Tav., Bishopsgate-st.
" 171, Amity Ship Hot., Greenwich.
" 765, St. James's, Bridge House Hot.
" 1257, Grosvenor, Caledonian Hot., Adelphi.
" 1259, Duke of Edinburgh, C. of G. Hope Tav., E.
" 1261, Golden Rule, Regent's M.H.
" 1298, Royal Standard, Wellington Club, N.
" 1472, Henley, Three Crowns, Woolwich.
Chap. 507, United Pilgrims, Horns Tav., Kennington.

Mark Lodge 1, St. Mark's, M.H., Mason's Avenue.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.
Domestic, Surrey M.H., Camberwell New-road.
Faith, 2, Westminster Chambers, Victoria-st.
Prince Fredk. Wm., Lord's Hot., St. John's Wood.
Dalhousie, King Edward, Triangle, Hackney.
Prosperity, 1, Camomile-st., Bishopsgate.
St. Marylebone, British Stores Tav., St. John's Wood.
Constitutional, Wheatsheaf Hot., Hand-court, Holborn.
Israel, Rising Sun Tav., Globe Road.
Royal Arthur, Prince's Head, York-road, Battersea.
Beacontree, Red Lion, Leytonstone, at 8.
Metropolitan Chapter, Jamaica Coffee Ho., Cornhill.
Excelsior, Commercial Dock Tav., Rotherhithe.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3.

Grand Chapter, at 7.
Lodge 1491, Athenæum, Athenæum, Camden-rd., N.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Mt. Lebanon, Windsor Castle Tav., Southwark-bdg.-rd.
Pythagorean, Prince of Orange, Greenwich.
New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tav., Hoxton.
Royal Union, Horse and Groom, Winsley-st., Oxford-st.
Confidence, M.H., Basinghall-st.
Peckham, Maismore Arms, Park-road, Peckham.
Stanhope, Thicket Hot., Anerley.
Finsbury Park, Finsbury Park Tav., Seven Sisters'-rd.
Southwark, Southwark Park Tav., Southwark Park.
Duke of Connaught, Havelock Tav., Dalston, E.
United Strength, Grafton Arms, Kentish-town.
Mount Edgecumbe, 19, Jermyn-street, St. James's.
Islington, Crown and Cushion, London Wall.

THURSDAY, MAY 4.

Lodge 10, Westminster and Keystone, F.M.H.
" 27, Egyptian, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
" 45, Strong Man, Old Jerusalem, St. John's Gate.
" 231, St. Andrew's, F.M.H.
" 554, Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.
" 1155, Excelsior, Sydney Arms, Lewisham-rd.
" 1360, Royal Arthur, Duke of Edinburgh Tav., S.W.
" 1445, Prince Leopold, Lord Stanley Tav., E.
Chap. 174, Sincerity, Cheshire Cheese, Crutched Friars.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Egyptian, Hercules Tav., Leadenhall-st.
Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-st., W.
Finsbury, Jolly Anglers' Tav., Bath-st., City-road.
Whittington, Black Bull Tav., Holborn.
Temperance in the East, Catherine-st., Poplar.
Ebury, 12, Pousonby-st., Millbank.
Highgate, Bull and Gate, Kentish-town.
The Great City, 111, Cheapside.
High Cross, Coach & Horses, High-road, Tottenham.
Salisbury, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.
Marquis of Ripon, Albion Tav., Albion-rd., Dalston.
Prince Frederick William Chapter, St. John's Wood.

FRIDAY, MAY 5.

Chap. 3, Fidelity, London Tav., Bishopsgate-st.
" 8, British, F.M.H.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Union Waterloo, Thomas-st., Woolwich.
St. George's, Globe Tav., Royal-hill, Greenwich.
Robert Burns, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.
Belgrave, Lyceum Tav., 354, Strand.
Unions Emulation (for M.M.'s), F.M.H.
Temperance, Victoria Tav., Victoria-road, Deptford.
Clapton, White Hart, Clapton.
Stability, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st.
Metropolitan, Portugal Hot., Fleet-st.
Westbourne, Horse & Groom, Winsley-st., Oxford-st.
Metropolitan, Pentonville-road.
United Pilgrims, Surrey M. H., Camberwell New-road.
St. James's, New Tanners' Arms, Grange-rd., Bermondsey.
Duke of Edinburgh, Silver Lion, Penny-fields, Poplar.
Doric, Earl Grey Tav., Mile-end-road.
Burgoyne, Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales's-road, N.W.
St. Luke's, Commercial Tav., King's-road, Chelsea.
Chigwell, Bald-faced Stag Hot., Buckhurst-hill.
Burdett Coutts, Approach Tav., Victoria Park.
Royal Standard, Finsbury Park Tav., Holloway.
Ranelagh, Clarendon Hot., Hammersmith.
Pythagorean Chapter, Prince of Orange, Greenwich-rd.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN WEST LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

For the Week ending Saturday April 6, 1876.

MONDAY, MAY 1.

Lodge 133, Unanimity, Bull Hot., Church-st., Preston.
" 613, Unity, Palatine Buildings, Southport.
" 703, Clifton, Clifton Arms, Blackpool.
" 1045, Stamford, T.H., Altrincham.
" 1051, Rowle, M.R., Athenæum, Lancaster.
" 1264, Neptune, M.H., Liverpool.
" 1380, Skelmersdale, Queen's Hot., Waterloo.
Everton L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

TUESDAY, MAY 2.

Lodge 673, St. John's, M.H., Liverpool.
" 897, Loyalty, Fleece Inn, St. Helen's.
" 986, Hesketh, Grapes Inn, Crossbon.
" 995, Furness, M.T., Ulverstone.
" 1256, Fidelity, Bull Hot., Poulton-le-Fylde.
" 1476, Blackpool, Clifton Arms Hot., Blackpool.
Chap. 203, St. John of Jerusalem, M.H., Liverpool.
Merchants' L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3.

Lodge 86, Loyalty, M.H., Prescott.
" 484, Faith, Gerard's Arms, Ashton-in-Wakefield.
" 580, Harmony, Wheatsheaf, Ormskirk.
" 730, Ellesmere, Royal Oak Hot., Chorley.
" 758, Ellesmere, M.H., Runcorn.
" 1013, Royal Victoria, M.H., Liverpool.

Lodge 1335, Lindsay, 20, King-st., Wigan.
 " 1354, Marquis of Lorne, M.R., Leigh.
 Mark Lodge, 65, West Lancashire, M.H., Liverpool.
 De Grey and Ripon L. of I., N. Hill-st., Liverpool.
 Downshire L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.
 Harmonic L. of I., Mona Hot., James-st., Liverpool.
THURSDAY, MAY 4.
 Lodge 249, Mariners, M.H., Liverpool.
 " 950, Hesketh, Royal Hot., Fleetwood.
 " 1032, Townley Parker, Howard's A., Whitle-le-Wds.
 " 1070, Starkie, Black Horse Hot., Kirkham.
 " 1473, Bootle, Molyneux R., Bootle.
 Chap. 758, Bridgewater, M.H., Runcorn.
 St. John's L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.
FRIDAY, MAY 5.
 Lodge 1375, Architect, Didsbury Hot., Didsbury.
 " 1387, Chorlton, M.R., Chorlton-cum-Hardy.
 " 1505, Emulation, M.H., Liverpool.
 Duke of Edinburgh L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND.

For the Week ending Saturday, May 6, 1876.
 All the Meetings take place at Eight o'clock.

MONDAY, MAY 1.

Lodge 124, Kilwinning, Union Tav., Ayr.
 " 129, St. Mirren's, St. Mirren's Hall, Paisley.
 " 138, Operative, Blue Bell Hot., Ayr.
 " 237, St. John, Masonic Arms, Girvan.
 " 332, Union, 170, Buchanan-st., Glasgow.
 Chap. 119, Rosslyn, 25, Robertson-st., Glasgow.

TUESDAY, MAY 2.

Lodge 32, St. John, 213, Buchanan-st., Glasgow.
 " 68, Doric, 44, Church-st., Port Glasgow.
 " 73, Thistle and Rose, 170, Buchanan-st., Glasgow.
 " 87, Thistle, 30, Hope-st., Glasgow.
 " 173, St. John, M.H., Largs.
 " 233, Hamilton, Spaldings Hot., Hamilton.
 " 331, St. Peter's, Portland Arms, Galston.
 " 406, St. John, Dalziel, M.H., Motherwell.
 " 433, St. Thomas, Eglington Hall, Dalmellington.
 " 437, Govandale, Portland Buildings, Govan.
 " 497, St. John's, Brewery Hall, Catrine.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3.

Lodge 0, Mother Kilwinning, M.H., Kilwinning.
 " 4, Glasgow Kilwinning, 170, Buchanan-st.
 " 21, Old St. John, M.H., Lanark.
 " 86, Navigation, Commercial Hall, Troon.
 " 126, St. Andrew, George Hot.
 " 128, St. John, M.H., Shettleston.
 " 166, St. John, 29, Graham-st., Airdrie.
 " 198, Royal Arch, King's Arms, Maybole.
 " 354, Caledonian Railway, 30, Hope-st., Glasgow.
 " 442, Neptune, M.H., Ardrossan.
 Chap. 87, Shamrock and Thistle, 12, Troon.

THURSDAY, MAY 4.

Lodge 11, St. John's, King's Arms, Maybole.
 " 22, St. John Kilwinning, George Hot., Kilmarnock.
 " 27, St. Mungo, 213, Buchanan-st., Glasgow.
 " 149, St. Andrew, M.H., Irvine.
 " 157, St. John, Main-st., Beith.
 " 165, Royal Arch, King's Arms, Ayr.
 " 202, St. Clement's, Trades' Tav., Kilmarnock.
 " 320, St. John, Royal Arch, M.H., Ardrossan.
 " 370, Renfrew, M.H., High-st., Paisley.
 " 465, St. Andrew, M.H., Garngad-rd.

FRIDAY, MAY 5.

Lodge 114, Royal Arch, M.T., Cambuslang.
 " 116, Royal Arch, Council Hall, Rutherglen.
 " 135, St. James, Crown Inn, Tarbolton.
 " 175, St. John, M.H., Greenock.
 " 215, St. Andrew, Avondale Inn, Strathavon.
 " 217, Cumberland Kilwinning, T.H., Port Glasgow.
 " 242, Houston, Cross Keys Hot., Johnstone.
 " 248, Lockhart St. John, M.H., Carnworth.
 " 275, Shamrock & Thistle, 22, Struthers-st., Glsgw.
 " 360, Commercial, 30, Hope-street, Glasgow.
 " 408, Clyde, 170, Buchanan-st., Glasgow.
 " 459, Kelburne, Cumbræ Hot., Millport.
 " 512, Thorntree, M.H., Thornliebank.
 " 551, Clydesdale, Royal Hot., Larkhall.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN EDINBURGH AND VICINITY.

For the Week ending Saturday, May 6, 1876.

MONDAY, MAY 1.

Lodge 429, St. Kentigern, Royal Hot., Penicuik.

TUESDAY, MAY 2.

" 5, Canongate and Leith, 86, Constitution-st.

THURSDAY, MAY 4.

" 97, St. James's Operative, Writers' Court.

FRIDAY, MAY 5.

" 291, Celtic, Ship Hot., E. Register-st.

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FOR GAME.

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A RAILWAY ACCIDENT to any particular person is a (theoretically) remote contingency; but as it may happen, as a matter of fact, the very next journey undertaken, and as the sum at which it will be seen the risk (in a pecuniary sense) may be extinguished FOR LIFE is almost absurdly small, it is not too much to say that the insurance is an OBVIOUS DUTY in the case of most travellers. £1000 if killed, with liberal allwances if injured, for a single payment of £3, covering the whole life. Smaller amounts in proportion.—**RAILWAY ACCIDENT MUTUAL ASSURANCE COMPANY (Limited).** RESERVE FUND AND GUARANTEES, £14,700. No. 42, Poultry, London.—For Forms, &c., apply to Mr. W. Burr, F.S.S., Manager.

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The attention of the United Grand Lodge of England, Grand Lodges, Colonial Board, Committee of Management, Provincial Grand Masters, District Grand Masters, Grand Stewards, W.M.'s, and brethren are specially directed to the facilities and advantages afforded by

COCKBURN'S UNITED SERVICE AGENCY SOCIETY.

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The Originators and first starters, in 1871, of the CHEQUE BANK system, of small cheques in lieu of POST-OFFICE ORDERS, are PREPARED TO TAKE UP the work of the CHEQUE BANK on its now winding-up, and not only to grant GUARANTEED cheques, which may be cashed without difficulty all over the world, but also to ALLOW 2½ PER CENT. INTEREST annually, at Christmas, on the minimum monthly balances in even £10 of all accounts then open with them.

Absolute Security Ensured, and an immense saving of time and money.

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GRAND DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES, ON THE ART UNION PRINCIPLE.

The Ga'ashiel's St. John's Lodge of Freemasons, No. 262, have much pleasure in intimating to the Masonic Craft and the public in general, that they will give a Grand Distribution of Prizes in the Public Hall, Ga'ashiel's, on Friday, 30th June, at Seven o'clock, p.m. The proceeds to be devoted to the building of a new Masonic Hall.

TICKETS ONE SHILLING EACH.

Drawing on Friday, June 30th. Winning Numbers will be published in the "Freemason" of July 8th, and the "Scotsman" and "Border Advertiser" of Wednesday, the 5th of July, 1876.

The following are a few of the Principal Prizes:—
 A COTTAGE PIANO, in Walnut, 7 Octaves, value ... 31 10 0
 A HARMONIUM, in Walnut, 8 stops, 5 Octaves ... 18 18 0
 Both supplied by Paterson & Sons, George-st., Edinburgh.
 Gentleman's Gold English Lever Watch ... 14 0 0
 Nickel Silver Tea Set ... 7 10 0
 Singer's Sewing Machine ... 6 10 0
 Lady's Gold Watch ... 5 5 0
 Gent's Silver Lever Watch ... 5 5 0
 Gold Albert Chain ... 4 15 0
 Lady's Silver Watch ... 2 10 0
 Sofa, in Haircloth ... 5 0 0
 Easy Chair, in Haircloth ... 3 10 0
 Lady's Black Silk Dress ... 4 0 0
 Model Ship ... 4 0 0
 20lb. Box Fine Tea ... 3 5 0
 Lady's Work Table ... 3 0 0
 16-day Time piece, in Marble ... 2 15 0
 Length Suit of Tweed ... 1 12 0
 Gentleman's Writing Desk ... 1 10 0
 Lady's Workbox ... 1 5 0
 Set Gold Earrings ... 0 14 0
 Also a large number of other Prizes, consisting of every description of useful, ornamental, and fancy goods, will be given away.
 Bro. Thomson, R.W.M., recommends the above to the Craft and the Public as being really worth the value put upon them.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—ESTABLISHED 1770.

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Private Families, Lodges, Masonic Halls and Clubs, Hotels, &c., supplied on liberal terms with Poultry and Fish of the best quality only. Telegrams, and orders by post, promptly attended to. Wenhams Lake and rough ice. Consignments Received Daily at South-Western Branch, opposite Clapham-common.

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TERMS PER WEEK:

Single Rooms from 3½ to 5 Guineas.

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Private Sitting Rooms from 3 Guineas. Per day from Half-guinea.

Charges for Visitors, Luncheon 2s. 6d. Dinner 5s. Supper à la Carte.

Gas in Bedrooms, Special Bath, and meals served in Bed-rooms at irregular hours extra as per tariff. There is an ascending room to the top of the house.

Complete tariff on application to the PROPRIETOR.

MAY ELECTION, 1876.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—The Votes and Interest of the Governors and Subscribers are most earnestly solicited on behalf of

ELIZA BLACKBURN,

Widow of the late William Blackburn, formerly of the Robert Burns Lodge, No. 25, in which he was initiated in 1844; joined the Lodge of Confidence, No. 193, in 1848, and served the office of Master in 1850; joined the Globe Lodge, No. 23, in 1848, and served the office of Master in 1851; joined the Crystal Palace Lodge, No. 742, in 1858, and acted as Secretary thereof for eight years; joined the Dobie Lodge Surrey, No. 889, in 1863, and was appointed Provincial Grand S.B. for Surrey in 1866. He was exalted in the Robert Burns Chapter, No. 25, in 1846, was elected Treasurer of the said chapter, and served the office of First Principal in 1844; joined the Prudence Chapter, No. 12, in 1858, and served the office of Scribe E. from that time to 1873; and joined the Mount Lebanon Chapter, No. 435, in 1863, of which he was Scribe E., and retained that office till he was elected an Annuitant and Inmate of the Royal Masonic Institution in 1873. Your Petitioner is allowed to remain in the apartments occupied by her late husband for a brief period according to the laws, her only means of support being the half of the annuity formerly enjoyed by him.

The case is strongly recommended by Bro. G. F. Newmarch, Dep. G.M. for Gloucestershire, and V.P. of the Institution, Cirencester.

Æ. McIntyre, Q.C., Grand Registrar, 3, Middle Temple-lane.
 Henry Browne, P.G.D., Upper Tooting.
 Raynham W. Stewart, P.G.D., 11, Abchurch-lane.
 J. Brett, P.G.P., P.M. 177, Old Jewry.
 R. Spencer, P.G.S., P.M. 263, 26, Fentiman-road, Clapham-rd.
 J. T. Bennett, P.G.S., No. 12, Pall Mall.
 W. Watson, P.G.S. Grand Stewards' Lodge, 42, Drury-lane.
 H. J. Strong, M.D., P. Prov. G.W. Surrey, P.M. 453, 463, P.Z. 463, and V.P. of the Institution, No. 64, North End, Croydon.
 R. Cartwright, P.P.G.S.W. Surrey, P.M. 889, Kingston.
 W. Pearce, P. Prov. G. Reg. Surrey, P.M. 889, No. 2, Dr. Johnson's Buildings, Temple.
 T. Long, Prov. G.D.C. Surrey, P.M. 889, Kingston.
 J. B. Lemaitre, P.M. 12, P.Z. 12, No. 30, Chiswell-street.
 L. Ruf, P.M. and Treas. 12, P.Z. and Treas. 12, Lowther Arcade.
 W. Rumsey, P.M. 206, No. 8, London-street.
 C. Smithers, No. 100, Leadenhall-street.
 H. T. Thompson, P.M. 742, Augusta Cottage, Nightingale-rd., Lower Clapton.
 C. Painter, 190, No. 110, Leadenhall-street.
 By whom Proxies will be thankfully received, also by the applicant, Eliza Blackburn, 7, Royal Masonic Institution, East Croydon.

MAY ELECTION, 1876.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—The Votes and Interest of the Governors and Subscribers are earnestly requested on behalf of

ROBERT YORK,

Who was for many years Manager of the Old Brewery, Southend, is now in the 66th year of his age, was initiated in the Lodge of True Friendship, No. 160, June 17th, 1856, served the offices of Junior and Senior Warden, and was twelve years a Subscribing Member thereof. He is now entirely without means, and is dependent on his friends for support.

The Case is strongly Recommended by

R.W. Bro. R. J. Bagshaw, Prov. Grand Master for Essex, V.P.
 " Matthew Clark, Dep. Prov. Grand Master for Essex.
 V.W. " *Rev. S. R. Wigan, P.M. and P.Z. 214, Grand Chaplain, Vicarage, Prittlewell.
 W. " Percy Leith, P.M. and P.Z., Past Grand Deacon.
 " F. A. Philbrick, P.M. 18, Past Grand Deacon, V.P.
 " *Joseph Burton, P.M. and P.Z. 276, Prov. G. Treas. Essex, High-street, Chelmsford.
 " John Wright Carr, P.M. 160, Prov. G. Sec. Essex, Roxwell, Chelmsford.
 " *F. Wood, P.M. 1000, P. Prov. S.G.W. Essex, Southend.
 " *A. Lucking, P.M. 160 and 1000, Prov. A.G.D.C. Essex, Cliff Town, Southend.
 " *J. A. Wardell, P.M. 160 and 1000, P. Prov. G.D. Essex, Cliff Town, Southend.
 " J. R. Hemmann, P.M. 1000, Prov. G.D. Essex, Cliff Town, Southend.
 " *Joseph Reeve, W.M. 160, Cliff Town, Southend.
 " E. England Phillips, W.M. 1000, P.M. 379, Southend.
 " *S. P. Norris, P.M. 21, P.G.S., 17, New Broad-st., E.C.
 " P. Matthews, P.M. and P.Z., P. Prov. G.W. Essex.
 " *Geo. Burgess, P.M. and Sec. 160, P. Prov. G.D. Essex, Rochford.
 " Henry Wood, P.M. and Treas. 160, P. Prov. G.O. Essex, Rochford.
 " D. B. Grouff, P.M. 160, P. Prov. G.D. Essex, Rawreth.
 " Wm. Pisse, P.M. 160, P. Prov. G.W. Essex, Rayleigh.
 " Edwd. Judd, P.M. 160, P. Prov. G. R. Essex, Rayleigh.
 " John Allen, jun., P.M. 160, P. Prov. G.S.L. Essex, Rayleigh.
 " *John B. Brazier, P.M. 160, Marine Parade, Southend.
 " *John Bingenmann, W.M. 55, 12, Mornington-road, Bow, E.
 " George Free, P.M. and Sec. 73, 65, Drummond-road, Bermondsey.
 " Charles Raydon, W.M. 73, 14, Blue Anchor-road, Bermondsey.
 " Jas. Willing, jun., P.M. 1507, S.W. 177, 366, Gray's Inn-road, W.C.
 " John G. Bond, P.M. 87, P.Z. 749.
 " J. C. Johnstone, P.M. 20 (J.C.) D.C. 1000, Southend.
 " James Gilling, 1000, Southend.
 " Rev. H. John Hatch, S.W. 160, Prov. G. Chap. Essex, Rectory, Little Stamburgh.
 " F. V. Jillings, J.W. 260, Hawkwell.
 " Wm. Frost, J.W. 1000, Cliff Town, Southend.
 *Those marked with an asterisk will receive proxies.