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REPORTS, etc., intended for insertion in current number, should reach the Office, (198, Fleet-street), by Six o'clock p.m., on Wednesdays.

## REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

## Craft Masonry.

**HIGH CROSS LODGE (No. 754).**—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Seven Sisters, Tottenham, on Wednesday, the 25th ult. Bro. Stephens, the W.M., presided, and, after the usual routine business, proceeded (after the ballot had been taken) to initiate Mr. H. Cooper into the mysteries of Freemasonry. The bye-laws of the lodge were read, and the name of a gentleman for initiation having been given, the W.M. closed the lodge, and the brethren adjourned to supper, which having been partaken of the usual toasts were given. In introducing that of "The Queen," the W.M. referred to the kind sympathy that Her Majesty had shown the ex-Empress of France in her recent bereavement. The toast was heartily received, and was followed by that of "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Master." With this the W.M. coupled "The Healths of the Pro G.M., the Deputy G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," paying a great compliment to their exertions on behalf of Freemasonry. Bro. J. Wells, P.M., assumed the gavel, and had great pleasure in proposing the toast of "The W.M.," whom he complimented for his kind and affable manner and his general ability in conducting the affairs of the lodge. He was, Bro. Wells observed, very near the end of his term of office, and he hoped that whoever might be appointed as his successor would, if possible, be a better man, but he was afraid few could give greater satisfaction than their present Master. After a song the W.M. rose to reply. He tendered his heartiest thanks for the kindness at all times extended towards him, and hoped to merit a continuance of the favours of the brethren. He had done his best in the past, and was only too pleased to find that it had met the approval of the members. His next duty was a most pleasing one, and one that he felt would meet the heartiest reception from all assembled. It was "The Health of the Initiate, Bro. Cooper." It was a great episode in the career of a lodge to receive a new member among them, and he trusted that the brother who had been initiated this evening would show that he had been impressed with the ceremony performed on his behalf. He could assure him that the more he looked into Freemasonry the more he would find that the brethren were anxious for the welfare of their fellows. Bro. Cooper, in his reply, thanked the brethren for the reception that had been accorded him. At present he was not in a position to say much for Freemasonry, but he trusted that the more he saw of it the better he should like it, and finally prove himself worthy of the position that had been accorded him. The next toast the W.M. had to propose was that of "The Visitors." He considered this a most pleasing part of his duty, as he felt assured that each member was gratified at seeing the guests who had honoured them with their presence. They were not so numerous supported by visitors as they were at their last meeting, but they somewhat made up for quantity in quality. He referred to the exertions the press were making to advance the cause of Freemasonry by reporting the various meetings, that took place, and thereby giving brethren who were unable to be present an idea of what was taking place. Bros. G. C. Young, 820, J. B. Reid, 946, and W. W. Morgan, jun., 1385, responded to the toast. The W.M. next called upon the brethren to drink "The Health of the Past Masters." He thanked them for the assistance they at all times rendered the W.M. in carrying out the duties of the lodge, and hoped they would be among those present at many future meetings. Bro. Wells returned thanks. He considered it the duty of every Past Master to support the Master, and regretted that the present Master had not been better supported than he had. "The Health of the Officers" was next drunk. Without them the W.M. felt he should have been unable to carry on the affairs of the lodge; he hoped he should always have them to assist him. Bro. S.W. replied, after which the Tyler was called, and gave the concluding toast of the evening. Among these present were Bros. H. Stephens, W.M.; J. W. Wells, W. Dance, J. Linzell, C. F. Barham, J. Maller, Past Masters; G. Burford, S.W.; J. Farrier, J.W.; T. Cunningham, Sec.; J. H. Thompson, J.D.; J. Garrod, D.C.; J. Verry, Tyler, A. G. Fidler, A. Bridgman, W. T. Turner, W. S. Cooper, W. F. Stevenson, A. W. Hockett, H. Cooper, and others.

**GATESHEAD.**—Lodge of Industry (No. 48).—The regular meeting of the premier lodge in the Province of Durham was held on Monday, the 23rd ult., at 34, Denmark-street. The lodge was opened shortly after 7 o'clock in the evening by the W.M., Bro. Robert Whitfield, assisted by the following officers, viz.: Bros. M. Corbitt, I.P.M.; John Wood, S.W.; J. G. Smith, J.W.; W. Brewis Elsdon, Treas.; E. Liddell, Sec.; E. W. Middlemist, S.D.; W. Whitfield, acting J.D.; Jas. Boyatt, I.G.; R. Ferry, Org.; J. C. S. Liddell, S.S.; Jas. Macintyre, J.S.; J. W. A. Boyatt, A.S.; and Joshua Curry, Tyler. The other members present were: Bros. David Sinclair, P.M.; B. P. Ord, I.P.M. 1427; Michael J. Wheatley, T. E. Bigham, T. P. Reay, A. Rhagg, G. G. Davidson, and John Wallace. Amongst the visitors were Bros. F. P. Jonn, P.M. 424; Jesse Marchant, W.M. 424; Jos. Probert, P.M. 424; T. Tyrrell, 424; John Page, W.M. 406; Henry Usher, J.D. 541; G. S. Sims, 1342; J. Duckitt, jun., S.D. 481; H. Kamp, 240. The first business was the confirmation of the minutes of last regular meeting, after which Bro. M. Corbitt, I.P.M., was unanimously elected for the second time to represent the lodge on the Charities Committee for the Province of Durham. At the urgent request of the W.M. of the Borough Lodge, No. 424, the W.M. was asked to give Bro. T. Tyrrell (who had been regularly initiated in that lodge) his Second Degree. Bros. T. P. Reay, M. J. Wheatley, and T. Tyrrell having shown their proficiency in the First Degree retired for preparation. The lodge was then opened in the Second Degree, when the candidates just named were admitted as Fellow Craftsmen by the W.M., the working tools being explained by the S.W. Bro. Jacob Matthews received the test of merit and retired, after which the lodge was opened in the Third Degree by the W.M., when Bro. Matthews was re-admitted and passed to the Sublime Degree of a M.M. by Bro. M. Corbitt, I.P.M., who also explained the Tracing Board. The working tools were given by the S.W. The lodge was then closed down to the First Degree, when Bro. M. Corbitt, I.P.M., in the names of himself and the officers, presented Bro. D. Sinclair, P.M., and W.M. of the lodge from March 1877, to March 1878, with a handsome Past Master's jewel, as a mark of their high esteem and for his services to the lodge. P.M. Sinclair thanked the I.P.M. and the officers for the token of regard, which was quite unexpected, and in a short but unique speech expressed the pleasure he would have in wearing the jewel as a memento of his year of office, and trusted that the day would be far distant when his connection with the old lodge would cease. The following gentlemen were proposed for initiation, Mr. Matthew Swinburne and Mr. Jas. John Thompson, after which the "Hearty good wishes" of the visiting brethren were tendered to the W.M., and then the lodge was closed in due form. The brethren adjourned to the refreshment room, when the usual Masonic toasts were responded to and several brethren enlivened the proceedings with their harmony. In connection with this lodge there is a tontine or benevolent fund for the Masonic Charities, and it is very pleasing to find that the twelfth ballot took place on the meeting night.

**LIVERPOOL.**—Merchants Lodge (No. 241).—Amongst the numerous Midsummer installations in Liverpool none possess any greater interest than that which attaches to the annual gathering of the Merchants Lodge, No. 241, with which many illustrious Masonic names have been associated during its century's existence. There was consequently a large gathering of visitors and brethren at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, at noon on Tuesday, the 24th ult., and even a larger array of Masonic notables at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Southport, where the brethren dined in the afternoon. The lodge was opened by Bro. Jas. Winsor, W.M., P.M. 203, assisted by Bros. Councillor Geo. Peet, P.M.; Ralph Robinson, P.M.; Richard Brown, P.M.; Geo. Broadbridge, P.M., D.C.; J. W. Turley, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; H. S. Alpess, P.G. Sec.; Thos. Salter, J.W.; Jas. Pendleton, I.G.; Solomon Jacob, acting Secretary; and others. The W.M. elect was presented by Bro. R. Robinson, P.M., and Bro. G. Peet, P.M., and installed in a very impressive manner by Bro. J. Winsor, the retiring W.M., who also delivered the lectures at the close of the ceremony in a faultless manner. The W.M. was saluted with all the honours, and he then proceeded to invest the following officers: Bros. Thos. H. Sheen (by proxy), S.W.; John Latta, J.W.; Jas. Winsor, I.P.M.; Dr. S. J. McGeorge, Treasurer (re-elected); Geo. Broadbridge, P.M., D.C. (re-appointed); Jas. Pendleton, S.D.; J. R. Duggan, J.D.; Thos. Whitehead, Secretary (by proxy); John Brotherton, I.G.; A. B. Ewart, Organist. Peter Ball was re-elected Tyler. At the conclusion of the lodge business, the brethren proceeded to Southport, where a *recherché* dinner was served up at the Prince of Wales Hotel, when about ninety sat down. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts being duly honoured, in proposing "The Provincial Grand Master," the W.M. spoke of the respect and esteem in which he was held, and expressed a hope that his health might soon be restored, when he would again be able to render that assistance he had always so cheerfully afforded. The S.W. proposed "The Deputy Grand Master and other Provincial Grand Officers," and stated that the Right Hon. F. A. Stanley, their Deputy Grand Master, was second only to the P.G.M. in his devotion to the Craft, and spoke highly of the assiduity of the other P.G.O.'s, especially Bro. Alpess, P.G. Secretary. Bro. Alpess responded, and said he was sure all who took an interest in the affairs of the country must sympathise with Bro. the Right Hon. F. A. Stanley in his onerous duties connected with the army of this country. For himself he had the greatest pleasure in seeing that day installed such a worthy and efficient Mason as their W.M. He also called attention to their Masonic Charities, and bore testimony to the efforts of 241, headed by its W.M., to

promote the metropolitan funds, and especially that of the Girls' School. He could congratulate the lodge on all grounds on its continuing in the fore-front of Freemasonry in this province, and more especially on the fact that, without spending money at haphazard or without due investigation, they gave such a large sum to laudable objects. Bro. Latta, S.W., proposed "The Masonic Charities," warmly advocating their claims, more especially that of the West Lancashire Educational Institution, with which Bro. R. Brown was so honourably associated.—Bros. Brown and Broadbridge responded, and the latter proposed the toast of the evening, viz., "The W.M."—which was most cordially received—stating that they respected him not only as a hard-working Mason but as a man who set an example to all of them. The W.M. replied in feeling terms, and referred to the fact that the lodge was now 100 years old and still prospering. A most interesting portion of the proceedings was the presentation to Bro. James Winsor, I.P.M., of a handsome gold watch and chain, and a tea and coffee service for Mrs. Winsor, on behalf of the lodge by Bro. R. Robinson, P.M., and after a most enjoyable evening the brethren separated. The musical arrangements were efficiently carried out by the hon. Organist, Bro. Ewart.

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS.**—Holmesdale Lodge (No. 874).—There was a large muster of the brethren at the Pump Room on Wednesday, the 18th ult., that being the closing meeting of the present season, the attendance, which included eight Past Masters, being testimony alike to the harmony and cordiality with which the lodge is always conducted, and of the high esteem in which the W.M., Bro. H. D. M. Williams, is held by the brethren. Among the visitors we noticed Bros. P. Smith, P.M. 1536; Fielden, P.M. 1032; J. P. Knox, 32, Madrid; Caldwell, 1619; T. Griffiths, 1619; Abrey, 1678; and G. Glanville, 1549. The other officers present besides the W.M. were Bros. W. B. Bacon, I.P.M.; J. Burton, J.W.; J. Dunckley, S.D.; J. F. Bates, Sec.; W. F. Elers, Treas.; R. W. Delves, D.C.; C. Graham, A.D.C.; J. Boorman, Org.; Cheale, I.G.; G. Strange, Tyler; and P.M.'s Beckley, Roper, and Reed; Bros. A. D. Beeching, B. Buss, W. C. Cripps, E. Durrant, D. R. Everest, G. Farrer, W. Langridge, K. Pain, Rankin, Ramsbotham, Rule, Satchell, Simpson, W. T. Wrighton, M. Williams, and others. The lodge having been regularly opened, the Secretary read the minutes of the last lodge, which were unanimously confirmed. The Rev. Lewen S. Tugwell and Mr. D. R. Everest, having been regularly balloted for, and approved as candidates, were separately admitted and initiated into Freemasonry according to ancient custom. Ballot was also taken for Bro. W. T. Wrighton, Globe Lodge, No. 23, and Bro. H. S. Goodall, Lodge No. 65, which was unanimous in their favour. The lodge was then opened in the Second Degree, and Bro. Lansdell questioned as to the progress he had made in the science, and the answers being satisfactory, he withdrew, and the lodge was opened in the Third Degree, when he was impressively raised to the Sublime Degree of a M.M. by the W.M. in a manner that fully keeps up the prestige of the lodge for the excellence of its working. On the notice of motion being brought forward that Bro. P.M. C. Marsh be elected an honorary member of the lodge, the notice was withdrawn agreeably to Bro. Marsh's wish. Several small matters having been discussed, the lodge was closed in perfect harmony, and the brethren adjourned to the Royal Kentish Hotel to banquet, which reflected the highest credit upon Bro. Rule. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and duly honoured. Bro. W. B. Bacon responded on behalf of "The Past Masters," and proposed "The Health of the W.M." The W.M., Bro. Williams, thanked the brethren for the compliment, and rejoiced to see such a pleasant gathering of the brethren. The Tyler's toast at eleven o'clock terminated the proceedings. Some pleasant ballads were given during the evening by Bros. Wrighton, Boorman, and Bates.

**BATTLE.**—Abbey Lodge (No. 1184).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 19th ult., a more than usually large number of brethren being present, including Bros. the R.W. Prov. G.M. of Sussex, Sir W. W. Burrell; John Henderson Scott, D.P.G.M.; V. P. Freeman, P.G. Sec.; C. Tomkinson, P.G.S. of W.; J. M. Kidd, P.G.D. of C.; J. Farncombe, P.G.S.B.; A. King, P.G.O.; W. T. Neel, P.G.P.; A. J. Hawkes, J. Rubie, and S. B. McWhinnie, P.G. Stewards; W. Glenister, W.M. of the Derwent Lodge, No. 40; G. Weller, P.M., and a strong contingent of the brethren from Hastings; T. Milsom, W.M. of 341; W. Dawes, P.M., and a number of brethren from Rye, as well as a strong contingent of Past Masters and brethren from Brighton, and other parts of the province. The lodge having been opened in the usual manner by Bro. C. D. Jones, W.M., the minutes confirmed, and other business transacted, the Prov. G.M. was reported as seeking admission. On the order being given, Sir W. W. Burrell was received in due form, and saluted with the usual honours. The W.M. then announced that the period had arrived for the installation of his successor, and he vacated the chair in favour of the Dep. P.G.M. (Bro. J. H. Scott), who, in a very able and impressive manner installed Bro. W. Lamborn, P.M. and P.P.G.P., as W.M. of the Abbey Lodge for the next twelve months, in the presence of a Board of Installed Masters, numbering nearly thirty. The brethren having been re-admitted, and the new W.M. regularly proclaimed and saluted, the following were appointed the officers of the lodge for the year:—Bros. C. D. Jones, I.P.M.; E. R. Clarke, S.W.; J. B. Sargent, J.W.; J. H. Wells, P.M., Treas.; C. W. Duke, P.M., Sec.; C. R. Chandler, P.M., M. of C.; J. Fielding, Org.; A. D. Womersley, S.D.; R. H. Keely, J.D.; J. Fisher, I.G.; F. Jesson, Tyler. The lodge was shortly afterwards closed, and an adjournment was made to the George Hotel, where the banquet

was held, the W.M. (Bro. Lamborn) in the chair, supported by Bros. Sir W. W. Burrell, Prov. G.M., John Henderson, D.P.G.M., a number of Provincial Grand Officers, and others. The vice-chair was filled by Bro. B. H. Thorpe, P.M., acting J.W.; and full justice having been done to the good things provided, the W.M. opened the business by giving the first toast, "The Queen and the Craft," speaking of her Majesty as the daughter and the mother of a Freemason. In proposing "The Health of the M.W. the Grand Master of English Freemasons, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," Bro. Lamborn remarked that it was not necessary in a gathering like the present to occupy time by making a long speech in support of it. The virtues of the Grand Master were well known to all Freemasons, and the Prince of Wales's name was a household word among the brethren. Full honour having been paid to the toast of "The Earl of Carnarvon, Pro G.M., Lord Skelmersdale, the Very Worshipful D.G.M., and the Officers of the Grand Lodge of England," the Worshipful Master, in a short but happy speech, proposed "The Health of Sir Walter W. Burrell, Bart., M.P., the R.W. Provincial Grand Master of Sussex," welcoming him to the Abbey Lodge with the greatest cordiality, and speaking in high terms of him as a Mason. Sir W. W. Burrell thanked the brethren for the very hearty reception they had given him on the occasion of his first visit to the Abbey Lodge. They met that day on what might be termed sacred ground—on ground where a crown had been lost and a kingdom had been won. On this historical ground the Abbey Lodge was consecrated, and held its peaceable meetings, and he hoped and trusted that they would never again in England witness a struggle for a kingdom and a crown. The great feature of Masonry, however, was not a struggle for a kingdom here, but for the kingdom to be hereafter established. Masonic lodges should be the embodiment of all that was good in charity and morality. He believed that Masonry was one of the most widely spread institutions in the globe. Even in such little known countries as Arabia and Abyssinia Masonry existed, and had existed for centuries. A brother-in-law of his had seen Arabs meeting on horseback in the desert and exchanging signs, while any Mason who had paid a visit to the South Kensington Museum could not fail to have been struck with the emblems and signs on the ornaments which the King of Abyssinia wore. Masonry was introduced into this country early in the present era, it having been introduced, according to the most reliable authorities, by St. Alban, who was murdered by Diocletian on account of his being a Mason. Freemasons were now raising a subscription for the purpose of putting the cathedral at the town named after him into repair. The Provincial Grand Master next referred to the increase of Masonry in the Province of Sussex, remarking that, in a month or two, he had to consecrate a new lodge at Brighton, and a warrant had also been granted for another new lodge (No. 1886), and when the brethren remembered that the number of the Ockenden Lodge was 1465, they would see how Masonic principles had spread since the desertion of the Marquis of Ripon, and since the accession of the Prince of Wales to the Grand Mastership. The W.M. next proposed "The Health of Bro. John Henderson Scott, the Deputy P.G.M.," remarking that he remembered that distinguished brother being present as P.S.G.W. when the lodge was consecrated in the Great Hall of Battle Abbey. Bro. Lamborn also spoke very highly of the D.G. Master's attention to Masonry, and of his skill as a worker. Bro. Scott thanked the brethren for their hearty reception of the toast, and expressed the great pleasure it gave him to accompany so worthy a brother as the Provincial Grand Master in his visits, and to find him so well received. Sir Walter Burrell was well and deservedly respected. That worshipful brother intended to visit every lodge in the province. He had already visited most of the older ones, but brethren must not expect these visits to be often repeated. He (the D.P.G.M.) had visited the Abbey Lodge in 1873, and was pleased to note the improved and improving position of Masonry in Battle, and he looked upon their present W.M. (Bro. Lamborn) as the backbone of Masonry in the Abbey Lodge. Bro. Jones, I.P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M.," and spoke of the assistance Bro. Lamborn had been to the Abbey Lodge. He and two or three others had been the mainstay of the lodge. If Bro. Lamborn loved one thing more than another it was Masonry. He was a good and true brother, and devoted his spare time to Masonic objects, more particularly to instructing his younger brethren in the science. The Worshipful Master, in reply, thanked the brethren for the honour they had for a second time conferred upon him; and if the brethren thought he had done his duty, he was well repaid. He asked the officers to give him all the assistance and all the attention they could, and he was ready at all times to give them all the instruction in his power, and would endeavour to drill them all well. The W.M. next proposed "The Health of the Visitors," making special reference to the pleasure it gave him to welcome the Worshipful Master of the Derwent, No. 40—Bro. W. Glenister—and the brethren from Hastings. He could assure the visitors that the members of the Abbey Lodge fully appreciated the courtesy shown them. Bro. Glenister complimented his worshipful brother on the position he had again attained, and was glad to show the respect in which he held Bro. Lamborn as a man and as a Mason. He trusted that in years to come the same good feeling would continue to exist, and that the Masonic courtesies would continue to be exchanged between the Abbey and the Derwent Lodges. "The Health of the Past Masters" was next duly honoured, the remark being made that if the W.M. was the backbone of the lodge, the Past Masters might be considered the ribs. The different Past Masters responded, and made felicitous speeches. The toast of "The Masonic Charities" was proposed by Bro. B. H. Thorpe, P.M., in an eloquent speech, and full honour having also been done to the toasts of "The Treasurer," "The

Officers," and "The Stewards," the Tyler was called up and his toast given. Several brethren contributed their quota to the enjoyment, and many good songs were sung. It is, in fact, some time since a more pleasant Masonic reunion took place in this part of Sussex.

#### INSTALLATION OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER OF ESSEX.

The installation of the Right Hon. Lord Tenterden as Provincial Grand Master of Essex took place on Wednesday last, at the Shire Hall, Chelmsford. There was a numerous attendance of the members of the various lodges in the county, as well as several visitors. The newly-appointed Grand Master was admitted to the mysteries of Freemasonry on the 22nd of January, 1856, in the Lodge of Harmony, meeting at Richmond, Surrey. He was twice elected to preside over this lodge in the capacity of Worshipful Master, in the years 1859 and 1864, and in that capacity gave proof of the Masonic ability he has since shown. He was appointed Senior Grand Warden of England in 1872, by the Marquis of Ripon, then Grand Master, and has, since that time, been a frequent attendant at Grand Lodge, on several occasions having filled the chair of Senior Warden, as well as taking other positions whenever called upon. He succeeds in his present position of Provincial Grand Master the R.W. Bro. Robert J. Bagshaw, who presided over the province from 5th December, 1854, until the time of his death, 14th August, 1878. The present Provincial Grand Master, strange to say, was installed into his position in the same town as was the late Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Bagshaw having been installed on the 17th of May, 1855, by the Earl of Yarborough, then Deputy Grand Master of England. On Wednesday the ceremony was performed by the Earl of Carnarvon, the present Pro Grand Master of England, and in every detail was carried out most efficiently.

Among those who signed the attendance book were:—Bros. the Earl of Carnarvon, Pro G.M. of England; Lord Tenterden, Prov. G.M. Essex; Lord Ebrington, Prov. G.M. designate of Devon; Albert W. Woods, P.G.W. and G.D.C.; Charles J. Martyn, P.G.C., D. Prov. G.M. Suffolk; R. W. H. Giddy, D.G.M. Griqualand, S. Africa; Ernest Emil Wendt, G.S. (G. Cor.); Shadwell H. Clerke, P.G.D.; T. Fenn, P.G.D.; C. W. Arnold, P.G.C. and D. Prov. G.M. Surrey; J. Nunn, P.G.S.B., Senior Vice-President Board of Benevolence; Matthew Clark, J.G.D.; Gordon W. Clark, P.M. 255; Thomas Cochrane, Provincial S.G.W.; George Corble, P.J.G.W.; J. H. Bridge, P.G. Chap.; T. J. Ralling, P.G. Sec.; D. Reed, P.J.G.D.; A. Lucking, P.G.D. of C.; J. A. Wardell, P.G.A.D. of C.; B. B. Brayshaw, P.G.S.B.; W. W. Brown, P.G. Org.; W. F. Francis, P.G.I.G.; Thos. S. Sarel, P.G. Tyler; Richd. W. Motion, P.P.S.G.W.; A. Portway, P.P. G.P.; E. Juda, P.P.G.R.; F. Wood, P.P.S.G.W.; J. Allen, P.P.G.S.B.; F. G. Green, P.P.G.S.W.; Alfred Wright, P.P. G.D.; D. Arthur Goodchild, P.P.G.D.; Wm. Humphreys, P.P.G.W.; J. W. Harris, P.P.G.A.D.C.; Arthur J. Manning, P.P.G.S.; F. B. Shepherd, P.P.S.G.W., P.P.G.C.; J. Durrant, P.P.J.G.D.; H. John Hatch, P.P.G.C.; F. Adlard, P.P.G.A.D. of C.; Wm. Bashar, P.P.G.S.B.; Wm. Pipey, P.P.J.G.W.; A. K. Clench, P.P.S.G.W.; W. P. Lewis, P.P. S.G.D.; D. B. Grout, P.P.S.G.D.; W. O. Ward, P.P.G.P.; J. E. Wiseman, P.P.G.A.D. of C.; G. P. Jay, P.P.S.G.W.; Thos. Rix, P.P.G.S.B.; A. C. Veky, P.P.G.S., P.P.G.W.; Joseph Tanner, P.P.G.D.; E. West, P.P.G.S.D.; A. Jones, P.P.J.G.W.; George Cooper, P.M. 108 and 214; Joseph Bell, P.P.G.J.W.; Robt. Wilson, P.P.G.P.; J. P. Sarel, P.P.S.G.W.; G. W. Patmore, P.P.G.S.; Arthur Perkin, P.P.G.C.; J. L. Bold, P.P.S.G.W.; A. Welch, P.P.J.G.W.; Charles Cobb, P.P.G.S. of W.; Henry Rowley, P.P.G.S.B.; Fredk. Cole, P.P.G.R.; G. Gard Pye, P.P.G.S. of W.; B. S. Barnes, P.P.G.C.; Thos. Smce, P.P.G.D.; James Nicolson, P.P.G.J.W.; Edward E. Phillips, P.P.J.G.W.; Thos. H. Jennings, J.W. 650; James Goodwin, W.M. 1343; Alfred Sturgeon, P.M. 1343; Edwin H. Inman, J.W. 1213; G. R. Durrant, 950; T. R. Moore, J. H. Crowther, J.W. 1457; J. Egan, P.M. 423; W. H. Norman, 1000; W. Cearcy, P.M. 433; W. D. Merritt, J.D. 1000; H. York, P.M. 433; W. Sheppard, 1734; F. Wiseman, J.W. 1734; S. Murphy, J.W. 214; T. King, W.M. 160; H. Harper, J.D. 160; G. Goodman, 1734; J. Allen, 1734; W. Whitechurch, W.M. 1280; W. Kilpin, I.G. 160; Joseph Earle, S.D. 160; W.M. 1734; Alfred W. Wallis, 214; G. Greycock, 1000; G. H. Josling, 160; F. Howell, 1000; G. S. Edwards, S.W. 1457; A. Broadberry, S.D. 650; W. H. Kent, 453; A. Buck, I.G. 453; T. F. Woodard, 276; W. H. Glass, W.M. 453; F. C. Smith, 1457; J. Gosling, 1000; H. R. Heasman, W.M. 1437; C. Mansfield, 1421; C. Blyth, P.M. 453; R. J. Hendrie, 241; T. H. Reed, P.M. 276; T. Nicholson, P.M. 1457; Geo. Berry, J.W. 1000; Henry Beecher, 1000; G. J. Jones, S.W. 1000; W. Doyley, 1457; A. F. Heaton, 1734; F. P. Sutthery, 276; E. H. Florence, S.W. 24; G. F. Skill, 276; W. J. Chignell, 1000; Nicholas Miller, 1000; W. Langham, 276; C. Field, 1347; T. Simpson, 1280; W. Holloway, 1452; J. Freeman, 1024; Thos. Aldham, 1024; A. G. Maskell, 276; Robert Smith, 697; C. Salter, 650; T. E. Bland, J.D. 1024; Bruce Johnston, 1000; C. Warner, 1437; John Betts, 1024; G. Hawes, P.M. 697; A. T. Chambers, 650; J. Child, 453, 1579; J. H. Boulton, 697; T. G. Mills, Sec. 697; J. C. Turner, J.W. 51; D. M. B. Wheeler, P.M. 276; W. Pullen, P.M. 276; W. Wood, 276; A. F. Stuart, 276, 1437; T. F. Barrett, S.D. 1000; H. J. Lever, 697; G. D. Clapham, 1543, 1312; T. J. D. Crumphorn, 1024; H. J. Sansom, W.M. 1024; W. A. Donaldson, 1024; H. Saunders, S.D. 1437; S. J. Newton, 650; J. C. Johnstone, W.M. 1000; J. White, 1437; M. Roberts, 214; W. Wallis, 1000; J. M. Eagles, 433; J. P. Britton; J. R. Parker, 1280; A. C. Durrant, 276; W. Wright, 1024; R. D. Poppleton, 433; A. Mead, 276; J. Gooch, 433; A. F. Green, W.M. 276; J. S. Brown,

S.W. 276; J. W. Hair, 276, P.P.G.R.; W. Bright, 1312; Jas. Ralling; W. J. Upton, 276; G. Shedd, 276; E. D. Cockayne, 1543; W. J. Skelton, 1543; John Hutley, 1312; J. C. Newman; John Hulley, 1024; R. C. A. White, W.M. 344; F. W. Warner, 1543; H. W. Madeley, 1543; T. Williams, S.W. 1543; R. Hockley; J. P. Lewins, J.W. 276; F. J. Snell, W.M. 1543; Walter C. Bell, P.M. 1024; F. Hurrell, 276; A. R. Staines, 51; H. Bowlet, 276; David J. Wright, 1024; O. Batt, 1543; J. Hanly, 51; A. W. Ralling, 51; A. Gosling, J.W. 697; W. R. Bloom, J.D. 1799; H. Hayes, 1000; S. J. Weston, 1000; A. Martin, 1000; Charles Gurner, 51; E. Gowers, Org. 1024; F. Bird, J.D. 1024; J. C. Earle, S.D. 214; R. Martin, S.W. 453; J. W. Taylor, P.M. 1312, P.G.S.W.; T. Warner, 697. Visitors: Bros. W. C. Clark, W.M. 3; G. Hall, 1205; C. T. Speight, P.M. 27; B. Hutchinson, J.D. 650; J. M. Farr, 1536; W. S. Harvey, 1658; C. G. Lambert, 1460; J. P. May, P.M. 15; E. Robbins, P.M. 193, 276; R. Williams, 1056; H. W. Madeley, 1543; E. J. Biggs, 1472; E. Ayres, 742; W. Chinty, 1781; A. H. Orpen, 216; F. Wright, 1500; W. H. Payne, 1472; W. J. Lennox, 123; G. W. Clark, P.M. 255; E. H. Wolton, 99; W. W. Morgan, jun., 1385; A. Wolton, 1704; L. C. H. Mensing, 959; T. Noton, 1309; V. Buchley, R. B. Dashwood, A. Trueyman, W. Rockley, 51 and 701; H. W. Wynne, 255; A. Haulray, 255; H. N. Dering; J. A. Bennett, P.M. 4, 44, 62, 320, 321, &c.; H. W. Strange, P.M. 10, P.P.G.W. Norfolk; Jas. Terry, P.G.J.W. Herts, Secretary of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution; and H. Massey, P.M. 619 (Freemason).

After the Grand Lodge had been formally opened, the Earl of Carnarvon was saluted according to ancient custom. The minutes of the former meeting were read and confirmed, and the roll of the lodges of the province were called over. The announcement of the contributions of the lodges of the province was made, and the Auditor's report was read.

The Earl of Carnarvon then said: I now will inform the Provincial Grand Lodge of the occasion which has called the brethren together. Brethren, you are aware that since the lamented death of your late Provincial Grand Master this province has been without its head, and it has pleased His Royal Highness the Grand Master to appoint our Bro. Lord Tenterden to fill this high office. (Applause.) I am quite satisfied from the way in which his name is received how popular that appointment will be with you. (Applause.) In some respects it is easier to pronounce praise upon a man in his absence than in his presence, but I think the few remarks which I need make in this Grand Lodge it will be better that Lord Tenterden himself should be here and should hear what I have to say, after the obligation has been administered to him, and, therefore, I shall now desire that the deputation formed in the usual fashion should proceed to introduce our Bro. Lord Tenterden to this Grand Lodge.

Lord Tenterden was then introduced to the Prov. Grand Lodge, and formally installed as Prov. Grand Master.

The Earl of Carnarvon, after having installed Lord Tenterden, said: Right Worshipful Sir, my noble brother, it has been my duty, and a most grateful duty it is to me, to place you in this chair. Very little, indeed, is needed now for me to add to the ceremony in which we have both taken this part. At the same time, it has always been held, I believe, customary that the Installing Master should at least tender his congratulations and good wishes, first of all to the Provincial Grand Master who henceforth is to rule the province, and next to the province that will be under his sway. I can, with a most sincere conscience, offer alike my congratulations and my good wishes to you and to the province on this fortunate occasion, and I trust that this bright ray of physical sunshine which is, after the long wet and storms of the last few days, coming in at these windows is an augury, after the depression which this province has undergone since the death of your late lamented Prov. Grand Master—is a fitting augury of that which is in store for the province. But, Worshipful Sir, you are no novice in the duties of the Craft, and it would be utterly unnecessary for me to remind you of the duties and obligations which you have to-day undertaken. You know them well, and I am satisfied that you will fulfil them with all the conscientiousness and zeal and energy of character which have distinguished the other actions of your public life (applause); and I rejoice to think that under your sway this province will take as it were a new start in its Masonic life and career, and I hope thrive and grow in the exercise of all those Masonic virtues and duties without which our internal procedure, our form, our ceremonies, and our symbols are all but naught. Brethren, some of you may have noticed only a few days ago a very remarkable article in one of our leading newspapers upon the present position of the Craft in England. It was a high encomium pronounced upon the Craft, though apparently written by one who had little real knowledge of our internal life and actions, but it was true in this, that it pointed out that, under the veil of symbolism, and under the external forms of rites and ceremonies, which had descended to us through successive generations, and from a very remote antiquity, there was a real active life and vigour enshrined, and that the Craft lived—lived, indeed, in the goodwill of the outside world; lived in the respect of men; lived in the honour and the regard which the people of this country pay it, because of the belief that it lived for active good, and in the exercise of active virtues. Brethren, that was a tribute offered to the Craft by one who was not familiar with its inner meaning and its inner life; but we may well lay that tribute to heart, and each and all of us, whether we be acting collectively in our several lodges, or whether we be acting separately and singly as individual Masons, endeavour to make the light of Masonry so shine forth in our whole lives collectively and individually that we may reflect honour and credit upon that body to which we all belong. Brethren, I have now only as I began so to end, by wish

ing your new Provincial Grand Master every good fortune in the chair which he fills. I need not wish him ability, I need not wish him tact, and conciliation, and firmness all combined, because I know he possesses those qualities, and I know that he will exercise them for the good of you all. Nor need I, I think, in conclusion, remind you that you have also duties to him, and that it is by obedience to rule, by loyalty to the commands of your Provincial Grand Master, by rendering him every assistance, both in your lodges and individually as Masons, that you can not only lighten the burden which, from time to time, will rest upon his shoulders, but also promote the cause of Masonry in this Masonic Province of Essex.

Lord Tenterden then rose and said, after the cheering with which he was greeted had ceased: Brethren, before we proceed with the business of the day, I cannot refrain from saying a few words of very earnest thanks to our Pro Grand Master for the kind manner in which he has spoken of me to you, and I also thank you, brethren of the Province of Essex, for the welcome you have been good enough to accord to me.

The Rev. S. R. Wigram, P.G.C., was then appointed by his lordship D.P.G.M., and the following brethren were appointed to the other offices in the province:—

Bro. J. Earle, W.M. 214	...	Prov. G.S.W.
D. M. B. Wheeler, W.M. 276	...	Prov. G.J.W.
Rev. H. F. Heaton, 1734	...	Prov. G.Chap.
Andrew Durrant, P.M. 276	...	Prov. G. Treas.
T. J. Ralling, I.P.M. 51	...	Prov. G. Sec.
G. D. Clapham, P.M. 1543	...	Prov. G. Reg.
S. Leverett, P.M. 1280	...	Prov. G.S.D.
A. Sturgeon, P.M. 1343	...	
H. J. Sansom, W.M. 1024	...	Prov. G.J.D.
G. W. Patmore, W.M. 1437	...	
T. Nicholson, P.M. 1457	...	Prov. G. S. of W.
Albert Lucking, P.M. 1000	...	Prov. G. D. of C.
J. A. Wardell, P.M. 1000	...	Prov. G.A.D. of C.
J. J. C. Turner, J.W. 51	...	Prov. G. Org.
A. F. Ginn, W.M. 276	...	Prov. G. Sd. B.
T. King, W.M. 160	...	Prov. G. Purst.
C. Blyth, P.M. 433	...	Prov. G. A. Parst.
T. S. Sarel, 276	...	Prov. G. Tyler.
J. S. Brown, 276; A. Mead, 276; F. M. Williams, 1543; W. Whitechurch, 1280; G. Harvey, 697	...	Stewards.

Lord Tenterden afterwards said he thought it would not be fitting or becoming of him if he allowed Grand Lodge to depart without saying a few words to the memory of their departed Bro. Bagshaw. He had had the pleasure of the acquaintance of Bro. Bagshaw, and he knew how zealous he was on behalf of Freemasonry, and when he was racked with the disease of which he died he attended Grand Lodge regularly, rather than the province of Essex should not be represented. He, therefore, moved a vote of the deep regret of the province at the loss of their late Grand Master.

The vote having been seconded, was put to Grand Lodge, and carried unanimously, and Bro. Matthew Clarke, Past Deputy Grand Master of the province, was entrusted to convey it to the family of the late Bro. Bagshaw.

Lord Tenterden then proposed a vote of thanks to the Earl of Carnarvon for performing the ceremony of installation.

Bro. the Rev. S. R. Wigram, Deputy Prov. Grand Master, seconded the motion, which was then put and carried.

The Earl of Carnarvon, in reply, said it would be very wrong if, after having already engaged so much of the time of the Provincial Grand Lodge, he were to make anything of a reply to the words which had fallen from the chair, and from the excellent brother who had seconded them. He simply said that it had been a double pleasure to be there, from his personal friendship for him and from his knowledge of him as a Mason.

A vote of thanks was also passed to Bro. Matthew Clarke, Past Deputy Prov. Grand Master, for the way in which he conducted the business of the province during the absence of the late Bro. Bagshaw.

Bro. Ernest Emil Wendt, representative of the three Grand Lodges of Berlin, presented the congratulations of those lodges to Lord Tenterden on his installation as Prov. Grand Master for Essex.

On the motion of the Rev. S. R. Wigram, a vote of thanks was passed to the magistrates of the district for allowing the use of the Shire Hall for the purposes of the Prov. Grand Lodge on this installation of Lord Tenterden.

Ten guineas was voted to the local dispensary, and Prov. Grand Lodge was then closed.

The brethren then adjourned to the Corn Exchange to banquet, under the presidency of the Prov. Grand Master. The usual toasts were afterwards proposed.

In giving the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," Lord Tenterden said: Brethren, there is an old saying that short reckonings make long friends. I think that expression may be supplemented by a further adage, that short speeches make pleasant meetings. The first toast on our list needs no comment, the mere mention of it ensures a hearty welcome in this loyal Province of Essex. Brethren, I give you "The Queen and the Craft."

After the National Anthem, the Provincial G. Master again rose and said: Brethren, when this Provincial G. Lodge was last communed, it was for the purpose of placing on the shore of Essex one of those life boats that had been launched by the Craft, as a thankoffering for the safe return of their Grand Master from his Indian tour. A more fitting memorial could not have been selected than that which was decided on by the Grand Lodge, when we remember that during the time our Craft was left without a head the Prince of Wales was found ready and willing to take the helm of the boat and labour for our rescue. I say the helm of the life boat, for I am able to say, having been amongst the Masonic advisers of H.R.H. for some years

past, that H.R.H. does personally administer and govern the Craft to our great advantage. We have in the Prince of Wales no mere gilded figurehead at the top of the Craft, but we have instead the good head of an excellent man of business. The fact of the Prince of Wales being an admirable man of business has been testified on several occasions to the world at large, but more especially at the Exhibition last year at Paris, when he acted as President of the British section. The success of the English portion of the Exhibition was almost entirely owing to his exertions and his desire that there should be an adequate representation of the arts, products, and manufactures of the United Kingdom. I feel that I utter an expression gratifying to all of those present when I offer you an opportunity of shewing in Essex your appreciation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. Brethren, I give you the toast of "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M. of England."

The Provincial Grand Master then proposed "The Health of the Installing Master." It was only those, he said, who knew how many and how various were the engagements of a man in Lord Carnarvon's position who could really appreciate how truly fraternal an act this was on his part. When he (Lord Tenterden) first went to the University of Oxford, the name which was the pride of the college, as the first classman of his year, was that of the Earl of Carnarvon. (Applause.) Since then, when maturer years had verified the promise of the schools, they still found the noble Earl in the first-class in life, first-class as a statesman, as a classical scholar, and as an orator, and as a Freemason (cheers), and he had recently added to his other honours that of poetry. (Applause.)

There was one measure which, as it met with universal assent, he might here mention without hesitation, which showed how the Earl of Carnarvon had made his mark on the world—an achievement indeed which deserved to be even emblazoned on the time-honoured escutcheon of the Herberts. He referred to the great work of the Confederation of the Dominion of Canada. The Earl of Carnarvon found the British North-American Provinces scattered, weak, and disunited across the great breadth of the American Continent; he left them a consolidated dominion, the very jewel of our Colonial Empire. (Cheers.) Many of them were aware how genially, with what courtesy and ability, their most distinguished brother presided in Grand Lodge (hear, hear); they had all of them seen that day how he could preside in a Provincial Grand Lodge, and he was sure that he need say no more to commend the toast of his health to their most hearty welcome. (Cheers.)

The Earl of Carnarvon, in reply, said he was afraid the Provincial Grand Master had very greatly exaggerated his poor merits in every single case to which he had been pleased to allude. He could not accept the flattering compliments his lordship had been pleased to pay him in that difficult sphere of politics where men much oftener reaped censure and abuse than they did praise, and he doubted how far he could venture to appropriate to himself even those compliments which had been paid him in the quieter, the more domestic sphere of other matters. But one thing he could say—that it was with infinite satisfaction and pleasure that he was asked to take the part of Installing Master there that day. He came with the greatest satisfaction to himself to discharge a duty in which his sympathies were so strongly, so personally enlisted, and independently of the satisfaction he felt at having placed Lord Tenterden in the chair, and having offered to him the sincere homage of his good wishes in the task which he was henceforth undertaking in this province, he also had received with infinite pleasure and satisfaction the kindly, and the more than kindly, welcome which the Province of Essex had been good enough to give him. (Cheers.) It had been his fortune to attend many provincial meetings in many parts of England, but this, at least, he would say, he had never attended any where he had been received more kindly and cordially than he had there that day, and when he left them he should carry away the recollection of the heartiness with which an Essex body of Freemasons could make their brother Mason welcome. (Loud cheers.)

The Provincial Grand Master then proposed "Lord Skelmersdale, and the rest of the Grand Officers." He said that it was not a mere idle compliment that they paid this mark of respect, for Lord Skelmersdale was an earnest Mason, and was actually suffering his present illness through having come down to Walton-on-the-Naze to inaugurate a new lodge. Lord Skelmersdale regretted very much that he was not present this day, but he was compelled to be absent through having Her Majesty's commands to attend upon her on her visit to the Agricultural Show. Lord Kensington and others had also expressed their regret at their absence. The Grand Officers well manned the Craft, and he did not know how the Freemasons would get on without such brethren as Sir Albert Woods, Thomas Fenn, and Bro. Martyn, Past Grand Chaplain. He would particularly mention with regard to this toast, Bro. Alston, Past Grand Warden, whose father before him was, as he was, a worthy President over the Craft. Bro. Alston was one of the oldest Grand Officers, and the oldest living Grand Officer in the Province of Essex, and it was his name he would couple with this toast.

Bro. Alston, in reply, said: the Grand Officers present have felt it a pleasure as well as a duty to support the chair on this auspicious occasion. To myself, personally, I may say that it has been a matter of intense interest to see placed in the chair of this province a brother whom I have known so long, whose friendship I so value, and whose career I have so much admired, and we one and all of us feel most grateful to you for the hearty welcome which you have accorded us, and for the excellent cheer with which you have provided us. Your Provincial Grand Master has referred in terms which demand my warmest acknowledgments to one inexpressibly dear to me who once occupied his chair. I will only say that if he

could be present to-day he would fully ratify and confirm and approve the choice which His Royal Highness had made. For myself I will say that though I stand before you now as one, I believe, of the oldest members of the Grand Lodge of England and for some years before that I was a member, and a working member, of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex. In coming before you to-day I have ventured to put on some of the clothing which belong to me in Grand Lodge, and I trust you will accept it as a compliment from me that I should have done so. I can truly say that to my Masonic connection with this province, and it is not my only connection with this county, I owe some of the happiest recollections and experiences of my life; and time, which tries and proves all things, has only added to the halo with which those recollections are surrounded. I know the province of Essex of old. It is a glorious Masonic province; Masonic virtues shone always bright here, and they will continue to do so, and for the comfort of your excellent Prov. Grand Master I will say that in no respect were the Masonic virtues more conspicuous than in the loyalty and the devotion which you were always ready to show to your Prov. Grand Master. In coming among you again to-day I miss many old accustomed faces, but others have taken their place, and are now engaged in spreading the tenets of Masonry throughout the province; but I rejoice to find many of the old lodges which I knew of old. I have been glad to see that grand old lodge, the Angel Lodge, at Colchester, so well represented. I rejoice to find that the lodge at Chelmsford has been deemed worthy of being associated with the interesting ceremony of this day, and many other lodges which I could name are still working with great advantage to themselves and to the Craft throughout the province. When I first knew the province there were but seven lodges; I believe there are now seventeen. I need not refer to anything as better proving the success of the efforts made by your late most excellent Prov. Grand Master to spread Masonry throughout the province. You have now had placed in your chair a brother who is destined to inaugurate an era of new prosperity; his untiring energy, his zeal for Masonry, and his excellent social qualities will be sure to attract to Masonry many others who have not yet joined you, and I feel certain that under his fostering care a great future is in store for Masonry throughout the province. Brethren, I will detain you no longer, but assure you that I wish and pray that there may be a bright future for your Prov. Grand Master, and that Masonry under his beneficent presidency may prosper yet more than it ever has done in the province of Essex.

The Earl of Carnarvon then proposed "The Health of the Provincial Grand Master." He said: Brethren, I have had a toast placed in my hands, for which I thank those who have arranged the procedure of to-day. No toast could be more grateful to me to propose; no toast I am satisfied could meet with a greater enthusiasm on your part. Brethren, we can none of us forget the cause which has called us together to-day; we can none of us forget who now occupies the chair of this province. I have already had occasion more than once within the last few hours to offer the expression of my own hearty good wishes for the success of my noble friend in the new duty that he has undertaken. I am very sanguine as to the mode in which he will discharge those duties. He has the guarantee, so to speak, of his whole past in his favour. My noble friend succeeded to a title and an already distinguished name. He was not a man to rest idle upon hereditary honours. His life has been, emphatically I should say, a life of hard, unsparing, laborious work. The frivolities, even the lighter pleasures in life, which form so large a portion of the existence of other men, have passed comparatively by him; he has scorned a life of inglorious ease, and he has devoted time and thought and the energy both of mind and body to the service of the State. This has not been all. Step by step, patiently and by solid work, my noble friend has risen in the profession that he adorns, till at last he has arrived at the highest point of all—the highest post which I conceive any one in that profession can hold in England—the position of permanent Under Secretary at the Foreign Office. Brethren, none but those who have had some experience as Ministers in a large department can tell how deeply indebted the country is to the permanent civil officers who practically manage and administer those departments. But if there be one officer in a great department upon whom hinges, so to speak, the whole administration of that department, and all abroad that that administration involves and carries with it, it is the permanent Under Secretary. All day, every day, day and night I may say, the State has calls upon him. He is the adviser of his political and parliamentary chief; he is the hinge upon which all of that great office, and with the office that great service, in a great measure turns; and this I may truly say from experience, that among all that band of highly-educated, able, laborious men to carry on the work of our public offices, whose merits receive far less recognition when sometimes contrasted by the showy and the tawdry qualities of those who are so deeply indebted to them—I speak it in all humility, because I have had the benefit of similar advice as my noble friend has given to a succession of Foreign Secretaries. I say nothing about those who have served in a great department, as a parliamentary head can be aware how deeply indebted the Crown and the country are to those who fill such a situation as my noble friend now fills. And therefore, brethren, I say that a great Masonic province like this may gratefully and well appreciate when it can command the services of such a Provincial Grand Master. I know how heavy the claims of public business are upon any one in my noble friend's position, but I have always found this in life, that those who are really the busiest find the greatest amount of time to give to other persons. I remember hearing a story of Count



Cavour when he was at the head of the Foreign Department in Italy, which was a very stormy time. A friend visited him one morning early, and after talking five minutes, proposed to hurry away, apologising for having detained him so long from public business. Count Cavour said "Why, I have plenty of time; there are twenty-four hours in the day, and they surely are enough for all purposes." And I believe my noble friend here is of the same opinion, when he could take himself away from the dispatches of the Foreign Office to devote himself body and mind to such an occasion as the present. I hardly know, when I see such an meeting as this, on what Masonic text to preach. It has been my duty so often to inculcate Masonic principles or duties, that I feel almost afraid of repeating what I have said. There are no doubt particular duties which are specially applicable to particular times and seasons. The duty of our Masonic Charity is one; the world-wide brotherhood which unites us in so many climates and countries is another great feature; the code of morals, so to speak, which lies enshrined in the old charges of the Order which is concealed, veiled in the ritual and symbolism, such as that to which I alluded in the Grand Lodge of to-day—these are all distinctive features of the Craft; they may all be dwelt upon with advantage at different times and under different circumstances; but the one word that I would take the liberty of saying to-day is perhaps of a somewhat different subject: it is to ask you to bear in mind, as it suggests itself to me to-day, that our Masonic organisation and the duties of loyal provincial obedience to those who are placed high in authority lie at the very root of all our Masonic system in England. Brethren, the administration of a great Masonic province like this depends first of all upon the tact, the management, and the administrative ability of the Provincial Grand Master. It depends in the next place upon the zeal and the intelligence of those Grand Officers whom he appoints; and lastly it depends upon the hearty zeal and the loyal obedience of the whole body of Masons scattered throughout the province, and by that I mean the loyal obedience, not merely of individual Masons, but of lodges acting collectively together as a part of the Masonic organisation; and let me say that just as this is true of the Provincial Grand Lodge, so also is it true of the organisation of each individual lodge. The Master there is elected to his high office; he is bound to exercise the functions and duties of that office with the same qualities as the Provincial Grand Master brings to bear; he looks to his officers to give him their hearty support in the work of the lodge, and he looks again to the individual members of the lodge to support him in a way that no written rules and no precise laws can possibly give. But, brethren, this is not, perhaps, all. It might seem to some that the great powers which are lodged in the hands of the Prov. Grand Master, as they are lodged in the hands of the Grand Master of the Craft, would make our ancient and venerable body despotic and absolute in its character and working. That is not at all the case. Our body seems to me to be happily blended together of the two great principles of rule, of obedience, of loyalty, and yet also of great freedom. Freedom of election lies at the very root of the whole matter, and confidence the offspring of that freedom of choice on the one hand, and of that considerate and temperate rule on the other. In this it has often occurred to me that there is a strong resemblance between Freemasonry—English Freemasonry—and the English Constitution. You have large powers, great authority, great responsibility, great freedom, and if the whole machine is to work together harmoniously and satisfactorily, great confidence on the part of those who are governed in those who govern. (Cheers.) That is, in fact, what, I believe, the English Constitution gives you, roughly speaking; that is what we look for, and what we have found, I believe, in our Masonic system. And, perhaps, this is, among other causes, one of the reasons, and one of the principal reasons, why Freemasonry in England has united itself in such harmonious bonds with all the great institutions of the country. I know, indeed, nothing more remarkable than the contrast which exists now, and which still more existed a few years ago, between English Freemasonry and foreign. Here in England the great institutions of the country are more or less connected with Freemasonry. There has never been any jealousy of Freemasonry here. Parliament, even in its most jealous moods, always made exceptions in favour of English lodges. There was no suspicion, no jealousy, no ill-will, and, as my noble friend, I think, also pointed out in one of his speeches to-day, it has been our special characteristic and pleasure, that in this country we have had a succession of Royal Princes at the head of our Masonic system. (Loud cheers.) Formerly, indeed, abroad Freemasonry was bound up with many of those secret bodies which could certainly not be said to be allied to the State—which were at enmity with the State—and it brought on foreign Freemasonry often much doubt, sometimes discredit. We, I am thankful to say, have ever been spared from this, and I trust that through the long course of English Freemasonry which is yet in store, we shall always maintain the same even, temperate way which we have maintained in times past—that we shall still feel that with the laws, the institutions, the authorities of this country we are closely allied; that whilst we are Masons we are equally Englishmen—Englishmen in all the spirit of the laws, in all the spirit of the constitution—and then we shall carry on, I doubt not, Freemasonry, if possible, even one step higher, and one step further than it has already achieved; we shall be able to hand down to those who come after us quite as great and fine a heritage as we have received from our forefathers. (Cheers.) Brethren, in every province it is necessary to have a high standard before us. In this province you have had good traditions, and you now have at your head one who is fully competent to give those traditions practical life and effect. Let me congratulate him upon being placed in this chair; let me congratulate you upon having so good a

Provincial Grand Master ruling over you. I beg to propose his health. Let me wish to him long life and success in the devotion of the same qualities to this province that he has already given to his country, and let me wish for you all the happiness and all the good fortune, and all the success that can flow from the wise, and temperate, and kindly, and conciliatory rule of your present Provincial Grand Master.

The Provincial Grand Master, in reply, said: Brethren, I have to thank our Pro Grand Master for the too flattering and complimentary terms in which he has been good enough to propose my health to your notice, and I have to thank you, brethren of the Province of Essex, for the welcome you have been good enough to accord to me on this occasion. Our Pro-Grand Master has spoken of the organisation of Freemasonry. I am pretty confident that I am not wrong in supposing that in this town of Chelmsford, at this very moment, there are numbers of people who are asking the question—"What is it that all these gentlemen, wearing white ties and evening coats in the day-time, have invaded our quiet neighbourhood for, with their little black bags and their tin boxes?" (Laughter.) And, brethren, I do not doubt that to many the question has been put which has on this, and on other occasions, been very frequently addressed to myself—"What is it that all you people are about? If you want to subscribe to schools and to asylums, why don't you send your Post Office orders and your cheques without all this fuss and paraphernalia?" (Laughter.) Now, a lady told me the other day that she had discovered the secret. (Loud laughter.) She said, "The fact is, you men are so vain. You love to dress yourselves up; that is why the soldiers all wear red coats, and now the Volunteers are going to wear red coats; and as for you people with the blue aprons, why, you are no better." (Laughter.) Other people say we are mere knife-and-fork philanthropists. (Loud laughter.) Others, again, say, "The real fact is, there is nothing in it at all." Now, that reminds me of the story with regard to the Druses on Mount Lebanon. His lordship then proceeded to relate the story of one of a number of peeping busybodies who went into the Temple of the Druses, and finding it empty returned and reported that there was "nothing in it," whereupon he was told that his story was disbelieved, and was ignominiously kicked out of the village. (Laughter.) His lordship proceeded: Now, brethren, it cannot be said that there is nothing in our lodges, for there is something in our lodges, something which constitutes the very basis of our Masonic structure, and that is the volume of the Sacred Law. Although with universal toleration we admit men of all creeds to the Craft, provided they are good men—I have myself initiated Persians, Parsees, Musselmans, and Hindoos—yet all our work is begun, continued, and completed in the name of him whom we address in the spirit of that universal prayer written by our great poet Pope, a Roman Catholic—

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

(Applause.) It is, brethren, this spirit of toleration, this feeling of universal brotherhood under one great heavenly Father, which constitutes, as I deem it, the true object, the true principle of Freemasonry. (Cheers.) It was for this object that Freemasonry was founded, and it is for this that it now claims to be maintained. Without going too far into the uncertainties of tradition, we are, at all events, sure of this—that the original object of Freemasonry was to provide a home amongst their fellow brethren and Masons, where those skilled Craftsmen who wandered in the pursuit of their craft might find in their travels a really welcome. It was thus, brethren, that Freemasonry in former ages was the first to break down that barrier of distrust and exclusiveness which severed countries and provinces, and even towns. (Hear, hear.) It is now of equal use, for Freemasonry, excluding as it does subjects of political and religious controversy, forms a neutral ground on which men of all classes, countries, and creeds may meet on the level and part upon the square. (Cheers.) Brethren, that exclusiveness of which I have spoken has to some extent penetrated even to the present day. Most of you, I dare say, recollect the drawing of poor John Leech's, of two navvies, one of whom says to the other, "Who be that, Bill?" and upon the other replying, "A stranger," he says, "'Eave 'alf a brick at him." (Laughter.) Well, brethren, that spirit was at one time very common amongst us. The other day I was reading the biography of one of our great naval heroes at the commencement of the present century. His creed was, "Fear God, honour the King, and hate the French." (Laughter.) No brethren, we do, I hope, the two former, but the days for hatred of the French are happily passed away, and I trust may never come again. (Cheers.) How little we now hate the French is shown in the chord of sympathy which has been touched in every English heart, in every English home, for that unhappy lady who is now mourning for her gallant son, slain in the English cause in South Africa. (Cheers.) This spirit of universal brotherhood may, perhaps, by some be considered no longer of any moment in this country, but this is not so. Although political and religious rancour is happily no longer rife amongst us, there are many subjects upon which all men must differ, and by excluding those questions, upon which men too frequently do differ, we are doing that which, I am sure, is of great good to this country, and I have seen myself a very remarkable instance of that in the United States of America, where civil war had done its worst to scathe the land. Yet, the brethren from the North could meet the brethren from the South after the

war, and clasp the hands of Freemasonry in brotherhood, which had so recently been raised to shed each other's blood. (Cheers.) I feel with our Pro-Grand Master that Freemasonry has a great future before it—a great future, I venture to say, in this feeling of universal toleration and brotherhood—a great future, not only in this country but in all countries in pacifying hostilities, in creating friendship, in linking together men of all countries, of all classes, of all religions, all races, and all creeds. (Cheers.) And, brethren, we cannot do better than take the advice of our Pro Grand Master as to how we should best extend and promote this, which I venture to say is a noble object, of which Freemasons in this province and all over the world may be justly proud. The way to promote it, brethren, is, to use an expression familiar to all of us, that we should show ourselves to be good Masons and good men, not only in our words and in our emblems, but in our acts—that we should, in truth, show ourselves to be men to whom the afflicted may pour forth their sorrows, and find consolation; to whom the distressed may pour forth their suit and find relief; whose hands are guided by justice, and whose hearts are expanded by benevolence. (Cheers.) I once more thank you most cordially for the kind welcome which has been given to me in this province. I always felt that although I was not known to many amongst you, it would be so that one whose heart was in Freemasonry would never fail a warm welcome at the hands of Freemasons. (Loud cheers.)

The Provincial Grand Master then said: The Pro Grand Master has desired me to express his extreme regret that he has been obliged to leave before the end of our festivities. I have now devolving on me the very agreeable task of proposing "The Health of the Deputy Grand Master, Rev. S. R. Wigram, P.G.C., and the rest of the Prov. Grand Officers, Present and Past." I have for a long time had the pleasure of knowing our Bro. Wigram as distinguished in the Craft, distinguished as one of the Grand Chaplains, and distinguished, as I also know he has been, by his working at the Priory Lodge, Southend; and it is with extreme gratification to me that he has accepted the position to which he has this day been appointed. You must all know that very much of the success of a province depends upon the Deputy of the Province. As the Prov. G. Master has told you in the most flattering terms, I am engaged the bulk of my time, and must therefore leave the great part of my duties to the brother who has this day been appointed as my Deputy. We have among us in our lodge the Past D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Matthew Clark, and I am especially pleased to see him. I feel sure that you also appreciate his services from the satisfaction with which you all agreed to the vote of thanks which has been passed on him in lodge. He is with me a P.M. of the Lodge of Harmony, at Richmond, and has for many years past shared with me the duties of Secretary of that lodge. I know from my personal experience that he is a good man, and you all know that he is a good Mason. We have to-day also invested several others who are worthy of the position to which they have been appointed. It was at the Lodge of Hope and Unity, at Romford, that I first received my early Masonic instruction. A friend of mine used to belong to that lodge, and I was frequently present there as a visitor, and have on several occasions acted as one of its officers; it is, therefore, with extreme pleasure that I have this day placed the W.M. of that lodge in the chair of Senior Warden of the province. The other Prov. Grand Officers are, I believe, equally well known to the Craft of Essex. I have done my best that the honours should be distributed to every point of our provincial compass, and I hope that the various appointments will give satisfaction. I have pleasure in coupling with the toast the names of Bros. S. R. Wigram, D.P.G.M., and Matthew Clark, P.P.D.G.M.

Bro. Wigram, in reply, said: I have to thank you both on my own behalf and on behalf of the other Provincial Grand Officers. The honour I have received this day has come to me most acceptably. I am an Essex man, son of an Essex man, received the Masonic light in an Essex lodge, and am a Past Master of two Essex lodges. If we are spared to meet again at the end of twelve months, I hope you will receive this toast with as great cordiality as it has met to night. We ask you to be to our virtues very kind, and to our follies ever blind. I feel that every Grand Officer of the province will do his duty, and feel assured that I shall be obliged to do so myself in consequence of the splendid example set by my predecessor. I trust that when our terms of office may expire, we shall be greeted with the sentence of your approval as heartily as we have to-day received that of your congratulation.

Bro. Clarke followed. He desired to add to the remarks of the last speaker but a few words. Bro. Wigram has, he said, succeeded to an organisation that is in every way perfect, and that he will do all that is required of him is the firm conviction of all present. I thank you for the kind way in which I was always received while in occupation of the my office.

The Deputy Prov. G.M. stated that the Prov. Grand Master had entrusted to him the proposal of the next toast. He said: I could at this moment express two wishes, one that the toast had fallen into better hands, and another that it had been placed earlier on the list, so that it might have been given before those numerous visitors who have honoured us with their presence had been obliged to leave us. We have to-day been honoured with Masons conversant with the Craft, I may say in every part of the world. We are always proud to see our brethren among us, and tend them a hearty welcome. All we can do is to honour those brethren who have to-day visited us by drinking heartily to the toast.

Bro. Rev. C. J. Martyn, in his reply, tendered his thanks for the hearty reception accorded the toast. He hoped that he should have the pleasure of seeing several of the Essex brethren at the meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge of July folk on Monday next. He expressed the regret of the

Master of his province that he was unable to attend the meeting of that day.

The Provincial Grand Master gave "The Health of the Officers of the Province," which was acknowledged by Bro. Rev. F. Shepherd, P.M. 276.

Bro. Verrey proposed "The Masonic Charities," which was replied to by Bro. J. Terry, Sec. Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

A just compliment was paid by the Prov. Grand Master to the Committee of the Chelmsford Lodge who had been entrusted with the arrangements of the day, and on the W.M. of the lodge being called upon to respond, he expressed the thanks of his lodge to those Prov. Grand Officers who had assisted him. More especially he wished to thank Bro. Halling, the Prov. G. Sec., who, he said, had been present at every meeting of the Committee.

Bro. Speight acted as toastmaster.

During the evening a selection of music was performed, under the direction of Bro. Wilhelm Ganz, by Bros. John Hodges, Faulkner Leigh, C. Beckett, and Thurlay Beale.

### GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS.

The eleventh annual festival in aid of the Mark Benevolent Fund, was held on Wednesday last, the 2nd inst., at the Alexandra Palace, on which occasion W. Bro. Lord Arthur Hill, P.M. 164, P.G.S.W. Sussex, presided, supported by Baron de Ferrieres, Captain Hunter, and a numerous company, among whom were Bros. F. Davison, H. C. Levander, D. M. Dewar, J. H. Wynne, T. J. Pulley, J. H. Hale, W. Williams, E. W. Ansell, E. C. Milligan, T. Cobitt, G. W. Verry, Dr. Acc, E. Margrett, W. B. Date, H. Hopkinson, R. Berridge, W. Stephens, B. H. Swallow, Dr. Passawer, J.L.D., Rice, R. W. Philpott, J. L. C. Hunter Little, F. Binckes, and Massey (*Freemason*).

The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. Professor E. M. Lott, Grand Mark Organist, assisted by Bros. Hodges, Stedman, Egbert Roberts, and Bro. Stedman's choir boys.

Fifty-seven brethren and ladies sat down to dinner, which was admirably served by Bros. Bertram and Roberts, the lessees of the Palace.

At the conclusion of the banquet the Chairman rose and said,

Ladies and gentlemen, the first toast on the list is one which I know will be received in the most hearty and most cordial manner. The health to which I refer is that of "The Queen and Mark Masonry." Ever since Her Most Gracious Majesty has reigned over this country she has ruled it with a kind, a liberal, and a just hand; she has been more kind, more amiable, to her subjects than I can possibly find words to express, and she has especially extended that kindness to Mark Masonry. I give you with very great pleasure "The Health of the Queen and Mark Masonry."

The Chairman: Ladies and gentlemen, you must excuse my hurrying on from one toast to another, and not making many remarks upon each, as our time is short, and we have many toasts to consider. The next toast is "The Health of the M.W. Grand Mark Master, the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale." I feel convinced that, to those who have the pleasure of Lord Skelmersdale's acquaintance, it is needless to say anything about the very able way in which he carries out the duties of his very high position in Mark Masonry. Of those who have not the pleasure of knowing him there must be few among the present company who have not had the opportunity at some time or other of seeing him when he has been called upon to preside, and they must be well aware of the courtesy he exercises towards every one, and the perfect manner in which he carries on the duties of Grand Mark Master of England. I give you "The Health of the M.W. Grand Mark Master Mason, Lord Skelmersdale."

The Chairman: The next toast is that of "The M.W. Past Grand Mark Master Mason, the Right Hon. Lord Leigh; the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon; the Viscount Holmesdale, M.P.; W. B. Beach, Esq., M.P.; the Rev. George Raymond Portal, M.A.; the Right Hon. the Earl Percy; and the Right Hon. the Earl of Limerick," and with that I shall couple the toast of "The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Mark Master Mason, the Right Hon. the Earl of Donoughmore, and the Grand Officers, Past and Present." Really I don't think that any words are necessary from me to recommend this toast to your notice. I think that all of us here have had the pleasure of meeting one or the other of these brethren, and therefore I don't think it is necessary to say anything, but to ask you to drink with great cordiality the health of the brethren whose names I have just mentioned.

Bro. F. Davison: Brethren and sisters, on behalf of the Grand Officers Past and Present, I beg to thank you for the manner in which you have drunk their health. About the Past Masters I shall say little, because it is well known how well they have done their work; but about the Present I beg to say that they all carry on the duties of their respective offices with ability and zeal to the best of their powers; and on behalf of the Grand Officers, both Past and Present, I beg to thank you. Our time is necessarily short, and I feel sure that the music is so far better than anything I can say, that I shall say no more on the subject.

The Chairman: The next toast on the list I think I may call the toast of the evening. It is "Prosperity to the Mark Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund and the Masonic Institutions." I think I may say a few words about the way in which the Mark Benevolent Fund has prospered and increased, and it has certainly increased very considerably. The first anniversary took place eleven years ago, and the amount of contributions that year was

£97 2s. 8d.; that was in 1869. That amount I am happy to be able to tell you has increased year by year, until last year it amounted to £370 4s. I am more pleased than I can express to be able to tell you that this year the subscriptions amount altogether to £526. Since the commencement of this Fund, thirty-six cases have been relieved in grants varying from £1 to £50 each. The amount of that was £433. Then £1000 is invested in Colonial Securities, £1000 is transferred to the Education Fund, and the expenses since 1869 have only amounted to £39—about £3 10s. a year; that left a credit at the bank of £106. In December, 1878, a vote was passed at Grand Lodge to this effect, that a portion of all sums paid to the Benevolent Fund shall go to the Education Fund, of which the bye-laws are on the table now. This year one boy has been elected and sent to the Manchester Grammar School, at an annual expense of twelve guineas. This is a very important thing. The boy is sent to Manchester to school, and this Institution is kept advised as to how he is going on. A quarterly report is sent to us from the Head Master of the Grammar School, giving the Court a report of the progress which the boy has made, as to his general behaviour, and as to the state of his health; and this report is forwarded by the Court to the boy's parents, should he have any. I do not think that any thing else particularly calls for attention except the list of Stewards and the sums collected by them on this occasion, which Bro. Dewar will read to you. I now have much pleasure in asking you to drink to "The prosperity to the Mark Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund and the Masonic Institutions."

The subscription list was then read by Bro. Dewar, and was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Bro. W. S. Gillard, P.G.S., P.M. Science Lodge, 128, Dorset ...	50	0	0
" Rev. Danl. Ace, D.D., G. Chap., W.M. Hereward Lodge, 277, Lanc. ...	16	16	0
" Baron de Ferrieres, Gloucestershire ...	34	12	0
" G. F. Lancaster, Isle of Wight, Hants ...	17	0	0
" Walter Spencer, P.G. Asst. D.C., W.M. Bon Accord Lodge, T.I. ...	14	3	6
" Charles Jacques, G.J.D., P.M. Old Kent Lodge, T.I. ...	24	1	0
" Thomas Cooper, P.M. York Lodge, T.I. ...			
" T. D. Bolton, P.G. Steward, Carnarvon Lodge, No. 7 ...	38	17	0
" B. H. Swallow, S.W. Thistle Lodge, No. 8 ...	20	0	0
" E. B. Bright, I.G. Hiram Lodge, No. 13 ...	18	18	0
" E. C. Milligan, P.M. St. Andrews Lodge, No. 34 ...	30	5	0
" Capt. C. Hunter, P.G.S. Br., P.M. St. David's Lodge, No. 38 ...	18	17	0
" T. J. Pulley, G. Stwd., P.M. Aldershot Military Lodge, No. 54 ...	15	15	0
" E. Diggle, G.I.G., P.M. Temperance Lodge, No. 56 ...	5	5	0
" Bro. R. L. Loveland, St. Andrews Lodge, No. 63 ...	9	19	6
" W. T. Clarke, Prov. G. Sec. Sussex, Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 75 ...	30	19	0
" Robt. Berridge, G. Dir. Cer., P.M. Macdonald Lodge, 104 ...	21	0	0
" G. M. Lowe, M.D., P.M. Remigius Lodge, 117 ...			
" R. W. Philpott, Dever-Cinque Ports Lodge, 152 ...	10	10	0
" A. Hopkinson, County Palatine Lodge, 156 ...	15	15	0
" Rev. C. R. Davy, Prov. Grand Master Gloucestershire ...	5	5	0
" R. Boggett, P.M. Humber Lodge, 182 ...	10	10	0
" J. L. C. Hunter Little, P.M. St. John's Lodge, 214 ...	17	11	6
" Geo. Dalrymple, W.M. Henry Lodge, 216 ...	20	4	0
" W. Ballard, W.M. Abbey Lodge, 225 ...			
" E. Margrett, G. Steward, W.M. Leopold Lodge, 235 ...	15	15	0
" W. Stephens, W.M. Clapton Lodge, 236 ...			
" Capt. Geo. Wattson, P.G.J.D., W.M. St. Andrew's, 237 ...			
" T. F. Halsey, M.P., P.G.J.W., W.M. Watford, 241 ...	7	7	0
" Dr. E. Passawer, W.M. Trinity College Lodge, 244 ...	15	14	6
" J. H. Halet W.M. Simon de Liz Lodge, 245 ...	10	0	0
" F. W. Ansell, W.M. Alfred Lodge, 247 ...	17	11	0
" J. Clark, Britannia Lodge, 53 ...	5	5	0
" John Spencer, Britannia Lodge, 53 ...	5	5	0
" S. B. Ellis, Britannia Lodge, 53 ...	5	5	0
	£528	16	0

The toast was responded to by Bro. Binckes, the Grand Mark Secretary, who remarked that the Fund had received a very large amount of support, which was increasing every year of its existence; and as regards the Masonic Institutions generally this had been the case, the three great Masonic Charities having this year secured the large sum of £38,000 amongst them—the largest sum that had ever been collected in any one year. He said that he looked with confidence to see a steady and large increase in the Mark Benevolent Fund, and reminded the company that it was not many years ago that the Boys' School Festival realised only a similar sum to that which had been announced to them this evening.

Bro. Binckes then proceeded to propose the next toast, viz., "The Health of the Chairman, the W. Bro. Lord Arthur Hill," a nobleman young in the Order perhaps, but entirely imbued with an admiration for Freemasonry, and an ardent lover of Mark Masonry, and who would, no doubt, shortly be placed in a high position in the chief council of the Order. He trusted that whatever distinguished honours might await his lordship in years to come he would look back to this evening, not only without regret but with a large amount of gratification, as the evening of the most successful festival of the Mark Benevolent Fund.

The Chairman: Ladies and brethren, I am sure I do not know how to respond to Bro. Binckes's most liberal and most kind remarks. I am afraid that Bro. Binckes rather exaggerated. ("No, no.") Really it is very kind of you to say "no, no." I assure you that it is no trouble for me to come here, and I give way to none in the interest in Mark Masonry, and it, therefore, gives me pleasure to come here. And I can only say that as I have presided over you on the occasion of your having had—up to the present time—your most satisfactory festival, as far as the amounts are concerned, so do I hope that my successor, next year, will be presiding at a still more successful festival than this has been. I thank you all very much for the manner in which the toast, proposed by Bro. Binckes, was responded to.

Bro. Davison: In assuming the President's chair, I am sure I am expressing the sentiments of all present in saying that we regret that Lord Arthur Hill has been obliged to leave us. Ladies and brethren, the toast that I have to offer to your notice now is "The Health of the Board of Stewards." I am sure, from the account we have heard of their Stewardship, we owe them a great deal of gratitude for their exertions. You have heard that from very small beginnings we have arrived at a considerable amount, and, as our Grand Secretary has told us some facts about the early stages of a similarly constituted institution, there is no knowing what may happen in the future. But I am sure that a debt of gratitude and our best thanks are due to that Board of Stewards, and, if you will allow me, I will couple with that toast the name of Bro. Baron de Ferrieres.

Baron de Ferrieres: Mr. Chairman, ladies, and brethren, I feel bound to respond to the call of our esteemed Chairman, although I feel that there are many brethren who have served as Stewards many times and ought to have been called upon in preference to myself. It must be most gratifying to us all as members of the large body of Craft Masonry to hear of the large sum of £38,000 collected in a single year by the three great Masonic Charities, and I think as members of the small body of Mark Masons, it is equally gratifying to have heard of the collection of such an amount as has been announced this evening. I think that the educational feature of this Institution—that plan of sending boys to grammar schools near their own homes—is one deserving of the attention of the larger institutions with a view to its adoption by themselves. There is no doubt that, beyond a certain point, it is not desirable to associate children together in one body, and it might be considered with advantage, whether what is done by this Institution might not be adopted by the other Charities. It must be gratifying to us to feel that our labours have not been thrown away, but I think it is hardly fair to appraise a Steward's services by the amount he brings up. I feel that in many instances a brother who brings up a small sum has worked harder than some who have laboured in more favourable districts. I beg to thank you for the manner in which you have received this toast.

Bro. Binckes explained that when the fund, which resulted in the establishment of the Boys' School, was first instituted, and before they possessed a building, the boys were put out to school; and the results were unsatisfactory, and besides the Mark Masons' Educational Scheme was not exactly similar to the Boys' School. It was not an institution for boys who were orphans, or whose surviving parent was unable to educate him at all; it was rather intended as a sort of "grant in aid" to brethren who from the largeness of their family, or from other circumstances required some assistance in educating their children.

Bro. Capt. Hunter: Mr. Chairman and brethren, I am about to ask you to drink to "The Health of the Ladies," who have graced this social gathering with their presence. It is the duty, as I am sure it is the pleasure, of Freemasons throughout the country, nay throughout the world, to look in the first place to their wives and families. The brethren meet in social gatherings, and they probably, as we certainly do, have very festive evenings, but on every occasion I am sure the feeling is of the homes of the brethren, for Freemasonry is a great charity. It is useless for me to do more than ask you to drink the health of the ladies who have graced our table this evening. I am sure you will do so sincerely. I trust they have not passed an unpleasant evening, though it is to be regretted that the ungenial weather has prevented their visiting the beautiful grounds of the palace as they might desire. I can only thank the ladies very much for their presence, and assure them that the opportunity of meeting the brethren's gentler belongings tends to make brethren think better of each other. I will couple this toast with the name of Bro. Rushworth, that he may return thanks on their behalf.

Bro. Rushworth having briefly responded,

The Chairman said, Brethren and Ladies, I am sure that the music we have had this evening has been eminently satisfactory, and I feel personally very much obliged to Bro. Lott, the Grand Organist, for giving us such music, and I think I cannot do better than propose his health, together with the health of those gentlemen who assisted him, and the members of the choir.

Bro. Lott having said a few words in acknowledgment, the company separated.

## TO OUR READERS.

The FREEMASON is a Weekly News paper, price 2d. It is published every Friday morning, and contains the most important, interesting, and useful information, relating to Freemasonry in every degree. Subscription, including postage:

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## Answers to Correspondents.

W.D.—Each lodge has the undoubted right to accept or reject candidates for admission, either as initiates or joining members.

Two communications on Masonic Grammar stand over until next week, with which the discussion must close.

The following stand over owing to an unusual demand upon our space this week:—

Liverpool Dramatic Lodge; Royal Cumberland Lodge; Freemasons' Hall, Ipswich; Derby Lodge, 724; St. Luke's R.A. Chapter; Falcon Lodge, 1416; John of Gaunt, Leicester, 523; The Urban Club; Paxton Lodge, 1686; Notices and Queries, F.M. in Essex; Kenlis Lodge, Egremont; Florence Nightingale Lodge, 706; Manchester Lodge of Integrity; Leopold Lodge of Mark Masters, 238; St. Andrew's Mark, 34; Wandsworth Lodge of Instruction Pic-nic; St. Aubyn Lodge, Devonport, 954; Meridian Lodge, 893, Millbrook; Tyron Lodge, 1116, Eastbourne; Duke of Connaught Instruction; Lebanon Lodge, 1326; Royal Forest Lodge, 401, Slaidburn; Stanley Lodge, Liverpool, 1325; Downshire Lodge, 594, Liverpool.

Owing to pressure of matter in the *Freemason* the article in the *Times* announced to appear this week will be reprinted in the *Masonic Magazine* for August.

## BOOKS, &amp;c., RECEIVED.

"Darlington Herald," "Cornwall Gazette," "Alliance Weekly News," "Bulletin du Grand Orient de France," "Die Bauhütte," "Broad Arrow," "Hull Packet," "Prize Paper," "Proceedings G. L. New Brunswick," "History of Protestantism, Part 1."

## Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

[The charge is 2s. 6d. for announcements not exceeding Four Lines under this heading.]

## BIRTH.

RIGG.—On the 29th ult., at 3, St. Mary's-terrace, Scarborough, the wife of the Rev. W. H. Rigg, of a daughter.

## DEATHS.

DOHERTY.—On the 27th ult., at Belfast, Ireland, Captain C. W. Onslow Doherty, Royal Scots Greys, suddenly, of heart complaint. Aged 28. Son of General H. E. Doherty, C.B., Vernon House, Weston-park, Bath.

PHYTHIAN.—On the 30th ult., Bro. George Phythian, of 432, West Strand.

## THE FREEMASON.

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 1879.

## THE PAST OF FREEMASONRY.

In a very able leader, mainly with respect to the Lodge of Antiquity, the *Times*, on Thursday week, gave us a very remarkable and readable "leader" on Freemasonry. Not that the article professed to be very antiquarian, or very profound, or even, perhaps, very critical, but it skimmed over the ground easily and pleasantly, and laid before a very large circle of readers a well-written and philosophically conceived essay on certain features, salient and significant, which Freemasonry presented to the mind of the writer, and which deserves, therefore, respectful attention, and, above all, fraternal criticism. In a great deal which the writer there affirms we agree most heartily, in some points, however, we are compelled honestly to dissent from his views, most conscientious, no doubt, as they are, and certainly lucidly and eloquently expressed. We quite agree with the writer that in dealing with the antiquity of Freemasonry we must always carefully distinguish between the "legends of guilds," and the "facts of history." But then our good friend and probably brother, who is so clear a writer and so keen a critic himself, falls amusingly enough into the same very error he has just so characteristically reproved. Whatever may be the real antiquity of Masonry it is probably coeval with the Masonic guilds or sodalities, and hence no doubt much of the doubt and obscurity, and the incorrect assertions and exaggerated claims which have arisen and which marked most undoubtedly the lucubrations of many Masonic writers, ancient and modern. But, as we said, if the writer of this interesting article complains of undue acceptance of "legends," why has he fallen into the same mistake by treating the so-called Locke MS., and the alleged endorsement or transcript of Henry VI. as a reality, when that so-called MS. has long been abandoned by experts as a "pious fraud"? And why above all does he suggest the absorption of the speculative element into the operative guilds as "possible" in the 15th century, when it is clear from countless evidences which might be adduced, that such transformation could not and did not take place until about the middle of the 17th century? We are not quite sure either whether we can accept, as indisputable facts, one or two statements in respect of the Lodge of Antiquity itself, with all due submission to the writer. There is in existence no evidence that King Charles II. laid the foundation stone of St. Paul's; all existing available evidence declares that Sir Christopher Wren laid it himself. But it is just possible that the tradition may allude to some special ceremony at St. Paul's with which King Charles II. was connected, and we do not know, except for historical truth's sake, that it matters much one way or the other. The gavel was undoubtedly given to the lodge by Bro. Sir Christopher Wren. The statement of the initiation of King William III. is also only a "tradition," and we are not aware of any document in the possession of the Lodge of Antiquity which mentions the fact as a fact. We venture to say all this in order to point out that even in 1879 how difficult it is to separate "tradition" from "history," and how that, as it has been said, how true it still is—

"Tradition, oh, tradition, thou of the scraph tongue,  
Theark which bind two ages, the ancient and the young."

We thence learn a lesson of caution as to blaming older writers. We do not agree with the writer when he seems to contend that there is some truth after all in the favourite Ultramontane complaint, that the "French lodges were instrumental in fostering the French Revolution." We do not think that any evidence of such a tendency really exists, but much, very much, to the contrary may be adduced. That in some of the lodges extreme views of politics may have prevailed is not unreasonable or impossible to suppose, but all the lodges, both under the old "Grande Loge de la France" and the "Grand Orient," were plunged

into "sommeil" or inactivity by the Revolution, and only emerged from torpor and silence after the "reign of terror" was over. That one or two bodies, quasi-Masonic, like those of the "Philosophic Scottish Rite" and the "Philaletes," and, above all, the "Illumines," may have encouraged the revolutionary movement, is, we think, proveable, but the pure Masonic Craft lodges in Paris and the departments, to their honour, be it said, did not sympathize either with the principles or proceedings of the French Revolution. The writer unconsciously and unintentionally exaggerates on imperfect data, the number of Masons in the world, which instead of six millions may be reduced to the more modest totle of 1,500,000, and he hardly, in our opinion, does justice to the 600,000 Craft Masons in the United States, inasmuch as the Templar body, popular and numerous as it is, is only after all about one twenty-fourth part of Craft Masonry and of Master Masons. But having said all this, which we feel it our duty, as the *Freemason*, to say, we beg to remark that we are greatly pleased and flattered to think that, in such marked contrast with much we have to wade through about Freemasonry, the *Times* has favoured us with an article, alike so able and so interesting, so favourable, and so fair to our Order. It is, we venture to think, a sign of the times in which we live, alike suggestive and satisfactory, and we can only commend the article to the notice of all our readers in both hemispheres, as, despite a few, perhaps, unavoidable errors, slight after all, in theory and assertion, it will alike repay careful perusal by the Masonic student and archæologist, by all who love Freemasonry, by all who are proud to claim the name of Freemasons.

## THE LAST ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

The Stewards' returns, which our readers have perused, are both interesting and suggestive in the highest degree, inasmuch as they prove we think, beyond possibility of cavil, that the charity of Freemasonry is still a living truth, and that the warm hands and hearts of Masons are neither cold nor slack, neither "weary in well-doing" nor retrograde in the best of all causes—Masonic benevolence. Under the peculiar circumstances of the times, under the present condition of commerce and agriculture, under that tendency to panic, apprehension, and hopeless despondency which sometimes seems to afflict some of us, the return is a good one, though, of course, it might have been much better. This is an obvious truism which it is needless to dilate upon and useless to ignore. At the same time it is, in our opinion, most unwise to preach or to blame, to complain or find fault. Another year Bro. Binckes will, let us all hope, announce a fuller return, and let us note this great fact per se, to which Bro. Terry has properly called attention, that the English Freemasons have sent up already £37,000 to the three festivals, and that probably before the end of the year £44,000 will be realized, an amount unprecedentedly large, and, in our opinion, most creditable to our zealous and large-hearted Fraternity. Indeed, under such circumstances, to talk of a "magnificent failure" is a monomania, to blame brethren or lodges unfair. The Boys' School has done very well considering all things, and we see no reason to grumble or complain. On the present occasion the Metropolitan lodges have returned £5345 1s. 6d., the Provincial £5189 1s. 6d.; there are eight London lists to come in and four Provincial, in all twelve. We fear we cannot put the possible addition to the list at above £200, though we should be greatly pleased if we could hope that before 1879 is over the returns may be yet largely increased. Of the London lodges, the first and foremost is No. 1642, Steward Bro. George Penn, who brings up the noble amount of £525. We congratulate Bro. Penn and Lodge 1642. The next is Grand Stewards Lodge, Bro. Binckes, with £249 18s.; and the third is 1383, Bro. R. W. H. Giddy, £207 2s.; No. 1537, Bro. Ralph Clutton, with £143 10s., fourth; No. 174, Bro. C. Lacey, is fifth in order, with £135; and No. 25, Bro. G. R. Shervill, is sixth with £128 2s.; No. 1608, Bro. Charles Brewer, is seventh, with £118



12s. 6d.; and No. 820, Bro. Charles Hubbard, is eighth, with £115 10s.; No. 1777, Bro. H. B. Marshall, is ninth, with £105; No. 96, Bro. W. V. Morgan, is tenth, with £103 19s.; and No. 65, Bro. G. T. Brown, is eleventh, with £100. The remaining lodges vary from £91 17s. 6d., the highest, to £10 10s., the lowest. We regret to notice so few lodges from 1600 to 1800, and that only nineteen lodges are represented in the Metropolis and eight in the Provinces, in all twenty-seven. This is all wrong, and is a point to which we ought to pay attention at once, because it is indicative of coming evil to the Craft. In the provinces Kent heads the list with £604 13s. 6d., and is followed by Worcestershire, with £580 10s.; W. Yorkshire succeeds, with £400; and Gloucestershire is not far off, with £378. Berks and Bucks next draw near with £295 4s., of which Bro. Dick Radclyffe brings up £131 16s., and is succeeded by Dorsetshire, very close at hand indeed, with £295 2s., while Derbyshire comes next, with £277 2s.; Sussex is not far off with £275 11s., and Staffordshire succeeds, with £216 6s. The Grand Lodge of Scotland remits £204 15s. After an interval, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight appear, with £173 5s.; Somersetshire forwards £134 8s.; Durham brings £130 4s.; Middlesex is next, with £122 7s.; Suffolk has collected £112 7s.; and Essex is credited with £103 7s. 6d. The remaining amounts vary from £97 2s. 6d., in the highest, to £25, the lowest. We do not deny that we could have wished the returns larger, but under the circumstances we have, we think, no right to complain, but rather much to be thankful for. We are aware that a large margin still remains of general lodge and chapter support of the Charities, and of more earnest efforts for charity by some lodges, where a good deal is spent on "creature comforts," more than perhaps ought to be spent. But, on the whole, we do not believe in lachrymose tones or a deprecatory spirit, and "content with honest efforts" we think it well always to take a hopeful and manly view of things in this world in general, and in Masonic affairs in particular. One fact is indeed indisputable, that we may all be proud of our Charities, and we are bound, above all, to thank those worthy brethren of ours, who, year after year, "in season and out of season," give most liberal and valuable support to our great Charities. If any of our readers are cold or apathetic, doubting or languid in this good cause, we simply say "remember what others have done, go and do thou likewise."

#### DUTCH FREEMASONRY.

According to our old antagonist and able Bro. Adrien Grimaux, that, of course, being only his "nom de plume," in the *Monde Maconique*, our good brethren in Holland are about to commit the same great "betise," and the moral wrong which the French Grand Orient has committed, and are now plunged into the midst of a dubious contest for the revision of rituals. According to Bro. Grimaux's intelligent correspondent from Amsterdam, in this revision no mention is henceforth to be made of T.G.A.O.T.U., but then, the correspondent goes on to add, this dubious and remarkable qualification of the proceeding, "Mais d'autre côté, on ne consentira jamais a donner entree aux athées," but on the other side, they will never consent to grant admission to atheists. Why not? when the formula of avowal of belief in T.G.A.O.T.U. is suppressed. We do not profess to understand this statement, or is it only, as the French say, "encore du jesuitisme?" more Jesuitry. It seems that the Grand Orient of Holland wishes to retain the ascription to the glory of T.G.A.O.T.U., and has sent a circular to its lodges asking them to join in a declaration calling on the Grand Orient of France not to persist in this step of erasure, as threatened by the movement party, and the ritual revision on hand in the French Grand Orient. Bro. Grimaux's correspondent thinks that many of the Dutch lodges will not sign this declaration. We are very sorry for the Dutch Freemasons, and lament much to think of them playing "second fiddle" to an assembly like the Grand Orient of France, which has

now lost its "prestige" and its authority Masonically, and which it is doubtful if it has any Masonic "status." Such a fact is more than saddening—it is humiliating. Like the Grand Lodges of America and Canada, we cannot recognize that to be a legal Masonic authority, or those to be lawfully received Masons, by which and by whom the great foundation truth of cosmopolitan Masonry is openly disavowed, or rigidly excluded from ritual and from teaching. Neither can we admit Masons into our lodges initiated under such a Régime. Such a body is simply an unbelieving secret society, prejudicial to morals and good government, to the interests of society, and the welfare of Freemasonry.

#### Original Correspondence.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for, or even 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.]

#### THE REPORT OF THE CONSECRATION OF THE CLAPHAM LODGE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I must respectfully but earnestly demur to the running commentary introduced by your reporter into the few remarks I made at the consecration of the Clapham Lodge in returning thanks for the Officers of Grand Lodge.

In the first place I hold that it is scarcely becoming in a reporter to take such a self-sufficient line, on whatever side of a question his sympathies may lie.

In the second place I dispute the accuracy of almost every statement he has been pleased to make.

It is in my humble opinion the province of a reporter to report what has been said, or if he thinks it worthless to omit it altogether, but it is not his function to suppress what has been said, and give instead thereof his own personal commentary, thus taking the place of judge, jury, and witness.

Now, as to his statements:—

1. With all due deference to him I contend my views on charity voting are not "peculiar," but held by three men out of every four who have no "vested interests" to serve, and have not been involved in the haphazard jobbery which the present system so manifestly fosters.

2. I deny that these views are even "antagonistic to the Craft at large;" on the contrary, I assert that if Masons were polled to-morrow, three-fourths would be found on the side of enquiry, justice, and mercy, and, therefore, opposed to the abuses of the present system. To one thing I can speak without hesitation that I know of dozens of influential Masons, holding high rank in the Craft, who have denounced these abuses in no measured terms, and who will before long speak out (as I have dared to) their minds upon this subject.

3. Though the brethren present did not express any "concurrence" in the views put forth, I have yet to learn that such silence meant dissent, and as to "disapprobation," I certainly did not catch the faintest sound of it. I may add that in far the larger proportion of Masonic meetings at which I have named the subject, the views I have ventured to express have been received with loud concurrence and approval.

4. I never even named the "Charity Organisation Society," but simply stated that if any of the brethren happened to have opportunity to attend the annual meeting of the "Charity Voting Reform Association" next day they would hear from Lord Derby some instructive statements on a subject, so deeply interesting to Masons.

The "Alexandra Palace meeting" was not in my mind when I named this, nor shall I stop to show which of the two meetings was likely to confer more dignity and real profit on Masonry. But I think I could do this, and easily too.

And now, Dear sir and Brother, permit me to say that I shall always feel myself perfectly at liberty to express my opinions in every assembly of Masons on any subject that is "good for Masonry in general," or for the "lodge in particular" of which I may be a member, and no amount of sneer or perverse comment, either on the part of Secretaries or reporters, shall deter me from having the honesty of my convictions, and expressing them too. Plain truth must be evil spoken of, at least for a time, and reform must ever encounter much opposition and obloquy, but both will, and must, eventually triumph, as in the case of the Royal Medical Benevolent College it has recently done, wherein 2770 as against 364 Governors endorsed our views, which were carried by resolution at the annual meeting by five to one in the face of the Council, the majority of whom were hostile to reform; and so, please God, we shall have it in Masonry soon, and, while our votes remain, they will be stripped of those unjust, undignified, wasteful, and cruel accompaniments—polling days, exchanges, trafficking, and wholesale canvassing, which are "spots on our feasts of charity," and on our charity itself.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

R. J. SIMPSON.

#### THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Permit me to call attention to a matter which I think will prove of great importance to the Craft generally, viz., the suggestion of the M.W. Bro. the Earl of Rosslyn, as to the advisability of establishing a fund for the assistance of boys and girls after leaving our Institutions.

This is not a new topic, as it has often been discussed by me, and, no doubt, many brethren. It has at last happily been brought prominently and gracefully before the brethren by the M.W.P.G.M. of Scotland, the Earl of Rosslyn, in his speech at the Boys' Festival. As Chairman of the festival he remarked, "I will tell you a little fault, and am sure I have only to mention it to find it immediately corrected. It is not impossible that at the end of their schooling career some of these boys may leave the school homeless and in need. It may be said that the good seed sown may bear fruit during their scholastic career, but it may also be said the fruit will perish for want of cultivation at a later period. It may be that they leave the Institution to fall into evil courses and evil ways, and even to suffer penury and poverty. This is the only blot I can find in your excellent Institution." I think another blot his lordship has overlooked is the desirability of providing a sinking fund for the Institution, that they might be more independent of individual exertions, and not suffer from the vicissitudes of trade, hard times, &c. However, this is digressing. To return to the subject of his lordship's remarks. I think he has struck a happy chord. There can be no doubt the children receive splendid educations, and are thoroughly cared for whilst in the Institutions, but is it not proved that the comfort and ease the children experience in their early years make it doubly hard to bear privations when they have to face the stern fight of life? How often is it found that they are discouraged and give up, where others who from childhood have been nursed in the rough school of life are not so sensitive, plod on, and succeed? A little assistance in such critical moments might be the means of laying the foundation of a life's success.

I feel I am not able to plead the children's cause as ably as I would like, and can only hope these remarks may strike the heart of some able writer who will take up the cause. I shall, therefore, content myself by stating a remedy. The M.W. and noble Chairman expressed his willingness to subscribe to such a fund started for the purpose of assisting the children. I would propose, therefore, that on the next Stewards' papers a column is left for subscriptions and donations to the "Assistance Fund." This would save expense of collecting, and, as an inducement to the brethren and Stewards to collect for the fund, to allow, say, one vote for every twenty pounds collected for this purpose. There need be no special banquet or festival, simply let it be recognised as a special fund, and Stewards for the Boys' and Girls' Festival invited to solicit subscriptions. As such a fund only wants a start to be a reality I would propose that 100 brethren volunteer to raise subscriptions, and guarantee, say within two years, to collect at least £100 each, and if our M.W. Chairman heads the list as he has promised, I have no doubt a good round sum would be soon forthcoming—this, invested in the names of Trustees in Consols or other good security, would form the nucleus of a great Charity Fund.

As deeds are better than words, I shall have much pleasure in offering my services as one Steward, and guarantee no less than £100 within two years.

Having called attention to what I think is a want, may I hope you will give publicity to it, in the hope that the brethren will freely discuss the pros and cons with a view to find out if the suggestion made by our illustrious Chairman will prove as acceptable to the brethren at large as it does to

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

DICK RADCLYFFE.

129, High Holborn, June 28.

P.S.—There are, say, 1800 lodges; if each M.W. for the year 1880 instead of a jewel were to propose the cost be placed to the fund, no less than, say, £6000 would be raised. I mention this to show how easy it would be in small matters to raise a large sum. To forego one banquet in each lodge would treble this sum. Should we ever regret such privations?

#### MASONIC GRAMMAR.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In writing what I hope may be my last letter on this subject I desire to resent the charge which "Lindley Murray" has brought against me—that of having descended to "vulgar personality." The adjective is a very offensive one, and, on reflection, your correspondent will, I doubt not, be willing to admit that he had no sufficient ground for its use. Should he be unwilling to make this admission, it will be only just on his part, since I do not screen myself under an assumed name, to show from anything I have written that his charge was not unwarranted. He speaks, too, of ineptitude, from which, he says, it is quite refreshing to turn away, but to which, as your readers observe, he immediately, and apparently not without some pleasure, returns. Indeed, he harps on this point all through his letter; and that without any show of reason whatever. I not only did not fail to understand what he meant in the first instance, but I have said nothing from which he could justly infer that I was, to use an expression which he himself has culled, "pestilentially thick-headed." The appositeness of the lines from Dryden is not, therefore, very apparent. Indeed, I consider "Lindley Murray" singularly (or plurally) unhappy in his quotations; for neither is the sentence from Scott appropriate to the case of which he was writing. Surely "Lindley Murray," a brother who can "speak to experts," might have chosen from the wide field of English literature—if he had the desire to quote—passages which would have been far more applicable. But now with regard to the more serious charge of "vulgar personality."

I own that my last letter contained personalities. It is difficult to avoid them in answering a brother who is himself very personal. But I have asserted nothing which I could not substantiate. I said "Lindley Murray" was disputatious. Why did he begin this controversy? From

time to time we see in the pages of the *Freemason* that it has readers far more competent than "Lindley Murray" who will deny that, while "Lindley Murray" has charged me with being personal, he has been far more personal in his own remarks. Is it not personal to say a brother is deficient in capacity, and to apply to him the lines which were written by Dryden of Shadwell? More virulent (I do not say vulgar) personality cannot be conceived, and could not be exemplified even by "Lindley Murray." There is a predisposition in some people to be personal. "Lindley Murray" himself esteems it a blemish in human character; let me assure him it is one which is likely to be much aggravated in those who admire the style in which "Absalom and Achitophel" is written.

I said that "Lindley Murray" was inaccurate in his statements, and this controversy, whatever else it does, clearly shows the truth of my remark. He has had to own that he was wrong in saying (1) that exceptional was in Johnson; (2) that exceptional and exceptional were synonymous; and (3) that the use of the word exceptional was not warranted by any authority but mine. He cannot be accurate even in smaller matters. He imputes to me ignorance of the common use of the word stickler without the least ground for so doing; and I notice, as all readers of Scott will have noticed, that he speaks of a Bertram in the "Antiquary," whereas in that novel there is no such character. Of course "Lindley Murray" may reply that it was very pardonable to forget that Bertram is found in "Guy Mannering." I do not say it matters much; and, since the words of the quotation are given as in the original, I mention the circumstance, in addition to these other four instances, only to show with what caution the statements of "Lindley Murray" must be received. Strange that those who are inaccurate themselves should be so ready to see the fault in others! "Lindley Murray" seems to know Dryden. Can he not admire this passage:—

"The soul, shut up in her dark room,  
Viewing so clear abroad, at home sees nothing;  
But, like a mole in earth, busy and blind,  
Works all her folly up, and casts it outward  
To the world's open view."

Lastly, I said that, to judge from "Lindley Murray's" letters, there was little to show that he had any qualification which decidedly entitled him to assume the office of a censor in a matter of this kind. It was the remark of a great critic, speaking of literary work:—

"Sunt delicta tamen quibus ignovisse velimus;" but will you allow me to say—I do not say it harshly—that, after making every allowance for your correspondent, the more I have seen of his productions, the more confirmed has my opinion become? He has already disputed my capacity; and, therefore, I could not possibly hope to persuade him that his style is not good, or that, in the case of every letter which he has written on this subject, it is marked by many inelegancies. This is a question on which many of your readers who have seen these letters will have already formed their opinion, and it is one to do justice to which would require too much of your space, and too much of my time, even if "Lindley Murray" were likely to be influenced by what I might write.

"Lindley Murray" has advised me to refer to Todd's Johnson's Dictionary, for he says "Emolli mores, nec sinit esse feros." The circumstances of the case do not allow this to appeal to me as a powerful argument, but I shall get the book. Let me also advise your correspondent, not in the words of the midwife in the passage from which he quoted, to

"Do anything but write;" for I say what is said a few lines further on—

"I see, I see, 'tis counsel given in vain," but let me advise him, in the words which Polonius addressed to Laertes—

"Beware  
Of entrance into quarrel but, being in,  
Bear it that the opposer may beware of thee."

I hope there is nothing in this letter which will wound the feelings of "Lindley Murray," or confirm in him the idea that I am "vulgarily personal." I have read the article on "Personality in Masonic writing," suggested, no doubt, by this controversy. Its impartiality, its tolerant spirit, its gentle rebuke, and, above all, its strong common sense invest it with a power by which it is impossible that our minds should not be affected. In a discussion of this kind one is so easily led from the "retort courteous" (as *Touchstone* has shown) to the "quip modest," "the reply churlish," "the reproof valiant," and so on even, except in the case of Masons, to the "lie direct." I cannot conscientiously plead guilty to the charges made against me by "Lindley Murray," but we are brethren, and ought to part, since we are about to part, on fraternal terms. Let me therefore retract anything I may have written which seemed to him a "vulgar personality," and let me assure your correspondent that I never supposed any remark of mine could have been so characterised.

Yours fraternally,

T. M. DRON, J.W. 417.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I have been much surprised at the rather hair-splitting—if not head-splitting—controversy lately going on in your columns on English grammar, as I think, with one of old, how delightful it is for brethren to dwell together in unity, and that they, especially, ought to do so; in fact, to use a very common, but very ungrammatical—

or rather absurd—phrase, that, of all others, they ought to be the last to fall out, especially about trifles.

I was equally pleased with your very sensible and well-written article upon the subject. May those whom it concerns profit by it. I, too, might have written to say that I was not aware that Masonic grammar differed from that of other people, as I really thought; but I cannot help saying that in reading the letter of one of your correspondents (I think Bro. Mackenzie's) one would be led to infer that such was the case, as he begins with this astonishing sentence: "I was not previously aware that Freemasons in any way differed in the construction of the English language to others." Now for a person to rush, uncalled, into a controversy on rather a nice point in the English language, and to commence his letter with such a sentence as that, does certainly seem extraordinary, and shows the truth of what you say, that people ought to consider before they do anything of the kind.

Yours, &c.,

#### OBSTUPUI. MASONIC LITERATURE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Referring to your journal of the 19th of April, and your remarks under the above heading, I note your remark that the "Masonic public wants educating" as to the high importance and value and light "imparted by 'Masonic literature.' And as a rule you fear the less profound artistic and æsthetic level of Masonic literature is preferred, which deals with the 'menu' and the 'songs,' which sets up elaborate 'summonses' and deftly decorated invitations as the 'summum bonum' of Masonic literary taste and power, and that you fear the majority of our Order remain perpetually indifferent to the lucubrations of the Masonic antiquarian, or the pages of the Masonic historian." Now Sir, while agreeing with you as to the importance, and value, and light imparted by "Masonic literature," and while not differing with you to some extent in your latter remarks—that is as to the existence of those practices—I yet must, in all due deference, submit that the sense in which you have connected them, as "their being preferred, &c.," is unjust and uncharitable. I claim for myself every desire to study Masonic literature, but while the "price" of such stands at the exorbitant rate as at present, you must not be surprised at that apparent want of interest in Masonic literature which, as your remarks would seem to point out, exists. If you can be the means of causing "Masonic literature" to be put within the reach of the brethren, the same as other valuable literature, I think you would find no cause to draw any future comparisons, which as some one remarked are "odorous," but would deserve the thanks of the Craft.

Yours fraternally,

#### CHEAP LITERATURE.

#### AN ERROR.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

There is an error in your list of contributions to the Girls' School, which please correct. It should be No. 1 Lodge, I. W. Sewell, £22 1s.

Yours fraternally,

ISAAC WILLIAM SEWELL.

#### PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MIDDLESEX.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Middlesex was held last Saturday at the Memorial Hall, Great Stanmore. Col. Burdett, R.W. Prov. Grand Master, presided. Sir Charles T. Bright, Dep. Prov. Grand Master; Bros. H. G. Buss, Prov. G. Treas.; H. C. Levander, Prov. G. Sec.; Louis Beck, Prov. G. Org.; John Gilbert, Prov. G. Tyler; and the following brethren were also present: Bros. John Hammond, G. Steward; R. Hilsdon, P.P.G.P.; D. W. Pearce, P.P.G.R.; Randolph G. Glover, P.G.D.; Thos. J. Sabine, P.P.G.S.D.; B. H. Swallow, P.P.G.J.D.; H. A. Dubois, P.P.G.S.D.; C. J. Rushworth, P.G.R.; George Kenning, P.P.G.I.D.; Frederic Davison, P.G.S.W.; R. W. Giddy, Dist. G.M. Griqualand; Colonel Shadwell H. Clerke, P.G.D.; Charles Horsley, P.P.G.R.; J. B. Shackleton, P.P.G.P.; T. C. Walls, P.P.G.D.; Dr. F. W. Ramsay, P.G.S.W.; Charles Veal, P.G.S.D. Surrey; E. Hopwood, P.G.S.B.; E. Letchworth, P.G. Reg.; W. Hammond, P.G.D.; F. W. Levander, P.M. 1415; Cecil Thompson, W.M. 1237; E. B. Bright, P.M. 778; John Hunt, P.M. 1512; Henry Lovegrove, S.W. 1779; H. Mead, P.M. 788; John Verity, S.W. 1194; C. J. W. Davis, P.M. 382; W. Grist, J.W. 1637; W. Stephens, W.M. 1637; W. Radford, S.W. 1702; T. Keene, P.M. 1415; Henry C. Finch, P.M. 708; J. Wall, J.W. 1702; J. R. Nichols, W.M. 1367; W. W. Stevens, I.P.M. 1733; T. W. Clarke, J.W. 1567; J. W. Robbins, D.D., P.M. 1685; George Penn, P.M. 1642; J. L. Coulton, P.M. 382; German Fehrenbach, P.M. 382; Fred W. Dougall, P.M. 755; Fred H. Varley, P.M. 1637; George Harrison, 1326; T. W. Ockenden, J.W. 1512; W. S. Marshall, J.W. 1549; C. Harding, P.M. 778; W. H. Paul, J.D. 778; Thomas Cubitt, P.G.P.; G. H. Stephens, S.W. 1626; T. J. Maidwell, I.P.M. 27; Francis Buckland, P.M. 265 and 889, W.M. 1638; T. J. V. Honeywell, I.P.M. 889; R. T. Elsam, P.M. 201 and 889, P.P.G.D.C. Surrey; H. Handel, 1656; G. H. Mead, 34; G. H. Hunt, 1194; Charles Hawksley, Sec. 1702; W. T. Buck, S.D. 1702; F. W. Greenwood, James W. Lambert, S.D. 1285; R. Farquharson, 2; Fredk. H. Cozens, Org. 907; Robert P. Paton, 1549; John Middleton, 834; John Green, P.M. 27; George J. Fox, 1239; Charles Graham, 1326, 1540; F. H. Wilson Iles, P.P.G.S.W., G. Sec. Herts; W. Johnson, 1549; Fredk. Blukes, P.G. Steward of England; John E. Dawson, P.G.J.W. Herts.; Thos. Massey, and H. Massey, P.M. 619 (*Freemason*).

Bro. Middleton assisted Bro. Gilbert, the Prov. Grand Tyler.

The Grand Lodge having been opened, the minutes read, and the report of the Audit Committee adopted, on the motion of Bro. Davison, seconded by Bro. Sabine, Bro. H. G. Buss, Assistant Grand Secretary, was unanimously re-elected Prov. Grand Treas.; for which mark of confidence and esteem Bro. Buss returned his sincere thanks.

It was then arranged that the meetings of Prov. Grand Lodge should take place annually on the fourth Saturday in June.

The following brethren were then invested as Provincial Grand Officers for the year:—

Bro. Sir C. T. Bright...	...	Prov. D.G.M.
" T. J. Sabine ...	...	Prov. G.S.W.
" H. A. Dubois ...	...	Prov. G.J.W.
" Rev. John Robbins ...	...	Prov. G. Chap.
" H. G. Buss ...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" Thomas Keene ...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" H. C. Levander ...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" F. S. Knyvett ...	...	Prov. G.S.D.
" John Hammond ...	...	Prov. G.J.D.
" John Verity ...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" W. Stephens ...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" G. H. Mead ...	...	Prov. G.A.D.C.
" T. C. Walls ...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" J. B. Shackleton ...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" John Hurst ...	...	Prov. G.A. Purst.
" John Gilbert ...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.
Bros. Davis, F. W. Levander, E. Bright, Tidcomb, W. H. Stevens, and Japheth Tickle ...	...	Prov. G. Stewards.

The Prov. G. Master in proposing that £10 10s. be granted from the Benevolent Fund to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, £10 10s. to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and £10 10s. to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, said it required very few words from him to induce the brethren to assist the Charities in the way they had done in former years, and were very happy to do. The province had had rather an uphill work in its younger days, but it had reduced its difficulties now to an infinitesimal measure, and he hoped that by next year, even after assisting the Charities, there would be a balance altogether in favour of the Prov. G. Lodge. The Masonic Institutions told their own tale, and there was hardly any necessity to say anything in their favour. By the exertions made on behalf of those Institutions very large sums had been raised, £10,000 to one, £11,000 to another, and £12,000 to another in one year, but there were very heavy calls on them, and it was the duty of Masons to place those Institutions in a proud position, not only before Masons but before the world. Other Charities thought themselves very fortunate if they collected £5000, but the Masonic Institutions had no difficulty in doubling that amount. He hoped it always would be so, and that by the benefits the Institutions afforded they would prove themselves worthy of such generous support.

Sir Charles Bright, D.P.G.M., seconded the motion, which was then put and carried by acclamation.

The sum of £10 was granted to a provincial brother in distress, and ordered to be paid immediately.

Bro. H. C. Levander, P.G. Secretary, read the letter he had been directed, by the vote of last Grand Lodge, to write to the widow of the late Bro. R. W. Little, and Grand Lodge was thereupon closed. The brethren afterwards attended the parish church, which had been kindly placed at the disposal of the Grand Lodge by the rector, the Rev. L. J. Bernays, where a sermon was preached by the Rev. John Robbins, Prov. G. Chaplain. After church the rector invited the brethren to the rectory house and grounds, after inspecting which a banquet, admirably supplied by Bro. Veal, of the Abercorn Arms, was partaken of. The customary toasts were afterwards honoured.

The Prov. G.M., in proposing "The Pro Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers," said that Lord Carnarvon was always ready to perform his duties, and when he was at the Colonial Office put himself to considerable inconvenience in order to preside at Grand Lodge. So much was this the case that it frequently kept him up till one o'clock in the morning discharging his secretarial duties. Lord Skelmersdale was also very energetic as Deputy Grand Master, as were also other Grand Officers. Some of these were present, and, while not forgetting Bro. Col. Shadwell Clerke, he wished to mention Bro. Richard Giddy, District Grand Master of Griqualand, where, under his rule, Masonry was now in a very flourishing condition, although the country, unhappily, was at present in a disturbed state.

Bro. R. H. Giddy, Dist. G.M. of Griqualand, replied. He felt a difficulty, he said, on such an occasion as that in replying to a toast so wide in its application, because, coming as he did a comparative stranger to England, he could not be supposed just yet to know the merits of the Grand Officers. He could, however, testify to the merits of Lord Carnarvon and Lord Skelmersdale. As far as he had seen, all the Grand Officers were worthy of the position they occupied, and he was very glad to find they were so highly appreciated by the brethren in general.

Bro. Giddy, in proposing "The Health of the Prov. Grand Master," said it had given him great pleasure to see the Grand Master conduct the business of Grand Lodge so admirably. Although liberalism of ideas was growing very extensively, Masons confessed that there must be a head to everything. It was necessary there should be a head of Grand Lodge, of Provincial Grand Lodges, and of private lodges. It was also necessary that there should be a head in business life. While Masons had such a head as the Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex, who ruled with courtesy and geniality, as the brethren must confess he had ruled that evening, such a Provincial Grand Lodge as that of Middlesex must prosper.

The Prov. Grand Master, in response, said he felt con-



siderable pride in having ruled over this province now within a few days of ten years. It gratified him very much, and he believed it would gratify every brother present, to hear the progress the province had made. If it had not been for the assistance of the officers of the province he should not have stood in the proud position he now did. He had had great kindness shown to him by all the brethren. He had not only the assistance of the brethren of Grand Lodge and the officers, but also the exertions of all the officers who presided over private lodges, and it was to them they had to look for assistance in Grand Lodge. They presided so well over private lodges that they brought those lodges up to a high condition. When this was the case they might be certain that the lodges would be creditable to the Craft in general. He was now getting an old Provincial Grand Master, and though some brethren might consider that he had ruled with a rod of iron, his heart had been in his work, and he was happy to say he had had no occasion to be severe. He had done his best to carry on his work in a gentle manner. He had found the duties of all the officers had been performed satisfactorily to everybody. He could not sit down without mentioning his pleasure at the kind reception given to Grand Lodge by the vicar of Great Stanmore, and he would read a letter he had just received from that gentleman, who was not a Mason. "My dear sir, I am much flattered by your invitation to join your banquet, especially as I understand it is not your rule to admit others than Masons. It is unfortunately not in my power to leave home this evening at all, as I am very specially engaged, otherwise I need not say how gladly I should express to you all the pleasure with which I welcome so excellent a Craft to my church and parish. I have to thank you for the contribution of £3 17s. to the use of our parish schools. We are sadly in want of additional funds for two additional desks, with one of which your liberality will provide me, and which shall be known as the Freemasons' desk. Will you be so good as to say for me that I hope it will not be the last time that you will visit the place, when you will as long as I am here always find a hearty welcome. Forgive me if I am unable to give you your due title. Yours, very truly, L. J. Bernays." That was a very kind and flattering letter indeed from a gentleman who was not a Mason. Every brother must have been gratified with what he had seen on visiting the parish church of Stanmore, and the vicar's house and grounds. He thought after they had been so liberally treated by having the church and the Memorial Hall placed at their disposal that Grand Treasurer might be authorised to add two guineas to the amount collected in the church, which two guineas would go towards buying the other desk.

To this there was a general exclamation of "Buy both desks," and the Provincial Grand Master concurring in the expression, it was resolved that both desks should be bought.

Bro. H. A. Dubois, Prov. G.J.W., in replying to the toast of "The Provincial Grand Officers," said those brethren had the interests of the province at heart, and it was their special interest to serve the Prov. Grand Master. He believed they did good service to Masonry in general. He had done his little to serve Freemasonry, more particularly in that province, and he should stick to the ship as long as he lived, which he hoped would be for many years to come. The endurance of the province he trusted would be for long after he was gone; but while he was alive he should give his adherence to the province of Middlesex. He believed the other Grand Officers would do the same. Under the able rule of the present Prov. Grand Master he was sure the province would flourish.

The Prov. G. Master, in giving the toast of "The Visitors," coupled with the name of Col. Shadwell Clarke, said that that brother was an old friend of his, and had greatly assisted him ever since he had been in Masonry. There was no more able supporter of the principles of Masonry than Col. Shadwell Clarke, or one better qualified to conduct all the rituals. From the Entered Apprentice's Degree to the Thirty-Third, Col. Shadwell Clarke could give them all with the greatest fluency and impressiveness.

Col. Shadwell H. Clarke, P.G.D., in reply, said, Col. Burdett had in the kindness of his heart spoken of him in connection with this toast in such very flattering terms, altogether undeserved by him, that he should feel quite unequal to returning thanks, did he not remember there were many other distinguished Masons present, whom he was deputed to represent. They all thanked the Prov. Grand Master very much for what he had said, and they also thanked the Grand Lodge for the hearty reception they had had. They agreed with all that had been said with regard to the merits of the province, especially with what Bro. Giddy had said of the charming manner in which Col. Burdett had presided over the Prov. G. Lodge. The Prov. G.M. had pictured a very gloomy representation of his rule when he likened it to ruling with a rod of iron; but the brethren must acknowledge he had covered the rod with a glove of silk. He must congratulate him, not only upon the success of that day, when the visitors had been privileged to witness the continued success of the province since it had been established ten years ago. He had watched its progress with the greatest admiration, and must congratulate the Prov. G.M. on the position which the Prov. G. Lodge had taken. The success of the lodges in the province he attributed very much to the Prov. G. Master's ruling. It seemed to him that the Prov. G. Master went into every detail, and he was not sure that he had not found out that the clerk of the weather was a Mason, and had squared him, for after all the bad weather we have had lately he had secured a fine day for the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

Bro. Binckes replied to the toast of "The Charities," shortly after which the brethren returned to town.

WINDSWORTH'S "COCA PILLS," the successful remedy for Rheumatism, Neuralgia, and Hay Fever, 2s. per box. Hemlock Chemist, 6, Bloomsbury Square, London.

## PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF BERKS AND BUCKS.

The annual Provincial Grand Lodge for the Province of Berks and Bucks, presided over by Bro. Sir Daniel Gooch, Bart., M.P., was held at Abingdon, on Thursday, the 26th ult., as briefly reported in our journal of last week, when the attendance was larger than might have been expected, the weather being unfavourable, and Abingdon being situated at one extremity of the province. As on the occasion of the last meeting of the Craft in this town, seven years since, Bro. E. J. Trendell, Past Master of the Abbey Lodge, kindly invited the brethren to his residence, Abbey House, where luncheon was provided in elegant style, and the brethren afterwards enjoyed a stroll through the grounds of their worthy host, which are laid out with excellent taste. After spending an hour or so most agreeably as Bro. Trendell's guests, the brethren proceeded to the County Hall, and, at about two o'clock, Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form by the R.W. the Provincial Grand Master, who was supported by many of the Provincial Grand Officers, present and past.

The attendance numbered upwards of 100, and included Bros. Sir Daniel Gooch, Bart., M.P., Prov. G.M.; James W. McCubbin, P.G.J.W.; C. R. Honey, P.G.C.; C. Stephens, P.G.T.; R. Bradley, P.G. Sec.; W. W. Bingham, P.G.S.D.; W. J. Cantell, P.G.J.D.; E. L. Shepherd, P.G.S.B.; E. Revill, P.G.P.; Dick Radclyffe, P.G.S.; F. J. Ferguson, P.G.S.; A. H. Simpson, P.G.S.; H. G. Layton, P.P.G.C. Gloucestershire; G. W. Dixon, 209, P.P.G.D.C.; H. F. Turner, W.M. 1556, P.P.G.A.D.C.; W. B. Farr, P.G.D.S.W. Bengal; J. W. Tilly, 209, P.P.G.S.B.; W. Biggs, P.P.G.S.; H. D'Almaine, P.P.G.S.W.; J. Morland, P.M. 945, P.P.G.R.; W. Belcher, P.P.G.W. Oxon; William King; J. H. Clark, P.G.R.; H. Poynter; J. Blandy Jenkins, W.M. 1770; H. H. Hodges, P.P.G.S.W.; J. Weightman, P.P.G.J.W.; Joseph Morris, J. F. Brown; G. Morland, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; J. O. Carter, P.P.G.D.C.; E. Hopwood, P.P.G.S.B. Middx.; H. D. Gooch, R. Roberts, W.M. Etonian, 209; J. Ellis, B. W. Fountain, E. J. Shrewsbury, 1566; J. Wilson, W. H. Commins, W. H. Trendell, J. Saxby, J. Tomkins, 945; W. Hedges, T. Hyde, S.D. 945; S. J. Baker, W.M. 945; W. Ballard, J. H. Daly, A. B. Buck, A. Tound, 1566; W. Legge, 1566; C. W. Cox, 1566; C. A. Vardy, 1566; W. G. Flanagan, W.M. 1101; H. H. Mason, 1501; W. Morris, 1566; S. Bradley, 414; M. Cuffula, 209; E. J. Blackwell, 1101; T. Westfield, 1501; A. Long, P.M. 209; W. Cordrey, 1101; B. Challoner, jun., R. Silver, 1566; J. Stevens, 771; G. Blizard, 209; D. Webb, 414; J. J. Button, P.M. 1566; E. Ayres, Crystal Palace, 742; E. J. Biggs, Henley, H. Tombs, P.G.D., P.P.G.S.W. and Prov. Grand Sec. (Wilts); H. Plumridge, 1399; E. Daveys, 1566; J. Rutland, 1566; W. Hemmings, J. Watts, R. Raveron, P.M. 574; J. Walter Graham, 574; S. Knight, 574; M. Wheeler, 1770; W. Jackson, 1770; W. Jackson, 1770; E. G. Bruton, P.M. 340; J. Terry, Secretary Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution; J. Elmes, W.M. 1639; J. Fombs, 1770; J. Thickens, 1770; J. Adams, P.M. 591; J. W. Dover, 591; G. Adams, 1770; G. French, 591; G. Wade, 1770; E. Baker, P.M. 414; E. Margrett, P.M. 1011; W. Ravenscroft, 1101; H. A. Smith, 1566; M. J. Withers, 414; R. Nicholson, 1566; C. F. Hozard, P.M. 205; S. B. Merriman, W.M. 631; R. Illsley, C. P. Smith, W. Hinckley, A. C. Hewitt, 1366; W. Crowhurst, 209; C. Wheeler, C. E. Belcher, 1770; W. J. Bacon, 1770; Herbert Reece, 1770; G. Fairant, 1770; R. Pullick, 820; W. Ballard; G. J. Ceburn, 574 (Freemason), and others.

The minutes of the previous P.G. Lodge having been confirmed, the P.G. Secretary (Bro. Robert Bradley, of Reading) read the various reports, and mentioned the consecration of a new lodge (the Vale of White Horse Lodge), held at the Savings' Bank, Faringdon.

The general account showed a balance in hand of £158 11s. 2d., which was in excess of that of last year. The Charity Fund account was also read.

The P.G. Master referred to the reports read as showing Masonry to have made satisfactory progress in this province during the past year. The only matter for regret was that there were still some lodges that did not support the Charity Fund. He hoped the lodges alluded to would consider the question, and join the other lodges in exhibiting a hearty zeal in the cause of the several Charities of the Order. In all other respects matters were satisfactory, and he hoped that each succeeding year would find Masonry in Berks and Bucks flourishing more than in the previous one. (Applause.) Their next annual meeting would be held at about this time of the year at Maidenhead, which was a central place, and would, he thought, be found convenient for all the brethren. They had a strong muster that day considering that Abingdon was at the extreme end of the province, and he hoped that at Maidenhead they would have a still larger gathering.

The brethren then proceeded to the election of the Prov. Grand Treas., when, on the motion of the P.G. Master, seconded by Bro. E. J. Trendell, P.M., Bro. Chas. Stephens, banker, of Reading, was unanimously re-appointed to fill that office.

The P.G. Master then invested the following brethren with the Prov. Charity jewel:—Bros. Robert Roberts, W.M. 209; Robert Bradley, P.M. 414, Prov. Grand Secretary; and W. J. Goddard, 771.

The following brethren having been appointed Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year, were severally invested by Sir Daniel with the regalia of their respective offices:—

Bro. J. Blandy Jenkins, P.M. 945, and	W.M. 1770	...	Prov. G.S.W.
" H. Poynter, P.M. 948...		...	Prov. G.J.W.
" Rev. C. R. Honey, 1101		...	Prov. G. Chap.
" Rev. E. De Ewer, 1566		...	Prov. G.A. Chap.
" Charles Stephens	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.

" J. J. Britton, P.M. 1566	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" R. Bradley	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" Jabez Adams, W.M. 591	...	Prov. G.S.D.
" Robert Roberts, W.M. 209	...	Prov. G.J.D.
" Edwd. Baker, P.M. 414	...	Prov. G. S. of Wk.
" R. Raveron, P.M. 574...	...	Prov. G. D. of C.
" Joseph Elms, P.M. 1639, and		
W. Biggs, P.M.	...	Prov. G.A.Ds. of C.
" J. Baker, W.M. 945	...	Prov. G. Swd. Br.
" James Rutland, 1566	...	Prov. G. Org.
" W. Flanagan, 1101	...	Prov. G. Purs.
" C. Nowell	...	Prov. G. A. Purs.
" C. W. Cox, 1566	...	Prov. G. S. Stwd.
" W. J. Legge, 1566, R. Illsley,		
C.A. Vardy, 1566, E. Davey,		
1566, and E. J. Shrewsbury,		
1566	...	Prov. G. Stewart.
" W. Hemmings...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.

The Provincial Grand Master said the next duty he had to perform was one of a very pleasing nature, namely, to present on behalf of the brethren of this province a testimonial to their late Secretary, Bro. Biggs, in recognition of the valuable services he had rendered. (Applause.) He wished, however, that the task had devolved upon some one more capable than himself of expressing the deep debt of gratitude they owed to Bro. Biggs. When he (Sir Daniel) had the honour of first being appointed to preside over the province, which had not had a Provincial Grand Master for some time previously, he found the province in a state of disorganisation and confusion. Bro. Biggs, however, took office as Provincial Grand Secretary at the commencement, and he (Sir Daniel) need not point out the excellent organisation and position of Masonry in this province at the present time. To Bro. Biggs' energy and tact he mainly attributed the success that had been achieved. He (Sir Daniel) did not claim any credit himself, as the labour fell upon Bro. Biggs, he (Sir Daniel) being the nominal instrument for carrying out the work which Bro. Biggs laid out for him to do, and for which they were really indebted to him. He could never forget the debt of gratitude he owed to Bro. Biggs, and he hoped God would be pleased to spare him for many years to give them his assistance, and also to enjoy the use of what they had now the pleasure of presenting to him as a slight recognition of his services. (Applause.)

The testimonial, which had been subscribed for by the Provincial Grand Lodge, the different lodges in the province, and also by individual members, consisted of a purse containing a cheque for one hundred guineas, the purse itself being lettered as follows:—

"To Bro. W. Biggs, P.M., P.Z., &c., containing 100 guineas, by the brethren of Berks and Bucks, on his retirement from the office of Grand Secretary, with their fraternal regards. June 26th, 1879."

A handsome timepiece, with plate affixed, bearing the following inscription:—

"Presented to Bro. William Biggs, P.M., P.Z., P. Prov. S.G.W., Wilts, &c., by the brethren of the Province of Berks and Bucks, together with a purse of 100 guineas, in recognition of his valuable services as Provincial Grand Secretary from 1869 to 1877. This presentation was made by Sir Daniel Gooch, Bart., M.P., Provincial Grand Master, 26th June, 1879."

Also a silver snuff-box, beautifully engraved with the emblems of the principal offices Bro. Biggs had held in the provinces of Wilts and Berks and Bucks, the following being inscribed in the centre:—"Presented to Bro. W. Biggs, P.M., P.Z., &c., by the brethren of the province of Berks and Bucks, together with a purse of 100 guineas, on his retirement from the office of Prov. Grand Sec., 26th June, 1879."

Bro. Biggs, in reply, said that no words he could utter could sufficiently express his gratitude to the brethren for their handsome presentation, or his sense of the kindness and courtesy he had always received from Sir Daniel, and the ready access to him which it had been his privilege to enjoy at all times during the period he held the important office of Provincial Grand Secretary. That it was an important office he did not for one moment deny, and he felt much gratified in having received this testimonial from the hands of Sir Daniel, and in knowing that during the time he held the office he had discharged its duties in a manner that had met with his approval. He desired to fulfil the duties satisfactorily from the first moment he took office until his resignation, and this testimonial gave proof that he had succeeded in doing so to the satisfaction of the brethren at large. (Hear, hear.) He thanked them all most sincerely for this very great mark of their esteem. He never, in the slightest degree, anticipated any such result as this. He took the office, having known Sir Daniel for so many years previously in the adjoining province of Wilts, and being desirous of helping him as much as he possibly could. He thanked the brethren of the province generally for the able assistance they had invariably given him in carrying out his duties. They could all appreciate the high position which this province now occupied. From the date it was first formed, in 179—eighty-five years ago—it had only had six Prov. Grand Masters to preside over it, but never during the whole of that period had Masonry flourished or been in such favour as at the present time. (Applause.) It was certainly a most fortunate selection when Sir Daniel was placed at the head of affairs in this province, and he was sure they all entertained an earnest hope that their worthy Grand Master might be spared many years to preside over them. (Hear, and applause.) When he came into office the number of Masons in the province was not over 400, but that day they had heard that the number was 751, or nearly double, while the number of lodges at the present time was seventeen, as against ten when he took office. (Applause.) Those facts showed that what Sir Daniel had done had been thoroughly appreciated, and met with the approval of the brethren, and that many had been induced

to join the Order. Sir Daniel had always been careful to make an equal distribution of appointments in Berks and Bucks, so that one part of the province could not complain of any preference being shown to the other, and he was confident that no appointment made had given greater satisfaction to the brethren generally than that of his successor, Bro. Robert Bradley. (Applause.) He was glad the collar which he wore for some years had fallen upon the shoulders of one well able to sustain the work, one who was always to the fore in any good work connected with Masonry. (Applause.) Bro. Bradley's time was very valuable, holding as he did several important offices, but still he gladly gave up a large portion of it to the duties of his office, and he felt sure Bro. Bradley's appointment would prove to the advantage, not only of Masonry in general but to this Provincial Grand Lodge in particular. (Hear, hear.) Bro. Biggs again expressed his warmest thanks to Sir Daniel and the brethren, and concluded with the hope that the Great Architect of the Universe would continue to prosper all the lodges, and every member composing them.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was closed shortly afterwards, and the brethren adjourned to a banquet, served in the Council Chamber.

The tables were adorned with beautiful flowers, arranged in the form of Masonic devices, liberally supplied by Bro. Dick Radclyffe, Provincial Grand Steward, and the banquet was admirably provided by Mr. Pilgrim, of the Queen's Hotel.

The Provincial Grand Master presided, and letters of apology for non-attendance were read from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master (the Ven. Archdeacon Cust), Lord Harry Thynne, M.P., and others.

The usual Masonic toasts were given from the chair, and Bro. Tombs, G.D., P.G.S. for Wilts, responded on behalf of the Grand Officers of England.

Bro. Trendall, P.M., proposed "The Health of the Provincial Grand Master," and the toast having been drunk with great enthusiasm, Sir Daniel responded, and proposed "The Health of the Deputy Grand Master, the Past D.P.G. Masters, and the Past Grand Officers," for whom Bro. Hodges, P.P.G.S.W., returned thanks.

Bro. Stephens, P.G. Treasurer, gave "The Health of the Visiting Brethren," for whom Bro. Bruton replied.

Bro. the Rev. C. R. Hony proposed "The Masonic Charities," referring with pleasure to the fact of the different lodges in the province having last year contributed £700 to the Masonic Charities. He coupled with the toast the name of Bro. Terry, Secretary to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, who, in the course of an able speech, said that last night witnessed the completion of what might be called the Masonic year as regards the Charitable Institutions of the Order. At the festival held the following sums have been raised, viz., £14,300 for the Benevolent Institution, £12,200 for the Girls' School, and £10,500 for the Boys' School, or in round numbers nearly £37,000, which was in excess of any amount contributed in any one year. Still he hoped that before the year had expired there would have been contributed for the three Institutions a total sum of something like £44,000. (Cheers.) He referred to the marked success achieved by the pupils at both the Girls' and the Boys' Schools, in the Oxford and Cambridge local examinations, and alluding to the Benevolent Institution, said that the annuities granted this year to aged Freemasons and widows of Freemasons—the amount of each voted to the former being £40, and to the latter £30—represented a total of £10,700, which was a great work for one Institution to accomplish. (Cheers.) He concluded with an earnest appeal on behalf of the Charitable Institutions of the Order.

The P.G. Master proposed "The Health of Bro. Trendall," thanking him on behalf of the brethren for the very handsome reception he had given them that day. (Cheers.) Bro. Trendall assured the brethren that if they felt half the pleasure in visiting him that he had experienced in entertaining them, he was more than repaid for anything that he had done. (Cheers.)

"The Health of the Prov. Grand Officers appointed that day" was then drunk, and Bro. Blandy Jenkins, P.G. S.W., returned thanks.

The P.G. Master then proposed "The Health of the W.M., Officers, and Brethren of the Abbey Lodge," thanking them for the manner in which they had received the Prov. Grand Officers that day.

Bro. Shepherd responded.

The P.G. Master then gave "The Health of the P.G. Treasurer, Bro. Stephens, and the P.G. Secretary, Bro. R. Bradley," who severally returned thanks.

The P.G. Master then proposed "The Health of the P.G. Stewards," coupling with it the name of Bro. Dick Radclyffe, and thanking him for his floral contribution and also for his spirited efforts on behalf of the Masonic Charities.

Bro. Radclyffe replied, after which the Tyler's toast was given, and the company rose.

During the evening an excellent selection of songs and glances were rendered by Bros. Rowley, Shepherd, Plumridge, and Clarke.

#### FESTIVAL OF THE DOMATIC LODGE. NO. 177.

This famous old lodge held its summer festival on Friday, the 27th ult., and, fortunately for the members and their friends, there was on that day a great improvement in the weather. The scene fixed upon for the festivities was beautiful Richmond, and the hostelry where the banquet was provided was the renowned Star and Garter, where, it is needless to add, this portion of the entertainment, under the management of Bro. Hunt, was all that could be desired. One good result of the backward season is that the foliage in the park has now all the fresh beauty of

springtime, and many of the visitors who came early employed their time in taking pleasant walks or drives about the park and neighbourhood.

There was a larger gathering than had been anticipated, one hundred and twenty-one sitting down to the banquet, at which Bro. Edward White, W.M. of the lodge, presided. Among those present were Mrs. White, Mr. and Mrs. George Everett, Mr. G. L. Everett and Miss Fisher, Mr. W. K. Everett and Miss Della Everett, Miss Alice Tidd, Capt. Jaques and Mrs. Jaques, Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Hugall, Mr. and Mrs. John Kent, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Foulger, Mr. and Mrs. J. Jones, Mrs. S. Jones, Mr. W. Rose, Mr. R. Rose and Miss Brinlaw, Mr. T. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Hill and Miss Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Spink and Miss Young, Mr. Buscall, Mr. Herbage, Mr. T. W. Armstrong, Mr. J. Abrams, Mr. A. R. Abrams, Mr. W. M. Foxcroft, Mr. D. J. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. R. Bennett, Mr. W. Miller and friend, Mr. R. W. Crane, Mr. H. Ralph, Mrs. Ralph and Mr. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Turner, Mr. C. A. Smith, Mr. Fergusson, Mr. F. C. Moutlet, and Mr. J. H. Owen.

The Stewards on the occasion were Bros. Buscall, I.P.M.; Spink, S.W.; Harris, J.W.; G. Everett, P.M.; Treas.; T. Morris, Sec.; McLean, S.D.; Herbage, J.D.; Kent, I.G.; Foxcroft, D.C.; Pierpoint, W.S.; A. Scard, Ralph, J. Jones, G. J. Potter, and E. Sano.

At the conclusion of the banquet, the Chairman said that he had one or two toasts to propose, but he should make his remarks as brief as possible, in order that those present might the sooner proceed to other amusements. The first toast was that which was always welcomed by the loyal body of Freemasons, viz., "The Queen and the Craft." This toast having been duly honoured, the Chairman proposed "The Health of the Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family," the Prince of Wales being, as they were aware, the M.W.G.M. of Freemasons, and two of his brothers also occupying high positions in the Craft. It is needless to say that this toast was heartily responded to.

Bro. Buscall: Ladies and gentlemen, I have a very important toast to propose; it refers to no less than "The W.M." When the brethren of the Domatic Lodge decided to have a summer festival many of them exerted themselves to make it a success, but none more so than the W.M. I am sure that you will agree with me that we have had a very pleasant day, and for that we are indebted to our W.M. I, therefore, ask you to be upstanding, and join with me in drinking his health.

The Chairman: Ladies and gentlemen, I feel highly flattered. We have had so little sunshine during the last few days that we have had many doubts whether we should be able to make this meeting a success. Fortunately it has turned out to be a fine day, and we are honoured by a much larger company than we expected. I have felt some difficulty in regard to this festival, and was anxious it should succeed. As Master of an old lodge of high position, which I felt was somewhat on its trial to-day, I have been anxious, as upon our success on this occasion may depend whether we shall continue summer banquets or not. I am now truly pleased that it has turned out a success. I am glad to see so many happy faces round me, and I thank you for the honour which you have done me in drinking my health.

The Chairman next proposed "The Health of the Visitors," which was responded to by Mr. C. A. Smith.

This was followed by "The Health of the Stewards and Officers of the Lodge," which was acknowledged by Bro. Spink, S.W., and Bro. Kent, I.G., the latter of whom tried to persuade the ladies that when their husbands were out later than usual at Masonic meetings the time had been occupied in debating what they could do to please their wives, and that festivals of this kind were some of the things decided upon for the purpose.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, the last toast that I have the pleasure to propose is one that will meet with unanimous approval. It is "The Health of the Ladies." I feel some difficulty in dealing with it, especially after my friend's speech. I am glad to see that so many of my friends have brought more than one, and have thus added the greater lustre to our festival. I shall couple with this toast the name of my esteemed Bro. George Everett, P.M. and Treasurer of the Domatic Lodge.

Bro. Everett: Worshipful Master and gentlemen, I feel very much flattered and honoured at having the privilege of responding to this very important toast, which I consider the toast of the evening. You know the song says that when a lady's in the case all other things give place, and I, therefore, think this the most important toast. But to thank you on behalf of the ladies I must speak as a lady. "Worshipful Master, we thank the gentlemen for the very kind things they have said of us, but, with our characteristic modesty, we desire them to understand that they have said no more than we deserve. We know that they could not have got on without us, as we know what lost, forlorn creatures they are if they have not us to guide them on their way, and, therefore, I say that the way they have spoken is handsome, it is not less than we deserve." Some ladies that I am acquainted with have been trying to enlighten themselves as to the secrets of Freemasonry—I believe they tried to form a lodge for themselves; but when they heard that

"We meet like spirits in the land of dreams,  
And speak not but by signs,"

their natural communicativeness by word of mouth upset all their calculations, and the scheme for feminine Freemasonry fell to the ground. My friend has told the ladies that when their husbands are out at their lodges late at night they are consulting what they can do to please their wives. Well, in a sense, he is right, because we know that what we do in lodge ought to please our wives, and would please them if they knew what it is. But that is the secret, and they must not know it. But they may know, and do know, that Freemasonry does a great deal of good, and that three of the grandest Charities in the country, the

Boys' School, the Girls' School, and the Benevolent Institution, have been founded by Freemasons, who continue to support them in a manner that is an enduring honour to Freemasonry.

After an interval spent in the pretty grounds of the hotel, the company returned to the banquet-room, which had, in the meantime, been cleared, when dancing was commenced, and was kept up with great spirit for some time.

#### ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The summer entertainment to the old people at the Benevolent Institution at Croydon took place on Tuesday evening. The company who attended included the names of the following brethren and ladies:—Charles G. Hill, P.M., 1366; John Constable, Vice-Patron; Charles John Perceval, jun.; James E. Terry; George Knill; Mrs. Terry; Miss Terry; W. Hicks, P.M. 483, 77; C. J. Hicks; C. M. Finch; Annie Collins; E. H. Bowyer; Mrs. Bowyer; Edwin G. Legge, I.P.M. 1196, Treasurer 1607; Mrs. Legge; Francis Breuer; Mrs. Breuer; Miss Breuer; Miss A. M. Terry; John Newton; Robert H. Halford; Mrs. Halford; Thomas Cubitt; Raynham W. Stewart; Lena Hill; Anne Stephens; James Terry; Miss Constable; E. E. Gold; William Stephens; Mrs. Newton; J. J. Berry; G. S. Becknell; Mrs. Hill; Charles John Perceval, jun.; G. Ward Verry; Mrs. G. Ford; Mrs. Constable; Dr. H. J. Strong; Mrs. Strong; W. W. Morgan; Augustus Trewinnard; and Mrs. Trewinnard, and H. Massey (Freemason).

Before partaking of tea the visitors went round the buildings and called in on the old ladies and brethren, and spent a considerable time with them in cheerful conversation. When tea was over the visits were renewed, and the gardens, which were in beautiful order, notwithstanding the long succession of bad weather, were inspected. At seven o'clock the annuitants were summoned to the hall, where the Royal Criterion Hand Bell Ringers gave their admirable entertainment on 120 silver-toned bells. It is almost needless to say that these performances were highly appreciated, and gave general satisfaction. Miss Terry and Miss Constable also added some vocal and instrumental selections, and in their performances merited the greatest praise. The proceedings were interspersed with the serving of an abundance of refreshments, in serving which the visitors exhibited the most earnest desire to conduce to the comforts of the old people. Before separating votes of thanks were passed to the Royal Criterion Hand Bell Ringers, to Mrs. Terry, to the Supreme Council, who annually contribute largely to this entertainment, to Bros. J. G. Stevens, T. J. Barnes, and J. J. Berry for the magnificent flag, which floats on a flagstaff at the Institution, on which flag is inscribed the name of the Institution. Bro. Berry returned thanks for this last vote. Bro. Terry expressed the great pleasure he felt at being able to contribute to the enjoyment of the annuitants, and also added that he was much indebted for what he had done to the great assistance he derived from the Supreme Council. Capt. Phillips and other brethren, who earnestly desired to promote the cause of Masonic charity. The party having bid adieu to the inmates of the Institution, a hearty good night, returned to town in special saloon carriages provided by the South Eastern Railway.

#### ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

A cricket match was played on the College House Ground, on Wednesday the 14th May, in wretched weather—play being stopped several times—between the M.C.C. and College House, which resulted in an easy win for the Masonic boys by 137 to 29; Mr. Gardner and Donovan playing the highest scores for the M.C.C. of 47 and 38 runs respectively.

A match was played on the 17th May, on the School ground, between the M.C.C. and the Grocers' Company, where victory visited the M.C.C. by 21 runs, the scores being—M.C.C. 59, Grocers' Company 38; Hanson and Sargeant making the highest figures of 24 and 19.

In the return match, M.C.C. v Grocer's Company, played at the Alexandra Palace, the Grocer's Company were defeated a second time, the match resulting as follows: M.C.C. 74; Grocer's Company, 32.

The return match M.C.C. v College House, took place on the 23rd ult., at the College House Ground, when the Masonic team succeeded in beating their opponents by an innings and 23 runs. Scores: M.C.C. 53; College House 15-15, total 30.

#### Masonic and General Tidings.

The Prince of Wales has appointed the 17th inst., as the day on which His Royal Highness will lay the foundation stone of the new building now being erected as an extension of the Hospital for Consumption, at Brompton.

Lord Roseberry, President of the Greek Committee, has accepted an invitation to attend a meeting at Manchester on the 22nd inst.

Bro. T. Brassey, M.P., has placed books to the value of £4000, in the Claremont Institute Free Library at Hastings, of which building he is the owner.

MASONIC SONGS.—A selection of Masonic Songs, set to popular airs, written by Bro. E. P. Philpotts, M.D., F.R.G.S., is now ready, forming a handsome volume, bound in cloth, with gilt edges, 3s. Sent post-free from the office of this paper on receipt of stamps or post-office order value 3s. 2d.—Adv.