

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;
SIR ARCHIBALD C. CAMPBELL, BART., M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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ALL our brethren will rejoice to note that our esteemed and distinguished Pro G.M., Bro. the Earl of CARNARVON, has been well received by all classes at his State entry into Dublin, as Viceroy of Ireland, and will heartily wish him health and happiness, and success, in discharging the serious and significant duties of his high and arduous office.

WE regret to notice in the "Echo du Nord" (Lille, France) of July 2nd, kindly forwarded to us by a fraternal correspondent, the account of a very foolish ceremony, performed at Paris by the "Loge d'Amitie," termed a Masonic Baptism—"Baptême Maconnique." We always deplore such perverse and unmeaning Masonic proceedings, and on this occasion, we are still more sorry to note, the unprecedented fact that two English brethren are said to have assisted at such inane proceedings. We, however, suppress their names, for the "honour and dignity" of our good English Craft. There does not, happily, appear to have been any parody, as is sometimes alleged by Ultramontane writers of the baptismal ceremony; but the whole affair is silly, childish, and meaningless in the highest degree, no doubt offensive to many serious persons, and ought to be suppressed in future by the French Grand Orient. We shall probably recur to the subject next week.

RECREATION banquets are many, and English Freemasonry, with a last spasmodic exertion, seems dropping, as the French put it, into temporary "sommeil"—slumber. Like as in the palace of the SLEEPING BEAUTY, which the poet's genius and power have put before us in vivid, unforgettable words, it would almost seem as if a magic slumber had surprised them all of a sudden, to wake up on some future day, when "Prince PERFECT, from the Emerald Isle," is to dissolve the charm, and arouse the sleepers to life and reality again. We regret we confess to notice how little substantial progress the movement has made to invite ladies to some of our recreation gatherings. A few good lodges do it here and there, few and far between, and always with pleasure and improvement to themselves. No lodge that tries the experiment ever regrets it, or gives it up. Let some of our worthy brethren realize this fact.

MASONIC statistics are very good things, though very difficult to obtain in accuracy and reality. Yet, as the late Prince CONSORT so well pointed out in one of his remarkable addresses, in the world in which we live we have to depend a great deal on statistical information and figures, and facts, whether for positive conclusions or realistic results. In Freemasonry it is the same. Many of the austere and repelling questions which try Masonic students much on the threshold, and frighten them away, would disappear, and cease to have any meaning or effect, if confronted and explained by the light of statistical accuracy. The "Fraus pia" of old days and the careless induction of Masonic sheepwalkers have hitherto prevented any reliable statistical information as regards Freemasonry as a whole being attained or collected. That tendency to exaggeration and unreality, that tone of mystery and frivolity combined, to which human nature and Masonic are equally subject have been the obstacle hitherto of any one careful and reliable authority to which we might appeal, in regard of the vexed question of Masonic members. They vary according to the taste of the writer, the powers of reasoning or the pen of a ready writer, the prevalence of fanaticism or perversity, or insanity. Figures as regards the totality of Freemasonry vary from one hundred millions to one million. We always speak hesitatingly on the subject, the more so as we believe the real number may be approximately and safely stated as between 1,500,000 and 1,700,000. We do not know whether it has struck others as it often has ourselves, the extraordinary rise of the English jurisdiction. In 1815 (using some figures prepared originally by our lamented Bro. JOHN HERVEY, then G.S.), we find that in 1815 the combined list of Antients and Moderns reached the modest number of 655. Note this. In 1843 when the Duke of SUSSEX died, the number of lodges had increased to 723, and increase of 68 only between 1815 and 1843, a period of 28 years, not 30 years. Between 1843 and 1844, when Lord ZETLAND was installed G.M., an increase of 12 had taken place, and already from 1844 the number was 733. The year of Lord ZETLAND's retirement opened with a total of 1299 and closed with a total of 1344, and we were then "minus" the Canadian Lodges. In 1855, a

period of another 15 years, our G.S., Col. SHADWELL H. CLERKE, announces a grand total of considerably over 2000 names, though this number must fairly be reduced somewhat by vacant numbers and dormant lodges. And yet it will be observed at once what a leap, what a bound, English Freemasonry made as between 1843 and on the appointment of Lord RYON, and what a still greater advance English Freemasonry has made since the auspicious hour of the Prince of WALES's election to the G. Mastership. It has nearly doubled itself. Indeed it is impossible to day to predicate what will be its eventual extension or practical numeration. The increase is still going on, and we are among those, and always shall be, who, the needful canons of caution and carefulness being observed duly by those in authority over us, can see no possible or plausible reason even why English Freemasonry should not be necessarily affected by an almost universal law prevalent just now, of prosperous progress and steady increase in all organizations, good, reasonable, and beneficial to mankind. We laugh always out loud when we hear the jeremiades of the querulous, or the maunderings of some habitual PETER GRIEVOUS. The idea that new lodges weaken old lodges has long been given up; the theory that "swarms" destroy the parent hive is known to be unsound and untrue; and English Freemasonry, if it be as real, and sound, and true as we believe it to be, must yield to the normal and even abnormal conditions of increase, development, and expansion. It cannot stand still, if it does it must go back. Non-progression is retrogression always, and nothing that is worth anything at all in this active period of Society and the world but yields to the law of our being, and, however we may object or resist advances towards perfection. We hail then, under due safeguards and proper provisions of course understood, the increase of our lodges, and the striking, even startling, onward movement of English Freemasonry. But we still think this year or the next a re-numbering of our lodges should take place, vacant numbers should be filled, our ranks closed up, our position distinctly put before the Masonic world. We are not insensible to a good deal which our Bro. HENRY SMITH advances with his usual force and ability, but we think the temporary inconvenience of lodges must give way for the general good. It seems to us in this epoch of realisms a most unreal thing,—in fact, a state of things unworthy of the Grand Lodge of England,—that we shall have a nominal list of lodges, which if touched by the wand of truth and accuracy must shrink greatly and be greatly affected. The secession and independence, as sanctioned by the Grand Lodge recently, of so many Antipodean lodges gives us an opportunity much to be desired for an operation, which, however disagreeable or temporarily inconvenient to some, is demanded in the best interests of truth and reality for all. The only question is one of time and opportuneness. As we cannot forecast or control the future, it may be wise to "wait a little longer," so that when the re-numeration does take place it may be really and truly "up to date," cover all recent movements and secessions, and last for some years, another generation, at any rate, as a truthful record of the loyal lodges of that great body entitled the Grand Lodge of England.

OUR many readers will be much amused with the following piece of intelligence taken from a contemporary. It will strike them, we think, as so absurd as hardly worth even "noting." Will the authorities of the Church of Rome ever realize to what ridiculous length a childish and grotesque intolerance must lead them? Worthy Freemasons all, read and think over the following "morceau":—"It will be news to most brethren of 'the mystic tie' that many good members of the Roman Catholic faith regard Masonic membership as a greater obstacle to marriage than even heresy, Freemasons being regarded by them as banded together for the destruction of Christianity, and whose secret plots are revolutionising every country in Europe. The Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office has been appealed to for guidance in the matter, and has answered that as long as the Holy See had not published a general decree on the subject, parish priests must act in the marriage of Freemasons with great discretion and prudence. Rather than lay down a hard and fast rule, they must take such measures as will best serve the honour and glory of God and the good of souls. But the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, unless circumstances direct otherwise, should be omitted." Poor Freemasons! What very wicked men they are! "Risum teneatis amici et fratres?"

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF KENT.

The magnificent gathering of Kentish Masons at the Town Hall, Gravesend, on Wednesday, the 1st inst., to celebrate their annual Provincial meeting, shows unmistakably the immense and deserved popularity which the Grand Master, Lord Holmesdale, has among his brethren of the province, and the sight presented when by upwards of 270 brethren he was saluted with grand honours, will not soon be forgotten by those privileged to witness it. The following is a correct return of those present, as well as we were able to gather from the attendance book and personal observation:—
Bros. Lord Holmesdale, P.G.M.; King-Harman, P.G.M. Meath (I.C.); J. S. Eastes, D.P.G.M.; R. T. Tatham, G.S.W.; Rev. V. S. Vickers, G. Chap.; B. K. Thorpe, P.G. Treas.; A. Spencer, P.G. Sec.; T. R. Champion, G.S.D.; T. Watson and F. Klatt, G.J.D.'s; R. Durnell, G.S. of Works; J. Wyer, G.D.D.C.; J. T. Reeves,

G.A.D.C.; J. Husband, G. Swd. Br.; E. Kipps, G. Org.; A. W. Wells, J. Giesman Chillingworth, J. Browning, E. Fenn, and C. Wacher, G. Stwds.; R. Fastley, G. Tyler; Rev. Hayman Cummings, P.M., P.P.G. Chap.; J. J. Hamilton, P.P.G.S.W.; T. Wills, P.P.G.S.D.; C. Coupland, P.P.G.J.W.; J. Bordeaux, P.P.G.S.D.; F. Binckes, Sec. Boys' School; Flaxman Spurrell, P.P.G.J.W.; Thos. Wyles, P.P.G.D.; Edgar Bowyer, P.G. Std. Br.; W. Russell, P.M. 77; J. C. Biggs, P.M. 77; W. Jude, P.M. 1063; J. C. G. Boorman, 158; A. S. Baskett, 158; W. Roberts, 1506; G. Berry, 77; C. T. Groves, 77; W. A. Weston, P.P.G.S.B.; W. Rowstone, 1343; C. Kingsmill, 125; W. B. Lloyd, P.M. 913; John Coombes, P.M. 829; W. Wimple, W. V. 1464; W. Harper, 299; T. Morris, 503; W. Bedford; G. Orford, 503; E. Haswell, 503; G. Ker, P.P.G.S.D.; C. G. Long, P.P.G.S.; Arthur Carter, W.M. 77; G. F. Newman, I.P.M. 77; J. Hartley, LL.D., P.P.G.W. West Yorks; B. S. Wilmot, P.P.G.R.; W. Hills, P.P.G.D.; W. E. Hollingum, P.P.G.S.D.; Henry Doughty, P.P.G.S.B.; W. Barlow, P.G.O.; G. I. King, P.P.G.A.P.; T. C. Newsom, P.M. 1692; C. Stratfern, P.M. 483; J. Thornhill, W.M. 503; J. Gray, 503; P. A. Frost, 784; E. G. Walthew, Sec. 1915, &c.; B. Lightfoot, 1915; F. W. Prescott, P.M. 199; W. D. Young, 31; J. W. Bussey, 199; G. J. Bussey, 199; D. W. Langton, W.M. 1063; E. Jarvis, 1063; F. S. Warne, P.M. 20; J. Kennett, P.M. 558; G. B. Chapman, P.M. 27; C. E. Hatten, P.P.G.S.D.; F. J. Leale, P.P.G.A.D.C.; H. Iron, W.M. 1273; H. Morris, 1273; G. Goble, 1273; P. Brannick, W.M. 1967; T. W. Wallis, 483; T. W. Page, 299; W. Hollis, Treas. 1531; T. Comerford, 1536; P. Jones, 1837; W. Roots, 1273; A. Petts, 558; S. Joseph, W. V. 558; P. Bond, P.M. 1314; J. Payne, 558; E. E. Cronk, P.M. 1414; T. Goodban, 558; C. J. Craig, P.M. 1223; Harry Hyssett, 1222; G. R. Bolton, 1314; C. E. Birch, I.P.M. 1223; T. J. Perkins, W.M. 1208; H. T. Samson, W.M. 1436; D. White, 1436; J. W. Sutherland, 223; J. J. Hamilton, P.P.G.S.W.; H. George, P.G. 11, of C. Notts.; G. Smith, P.M. 1536; A. Bunnett, 77; John Allud, W.M. 615; R. Holland, 77; G. R. Cobham, 20; H. J. Bagshaw, P.M. 548; E. Baker, 77; E. W. Robins, P.M. 483; A. C. Bussenden, 503; G. W. Mitch. II, 615; C. Hurley, P.M.; C. W. Young, 31; T. R. Spain; C. White, P.M. 299; R. C. Sudlow, P.M. 1965; Fred. Nicholls, 1050; J. W. Webb, P.P.G.S.D.; F. J. C. May, P.P.G.P.; G. Baker, 503; T. Coury, 1174; G. F. Bushridge, P.P.G.A. Sec.; Wm. Bridie, P.P.G.D. Devon; W. Paine, 2046; J. W. Penton, P.M. 133; Y. Terry, 20; Henry Shaw; C. R. Cockburn, W.M. 20; G. Munro, 20; F. Teece 77; W. Francis, P.M. 558; W. Griffin; J. Sherwood, jun.; W. Worsell, 558; G. L. Hart, I.P.M. 558; R. Goulden, 558; C. Taylor, P.M. 1624; Loftus Banks; S. H. Davis, 1837; A. Penfold, P.M. 913; C. Coustance, P.P.G.J.W.; J. Spurge, 77; J. King Lee, 1692; M. J. Dickins, 1692; W. W. Thomas; E. E. Elvinston, 1314; W. J. Hayward, 483; E. Wallis, 77; W. R. Green, 77; W. F. Lucas; Jesse Thomas, P.P.G.S.W.; James Barnes, 20; J. Bailey; J. Eldridge, 558; H. M. Lachlan, 1436; C. Russell, 1436; T. Deane, P.M. 77; G. Adamson, P.P.G. Asst. Director of Ceremonies; Noah Martin, P.P.G.S.B., P.M. 299; H. Waite, 558; G. Harvey, 77; C. Jolly, 913 (*Freemason*); and others.

The minutes and accounts being passed, Bro. Thorpe was unanimously re-elected P.G. Treas., and returned thanks. The following were invested as officers for the ensuing 12 months:—

Bro. J. S. Eastes	...	...	Prov. D.G.M.
" Sir W. Hart-Dyke, Bart., M.P., P.M. 1837	...	...	Prov. G.S.W.
" Horatio Ward, P.M. 31	...	...	Prov. G.J.W.
" Rev. R. S. Vickers, P.M. 199	...	...	Prov. G. Chap.
" Rev. J. P. Syree, P.M. 709	...	...	Prov. G. Chap.
" B. K. Thorpe, P.M. 709	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" A. Spencer, P.M. 1063	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" J. Giesman Chillingworth, P.M. 1973	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" R. C. Sudlow, P.M. 1965	...	...	Prov. G.S.D.
" C. Wacher, P.M. 1209	...	...	Prov. G.S.D.
" A. Carter, W.M. 77	...	...	Prov. G.J.D.
" E. Fenn P.M. 1208	...	...	Prov. G.J.D.
" J. M. Browning, P.M. 784	...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" A. W. Wells, P.M. 299	...	...	Prov. G.D. of C.
" J. W. Penton, P.M. 133	...	...	Prov. G.D. of C.
" H. Black, P.M. 1273	...	...	Prov. G.A.D.C.
" T. C. Newsom, P.M. 1692	...	...	Prov. G. Swd. B.
" G. Spinks, P.M. 1536	...	...	Prov. G. Std. B.
" H. Doubty, P.M. 483	...	...	Prov. G. Std. B.
" W. Barlow, P.M. 77	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" H. S. Watts, P.M. 1206	...	...	Prov. G.A. Sec.
" F. J. May, P.M. 1063	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" S. Varten, P.M. 184	...	...	Prov. G.A. Purst.
" F. Irescott, P.M. 199	...	...	...
" C. Long, P.M. 503	...	...	...
" G. L. Hark, P.M. 558	...	...	...
" A. Penfold, P.M. 913	...	...	Prov. G. Stwds.
" J. Welsh, P.M. 972	...	...	...
" N. Wimple, W.M. 1464	...	...	...
" R. Eastley	...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.

The recommendations of the Charity Committee were adopted as follows: One grant of £30; two of £20; one of £15; and two of £10. Fifty guineas were voted to the Female Benevolent Fund, so as to make the P.G. Secretary, Bro. Spencer, a Vice-Patron of the Institution, and £21 6s. each from the Prov. Grand Charity Fund was granted to the Benevolent Institution, the Girls' and the Boys' Schools, on behalf of the Tullingstone Lodge, No. 1837. £21 was also granted to Nos. 1208, 1209, 1223, and 1273, for the Girls' School; £10 10s. to Nos. 1209, 1223, 1273, 1314, and 1414, for the Boys' School, making a total of 310 guineas granted to the Charities of the Order. Bro. Warne was tendered thanks for the admirable way in which he prepared the yearly provincial calendar, and he returned thanks.

The lodge then adjourned, and the brethren proceeded to St. George's Church, where a sermon was preached by Bro. the Rev. R. S. Vickers, Grand Chaplain, after which a collection was made, amounting to £15 16s., of which £7 18s. was voted to the "Organ Fund" of the church, and the brethren of No. 77, the entertaining lodge, made up the remainder to £10 10s. which was voted to the Masonic Charities. Votes of thanks were proposed to the Mayor and Corporation of Gravesend for the use of the Town Hall; to the Rev. R. Joynes, rector, for the use of the church; and to the Prov. Grand Chaplain for the sermon.

The lodge was then closed and the brethren adjourned to the New Falcon Hotel, where, under the personal supervision of Bro. Hubbard, an admirably served banquet was partaken of. The usual loyal and Grand Lodge toasts were given by the PROV. GRAND MASTER in appropriate terms, and were right loyally honoured by the brethren.

Bro. BOWYER responded for "The Present and Past Grand Officers," and trusted that the Pro Grand Master would meet with a reception in Kent equal to the popularity and good will invariably shown him at Grand Lodge.

Bro. EASTES then proposed the toast of "Lord Holmesdale, their esteemed P.G.M.," and drew attention to the fact of it being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the installation of Lord Holmesdale as P.G.M. of the Province of Kent, also performed at Gravesend. It was looked upon as a grand thing to have his lordship at the head of the province, and that anticipation had been amply vindicated. Then there were only 17 lodges, with about 810 brethren, now there were 51 lodges and 2800 subscribing brethren.

(Loud cheers.) Then they contributed some £70 or £80 per annum to the Charities, now it amounted to about £400; while the advocacy of their Grand Master of the claims of the Boys' School, three years ago, resulted in the grandest total yet subscribed at any charitable association in the world. He trusted his lordship would long be spared to preside over them, and asked them to drink the toast heartily.

LORD HOLMESDALE, who on rising to respond was met by a very tempest of cheers, which continued for some minutes, said that a great many things had happened during the 25 years he had ruled over the province, and hoped it had been a period of prosperity. He was proud of his province, not only because of its increase in strength, so ably told them of by Bro. Eastes, but because of the increased desire to do good that followed their increased prosperity. Their system of Charity organisation, which he was pleased to see copied by almost every other province, had helped them materially. He regretted that so many good brethren had passed away who had helped him in his work in the province; yet he felt that if they could see the results of their work, they would be repaid for all their trouble. Four years ago he attained his majority as P.G.M., and had then received such a testimonial from the brethren as no other Master ever had. The silver vases given him had been objects of regard ever since, and would remind him, should his interest in the province ever lessen, of what he owed to them. He felt, however, that he should never be lacking in sympathy for Freemasonry in Kent. His had been a most harmonious reign, having had only once to adjudicate on a case of dispute. He trusted, as time went on, that there would never be occasion to drink his health with less cordiality than it had been drunk that night. (Loud cheers.)

The P.G.M. then proposed "The Health of Bro. Eastes, D.P.G.M.," and in so doing highly eulogised the valuable services of that estimable brother. It was a fortunate thing for him that he secured Bro. Eastes, who took all the blame, while he (Lord Holmesdale) got all the credit. Bro. Eastes had but one object in view, the interest of the Craft in the province; and he trusted the time would be long before he missed Bro. Eastes from his right hand.

Bro. EASTES having feelingly and eloquently responded, Bro. KING-HARMAN responded for "The Visitors." The toast of "The Prov. Grand Officers" was responded to by Bros. Rev. H. CUMMINGS, COUPLAND, and SPURRELL.

Bros. Thorpe and Spenser, Prov. Grand Treasurer and Secretary, were highly complimented by the P.G.M. on the admirable way in which they carried out their duties, and returned thanks.

"The Masonic Charities" found an able champion in Bro. BINCKES, with whose name the toast was coupled. Bros. ADAMSON and RUSSELL also responded.

"The Health of the W.M. and Brethren of No. 77, the entertaining Lodge," was drunk heartily, the P.G.M. wishing them every prosperity, and thanking them for the excellence of the arrangements.

Bros. W. Sexton, E. Dalzell, F. H. Cozens, and F. Clive sang selections during the evening, and the Tyler's toast concluded the proceedings.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF BERKS AND BUCKS.

On Monday afternoon, the 29th ult., the annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the new Town Hall, at Reading. The lodge was opened by the R.W. the Prov. Grand Master, Sir Daniel Gooch, Bart., M.P., assisted by the V.W. Deputy Prov. Grand Master, the Rev. J. Studholme Brownrigg; Bros. the Rev. J. Atkins, G.A. Chaplain; C. Stephens, G. Treas.; Robt. Bradley, G. Sec.; J. Goddard, G.J. Deacon; S. L. Wheeler, G. Superintendent of Works; W. Biggs, acting Director of Ceremonies; W. W. Ridley, Asst. Director of Ceremonies; H. L. Harris, G. Org.; G. W. Dixon, G.A. Sec.; Frank Weedon, G. Purst.; H. Martin, M. J. Withers, T. R. Vowles, D. H. Witherington, and Thos. Linscott, G. Stwds.; W. Hemmings, G. Tyler; and other Provincial Grand Officers, Present and Past.

The Prov. Grand Master, the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, and the Prov. Grand Officers of the year having been saluted by the brethren with the accustomed honours, the usual business was proceeded with.

The P.G. SECRETARY first read over the roll of the lodges in the province, which now number over 20, and it appeared that the whole of them were represented. The roll of the Provincial Grand Officers was also called, and apologies tendered for absent brethren, including the Grand Secretary, the P.G. Secretaries for Warwickshire and Oxfordshire, Bro. Terry, and other distinguished Masons.

The minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge, held at High Wycombe, were then submitted and confirmed, and the P.G. SECRETARY reported, in addition, that on the 2nd of October last the Deputy Prov. Grand Master consecrated a new lodge at Reading—the Kendrick Lodge, No. 2043—being assisted in the ceremony by several Provincial Grand Officers. Bro. W. G. Flanagan was installed as the first W.M. of the lodge. The P.G. Secretary next read the financial statement of the Prov. Grand Treasurer, and the report of the Charity Committee, showing that on the general account there remained a balance in hand amounting to £77 11s. 3d., and that on the Charity account there was a balance of £55 2s. 6d.

The P.G. MASTER thereupon moved that the sum of £26 5s. be voted from the Provincial Fund to the Charity Fund, and that the sum of 115 guineas be appropriated from the Charity Fund to the various lodges which had subscribed to that fund.

Sums of 10 guineas and five guineas were announced for presentation to 17 of the lodges for charitable purposes.

The P.G. SECRETARY gave an elaborate report of the different lodges in the two counties, showing that the membership at the present time numbered 808, and that there were 180 Past Masters. During the year 155 regular lodges and 10 lodges of emergency had been held in the province, and there had been 37 initiations and 36 joining members.

The P.G. MASTER, addressing the brethren, said he felt that after the satisfactory report just presented by Bro. Bradley, it was unnecessary that he (Sir Daniel) should detain them at any length with remarks of his own. They could congratulate themselves upon the fact that since their last meeting a new lodge had been consecrated at Reading, and he had no doubt whatever that, like the other Masonic lodges in that town, the Kendrick would prosper, and soon become a strong and vigorous lodge. (Applause.) He was sure that all the brethren present deeply regretted, as he did himself, the death of Bro. Moxhay, who was well known to most of them as one of the most esteemed members of the Craft. (Hear, hear.) Sir Daniel concluded by announcing that the Provincial Grand Lodge would be held next

year at Aylesbury, where he hoped there would be a good assemblage of the brethren. They would be glad to visit more distant towns in the province; but for the fact of the access to them being somewhat difficult, and occupying some considerable time, circumstances which were likely to operate against a sufficiently large attendance of the brethren. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Chas. Stephens was then re-elected Prov. Grand Treasurer, on the motion of the P.G. MASTER, seconded by the D.P.G. MASTER. Sir Daniel expressed the warm thanks of the brethren to Bro. Stephens for the admirable manner in which he had kept the accounts of the Provincial Grand Lodge. (Applause.)

Bro. STEPHENS acknowledged the compliment, and observed that it would afford him much pleasure to do his best to perform the duties of the office to their satisfaction. (Applause.)

The P.G. Master then invested the following brethren with the Provincial Charity jewel: Bros. M. J. Withers, W.M. 414; S. Wheeler, jun., P.M. 414; Rev. F. W. Harnett, 840; H. S. Harrington, J.W. 574; G. Saxby, W.M. 945; J. E. Danks, P.M. 1101; W. W. Ridley, P.M. 1101; H. Arrowsmith, S.W. 1566; Henry King, W.M. 1639; and W. Atkins, P.M. 1770.

The P.G. Master then appointed and invested the Prov. Grand Officers for the coming year as follows:—

Bro. G. W. Dixon, 209 and 591	...	...	Prov. G.S.W.
" W. G. Flanagan, 1101 and 2043	...	...	Prov. G.J.W.
" Rev. J. Atkins, 574	...	...	Prov. G. Chap.
" Rev. H. F. Oliver, 1894	...	...	Prov. G. Chap.
" C. Stephens, 414	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" W. H. Belcher, 574	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" R. Bradley, 414	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" L. Cooper, 1410	...	...	Prov. G.S.D.
" M. J. Withers, 414	...	...	Prov. G.J.D.
" J. W. Thorpe, 1787	...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" C. Luker, 1770	...	...	Prov. G.D. of C.
" G. Stratton, 591	...	...	Prov. G.A.D.C.
" F. Manley, 771	...	...	Prov. G. Swd.Br.
" S. Johnson, 948	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" S. Dyer, 1887...	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" J. R. Hayward, 414	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" J. H. Hawkes, 1101	...	...	Prov. G.A. Sec.
" W. E. Beal, 1566	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" C. J. Hawkes, 414	...	...	} Prov. G. Stwds.
" J. K. R. Fowler, 414	...	...
" D. Webb, 1894	...	...
" A. W. Parry, 414	...	...
" L. N. Simons, 591	...	...
" A. Mayne, 591	...	...	} Prov. G. Tyler.
" W. Hemmings, 414	...	...

The newly-appointed Prov. Grand Officers having taken their places amidst the applause of the brethren, Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in due form. During the proceedings Bro. Tirbutt, Past Prov. G. Organist, efficiently presided at the organ.

The banquet took place in the Old Town Hall, the caterer being Bro. Flanagan, of the Great Western Hotel, whose arrangements were most satisfactory. The Prov. Grand Master presided, and the Provincial Grand Senior and Junior Wardens respectively occupied the vice-chairs.

On the introduction of dessert the toasts of "The Queen and the Craft," and "The M.W. the Grand Master of England, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," were proposed and honoured.

In giving the toast of "The M.W. the Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Carnarvon; the R.W. the D.G.M., the Earl of Lathom; and the Grand Officers of England, Present and Past," Sir DANIEL said he was sure that all the brethren present would fully sympathise with the Pro Grand Master, who started that day for Ireland to enter upon his duties as Lord Lieutenant. (Hear, hear.) Lord Carnarvon might almost be described as a native of Reading, so closely was he associated with the surrounding district, and he was sure that every Mason present heartily wished the noble Earl health and success in the arduous task he had undertaken. (Hear, and applause.) The Earl of Lathom had also been exalted to a high post, and they all wished him health and happiness.

The PROV. GRAND TREASURER proposed "The Health of the Provincial Grand Master," remarking that Sir Daniel Gooch had presided over the province for many years, and conducted the business of it in a manner that had given the greatest gratification and satisfaction to all of them. (Hear, hear.)

The PROV. GRAND MASTER, in acknowledging the compliment, observed that since he had had the honour of presiding over this province Masonry had considerably increased in the two counties, and during the latter part of last year they had the pleasure of consecrating a new lodge in that town. He was not at all anxious to see Masonry spread too rapidly, and it was not desirable that they should seek to swell their numbers unless they could bring the right sort of men into their lodges. (Hear, hear.) He had always held that to be an important point, and was glad to say that it had been well observed in that province, and he hoped further that it would continue to be the standard that would guide them. (Hear, and applause.) In conclusion, Sir Daniel said that he hoped they would all be spared to meet in Provincial Grand Lodge for many years to come. (Applause.)

The PROV. GRAND MASTER then proposed "The Health of the V.W. the D.P.G.M.; the Past D.P.G. Masters; and the Past Grand Officers of the Province," associating with the toast the name of Bro. FOUNTAINE, who responded.

The P.G. MASTER next proposed the toast of "The Masonic Charities," to which Bro. F. BINCKES, Secretary to the Masonic Boys' School, eloquently replied, and appealed to the brethren to contribute liberally to the fund required for furnishing the new School buildings, which had been erected through the munificence of the Craft.

"The Health of the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens" was then drunk, and Bros. DIXON and FLANAGAN severally returned thanks.

The P.G. MASTER proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Masters and Officers of the Reading Lodges," for whom Bro. M. J. WITHERS, W.M. of the Union Lodge, responded.

The P.G. MASTER then dwelt upon the valuable services rendered by the Prov. G. Treasurer, Bro. Stephens, and the Prov. G. Secretary, Bro. Robt. Bradley, and proposed their health, which was drunk with much cordiality, and Bros. STEPHENS and BRADLEY suitably returned thanks.

To the toast of "The Provincial Grand Stewards" Bro. DORAN WEBB responded.

The Tyler's toast was then given, and the company separated.

A choice selection of music was rendered during the afternoon by Bros. H. O. Crane, A. Rowley, A. G. Bailey, and R. Grice (from Oxford), under the direction of the Provincial Grand Organist, Bro. H. L. C. Harris.

FREEMASONRY IN HAMPSHIRE.

Perhaps in no province in the country, taking the population into consideration, has Freemasonry made more rapid strides of late years than in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. This is owing in no small measure to the zeal and ability with which the experienced Mason who is at the head of the province has discharged his duties, and to the loyal support which he has received from his Deputies and from successive provincial officers. In no part of the province has the ancient Craft progressed so much as in Portsmouth, the largest town in the province, and where, a few years since, Bro. H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught took part in the consecration of the Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar Lodge, of which Bros. their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales, Grand Master, who has also visited that lodge, and the Duke of Connaught are honorary members, and of which that gallant naval officer, Bro. Captain Lord Charles Beresford, was it first W.M. The first records of the Province of Hampshire go back to 1770, when Bro. Thomas Dunckerley was Provincial Grand Master. No record of that brother's appointment to rule over the province exists in the archives of the Grand Lodge; his name is the only one attached to the warrant of the Hengist Lodge, No. 195, Bournemouth, which dates November 23rd, 1770. In 1776 Bro. Lord Charles Montague was Provincial Grand Master, and was followed by Bro. Captain Henry Pascal, in 1784. Two years after Bro. Thomas Dunckerley was re-appointed Prov. Grand Master, and continued in that office for ten years (1796), when Bro. Colonel Sherborne Stewart succeeded him. In 1820 Bro. Sir W. C. De Crespigny, Bart., M.P., occupied the chair, and twelve years afterwards (1832) Bro. John S. Penleaze, M.P., became Provincial Grand Master. In 1840, Bro. Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart., Admiral of the Fleet, was installed into the chair, and occupied the position until his death in 1869, when Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., who in 1838 filled the office of Provincial Grand Senior Warden, was made and is still Provincial Grand Master. It was not until 1813 that the Isle of Wight was for the first time formed into a province under patent of H.R.H. George, Prince of Wales. Sir L. T. Worsley Holmes, Bart., was then appointed Provincial Grand Master. In 1827 Bro. Lord Yarborough followed, and in 1847 Bro. John Simeon succeeded, and was followed by Bro. T. W. Fleming, in 1852. In 1868 the Isle of Wight was re-united to Hampshire, and has remained so since. Bro. J. Grierson, in 1793, was appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master. In 1832, Bro. Sir J. P. Milbanke, Bart., succeeded, and was followed five years afterwards by Bro. Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart., who in 1834 was Provincial Grand Senior Warden, and in 1840 was made Provincial Grand Master. In 1843 the Deputy Grand Mastership was held by Bro. C. E. Deacon, of the Royal Gloucester Lodge, No. 130, and in 1870 by Bro. J. R. Stebbing, of the same lodge, who was Prov. Grand Senior Warden in 1849, and filled the office of Provincial Grand Secretary of Hampshire from 1842 to 1850. In 1875 Bro. Hickman was made Deputy Provincial Grand Master, previous to this he occupied the Senior Warden's chair in the province in 1869, having for nine previous and for three succeeding years officiated as Prov. Grand Secretary. On the decease of Bro. Hickman, the latter part of last year, Bro. J. E. Le Feuvre was appointed to the office. Bro. Le Feuvre was Prov. Senior Grand Warden in 1881, and for twelve years was a most efficient and hardworking Provincial Grand Secretary. All of the last four named brethren hail from the same lodge, the Royal Gloucester, No. 130.

There are no less than 43 lodges, including the Social Friendship, No. 497, a military lodge, belonging to the Royal Irish Fusiliers (89th Regiment), now stationed at Portsmouth, in the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight, under the ruling of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Bro. W. W. Bramston Beach, M.P. Portsmouth can boast of 12 lodges; Southampton, five; Aldershot, three; Gosport, Winchester, Havant, and Ryde two each; Alton, Andover, Basingstoke, Bournemouth, Fareham, Lymington, Petersfield, Ringwood, Shirley, Woolston, Cowes, Newport, Sandown, Shanklin, and Ventnor one lodge each. Thus Hampshire alone has 36 lodges, and the Isle of Wight seven. The oldest lodge in the province is the Medina, No. 35, at Cowes, Isle of Wight, the date of warrant being February 17th, 1732. The youngest lodge is the St. Clair, No. 2074, Portsmouth; date of warrant, November 11th, 1884.

In the Provincial Grand Chapter, M.E. Comp. Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart., was Grand Superintendent in 1846, and was followed by the present Most Excellent Superintendent, Comp. W. W. B. Beach, M.P. During that time there have been eight Second Principals, namely—1846, Comp. H. Clark; 1847, Comp. W. Minchin; 1850, Comp. Major F. C. Robb; 1857, Comp. T. N. Firman; 1865, Comp. C. E. Deacon; 1872, Comp. J. R. Stebbing (who was also Scribe E. from 1846 until 1865); 1876, Comp. W. Hickman (who was Third Principal in 1865, and Scribe E. from 1866, until he was promoted in 1865); 1885, Comp. J. E. Le Feuvre, who in 1870 was appointed Sword Bearer, and in 1876 was made Scribe E., which office he held until this year. There are 20 chapters—18 in Hampshire and two in the Isle of Wight. Portsmouth again heads the list with five chapters, Southampton follows with four, Aldershot two, Basingstoke, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Lymington, Winchester, Woolston, Newport, and Ryde one each. The oldest chapter belongs to the Royal Gloucester, Southampton, and dates October, 29th, 1818; the records of this chapter are, however, continuous from its constitution in October, 1784. A centenary warrant will shortly be granted to its members.

Connected with the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, with Most Worshipful Bro. the Rev. Canon Portal, Past G.M.M. England, as Provincial Grand Mark Master, and Bro. R. Loveland Loveland as Deputy Prov. G.M.M., Hampshire has nine lodges, and the Isle of Wight two. Portsmouth leads with two lodges, and then Winchester, Havant, Aldershot, Southampton, Bournemouth, Basingstoke, Gosport, Cowes, and Sandown have one each. The oldest Mark lodge is the Phoenix, No. 2, which dates back from July 7th, 1856. There is also a so-called Time Immemorial Mark lodge, the Albany, at Newport, Isle of Wight.

In this province several other Degrees are worked. There is the Ark Mariners, who meet at Havant, No. 62; Southampton, No. 63; and Gosport, No. 305.

The Rose Croix have four chapters, dating from July 13th, 1858. Royal Naval Chapter, No. 9, Portsmouth, while another is held at Bournemouth one at Southampton, and one at Ryde, Isle of Wight.

There are only four preceptories—the Royal Naval, No. 2, at Portsmouth; one at Southampton, No. 52; one at Aldershot, No. 76; and another at Winchester. The oldest warrant is attached to the Royal Naval, which is a Priory of Malta.

The Escurial Council of Allied Degrees dates from July 20th, 1880, and meets at Havant. In the Esoteric Orders there are the Segmental Ghousla of the Order of Sikha and the Sat B'hai, which is called by special summonses in the various grades and according to the rules of the Order; the names of the officers and members are kept secret. Under the Swedenborg Rite there is the Swedenborg Lodge and Temple, No. 4, date of warrant 1877, and these meet at Havant. The No. 3, Orion Senate of Hermetic Philosophers, 20°, 30°, meets at Havant second Tuesday in May; V. Ills. Bro. T. Francis, 32°, is the Sup. Grand Com.; No. 3, Orion Chapter Rose Croix, 11°, 18°, meeting second Tuesday in March and November, has Most Wise Ills. Bro. C. J. Adames, 31°, at its head. The two foregoing charters date from June 3rd, 1872. Under the Ancient and Primitive Rite there is the No. 3, Orion Council of Sublime Masters, G.W. 30°, 90°, with V. Ills. Bro. J. Harrison, 32°, as Sublime Dai. This warrant also dates 3rd June, 1872, and the meeting is held on the second Tuesday in September. Under the heading of Cryptic Degrees Havant has the Carnarvon Council of Royal and Select Masters, with Bro. R. J. Rastrick as T. I. Master. There is only one conclave under the Red Cross of Constantines and it is held at Portsmouth. It is the Naval and Military, No. 35; Sir Knt. C. Knott, P.S., is Int. General Hants. Under the N. and I. Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and of St. John the Evangelist, there is the Mount Olivet Sanctuary and Commandery, with Bro. Knt. R. J. Rastrick, P.P. and M.E.C.

With regard to the Charities the province always comes well to the front. The number of votes held by the different lodge and Royal Arch Chapters in the province for the Masonic Charities are 3470, viz., 1201 for the Boys, 946 for the Girls, 730 Aged, and 593 Widows, and these are distributed as under:—

Name of Town.	Boys.	Girls.	Aged.	Widows.	Total.
Portsmouth	258	144	142	162	706
Southampton	171	139	75	51	436
Aldershot	168	98	81	60	407
Basingstoke	85	52	72	28	237
Gosport	59	56	32	40	187
Cowes	61	58	32	27	178
Fareham	54	30	42	40	166
Havant	49	34	48	11	142
Ryde	18	33	51	38	140
Winchester	47	43	24	17	131
Bournemouth	38	60	11	22	128
Newport	27	45	34	22	131
Andover	12	34	11	10	67
Lymington	9	8	8	16	41
Sandown	5	7	6	4	22
Petersfield	4	7	3	3	17
Shirley	10	1	2	1	14
Ringwood	2	2	4	3	11
Ventnor	2	3	4	1	10
Woolston	3	1	2	1	7
Shanklin	1	0	2	1	4
Alton	0	1	2	1	4
Provincial Grand Lodge ...	115	89	40	34	278
Ditto. in name of D.P.G.M.	2	0	0	0	2
Ditto. Grand Chapter ...	1	1	2	0	4
	<u>1201</u>	<u>946</u>	<u>730</u>	<u>593</u>	<u>3470</u>

These figures are approximate only as regards each lodge, as the Royal Arch Chapters are included in the lodges to which they are attached, and brethren are, as a rule, set down under the heading of their mother lodge. The receipts of the Provincial Grand Lodge for the past year amounted to £296 6s. 9d., and together with a balance of £60 17s. from last year makes a total of £357 3s. 9d., whilst the disbursements, which include £158 15s. donations, were £318 15s., thus leaving a balance of £138 2s. 9d. The invested funds of the province are £800. In the accounts of Prov. Grand Chapter the receipts are £22 18s. 6d., which together with a balance of £36 14s. 9d. make a total of £59 13s. 3d. The disbursements are only £10 3s. 6d., thus leaving a balance of £49 9s. 9d.

The only Masonic work published in the province is one under the authority of the Right Worshipful Grand Master. It is the Masonic Calendar for that province, for which we are indebted for most of the facts and statistics given above.

LAYING THE MEMORIAL STONE OF THE NEW ASSEMBLY HALL, WOOD GREEN.

It is authoritatively announced that the ceremony of laying the memorial stone of the new Assembly Hall at Wood Green will take place on Tuesday, 11th August. The function has been kindly undertaken by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, a lady who has devoted the best years of her life to promoting works of philanthropy, and who, from the fact of her being the daughter of a Freemason and the wife of a Freemason, may be said to possess the best possible credentials for the fulfilment of so honourable a task. There is, indeed, a special fitness, even above and beyond the fact we have just mentioned, in the performance of this duty by her ladyship. Not only has she shown herself, during her whole career, to be one of the kindest and most generous of women, but she has from time to time exhibited a decided interest in the concerns of Freemasonry. One of our lodges is named after her, and fortunately numbers among its most cherished possessions, several gifts bestowed by her, a handsome copy of the Volume of the Sacred Law being one of them. She is the only lady of the present day who, with the sanction and approval of his Royal Highness the Grand Master, has seen a lodge of Freemasons, not, of course, engaged in the performance of their duties, for the business of the lodge was suspended during her ladyship's presence, but assembled to perform those duties. The members of that lodge have, as such, more than once enjoyed her hospitality at Highgate, while, last year, it will be remembered, she very kindly distributed the prizes to the pupils of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls at its annual Fête at St. John's Hill. Thus the association of Lady Burdett-Coutts with our Society, which had its origin in the mere accident of her being the daughter of a former brother, has been strengthened and confirmed by repeated acts of her own, done of pure benevolence aforethought, and in recognition of these kindly acts, as well as owing to the respect in which she is universally held, the announcement that she will play the principal part in the ceremony of this day month will be received everywhere among us with the heartiest welcome.

And as the Committee have succeeded in enlisting the sympathetic aid of this distinguished lady on the eventful occasion, we may rely with confidence on their leaving nothing undone in order to give lustre to the ceremony. Our experience of the past successes achieved by them and Bro. Binckes fully justifies this feeling, and as the familiar phrase runs, "weather permitting," we may be sure the 11th August, 1885, will add one more to the long list of red-letter days which already grace the history of our Boys' School. Nor has the question of ways and means been lost sight of. The precedent of the 8th July, 1865, when the new School was inaugurated by the then Deputy Grand Master of England, and the proceedings were of the nature of a Festival, will be strictly followed. There will be a Board of Stewards, whose endeavours will be directed towards conducting as much treasure as possible into the coffers of the Institution, so that when the Preparatory School is ready furnished and fitted for the reception of the new pupils, the new pupils, or a goodly proportion of them, may be in readiness to be received. The Committee, too, having in mind the influence successfully exercised in respect of the Preparatory School Building Fund by the grant of double votes to all brethren and corporate bodies of brethren contributing thereto in sums ranging from five guineas upwards, have wisely resolved on recommending to the Quarterly Court of Monday next that the same privileges shall be extended towards all individual brethren and lodges, chapters, conclaves, and the like, who, between then and the 31st December next ensuing, shall contribute towards this special Preparatory School Fund. Whether special privileges are at any time sanctionable or not, there can be no doubt about the justice of placing all who have had a hand in starting the new School on precisely the same footing as regards votes. At all events, there is reason to believe that a special incentive will be offered, as in 1883, to assist in the beneficent work which is on the point of being inaugurated by one of the most beneficent of ladies, and we trust the majority of the brethren will be found powerless to resist its attractions. In fine, the special Festival next month has our warmest approval, and we trust the Boys' School receipts for the current year will be appreciably increased by the liberal and very much needed contributions which will be then forthcoming.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND FESTIVAL.

The regular Festivals of our central Charities have been held for the current year, and there now remains only that of the Mark Benevolent Fund, which is fixed for the 22nd inst., and will take place at the Crystal Palace, under the presidency of Bro. Lord Egerton of Tatton, D.G.M.M.M. of England and Wales, and Prov. G.M. M.M. of Cheshire. A good working Board of Stewards has been constituted, and with so respected and popular a brother in the chair, there are fair reasons for anticipating that the 17th Anniversary of this excellent Fund will be successful beyond all former precedent. It is to the credit of our Mark Grand Lodge authorities that, at so early a period in its history, the Mark Benevolent Fund should have established itself thus firmly in the estimation of members of that Degree, and though it is probable the fluctuations in its progress will be similar to those of our other Charitable Funds, it is still more probable that a few years hence it will have secured a position which, if not absolutely independent of casual support, will be only in a very trifling degree affected by the varying influences of Dame Fortune.

The Mark Benevolent Fund already has a very creditable history. It was established some 18 years since, and for a long time was the Mark counterpart of our Craft Fund of Benevolence, being administered, however, not as the latter is, by a Board of Benevolence, but by the General Board of Mark Grand Lodge. A few years since it was determined to enlarge the scope of the Fund by establishing in connection with it an Educational Branch, and this has proved most successful, there being at present in receipt of its benefits 11 boys and five girls, or 16 children all told. It is now, we understand, in contemplation to still further extend it by forming a Benevolent Fund for decayed Mark brethren and their widows. Thus, in the event of the new proposal being carried out, the Mark Benevolent Fund will combine within itself the purposes of our Craft Fund of Benevolence, as well as those of the Masonic Schools and Benevolent Funds. Of the advantages of this arrangement, both economical and otherwise, there can be little doubt; but whether it will be as practicable when the operations have been materially enlarged is a matter which cannot now be determined.

We have said the approaching Festival on the 24th inst. will be the 17th, the first having been held in 1869 under the presidency of Bro. the Rev. Canon Portal, M.W.G.M.M.M., at the Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court. The Board of Stewards consisted of only five brethren, Bro. F. Binckes being one of the number, and the amount subscribed was in round figures £97. In 1870, Earl Percy, M.P., D.G.M.M.M. was the Chairman, and the Board of Stewards, of whom Bro Binckes is the sole survivor, was again five strong, the receipts being upwards of £53. In 1871, Bro. J. C. Parkinson, G.J.W., occupied the chair. Eleven brethren acted as Stewards and the result was a total of £85 and odd shillings. In 1872 Colonel Francis Burdett, Prov. G.M.M.M. Middlesex and Surrey, acting for the Earl of Bective, M.P., Prov. G.M.M.M. Cumberland and Westmorland, presided, and the 12 brethren acting as Stewards raised amongst them £177. Since then the Festival has been regularly held but with varying success, the first appreciable advance on the result of 1872 being in 1877, when the Earl of Donoughmore, Grand Senior Warden, was in the chair, and the 17 Stewards raised £221. In 1878 Lord Skelmersdale (now the Earl of Lathom), G.M.M.M., was Chairman, and the result by the hands of 25 Stewards was £371. In 1879, under the presidency of Lord Arthur Hill, M.P., there were 30 Stewards and a total of £537. In 1880 Sir Francis Burdett presided on his own account and the 29 Stewards raised £550. The anniversary of 1881, under Lord Henniker, showed a falling off to the extent of upwards of £200, but there was an equivalent recovery the following year when under the auspices of the Earl of Kintore, then Deputy G., now G.M.M.M., a sum of £553 was announced. In 1883 another great leap in advance was made, Sir Pryse Pryse, Prov. G.M.M.M. South Wales being in the chair, and the total £710. Last year was a still greater triumph. Major J. W. Woodall, P.G. M.M.M. N. and E. Yorkshire, presided; 47 brethren acted as Stewards and the sum raised was within a fraction of £833.

Such are the principal features of the Festivals already held, but those who need further particulars will find them in the published List of Subscribers to the Educational Branch of the Fund for 1884 to which we are indebted for the above details. It will also be clear from what we have said as to the purposes of the Fund that it is in all respects worthy of the support of our Mark brethren and we sincerely hope that our prognostications of an unprecedented success on the 22nd inst. will be realised.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.
 WOOD GREEN, LONDON, N.
 OFFICE:
 6, FREEMASONS' HALL, W.C.
 PATRON:
 HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.
 PRESIDENT:
 HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES
 K.G., M.W.G.M.

A QUARTERLY GENERAL COURT of the Governors and Subscribers will be held at FREEMASONS' HALL, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LINCOLN'S-INN-FIELDS, LONDON, On MONDAY, the 13th day of JULY, For the transaction of the Ordinary Business of the Institution.

To consider the following Notices of Motion:—
 1. By W. Bro. RAYNHAM W. STEWART (P.G.D.), V.P., Trustee, on behalf of the House Committee—
 "That in consideration of the faithful and efficient services rendered by Miss Elizabeth Hall during twenty-two years as Matron of the Establishment at Wood Green, an annual grant of £75 be made to her on her resignation for the time of her life, and the same to be paid quarterly."
 2. By Bro. JOHN L. MATHER, V.P.—
 "That every present individual donor who has qualified or who shall qualify as a Life Governor of the General Fund shall receive double votes for every five guineas presented to the Special Building Fund; and Lodges, Chapters, &c., similar privileges for every ten guineas so presented, in connection with the occasion of fixing the corner-stone of the new buildings by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, on Tuesday, 11th August next, such privileges to be available from this date to 31st December, 1885."
 3. By W. Bro. EDGAR BOWYER (P.G. Std. Br.), V. Pat.—
 "That Fifteen Boys be elected at the Quarterly General Court on Monday, 12th October, for admission to the Preparatory School, over and above the Twenty-two Boys to be then elected to fill the number of vacancies in the present establishment."

To receive and approve a List of Fifty-eight Candidates on the recommendation of the General Committee, from which Twenty-two, or, should Bro. Bowyer's notice of motion be adopted, Thirty-seven, Boys shall be elected on Monday, 12th October next.
 The Chair will be taken at Four o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

By order,
 FREDERICK BINCKES (P.G. Std.),
 V. Patron, Secretary.

July 4, 1885.

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 WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

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 MANAGING DIRECTOR AND ACTUARY.
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NEW BUSINESS.
 2034 Policies issued for..... £117,666
 New Premium Income £12,366
BUSINESS IN FORCE.
 27,156 Policies Assuring £5,068,440
REVENUE OF THE YEAR.
 Premiums £148,129
 Interest, &c. £40,550
 £188,679
ACCUMULATED FUND.
 Laid by in the year..... £72,353
 Accumulated Fund on 31st January, 1885 £1,010,962
 Claims and Bonuses paid under Company's Policies..... £871,216
 Average Reversionary Bonus for 30 years, about 1½ per cent. per annum.

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To Correspondents.

The following stands over: Consecration of the Farringdon Without Chapter, No. 1745.

THE MEMOIR OF BRO. DR. H. HOPKINS.—In the kindly records of the Masonic career of the late Bro. Dr. Hopkins which appeared in our last, although it was not signed, brethren will recognise the hand of his old and attached friend, Bro. W. J. Hughan.

"A STEWARD R.M.I.B. 1885."—Our correspondent, whose letter we have published this week, will see from our article on "Laying the Memorial Stone of the New Assembly Hall, Wood Green," that a second or supplementary Festival is in contemplation on the day arranged for the ceremony, 11th August, 1885, where we doubt not Bro. Binckes will welcome any amount of further contributions which East and West Lancashire may be disposed to furnish.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

"Society," "Wharfedale and Airedate Observer," "Little One's Own Paper," "Court Circular," "Liberal Freemason," "Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine," "Freemasons' Journal" (New York), "Freimaurer-Zeitung," "Allen's Indian Mail," "Keystone," "Jewish Chronicle," "Freemason" (Christchurch), "Hull Packet," "Christian Cynosure," "New York Dispatch," "Sunday Times" (New York), "Citizen," "Sunday Times" (London), and "Broad Arrow."



SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1885.

Original Correspondence.

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

THE PROVINCES AND THE METROPOLIS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

A printed circular of the "London Mutual Masonic Voting Association" has come before me, from which I have culled the following figures, as regards the working of our Charities, and the need of such an Association in aid of London candidates. I assume that the figures are correct; if not, they seem to cut away the basis of this new Association. The facts and figures relate to 1884. According to these averments, up to the close of 1884 the London contributions for the Girls' School represented £6613 13s. 4d., as against £6323 12s. 3d. as sent by the Provinces; in all, £12,937 5s. 7d., London thus being ahead, with its 300 lodges, &c., £290 1s. 1d. There were then in the School 166 Provincial cases, and 75 London.

The Boys' School return for 1884 is represented as £14,103 18s. 6d., and of this London sent £7749 7s. 6d., and the Provinces £6354 11s., an excess of London over the Provinces of £1394 16s. 6d. There were then 150 country cases in the School, and 54 London.

As regards the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, the contributions for 1884 are said to be £14,655 12s., of which £8424 15s. were contributed by London, and £6240 17s. by the Provinces, an excess of £2183 11s. Up to June, 1884, there were said to be 119 male annuitants from the Provinces, and 53 from London, and, as regards the female annuitants, 120 are from the Provinces, and 66 from London.

It is therefore alleged that the proper proportional representation of contributions, &c., ought to be: London, 124 girls, Provinces, 75; boys—London, 112, Provinces, 54; annuitants—London, 205, Provinces, 119. It has been said that you can prove anything by figures, and there is a good deal of truth in the sarcasm. I am a little afraid that, with the best intentions in the world, the figures thus put forward are not fully reliable, inasmuch as they hardly or sufficiently set before us, with statistical accuracy, the actual facts of the case. They may be, and are, correct as far as they go; but they ought to go a little further. Anyhow, they deserve consideration, as they touch upon a most important point, and one concerning which all who are interested in our great Charities must feel no little anxiety in respect of future developments. No doubt some such Institution or Institutions are needed for the help and protection of the Metropolitan candidates.

A FRIEND TO THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

The disappointment to the energetic Secretary of the above Institution in not obtaining the sum he expected must have been great, and he will have the sympathy of all his brethren. The amount required to make up the requisite sum is not much when spread over so large an area as that occupied by English Freemasonry, and if it be not contrary to the regulations and customs of the Institution, why should not a second appeal be made, so that when the Preparatory School is opened next October, the Executive may feel themselves justified in admitting additional boys? Notwithstanding your kind remarks about the efforts which the Provinces of East and West Lancashire can make if they be so minded, it seems to me that they have lately been holding themselves aloof from the three London Charities, as their contributions have not been at all in keeping with the position which they hold in English Freemasonry. Out of the Province of East Lancashire only five lodges were represented, and the sum contributed is small. This province comprises some of the richest towns in England, and surely, notwithstanding the claims of its local institutions, the burden of which is not a very heavy one for it to fear, the province might try to follow the example set by its neighbour, West Yorkshire, and give more liberally to the London Charities. The province may now feel that it can always carry its candidates, and that this particular Institution (Boys) will not be put to the cost of any boy from its province, but surely such motives (if they may be termed selfish) should not influence any brother or lodge from withholding his or its contributions to such worthy Institutions as those I have mentioned, because, as relief is one of the fundamental principles of our Order, so the rich and large provinces should afford relief to the ones not so fortunately situated as they are. I would humbly suggest that a similar system to the one adopted in West Yorkshire be applied in East Lancashire, and though its local Institutions must have the primary claim upon the Charity of its lodges, yet the members of such lodges could find something to give to the London Charities if they were so minded, and a proper system were organised so that each lodge in its turn should give some donation according to its means. Hoping this matter will claim the attention of some influential brother in East Lancashire.—Yours fraternally, A STEWARD R.M.I.B. 1885.

THE RECENT BOYS' SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I notice that in your usual comments on the returns at this Festival you lay stress on the paucity of the London lodges that sent up Stewards and the small proportion of the London lists which amounted to £100 and upwards. The figures certainly bear out your statement that "we must go through the returns of several festivals before we come to one in which the London total was so low as it was" on this occasion. Only 83 lodges and three chapters

figure in the returns, the Steward for one of the latter acting also as Steward for the lodge to which it is attached. In a former article you mentioned there were 340 lodges in London, of which 326 might be expected to contribute to one of this year's anniversaries; from which it is clear that, whatever may have been expected, 243 out of the 326 gave no help to the Boys' School. Bro. Hedges fared better, as he had 93 lodges supporting him, and Bro. Terry best of all, as 131 lodges sent Stewards in February last. I could understand the falling off in the amounts subscribed in June as compared with February, if it were always the same lodges which contributed, but though some few attend all three Festivals and a larger number attend two of them, the bulk of contributing lodges devote their attention to one only, so that taking one festival with another, and supposing that all the lodges give a sum to each Charity, the London total should not vary to any great extent. But this year, while it was only in round figures £5100 for the Boys' School, it was £6200 for the Girls, and £9500 for the Benevolent. The fact is, not only were there fewer London Stewards and fewer London lodges represented, but the lists were out of all proportion smaller than usual. Of the 108 lists which appeared in the published returns last week, only 35 amounted to £50 and upwards, and of these only 13 ranged from £100 and upwards; all the rest were for comparatively small totals. The number of unattached Stewards will not account for this. What will?—Fraturnally and fraternally yours, ALPHA.



GOULD'S MASONIC HISTORY.

I have been very pleased to read the appreciative review of Volume IV. of Bro. Gould's "History of Freemasonry" by the Editor of the "Freemason." Gould's work, without doubt, is the best ever issued on the subject in any age or country, and the more it is read and studied, the more it will be valued. My reason for writing now is not to add my testimony to the worth of Bro. Gould's Masonic researches—for I hope yet to write a critical review of the whole work, when the remaining volumes have been issued—but to emphasise your remarks as to the present position of the Royal Arch, historically considered. The dates are as follows:

- 1. First printed reference in ... 1744
2. First notice by "Ancients" ... 1752
3. Referred to in "Ahiman Rezon" ... 1756
4. Oldest Chapter (Philadelphia) ... 1758
5. Earliest English Records (York) ... 1762
6. Royal Arch Minutes (London) ... 1765
7. Grand Charter of Compact (London) 1776

All these points are carefully noted and duly considered in the fourth volume just published, and I hope the subject will receive more attention in the future than in the past, so that we may yet hear of more facts bearing on the early history of the Degree. I did my best to help students of the Royal Arch in my "Origin of the English Rite," and am gratified to find my efforts have been so warmly appreciated, for, whether we see "eye to eye" on the question, all the facts are brought out most clearly as we proceed, and never were we able to arrive at so fair a conclusion, based on evidence, as now. I shall be very glad when Volume V. makes its appearance, as Continental Freemasonry will doubtless in it obtain a large share of attention. W. J. HUGHAN.

THE FRENCH STATUTES OF 1755.

Concluded.

29. Le jour de St. Jean tous les Maçons iront à la Messe, en habits décents, gants et bouquets blancs, après ils s'assembleront pour procéder par la voie de Scrutin à l'Election d'un nouveau Maître ou à la prorogation de celui qui est en charge; on ne vó era qu'en faveur du mérite; ou arótera les registres des récréaire et Trésorier. Le nouveau Maître nommera ses officiers et après la lecture faite des présens réglemens, il fera la loge à l'ordinaire. 29. On St. John's Day all the Masons shall go to Mass in decent clothes, gloves, and white posies, after which they shall assemble and proceed, by ballot, to elect a new Master, or to re-elect their present Master; merit alone shall decide the voter; the books of the Secretary and Treasurer shall be audited. The new Master shall then name his officers and, after causing these present ordinances to be read, shall close the lodge in the usual manner.

30. Le Lendemain de la Fête St. Jean, le nouveau Maître fera célébrer un service des morts pour le repos des Ames des Maçons dé-cédés, auquel tous les Frères assisteront en habit noir. Lequel service sera payé des fonds de la loge. 30. On the morrow of St. John's Day the new Master shall cause to be held a service of the dead for the repose of the souls of deceased Masons, at which all the Brothers shall be present in black garment-. The which service shall be defrayed out of the lodge funds.

31. Il est expressément recommandé au Maître de faire observer un profond silence pendant la Loge de Table, de punir les contrevenans, la première fois par un exercice sans honneur, pour la seconde fois à l'amende pécuniaire de trois frères, et la troisième fois le Maître fermera la Loge, se retirera du Banquet ainsi que tous les officiers. Rien n'imitant mieux la Tour de Babel, qu'une Loge mal gouvernée on des Frères qui n'obéissent pas. 31. The Master is expressly enjoined to enforce a profound silence at the Banquet, to punish the contumacious, the first time by imposing a duty void of honour* the second time by fining three brothers, and the third time the Master shall close the lodge, and, with his officers, retire from the Banquet. Nothing more closely resembles the Tower of Babel than a badly governed lodge or disobedient brothers.

32. Le Maître portera séparément les santés d'obligation et à chacune il chantera et fera chanter les cantiques qui y sont annexés. La dernière finira par le nœud de chaîne, on 32. The Master shall give separately the regular toasts, and after each he shall sing, and cause to be sung, the songs thereto attached. The last song shall conclude with the living

* Possibly to wait on the others?

the same day, exalted the same day, and advanced the same day, so that their Masonic work had gone on together, and therefore if he did speak of Bro. Eastes' valuable work for the province, he certainly was in a position to know something about it. Bro. Spencer, his especial colleague, was a hard working Mason, and he had no doubt that those who had just received their collars would do all in their power for the progress of Masonry in the Province of Kent. He was pleased to see Bro. Penfold receive an honour that would be a stepping stone to something higher yet, because he felt that brother deserved it. He had often wanted to come to the lodge to thank them for their hearty support and kindness, and took the present opportunity of so doing. He wished the lodge success, and its Master a good and harmonious year of office.

Bro. Jamblin spoke of the pleasure it afforded him again to visit the Pattison Lodge, and after five years had a distinct remembrance of being much impressed not only with the genial hospitality of the lodge, but its good working. The position of a Grand Officer was a valuable one, but only so because it was esteemed by the brethren, who always received the Grand or Prov. Grand Officers with so much kindness and distinction.

Bro. Thorpe said he quite forgot to mention in his speech the splendid working of the lodge, nor should he soon forget the impressive and eloquent manner in which Bro. Edmonds had performed the installation ceremony that day. He congratulated both the lodge and that worthy brother upon such splendid working.

In responding to the toast of his health, the W.M. assured the brethren that he felt deeply the responsibility placed upon him, and looked upon the honour done him as one of the happiest and most exalted events of his life. It was only four years ago that he, after a period of retirement through ill-health, determined to go on in office, and then only on the invitation of Bro. Past Master Cook; but, after serious consideration, he determined to go on. The work of that year was the Deacon's work, which he took a pride in, because he liked it, and since then he had gone through the other chairs. He had endeavoured to do his duty well, and hoped he had succeeded, and would so work as to bring his year of office to a successful issue.

The other toasts were "The Past Masters," "The Visitors," "The Officers," and Tyler's toast.

Bros. W. G. Lloyd, F. G. Nichols, R. F. Tyler, Atkinson, Ledger, Edmonds, Palmer, and C. Jolly contributed songs and recitations, and Bro. Tyler presided at the piano in his own inimitable style.

LIVERPOOL.—Royal Victoria Lodge (No. 1013).—The 21st anniversary of the consecration of this lodge gave special value to the annual installation proceedings at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, on the 1st inst. There was a very large attendance of members and visitors, and the meeting throughout showed that this lodge has made considerable advancement in the estimation of the brethren connected with the Province of West Lancashire. The progress and position of the lodge have been very materially increased and enhanced during the past year by the presence in the W.M.'s chair of Bro. Robert Johnson, who has very efficiently performed the duties of the chair.

Bro. Johnson, the retiring W.M., opened the lodge, supported by Bros. T. K. Hughes, P.M., D.C.; C. A. Whitney, P.M.; S. Chapman, I.P.M.; T. E. Tomlinson, P.M.; S. Howard, S.W., W.M. elect; W. H. Cooke, J.W.; W. Longbottom, P.M., P.P.G.A.P., Treas.; T. W. Edwards, Sec.; W. F. M'Donnell, S.D.; F. Evans, J.D.; T. R. Connell, I.G.; W. H. Thornton, S.S.; and P. Ball, Tyler. The very numerous and influential attendance of visitors included Bros. J. Cobham, P.M. 1380 and 1609; R. Martin, P.G. Treas.; J. T. Callow, P.P.G. Treas.; J. Lunt, P.P.G.D.C.; W. J. Newman, P.P.G.R.; C. A. Luker, S.W. 241; R. White, W.M. 241; J. B. Mackenzie, P.P.G.S.D.; E. C. Erwin, P.G.A. Sec.; J. Beesley, P.G.S.; F. Williams, 1620; G. Alexander, I.G. 1094; W. M. Bramham, 88; T. Guile, Sec. 1325; J. Pendleton, P.M. 241; J. F. Roberts, P.P.G.A.D.C.; C. Johnson, 1756; P. Armstrong, 724; J. Jones, 823; Eaton Batty, 1609; D. Cumming, 1609; R. A. Davies, I.P.M. 1380; T. J. Jarmand, S.D. 1325; and George Williams, 1609.

After the transaction of some introductory business, Bro. R. Johnson, W.M., concluded a most successful year's occupancy of the chair by impressively giving the Second Degree to Bro. Herbert Jumbo (son of Oko Jumbo, King of Bonny, West Coast of Africa), who travelled specially from London for the purpose of being present on this occasion. Bro. T. K. Hughes, P.M., subsequently installed Bro. Samuel Howard as W.M., with much effectiveness, the presentation being made by Bros. P.M.'s Longbottom and Lunt. The following were invested as officers for the ensuing year: Bros. Robert Johnson, I.P.M.; W. H. Cooke, S.W.; T. W. Edwards, J.W.; W. Longbottom, P.M., Treas. (re-elected); W. F. M'Donnell, Sec.; F. Evans, S.D.; T. R. Connell, J.D.; T. K. Hughes, P.M., D.C. (re-appointed); J. D. Cockerton, Org.; John Jones, Assist. Org.; W. H. Thornton, I.G.; W. M'Williams, and J. W. Napton, Stwds.; James Jack, Assist. Stwd.; and P. Ball was re-elected Tyler for the 21st time.

At the conclusion of business the brethren adjourned to the banqueting room, where an excellent dinner was supplied by Bro. J. Casey, the House Steward. The highly appropriate Shakesperian quotations on the artistic menu card, selected by Bro. R. Johnson, I.P.M., were very greatly admired. An excellent musical programme was given by Bros. Eaton Batty, G. Evans, G. Broadbent, J. Jack, W. H. Cooke, T. W. Edwards, W. F. M'Donnell, J. Jones, and others. During the evening an exceedingly artistic and valuable P.M.'s jewel was presented to Bro. R. Johnson, I.P.M., in recognition of his services to Victoria Lodge during his year of office, and also during the period he had been connected with it. Bro. John Cobham, P.M. 1380 and 1609, also took occasion to present the lodge with an artistically illuminated album, in recognition of the fact that it had attained its majority on that occasion.

BOROUGHGATE.—Royal Wharfedale Lodge (No. 1108).—The annual festival of this lodge was held on Friday, the 26th ult., in the Masonic Rooms, when there was a good muster of brethren present. Among the visitors were Bros. Henry Smith, D.P.G.M.; Richardson, P.P.G.P., P.M. 1001; Bodman, W.M. 1001; Jones, 1001; and Adams, 1525.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and

confirmed, the W.M. elect, Bro. Albert Walker, S.W., was presented by Bro. W. T. Marshall, the retiring W.M., for the benefit of installation, the ceremony was performed by Bro. Laycock, P.M., in a very able manner. The appointment of officers then took place as follows: Bros. W. T. Marshall, I.P.M.; J. E. Lowrey, S.W.; J. H. Payne, J.W.; W. Laycock, P.M., Treas.; George Edson, Secretary; R. Watkinson, S.D.; W. T. Wilkinson, J.D.; Edmund Walker, I.G.; W. Weegmann, Steward; and T. Houlding, Tyler. The installing Master then delivered the addresses to the W.M., wardens, and brethren. Bro. Laycock was unanimously re-elected as the lodge representative on the Provincial Charities Committee, after which the newly installed Master, on behalf of the brethren, presented a Past Master's jewel to Bro. Laycock in recognition of his services to the lodge. Bro. Laycock cordially thanked the W.M. for the flattering terms in which he had alluded to him, and also the brethren for the handsome jewel they had presented him with.

The W.D.P.G.M., Bro. Henry Smith, in responding to the salutations of the brethren, expressed the pleasure he felt at being present, and spoke in complimentary terms of the work done in the lodge. He thanked them for the hearty reception given to him, and wished the lodge all success and prosperity.

The thanks of the lodge were given to Bros. Albert Walker, W.M., and Edmund Walker, I.G., for their gift of 10 guineas to endow the W.M.'s chair (Girls' School).

The brethren then adjourned to the banqueting room, where songs, speeches, and good fare rendered the evening very enjoyable.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and the W.D.P.G.M., in responding to the toast of "The Provincial Grand Officers," said that the proposer of the toast had not placed West Yorkshire too high in saying that this province was second to none in England. West Yorkshire in the general working of its lodges, the promptitude with which it performed its business, and the amount of its subscriptions to the Masonic Charities, occupied a very distinguished position, which, he trusted, would long be maintained.

Bro. Richardson, P.P.G.P., replying to the toast of "The Visiting Brethren," said that in "Cole's List of Lodges," A.D. 1767, he found the following:—"No. 287 lodge, Half Moon. Held at the Half Moon Inn, at Obley, Yorkshire. Warrant dated August 16, 1762. Next on first Monday, monthly." This was confirmed by "Wilson's List," A.D. 1777, but no mention of it is made in "J. & B. List, 1809 (23rd edition), hence he concluded that the lodge must have been erased. This warrant might still be in existence, as there were instances of old warrants having been found among the documents of friendly societies, and he recommended that an effort should be made to discover what had become of this warrant.

TYWARDREATH.—St. Andrew's Lodge (No. 1151).—At the installation meeting, on the 24th ult., Bro. D. T. J. Tuckey was inducted into the chair of K.S. by Bro. Rev. G. Ross, P.M., P.P.G. Chap. The following were afterwards invested as officers for the year, viz., Bros. T. S. Bailey, S.W.; J. Werry, J.W.; Rev. G. Ross, Chap.; S. Verran (elected), Treas.; J. Nettle, P.M., Sec.; T. H. Evans, S.D.; T. Kitt, J.D.; Searle, D.C.; R. Randle, I.G.; and Elliott, Tyler.

The brethren dined at the New Inn, and spent a very agreeable evening together. Among those present were Bros. D. G. Derry, W.M. 856; J. Doney, P.M. 856; Bassett, P.M. 856; T. Perry, J.W. 856; B. Tredinnick, W.M. 496; T. Spear, W.M. 330; Bailey, S.W. 330; J. Clunes, 977; and W. Pascoe.

CHISLEHURST.—Chislehurst Lodge (No. 1531).—The eleventh annual festival was held on Saturday, the 27th ult., at the Bull's Head Hotel, when the following brethren were present: Bros. T. C. Nunn, W.M.; E. J. Goodale, S.W., W.M. elect; W. T. Brailey, J.W.; W. Hollis, Treas.; J. C. Main, Sec.; R. Nevill, S.D.; J. Marshall, J.D.; W. Bishop, I.G.; J. Rawles, Tyler; W. H. Drinkwater, I.P.M.; J. R. Behenna, P.M.; E. Kipps, P.M., P.G.O. Kent; W. Kipps, P.M., P.P.G.O. Kent; W. T. Hunt, John Tuck, C. F. Quicke, W. J. A. Gleaves, John Breton, W. Powell, Robert Strachan, J. Mason, P.P.G.S.D. Middx.; H. C. Dana, G. H. Dowsett, George Adam, and George Holding. Visitors: Bros. John Maclean, P.M. 1319; George Allen, P.M. 144; G. J. Scales, P.M. 1507; W. Eldridge Johnson, W.M. 134; Dr. A. Forsyth, W.M. 140; E. W. Nightingale, W.M. 87; Tilling, W.M. elect 705; W. Simpson, W.M. 201; Walter Martin, W.M. elect 879; Vivian Orchard, J.W. 79; W. Syder, S.D. 79; John J. White, I.G. 1063; G. Russell, 180; W. R. Garrod, 79; and Herbert W. Roach, 55.

The installation of Bro. Edward Jarvis Goodale was performed by Bro. Thomas C. Nunn, W.M. The new W.M. afterwards invested the following brethren as his officers: Bros. W. T. Brailey, S.W.; Richard Nevill, J.W.; W. Hollis, Treas.; J. C. Main, Sec.; W. T. Hunt, S.D.; John Mason, P.P.G.S.D. Middx., J.D.; Robt. Strachan, I.G.; H. C. Dana, Stwd.; C. F. Quicke, D.C.; and J. Rawles, Tyler.

INSTRUCTION.

HYDE PARK LODGE (No. 1425).—A meeting was held on Monday, the 6th inst., at the Fountains Abbey Hotel, 111, Praed-street, Paddington. Present: Bros. S. J. Humfress, W.M.; J. J. Thomas, S.W.; C. J. Morse, J.W.; G. Read, P.M., Treas.; H. Dehane, P.M., Sec.; D. Stroud, S.D.; F. Chandler, J.D.; N. J. Stratton, I.G.; O. W. Batty, Stwd.; Capt. A. Nicols, P.M. 1074; C. Coleman, H. Robinson, and E. J. Day. Visitor: Bro. J. C. Conway, 1891.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes were read and confirmed. After the usual preliminaries, the ceremonies of initiation and passing were rehearsed. Bro. Thomas was elected W.M. for next meeting on the 13th inst., who appointed his officers in rotation. Bro. Conway was elected a member. It was proposed that a vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes to Bro. Humfress, for the able manner in which he had performed the duties of the chair for the first time. It was then decided to invite the brethren among the Canadian Volunteers, to attend their meetings during their stay in England. The lodge was closed in peace and harmony.

WANDERERS LODGE (No. 1604).—A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 1st inst., at the Victoria Mansions Restaurant, Victoria-street, S.W. Present: Bros. Hayes, W.M.; Woolstein, S.W.; Grist, J.W.; Wray, P.M., Preceptor; Musson, Sec.; Bowen, S.D.; Coughlan, J.D.; Spond, I.G.; Weeks, Tyler; Barker, Davis, Phillips, Forscutt, Power, and Dotterill.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Barker being the candidate. Bro. Davis answered the questions leading to the Second Degree, and was entrusted; the lodge was opened up, and Bro. Davis duly passed to the Degree of F.C. Bro. Davis also answered the questions leading to the Third Degree, and retired. The lodge was then closed in the Second Degree. Bro. H. L. Phillips, of the Joppa Lodge, No. 188, was elected a member. Bro. S.W., was elected W.M. for the next meeting. Nothing further offering, the lodge was closed in perfect harmony.

COVENT GARDEN LODGE (No. 1614).—The usual weekly meeting of this lodge of instruction was held at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, Covent-Garden, W.C., on the 2nd inst., when there were present Bros. D. Stroud, W.M.; H. G. Marsden, S.W.; F. Kedge, J.W.; J. B. Bromley, S.D.; J. Skinner, P.M., J.D.; Malvey, I.G.; W. C. Smith, Preceptor; G. Reynolds, Secretary and Treasurer; Frank Gulliford, and T. E. Weeks.

The lodge having been opened, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. W. C. Smith, Preceptor, worked the 1st Section of the First Lecture. Bro. G. Reynolds offering himself as a candidate for initiation, the W.M. was pleased to rehearse the ceremony. Bro. W. C. Smith, Preceptor, worked the 4th and 5th Sections of this lecture. On rising for the first time, Bro. E. C. Malvey, 179, and 988, was unanimously elected a joining member of this lodge of instruction, being proposed by Bro. W. C. Smith, Preceptor; and seconded by Bro. J. B. Bromley. On rising for the second time, Bro. W. C. Smith, Preceptor, proposed that Bro. H. G. Marsden be the W.M. for the ensuing week; seconded by Bro. J.W., carried unanimously. The W.M. elect was pleased to appoint his officers in rotation. On rising for the third time, the W.M. received the "Hearty good wishes" of the brethren, all expressing delight at the clear manner in which he had given the charge after initiation. Nothing further offering for the good of Freemasonry, the lodge was closed in peace and harmony.

Red Cross of Constantine.

MELBOURNE.—Melbourne Conclave (No. 143).—This recently formed conclave, and the first in Australia proper, commenced active work on the 14th of May last. The assembly was summoned at the New Treasury Hotel, at 7 p.m., when a conclave was opened by Em. Sir Knight W. F. Lamony, P.S. Dykes Conclave, No. 36; Em. Sir Knight T. H. Lempriere, D.G. Secretary, Victoria (E.C.), M.P.S. designate, who had previously been consecrated and enthroned, occupying the chair of Viceroy. The roll of the sir knights having been called, a ballot was taken for no fewer than 19 candidates, all of whom were elected, amongst them being Bros. Dr. Balls-Headley, D.G.S.W. (E.C.); W. Gledhill, P.D.G. Reg. (E.C.); Rev. W. W. Mantell, D.G.A. Chaplain (E.C.); J. H. Henderson, P.D.G.S.D. (E.C.); W. F. Dixon, P.D.G.J.D. (E.C.); W. Davis, P.D.G.D.C. (E.C.); and other brethren of distinction. Em. Sir Knight Lieut.-Col. H. S. Brownrigg, 32° P.D.D.G.M. of the Punjab, Past Viceroy of the Hiram Conclave, Rawal Pindie, East Indies, was also balloted for and elected a joining sir knight. The presiding sovereign intimated that he had received authority from the Grand Imperial Council of the Order to confer the grade of P.S. on Em. Sir Knight Colonel Brownrigg, but on account of the gallant sir knight's military duties preventing his attendance that evening, the enthronement would be performed on a subsequent occasion. Thirteen of the candidates being in attendance, they were regularly installed and proclaimed knights of the Order, after which the presiding Sovereign delivered the historical oration.

The Melbourne Conclave was then solemnly consecrated and dedicated to the work of Christian Masonry and the Presiding Sovereign, the entire ceremony being witnessed and listened to with deep interest by the sir knights. Em. Sir Knight T. H. Lempriere then ascended the throne, and the succeeding orders of the day were proceeded with. Sir Knight Charles Shaw, the V.E. designate, having resigned that office, the sir knights unanimously elected Sir Knight Dr. J. J. E. Willmott, P.D.G. Pres. B.G.P. (E.C.), to the post, and he will be consecrated at the next assembly. The following officers were appointed and invested: Sir Knights W. R. Nicholls, S.G.; T. H. Henderson, J.G.; W. F. Dixon, Treas.; A. S. Manders, Rec.; Dr. Woolley, Pref.; W. Davis, Std. Br.; Charles Brown, Almoner; W. Gledhill, H.; Dr. Balls-Headley, Orator; David Lee, Org.; and J. Paul, Sentinel. Several new candidates having been proposed, the conclave was closed in F.U.Z.

Subsequently the sir knights proceeded to refecation, and spent a pleasant evening, under the presidency of the M.P.S., a most successful gathering, that augurs well for the future prosperity of the Red Cross Order in the colony of Victoria, coming to a close at midnight.

As soon as there are a sufficient number of members, it is proposed to adopt the system of drill authorised by the Grand Imperial Council.

Last Monday week at Chorley, Lancashire, a very handsome P.Z.'s and founder's jewel was presented to Comp. Thomas Forrester, the occasion being the first anniversary of the consecration of the Earl of Lathom Chapter, No. 730. Comp. Forrester, who is well-known in the district of Chorley, is the proprietor of an extensive logwood dye manufactory, and was the principal founder of the above-mentioned chapter. His great interest and zeal in the welfare and prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry was amply proved by presenting the furniture, jewels, &c., to the new chapter at his own cost. In appreciation of his kindness and valuable services, the companions presented him, as stated above, with a handsome jewel made of 18 carat gold, the outer circle of which was enamelled in red letters, with the name and number of the chapter. The crown was jewelled with a diamond, ruby, and emerald. On the ribbon were three handsome bars, one having the word "Founder," the other two "1st M.E.Z., 1884-5," and "2nd M.E.Z. 1885-6," in raised letters. Between the bars and on the ribbon was a gold triangle, engraved with Lord Lathom's arms, whilst the back of the jewel bore a suitable inscription. The jewel was manufactured by Bro. George Kenning, 47, Bridge-street, Manchester.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Unwholesome Changes.—The changeable weather is causing much sickness, and exerting the most powerful influence in deranging the secretions of the body. Alternating chills and heats so derange the capillary circulation, that skin, liver, stomach, or lungs must become disordered. Holloway's Ointment, well rubbed over these organs twice a day, proves the quickest, safest, and best corrective. It penetrates the skin, enters the deeper structures, purifies their blood, cleanses their substance, equalises their circulation, and renders their secretions abundant without annoying, irritating, or exhausting them. This Ointment, perseveringly used, aided by occasional doses of their far famed Pills, is capable of removing all the formidable evils induced by variable weather and its attendant impurities.—[Advr.]



A moveable Mark Grand Lodge will be held in Liverpool on Wednesday, the 29th inst., under the presidency of the Earl of Kintore, M.W.M.M.M.

Bro. George Augustus Sala, during his late lecturing tour in the Australian colonies, was entertained at dinner at the Masonic Club, Melbourne.

It is stated that Bro. Marriott, O.C., M.P., P.G. Stwd., will receive the honour of Knighthood on his recent appointment as Judge-Advocate-General.

Bro. the Lord Mayor, M.P., will preside at a conference of provincial mayors and others, which will be held at the Mansion House on Friday next, under the auspices of the Imperial Defence League.

Bro. Alderman Sir R. Hanson, P.G. Stwd., presided at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, the 2nd inst., at the 47th Anniversary Festival of the Aged and Infirm Tailors' Benevolent Institution.

Bro. W. G. Cusins, Past G. Organist, Master of Music to the Queen, has been appointed Professor of the Pianoforte at the Guildhall School of Music, in place of the late Sir Julius Benedict.

Bro. the Duke of Abercorn, Grand Master of Ireland, and the Duchess of Abercorn are among the English nobility who have recently arrived on a visit to Homburg.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have announced their intention of being present at the benefit, which will be given on Tuesday, the 21st inst., in aid of the Actors' Benevolent Fund.

At the meeting of the St. Ambrose Lodge of Instruction, No. 1391, on Monday evening, Bro. Thomas Holland, P.M. and Secretary of the mother lodge, gave a highly interesting lecture on the "Ancient and Traditional History of Freemasonry."

Bro. Lord Henniker, who is one of the Lords-in-Waiting on the Queen, will take charge of Home Office matters in the House of Lords, both the Home Secretary and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary being in the House of Commons.

The City of London Lodge, No. 901, had its usual summer outing on Thursday, the 2nd inst., the spot selected for the visit being Gravesend, where a most pleasant day was spent. The banquet was served at the Rosherville Hotel, and as many ladies were present, dancing followed.

The brethren of the Falcon Lodge, No. 1416, Thirsk, visited Barnard Castle on Thursday, the 2nd inst., for the purpose of enjoying their annual picnic. Several ladies were present, and the party, under the presidency of Bro. J. Walton, W.M., spent a very enjoyable day.

The Royal Savoy Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 355, will be consecrated to-morrow (Saturday) at the Criterion, Piccadilly, at the hour of 2.30 p.m. The principal officers designate are Bro. Jas. Willing, W.M., W. M. Stiles, S.W., and W. A. Scurrah, J.W. The consecrating officer will be Bro. Frederick Binckes, P.G.W., G. Secretary.

The Vitruvian Lodge of Instruction, No. 87, will meet at their new home, the Bridge House Hotel, London-bridge, on Wednesday, the 22nd inst., at 8 o'clock, Bro. W. R. Davis, W.M., in the chair, supported by Bro. E. Chamberlain and lodge officers. Bro. W. Stuart, P.M., Secretary. The attendance of all members of this lodge is respectfully requested.

Bros. Sir Daniel Gooch, Bart., M.P., P.G.M. Berks and Bucks, and Sir George Elliot, Bart., M.P., P.G.M. South Wales (East Division), were among the principal guests at the banquet, given by Mr. Cyrus M. Field, at the Buckingham Palace Hotel, on Saturday last, in honour of the Declaration, on 4th July, 1776, of American Independence.

The members of St. Patrick's Lodge, No. 43, Carrickfergus, with a numerous sprinkling of the fair sex, celebrated St. John the Baptist's Day, on Thursday last, by an excursion to Antrim. The party mustered about 50, and a most enjoyable day was spent, the programme including a delightful country drive, an excellent banquet, and dancing or an excursion on Lough Neagh. Home was reached on the return journey about 10 p.m., and great credit must be given to Bros. William Feeney, John Newton, and B. Darcy, who had charge of the arrangements and acquitted themselves well.

The Queen held a private investiture at Windsor Castle, on Saturday last, when, among others, Bro. Viscount Sherbrooke received the honour of Knighthood, and was invested with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross (Civil Division) of the Order of the Bath, Bro. Sir Albert Woods, (Garter and Registrar of the Order), G.D. of C., being present. Bro. Sir James Fergusson, Bart., was knighted and invested a Knight Grand Cross of the Star of India; and Bro. Lord Carrington, P.G.S.W., a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

The Prince of Wales opened the Albany Memorial and other buildings constituting the new west block of the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, Queen-square, Bloomsbury, on Saturday last. His Royal Highness was accompanied by the Princess of Wales, Prince Albert Victor, Princess Victoria of Wales, and Prince and Princess Christian. The ceremony having been performed, a number of ladies and children filed before the Princess, depositing on a table near her purses containing, in sums varying from £5 upwards, an aggregate of about £1000. The Royal Party afterwards attended at the new buildings of the Birkbeck Institution, the first stone of which was laid by the late Duke of Albany, P.G.J.W., and then a similar ceremony was gone through, their Royal Highnesses being received by Bro. the Lord Mayor, M.P., P.G.J.W., Bro. Alderman and Sheriff Whitehead, Sheriff Phillips, Mr. Birkbeck, M.P., and a numerous and distinguished company.

Bro. Sir E. B. Malet, our Ambassador at Berlin, arrived in London early this week on official business.

We are glad to hear that Mrs. Burt, wife of Bro. Ex-Sheriff Burt., P.G.A.D.C., has recovered from her recent serious indisposition.

Bro. Ex-Sheriff Clarence Smith has been appointed and sworn in a magistrate for the county of Kent.

The Prince and Princess of Wales were present at a ball given by Bro. the Earl of Fife, at his residence in Cavendish-square, on Thursday, the 2nd instant.

Bro. W. Malthouse presided at the summer banquet at the Crystal Palace on Tuesday of the City of London Tradesmen's Club.

Bro. the Lord Mayor, M.P., the Lady Mayoress, and Bro. Viscount Ebrington, M.P., were among those present at the Harrow Speech Day on Thursday, the 2nd instant.

It was arranged that the annual sailing barge match, of which Bro. J. A. Farnfield is Hon. Sec., should take place on Thursday, the course being from Erith to the Nore and back.

Bro. the Duke of Manchester, P.G.M. Norths and Hunts, who is President of the Imperial and American Club, was entertained at the inaugural dinner, on Thursday, the 2nd inst., by the chairman of the Executive Committee.

Bro. Earl Granville was confined to the house by a sharp attack of gout during the early days of the week, and was thus prevented being in his place in the House of Lords on the re-assembling of Parliament.

Bro. G. Shaw-Lefevre, M.P., lately H.M.'s Postmaster-General, attended at the Post Office on Tuesday morning, by invitation of his successor in office, Lord John Manners, and inaugurated the first dispatch of the new Parcel Post to India.

Bro. the Lord Mayor has consented to receive subscriptions towards the fund originated by the Mayor of Southampton for the widows and children of the crew of the Royal Mail Steamship Humber, which was recently lost with all hands in the Atlantic.

Bros. the Hon. J. F. W. Fiennes, Sir W. H. B. Ffolkes, Bart., M.P., Sir John St. Aubyn, Bart., M.P., the Right Hon. Hugh C. E. Childers, M.P., and Lord Waveney, were present at the fourth meeting this season, at The Ship, Greenwich, on Saturday last, of the Fox Club.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Connaught, Princess Beatrice, and Princess Margaret of Connaught, visited the Cavalry Barracks, Windsor, on Thursday, the 2nd inst., and witnessed a musical ride by the non-commissioned officers and troopers of the 2nd Life Guards.

A complimentary dinner was given at the Holborn Restaurant on Tuesday to Mr. Walter Paget, son of Bro. R. Paget, special artist of the *Illustrated London News*, on his return from the Soudan, among those present being Bro. J. H. Puleston, M.P.

Bro. the Lord Mayor, M.P., who will be accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, Bro. Alderman and Sheriff Whitehead, and Sheriff Phillips was to open a grand fancy fair on Friday, the 10th inst., at Grove House, Dulwich Common, in aid of the fund being raised for the completion of St. Peter's Church, Dulwich.

The Fanmakers' Company, of which Bro. Alderman and Sheriff Whitehead is the Master, gave their annual dinner on Monday, when among the principal guests were Bros. the Lord Mayor, M.P., Lord Hothfield, Alderman Sir H. E. Knight, J. H. Puleston, M.P., Alderman De Keyser, Captain George Lambert, P.G.S.B., S. da C. Andrade, E. F. Storr, and J. A. Mallett.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk will hold its annual meeting on Monday next, the 13th inst., in the Public Hall, Lowestoft, under the auspices of the Unity Lodge, No. 71, and the St. Margaret's Lodge, No. 1452. Prov. Grand Lodge will be opened precisely at 1.30 p.m., by R.W. Bro. Lord Waveney, P.G.M., who will be assisted by his Deputy, Bro. Rev. C. J. Martyn, P.G. Chaplain England, and the Grand Officers of his province.

Most of our readers will hear with regret that Bro. the Rev. C. W. Arnold, P.G. Chap., and D.P.G.M. Surrey, is about to leave England for Florida, U.S.A., where two of his sons have established themselves as orange growers. To this end our Rev. brother, who is Head Master of Woking College, has resigned his appointment, and we are sure he will carry with him to his new home the kindest wishes of his numerous friends in the old country.

Bro. Dr. William Spark, of Leeds, editor of the Masonic "Liber Musicus," has arranged to give during the present summer season in different parts of the country, a new musical entertainment (concert or concert-lecture). He has engaged the services of some well known artists, and those who desire to enter into engagements with the talented lecturer, should communicate as early as possible with him at his residence, Newton Park, Leeds. Bro. Spark, if desired, will be happy to give a performance of sacred music the same afternoon, after the lecture. Bro. Spark's well deserves, and we trust he will receive the patronage of the public.

Bro. Sir W. J. Clarke, R.W. District and Provincial Grand Master of Victoria, under the English, Irish, and Scottish Constitutions, intends shortly making a trip to the old country. He will return in time for the opening and dedication of the new Freemasons' Hall, in Melbourne, a building that bids fair to become one of the many architectural adornments of the great Australian city. Sir William Clarke has presented some 30 or 40 brethren, who took prominent parts in the recent laying of the foundation stone of the new hall, with Masonic commemoration jewels, in 22 carat gold. We augur a hearty welcome to "Victoria's only baronet" when he lands on the shores of Old England.

3,000,000 tins of CHAMPION'S MUSTARD were sold in London alone during the past year. Why was this so? Because the public, having satisfied themselves it was the best and cheapest gave it a preference over all others.—ADVT.

£20.—Tobaccoists commencing.—A pamphlet (80 pages) How to open respectfully from £20; three stamps. H. Myers & Co., Cigar and Tobacco Merchants, Euston-rd., London, Telephone No. 7541.—[ADVT.]

Bro. Belt has been selected by the City Lands Committee to execute the statue for the Queen Anne Monument, facing St. Paul's Cathedral.

It is understood that the Prince of Wales will visit Bro. Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, at Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury, on Saturday next, the 18th inst.

Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon made his state entry into Dublin as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland on Tuesday, and met with an enthusiastic reception.

Bro. the Lord Mayor, M.P., and the Lady Mayoress have become patrons of the Indian Native Village Exhibition, Entertainment, and Oriental Bazaar.

Preparations are being made for the visit of the Prince of Wales to Bro. the Earl of Lathom at Lathom House, near Ormskirk, on Thursday next, the 16th inst.

Bro. G. Borlase Childs, who has been surgeon to the City police since 1844, has expressed his desire to resign the appointment.

The *South London Chronicle* has recently given an interesting biographical sketch and portrait of Bro. W. Malthouse, who will be a candidate at the next election for the Watworth Division of the Borough of Newington.

The Prince of Wales and Bros. Sir Charles Dilke, Bart., M.P. (Chairman), and Lord Carrington were present at the 76th meeting on Monday of the Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes.

At the regular meeting of the Alliance Lodge, No. 1327, held at the Guildhall Tavern, on the 1st inst., Bro. Henry Wright was elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. Pawley, Treasurer. Bro. T. Clarke, Sheriff elect, was elected a joining member.

We have been kindly reminded by a correspondent that in our article on "Masons eminent in the State" we omitted to mention Bro. Lord Randolph Churchill, Secretary of State for India, who was initiated in the Churchill Lodge, No. 478, about 1871, and was Prov. Grand Steward of Oxfordshire in 1873.

Bro. Lord Egerton of Tatton, owing to the great agricultural depression, has taken off all increases of rent made on farms on his Cheshire estates during the past 40 years, and has intimated his intention of readjusting all the rentals, so as to meet the present pressure on his tenants.

Prince Albert Victor of Wales, who is now at Aldershot, attended recruits' drill for the first time on Tuesday. His Royal Highness occupies a field officer's quarters with the 10th Hussars, while his horses are stabled at the Queen's Pavilion.

The following dinners took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, for the week ending Saturday, the 11th inst. Tuesday—Society of Chemical Industry. Wednesday—Volunteer Surgeons Charing Cross Hospital; United Lodge. Thursday—Rosicrucians.

Bro. General Lord Wolseley, accompanied by Bro. Major-General Sir Redvers Buller, and Captain Lord Charles Beresford, R.N., left Alexandria on board H.M.'s despatch vessel, Iris, for England on Tuesday. The distinguished party travel via Venice.

Prince Albert Victor of Wales opened the new Promenade Gardens at Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, on Thursday, the 2nd inst., his Royal Highness's reception being of a very enthusiastic character. A luncheon followed, under the presidency of Bro. Sir Edward Watkin, Bart., M.P.

Bros. Captain George Lambert, P.G.S.B., Pannell, Cutbush, and Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, G. Sec., were among the guests at the 42nd anniversary dinner at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, on Friday, the 3rd inst., of the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution.

A Court dinner of the Farriers' Company was held at the Holborn Restaurant on Thursday, the 2nd inst., there being present, among the other guests, Bros. the Lord Mayor, M.P., Alderman Cowan, Major Joseph, Sir George Elliot, Bart., M.P., and Alderman Staples.

Bros. A. J. Altman and A. Brookman were amongst the guests at the annual summer dinner at the Cock Hotel, Epping, on Wednesday, the 1st inst., of the Aldersgate Club, and severally replied for the toast of "The Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City of London."

Bro. Lord and Lady Egerton of Tatton entertained at dinner at their residence in St. James's-square, on Thursday and Friday, the 2nd and 3rd inst., among other guests, Bro. Viscount Holmesdale, Bro. Lord and Lady Harlech, Bro. Col. Sir R. and Lady Lloyd-Lindsay, and Bro. Cavendish Bentinck.

We are glad to be able to state that Col. Sir Francis Burdett, Bart., as Grand Sovereign of the Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, has granted a warrant for the Pentangle Conclave, to be held at Chatham, of which Sir Knt. Penfold is to be the first M.P.S., and Sir Knt. Ninnis the first Viceroy. The dedication will take place early in August.

The South Middlesex Lodge of Instruction, No. 858, held its last meeting this season on the 30th ult. At the conclusion of the business, votes of thanks were passed to Bro. Howard Room for his services as Preceptor, and Bro. T. Cope Allenguine. The season has been most successful, there having been 35 meetings, all well attended, while the number of members is now upwards of 40. The lodge has our best wishes for the long continuance of its honourable career.

Bro. the Lord Mayor, M.P., presided at a meeting held at the Mansion House on Monday, for the purpose of inaugurating the Volunteer Forces Benevolent Association. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Connaught were prevented from attending, but the Duke of Cambridge, Bros. Lord E. Pelham-Clinton, Lord Ranelagh, and other influential personages were present and the proceedings passed off satisfactorily.

Bro. the Right Hon. Sir Charles Dilke, Bart., M.P., laid the memorial-stone of the new artisans' dwellings, Chatham-gardens, Hoxton, erected out of money bequeathed in 1835 for the benefit of the poor of St. Giles's, Cripplegate, with which the district of St. Luke's was formerly connected. The buildings, which will accommodate 700 people, have cost £52,000, of which £40,000 has been borrowed by the Trustees from the Public Works Loan Commissioners.