

# 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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We would fain hope that the old Masonic formula so clearly and effectively delivered by H.R.H. the GRAND MASTER, as is his wont, at the St. Ann's School gathering, will have due effect on many who are inclined to believe the very worst of our Order, simply because one great religious body adheres to its oft repeated incriminations and denunciations. Indeed, the proceedings of the Roman Catholic Curia often remind us of Don Bartolo, in Beaumarchais' famous comedy. La Calomnie, calumny if judiciously employed and calmly persisted in is pretty sure to have some effect sooner or later. A portion of the "dirt" assiduously besprinkled must adhere, and if we can only keep on long enough repeating this, affirming that, after a little while people begin to shake their heads, grow cool and distant, and look askance at some unconscious victims of one of the great "factors" of modern society, calumny. From 1738 the Freemasons have been under the ban of the Church of Rome, and the worst things have been said of them, and the hardest things believed. Since the French Revolution Roman Catholic Abbés and Jesuit Scribes have "unâ voce" declared Freemasonry the cause of that and all other revolutions, though with the former the Freemasons had nothing to do, and the sins of the "Illuminati," an entirely different Order, have been visited on the Freemasons as a revolutionary and destructive organization, which organization, by the way, was founded by A. Weishaupt, a Roman Catholic, and some even allege a Jesuit, who found Freemasonry too loyal and religious for him. Since 1821 the Freemasons have been declared to be revolutionists, and secret conspirators, like the Carbonari, &c., with whom they have nothing in common, and within the last month the great Roman Catholic authorities have united in proclaiming Freemasons everywhere, even in loyal and peaceful England, a dangerous clique of conspirators and revolutionists. His Royal Highness the GRAND MASTER, in the manly and straightforward verbiage of our olden Masonic formulæ, on the contrary, announced to all that, though a mysterious Society, we were both loyal, charitable, and religious, and that, always obedient to the laws and ever amenable to authority, we rejoiced in nothing so much as aiding the work of religion in the world, by assisting, like our operative forefathers, at the raising of edifices for the worship of the Most High, and in all works of a useful, scientific, eleemosynary, and æsthetic nature. Though we cannot, we fear, expect or hope that these voices of intolerance and injustice will yet be hushed, or the echoes of calumny will yet entirely fade away, even before the realities of Truth, and Light, and Justice, and Reality; yet we may fairly entertain the assurance that the good old adage is true as ever, and will be found to be so, even amid senseless accusations and ill-omened anathemata, as regards our good old Craft, so perversely maligned,—*"Magna est veritas, et prævalebit."*

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THE extreme intolerance and animus against Freemasonry, as recently exhibited in the Roman Catholic serial, "The Month," is a very serious matter to contemplate and realize. Freemasons had hoped, and not without fair grounds, that the long existing acrimony as manifested by the Roman Catholic body against Freemasons was becoming gradually diminished by the lapse of years, and the soothing influences of Time, reflection, and common sense; and that whatever might be the case in some foreign jurisdictions, where the words and acts of Freemasons were certainly susceptible, both of great animadversion and official reprobation, in England and America, Freemasons and Freemasonry would be admitted to hold a distinct and distinguished position, separate from all others, above all others, and deserving the praise rather than the censure, the sympathy rather than the condemnation, of the Roman Catholic body itself. Alas! such hopes are rudely dispelled by the recent deliverance of "The Month." That magazine is edited by a Roman Catholic writer cognizant of the wishes of his superiors, and the feelings of his contemporaries. It is a cultured serial for educated Roman Catholics; and yet what do we find? Simply the reiteration of the current vulgar tone of Roman Catholicism for the last 100 years unaltered, unchanged, unaffected by the progress of time, uninflu-

enced by any different condition of circumstances. In the same breath with the avowal of the distinct knowledge on the part of the writer that in England Freemasonry is both loyal and reverential, charitable and reputable; that members of the Royal Family, the Church of England, the nobility, the legislature, the bar, all the learned professions form part of it habitually, acknowledge its fellowship and swell its numbers, this outburst of Roman Catholic petulance unequivocally affirms that Freemasons are Pagans and Revolutionists, Communists and Socialists, intent on bringing down the whole fabric of Society, destroying authority, religion, law, and order in the world. In such a state, both of "invincible ignorance" and, we may add, a "reprobate mind" as regards Freemasonry, is there any use in prolonging the controversy, in even noticing such allegations, and invectives, and assertions? We think not. We feel that henceforth it is our more dignified course, having called attention to the fact, as we sometimes say in social life, to "let the matter slide." We cannot go on repeating for ever that we are loyal and reverential, charitable and reputable, peaceful members of Society, inimical to revolution, anarchy, secret conspiracies, and secret societies; neither can we go on for ever protesting against the declarations of an infallible authority that we are all that is bad, and vicious, and detestable, and "booked for something uncomfortable." Anglo-Saxon Freemasonry at any rate will certainly not suffer in any way from recent Bulls, Allocutions, and the like. Nay, we venture to predict that it will still march on—"conquering and to conquer," upholding its happy and genial truths among men, and proclaiming to near and far,—to savage and civilized,—Glory to God and Love to Man.

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WE sometimes feel inclined to ask Masonic historians to-day, what henceforth is really to be the "Ultima Thule" of Masonic archæology, where are we to be ultimately landed, into what unknown form of accredited authority are myth and legend to direct us? What will remain of dear old Masonic "Sagas" and mystic Masonic "Runes"? What shall we have left then?—what are we to credit? what to accept? The development of negative criticism would almost seem to foreshadow for us all a state of chaos, of nothingness, of unsubstantiality, of intangibility in respect of Masonic history. If we are not somewhat on our guard, we shall some fine day find ourselves without a creditable or credible history of any kind, so much so that we shall even ourselves feel inclined to say, as "each dear delusion fades and dies," we have nothing left to us. We feel also bound to observe, in the best interests as we deem of Masonic writers and Masonic history, that negative criticism is not the highest expression of the critic's labours, or the historian's art. In the first place, it is and remains negative, and negative alone. It is always difficult to prove a negative; it seems to us to be still more difficult to rest on merely negative criticism. For negative criticism, like circumstantial evidence, has always this drawback and danger,—it may be overthrown at any time by the presence of some "scintilla" of affirmative and direct evidence alike overlooked and ignored. When the historical critic seeks to disprove a particular statement commonly received, and accredited for years, whether by mere tradition or personal asseveration, because a certain portion of affirmative evidence is wanting, it seems always to be, to some extent at any rate, a contest of intellectual activity, of mental athleticism, in which the result of a purely negative method, and alike exhaustive and effective, redounds to the credit of the writer in the school of destructive criticism. The great aim and end of all History to be History, "Istoria," namely, Truth, are temporarily forgotten, or momentarily obscured. It is one thing to assert our own ingenuity, cleverness, the ease of compilation, and the facility of transcription, the judicious reservation, and the amiable "padding;" and above all the ever-taking element of originality and discovery, and it is another, yes, quite another thing, to claim for the lucubrations we issue and the theories we propound; the negations we exult in, and the "tabula rasa" we bequeath to student-posterity, the name of history, the dignity of that great science which so often and so pleasantly appeals to the faith and the doubt, the conviction and the credulity, the warm acceptance, the wavering cynicism of mankind. Some such thoughts have recently come over us, as regarding the Masonic literature to-day, we seem again to be dividing ourselves into the critical and uncritical schools. Our words of warning will do no harm if they will only induce some to realize that true history cannot long survive if based on negative criticism alone, that it is so easy to prove that anything really is not, when it is very difficult to demonstrate that anything really is; and that in certain cases, and under certain conditions, the discovery of a MS., or a book, or long-forgotten token, "the missing link" of our common Order, may supply the place of direct and

positive evidence effectually, and reduce in a moment to nothingness and meaninglessness the highest efforts of negative destructiveness, and the longest and most elaborate arguments of some amiable literary "Nihilist," as simply based on a negation, which may be said to have exhausted the skill of the dialectician, and evinced all the powers and assiduity of the writer.

We beg again to call attention to Bro. GEORGE TAYLOR'S request for help for the Masonic Exhibition at Worcester this autumn. The object is so laudable, and so many of our brethren are so willing and able to give help in so good a cause, that, we feel sure, in Bro. TAYLOR'S case it is only to ask to obtain.

BRO. G. FORT'S first monograph is indeed a most valuable contribution to Masonic archæology and history. We advise all our readers to procure it, and study it for themselves.

THE following most interesting piece of news appears in the *Standard* of Tuesday last, and we append it for the information of all whom it may concern:—"An instruction to the Bishops of the Roman Catholic world, emanating from Cardinal Monaco, on behalf of the Holy Roman and Universal Inquisition, has been received in Dublin as a complement of the recent encyclical letter of the Pope on the subject of Freemasonry. It sets out various duties to be performed by the clerical body in seeking to diminish the influence of the Masonic Order. The instruction announces that the Holy Father has suspended for one year the obligation of denouncing the secret leaders of the several objectionable societies, and has also suspended the reserve of censures granting the power of absolution to all confessors appointed by the ordinaries." Happily for our Fraternity everywhere, the power of that excessively amiable body, the "Inquisition," is at this moment nil. But a "straw" often shows how the wind blows.

**PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF MIDDLESEX AND SURREY.**

This prosperous province held a meeting, under the auspices of the Davison Lodge, at the Masonic Hall, Red Lion-square, on Thursday, the 10th inst. Among the numerous brethren we noticed

Bros. Col. Sir F. Burdett, Bart., P.G.M.; F. Davison, D.P.G.M.; W. G. Brighten, P.P.G.W., P.G. Sec., &c.; T. C. Walls, P.G.I.W., &c.; Hogard, P.G.M.O.; H. J. Lardner, P.G.S.O.; Capt. Stephens, P.G.J.O.; the Rev. S. Maude, P.G. Chap.; Christian, P.G.R. of M.; Hollington, P.G.S.D.; W. H. Goodall, P.G.D.C.; J. Proffitt, P.G.S.B.; Cama, H. Stephens, and Humphries, P.G. Stwds.; J. Inglis, P.P.G.M.O.; Pearson, P.P.G.S.O.; Klenck, P.P.G.R. of M.; Lambert, P.P.G.D.; Pulman, P.P.G.D.; Lovegrove, P.P.G.S. of W.; Faija, P.P.G.D.C.; H. Baldwin, P.P.G.A.D.C.; and Dunkley, P.P.G. Org. Among the numerous visitors were Bros. F. Binckes, P.G.J.W., G. Sec.; C. Matier, P.G.J.W., &c.; Edgar Bowyer, H. Higgins, Gimmingham, H. Levy, the Right Hon. Viscount Molesworth, Vincent, Pargeter, Humphries, Stedman, E. Hoare, A. W. S. Hoare, Hedges, Alfred Tisley, Scratchley, Goodall, and others.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened at five o'clock precisely. The minutes of the previous Provincial Grand Lodge meeting, held at the Star and Garter Hotel, Richmond, on the 7th July, 1883, were read and confirmed. The roll of the 25 lodges forming the province was duly called over, and, with few exceptions, they were represented. The re-appointment of the R.W. Prov. G.M.M., Bro. Col. Sir F. Burdett, Bart., was read, and received with acclamation. The report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted. The sum of 10 guineas was unanimously voted to the Mark Benevolent Fund, to be placed upon the list of Bro. H. Lovegrove, P.P.G.S. of W., who has undertaken the office of Steward at the ensuing Festival. The sum of five guineas was also voted to the fund for the relief of Mrs. D. M. Dewar. The following appointments were then made:

Bro. F. Davison	...	...	...	D.P.G.M.
" Faija	...	...	...	Prov. G.S.W.
" Proffitt	...	...	...	Prov. G.J.W.
" Cama	...	...	...	Prov. G.M.O.
" Vincent	...	...	...	Prov. G.S.O.
" Bowyer	...	...	...	Prov. G.J.O.
" Rev. Viscount Molesworth	...	...	...	Prov. G. Chap.
" Rev. T. M. Gorman	...	...	...	Prov. G. Chap.
" Hammerton	...	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" Burroughs	...	...	...	Prov. G. R. of M.
" Brighten	...	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" Tisley	...	...	...	Prov. G.S.D.
" Taylor	...	...	...	Prov. G.J.D.
" Goodall	...	...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" Pargeter	...	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" Humphries	...	...	...	Prov. G.A.D.C.
" Stedman	...	...	...	Prov. G. Swd. Br.
" Holliday	...	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" E. Hoare	...	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" Scratchley	...	...	...	Prov. G.I.G.
" J. Smith	...	...	...	} Prov. G. Stwds.
" H. White	...	...	...	
" Rumball	...	...	...	
" A. W. S. Hoare	...	...	...	

Bros. Williams, Keystone, Cama, Hiram, Scratchley, Carnarvon, Turner, and Tenterden were nominated as Grand Mark Stewards for the ensuing year.

The following brethren were elected on the Board of General Purposes: Bros. Hogard, Lardner, Lambert, and Klenck.

After the disposal of some minor business the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge was closed in ample form, and the brethren adjourned to the Holborn Restaurant, where an excellent banquet was served, under the genial presidency of the R.W.P.G.M.M. The usual toasts were duly honoured.

V.V. Bro. F. BINCKES responded upon behalf of "The Grand Officers" in an excellent speech.

"The Health of "The R.W. Prov. G.M.M., and the rest of the Prov. Grand Officers," was proposed by Bro. FAIJA. In the course of his speech he spoke of the valuable and efficient services rendered to Masonry in general, and to the Mark Degree in particular, by the R.W. Bro. Col. Sir

F. Burdett. His courtesy, amiability, and geniality at all times were conspicuous, and throughout the whole of England there was not a more universally respected, and deservedly so, Provincial Grand Mark Master than he. He had a very excellent Deputy in the person of Bro. F. Davison, whose absence from their festive board, in consequence of a family bereavement, every one present must deplore. The rest of the Provincial Grand Mark Officers were brethren who had done efficient services in the past, and who, no doubt, would continue to carry out the principles of Mark Masonry to the best of their ability. In conclusion, he called upon them to drink the health, prosperity, and happiness of the P.G.M.M., the D.P.G.M.M., and the rest of the P.G.M. Officers.

The toast having been drunk with acclamation, Bro. Col. Sir F. BURDETT responded. In the course of a long and able reply he spoke of the great interest he had taken in the degree of Mark Masonry. He was particularly pleased with the great success the Order had achieved in Middlesex and Surrey. This was greatly due to the valuable assistance he had received from his Deputy, Bro. Davison, and the Secretary, Bro. Brighten. (Hear, hear.) In consequence of his numerous magisterial, parochial, and other official duties, he was prevented from giving that full attention to the responsibilities of his position as Provincial Grand Mark Master as he would like to do. However, he had those connected with him whose zeal and attention were worthy of all praise, and therefore, when compelled to be absent from his Masonic duties, he was gratified to think that he was well represented, and that the Order did not suffer in consequence of his enforced absence. In concluding his remarks, he congratulated the executive upon the great success that had attended their meeting that day.

The toast of "The Mark Benevolent Fund" was coupled with the name of Bro. CAMA, who replied.

"The Health of the W.M. of the Davison Lodge" followed.

Bro. FAIJA, in the course of his reply, announced that he had received the sum of 18 guineas towards his list as Steward of the Mark Benevolent Fund representing the Davison Lodge. (Applause.)

The remaining toasts were "The Newly-Advanced Brethren, No. 331," "The Visitors," "The P.G. Treasurer and Secretary," "The Treasurer and Secretary of No. 331," and "The Officers of No. 331," all of which were duly responded to. The proceedings then terminated.

**PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND.**

The annual convocation of this Provincial Grand Chapter was holden at the Masonic Hall, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Thursday, the 10th inst. The St. Augustine Chapter, No. 779, under whose banner the Provincial Grand Chapter assembled, having been opened, the M.E. Grand Superintendent, Comp. Wm. Kelly, F.S.A., F.R. Hist. Soc., &c., accompanied by his Grand Officers, were received in due form.

Among those present we noticed Comps. Rev. John Denton, M.A., as P.G.H.; E. F. Mammatt, P.Z., as P.G.J.; Clement E. Stretton, P.Z., as P.G.S.E.; W. Carrick Crofts, P.Z., P.G.S.N.; W. S. Allen, P.Z., P.G.A.S.; T. Coltman, P.G. Treas.; Henry Blood, P.G. Reg.; Joseph Young, Z. 279, P.G.D.C.; Rev. W. Langley, P.Z.; A. Balmforth, Z. 779; John Hassall, C. J. Wilkinson, J. Tanser, and a large number of members and visitors.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been duly read and confirmed, the rolls of chapters and Prov. Grand Officers were called over, and met with a general response. The M.E. Prov. G. Supt. installed Comp. A. Wood as Z. of the De Mowbray Chapter, No. 1130. The Treasurer's accounts for the past year were received. A vote of thanks was passed to Comp. Coltman for his valuable services as Treasurer, and he was unanimously re-elected to that office.

The M.E. Prov. Grand Superintendent appointed his officers as follows, and invested those present:

Comp. G. Toller, P.Z.	...	...	...	Prov. G.H.
" E. F. Mammatt, P.Z.	...	...	...	Prov. G.J.
" S. S. Partridge, P.Z.	...	...	...	Prov. G.S.E.
" W. S. Allen, P.Z.	...	...	...	Prov. G.S.N.
" R. Dalgleish, P.Z.	...	...	...	Prov. G.P.S.
" F. Amatt, Z.	...	...	...	Prov. G.A.S.
" Dr. Willan, J.	...	...	...	Prov. G.A.S.
" Thomas Coltman	...	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" Rev. C. H. Wood, H.	...	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" A. Balmforth, Z.	...	...	...	Prov. G. Swd. B.
" C. J. Wilkinson, E.	...	...	...	Prov. G. Std. B.
" Joseph Young, Z.	...	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" W. Musson, J.	...	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" T. Dunn and Comp. J. Tanser	...	...	...	Prov. G. Janitors.

Comps. Denton and Mammatt, on behalf of the St. Augustine Chapter, expressed their thanks to the Prov. Grand Superintendent, Comp. William Kelly, for his kindness in holding the meeting under its banner. The other routine business having been concluded, the Provincial Grand Chapter was closed in due form. The annual banquet then took place, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly proposed and acknowledged, and a very successful meeting was brought to a close.

**ENGLISH FREEMASONRY BEFORE 1717.—No. II.**

The traces of Freemasonry in the seventeenth century, once very indistinct indeed, thanks to Bro. Rylands mainly, are becoming more clear and consistent, and will one day, I feel certain, assume distinct proportions and an accurate reality. It is now, I think, admitted by expert students that we cannot, and need not, accept 1646 as the limit of Masonic seventeenth century history. We shall, I fancy, ere long stumble upon signs of it before 1646 even. For the evidences are gradually accumulating on a point hitherto almost unnoticed,—that of Masonic Guilds and Societies in the seventeenth century, the names of individual Freemasons; and it seems to be a fair conclusion that there was some common society, or societies, with which Freemasons in the seventeenth century were affiliated, and to which they belonged. Ashmole's evidence as to 1646 amounts to this,—that a lodge of Freemasons of some standing was holden at Warrington in 1646. Whether habitually or casually does not yet clearly appear.

If we are to believe a later biographer of Ashmole, he knew something of its earlier history. But of the condition of that lodge we know nothing more, so far, and all we gather from Ashmole's own scanty narrative is, that it called itself a lodge of Freemasons, and gave to Elias Ashmole what we should call the Entered Apprentice Degree. Some have argued, from Ash-

mole's words in 1682, that he had received more than one degree, though not alluded to in his diary. But all, I think, we can fairly say is, that the words of 1682 simply refer to the conferring and reception of a degree. The Harleian MS. of 1663, as confirmed by the paper-mark, seems to me to point to an inchoate or completed attempt of central government of some kind in the Craft, a sort of gathering themselves together and organizing. My own opinion long has been that we have in Harleian 10.12 perhaps our most valuable MS., and which is either a draft prepared for a stated meeting, (place not filled in), or the copy of a record which the transcriber of 1663 could not perfectly read. Of course, the 1663 MS. is copied from another MS. The editor of the 1722 Constitutions, like Anderson in 1738, had probably copied a transcript of the MS.; varied by some other scribe, and there seems not to be the slightest reason now, scientifically, critically, or historically, to doubt the reality and importance of the Harleian MS. itself, or the "bona fides" of the unknown publisher of the 1722 Constitutions and of Anderson.

Where they got this date from of 1663 does not yet appear. But it is a very curious fact, explain it as you will, and to which my attention has been called in the British Museum, that the earliest known printed Masonic evidence actually supports the paper-mark; while on the other hand the paper-mark fully upholds the date given by the earliest Masonic authority on the MS. I think, then, we may take the MS. as avowing the existence, known to many, of a Society or Order of Freemasons in England, which in 1663, either the first great meeting after the Restoration, or at some other assembly, attempted to form or revive some sort of central government of the scattered lodges or societies up and down the country; and we have in this very MS. a drafting for consideration, or a record of approval, of certain forms of government and regulation, which were to give coherence and consistency alike to individual lodges and the entire system. It may be said, I know, that these regulations point to an unsettled state of things, and to a change "along the whole line" of the Masonic Guilds, in their inner life, and their practical outcome. But, probably, such was the state of the Guilds generally, and we need not expect in the seventeenth century to behold a very distinct or settled order of things. I am, myself, inclined to believe that the admission of the speculative element was gradual, probably long adopted in localities before it was generally recognized, and rather forced on the body by the necessities of the case and the change of circumstances than by any very enthusiastic adhesion or approval of the Order itself. Randle Holmes's evidence is most important, as shewing that he fully recognized a difference between the companies and the society, or societies, of Freemasons, a difference which is distinctly marked, as some will remember, in the Antiquity MS.

The old theory that the Society of Freemasons was one with the City Company, or that the Guilds and Companies were all but identical, as Anderson seems to have held, cannot, I think, now be sustained; though many other writers, like Anderson, both older and modern, have been slightly misled by several facts which, in themselves not a little deceiving, seem to point to such an assumption and reality. We have a MS. testimony about 1760, at any rate to a lodge in Chester, which seems, as Bro. Rylands pointed out, to be a minute of a lodge in Randle Holmes's handwriting, and if the marks represent a voting process, we have not only another very important witness to the unchangeability of the customs of a similar society, but a proof—if proof be needed—of the lax way in which, as was probably the case, any such minutes were kept in those days. The writing of lodge minutes on separate leaves was a custom which survived to the eighteenth century. Plot's evidence is most striking, because that of a non-Mason and one hostile to Freemasonry. But he records the fact that lodges existed in Staffordshire and all over England of Speculatives and Operatives in 1686, and had existed for some time, and he even quotes words which seem to coincide with one or two old copies of assumed ritual usages. The evidence of Aubrey serves also to show that the Freemasons were recognized as a known existing society in 1691.

Thus we have a "catena" of authorities all pointing to the actuality of the Society of Freemasons from the earlier to the latest portion of the seventeenth century. What, however, its "modus agendi et vivendi," what its "norma morum," &c., what the actual conditions of its inner and outer life, is our great difficulty to-day to discover and realize, and above all how it was connected with the movement in 1717. I propose in the next paper to point out some conclusions which serve inevitably to suggest themselves from the foregoing facts, and to finish with a few considerations and reflexions on what seems now to be the imperative duty of all Masonic Students.

DRYASDUST.

### HISTORY OF THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

(Continued from page 341.)

Later in the year a sub-Committee, consisting of Bros. John Symonds, the Rev. W. H. Lyall, and F. Binckes, whose name now figures prominently in the proceedings of the Institution, delivered their report as to the likeliest means to adopt with a view to increasing the resources of the Charity. This report was referred back for further consideration, and before it was submitted finally for adoption, Bro. Binckes tendered his resignation as a member of the said sub-Committee. Nevertheless his suggestions, both originally and ultimately, were eminently practical; and we doubt not must have exercised a beneficial influence in extending the resources of the Charity, especially in the Provinces, whose laxity of support had already been animadverted upon with a considerable amount of severity. The chief step recommended by this sub-Committee was the establishment of provincial organizations for the purpose of promoting the interests of both the Masonic Schools, the organizations taking the form of Committees. Simultaneously with the preparation of this report the House Committee were busying themselves in devising means for the accommodation of the whole establishment of boys at Wood Green, those only to be excepted who deliberately elected to remain with their families, and in the course of the discussion of this plan they proposed and submitted a full statement of the cost which such an extension would involve.

Having succeeded at length in providing the local habitation which alone was needed in order to complete the original idea of the founders of the Institution, and having had the opportunity of judging by practical experience of the beneficial results accruing from a portion of the establish-

ment being under one roof and educated in accordance with one system, the Executive lost no time in placing all the boys, or at least so many of them as were willing to accept the arrangement, on the same footing. At the same time they were careful to estimate the probabilities of their being in a position to meet the additional outlay. Accordingly, the House Committee charged themselves with the duty of examining into the receipts and expenditure for a term of six years under the old system, and for six months of the period that had elapsed since the adoption of the mixed system, and on the 2nd October, 1858, they handed in their Report. From this we learn that during the six years from March, 1851, to March, 1857, the sum received in respect of the General Fund amounted to £8982 os. 8d., the highest total being £1746 5s. 4d., for the year 1853-4, and the lowest £1215 6s. 5d., for 1851-2. The expenditure reached £5338 7s. 2d., the highest sum disbursed in any one year being £1031 8s. 6d., in 1851-2 and the lowest £814 5s. 8d., in 1853-4. In the same period £1700 was invested. As regards the Building Fund, which had been kept distinct, £1350 was contributed by Grand Lodge and £1624 transferred from the General Fund, while the donations and subscriptions amounted to £1171; these three sources of income amounting to £4145. For the six months ended 30th June, 1858, the sum expended in respect of the establishment at Wood Green was £322 13s. 8d., representing an outlay for the whole year of £645 7s. 4d. Adding to this 10 per Cent. for contingencies and the proportion expended for the resident boys in respect of clothing, namely, £219 7s. 6d., and the total cost of the branch at Wood Green must be set down at £929 5s. 6d. The cost for the year of the 45 boys remaining under the old system appears as £572 1s. 3d., making the total for the two branches £1501 6s. 9d. The Committee next considered what would be the cost if the whole of the boys were placed at Wood Green, and this they fixed at £2129 4s. 9d., towards which they estimated that the year's receipts would be sufficient, the last ten months of 1857 having yielded over £2000, while the year 1858 was expected to give £2130. In order to provide the additional accommodation that would become necessary by receiving the whole 70 boys into the school at Wood Green, it was considered that a sum of £1100 would be required, but with the experience of the first Building Fund to guide them, the House Committee apprehended that no difficulties would arise in procuring the needful sum. This Report was submitted at the usual Committee on the date aforesaid, when it was agreed to recommend it for adoption by the next Quarterly Court. On the 18th October, this recommendation was adopted and the Report was referred back to the General Committee in order that its proposals might be carried into effect. The following month, it was arranged that a circular letter should be addressed to the lodges inviting them to send Stewards to the next year's Festival, particular attention being directed to the resolution to place all the boys at the Wood Green School and the increased expenditure which would be thereby necessitated. In December, it was announced that Lord Panmure, Deputy Grand Master, had kindly undertaken to preside at the Festival in question, and in April 1859 it was stated that the proceeds exceeded £2000, including a sum of £306 9s. from the Province of West Yorkshire. Thus it is clear that the contemplated extension of the new plan to the whole of the establishment was regarded with satisfaction by the Craft generally, the prominence given to the appearance of West Yorkshire among the contributors being noticeable chiefly in consequence of the Report, to which allusion has already been made, which recommended the establishment of provincial organizations in connection with our Charities, and from which it appears that there was a great dearth of support among our country lodges, though the latter were the reverse of unwilling to accept the benefits conferred by the said Charities. In June following, the Treasurer was authorised to draw on the bankers to the extent of £400, in order to provide for the extra accommodation at Wood Green. In August a resolution was passed to the effect that all the boys should be lodged at Wood Green, provided, of course, their parents were agreeable to the arrangement; and, in March, 1860, we find that 66 of them were so lodged, only four of the total strength of the establishment electing to remain under the whole plan. Thus, within eight years from the adoption of the proposal to found a School of our own, and in three years after the premises at Wood Green had been purchased and suitably fitted, hardly a trace of the old plan remained. And the funds would seem to have been forthcoming, in order to meet the increased outlay, even more readily than in the years we have passed under review. Each new effort in the direction of improvement appears to have been met by a corresponding increase in zeal and liberality on the part of the Craft. If one day we read of the sale of a portion of the funded property accumulated by the Institution, on some other day we come across an entry showing that a certain amount of new Stock had been purchased. Yet, only a few years before, it was gravely hinted that, having regard to the claims of the other Institutions, the provision of an annual sum of £1500 was beyond the strength of the Craft to accomplish.

Beyond the fact that Bro. Viscount Raynham, M.P., presided at the Festival in 1860, when a sum of about £1650 was raised by the exertions of the Board of Stewards, there is little to arrest our attention till we enter on the year 1861, when the Minutes furnish evidence as to the condition of the School and the relations existing between the educational and governmental staffs. As regards the character of the School as an educational establishment, we have the report of the Rev. Charles James Dyer, Diocesan Inspector of Schools, in which are set forth all the necessary particulars to guide us in forming an opinion of the tuition and its results. In announcing that considerable improvement had been made since his previous report, the rev. gentleman is careful to indicate that the School was very far from being so efficient as those interested in its welfare must desire. Judging from the standard he had applied in examining the boys, he felt he was justified in recording progress; but he goes on to say: "At the same time, I must admit that this standard, although relatively a fair one, was absolutely very moderate, and it will require much assiduity and energy combined with a vigorous and expansive system to advance this Institution to a position capable of competing with other first-class commercial schools." Several recommendations were made by Mr. Dyer, and the Committee seem to have been well pleased with his advice, and took steps to act upon it. Nor could this report, as it happened, have come more opportunely. In January, 1861, a Committee—consisting of Bros. John Symonds, H. J. Thompson, J. R. Sheen, A. H. Hewlett, and H. G. Warren—was appointed for the purpose of inquiring into the management of the Institution; but particularly with respect to certain allegations which had been made from time to time at the different Committees, full powers being at the same time conferred upon them to summon members of the House Committee, and also to ask for all such papers and books as they might consider it desirable to examine.

(To be continued.)

**GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS.**

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M.W.G.M.M.

THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL  
IN AID OF THE  
MARK GRAND LODGE BENEVOLENT  
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WILL BE HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, 23rd JULY, 1884,

AT THE  
CRYSTAL PALACE, SYDENHAM.

R.W. BRO. MAJOR J. W. WOODALL, J.P.,  
PROV. GRAND MASTER OF N. AND E. YORKSHIRE,  
in the Chair.

Dinner on the Table at Five o'clock p.m.  
Morning Dress—Mark Collars and Jewels.

Tickets: Ladies, 15s., Gentlemen, 21s., inclusive of Wine.

Brethren who are kindly acting as Stewards are requested  
to send in their Lists on or before Saturday, 19th inst.  
FREDERICK BINCKES, Grand Secretary.  
3a, Red Lion-square, W.C., 17th July, 1884.

**PROVINCE OF WORCESTER.**

MASONIC SOIREE AND EXHIBITION.  
Worcester, Aug. 27, 1884.

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to which effect was inserted in all the leading newspapers.  
He is sorry to say the report is operating much against  
his business, as many of his friends and the public, thinking  
his hotel closed, have gone elsewhere.

He therefore trusts that his Brother Freemasons in the  
country will support him, and the more so as he has been a  
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Premiums ..... £144,626  
Interest, &c. .... £37,695

ACCUMULATED FUND.  
Laid by in the year ..... £182,321  
Accumulated Fund on 31st January,  
1884 (equal to 76 per cent. of the net  
premiums received upon policies in  
force) ..... £938,609

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£300,308. Average Reversionary Bonus for 27 years about  
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Special Tour.  
Ex. Ex.

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Edinburgh arr.	3.30	7.0	7.45	8.38	5.30	6.0	7.20
Glasgow... „	5.25	8.20	10.10	10.25	—	7.35	9.0

1, 2, 3 Classes by all trains except the 10.0 a.m. Sleeping  
carriages and Pullman's cars on night trains. The 8.0 p.m.  
Special Tourist Express, and the 8.30 p.m. Express, are in  
direct connection with the Columba, Iona, and other West  
Coast steamers, and with trains for Oban and the High-  
lands.

Additional trains from Leicester, Northampton, Burton,  
Derby, and Nottingham, will connect with the above  
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An additional Up Express will leave Glasgow at 8.50 p.m.,  
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7.10 a.m.

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Time Tables and Tourist Programmes sent on application.

HENRY OAKLEY, General Manager.  
King's-cross Station, July, 1884.

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chester in four hours fifteen minutes.

London (Kings Cross) dep.	5.15	10.10	12.30	2.0	2.45	5.0	6.15	8.30	9.0
Sheffield arr.	8.58	1.47	4.13	5.12	6.30	8.44	9.40	12.15	1.7
Manchester „	10.5	3.5	5.30	6.15	7.45	9.55	10.45	—	2.30
(London-rd.)									

Manchester d. (London-rd.)	6.45	—	10.0	11.0	12.30	2.0	3.0	5.0	9.30
Sheffield... dep.	7.58	9.25	11.15	12.5	1.45	3.3	4.15	6.15	10.47
London (Kings Cross) ... arr.	11.45	1.0	3.0	3.30	5.20	6.15	8.0	10.0	3.0

Additional express trains will leave Liverpool (Central  
Station) at 5.15 a.m. for London, and London (King's  
Cross), at 9.0 p.m. for Liverpool.

For particulars, and other important alterations, see time  
tables and notices of the Company.

HENRY OAKLEY, General Manager.  
King's Cross, July, 1884.

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FREEMASONRY ACCORDING TO THE POPE.

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**To Correspondents.**

The following communications stand over until next week for want of space:—  
CRAFT.—Parthenon Lodge, No. 1826; Abbey Lodge, No. 2030.  
INSTRUCTION.—Hyde Park Lodge, No. 1425; Covent Garden, No. 1614.

**BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.**

"Jewish Chronicle," "Die Bauhütte," "Rough Ashlar," "La Revista Masónica del Peru," "Hull Packet," "Broad Arrow," "Citizen," "Court Circular," "Victorian Masonic Journal," "Derby Daily Telegraph," "The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland's Reporter," "Allen's Indian Mail," "The Tricycling Journal," "The Daily Telegraph," St. John, N.B.



SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1884.

**Original Correspondence.**

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for, or even approving of, the opinions expressed by our correspondents, but we wish in a spirit of fair play to all to permit—within certain necessary limits—free discussion.]

**BOYS' SCHOOL FESTIVAL, 1884.**  
To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,  
In answer to the letter of Bro. Walter Martin, which appeared in the *Freemason* of July 12th, I may observe that the amount of Bro. Skudder's list on the day of the festival was £440, and his list remained at that amount until a few minutes before the lists were announced, when a brother present in the room told the Secretary he would be answerable for Bro. Skudder collecting another £100. This amount was not even put on the list, but

simply written in pencil in the printed list of lodges and Stewards, and at the same time my list was increased to £630, and was known by large numbers in the room at the time, and has been printed, under the authority of the Secretary of the Institution, in all Masonic and other papers, as the largest amount collected by any Steward representing either a London lodge or Stewards representing a province. Knowing Bro. Walter Martin very well, and thoroughly appreciating his assertion that he wishes credit should be given to whom credit is due, induces me to answer his letter, because he was not present at the festival, and therefore not in possession of the facts of the case; and I am quite sure, therefore, that when he reads this explanation he will be only too pleased to award the credit (as all others have done) to me, of being first on the list, above every one, and, therefore, the premier Steward.

Trusting you will kindly insert this letter in your next issue,—I am, yours, fraternally obliged,  
W. A. SCURRAH,  
Stwd. of the Royal Savoy, 1744.

July 16th, 1884.



**CATALOGUE OF BOOKS.** E. W. Stibbs, 32, Museum-street, No. 42.

Mr. E. W. Stibbs, the well-known bookseller, of 32, Museum-street, has just issued a remarkable catalogue of books for sale, representing the various classes of literature—English and foreign—Greek and Latin classics, voyages and travels, biography, history, the drama, poetry, the fine arts, topography, and works on America. Many of these books have been purchased from Lord Gosford's library, and are in admirable condition and excellent binding. Amid such a number of books, it seems almost impossible and invidious to mention any of the tempting works thus submitted to our notice. Some of the works are very rare, have not occurred some time for sale, and may not occur for a long time, perhaps ever again. We refer our readers and book collectors to the catalogue itself.

"Time," a monthly magazine. We wish we could honestly say anything in praise of this serial. But, alas! we cannot. We neither like the tone nor see the point of its poetry or prose. "Selon nous," the only two readable articles are "The Ilmington Hills" and "British Exploration in Egypt."

"The Canadian Craftsman," as usually, well edited, is again before us, which we always read with pleasure.

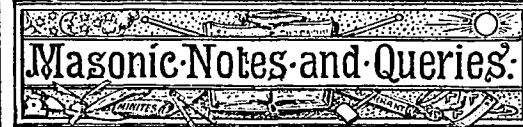
"The Philadelphia Keystone" contains a very able review of Bro. Fort's Monograph.

"The New York Sunday Times" is a very readable paper, and has much interesting Masonic information.

**A CRITICAL ENQUIRY INTO THE CONDITION OF THE CONVENTUAL BUILDERS, &c.** By Bro. George Fort, J. W. Burton, 706, Broadway, New York, U.S.

We have perused Bro. Fort's singularly able and striking Monograph with the greatest pleasure and appreciation. It admirably illustrates the literary merit and untiring research of that well known and valuable Masonic historian. Bro. Fort tells his story in his wonted effective style, and gives us much that is absolutely new and much that is very startling to think over very seriously and digest. Too much praise cannot be accorded to his love of minute detail and copious research, and no one can allege that he does not quote the authorities he relies on, to validate his views and confirm his statements. It will be seen by readers of the little work, who we trust will be very many, as this "Monograph" form is both cheap and convenient for all students, that Bro. Fort, curiously enough, reproduces Findel's theory of conventual lodges in the eleventh century. He concedes a previous organization under Charles Martel, in France, and Athelstan, in England, and we apprehend means to recognize the successors of the Roman Guilds in Italy, and seeks to shew that the Longobardic bodies of Masons "marmorios peritissimos," as they were called in one Royal Order, were moved from one part of the Italian Empire to the other. Bro. Fort states that when the Carolingian Empire obtained the upper hand over the Longobardic the Cloisters adopted the artisans, who were "loaned" from priory to priory as the work of Church building went on. But here comes in one of Bro. Fort's most startling propositions, a theory new, we believe, to Masonic Students. We give it in his own words: "Down to the time of Charlemagne, it may be stated as a general proposition, that nearly all Operatives were bondsmen." This view opens so a wide a question for Masonic Students that we shall make no apology for dwelling upon it. Broadly stated, it effects the whole idea of the Guilds, qua *Free Masons*. Why Masons were called "Free" is still a moot point, and rejecting the "franche pierre" explanation utterly, and any other which is non-natural, we come back to what, pace Bro. Fort, we think is the safest and the best, *Free of the Guild*. It is true our earliest Guild Legend or Constitution is not earlier than 1390, at the very earliest; but its words seem to imply that it is itself but a transcript of much older Regulations. It is, however, we think, clear that if the "French Ordonnances of the Metier" are correct as to Charles Martel, and our English legends are true as to Athelstan, (which Bro. Fort very gracefully concedes), we have the Guilds of Masons (whatever might be the law in other parts of Europe) existing in England and Paris before A.D. 1000. The subject is not without difficulty; but if the Guilds existed, freedom accompanied their membership, whether as arising from their actual form, or whether, as in "boroughs," obtained by servitude for a given period. This is, however, a very intricate subject, and, as from the "Roll of Battle Abbey," it would almost seem as if shortly after the Conquest there were Guilds for the "hinds and serfs," it may be that the Norman law of "Seigneurie" in all things—whether as regards the "chace" or those "ad-scriptiglebae,"—for some time gravely affected the status of the Guilds. In 11370, and probably much earlier in England, as we have seen, the Free Guilds only took in Free men. If, as time ran on in early ages, the best craftsmen were protected by the monastries, the "carta libertatis" which the monastries seem to have given to the Masons would be, as Bro.

Fort suggests, both a passport and a practical enfranchisement. Bro. Fort points out that in the fifth century a Grand Master of the Operatives was a recognized official personage, and that in his title of mastership is to be found what is all but the translation of W.M., "magisterium spectabilem." Bro. Fort mentions the Craft Scholæ, the Guild, the Guild Schools, and derives from the Monte Cassino rolls a proof that there was not only a connection with Byzantium, but that the workmen of Amalfi and Lombardy were famous in 1066. It may be true that much of the early building was constructed by "lay brethren," under the direction of the monks, and that the "barbati fratres" were the precursors of the Guilds of skilled labour. Bro. Fort states that he has found maciones, fratres maciones, maciones, maciones, as applied to masons; but we think these are corruptions; and he apparently believes that mason comes from "macina," but in this we cannot agree. It seems to us as clear as anything well can be that our English mason comes from macon, and that macon comes from maconner and maconner from some Low Latin form, whether a verb or substantive matters little which has to do with the general idea of house. A very interesting portion of the Monograph is that which alludes to tokens and signs used by the conventual masons, such as two closed hands one above the other being the sign of the W.M.; and it is just possible that we have in these new facts another explanation of the "marks," while we see in it a proof of the wide-spread usage, very old indeed, of "signs of recognition." Bro. Fort alludes to a curious mediæval legend as regards the Apostle St. James, and a probable connection with the legend of the "Enfants de Jacques" in the Compagnonnage. The story of the four sons of Aymon in the "Mediæval Romance" seems also to belong to the same form of mystical and mythical Romanticism. In 545 we find in the rules of St. Aurelianus (as quoted by Fort) the use of the word *marcionibus*, as we said before, the *macionibus* of Ducange; but, as we before remarked, we do not ourselves attach much importance to this particular form of the word. It serves, however, to show that between the lapicide, the artifices quadratarii, the fabri of classic times, we have a use of maciones, maciones, maciones, which settled down into macon, masouns, maceons, cementarii, latomi, freemaceons, fremasons, freemason of subsequent ages, and this is perhaps as far as we ever can attain by way of clear explanation of a very difficult question. We have said enough to show how deep, how varied, how wide is the extent covered by Bro. Fort's able, but modest, Monograph, how well it will repay expert perusal, and what a debt of gratitude we poor Masonic students owe to one who thus devotes high powers, much eloquence, and careful research, to their information, improvement, and edification.



**367] OLD LODGES.**

Can any brother give me the *exact words* of a reference I have lately seen in a French work, to the "Annee Maconnique des Pays Bas," Vol. 4, p. 372, and which profess to refer to two lodges at Paris and Lyons in 1535? The force of the reference is impaired by the statement that they were "Loges Ecossaïses," and I am, therefore, inclined to believe that 1535 is a misprint for 1735.  
M.W.

**368] A NEW ORIGIN FOR FREEMASONRY.**

Bro. Boubee in the "Univers Maconnique" for 1837, emits the idea that Freemasonry took its rise at Jerusalem at the re-erection of Christian Churches by Constantine and Helena, and that the Christian workmen only, so to say, revived the Salamonic usages and divisions of ranks.  
BOOKWORM.

**369] STATE PERSECUTION OF FREEMASONRY IN FRANCE.**

It seems to me that we may gain a great deal of light upon the early history of French Freemasonry if only we could get at the real facts of the case in respect of the governmental interference with its acts from time to time in the eighteenth century. An anonymous French writer makes the following statement: In 1735 an edict is said to have been issued by the police against the Freemasons. In 1737 for the first time the police openly interfered with the body and fined a certain La Kapée, keeper of an hotel, 1000 francs for a lodge held in his house, and shut up his house for six months. In the same year the Etats Generaux are said to have had the matter before them, but eventually to have ordered the repeal of the Edict of 1735. Louis XV. is said to have forbidden the courtiers from attending the lodges, and in 1738 some Freemasons assembled in the street, "Des deux Ecus," to celebrate the Fete of the Order, are said to have been arrested and conducted to Fort l'Eveque. In 1744 "The Chatelet" forbade the meeting of Freemasons again, and in 1745 Leroy, the keeper of a hotel, was fined 3000 francs, and all the furniture and jewels of the lodge were seized. There are probably other proceedings and decrees, which, if we could find, or be referred to, might throw great light, as I said before, on the now hazy history of French Freemasonry in the first part of the eighteenth century.  
MASONIC STUDENT.

**370] A QUERY FOR BRO. WHYTEHEAD.**

In the inventory of John Cadeby, of Beverley, Mason, Testamenta Eboracensis, Vol. iii., p. 97, occurs the following entry: "Item, Zona fracta de cerico, arg, ornata, cum litoris B et J in medio." This Mason seem to have been a Mason of some means and many effects. What do these letters mean? Do they refer to the Guild of St. John at Beverley, or are they J and B? It is possible they may be the initials of a name, but then not J. Cadeby. B et J would not be after all correct.  
SURTEES.

Bro. W. A. Scurrah, who had £630 on his list at the Boys' Festival, is a founder of the Henry Levander Lodge, and will be invested as Junior Warden by Bro. H. Lovegrove at the consecration next week.









penny the worse," while there are plain indications that the day is not far distant when the Bishop of Rome will be glad to seek an asylum in one of those countries whose most loyal subjects he has so wantonly insulted! But, brethren, we know our plain duty in spite of misrepresentation, and even insult. We must patiently persevere in our allotted task until that day when the great Overseer shall perchance revoke the mistaken decision of his subordinates, and when with unerring skill He shall try every man's work of what kind it is, and to him who has been faithful and industrious shall a reward be given far exceeding his expectations and deserts.

"To him that overcometh are  
The new name written on the stone,  
The raiment bright, the crown, the throne;  
What time shall shine that morning star"

Whose rising brings peace and tranquillity to the faithful and obedient of the human race.

**CONSECRATION OF THE ROYAL NAVAL CHAPTER, No. 59.**

A new chapter, under the wing of this ancient lodge, was consecrated at Freemasons' Hall on Friday last, the 11th inst., under most favourable auspices. The founders are brethren so well known as workers in almost every phase of Masonry, that success in such hands is a foregone conclusion. A large number assembled at Freemasons' Hall, amongst whom were the following: Comps. Jabez Hogg, P.G.D.; C. Greenwood, P.G.S.B.; Raynham Stewart, P.G.D.; J. Lewis-Thomas, P.G.A.D.C.; E. M. Lott, G. Org.; C. Sadler, G. Janitor; G. Cooper, A. Millar, C. E. Ferry, C. H. Driver, H. S. Goodall, J. H. Thompson, R. Eve, A. M. Broadley, and C. F. Hogard. Founders: Comps. S. B. Wilson, Chas. Belton, Fredk. Binckes, C. F. Matier, F. J. Tyler, J. L. Mather, A. J. H. Goldney, and C. E. Soppet.

The Consecrating Officer was Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, G.S.E. The other companions who assisted in the ceremonies were Comps. J. Neal York, G.S. Cambridge, as H.; Rev. C. W. Arnold, P.G.C., as J.; Frank Richardson, P.G.D., as Director of Ceremonies; and Edgar Bowyer, P.G. Std. Br., as Scribe N. The chapter having been duly opened, and the usual formularies observed, the Consecrating Officer called on the Rev. C. W. Arnold to give the oration. The ceremony of consecration was then proceeded with, and the chapter was duly consecrated in ancient form.

The installation of Principals then took place as follows: Comps. Stephen Barton Wilson, as Z.; C. Belton, as H.; and F. Binckes, as J. The other officers appointed were: Comps. C. F. Matier, S.E.; A. Torkington, S.N.; Tyler, P.S.; H. Goldney, 1st A.S.; J. L. Mather, Treas.; Soppet, D. of C.; and Walkley, Janitor.

A vote of thanks to the Consecrating Officer was then proposed by the M.E., and seconded by Comp. BELTON, and it was further resolved that Comps. Shadwell H. Clerke, James Neal York, Rev. C. W. Arnold, Frank Richardson, and Edgar Bowyer be elected as honorary members. This was carried unanimously, and Col. SHADWELL H. CLERKE returned thanks.

Letters of apology were then read from numerous brethren who were unable to be present.

Several brethren were then proposed for exaltation, and Comps. A. M. Broadley and Webster Glynes as joining members.

A banquet afterwards took place at the Holborn Restaurant, presided over by the M.E.Z., when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly proposed and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

**SUMMER BANQUET OF THE LODGE OF PROSPERITY, No. 65.**

On Wednesday, the 9th inst., the Waterloo Station of the South-Western Railway wore an aspect which promised well for the usual success of another of those enjoyable summer banquets which have been for so many years carried out by the above prosperous lodge. The brethren there assembled were accompanied by a large number of lady friends, and the W.M., Bro. C. J. Rich, and his wife must have looked around them with much gratification to see how brilliant an assembly had gathered there, fully confident of the arrangements which had been made for the most popular day of their year.

Saloon carriages had been reserved in an express train for the run down to Walton-on-Thames; and upon the arrival there, Bro. Dintelmann, the host, who had undertaken to receive the company, had provided a wealth of waggonettes, victorias, and omnibuses to drive them across two miles of beautiful country; and a glorious summer sun favouring all, the former palace of his late Royal Highness the Duke of York—now the Oatlands Park Hotel—was reached after a most enjoyable drive. After an hour's stroll in the spacious park, the welcome call to dinner was heard, and the large dining hall was then found to have been beautifully laid out for 150 guests—the host had done his utmost. The lodge had provided handsome menu cards, and one of the members—Bro. Bentley Haynes—had crowned it all by a lavish present of flowers—roses everywhere in profusion, and in an ante-room roses again for the ladies, in the form of sprays, besides enough for every gentleman.

When the brethren and the ladies had assembled at the tables, presided over by Bro. C. J. Rich, the W.M., we noticed present Bros. Goodwin, Treas.; L. A. Leins, P.M.; G. T. Brown, P.M., Sec.; C. E. Ferry, P.M.; W. Chicken, P.M.; J. Roberts, P.M.; G. Schadler, P.M.; J. H. Hawkins, S.W.; W. Walker, J.W.; R. Dyson, S.D.; Bentley Haynes, J.D.; and several visitors distinguished in the Craft. With the aid of a string band, piano, and a quartette of voices, grace was beautifully sung, and then the event of the day—the splendid banquet provided by Bro. Dintelmann, himself a member of this lodge—was duly disposed of and enjoyed.

After the toast of "The Queen and the Craft" had been well received, Bro. Bentley Haynes sang "God save the Queen," accompanied by the orchestra and the whole of the company.

Bro. SCHADLER, the I.P.M., then proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Master," saying that if he had any experience in thought-reading at all, he could see from the

faces in front of him how successful he should be in proposing such a toast. Not only was their meeting here last year a great success, but he could plainly see that it was eclipsed by the one of to-day.

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER, in reply, said that, although weighted with a load of good words, he hardly knew how to express them sufficiently; but his sincerity would supplement all. The pleasure of meeting the brethren with their wives and daughters in so glorious a place was in great measure due to the wisdom of his predecessors, who for many years had established this annual custom, but he congratulated himself upon the happy appearance of all to-day, and assured all the ladies who had Freemason husbands, and those who hoped to have them, that it was not mere dining out that the brethren had in view. In spite of what certain ecclesiastics had lately said, English Freemasons of to-day had nothing to do with "sedition, privy conspiracy, or rebellion," neither "false doctrine, heresy, or schism;" the one grace they endeavoured to court was Charity; the noble Institution for Aged Freemasons and their wives, whom misfortune may overtake in the rugged path of life, also that for the Girls, and for the Boys, was sufficient proof of this, and demonstrated that mere dining out was nothing compared to the useful work of the fraternity.

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER then proposed the principal toast of the day, "The Ladies," saying that upon this occasion he had a secret to tell them, and that was that the hearts of the brethren had been quite charmed, not only by their kindly act of being present, but by their so gracefully adorning themselves, and he specially thanked Mrs. Haynes, who had interested herself so much on behalf of her sister visitors.

Bro. HALLER, who replied for the ladies, said that he had already heard a brother whisper, "Have you your speech prepared," but in the face of so brilliant a company he felt no such need but rather encouraged. The ladies around him had expressed unbounded satisfaction at the welcome awarded them, and he had no hesitation in saying that every one of them were deeply indebted to the W.M. and his Committee.

After the toast of "The Visitors," the band played "Auld Lang Syne," and the company adjourned to the lawn. At seven o'clock the dining room had been cleared and dancing commenced, which occupied the young people until nearly ten o'clock. Thus ended a most enjoyable day, and under a bright, full, summer moon, in the cool of the evening, the company were driven back to the station, the ladies in many instances saying that as they for once had been admitted into the privileges, they would willingly leave the mysteries of Freemasonry in the care of their husbands and friends.

**ANNUAL PICNIC OF THE LODGE OF AFFABILITY, No. 317, MANCHESTER.**

On Wednesday, the 9th inst., 34 ladies and brethren assembled at Victoria Station for the purpose of proceeding to Bolton Abbey, via Skipton. The committee of management had previously arranged for saloon carriages to convey the party to Skipton, and at 9.35 the train took its departure for that old-fashioned Yorkshire town, which was reached shortly after 11 o'clock. On leaving the train the company walked to the Midland Hotel, where luncheon was awaiting them, after which waggonettes conveyed them to Bolton Abbey. The drive was most enjoyable, and some of the loveliest scenery in Yorkshire met the eye on all sides. On arriving at the lodge gates the party alighted, and walked through the woods, and viewed the remains of the ancient Abbey and other places and objects of interest for which the locality is famous, subsequently assembling for the return journey at 4.15.

Directly after leaving the Devonshire Arms a very heavy thunderstorm, with torrents of rain, came on, and lasted until long after the company returned to the hotel, the result being that several of the ladies and brethren, despite the use of mackintoshes and umbrellas, got unpleasantly and uncomfortably wet. This unfortunate "contretemps" somewhat marred the enjoyment that hitherto had progressed uninterruptedly; but matters took a more favourable turn, after a substantial tea "à la fourchette" had been partaken of, and the saturated garments had been dried, through the kindness of the proprietor, Bro. Throup, who exerted himself to the utmost to make every one feel comfortable, and lent those who needed them coats, &c., while their own were drying.

After the cloth had been cleared and tables removed, Bro. W. J. Cunliffe, W.M., on the piano, and Bro. R. R. Lisenden, J.W., on the English concertina, performed a short selection, and subsequently a few dances were indulged in, which the ladies particularly seemed thoroughly to enjoy. The note of departure having been sounded by the W.M., all made their way to the station, and eventually arrived at Victoria at 10.25. The whole of the company expressed themselves thoroughly pleased with the day's outing, which, but for the storm, would certainly have been enjoyment "par excellence."

Amongst the company were Bro. W. J. Cunliffe, W.M., and Mrs. Cunliffe; Mr. and Mrs. Cunliffe; Bro. James Wilson, P.M., Mrs., and Miss Wilson; Bro. H. Walmsley, P.M., and Mrs. Walmsley; Bros. John Bladon, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; Marsden, Wm. Nicholl, P.M.; Bro. John Smethurst, P.M., and Mrs. Smethurst; Bro. W. B. Akerman, I.G., and Mrs. Akerman; Bros. Abraham Wild, Chesworth, Stephen Hamer, John Garside; Bro. J. W. G. and Mrs. Coombes; Mr. and Mrs. Banning; Bro. and Mrs. McAllister; Bro. and Miss Freeman; Bros. Chas. V. Anger, John Bollard, P.M. 126; R. R. Lisenden, J.W. 317 (Freemason); and others.

A deserved vote of thanks was awarded to Bros. W. J. Cunliffe, W.M., and John Garside, Sec., for the labour and pains they had expended over arranging for bringing the picnic to a successful termination.

**SUMMER EXCURSION OF THE HUNDRED OF ELLOE LODGE, No. 469, SPALDING.**

This pleasant annual gathering took place on Monday, the 7th inst., the object of the visit being the ancient University of Cambridge. The party left Spalding by the Great Eastern express at 10 o'clock, arriving at Cambridge at 11.16. On arrival they were met on the platform by Bro. W. W. Campion, a native of Spalding, but now resident in Cambridge, by whom they were "carted" off

bodily to his pleasant villa close by, where a substantial luncheon awaited them. Tramcars were then taken into the town, and Bro. Spalding, of the Scientific Lodge, No. 88, then escorted the visitors to most of the colleges and buildings, as well as to the far-famed walks and avenues of the "Backs," with the museums and other objects of interest. At 4 p.m. a noble banquet was provided at the Red Lion Hotel by Bro. Host Moyes, to which ample justice was done. Owing to a severe bereavement, the W.M. (Bro. the Rev. A. W. G. Moore, M.A.) was unable to be present, so W. Bro. Barrell, the Secretary of the lodge (who had organised and conducted the trip throughout) presided. "Ladies and lewises" had been invited to join the party, and a number of the fair sex graced the brethren by their presence. The usual toasts were honoured, although very briefly, from the shortness of the time, and at 6.40 the return train was taken, and Spalding again reached at 8.0. Several brethren and ladies from Boston also joined the Hundred of Elloe, and it was the universal opinion that a more enjoyable outing could scarcely have been arranged. A photograph of the party, arranged in a group, was taken by Bro. Hills in his beautiful garden. The courtesy and hospitality of this worthy brother, as also of Bro. Watts, was almost unbounded, and the invaluable assistance of Bro. Campion enabled every one to assert on their return that pleasure and profit had been the result of the day's proceedings.

**SUMMER BANQUET OF THE LODGE OF ST. JOHN, No. 1306.**

The fourth annual summer banquet of this lodge took place on Wednesday, the 9th inst., at the Royal Forest Hotel, Chingford. There was a good attendance of brethren of the lodge, visitors, and ladies. Amongst those present were Bro. J. P. T. Conture, W.M., Mrs. and Miss Conture; Bro. C. Veal, P.M., Mrs. and Miss Veal; Bro. Magrath, P.M., Mrs. and Master Magrath; Bro. T. Wooding and Mrs. Wooding; Bro. Hardy, Mrs. and Miss Hardy; Bro. Wise and Mrs. Wise; Bro. Oppenheim and Mrs. Oppenheim; Bro. Blaney; Bro. Beard and Miss Beard; Bro. Collier, Mrs. and Miss Collier; Bro. Blain and Mrs. Blain; Bro. Joslin and Mrs. Joslin; Bro. King and Mrs. King; Bro. Stichling and Mrs. Stichling; Bro. Dale; Mrs. Weston; Mrs. Bennett; Bro. Twinn, Hon. Sec., and Mrs. Twinn, and others.

Bro. Conture, W.M. of the lodge, occupied the chair, the vice being filled by Bro. C. Veal, P.M. The banquet, which was served in first-rate style, and seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by every one present, being ended, grace was said, and the usual loyal and other toasts duly honoured, Bro. King ably responding for "The Visitors," and Bro. F. H. Dale for "The Ladies." The W.M. informed the company that there were breaks in waiting to take them for a drive, and the whole of the party embraced the opportunity of viewing some of the lovely scenery of Epping Forest, and enjoying the fresh air. On returning to the hotel tea and coffee was served, and the remainder of the evening was spent in dancing, a quadrille band having been specially engaged, Bro. Stichling, of the Earl of Zetland Lodge, ably officiating as M.C. Altogether a most delightful day was spent, and the party returned to town, declaring that this had been the most successful and enjoyable of any of their summer outings.

**SUMMER BANQUET OF THE EARL OF CARNARVON LODGE, No. 1642.**

On Thursday, the 10th inst., the members of the above lodge held their annual summer banquet. The lodge was opened in the morning at the Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill, and, after the usual business, was closed in due form, and the brethren and visitors, accompanied by their wives and members of the lodge of instruction, numbering upwards of 120 persons, proceeded by train to Taplow, where there were in readiness three steam launches to convey them to Bourne End, the country residence of the W.M., Bro. F. C. Frye. The trip was a most enjoyable one, and the spot for the day's festivity charmingly situated on the banks of the Thames. The W.M. and Mrs. Frye received their visitors as they alighted from the launches, and conducted them through the grounds to a large tent, where luncheon was provided. They were then invited to get again on board the launches for a trip to Medmenham Abbey, which was readily responded to, and the numbers increased by several brethren who had come down direct to Bourne End by a later train. The day had not at any time been very bright; but as the launches steamed away, the sun broke through the thick clouds, and all hoped for a fine afternoon. The launches had, however, proceeded but a short distance, when the company appeared to meet what proved to be a thorough downpour of rain. On arriving at the Abbey, the launches were turned, the ladies housed in the cabins, and Bourne End was reached soon after six o'clock. The banquet was presided over by the W.M., during which the band of the Wickham Volunteers performed a selection of music.

The toasts of "The Health of the Queen," "H.R.H. the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers" were given.

Bro. S. SMOUT, I.P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M." in a few well-chosen remarks.

Bro. FRYE thanked the brethren and visitors for coming so far to spend the day with him in the country. He was particularly pleased to see the ladies with them for the first time; but regretted the weather had been so unfavourable as, to a great extent, spoil their enjoyment. He thought he had calculated on everything to make the day a happy one; but had not reckoned for the weather, and he was sorry for it.

The toast of "The Visitors" was responded to by Bro. STRUTWICK (Jamaica), and "The Ladies" by Bro. the Rev. KERR GRAY.

The evening having been fine, the time that remained was enjoyed by dancing and promenading through the grounds. Bros. Parkhouse, P.M. and Treas.; Murlis, P.M. and Sec.; and Lander, P.M. and D.C., were indefatigable in assisting the W.M., and greatly added to the enjoyment of all present; and at 10 o'clock a special train from Bourne End brought the company safe back to town.

Bro. George Phillips presided at the fortnightly meeting of the Board, held on Monday, at the Holborn Town Hall.

