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M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND.
THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF ROSSLYN,
M.W. PAST GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND.
AND
THE GRAND MASTERS OF MANY FOREIGN LODGES.

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PREFACE.

WITH the conclusion of the Twelfth and the commencement of the Thirteenth Volume of the *Freemason*, the Publisher feels that he has a "few words" to say to his numerous friends, patrons, and readers. It is impossible for him to look back to-day on the origin and advance, the struggles and the success of the *Freemason*, which has been unprecedented in the history of Masonic literature, without feeling deeply how much he truly owes to the warm and constant sympathy of unwavering friends, and the genial and consistent favour of the Masonic public. And thus to-day he looks back with satisfaction and pride on the success which has attended his efforts to render the *Freemason* worthy of his cosmopolitan fraternity, remembering how widely it is read at home, how deeply it is valued abroad, while he is equally pleased to regard present and future with animating trust and hopeful anticipations. He trusts that in the year to come, as in the past time of its useful career, the *Freemason* will remain a faithful exponent of the true principles of Freemasonry; and whether by its loyal adhesion to its own rulers, a warm appreciation of our great Masonic charities, or the tolerant and gentlemanly tone of its management, the Publisher feels convinced that this acknowledged representative of English Freemasonry will continue to merit the patronage of the Grand Master, the approval of those in authority, as well as the ready support of those many faithful Craftsmen in every quarter of the globe, who peruse its pages, approve of its principles, and cheer its efforts.

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INDEX.

ACCIDENT (Melancholy) to a Liverpool Brother, 368
 A Disagreeable Subject, 242
 A Grumble, 468
 A Menu Card in Chaucrican English, 8
 American Masonry (Notes on), 131
 Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, 104, 399
 Ancient and Primitive Rite, 245
 An Education Scheme, 193
 An Error Corrected, 36
 Annual Ball, Carnarvon and Mizpah Lodges, Nos. 1572 and 1671, 84
 Annual Ball in Liverpool, 81
 Annual Ball, New Concord Lodge, No. 813, 71
 Annual Banquet of the East Surrey Lodge of Concord, 461
 Annual Excursion of the Falcon Lodge, 281
 Annual Picnic of the Caledonian Lodge, 294
 Annual Provincial Grand Lodge of West Lancashire, 397
 A Noble Masonic Example, 8
 An Old Mason, 165
 Antagonism to Freemasonry, 26
 Anti-Masonic Papers, 192
 Anti-Masonry, 92
 Antiquity, 255
 A Pious Fraud, 293
 A Pleasant Presentation, 142
 Approaching (the) Anniversary Festival of the Boys' School, 222
 A Private Masonic Party to Paris and Switzerland, 358
 A Recantation, 112
 A Record of the Past, 323
 Arrival of Distinguished Canadians, 329
 A Sad Case of Persecution, 152
 A Ten-minutes' Oration, 398
 A Visit to the Girls' School, 213
 A Word of Warning, 172

BALANCE Sheet of the London Masonic Charity Association, 372
 Balls—See Annual Balls
 Bazaar (Masonic) at Exeter, 356
 Bell (the) Musical Society, 495
 Berkhamstead Lodge, Summer Festival of, 341
 Board of Benevolence, 492
 " of General Purposes and Colonial Board, 457
 Bombay, the New District Grand Master for, 231
 Bro. Brette, the Rev. Dr. P. H. Ernest Complimentary Dinner to, 295
 " Clabon's Scheme, 468
 " Day Keyworth's Statue of the Late Bro. Bannister, 124
 " Hervey, John, 468
 " Hughan's New Work, 9
 " Jones at Sea, 378
 " Simonsen's Appeal, 283
 " Stephens (Wm.) and Mrs. Stephens' Silver Wedding, 195
 Budget (the), 153

CABUL, 382
 Caledonian Lodge, No. 204 (Picnic of), 294
 Cambridge Local Examination, Christmas 1878, 123, 132
 Canadian Masonry and its Difficulties, 124
 Canadians, Arrival of Distinguished 329
 Catholic Persecution of Freemasonry (the), 361
 Centenary of Freemasons' Hall, Falmouth, 413
 Ceramics in Masonry, 130
 Chairmanship (the) of the Girls' School Festival, 182
 Chambers, Testimonial to Bro. George 402
 Chard (Major) in Exeter, 485
 Charity, 254
 Charity Reform, 282, 303, 320, 348
 Charity Versus Sack, 182
 Clabon's (Bro.) Scheme, 468
 Colonial Board and Board of General Purposes, 457
 Communiqué, 293, 441
 Complimentary Dinner to Bro. the Rev. Dr. P. H. Ernest Brette, 295
 Concert at the Girls' School, 384

CONSECRATIONS:—
CRAFT LODGES.
 Abercorn, No. 1813, 91
 Alliance, No. 1827, 310
 Atlingworth, No. 1821, 298
 Burrell, No. 1829, 318
 Clapham, No. 1818, 263
 Coborn, No. 1804, 84
 Cornhill, No. 1803, 124
 Creaton, No. 1791, 73
 De Vere, No. 1794, 111
 Duke of Cornwall, No. 1839, 355
 Ewell, No. 1851, 511
 Fidelis, No. 1809, 194
 Heretaunga, No. 1812, 91
 Hervey, No. 1788, 184
 Lullingstone, No. 1817, 490
 Old England, No. 1790, 225
 Pengt, No. 1815, 280
 St. Andrew's, No. 1817, 300
 St. Leonard's, No. 1842, 470
 St. Petroc, No. 1758, 484
 Sir Charles Bright, No. 1793, 93
 Sir Thomas White, 1820, 239
 Southdown, No. 1797, 101
 Ubique, No. 1789, 52
 Zion, No. 1798, 205
ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.
 Dinbych, No. 1177, 133
 Duke of Connaught, No. 1524, 230
 Eryri, No. 1509, 466
 Etheldreda, No. 809, 457
 Granite, No. 1328, 203
 Marlborough, No. 1399, 481
 Marquis of Dalhousie, No. 1159, 264
 Nicholson, No. 371, 183
 St. Anne's, No. 970, 171
 St. Dunstan's, No. 1589, 170
MARK.
 Darlington, No. 250, 501
 Prince Leopold, No. 239, 195
 Royal Naval, No. 236, 175
 St. Andrew's, No. 237, 62
ROYAL ARK MARINERS.
 Brixton, No. 234, 392
 Panmure, No. 139, 435
 United, No. 34, 260.

Constitutions (the) of the Freemasons, 381
 Correspondence—see Original Correspondence
 Course of Sound Masonic Literature, 112

CRAFT LODGES:—
 2 Antiquity, 31, 87, 137, 217, 259, 463
 13 Union Waterloc, 287, 454
 28 Old King's Arms, 41
 31 United Industrious, 444
 35 Medina, 22
 37 Anchor and Hope, 32, 99
 41 Royal Cumberland, 22, 78, 108, 147, 188, 396, 444, 487
 48 Industry, 179, 218, 267, 307, 343, 379, 434, 464
 56 Howard Lodge of Brotherly Love, 363
 57 Hunter, 23, 99
 70 St. John's, 11
 72 Royal Jubilee, 21
 75 Love and Honour, 11
 75 (I.C.) Nassau, 386
 78 Imperial George, 147
 80 St. John's, 199, 297, 355, 369, 415, 455, 499
 81 Doric, 108
 82 Foundation, 2
 87 Vitruvian, 363
 88 Scientific, 43
 94 Phoenix, 335, 369, 407, 444, 487
 97 Palatine, 2, 287, 370, 407, 455, 499
 101 Temple, 295
 104 St. John's, 415, 507
 111 Restoration, 138
 119 Sun, Square, and Compasses, 287
 121 Mount Sinai, 43, 464
 129 Union, 57
 130 Royal Gloucester, 23, 127, 287, 370
 131 Fortitude, 44
 132 Unity, 23
 135 Perpetual Friendship, 2
 141, Faith, 1, 55, 99, 147, 207, 405, 443, 477
 142 St. Thomas's, 55
 146 Antiquity, 32
 148 Lights, 11, 57, 396

CRAFT LODGES (continued).
 149 Peace, 108
 152 Virtue, 380
 153 Inhabitants, 44, 188, 297, 363, 434
 158 Adams, 127
 163 Integrity, 99, 138, 188, 228, 277, 386
 164 Perseverance, 23
 168 Mariners, 23, 78
 169 Temperance, 41
 171 Amity, 237, 317
 174 Sincerity, 31
 177 Domatic, 1, 21
 185 Tranquillity, 77
 188 Joppa, 11, 21, 68, 405
 192 Lion and Lamb, 11, 68, 107, 395, 443, 487
 193 Confidence, 497
 200 Old Globe, 127
 201 Jordan, 41, 507
 203 Ancient Union, 44
 204 Caledonian, 118, 370, 455
 205 Israel, 41
 207 Royal, 229
 209 Etonian of St. John, 57
 213 Perseverance, 44
 220 Harmony, 307
 225 St. Luke's, 2, 407, 499
 236 York, 3, 12, 479, 508
 237 Indefatigable, 32
 238 Pilgrim, 385
 241 Merchants, 157, 267, 415
 245 Mechanics, 508
 248 True Love and Unity, 12
 249 Mariners, 247, 297, 335, 444
 260 Rock, 160
 269 Fidelity, 277, 325
 278 Friendship, 33
 279 St. John's, 23
 281 Fortitude, 3, 23, 157, 247, 287, 425, 455, 499
 284 Shakespeare, 444
 295 (I.C.) St. Patrick, 24
 298 Harmony, 12, 118
 299 Emulation, 208, 479
 311 South Saxon, 44
 312 Lion, 45, 117
 315 Royal York, 108
 317 Affability, 12, 75, 109, 118, 188, 287, 325, 396, 444, 508
 320 Loyalty, 109, 147
 330 One and All, 12
 331 Phoenix of Honour and Prudence, 45
 340 Alfred, 12
 341 Wellington, 72
 342 Royal Sussex, 45
 349 St. John and St. Paul, 24, 218, 247
 353 Royal Sussex, 45
 355 Royal Sussex of Emulation, 12
 359 Peace and Harmony, 45, 363
 368 Samaritan, 24
 371 Perseverance, 237
 379 Honour, 499
 388 (S.C.) Judah, 90
 394 Southampton, 88
 406 Northern Counties, 188
 417 Faith and Unanimity, 24
 424 Borough, 168, 343
 425 Cestrian, 33
 428 Cosmopolitan, 135
 431 St. George's, 189
 441 Three Grand Principles, 33
 448 St. James, 45
 451 Cornubian, 13
 453 Chigwell, 335
 458 Aire and Calder, 508
 463 East Surrey Lodge of Concord, 444
 469 Hundred of Elloe, 46
 477 Mersey, 33
 481 St. Peter's, 208, 307
 494 Virtue and Honour, 46
 501 Royal Sussex, 224
 503 Belvedere, 488
 504 Berkhamstead, 13
 510 St. Martin's, 13
 515 Zetland, 386
 516 Phoenix, 57
 523 John of Gaunt, 277
 531 St. Helen, 364
 534 Polish National, 453, 497
 540 Stuart, 3, 57, 99, 138
 554 Caledonian, 59
 558 Temple, 109
 560 Vernon, 488
 570 Northern, 134
 570 (I.C.) Princess Charlotte of Wales, 46
 581 Faith, 3, 46, 127

CRAFT LODGES (continued).
 586 Elias de Derham, 33, 157, 209, 259, 499
 594 Downshire, 277
 605 Combermere, 46
 615 St. John's and St. Paul, 343
 622 St. Cuthberga, 72
 625 Devonshire, 444
 643 Royal, 79
 651 Brecknock, 33
 660 Camalodunum, 46
 663 Fidelity, 58
 667 Alliance, 46, 218
 673 St. John, 288, 407
 692 Mount Alexander, 164
 700 Nelson, 13, 127, 259, 464
 704 Camden, 463
 706 Florence Nightingale, 14, 278
 712 Lindsey, 479
 715 Panmure, 77
 720 Panmure, 217, 463
 721 Independence, 33
 724 Derby, 278, 499
 731 Arboretum, 544
 733 Westbourne, 447
 742 Crystal Palace, 147
 754 High Cross, 267, 343
 764 Harbour of Refuge, 237
 766 William Preston, 385, 477
 771 Windsor Castle, 79
 777 Royal Alfred, 209
 797 Hanley, 47
 804 Carnarvon, 72, 364
 807 Cabbell, 58
 811 Yarborough, 168
 815 Hulme, 209
 818 Philanthropic, 434
 829 Sydney, 288
 834 Ranelagh, 499
 852 Zetland, 24, 508
 862 Whittington, 453
 869 Gresham, 247
 871 Royal Oak, 99, 183, 478
 874 Holmesdale, 47, 88, 118, 168, 218, 267, 464
 902 Burgoyne, 87
 907 Royal Albert, 178
 913 Pattison, 109, 209, 237, 288, 445
 914 Phoenix, 354
 933 Doric, 68
 941 De Tabley, 79, 209
 949 Williamson, 218, 289, 370, 416, 445, 488
 962 Sun and Sector, 260
 967 Three Grand Principles, 33
 970 St. Anne's, 14
 975 Rose of Denmark, 464
 977 Fowey, 47
 990 Neyland, 33
 992 St. Thomas, 500
 993 Alexandra, 14
 996 Soudes, 58
 1000 Priory, 24, 147
 1002 Skiddaw, 14, 33, 72, 100, 199, 228, 364, 479
 1011 Richmond, 260
 1021 Hartington, 168
 1027 Tuscan, 155
 1030 Egerton, 218
 1035 Prince of Wales, 34
 1040 Syke's, 100
 1043 Bangalore, 90
 1044 Wandsworth, 31, 157, 379, 500
 1051 Rowley, 14, 25, 109, 158, 209, 289, 364, 396
 1055 Derby, 158
 1073 Greta, 72, 79
 1076 Capper, 77, 157, 453
 1083 Townley Parker, 58
 1085 Hartington, 79
 1086 Walton, 14
 1087 Beaudesert, 325
 1094 Temple, 109, 158
 1102 Mirfield, 80
 1110 Tyrian, 278
 1112 Shirley, 25, 289
 1126 Oakwood, 488
 1129 St. Chad, 465
 1145 Equality, 249
 1153 Orion, 164
 1158 Southern Star, 31, 117
 1161 De Grey and Ripon, 465
 1171 Lagos, 90
 1178 Perfect Ashlar, 363
 1182 Duke of Edinburgh, 335
 1184 Abbey, 247, 267

CRAFT LODGES (continued).

1196 Urban, 55
 1201 Eclectic, 22
 1216 Macdonald, 207
 1218 Prince Alfred, 370, 445
 1223 Amherst, 158, 238
 1224 Stour Valley, 488
 1235 Phoenix of St. Anne, 88
 1239 Wentworth, 3
 1242 Earl of Carnarvon, 22
 1247 St. John, 35
 1248 Denison, 119
 1250 Gilbert Greenall, 247, 500
 1255 Dundas, 347
 1264 Neptune, 238, 455
 1267 Kenlis, 279
 1275 Star, 363
 1276 Warren, 425
 1278 Burdett Coutts, 379, 478
 1293 Burdett, 42, 189, 308, 425
 1297 West Kent, 395, 478
 1299 Pembroke, 128
 1303 Pelham, 3, 158
 1309 Acacia, 218
 1319 Asaph, 56, 433
 1325 Stanley, 238, 279
 1326 Lebanon, 218, 279, 308, 335, 353
 1327 King Harold, 344
 1328 Granite, 68, 117
 1329 Sphinx, 463
 1331 Aldershot Camp, 35
 1337 Anchor, 35
 1339 Stockwell, 507
 1353 Duke of Lancaster, 3, 35, 168, 279, 344
 1381 Kennington, 31, 56, 117, 167, 415, 445, 497
 1387 Chorlton, 119
 1389 Fenwick, 416, 465
 1393 Hamer, 209, 279
 1398 Baldwin, 354
 1410 St. John and St. Paul, 455
 1416 Falcon, 508
 1418 Fraternity, 138, 189
 1420 Earl Spencer, 117
 1421 Langthorne, 478
 1423 Era, 153, 248, 325, 416, 508
 1426 The Great City, 107, 395, 495, 445, 497
 1427 Percy, 219
 1436 Sandgate, 297
 1440 Hamilton, 229
 1441 Ivy, 137, 478
 1458 Truth, 434, 488
 1459 Ashbury, 434, 488
 1461 Clausentium, 489
 1465 Ockenden, 119
 1466 Hova Ecclesia, 58, 189
 1472 Henley, 25, 110, 364, 489
 1473 Bootle, 110, 489
 1475 Peckham, 87
 1476 Blackpool, 210
 1477 Sir Watkin, 110
 1489 Marquis of Ripon, 395
 1496 Trafford, 416
 1502 Israel, 465
 1503 Francis Burdett, 416, 455, 508
 1505 Emulation, 425
 1507 Metropolitan, 1, 31, 81, 127, 415, 507
 1512 Hemming, 47, 88, 138, 425, 479
 1524 Duke of Connaught, 69, 454, 487
 1528 Fort, 407, 465
 1531 Chislehurst, 138
 1532 Bective, 148
 1536 United Military, 15, 35, 88, 179, 248, 299, 354, 456
 1541 Alexandra Palace, 317
 1547 Liverpool, 290
 1549 Abercorn, 148, 210, 297, 340, 407
 1550 Prudence, 15, 35
 1558 Duke of Connaught, 406
 1559 New Cross, 32, 57
 1560 Albert Edward, 159
 1561 Morecambe, 110, 159, 199, 228, 456
 1563 City of Westminster, 478
 1565 Earl of Chester, 445
 1567 Elliot, 80, 238
 1570 Prince Arthur, 3, 508
 1572 Carnarvon, 497
 1577 Victoria, 255
 1578 Merlin, 210
 1579 St. James, 47
 1585 Royal Commemoration, 69, 107
 1588 Prince Leopold, 168
 1589 St. Dunstan's, 107, 433, 487
 1597 Musgrave, 148
 1600 Hamilton, 148
 1601 Ravensbourne, 179
 1602 Sir Hugh Myddleton, 42, 137, 188, 217, 385, 487
 1607 Loyalty, 369
 1608 Kilburn, 42
 1609 Dramatic, 15, 58, 100, 159, 190, 229, 280, 354, 386, 407, 434
 1611 Eboracum, 35, 80, 120, 159, 407, 500
 1614 Covent Garden, 77
 1619 S. ckville, 210, 290, 325, 416
 1623 West Smithfield, 137, 217, 379, 463
 1624 Ecclestone, 406
 1626 Hotspur, 180
 1627 Royal Kensington, 69, 147, 498

CRAFT LODGES (continued).

1633 Avon, 25, 180, 229, 308
 1636 St. Cecilia, 59
 1637 Unity, 416
 1639 Watling-street, 456
 1641 Crichton, 1
 1642 Earl of Carnarvon, 207, 454
 1650 Rose of Raby, 199
 1656 Wolsey, 80, 128, 456, 500
 1657 Aldersgate, 69, 108, 406, 443
 1660 Arlecdon, 238
 1671 Mizpah, 167
 1674 Caradoc, 408, 435, 479
 1675 Antient Briton, 500
 1676 St. Nicholas, 238
 1677 Crusaders, 417, 454, 498
 1679 Henry Muggeridge, 218, 307, 385, 465
 1686 Paxton, 277, 425
 1687 Rothesay, 385
 1695 New Finsbury Park, 88, 208
 1697 Hospitality, 465
 1702 Sub-Urban, 248
 1705 Prince of Wales, 446
 1716 All Saints, 69, 237, 317, 395
 1717 Ancient Carthage, 371
 1719 Evening Star, 259
 1723 St. George, 100
 1724 Kaiser-i-Hind, 32, 127
 1725 Douglas, 466
 1728 Temple Bar, 463
 1734 Trinity, 120
 1743 Perseverance, 369
 1744 Royal Savoy, 1, 11, 57, 138, 434, 463
 1745 Farrington Without, 72, 167, 237, 325, 395, 487
 1752 Ogmoo, 59, 199
 1753 Obedience, 345
 1756 Kirkdale, 479
 1760 Leopold, 396
 1765 St. Leonard, 72, 444, 487
 1767 Kensington, 57, 379
 1773 Albert Victor, 482
 1776 Landport, 50, 482
 1777 Royal Hanover, 57, 128, 219, 308, 408, 446
 1780 Albert Edward, 325
 1790 Old England, 446, 509
 1791 Creaton, 117, 157, 498
 1793 Sir Charles Bright, 110, 190, 317, 396, 489
 1798 Zion, 466
 1818 Clapham, 478
 1821 Atlingworth, 345
 1829 Burrell, 325
 1839 Duke of Cornwall, 386, 434, 479

DECORATION of the Liverpool

Masonic Hall, 286
 Dedication of the Freemasons' Hall, Ipswich
 171
 Dedication of the Masonic Hall, Callington,
 441
 De Grey and Ripon Lodge, No. 1356, 319
 Devon Masonic Educational Fund, 150
 Disagreeable Subject (A), 242
 Distinguished Canadians, arrival of, 329
 District Grand Lodge of Bombay, 231
 " " Ceylon, 376
 " " Malta, 175, 384
 " " Montreal, 389
 " " Northern China, 150
 Dramatic Notes, 4
 Dr. Mackey on Masonic Rites, 104
 Dutch Freemasonry, 273

EAST Surrey Lodge of Con-

cord, Annual Banquet, 461
 Ebrington Masonic Hall, 451
 Eighteen Seventy-Nine, 502
 Elections (The October), 391
 Emperor of Russia, Recent Attack on, 480
 Emulation Lodge of Improvement Festival,
 475
 Essex, Installation of the Provincial Grand
 Master of, 268
 Exaggeration, 339

FACTS and Figures, 448.

Farewell Dinner and Presentation to Bro.
 Spinks, 105
 Farewell Dinner to Bro. J. Clark, 141
 Fashionable Marriage at Brighton, 71
 Father Suffield and the Freemasons, 81
 Festival, the Grand, 177
 Festival of the Domestic Lodge, No. 177,
 276
 Festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improve-
 ment, 475
 Festival of the Grand Mark Lodge, 271
 " " Royal Masonic Benevolent
 Institution, 65, 82
 " " Royal Masonic Institution
 for Boys, 257, 272
 " " Royal Masonic Institution
 for Girls, 192, 197, 203,
 213, 221

Foreign Freemasonry in 1878, 6
 France, Recent Meeting of the Grand Orient
 of, 400.

Freemasonry and Sailors, 494
 " at Home, 162
 " Dormant, 321
 " in Australia, 131
 " Ceylon, 8
 " Colombo, 8
 " England, 447
 " Essex, 260, 306
 " Europe, 150
 " Liberia, 8
 " New Zealand, 91, 125
 " Norfolk, 375, 392
 " Norwich, 413
 " Philadelphia, 422
 " Port Elizabeth, 306
 " Suffolk, 305
 " the Air, 338
 " City, 4
 Freemasons and the Truro Cathedral, 309
 Freemason, The, 102
 Funeral of Bro. Bartle, W. H., 63
 " " Boyd, John, 18
 " " Ireland, John, 561
 " " Johnson, John, 154
 " " Rodda, R., 140
 " " Runting, Wm., 361
 " " Seager, John, 365
 " " Thompson, George, 216

GIRLS' and Boys' Recent
 Courts, 410

Girls' School Anniversary Festival, 492
 Girls' School (the), 429
 Good News from Zululand, 173
 " Works, 252
 Grand Chapter of England, 62, 183, 187,
 315, 323, 436
 " Chapter of Ireland, 8
 " " Quebec, 419
 " Festival, 177
 " Lodge of England, 93, 97, 102, 221,
 227, 346, 353, 467, 473
 " Lodge of Ireland, 8, 115, 124
 " " Scotland, 485
 " " Scotland and the Grand
 Lodge of Quebec, 390, 428
 " " Quebec, 419
 " Mark Lodge, 84, 234, 474
 " " Festival, 271
 " Masonic Ball in Liverpool, 38
 " " Entertainment in Liverpool, 9
 " " Fair, 316
 " Officers (the new), 183, 233
 " (the services of), 192, 203
 " Priory of Lancashire, 184
 " Secretary, (Appointment of), 503, 510
 " " (Our), 366
 " " (Resignation of), 458
 " Tyler (the late), 192
 Granite Lodge, No. 1328 (Summer outing),
 295

HEREFORDSHIRE Masonic
 Charitable Association, 332

Hervey, Bro. John, 468
 Hertford Lodge, No. 403, Jubilee Celebra-
 tion of the, 430
 House Committee, Girls' School (Polling
 for), 233
 House of Brunswick (the), 292
 How Bro. Jones Spent his Holiday, 347
 Hughton's, Bro., New Work, 9

IGNORANCE and Intolerance,
 112

In Memoriam, 7, 36, 263, 295
 Installation of their Royal Highnesses the
 Duke of Connaught and Prince Leopold
 as Knights of Malta, 501
 Installation of the Provincial Grand Master
 of Essex, 268
 International Banquet and Bro. Kenning,
 312
 Ipswich Freemasons' Hall, 133
 " " Dedication of, 171
 Irish Masonic Orphan Boys' School, 225

JONES, Bro., at Sea, 377

Jones, Bro., How he Spent his Holiday, 347
 Jubilee Celebration of the Hertford Lodge,
 No. 403, 430

KEEP Your Temper, 312

Kenning, Bro., and the International Ban-
 quet, 312

K.T. PRECEPTORIES:—

A. Abbey Chapter, 139
 D. Mount Calvary, 39, 129, 418
 2 Naval, 506
 5 (U.S.A.) Damascus, 100

K.T. PRECEPTORIES (continued).

10 Royal Veterans, 129
 24 Loyal Brunswick, 130
 30 Holy Cross, 140
 75 Prudence, 59
 95 De Lacy, 435
 101 Ancient Ebor, 130, 490
 115 Gwent, 388

LANGTHORNE Masonic
 Charitable Association, 94

Laying the Foundation Stone of Freemasons'
 Hall, Cradock, 133
 Laying the Foundation Stone of St. George's
 Church, Moseley, 225
 Legacies to Freemasonry, 70
 Legal Proceedings to compel the Interment
 of a Freemason, 376
 Leopold, H.R.H. Prince, 262
 List of New Lodges, 93, 221, 346, 467
 Literary Progress, 17
 Little R. W., Memorial Fund (See Went-
 worth Little)
 Liverpool Masonic Hall, Decoration of the,
 280
 Lodge Balls (See Annual Balls)
 Lodge of Benevolence, 38, 81, 123, 175,
 216, 251, 306, 341, 372, 422, 457

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION—

Charterhouse, 128, 139
 13 Union Waterloo, 490
 58 London Masonic Club, 426, 435, 446,
 483, 500
 97 Sunderland, 435
 130 Royal Gloucester, 180, 364
 140 St. George, 210
 179 Manchester, 446
 217 Stability, 180
 249 Mariners, 211
 538 La Tolerance, 210
 548 Wellington, 190, 249, 426
 1044 Wandsworth, 35, 50, 59, 80, 89, 100,
 111, 120, 128, 139
 1056 Metropolitan, 50
 1288 Finsbury Park, 129, 191, 211, 509
 1298 Royal Standard, 490
 1327 King Harold, 249
 1421 Langthorne, 416
 1472 Henley, 466
 1524 Duke of Connaught, 160, 169, 191,
 211, 219, 229, 239, 249, 280, 378,
 317, 325, 345, 354, 416, 426, 483,
 490, 509
 1558 Duke of Connaught, 191
 1585 Royal Commemoration, 408
 1611 Eboracum, 5
 1623 West Smithfield, 73, 239, 426
 Lodge Suppers, 151
 London Masonic Charity Association, 17,
 27, 36, 38, 85, 141, 142, 163, 372,
 411
 London Masonic Club (the), 300
 Lord Carnarvon and the Newbury Free-
 masons, 52

MAJOR Chard in Exeter, 485

Malta District Grand Lodge of, 175, 384
 Manners and Morals, 330
 Mark Lodge, see Grand Mark Lodge.

MARK LODGES:—

Old Kent, 73, 160
 Royal Cumberland, 111, 180, 287, 490
 St. John's, 120
 York, 120
 1 St. Mark's, 35, 364, 456
 6 Adams, 59
 11 Joppa, 447
 34 St. Andrew, 283
 43 Gibraltar, 121, 219
 58 Fearley, 35
 63 St. Andrew, 484
 65 West Lancashire, 447
 69 United Service, 25, 371
 78 Fortitude, 309
 101 Boscawen, 408
 104 Macdonald, 89, 169
 105 Freeman, 4
 139 Pannure, 354
 151 Whitwell, 4, 129, 211
 161 Walton, 490
 162 William de Irwin, 260
 164 Southdown, 220
 175 St. Michael, 408
 176 Era, 418
 181 Francis Burdett, 483
 198 Croydon, 121, 456
 199 Duke of Connaught, 446
 205 Beaconsfield, 483
 211 Hammersmith, 51, 169, 466
 213 Fletcher, 435, 501
 216 Henry, 51
 218 Lyegrove, 129
 222 Kingston, 220
 226 Excelsior, 121, 249, 364, 509
 229 Faithfull, 51, 81, 129, 160, 211, 318,
 336, 354, 371, 501

MARK LODGES (continued).
 234 Brixton, 73, 211, 291, 446
 255 Leopold, 220
 238 Prince Leopold, 219, 280, 483
 244 Trinity College, 501
 248 Broadley, 325, 388
 254 Brixton, 501

Marriage of the Earl of Carnarvon, 9
Masonic Amateur Dramatic Performance, 457
 " Amenities, 366
 " Ball in Liverpool, 81, 436
 " Banquet at Dublin, 124
 " Bazaar at Exeter, 356
 " Belief, 438
 " Benevolence in 1878-9
 " Bibliographical Notes, 133
 " Charities, Entertainment in aid of, 512
 " Charities, Our, 122
 " Charity, 420
 " Colleges and Benevolent Institutions, 423
 " Conversazione at Whitby, 150
 " Fair, 291, 396
Masonic and General Tidings, 10, 19, 29, 39, 53, 63, 76, 86, 95, 101, 105, 116, 126, 135, 145, 165, 176, 186, 196, 206, 216, 226, 236, 246, 255, 266, 276, 286, 296, 306, 316, 323, 333, 341, 352, 362, 368, 378, 384, 393, 402, 413, 323, 431, 442, 452, 462, 471, 485, 495, 506, 509, 511
Masonic High Grades in Canada, 134
 " Holidays, 382
 " Honours, 374
 " Impostors, 358
 " Literature, 162
 " " Course of Sound, 112
 " Medals, 375
 " Mendacity, 358
 " Music, 329, 399
 " Notes and Queries— See Multum in Parvo
 " Picnic, 295
 " " at Sunderland, 319
 " Research, 438
 " Sarcasm, 82
 " Statistics,
 " Studies, 92
Masonry Rediviva, 458
 " Returning Homewards, 390
Masons as Judges, Jurors, &c., 145
Melancholy Accident to a Liverpool Brother, 368
Metropolitan Lodge, No. 1507, Summer Festival of, 309
Missing Individuals, 313
Monde Maçonnique for August, 351
Montreal, District Grand Lodge, 389
Most Unsound Masonic Teaching, 428
Murray's (Bro.) Recital of Othello, 124
Multum in Parvo, or Masonic Notes and Queries, 49, 111, 130, 140, 154, 164, 174, 186, 195, 211, 224, 229, 244, 255, 261, 284, 304, 314, 319, 331, 350, 356, 367, 372, 380, 393, 401, 413, 418, 427, 440, 450, 470, 484, 495, 504
Music, 4

NEW Grand Lodges, 132, 283

" Lodges, 93, 221, 346, 467
 " Members, 222
News from Zulu Land, 304
Next Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, 92
Notable Manufactories, 327
Notes on American Masonry, 131
Notes on Art, 40, 141, 151, 169
Numbers and Strength, 374
Nutcrackers Club (the), 295

OBITUARY:—

Archer, Wm., P.G.J.D. (Lancashire), 174
 Bartle, W. H., 39
 Bedford, W. M., 581, 114
 Benham, P. W., 18
 Bennett, J. Wade, 251
 Borough, Sir E. R., Bart., Past D.G.M., Ireland, 495
 Bowles, Rev. Dr. P.G.M., Herefordshire, 81
 Boyd, Jno., P.G.P., 4
 Brown, Wm., 185
 Browse, H., 103
 Butt, W. A.
 Cox, J. Hamilton, P.M., P.Z., 451
 Cuthbert, J. S., 81
 Durkin, T., 384
 Ellison, Jas. Settle, 13
 Francis, Joseph, 81
 Frew, A. J., P.M., 825, 191
 Haynes, R. W., 49
 Head, B., P.G.D., 4
 Hegarty, J., 230
 Hughes, E., P.M., 249, 213
 Ireland, J., 361
 Johnson, J., 140
 King, George Kelly, P.M., &c., 357

OBITUARY (continued).
 Lazar, Jno., R.W.D.G.M., Westland, New Zealand, 356
 Lister, R.
 Martel, E. P.M., &c., 226
 Mortlock, T. S., 461
 Page, E. J., P.G.S., &c., 467
 Payne, C. B., Grand Tyler, 191
 Payne, I.P.M., 342, 253
 Phythian, G., P.M., 22, 295
 Poore, Josh., 213
 Pulham, Chas., H., 230
 Riddell, Alex., 484
 Rodda, Rd., P.P.G. Reg. Devon, 130
 Runting, Wm., 361
 Seager, John, 364
 Shaw, Jno., P.M., 79, 123
 Thomas, W. Jenkin, 19
 Thompson, George, P.M., &c.
 Tunnah, John, P.P. Sec. East Lanc., 185
 Watkins, Rev., G.T.N., 364
 Wattson, Capt. George, 241
 Wheeler, A. J., P.M., 140
 White Thos., P.M., 22, 437
 Winkup, A., P.M., 1356, 402
 Winton, H., 191
 Wormald, Bryan, 4

October Elections (the), 361
 Old Year (the), 510
 Oration, a ten minutes, 398
 Order of St. Lawrence, 39, 125, 399, 483

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE:—

A Caution, 244, 349, 359, 429
 Ace, Rev. Dr., Appeal, 469
 A Correction, 213, 244, 421, 470
 A Day in the Country, 331
 Admission of Members, 83
 Admission of Strangers, 469
 A Grand Lodge for New Zealand, 17
 A Grumble, 449, 459
 American Correspondence, 459
 A National Memorial to the Princess Alice, 8
 Ancient and Accepted Rite, 143, 153, 193, 173
 Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, 132, 193, 223
 Ancient and Accepted Rite in France, 233, 313
 An Education Scheme, 193
 An Error, 37, 274
 A New Novel, 213
 An Impostor, 37, 49
 An Initiation in a Balloon, 339
 Announcement of Masonic Meetings, 493
 An Older Freemason, 460
 An Old Mason, 173, 183, 203, 450
 Aprons, 61
 A Query, 37, 49, 113, 143, 154, 263, 322, 375, 449, 470, 493, 504
 Assistance Fund, 314
 A Typographical Mistake, 359
 A Warning, 263
 A Word of Warning, 233
 Balance Sheet of a Lodge, 173
 Basenesses, 359
 Book of Constitutions (the), 504
 Boys' and Girls' School Elections, 153, 391
 Boys' School Festival, 233, 244
 British Medical Association at Cork, 284
 Bro. Coleman's Masonic Calendar, 401
 Burdett Testimonial, 37
 By-Law or Bye-Law 174
 Cagliostro, 253, 263, 285, 293, 304
 Can we non-Confirm, 401
 Change of Address, 410
 Charity Reform, 293, 313, 339
 Confirmation of Minutes, 360
 Consecration of the Duke of Cornwall Lodge, No. 1839, 367
 Cost (the) of the Girls' School, 233, 243
 Council of Side Degrees, 410
 Count Cagliostro and Swedenborgian Masonry, 253
 Derwent Lodge, No. 40, 481
 Dr. Hopkins Masonic Charts, 143
 Earliest Use of the Word Freemason, 212
 Exchange of Votes, 322
Freemasonry in Asia Minor, 154
 " " New South Wales, 122
 " " Roumania, 383
 " " South Africa, 8, 173
 " " Suffolk, 314, 350
 Funeral of Bro. Baron Taylor, 375
 Grand Lodge of Ireland (the), 143
 " " " Representative Clothing, &c., 339
 " " " Montreal (the), 450
 Grand Lodge of New South Wales (so called), 284
 " Lodge (the last meeting of), 493
 " Secretaryship (the Vacant), 469

Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (P.G.L. of), 349, 359, 367
 Hervey (John) Lodge of Instruction, 103
 Holmesdale Lodge (the), 163
 Honour to the Brave, 113
 Hopkins, Dr., Masonic Charts, 143
 Hospital Libraries, 253
 Hubert Presentation to Bro., 375
 Hughan's List of Old Lodges, 37

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE (continued).
 Ignorance and Intolerance, 142
 Impostors, 350
 Installation Engraving (The), 183, 194
 Italian Book of Constitutions, 294
 John Hervey, Lodge of Instruction, 103
 Kenneth R. H. Mackenzie, 71
 Labouchere (Mr.), and Freemasonry, 321
 Lodge Funds, 294
 " Funds and Past Masters' Jewels, 304, 314
 Lodges and Charity, 27
 " of Instruction, 349
 Laughton Church Tower Restoration Fund, 391, 429
 Masonic Charities and Itinerants, 37, 49, 61, 71
 Masonic Charities (the) 7, 113
 " " versus Picnics, 293
Masonic Courtesy, 49
 " Grammar, 203, 223, 233, 243, 253, 273, 283
 " Grumblers, 480
 " Impostors, 439
 " Literature, 274
 " Medals, 37, 375
 " Queries, 61
 " Reporting, 113
 Masonry and Tapestry, 367
 Mason's Marks in India, 321
 Melrose Lodge, 410, 421
 New Forest Hotel (the) 391
 Old, Blind and in Want, 27, 49, 61
 " Lodges, 27
 " Masons, 244, 263, 469, 493, 481
 Original Research, 213, 421
 Our Late Bro. Benham, of Jersey, 27
 Polling Days and Scenes, 322
 Ponte Sisto Fountain (the), at Rome, 331
 Precedence, 469
 Presentation to Bro. Hubert, 375
 Prestonian Lecture (the), 243, 450
 Princess Alice, A National Memorial to the, 8
 Professed Exposures of Freemasonry, 304
 Profession and Practice, 7
 Provinces (the), and the Charities, 439, 449, 458
 Provincial Grand Lodge of Devon (the), 153
 Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, 349, 359, 367
 Provincial Office, 367
 Queries, 71, 93
 Red Cross, the Masonic and Military Order of the, 511
 Report of the Consecration of the Clapham Lodge, 273
 Representatives of Grand Lodges, 83
 Rev. Dr. Ace's Appeal, 469
 Rite Ecosais Ancien et Accepte, 153
 Roman Catholic Ignorance and Intolerance, 103
 Royal Arch Degree and Degree of Past Master, 70
 " Masonic Benevolent Institution, 83
 " Masonic Benevolent Institution, (the accounts of), 212
 " Masonic Institution for Boys, 83, 283, 331, 339
 " Masonic Institution for Girls, 233, 243
 " Masonic Pupil's Assistance Fund, 421
 Saint Alban's Abbey, 93, 113, 183
 Scenes at Masonic Elections, 349
 Simonsen (the Case of Bro.), 284
 Sixty-Seven Years a Mason, 213
 So-Called Grand Lodge of New South Wales, 284
 Stewards' Unpaid Fees, 263
 Collars, 359
 Supreme Council of Scotland, 27
 Swedenborgian Rite, 173
 " " " Lodge of Instruction, 459
The Accounts of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, 212
 " Book of Constitutions, 504
 " Boys' and Girls' School, 37, 273
 " " School, 331
 " " " and Bro. S. B. Wilson, 493, 511
 " " " Festival 1879, 283
 " Case of Bro. Simonsen, 284
 " Cost of the Girls' School, 233, 243
 " Elections in April, 142
 " " Freemason" and the "Cosmopolitan Calendar," 450
 " " Freemason" in South Africa
 " Grand Lodge of Ireland, 143
 " Installation Engraving, 183, 194
 " Last Meeting of Grand Lodge, 493
 " New Kheive and the Grand Orient of Egypt, 360
 " Prestonian Lecture, 243, 450
 " Provinces and the Charities, 439, 449, 458
 " Vacant Grand Secretaryship, 469
 " Value of Freemasonry, 223
 " Works in the British Museum, 223
 " Truro Cathedral and the Freemasons, 429, 450
 " Truth, 321, 331
 Uniformity of Lodges, 480
 " " Masonic Ritual, 510
 " " Working, 439, 449, 458, 469

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE (continued).
 Unity of Ritual, 503
 Vacant Grand Secretaryship (the), 469
 Value of Freemasonry, (the), 223
 Votes for the Boys' and Girls' School, Election in April, 60
 What is Freemasonry? 439, 450
 Works (the), in the British Museum, 223

Our American Brethren, 321
 " English Constitutions, 302
 " First Noble Grand Master, 315, 328
 " Fund of Benevolence, 242
 " Grand Scribe E., 321
 " " Secretary, 366
 " Initiation Fees, 48
 " Masonic Charities, 122
 " National Finances, 400
 " New W.M.'s, 60
 " Universal Craft, 448

PECKHAM Lodge, No. 1475

(Summer Festival of) 315
 Persecution for Religion's Sake, 366
 Personality in Masonic Working, 252
 Picnic of the Caledonian Lodge, No. 204, 294
 Picnic of the Wandsworth Lodge of Instruction, No. 1044, 295
 Pious Fraud (A), 293
 Placing the Corner-Stone, 235
 Polling for the House Committee Girls' School, 233
 Porter Melancholy Accident to Bro. Samuel, 368
 Portsmouth (Borough) Freemasons' Hall and Club Company, Limited, 241, 295, 329
 Positivism and French Freemasonry, 293
 Presentation to Bro. B. T. Fontaine, 383
 Prestonian Lecture, 468, 480
 Prince and Princess of Wales's Visit to Grimsby, 306
 Prince Leopold (H.R.H.), 262
 " " at Oxford, 427
 " " at Sheffield, 428
 Princess Alice and the Freemasons, 29
 " " " Irish Freemasons, 38
 Private, (A), Masonic Party to Paris and Switzerland, 358
 Professed Exposures of Freemasonry, 303
 Profession and Practice, 374
 Portraits of Prominent American Freemasons, 130
 Prince Consort (the Late), and Freemasonry, 226
 Province of Berks and Bucks, 413
 " " Devon, 62
 Provincial Charity Committee for N. and E. Yorks, 180
 Provincial Charity Votes, 105
 " Educational Associations, 163
 " Grand Lodges, 282

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAP-TERS:—

Cheshire, 440
 Cumberland and Westmorland, 38, 171
 Hants and Isle of Wight, 62
 Lancashire (E. Div.), 149
 " (W. Div.), 398
 Leicestershire and Rutland, 185
 Lincolnshire, 484
 Middlesex, 319
 Northumberland, 191
 Yorkshire (W. Riding), 181

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGES:—

Berks and Bucks, 275
 Ceylon, 376
 Cheshire, 380
 Cornwall, 244, 250
 Cumberland and Westmorland, 171, 389
 Devonshire, 336, 340, 346
 Dorsetshire, 389
 Hants and Isle of Wight, 326
 Hertfordshire, 301
 Kent, 285
 Lancashire (E. Div.), 210, 305
 " (W. Div.), 397, 410
 Lincolnshire, 266, 481
 Middlesex, 274
 Monmouthshire, 329
 Oxfordshire, 441
 Somersetshire, 28, 505
 Suffolk, 281
 Sussex, 398
 Wiltshire, 460
 Yorkshire, N. and E. Ridings, 372
 Yorkshire, W. Riding, 149

PROVINCIAL MARK LODGES:—

Berks and Oxon, 481
 Cornwall, 347, 365
 Cumberland, 501
 Dorset, 194
 Gloucestershire, 114
 Hampshire and Isle of Wight, 305
 Jamaica, 185

PROVINCIAL MARK LODGES (continued).

Lancashire, 451, 457
 Middlesex and Surrey, 150, 322
 Monmouthshire, 494
 North Wales and Cheshire, 185
 Northumberland and Durham, 505
 Tunis and Malta, 391
 West Yorkshire, 373
 Provincial Grand Master for Essex (Installation of), 268
 Provincial Grand Priory of Cornwall, 391
 Provincial Grand Priory of Northumberland and Durham, 485

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS:—

Cheetham Town Hall, 125
 Mohawk Minstrels, 384
 Sheffield Masonic Amateur Dramatic Society, 125
 THEATRES:—
 Alhambra, 384
 Court, 384, 442
 Criterion, 90
 Folly, 90
 Globe, 485
 Her Majesty's, 6, 90
 Imperial, 361
 Olympic, 341
 Park, 194, 361
 Prince's (Manchester), 90, 115
 Royal, " " 332
 Royal (Birkenhead), 144
 Royalty, 90, 332
 Strand, 75

Purchase of Lyndcombe House, 492

QUARTERLY Communication
(the), 102

Quarterly Court of the Boys' School, 26
 " " " " Girls' School, 26
 " " " " The Powers of, 60, 83
 Quebec, Grand Chapter of, 419
 " " " " Lodge of, 419, 420
 " " " " and the Grand Lodge of Scotland, 390, 428, 495

RECENT Attack on the Emperor of Russia, 480
Recent meeting of the Grand Orient of France, 400
Record (A) of the Past, 323

RED CROSS CONCLAVES:—

Premier, 121, 364, 435, 483
 Supreme Council, U.S.A., 291
 2 Plantagenet, 483
 35 Naval and Military, 4, 291
 36 Dykes, 220, 318
 97 Walton, 371
 137 Eboracum, 148, 396

Report of the Committee of General Purposes, 53

Resignation of the Grand Secretary, 458
 Restoration of St. Albans Cathedral, 61, 70, 75, 83, 85, 101, 123
 Reviews, 17, 27, 38, 49, 61, 62, 71, 83, 103, 113, 114, 123, 144, 154, 163, 164, 174, 203, 223, 231, 261, 284, 314, 322, 331, 340, 360, 375, 383, 401, 411, 422, 429, 440, 450, 493, 504
 Roman Catholic Opposition to Freemasonry, 222

ROSE CROIX CHAPTERS:—

4 Mount Calvary, 90, 318, 466
 27 William de Irwin, 388
 33 Rose of Sharon, 380
 40 Huyshe, 388
 61 Cornwall, 81, 388
 70 Morganwg, 388
 236 Hilda, 483
 Sphinx, 291

ROSICRUCIAN SOCIETY:

Metropolitan College, 25, 148, 409
 Rosicrucian Society, 210, 485
 Yorkshire College, 216

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS:—

2 St. James, 120
 13 Union Waterloo, 426
 22 Mount Sion, 408
 25 Robert Burns, 121
 41 Royal Cumberland, 89, 466
 42 Unanimity, 354
 72 Royal Jubilee, 120, 370, 501
 73 Mount Lebanon, 211, 417
 80 St. John's, 15, 380
 94 De Lambton, 200
 97 Strict Benevolence, 466
 100 Friendship, 249
 119 Sun, Square, and Compasses, 35, 169, 298, 435

129 Kendal Castle, 59
 130 Royal Gloucester, 483
 142 St. Thomas, 169, 471
 145 Prudent Brethren, 73
 148 Elias Ashmole, 120, 191, 456
 175 East Medina, 290
 176 Caveac, 219
 177 Domatic, 50, 148
 185 Jerusalem, 80, 169, 426
 192 Lion and Lamb, 25, 160, 298, 417
 204 Caledonian, 35
 213 Perseverance, 121
 216 Sacred Delta, 180
 225 St. Luke's, 280
 249 Mariners, 219
 277 Tudor, 89
 279 Fortitude, 280, 435
 280 St. Wulstan, 211
 311 South Saxon, 139, 388
 315 Royal Pavilion, 426
 317 Affability, 89, 345
 327 St. John, 249, 466
 328 St. John, 211, 446
 330 St. Petrock, 169
 345 Perseverance, 280
 452 Frederick of Unity, 160
 482 St. James, 121
 531 St. Helens, 380
 540 Stuart, 120
 581 Rectitude, 408
 594 Downshire, 80
 619 Beadon, 417
 720 Panmure, 200
 757 Keystone, 59, 101, 195
 823 Everton, 180
 829 High Cross, 427
 834 Andrew, 490
 847 Fortescue, 148
 774 Holmesdale, 111, 239, 490
 903 Gosport, 35
 913 Pattison, 399, 913
 948 St. Barnabas, 483
 1000 Priory, 81, 219
 1051 Rowley, 456
 1086 Walter, 292
 1138 Devon, 211
 1151 Unity, 129, 249
 1194 Royal Middlesex, 211
 1216 Macdonald, 121, 483
 1225 Abbey, 101
 1293 Burdett, 371
 1319 Asaph, 169
 1356 De Grey and Ripon, 81
 1381 Kennington, 50, 380, 446
 1387 Chulston, 89, 169, 345
 1393 Hamer, 120, 298
 1423 Era, 291
 1489 Ezia, 15
 1503 Francis Burdett, 318, 501
 1507 Metropolitan, 25, 111, 191, 380
 1524 Duke of Colnaught, 239, 396
 1540 Chaucer, 139
 1589 St. Dunstan, 219
 1604 Warders, 160
 1717 Ancient Carthage, 435
 INSTRUCTION (CHAPTER):—
 1471 North London, 501

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS:—

Royal Arch Chapters, 330
 " " Masonry in Manchester, 451

ROYAL ARCH MARINER

LODGES:—
 1 Brixton, 509
 2 Sanct Elmo, 389
 3 Solent, 490

" Ark Mariners, 384
 " and Select Masters, 104, 148, 220, 384

Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, 5, 18, 48, 61, 65, 67, 70, 82, 93, 111, 161, 201, 214, 241, 276, 280, 326, 365, 392, 447, 491
 " Masonic Institution for Boys, 8, 18, 28, 62, 101, 161, 194, 222, 254, 257, 262, 276, 280, 291, 294, 319, 365, 399, 412, 440, 494
 " Masonic Institution for Girls, 8, 9, 17, 18, 28, 53, 95, 133, 161, 165, 175, 180, 194, 197, 201, 213, 221, 261, 294, 311, 347, 383, 409, 431, 467, 470
 " Masonic Pupils' Assistance Fund (the), 348, 351
 " Order of Scotland, 115
 " Savoy Lodge, No. 1744 (Summer Festival of), 309
 " Visit to Grimsby, 306

SAINT ALBAN'S Cathedral, 78, 85, 101, 111, 123, 184

Scenes at Elections, 330
 Scotland (Grand Lodge of) and the Grand Lodge of Quebec, 390, 495
 Scrutineers, 312
 Serious Illness of Lord Skelmersdale, 176
 Servants' Characters, 348, 358
 Services of the Freemasons' Lifeboat "Albert Edward," 63
 Services of the Grand Officers, 192, 203
 Simonsen's (Bro.), Appeal, 283
 Society Journals (Specimens of), 332, 351
 Southampton Masonic Benevolent Association, 373
 Southampton Masonic Hall Company, 101, 133
 Southampton New Masonic Hall, 422, 484
 Spurius Freemasonry, 232
 Stephen's (Bro. Wm.) and Mrs. Stephen's Silver Wedding, 195
 Stewards' Fees, 480

Lists for the Festival of the Boys' School, 220
 Lists for the Festival of the Girls' School, 212

Visit to the Girls' School, 201
 Strasburg Cathedral, 141
 Sublime Lodge of Perfection, 1781-9, 373
 Suffield, Father, and the Freemasons, 81
 Summer Festival of the De Grey and Ripon Lodge, No. 1356, 319
 Summer Festival of the Berkhampsted Lodge, No. 504, 341
 " " " " of the Granite Lodge, No. 1328, 295
 " " " " of the Hunley Lodge No. 1472, 328
 " " " " of the Metropolitan Lodge, No. 1507, 309
 " " " " of the Peckham Lodge, No. 1475, 315
 " " " " of the Royal Savoy Lodge, No. 1744, 309

Supreme Grand Chapter, 62, 183, 187, 315, 323, 436
 Supreme Grand Chapter (Last meeting of), 232
 Swedenborgian Rite, 142, 435

TESTIMONIAL to the Rev. G. M. Macdonald, B.A., 185

Testimonial to Bro. George Chambers, 402
 The Altar in Masonry, 145
 " Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, 399
 " Anniversary Festival of the Boys' School, 262, 272
 " Appointment of Grand Secretary, 503, 510
 " Approaching Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, 48
 " Bell Musical Society, 495
 " Briton and Freemason Travelling, 410
 " Budget, 153
 " Case of Bro. Simonsen, 180
 " Catholic Persecution of Freemasonry, 361
 " Chairmanship of the Girls' School Festival, 182
 " Charity Medal, 480
 " Conflict in the French Rite Ecossais, 338

The Consecration of the St. Dunstan's Chapter, 173

" Constitutions of the Freemasons, 381
 " Disaster at Szegedin, 154
 " Emperor's Golden Wedding, 252
 " Endurance of Freemasonry, 172
 " Forthcoming Exhibition of the Dublin Academy, 9
 " "Freemason," 102
 " Freemason's Hall, Ipswich, 286
 " French Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, 302, 321
 " Girls' School, 282, 429, 458, 468
 " Grand Lodge of Illinois, 48
 " " " Scotland and the Grand Lodge of Quebec, 390, 495
 " " " Quebec, 421
 " Grand (New) Officers, 183, 283
 " House of Brunswick, 292
 " Last Meeting of Grand Chapter, 202
 " Last Quarterly Communication, 480
 " Licences of Libel, 421
 " Liverpool Masonic Hall Committee, 62
 " London Masonic Club, 300
 " Masonic Charities in 1878, 16
 " Moade Maqomique for August, 351
 " New Market Hotel, 422
 " New Year, 6
 " Nutcrackers' Club, 295
 " Old Year, 510
 " Origin of Freemasonry, 36
 " Past of Freemasonry, 27
 " Perils of Table Talk, 303
 " Powers of a Quarterly Court, 60, 83
 " Prestonian Lecture, 480
 " Princess Alice, 145
 " Pro Grand Master at Reading, 437
 " Proposed Grand Lodge for New South Wales, 170
 " Province of West Lancashire, 410
 " Provinces and the Charities, 458
 " Recent Meeting of the Grand Orient of France, 400
 " Rite Ecossais in France, 312
 " Royal Arch at York, 436
 " Royal Masonic Benevolent Anniversary, 61
 " Royal Masonic Pupils' Assistance Fund, 348, 351
 " Scotch Rite in France, 262
 " Secular Review, 321
 " Urban Club, 286
 " Vacant Grand Secretaryship, 492

Theatres—See Public Amusements
 Time's Changes, 132
 To English Masons, 194
 True Charity, 232
 " Philanthropy, 438
 Truro Cathedral and the Freemasons, 309
 "Truth" and Freemasonry, 303, 331
 " " Nothing but the "Truth," 331
 Twelfth Night Entertainment, Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, 17
 Uniformity of Ritual, 420, 468, 510
 " " Worling, 448, 492
 United Grand Lodge of England, 93, 97, 102, 221, 227, 346, 353, 467, 473
 Urban Club (the), 286

VACANT Grand Secretaryship, 492
Vale, 103
Visit (A) to the Girls' School, 213

WANDSWORTH Lodge of Instruction, Picnic of, 295

Wentworth Little Memorial Fund, 29, 301, 376, 393, 461, 494
 West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution, 400, 466
 West Yorkshire Masonic Benevolent Institution, 175
 What Freemasonry does do, 142
 " " " " not do, 153
 What good is Freemasonry, 216
 What is Masonic Charity, 16
 What is the Present Position of our Amended Laws for the Boys' and Girls' School, 60
 Wire Pulling, 242
 Wylie's History of Mother Lodge Kilwinning, 38