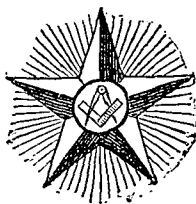


THE MASONIC STAR

A Weekly Journal and
At Home



Record of Freemasonry
and Abroad.

VOL. II.—No. 14.]

THURSDAY, MAY 23RD, 1889.

[CURRENT
NUMBER 40.]

CONTENTS.

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| EDITORIAL: CONTRADICTION | 179 & 180 |
| CHARITY (COMMUNICATED) | 180 |
| THE LATE BRIGADIER-GENERAL ALEX. W. ADAIR, P.P.G.M. FOR SOMERSET | 180 |
| MASONIC "POET'S CORNER"—OPENING AND CLOSING HYMNS | 181 |
| OUR TRESTLE BOARD | 181 |
| SUPREME GRAND COUNCIL A. AND A. RITE | 181 |
| ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE | 182 |
| THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTIONS | 182 & 183 |
| MARK MASONRY: INSTALLATION MEETING OF THE KINTORE LODGE—No. 333 | 183 |
| PROVINCIAL NOTES | 183 |
| MASONIC "BITTER-SWEET" | 184 |
| COLONIAL, DISTRICT AND FOREIGN ITEMS | 184 & 185 |
| METROPOLITAN LODGE AND CHAPTER MEETINGS FOR THE CURRENT WEEK | 184 |
| ADVERTISEMENTS | Front cover, 178, 185, 186, 187, 188 |

Contradiction.

THE Special General Court of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, for the purpose of considering the Report of the Committee of Investigation appointed under Resolution of the Quarterly Court of 27th July, 1888, is, we are informed, to be held on Friday, the 31st inst. The manner of calling Special Courts of our Institutions, under ordinary circumstances, is by requisition of qualified brethren stating time of meeting, and the advertisement thereof in three at least of the daily papers six days prior to the appointed date. Under ordinary circumstances this is far from sufficient for the required purpose, and we know of brethren who, until the recent Special Court of the Girls' School for authorising the outlay of a large sum of money on buildings had terminated its business, were in ignorance of the particulars of time and place of the meeting, and did not, in consequence, give the attendance they had contemplated. Some better means for necessary publicity should be adopted even under ordinary conditions. In view of the extraordinary conditions affecting the forthcoming Special Court of the Boys' School, a far more universal notification of time and place of meeting than can possibly be given "by advertisement in three at least of the daily papers," is absolutely necessary, or we shall have a hole and corner affair which may not fairly represent the feelings and wishes of the large majority of those who look upon the disclosures of the lately-issued report with regret and indignation. Every Governor and Subscriber to the Institution has a right to expect direct information on this point, and if it is not given we may expect to hear of much disappointment and many doubts as to the open character of the approaching enquiry. Already is the caution whispered, "Look out for a packed meeting!" We hope there will really be no opportunity given for the justification of such caution.

Meanwhile, contradiction appears to be the order of the day, and even the Chairman of the Committee of Enquiry who, we feel assured, is, on behalf of himself and colleagues, fully prepared to await the consideration of the Special Court on what he and they have reported, is drawn into a controversy upon a point which we think ought never to have arisen. Before—many days before—the published report was issued to the general body of subscribers,—and it should be observed that for the sake of what was considered an advantageous secrecy the copies thereof were to have been circulated simultaneously, which they were not,—the impugned Committees had it "under consideration" and could not "refrain from an expression of astonishment at its conclusions." They protested against decisions "arrived at, in their opinion, contrary to the weight of evidence," and repudiated suggestions made by the Committee of Investigation. They challenged the production of the stenographic notes made at the enquiry, and this alone appears to have concerned Bro. Philbrick, who, by a letter which he sent to our contemporary, and which we reproduce in another column, informs them and the Masonic public that such notes were in possession of the complaining Committees seven days after the Quarterly Court of the 27th April, and three days before the challenge was made for their production. Like Bro. Philbrick, we "forbear comment on that which speaks for itself." Their reply to his letter, which we also reproduce from the same columns, begs the question altogether, and is much more likely to strengthen that desire for "a clean sweep" in respect of management of the Institution, which is daily increasing amongst the brethren, than to lessen it.

We read elsewhere of appeals for a consideration of the past in connection with this and the other Charitable Institutions. Unfortunately, these are made at an inopportune moment. It is with the present state of things that the Governors and Subscribers of the Boys' School have to do, and no question of personal feeling or gratitude for the most earnest services should be permitted to interfere with the course of whatever reform may be determined in the interests of the School itself. If ever occasion has arisen for strict adherence to one of those cardinal virtues we theorize upon—Justice—it has arisen now; and whether it be members of the Committees or of the Official staff who have to account for the mal-administration and mal-practices which the report has made public to the world, there should be no hesitation in attaching the blame to whomsoever it may be due, and adopting such measures as may prevent recurrence of the objectionable features which may make our Institution a bye-word for many a day. That done, and not till then, if it be possible "let the dead past bury its dead." Remembrance of all that has

been most praiseworthy in efforts to promote the welfare of our Schools, and forgetfulness of any defects which, small at first, have now led to such momentous issues, may be permitted then; and then we may be sure the natural impulses of the true Freemason will protect individual brethren from vindictiveness.

One word more; we hear, *en passant*, that the Matron and Steward have received notice of dismissal, and are amongst the first victims (deservedly or undeservedly), of the late enquiry. We may be very wrong in our judgment, but we think, always presuming we have been correctly informed, that it would have been better taste on the part of those who have given such notice, if they had waited until they had ascertained the wishes of the Special Court, which may possibly have very enlarged views on the subject of dismissal. If delinquents are to be made examples of, those who have the meting out of punishment should begin at the head, and let men and women whose duty it may be "not to reason why" be the latest to feel the effects of the bad management now under consideration. A week or two more of the same managers and servants cannot add much, if anything, to the intolerable injury already done to this and the kindred Masonic Institutions.

CHARITY.

(COMMUNICATED.)

PLEASANT reading indeed is the report of the Philbrick Committee on the administration of the Boys' School, for those who practice the cardinal virtue "charity" in educating and supporting sons of those brethren unable to do so themselves! Those responsible for a state of affairs which has caused so sweeping a condemnation of the administration in its various branches and almost all connected therewith, must feel anything but happy in their minds in digesting it.

A resolution was recently passed ordering a copy of the report to be sent to all the Governors of the Institution; how this has been complied with is best known to those entrusted with the task, but it is certain that even to-day, 22nd May, all Life Governors have not received one! We would ask is this part and parcel of the system of neglect, &c., which appears to have characterised the whole official machinery connected with the Charity?

We are informed that a Special General Court to consider the report is to be convened for Friday, the 31st inst. In respect to the Boys' School, nowhere can we find any printed laws, but believe them to be identical with those of the Girls' School—No. 31 of which reads thus:—

"A special General Court shall be called by the Secretary at any time being not less than ten days from the delivery to him of a requisition in writing of the President, Treasurer, a Trustee, three Vice-Patrons or Vice-Presidents, or nine Subscribers, or by a resolution of the General Committee, and the time at which such Court is to be held, and the business to be transacted, shall be specified in such requisition or resolution, six days' notice of such Court being given by advertisement in three at least of the daily papers, notice also being sent to every Provincial Grand Secretary. Such Special Court has the power to adjourn, but no new matter can be introduced."

This seems vague, as it only states "daily papers"; is it meant to be read "London daily papers?" if so, they might be specified, as it would be absolutely impossible to plough through the mass of daily literature which appears, in search of such information, and many worthy brethren willing and wishful to attend without such specification would be deprived of their privilege. Such a meeting ought to be thoroughly advertised so as to afford all interested the opportunity of attending. As evidence of the interest evinced by other than Masonic Journals in this matter of crying moment, we reproduce the following from the *Globe* of the 16th inst.:—

"The report of the committee of investigation into the management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys has already been published, in synoptic form, in these columns. But it is desirable that some further attention should be drawn to this subject, which affects several institutions of kindred foundation, and other large public charities administered by corporate bodies. The report to which we allude is, to use the mildest term, unsatisfactory. It speaks of friction and antagonism in the administrative departments. It speaks of deficiencies in the important matters of health and cleanliness; of too small playgrounds; of too long hours of study; of a deadness and want of activity among the boys; of want of proper access to the school library; of an unsuitable style of clothing; of an insufficient supply of green vegetables in the diet; of an excessive expenditure upon meat, in consequence of waste in cooking; of an inadequate system of book-keeping, and so on. We have rarely seen any report upon an important educational establishment which was more condemnatory of the general system of management. The names of the commissioners signing the report are sufficient evidence of their capability and impartiality, and we have no choice but to accept their verdict. Now what we would ask, in the interest of the large and influential body of people subscribing to these Masonic charities, is—*What may we not expect, if similar enquiries were made into other Masonic institutions, such as the Institution for Girls, and that for Old Men and Women? There is a general tendency in large public charities to waste the ample funds at their disposal, and the sooner these matters are inquired into, and the institutions placed under a practical and economical*

system of administration, the better for the credit of the benevolent Society."

The italics being ours, we would draw particular attention to the query in the concluding lines. Another paper (the *City Press*) thus alludes to the matter:—"The revelations respecting the Masonic Boys' School made by the Committee of Investigation are simply startling. Lavish subscriptions are made, but neither in buildings, in food, clothing, or management, is reasonable value attained. The classrooms are so small and dark, and the gas fittings so high, that shortsightedness is double the average, and the boys are spiritless and listless, without energy even in their games. One of the rooms available for classrooms is occupied by dogs, the property of the house steward. The bread is sour, the food generally served in hap-hazard fashion. The accounts are irregularly kept, and those published are misleading." The cost of maintenance is £50 16s. per head as against £29 14s. 6d. at the Commercial Travellers' School. Altogether there seems great need of reform if not revolution, and as the report is signed by such well known men as Mr. Philbrick, Q.C., Mr. J. D. Allcroft, Alderman Sir R. Hanson, and Mr. S. Pope, Q.C., there can be no doubt that its statements are without exaggeration." Whilst still another (*The Topley Times*) asks very tersely "What the Life Governors of the Boys' Masonic School think of the report of the Special Committee? If the Girls' School will not bear a little looking into?"

At the moment of writing, a newspaper devoted to Finance (*The Financial Times*) prints a long leader with the *à propos* heading, "A Muddled Charity," dealing with the matter at length, and promising to "deal with the items in these curiously audited accounts *seriatim* in the course of a few days."

It is, therefore, very palpable if the mal-administration of the Boys' School causes such strictures as the above to be passed in "popular" journals, that the days of suppression and hole-and-corner dealings are at an end. It may be urged that matters relating to the Craft and its Charities are of such a nature as to be above outside criticism, and that comment thereon is intrusive; but we maintain that a scandal (we can call it nothing else) such as is shown by the Committee's report, is a matter of grave general public interest, especially as it may be the means of unearthing abuses which exist in other charities.

For the moment we refrain from criticising and enlarging on much of the terse and straightforward statements in the Report, contenting ourselves with remarking that those who are responsible for the necessary notice convening the forthcoming meeting will do well to give such publicity to its announcement as to avoid any reflection (and we hear even now grumbings in this direction) that might be made as to its being, in everyday parlance, a delusion and a snare. We will resume this subject next week, and, meanwhile, impress the above on "those whom it may concern," as no matter how the wires may be pulled, the report will have to be met, and the way it is met will be certainly fully dwelt upon in journals having a far greater circulation than all the masonic papers put together.

DEATH OF R.W. BRO. BRIGADIER-GENERAL ALEXANDER W. ADAIR, P. PROV. GRAND MASTER FOR SOMERSETSHIRE.—Profound regret was felt throughout Somerset on Friday last, 17th inst., when the melancholy news was received from Bath that Brigadier-General Adair had succumbed to the illness from which he had been suffering during the past week. The deceased gentleman was greatly beloved by all classes in the county. In the service he was known as a brave soldier, a faithful comrade, and an honourable gentleman; in his own immediate district as a kind and genial neighbour, ready at any time to lend a helping hand in any good cause; and among his brethren in Freemasonry he was beloved for his true Masonic virtues, for his devotion to the cause and for the undeviating earnestness with which he endeavoured to give effect in his daily life to the principles of the Craft. In every relation of life Brigadier-General Adair was respected and esteemed. He was a firm disciplinarian as a soldier, but his comrades liked him the better for it. He was always consistent, and his consistency was understood. He served his county in the distinguished office of High Sheriff, and in Masonry we believe he had held every office, from the humble position of Steward in the Craft Degree to the honoured position of an Officer of Grand Lodge. As Ruler of the Craft in Somerset he is remembered as one of the most popular Provincial Grand Masters the county has ever known, and it must have been a very pressing engagement indeed which would prevent him from being present at any local Masonic function. So recently as Wednesday last a letter was read from him in lodge expressing regret that he was unable to attend to his duties as Immediate Past Master of 261, and hopes that he might soon be able to resume his Masonic duties. It was not, however, to be. He has passed the veil. His work is done, and he has built up in the hearts of all who knew him "a monument more lasting than brass, and more sublime than the regal elevation of pyramids, which neither the wasting shower, the unavailing north wind, or an immeasurable succession of years and the flight of seasons shall be able to demolish." This is indeed true Masoury and true life.—*Somerset County Gazette*.

LOUGHBOROUGH LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.—On Monday, 20th inst., at the Gauden Hotel, Clapham Station. Present: Bros. W. W. Westley, Preceptor; Folkard, W.M.; Mitchell, S.W.; Harvey, J.W.; Andrews, sec.; Beavan, S.D.; Ellison, J.D.; Donaldson, I.G.; Livitt, Russell, Steele, F. Hill, Cochran, Smith, Colman, W. Hill, J. P. Wright, C. Woods, Poole, Windsor, Spencer, &c. The lodge was opened in the first, second and third degrees, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed. The lodge was resumed to the first degree and the first and third sections were worked by Bro. Andrews, and the second section by Bro. Donaldson, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Mitchell, S.W., was elected W.M. for Monday next, and appointed his officers in rotation.

The Masonic "Poet's Corner."

AN OPENING HYMN.

By BRO. JOHN FAWCETT SKELTON, P.M., P.Z.

Tunes—"St. George," "Easter Hymn," &c.

Come, ye Brethren, stand and sing,
Opening welcome, let it ring,
Till this honoured place resound
From the dornier to the ground.
Here our sorrows we forget—
Here the sun doth never set—
Here all vexing cares we fly,
Where the mystic Brethren hie.

Now for duty at the shrine,
With Masonic rule and line;
Now for worship, wrapt in awe,
Round the Book of Sacred Law;
Now for prayer and solemn rite—
Now for glorious work this night!
Then may we expect reward,
At the well-earn'd festive board.

Guide us, O Thou Mighty Power,
From this solemn opening hour;
Give us grace that we may see
All we owe the Craft and Thee.
All our ritual be Thine,
Great Masonic source divine!
Let us love our Lodges here,
Till in Thine we all appear.

A CLOSING HYMN.

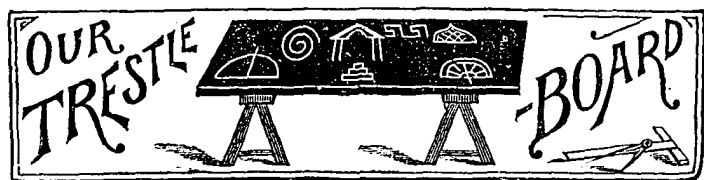
By BRO. JOHN FAWCETT SKELTON, P.M., P.Z.

Tune—"Abide with me."

Now all in harmony prepare to close,
Like the sweet leaves within the evening rose;
Safely lock up our working-tools again,
With all our secrets from the world profane.

Let ev'ry Brother join with voice and heart,
These closing strains before in love we part;
And in the treach'rous world as on we move,
Keep well within the safe Masonic groove.

Meeting and parting! such is life all through,
Till lov'd ones catch our whisper'd last adieu:
Till then, O Thou Great Architect Divine,
Keep us "close-tyled" in that dear heart of Thine!



"For the Master to lay lines and draw designs upon."

IGNORANS wrote to us last week on a point of difference with his preceptor as to the proper time for bringing forward matters not provided for in the Lodge Agenda, and requested information through our columns. We find that we cannot do better than quote "Chips from a Rough Ashlar," page 130, on this subject:—"As all things should be begun in order so should they conclude, and especially amongst a body of men who have supplicated for that quality in conjunction with peace and harmony. In brief, I submit the following arrangement for your consideration, Bro. Secretary, and would assure you that your business arrangements would be facilitated by its adoption. Of course you know that whatever is named in the summons as part of the lodge work must be disposed of before the first enquiry by the W.M. for the good of the order in general and his lodge in particular. Then on 'first rising' let only propositions for initiation and joinings, and any payments to yourself or treasurer, occupy the interval between 'first' and 'second.' The 'second' should call you up for the reading of communications, the reception of applications, and notices of motion, if there be any. This will leave the 'third rising' clear for the greetings of visitors, who *alone* are expected to offer 'hearty good wishes' on behalf of their respective lodges."

* * * * *

The *Sydney Mail*, in its illustrated supplement of 6th ult., details the proceedings connected with the inauguration of the Grand Lodge of Victoria, and gives its readers a page engraving of the fine concert hall as it appeared during the ceremony. We are accustomed to think that the assemblage of Craftsmen at a Communication of the United Grand Lodge of England is as superb a spectacle of its kind as any can be; but it would seem as though our Victorian brethren can improve upon it. The concert hall itself appears to be much more spacious than our Grand Hall, the magnificent organ occupying nearly the entire width at the eastern end, and producing a fine effect. The lodges are really "ranged under their respective banners," and these latter are displayed to advantage. There were 3,000 Masons present at the time chosen for taking the photograph (by C. Rudd, of Melbourne), from which the engraving was prepared, and so well has the work been done that individual portraits are distinguishable, which is not always the case in our illustrated home journals.

The *Cheltenham Chronicle*, referring to the richness of illumination and harmony of design in the stained glass windows, for which the Parish Church of Cheltenham is becoming famous, and to which an addition of a "lesser western light" is proposed, remarks:—"Though the Masonic Brotherhood of Gloucestershire have so recently contributed a very fine window, I see that in the subscription list for the lesser western window a goodly number of the brethren are represented. The Freemasons of Gloucestershire, in their zeal for the beauty of the temples of the Great Architect, seem to be worthy followers of those "wise master-builders" who have left their marks, and left them well, upon our ecclesiastical edifices at home and abroad.

* * * * *

We had hoped that the attention which has of late been directed by the respective chairmen of scrutineers at the elections of candidates for our several institutions would have borne better fruit than appears to have been the case on Friday last, when the selection of twenty men and thirteen widows for the privileges of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution took place. Of the proxies polled for the men there were as many as 80, representing 432 votes, lost, and of those for widows 69, representing 285 lost votes. The effect in the former instance was a demand for a scrutiny, involving a further attendance of brethren who had already devoted considerable time and labour to the business of counting up with earnest care the large number of votes issued and returned. It will doubtless be found that the disappointment of those on whose behalf the scrutiny was required, has been occasioned through such neglect on the part of their friends as sending in 27 unsigned proxies representing 78 votes, 40 proxies signed and not filled in representing 273 votes, 10 proxies for 42 votes filled in for 83, and therefore enforcedly lost, and 3 proxies representing 45 votes filled in for only 8, which lesser number were polled, the remaining 37 being lost.

* * * * *

As every paper sent in for polling undergoes the inspection of at least four of the appointed scrutineers, it will be seen how extremely necessary it is for the utmost care of the supporters of the several candidates in polling clean sheets if they desire to be successful, and at the same time willing to avoid trouble to those who voluntarily assist in the count. We shall hope that that care will in future be accorded in a larger measure than at the recent elections.

* * * * *

How could the friends of Sarah Wills (case No. 80) expect success when they sent out her circulars requesting favour of vote and interest "closed contrary to regulations," thereby involving the recipients in the payment of extra postage? We have had several of these circulars, on which the pence have been paid, placed in our hands as evidence of this careless mode of canvassing.

* * * * *

The many kind friends who forwarded to us proxies for Bros. Knill and Dodson and thereby assisted materially in securing their election to the privileges of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution will please receive our best thanks. They will doubtless be gratified to learn that Bro. Knill stood highest on the poll with 3,175 votes on first application, and Bro. Dodson second with 2,918 votes on second application.

SUPREME GRAND COUNCIL A. AND A. RITE.

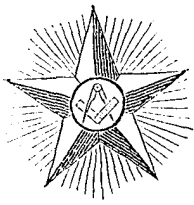
A meeting of the Supreme Grand Council was held at 33, Golden Square, on Tuesday, the 14th inst. Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie, 33 deg., Prov. Grand Master for East Lancashire, took his seat as a member of the Council, in succession to V. Ill. Bro. Gen. J. Studholme Brownrigg, C.B., deceased. The following candidates were advanced: To the 32 deg.—Ill. Bros. Ralph Gooding, M.D., 1; Baron de Ferrieres, 49; and Captain Charles Henry Garnett, 52. To the 31 deg.—Ill. Bros. George Mickley, M.B., 10, and Dep. Insp. Gen. T. B. Purchas, R.N., 72. To the 32 deg.—Bros. George Beech, 5; Lennox Browne, M.R.C.S., 10; William Robert Palmer, 10; Col. Edward Stock Hill, 34; Henry Daily Marshall, 42; W. Silver Hall, 63; Alfred Eugene Craven, 67; Wm. Henry Bull, F.R.C.S., 67; Captain Robert Roach, 68; Captain Robert Watson, 68; Frederick West, 79; Edward Lukey, 82; Wm. Alfred Scurrah, 97; Jabez Church, C.E., 97; and the Right Hon. the Earl of Euston, 101. Also—in extenso—Ill. Bros. J. C. Macglashan, 48, and Col. E. C. Malet de Carteret, 108. The brethren dined together at the Café Royal, under the presidency of the Right Hon. the Earl of Lathom, Sov. G.C., when the usual loyal and masonic toasts were given.

At the meeting of the Board of Stewards for the forthcoming festival of the Boys' School in June, held on the 20th inst., after the difficulty of obtaining a Chairman of the Board under existing circumstances had been explained by the Secretary, it was arranged that the Festival should be held at the Alexandra Palace, other places having been first suggested but not receiving sufficient support.

The Knight Templars of Mary Commandery, No. 36, of Philadelphia, are arranging a special excursion to Europe, and for visiting the Paris Exposition. They are to leave New York by the steamship "City of New York" on the 26th June, and will be due to reach Liverpool on the 3rd July. Thence they proceed to Glasgow and Edinburgh, and on the 8th will leave the latter city for London, where they will have their headquarters at the Inns of Court Hotel until the 12th. After a Continental visit extending over eight days they will return to London on the 21st, and finally leave for New York on the 24th July. We wish our brethren *bon voyage* and much entertainment during this trip, and are certain that they will be received amongst the masonic brotherhood in the "old country" with the utmost cordiality. Bro. Charles E. Meyer, of 1717, Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa., will furnish further information if desired.

The Masonic Star.

THURSDAY,



MAY 23, 1889.

Edited by
W. BRO. JAMES STEVENS, P.M., P.Z., &c., &c.

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VOLUME I.

In Masonic Cloth Cover—Now Ready—Price 3s. 6d.

Original Correspondence.

Without in any way holding ourselves responsible for, or even approving of the opinions expressed, we freely throw open our columns for the proper discussion of all matters of a general character relating to Freemasonry.

Correspondents must be as brief as possible, must write plainly, only use one side of the paper, and cannot expect the return of rejected contributions.

Every contribution must be accompanied with the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

To the Editor of THE MASONIC STAR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,

In your foot-note to the letter of SUBSCRIBER in your paper of the 9th inst., you state that you are informed officially that no sum of £2,000 has been spent in enlarging the Hall of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution at Croydon. I doubt this "official statement," for I know that the original Hall has been enlarged, though in what year the addition was made I cannot say with certainty, nor do I remember the exact cost. It may have been £1,999 or £2,001, and therefore not the exact figures you have stated; so far justifying the official information you appear to have been supplied with, but nevertheless misleading you and others, for I am sure the amount was something like that stated.

As to your other statement, that there is now a Warden at the Institution receiving £20 per annum, I should like to know his name. I doubt this statement also, for, if what I have heard is true, Matron and Warden are one and the same person.

Yours fraternally,

W.M.

* * We cannot do more than ask for information at headquarters, and communicate what we learn. W.M. has as much as we can give, and can only now be referred by us to the same source, whence our statements are derived.—ED. M.S.

"HEARTY GOOD WISHES," &c.

To the Editor of THE MASONIC STAR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,

If there be one feature about our usages more ancient than any other, it is our usual pleasant greeting as above. In some form or other, closely resembling it, it was customary with every mediæval Craft or Guild throughout Europe. In the 18th century the Masonic form was "The Worshipful Master and Fellows of the Holy Lodge of St. John's, whence I come, greet you, greet you heartily," and the Master's reply was, "God's greeting to you, good Fellow." I can produce German equivalents of very early date, in all trades, before our present Freemasonry was thought of. That any brother should object to the present curtailed form, not even requiring a reply except a bend of the head, is astounding, and implies ignorance of ancient custom. On the other hand, for a brother to rise five or six times and greet for five or six different lodges of which he may be a member, as I have seen done, is an abuse of a good thing and should be laughed down. Also, in my opinion, no brother, a member of the lodge addressed, should thus rise; the custom should be confined to visitors, pure and simple.

G. W. SPETH, P.M.,

Margate, May 16th, 1889.

Sec. Quatuor Coronati.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The following letters are reproduced from *The Freemason* of 18th inst.:—

[COPY]

"To the W. Brethren F. W. Ramsay, M.D., Rota Chairman of the House Committee, and Chas. Fred. Hogard, Rota Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee, Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, Lamb Building, Temple, "13 May, 1889.

"Sirs and Brothers,

"I have to acknowledge your letter of May 9th, received by me after it had appeared in the columns of the *Freemason* of 11th inst.

"In that letter it is stated that—

"Without unrestricted access to those notes (i.e. the shorthand writer's notes of evidence before the Committee of Inquiry), it is manifestly impossible to draw up an exhaustive reply to the report of that Committee.

"You thus plainly suggest that 'unrestricted' access to these notes had not been afforded to you.

"I now call your attention to the following facts: On 29th April, the Secretary (Bro. Binckes) by your instructions, 'applied' to me for these notes.

"I replied, full access could always be had here, and, instructions, if more convenient, I offered to lend them you, to be returned to me when required.

"Accepting the offer I thus made, his clerk called and took all 15 vols. of the notes, on 3rd May, and signed the receipt for them, which I now hold.

"They have since remained in your possession. It is difficult to conceive how you could have allowed yourselves to sign a letter, thus directly suggesting an inference the reverse of the truth, had the Secretary informed you of these facts.

"I observe, however, that the letter of May 9th, down to the actual signatures, is entirely in the Secretary's handwriting.

"Brother Binckes well knew when he penned that letter that he then held these notes on your behalf, and that he had so held them for six days, at the moment he put that letter before you to affix your signatures thereto.

"I forbear comment on that which speaks for itself.

"Nor shall I enter into correspondence on the report which my colleagues and myself have presented to the Quarterly Court.

"If that body thinks right to publish these notes, the Committee of Inquiry cannot entertain the slightest objection—at least, so far as I am concerned, or may speak beforehand for the other members.

"Only the evidence must, in that case, appear in its entirety as given, and no part be suppressed. It will then be seen that it fully justifies every conclusion to which the Committee of Inquiry came.

"As, desiring 'to avoid any want of courtesy' to any member of the Committee or to myself, you sent your letter to the *Freemason* for publication before I received it, you will not complain that I am sending a copy of this letter for insertion in that newspaper.—Yours faithfully,

"FREDERICK A. PHILBRICK,

"Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry."

To the Editor of the "*Freemason*."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Kindly give insertion to the accompanying letter.—Yours fraternally,

JOYCE MURRAY.

CHAS. FREDK. HOGARD.

V.W. Bro. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., Grand Registrar, Chairman Committee of Inquiry.

V.W. Sir and Brother,

Your letter of the 13th has been considered by a Special Meeting of the Committees of this Institution held this day. We regret that our expression "unrestricted access" to the shorthand writer's notes of evidence was misapprehended by you. We—the House and Audit Committees—were given the fullest access to them for our own information, but as they were to remain for the present with the papers of the Committee of Inquiry (see your letter of 30th April, 1889), and as the inquiry was private and confidential, we felt that we could not, without the sanction of your Committee, have "unrestricted access" to them for publication. From your letter of 13th May, 1889, we gather that we must wait authority from the Special or Quarterly Court before we can have what we intended to convey by the term "unrestricted access" to the notes. The letter sent to you in the handwriting of the Secretary of the Institution was drafted at a Special joint meeting of the Committees by members of those Committees on behalf of the whole.—We are, V.W. Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

JOYCE MURRAY,

On behalf of the House Committee.

CHAS. FREDK. HOGARD,

On behalf of the Audit Committee.

16th May, 1889.

Answers to Correspondents.

G. H. B. R., 75, FALMOUTH.—Have sent your letter to "Friar Tuck," who will doubtless communicate with you.

R. D. P., ISLINGTON.—Your friend will "appear again"; probably next week.

P.M. AND PRECEPTOR.—Yours is but the last of many requests of a similar nature. We insert a trial "Questions and Answers" in this number, and if it is approved of as useful, will continue it.

Press Exchanges and Books Received.

Canadian Craftsman; South Australian Freemason.

THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTIONS.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.—A special general court of the governors and subscribers of this Institution was held on the 16th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, London, W. Bro. Charles Hammerton presiding, for the consideration of a recommendation of the Centenary Committee that authority should be given to expend a sum not exceeding £31,000 on enlarging the school at Clapham Junction. The centenary festival of the institution last year, when the Prince of Wales, supported by the King of Sweden, presided, having produced more than £50,000, it was resolved to increase the buildings so as to provide accommodation for more girls, and plans having been prepared and tenders for the erection of the buildings accepted, the necessary money for the purpose was asked for. The recommendation was unanimously agreed to. A special court was summoned for the 30th inst. for the purpose of confirming the vote.

In connection with the 101st anniversary festival of this Institution, held last evening, the prizes gained by the pupils during the past year were distributed at the School on Tuesday last, by the Deputy Grand Master for Suffolk, the V.W. the Rev. Bro. C. J. Martyn. Lady Henniker had undertaken the distribution, but owing to a domestic bereavement was unfortunately unable to attend. There was a large number of visitors present, who were greatly pleased with the interesting proceedings, which terminated in the evening with a display of calisthenic exercises, and a concert in the large hall.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—The annual meeting of the subscribers to this institution was held on the 17th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, London, W. Bro. Captain S. G. Homfray, D.P.G. Master for Monmouth, presided. The report of the Committee of Management was laid before the brethren, and it showed, among other things, that the funds of the institution had been managed with scrupulous care and economy. At the last annual festival in February, £13,538 was collected, a smaller sum than usual of late years. The committee recommended the election of 20 men and 13 widows. When this had taken place, there would be 180 men and 229 widows on the funds of the institution. As the men have £40 a year each and the widows £32, the annuities paid by the institution amounted to £14,528. £400 is also paid to widows of deceased annuitants, in the shape of half their late husband's annuities. The list of candidates for the annuity was very large, and the committee hoped endeavours would be made to reduce it to more manageable proportions. The report was adopted, and W. Bro. J. A. Farnfield was re-elected treasurer. After the election of different committees, 20 men and 13 widows were elected as recipients of the annuity. The following were the successful candidates:—

| | Votes. | | Votes. |
|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|
| Bro. Henry Chas. Knill ... | 3175 | Mrs. Mary A. Holland | 3683 |
| „ Edwin Dodson | 2918 | „ Elizabeth R. Jackson . | 3594 |
| „ Robert Henry Fry ... | 2803 | „ Lucy A. Adkins | 3557 |
| „ Henry John Ward | 2553 | „ Clara Godtschalk | 3382 |
| „ Thomas Moss | 2551 | „ Mary B. Manson | 3028 |
| „ Ralph Anderson | 2474 | „ Jemima P. Truslow ... | 3025 |
| „ William G. Oliver | 2431 | „ Amelia M. Mahomed . | 3007 |
| „ Charles Warren | 2415 | „ Mary E. Franklyn* ... | 2905 |
| „ John Daniel Taylor ... | 2193 | „ Julia Weston* | 2885 |
| „ Francis Wilkinson ... | 2187 | „ Sarah Horsefield* | 2677 |
| „ Graham Holmes | 2187 | „ Eliza Whitehead (defd.) | 2634 |
| „ Joseph Pigot | 2175 | „ Eliza Munro (defd.) ... | 2485 |
| „ Henry Briggs | 2031 | „ Caroline J. Shemmonds | |
| „ Frederick K. Stevens | 2029 | (defd.) | 2446 |
| „ James M. Jennings* . | 2015 | | |
| „ John Johnson* | 1993 | | |
| „ John J. Freeman* | 1982 | | |
| „ James Thos. Rogers | | | |
| (defd.) | 1907 | | |
| „ Joseph Stevens (defd.) | 1861 | | |
| „ Roberts Mills (defd.) | 1857 | | |

Those marked (*) are elected to fill vacancies occasioned by death since the voting papers were issued. The three lowest on the poll (both male and female) will be placed on the

list of annuitants as vacancies occur.

PROVINCIAL.

DOUGLAS—ISLE OF MAN.—THE SPENCER WALPOLE TEMPERANCE LODGE—No. 2197—Held its installation meeting on the 13th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Loch Parade. The Prov. G. Master, Major J. S. Goldie-Traubman, had intended being present, but was unfortunately, through a family bereavement, prevented attending. The D. Prov. G. M., Bro. J. A. Brown, and a number of Prov. Grand Officers, however, visited the lodge, and witnessed the ceremony of installing Bro. P. T. Screech, the proceedings being conducted by Bro. T. H. Nesbitt, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., and Prov. G. Secretary. In the course of the evening presentations were made to Bro. John Taylor for his services as the first secretary of the lodge. A similar presentation will be made to Bro. Dr. Black for his services in that capacity last year, and a P.M.'s gold jewel will be presented to Bro. R. E. Cain for his services as W.M. The customary banquet was held at the Granville Hotel, at which the several loyal and masonic toasts were honoured, and harmony prevailed.

LINCOLNSHIRE.—The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master for Lincolnshire has offered the Provincial Grand Chaplaincy of the Order to Rev. J. B. Le Gassick, M.A., of Crowle. Bro. Le Gassick has accepted the office, and will be invested at Grimsby on June 6th. This is the first time in the history of the province that this honour has been conferred upon a Nonconformist.

SOMERSETSHIRE.—The R.W.P.G.M., the Earl of Carnarvon, has accepted the invitation of St. Kew Lodge, No. 1222, to hold the next meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset under its banner. We believe the meeting will be held in the month of September.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—A special meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge for the province of Staffordshire was opened on the 16th inst. at the Lecture Hall, Tunstall, in connection with the laying of the foundation stone of the Tunstall Jubilee Building. The account we have received of the day's proceedings is as interesting as it is voluminous, and a brief record of the event cannot possibly do justice to all parties concerned. We must be content to state that the R.W. Bro. Col. Foster Gough, J.L.D., P. G. St. Br., and Prov. G. M. Staffs., assisted by his officers and a numerous assemblage of brethren took a conspicuous part in the several ceremonies in which the Freemasons were called upon by their fellow townsmen to share.

MARK MASONRY.

INSTALLATION MEETING OF THE KINTORE LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS—No. 333.

The above meeting took place at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, London, on the 20th inst., and was certainly one of the best we have attended in this degree for some years past. The ceremonies were admirably worked, and with that dramatic effect which, accompanied by well-performed and appropriate music, makes the "work" of the Mark Master's degree so impressive and attractive. The lodge was opened by W. Bro. B. R. Bryant, 18 Deg. P.G. Std. Bearer, the W.M., supported by his officers and a number of members and visitors. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and the following interesting correspondence:—

To the Right Honourable 2nd February, 1889.

The EARL OF KINTORE, M.W., P.G.M. of M. M.

MY LORD,—At a meeting of the "Kintore" Lodge of M. M. No. 333, held at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, on Monday, 21st ultimo, it was unanimously resolved, upon the proposal of the Worshipful Master in the chair, to offer to your lordship, on behalf of our Lodge, the respectful expression of our sincere congratulations upon your lordship's appointment as Governor of South Australia.

As your lordship was good enough to permit our Lodge to assume the name and arms of "Kintore," and further, to allow yourself to be enrolled as an honorary member of our Lodge, we trust that your lordship will not consider us presumptuous in thus addressing you. We pray that the G.O.O.T.U. may give you health and prosperity in a distant land, and that He will bring you again in safety and happiness to your native country.—I have the honour to be, my Lord, your lordship's humble and obedient servant,

J. T. NORMAN CALLAWAY,

Secretary, "Kintore" Lodge, M. M. M. 333.

Carlton Club, 4th Feb., 1889.

MY DEAR SIR,—Will you accept yourself and will you be good enough to convey to the W.M. and brethren of the Kintore Lodge of Mark Master Masons my sincere and grateful thanks for their kind congratulations on my appointment as Governor of South Australia.

I have received very many expressions of goodwill, but none has been more appreciated than that under reply.

Believe me, Yours very faithfully,

J. T. N. Callaway, Esq.

KINTORE.

The audit report and balance sheet, of a very satisfactory character, were received and approved. Bro. Sydney Frederick Mackway of the Shelmersdale Craft Lodge, 1658, was approved of on ballot, and advanced by Bro. Bryant and his officers in a faultless manner. The installation of W. Bro. Lieut. Col. H. Nevill, P.P.G. Std., then followed, the duties of Installing Master being divided between W. Bro. R. J. Voisey, P.M., A.G.I.G., &c., and W. Bro. P. Dakers, P.M., P.G.M.O., P.D.G. treas. South Australia, &c., both of whom very ably discharged the same. The officers appointed for the ensuing year are: Bros. Rev. G. W. Weldon, S.W.; R. A. Marshall, J.W.; J. H. Cureton, M.O.; T. Ford Easterbrook, S.O.; James Hill, J.O.; W. Bro. P. Dakers, P.M., P.G.M.O., P.D.G. treas. South Australia, &c., treas.; Bros. W. Bryant, R.M.; J. T. Norman Callaway, sec.; E. A. Whitby, S.D.; C. W. J. Bird, J.D.; Ernest von Bibra, I.G.; Dr. S. G. Milner, D.C.; Sydney Hill, org.; C. W. Davis, W.S.; Reid Taylor, C.S.; and J. Whiteman, Tyler.

The sum of five guineas was voted from the lodge funds to be placed on the list of the steward representing the lodge at the Mark Benevolent Fund Festival, and a handsome P.M. jewel having been presented to Bro. Bryant, amidst the acclamation of the brethren, in recognition of his most zealous services during the past year, the lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to banquet and spent a most agreeable evening. Songs by Bros. Cureton, Mackway, &c., and a recitation by W. Bro. J. Hepburn Hastie, "Killiecrankie," were magnificently rendered, a violin solo by Bro. Dr. S. G. Milner, who is thorough master of his instrument with touch and finish far beyond that of an amateur, and piano accompaniments by Bro. Sydney Hill, who contributed several choice morceaux, were noteworthy incidents of the evening. The visitors' toast was responded to by W. Bro. V. T. Murché. The officers' toast was responded to by Bro. Rev. G. W. Weldon, S.W., who replied in most appropriate and felicitous terms. The following brethren were amongst those present in addition to those already named:—W. Bros. G. H. N. Bridges, P.M., P.G.S., &c.; J. Hepburn Hastie, P.M., &c.; James Stevens, 18 Deg. P.M., P.G.J.O., &c.; and Bros. Temple; Mackway; V. T. Murché, P.M. 22, &c.; and Davis, 22, &c., &c.

MARRIAGE.—On 18th inst. at Plaistow Parish Church, Kent, W. Bro. Staff-Commander I. R. W. Quinn, J.N., P.M. St. Aubyn, No. 954 P.Z., and Prince Edward of Saxe Weimar Lodge, No. 1903; to Edith, widow of Capt. A. W. Turner, late 99th and 19th Regiments, and elder sister of Bros. L. V. D. Auley, Eclectic Lodge and Chapter, No. 1201; and Cator Lodge, No. 2266; and H. P. Auley, Eclectic Lodge and Chapter No. 1201.

Masonic "Bitter-Sweet."

"The web of our life is of a mingled yarn; good and ill together."—Shakespeare.

I am not argumentative and I never indulge in controversy, neither am I given to anger; but I am vexed to find that last week somebody, compo. or p.d., made me say "Garter King *at* Arms," when I had taken pains to write "Garter King *of* Arms." A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

* * *

"What is going to be done about the report of the Boys' School?" said I, to a witty and reverend brother the other day. "Why," was the reply, "the General Committee will offer a humble apology to the Secretary and give him another £200 a-year."

* * *

Talking about this, I am told the Special General Court is fixed for 31st May, and it is to be most earnestly desired that the discussion will be as calm and dispassionate as the report itself, which, to my mind, is a model of judicial language.

* * *

If the Committees and the Secretary will only mend their ways, and give the whole of their time and attention to the correction of irregularities and the softening of asperities, there is no reason, I can see, for any row, which certainly, if it takes place, will damage the cause we all have at heart.

* * *

I have little "sweet" this week except to note that the Italian opera on Saturday night presented such a sight as no other country in the world could show but good old England.

* * *

At a "send off" dinner at the Catford Conservative Club on the 14th inst., Bro. Harry G. Walker said "Good-bye" to a few friends on the eve of his departure for America. Amongst those present during the evening were Bros. J. T. Axford (W.M. Hornsey Lodge), Ackroyd, Blott, Daniel Earnshaw, Morgan, G. A. Pickering, Jas. Stevens and Thompson, and Messrs. Bush, Pakeman, Topham, Knevelt, Selby, Dr. Saunders, Pratt, Trant, &c. After the usual loyal toasts the health of Bro. Walker was proposed by Bro. Thompson in glowing terms, and accompanied with hearty good wishes for his welfare. To this Bro. Walker feelingly responded. Adjournment to a more commodious apartment having been made, numerous friends who were unable to be present at the dinner joined the company and "the mirth and fun grew fast and furious" until towards the witching hour of night, when, with the strains of Auld Lang Syne in his ears, Bro. Walker was "sent off" amidst expressions of best wishes for prosperity in his new vocation amongst our cousins. There was a mingling of bitter-sweet in the parting, for Bro. Walker had much endeared himself to those with whom he has of late sojourned.

THE DINER OUT.

Questions and Answers.

Q.—How much of the ritual may a W.M. delegate to Master Masons?—G. EPWORTH, York.

A.—It is competent in the W.M. to divide the work in the respective degrees amongst his Officers, or to call up any qualified brother to the E. for the purpose of assisting him. The O.B. should not be given by any Craftsman below the chair.

COLONIAL, DISTRICT AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

The Report of the Punjab Masonic Institution for the Maintenance and Education of the Children of Deceased and Indigent Freemasons for the year 1888, affords very interesting reading, particularly at the present time, when the management of Masonic Benevolent Institutions in England has become a burning question. We wish we could do more than briefly notice this satisfactory Report; for there are several particulars of management referred to which merit attention. It will be sufficient, perhaps, as a proof that the affairs of the Punjab Masonic Institution, established in 1871, have been and still are in good hands, to state that between £4,000 and £5,000 are invested to the credit of the Endowment Fund, and that notwithstanding increased claims, "the expenditure during the past year was below the amount admissible under the rules, while the income largely exceeded the estimate." There is no "establishment" to keep up, and the children are placed in suitable schools, under personal supervision of responsible members of the craft. Altogether our brethren at Lahore have good reason to be pleased with the success which is attending their charitable efforts, and we wish them a long continuance of the present prosperity of the Institution over which the R.W. Bro. E. Woodall Parker, the District Grand Master for the Punjab Lodges, 23 in number, presides in person.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.—Seventy-seventh annual grand communication.—It is the custom in the several States of America which have Grand Lodges, for the respective Grand Masters, once in every year, to read, or through some qualified officer have read, an address to the brethren over whom they rule, in which address they give an account of their stewardship during the previous twelve months. This is subsequently embodied in a voluminous printed report, exhaustive of every subject of interest which may have arisen during that period in connection with the Craft, as well in a particular jurisdiction as in those of others. The detailed proceedings of the sittings, often occupying some hours on each of two or three days, are also recorded in the same volume. It may well be supposed that to such of our Order as care to know something beyond the mere working and ceremonial of our lodges these reports are of exceeding value, and frequently may be accepted as guides and mentors in the practice of the excellent principles we profess. Such a work is that now before us, affording us both profit and pleasure, the latter, unfortunately, mixed with regret that English masonry has not the advantage of similar instruction. The communication of which we are now writing was held at Grand Lodge Hall, New Orleans, on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of February last, the W.M. Grand Master Bro. Charles F. Buck, presiding. There are some portions of his admirable address which, if space permitted, we should quote now *in extenso*. Some extracts we reserve for future reference as occasion may offer. So, in respect of the "Report on Foreign Correspondence," which is full of valuable information, such subjects as the "Ballot," the "Universality of Masonry," "Physical Qualifications," the "Ritualism of the Order," "Prerogative," the "Landmarks," and "Masonic History," being learnedly discussed by well known and intelligent men who have dignified the Craft by association with it, and by great ability in Masonic discussion. We thank our Bro. Dr. James C. Batchelor, the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana for the opportunity afforded us to note the manner in which Freemasonry is conducted in his particular district.

NEW ZEALAND.—At the annual meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Westland (South Island), at Hokitika, on the 20th March,

Metropolitan Lodge and Chapter Meetings for the Current Week.

"All Lodges held within Ten Miles of FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON, are LONDON LODGES."—General Laws and Regulations.

| No. of Lodge. | NAME OF LODGE AND CHAPTER. | PLACE OF MEETING. | No. of Lodge. | NAME OF LODGE AND CHAPTER. | PLACE OF MEETING. |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| (THIS DAY) (4th) THURSDAY, MAY 23rd. | | | (4th) MONDAY, MAY 27th. | | |
| 34 | Mount Moriah | F. M. H. | 4 | Royal Son. Ho. & Inverness ... | F. M. H. |
| 99 | Shakespeare | Albion Tav., Aldersgate Street, E.C. | 26 | Castle Lodge of Harmony ... | Willis's Rooms, King St., St. James's, W. |
| 211 | St. Michael's | Café Royal, Regent Street, W. | 183 | Tranquillity | Guildhall Tav., Gresham Street, E.C. |
| 507 | United Pilgrims | Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge | 902 | Burgoyne | Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C. |
| 861 | Finbury | 191, Bishopsgate St., E.C. | 305 | De Grey and Ripon | F. M. H. |
| 1421 | Langthorne | Angel Hotel, Iford | 1632 | Stuart | Bridge House Hot., S.E. |
| 1523 | St. Mary Magdalen | Café Royal, Regent Street, W. | 1528 | Shepherd's Bush | Athenaeum, Godolphin Road, W. |
| 1623 | West Smithfield | F. M. H. | Mark. | | |
| 1658 | Skelmersdale | Surrey M. H., S.E. | 4 | Prince of Wales | 8a, Red Lion Square, W.C. |
| 1974 | St. Mary Abbots | Town Hall, Kensington | | | |
| R.A.C. | | | (4th) TUESDAY, MAY 28th. | | |
| 5 | St. George's | F. M. H. | 14 | Tuscan | F. M. H. |
| 29 | St. Albans | Albion Tav., Aldersgate Street | 46 | Old Union | Holborn Viaduct Hotel |
| 157 | Bedford | F. M. H. | 165 | Honour and Generosity | Inns of Court Hotel, W.C. |
| 657 | Canonbury | Mason's Arms, Basinghall Street | 259 | Prince of Wales | Willis's Rooms, St. James's, W. |
| 766 | William Preston | Cannon Street Hotel, E.C. | 2108 | Empire | Criterion, Piccadilly, W. |
| 1601 | Ravensbourne | Town Hall, Catford | R.A.C. | | |
| 1623 | West Smithfield | Anderton's Hotel, E.C. | 21 | Cyrus | Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall Street |
| Mark. | | | 180 | St. James' Union | F. M. H. |
| 13 | Hiram | Greyhound Hot., Richmond | 255 | Iris | Greyhound Hot., Richmond |
| (4th) FRIDAY, MAY 24th. | | | 1589 | St. Dunstan's | Anderton's Hot., Fleet Street, E.C. |
| 197 | Jerusalem | F. M. H. | R.C. | | |
| R.A.C. | | | 29 | Palestine | 33, Golden Square, W. |
| 1044 | Mid Surrey | Surrey M. H., Camberwell | (5th and last) WEDNESDAY, MAY 29th. | | |
| 1591 | Shadholme | 33, Golden Square, W. | 898 | Temperance-in-the-East ... | 6, Newby Place, Poplar, E. |
| 1839 | Duke of Cornwall | F. M. H. | 1768 | Progress | F. M. H. |
| (4th) SATURDAY, MAY 25th. | | | Mark. | | |
| 1297 | West Kent | Crystal Palace, Sydenham | 176 | Era | 8a, Red Lion Square, W.C. |
| 1541 | Alexandra Palace | Imperial Hot., Holborn Viaduct, E.C. | (5th and last) THURSDAY, MAY 30th. | | |
| 1679 | Henry Muggersidge | M. H. Tav., Basinghall Street, E.C. | ASCENSION DAY—NO MEETINGS. | | |
| R.A.C. | | | | | |
| 176 | Caviac | Albion Tav., Aldersgate Street, E.C. | | | |
| 1185 | Lewis | King's Arms Hot., Wood Green, N. | | | |

the Report of the Board of General Purposes was read condemning the Grand Lodge of Freemasons, New Zealand, as unnecessary and inopportune, and it was unanimously adopted. The meeting was very largely attended. At a meeting of the Pacific Lodge, No. 1229, held the previous evening, it was unanimously resolved not to sever the connection with the Grand Lodge of England, whether a Grand Lodge of New Zealand was established or not.

TASMANIA.—The Southern Tasmanian Masons, after discussing the proposals for the establishment of a United District Lodge for Tasmania, decided by 27 to 25 votes that the time was not ripe for the formation of the lodge.

RAVENSBORNE LODGE OF INSTRUCTION—No. 1601.—May 15th, at the George Tavern, Lewisham.—Bro. Thomas, W.M.—Bros. Alf. Norris, S.W.; Dr. Visger, J.W.; H. Shaw, preceptor; Walter Smith, treas.; C. Atkins, sec.; Joyce, S.D.; Shelton, J.D.; Peters, I.G.; J. Stevens, P.M.; J. T. Axford, G. Pickering, Scott, Robin, &c. Ceremony of initiation rehearsed, Bro. Scott as candidate, and the charge was admirably delivered by the preceptor. Bro. Alfred Norris was elected W.M. for ensuing meeting, when work will be in the first degree. The secretary announced that W. Bro. J. A. P. Ingleby, the W.M. of the Mother Lodge, had consented to preside at the festival dinner on Thursday, the 30th inst. It was resolved that such members of the Charitable Association of this lodge as are in arrear with their payments, should be reminded that the rules in such case provided will be put in force at the meeting on the 29th inst.

STAR CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION—No. 1275.—On Friday, the 17th inst., at Camberwell. Present: Comps. Lyon, P.Z. 1329, M.E.Z.; G. L. Moore, M.E.Z. 169, H.; Neeld, P.Z. 169, J.; C. H. Stone, S.E.; Stone, S.N.; T. Grummant, P.Z., P.S.; F. Hilton, P.Z., preceptor; C. Woods, A.S. 1275; and V. T. Murché, A.S. 1329. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Woods candidate. Comp. Moore was elected M.E.Z. for the next meeting. It was resolved that the chapter should adjourn at the end of the present month until the first Friday in September. On the motion of the S.E., seconded by Comp. Moore, a vote of thanks was accorded Comp. Woods for having had the first volume of the MASONIC STAR bound in order to preserve it for the chapter.

DEATH.—On the 13th inst., at Blakelow House, near Nantwich, Bro. Edward Hornison Griffiths, aged 79 years. For 49 years Provincial Grand Secretary for Cheshire.

A correspondent of the *Voice of Freemasonry* (Chicago) referring to the use of the capital letters "OB" facetiously writes: "We do not clearly understand what is meant by the capital letters 'OB.' We can only illustrate our understanding of it by reciting an occurrence during the 'late unpleasantness.' We were sent by the Confederate Government to the distant South on business. Our passport had endorsed on it 'OB.' We had successfully accomplished our mission, and were homeward bound on wings of anxiety, when we were stopped by a Provost Marshal, after accomplishing about one-half our journey, with the information, 'You can't go, sir, orders have been given to that effect,' etc. No plea of ours did any good. Finally, the astute Marshal discovered those mystical letters, and enquired, 'I say, mister, what was they put thar for?' We promptly answered, 'Why, *ordered back*; didn't you know that?' He replied, 'I was only joking,' and our passport was promptly *visé* and we hied homeward. Whenever we see those letters we look upon their frequent use with some apprehension, and on two or three occasions when asked by profanes what they meant, we have answered, 'Ordered back' and sloped from their enquiring minds as quickly as courtesy would allow. Let the letters 'slope.'"

Grand Master Lawrence, of New York, is a wonder as a debt reducer. A Masonic Ladies' Fair was recently held under the presidency of Mrs. Lawrence in aid of an asylum for aged Masons and their widows, when £15,000 was netted. What a thrilling example for us!

There are in our Fraternity some short-sighted and penny-wise members, who think printers' ink superfluous and the Masonic press of no value. Such ideas come only from those who are narrow-minded, selfish or slow going enough to wish the world would turn back half a century to the days when railroads, telegraphs, and steam printing presses were unknown.

HOTELS

Recommended to the Subscribers to the "Masonic Star."

STAR AND GARTER HOTEL, KEW BRIDGE,
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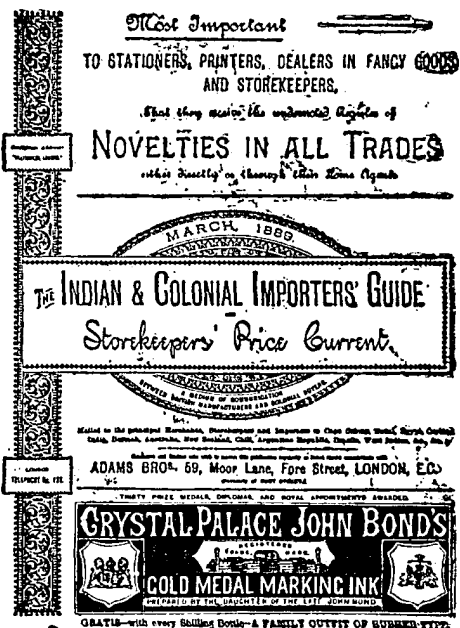
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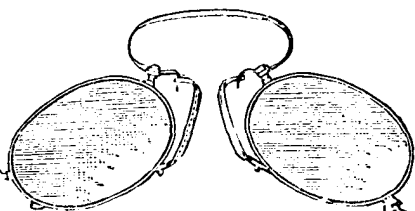
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