

THE FREEMASON.

The Organ of the Craft, a Weekly Record of Progress in
FREEMASONRY, LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

Reports of the Grand Lodges are Published with the Special Sanction of

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, THE M.W. GRAND MASTER OF ENGLAND; HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF IRELAND
THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF MAR AND KELLIE, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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It would seem as if it was thought that we are paying "too dear for our whistle," to use a common expression, in the purchase of the lease of Bacon's Hotel, &c., and that the bargain as proposed is not a good one for the Craft. One or two considerations necessarily supervene at this state of the proceedings, which require careful thought and serious attention. The matter is a very important one in itself, and we cannot afford to treat it, as a great body, with anything like indifference or "laissez faire." Are we then, as a financial transaction or mere matter of business, giving too much to the lessees of our own property for the purchase of the remainder of the lease? Is the arrangement proposed to be effected to be carried out at too great a cost, and with too little of return to ourselves? If this be the case, as some appear to contend publicly and privately, then we shall have to amend the financial as well as the building proposals. Grand Lodge, we may remember, is called upon apparently to spend a large sum of money, and in order to justify such a demand, or authorize such an expenditure, it ought we think to be clearly shown that we shall obtain a reasonable profit, as well as needful accommodation. If then the financial outline of the scheme be too hastily drawn, and will not commend itself to more minute and business investigations, Grand Lodge will assuredly not approve of it. We have no right to sacrifice the abiding interests of Grand Lodge for any other considerations whatever. Neither is it befitting for us, as dealing with the money of the Craft, to make arrangements which will hardly accord either with the state of our income or the financial safety of Grand Lodge. If Grand Lodge is going to spend £30,000 or £40,000 it ought to have reasonable return for its large outlay. Is that the case, speaking to men of business and financial experts, as regards the proposal to purchase the remainder of the Baconian lease?

AND then another question at once crops up. Is the idea of the proposed alteration a sound one? Bro. JAMES STEVENS and, we understand, others contend, that the absorption of Bacon's Hotel is not necessary, and that by the present proposal we do too much and too little at the same time. It is true that the Tavern will be greatly improved at the cost of the Craft, but will the Craft itself be benefitted materially by such large operations? Is it necessary to take in Bacon's Hotel? Are there no other means of extension less costly and more effective? These are questions to which Grand Lodge will certainly want a lucid answer when next it assembles. We fancy we understand what Grand Lodge really requires; e.g., a good hall, a commodious banqueting room,—a supper room, if you like; but it also asks for increased Craft accommodation in the shape of a waiting room, a library, a museum, and a readjustment of the executive offices. We think, as we have often said before, that everything has been done in too great a hurry, for the mere sake, apparently, of saying that "something has been done." But there is an old English proverb which is applicable to this as to many other sublunary affairs, "the more haste the worse speed."

THE following Notice of Motion appears on the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire Agenda Paper at Ripon, for October 3rd: 1.—"That this Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire, whilst fully appreciating the services of the Special Committee appointed to report to Grand Lodge on the subject of the Masonic Temple recently seriously damaged by fire, regards with surprise and alarm the report of such committee, which contemplates the purchase of the unexpired term of five-and-a-half years' lease, with furniture, of Bacon's Hotel for £6000 (annual rent £360), and the granting of an extension of Messrs. Spiers and Pond's lease to 50 years. That this Provincial Grand Lodge is of opinion that the leasing of any property of Grand Lodge, except for a very limited period, is, under any circumstances, highly objectionable, and may prove, as in the cases of the three leases now existing, extremely inconvenient, and that the question of rent is quite a secondary consideration compared with the retention of full control of the premises and the tenants of Grand Lodge." 2.—"That in

regard to Section 10 of such report, this Provincial Grand Lodge would recommend that, under the direction of the Grand Superintendent of Works, competent architects, Masons or non-Masons, be invited to submit plans of any scheme for reconstruction or enlargement of the Masonic Temple." 3.—"That copies of these resolutions be transmitted to Grand Lodge and to the Board of General Purposes."

As regards the design for the New Hall itself, we apprehend there cannot be two opinions but that it is utterly inadequate either for the wants or dignity of Grand Lodge. It has its good points undoubtedly, but they are overshadowed utterly by most defective internal arrangements, and a want of realization of the true character of an assembly hall for a Grand Lodge of Freemasons. The new building is calculated, it is said, to seat 1500. But have any of us ever seen a room in that particular form which is made to hold 1500 sitters, and in which the speakers can be heard? The House of Commons only holds 658, and complaints are often made of its acoustic properties. What then of 1500? In order to meet this known difficulty we apprehend the designer has introduced the lateral gallery,—a very objectionable feature,—and it may very well be a question whether the attempt to seat 1500 brethren in a long high hall can result in anything but failure. The amphitheatrical form is of course not so difficult for hearing, but we doubt if such a shaped hall would suit the Craft. All this shows the necessity of other plans and careful reconsideration. "Festina lente" ought surely to be our motto, and truth compels us "nolentes volentes" to say this much, that by some "concatenation of atoms" the present position of Grand Lodge in the matter may teach us to feel how true is the French saying that from the "sublime to the ridiculous there is but one step."

THE Special Building Committee's report has been a great disappointment to many, inasmuch as it has practically been "hung up," and Grand Lodge is almost without a guide or advice on a most vital question for its progress and prosperity, its convenience and its comfort. The Special Building Committee, for some unaccountable reason, brought forward a report of which it did not seek formally to propose the adoption, and submitted a design which it did not affect to recommend. The consequence naturally was a "most lame and impotent conclusion." To say the truth, we are not the least surprised at it. The Special Building Committee is the "outcome" of a "mistake in policy," and the product of an appeal which ought never to have been made to a startled Grand Lodge. It was the creation of hurry and excitement, and its very return as to the numbers voting was neither universally accepted nor altogether unchallenged. It did not profess to represent the expert knowledge and business ability of the Craft, and was both a compromise and a makeshift, in that it was the formation of a moment, a temporary expedient, without preparation and without consideration. In our humble opinion, the Board of General Purposes missed their way grievously in not recommending themselves the creation of a Special Building Committee. This motion would have been well taken by Grand Lodge, and would have met every difficulty of the case. As it is, we are in this position,—we have entered a report in our minutes, and thanked the Committee for it. Has that Committee anything further to do? Is not "OTHELLO'S occupation gone.?"

WE print elsewhere a portion of a letter from a non-Mason at San Francisco, California, United States, sent to us by an old Masonic friend of many years, because we think it gives a description which will be interesting to our Knights Templars, and not without some attraction for our readers of the Craft. We make this remark at first starting that what suits America, will not probably suit us in the old country, and what is approved there in such matters would not go down here. Each country must be governed by its own laws, customs, and procedure, and its own "inner consciousness" of the "eternal fitness of things." The scenes graphically described by the writer of the letter have in them something which may harmonize with the American view of the matter and the condition of social affairs there. We should not like to behold such gatherings in "Old England," or such public manifestations of even "Templar Chivalry." The object of it all is not very apparent to us; still, as we said before, if it pleases the American Templars there to parade in full dress for public processions and religious worship before admiring thousands; if the taste of the great multitude unequivocally approves of such a display and such gatherings, we do not see that we have much to say to it all in England. In one sense, as a "spectacle," it is no doubt very taking, and in another sense, as in America, where all that pertains to Freemasonry and the Chivalric Associations has been the subject of base, cruel, and unjust persecution, it may be advis-

able, as a protest against iniquitous judgments, thus openly and avowedly to appeal to the public sentiments of sympathy and approval. Some even in England may admire what is represented in the letter we have printed, some may reprehend. But whether we admire or whether we reprehend, let Masonic charity teach us all this one great and unchanging lesson, that other people's liberty of action is not to be judged by our likes or dislikes; and that it is perfectly sufficient for them if they discern good and utility in arrangements unused amongst us, to ask from us courteous appreciation and considerate sentiments.

A SUGGESTION elsewhere as to the "Sackville Medal" shews us the importance of archæological enquiry. The matter is still only "sub-judice," but we think it may be well to give our readers a short analysis of the facts of the case. So far as has yet been ascertained, in 1777 in a little German Almanack published by the "Strict Observance" in that country, with the German equivalent for "permissu superiorum," the Jesuit phrase by "permission of the superiors," and privately printed, appeared a medal in "obverse and reverse" said to have been struck by L. NATTER, at Florence, in 1733, in honour of CAROLUS SACKVILLE, Magister Fl., supposed to mean Magister Florentinus, or Master of a Florentine Lodge. The medal had a figure of Harpocrates, with emblems of Operatic Masons' tools, and the words "Ab origine," and the date "L.N., 1733." It was then said to have been struck at Florence. This medal has been handed down in works like MERZDORF, MARVIN, and ZACHARIAS, as a genuine medal. MERZDORF seems to have copied from BODE'S Almanack, if BODE was the editor, and the others from MERZDORF. The German "Handbuch" (Schletter and Zille), a most admirable Cyclopædia, doubts the whole story, and says that the medal was probably struck at St. Petersburg, where NATTER was mixed up with a Strict Observance Lodge, about 1762, not in 1733, and that CHARLES SACKVILLE, afterwards the Earl of MIDDLESEX and Duke of DORSET, never had anything historically to do with it. The latter personage certainly, if he was a Freemason, and had been Master of a lodge, and had a medal struck in his honour, completely ignored his brethren in England, as he did not die until 1764, a year after NATTER. He was, as some of us know from HORACE WALPOLE'S letter, one of the "Literati" and a "Virtuoso" of his time, attached to the Court of FREDERICK, Prince of Wales, and he was also the founder of the Italian Opera in England; and in 1751, when NATTER was in England, he may have made his acquaintance, and struck the medal at St. Petersburg in 1762, giving a fictitious date of 1733, another "fable," as the Germans say, of the Strict Observance. In DISNEY'S "Memoirs of THOMAS HOLLIS" a description of the medal is given, which certainly existed; but there is no date upon it. A "replica" was formerly at Leipsic, but has also disappeared. Inquiry has been made in the British Museum, and lo and behold! there the medal is with the date apparently of 1733! We have now to deal with the suspicion of the "Handbuch" that the medal was struck in St. Petersburg, and that its historical reality must be given up, like as the so-called "LOCKE MS.," the "Charter of Cologne," and the "Charter of Larmenius," &c., &c. Freemasonry is assuredly weakened rather than strengthened by shaky "fables" and untenable assertions. At the same time "G. B. A." may now have something to say about the reality of the Medal.

OLD MASONIC WORKINGS.

We sometimes seem not quite clearly to realize what Masonic "Workings" do and do not exist, and it may therefore be well to try and ascertain to-day what is really known about them. In 1717, when the Grand Lodge of the South was set up, there were two main "Workings" no doubt existing, the one used by the York Masons, the other by the four lodges which assembled at the Apple Tree, and formed the oldest Grand Lodge now in the world. What those "Workings" were we know nothing, and can only imperfectly judge so far by subsequent and suspicious evidence. I leave out of consideration here any theory of St. John's or Unattached Masons, who may however have existed and probably did.

Of this York "Working" little or nothing, as we said just now, is known, but we may assume, from entries in the minutes of the York Lodge, that a ceremonial of some kind, longer or shorter, it matters nothing, was in use. Could the 1705 Minute Book so long missing be found, and which may probably still exist amid the old Minute Books at Freemasons' Hall, we might obtain further "indicia" of that ceremonial. But up to date no one that we are aware of has ever actually seen the "York Working." From time to time claims have been made of "York Working," but when looked into they generally are found to be modern adaptations. As far as we are aware, after much anxious search *no genuine MS. copy of York Workings exists, or even of any other working until late in the last century*, and though such MSS. may be hid away they certainly so far have escaped discovery.

What is often called "York Working" is mostly an early eighteenth century system, in fact, "Hemming's," with some traces of Preston. A *bonâ fide* York Working, we repeat, does not to our knowledge exist, and it would require a good deal of proof to convince us of the fact. At the same time, a "MS." is a MS., and there is no difficulty among experts in arriving at a very approximate certainty of age and date. If therefore Bro. Hollon claims to have the old "York Working," the MS. ought to be shown to those who have studied the question. As far as we know, there was no actual working of the York Grand Lodge after about the latter part of the last century. Its more prosperous rival completely got the upper hand, and the York Grand

Lodge died out from inanition and neglect. The "Antients" had nothing to do with York truly. Dermott, or someone else, in order to popularize their schism interpolated "Antient York Masons;" but it was a misnomer and a fraud.

The Antient Working, such as we have seen about 1801, is more akin to the Prestonian than anything else, and if we may be at this distance of time permitted to express an opinion on the subject, we should say that the old York Working would be very little different from the Prestonian, all such differences would be mainly in fuller or more curtailed verbiage. We have ourselves sought hard to find the old York Working, and therefore if Bro. Hollon has it, we hope he will be good enough to enable Masonic experts to judge of its reality and genuineness.

The Working of the Freemasons of London who formed the Grand Lodge of 1717, received as time ran on many modifications, and was separated into several forms. The Moderns and Antients (a schism from the Moderns), had somewhat different workings, and Preston later on in the eighteenth century still further revised the "Working." At the end of this century and at the Union there were four workings extant, Moderns, Antients, the Grand Lodge of York, if it still existed, Prestonian, and we think we may add a fifth, which some have termed the "Oxford" working, but which is practically a combination of all these workings, and is spread through the South of England more or less. After 1813 Hemming revised the working which is still extensively used, and is kept up in the Stability Lodge of Instruction, and his working was again revised by Bro. Williams, and is that now known as "Emulation." Thus now there are the remains undoubtedly of four workings, and it is alleged of "old York," and also of that system we have called Oxford, though without any just authority. There also may be traces of a pre-1813 working in use among the Moderns. All through the North of England, we are often told this is "old York," that is "old York," but whenever we have sought to clear up the doubt, we have always found ourselves that such a name was without reason.

Hence, though we do not say that it is impossible to find, we doubt much the existence of the working used by the old York Masons. We believe, on the contrary, that as the London Grand Lodge absorbed eventually the York Grand Lodge, so London working superseded York working, and we doubt if any brother exists who can clearly tell us where one begins and the other ends, or what is the real difference between the two.

The question is one of great interest to all who care for the archæology and history of our Masonic ceremonial, and it is a subject on which we can write dispassionately and serenely, without the animus of antagonists, or the heat of controversialists.

Bro. Hollon's words are so distinct, that were it not for our long researches and disappointment in the matter, we should feel bound to accept his "dicta." If therefore he will write to the Editor of the *Freemason*, he may be certain of courteous consideration and dispassionate judgment.

CONSTITUTIONS OF 1786.—These are said to have approved of first in 1762, by Frederick the Great, and secondly and finally at a meeting, May 1, 1786. This Constitution was, it is said, "*deliberatum, actum, sancitum in magno et supremo Concilio.*" The heading of the whole document was: "Nos Fredericus, Dei Gratia Rex, etc., Supremus, Magnus Protector," etc.; and has this ending, "Datum in nostra regali Sede Berolini Calendis Maii Anno Gratia MDCCCLXXXVI., Nostri Regni XLVII. Subscriptum, Fredericus." The preamble of the Constitutions is as follows: "Probante, præsente, sanciente Augusta Majestate Frederici Secundi Borussiae Regis, etc., etc., in Supremo Concilio habito deliberarunt." And the Constitutions end with this declaration: "Deliberatum, actum, sancitum in magno et Supremo Concilio XXXIII. gradus debite instituto indicto atque habito cum probatione et Præsencia Augustissima Majestatis Frederici nomine Secundi, Deo favente Regis Borussiae, etc., etc. Verique Conservatoris Ordinis, Calendis Maiis A.L. ICDCCLXXXVI. et A.N. MDCCCLXXXVI. Subscriptum, Stark, H. Wilhelm, d'Esterno, Woellner. Approbatum datumque in nostra Regalia Residentia Berolini Calendis Maiis Anno Gratia MDCCCLXXXVI., nostrique Regni XLVII. SS. Subscriptum Fredericus." It is said that the parchment is defective, so that all the names are not legible. It seems, however, very doubtful if Frederick the Great, after 1744, had much to do with Masonic affairs, and had he so lately as 1786 presided at, or approved of, a Council of the Order, his successor, Frederick William III., in his Cabinet Order of December 29, 1797, would, we think, have alluded to it. But if, since 1744, his predecessor had practically withdrawn from Freemasonry, that would account for his own silence on the subject. On the whole, despite Bro. Albert Pike's earnest assertions and distinct opinion, we cannot profess to think that the evidence is critically satisfactory as to the reality of so important a document. At the same time, we will not go so far as to say that it is altogether spurious or forged, though we do not think that Bro. Albert Pike has in any way strengthened the position of the document, as far as arguments go; he adds to the sentiment of the matter, not the historical certainty. Those who wish to see his side of the question should consult the work Bro. Mackey refers to, and which Bro. W. J. Hughan tells us deserves a careful study. The Constitutions have, it seems, been drawn up in French and Latin, and the Latin copy is now accepted, we believe, by the authorities of the A. and A. S. Rite as genuine. It is remarkable, however, we cannot forbear observing, that no record remains of such a meeting at Berlin, and that not until 1834 do the Latin Constitutions come on the scene. Both the Constitutions, whether in French or Latin, seem to have come from France, and our opinion agrees with Bro. Pike, that whatever the value of them may be, the Charleston theory is untenable, as we have before said in history of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.—*Kenning's Cyclopædia of Freemasonry.*

THE LATE BRO. DR. WILSON ILES, DEPUTY GRAND MASTER HERTS.

We last week in our obituary column presented our readers with the Masonic career of this highly respected and much lamented brother, and we are now able to furnish some further particulars of this sad event, for which we are indebted to the *Watford Observer* of Saturday last, which says:

"Few events have ever cast so deep a gloom over Watford as the death of our universally beloved fellow-townsmen, Dr. F. H. Wilson Iles, which occurred at three minutes after 12 o'clock on Wednesday morning last. It will be remembered that on Tuesday, the 21st of August, Dr. Iles performed an operation known in the medical profession as 'tracheotomy,' a method of effecting an artificial channel for respiration in cases of croup or diphtheria. Whilst so engaged he inflicted a slight wound on his left forefinger, close to the nail, which, we are informed, scarcely amounted to a scratch, so slight, indeed, as to pass almost unnoticed by Dr. Iles himself at the time. On the following Friday, however, symptoms of inflammation, portending blood poisoning, set in, and Dr. Iles next morning went to London to consult his friend Mr. Rouse, of St. George's Hospital, knowing that that gentleman's large experience in such cases rendered his opinion of the highest importance. By his urgent advice he gave up work and immediately resorted to active treatment. For some days there was great pain and swelling, although at this period there was scarcely anything to indicate contamination of the system; indeed, matters progressed favourably until Wednesday in last week, by which time Dr. Iles had completed all arrangements for a visit to the seaside, where he hoped to re-establish his health in a short time. But on that day his partner, Dr. Stradling, perceived an alarming evidence of impending internal complications, which induced him to telegraph for Mr. Rouse at once. The result of their consultation led to the projected visit being put off, and the wisdom of that decision was demonstrated by the fact that from this time the symptoms increased in gravity day by day to such a degree that Mr. Rouse on the Monday following took a serious view of the patient's chance of ultimate recovery. This opinion was destined to be verified only too soon, for between 9 and 10 o'clock that same evening Dr. Iles awoke from what appeared to be a comfortable sleep with paralysis of the palate and organs of speech, which rendered breathing a matter of extreme difficulty. He never spoke again; the whole of the left side became similarly affected, and after lingering for rather more than 24 hours, during which he was obviously conscious at intervals, he passed quietly away about midnight. No words that might here be set down could evoke such feelings as must have welled up from a thousand hearts when the startling news was borne to them. It would ill become us to intrude on ground so sacred by any conventional phrases.

"Francis Henry Wilson Iles was born in Lincolnshire, in the year 1834. He studied medicine in the schools of St. George's, Dublin and Paris, taking the degrees of M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A., L.M., and subsequently the M.D. of St. Andrew's; he was also a fellow of the Royal Medical Chirurgical Society, and during the cholera epidemic of 1855 he filled the post of Resident Medical Officer to the Western General Dispensary, New-road, London, where a district was assigned to him. In 1859 he came to Watford, and entered into partnership with Dr. Spencer Pidcock, whose uncle and predecessor, Dr. John Pidcock, was formerly associated with Dr. George Philip Ehret, who founded the practice in the eighteenth century. During his subsequent career, amongst other appointments, he held those of surgeon to the West Herts Infirmary, to the Salters' Almshouses, and hon. assistant surgeon to the 2nd Herts Volunteers, of which corps he was a member for 24 years. For the last 11 years he was surgeon to the Foresters' and Odd Fellows' Courts, and to the Watford Juvenile Foresters' Court since its commencement some three years ago, to various clubs, and he likewise held temporary medical charge of the Leavesden Schools pending the appointment of a regular officer.

"Outside his profession his public spirit displayed itself in many acts which would of themselves perpetuate his memory. It was chiefly to him that the inhabitants of Watford owe the formation of a Volunteer Fire Brigade, about 13 years ago, at which time he undertook the duties of captain and treasurer, and on the death of the late Mr. Alfred Sedgwick, became the vice-president. The brigade bear testimony to his unflinching zeal in promoting the welfare of the corps, sustaining its constitution as a body under adverse circumstances by a constant attendance at the committee meetings, by his frequent presence at drill, and by doing his duty at a majority of the fires which have taken place in the town and neighbourhood. With regard to the position Dr. Iles occupied upon the Local Board for nearly 21 years, the energy with which he has devoted himself to the public good has been abundantly manifested in our reports of their proceedings. He rarely missed a Board, and was most regular in attendance at committees, taking the keenest interest in all questions affecting the welfare of Watford, and bringing to bear thereon mature judgment and sound common sense. Important and serious matters have, especially of late years, made considerable demand upon the time of the Board. The Public Library, an institution of incalculable benefit to the town, boasts his name as one of its most ardent promoters and supporters. Dr. Iles was a trustee of Lady Morrison's Apprenticeship and Almshouse Charities, also of Mrs. Fuller's Free School. When in June, 1882, the latter charity merged in the Watford Endowed Schools, Dr. Iles became a governor of the foundation, and at the first meeting was nominated a member of the committee. It may be mentioned as another instance of the attention which Dr. Iles devoted to any work he undertook that notwithstanding the pressing demands upon his time he was present at nearly every one of the 20 meetings held since October last by the governors and committee of the Endowed Schools. He was a manager of the National Schools, and it was at his suggestion that the recent meeting of ratepayers was summoned to consider the requirements of the Education Department for additional school accommodation. It is scarcely necessary to remind our readers that Dr. Iles for upwards of 10 years has held the office and assiduously discharged the duties of churchwarden at the Parish Church.

"From local legislation and instructive institutions he could turn his attention to popular movements. He joined the 2nd Herts Volunteers in 1859, and from first to last

took great interest in the welfare of the company to which he was attached; indeed it was his sustained exertion in everything he took up which won for him such deserved popularity. His success with the 'rifle' at the ranges made him a favourite at all competitions, and it is not too much to say that his example did much to encourage this important feature of volunteer drill. Due recognition of his services in the maintenance of the Watford Volunteer Band will be readily accorded by those who know, not only the difficulties under which its present efficiency has been attained, but the obstacles to its very existence which have been on more than one occasion surmounted.

"A noble life sacrificed at its prime in a noble effort to save that of a dying child. Possibly the whole range of fact or fiction affords no prouder nor more pathetic parallel. Short as his career has been it may justly be said in his case that 'his works do live after him.'"

The funeral took place on Saturday, and was very largely attended. It was not desired that the Freemasons as a body should be represented, but very many brethren were present in common with members of the many institutions in which our brother was interested, to show the respect and esteem in which he was held. Places of business were closed during the funeral, and everywhere was to be seen evidence of sorrow and regret at the loss which the district had sustained in his death.

Scotland.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE NEW SAILORS' HOME AT LEITH.

The interesting ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the new Sailors' Home at Leith took place on Thursday week last, under the auspices of the Trafalgar Lodge, No. 223, on the roll of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Unfortunately the weather was most unfavourable for a demonstration of this kind, yet the streets of the busy port of Leith were alive with visitors, while the brethren mustered in very considerable force, the central figure in the day's proceedings being the Earl of Mar and Kellie, Grand Master Mason of Scotland. Most of the public buildings and the docks were decorated with flags, and though the day was not observed as a general holiday many of the shops were closed.

The Trafalgar Lodge was opened at 1 p.m., by the Constitution-street, and in due course received deputations R.W.M., Bro. Jas. Fotheringham, in the Assembly Rooms, of the brethren, that of Grand Lodge consisting of Bros. the Earl of Mar and Kellie, G.M.; D. Murray Lyon, Grand Sec.; David Kinnear, Grand Cashier; the Rev. James Barclay, A.M., Grand Chaplain; C. W. Maxwell-Müller, representative of the Grand Lodge of Saxony; David Hume, as G.B.B.; F. McGillray, Grand Marshal; F. W. Bridgman, James Melville, John Davidson, John Fleming, John Wilson, R. Morrison, Grand Stewards; W. Barry, as G.S.B.; D. Robertson, Grand Tyler; together with Bros. Hector; M'Lean, Prov. Grand Master Lanarkshire; U. Ward, W. Black, and others.

In the procession, which included the Ship-Carpenters, Operative Masons, Newhaven Free Fishermen's Society, and Foresters, the following lodges were represented, namely: Buchan St. John, Broxburn, 636; Star of Addiewell, West Calder, 635; North British Railway, Edinburgh, 537; St. Clair, Dysart, 520; Douglas, Bo'ness, 409; Clyde, Glasgow, 408; Rifle, Edinburgh, 405; Dunearn, Burntisland, 400; St. Clair, Edinburgh, 349; Thistle, West Calder, 270; St. John, Galashiels, 262; Union, Dunfermline, 250; Portobello, 226; St. John, Stow, 216; St. James, Old Monkland, 177; Roman Eagle, Edinburgh, 160; Thistle, Dundee, 158; Edinburgh Defensive Band, 151; St. Stephen, Edinburgh, 145; St. John, Parkland, Glasgow, 128; St. John, Hawick, 111; St. Ayle, Anstruther, 95; Dunbar Castle, 75; Kirkcaldy, 72; St. John, Haddington, 57; St. Andrew, Banff, 52; Ancient, Dundee, 49; St. David's, Edinburgh, 36; Ancient, Stirling, 30; St. John, Dunfermline, 26; Ancient Brazen, Linlithgow, 17; St. John, Falkirk, 16; Dalkeith Kilwinning, 10; Journeymen, Edinburgh, 8; Canongate and Leith, 5; Scone and Perth, 2; and Canongate Kilwinning, 2. There were also eight bands, including that of the 1st Midlothian Rifle Volunteers.

At Constitution the Trafalgar Lodge and Grand Lodge joined the procession, and on arriving at the site of the future Home, at the corner of Tower-street and Tower-place, the brethren opened out right and left so that the Grand Lodge might pass between into the building which had been erected for the accommodation of those invited, among whom were numerous ladies, and Bailies M'Intosh, Garland, and Wilson, Treasurer Bennet, Councillors Turnbull, Drybrough, and Charles Robertson (Edinburgh); Mr. James Currie, Chairman, and other members of the House Committee; Mr. Josiah Livingston, Master of the Edinburgh Merchant Company. The members of the Grand Lodge having taken up their positions around the stone, Mr. Currie, on behalf of the committee, handed a silver trowel, with suitable inscription on it, to the Grand Master, and Rev. Bro. Dr. Stuart Muir, Chaplain of the Trafalgar Lodge, having offered up a prayer, and the Grand Cashier having deposited a number of coins and documents in a cavity provided in the stone, the ceremony was completed in accordance with ancient Masonic usage, and the stone having been lowered, the Earl of MAR AND KELLIE said: May the Almighty Architect of the Universe look down with benignity upon our present undertaking, and crown the edifice of which we have now laid the foundation with every success. Loud cheers followed, and

Mr. CURRIE having thanked the Grand Master and the brethren for their attendance, especially on such a day,

His LORDSHIP briefly expressed a hope that the building about to be erected would be of use to those for whom it was intended. The prosperity and power of the country mainly depended on the seafaring population, and it was right their comfort when on shore should not be forgotten. Moreover, remarked his lordship, it was especially suitable that the day's proceedings should have been carried out under the auspices of the Trafalgar Lodge, which was founded by seafaring men, many of whom had fought at Trafalgar, and he hoped the home would prove a blessing not only to those it was designed for but also to its founders.

A short prayer by Bro. the Rev. J. Barclay, Grand Chaplain, followed by cheers for the Grand Master, Mr. Currie, and Bro. Fotheringham, W.M. Trafalgar Lodge, brought the ceremony to a close.

A cake and wine banquet followed in the Assembly Rooms, at which the Grand Master presided, and "Success to the New Home" was drunk with enthusiasm. Between 400 and 500 were present, and the croupiers were Past Masters Bros. D. Stalker, P. Bell, W. Barry, W. Stalker, A. Wallace, and D. Turner. In the evening Bro. Fotheringham was entertained at dinner at Miesback's Hotel, the guests mustering between fifty and sixty. In fine, it only needed brilliant weather to have made the day one of the most successful in the annals of Scottish Masonry.

THE NEPTUNE LODGE, No. 375, ABERDEEN, AND THE SHIPWRECKED MARINERS' SOCIETY.

About seven years ago a Masonic Auxiliary to the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society was formed in Aberdeen, since which time many of the lodges have given donations, or otherwise contributed to its funds, and on a recent occasion the Neptune Lodge, No. 375, as the result of a special effort sent a donation of more than £120. Under the auspices of this lodge an open-air fête and fancy fair was held at Belmont, in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, at which entertainments of various kinds were provided, proving a great centre of attraction during the afternoon and evening to a large number of persons. One of the chief features of the entertainment was a grand display of fancy goods, arranged after the manner of bazaars, the stalls being presided over by a number of young ladies whose blandishments assisted to swell the receipts. A bagpipe competition, a contest for the premium in dancing the Highland fling, and a display of bayonet exercises, fencing, &c., by a detachment of the Gordon Highlanders were among the amusements, and some of the performers from Cook's circus gave an exhibition of their talent. But that which attracted the greatest amount of attention was a display of the Manby life-saving apparatus, which had been lent by the Aberdeen Harbour Commissioners for the occasion, and was worked by the chief gunner's mate of H.M.S. Clyde, and a number of Naval Reserve men. The suitability of this effort being initiated by the Neptune Lodge will be recognised, as it has always been to a great extent identified with the seafaring community, and as was pointed out by Bro. Alexander Milne, R.W.M. of the lodge, in the absence of Bro. Dr. Beveridge, Prov. G.M. Aberdeen, who is also president of the auxiliary before referred to, they felt they could do nothing better than assist an institution so closely connected with the sea as the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society. This society, we understand, annually relieves from 13,000 to 14,000 persons at the time of their greatest extremity, clothing, feeding, and forwarding home all shipwrecked crews, and granting to the widows and orphans of seafaring men substantial succour in their bereavement. From the large extent to which Freemasonry is known to exist among the seafaring classes in all our ports, it necessarily follows that the society's funds are largely expended among the Fraternity and their dependents. Under these circumstances, and calling to mind the widespread charity of the Brotherhood, the wonder is that more organised and sustained support as asked by the committee is not rendered to this very deserving national charity, and we would bespeak for it from the numerous lodges, especially in the seaports, the assistance it so much requires to enable it to continue its beneficial operations all along our seaboard.

KELSO.—Kelso Lodge (No. 58).—On Thursday evening, the 13th inst., the brethren of this ancient lodge reassembled after the summer recess in the Masonic Hall, Wood Market. There was a large attendance, and Bro. J. Shearer, the R.W.M., having duly constituted the lodge and declared it open, congratulated the brethren on once more resuming labour, and expressed a hope that they had all enjoyed their holidays and had returned reinvigorated with a fresh store of health and energy for the winter's work, and he trusted that the meetings of the lodge during the ensuing session would be as largely attended and as successful as the present one promised to be. They had met, as they were all aware, to accept the resignation of their Senior Warden, Bro. William Coulan, who, as one of the officers of her Majesty's Excise, had no choice of location, but must go where duty calls him, and having been appointed to a station in the South, in Basingstoke, he had no alternative but resign his position in the lodge. The R.W.M. then read the following letter from Bro. Coulan: "Right Worshipful Sir,—Owing to my being officially appointed to leave this country and reside in the South of England, I find it will be impossible for me to attend the meetings of '58' during the approaching session, and I am very reluctantly obliged to request that you will allow me to resign the office of Senior Warden, which I have held with so much pleasure to myself, in the lodge. It will afford me great pleasure to remain a member of the lodge, and I shall always preserve a kindly remembrance of its members. With best wishes, I remain, right worshipful sir, yours fraternally, WILLIAM COULAN."

As they had no choice in the matter they must accept Bro. Coulan's resignation, but it would be ungracious if he were to allow the opportunity to escape of expressing the feeling of the lodge on the matter that in parting with Bro. Coulan they parted with a very zealous Mason, one who, as they all knew, was most regular in attendance at the lodge in foul weather as well as fair, although he had to ride a distance of ten miles to the lodge and return the same distance when his duties were over. He trusted the brethren in Basingstoke would soon find out his qualities and learn to appreciate him with whom they now parted with regret. Bro. Coulan briefly replied and after two brethren had been proposed for affiliation and some other business transacted the lodge was closed in the usual manner.

The brethren then assembled at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Bro. Knight the Senior Steward's house, and entertained Bro. Coulan to supper, the chair being occupied by Bro. Shearer, R.W.M., and the vice-chair by Bro. Vernon, P.M. After discussing the viands with which the table was loaded the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, the toast of the evening being "Long life, health, and prosperity to Bro. Coulan," which was given in felicitous terms by the chairman, to which Bro. Coulan feelingly replied. Several excellent songs were sung Bros. Wilson, McDougal, Burden, and Turnbull and a very pleasant evening was spent, the brethren separating at eleven o'clock with the old formula "Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again."

SIR HUGH MYDDELTON LODGE
OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1602.REMOVAL TO THE QUEEN'S HEAD, ESSEX
ROAD, ISLINGTON, N.
(Three doors from Packington Street).

On Tuesday, October 2nd,

W. BRO. JAMES TERRY, P.M. 228, 1271, 1366,
P.P.G.S.W. NORTHS AND HUNTS, &c.,Has kindly consented to work the
CEREMONIES OF CONSECRATION AND
INSTALLATION.Brethren are cordially invited and are requested to appear
in clothing. A. J. DINIE,
Honorary Secretary.**THE SHIPWRECKED FISHER-
MEN AND MARINERS' ROYAL BENE-
VOLENT SOCIETY.**

PATRON.—THE QUEEN.

The Committee of Management of the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society beg to acknowledge, with best thanks, receipt of a donation of £120 5s. 6d. from the Neptune Lodge, No. 375, Aberdeen, being the proceeds of an open air fête and fancy fair held at Balmoral, Aberdeen, on July 7th, 1883, in aid of the philanthropic purposes of the above-named Society, including the following, namely, to render immediate assistance to all shipwrecked persons, clothing, feeding, and sending them to their homes; to relieve destitute widows and orphans of seamen and fishermen by a special grant on the death of the breadwinner, and grants subsequently during the first few years of widowhood; and to give rewards for saving life on the high seas, &c.

These, with the Society's other objects, are carried out by a Central Committee in London, aided by over 1000 Honorary Representatives situate on every part of the coasts, who, on all occasions of shipwreck in their several districts, afford instant relief, foreigners as well as natives being cared for.

13,145 persons were relieved last year. Funds to carry on this great national work are greatly needed, and an earnest appeal is made to the Freemason Lodges throughout the country for their organised and sustained support.

By order of the Committee,
LINDON SAUNDERS, Travelling Sec.,
Forest Lodge, Aberdeen.Central Offices—Hibernia Chambers,
London Bridge, S.E.**FIRST AND LAST APPLICATION.**To the Governors and Subscribers of the
ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.Your Votes and Interest are earnestly solicited for
AMY MARGARET LEE,daughter of the late Bro. Thomas Vincent Lee, of Union
Waterloo Lodge, No. 13.—Mrs. J. LEE, 29 Grove-terrace,
Highgate-road, N.**THE ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS,
EARLWOOD, REDHILL, SURREY.**Under the Patronage of Her Most Gracious Majesty
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Entirely supported by Voluntary Subscriptions... 375**FUNDS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED TO MEET
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OCTOBER ELECTION, 1883.

The favour of your Votes and interest is respectfully
solicited on behalf of

JAMES EDWARD TAYLOR,

Aged 12 years, who was deprived of his reason from the effects of Scarlet Fever when four years of age. The Father (Bro. Jas. Taylor, Lodges No. 730 (I.C.), 1331, 1536, and Chapters 13, 1331) is a Sergeant in the Commissariat and Transport Corps now serving at Aldershot, and although willing to support to the utmost of his abilities, is unable to provide adequate treatment or the necessary supervision required by the case, which is strongly recommended by

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OF THE ONE ASSURED BY THE POLICY.Prospectuses, Proposal Forms, Statements, and Accounts
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influence and standing to act as special or Ordinary Agents
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the 31st October, 1883.For Particulars, see Time Tables and Programmes
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were the position and prospects in the particular case the

most sound and promising, because an immediate improve-

ment, or, indeed, the maintenance of the prevalent market

value would be improbable, if not impossible, so long as the

account remained a weak one, or one showing a heavy pre-

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TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT, MAY, 1883.

NEW BUSINESS.

2070 Policies issued for £400,375

New Premium Income £11,986

BUSINESS IN FORCE.

26,099 Policies, Assuring £4,825,317

REVENUE OF THE YEAR.

Premiums £140,809

Interest, &c. £35,131

£175,940

ACCUMULATED FUND.

Laid by in the year £69,772

Accumulated Fund on 31st January,
1883 (equal to 73 per cent. of the net
premiums received upon policies in
force) £873,102Average Reversionary Bonus for 27 years about 14 per cent.
per annum.**MUTUAL ASSURANCE WITHOUT MUTUAL
LIABILITY.****THE COSMOPOLITAN MASONIC
CALENDAR, DIARY, AND POCKET
BOOK FOR 1884.**

This Masonic annual is now preparing for its 14th issue, the publication of which will take place on or about the 1st November next. Forms asking for particulars as to place and date of meeting of lodges and chapters have been despatched to the respective Secretaries and Scribes E., and in the event of their not having reached their destination by the end of the present month, a memo. advising the publisher of any alteration in date or place of meeting will be esteemed a favour.

G. KENNING, 16, GT. QUEEN ST., LONDON, W.C.

To Correspondents.**BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.**

"Boletin Masónica," "Madras Advertiser," "Citizen,"
"Freemasons' Chronicle" (Sydney), "Broad Arrow,"
"Masonic Eclectic," "Victorian Freemason," "Victorian
Masonic Journal," "Hull Packet," "New York Dispatch,"
"City Press," "Allen's Indian Mail," "El Taller,"
"Court Circular," "La Abeja," "Tricycling Journal,"
"Bulletin Maçonnique," "Natal Witness," "The Free-
mason" (Toronto), "The Freemason" (Sydney), "Mason-
ic Record of Western India," "Proceedings of the
District Grand Lodge of Canterbury, N.Z., E.C."



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1883.

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 fairness to all to permit—within certain necessary limits—free
discussion.]

STATUS OF PAST MASTERS.To the Editor of the "*Freemason*."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

It is evident that there is considerable diversity of
opinion respecting the amendment carried in Grand Lodge
on 8th August. I venture therefore to throw out as a sugges-
tion for the consideration of your readers, that it might
help us if we made more use of the expression "Installed
Master."

When a brother is put into the chair of his lodge the
ceremony is performed in a "Board of Installed Masters,"
certain secrets are given to him when he is installed in the
chair, and from that time the installed brother becomes
entitled to attend Grand Lodge so long as he continues a
subscribing member of a lodge. He is not yet a Past
Master, but he is an Installed Master, and in virtue of his
rank as such he would, I suppose, be held to be entitled by
the new rule No. 141 to take the chair of any lodge of
which he was a member in the absence of the Master and
Past Masters of that lodge.

When the Installed Master has served his time in the
chair of his lodge and is invested by his successor with the
collar of the Immediate Past Master, he receives no fresh
secrets; he remains, what he has been for the Past 12
months or more, an Installed Master in possession of the
secrets of the chair. He has been invested as Past Master
of his lodge and in time he may become a Past Master of
several more lodges, but his "status" or rank in the Craft
is that of Installed Master. Bearing this in mind, the
amendment carried on 8th August might be modified to
read thus: "In the case of a joining member being a
Master or Past Master of a lodge, his rank and position as
an Installed Master shall be recognised, and he shall rank
next after the Past Masters of the lodge, provided he has
not ceased to subscribe to a lodge for 12 months."

Such an arrangement would recognise a brother's true
"status" in the Craft without seeming to claim for him in
his newly adopted lodge a position which he had never held.

There may be objections to such a plan which are not at the moment apparent to me, but if there are, some of your readers will doubtless find them out and expose them.—
Yours fraternally,
H. G. MORSE,
Grand Chaplain.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—
I do not believe in Past Masters, whether of or in the lodge, descending to the level or "position of the rank and file," for my experience forbids the thought of any such possibility unless the cause be one which would equally affect both classes. If a joining Past Master does so descend, depend upon it he will benefit nothing by having the precedence gained in another lodge forced upon that he has joined.

No lodge will accept a joining Past Master without cheerfully according to such Past Master all the privileges it can give him. As to his rank, it is his own fault if he loses that by neglecting to subscribe to any lodge. The position he may acquire amongst the Past Masters of the lodge is of course one of courtesy, but is it not the fact that notwithstanding the distinction in and of lodges which now appears so obnoxious in the minds of some of your correspondents, a joining Past Master frequently holds a position far higher in the estimation of the lodge generally than many of its own Past Masters? After all, this is the precedence most worth coveting?

In lodges where it is difficult to pass the W.M.'s chair (either by reason of the great expense it entails or on account of an unwritten law which plainly declares that every elected Master shall be capable of properly working his lodge), both officers and members not in office are led to join a less particular lodge in which they can rise more rapidly. Suppose a brother succeeds in obtaining the honour in five years (I have known it done in much less), of what benefit has he been to his former lodge during six years at least? If you ask him why he never attends his mother lodge he will tell you that he has quite enough to do now in the lodge he has joined. Now, will it benefit the Craft to encourage these temporary withdrawals from lodges? I say temporary, because such brethren continue members of their former lodge with the intention of returning to it, as in most instances they do, when the object has been attained for which they left it. In its turn the mother lodge receives back its truant, and can it be wondered at that others (perhaps really valuable members) take the earliest opportunity of doing likewise?

I say that whatever good opinion has been previously formed of them in the mother lodge, such P.M.s. generally find on their return that it has decreased; yet the case I have named is one in which the law as it now stands for confirmation would create a grievance not to be compared to any individual hardships, for it would compel the lodge not only to place such a Past Master in a position it could not willingly offer him, but also (practically) to reward his conduct to the certain encouragement of others.

Let us not hastily consider this question. Many Past Masters are not individually affected by the change, and care little about it; whilst others of the same class approve of the alteration as they would the removal of any grievance, forgetting that the present legislation is for the Craft universal. I think our brethren in the colonies have an undoubted right to an opinion in this matter.

If I did not sincerely believe that the amended law would be productive of results in lodges seriously detrimental to our Order, I could very well personally support the confirmation, as there appears to me to be already voluntarily conceded to Past Masters by lodges quite as much (and sometimes more), without any alteration of the old law, as is sought to be obtained under compulsion by the new.—
Yours truly and fraternally,
J. RAMSDEN RILEY, P.M. and Sec. 387.
Bradford, September 25th.

To the Editor of "the Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—
I was very glad to notice in the correspondence column of your last issue the letters signed "Inner Guard" and "A Provincial W.M." respecting the status of Past Masters. The suggestion there made as to obtaining an expression of opinion on this matter from the Craft in general is, I have thought all along, the only safe way of solving what promises to become a very vexed question. Seeing that the proposed change is one that will more or less affect every lodge, I should have thought our rulers would have been glad to hear the voice of the Craft for their guidance in a matter so serious. I have had conversation on this point with many brethren, but have not yet met with one who is in favour of the proposed change.

There is time enough before Grand Lodge meets in December for almost every lodge to furnish the Grand Secretary with the result of a vote taken on this matter, and I feel sure if such vote was taken the result would be to fairly astonish the defenders of the proposed change in Grand Lodge at the smallness of their following in the Craft generally.—Yours fraternally,
A MASTER MASON 531.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SPECIAL BUILDING COMMITTEE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—
Is it correct to say "that the Special Building Committee was debarred from obtaining alternative plans, because not authorised by Grand Lodge?"

I am assured that the motion as submitted by Bro. Havers, and put by Lord Carnarvon, and carried, enabled the Special Building Committee to do this.

The instructions are as follows: "That such Committee be and are hereby instructed to obtain plans and designs for the rebuilding of Freemasons' Hall, and to deposit such plans in the library or other convenient place for the inspection of the brethren generally previous to any decision being come to in Grand Lodge." Bro. Havers in his speech stated what occurred when the present house was built, and strongly recommended that the plans should be offered to competition and appropriate premiums be given.

There seems to have been a good deal of confusion that evening in Grand Lodge, and other motions I believe were put forward, and there was a good deal of what is called "chopping and changing." But if the allegation above alluded to be correct, would it not be advisable to rectify a mistake which has practically nearly landed us in a complete dead lock?—Yours fraternally,
LEX.

BRO. BINCKES'S OFFICE AND THE CANDIDATURE OF EDWARD BRAMBLE GREEN.—
AN EXPLANATION.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I regret the circular soliciting votes for the above candidate, the son of the late much respected Bro. Past Master Green, should have been so worded as to have occasioned pain and annoyance to the very efficient Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, our esteemed Bro. Binckes, and so called forth the letter which appeared in your columns on Saturday last. The paragraph in question, stating that through inadvertence in the office the name was omitted from the list of candidates, had no allusion to his office, but referred entirely to the office of the Freemasons' Hall and Club Company, Portsmouth.

The facts are as follows. I handed the document in question to the Secretary of the Company, in his office, under the impression that it would be forwarded, while he thought that as W.M. of the lodge I should send it officially; and so it came about that the petition was not sent till too late—a fact I deeply deplore. I trust, however, that the Life Governors and Subscribers who would have given their votes to the candidate will not let this error of mine interfere with their good intentions, but that they will kindly forward them to me at their earliest convenience, so that they may be loaned till April, 1884, election, when we trust, with the promises of support received, the boy's election will be secured. The case is a most deserving one, the widow being left with nine children, most of whom are dependent on her; and this is the candidate's only chance.

The importance of explaining what would otherwise appear as a gross imputation on the businesslike habits of Bro. Binckes is my reason for troubling you to insert this in your next issue.—I am, dear sir and brother, yours fraternally,
THOS. H. WILLIAMS, W.M. 1776.
Freemasons' Hall and Club, Landport,
September 26th.

THE OCTOBER ELECTIONS.

Dear Bro. Kenning,—

As numerous votes are lost every election through hesitation or procrastination, I beg once more to ask many kind friends to send me their voting papers if they have no case of their own at once.—Fraternally yours,
A. F. A. WOODFORD.

25A, Norfolk-crescent, Hyde-park, W.,
September 26th.

BRO. JACOB NORTON.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Bro. Jacob Norton is an interesting if eccentric writer, and his good natured dogmatism and want of logic are oftentimes very amusing. However, his "bark is worse than his bite," and though he terms some of our leading students in one of his discursive criminations "Masonic blunderers," I have reason to know they only smile at it. I send you a characteristic extract from the Philadelphia *Keystone*, which sets before us his latest views on Bro. Gould's really great work. I give it with the introduction of the able editor, Bro. C. H. McCalla—"The Compagnonage hypothesis of alleged connection between certain mediæval trades associations of France and Freemasonry, broached by Bro. R. F. Gould in his 'History of Freemasonry,' which we have heretofore noticed at length in the *Keystone*, finds a vigorous opponent in Bro. Jacob Norton. He says: 'Our clear-headed Bro. Gould, who so cleverly drags our Fraternity out of several swamps, himself become fascinated with the Compagnonage swamp.'"
Well done, Jacob!—Yours fraternally,
STUDENS.



VERMISCHTE SCHRIFTEN. J. G. FINDEL. Leipsic 1883.

This collection of the esteemed and learned historian of Masonry, Bro. J. G. Findel, has an interest for all who happily understand German. It is a reprint of various little articles of his which he has collected into a volume. Among some, which will only naturally interest German Freemasons, are two original articles as to his voyage to England in 1864, and on *Masonry at York*. The latter might well be translated. We all of us who have read carefully Bro. Findel's Masonic works, and they deserve careful perusal, are aware that he holds strong views on Craft Masonry, and expresses them distinctly. He is not favourable to what is termed High Grade Masonry, and we have said before what we say now, without offence to him, as he looks at everything from an historical point of view alone, that the one defect, according to our view, in his very valuable history, is his utter ignoring of Hermeticism in its relation to and effect upon Freemasonry. We know, however, from personal acquaintance, that Bro. Findel is a strictly honest writer. He sought to give his countrymen and the Craft a reliable history of Freemasonry, and there can be little doubt that he has placed all Masonic students, present and future, under a debt of gratitude to him for a thoroughly painstaking and reliable work. One question, perhaps relying too much on Fallou, he treated too hastily and discursively, namely, the Monastic origin of the Steinmetzen Ritual. We are not going to discuss here whether the German Steinmetzen had any symbolic teaching, though we are ourselves inclined, pace our excellent friends Bro. Gould and Speth, to think they had; and it may be true that the monks, at a time when all learning and Hermetic teaching seem to have been mainly confined to the monasteries, guided and patronized the Masonic lodges, and aided to form and direct their ritual, &c. But still, despite Fallou, whose "wish" is too often "father to the thought," and is not reliable, we have, so far, no available evidence of monastic connection with the Steinmetzen. And what English students have lately felt is this, a "crux" which seems to have escaped Bro. Findel's notice, that, whereas in England our earliest authorities claim a connection with the Operative guilds, in Germany, as in France, all knowledge both of the Steinmetzen and Compagnonage seems to have been repudiated. The word "Freimaurer" is unknown apparently until about 1730, and though the Steinmetzen guilds

existed, as Kloss points out, the line of demarcation between those and the movement in Hamburg is deliberately maintained. We know of no acknowledgment of the Steinmetzen in Germany, (though such may exist), until the Abbé Grandier, who in order to ridicule the pretensions of Masonry, declared that the Freemasons descended from the Operative Masons at Strasburgh. Equally in France the Compagnonage was ignored, the only word which seems to point to a connection being Lufton, or Louveteaux, of very doubtful origin still, both as to its use and real origin. As Bro. Findel is happily now restored to health, a fact all Masonic students will be glad to hear, he perhaps may deem it well to send us a communication on this important point, the Steinmetzen and Freimaurer. As we have many Masons amongst us who understand German, we recommend Bro. Findel's last Masonic work to their notice and study.



OLD YORK WORKING.

235] Will Bro. Hollon kindly let me see the Old York Working? I have sought for it in vain for years. Much that has been said to be "York" is clearly not so. If Bro. Hollon would let me see what his MS. really is, I can tell him at once whether it be a real representation of what it professes to be, or whether it be only a clever adaptation of one or more workings, dubbing it with the time honoured name of "York."
MASONIC STUDENT.

LODGE WARRANTS.

236] What is Bro. Hollon's authority for saying that the senior lodges in towns granted warrants to other lodges in the same towns in England? I know of no such case, and I fancy, like myself, Bros. Hughan and Gould will be somewhat startled to read Bro. Hollon's words. Is Bro. Hollon thinking of Scotland? In England, as far as I know, no lodge has ever affected to "warrant" another lodge! When the "Lodge of Antiquity" did so it did not profess to do so qua the "Lodge of Antiquity," but as the "Grand Lodge South of the Trent." But such an act does not tally with the alleged custom of senior lodges in towns giving warrants to other lodges, as stated so distinctly by Bro. Hollon. Perhaps he will kindly give us a "note" on the subject.
MASONIC STUDENT.

MASONIC ARCHÆOLOGY.

237] I have read with pleasure a very genial notice of the chief points to be remembered in the study of Masonic antiquities, and the dangers to be avoided. The Editor acknowledges the indebtedness of the Craft to several of us Masonic students, but one special name is omitted from the list, which was unavoidable under the circumstances, as the paragraph was written by the brother to whom I refer. Whenever our able Bro. Gould in his (emphatically *the*) "History of Freemasonry" takes a glance at contributions and aids to Masonic archæology by brethren during the last quarter of a century or more, the name of the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, M.A., will be one of the most honoured, and the most prominent, either under his now well-known "nom de plume" of "Masonic Student" or otherwise. I most cheerfully acknowledge my indebtedness to Bro. Woodford, particularly in the earlier stages of my researches, and have always found him ready with his extensive library, his special opportunities, and his most friendly council. I trust he will long be spared to continue as our senior student of the once little, but now increasing, band of Masonic investigators.
W. J. HUGHAN.

CHARLES SACKVILLE.

238] Bro. Thieme, keeper of the medals of the Minerva Lodge, Leipsic, writes to Bro. Findel to say that a silver Sackville medal once existed in the Lodge of Minerva, but no longer is traceable, and he refers Bro. Findel to Merzdorff. Bro. Findel states further that he agrees with the conclusions of the "Handbuch," which, as he adds, "is written with great care, and after perusing all other scientific materials." "This conclusion is that the medal is a Strict Observance Fable! As regards the medal itself, Marvin takes from Merzdorff, and Merzdorff differs from Bode (?), 1777, in this, that he puts "Lawrence Natter, 1733," instead of "L. N., 1733," as in the Almanack of 1777. Another point has been started which deserves note. Is not the use of Arabic numerals in preference to Roman letters very suspicious in 1733? I must leave that point to numismatists. When Findel wrote his original and valuable history he probably did not set so much store by the "Handbuch" as he does now. The "Handbuch" all round, is certainly one of the most clear and satisfactory works I have ever seen. Whatever he held formerly, he clearly now gives up the medal. In the mean time I have written to the British Museum, and may be able to give a supplementary note to this; or forward another next week.
DRYASDUST.

239] Since I wrote the above, I have received from Mr. R. S. Poole, keeper of the medals, British Museum, the following note:—"The British Museum possesses a specimen in silver of the medal of Charles Sackville by Natter. It corresponds to your description, except that beneath the bust on the obverse appears the inscription, "L. Natter, F," and a date, the first three figures of which are tolerably plain 173, but the fourth is obscure. Our specimen was acquired some years ago from the collection of Mr. Edward Hawkins, the antiquary. On the descriptive card accompanying it in the Museum cabinet, the date is given as 1733." I will write fully next week on this "find."
DRYASDUST.

During the absence of the Queen and Court in Scotland considerable improvements and repairs are being carried out in the interior of Buckingham Palace.

The Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City of London will, according to the latest arrangements, leave town next Wednesday to dedicate Burnham Beeches to the use and enjoyment of the public for ever.

An anniversary dinner, commemorative of the Relief of Lucknow, was given on Wednesday evening last at the Army and Navy Hotel, Westminster. Lord Napier of Magdala presided, and among the speakers were Sir H. Havelock-Allan, General Willis, and General Olpherts.



Craft Masonry.

HENRY MUGGERIDGE LODGE (No. 1679).

An ordinary meeting of the above lodge was held at the Masons' Hall Tavern, Coleman-street, on Saturday, the 22nd inst., when Bro. Alfred Sack, W.M., presided, supported by Bro. Charles Arnold, S.W.; S. Stampfer, J.W.; Henry Muggeridge, P.M. and Sec.; with several other officers and brethren. Minutes having been read and confirmed, Mr. Alfred James Read and Mr. George William Lock were initiated into the rites and mysteries of an E.A. In accordance with a proposed notice of motion given by Bro. Muggeridge, P.M. and Sec., at the last meeting of the lodge, it was unanimously resolved that the lodge subscribe one guinea annually to each of the four Masonic Charities. There being no further business the lodge was closed in due form.

GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE.—Lodge of Industry (No. 48).

The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening, the 24th inst., at the Industry Masonic Hall, Gateshead, when there was a good muster of brethren. In the absence of the W.M. the chair was occupied by Bro. J. G. Smith, I.P.M., supported by the following members and visitors: Bros. Robt. Whitfield, P.M.; M. Corbett, P.M., Treasurer; Wm. Garbutt, S.W.; A. Rhagg, J.W.; W. M. Pybus, Sec.; E. Shewbrooks, S.D.; Wm. Dalrymple, J.D.; W. W. Brown, I.G.; R. Ferry, Org.; W. F. Raeburn, S.S.; T. Thompson, J.S.; Joshua Curry, Tyler; Geo. Dunn, W. F. Carmon, W. Whitfield, S. Jopling, John Davison, John Bulmer, C. R. Gourlay, Jas. Bacon, J. T. Harrison, E. Liddell, W. Stafford, G. H. Dexter, E. W. Middlemast, C. Green, John Todd, C. McNamara, W.M. 97; J. Spearman, P.M. 481; Jos. Cook, P.M. 481; J. McKay, W.M. 481; H. S. Bird, W.M. 1664; J. T. Hooper, 1664; W. H. Dix, 431; J. Braithwaite, P.M. 1427; T. A. Moffitt, I.G. 424; R. W. Klyne, 1119; F. Graham, 1342; J. Armstrong, J.W. 1119; W. Mathieson, 481; F. Leddicot, 481; M. Watson, 481; and J. W. Robson, 1342.

The preliminary business having been gone through, the ballot was taken for Messrs. Walton Lee and William Richardson, who were duly elected. Both candidates being in attendance, they were formerly initiated by the acting Master, Bro. J. G. Smith, who also delivered the ancient charge. The working tools were explained by the J.W. Bros. J. Bulmer, C. R. Gourlay, and James Bacon were afterwards raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M. by Bro. J. G. Smith, I.P.M., who also explained the tracing board. The lodge was closed in the usual way, after two propositions for initiation had been made.

An adjournment was made to the refreshment room, where the remainder of the evening was spent in harmony.

DERBY.—Arboretum Lodge (No. 731).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge took place at the Masonic Hall, on Wednesday, the 12th inst., when the following brethren were present: Bros. J. Bland, W.M.; Geo. Cay, I.P.M.; C. Webster, S.W.; A. Frazer, P.M., as J.W.; W. Cooper, P.M., Sec.; Edgar Horne, S.D.; A. Woodiwiss, jun., J.D.; Thos. Day, as D. of C.; S. Taylor, as I.G.; J. Walker, Steward; J. W. Briggs, Org.; E. Holden, Tyler; G. T. Wright, P.M.; John Smith, P.M.; J. C. Merry, P.M.; Henry Burn, P.M.; J. Brown, P.M.; James Taylor, P.M.; W. Knight, Thos. Jordan, H. Goodall, W. W. Heywood, W. Forman, Geo. Sutherland, W. Humber, and L. J. Greensmith. Visitors: Bros. C. D. Hart, S.W. 1085; H. Carr, S.D. 1085; J. Monck, 802; W. J. Piper, J.W. 802; and S. Morley, Steward 1729. Bro. Thomas Roe, the junior M.P. for Derby (who is a member of this lodge, and P.M. of 802), was also present. The officers who were absent from various causes sent apologies for non-attendance.

The minutes of the last lodge were first read and confirmed. The ballot was then taken for Mr. Charles Field, a candidate for Freemasonry, who was duly elected. Bro. W. Forman was next duly raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M. by the W.M., whose working called forth great praise from the brethren generally. A candidate for initiation was proposed. Attention was called to a circular received by Bro. J. C. Merry, P.M., from the De Grey and Ripon Lodge, No. 837, respecting the picnic to be held at Fountains Abbey. The circular was read by the W.M. A letter was also read by the W.M. with respect to Bro. James Stevens, P.M., &c., of London, having offered to attend and give his lecture on the Third Degree. It was unanimously decided by the brethren to invite Bro. Stevens during October, the arrangements being left to the W.M. and Wardens. "Hearty good Wishes" having been given by the visiting brethren, and nothing further offering, the lodge was closed.

The brethren shortly after assembled in the lower hall for supper, at which the W.M. presided. Grace having been said,

The Worshipful Master gave the toast of "The Queen and the Craft." The National Anthem having been sung by Bro. Brigg, Org.

The toast of "The M.W. the Grand Master" was then briefly proposed by Bro. John Smith, P.M., after which the Worshipful Master gave "The Pro Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the other Officers of Grand Lodge," announcing his intention of his being present at the December meeting of Grand Lodge and trusting all those qualified to attend would endeavour to do so on that occasion.

Bro. George Cay, I.P.M., then proposed the toast of "The Prov. G.M., the Deputy Prov. G.M., and the other officers of Prov. Grand Lodge," to which Bros. A. Frazer, P.M., P.P.G.S.D., and John Smith, P.M., P.P.G.J.W., very suitably responded.

Bro. C. Webster, S.W., then in brief but suitable terms proposed "The Health of the W.M." which was received with three times three.

The Worshipful Master in response again assured the brethren of his great anxiety to keep up the prestige of the lodge; also the pleasure it gave him that his efforts thus far had met with their approbation.

The toast of "The Past Masters" was then given by the Worshipful Master, who expressed the pleasure it gave him at once again seeing their esteemed Bro. Henry Burn amongst them; also that Bro. Thomas Roe had again, after a long interval, been able to be present, hoping also that during the Parliamentary recess they would frequently have him at the lodge.

To this toast, Bros. G. T. Wright, H. Burn, and T. Roe replied, the latter expressing his great pleasure at having again had an opportunity of visiting his lodge and witnessing the admirable working of the W.M. and his officers.

"The Visitors" was then proposed by the Worshipful Master, who referred to the fact that last lodge night this toast had to be omitted, owing to there being no visitor present to respond, and he trusted such an event would never again occur, as the Arboretum brethren always cordially welcomed visitors amongst them, and strongly recommended the practice of visiting to become more general.

In response to this toast admirable replies were made by Bros. W. J. Piper, J.W. 802, and Henry Carr, S.D. 1085.

The Worshipful Master in proposing the toast of "The Officers," spoke in high praise of them all. A better set it would be almost impossible to get together. He greatly regretted that their Bro. Maxey, I.G., was still too ill to attend. Bro. J. Walker, Steward, had also met with an accident, and although able to be driven down to attend lodge, was too lame to remain. He sincerely trusted both brethren would soon be restored to their former health and strength.

The officers present responded, one and all expressing the pleasure it gave them to work with the W.M.

The Tyler's toast brought a very successful meeting to a close at the usual hour. Some excellent songs were given by Bros. W. J. Piper, E. Horne, W. Forman, J. W. Brigg, and N. Burn.

WHITEHAVEN.—Lewis Lodge (No. 872).

The first meeting for the season of the above lodge was held on Monday, the 17th inst., when there was a large gathering. Bro. Thomas Glessal, W.M., presided, supported by his officers: Bros. H. Burns, S.W.; W. Carmichael, J.W.; J. Jackson, S.D.; J. S. Wilson, J.D.; Robert Iwentymen, Sec.; F. Hodgson, P.M., I.G.; W. Selkirk, Tyler; R. D. Metcalf and I. F. Mayson, Stwds.; C. Morton, P.M., P.P.G.S.W.; Thomas Atkinson, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; W. Cowman, P.M.; J. J. Robinson, P.M., P.P.G.T., W.M. 1989; Geo. Dalrymple, P.M., P.G.D.C.; W. Beetenson, P.M. 637; R. Baxter, P.M. 1267; W. Lewis, J. Sewell, J. M. Clarke, J. Jacques, J. Dixon, J. McGowan, J. Townson, G. W. Smith, T. F. Braythwaite, 119; W. A. Davis, David Bell, S.W. 1660; Charles Gowan, Edward Irven, 1989; and others.

On the confirmation of the minutes the chief business was to raise Bro. Henry Jackson, which ceremony was performed by the W.M. in a faultless manner. On the proposition of two candidates and other general business having been disposed of, with "Hearty good wishes," the lodge was closed in harmony and the brethren adjourned for an hour or two, to do honour to the loyal and Masonic toasts, and with a few capital songs from Bros. Bell, Irven, and Hodgson a very pleasant evening was spent.

BATTLE.—Abbey Lodge (No. 1184).

The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday evening, the 20th inst., at the Masonic Hall. The attendance was very small, in consequence of many of the brethren being away from home. Bro. W. Lamborn, P.M., P.P.G.P., presided, in the absence of the W.M., Bro. A. D. Womersley, being supported by Bros. J. B. Sargent, P.M.; C. W. Till, acting S.W.; T. J. Walder, acting J.W.; R. Hughes, Sec.; Jordan, acting S.D.; C. Martin, acting J.D.; J. Fielding, Org.; R. Davison, M.D., acting I.G.; Jesson, Tyler; and H. Foster. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and the lodge afterwards closed.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Walker Lodge (No. 1342).

The regular monthly meeting of this successful and promising lodge was held on Wednesday evening, the 12th inst., in the lodge rooms, Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-street, W., when a good many members and visitors (between 50 and 55) were present. The chair was occupied by the W.M., Bro. William Smith, P.M., P.P.G. Supt. of Works.

The minutes of the last regular meeting having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for Bro. John Patterson, 48, as a joining member, and he was declared duly elected. The ballots were taken for Quartermaster Sergt. William Eagle, and Quartermaster Sergt. Adam Hutton, and they were duly elected and being in attendance were initiated into the Craft by the W.M., Bro. William Swan Armstrong explaining the working tools. Bros. Jurgensen, Fletcher, Taylor, Urwin, and Smales were next passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft by the W.M. Bro. Dixon Cowie, S.W., explained the working tools. Two candidates were then proposed, and the Treasurer having intimated that he had received the lease of the lodge rooms, taking possession from the May meeting, "Hearty good wishes" were tendered from several lodges and the lodge was closed in love and harmony, the brethren adjourning to the festive board, where a light repast was provided by the W.M., who occupied the chair, being supported in the vice-chair by the S.W. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been duly honoured,

The Worshipful Master proposed the toast of "The Visitors," to which Bro. Richard Symonds, P.M. Percy Lodge, and Bro. Cummins, P.M. St. Nicholas Lodge, in their usual affable manner, ably responded. The Worshipful Master also thanked Bros. Roope, acting Org.; W. T. Clarke, acting I.G.; John Taylor Schollar, J.S.; Wm. Varty, and W. F. Carman for their very valuable assistance.

The Worshipful Master proposed the toast of "The Newly-Initiated Candidates," whose remarks were supplemented by Bros. M. Blackett, William Cooper, I.P.M.; and Joseph Cook, P.M.

The newly-initiated candidates suitably responded, and remarked that as they had worked their way up step by step in her most gracious Majesty's service they would also endeavour to work harmoniously and in unison with a society with which it had for a considerable time been their hope and wish to be connected.

Several other toasts were given and a most enjoyable and harmonious evening was brought to a close by the Worshipful Master requesting Bro. Joshua Curry, P.P.G. Tyler, to give the usual Tyler's toast.

Amongst the brethren present were Bros. William Smith, P.M., P.P.G. Supt. of Works, W.M.; William Cooper, P.M., P.P.G.J.D., I.P.M.; Dixon Cowie, S.W.; Wm. Swan Armstrong, J.D.; Alderson Barker, P.M., Treas.; Josep Purvis, Sec.; John Donald Annan, P.M., D. of C.; Henry Spittle, S.D.; Thomas Palmer Bennett, J.D.; W. T. Clarke, acting I.G.; Jethro William Mathers, S.S.; John Taylor Schollar, acting J.S.; Joshua Curry, Tyler; George McDonald, Archibald Irwin, Robert Smales, Isaac Taylor, Robert Fletcher, Matthew Blackett, Joseph Cook, P.M., P.P.G.S.W.; Christian Jurgensen, George Brown, John William Robson, Frank Graham, J. McKay, W.M. 481; William Varty, Alexander Simpson, John Brown, P.S.W.; John Patterson, and others. Visitors: Bros. C. E. Pattison, 44; J. D. Maughan, 1643; John Clarke, 240; W. T. Clarke, 315, 1829, &c.; Charles Roope, S.W. 24; Wm. F. Carman, J.W. 481; J. Dempsey, 836, Bengal; R. W. Cummins, I.P.M. 1676; Richard Symonds, P.M. 1427 and 1626, P.P.G. Purst.; Charles Purdan, 36; M. Watson, 481; and others.

DUNMOW.—Rosslyn Lodge (No. 1543).—The first meeting this season of this lodge took place on the 18th inst., at the Saracen's Head Hotel. Present: Bros. H. Dehane, P.P.G.S.D., W.M.; A. Rattray, S.W.; G. D. Clapham, P.P.G.R., J.W.; F. J. Snell, P.M., Treas.; F. W. Warner, Sec.; C. J. Rhind, J.D.; W. Rowe, I.G.; R. Russell, Tyler; E. F. Ferris, and C. Bint.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes were read and confirmed. Bros. Ferris and Bint were raised to the Third Degree, the ceremony being performed by the W.M. in his usual able manner. Bro. Rattray was elected W.M. for the ensuing year; Bro. Snell, Treas.; and Bro. Russell, Tyler. After the usual routine business had been completed the lodge was closed.

The brethren then adjourned to refreshment provided by the host. The W.M. gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, and complimented the W.M. elect, wishing him a prosperous year of office.

Bro. Clapham in proposing "The Health of the W.M." eulogised Bro. Dehane on the manner he had conducted the business of the lodge during the two years he had been in the chair.

The Worshipful Master suitably replied, and mentioned that he was going to represent the lodge as Steward at the forthcoming festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The Tyler's toast concluded a very pleasant evening.

HEBBURN-ON-TYNE.—Perseverance Lodge (No. 1643).

On Wednesday week the usual meeting of the brethren of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, Ellison House, Hebburn Quay, when there was a numerous attendance of members and visitors. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. Geo. Hardy, assisted by Bros. J. McCulloch, P.M., P.P.G.J.W., acting I.P.M.; S. Chadwick, S.W.; C. W. Newlands, J.W.; F. Pittuck, Sec., and others. Bros. Marley and Johnson were raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason by Bro. Geo. Hardy, W.M. There being no other business the lodge was closed in love and harmony.

CROYDON.—Old England Lodge (No. 1790).

The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 10th inst., at the Masonic Hall, New Thornton Heath. The attendance list was as follows: Bros. E. Whittaker, W.M.; J. Sargeant, S.W.; T. Baber, J.W.; F. Ridpath, Sec.; T. Ranson, S.D.; C. Tarry, J.D.; C. Steng, I.G.; J. Bavin, Tyler; F. C. Pascall, P.M.; R. J. Smith, W. Best, C. Wordsworth, C. Daniel, P.M. 65, Geo. K. Pugh, J. Kilvington, Hugh M. Hobbs, Harry Hollands, James Clarke, R. F. S. Hodge, William Horton, and Alfred Haskins. Visitors: Bros. Geo. Tarran, 1928; and J. Brunker, 1360.

The lodge having been opened in due form, Bro. Ridpath read the minutes of the last meeting, which were confirmed. Bro. Harry Hollands having been raised to the Second Degree, Bros. Horton and Hodge were raised to the Third Degree, the ceremony of raising being performed for the first time by Bro. Whittaker, W.M., whose working and delivery of the exhortations, &c., elicited the warmest congratulations from Bro. Pascall, I.P.M., and the other Past Masters present and the members of the lodge generally. It was decided on the motion of Bro. Kilvington, seconded by Bro. Ranson, S.D., that the lodge meetings be held on the third Thursday in the month instead of the second Monday, the necessity for the change arising from the fact that several members of the lodge had been elected members of the newly-formed Croydon Town Council. Before the lodge separated "Hearty good wishes" were expressed by Bros. Daniel, P.M. 65; Brunker, P.M. 1360; and Geo. Tarran, 1928.

NORTH WALSHAM.—Suffield Lodge (No. 1808).

The annual installation meeting of this lodge took place at the Angel Hotel, on Wednesday, the 19th inst., under very auspicious circumstances. Many distinguished brethren assembled to do honour to the newly elected W.M., Bro. D. G. F. Gaul, who is universally respected in Masonry. The lodge was opened by the retiring W.M., Bro. G. W. Rogers, who was assisted by his officers as follows: Bros. D. G. F. Gaul, W.M. elect, S.W.; Horace Randall, J.W.; A. Woolbright, I.P.M.; John Boyce, P.M., P.P.S.G.D., Treas.; A. Bullard, P.M., P.P.A.G. D.C.; N. B. Webster, S.D.; J. Lovelace, J.D.; Rev. Geo. Sharley, Chap.; John Dixon, Org.; Chas. Barnes, Sec.; Geo. Baxter, I.G.; and E. Hollidge, Tyler. There were also present Bros. F. B. Quinton, P.M., P.P.A.G. D.C., P.P.G.R.; Edward Pugh, F. H. Lann, L. E. Rump, T. R. Newman, Horace B. Green, W. T. Sturgess, W. R. Anthony, Rob. Palmer, Fred Bullard, E. Powison, W. Churchyard, R. Bacon, A. M. Burrows, B. Seaman, W. F. Stratford, Josiah Cooke, and R. N. Palmer. Among the visitors were Bros. H. Bullard, C. P. Collier, and Thomas Watson, of 52; J. J. Commins, P.M., P.P.G.P.; F. C. Atkinson, P.M. 1648, P.G. Org.; H. Thonless, P.M., P.P.G.S.D.; Thos. Breeze, J. H. Brockbank, P.G.S.; C. L. Holden and H. J. Brookes, 93; John Etheredge, I.P.M. 305, P.M. 100, P.P.G.J.D.; G. I. Parr, W.M. 102; James Dunsford, P.M., P.P.G.P.; Chas. E. Sexton, W.M., and C. W. Bacon, P.G.S., 213; George Baxter, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.D.C.; George Hammond, A. Sidell, J. R. Buddon, H. S. Howlett, G. F. Crowe, P.M. 305, 313, I.P.M. 975, 1631, P.P.G.P. Suffolk; E. Wilkins, 988; S. J. Carman, W.M.; Thos. Lord, P.M., P.P.G.S.

of W.; James Hoborough, G. S. Smith, Fred Morgan, W. R. Le Strange, C. J. Camping, R. Tidnam, and R. H. Gissing, P.G. Steward, 1500; W. E. Tuddenham and J. W. Browne (*Freemason*), 507.

The lodge having been opened the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of installation then took place, which was most efficiently performed by Bro. F. B. Quinton, who rendered the charges in the most perfect manner and style. Bro. D. G. F. Gaul having been duly installed into the chair of K.S., appointed his officers as follows: Bros. G. W. Rogers, I.P.M.; H. Randall, S.W.; N. B. Webster, J.W.; John Boyce, Treas.; J. Lovelace, S.D.; G. S. Smith, (temporarily) J.D.; A. Bullard, D. of C.; C. Barnes, Sec.; John Dixon, Org.; Rev. Sharley, Chap.; E. Pugh, I.G.; and E. Hollidge, Tyler. Two propositions having been made, and "Hearty good wishes" being given, the lodge was closed in peace and harmony.

After a short interval, the brethren assembled again in the banqueting room, where a most recherché banquet had been provided by Host H. B. Green in splendid style, at the conclusion of which the usual loyal, Masonic, and other toasts were given and duly acknowledged, and the evening passed in a most pleasant and harmonious manner. Several excellent songs and glees were given by Bros. H. J. Brooks, C. L. Holden, H. Thonless, F. C. Atkinson, and J. H. Brockbank (Norwich Cathedral), and violin solos by Bro. W. E. Tuddenham; Bro. C. J. Camping acted as accompanist.

We congratulate Bro. D. G. F. Gaul upon his elevation, and trust that he may have a successful year of office.

INSTRUCTION.

PERCY LODGE (No. 198).—A meeting of this lodge was held at the Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road, N., on Saturday, 22nd inst., when there were present Bros. James Terry, P.P.G.S.W. Norths and Hunts, W.M.; George Lambert, P.G.S.B., S.W.; I. P. Cohen, P.M., 205, J.W.; T. I. Bird, W.M., 1897, P.P.G.S.B. Middx., S.D.; J. A. Powell, J.D.; Killick, jun., P.G.S.B. Herts., I.G.; Percy, Preceptor; C. Lorkin, Treas.; Galer, Sec.; Rushton, Org.; and a very large muster of brethren who had assembled to witness the ceremonies of consecration and installation by so distinguished a brother.

The lodge was opened in due form with prayer and the minutes of the last lodge meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the Second and Third Degrees. Bro. James Terry having addressed the brethren on the nature of the meeting proceeded to rehearse the ceremony of consecration in a very effective manner. The lodge was then resumed to the Second Degree, and Bro. F. Orchard, W.M. of the mother lodge, was presented as W.M. elect. The lodge was resumed to the Third Degree, and Bro. Orchard having been installed into the chair of K.S. was duly saluted by the brethren in the three degrees and the ceremony completed. The following brethren were unanimously elected joining members: Bros. Carter, 45; Carr, 198; Gilderslery, 193; Laughton, 1839; Jones, 1278; Bean, 1298; Baxter, 1306; Ockelford, 813; Callaghan, 1208; Burrows, 1347; D. Glass, 212; Scarlett, 1471; Jones, 1766; Drysdale, 1766; Clark, 1766; Pringle, 1275; Brampton, 1693; and Coop, 141.

A very cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. Jas. Terry for his kindness in working the ceremonies of consecration and installation, and in reply Bro. Terry expressed his willingness at all times to do all in his power for the benefit of Freemasonry, more especially on the present occasion, as the Percy Lodge was his first lodge of instruction.

A very cordial vote of thanks was also accorded to Bros. G. Lambert, F. Orchard, and Carr, the officers of the mother lodge, who had so kindly honoured the brethren with their presence, thus showing the interest the mother lodge takes in its offspring.

Bro. G. Lambert, P.G.S.B., in a lengthy and very interesting reply referred to the different vicissitudes through which the Percy Lodge of Instruction had passed during its existence of nearly a century.

Nothing further having offered for the good of Freemasonry, the lodge was closed in ancient form, and the brethren subsequently resolved themselves into an harmonious meeting, thus closing a very enjoyable evening and a red-letter day in the history of the lodge.

HYDE PARK LODGE (No. 1425).—The weekly meeting of this lodge was held at the Fountains Abbey Hotel, 111, Praed-street, on Monday, the 24th inst., the following being present: Bros. J. T. Mickelburgh, P.M. 1425, W.M.; James Stevens, P.M. 720 and 1216, S.W.; C. R. Wickens, J.W.; W. H. Chalfont, W.M. 1425, S.D.; R. E. Cursons, J.D.; J. C. Rhind, I.G.; G. Read, P.M., Preceptor; H. Dehane, W.M. 1543, P.P.G. S.D. Essex, Sec.; C. Horton, W.S.; D. Shond, W.M. Matthews, A. Hardy, C. S. Mote, S. R. Walker, J. Lawrence, J. Reid, H. Robinson, B. P. Smith, P. Monson, J. C. Morse, J. Chapman, and M. J. Green.

The lodge was opened in due form and the minutes were read and confirmed. The ceremonies of initiation and raising were worked, Bros. Matthews and Green being the candidates, the W.M. giving the traditional history. The lodge was closed down to the First Degree, and Bro. Stevens was unanimously elected W.M. for next meeting. After the lodge was closed a ballot was drawn, being the sixth since April.

TREDEGAR LODGE (No. 1625).—The meetings of this lodge were resumed for the session on Monday last week, at the Royal Hotel, Mile End-road. To give éclat to the event, Bro. W. Musto, P.M., had kindly consented to work the ceremony of installation upon this evening. Unfortunately owing to an accident Bro. Musto was unable to be present and Bro. B. Cundick, P.M. 1421, most kindly undertook the work and discharged his duties in his usual able manner. Bro. Cundick was capably supported by Bros. McDonald, S.W.; Tyer, J.W.; T. Loane, S.D.; Job, J.D.; G. Price, I.G.; Moss, B. Stewart, Hon. Sec.; Robinson, Eastland, Isaacs, Peterken, Bardou-leau, Phillips, G. Brown, and others.

During the rendering of the beautiful ceremony Bro. F. Robinson acted as W.M. elect, and Bro. W. H. Myers rendered very valuable assistance as Master of Ceremonies.

Subsequently Bro. Stewart worked the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Sections of the First Lecture, thereby giving great promise as to the manner in which he would

preside on Wednesday last, at the Burdett Coutts Lodge, No. 1278; and when the 15 Sections were to be worked. Bros. G. Brown, P.M. 169, and G. Price, 554, were admitted to membership of the lodge, and the high services Bro. Cundick, P.M., had rendered to the lodge at so short a notice were acknowledged by a cordial vote of thanks to that worthy brother.

Thus an eminently successful meeting terminated, and we hope the meetings of this lodge during the session so well inaugurated may prove of eminent service to the Craft. Lodge meets at 8 o'clock each Monday evening.

Royal Arch.

HASTINGS.—Emulation Chapter (No. 40).—The quarterly convocation of this chapter was held at the Castle Hotel on Monday, the 17th inst., under the presidency of Comp. F. Rossiter, M.E.Z. There were also present Comps. E. W. J. Hennah, H.; W. Dawes, J.; J. B. Sargent, S.E.; W. H. Russell, S.N.; F. de B. Cooper, P.S.; J. Hirst and J. B. Foord, acting Asst. Sojs.; Foster, Janitor; T. Trollope, M.D., P.P.G.P.S., P.Z.; T. H. Cole, I.P.Z.; G. F. Wood, and Henry Kimm (*Freemason*).

The chapter having been opened and the minutes of last meeting read and confirmed, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Comp. E. W. J. Hennah, H., for his presentation to the chapter of a handsome robe for the J. chair. A ballot was then taken for Bro. W. T. Jordan, 1184, and declared favourable, after which Bro. R. Hughes, who had been previously balloted for, and was now in attendance, was, with Bro. W. T. Jordan, exalted to the Supreme Degree of the Royal Arch by the M.E.Z., Comp. F. Rossiter, with the assistance of his officers. Comp. Dawes, J., delivered the historical lecture, Comp. F. Rossiter, Z., the symbolical, and Comp. T. Trollope, P.Z., the mystical, in impressive tones, and were listened to with wrapt attention. Some further business having been disposed of the chapter was closed.

Knights Templar.

YORK.—Ancient Ebor Preceptory (No. 101).—The regular meeting of this preceptory was held on Tuesday, the 11th inst., when there present E. Frater M. Millington, Preceptor; T. B. Whythead, P.P., Reg.; J. S. Cumberland, P.P., Sub-Marshal; W. Lawton, P.P., as Chap.; A. T. B. Turner, Marshal; Geo. Simpson, P.P.; W. Brown, Captain of Guards; and others. Successful ballots were taken for Comps. W. P. Moat, Prince of Wales Lodge and Chapter, 1338, Auckland, New Zealand, and Capt. O. J. Cavenagh, Agricola Lodge, 1991, and Zetland Chapter, 236, after which Comp. Moat was received and installed a knight of the Order by E. Frater T. B. Whythead. The Registrar produced the balance-sheet of the expenses of the reception of the American visitors in July, which was regarded as showing a very satisfactory result, thanks to the liberality of the leading members of the Order. The alms having been collected, the conclave was closed and the fratres adjourned to the Queen's Hotel, where supper was served.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The General Committee of this Institution met on Thursday afternoon, at Freemasons' Hall, Col. Creaton, Past Grand Treasurer, in the chair. There were also present Bros. John A. Rucker, C. H. Webb, A. H. Tattershall, J. H. Matthews, Arthur E. Gladwell, Col. Jas. Peters, Charles John Perceval, E. M. Money, F. R. W. Hedges, Sec.; and H. Massey (*Freemason*).

After the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the former meeting and the reading of the minutes of the House Committee for information, Bro. J. H. Matthews moved in accordance with a recommendation of the House Committee that the sum of £7 10s. each be granted to a pupil named Gardiner and another pupil named Meacock, to enable them to attend German classes at the Crystal Palace for one year.

Bro. A. E. GLADWELL seconded the motion, remarking that the amount was very small for so large an advantage.

The motion was carried.

Bro. J. H. MATTHEWS moved that the sum of £70 a year be paid for church accommodation at the church at Clapham, for the children of the school, in lieu of the £35 a year honorarium to the chaplain hitherto paid. The institution, he said, occupied 250 seats at the church aforesaid, and remarks had been made that the institution paid very little for church accommodation.

Col. PETERS seconded the motion.

Bro. C. H. WEBB asked whether this church was a ritualistic church.

Col. CREATON said he did not think it was either high church or low church, but moderate church.

The motion was agreed to.

Three candidates were placed on the list for election in April next.

Bro. J. H. MATTHEWS gave notice of the following motion for the next Quarterly Court in October:

"That the sum of £50 be granted to Miss Davis, the head governess, towards reimbursement of the very heavy medical and other expenses incurred by her during her late severe illness, which necessitated her absence from her duties from January to July last."

Bro. Col. CREATON said he had a small matter now to bring forward, which was nevertheless very agreeable. He had been going through the financial position of the Institution, and he found that the funds would admit of a sum of £2000 being now invested. He therefore proposed that £2000 be now invested in Three per Cent. Reduced.

Bro. Col. PETERS seconded the motion, which was thereupon put and carried.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

South Africa.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF NATAL.

An important event in the annals of Freemasonry in the colony of Natal took place on Friday, the 24th ult., in the Masonic Hall, Longmarket-street, Pietermaritzburg, when the first regular communication of the newly formed District Grand Lodge was held. It will be remembered that on the 28th March last, at Durban, a largely attended meeting was held, at which Bro. R. I. Finemore, R.M., now Acting Second Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, was installed as District Grand Master under letters patent from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as Grand Master of the Order, and the following officers were appointed: V.W. Bro. Wesley Francis, Deputy D.G.M.; W. Bro. George Russell, D.G.S.W.; W. Bro. John Roseveare, D.G.J.W.; Bro. Rev. J. Reynolds, D.G. Chap.; W. Bro. S. Marriott, D.G. Treas.; W. Bro. A. C. Dulcken, D.G. Reg.; W. Bro. E. Homersham Wiltshier, D.G. Sec.; W. Bro. A. Keeler, Asst. D.G. Sec.; W. Bro. T. J. Hill, D.G.S.D.; W. Bro. J. Crowe, D.G.J.D.; W. Bro. Jesse Smith, D.G.S. of W.; W. Bro. G. O. Matterson, D.G.D. of C.; W. Bro. W. A. Voysey, Asst. D.G.D. of C.; W. Bro. W. Sink, D.G. Swd. Br.; W. Bro. Rev. Alfred Ikin, LL.D., Mus. Doc., D.G. Org.; W. Bro. S. Stranack, D.G. Purst.; W. Bro. F. H. Field, Asst. D.G. Purst. It was then arranged that another meeting should be held at Pietermaritzburg, as soon as might be found convenient, for the passing of bye-laws and transaction of other important business; and accordingly the present meeting was convened, there being a large attendance of brethren from all parts of the colony.

R.W. Bro. Finemore, Dist. G.M., opened the lodge in due form, and the roll of the lodges under the jurisdiction of the District Grand Lodge was then called as follows: Port Natal Lodge, No. 738; Prince Alfred, No. 956; Inanda, No. 1192; Natalia, 1665; Carnarvon, No. 1084; Skelmersdale, No. 1729; Umvoti, No. 1867; Addington, No. 1937; Umlazi, No. 1976; and it was found that every lodge was duly represented, except the Inanda.

The R.W. DISTRICT GRAND MASTER stated that steps were being taken for the establishment of a lodge at Newcastle and another at Ixopo, and that it was also contemplated to establish lodges at other places in the colony. He had also received private communications intimating the probability that the lodges at Harrismith and Kokstad might be induced to come under the jurisdiction of the District Grand Lodge.

The minutes of the last regular meeting of District Grand Lodge were read and confirmed.

R.W. Bro. R. I. FINEMORE then addressed the brethren. He said he had, as their District Grand Master, summoned them together for the purpose of holding, for the first time in Pietermaritzburg, a meeting of the recently constituted District Grand Lodge of Natal, and there would, of necessity, be some important business to be laid before them for consideration. As to himself and the position which he was proud to occupy amongst them, if anything could dispel the diffidence which anyone must naturally feel in assuming an onerous and important office such as that of their District Grand Master, it was the fact that on this the first occasion on which he appeared before them in that capacity, in the neighbourhood of his home and early associations, he saw so large and influential a number of brethren assembled to welcome him, and that he had met from them so kindly, cordial, and hospitable a reception as that with which they had that day greeted him. He looked upon that large and satisfactory assembly as a good augury of the prosperity of each individual lodge; and it emboldened him to entertain a firm confidence, which he knew was not misplaced, that every brother would do his best to promote the welfare of their beloved Craft, and the success of their District Grand Lodge; that each individual lodge in the district would lend him its support and assistance, without which his labour must be in vain. He was glad to find that the three Maritzburg lodges had worked together so heartily and unanimously to secure the success of the meeting, thus showing that since his departure from amongst them, some two and a-half years ago, nothing had occurred to disturb the calm ripple or closed the sunshine which then prevailed. He was also glad to find that their meeting was appropriately held under the banner of the Prince Alfred Lodge—the oldest lodge in the city, and the second oldest lodge in the colony—and in the room in which, some eight years ago, he first saw the light of Freemasonry. He assured them that he esteemed very highly the fraternal regard which they had shown toward him, and that while he had the honour to hold his present office among them, it would be his constant and earnest ambition and endeavour so to fulfil the duties devolving on him as to retain their good feeling and confidence, and to give satisfaction to the members of the Craft generally. Assembled together as they were that day, on an important event in the annals of Freemasonry in that city, namely, the first opening of a District Grand Lodge there, it was, he thought, only right and fitting that some expression should be given to the feelings with which on such an occasion as that, the hearts of all true Masons were filled. On any important event happening in the fortunes of an individual, or a family, it was a matter of pride and congratulation when those who were interested in the circumstances could look back upon an ancient and noble history. No one could be so absorbed in the busy present as not to have a glory thrown upon them by a past that is full of lustre and of fame. Freemasons might be excused if on such an occasion they looked back with pride on their past history, and from a contemplation of past life and past achievements have created within them incentives to further progress and still greater work. The history of the Craft was, as they were all well aware, an illustrious one, and one which any public body of men might be justified in regarding with feelings of pride and satisfaction. If, after the manner of not a few incorporations, some families, and many nations, they looked back into the long distant past which fable and tradition and imagination had made peculiarly their own, and had illumined with their fanciful and picturesque rays, they might delight themselves by tracing the origin of their wonderfully organised and beautiful system of government and symbolic ritual through the old Roman Empire, and back to the time of Pharaoh. They might imagine their ancestors working in the solemn precincts of eastern quarries, by skilful measurement and delicate adjustment, by cunning workmanship, by marvellous imitation of the flowers of the field and the exquisite beauty

which distinguished the handicraft of the great Architect of the Universe, preparing the stones, which, as if by magic, were at a given time to be gathered together and erected into the Temple of Solomon. They could, in imagination, stand by with bated breath and reverent silence, watching them put one stone upon another, without sound of axe or hammer, for they were told—

"No sound of axe or metal tool through all that time was heard,

No Craftsman broke the harmony with one discordant word,

For so the work was portioned out by Solomon the Wise, From corner-stone to capital no discord could arise."

As if by the gradual growth of nature—

"Like some tall palm the noiseless fabric sprang."

After all was built, and the Temple had been dedicated to the worship of the Great Jehovah, they could in imagination wander about its sacred courts and contemplate the marks and signs of their Craft. They could be present when the smoke of sacrifice and the fragrance of incense ascended from the sacred altar, and hear the chant of psalms in antiphonal measure. Further than that, in imagination they could see their ancestors taking part in the proud ambitious attempt which led to the building of the Tower of Babel, and feel themselves secure with them as on the ark they rode safely amidst the tumult of many waters. But they do not need to throw the fanciful rays of imagination around their history. They might well be satisfied to take their stand on the more certain foundation of its historic and approved truths. They could go back to the time when the world was much younger than it is now, and when to be a clever and cunning Craftsman was to be one of the foremost men of the day, to be the chosen companion of Princes and necessary appendages of royal courts. At a time when Craftsmen banded themselves together and took a real pride in their work and in the dignity and importance of their avocation, it was pleasing for them to think that a variety of circumstances combined to give importance and influence to those Craftsmen who were skilled in the handling and setting of stones. As great cathedrals and churches and many important buildings sprang up in different parts of the world, the services of the most skilful were anxiously sought after. Masons from many quarters flocked to the spot to take part in the work, living in camps and tents beside the building upon which they were engaged. Over this group a Master presided, and every tenth man was a warden having surveillance over the rest; and it then became desirable and even necessary that means should be devised by which a person once a member of the Fraternity might be universally accepted as such, without requiring wherever he went to give fresh evidence of his skill, or having to undergo a renewed examination as to his qualifications. Thus there sprang into existence a series of symbols, in which every Mason was instructed, and which he was bound to keep secret; and this not only enabled him to find work, but, in pursuit of it, it enabled him to claim hospitality of his brother Masons. Such are the foundations of modern or speculative Masonry, and they have reason to be proud of them. The purpose for which, as a body, they now existed—now that they no longer engage in the erection of material edifices, but occupied themselves in spiritual buildings—is the practice of moral and social virtue; and the distinguishing characteristic of their Order was charity, in its widest and noblest sense. The precepts which they inculcated were brotherly love, relief, and truth. They had a beautiful system of morality, founded on the teachings of religion, about which there ought to be no question, and there is a charity about which there could be no dispute. In the words of the poet—

"In faith or hope the world may disagree,
Mankind's concern is charity."

It is the crowning glory of the Masonic Institution that, above all the din and confusion of earth it so clearly sounds forth the watchword of human brotherhood and flies the white banner of love.

"Ours are the ample views that, unconfined,
Stretch to the utmost walks of human kind;
Ours the spirit that, with widest plan,
Brother to brother binds, and man to man.
When the fleet vanities of life's brief day
Oblivion's hurrying wing shall sweep away,
Each act by charity and mercy done
High o'er the wrecks of time shall live alone,
Immortal as the heavens, and beauteous bloom
In other worlds and realms beyond the tomb."

As it was written in their ancient chronicles, so would he repeat the sentiment as a fitting legend for that occasion—

"Love to God, sweet peace and charity to all men." He called their attention to their high calling and vocation as Masons, and exhorted them to walk reverently toward God, and lovingly toward men, thus reflecting the true glory of their ancient institution, and making this world something the brighter and better by their having lived in it. If their practice should be commensurate with their professions, and if they honestly endeavoured to act upon the principles which they had sworn to maintain, then Masonry must become a real blessing to any community, and everything, such as the establishment of their District Grand Lodge, which tends to consolidate and strengthen it, must conduce in some degree to the true and existing prosperity of the colony. Let each individual Mason feel the responsibility which rests upon him. Let him know that it may be his part to bring honour or dishonour upon his Craft, and let them all be found in the straight path of integrity, honour, and virtue:

"United then and for these ends,
Let scorn deride and envy rail;
From age to age the Craft descends,
And what we build shall never fail."

If they succeed in their endeavours, who could tell the amount of pleasure and profit which might result. The labours of this regular communication of the District Grand Lodge of Natal having been begun in order, and the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe having been invoked on their proceedings, might they be continued in peace, and closed in love and harmony. So mote it be!

At the conclusion of the address, the District Grand Lodge proceeded to discuss the draft bye-laws, and passed a number of them provisionally. There was besides sundry other business which was brought before the lodge. The following brethren were appointed District Grand Stewards: Bros. W. A. Smith (Natalia Lodge), Peter Flett (Carnarvon), T. Cook (Port Natal), W. F. Stanton (Umlazi), W. H. Kinsman (Addington), and R. W. Horsley (Skelmersdale).

The District Grand Lodge was then closed in due form, and in the evening the brethren assembled again at a sumptuous banquet provided by the three Pietermaritzburgh lodges, at which R. W. Bro. Finnemore and the officers of District Grand Lodge from Durban were entertained as guests. We shall report the proceedings in a future number.

Australia.

THE VICTORIAN GRAND LODGE QUESTION.

(Correspondence from the "Melbourne Argus" re the above question, continued from last week.)

Sir,—The letter which appears in your issue of to-day, signed "Constitutional," and the circular letter of Julius Willmott referred to by "Masonic Progress," deserve notice, because the former is erroneous, and therefore misleading, and the second because it is unmasonic in more senses than one.

"Constitutional" is clearly, by his own showing, no authority with regard to facts. He states, with regard to the Grand Lodge of New South Wales, that "some three years ago" it was formed, whereas the time should have been nearer seven years. Writers who set themselves up as authorities should first of all be accurate in their facts. Then, again, he is wrong about the Victorian Lodge being formed on an "American basis." It is nothing of the sort, but follows the grand example (noted below) of the four lodges which, when Masonry was at a low ebb in England, as it is now here, formed the Grand Lodge of England. His extract from the Book of Constitutions, 1763, is altogether misleading, and for his information, as well as to remove some of that dense ignorance which unfortunately exists in the minds of many of the Craft as to the early history of Freemasonry in England, I will, with your permission, in as terse a manner as possible, relate what actually took place. My authorities, let me state, are standard works.

I shall commence with the establishment of Masonry in York in 926 A.D., when Masons met under the special protection of King Athelstan, who granted them a charter, which formed the Grand Lodge in York. This is the origin of the "Ancient York Rite." The Abbey of Kilwinning, in Scotland, was raised by this fraternity in the thirteenth century. The Grand Lodge in York exercised Masonic jurisdiction over all England until 1567, when the Masons in the South elected Sir T. Gresham their Grand Master. (Please note this landmark). In the beginning of the eighteenth century Masonry in the South of England—as is now in the colony of Victoria—was in decay. In 1717 four lodges in London met at the Apple Tree Tavern, Covent Garden, and formed themselves into a grand lodge, and Mr. Anthony Sayer was the first Grand Master. In 1738 several brethren seceded from the Grand Lodge, and formed themselves into York Masons, and later on into "Ancient York Masons," and established themselves into a "Grand Lodge of Ancient Masons," and were recognised by the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland. There were now two grand lodges in England. In 1813 an understanding and a union was brought about between the two rival lodges by their respective Grand Masters, the Dukes of Kent and Sussex, and now exists under the title of the Grand Lodge of England. A comparison of the above historical account of early Masonry, with "Constitutional's" extract from an old Book of Constitutions, will show how utterly misleading he is.

The question is, have we, or have we not, Masonic right to do as we have done in forming a Grand Lodge of Victoria? I maintain we have. We have, because Masonic tradition says we have. If four lodges in London could meet and legally form a grand lodge, why should 15 in this colony be debarred from exercising the same right? We have the right, I say again, because other Masons seceded from the Grand Lodge of England in 1738, and they were recognised, and were therefore legally justified. We have the right, I maintain, because Canada did exactly what we have done, and are doing, and was recognised—at last. At last! but after suffering delay and the bitter persecution of those whose vanity had to be gratified in being made officers in the District Grand Lodge of England. We have not only the right, but it is our duty, in the interest of Masonry, to form a grand lodge here. If it was necessary in Canada, how much more necessary here, where we are 40 days' sail from England, and Canada only six? If it is necessary to have a grand lodge in Ireland, only 10 hours from London, also in Scotland, same distance, how much more necessary here?

What is the condition of Masonry in these colonies? Why, for years it has been a bye-word. Need there be any stronger confirmation of this than that miserable pile of buildings in Lonsdale-street known as the Masonic Hall? Though "Constitutional" talks so glibly about the 95 lodges, what are they as regards attendance? Would it not be better to have fewer, as under the New South Wales Constitution, where some number over 300 strong? What is the cause of the lethargy? Why, sir, it is the old story—"United we stand, divided we fall." We have no less than three distinct grand lodges, and so far as Masonry is concerned neither is any good. I've been a Mason over 20 years, a Past Master, and a member of the District Grand Lodge, E.C., and I have no more idea of what the Deputy District Grand Master is like than I have of flying. How often under this vaunted English constitution have the members of the various lodges been visited by the District Grand Lodge Officers? Seldom, indeed.

So far has this decay of Masonry in the colony been recognised, and for so long, that on more than one occasion have many of the most prominent Masons set their hands to documents, declaring that, in their belief, the time had come (the last was about six years ago) for the establishment of a Grand Lodge of Victoria, on the very lines we have acted. And now (why it is quite laughable), where are these "illustrious names on the scroll of fame?" Must I write their history also? Well, "they put their hands to the plough, and have looked back." As they neared the time when they should take the decided step, their courage oozed out of their finger-nails, and they are now our loudest opponents.

Just one word for Mr. Willmott. The above history (which cannot be controverted) shows at least that whether we are right or wrong it is open to a deal of argument, and

being so—as Mr. Willmott ought to have known—how dare he charge those who happen to differ from him with "acting in defiance of all Masonic honour and duty?" Who made him a judge over us, and whence his infallibility? His "Masonic honour and duty," let me tell him, is to speak kindly of his brother Masons, to "neither revile them himself, nor permit others to do so," in terms of his oath. Go to, Mr. Willmott, and become again an Entered Apprentice, and learn to be a Mason.

I almost forgot to notice the tenour of Mr. Willmott's circular letter, which simply is to stifle discussion, and it was the carrying out of this plan, probably, which prompted that extraordinary request for you to close your columns against us. Many thanks to you, sir, for the foot-note to his letter. But if he carries out this "stifling process" in his lodge, what a farce it is for him every night, before closing the lodge, to rise and solemnly ask, "Has any brother ought to propose for the good of Freemasonry or this lodge in particular?" If the matter cannot be discussed in the English lodges, no wonder the English Freemasons have not come with us to that extent, but which we hope now they will do.

In the course of a little while Queensland, South Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania will follow suit, and have each a Grand Lodge. Then, in the early future, instead of being divided into colonies and sub-divided into English, Irish, and Scotch Constitutions, we can take one more step towards the federation of the colonies, and form a Grand Lodge of Australia, one fold under one shepherd, bound together in the bonds of brotherly love, relief, and

July 13th. TRUTH.

Sir,—A very lame attempt is made by "Constitutional" to show in what manner the formation of the Grand Lodge of Victoria is irregular. It has not been formed on an American basis, but upon a precedent established by the Grand Lodge of England itself, and followed by the Scotch and Irish Grand Lodges, as well as by those in the American States and British possessions. Your correspondent must know that it is not a fact that recognition by the English, Scotch, and Irish Grand Lodges follows the formation of an independent jurisdiction by a majority of lodges. The Grand Lodge of Victoria would have just as hard a battle to fight if it had a majority of lodges as it may have now. I believe that every Grand Lodge that has been established has been formed by a minority of lodges. Certainly there can be no disputing the fact that the English, Irish, and Scotch Grand Lodges were founded by small minorities, and that they were subjected to the same persecution that the Grand Lodges of New South Wales and Victoria have met with. The extract quoted by "Constitutional" is, I think, from a book that contains a great deal that is very absurd, and therefore it is not to be wholly relied on for its information. But if the statements in the extract are correct, they clearly prove that the London lodges, finding Freemasonry was degenerating, threw off their allegiance to the existing Grand Lodge at York, and established one themselves. Is not the action of the lodges forming the Grand Lodge of Victoria analogous to that of the London lodges, which founded the Grand Lodge of England?

As to the remark of your correspondent, "that those who have allied themselves with the new movement have committed Masonic suicide," I would like to ask him if it is not a fact that all reforms have been brought about by a few earnest and determined men, who have been compelled to suffer in their cause?

Sir, in conclusion, I may say that but for this "new movement" I know of many Freemasons who would have left it for ever, so disgusted are they with the present position of Freemasonry in Victoria, brought about by the competition that has been induced by having three Constitutions, and by the number of those who have gained admission to it solely for the purpose of trading upon its principles.—Yours, &c., V. C.

The following circular has been issued by the authorities of the English Constitution in Victoria:—
"District Grand Lodge of Victoria, under the Grand Lodge of England.

"District Grand Secretary's Office,
"54, Queen-street, Melbourne, July 10th, 1883.
"Worshipful Sir and Brother,—An irregular body of Freemasons, designating itself the Grand Lodge of Victoria, having been inaugurated, I have been directed by the W. Deputy District Grand Master to instruct you not to allow any brethren connected with that institution to enter your lodge, either as a member or a visitor, and further, that you will point out to the members of your lodge the position they would be placed in if they in any way countenanced or abetted the movement in question.

"Not one lodge under this constitution has joined the so-called Grand Lodge of Victoria, and but very few English Freemasons have taken part in its formation, and it is with great pleasure that the W. Deputy District Grand Master is receiving intimations daily from the English lodges in this district of their devotion and loyalty to the Grand Lodge of England.

"The Deputy District Grand Master trusts that you will call the attention of members of your lodge, and more particularly the Past Masters, to the duty they owe to the Grand Lodge of England, and the obligations they have taken to discountenance the formation of any new lodge without the sanction of the M.W. the Grand Master.—Yours fraternally,

"T. H. LEMPRIERE, Dist. G. Secretary."

The following is the circular mentioned by "Masonic Progress" in his letter of July 11th, which we printed last week:

"Masonic Hall, Lonsdale-street,
Melbourne, June 30th, 1883.

"Dear Sir and Brother,—Permit me, as the W. Master of the lodge in which you are a member, to point out to you that should you identify yourself in any way with the spurious Grand Lodge of Victoria, it will be my duty to admonish you and refuse you admission to the lodge until you have satisfied the brethren that you are not connected with that body.

"I warn you of this, as it is possible you may be led inadvertently to attend a meeting or banquet without due consideration.

"It is your duty to discountenance the movement and the movers in every way, as they are acting in defiance of all Masonic honour and duty.—Yours fraternally,

"JULIUS J. E. WILLMOTT, P.M., W.M. 752, E.C."

(This correspondence will be concluded next week.)

**THE GRAND CONCLAVE OF KNIGHTS
TEMPLAR AT SAN FRANCISCO.**

The following description of some of the proceedings at the above festival is extracted from a letter written by a non-Mason and sent to a brother in England, who has placed it at our disposal, and we think it of sufficient interest to reproduce it in the *Freemason* :—

The whole city has been in an immense state of excitement for about 10 days, and it will continue about a week more. It is the 22nd Grand Triennial Conclave of Knights Templars, if you know what that is, and all the high Freemasons from every state and territory in the Union are here on a "pilgrimage." It is the most arrant nonsense you can imagine in theory, but in practice it has been an event in the history of California, a sight I am glad to have seen, and do not expect to see again, for the conclave will not be here again for 63 years.

In the first place the entire city is decorated with all the flags of the Masonic orders, garlands, wreaths, festoons, banners; all the wide streets have long strings of flags across them at intervals of 50 feet; every window sports banners and flags. There are two immense triumphal arches in different parts of the town. Every evening the town is illuminated—there are fireworks, balls, banquets, meetings, promenade concerts, seven theatres in full blast, besides three operas; indeed, the festivities are too numerous to mention.

There are 5000 visiting Knights Templars, most of whom have brought their wives and families, besides which there are several hundred Freemasons from different parts who are not as high as knights. Then every country town and village throughout California and Nevada has emptied its entire population into San Francisco to see the show. There are cheap trips from every city in the United States. The hotels, boarding and lodging houses, are all full to overflowing, streets almost impassable. Seventeen hundred people sat down to breakfast on Sunday at the Palace Hotel alone. Twenty-seven thousand people arrived from the bay on Saturday, and on Monday (the day of the great procession) there was said to be 75,000 strangers in town, besides our usual population. I have never seen anything like it anywhere. The gala dressed city, the bands, the crowds—it is a marvellous arrangement.

On Sunday I went to the Masonic service at the Pavilion. Spectators were only admitted by tickets of invitation; but I was to the fore, as usual, in a good place. The entire building, ceiling, walls, and galleries were hung with Masonic flags, orders, and what not. The procession came in as follows: 100 chorister boys, singing "Onward, Christian soldiers," followed by 24 clergy and two bishops, these being followed by 5000 Knights Templars (three abreast), in full uniform, with aprons, scarves, medals, and swords—a splendid looking set of fellows. They all marched up the centre aisle, and thence passed off in battalions to their seats. The service was the usual Episcopal afternoon service, minus a few of the prayers and one lesson. At the "Belief" they all partially drew their swords and said the creed with the right hand clasped in the cross of the hilt. In the hymns they all sang. Fancy the magnificent volume of male voices. Then in the Recessional, as the clergy and choristers passed down the aisle, they all stood at "Present," that is to say, with the sword held in the right hand straight up, with the cross hilt just below the eyes. It was a most imposing service.

Then, on Monday, it was a general holiday; all the world turned out to see the procession. We had a splendid place, from a friend's house in the Van Ness-avenue. It was a splendid procession, especially the horses; they were all black and about a height, and with their saddle cloths heavy with silver fringe and stamped with the Maltese cross, and their riders in black velvet and silver, with the cross on the left shoulder of the cloak, it made one think of the old days of crusaders and chivalry. Some were on foot, of course; indeed, most of the Eastern knights were, for they could not all bring their horses so many thousand miles; but they marched well, and each battalion marched in some different form. The Ohio knights formed a triangle, and marched in that way; the Bostonians marched in the form of a cross; the Pennsylvanians in a Maltese cross, &c. The bands were all good, especially the Hawaiian band of native Kanakas, sent by compliment from Honolulu by King Kalakaua, who is a "free and accepted Mason;" they played splendidly. Altogether I cannot tell you a quarter of the doings, but can only give you some little idea of the universal and all-pervading excitement.

Next Friday there will be another general holiday and another immense procession to the park, to lay the cornerstone of the Garfield monument with full Masonic honours.

It is a true saying that "San Francisco periodically goes mad;" but I think this time we are madder than we have ever been before.

**THE MASONIC DIFFICULTY IN
QUEBEC.**

From the *Montreal Daily Witness*, September 13th, 1883.

For some time past there have been discussions of differences between the lodges of English Register and those of the Grand Lodge of Quebec. These have assumed so public a character as to become a subject of general interest, even outside of the Craft, owing to recent publications reflecting very seriously upon the conduct and good faith of the English lodges, and misrepresentations of the position of William Ross, Worshipful Master of St. George's Lodge, English Register, in particular. Proceedings for libel were resorted to by him for the purpose of vindicating his own position and adjusting to the satisfaction of the Craft the unhappy differences that existed, and had been, by the publication of certain letters in the public press removed beyond the privacy of Masonic jurisdiction. The circumstance which led to the present affair was the secession of King Solomon Lodge, Scotch Register, for the purpose of affiliation with the Grand Lodge of Quebec. Mr. Ross, with seven other members, objected to the change of allegiance, still maintaining their loyalty towards the Grand Lodge of Scotland, with which they have been so long identified. The body who unconstitutionally renounced their former authority not only continued the name of Mr. Ross and his confrères who had refused to secede,

but even went the length of declaring him suspended for the non-payment of dues, which was subsequently reported to the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and published in the widely circulated annual report of the Grand Secretary. The remonstrances of Mr. Ross to Mr. J. H. Isaacson, the Grand Secretary, of the 6th and 13th of June, seeking for an amicable erasure of his suspension and settlement having been unsatisfactory, took legal proceeding at once. Although the legal proceedings had been commenced, Mr. Ross was even at that date not averse to an amicable settlement of the difficulty, providing justice was done to him and his lodge, and when it was proposed to him that his suspension be erased, and a correct statement of affairs and an apology approved of by him should be published, he consented on these terms to discontinue the proceedings upon the payment of costs. Mr. Ross accordingly accepted the following letters:

"The Grand Lodge of Quebec, A.F. & A.M.

"Grand Secretary's Office,

"Montreal, 12th September, 1883.

"Wm. Ross, Esq., Wor. Master St. George's Lodge, No. 440, E.R.

"Wor. Sir and Bro.—It having been found on investigation that you should not have been returned by King Solomon Lodge under this jurisdiction as a suspended member for non-payment of dues, I regret that, in my capacity as Grand Secretary having charge of the printing of Grand Lodge proceedings in which such return appeared, I was instrumental in publishing such suspension.—I am, yours, (Signed) "JOHN H. ISAACSON, Grand Sec."

"The Grand Lodge of Quebec, A.F. & A.M.

"Office of the Grand Master,

"Stanstead, Sept. 5th, 1883.

"Dear Sir and W. Bro.—Having had my attention called to a return made in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Quebec for the session of 1881, in which your name appears as having been suspended by King Solomon Lodge for non-payment of dues, and having carefully investigated the circumstances connected therewith, I find that you should not have been so returned, not being a member of that lodge. It is deeply regretted that all the facts connected with the case were not earlier brought under the notice of the Grand Master. I consider it my duty to cause the suspension to be removed with the least possible delay, and trust that this will take away all cause for complaint.—I am, fraternally yours,

(Signed) "E. R. JOHNSTON,

"G.M. G.L. A.F. & A.M. Quebec.

"William Ross, Esq., W.M. St. George's Lodge, No. 440,

"A.F. & A.M., E.R., Montreal."

"Montreal, 12th Sept., 1883.

"Wm. Ross, Esq.

"Dear Sir and W. Bro.—I will, as Master of King Solomon Lodge, call the lodge together with the least possible delay, will then submit to them and endeavour to have passed a resolution cancelling your suspension effected the 6th September, and when passed will send you certified copy of such resolution.—Yours, &c., (Signed) "CHS. BYRD."

Messrs. McLaren, Leet & Smith were counsel for Mr. Ross, and Messrs. Tait, Q.C., and T. P. Butler for Mr. J. H. Isaacson.



"The Glass of Fashion" is still drawing crowded audiences at the Globe.

"The Millionaire," not "Self," is to be the title of the new comedy at the Court, adapted from novel of "Kissing the Rod."

Miss Kate Vaughan we learn is "doing good business" in the provinces with her company in "The Country Girl."

In addition to his Drury Lane pantomime, Bro. Harris has arranged for the pantomimes at the Gaiety Theatre, Glasgow, and the Crystal Palace, Sydenham.

The Vokes family are, we understand, arranging a short tour through the principal towns of England and Scotland, preparatory to their return to America.

"The Princess" will be the name of the new opera at the Savoy shortly to succeed "Iolanthe," and on which Sir Arthur Sullivan and Mr. Gilbert are engaged. It is from Tennyson's poem of that name.

"Rip Van Winkle" at the Comedy, and "Iolanthe" at the Savoy, each reached their 300th performance last Saturday. At the Savoy all the ladies in the stalls and dress circle were presented with a bouquet of flowers—a gift much appreciated.

Messrs. Gatti having decided not to produce pantomime at their theatre next Christmas, Miss Leslie, who was engaged to them, has been engaged by Bro. Hollingshead for his pantomime at the Princes Theatre, Manchester.

Mr. W. S. Gilbert is said to be writing a one act play for Miss Mary Anderson, to be performed when she essays the character of Galatea, arrangements have been made for her to perform in Mr. Gilbert's comedy of "Pygmalion and Galatea."

Miss Kate Vaughan has been engaged at the largest salary she has ever received, and at the largest salary ever paid at Drury Lane or elsewhere for any artist to appear in a Pantomime. Every one of the charming steps Miss Vaughan will dance in the Pantomime will cost untold gold.

Bro. George R. Sims's "Merry Duchess" has been produced at the Standard Theatre, New York, with brilliant success.

The new Gilbert-Sullivan opera, now being rehearsed at the Savoy Theatre, will be produced there in November.

Madame Albani-Gye and her sister had the honour of being received by her Majesty at Balmoral Castle on Monday, and afterwards lunched at the castle.

The London Stereoscopic Company have sent to New York 30,000 sets of photographs of Mr. Irving as Mathias in "The Bells." There are 12 portraits in each set.

"In the Ranks, or the Soldier's Wife," the new drama for the Adelphi Theatre, in which Miss Bateman will appear, is definitely fixed for production on Saturday next, the American arrangement for its representation in New York being a fortnight later.

Bro. Augustus Harris is in treaty with the managers of the Chatelet Theatre for the production of "Youth" in Paris. The play has been translated and accepted by the management, and the terms on which Bro. Harris will take over his Drury-lane scenery, properties, &c., is now the only question to be discussed.

There is some hope that Bro. Sir A. Sullivan's long promised grand opera may now be completed, possibly in time for the next season at the Royal Italian Opera. The work is understood to be "Mary Stuart," which was projected many years ago, and the English libretto of which was sketched by the late Mr. H. F. Chorley.

We regret to announce the death of Miss Orridge, which occurred on Sunday week in Guernsey, where she had gone to join her family for a holiday. The cause of her death was typhoid fever, contracted in London from drinking milk contaminated by sewage gas. The event is all the more melancholy inasmuch that she was engaged to be married to Mr. Harry Seligmann, who had conducted the concerts at which she sang. Miss Orridge studied at the London Academy and abroad. She had gained many of the best prizes, and was looked upon as a rising artiste. In private life, in which we have known her since girlhood, she was beloved by all. She died at the age of 27.

So great has been the success of Miss Minnie Palmer, the American actress, at the Grand, Islington, that the lessees of the theatre are endeavouring to cancel all arrangements already made for other companies to appear before Christmas. It is expected that Miss Minnie Palmer will fill the coffers of the house up till that date. The performance in which she appears is of that kind of which we have had several specimens from America lately, and which we designated in the columns of the *Freemason* as a mixture of farce, burlesque, comedy, and concert. But it is very evident that its popularity is not at all on the wane, even though many of us become sentimental on classical plays. There is room for both. Doubtless many of those who love to see Shakespeare delineated on the stage are also amongst those who nightly cheer and cheer again at the very opposite kind of acting now predominant at the Grand. But there are those to whom classical pieces are somewhat of a bore, and who want to be refreshed after a dull day's work with something light and enervating. They have it at the Grand in all its glory, with a charming little juvenile lady as the heroine. "My Sweetheart," for such is the name of the piece, has a story which perhaps is scarcely worth relating, being thin and commonplace. The whole thing is Miss Minnie Palmer from beginning to end. Though she makes of what would otherwise be a very dull piece amusement and fun, still we would like to see her in something written a little more in harmony with her high class acting. As a dancer she is graceful; as a singer she is delightful; as an actress, clever; and withal vivacious, sprightly, and charming. It appears this young lady was born in 1805; was educated in a convent school in New York, from which she was taken to Vienna, where she took dancing lessons, and showing so much natural talent the professor interested himself in her. In Paris she learnt singing and completed dancing. She made her first appearance in public in 1876, at the Brookland Theatre, when both press and public stamped her success as genuine and her genius as great. Owing to her being overworked at an early age it is said she has never grown since 12 years of age. Mr. Abbey, who engaged Bro. Henry Irving for America, secured her, and her name was made from that date. Before coming to England she entered into a contract not to marry for five years except under forfeit of £3000. Her face is beautiful and full of expression, sometimes too much so, for she has a fault—we like to call a spade a spade—of now and then making ugly grimaces and putting out her tongue. We trust she will in England drop these vulgarities. Her voice is of wonderful compass and sweetness, her manners full of piquancy and "chic," with at the same time the modesty of a well bred child. Her fame had gone before her, so that it is not to be wondered at there was a rush the first week to see what she is like. She has come and conquered, and made a veritable sensation amongst lovers of the lighter form of drama. Miss Minnie Palmer is indeed what she describes herself—"electrical." No sooner has she struck one attitude and put on an expression of countenance than, like an electric shock, she has changed to something perfectly different. In less than a twinkle of the eye she can express to an audience what she desires. This is particularly noticeable in her method of throwing a kiss to her lover. The drawback is that before one has time to take in some oddity she has gone to another, producing equal roars of laughter. One requires to keep a close eye on the performance. Mr. Arnold and Mr. Hawkins are the two chief male performers. Mr. Arnold is excellent as "Tony;" but, as we have said, it is a "character" piece. The music is pretty and includes some of Moore and Burgess's songs.

MADAME TUSSAUD AND SON'S EXHIBITION.—Portrait Models of Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the Comte de Paris, late Comte de Chambord, and M. Waddington. Costly Court Dresses from the first Parisian houses. Also Portrait Model of James Carey, the Informer. Captain Webb (taken from life). Admission 1s. Extra rooms 6d. Open from 10 till 10.—[Advrt.]



Bro. Arthur B. Hudson is the architect of the colossal pile of buildings in Leadenhall-street, facing the East India Avenue.

Bro. S. H. Hadley, P.A.G.D. of C., is the next Alderman in rotation for the distinguished position of Lord Mayor for the City of London. The election will take place at one o'clock to-morrow (Saturday), in the Guildhall.

On the 19th inst., at North Walsham, Bro. D. G. F. Gaul was installed into the Master's chair of the Suffolk Lodge, No. 1808. A large number of Present and Past Prov. Grand Officers were assembled to honour the occasion.

We are requested to announce that the meetings of the Sir Hugh Myddelton Lodge of Instruction, No. 1602, will in future be held on Tuesday evenings at the Queen's Head Tavern, Essex-road, Islington, three doors from Packington-street.

Bro. P. L. Simmonds, British Commissioner at the Amsterdam Exhibition, will be presented with a testimonial in recognition of the services he has rendered in the above capacity. A committee has been formed to make the necessary arrangements, with Mr. W. P. Treloar, C.C., 70, Ludgate-hill, as hon. secretary and treasurer.

An international exhibition of manufactures, fine arts, and agriculture will be opened at Nice on December 1st, and will close on May 1st. Applications for space, with full particulars of the intended exhibit, should be made to Mr. E. Johnson, the commissaire délégué, at the London offices, 1, Castle-street, Holborn.

On Tuesday next, the 2nd prox., Bro. James Terry, P.M. 228, 1271, 1366, P.P.G.S.W. Norths and Hunts, &c., has kindly consented to rehearse the ceremonies of consecration and installation, when, if brethren will attend, they are promised a real Masonic treat. It is requested that the brethren appear in Craft clothing upon this occasion.

The Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement commences its winter session at the Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, on Tuesday next. As previously, it will be under the able Preceptorship of Comp. F. Brown, and we trust an increasing number of Royal Arch Masons will avail themselves of his help in obtaining a perfect knowledge of this beautiful Degree.

On the 24th ult., at Pietermaritzburg, Bro. R. I. Finemore, R.W.G.M. of the newly-formed district of Natal under the English Constitution, presided at the first meeting since his installation and the inauguration of the district, and delivered an elaborate address most appropriate to the occasion, and breathing with the true teaching and spirit of Masonry. It will be found reported on another page.

Bro. Sir John Bennett, who has been travelling for the past five weeks through Belgium and Switzerland with Lady Bennett and some friends, was announced to deliver a lecture at the Birkbeck Institute on Wednesday evening, the 19th inst., but owing to an accident (a sprained ankle) met with whilst travelling, was unable to reach England in time to fulfil his engagement. Dr. W. C. Bennett, his brother, filled his place and read selections from his own writings.

The annual celebration of the festival of St. John by the members of the Liverpool Dramatic Lodge, No. 1609, took place on Tuesday afternoon, at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool, where upwards of 100 members and visitors were present. Bro. J. L. Shrapnell was duly installed in the chair by the retiring W.M., Bro. Savage, and the appointments of officers gave general satisfaction. Initiation took place at 11.30 a.m., installation at one, and banquet at three, the whole concluding at an early hour.

Some important changes are taking place in the brigade of Guards. The rank of lieutenant and captain in the Grenadier Guards has now become extinct by the promotion of Captain H. M. M. Bonham to the grade of lieutenant-colonel in the regiment. In the Coldstream Guards no fewer than five lieutenants and captains remain to be absorbed, after which the rank will not be revived. In the Scots Guards the rank will also become extinct, Lieutenant and Captain Lord A. C. Seymour obtaining promotion to the senior grade.—*Court Circular*.

On St. Matthew's Day, Bro. the Lord Mayor, accompanied by Bro. Alderman and Sheriff Savory, and the Town Clerk (Bro. Sir John B. Monckton, President Board of General Purposes) went in State from the Mansion House to Divine service at Christ Church, Newgate-street, adjoining Christ's Hospital, the boys of which, 700 in number, were present. Service was read by Bro. the Rev. Richard Lee (Chaplain Aldersgate Lodge, No. 1657,) the head master, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. S. W. Churchill, M.A., head master of the Grammar School at Atherstone.

The half-yearly meeting of the Crystal Palace District Gas Company, of which Bro. Magnus Ohren, P.A.G.D.C., is the Secretary, was held at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, on Friday last. Bro. Sir Erasmus Wilson, P.G.D., presided, and the report of the directors, which was read, presented a very satisfactory state of things. The gas examiners spoke very favourably of the quality of the gas supplied, its freedom from sulphuretted hydrogen and ammonia, and the limitation of sulphur to the amount prescribed by Parliamentary standard; and it was announced that after the close of the present quarter's account the price of gas would be reduced to three shillings per 1000 cubic feet. The following dividends, amounting over £11,556, were recommended for the half year to 30th June, namely: 8 per cent on the Preference stock, 7 per cent on the ordinary 7 per cent stock, and 7 per cent on the new ordinary 7 per cent shares. The chairman in moving the adoption briefly noticed its most salient features, and the motion having been seconded and carried, the usual vote of thanks to Sir Erasmus Wilson for his services in the chair was passed by acclamation, and having been gracefully acknowledged, the meeting came to an end.

The third anonymous contribution of £1000 during the past 12 months was last week sent to the Rev. E. Husband, the incumbent of St. Michael's, Folkestone, towards the completion of his church.

Bro. Colonel Fred. Burnaby will take the chair at the Balloon Society's meeting this (Friday) evening, when Mr. Martin F. Tupper, author of "Proverbial Philosophy," will deliver a lecture on flying, &c.

Bro. the Earl of Mar and Kellie, M.W. Grand Master Mason of Scotland, laid the foundation stone of the new Sailors' Home at Leith, with Masonic ceremony, on Friday last week. An account of the proceedings will be found on another page.

Bro. J. Sidney Tomkins, C.C., who has been appointed upon a commission issued by the Bishop of London under the Union of Benefices Act was present at a meeting of the Commissioners held on Wednesday at Sion College.

As an instance of the audacity of postage stamp forgers of English colonial postage stamps, it is stated that Mr. J. W. Palmer, 281, Strand, has now in his "Forgeries Collection" above 10,000 forged stamps, chiefly of the English colonial issues.

An appeal has been made by the Secretary of the London Fever Hospital, Islington, for assistance to purchase toys for the numerous children in the typhoid wards. A few shillings invested in this direction, he says, would give no end of pleasure to the little patients. And so, we might add, with the juvenile inmates of other hospitals.

We are pretty well accustomed in the Corporation to lordly luncheons and distinguished guests, but the sensation caused by the reading of the simple announcement that Mr. Gladstone entertained at luncheon, on board the Pembroke Castle, the Emperor of Russia, the King of Denmark, and the King of the Hellenes was something overpowering.—*City Press*.

An evening contemporary is responsible for the statement that steps are being taken to reopen the Alexandra Palace, Muswell-hill. The two great railway companies who have branch lines to the Palace are stated to have taken the matter in hand, and if they can succeed in restoring or raising the Palace to a successful position they will benefit not only themselves but the public.

A novel kind of association has sprung into existence in New York. It is an association of fat women, giants, skeleton men, and other natural curiosities usually exhibited at booths in fairs, and is termed a "Freaks' Union," and has laws regulating their dealings with the showmen. "Tattoo noblemen" are refused admission into the brotherhood owing to the prevalent suspicion of their being products of art rather than of nature.

The Toronto *Freemason* "would like to see" "Clean aprons in the Toronto-street hall. The Masonic Library books kept in a decent book case. Brethren who wear light coloured trousers and straw hats at Masonic funerals stay at home. The names of all rejected candidates in Toronto lodges sent to the Secretaries of sister lodges. Grand Officers compelled to announce themselves to the Tyler, so that to 'slip in' to a lodge would be impossible."

A public meeting was held on Tuesday at Woodstock, under the presidency of the Mayor, when, on the motion of Bro. Right Hon. the Earl of Jersey, Prov. G. M.M.M. Berks. and Oxon, it was decided to open a fund, to be called the Marlborough Memorial Fund, in memory of the late Bro. the Duke of Marlborough, and that the amount collected should be applied for the benefit of the Redcliffe Infirmary at Oxford, or in such other manner as should be directed. A committee was appointed to carry out the object of the meeting. A memorial window will also be placed in Woodstock Church.

At a meeting of the Governors of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, held on Saturday, the 22nd inst., for the purpose of receiving the report of the Committee appointed to arrange for the bazaar recently held in connection with the opening of the institution by T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, it was reported that the total receipts from all sources to the present time have been £6328 9s. 2d., of which amount the stalls contributed £3541 16s.; exhibitions and entertainments, together with the sale of tickets, books, and programmes, £1092 1s.; and subscriptions, £1694 12s. 2d. The expenses incurred amounted to £549 3s. 11d., leaving a net balance of £5779 5s. 3d. It was stated previous to the opening ceremony that a sum of £5000 only was required.

A very interesting discovery has been recently made in Chancery-lane, where some workmen engaged in making excavations in the course of the works now being carried out for extending the New Courts-chambers from Chancery-lane into Southampton-buildings, came upon some masonry. Mr. John Sachs, of the Middlesex Archaeological Society, had considered it probable that some such discovery might be made, and consequently care was taken. Mr. Sachs was immediately informed of the occurrence, and under his supervision careful investigations were made. So far as matters have progressed, two walls, composed of blocks of chalk and cement (Norman), and in a beautiful state of preservation, and a portion of red tiling glazed with yellow, have been brought to light. On digging below the tiling a deposit of charcoal was found, such deposit being doubtless a land-mark; for such purpose the imperishable nature of charcoal well adapts it, and for which it has been frequently employed. Some human bones were also come upon; so the very reasonable surmise is that the remains are those of Knights Templar left behind them when they removed to the Temple. Mr. Sachs certainly had these remains in his mind when he enjoined care in excavating. More, doubtless, remains to be discovered. The tiles are now on view at Mr. Clarke's office, in New Courts-chambers. Some fragments of Saxon pottery were also found.

"RUPTURES."—WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS is the most effective invention for the treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring, so hurtful in its effects, is avoided, a soft bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected. Send for descriptive circular, with testimonials and prices, to J. White and Co. (Limited) 228, Piccadilly, London. Do not buy of Chemists, who often sell an imitation of our Moc-Main. J. White and Co. have not any agents.—[ADVT.]

Sir Lyon Playfair, M.P., formerly Postmaster-General, has been appointed a trustee of the British Association, in place of the late Mr. Spottiswoode.

The *Builder* gives an illustration of a new building just completed in Carteret-street, Queen's Anne's-gate, which has been erected for the offices of *Truth*. The architect is Bro. H. S. Legg, of Christ's Hospital.

We understand that our distinguished Bro. John Havers, P.G.W., is about to pay a visit to the United States, leaving in the Bothnia to-morrow (Saturday), and we have no doubt he will be warmly received by our brethren in America.

The amount collected this year on behalf of the Hospital Saturday Fund exceeds that of last year by considerably over £1000. The workshop collection has been especially large, on account of the larger number of business establishments that have subscribed.

Bro. J. Pender, M.P., chairman of the Eastern Telegraph Company, accompanied by Sir J. Anderson, the managing director, has started for the Mediterranean and the Levant, on a tour of inspection of the various telegraph stations belonging to the company in these waters.

We regret to have to record that Bro. S. H. Smith, of Norwich, has sustained a heavy affliction by the death of his son, who was drowned on Saturday, the 15th inst., at Mundesley, Norfolk. The deceased was engaged on the Ordnance Survey, and lost his life whilst bathing. Much sympathy exists for his bereaved parents.

On the 22nd ult., R.E. Sir Knight Robt. Ramsay, of Orillia, received his patent as Knight Commander of the Temple from the Great Prior, M.E. Sir Knight Col. W. J. B. Macleod Moore. This decoration is bestowed on distinguished Templars by the Prince of Wales, and is only given as a reward for special services.—*Freemason* (Toronto), September.

Bro. Goodall, who superintended the removal of a thousand carcasses of cattle from the Nile and the canals during the recent cholera epidemic, and Major Wingate, the Commandant at the Egyptian Army Military Hospital during the same period, have received the Imperial Order of the Osmanieh of the Fourth Class.

Bro. Alderman Sir J. W. Ellis, P.G.W., and Bro. Alderman Hadley, P.G.A.D.C., attended a dinner the 18th inst., given by Mr. H. F. Gilig, the manager in-chief of the American Exchange in Europe, to the ex-Postmaster-General of the United States, Hon. T. L. James, and the ex-Mayor of New York, Hon. W. R. Grace.

The Early Closing Association has just issued a list of more than 460 towns in England and Wales, giving the market days and the early closing day where they are in operation. Of these towns 330 have adopted an early closing day, and about 130 are returned as having no such arrangement. In the towns which make this weekly holiday the mode of carrying it out varies.

A memorial is to be erected in Coventry Cemetery over the remains of the late James Starley, the inventor of the bicycle and tricycle. The competition was open, and 65 drawings were sent in. The one submitted by Messrs. J. Whitehead and Sons, sculptors, of Rochester-row, Westminster, London, was selected by the committee and family. It takes the form of a pedestal surmounted by a figure; in the centre is a portrait medallion in bas relief of the deceased. The memorial will be composed chiefly of granite and Sicilian marble, and will when completed stand 20 feet.

During the recent visit of Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., to Milan, a deputation of Italian Freemasons, headed by Count Braniforti, waited upon him to present him with an address from their brotherhood, congratulating him upon the success of his labours at various times on the Continent of Europe to popularise the movement for international arbitration. In the address they described this pacific reform as "the most pure manifestation of the Masonic idea," and added that "human brotherhood, which is the true protector of justice, constitutes for you, as for us, a part of the religion to which we have dedicated our life." Mr. Richard gratefully acknowledged, in his reply to the deputation, his sense of the value of the very important co-operation of such a powerful body as the Freemasons, both in Italy and other lands, in the great cause of international arbitration and peace. The active sympathy of such an influential brotherhood was in the highest degree encouraging to himself and his colleagues. Mr. Richard has since gone on to Switzerland.

Bro. John T. Baal, of the Prince of Wales Lodge, 1003, Jersey, will be presented with the following testimonial, which is handsomely written and beautifully illuminated on vellum, at the next meeting of the lodge:—"Worshipful Sir and Bro.—At the nineteenth anniversary meeting of this lodge, held at the Masonic Temple, Jersey, it was unanimously resolved that a Past Master's jewel be presented to you as a mark of esteem from the members of the lodge. You, however, expressed a wish that the value of the jewel should be applied to the funds of the Masonic Institution for Boys; the lodge acceded to your generous desire, but being still anxious to express their sentiments towards you in some tangible form, decided on presenting you with this testimonial in appreciation of the zealous and diligent manner in which you have governed the lodge during your two consecutive years of Mastership. It is the sincere wish of the brethren of the lodge that the G.A.O.T.U. may preserve your life for many years to come, that you may ever manifest the same zeal and assiduity in the glorious cause of Freemasonry, and that the lodge may continue to have the advantage of your good counsels and advice.—Signed by Henry M. Bartlett, W.M.; Henry G. Newman, S.W.; Francis Pearce, J.W.; Peter Bois, P.M., Secretary."

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Nervous Debility.—No part of the human machine requires more watching than the nervous system; upon it hangs health and life itself. These Pills are the best regulators and strengtheners of the nerves, and the safest general purifiers. Nausea, headache, giddiness, numbness, and mental apathy yield to them. They dispatch in a summary manner these distressing dyspeptic symptoms, stomachic pains, fullness at the pit of the stomach, abdominal distension, and overcome both capricious appetites and confined bowels—the commonly accompanying signs of defective or deranged nervous power. Holloway's Pills are particularly recommended to persons of studious and sedentary habits, who gradually sink into a nervous and debilitated state, unless some such restorative be occasionally taken.—[ADVT.]