

# THE MASONIC STAR

A Weekly Journal and  
At Home



Record of Freemasonry  
and Abroad.

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[CURRENT NUMBER 51.]

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## Proposed United Grand Lodge of New Zealand.

**S**INCE our last issue we learn, by our advices, that the number of Lodges in favour of the proposed formation of a Grand Lodge for New Zealand is steadily increasing, and that the agitation being now vigorously worked in that Colony is establishing a confidence that, before the close of the present year, an independent Sovereign Grand Lodge will be an accomplished fact. The advocates of the change are amongst the leaders of the Craft, and have the successful examples of other Colonies to guide and encourage them. They consider that no solid arguments have been adduced by those who are at present opposed to their proposal. There seems to be a fairly warranted anticipation that the advent of so experienced a brother as Lord Onslow, and the knowledge that he has discussed the matter with H.R.H. the M.W. Grand Master of England, whose prompt and generous recognition of other Colonial Grand Lodges goes strongly to prove that the Masonic autonomy of the Colonies under the Southern Cross is really desired by English rulers, will prove a potent factor in securing the success of the organisation. And the same may be said of the Scotch and Irish rulers; so that altogether it would appear that in the face of such evident desire for a peaceful separation from the Mother Grand Lodges, the opponents of this widespread movement in New Zealand cannot be congratulated on their wisdom or foresight. They may delay its advent for awhile, but as surely as the Moa existed in the land of the Maori, or that there earthquakes do occasionally alter the face of Nature, so surely will Masonic self-government in New Zealand speedily become an established fact, and then, when its many solid benefits manifest themselves, the

wonder will be that anybody, even old-time brethren, ever opposed it.

The Executive Committee of the Auckland Masonic Branch of the proposed Union state that while Freemasonry has been in existence in the Colony for nearly half a century, it has been found impossible to establish Masonic Charities of any character upon a broad and permanent basis, on account of the unfortunate division of the Craft into a number of Constitutions; and that the establishment of a United Grand Lodge of New Zealand would obviate the difficulty by concentrating the Charity of the Craft into one channel, and the foundation and endowment of local Masonic Benevolent Institutions would have, as in other Colonies, a decidedly beneficial effect in stimulating and promoting the Charity of the Brethren.

In our former remarks we referred to and appended a financial statement, which set forth the practical results of Freemasonry in the Auckland district in relation to working expenses and products in aid of Charity, and contrasted the same with the income, expenses and subscriptions in connection with the Benevolent Institutions of our "home" province of West Lancashire. The following statements accompanying the circular we have cited, afford an amount of interesting information meriting the consideration of Freemasons generally, and particularly of those who desire to stimulate and carry into effect the Charity of the Craft. They will also instruct many of our "home" brethren as to the spread of the Order in a Colony wherein they have attachments of relationship or friendship, in regard to which the bond of Masonic union is rather strengthened than weakened by distance and prolonged separation.

The following is the estimated saving that will be effected by the establishing of the United Grand Lodge of New Zealand:—

	£	s.	d.
Average Working Expenses of the three Grand Lodges in Auckland .. ..	273	11	2
Fees remitted Home .. ..	130	8	6
	403	19	8
1 Lodge under new Constitution .. ..	120	0	0
Saving in this District .. ..	283	19	8

Taking all New Zealand the following will be the result:—

	£	s.	d.
AT PRESENT—			
5 D. Grand Lodges (English) } 9. Total	945	0	0
3 P. do. (Scotch) } Average			
1 P. do. (Irish) } Expenses			
FUTURE—			
1 Grand Lodge and 4 P. Grand Lodges, 5. } Estimated Expenses .. ..	545	0	0
	400	0	0

The average amount of Fees sent per annum from New Zealand to the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland is about .. 500 0 0

Making a saving in New Zealand of £900 0 0

*STATEMENT showing Annual Receipts and Expenditure of District and Provincial Grand Lodges, with Number of Lodges under each Jurisdiction, and Approximate Number of Members.*

DISTRICT AND CONSTITUTION.	Lodges.	Approximate Number of Members.	RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.						
			Balance at end of 1887.	Receipts during 1888.	Totals.	Remitted to Grand Lodges.	On Benevolence.		On District and Provincial Grand Lodges.		Balances at end of 1888.	
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland, E.C. ... ..	19	929	340 13 7	198 13 10	539 7 5	19 17 6	10 3 0	108 16 11	400 10 0			
Auckland, S.C. ... ..	17	821	274 8 2	215 17 2	490 5 4	51 19 6	0 12 0	129 3 6	308 10 4			
Auckland, I.C. ... ..	15	810	69 11 10	145 1 10	214 13 8	58 11 6	3 1 0	53 15 0	99 6 2			
Wellington, E.C. ... ..	19	869	73 10 1	202 1 0	275 11 1	21 13 6	21 17 0	199 12 0	32 8 7			
Canterbury, E.C. ... ..	20	1243	100 3 6	304 7 8	404 11 2	11 2 6	85 10 0	137 7 0	170 11 8			
Canterbury, S.C. (Estimated) ... ..	9	652	145 4 11	114 5 6	259 10 5	27 10 4	0 6 4	68 7 9	163 6 0			
Otago and Southland, E.C. ... ..	14	737	73 4 5	149 12 0	222 16 5	31 19 10	25 10 0	87 13 1	77 13 6			
Otago and Southland, S.C. (Estimated) ... ..	22	1152	355 2 4	279 5 9	634 8 1	67 5 1	0 15 6	167 1 0	399 6 6			
Westland, E.C. ... ..	7	250	72 4 0	64 3 3	136 7 3	7 5 0	...	30 2 0	99 0 3			
Nelson and Marlborough, E.C. ... ..	6	237	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
	148	7700	1504 2 10	1673 8 0	3177 10 10	297 4 9	147 14 10	981 18 3	1750 13 0			

We may add to the foregoing that when in Sydney, on a late occasion, the Grand Master of New South Wales proposed the health of Lord Onslow as a Past Grand Warden of England, and expressed the hope that he might see a United Grand Lodge of New Zealand soon; to which Lord Onslow replied that he could not then say anything in reference to the movement, though his sympathies were with unity—solid and harmonious—in Masonry. We read between the lines, and join with our Auckland brethren in hoping, that when the change does come, as it surely will, Brother Lord Onslow will be unanimously elected the first M.W. Grand Master. We believe that the punning motto of his lordship's family is "Festina lente," and we recommend it for adoption by the promoters of the proposed Masonic Union.

#### PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF ESSEX.

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex was held on Tuesday, the 6th inst., at Easton Lodge, Dunmow, the seat of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, the Right Honourable the Lord Brooke, M.P.

The Provincial Grand Lodge meeting was held in the library at Easton Lodge, and at half-past two o'clock the Provincial Grand Master, preceded by his officers, entered the Provincial Grand Lodge which was afterwards opened in due form. In the unavoidable absence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Very Worshipful Bro. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., Grand Registrar, the position was occupied by the Rev. C. J. Martyn, P.G. Chaplain. The Provincial Grand Master was saluted, according to ancient form. The minutes were read and confirmed.

The roll of lodges was then called over, and all the lodges were fully represented. The auditors' report and the report of the Charity Committee were then fully discussed. The Provincial Grand Master then addressed the brethren, expressing his satisfaction at the progress that had been made in the province since he was elected their Provincial Grand Master, and commented upon the satisfactory manner in which the business of Provincial Grand Lodge had been carried out without any disputes or disagreements of any kind, and how pleased and proud he was at its being held under his roof.

The next business was the election of Treasurer, this being the only position the brethren have the privilege of electing, and although the present treasurer has occupied the position for the last ten years, to their entire satisfaction, they have arrived at the conclusion it ought be held only for one year (like the Treasurer of Grand Lodge). There were therefore three candidates, viz.: Bros. Durrant, the late treasurer; Joseph Sadler, W.M. of the St. Peter's Lodge, 1024 (and Mayor of Maldon); and Bro. Edward James Acworth, P.M., Epping Lodge, 2077. The Provincial Grand Master thought as there were three candidates the election had better be by ballot. In the result Bro. Sadler obtained the highest number of votes, and was duly elected.

The Provincial Grand Master proceeded to appoint and invest his officers for the year, and they received the usual salutations. The Provincial Grand Master then stated that, considering the extra amount of work that devolved upon the Provincial Grand Secretary, Bro. Malling, P.A.G.D.C., England, he should recommend his annual fee be augmented to 20 guineas, which was carried unanimously; also that in recognition of his services for the last year a sum of 10 guineas be presented to him, which was also carried unanimously. A committee was then formed to revise the bye-laws of Provincial Grand Lodge; and afterwards sums of 10 guineas each were voted to the three charities, and a sum of 10 guineas to the Farmers' Benevolent Fund, in consideration of the agricultural distress, particularly in that part of the province.

Letters were then read from Lord Euston, Sir Francis Burdett, Lord Alg. Lennox, Marquis of Hertford, Col. Shadwell Clerke, Grand Secretary, and several other distinguished Freemasons, expressing their regret at not being able to attend.

A vote of thanks was unanimously carried for the kindness of the Provincial Grand Master and Lady Brooke for allowing Provincial Grand Lodge to be holden at Easton Lodge, which was duly acknowledged by the Provincial Grand Master. The Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed in due form. A banquet took place

in the marquee erected in the grounds, which was admirably served, there being an abundance of everything (champagne Moët, Perrier Jouët and Giesler), and the menu had the words "A good digestion to you all, and once more I shower a welcome on you, welcome all!" The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master presided, supported by several distinguished Freemasons. A very humorous speech was made by the Rev. C. J. Martyn, responding to the toast of the Grand Officers of England, which elicited hearty applause from the brethren. The health of the Provincial Grand Master was drank with great enthusiasm, finishing with that old-fashioned English ditty, "He's a jolly good fellow." Other toasts followed. The Band of the Northumberland Fusiliers played a selection of music during the banquet.

In the evening a short concert was given on the lawn, with some capital recitations, Lady Brooke joining the assembly, and whose presence caused great satisfaction.

The grounds were prettily and tastefully illuminated, and just before leaving there was a display of fireworks, the set-piece being "Welcome to the Freemasons," thus ending one of the most pleasant meetings of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex, and which will never be forgotten by some 200 brethren who had the pleasure of being present. We must not forget to mention that the thanks of the brethren are due to the Great Eastern Railway Company, in connection with this meeting.

#### PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SOMERSET.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Somersetshire was held at the Town Hall, Weston-Super-Mare, under the presidency of the M.W. the Prov. G.M. the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, Pro-Grand Master of England. The apartment had been decorated for the occasion by a committee from the receiving Lodge (St. Kew, 1222). The officers of the P.G.L. were received with due honours at 1.30, and, under the presidency of the D.P.G.M. (Bro. R. C. Else) the formal part of the business was proceeded with. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed, and the audited accounts of the treasurer produced, the same showing a balance in hand of £93 11s. 11d. as against £143 4s. 1d. at the corresponding period of last year. The P.G. Treasurer (Bro. C. L. F. Edwards) explained that at first sight it would appear that they had lost £50 during the year, whereas their ordinary receipts had exceeded their expenditure by £48, as their disbursements included £89 5s. to the Girls' School, and £18 7s. 6d. annuity to Bro. Woodward. The revised bye-laws were produced, the principal alteration being to the effect that every officer of the P.G.L., on his appointment to office—except that of steward—shall provide himself with and retain the same as his property, a full dress collar and apron of the regulation pattern. This alteration was suggested to save the Province the cost of a new set of office emblems, which are sadly needed. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The M.W. the Prov. G.M. entered the Lodge room at 2.30, accompanied by Bros. Ffarington, W.M., and G. H. Perrett, I.P.M. (officers of the receiving Lodge) preceded by the G.S.B. and P.G. Deacons. His Lordship, having apologised for being late—owing to the crowded traffic on the railway—thanked the D.P.G.M. for having proceeded with the business. He then invested the following brethren with collars of office for the ensuing year:—P.S.G.W. George Ernest Alford, P.M., 1222; P.J.G.W. Arthur Duckett, P.M., 291; P.G. Chap., F. S. Byrde, 1296; assist. do., F. W. Macdonald, 329; Treasurer C. L. Fry Edwards (re-elected); P.G. Reg., W. Fuller, 53; P.G. Sec., J. C. Hunt (re-appointed); P.S.G.D., F. W. Warren, 1953; P.J.G.D., A. S. Ashcroft, 1296; P.G.S. Works, G. B. Laffan; P.G.D.C., S. Spill, 793; Assist. do., S. W. Pusey, 437; P.G.S.B., C. E. Pearce, 261; P.G. Standard B., W. E. Bennett, 2038; assist. do., F. Wood, 1199; P.G. Organist, W. E. Sparrow, 906; P.G. Purst., P. Manning, 285; assist. do., T. E. Wilton, 241; Stewards: G. H. Perret, 1222; C. Lockyer, 976; J. Gill, 1966; E. P. Palmer, 772; G. Barry, 814; P.G. Tyler, A. J. Salter; assist. do., C. Bidgood.

The M.W.P.G.M. thought the whole of the large assemblage that day would agree with him in a resolution expressive of their deep regret at the lamented death of Brigadier-General Adair, P.P.G.M. of Somerset, and their sympathy with the bereaved members of his family. The resolution was unanimously carried.

The P.G.M. then proposed that a similar resolution should be recorded in the case of the late Bro. Sumner Toms, who had died during his year of office as P.G.J.W. This was also unanimously carried.

On the proposal of the P.G. Treasurer, Bro. T. P. Ashley,

P.P.G.S.W., was elected as a trustee of the property of the Province in the place of the late Bro. Adair, and the sum of £100 was ordered to be drawn from deposit and invested in consols.

Bro. S. R. Baskett, 329, then proposed "That this Provincial Grand Lodge is of opinion that it is desirable to have a Benevolent Fund for local charitable purposes for the Province of Somerset, and that the matter be referred to the Charity Organization Committee, or to a Committee specially appointed by this P.G.L. to consider the question, and report at the next meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge."

Bro. Rev. J. A. Lloyd seconded the proposal, which was spoken to by Bro. White. After some discussion, it was resolved to omit the latter part of the resolution, leaving it to the P.G.M. to determine whether, after consultation with the Charity Organization Committee, it was desirable to convene a special meeting of the P.G.L.

Alms were then collected, amounting to £7 14s. 3½d., which, on the proposal of the W.M. of St. Kew Lodge, seconded by the I.P.M., was voted to the Weston-super-Mare Hospital, and acknowledged by the P.G.S.W. as one of the officers of that institution.

An adjournment was subsequently made to the Grand Atlantic Hotel, where a large number partook of a repast, served in elegant style, under the presidency of the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, who was pleased to express his entire approval of the arrangement made, and congratulated the town on Mr. Drinkwater's extensive undertaking.

### SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

The following is the agenda of business which at the time of our going to press will be submitted for the consideration of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England at the Quarterly Convocation of the 7th inst. (last evening), and which will doubtless have been accepted and approved. After the minutes of the previous Quarterly Convocation have received confirmation, the Committee of General purposes will report that they have examined the accounts from the 17th April to the 16th July, 1889, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:—

To	Balance Grand Chapter ...	By Disbursements during the Quarter ...	
£123	13 7	£304	14 0
„ Balance Unappropriated Account	192 19 7	„ Balance ...	175 3 7
„ Subsequent Receipts	358 11 6	„ „ Unappropriated Account ...	195 7 1
	£675 4 8		£675 4 8

which balances are in the Bank of England, Western Branch.

They also report that they have received the following petitions:—

1st. From Comps. Bro. Henry Platt, as Z.; Donald Cameron, as H.; William Hugh Thomas, as J.; and eight others, for a chapter to be attached to the St. David's Lodge, No. 384, Bangor, to be called the Star of Gwynedd Chapter, and to meet at the Masonic Hall, Bangor, in the Province of North Wales.

2nd. From Comps. George Joseph Westbury, as Z.; Thomas Edward Lucy, as H.; Edward Arthur Hicks, as J.; and six others, for a chapter to be attached to the Lodge Semper Fidelis, No. 529, Worcester, to be called the Semper Fidelis Chapter, and to meet at the Masonic Hall, High Street, in the City of Worcester.

3rd. From Comps. Alfred Rixon, as Z.; Walter Galt Gribbon, as H.; Thomas Blanco White, as J.; and six others, for a chapter to be attached to the Mount Moriah Lodge, No. 34, London, to be called the Moriah Chapter, and to meet at Freemasons' Hall, London.

4th. From Comps. Jehanghir Kursetji Rustomji Cama, as Z.; Nathaniel John Goodchild, as H.; Ebenezer Charles Mulvey, as J.; and seven others, for a chapter to be attached to the Regent's Park Lodge, No. 2202, London, to be called the Regent's Park Chapter, and to meet at the York and Albany Hotel, Gloucester Gate, Regent's Park, London.

The foregoing petitions being in all respects regular, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

The Committee also report that they have received memorials, with extracts of minutes, on the removal of the following chapters, and being satisfied of the reasonableness of the requests, recommend that the removal of these chapters be sanctioned, viz:—

(1.) The Joppa Chapter, No. 188, from the Albion Tavern to the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham Street, London.

(2.) The Westbourne Chapter, No. 733, from St. John's Wood to the Holborn Restaurant, Holborn.

(3.) The Phoenix Chapter of St. Ann, No. 1235, from the Court House to the Town Hall, Buxton.

The Committee further report that in consequence of the formation and recognition of a Grand Lodge of Victoria, there are, with the exception of the Meridian Lodge of St. John, No. 729, and the Combermere Lodge, No. 752, Melbourne, which have not yet signified their intention of joining the Grand Lodge of Victoria, no longer English craft lodges in that colony to which the chapters meeting in the District of Victoria can be attached, as required by Article 45, Royal Arch Regulations.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Charters of the undermentioned chapters be withdrawn and cancelled, and that the chapters be erased from the Register of the Grand Chapter:—Nos. 474, Australasian, Melbourne; 530, Victorian, Melbourne; 641, Royal Golden of Bendigo, Sandhurst; 692, Eureka, Castlemain; 713, Yarrowee, Ballarat; 727, Collingwood, Melbourne; 728, St. John, Beechworth; 747, Melbourne, Melbourne; 930, South Yarra, Melbourne.

(Signed) ROBERT GREY, President.

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C., 17th July, 1889.

## "The Masonic Poet's Corner."

(Original and Selected.)

### THE HOURS WE SPEND TOGETHER.

BROTHERS assembled here to-night  
To give each other greeting,  
I find such seasons a delight,—  
Brother with Brother meeting;  
Strengthening the bond of unity  
That time doth fail to sever,  
So this my chosen theme shall be—  
The hours we spend together.

To our beloved honored guests,  
Whose presence gives much pleasure,  
Did I fulfil my heart's request  
I'd praise them without measure;  
But will refrain, and only say  
That even wintry weather  
Shall pleasant seem as flowers in May  
In hours we spend together.

Nor will we silently pass by  
Departed ones so near us;  
Their spirits may be hovering nigh,  
Just nigh enough to cheer us!  
Then here's to those we oft have met  
In cold or pleasant weather;  
Oh, may we never once forget  
The hours we've spent together.

And here's to Masons everywhere  
Who by Masonic living,  
Guided by compass, rule and square,  
Are good example giving;  
Our hearts are bound in closest tie,  
And so—no matter whether  
In happiness we meet, or die,  
The hours we'll spend together!

*Sydney Freemasons' Chronicle.*

### A MASONIC GLEE.

The "Fairy Tale" which appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1800, is after the style of the subjoined "Masonic Glee" (music by Stepforth), which was published in the *Monthly Review* for 1797, three years earlier.

LIGHTLY o'er the village green,  
Blue-eyed fairies sport unseen,  
Round and round, in circles gay:  
Then at cockcrow flit away:  
Thus 'tis said, tho' mortal eye,  
Ne'er their merry freaks could spy,  
Elves for mortals lisp the pray'r—  
Elves are guardians of the fair.  
Thus like elves in mystic ring,  
Merry Masons drink and sing.

Come, then, brothers, lead along,  
Social rites and mystic song;  
Tho' nor madam, miss, or Bess,  
Could our myst'ries ever guess,  
Nor could ever learned divine  
Sacred Masonry define,  
Round our order close we bind  
Laws of love to all mankind!  
Thus like elves in mystic ring,  
Merry Masons drink and sing!

Health, then, to each honest man,  
Friend to the Masonic plan;  
Leaving cynics grave to blunder,  
Leaving ladies fair to wonder,  
Leaving Thomas still to lie,  
Leaving Betty still to spy,  
Round and round we push our glass,  
Round and round we toast each lass.  
Thus like elves in mystic ring,  
Merry Masons drink and sing!

*Newcastle Weekly Chronicle.*

ANO. INNO, Heaton.

### PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MONMOUTHSHIRE.

The annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Monmouth, on the 1st inst., under the banner of the Loyal Monmouth Lodge, No. 457. The brethren assembled at one o'clock, and the Grand Lodge was opened by the Provincial Grand Master (Col. Lyne), with the assistance of the following officers:—Capt. S. Homfray, Deputy P.G.M.; Capt. J. A. Bradney, P.G.S.W.; Bro. J. L. Hunter, J.W.; Rev. J. Osman, chap.; Rev. H. M. T. Bidwell, assist. chap.; Bro. W. Pickford, treas.; Bro. W. Barnett, regis.; Bro. A. Taylor, sec.; Bro. J. Straker, S.D.; Bro. A. Miller, J.D.; Bro. J. P. Fowler, supt. of works; Bro. J. Stemp, D.C.; Bro. D. R. Jones, assist. D.C.; Bro. R. W. Jones, sword bearer; Bro. J. H. Pethengale, standard bearer; Bro. J. C. Brooke, assist. sec.; Bro. W. B. Jones, organist; Bro. H. Faulkner, pursvt.; Bro. T. L. Preece, tyler; Bro. H. Fletcher, assist. tyler; Bros. Samuel Dean, C. C. Powell, A. Thornton, E. Winfield, and J. Jones, stewards. Afterwards a very *recherché* banquet was provided at the Rolls Hall by Bro. J. Thomas. Over 100 brethren sat down. The hall was beautifully decorated, ladies were present on the stage, and the band of the R.M.E.M. discoursed selections in the gallery.

# The Masonic Star.

THURSDAY,



AUGUST 8, 1889.

Edited by

W. BRO. JAMES STEVENS, P.M., P.Z., &amp;c., &amp;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.

R. M. I. B.

To the Editor of THE MASONIC STAR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,

Apropos to your remarks on the subject of the disposal of the surplus of the fees contributed by the stewards, I wish to point out that the final meeting of the stewards at which that surplus was disposed of, was held on the same day and at the same hour as the Special Grand Mark Lodge, a circumstance which no doubt prevented many stewards from attending.

Considerable comment has been made on the fact that the summons for this meeting was issued after that for the Grand Mark Lodge, and had the two not clashed in the way they did, I believe the attendance would have been much larger, and the destination of the surplus probably different.

5th August, 1889. Yours fraternally,  
"404."

### STEWARDS' FEES.

To the Editor of THE MASONIC STAR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,

Your editorial note is in no point an answer to my letter. It is precisely because I pay the piper that I insist upon my right to call the tune. My contention is that the money subscribed to the Stewards' Fund of any charity is just as much the money of the charity as any other subscription contributed to it; and that those brethren who accept the office of steward do so with the view of benefiting the Institution for which they are stewards, and not of increasing the income of any paid official.

I consider that it is in every way "improper" for a small number of stewards to divert money subscribed to a charitable institution to a purpose for which it certainly was not given.

Your obedient servant,  
HUBERT W. SEAGER, M.B.

### Answers to Correspondents.

W. W., CROYDON.—We cannot, at present, give to your letter insertion. It must be thought over in connection with another subject, and just now we have no time to give to it.

### Press Exchanges and Books Received.

Freemasons' Journal, New York; South African Freemason; Society; The Buddhist, Colombo; Latomia; Lifeboat Journal, August.

### MARK MASONRY.

The annual Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons for the province of Berks and Oxon was held at Oxford, under the banner of the "Alfred" Lodge, on Wednesday, 31st ulto, when the Earl of Jersey, who recently resigned the office of Provincial Grand Master, installed his successor, Viscount Valentia, in accordance with the prescribed rites. The event brought together a numerous assemblage of the brethren, including several holding high offices in the Grand Mark Lodge. Lord Jersey presided, supported by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master (Bro. Chas. Stephens), Bro. Tomkins, P.G. Treasurer and Past Grand Steward; Bro. Ravenscroft, Prov. Grand Secretary, and the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers. Among those present were:—

The Earl of Euston, President of the Board of General Purposes and Past Grand Senior Warden; Sir Lionel Darell, Grand Junior Warden; Major Cook, Bro. H. E. Cousans, Grand Junior Deacon; Bro. C. T. Matier, Grand Secretary; Bro. Berridge, Grand Director of Ceremonies; Capt. Airey, Grand Steward; Bev. J. H. Jukes, Past Grand Chaplain; Bro. E. X. Leon, Past Grand Deacon; Bro. Pulley, Past Grand Senior Deacon; Rev. J. M. Guilding, Rev. R. W. Pope, Bro. Stephen Knight, Grand Steward; Bro. Margrett, Past Grand Senior Deacon; Bro. Baynes, Past Grand Master Overseer; Bro. W. Sowdon, Past Grand Deacon (Hants and Isle of Wight); Rev. H. Lewis, P.G. Chaplain; Bros. Creed, Colville Smith, W. W. Ridley, Stransom, Slaughter, Dormer, Harrold, Graham, Kidd, Kersley, Cosburn, King, Park, Hughes, Marychurch, Simpson, Sherwin, Horne, Nicholson, Arrowsmith, Hewitt, Fenton, Spender, Jackson, Phillips, Crane, Jenkins, and other brethren.

After the usual formalities had been gone through, the P.G. Secretary presented his report, showing a total membership in the province of 252. During the past year there had been ten advancements, but deaths and removals had left the strength of the province much the same as at the last annual gathering. Bro. Ravenscroft added that it was only fair to explain that this province partook somewhat of the character of a nursery for the extension of Mark Masonry, as many of the brethren who resigned membership went elsewhere and spread the Mark Degree, and they might congratulate themselves that the province was not only holding its own, but was really making good headway.

Bro. Margrett presented the report of the committee, who carried out the arrangements for the testimonial to Bro. Pulley on his retirement from the office of Prov. Grand Secretary.

Lord Jersey expressed the pleasure they all felt in seeing Bro. Pulley among them again. They were much indebted to Bro. Pulley, who would no doubt regard the presentation as a small token of their gratitude for all he had done for the good of the Province.

Bro. Pulley thanked the noble Earl for his kind remarks, and for all the consideration shown during the period he held office as P.G. Secretary, and assured the brethren he should never cease to feel a deep interest in the welfare and prosperity of the Province.

The financial report was then presented and adopted, and on the proposal of the Deputy P.G. Master, seconded by P.G. Senior Warden, Bro. Tomkins was unanimously re-appointed Prov. Grand Treasurer.

Lord Jersey read a letter he had received from Marlborough House, expressing the thanks of the Prince and Princess of Wales for the address of congratulation presented to them by Lord Jersey on behalf of the Province on the marriage of their eldest daughter.

The Grand Secretary (Bro. Matier) having reported that Viscount Valentia had been appointed Provincial Grand Master, his lordship was admitted, and the Grand Director of Ceremonies (Bro. Berridge) read the patent of approval and appointment.

Lord Jersey then addressed the P.G. Master-designate on the nature of his duties, expressing his conviction that the noble Viscount would not only observe those written regulations which were intended to advance the welfare of Mark Masonry, but also those unwritten laws which bound the brethren together by the closest ties of friendship. On leaving that chair, which would be honoured by Viscount Valentia filling it, he felt that the future prosperity of the Province was fully assured. Viscount Valentia would bring to the office an amount of energy, and a desire to do his duty, which could but have the happiest and best results. He felt confident from the experience which he had himself gained in this chair, that Viscount Valentia would receive that cordial support and co-operation of the brethren, which was of such great value to a Provincial Grand Master. He hoped Lord Valentia would long be spared to fill the office.

The installation ceremony was then performed, and Lord Jersey invested Lord Valentia with the handsome regalia, and inducted him into the chair.

The newly installed Provincial Grand Master having been proclaimed and saluted, his lordship proceeded to appoint and invest Bro. Charles Stephens, of Reading, as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The Provincial Grand Officers were then appointed and invested for the ensuing year.

The P.G. Master said that one of his first duties, and a very pleasing one, was to present an address on behalf of the Province to the retiring P.G. Master, Lord Jersey, and he felt quite sure he echoed the feelings of all the brethren when he expressed regret that they had lost the services of so good a man as Lord Jersey as their P.G. Master.

The P.G. Secretary then read the address, which was as follows:—  
"Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, Berks and Oxon.

To the Right Worshipful Past Provincial Grand Master, the Right Honourable, the Earl of Jersey.

Right Worshipful Sir and Brother,—With most sincere regret this Provincial Grand Lodge has to record your resignation of its chief office, and in so doing the hearty wish of the brethren is, that expression shall be given to the deep sense felt by all as to the able, efficient, and genial manner in which your lordship has carried

out the duties devolving upon you during the past ten years in the capacity of Grand Master, contributing thereby so largely to the prosperity enjoyed by the Province from its formation in 1879, until the present time. We beg, therefore, respectfully, that you will accept this address as testifying our grateful appreciation of your rule over us, and ever hope and trust that it may please the G.O.T.U. long to spare your life, and if so it may be that we may long retain your interest and influence among us. On behalf of the Province, we beg to subscribe ourselves,

Right Worshipful Sir and Brother,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,  
VALENTIA, Prov. Grand Master.  
C. STEPHENS, D. Prov. Grand Mas.  
W. RAVENSCROFT, Prov. Grand Sec.

July 31, 1889.

Lord Jersey said he felt extremely grateful to the brethren of the province for the kind presentation they had just made. He, too, had felt regret in relinquishing the office of Provincial Grand Master, partly because he was aware that he had not carried out its duties so ably and efficiently as the terms of the address might lead them to suppose. They had always had, however, very pleasant and successful meetings whenever the Provincial Grand Lodge had assembled. Although he had vacated the office of P.G. Master, he should still have the pleasure of being a member of the P.G. Lodge, and his feelings towards the brethren would remain exactly the same as during the period he held the more exalted position of P.G. Master. As they were probably anxious to return to the open air, he would content himself by simply thanking them, with a warmth even greater than that of the atmosphere, for all the kindness which had been shown him during the ten years it had been his pleasure to rule over their province, and he heartily reciprocated their kind expressions of goodwill.

The P.G. Secretary read letters of apology for non-attendance from Lord Carnarvon, Past Grand Master; Bro. Beach, *M.P.*, Past Grand Master; Bro. the Rev. J. S. Studholme Brownrigg; Bro. C. T. Murdoch, *M.P.*, and others.

Bro. Tomkins invited the Provincial Grand Lodge to assemble under the banner of the Abbey Lodge, at Abingdon next year.

The P.G. Master thanked Bro. Tomkins for the kind invitation, and promised to communicate with him on the subject.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed in due form, and many of the brethren subsequently drove to Woodstock, and by permission of the Duke of Marlborough, inspected Blenheim Palace, and also the orchid houses. They afterwards returned to Oxford and sat down to a banquet, when the customary Mark Masons' toasts were honoured. The weather was delightfully fine, and the brethren spent a most pleasant day.

#### GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

A quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, on Thursday, the 1st inst. In the absence of the Grand Master Mason, the throne was occupied by Bro. Elliot, of Wolfelee, G.S.W.; Bro. James Dalrymple Duncan, G.S.D., acted as G.S.W.; and Bro. Colonel John Campbell, as G.J.W. There were also present: Bros. the Rev. R. Henderson, G. Chap.; D. Murray Lyon, G. Sec.; Major Allan, P.P.G.M., of Gibraltar; James Caldwell of Craigielea, P.G.D.; ex-Provost Christie, Stirling; David Hume, P.G.B.B.; James Melville, President of the Board of Grand Stewards, &c. Apologies for absence were intimated from Bros. Sir Archibald C. Campbell, of Blythswood, Bart., G.M.M.; Lord Haddington, Lord Saltoun, John Graham, of Broadstone, Prov. G.M. of Glasgow; James Berry, Prov. G.M. of Forfarshire; D. Reid, G.B.B.; Rev. Thomas Somerville, G. Chap.; W. Officer, S.S.C., representative from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania; James Crichton, G.J.; Dr. James Middleton; Prov. G.M. of Berwick and Roxburghshires.

On the motion of the Acting Grand Master, the Grand Secretary was instructed to prepare and forward a loyal and dutiful address to Her Majesty the Queen in reference to the marriage of the Duke of Fife and the Princess Louise, and also to the Prince of Wales, and to the Duke of Fife and his Royal spouse.

Reports were submitted from which it appeared that the income of Grand Lodge during the quarter ending 20th July had been £1,235, showing an excess of £672 over expenditure. The number of entrants to the order had been 1,300. The income for the first eight months of this year has been £3,686, as compared with £3,416 in the corresponding period last year. During the last quarter £90 had been granted from the fund of Scottish Masonic Benevolence. The annuity fund now amounts to £3,211. A report by Bro. Bringlee, C.A., to the board suggested that it was desirable to keep within safe limits, so as to avoid the necessity of withdrawing any annuity for want of funds, and the keeping in view the liability incurred on existing annuities and the expenses attendant upon the management and administration of the fund, that the total annuities should be restricted to £400 for the first two years until the capital accumulates, and the working of the fund is more thoroughly tested.

Grand Lodge resolved to issue charters to the following new lodges:—"Taurus," Mersina, Syria; "The Golden Light," Potchefstroom, South African Republic; "St. Andrew," Kumara, New Zealand; and "Sir William Wallace," Queensland. On the recommendation of the Grand Master, Lord Clanmorris was appointed as representative of Grand Lodge to the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Communications were submitted from the District Grand Secretary showing that the District Grand Lodge of Victoria under Scottish constitution had been dissolved, and that the lodges under its jurisdiction had transferred their allegiance to the newly formed United Grand Lodge of Victoria. The Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge had announced its establishment, and asked for the grand body official and fraternal recognition by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, with an interchange of representatives, and that

the lodges heretofore hailing from the Scottish constitution be allowed to retain their original charters as memorials of their Masonic connection with Scotland. Grand Lodge resolved to enter into fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge Victoria, and to accede to the request of the seceding Scottish holding lodges as to the retention of their charters.

A report was submitted from the P.G.M. of Dumbartonshire, Bro. Martin, of Auchendennan, stating the completion of another round of provincial visitation of the twelve lodges of that province. Everywhere he found work being carried on energetically and enthusiastically, and in strict accordance with the constitution and laws, and in hardly an instance was it necessary to suggest improvement, even in subordinate details. The accession of numbers in some of the lodges had been astonishing, and in all substantial. He believed Masonry to be at present in a more satisfactory position in this province than at any time within the recollection of their oldest brethren.

In reference to the subject of issuing circulars, Grand Committee recommended the adoption of the following resolution:—"Grand Lodge fully recognises the inalienable right of all Master Masons to meet, discuss, and petition Grand Lodge on any matter connected with Masonry; but, when a communication is to be addressed to the whole craft, the sanction of Grand Committee must first be procured."

Bro. Caldwell suggested that the finding should be more explicit, so as to guard brethren from unwittingly infringing the rule, and the matter was sent back to Grand Committee.

The other business was routine.

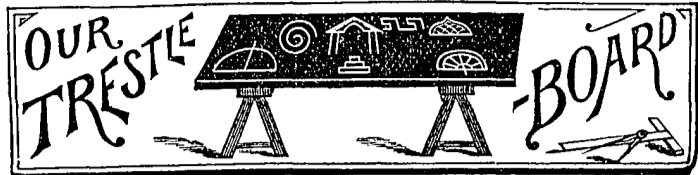
#### ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

##### PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF DEVON.

On the 29th ulto. the annual convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Devon was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Plymouth. Ex-Comp. Major G. C. Davie, Prov.G.S.E., officiated as Prov.G. Supt., *pro tem.*, with the following officers:—Ex-Comps. the Rev. T. W. Lemon, M.A., 189, P.P.G.P.S., P.P.G. 3rd P., H. *pro tem.*; J. S. Hersteman, J.; F. B. Westlake, 70, P.G.S.E. *pro tem.*; W. S. Hearder, 105, P.G.S.N. *pro tem.*; W. Taylor, 328, P.G.T.; E. Aitken-Davies, 159, 1099, P.P.G.R., P.G.Reg. *pro tem.*; G. B. Gover, 70, P.P.G.P.S., Prov. G.P.P.S. *pro tem.*; G. R. Barrett, 189, P.P.G.P.S., P.G. 1st A.S. *pro tem.*; J. J. O. Evans, 303, P.G. 2nd A.S.; S. Jew, 105, P.P.G.T., P.G.S.B. *pro tem.*; R. F. Kingdon, 106, P.G.St.B.; W. Gregory, 1284, P.G.D.C.; R. Pengelley, 70, P.P.G.A.D.C., P.G.A.D.C. *pro tem.*; E. Murch, 202, P.P.G.O., P.G.O. *pro tem.*; F. Shooter, P.G. Janitor. There was a large attendance of the companions, and among those also present were:—Ex-Comps. R. H. Rae, 189, P.P. 3rd G.P.; J. R. Lord, 70, P.P.G.T.; J. Kinton-Bond, 70, P.P.G.T.; W. K. Michell, 156, P.P.G.Reg.; J. Du Pre, 70, P.P.G.P.S.; Major J. S. Swann, 847, 494, P.P.G.S.B.; P. B. Clemens, 156, P.P.G.A.S.; C. Watson, 954, P.P.G.D.C.; W. Harris, 1138, P.P.G.A.S.; J. Allen, 1099, P.P.G.St.B.; F. C. Hallett, 303, P.P.G. St.B.; R. Cawsey, 230, P.P.G.A.D.C.; J. H. Miller, 223, P.P.G.St.B.; W. Browning, 223, P.P.G.O.; E. Binding, 202, P.P.G.O.; George Whittle, 156, P.P.G.O. Ex-Comp. Davie apologised for the absence of Viscount Ebrington, M.P., the P.G. Supt. His lordship, he said, had made every arrangement to attend that convocation, and had arrived in the West for that purpose, when he was unexpectedly recalled to London to attend to his Parliamentary duties. Ex-Comp. W. G. Rogers, P.G.H., was also unavoidably absent through a meeting of the Exeter City Council being held that day, which he had to attend as city treasurer. The acting P.G.S.E. reported that twenty-seven chapters had forwarded their returns and dues. The P.G. Treas. reported that the receipts for the year had been £97 15s., and that the present balance in hand available for the votes of the chapter was £42. Ex-Comp. Kersteman proposed, and Ex-Comp. Du Pre seconded, that 20 guineas be voted to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for widow-, the sum to be placed on the steward's list of Ex-Comp. the Rev. T. W. Lemon. Ex-Comp. Lord proposed that £7 10s. each be voted to the Fortescue Annuity Fund and the Devon Masonic Educational Fund. Ex-Comp. Cornish seconded, and both propositions were unanimously adopted. On the proposition of Ex-Comp. J. Kinton Bond, seconded by Ex-Comp. Du Pre and supported by several other members, Ex-Comp. J. W. Cornish was elected the treasurer. Ex-Comps. J. R. Lord and J. Kinton Bond were elected the auditors. The acting P.G. Supt. then invested the officers for the year:—Ex-Comp. W. G. Rogers, 112, 2nd P.G. Principal; Major J. S. Swann, 847, 3rd P.G. Principal; Major G. C. Davie, 251, P.G.S.E.; F. B. Westlake, 70, P.C.S.N.; J. W. Cornish, 223, P.G. Treas.; J. Bradford, 1358, P.G. Reg.; W. Allsford, 202, P.G.P.S.; J. Moysey, 223, P.G. 1st A.S.; D. Cross, 1205, P.G. 2nd A.S.; C. Croydon, 189, P.G.S.B.; J. Gifford, 2025, P.G.St.B.; J. R. H. Harris, 230, P.G.D.C.; A. Pidsley, 106, P.G.A.D.C.; W. S. Hearder, 105, P.G.O.; and F. Shooter, P.G. Janitor.

##### PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF STAFFORDSHIRE.

A convocation of the Staffordshire Grand Chapter was held at the Star and Garter Hotel, Wolverhampton, on the 2nd inst., the principal business being the installation of Col. Foster Gough as Provincial Grand Superintendent. The ceremony was admirably performed by Ex-Comp. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke. The following provincial appointments were made by the Grand Superintendent:—Comps. J. Bodenham, 726, H.; A. G. Prince, 546, J.; H. Kitson, 519, E.; E. Kempton, 482, N.; C. A. Newnham, 419, treas.; A. Caddick, 482, registrar; W. Brickil, 546, P.S.; E. S. Hildick, 539, 1st asst. sec.; J. Mottram, 726, 2nd asst. sec.; H. Windle, 418, swd. bearer; H. Jenkins, 482, std. bearer; G. H. Stanger, 419, D.C.; Frederick Taylor, 726, A.D.C.; F. Willmore, 539, org.; Capt. G. W. Walker, 419, A.S.E.; D. Jones and G. Vaughan, stewards. After the closing of the chapter a banquet was held, and was presided over by Col. Gough.



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

Brethren, kindly send in your renewals! It takes money to print a newspaper when lodges are called off in summer, as well as during the rush of labour when the different bodies are at work. We want all the assistance our friends in the craft can give us, as well by introductions and subscriptions as by contributions of general interest to the fraternity. Advertisers who are Freemasons, should also give us what aid they can. "It is the hope of reward that sweetens labour," and we shall not be forgetful of our programme and promises if such reward is meted out to us liberally, as amongst such a community as constitute our order it ought to be, if our paper is not altogether worthless.

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Our "questions and answers," we are pleased to note, attract the attention of several of our foreign exchanges, notably that of the *South African Freemason*, which quotes at length. We appreciate the compliment, and greatly esteem the acknowledgement of the source of information.

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There is great advantage to be obtained in most instances by "taking time by the fore-lock," and the recently appointed Grand Secretary of Mark Masons of England, &c., appears to understand the value of early preparation in connection with the Mark Benevolent Fund, for we learn that even within the short period which has elapsed since the festival of the 24th ult., some important arrangements have been made for that which is appointed to be held on Wednesday, the 23rd July, 1890. At this date there are already forty-two accepted stewardships, and amongst the brethren whose names have been forwarded, are those of some of the most distinguished noblemen and gentlemen connected with the order. It is also interesting to learn that several ladies of high degree, whose interest has been greatly excited by companionship with the brethren at former festivals, will aid the fund by association with the stewards' lists, and we may be sure that the result of their persuasive canvass amongst relatives and friends, will have no unimportant effect in swelling the amount of the general contributions. We trust that many of our fair sisters will follow the example set them, and share in our "grand design of being happy, and communicating happiness."

\* \* \* \* \*

We stated in our last issue that a site had been secured at Deptford Bridge, S.E., for the purpose of erecting thereupon a Masonic Hall, for the convenience of the numerous members of the Craft residing in that district; and we are now informed that a meeting is to be held in furtherance of the project at New Cross Hall, near the station, on the South Eastern Railway, at 8 o'clock to-morrow (Friday) evening, when Bros. Roberts and Wall will submit a sketch plan of the proposed building, with an estimate of the probable cost thereof. The assistance and advice of brethren connected with the several lodges in the neighbourhood is invited, and communications from those who may desire to be present will be esteemed by the secretary, *pro tem.*, Bro. N. Brokenshire, of 86, Lewisham High Road, New Cross, S.E.

\* \* \* \* \*

A new Masonic Hall is also about to be built at St. Ives, Cornwall, for the Tregenna Lodge, No. 1272. Operations were commenced by the contractor (Bro. Robert Toy), last week. The lodge will have a magnificent suite of rooms, and from the healthy state of Freemasonry in Cornwall, we trust other lodges in that province may be enabled to follow the example of the Tregenna Lodge in their respective towns.

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The Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, Provincial Grand Master of Freemasons of Cornwall, has fixed Tuesday, the 27th August, for the holding of the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge. It will be held at Liskeard, under the banner of Lodge "St. Martin" (570), the brethren of which met on Wednesday evening, the 31st ult., and appointed various committees to carry out all the arrangements necessary to give to the Right Worshipful Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Lodge a thoroughly cordial welcome. The Grand Lodge meeting will be held in the Town Hall, and at the conclusion of the business the brethren will dine together in the Market House. The usual service will be held in the parish church.

LANCASHIRE.—WESTERN DIVISION.—GARSTON.—LODGE OF HARMONY, No. 220. The annual summer meeting of this Lodge was held on the 29th ult. when a picnic party was arranged for a visit to Llangollen. The train started from Lime Street, Liverpool, at 7.40, calling at Allerton to pick up the bulk of the party, and arrived at Llangollen at 10. The first place visited was Plas-Newydd with its quaint surroundings, after which dinner was provided at the Royal, the chair being occupied by Brother Lawton, W.M., who was supported by the I.P.M., Brothers T. F. Hill, P.G.S.B., W. S. Vine, D.C. and P.G.D.C., H. Hatch, P.M., William Olver, P.M. The Vice-chairmen were Brothers Fisher, S.W., and Billingsley, J.W. The party were afterwards photographed on the lawn of the hotel. They then drove in wagonettes to Corwen, a drive which all thoroughly enjoyed. On returning tea was served, after which several ladies and gentlemen ascended to Castle Dinas Bran, whilst others visited Berwyn and Valle Crucis Abbey. The return journey was commenced at 9.20, and on arriving at Allerton omnibuses were waiting to convey the party to their respective destinations, all having spent a very pleasant day.

## Questions and Answers.

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*Querists will please note that we decline to pay attention to enquiries made anonymously, or otherwise forwarded than in closed envelopes. In some instances it may be found impolitic to publish replies, but answers may be assured by the enclosure of a stamped and addressed cover.*

Q.—Why are objections raised to the wearing of Mark Master Masons' Jewels by visitors to Craft Lodges, seeing that H.R.II. the Prince of Wales is Grand Mark Master as well as M.W. Grand Master of United Grand Lodge in Craft Masonry?—M.M.M. and R.A.

A.—Only such jewels as are appropriate to "pure and ancient" Masonry, which consists of the respective degrees of E.A., F.C., and M.M., including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch, can be legally worn in Craft Lodges. The Mark degree, important and valuable though it is, and the proper complement of the F.C. as the R.A. is that of M.M., is not "recognised" by the United Grand Lodge of England, although a large number of the most distinguished members of the latter, are also connected with the former. To permit the introduction of the Mark Masters' jewel into a Craft Lodge would open the door to the admission of similar decorations belonging generally to what are termed "side" degrees; and the W.M. is bound to take notice, if his attention is called thereto, of any infringement of section 289 of the Book of Constitutions, and to require strict obedience therewith.—Ed. M.S.

## REVIEW.

*Constitutiones Artis Gemetrie Secundem Euclidem*: a fac-simile of the Early Poem on Freemasonry, from the original MS. presented by King George II. to the English Nation in 1757, now in the British Museum (Bibl. Reg. 17, A 1). London: Spencer & Co., Great Queen Street; Boston, U.S.A.: Clarke & Carruth, 340, Washington Street—1889. (See advertisement for description and price.)

THE HALLIWELL MS.—There has been recently published, the exact size of the original, and *fac simile* in type and binding, the admittedly oldest genuine record in connection with the literature of the Craft, and to which attention was in the first instance drawn by the late Mr. J. O. Halliwell-Phillips. The MS. which is known amongst the *literati* as "Constitutiones Artis Gemetrie Secundem Euclidem, a poem of Moral Duties," formerly belonged to Charles Theyer, a collector of the seventeenth century, and is No. 17 A 1 in the Bibl. Reg. British Museum. The poem, which is supposed to have been written about 1390, or earlier, is extremely interesting throughout, and quoting the excellent preface to the reproduction by Bro. H. J. Whympere, C.I.E., P.D.D.G.M., Punjab, "commences by stating that ancient books relate how lords and ladies of high position were once in difficulties as to choosing a profession for their children, and employed learned men to educate them, so that they might be able to secure an honest livelihood. 'Gemetry' or Masonry was most in repute; it was 'the moste oneste craft of alle.' The greatest teacher or clerk was Euclid. 'Hys name hyst spradde ful wondur wyde.' He inculcated the principle of mutual instruction, and taught that a brotherly love should govern the actions of his scholars. The most worshipped should be called Master; but amongst the craft generally no other name than fellow should be used, even if one excelled another in ability. He enjoined this from the social equality of all. 'For cause they come of ladyes burthe.' This appears to convey the very earliest indication as to why *Freemason* was adopted later on. The poem then recites the history of the introduction of masonry into England in the time of 'good King Adelston,' \* \* \* \* and many quaint and curious allusions to customs and proverbs now current will be found in the articles and points, or in the divisions of the duties of the craftsman." The study of this valuable work, which is reproduced in the original writing of the 14th century, with a transcript in language of lesser antiquity, is facilitated by a glossary which forms the third portion of the entire volume. We commend it to the earnest consideration of all members of our ancient Craft desirous of tracing back our ritual and observances to the remotest period which appears to connect operative with speculative Freemasonry.

## "WHITE FOR—BLACK AGAINST."

(Continued from page 309.)

Having said this much of ourselves as Voters, I purpose, in order to prevent myself from rambling discursiveness, to consider the effect of our votes.

- 1st—With regard to the Candidate.
- 2nd—Upon his supporters.
- 3rd—Upon the Lodge in General.

### 1st—WITH REGARD TO THE CANDIDATE.

Although the Candidate is not a brother amongst us, and has not the claims of the Craft upon us, yet he has the broad claims of right—his application to join us does not confer upon us any moral right to go outside or beyond the first principles of equity—rather as members of a Craft "Founded upon the purest principles of Virtue;" and we ought to approach the consideration of his application with the exactness of Truth, the dignity of Honour, and the excellence of Virtue. Let us never forget that we are deciding the petition of an absent man, powerless to defend himself, a' solutely helpless in the matter, and unable to seek any reparation if we, intentionally or unintentionally, injure him; if an unworthy act is done he knows no one person in the matter, he can only regard it as a wrong done by the Craft in general, and our Lodge in particular. By his proposer and seconder he has made known his desire to become one of us, and there his individual action has to cease, he cannot plead or argue with us, nor can he demand admission.

He prefers his request and we sit in judgment on him; this helplessness on his part surely ought to influence us to let "Prudence direct us and justice be the guide of our action." It is always an invidious and unpleasant position for a man to find himself black balled in any society or club, and often carries with it a social stigma totally undeserved. It frequently brands a man with unnecessary severity, as no reasons can be demanded or explanations sought; the bare, bald fact lies there, he has been rejected—the reasons may be good, bad or indifferent, he cannot compel the divulgence of them—he has submitted himself to a silent tribunal, and though conscious of his own rectitude he cannot take a single step to prove the decision wrong. Surely, therefore, as right thinking men, we ought to be very careful to do that which is equitable to a man who has placed himself so unreservedly in our hands. I hold that it is utterly unfair for us to declare that a man is unfit to join our Craft except upon the most powerful reasons. On this head I know that I go further than some of my brethren, for I am of opinion that my personal likes or dislikes ought not to be allowed to influence me in voting. Individually, I feel that all that ought to weigh with me is whether or not the Candidate is an honourable upright man, likely to become an honour to the Craft and an advantageous member of the Lodge. Though I do not like him, I would never oppose a Candidate on that ground alone, still less would I wound his self-respect and his social status by a black ball. A man who asks to become one of us pays us the compliment of thinking us a body of which he would like to form a part, thereby indicating "A favourable opinion preconceived of the Institution," if nothing else. In many cases he has friends or relatives in our ranks—in others the associations of past days carry remembrances of those whom he knew to be Masons, whose life he honoured and whose death he regretted. Such a man cannot conceive other than that his desire to join us will meet with fair consideration and an equitable decision—his ideas of our integrity are high—he believes us to be bound together by bonds invisible to the outer world, but which are evidenced by their results, and he feels safe in awaiting the decision of such a Court. To my mind, whatever it may be to others, it is a supreme height of cowardice and cruelty to hit an absent, defenceless man with a black ball, unless we are convinced that he is unfit to be a Freemason, and that our duty to the Craft demands that we shall reject him.

Rightly or wrongly, Freemasonry is generally held to be a respectable and reputable association, and the fact that a man has been ignominiously rejected therefrom carries with it, to very many people, a serious stigma—at any rate, brethren, we may take it as a general principle that to black ball a man is to inflict a wound upon him personally, sometimes upon those who are near and dear to him, and not unfrequently to seriously prejudice him in many ways. As I have before said, no man has a right to demand admission amongst us; through the voice of one of our brethren he asks us to receive him—willing to join us in all good faith—knowing little or nothing of the nature of our Institution, but, assuming the good, he desires to cast in his lot with us. Let us then, brethren, take heed that no man suffers injury at our hands improperly by closing our door in his face, unless, after due thought and strict examination, we feel impelled to do so in the interest of the integrity and welfare of our Craft, in the prestige and prosperity of our Lodge.

And now, brethren, in the second place, we go on to consider our votes in connection with the

PROPOSER AND SECONDER OF THE CANDIDATE.

As in the former case we are, at the outset, face to face with responsibilities, viz., those of the Proposer and Secunder, and those of the Voter. None of us ought ever to forget that on his entrance into the Lodge the Candidate has to pledge himself that he is "Unbiased by the improper solicitation of friends," which clearly carries home to us that we ought to be very guarded not to unduly influence any man to seek to join us. We ought never to tempt a man to join us in the hope of pecuniary gain in any way or shape, or simply that our Lodge may benefit to the extent of his fees. Every Candidate ought to know that Freemasonry is not a benefit society, and we should be cautious how we lead men to seek admission into our ranks under any other idea than that honour and integrity are our bond of union, and no man out to be allowed to ask to be made a Freemason in the expectation that he will get absolutely 20s. or more, in meal or malt, for every sovereign he pays to us—this is a responsibility which meets us as between Craftsmen and those who have a desire to become so—do not let us even by implication mislead those who wish to join us. I think we may take it that, generally speaking, it is a great pleasure to any earnest member of a Lodge to propose for initiation a worthy man, and we cannot conceive a good Mason proposing any

other; at the same time it is a pleasure which carries with it a serious responsibility, because if once admitted the nominee must always remain a Freemason, and may largely make or mar the happiness of our Lodge—he may bring disgrace upon us, or he may attain "The highest honour the Craft can give or the Lodge bestow." More especially does this responsibility heavily rest upon brethren who are matured members of the Lodge, or have attained any rank therein—and, generally speaking, it is considered desirable to have propositions made by brethren who have been members of the Craft sufficiently long to have acquired a knowledge of the landmarks, as well the unwritten laws which are recognised. In many cases it must needs be that the person proposed is totally unknown to some of the brethren—possibly to the greater part—and then it necessarily follows that those brethren have little or nothing to guide them in their decision but the remarks made by the Proposer, Secunder and Supporter (if any). Here then is the responsibility which rests upon the sponsors of a Candidate—they are the only guarantees of the fitness of the Candidate to those brethren to whom he is unknown, hence it is the duty of every man before he proposes a Candidate to satisfy himself, as far as may be, as to his moral fitness and general reputation. To most brethren it would be a matter of grief and regret if a Candidate they had proposed ultimately brought disgrace upon himself and the Craft, and if such a Candidate had been recklessly and incautiously introduced, a certain amount of regrettable blame might attach to the proposer. More especially does this apply to Past Masters and Officers of the Lodge—their position demands that they shall exercise the greatest possible care and scrutiny before they submit a proposal to the Lodge. They are men of leading amongst us, and their influence is too great to be used lightly. In the case of a brother held in high esteem in the Lodge proposing a Candidate, the simple fact of his doing so would, by many, be accepted as sufficient evidence in itself of the entire suitability of the nominee for election. Therefore, brethren of Masonic rank and position are under the gravest responsibility not to propose any man until they are able to speak with perfect confidence that to their knowledge he has not done anything unfitting him for the honour of election. When a brother proposes a Candidate in whom he has implicit confidence, he naturally expects his election—he looks forward with pleasure, possibly with pride, to the introduction of his nominee, especially if that gentleman is a personal friend. The Proposer anticipates with gratification the pleasure of having his friend one of us, proud that he has been able to swell the ranks of the Lodge, and well satisfied that he has been the means of enabling his friend to gratify a laudable desire. All at once, unexpectedly and undeserved, he sees all this shattered to the winds. He has to tell his nominee that he is rejected, though he cannot tell him why, and instead of having been a friend to his friend he suddenly feels conscious that he has brought his name to a place where it can be tarnished cruelly and mercilessly without resistance, without appeal, without a word of sympathy, silently, effectively, irresistibly the bolt is shot—no heed is taken that it wounds a man with his hands tied and his mouth closed. Brethren, from my heart I pity the man who has to tell his friend that all this has been through the medium of himself—it is an uncalled for hardship, but if I pity the Proposer in such a case, what about the brother who has black balled from childish, thoughtless, or unworthy motives. I pity him, too, that he has so little true manhood about him, he is a Mason in name, but that is all. Nothing but an overpowering sense of duty could render such an action tolerable, let alone justifiable. The effect of black-balling not based upon equity must have a serious effect on the Proposer, Secunder and Supporters of a Candidate—to most men it would be a matter of deep chagrin and disappointment, others, conscious of the rectitude of their nomination and the entire suitability of their Candidate, might think it a side blow at themselves, others might suspect an unworthy combination to thwart the prosperity of the Lodge, but to one and all where the rejection has no foundation in equity the result must be untoward, as it destroys the feeling of repose and safety which a consciousness of existing equity inspires. If we cannot feel that our brethren will mete out to us perfect justice (at least in these matters), our confidence is impaired, an atmosphere totally foreign to that of fraternity is introduced amongst us, and comparative discord takes the place of accord. The Proposer and Secunder feel that a slight has been put upon them, and in the case of unexpected black balling they feel that an injury has been done to them and their nominee, inasmuch as no one was good enough to "Timely warn them of approaching danger." Every proposer of a Candidate, in perfect good faith, and with due care, is efficiently performing one of his Masonic duties, viz., that

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.
(THIS DAY) (2nd) THURSDAY, AUGUST 8th.		
1076	Capper ... ..	Guildhall Tav., Gresham Street
(2nd) FRIDAY, AUGUST 9th.—Nil.		
(2nd) SATURDAY, AUGUST 10th.		
GENERAL COMMITTEE, BOYS' SCHOOL, AT 4 (by adjournment from 3rd inst.)		
1685	Guelfh ... ..	Town Hall, Leyton
(2nd) MONDAY, AUGUST 12th.		
1789	Ubique ... ..	Café Royal, Regent Street, W.
1922	Earl of Lathom ... ..	Greyhound Hot., Streatham

No. of Lodge.	NAME OF LODGE AND CHAPTER.	PLACE OF MEETING.
(2nd) TUESDAY, AUGUST 13th.		
1769	Clarendon ... ..	Guildhall Tav., Gresham Street, E.C.
(2nd) WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14th.		
GENERAL COMMITTEE, BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION, AT 4.		
1228	Beacontree ... ..	Pri. Room, Red Lion Hot., Leytonstone
1260	John Hervey ... ..	F. M. H.
1586	Upper Norwood ... ..	White Hart Hot., Upper Norwood, S.E.
(3rd) THURSDAY, AUGUST 15th.		
R.A.C. 507	United Pilgrims ... ..	F. M. H.

of maintaining and extending the principles of the Craft, and adding to the usefulness of his Lodge—this being so he is entitled to the thanks of the Craft and Lodge, and he ought not to be put to the unpleasantness of his Candidate being black balled if it can be avoided. Rebuffs of this kind check the zeal of brethren, wound their susceptibilities, and for a time at least deprive them of the pleasure they formerly felt in meeting their brethren in open Lodge assembled. Their motives and intentions have been good, and as such are entitled to our cordial respect; it ill becomes us, therefore, to meet such actions with an ill-timed blow or an unworthy or thoughtless rejection of the Candidate they propose to us.

(To be continued.)

### GLEANINGS.

**RITUALS IN FREEMASONRY.**—Are rituals essential to the preservation of the practical unity and universality of Freemasonry? This question comes naturally when one hears the flippant sneers of certain brethren who seem to find nothing so utterly useless and reprehensible as an absolute fidelity to the ritual. "The parrot-like repetition of the ritual" comes easily from the lips of those who, having a ready flow of language, seem to believe that they are the only thoughtful and intelligent men in the fraternity, apparently unmindful of the fact that many a long address contains but a grain of thought in a great mass of verbosity. The men who have left their impress on the great institution from the earliest times have believed in, and been active in favour of, a ritual in every Masonic body of either rite. Not that the ritual is all there is to Masonry by any means, but that a ritual is essential, if the institution is not to be allowed to degenerate into a mere series of social clubs, thereby losing that which more than any other one thing has preserved its real unity throughout the whole civilised world. It is easy for the fluent and indolent man to talk of the uselessness of committing the ritual to memory, when the great trouble is that he is too indifferent to learn, though his assurance is so great that he thinks his own weak words will convey more meaning than the language of the ritual. Too many men of this class are in the institution, and they do it injury by their vapourings. The fact is that the ritual, carefully learned and earnestly rendered, will always make an impression, even though the officer has not had the advantage of a college education, or the gift of oratory. Wherever and whenever the officers of any Masonic body render their work with fidelity to the ritual, there always, and without exception, will be found a prosperous body, with good attendance, even when the officers are not men of brilliant attainments, for the earnestness and thought they have given to memorising the ritual manifests itself in the rendition of the work, and real earnestness is always impressive. Any Mason who has been an attendant on the meetings for many years can instance from his own recollection the truth of this statement, and he may also remember where the prosperity of such a body has been seriously injured by having at its head some naturally brilliant man, too indolent to learn the ritual, who substitutes his own flashy and vapid utterances for the stately, solid and thought-inspiring language of the ritual. It is not claimed that the phraseology of the ritual in any of the degrees is absolutely perfect by any means, but it is the language that the great mass of the Craft has decided should be used, and no man has any right to accept office unless he means "in good faith and conscience, and to the best of his ability" to give the work correctly. A paper was quite recently read before a Masonic assemblage in which the author took occasion to speak sneeringly of Grand Lecturers and of their efforts to have the officers of subordinate bodies endeavour to conform to the ritual as adopted by the Grand body. The oft-repeated statement was made that the officer who repeats his ritual correctly gives it in a "meaningless and parrot-like manner." Among those who were present as listeners on the occasion referred to, were a considerable number of brethren who have been careful, painstaking and accurate ritualists, who have for years been noted among the Craft, not only for their fidelity to the ritual in the various bodies which they have served, but also for the intelligent and effective manner in which they worked, conveying to the thoughtful listener the deep meaning of the spoken words. Yet the author of the paper referred to, made frequent and uncalled-for allusions to Grand Lecturers and their work, as though a man ought to take upon himself this most important and laborious office and teach, not the ritual, but whatever might suggest itself to his mind. And after all this talk against correct rendering of the ritual, stated that he was much in favour of a "General" Grand Lodge in order that there might be a greater uniformity of work throughout the country. Those who have for years been active and painstaking in behalf of uniformity in ritual, believe rather in encouraging careful and earnest study among the office bearers, firm in the faith that those who know the ritual thoroughly are those who may be depended upon to teach the lessons which the work is intended to convey, in the most intelligent manner, impressing candidates and members with the beauty of Faith, Hope, and that Charity, which is synonymous with Brotherly Love, strengthening in the minds of all a firm belief in the great and fundamental truth of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.—*Bro. Seranus Brown, in the Liberal Freemason.*

To the oft repeated question, "If the secrets of masonry are replete with such advantage to mankind, why are they not divulged for the general good?" It may be answered, were the privileges of masonry to be indiscriminately dispensed, the purposes of the institution would not only be subverted, but our secrets, becoming familiar like other important matters, would lose their value and sink into disregard. It is a weakness in human nature that men are generally more charmed with novelty than with the intrinsic value of things. Innumerable testimonies may be adduced to confirm this truth. Do we not find that the most wonderful operations of the Almighty, however beautiful, magnificent, and useful, are

overlooked because common and familiar! The sun rises and sets, the sea ebbs and flows, rivers glide along their channels, trees and plants vegetate, men and beasts act; yet these, being perpetually open to view, pass unnoticed. The most astonishing productions of nature on the same account escape observation, and excite no emotion, either in admiration of the great cause, or of gratitude for the blessing conferred. Even virtue herself is not exempted from this unhappy bias in the human frame. Novelty influences all our actions; what is new, or difficult in the acquisition, however trifling or insignificant, readily captivates the imagination and ensures a temporary admiration; while what is familiar, or easily attained, however noble or eminent, is sure to be disregarded by the giddy and the unthinking. Did the *essence* of masonry consist in the knowledge of particular secrets or peculiar forms, it might, indeed, be alleged that our pursuits were trifling and superficial. But this is not the case; they are only the keys to our treasure, and having their use, are preserved; while from the recollection of the lessons which they inculcate, the well-informed mason derives instruction; he draws them to a near inspection, views them through a proper medium, adverts to the circumstances which gave rise to them, and dwells upon the tenets they convey. Finding them replete with useful information, he prizes them as sacred; and, being convinced of their proprietary, estimates their value by their utility. Vain, therefore, is each idle surmise against the plan of our government. While the laws of the Craft are properly supported, they will be proof against every attack. Men are not aware that by decrying any laudable institution they derogate from the dignity of human nature itself, and from that good order and wise disposition of things, which the Almighty Author of the world has framed for the government of mankind, and established as the basis of the moral system. Friendship and the social delights can never be the objects of reproach; nor can that wisdom, which hoary time has sanctified, be a subject for ridicule. Whoever attempts to censure what he does not comprehend, degrades himself, and the generous heart will pity the mistakes of such ignorant presumption.—"*Freemasonry*," by Thomas Lewis Fox, C.S.

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