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AND GRAND LODGE CHRONICLE.

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[2s. PER ANNUM.]

GRAND LODGE was opened at 8 P.M., on Wednesday the 3rd. inst., by the M.W. the G.M. in person.

On the motion of the G.R. the motion for excluding strangers from Masonic festivals, carried at the last G.L. was not confirmed.

The election of the Boards was conducted with more than usual unanimity, and we believe that both bodies will be found to consist of brethren who will work well together, and at the same time deserve the confidence of the Craft at large.

Several important communications to and from the Canadas were laid upon the table by the G. M., and it was proposed that they should be referred to the COLONIAL BOARD; a proceeding which did not seem to satisfy those in the body of the Hall, who were naturally anxious for full information on the subject, and it was ultimately agreed that the documents should be printed, and distributed in September.

We regret to perceive from this, as well as from the suppression of the despatch from the P.G.M. of Quebec, which we publish elsewhere, that the Executive seem still determined if possible to keep G.L. in the dark about its own affairs, and conceal the extent of the mischief in which its own mis-management has involved us. This will require persevering and jealous watching.

A handsome retiring pension—the full amount of his salary—was granted to the late GRAND SECRETARY on the motion of the G.M.; the whole G.L. standing, while the grant was communicated to the venerable Brother, and he expressed his acknowledgements.

The report agreed to at a Special Meeting of the Governors and Subscribers of the ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION was adopted after some discussion.

The necessary alterations in the Book of Constitutions were proposed by the BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES, in order to carry out Lord CARNARVON'S motion for the circulation of the business paper of G.L., and were agreed to.

It was recommended, on the motion of Br. the Rev. G. R. PORTAL, that Brethren serving the Stewardship of the BENEVOLENT FUND in addition to those of the Boys' and Girls' Charities, should be permitted to wear a clasp on the ribbon of the Charity medal.

It was also ordered that notices of motion shall retain their order of precedence until disposed of, provided that notice of renewal is given at the BOARD OF MASTERS.

CAN any one give us a clue to the principle upon which GRAND OFFICERS are appointed? We have puzzled our brains in vain, and must acknowledge ourselves completely bewildered. If politics had anything to do with Freemasonry, we should at once have understood how it came to pass that the GRAND MASTER, the late DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, the present DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, and both the GRAND WARDENS, were members of one political party; but as every one knows that politics never enter into these appointments, and that nothing is considered but the good of the Craft—while the M. W. the G. M. is deeply sensible of his grave responsibility, and would on no account permit even personal friendship to weigh with him in his selection of the right man for the right place—we are as unable to find the clue to this problem as we used to be in bygone days to get in or out of the maze at Hampton Court. Will no one be so good as to act the friendly part of the gentleman who mounts the rostrum at that place of entertainment, and from his elevated *point de vue* directs the bewildered wanderer to the longed-for goal? Will no GRAND OFFICER, no past or present GRAND DEACON, conduct us to the light? or must we remain in complete darkness on this subject?

We can manage to get the first step tolerably well. The D. G. M. is a man whose administrative talents cannot fail to be a great gain to the Order; and we can well understand that the M. W. the G. M. must be most thankful to have secured the advice and co-operation of so able a coadjutor, in place of those incapables who have lost us Canada. So far, so good; but when we advance down the list, we are brought to a sudden halt: who is Lord DURHAM? "The son of his father," is the best answer that can be made to this question; but we scarcely think it is one that will be accepted by the Craft at large as satisfactory.

"Et genus, et Proavos, et quæ non fecimus ipsi,
Vix ea nostra voco."

The noble Earl, if we are correctly informed, has never even served the office of Warden in any private Lodge, nor has he taken a sufficient interest in Masonry to act as Steward of either of the charities. Some of our Brethren are great sticklers for ancient landmarks, and very properly so: will they allow us to direct their attention to the language of the "Ancient Charge" in the Book of Constitutions, p. 7—"NO BROTHER CAN BE A GRAND WARDEN UNTIL HE HAS BEEN MASTER OF A LODGE."

The J. G. W. has, so far as we know, taken no part whatever in the deliberations of G. L., and has only served the Stewardship of one Charity out of the three.

Neither the GRAND SECRETARY, nor the S. G. D. are of sufficient standing to fill their corresponding chairs in Grand Chapter; while the latter has distinguished himself by his persevering—not to say personal—opposition to the movement in favour of administrative reform in G. L.

It will not escape observation that there was no lack of Brethren who have deserved well of the Craft by their zealous attention to their duties, and the interest they have taken in all that concerns our welfare and progress; men whose worth their own provinces have recognised in no unsubstantial form.

By the retirement of the GRAND REGISTRAR we have lost one whose habits of business made him a most valuable member of the executive, in spite of the somewhat despotic rule which we have before had occasion to notice. We are unaware of any special reason for the re-appointment of the GRAND CHAPLAINS.

On the whole we cannot compliment the advisers of the M. W. the G. M. upon their list of G. O.'s; it will require a deal more cooking, or we ought, we believe, to say, doctoring, before it will be palatable to any but the small clique who have hitherto governed, or misgoverned, the Freemasons of England.

A VERY accurate idea of the present state of feeling in Canada may be gathered from the important communication of the P. G. M. of QUEBEC, and from the lucid statement of Br. BEACH, M.P., which we publish to-day.

From these documents it would appear that the Independent Grand Lodge has made such way as to threaten to absorb our own P. G. L., which has hitherto maintained its connexion with England, and the only course that seems now to be open to us, if we desire to maintain the latter as an independent body, is to establish them upon such a footing of self-government as will enable them to compete with the self-constituted G. L., and even to turn the tables, and re-attract them into one common society.

There can *prima facie* be little question that union among Masons is the best guarantee for uniformity and efficiency, and it is, in itself, to be regretted that the necessity has arisen for loosening the bonds which join England and Canada.

At the same time it is perhaps even more important that there should be union between Canadian Masons themselves, than between England and a section of Canada; nor can it be supposed that a powerful and growing state will be content to merge its individuality in that representation of London Lodges which practically constitutes the G. L. of England.

As in Politics, so in Masonry, local freedom of action must be given to the different local communities, and according to their several requirements, a common bond of union being still, if possible, maintained.

This is the principle for which Lord CARNARVON, and those who support him in G. L., have contended for the last year; and a perusal of the documents before alluded to, will, we think, convince our readers that had that policy been adopted when first proposed, we should never have been involved in the difficulty in which we now find ourselves.

Two points strike us in connexion with this subject; first, that virtual independence must be given to the P. G. L. of Canada; and secondly, that there is even yet a strong desire on the part of our trans-Atlantic brethren not to sever themselves entirely from the G. L. of England. This being so, we do not think there need be much difficulty in satisfying the claims of Masonic justice, while preserving the principle of Masonic unity. We should propose that the election of their P. G. M. be definitely placed in the hands of each Canadian P. G. L., allowing to the G. M. of England a nominal *veto* upon such appointment, as well as requiring the consent of G. L. to any fundamental change in the Book of Constitutions. In all other respects the entire management of their affairs might be well left to the District G. Lodges, and we believe that such an arrangement as this would meet the requirements of the case, and we hope the wishes of the great body of Canadian Masons.

THE ancient city of OXFORD witnessed a short time since a memorable scene. The G.M. for the first time graced with his presence that city whose architectural glories reflect the practical lessons of Masonry, and whose schools of science and study are no indifferent type of that higher speculative teaching which is the boast of our Order. But if the sun of English Freemasonry shone forth in the person of the G.M. on that occasion, the moon and the greater planets—the D. G. M. and the Sen. and Jun. G. Wardens—were absent.

Some lesser lights indeed, satellites of the great luminary—the fixed Stars of the Dais—flickered and twinkled with a somewhat uncertain light; but in spite of the lavish hospitality with which Oxford knows so well how to greet her guests, even the courtesy of the G.M. strove in vain to excuse the absence of his Grand Officers, and to hide the vacant seats to which they had been bidden.

Oxford undoubtedly has many subjects of self-gratulation, and her members witnessed with just satisfaction the compliment paid to her in the presence of the G.M.; but Oxford cannot and ought not to forget that there are higher objects in Masonry than the official purple, more arduous duties than the compliments of a banquet.

Oxford cannot entirely forget the events which have agitated the Craft during the last twelvemonth, the policy which has hitherto deprived the country lodges of their undoubted rights, and the incompetence and maladministration which have resulted in the secession of Canada. She cannot forget that the supporters of the country interests, the upholders of the Constitution, the

champions of Canada, have been chiefly found amongst her sons.

We cannot but think that Oxford Masons, after the part which they have taken, and well and worthily maintained, before the face of the whole Craft, might with advantage to their own consistency have paused before they felicitated their guest upon "the advantages which have resulted from the exercise of your sound and considerate judgment during the many years that you have presided over the Society;" or, while the defiances of Canadians and the indignant remonstrances of Mark Masons are ringing in our ears, characterized the G.M. as one who would "consolidate that *peace and union* which should always distinguish the Society of Freemasons, and which, under your Lordship's salutary government, *has been so happily attained!*"

We are not insensible to the many excellencies of our present G.M.; we would be the first to pay every mark of respect to his high office and character; we believe that his advisers are far more to blame than he is for the lamentable misgovernment which has been so injurious to our character and prospects; but we have always heard that a truthful discrimination lends value to compliments, and prevents their becoming mere meaningless adulation, as little grateful to the recipient as it is in good taste on the part of the donor. We believe the P.G.L. of Oxford, having never been consulted about the matter, is not responsible for the address from which we have quoted, and which, unless it be a piece of the most biting satire, would lead us to fear that the spirit of the immortal 'JEANES,' like some unholy phantom, is to be found lurking even amid the classic groves of the Isis.

WE commend to the attention of our Brethren of the MARK Degree, the steps that have been, and are being, taken for the promotion of Mark Masonry in this country. The P.G.M. of QUEBEC tells us that the degree is "*imperative* on this side of the Atlantic," and that the Independent G.L. has accordingly made no small amount of Masonic capital out of the refusal of the G.L. of England to recognize it. We regretted that decision at the time, arising as it did from an ignorance of the *first* principles of Masonry, or, as we call them, "*ancient landmarks*;" and a consequent exaltation of *second* principles, or modern red-tapeism in their place.

There can be no question but that the Mark degree was anciently an inherent element in every R.A., if not in every M. M. Lodge; and just as any true Masons wherever met, constituted a lodge, without any warrant from a superior body, because there was anciently no superior body to grant one; so, wherever there was a chapter or a lodge, the Mark degree was conferred. Now however the degree has become isolated; and the question arises, how are Mark Masters to perpetuate their Order?

Some Brethren are for going to the G.C. of Scotland

for a warrant. Some again, priding themselves upon a time-immemorial existence, continue their independent working; while others have obtained the sanction of a Scotch Chapter for doing in London what that Chapter would do for them if they were in Aberdeen.

We foresee endless conflicts of Jurisdictions unless first principles are kept steadily in view, and red tape stoutly resisted. We can see no reason for asking from Scotland for authority to separate degrees which ought to be united, and which, anyhow, Scotland has no power to dissociate. If Mark Masons find themselves unable to work in a Craft Lodge, owing to the *veto* of the G.L. of England, they are at perfect liberty to work separately and to form Lodges wherever a sufficient number of Mark Masons can be assembled to do so. Or they may, if they please, do as the four London Lodges did in 1717, meet together and constitute a united body under the name of a G.L. This latter course has been adopted by several influential and distinguished Brethren, who have nominated Lord LEIGH their G.M.; and we think it will be found to be of advantage to the degree that as many Lodges as possible should join this associated body. A powerful organisation will thus be formed at once national and comprehensive, which cannot fail to result in the extension and consolidation of Mark Masonry.

GRAND LODGE, JUNE 3rd, 1857.

Published by the authority of the M. W. the G. M.

The Quarterly Communication was held on the 3rd inst.: the M. W. G. M. the Earl of Zetland presiding; supported by Bros. T. Hall, Prov. G. M. Cambridge, as D. G. M.; Earl of Durham, S. G. W.; H. Fenwick, M.P., J. G. W.; Rev. J. E. Cox, G. Chap.; I. Henderson, G. Reg.; W. Gray Clarke, G. Sec.; F. Roxburgh, S. G. D.; S. B. Wilson, J. G. D.; W. Jennings, G. Dir. Cer.; Thos. Hutchings, G. S. B.; C. G. Horsley, G. Org.; W. Farnfield, Asst. G. Sec.; Joseph Smith, G. P.; with several P. G. M.s; Past Grand Officers; &c., &c.

Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form—the Minutes of the Quarterly Communication of March 4th were read, upon which

V. W. Bro. HENDERSON, G. R., proposed, that so much of them as enacted that no person not being a Brother should be allowed to be present at any of the Masonic Festivals be not confirmed. It was on all hands allowed, that the Grand Stewards discharged their duties in a most excellent manner; and he therefore was at a loss to see what occasion there was for the introduction of the rule referred to, which would have the effect of interfering with their arrangements. In addition to their providing the banquet at the Grand Festival on a most liberal scale, they also furnished the Brethren with a musical entertainment; but if the Grand Lodge were now to confirm the law laid down in the minutes, the effect of it would be to prevent them from doing so. In these remarks, he referred only to the Grand Festival, for there was nothing strictly Masonic in the Charity Festivals, with the exception of the circumstance that the Brethren who attended them appeared in Masonic clothing. All these entertainments were witnessed—not only by those who never could be Masons, the ladies,—but also by waiters who were not Masons.

W. Bro. SLIGHT had great pleasure in seconding the motion. It was perfectly clear to his mind, that the proposed alteration in the law could only refer to the Grand Festival, as the entertainments in support of the separate charities were not strictly speaking Masonic meetings. As regarded the Grand Festival, the Grand Stewards were bound to see that the regulations laid down by the M. W. the G. M. for its management were fully carried out. Having lately served the office of Grand Steward, he (Bro. Slight) must say that he saw in them nothing to bear out the proposal, that no person who was not a Mason should be allowed to sit down at any of their Masonic banquets. If it had been the desire of the G. M. that all non-Masons should be excluded, the regulations to which he referred would have expressly stated so. The worthy Brother, who on the occasion of the last quarterly communication proposed the resolution which now appeared

on the minutes, stated that it was his intention in bringing it forward to exclude from their banquets musical gentlemen who were not Masons. To the expediency of such a course, he (Bro. Slight) would for one demur, as he thought the services of those gentlemen highly advantageous to the charities. At the last Festival in aid of the funds of the Girls' School, they had had the gratuitous services of one of the most distinguished musicians at present in this country, Bro. Bottesini; but they would have been deprived of his valuable services, had they not allowed him to bring with him his accompanist who was not a Mason. It was of course natural that they should employ musical gentlemen who were Brethren in preference to those who were not; but he thought that, until it could be shown that the present system led to insecurity or actual evil, the Grand Stewards should be left free and unimpeded in their actions.

W. Bro. H. G. WARREN opposed the proposition of Bro. Henderson, because he considered that the rule laid down in the resolution, which he had had the honor to carry at the last Quarterly communication and which now appeared on the minutes, was in strict conformity with the Book of Constitutions, as might be seen by referring to page 22, where it was enacted that all Masons should have access to the Grand Festival. Now to him it appeared, that if it had been intended that all persons might have access to the Festival, there was no reason for laying down the regulation that all Masons should have it. The word 'masons,' he conceived, clearly indicated that none others should be present. He denied the truth of the construction put upon his motion, that it would have the effect of keeping the ladies away from their banquets. He could safely say that he had never brought it forward for that purpose. The ladies did not dine with the brethren on the occasion of any one of these festivals, but came into the gallery when dinner was over. He had no objection to musical gentlemen doing the same; but knowing that certain Masonic communications passed between the Brethren while at dinner, he did not think it right that the uninitiated should have an opportunity of observing them. If it were allowable to introduce to one of those banquets a singer who was not a Mason, he could see nothing to prevent his inviting his personal friends to participate in the festivities. Indeed he believed that if they were to throw those banquets open to the public at large, their doing so would prove highly beneficial to the funds of the several charities, as the noblemen and other Brethren who acted as Stewards would very likely bring a large number of non-Masonic friends to support them. What he complained of was the inconsistency of the present system; and he thought that if they excluded one, they ought to exclude all.

W. Bro. Rev. G. R. PORTAL:—M. W. Grand Master, it is, I confess, with some surprise, that I hear a brother, generally so well acquainted with the Book of Constitutions as the worthy brother who last addressed the Lodge, fall into the mistake he has. It seems to me perfectly evident, that the law he has quoted, in saying that it is competent for 'all Masons' to be present at the banquet of the Grand Festival, means to guard against the supposition, that only those Masons who are members of the Grand Lodge are qualified to be present, and has no reference to the presence of singers who are not Masons. It does not mean 'Masons' as against the outer world, but as against the members of the Grand Lodge only. And the reason why I think that the resolution ought not to be confirmed is, because I am persuaded that we shall greatly promote the cause of Freemasonry by allowing strangers to associate with us on such occasions. I know that in a part of the country with which I am very well acquainted, such has been the result of a freedom of intercourse between the members of the Craft and the uninitiated. In the Isle of Wight, the Prov. G. M., Bro. Fleming allowed not only gentlemen, who were not Masons, but also ladies to be present on the occasion of the Provincial Grand Festival; and the consequence has been, that a very great impetus has been given to Masonry in that province. Indeed so much so, that one gentleman who is not a Mason, allowed the P. G. M. to hold the Prov. G. L. in his garden. For this reason, if for no other, I feel bound to support the motion of the G. Registrar for the non-confirmation of the resolution.

W. Bro. ROXBURGH, S. G. D., supported the motion; urging the arguments of Bro. Slight, in the justness of whose views, his experience as a Steward at the late festival of the Girls' School led him to concur.

The M. W. the G. M. then put the motion of Bro. Henderson, which was carried by a large majority.

The minutes, with that exception, were then confirmed.

ELECTION OF BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

Immediately on the distribution of the balloting papers, Bro. SAVAGE rose for the purpose of withdrawing his name. It had been placed on the list without his sanction, and he declined to serve.

The Brethren nominated as scrutineers having collected the papers, withdrew in order to ascertain the result of the election.

THE KING OF HANOVER.

The M. W. GRAND MASTER then laid before the Grand Lodge the copy of a letter which his Lordship addressed to the R. W. Bro. Ludwig Herrig, Representative of the Grand Lodge of England at the Grand Lodge Royal York at Berlin, requesting that R. W. Brother to represent the Grand Lodge of England at Hanover, on the occasion of the initiation into Freemasonry of His Majesty the King of Hanover. The Report made by the R. W. Bro. Herrig of the proceedings which took place; and also a letter from His Majesty the King of Hanover. Also a letter to Prince Frederick William of Prussia; and H. R. H.'s reply.

All which documents were ordered to be placed on the minutes.

THE CANADIAN LODGES.

The M. W. GRAND MASTER next laid before the Grand Lodge a copy of the communication which he addressed to the Prov. Grand Masters of the three Prov. Grand Lodges in Canada, and the answer which he had received from the Prov. Grand Secretary of Canada West, and a communication on the subject addressed to him by the W. Bro. W. W. Beach.

R. W. Bro. HALL, P. G. M. of Cambridgeshire, moved that these communications be referred to the Colonial Board to report on them. V. W. Bro. HENDERSON, G. R., seconded the motion.

V. W. Bro. COX, G. C., inquired of Bro. Hall, if he were to understand that those documents were to be laid before the Grand Lodge in September next.

The M. W. GRAND MASTER said, that if it was the wish of Grand Lodge that they should be now read, he had not the slightest objection to their being so.

W. Bro. SAVAGE said that it did appear to him extraordinary to refer them to the Colonial Board, before they themselves knew anything about them.

W. Bro. JONES thought they ought to be printed and placed before Grand Lodge, before they were called upon to take any steps in reference to them. They related to a matter, which had created a great deal of interest and excitement in the Craft, and he therefore thought the G. L. ought to be in a position to understand the question fully.

W. Bro. BINCKES would suggest that the difficulty might be got rid of, if these documents were referred to the Colonial Board, with the understanding that they were to be printed *in extenso* and appended to their report, no matter what the nature of that report might be.

The M. W. GRAND MASTER stated, that the only objection he had to their now being read at full length was, that they would occupy the whole of the evening. He therefore thought it better to refer them to the Colonial Board to report on them.

Bro. BINCKES agreed with the M. W. the G. M., that that was the most convenient course to adopt; but he wished the G. L. to have a specific understanding, that whatever might be the report of the Board, those documents should be printed and presented with it.

W. Bro. Rev. G. R. PORTAL:—Most W. G. M., I think it would meet the desire of all parties, both those who wish that the time of the Grand Lodge should not be occupied by the reading of those documents, and those who are of opinion that we should not be kept in ignorance of their contents,—if the Brethren will agree to the following resolution: That they be referred to the Colonial Board, with instructions to have them printed and to present them as an appendix to the report.

W. Bro. BINCKES said the resolution completely adopted his views, and he had therefore great pleasure in seconding it.

The M. W. the G. M. having put the motion, it was agreed to.

A VISITOR.

At this stage of the proceedings, Bro. JENNINGS, G. D. C., announced that David M'Clérke, representing himself to be the Grand Master of Connecticut, United States, was at the door seeking admission. The M. W. the G. M. enquired if there was any Brother present who had any knowledge of M'Clérke; and there being none to vouch for him, the G. S. D., the G. J. D., and the G. D. C. were directed to put the visitor through the necessary examination. They accordingly proceeded to do so; and after some delay, reported that M'Clérke had with him the certificates of the higher degrees in Freemasonry, but no voucher as to his rank. On examination, they found him to be in possession of the degree of an installed Master.

The M. W. the G. M. then ordered the admission of Bro. M'Clérke, who was conducted between the Deacons to the dais, and introduced to the M. W. the G. M.

THE LATE GRAND SECRETARY.

The M. W. GRAND MASTER, in pursuance of the notice of motion which he had given at the Grand Festival, rose to move: That in consideration of the faithful and distinguished services rendered by Bro. William H. White to the Craft, during a period exceeding fifty-five years, the Grand Lodge grants to him as a retiring pension an amount equal to the full salary and gratuity he has been hitherto receiving as G. Sec. His Lordship said, I think the G. L. will agree with me, that we ought to bestow on Bro. White some signal mark of our approbation, after the fifty-five years' services which he has as Grand Secretary rendered to the Craft. I know of no one, and indeed I think there never was any one, whose services in the cause of Freemasonry have been more zealous or more important, or who devoted more time and attention towards promoting its best interests. I therefore feel confident, that every Brother present will agree with me, that in paying this compliment to our worthy Bro. White, we are only discharging our duty. (Hear, hear.) It should also be borne in mind, that in conferring on him this mark of our high consideration, we not only shew ourselves grateful to him for the past, but we give him a retainer for future services, (Hear, hear) as it is by all means desirable that our new Secretary should have assistance and instruction from one, so conversant with every particular in relation to Masonry as his venerable predecessor is. Bro. White is so well-known to you all, that I shall not add one word more of panegyric; but I shall conclude by moving the resolution, which I hope will be carried by your unanimous vote. For myself I can say, that during the time I have been G. M., I have received from Bro. White a great amount of aid and service, the value of which I cannot find words to express; and I remember hearing my illustrious predecessor, the late Duke of Sussex, on several occasions state the same thing with respect to himself.

R. W. Bro. HALL, P. G. M. of Cambridgeshire.—M. W. G. M. and Brethren, I undertake the duty of seconding this motion, although I take it to be already seconded by your unanimous approbation. To me no task can be more pleasing, than to take part in paying Bro. White this debt of gratitude; at the same time that I cannot but feel pained, that a connection, which has so long existed between him and us, has now officially come to an end. In agreeing to this motion, we shall not only show our respect and veneration for Bro. White, but pay an additional tribute to the memory of H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex, our late G. M., who so highly prized our venerable brother. I hope this debt of our gratitude to Bro. White, if it be not out of place to wish for the continuance of a debt, may last many years; and that our worthy Brother may be long spared to enjoy the pension which we now vote him.

The motion was then put, and amid great applause carried unanimously.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

The M. W. GRAND MASTER then submitted the Report of the proceedings of this Institution, with the alterations in the Rules and Regulations as adopted at a Special General Meeting of the Governors and Subscribers, for the approval and sanction of Grand Lodge.

The proposed alterations in the Rules and Regulations are as follow:—

"A Special General Meeting shall be held on the requisition, in writing, of twelve Life Governors, instead of eighteen; ten to be a quorum; should that number not be in attendance within fifteen minutes of the time specified in the advertisement, no business shall be transacted.

"A Donation of Fifty Pounds, in one or more payments within five years, instead of three years, shall constitute the Donor a Vice-President of the Institution.

"That the Law requiring one-third of the Annual Subscriptions to be invested, be abrogated.

"No Brother having an income of £25 per annum shall be admitted to the benefit of the Institution. Formerly it was £20.

"On the death of any Male Annuitant leaving a widow (to whom he was married not less than ten years before his election, and who shall be not less than fifty-five years of age, or altogether incapacitated from obtaining her support) not otherwise provided for, she shall be entitled, if approved by the Committee, to receive from the Widows' Fund one-half of the pension of such Annuitant, and, if she be a resident in the Asylum, to continue such residence until the third Election next after his death, in order to give her the opportunity of applying for Election on the Widows' Fund."

A protracted discussion ensued on the reading of these various proposed alterations, in which Bros. SAVAGE, SPIERS, DOBIE, WARREN, HERVEY, SMITH, G. P., and JONES, took part; they were submitted

seriatim, and at length adopted, not however without a division on the last clause, which was carried by 106 against 66.

The debate was suspended when at its full height by the entrance of the V. W. Bro. W. H. WHITE, P. G. S., who experienced a most cordial reception, the Grand Deacons conducting him to the Dais, when the M. W. G. M. in gracious terms announced to him the unanimous vote at which G. L. had arrived.

V. W. Bro. WHITE, who seemed deeply affected, and was from that circumstance almost inaudible, said, that he felt completely overpowered and unable to thank G. L. not only for this signal mark of their favour with which they had just now honoured him, but for the great kindness he had invariably received at their hands; and he could only add, that as he had hitherto done so, he should continue to devote all his time and attention towards promoting the interests of the Craft.

It was then determined on the motion of V. W. Bro. Cox, G. C., according to the recommendation of the Board of Benevolence, that a Grant of £30 be made to Bro. Samuel W. Wood, of Lodge 33, London, and another of the same amount to Br. John Pearson, of Lodge 115, Benevolence.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

The M. W. GRAND MASTER then laid before Grand Lodge the Report of the Board of General Purposes, which was as follows:

"To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

"The Board of General Purposes beg to Report that, in pursuance of the Resolution of Grand Lodge, that the Laws relating to the period of the Meeting of the General Committee previously to the Quarterly Communications should be referred back to this Board, they have taken the subject into their consideration, and do now recommend for the approval of Grand Lodge that the following alterations be made in the Book of Constitutions—at page 20, to be inserted as a fresh paragraph:—

"In order that all Lodges may be duly informed of the business to come before Grand Lodge, the printed Report of the Proceedings of the last Grand Lodge shall be sent, together with the printed Copy of the Notices of Motion for the ensuing Grand Lodge, to all Lodges, at least ten days before each Quarterly Communication."

That, in consequence of the great increase of business in the Grand Secretary's Office, it has been found absolutely necessary to employ an additional Clerk since the 1st of January, at the weekly salary of £1 10s. That there being no prospect of any decrease of work, the Board recommend that the services of the Brother now employed be retained at the same salary.

"The Board considering it desirable that the remainder of the property situated in Queen's Court should belong to the Society, and the same having been offered for sale, negotiations have been entered on, and the Grand Superintendent of Works has been authorized to offer the sum of £3000 for the said property, consisting of 59, Great Queen Street, and all the houses on the west side of Queen's Court.

"A letter from Mr. Bacon, the tenant of the Hotel, was read, offering to rent the premises in Middle Yard, now in the occupation of Mr. Lambert, who quits at Midsummer. The Board, having taken the subject into consideration, recommend that the said premises be let to Mr. Bacon at an annual rent of £50, with an agreement to surrender the same at any quarter on receiving six months' notice.

"A letter from Mrs. Barton, wife of the late Grand Tyler, was read, stating her present state of destitution, and praying for some assistance. The Board beg to recommend the case to the sympathy and consideration of Grand Lodge, and pray their consent to the grant of £20, and that the same be paid to Mrs. Barton in weekly sums by the Grand Secretary."

This Report having been received,

R. W. Bro. DOBIE, P. G. R., moved the adoption of the paragraph:— "In order that all Lodges may be duly informed of the business to come before Grand Lodge, the printed Report of the Proceedings of the last Grand Lodge shall be sent, together with the printed Copy of the Notices of Motion for the ensuing Grand Lodge, to all Lodges, at least ten days before each Quarterly Communication."

Bro. ARIA inquired how, in case of a Brother's Lodge not being held within the ten days specified, he could be informed of what was to take place.

R. W. Bro. DOBIE said the Grand Sec. could do no more than send the communication to the place where the Lodge was held.

W. Bro. the Earl of CARNARVON:—M. W. G. M., there is on the paper a motion of the worthy Brother beside me (W. Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal) to carry out the same object. I conclude, therefore, that the present motion is equivalent to the other.

R. W. Bro. DOBIE replied that the proposal, if carried, would render Bro. Portal's motion unnecessary. The proposal was then agreed to, as were the verbal alterations in the Book of Constitutions, necessary to carrying it into effect. The other recommendations of the report were adopted without comment.

The GRAND SECRETARY then read a statement of accounts, from which it appeared the Fund of Benevolence had the sum of £16,500 invested; with a balance in their banker's hands of £1603 12s. 8d. The Fund of General Purposes had the sum of £6000 invested, with a balance in their banker's hands of £1358 1s. 6d.; and the sum of £500 was ordered to be invested from each balance.

THE CHARITY JEWEL.

W. Bro. Rev. G. R. PORTAL then rose to move the following resolution:—"That the Resolution confirmed in December last be rescinded, and that instead thereof it be enacted, That any Brother serving the Stewardship of the Festival of the Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and their Widows, in addition to those of the Boys' and Girls' Charities, be entitled to wear a clasp on the ribbon by which the Charity Medal is suspended; such clasp to be approved by the Board of General Purposes." He said it would be in the recollection of many present that in December last a resolution was adopted by Grand Lodge with a view to placing the Benevolent Fund on the same footing with the other Charities, with respect to allowing those Brethren who had served the office of Steward for it the right of wearing the Charity Jewel. He agreed in the principle that there should be no difference made with respect to the Charities; but the more he had since considered it, the more he thought that the mode proposed for carrying out that principle was faulty. (Hear, hear.) It was proposed to give the medal to any Brother who may serve the office of Steward at both the Boys' and the Benevolent Institution Festivals; but the medal itself bore on the face of it a figure of Charity, with a boy on one side and a girl on the other. It would thus be seen how extremely preposterous it would be to give the medal to any one who had not served as Steward at the Girls' festival also. What he proposed was, to allow those who had served as Stewards to the Benevolent Institution to wear the medal with a clasp on the ribbon, bearing an inscription to that effect: he was aware that it might be said that you thus force Brethren to serve both the Boys' and the Girls' festivals before they can obtain the Jewel or the Clasp. But there was no other way that he could see of obviating this difficulty; for the Medal we had got was the property of the Schools, and all we could do was to modify it so as to suit the Benevolent Institution also. Since he placed his notice on the paper, it had been suggested to him that as the G. M. was the fountain of honour to the Craft, the motion should set forth that the badge was to be granted by him. It had been also suggested to him that it should have a retrospective as well as a prospective action, and that those who have already served those offices should not be allowed to remain in a different position from those who may hereafter serve them. He would therefore, with the permission of G. L., so modify his resolution as to embrace the spirit of those suggestions. It would then stand thus:—"That the resolution confirmed in December last be rescinded, and that the M. W. G. M. be requested to permit any Brother who has served, or shall at any future time serve, the Stewardship of the Festival of the Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, in addition to those of the Boys and Girls' Charities, be entitled to wear a clasp on the ribbon by which the Charity Medal is suspended, such clasp to be approved by the Board of General Purposes."

W. Bro. JOHN HERVEY, P. S. G. D., had great pleasure in seconding the proposition, and he hoped that not only would the motion adopted in December last be rescinded, but that the motion of Bro. Portal might be carried.

W. Bro. WARREN said that before the motion was put he wished to make a few observations. The motion of Bro. Portal would not, he thought, in any way carry out the object of his original motion, which was to place all the charities upon the same footing; whereas should the present motion be carried, it would place the Annuity Fund on a lower ground than the other charities. He had frequently heard many objections urged against such being the case, and although he would not stand to his original motion, he would suggest that the Charity Jewel should be given for the Benevolent Fund and that the clasps should indicate the charities which the wearer had served.

W. Bro. the Earl of CARNARVON would make one observation upon what had fallen from the Bro. who last addressed the Lodge. His objections to his worthy friend's proposal seemed to be that, by the motion before the Lodge, some special distinction would be conferred

on the Boys' and Girls' School; whereas all should be on the same footing, and he therefore proposed a special badge for the Annuity Fund. He entirely overlooked the practical effect of what he had proposed. He would give this medal to a Bro. who served only one of the Charities, and he would give no more to one who had served both the school festivals, so that he would, in fact, destroy that equality of footing which he professed himself so anxious to uphold.

W. Bro. JONES thought the simplest and most effectual mode of meeting the difficulty would be to have a general Charity Medal, and grant a distinctive clasp for each stewardship served.

W. Bro. BRISCKES, though he had seconded the original resolution, could not but admit the objections to which it was open. He had intended to suggest the sinking of an additional die, so that the medals may be struck from any two; but then there were instances of Brethren who had served the stewardship of the three Institutions. He was disposed to think that the plan proposed by Bro. Jones was the best that could be adopted.

The M. W. G. M. said there seemed to be an unanimity of opinion that the resolution of December last should be rescinded, and he should therefore put that part of the question first.

The motion was unanimously agreed to, after which the M. W. G. M. put Bro. Portal's proposal to the Lodge, and declared it carried.

THE SCRUTINEERS.

This question having been disposed of, the Scrutineers were announced, and reported the following as the result of the Ballot:—

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

W. M.					
	No.	Votes.		No.	Votes.
Carnarvon, Earl of	10	145	Scott, W. P.	2	101
Slight, F.	109	136	Wheeler, R. W.	324	101
Symonds, John	21	112	Roberts, E.	914	86
Gooch, D.	167	107			
P. M.					
	No.	Votes.		No.	Votes.
Young, W.	11	129	Bradford, N.	54	104
Portal, Rev. G. R.	460	125	Hopwood, J. S. S.	7	103
Blake, J. J.	1	112	Webb, L.	4	76
Bisgood, T.	8	108			

The M. W. G. M. then nominated the following:—

Roxburgh, F., President	Hervey, John
Dobie, A.	Wilson, S. B.
Henderson, John	Jennings, R. W.
White, W. H.	Evans, J. L.
Havers, John	Smith, Joseph
Parkinson, Thomas	

COLONIAL BOARD.

	No.	Votes.		No.	Votes.
Hervey, John	7	157	Wilkinson, G.	21	140
Beech, W., M.P.	10	153	Lambert, G.	234	139
Shuttleworth, M. H.	225	144	Smith, Joseph	206	134
Portal, Rev. G. R.	460	141			

The M. W. G. M. Nominated

Col. BURLTON, P. P. G. M., Bengal, President
Col. RAMSAY, P. G. M., Bengal
S. RAWSON, P. G. M., China

W. Bro. WARREN moved that henceforth the use of the temple be granted to the Stewards of the four Masonic festivals for a music room at the conclusion of such festivals, and said he grounded his motion upon the dissatisfaction which was felt as regarded the accommodation of the Glee Room on the occasion of each of the festivals by those Brethren who attended with their female friends. A great deal had in the course of the evening been said about the advantage of having ladies present at those festivals, and surely if there was an advantage in having them present, it was but fair and just that they should have every proper accommodation. In the temple they would have that accommodation to an ample extent. He did not intend that refreshments should be served in the temple, but that on the occasions specified it should be applied purely to the purposes of music.

W. Bro. LAMBERT seconded the motion.

V. W. Bro. HENDERSON, G. R., objected to it, because the temple had been solemnly consecrated to Masonic purposes; whereas, Bro. Warren's proposal would lead to its desecration. He did not join in the complaints against the Glee Room; for he had in that hall heard their late G. M., H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex, congratulate the Craft on having a room so convenient for the purposes of music.

W. Bro. WARREN then consented to withdraw the motion.

W. Bro. WARREN then next proposed—"That notices of motion once given shall stand on the paper of business in their order of precedence, until considered by Grand Lodge withdrawn, or otherwise disposed of;" and said that it was a motion against which he could see no valid objection, as it was most unfair that Brethren, who had

notices of motion on the books for a length of time, should at each quarterly communication find them thrown to the bottom of the list, and precedence given to notices of a recent date. If the proposals in those notices were good, the sooner they were carried into effect the better; and if on the contrary they were worthless or injurious, it would, he conceived, be a great advantage to have them removed from the paper as speedily as possible.

W. Bro. BINCKES had great pleasure in seconding the motion, as he thought it must have a good practical effect. He was himself a sufferer by the system hitherto in vogue, having had a notice of motion on the paper since September last, without ever having an opportunity of bringing it forward. He alluded to his notice of motion for an increased grant to the Widows' Annuity Fund to the extent of £500. He had repeated that notice over and over again, and had attended in his place to move it, but without having an opportunity of doing so. The proposal of Bro. Warren would, he thought, do away with such inconvenience, and would save Grand Lodge a great deal of trouble.

W. Bro. TAYLOR remarked that the motion seemed to have a twofold object: first, that all the old notices should formally take precedence of the new ones; and secondly, that the law which required that all motions should, before being placed upon the paper, be brought before the Board of Masters. That the old notices should take precedence of the new ones he saw no objection to, and he fully concurred in the observations which had fallen from Bros. Warren and Binckes; for it went on the good old principle of "first come first served." With respect to the second part of the proposition that the notices should continue on the paper, without being, from time to time, renewed, it was a proposal with which he could not agree. He could not agree with Bro. Warren that the present system pressed hardly upon any Brother. That Bro., at all events, did not that evening seem to labour under any difficulty, as almost all the motions which had been brought forward proceeded from him. (Laughter.) He would now conclude his observations by moving, as an amendment, the addition of a proviso to the effect that a notice of renewal should each time be given to the Board of Masters.

W. Bro. ARIA thought G. L. ought to go by the rule of similar assemblies. It was the practice of all deliberative bodies that notices of motions should be considered in the order of their precedence. He thought that the observations of both the mover and second were well grounded.

W. Bro. SYMONDS thought Bro. Aria intended to second the motion of Bro. Taylor, but as he had not done so, he (Bro. Symonds) would now do so, as, while he thought the right of precedence should be maintained, he was strongly of opinion that it was necessary to save the expense of printing, and trouble, that notice of renewal should be served on the Board of Masters.

R. W. Bro. DOBIE suggested that the objection raised against the motion might be removed if Bro. Warren would consent to insert after the word precedence, the words, "if renewed by notice at the Board of Masters."

V. W. Bro. HENDERSON said he agreed in the suggestion of Bro. Dobie.

W. Bro. WARREN having consented to Bro. Dobie's alteration the motion was agreed to, and it being now past Eleven o'Clock, Grand Lodge was closed, in ample form, and with solemn prayer.

THE EARL OF CARNARVON AT STONEHOUSE.

From the *Freemasons' Magazine*.

THE EARL OF CARNARVON visited the *Lodge of Sincerity*, No. 224, on the 26th of March, when he was met by a large number of Brethren from the different Lodges in the three towns. After the ordinary business had been concluded, the W. M. Bro. J. C. Hancock begged the noble Brother to express his opinion upon the present position of the Craft, in accordance with which desire he said, "He was gratified to have had this opportunity of making the personal acquaintance of so many Brethren in that neighbourhood. He had heard with pleasure of the fame of the Lodges, and of the number of Freemasons in Plymouth, Devonport, and Stonehouse; but he heard with still greater pleasure the expression of their interest in the welfare of the Order. If those to whom he had the pleasure of now speaking had read the recent proceedings in Grand Lodge, they would be aware that he had felt most anxious that the country Lodges should take an interest in the business of Grand Lodge. It was a main element of their prosperity and of the right administration of their affairs, that the country Lodges should show

an interest in the proceedings of Grand Lodge. As individual Brethren were represented in their Lodges, so should the country Lodges find their representation in Grand Lodge. That this was often otherwise, was in a great measure the fault of the Lodges themselves; and the resumption of this principle of representation, as it would have anticipated, so now it would obviate many difficulties, and cure many evils which had grown up. It had been his fortune to press upon Grand Lodge three subjects, two of which affected to a considerable extent the restoration of the representative character of Grand Lodge. Having regard to the numbers of Freemasons and their diffusion over the country, the colonies, and the associated Lodges of other countries, English Freemasonry might be viewed as a kingdom; and its policy, like that of a kingdom, had three great relations—foreign, colonial, and domestic. With their permission he would say a few words on the existing position of Grand Lodge with respect to each of these interests. In the first place, in connection with their foreign relations, there was a subject of great importance to some of their Brethren in foreign countries at present before Grand Lodge; he referred to the persecutions of Freemasons by the Roman Catholic clergy—persecutions which no doubt sprung out of a misconception of the character of Freemasonry, and the objects it had in view. In all ages Freemasonry had been regarded with suspicion, and assailed in turn by calumny, and by open oppression; but nowhere was the prejudice against it stronger than in Roman Catholic countries. In Malta, the Mauritius, Trinidad, and at Hong-Kong, Freemasons had been deprived of their civil and religious privileges, and had been interdicted from the holy offices of baptism, marriage, and burial, by the Roman Catholic clergy. Facts proving but too plainly and painfully that this was the case were before Grand Lodge, and, as others had failed to do so, he could not avoid calling attention to the subject; and with the view, if not to remedy the evil and to convince the oppressors, at least to place them in a false position, to render the persecution itself more difficult, and to prove to our foreign and suffering Brethren that they had the sympathy of English Freemasons, he had proposed that a statement of the principles of Freemasonry be drawn up by the Board of General Purposes for circulation. He believed such a statement, being authorized by the Grand Lodge, would have had the effect of showing how much the persecutors had mistaken its purpose, and the character of its members: it would have shown them that its first and fundamental principle was a recognition of religion, and its second a rigid non-intervention in the politics of any country. That proposal was conceived in a moderate spirit, and expressed in temperate language: but it unfortunately did not obtain the concurrence of Grand Lodge. It was opposed by various Brethren on the Dais—first on one ground, then on another; now because it proposed too much, then because it proposed too little; and at last seemed to be shelved in a manner very prejudicial to the dignity, the justice, and the interest of the Craft at home and abroad. He regretted to say that the real objection at the root of these minor cavils seemed to be a fact which he had stated in the course of the debate little creditable to Masonic administration, but which had been unchallenged and uncontradicted. It was this: the G. M. of France had addressed a letter to our authorities in England, dwelling on the oppression of foreign Masons, and requesting their co-operation. This letter had remained buried in the official archives of England for nine or ten months, not only unattended to, but without meeting with the usual courtesy of a formal acknowledgment. He next adverted to the colonial relations of English Freemasonry; without entering at length into the history of their claims, their repeated complaints, the neglect of their remonstrances, and the revulsion of feeling which had followed upon the treatment of their interests, and which had converted Canada into a disaffected province, he called particular attention to the present position of affairs. He alluded to the concessions announced by the Most Worshipful G. M. at the recent meeting of Grand Lodge, and expressed a hope that concessions made in so conciliatory a manner, carrying with them all the influence which was derivable from so high an authority, and accompanied by an honourable and candid acknowledgment, which set no unbecoming example to many of those who had assumed the position of advisers to the Most Worshipful G. M., would prove successful. He could not however disguise that these concessions came tardily, that the feeling in Canada in favour of independence had grown very strong, and that it was more than doubtful if their colonial supremacy could now be preserved. He was afraid that in this matter they had gone too near that fatal rock, 'Too Late,' which had shipwrecked so many empires, dynasties, and governments. This was a matter upon which the country Lodges would have done well to have put their views before Grand Lodge. With respect to domestic affairs, his lordship explained at some length the constitution and working

of Grand Lodge. Properly it was the parliament of Freemasonry, the representative and exponent of all the English Lodges—practically it was not so. Country Lodges were ill-informed on the subjects to be brought forward, and were therefore, with certain exceptions, seldom represented. He pointed out the intention of the constitution in the establishment of a Board of Masters, as a committee of information for the benefit of the country Lodges. With reference to this object, and to meet present requirements; he had proposed the restoration of these functions of the Board of Masters, by means of circulars, to be issued to the country Lodges, and to contain notices of the business to come before Grand Lodge in time to admit the opportunity of their expressing opinions upon those notices through their representatives in Grand Lodge. This measure, after having been affirmed, in principle, by Grand Lodge, had been referred to the Board of General Purposes, to be carried into effect. The Board had agreed to a scheme, and according to custom, it devolved upon the chairman, Bro. Dobie, G. R., to move it in Grand Lodge. This, contrary to the supposed duty of all chairmen, and to the custom of all representative assemblies, he had, on his own responsibility, refused to do. Thus this most important measure, involving an act of simple justice to the country Lodges, after being over and over again affirmed by Grand Lodge, was shelved by a discreditable manœuvre. With respect to the part he had taken in recent proceedings in Grand Lodge, the noble Brother touched upon the charges sometimes brought against him and others, of a wish for innovation. He distinctly denied any wish to introduce changes into the Order. To talk of change in the principles of the Order was simply absurd. They admitted of no change, of no possibility of change; and to talk of real changes in the constitution of English Masonry, was nearly as idle. The constitution was a very good one if adhered to. It was not change, but restoration,—the maintenance of constitutional relationship between the Grand Master and Grand Lodge, between Grand Lodge and its component parts, between English and Colonial Lodges,—that he desired to see; and on those who seemed to forget these great principles, and who charged him with innovation, he retorted the accusation of change. It was the change which had cast a chilling apathy through too large a part of the Craft, the change which looked with indifference on the persecutions of foreign Brethren, the change which had alienated Canada, and which would now exile the country Lodges from their share in the discussion and management of the public business of the Order to which they were entitled by the letter and spirit of the constitution, that he condemned and deprecated." After some further remarks, the noble Brother concluded by saying—"That he entertained sanguine hopes for the future; that by a strong feeling and expression of interest on the part of the country Lodges in the affairs of the Craft, by mutual forbearance at home, by justice and conciliation abroad, the Brethren would surmount their present difficulties, restore the walls which had fallen down, and build up in its old symmetry the beautiful Temple of their Ancient Order."

The Noble Brother was greeted by a hearty round of applause at the conclusion of his speech, which was listened to with earnest attention throughout; the silence being broken now and then by responsive applause at the more eloquent portions, or appreciative cries of "hear, hear," at some of the more telling points.

Bro. R. Dowse, P. M., who was for many years connected with Lodges in Canada, confirmed the statement of Lord Carnarvon, as to the neglect of the communications from Canada to the G. L. Personally he knew it to have been the case in respect to Lodge 274, at Kingston. Brethren had been five and six years without G. L. certificates, and the only means they had of knowing that fees had been received, was by the banker's acknowledgment.

Bro. the VISCOUNT VALLEFORT expressed his interest in Freemasonry, and his appreciation of the views just enunciated by his noble Brother, Lord Carnarvon.

The W. M. in the name of the Lodge, thanked Brother the Earl of Carnarvon for his valuable speech, and said he hoped and believed it would have the effect of increasing the interest taken by the Lodges in this neighbourhood (the whole of which he was glad to see represented on this occasion) in the proceedings of Grand Lodge.

Bro. the EARL OF CARNARVON acknowledged the compliment of the W. M., and said he felt obliged for the opportunity of attending a Lodge in Stonehouse, and of meeting so many zealous Brethren.

THE M. W. THE G. M. AT OXFORD.

The P. G. L. of Oxfordshire was held on the 16th ult., under the auspices of the Apollo University Lodge, No. 460, and was honoured by the presence of the M. W. the G. M.

The G. M. arrived at 12 o'clock, and shortly after, having kindly consented to permit brethren of the province and others who desired it to be introduced to him, the presentation took place in the banquet room, the brethren being presented to the G. M. by the Dep. Prov. G. M., Br. Spiers, P. G. S. B. The G. M. was surrounded by several of the grand officers, and several brethren holding high rank in various provinces. After the presentation the members of the province took their places in the Lodge.

The Prov. G. Lodge being opened, and the arrival of the G. M. being announced, he was escorted by the Prov. G. officers, and others holding high rank in the Craft, to the Lodge, where he was received with Masonic honours.

The business of the Prov. G. Lodge was then proceeded with by the Prov. G. Secretary, Br. Martyn, reading the minutes of the last meeting, which were duly confirmed.

The Prov. G. M. then rose, and, addressing the G. M., said he had peculiar pride and pleasure in presenting to him, in the name of the brethren of the province, an address, expressive of their loyalty and attachment to him as the head of the Craft in this country—their appreciation of the many services which he had rendered to Freemasonry—the kind and conciliatory spirit which he had manifested on all occasions—and their sense of the high honour which he had conferred on the province by his presence on this occasion. The Dep. Prov. G. M. then read the address, which was as follows:—

"We, the Provincial Grand Master, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and Brethren, of the Province of Oxfordshire, beg gratefully to express our deep sense of the honour conferred upon us by your Lordship's presence at this meeting of our Provincial Grand Lodge; and we gladly take advantage of the opportunity to convey to your Lordship the assurance of our attachment, and the desire of the several Brethren constituting the various Lodges of this province to support your Lordship in your administration of the important and onerous duties devolving upon you as ruler of the Craft.

"The long connexion of your Lordship's family with Freemasonry, and the valuable services rendered by them, would of themselves have occasioned feelings of respectful regard towards your Lordship; but, to the interest which your Lordship has manifested in the welfare of the Order, and the advantages which have resulted from the exercise of your sound and considerate judgment during the many years that you have presided over the Society, are attributable the strong feelings of affectionate attachment which are entertained towards your Lordship throughout the whole body of Freemasons.

"It would not become us, in presenting this address to your Lordship, to dilate upon the many benefits which have accrued to the Society under your beneficial sway; but we confidently refer to the continued accession of members to the ranks of the Order, together with the unexampled prosperity attained by the charities connected with and supported by Freemasons, as affording the most indubitable and gratifying proofs of the advantages resulting from your Lordship's administration.

"Gratefully acknowledging our obligations to your Lordship, we earnestly supplicate the G. A. of the Universe that your Lordship may long be spared to preside over the Craft, and thus consolidate that Peace and Union which should always distinguish the society of Freemasons, and which, under your Lordship's salutary government, has been so happily attained.

"Signed on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge, this 16th May, 1857.

"HENRY ATKINS BOWYER, Prov. G. M."

The G. M. rose and said—"I beg to return you my most grateful thanks for the honour which you have paid me by the presentation of this address, and for the kindness with which you have received me in this Grand Lodge. I do consider it a very high honour to be received by so distinguished a body of my brethren, and I feel truly grateful to you for this enthusiastic reception. It is particularly gratifying to me to find that during the many years I have ruled over the Craft I have met the approbation and support of so distinguished a body of Masons; for I can assure you it has been my most anxious desire to promote, as far as lay in my power, peace, harmony, and union, among all ranks of Masons. (Much applause.) I will not withhold from you the assurance that I have been much gratified and struck with the manner in which Masonry is carried out in this province; for it has been productive of the happiest and best results, not only in this province, but throughout the whole Masonic world. Nor could it well be otherwise, for you have an influx of Masons, highly educated men, who come to Oxford, the distinguished seat of learning, joining the Lodges of this province from every part of the kingdom; and when they leave this University they carry away with them the Masonic knowledge and experience which they have gained here, and apply them practically in those various spheres in which their after-life is cast. (Much applause.) The diffusion of Masonry by enlightened men emanating from this province, and scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land, must necessarily exercise a very beneficial influence, and tend to raise the character of the Craft. (Much applause.) It is to me most gratifying to be received with such a warmth of feeling in this distinguished province, and once more I beg you to accept my grateful thanks for the honour you paid me, and for the great kindness you have evinced towards me."—The G. M. resumed his seat amid applause from all sides.

The Prov. G. M. congratulated the Brethren on the auspicious circumstances under which they met, and on the general state of Masonry throughout the province. It was gratifying to him to announce that the best principles of Freemasonry had been acted on throughout the province, and that there had not been the slightest dissension either in or out of any of the lodges; it was a very gratifying circumstance, and he trusted that the great principles of Masonry would still be preserved and maintained in this province, and that they would exhibit that unity and fraternity, without which Masonry would be but a name, and "become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal."—The Prov. G. M. then reviewed the progress made by the various Lodges in the province—the number of meetings they had held—the initiation and other ceremonies—and the financial condition of each Lodge. He congratulated them all on their prosperity, and complimented the Apollo Lodge, in particular, on the great accession to its ranks of Brethren who were probably destined to take a prominent part in Masonry in future years.

After the G. officers for the year had been appointed, the P. G. M. presented a P. M.'s jewel to Br. Hester, P. M. of the Alfred Lodge, No. 425, on behalf of that Lodge; after which, various sums were voted to the Masonic and other charities.

The Grand Lodge was then closed in due form with solemn prayer, after which the Brethren separated.

The Festival was celebrated in the evening by a banquet in the Town Hall. There were there nearly all the Present and Past Provincial Grand Officers, the Officers of the Alfred, Apollo, Churchill, and Cherrwell Lodges, and most of the Brethren belonging to these several Lodges, amounting altogether to upwards of two hundred.

On the conclusion of the banquet, a grace from the *Laudes Spirituales*, A. D. 1545, "For these and all thy mercies given," was sung in exquisite style by the professional vocalists engaged for the occasion, Mr. and Mrs. Lockey, Mrs. Clara Hepworth, Mr. G. Buckland, and Mr. Winn.

At this stage of the proceeding the ladies who had been invited to the meeting entered the room amid much cheering, escorted by the Stewards, and took their seats in the galleries assigned to them.

The Prov. G. M. then gave the first toast, "The Queen and the Craft," after which two verses of the National Anthem were sung by the professionals, the brethren joining in the chorus.

The Prov. G. M. said the next toast which he had the honour to propose was one which was always received in this and in every Province in the kingdom with the utmost enthusiasm—it was "The health of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland." (Rounds of cheers.) It was a toast which came home so thoroughly to the heart of every Mason that he had less reason to regret his inability to do justice to it; indeed, it was not necessary that he should do more than reiterate their deep-rooted attachment and loyalty to him, the great respect which they entertained for him as a man and a Mason, and their sense of the high honour which his Lordship had conferred on the Province by his presence on this occasion. (Renewed cheering.) He could truly say that they owed to the M. W. G. M. a deep debt of gratitude for having, during his long and benignant sway, promoted the prosperity and extended the interests of Freemasonry far beyond any G. M. that ever sat upon the throne. (Loud and continued cheers.)—He might also say—and he felt assured that all would respond to the sentiment—that to the grace and dignity of that station the G. M. added all the virtues which could adorn the man in every relation of life. (Loud cheers.) The G. M. was, moreover, a type of the true old English gentleman, and in his connection with British sports had set a bright example to the world, and had earned a fame unassailed by the breath of slander, which had achieved for him the most brilliant and triumphant results. (Rounds of cheers.) He would say no more, but call on them to rise and drink the health of the G. M. in a manner which became them, and was deservedly due to him. (The toast was drunk with an amount of enthusiasm such as we have rarely witnessed, and as soon as one round of cheers subsided others followed heartier than the preceding one.)

The G. M. said he felt very deeply the compliment they had paid him: he had frequently been invited to visit the Province of Oxford, and regretted that until this period he had been unable to do so. They had done him great honour in inviting him, and meeting him in such numbers on this occasion, and he felt deeply grateful for it; while the cordial reception which he had received in Oxford would be deeply engraven on his heart, and fondly cherished in his remembrance to the latest period of his existence. (Cheers.) His worthy and esteemed brother, the Prov. G. M., had been too flattering in what he had said of him; but in one respect he had done him but justice when he stated that his desire had always been to forward the best interests of Masonry to the utmost of his power. (Loud cheers.) It was gratifying to him to be assured, by the reception

given to him by so distinguished a body of Masons, that they considered that he had done his duty. (Loud cheers.) He had to thank them for another assurance, namely, that the Province of Oxford would give him their kind and cordial support in those objects which he had in view for the furtherance of the best interests of Masonry. (Loud cheers.) He could not but allude to another subject, namely, that during the whole time he had held that station he never had the slightest complaint of any un-Masonic conduct, but that the utmost brotherly love and good feeling pervaded all classes. (Cheers.) That was a striking fact, and he hoped that he might long continue to witness the prevalence of that brotherly love, that union, and that kindly feeling, which ought to be the characteristic of every true Mason. (Cheers.) In conclusion, the G. M. begged to express the high sense which he entertained for the honour they had paid to him comparatively a stranger, for he was known to many present only by report, and assured them that this demonstration was not only most gratifying, but, at the same time, most encouraging to him. (The G. M. resumed his seat amid deafening cheers.)

The Dep. Prov. G. M. then proposed "The healths of the Dep. G. M., Lord Panmure, and the other Officers of Grand Lodge," expressing his regret that Lord Panmure's Ministerial engagements prevented his being present. He congratulated the Craft on the appointment of Lord Panmure as Dep. G. M.; for he felt assured that that energy and those talents which he had so ably exercised for the benefit of this country in the hour of danger would also be exercised for the best interests of Freemasonry. (Much cheering.) The Prov. G. M. coupled with the toast the name of Br. Dundas, P. G. W.

Bro. Dundas responded to the toast, and observed that there was no better nor more sincere Mason than Lord Panmure, all of whose actions, both in public and private life, were guided by the best principles of Masonry.

The G. M. proposed, "The health of the Prov. G. M., Br. Bowyer, and said he did not take credit on himself for having made an appointment so satisfactory to the Province, because on the death of the late respected Prov. G. M., Br. Ridley, he made it his duty to inquire who was the most fitted to succeed him, and there was but one opinion, that Br. Bowyer was the man. (Much cheering.) If it had not been so, his own experience of the manner in which he fulfilled the duties, and of the way in which he reigned in the hearts of all the Masons in the Province, enabled him to congratulate himself on having appointed one so qualified in every respect to rule over this Province. (Cheers.) They knew more of the Prov. G. M. in the various relations of life; for his estimate of him was formed from his Masonic qualifications and career, and therefore he should leave him in their hands, feeling assured that they would do him all the honour which he so richly deserved. (The toast was drunk amid rounds of cheers.)

The Prov. G. M. said it was impossible for him to find words to express his sense of the reception they had given him on this occasion, and of the honour which the G. M. had paid him in proposing his health. Although he felt it was far beyond his deserts, it would encourage and stimulate him in the fulfilment of his various duties; and of all the occurrences of his life there was none that he should treasure up so much as the generous and cordial reception of him on this auspicious occasion. If he had felt gratified on former occasions, how much more so must he feel on this, when the G. M. and the Brethren united in conveying to him an assurance that he had at least endeavoured to fulfil the duties entrusted to him with zeal, ability, and fidelity. (Much cheering.)

The Prov. G. M. then proposed "The healths of the Prov. G. Masters who had honoured them with their presence on this occasion," and coupled with the toast the name of Bro. Hall, Prov. G. M. of Cambridge. (Loud cheers.)

Br. Hall responded to the toast, and said he only wished there was a closer connection between Oxford and Cambridge, and that their rivers, the Cam and the Isis, united before they merged into the ocean, for there existed between them the same generous rivalry in their Masonic career and their Masonic purposes. They met with Masonry at every step, and the work of the chisel was seen in every church, college, and cloister, and he was fain to hope that the connection between practical and speculative Masonry was not broken, but still cultivated, for works of art were calculated not only to improve the understanding but to harmonise the feelings, which was one of the aims and objects of speculative Masonry. (Cheers.) He hoped that the Prov. G. M. would long continue to preside over this Province, and retain what he now possessed in so eminent a degree, the cordial support and the deep-rooted affection of all his brethren. (Loud cheers.)

The G. M. begged to propose the health of a brother, who, he

said, was well known to them, not only for his Masonic acquirements, but for the way in which he had signalled himself by the faithful discharge of public duties, and his enterprise in commercial pursuits. He alluded to the Dep. Prov. G. M., Br. Spiers, whose taste and hospitality could not be surpassed, whose services as a good Mason and citizen could not be over-rated, and whose mercantile enterprise was proverbial. (Loud cheers.) As a Mason, he (the G. M.) had known him for many years, and though Br. Spiers lived in Oxford, he (the G. M.) never attended a charitable meeting or Grand Lodge without meeting Br. Spiers. (Cheers.) Notwithstanding his numerous engagements, Br. Spiers had done good service to his native city, and, according to general report, no one had more ably filled the Civic Chair (loud cheers); they all knew his kindness and hospitality, and he (the W. M.) had great pleasure in proposing his health, and testifying the high respect which he entertained for him. (Loud cheers.)

Br. Spiers returned thanks, and said he felt deeply the high honour which the G. M. had paid him by making him the subject of a distinct toast. Standing as he did among those who had known him for fifty years, although he was not unmindful of the fact that his fellow citizens had conferred upon him the highest Civic honours, and remembering, as he did, the many happy events which had during his Mayoralty occurred in that Hall in which they were assembled, still he could not venture to hope that he possessed a title of the qualities which had been attributed to him. He had endeavoured to do his duty, and he should not have taken so large a share of public duties had he not been connected with and encouraged to do so by Freemasonry. It was Masonry which taught them to feel that they were equal in the sight of God and man, and that he was a good citizen and a good member of society who did his duty in any position of life, whether as an humble mechanic, or as, in the words of the song, he be beggar or king, or as a nobleman, a country gentleman, or engaged in mercantile pursuits like himself. (Cheers.) It was no small pride to him to be recognised as a worthy brother, a good citizen, and a useful member of society; and if he had established any title to such appellations, it was only by carrying out practically what Freemasonry inculcated and enjoined. (Cheers.) To say that he felt grateful to the G. M. was to use a very feeble term, but he hoped he had done no more than his duty, and never less than was expected of him, in supporting those noble charities of the Order, of which they had such great reason to be proud. (Cheers.) The Province of Oxford had received great benefit from those charities, and they had in this city several living instances of the assistance rendered to them by the Grand Lodge of England. In conclusion, he expressed the gratification it afforded him to be present at the last festival of the Girls' School, when the sum of £1850 was subscribed, and that his earnest wish had been fulfilled that the Grand Master of England should honour this Province with his presence. (Cheers.)

The Prov. G. M. then proposed "the healths of the P. G. Officers," and coupled with the toast the name of Br. Tooke, P. G. W.

Br. Tooke returned thanks, and after stating the pleasure he had derived in visiting the magnificent buildings at Oxford, expressed a hope that the brethren of this Province would afford him the opportunity of reciprocating their hospitality and kindness of visiting his Lodge, where he promised them a hearty welcome. (Cheers.)

The Prov. G. M. proposed "The healths of the Prov. G. Officers," and coupled with the toast the name of the Sen. W. Br. Pickard, who, he said, was filling the office of W. M. of the Apollo Lodge for the second year. (Cheers.)

Br. Pickard responded, and said he was sure that all would concur with him that they were highly honoured by the G. M. having condescended to visit this Province. They had long wished for an opportunity of testifying the admiration and esteem they entertained for his Lordship; and ever since he visited Cambridge they indulged the hope that he would confer a similar honour on Oxford. (Cheers.) That auspicious day had arrived, and he hoped that the G. M. and other distinguished visitors would not feel disappointed with their reception, but be induced to repeat their visit. (Loud cheers.) They were delighted to welcome all, but more especially the noble Lord, who, in his capacity as Head of the Craft, had won the loyalty, the affection, and confidence of the fraternity, and who had endeared himself to every country gentleman by the manly and spotless way in which he supported one of the noblest sports of England. (Much cheering.) He (Br. Pickard) had endeavoured to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors, Brs. Burstall and Beach; and he should revert with pride and satisfaction to the facts, that in the first year of his Mastership of the Apollo Lodge, there was a splendid testimonial presented to Br. Beach, and that in his second year the Provincial Lodge, held under the auspices of the Apollo Lodge, was honoured by the presence of the G. M. of England. (Much cheering.)

The toasts which followed were "The Stewards," which was

acknowledged by Br. A. Holmes—"The Ladies"—"The Masonic Charities."

The G. M., escorted by the Prov. Grand Officers, and accompanied by the principal guests, then withdrew to the Council Chamber, where tea and coffee were served.

INSTALLATION OF THE EARL OF CARNARVON AS W. M. OF THE WESTMINSTER AND KEYSTONE LODGE, No. 10.

From the *Freemasons' Magazine*.

This highly interesting event took place in "the Temple" attached to Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, May 20. The Lodge was opened at four o'clock, under the presidency of Bro. Wyndham Portal, W. M., who at once proceeded to the dispatch of Masonic business; the dais being densely crowded with G. and Prov. G. Officers. Shortly after five o'clock the arrival of M. W. G. M. was announced, and he was conducted to the dais amidst loud applause. The W. M. tendered his gavel of office to the M. W. G. M., who courteously declined to receive it, but, shaking Bro. Wyndham Portal warmly by the hand, took a seat on the left of the Master's chair. The ceremony of installing the Earl of Carnarvon was then proceeded with; Bro. Wm. Beach, M.P., P. Prov. G. W. for Oxfordshire, performing it with his accustomed ability and steadiness. The ceremony being over, the noble Earl invested the following Brethren with the Collars of their respective offices, viz., Bros. Wyndham Spencer Portal, P. M.; W. W. Beach, M.P., Treas.; Ralph Augustus Benson, S.W.; Frederick Cox, J.W.; Rev. William Henry Davies, Chap.; Viscount Vallerot, Sec.; Lord Skelmersdale, S. D.; Viscount Holmesdale, J. D.; Richard James Spiers, P. G. S. B., and Samuel L. Lucas, Dirs. of Cers.; Henry Charles Finch, I. G.; J. Hammerton, Sen. Steward; Nelson Rycroft, Jun. Steward; W. Rice, Tyler. At this time the R. W. D. G. M., Lord Panmure, arrived, and was conducted to a seat at the right of the chair, amidst the loudest plaudits. The W. M. having briefly thanked the Brethren for the honour conferred upon him in electing him to the chair, three Brethren were duly proposed as candidates to join the Lodge, which was then closed in ancient form.

The Brethren, to the number of upwards of two hundred, then adjourned to the great hall to dinner. The hall was most elegantly decorated for the occasion with the choicest of flowers, and the most elegant vases and épergnes; the chief attraction, however, being the beautiful piece of plate presented by the Masons of Oxford, last year, to Bro. Beach, M.P., as a token of their regard, and in acknowledgment for his services to the Craft. It represents Queen Philippa on horseback, attended by her warriors, and was very generally admired. The chair at the banquet was of course occupied by the new W. M., the Earl of Carnarvon, who was supported by the M. W. G. M., the Earl of Zetland; the R. W. D. G. M., Lord Panmure; and a large number of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers; amongst whom we noticed Bros. Hall, Prov. G. M. Cambridge; Capt. Bowyer; Prov. G. M. Oxon; R. J. Spiers, D. Prov. G. M. Oxon; Alex. Dobie, Prov. G. M. Surrey; Col. Burlington, P. Prov. G. M. Bengal; T. W. Fleming, Prov. G. M. Isle of Wight; C. P. Cooper, Prov. G. M., Kent; Bisgood, D. Prov. G. M., Kent; Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, Prov. G. M. Hants; R. J. Bagshaw, Prov. G. M. Essex; Rev. Dr. Bowles, Prov. G. M. Herefordshire; J. J. Hammond, Prov. G. M. Jersey; H. R. Willett, Prov. G. M. Dorset; Dr. Kent, Prov. G. M. South Australia; B. B. Cabbell, Prov. G. M., Norfolk; J. Fawcett, Prov. G. M. Durham; Nelson, Prov. G. Sec. Yorkshire; Beadon, P. G. W.; Tooke, P. G. W.; Rev. Sir John Hayes, P. G. Chap.; Rev. Ed. Moore, G. Chap.; W. H. White, P. G. Sec.; Wm. Gray Clarke, G. Sec.; Wm. Farnfield, Asst. G. Sec.; F. Roxburgh, G. S. D.; S. B. Wilson, G. J. D.; J. Hervey, P. G. D.; R. W. Jennings, G. D. C.; Thory Chapman, Asst. G. G. D. C.; Pickard, Prov. G. W. Oxf.; A. Le Veau, P. G. S. B.; G. Biggs, P. G. S. B.; Patten, P. G. S. B.; Horsley, G. Org.; Smith, G. Purs.; and a vast number of Masters and Past Masters of various Lodges, both in London and the Provinces, including the following P. M.'s of the Westminster and Keystone, Bros. Wyndham Portal, Beach, John Udall, J. A. D. Cox, Lyall, G. Portal, C. Pettat, and T. Best.

At the conclusion of the dinner,

The W. M. said: "Brethren, I need hardly think it necessary to announce to you the first toast which is drunk on all occasions such as this. It is one which I will venture to say, that there is not one person in this large room will not drink with enthusiasm. It is 'The Queen and the Craft.' (Cheers.) It is, Brethren, a double toast, but it is not the worse for being that. Being double, it symbolizes, first of all, a proper deference and submission to the laws and constituted authority of the country in which we live; and secondly, obedience to the constitutions of the Craft of which we are all members. Of the Queen I can only say that she possesses all the graces that adorn a woman, and all the virtues which befit the Sovereign of an empire

like that of Great Britain. Of the Craft, I will say that it is, to our eyes, the embodiment of all that is ancient, sacred, and venerable. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) There is no good Mason who is not also at the same time a true and loyal subject; and I am quite sure that her Majesty, having the support of the Brethren of the 600 Lodges which are in England, may rest in greater security than if surrounded by the bayonets of ten thousand legions. I give you, 'The Queen and the Craft.'"

The toast having been drunk with enthusiasm,

The W. M. next said: "Brethren, I know but of one toast that can legitimately follow the one which we have just now pledged, and that is the Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland, who now sits at my right hand. (Great applause.) When I think of the intimacy which has existed between his lordship's family and mine, and of which he and I have been talking during dinner, I can only say that I most cordially join in the applause and enthusiasm with which his lordship's name has been received; and I venture to think that there is not one Mason present who will not feel proud to do honour to the Grand Master of England. (Hear, hear.) Out of the sphere of public life there is, in my opinion, no position in society which carries with it so high an honour, and at the same time so high a responsibility. When I find, superadded to all this, personal courtesy, kindness, and consideration for the opinions of others, I may venture to say that his lordship is to the Order the ornamental and graceful capital that adorns the substantial column. Let me then give you 'The Grand Master of England.'" (Cheers.)

The toast having been duly honoured,

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master rose to reply to the compliment, and said: "Worshipful Master, Bro. S. W., Bro. J. W., and Brethren, I return you my grateful thanks for the kind manner in which you have drunk my health; I assure you, Brethren, that I thank the W. M. most sincerely for the kind and flattering manner in which he has introduced my name to you. It is to me a source of the greatest gratification to be present on this occasion, and I feel grateful for the honour you have done me in making me the guest of so distinguished a Lodge as the Westminster and Keystone. I attended at the working of the Lodge, and I cannot find words to express the gratification I felt at seeing the business of the evening gone through in so able and impressive a manner by Bro. Beach. (Hear, hear.) It is also, Brethren, most gratifying to me to be present when I can congratulate the Lodge on selecting such a Master as my noble friend in the chair. The W. M. has kindly alluded to the intimacy which has existed between his family and mine. It is not only because his lordship is one for whose family and connections I feel a great interest and affection that I hold the dignity which he has this night attained to be but an instalment of the honours to be hereafter conferred upon him, but because of his high character and the able and talented manner in which he has hitherto performed the duties which have devolved upon him. His installation this night is not only an ornament to the Lodge, but a happy omen of its prosperity. It is with much gratification and pleasure that I see him in the position he now occupies, and I feel it a high honour to be received among you, in so flattering a manner, on such an auspicious occasion as this evening." (Cheers.)

The W. M. then said: "I beg now to give you the next toast in point of dignity, 'The Grand Officers of England.' It is, Brethren, with peculiar pleasure I hail amongst us the presence of so many of those officers in the blaze of purple, and the glare of jewels, which dim into insignificance those symbolical stars overhead, but which recall to us that there are dignitaries and rulers in the Craft whose services entitle them to our eulogy. But there is at the head of those Grand Officers one whose name I will join with this toast, my noble friend and Brother who sits on my left. (Cheers.) My noble friend has been lately appointed to the second office in the Craft, and therefore let us, the members of the Westminster and Keystone Lodge, assure him that it gives us the sincerest gratification that one so distinguished for his administrative talents elsewhere should consent to take part in the Government of our Order. I hope, however, that as War Minister he will not drill us too severely. (Laughter.) At all events, when he is speaking, I will be always at attention. (Great laughter.) As my noble friend comes from the Land of Cakes, we hail his presence here this evening, not only as D. G. M. of England, but because he symbolizes to us that union, concord, and friendly relations, which should always exist between the Grand Lodges of the two countries. In former times it was customary in Scotland that the G. M. should succeed to that honour by hereditary right, but the nobleman who had that right—and I know of no higher honour which a subject of this realm can enjoy—of his own accord resigned it, as he thought that those only were fit to hold high places who were able to discharge the duties which belonged to them. I must make one allusion more to Scotland. A Scotch king, once, when entertaining foreigners from more sunny climes in his drear and cold

dominions (I say this without the least disrespect to Scotland), was, for want of hot-water plates, in some embarrassment, but got out of it in this manner. When the guests arrived, they each one found a handful of Scotch gold coins beneath his plate. Now, when my noble friend comes to dine with us, he must be content with a less ambitious entertainment than that, but he shall have the best cheer we can afford him, and better than that, he shall have the heartiest possible welcome. Brethren, I call on you to drink 'The health of Lord Panmure, D. G. M. of England, and that of the other Grand Officers.'" (Hear, hear.)

Lord Panmure (the applause which accompanied the mention of his name having subsided) said: "W. M. and Brethren, for myself and in the name of my colleagues in office, I return you my sincere thanks for the manner in which you have received and honoured the last toast. The Grand Officers of England have, I think, done honour to themselves in accepting the invitation of this Lodge to witness so gratifying a scene as that presented to us this evening. (Hear, hear.) We have seen a Lodge not only numerous from its members, but most highly respectable from their talents and position in society, install as its master one of the young and rising statesmen of the day (hear, hear); and we have partaken of a hospitality, not the less royal because we have not, as at the banquet given by the king of Scotland, to which the W. M. has alluded, found the gold coins beneath our napkins. We have, I say, enjoyed one of the most hospitable receptions. (Cheers.) I see at the Board many of the Grand Officers of England, and I am not saying more than the truth, when I say I see them filling places to which every Mason in the Craft may legitimately aspire, just as there is in this Lodge no office to which the Brethren, by diligence in the Craft, and by those accomplishments of which they may feel justly proud, may not in proper time aspire. (Hear, hear.) I thought when my noble Brother the W. M. gave the toast of the 'Grand Officers,' he would have spared all allusion to any office I may hold elsewhere; but he has shown himself not only a great master in the Craft, but also a crafty Mason. (Cheers and laughter.) He said that he hoped I would not be too severe in my drill, but promised for himself that he should be always at attention. I can only say that no drill can be effective in which the troops do not sometimes stand at ease. (Laughter.) He shall find mine a very mild rule indeed. Except when the dignity of the Craft requires the contrary, my word of command shall be 'March at ease.' (Cheers.) I may now close these observations, and once more thank you for the honour you have done us; but as my noble friend has alluded to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, I may be permitted, because by the favour of my noble friend, the Grand Master, I have the honour of holding the deputation of the Grand Lodge of England to that of Scotland, to say that I have always found the greatest cordiality existing between the sister Grand Lodges."

Bro. Beach, M. P., said: "M. W. G. M., G. Officers, and Brethren, it is with much pleasure that I find myself privileged to have the opportunity of proposing to your notice the next toast; I am sure you will receive it with enthusiasm when I tell you what it is—'The Brethren whom the M. W. G. M. has delegated to represent him as Prov. G. M.'s of the different Provinces.'" (Hear, hear.) It must be evident to all that such appointments must be very difficult (hear); and their importance cannot be exaggerated, because upon the efficiency of our Prov. G. Ms. depends in a very high degree the welfare of the Craft. (Hear.) These appointments, moreover, are not confined to this our native land, but are extended over the entire surface of the globe. (Cheers.) The respect in which those Brethren are universally held is the best practical proof of their efficiency, and of the care with which these appointments have been made. The skill and ability with which those Brethren have discharged their important duties do credit to the selection which the G. M. has made. (Hear.) I need only add that it is with the greatest pleasure that we see so many of them among us upon this interesting occasion. (Hear, hear.) And I call upon you to rise with becoming enthusiasm and to drink to the Prov. G. Ms., coupling with the toast; 'The health of Bro. Hall, the Prov. G. M. for Cambridgeshire.'"

The toast having been duly honoured, Bro. Hall returned thanks. He said he felt some difficulty in returning thanks for that distinguished body to which he had the honour of belonging, and who had so numerously testified by their presence upon that interesting occasion the respect which they entertained for the noble lord the W. M. of that Lodge. (Cheers.) He felt bound to refer to the splendid hospitality of that evening, and to the cordial reception which they had given them, and he could only refer to it in the most complimentary manner. (Hear, hear.) He could hardly regard that as an ordinary Lodge Meeting (hear); he rather looked upon it as an important Masonic demonstration. (Hear.) They had around them Brethren of every rank in society. (Hear.) Ministers of the Crown, noblemen and gentlemen of education and talent, men of fortune, and others who, not participating in those advantages,—all met there with one Masonic feeling, and threw aside all distinctions of rank except

those which belonged to Masonry. (Hear, hear.) The W. M. of the Lodge could not regard the assembly before him with other feelings than those of just pride; and he was sure he was expressing, not only his own sentiments, but those of all the Prov. G. Ms., when he cordially congratulated the W. M. on the position he then occupied (hear, hear), and assured him that while he adhered to the principles of Masonry, he would possess the affection and esteem of the Brethren, and enjoy a satisfaction which could not be exceeded by any which his rank and position in society afforded. (Cheers.)

The M. W. G. M.; "Bro. S. W., Bro. J. W., Grand Officers, and Brethren—I have the permission of the W. M. to propose the next toast, which it is most gratifying for me to do. You will all anticipate what the toast is which I am about to propose. (Cheers.) It would be much easier for me to propose the health of my Brother on my left, were he not present upon this occasion, because in his presence I cannot say all that I really, from my heart, feel with respect to him. Brethren, when we meet in Lodge, we are all upon an equality, but I am sure there is no Brother present who will not agree with me in thinking it a great advantage to the Craft when we have the aristocracy of the land taking so deep an interest in our proceedings. (Hear, hear.) I was never more struck with this than when I was invited the other day, by the Prov. G. M. for Oxfordshire, to attend the Prov. Grand Lodge of that Province. There I found a number of members of the Apollo Lodge, of whom the majority, I believe, were gentlemen educated at the University of Oxford (hear); and it then occurred to me what an advantage it was to Masonry that it should be so cultivated at Oxford, where it not only promoted harmony between 'Town' and 'Gown'; but that those highly educated gentlemen will carry their Masonry with them when they leave Oxford and take up their abodes in various parts of the country. (Hear.) My noble friend on my left is a member of the Apollo Lodge to which I have referred; and those who know how highly he has distinguished himself in the senate—how greatly he is admired by those who have the pleasure of his acquaintance, will unite with me in congratulating the Westminster and Keystone Lodge on having this evening selected him W. M. (Cheers.) I augur well—not only for the Westminster and Keystone Lodge, for that has established its reputation—but I augur well for the Craft throughout the country, when I see so many well-known and highly educated noblemen and gentlemen joining this Lodge. (Cheers.) 'The health of the Worshipful Master the Earl of Carnarvon.'

The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm.

The W. M., the Earl of Carnarvon, on rising to return thanks, was received with the heartiest applause, which lasted several minutes. His Lordship said:—"M. W. Sir and Brethren, I am afraid, if flattery can spoil me, you will have a very bad chance indeed for the prosperity of the Lodge during the year that is to come (laughter); for I feel deeply the kindness which has characterized every word which has been uttered here this evening respecting me (hear), and I may say every cheer which has been given. (Cheers.) I am aware that at this stage of a Masonic dinner, the health of the chairman is given as a matter of course; it is formally given, and it is formally received. I am sure, however, of this, that you will not mistake me this evening, if I do venture to interpret the compliment you have paid me in a somewhat different manner. (Cheers.) Most fully, indeed, do I feel what the R. W. Brother said, and said with so much kind feeling, a few minutes since, that this is a meeting at which I may feel justly flattered, and which ought, if anything could, teach me the responsibilities of the year which this evening ushers in. (Cheers.) I look upon this meeting as indicative of the bond of union existing between me and those whom I see around me. (Cheers.) I look upon this meeting as pointing out alike the advent of new honours, and the assumption of new responsibilities. (Cheers.) Brethren of my own Lodge, it is to your countenance, to your support, that I must look for aid in the discharge of those duties. (Cheers.) Often have I been indebted to you collectively and individually, for many acts of kindness and consideration; and now I receive this election as the greatest token of your approval. (Cheers.) May I prove myself not unworthy of it! (Loud applause.) Some of the duties fall on me personally—some on you—and some we share between us. Those duties seem to me to be capable of a threefold division; they are external—the general duties incumbent upon every Lodge—and then there are special duties which are attached to particular Lodges. The external duties comprise courtesy and kindness, in hospitality, and in our friendly relations with our neighbouring Lodges, and in our deference to the orders of Grand Lodge (hear), and our obedience to the laws and constitution of the land in which we live. (Hear, hear.) One of our duties is the prudent management of our finances (hear), a point not to be overlooked in the administration of our affairs; another point is the maintenance of unity and fraternity, and the studied exclusion of every element which can tend to disturb the peace of the Lodge. (Hear.) We are accused by those who know us not—by the 'outer barbarians'

(laughter)—of thinking of nothing but eating and drinking. (Laughter.) That such, however, is not the case, many practical proofs can easily be given. I have always thought that admission into a Lodge should be made a test of a man's character and integrity. Besides these general duties, there are others which are special; but I am afraid I am tiring you. ('No, no;' and cheers.) My duties in the present case I consider to be very difficult, and I will tell you why I consider them difficult. (Hear, hear.) At first sight they seemed so easy. (Cheers and laughter.) But I have received this chair with the Lodge in the highest state of prosperity, and I ought to hand it to my successor in as good position. (Hear, hear.) It was the boast of an emperor, that he found his capital brick and he left it marble; but I could not say that of the Westminster and Keystone Lodge; for in it there are no branches to heal, no shattered fortunes to be repaired. (Cheers.) Though our revival dates from no distant day, we have not a few distinguished names in our lists. (Cheers.) My duty will be to endeavour to preserve a continuity of that brightness which has hitherto looked down upon us. (Cheers.) To our country Brethren who have come up to see us, many of them from a distance, I must say that we are grateful to them for the honour they have done us. In former days, when two friends parted for some distant country, they exchanged tokens of their friendship; and as years rolled by and generations passed away, the sons of those men met each other again, perhaps on some distant shore, and they exchanged the tokens of their parents. (Cheers.) They acknowledged the old alliance, and from the ashes of that ancient friendship there arose a newer but undying flame. (Cheers.) So it is with us. But while those tokens could be mislaid, or broken, or even lost, we carry ours about in our hearts. (Cheers.) Many of us in this room have not seen each other before; but we do not meet as strangers. (Cheers.) Each fresh step I take in the study of our great science—each fresh line I find in the pages of our history—convince me still further of its incalculable ramifications, and makes me gaze with wonder and with awe on the boundless horizon of its influence. (Applause.) And now one word more, and that will be to our London Brethren. Many of us have met before within these walls, even in this room, when engaged in the discussion of duller, and I hope, drier subjects (laughter and cheers), than we have any chance of being engaged upon this evening. (Hear, hear.) We have met sometimes to agree, and sometimes, perhaps, to differ; but let me assure you that whenever we do meet, nothing can be more pleasant or more congenial than the thought that, when we do differ, it is only from a sense of duty, from the conviction of principle. (Loud cheering.) That difference of principle, therefore, need not imply any diminution of the respect and regard which is due from Mason to Mason." (Protracted cheering.) His Lordship concluded by proposing, "The Health of the Visitors, with which he coupled the name of Bro. the Hon. F. D. Dundas.

Bro. Dundas acknowledged the toast, and in so doing paid a high compliment to the "working," and expressed his gratitude for the truly Masonic reception which the Westminster and Keystone had given to the visitors whom they honoured with an invitation on that occasion. He only hoped that meetings of this kind would become more frequent. (Laughter and cheers.) The Lodges ought to interchange visits more frequently than they did; the Westminster and Keystone had set an example, which, if widely followed, would be attended with the happiest results. (Hear, hear.) He concluded by saying, that he felt he had given but a feeble expression to the fraternal sentiments which inspired the breasts of every visitor present. (Loud cheers.)

The W. M. then gave "The Past Masters of the Westminster and Keystone," with which he coupled "The health of Bro. Wyndham Portal, the immediate Past Master."

The toast having been duly honoured,

Bro. Portal returned thanks. He said he only expressed the sentiments of all the Past Masters, when he asserted that though they were Past Masters in virtue of having served in the chair, the Master of the Lodge would always find them ready to assist him by every means in their power. (Cheers.) He then referred to the exertions of his noble friend on his right (Lord Panmure) in behalf of the charities, particularly in recently presiding at the Girls' School Festival, when the unprecedented amount of £1,900 was subscribed, while Bro. Crew, sanguine as he was, only expected £1500. (Cheers and laughter.)

The W. M. then proposed "The newly-appointed Officers, and the S. W., Bro. Benson."

Bro. Benson returned thanks in a telling speech, and said he would do the best he could to justify the confidence which had been reposed in him.

"The Charities, and Bro. Bond Cabbell, M.P.," was the next and concluding toast.

The Brethren separated a little after eleven o'clock. The musical arrangements were conducted by Bro. Donald King, assisted by Bros. Lawler, Genge, Kingsbury, and Edney.

MEETING OF MARK MASTERS.

A meeting of Mark Masters was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Saturday, the 30th ult., originally convened by Brother the Right Hon. the Lord Leigh, to meet, on Monday, the 25th, and subsequently postponed to the 30th.

The following letter had been previously circulated by his Lordship amongst all the Brethren and Lodges of the Degree of whom he could obtain any information:—

To the Brethren of the Craft of Mark Masters in England and Wales.

I have deemed it right, as the present recognized Head of the body of Freemasons, formed under the title of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England and Wales, and the Colonies and Possessions of the British Crown, to address to my brethren in that Degree of Masonry a few remarks on the subject of the Degree, and the desire I feel to promote union amongst its members.

When, in the month of June, 1856, I accepted the Office of Grand Master, I had, from my position as W.M. of a Lodge of Mark Masters, ample means of judging the intrinsic value of the Degree, and its wide-spread influence throughout the country, and this, not only in respect to numbers, but to the high Masonic position of the great bulk of its members. I am, therefore, on a level with every other Mark Master who is a well-wisher of the craft, and it is from that level only I desire to speak.

The antiquity of the degree, and the steps taken by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England to resume that jurisdiction over it which was relinquished on the 1st of December, 1813, are matters of notoriety. It is sufficient for me to draw attention to this fact that the Grand Lodge of England, on the Report of its Committee, decided in March, 1856, to admit our working into their system; and, if the proceedings of the Grand Lodge on that occasion had been confirmed at the quarterly communication in June, no other authority would have been desired for the government of Mark Masters. Partly from conscientious objections based on the principles promulgated in 1813, by the Lodge of Reconciliation, and partly from the disapproval by Mark Masters, Members of the Grand Lodge of England, of what they considered the improper manner in which it was proposed to confer the Degree, the proceedings were not confirmed, and the Degree of Mark Master in England was still left beyond the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

This being the case, it appears to me very desirable that before the next meeting of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters in June, the whole of the Brethren of the Degree in England and Wales should be invited to attend a General Meeting, for the purpose of expressing their opinion as to whether it is better to unite as a whole under a constitutionally elected governing body, or to continue as at present, some under the English Constitution, and some under Irish, Scotch, or American warrants, each relatively to the other, in effect irregular.

At the Grand Lodge, in June next, my year of office terminates, and with it, that also of my Grand Officers.

Should the Brethren accept my invitation to hold a Meeting of the General Body of the Craft, and deem it right to unite in placing themselves under one constitution, I would desire to forestall my year's termination of office, by at once placing myself in their hands. I shall therefore be happy to meet at the FREEMASONS' TAVERN, on Monday, the 25th of May, at 6 p.m., all such Brethren of the Degree as will do me the honour to accept this my invitation.

Should they unanimously agree in nominating me as their Grand Master for the next ensuing year, and decide upon uniting all the English Lodges of Mark Masters under one Grand Lodge, I should then be privileged, upon my confirmation in the office of Grand Master, to appoint my Grand Officers from amongst the most eminent members of the Craft, from a consideration only of the well-being of the general body, and the peculiar aptness of the brethren to be appointed.

(Signed) LEIGH.
Stoneleigh Abbey, 7th May, 1857.

Between sixty and seventy brethren assembled at the meeting, amongst whom were Mark Masters from Ireland, Scotland, and from different parts of England and the Colonies.

Lord LEIGH, being requested, consented to preside over the meeting, and, on taking the chair, expressed his hope that those brethren present who had served the office of Master of a Lodge of Mark Masters would honour and support him by taking seats at the table.

The following brethren placed themselves at or near the table:—

Brothers Adams, W. M. of the Thistle Lodge; Wm. Jones, P.M., of the Bon Accord Lodge; Cole, W.M. and P.M., of the Bon Accord Lodge; Isaacs, W.M. of the Arnott Lodge; Woolley, W.M., of the Phoenix Lodge; Warren, W.M., of the St. Mark's Lodge; Barringer, W.M., of the Keystone Lodge; Hughes, D.M., of the St. Mark's Lodge; Norton, P.M., of the Bon Accord Lodge; Aria, P.M., of a Lodge at Jamaica; Ridgeway, W.M., of the Mark Lodge, No. 4.

His LORDSHIP proceeded to explain the object with which he had summoned his brethren together, and, with that view, read to the meeting the letter he had caused to be circulated; this, he declared, contained his sentiments, and he had only further to express this hope that the object of the meeting, being to promote union between the different bodies of Mark Masters in England,

whatever the authority under which they might profess to work, the brethren would abstain from discussing the validity of any such authority, and keep in view solely the course to be pursued for the future well-being of the craft.

Brother JONES proposed the first resolution:—“That this meeting, as a collection of brethren practising the Mark Degree, regret that this interesting portion of Freemasonry should have been, since 1813, omitted from the ceremonies recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England, and is anxious to promote the working of Mark Masonry.”

Brother ISAACS felt much pleasure in seconding that resolution; and the more so, because there were many differences between him and other brethren present this evening, in respect to this degree, he desired to promote the working of the degree and union amongst its members.

Brother ALFRED KING desired to say a few words upon a subject of the greatest importance to the craft. It was a fundamental rule in all Societies of Freemasons that candidates should be elected by ballot, and he was bound, on the first public opportunity which presented itself to protest against any infringement of this rule. He understood some candidates for the degree of Mark Master had been advanced in a Lodge without due notice and opportunity for ballot. He believed no such practice was now continued and therefore, he was satisfied with having thus brought the fact under public notice as he felt it his duty to do.

Brother LEWIS ARIA objected to the invitation of the Chairman to Masters and Past-Masters of Mark Lodges, because that argued a distinct organization for this degree, whereas he (Bro. Aria) maintained that the Master of every Craft Lodge had the inherent right to open such Craft Lodge in the Mark Degree, and with his officers work this degree in such Craft Lodge when thus opened. His argument was this:—The craft warrant entitled him to work his lodge in craft masonry, and the Mark Degree is a portion of ancient craft masonry, and unless the words of the warrant excepted this degree the Craft Lodge was entitled to work it.

Brother H. G. WARREN remarked that if Brother Aria's Lodge in Jamaica was held under the Grand Lodge of England, he had better not allow such proceedings to come under its cognizance, for any such irregularity would most surely be severely reprimanded.

Brother HAVERS objected to this resolution, on the broad ground that he objected to the degree altogether, and, although he felt that many brethren in that meeting could not agree with him to that extent, he, nevertheless, feeling as he did, must state his sentiments honestly. He was surprised to see in Lord Leigh's letter this clause, “The Antiquity of the degree, and the steps taken by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England to resume that jurisdiction over it which was relinquished on the 1st of December, 1813, are matters of notoriety.” Now he (Brother Havers) denied altogether the antiquity of the degree, and that it had ever been under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, and desired that the brethren should not be misled, but should understand as a fact that the degree was a recent and modern innovation, and never formed part of Ancient Free Masonry. A very heavy responsibility rested with his Lordship and with the meeting if they lightly forgot the obligation taken by every Master of a Lodge on being installed, and the memorable declaration of their ancestors in 1813. He contended that, mindful of his oath, he must resist any innovation upon the ancient plan of Freemasonry, and that Masonry consisted solely of three degrees, including the Royal Arch. Our brethren at the Lodge of Reconciliation, in 1813, did not make anything new, they only declared what the pure landmarks had been. The Scotch, Irish, and American Masons, who practised the Mark Degree, took their Masonry from England, and their adopting this degree proved that they had not kept to the purity of English Masonry. There was another great argument against this degree, it diverted the spare money of the brethren, and so dried up the springs of our Masonic Charities. He would also take exception to another remark in his Lordship's letter, in which he alluded to the wide-spread influence of the degree throughout the country. Now he (Brother Havers) altogether denied that its influence was wide-spread, and he believed that it was only by the exertions of a few zealous Masons, who began,

in 1851, to work the degree in London, that it could be said to have gained any influence, and he believed if the brethren were polled, not one in ten in the country ever heard of Mark Masonry. He felt it his duty, to object not only to the resolution, but to the degree altogether.

Brother SMITH felt considerable surprise at the very loose assertion of the last speaker, that Mark Masonry was little known or practised in the provinces. He (Brother Smith) could bear witness that it flourished in the Midland Counties, where it had not only been worked since 1851, but had, to the knowledge of living masons, never ceased to work for the last sixty years at least. He saw near him, a brother, whose Lodge numbered upwards of three hundred, and, in his own, the brethren exceeded one hundred. The brethren in Warwickshire were zealous Mark Masters, and had been so from time immemorial.

Brother LEWIS ARIA felt also himself bound to contradict Brother Havers, and doubt his information regarding Masonry in the Colonies, as well as to disagree with the statements he had expressed regarding it. In the West Indies, the degree was almost universally practised, and, in Jamaica there were very many Lodges in which it was worked. The late Sir Michael Clare, a very old and respected Mason, always patronised and spoke highly of the degree, and that alone would have been sufficient proof to him (Brother Aria) that it was not the modern innovation, and of the evil tendency sought to be shown.

Brother RIDGWAY wished to draw attention to the peculiarly unfortunate expression made use of, and several times repeated, by Brother Havers, that the Mark Degree formed no part of Ancient Freemasonry. Now, it was well known, that the reconciliation in 1813 took place on equal terms, between two rival Grand Lodges, known respectively as the Ancient Masons, and the Modern Masons; and whilst the Modern Masons had practised only the three degrees, the Ancient Masons had worked the Mark Degree, at least, so far back as the early part of the last century. So much for the assertion that the Mark formed no part of Ancient Masonry, and had never been recognised by the Grand Lodge.

Brother LAZARUS fully confirmed what had fallen from Brother Ridgway, and he had in his hand, at that moment, a certificate from a Mark Lodge, held under the Ancient Grand Lodge, and working sixty or seventy years ago. In fact, most of the old warrants for Mark Lodges now to be found in different parts of the country were under the constitution of the Ancient Masons.

Brother BUREL noticed that there was difference of opinion as to whether it was advisable that the United Grand Lodge of England should accept this degree, therefore, he would move an amendment, omitting the expression of regret that the Grand Lodge did not recognise it. His amendment was in these words:—"That this meeting, as a collection of brethren practising the Mark Degree, is anxious to promote the uniform working of Mark Masonry, and the general interest of the degree."

The amendment having been seconded, Brother Lord LEIGH desired, before putting it to the meeting, to notice the strong appeal which had been made to him, as to his responsibility by a brother present. He (Lord Leigh) felt greatly interested in the Masonic Charities, and was a sincere well-wisher to the craft; added to which he was a personal friend of Lord Zetland, and if he thought the Mark Degree would injure the charities, the Craft, or the Grand Master, he would at once renounce the position in which he had been placed, but he was happy to think that all such fears were totally groundless. The amendment was then put and carried.

Brother HUGHES proposed the next resolution, to this effect:—"That this meeting deplores the differences of working authorities, of working and organization, at present existing among Mark Masters, and is anxious to promote unity and uniformity on these points." No one could deplore more than he did the differences alluded to by the resolution; but he felt that we could hardly expect to heal differences unless we went the proper way to do so. He could not but regret that this meeting had not been called at this time last year, when it would, probably, have been easier to compare the objects now proposed, than at the present time: certain it was that the course taken by some

brethren in respect to the Degree, was not such as he, and many of his friends approved; and hence it was that, while he was happy to meet in Craft Lodges many of the brethren he saw around him, yet, when they spoke of the Mark it was a sore question. He would give every brother credit for doing what he considered the best for the interest of the Degree. He (Brother Hughes) had thought it the legitimate course to apply for a warrant from the Grand Chapter of Scotland, which had been granted, and the Lodge had been successful beyond their expectations. He considered this Degree ought to be recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England, and was not prepared to say that too complicated an organization should take place as that might prevent, rather than aid, this result.

Brother HAVERS, addressing the chair, apologized for his interruption, and stated that, considering himself to hold a prominent position in the Craft, he felt bound to attempt to remove an impression which the meeting might have formed as to the incorrectness of his masonic information. He would, therefore, read an extract from "Preston's Illustrations," a work of high masonic authority:—"The schism commenced with the secession of some brethren from the Grand Lodge, in 1739, the active promoters of it calling themselves Ancient Masons, not only formed Lodges in subversion of the Rules of the Order, but actually established in London a nominal Grand Lodge, in open defiance of the Ancient Grand Lodge, on whom they invidiously bestowed the name of 'Modern Masons,' on account of a few trifling innovations in the ceremonial observing which had been inconsiderately sanctioned," so that, in fact, these brethren who worked the Mark Degree, calling themselves Ancient Masons, were not, in fact, more ancient than the moderns.

Brother NORTON had much pleasure in seconding the resolutions of Brother Hughes. He felt great interest in Mark Masonry, and a sincere desire to see all differences between brethren removed, the greater the differences, the more necessary their removal. The resolution was then put from the chair and carried.

Brother WARREN held in his hand the third resolution, which was, probably, the most important, as it sought to carry out practically the spirit of the other two; he proposed, "That it was desirable that a Committee be formed to ascertain and represent the views of all parties practising the Degree with respect to the means to be adopted to promote such unity and uniformity, and that the Committee consist of the following brethren:—

JONES	RIDGWAY
COLE	ISAACS
WARREN	ADAMS
HUGHES	SHARMAN
BARNARD	S. B. WILSON
PETER MATTHEWS	COLLINS
PULLEN	BAREINGER
HEARN	and WOOLLEY."

These names had been carefully, and, he hoped, impartially chosen, with a view, so far as possible, equally to represent, what might be considered, the several parties or sections of the Craft. He (Bro. Warren) considered that a small committee would work best, but it had been enlarged upon the principle he had stated. The functions of the Committee should be strictly confined to the terms of the resolution, and he did not, in any degree, propose that they should have the power of binding, or in any way committing, to any course the brethren then present.

Brother RIDGWAY seconded the resolution, and considered that if the brethren desired unity, they must not seek to secure it by any other means than an impartial attention to the opinions and desires of all those sought to be united. He hoped this Committee would be the means of effectually ascertaining those opinions and desires, and, with this feeling, he cordially seconded the resolution.

Brother KING had listened with a great deal of attention to what had been said, but if it was intended to have a fair representation, he had lately seen, in Dublin, the names of fifteen hundred Mark Masons, and he was himself a member of a Mark Lodge in Ireland, he could bear testimony of the wide-spread influence of the Degree in the sister countries, and in America, and in other foreign parts.

Brother KING was reminded that the only known Irish Mark Lodge in England was already represented in the Committee.

Brother SMITH appealed to the Chairman, as a Warwickshire man; to see that the numerous Brethren of the Mark in his Province were represented, for none were more anxious than they to promote union.

Lord LEIGH felt much pleasure in responding to this appeal, and suggested the addition of the names of Brother Bassett Smith and Brother Dee, of Birmingham, to the Committee, which was agreed to by the proposer, and seconder, as also, that Brother Aria, as representing the West Indies, should also be added. Several other names were also suggested; but, no amendment being proposed, the resolution, with the addition of these three names, was put and carried.

Brother WARREN, then addressing the Chairman, remarked that some little time would be required before the Committee could make their report; it certainly could not be done before the 10th of June. He, therefore, hoped that his Lordship would defer the appointment of his grand officers until after the report had been presented.

Lord LEIGH saw no objection to his complying with Brother Warren's suggestion, and, indeed, felt most anxious to consult the wishes of the brethren in every respect.

Brother RIDGWAY remarked that any pledge on this point could hardly be expected from his Lordship. The Committee might never make their report, and if the report were long delayed, the effect would be to impede the business of the Grand Lodge.

Bro. WARREN stated that he did not desire a pledge to that extent, and it was eventually understood that Lord Leigh intended to delay making any fresh appointment of grand officers before the expiration of two months from the present time.

After a vote of thanks to Lord Leigh for his conduct in the chair, proposed by Mr. COLE, the meeting separated.

GRAND MARK LODGE OF ENGLAND.

The regular half-yearly meeting of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 10th of June; the Grand Mark Master, Lord LEIGH, on the Throne, supported by Brothers Dr. Jones, S.G.W.; Cole, I.G.W.; Rev. G. R. Portal, G.B.; Hervey, S.G.D.; Dr. Kent, I.G.D.; Collins, G.S.; Ridgway, G.R.; Beach M.P., G. Steward, and the Masters and Wardens of Lodges working under the English Constitution.

A great deal of business connected with the internal arrangements of the Craft was transacted, but the most interesting portion to our general masonic readers was, probably, the series of resolutions recommended by the report of the General Board, with a view to facilitate a union of the several Mark Lodges in England. We have especially to notice the following, which, it is to be hoped, will open the door to many Lodges following the course adopted by their brethren, who have already united under a central jurisdiction.

"When any body of Freemasons shall, to the satisfaction of the General Board, with the approval of the Grand Master, prove themselves to have actually met, and worked as a Lodge of Mark Masters, previously to the Quarterly Committee of the United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England, held in June, 1856, such body shall be deemed to have the inherent right of forming a union with the Lodges working under this constitution, and be entitled to all the privileges of a duly registered Lodge on accepting a warrant of conformation, and thereby agreeing to support the regulations for the government of the Craft, as laid down in the Book of Constitutions, and any such Lodge so uniting shall take precedence, without a number and rank above the Phoenix Lodge No. 2, on the roll provided, also that when any Lodge, proved in like manner to have been working in England, Wales, or any of the Colonies, or possessions of the British Crown, under a warrant granted by any Foreign Grand Lodge, having authority to grant a warrant for working a Lodge of Mark Masters, within its own jurisdiction, such Lodge shall also have a right of forming a union with the Lodges working under this constitution, and be entitled to all the privileges of a duly registered Lodge, on the brethren causing their charter to be enrolled on the books of the Grand Lodge, and a memorandum of their union, with the

"Lodges under this constitution endorsed thereon, or on their accepting a warrant of conformation, and thereby agreeing to support the said constitution."

"Any such Lodge shall take precedence, and rank with the other Lodges on the roll, according to the date of their respective charters, taking, in common, the number of the Lodge next before it on the roll, with the addition of a distinguishing letter, until such time as a re-arrangement of members shall be deemed advisable."

"There shall be no fee on the registration of any brethren, whose names shall be returned as members of any such uniting Lodges at the time of the Union."

"Every Mark Master who shall give to the Lodge satisfactory proof of having served the office of W.M. of a Lodge of Mark Masters, or of having conferred the Degree upon two or more brethren previous to the month of June, 1856, shall be deemed to be a Past Master of a Lodge of Mark Masters, and enjoy all the privilege of that rank, during such time as they shall continue subscribing member of any Lodge on the roll."

Lord LEIGH was re-elected Grand Master, and in acknowledging this mark of confidence on the part of the brethren, mentioned that it was his desire to delay, for two months, any fresh appointment of Grand Officers, as he had been appealed to on this subject, and was desirous of giving time for a more general union of the Craft, and, selecting his officers from this enlarged body.

The Treasurer's Account was read, and the result was highly satisfactory.

The office of the Grand Lodge was decided to be held, in future, at No. 40, Leicester Square, and the Grand Master personally proposed a vote of thanks to Brother Ridgway, the Grand Registrar, for affording this accommodation, as well as in acknowledgment of the practical interest he had evinced in the degree and the manner in which he had laboured to promote the union of its members.

There appears little doubt that such a union will daily become more firm, as well as more extensive, when we find that the principles, on which such an union is sought, are so liberal and straightforward as those above noticed.

BON ACCORD LODGE OF MARK MASTERS.—A meeting of this distinguished Lodge took place at Freemasons' Tavern, on the 10th inst., when Brother Cole, W.M., in the chair; when Brother the Earl of Carwarvon, the Rev. W. H. Davies, John Hammerton, J. A. D. Cox, and several other brethren were advanced to the degree. Among the members present were Lord Leigh, P.G.M. for Warwick; Dr. Kent P.G.M. for Australia; Beach, M.P., P.S.G.W. Oxford; Rev. G. R. Portal, P.P.S.G.W. Oxford; Hervey, P.G.D., Symonds, Lambert, Collins, Ridgway, Bowyen, Woolley, and several others. About forty sat down to the banquet.

THE CANADIAN MOVEMENT.

We beg the earnest and careful attention of our readers to the following extract from a communication addressed by the M. W. Bro. Tucker, Grand Master of Vermont, to his G. L., relative to the *status* of the "Independent G. L. of Canada."

It lays down, with singular clearness and ability, those ancient landmarks which seem in danger of being obliterated by the upholders of the modern system of Freemasonry, but which alone, we believe, will afford a correct standard by which to test the legitimacy of any body of Masons, as they are certainly the only principles of action which are held in common reverence by the whole Masonic world.

"Grand Lodges, as they exist at the present, and as they have existed from the year 1717, are wholly new institutions. They are not institutions of ancient date, and have no odour of antiquity about them. In the olden time every single Lodge was wholly independent, and the privilege of practising the Masonic rites was

inherent in Masons, when assembled together in due form, as individuals. The Charter obtained, not far from the beginning of the fourth century, 'from the King and Council,' by Saint Alban, empowered those Masons simply to hold a 'general Council,' which was called an 'Assembly.' That 'Council' or 'Assembly' did not consist of members by delegations from Lodges. It was a *general* one, embracing the Craft, as it then existed, in England, *at large*; and it was the duty of *every* Mason to attend it, if he lived within fifty miles of the place of assemblage, and had 'proper warning.'

"Nor was the gathering of the Masons at the City of York, under Prince Edwin, in 926, a *Grand Lodge*, in any fair modern understanding of those terms. It was a 'congregation' of Masons only, who composed a '*General Lodge*,' of which he was Grand Master. He was Grand Master of *Masons*, but not of a *Grand Lodge*, as now understood; for no such *Grand body* then existed.

"It is doubtless true, that the York 'Assembly' exercised jurisdiction in its day, over *all* the Masons of England; probably from 926 to 1567; but such jurisdiction was *not* considered by those Masons as *exclusive*. It was not thus acknowledged by them; for in that same year, 1567—without reference to the York 'Assembly' at all,—the Masons of the Southern part of England placed themselves *independently* under a new Grand Master, and there were for a long period of years, *two Grand Masters* of that kingdom.

"In the early part of the 18th century, Masonry generally in England had fallen into desuetude. In the year 1715, four London Lodges assembled upon their own motion, and by their own voluntary action constituted themselves a '*Grand Lodge, pro tempore*.' At the annual assembly and feast, on Saint John the Baptist's day, 1717, these same Lodges, thus by self-action constituted into a Grand Lodge, for the first time adopted a regulation to restrain the old unlimited manner of Masonic meetings, and to establish Lodges in certain places, which should be legally authorized to act by a warrant from the Grand Master, with the consent and approbation of the Grand Lodge, and that, without such warrant, no Lodge should thereafter be deemed regular or constitutional.

"Here, then, we have four Lodges, arranged upon the *old* system, congregating themselves together to inaugurate and establish a *new* one. The whole history of things at York was unheeded by them; no consent is asked from that quarter, nor is even the *then Grand Master of the Masons of England* consulted, who was living in that same city of London, and who did not pay the debt of nature until the year 1723.

"From this action sprang the Grand Lodge of England, which has come down to our times. Ireland followed first, and Scotland succeeded her. I do not refer to any Masonic organizations of this kind upon the continent of Europe, because with them we have no common policy, no long connection, and especially because, upon this continent, we have never looked to that quarter for Masonic precedent.

"The beginning of Grand Lodges, as we understand these institutions in our own day, was established at the London meetings of the four Lodges of 1715 and 1717. Ireland followed the path made by them. Scotland followed in a manner, though not *identical*, quite as *independent*; and the Grand Lodges on this side of the Atlantic have found no occasion for widening and enlarging the precedent of 1715-17.

"The Grand Lodge of Ireland dated from 1730. It was formed in 'imitation of the Grand Lodge of England,' and chose for its first Grand Master a Brother who had been the previous year Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England. The constitution and usages of the Grand Lodge of England were adopted by it.

"The Grand Lodge of Scotland was formed in 1736. Masonry had then existed in that country for centuries; but not until November the 30th—Saint Andrew's day—of that year, did the Lodges of that country assemble to organize as a common body, and choose their own Grand Master. Previously the Grand Mastership of Masons for Scotland had been hereditary in the family of Roslin. William Saint Clair, of Roslin, having intimated to his Masonic Brethren his wish to resign his hereditary Grand Mastership, assembled his Brethren of the Lodges in and about Edinburgh, and wished them to determine upon a plan for the election of a Grand Master. Thirty-four Lodges appeared, or were represented by their proxies, and at that meeting the office of Grand Master in Scotland became, for the first time, *elective*. This Grand Lodge had the assent of the *Grand Master of Masons of Scotland* for its formation, differing in this particular from the Grand Lodge of England.

"The entire history of the formation of these three Grand Lodges is overwhelming—I had almost said omnipotent—to prove, that they were all *voluntary* Masonic associations, growing naturally out of the necessities of the Order, and assuming, as associations, the power of proper organization as an *inherent* right. It was never claimed—and it never can be truthfully claimed—that any *ancient constitution*

conferred the right which was exercised. Old constitutions and charges may be studied for that in vain. The right to form such bodies was *assumed*, and the *extent of jurisdiction* was also *assumed*, and engrafted upon it, as well as the form and manner of Masonic government.

"Neither of the three Grand Lodges thus formed went so far as to assume *exclusive* Masonic jurisdiction out of England, Ireland, and Scotland. The only *exclusive* power assumed was to their own respective territories. When those were passed at home they exercised a common power. Whenever any one of them might grant a warrant of constitution, or locate a Provincial Grand Master *abroad*, either of the others might do the same. The Grand Lodges of England and Scotland so understood the subject, and both of them created Provincial Grand Masters in the colonies antecedent to the revolution. The subsequent history of the Masonic bodies established by these Provincial Grand Masters, is full of interest, as bearing upon the question under consideration, and I shall have cause to refer to it in the course of my examination of this subject.

"One at least of the Provincial Grand Masters, appointed by the Grand Lodge of England, did not understand that the American revolution severed the *Masonic* connection between the parent power and the newly created States upon this northern continent. In 1791 the R. W. John Johnson, then the *English Provincial Grand Master of Lower Canada*, granted a warrant of constitution to his Excellency Thomas Chatterton, then Governor of the State of Vermont, and his associates, for the establishment of a Lodge at Vergennes, by the name of Dorchester Lodge. This Lodge was duly constituted under that warrant, and worked under it until October, 1794, when, in connection with the other Lodges in the State, which had charters from the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts and New York, it aided in forming the present Grand Lodge of Vermont, and forcibly severing its connection with Canada, has ever since hailed under the new jurisdiction. The Provincial Grand Master of Canada never complained of this action, or denied the right of Dorchester Lodge, of its own motion, to make the severance and aid in establishing a new and independent jurisdiction."

"The Canadian Masonic action of the 10th of October, 1855, has, in some quarters, been treated as analogous to the various Masonic revolutions in the State of New York. To my own conceptions no analogy was ever more absurd. Had England experienced a division of her own Grand Lodge, by revolutionary means, on the soil of England, at home, the cases would have some resemblance to each other; but they have no more resemblance of revolution now than the formation of the last Grand Lodge of Michigan—by Lodges holding warrants from the Grand Lodge of New York—has of revolutionary action towards that State. Michigan had the right to go alone when she was *Masonically and constitutionally strong enough*, on well recognised principles; as Vermont had, and many other States, and as they *did* without exception from any quarter.

"The Masons of Canada were, to a large extent, men whose birth-places were abroad. Their Lodges existed by power derived from abroad. The sympathies of their members were largely with their mother-country across the ocean, and this natural and honourable feeling was all-powerful with them to prevent any rashness or disrespect towards those foreign Masonic jurisdictions to which they acknowledged allegiance. Knowing and feeling the inconveniences of their position, the neglect of their wants, and the denial of their just rights, they submitted to years of humble complaint, of brotherly solicitation, of manly petitioning, and of mild remonstrance, and they submitted in vain. No kind response, no appreciation of self-evident wrongs breathes its gentle breath across the broad Atlantic. They were compelled at last, unwillingly, to realize that all foreign hope was ended, and that the future of their Masonic happiness must depend upon themselves. Thus situated, forty-one Lodges, holding warrants of constitution under the authority of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland, after circulating notice of their intention for several months, assembled at Hamilton, on the 10th day of October, 1855, severed all foreign connection, and constituted themselves a Grand Lodge for Canada.

"The wrongs and grievances to which I refer have been sometimes denied, and the representations of these forty-one Lodges have been cavilled at by enmity and hawked at by ignorance; but an earlier justification has already come than the new Grand Lodge could have anticipated, and its own truth is sustained even from the mouths of its opponents. On the 23rd day of October last, the body of Canadian Masons which styles itself 'The Provincial Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Canada West, under the United Grand Lodge of England,' which body still acknowledges and adheres to its *foreign allegiance*, memorialized the Grand Lodge of England upon its position, and in that memorial has set forth substantially the existence of the same grievances which had been previously set forth, and which, having been treated with scorn and

contempt in the quarter to which they were addressed, had forced the forty-one Lodges to their independent action of October 10, 1855.

"Had the forty-one Lodges of Canada postponed their action and continued to bear oppression longer, subsequent events have shown that 'scorpions' were doomed to succeed the 'whips,' and that while they remained within the portal of foreign jurisdiction, they must leave all hope upon the outside. At the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of England, on the 4th of June, 1856, when a petition from Canada West was alluded to by a member upon the floor, which petition had been presented to the Grand Master, and notice had been given of a motion by Bro. Portal, 'for granting privileges to the Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West,' the Grand Master announced, *even before the motion was brought forward*, that he should 'refuse putting it from the chair. He went on to remark that 'the Grand Lodge had nothing to do with the petition,' and added, 'that he was perfectly justified in ignoring it. He refused also to read a part of the petition.

"Upon this practice the Grand Lodge of England is a myth, having no substantial entity whatever; or, if it has any appreciable existence, it is but as the *shadow* of the Most Worshipful Earl of Zetland. I know not how these occurrences may strike the minds of the Brethren of this Grand Lodge; but I am compelled to admit that no intellectual chemistry can find anything in my own conceptions which has the least affinity for them. A Grand Master quite as many years as any other living Brother on this side of the Atlantic, and—so far as I know—on the other, I have a right to believe that the Masonic world will give me credit for having no disposition to restrict the legitimate prerogatives of that exalted station; but when the Brother thus situated, and thus responsible to the Masonic world at large, assumes an entire personal control over petitions, gratuitously refuses to put motions growing naturally out of them, even before they are offered, and withholds from his Grand Lodge the contents of papers in which that body is interested, I can see only in those acts simple, unmitigated, unalloyed despotism. It is receding to the age of darkness and of iron. Masonry is too intelligent and enlightened to sanction it. If the Grand Lodge of England yields to it, she has arrived at the hour when the rising sun of her East should be transferred to represent the setting sun of her West, and in that changed position it will most appropriately emblemize her declining Masonic glory."

REPORT FROM THE P. G. M. OF QUEBEC TO THE M. W. THE G. M.

In September last the P. G. M. of Quebec and Three Rivers transmitted to England a long despatch upon the state of Masonry in Canada and the feelings of the Brethren. We extract the following striking passages:—

"In Upper Canada, where the independent movement originated, the P. G. M., Sir Allan Mac Nab, has never taken an active part in any way. In this section of Canada the disaffection has been gaining ground, principally because of alleged neglect in London, and (as the Brethren complain) the kind of apparently contemptuous indifference extended to their communications, many of which have never been noticed or acknowledged at all. Had their remonstrances and representations relating to misgovernment, or rather neglect of government—which has been felt to be a growing evil for some time past—been courteously attended to in some way, and a desire at least have been evinced to meet the wishes of the Brethren, and place them upon some more satisfactory footing in regard to the *management of their own local affairs*, it is exceedingly doubtful if such an event as throwing off allegiance would ever have been thought of. I feel sure it would not, for old country feeling is very strong; but the analogy appears perfect between State and Masonic affairs in Canada. The people were neglected by Downing Street, and there was first rebellion, and now responsible government, as nearly independent as is consistent with a dependency. The Masons complain of Freemasons' Hall in the same way, and hence the desire for a change of some nature. There are many most worthy men who have been watching events, who have lost their ancient faith in the Parent body, and who reluctantly begin to declare that some change of government appears necessary, in which they must have a voice in the *choice of their rulers*. This last is beginning to be regarded as a *sine qua non* by all with whom I have conversed. But the declaration of independence is still very far from being approved of, and there is a reluctance to sever entirely the Masonic connexion with England, the Parent body there being much revered, in spite of the neglect complained of. It is suggested that it could be a Court of final appeal, and although under certain rules, the immediate authorities might be nominated here by those the most interested, the final choice of appointment might be left to the M. W. G. M. Money matters probably would be

even more easy of arrangement; but if some steps are not *speedily* taken, it will be too late. *Delay must be fatal.*

"The M. W. the G. M. is reported to have said in relation to a petition from Upper Canada 'that not liking to tell the Petitioners that their desires were preposterous, he had decided to take no notice whatever of it.' If this is correct, it is to be regretted, as we are left in the dark as to his full reasons, and therefore it has not only created dissatisfaction, but many express indignation, and declare that taking no notice will not answer on this continent. A positive refusal would have been better received. Again, the July number of the *Magazine* reports that Br. Portal's proposed motion had been rejected as unconstitutional and improper, the M. W. the G. M. refusing to put it to G. L. Now, upon the fate of this motion, the attention of the Brethren here was fixed, as they conceived it to be well calculated to elucidate the merits of the matters at issue, and at least let them see that their grievances and desires were of sufficient importance to give rise to debate in England, where they are not, and cannot be, immediately represented, owing to distance, otherwise than by sympathy, and from whence laws, alterations, and all matters emanate, in which they are expected to concur, without the possibility of a voice or vote on the question. The course pursued in Br. Portal's case is regarded by many as intended to *smother* the matter, and the Independents congratulate themselves on the course they have pursued, and they gain converts. The Brethren say that the proceedings of the *legitimate* P. G. L. and the *Independent* G. L. are so mixed together, that either ignorance or carelessness must prevail in England on the subject of Canadian affairs to a very great extent. Those who preserved their loyalty, who were the majority, whatever they may be now, are annoyed and chagrined, because nothing at all has yet been done by the G. L. of England, although nearly twelve months have elapsed since the self-styled G. L. of Canada declared itself. While the P. G. L. of Upper Canada has received neither advice, instructions, or encouragement, the Independents have been busy labouring, appealing to that particular fact, gaining converts, printing, publishing, and leaving no stone unturned to secure their object. Worthy men waver, feeling themselves unsupported; and finally, although retaining all their English affection, but losing hope and confidence, they reluctantly look to *self-government*. They will of course be received with open arms by the *self-constituted* G. L. of Canada, to which they will give in their adherence, unless the legal P. G. L. is driven to declare its own independence."

"It will be well for the G. L. of England to remember that Canadian Masons do not at this distance feel that they positively depend upon it for the continuance of their Masonic privileges, but that they are sure of a welcome from other bodies, even although their original tie is severed."

Alluding to certain proceedings of the Independent G. L., a report of which was enclosed, he says—"I have marked several passages, the last of which is the most serious, and must have the effect of immediately bringing the fraternity into still greater antagonism here, unless some action is taken in Great Britain, inasmuch as that self-styled body has resolved to *repudiate all new warrants not emanating from itself*. You will see that the importance of the MARK degree has not escaped their notice. The recent action of the G. L. of England in regard to it, has created very considerable dissatisfaction, as it well might. The Degree is *imperative* on this side of the Atlantic; and the effect of the vacillation at home will be, that it will be worked without permission being asked or cared for. I wrote very fully on the subject, but my communication has never been formally acknowledged, although I presume that it has been made use of before the Board of General Purposes."

ROYAL FREEMASONS' GIRLS' SCHOOL.—The sixty-ninth anniversary of this school was celebrated by a very handsome dinner at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, the 13th of May, under the presidency of the R. W. D. G. M., the Right Hon. Lord Pamure. The noble lord was supported by Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, Prov. G. M., Hampshire; A. Dobie, Prov. G. M., Surrey; Captain Bowyer, Prov. G. M., Oxford; Kent, Prov. G. M., Australia; H. C. Vernon, Prov. G. M., Worcestershire; Bisgood, D. Prov. G. M., Kent; B. B. Cabbell, Prov. G. M., Norfolk; Dundas, P. G. W.; R. J. Spiers, D. Prov. G. M., Oxfordshire, and P. G. S. B.; Holland, P. G. W.; Parteson, P. G. W.; Beadon, P. G. W.; King, P. G. W.; Roxburgh, G. S. D.; Hervey, P. G. D.; Havers, P. G. D.; Potter, P. G. D.; Faudel, P. G. D.; Giraud, P. G. D.; W. Grey Clarke, G. Sec.; W. H. White, P. G. Sec.; W. Farnfield, Asst. G. Sec.; Jennings, G. Dir., of Cers.; Hutchins, G. S. B.; Le Veau, P. G. S. B.; Geo. Biggs, P. G. S. B.; Rev. J. E. Cox, G. Chap.; the Right Hon. Earl Carnarvon, No. 10, President of the Board of Stewards; Bros. G. R. Portal, P. G. W., Oxfordshire; Beach, P. G. W., Oxfordshire; and about 250 other Brethren, friends of the institution. There were also between eighty and ninety ladies in the gallery. The collection amounted to the unprecedented sum of £1900.

Colonial.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.

From the *Mirror and Keystone*.

On the twenty-third day of October last, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada, convened at Toronto, and a committee, was appointed to prepare a petition setting forth the grievances and wants of the brethren who still retain their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England. The committee consisted of the most loyal and intelligent members of the Prov. Grand Lodge. The committee prepared a memorial to be forwarded to the Grand Lodge of England, in which they show from the minutes that for a series of years the Freemasons of Canada have complained of the neglect of the parent Grand Lodge; that the interests of Freemasonry suffered vitally from such neglect, and that all their petitions, memorials, and correspondence, were unattended to and unanswered. In this matter the intelligent committee fully sustain and establish the grievances complained of by the Lodges which now form the Grand Lodge of Canada. The strong attachment manifested by the brethren of the Provincial Grand Lodge to the Grand Lodge of England is certainly creditable to them as men and as Masons, but we think that the evidence is clear that they have gone more than one step beyond the bounds of legitimate propriety in their loyalty, as affection and fidelity are not consistent with cringing humility.

The memorial referred to intimates that it is to be the last appeal, and that the privilege of self-government is what they want. It appears to be an anomaly in the character of men of sound judgment and undoubted intelligence to waive a plain act of duty upon which the welfare of society is dependent for a mere feeling of attachment. The duties of humanity are paramount to partial considerations. It appears to us to be a work of superfluity to discuss the question as to the right of the Freemasons of Canada to establish a Grand Lodge for their own government without the consent of the Grand Lodge of England. How the question can be doubted we cannot imagine. We have, as yet, seen no argument touching the main points of the question from those who argue that the brethren in Canada have no right to establish an independent Grand Lodge without the consent of the Grand Lodge of England. And why have they not that right? Because they received their warrants from the Grand Lodge of England?

We think that other members of the Provincial Grand Lodge who have investigated the subject fully, are convinced by this time that they have such right, and *they will exercise it.*

GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.—Having been the first to speak in favour of the legality of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and support its claims to recognition, we confess to no little gratification at seeing our positions so ably sustained by other brethren, so eminent for their masonic lore. While Missouri, Massachusetts, New York, and Virginia, have refused to recognise the Grand Lodge of Canada, many other Grand Lodges have cordially greeted it with the right hand of fellowship. The *Freemasons' Magazine*, of Boston, whose editor is an Englishman by birth, and who has a strange idea that the Grand Lodge of England can do no wrong, has opened his batteries on the young organization of Canada; but his missiles are all intercepted by the Green Mountains of Vermont, and *they do no harm.* P. C. Tucker, the M. W. Grand Master of Vermont, in a recent review of the case, has so completely silenced the Boston battery—the echo of the Earl of Zetland—that its thunders will hardly be heard again. The argument of Bro. Tucker is a most masterly production, perfectly unanswerable, keenly sarcastic, and exceedingly eloquent. All hail, Bro. Tucker! The brethren of Canada are quietly pursuing the even tenor of their way, while their noble structure is constantly being strengthened and adorned by valuable additions. Go on, brethren of Canada, your path is plain: “who can harm you?”—*Masonic Review.*

The March number of the *Canadian Pioneer* contains that portion of the address of M. W. Bro. Philip C. Tucker, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Vermont, delivered before the Grand Lodge at its annual communication in January last, relating to the “Grand Lodge of Canada.” The distinguished veteran in Masonry enters into a critical and historical investigation of the origin of Grand Lodges, and proves conclusively that the Craft in Canada acted in accordance with precedent in the formation of the Grand Lodge. We call the especial attention of those brethren who had not investigated the subject thoroughly and had some doubts and misgivings as to the legality of the proceedings of the Lodges in Canada in establishing an Independent Grand Lodge, to the very able address of M. W. Bro. Tucker, and also that of M. W. Bro. B. B. French, and we feel assured that upon an attentive perusal of those documents they will be convinced of the correctness and constitutionality of the organization of the Grand Lodge of Canada. With the

light shed upon this subject, contained in the two documents referred to, we shall expect those Grand Lodges which have refused or deferred for further investigation the acknowledgment of the Grand Lodge of Canada, will, at their next communications, extend to the new Grand Lodge the right hand of fellowship, and hail it with a hearty welcome, and enter into fraternal correspondence with it. The subject is now, in our opinion, definitely settled, and we hope that the legality of the organization of the Grand Lodge of Canada will not in future be questioned.—*Mirror and Keystone.*

Correspondence.

To the Editor of “*The Masonic Observer and Grand Lodge Chronicle.*”

Sir and Brother,—As the Masonic affairs of Canada have caused a considerable degree of interest amongst the Freemasons in this country, I think it is right that I should give some information on that subject. It was my endeavour during my stay in that country to ascertain the feelings of the Brethren, and to learn from them their views as to the best method of settling the difficulties which at present unhappily exist. In accordance with my wishes a meeting was held, composed of the Provincial Grand Master of Quebec, and the three Rivers, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Canada West, and many Masters of Lodges in the latter province. The letter of the M. W. Grand Master was read, and each Brother in turn proceeded to state his opinion with regard to the course that ought to be pursued. Every one concurred in an expression of gratification at the very handsome manner in which the M. W. Grand Master had alluded to former events, and had granted considerable concessions. They deeply regretted that the time for such an arrangement as that proposed had passed by. It was not that time had impaired their feelings of loyalty and attachment to the Grand Lodge of England, though much dissatisfaction had arisen amongst those who had previously resisted any proposal of a rebellious nature; but it was the existence of an illegal Grand Lodge. That body had now gained such strength, that any attempt to control them must prove unsuccessful. If decisive measures had been adopted by the Grand Lodge of England in the first instance, the movement might have been checked. It was now too late. The formation of an Independent Grand Chapter had augmented the difficulties of the case. The Grand Lodge of Ireland also had pursued a course by no means wise or politic. On being applied to for recognition by the independent body, it appears that a letter was written to the Grand Lodge of England asking for advice and information. No answer was returned; and the Grand Lodge of Ireland with an undue precipitance consented to acknowledge the Brethren who had applied, as the Grand Lodge of Canada, but was at the same time willing to retain under its jurisdiction any Lodges that preferred to remain so. Such being the state of things, no hope of agreement was left on the basis of the present proposal from the M. W. Grand Master. It must be evident that antagonistic authorities are most inimical to the interests of Freemasonry. In many instances the best friends are debarred from all Masonic intercourse with each other. One instance might be sufficient to exemplify the present circumstances. On the melancholy death of Bro. Zimmerman, who was held in high estimation throughout the Craft, the Brethren, anxious to testify their respect, attended the funeral in great numbers. The Deputy Prov. Gr. Master of Canada West and the Independent Grand Master were present. From the jealousy that prevailed, neither was able to preside on the occasion, and it was necessary to request an American Grand Master to occupy the first place—to the great annoyance of the Canadian Brethren. No exertions had been wanting on their part to maintain the allegiance of the Canadian Masons; but some were seceding from time to time; and of those who left them, none ever returned. The Independent body gladly welcomed the new adherents to their cause. Amongst them might be counted some of the most energetic Masons in the province. The plan which they unanimously concurred in recommending for adoption was, that the Grand Lodge of England should recognise the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada as an independent Grand Lodge; that their Charters should be given up, with a request that they might be subsequently restored as a memorial of the connection that had subsisted; that they had reason to believe that in the event of this being granted, the independent body would join them; and that they would agree in recognising the Grand Lodge of England as a final Court of Appeal. Should it be rejected, the result would be that the Lodges would drop off one by one, and those who had maintained their allegiance hitherto unwavering and true, would see no course open to them but to follow the example which had so unhappily been set them in an earlier day.—I am, Sir and Brother, Yours fraternally,

W. WITHER BEACH, M.P.

P. M. 10, 90, 460. P. M. S. G. W., Oxon.

FREEMASONS' BOYS' SCHOOL.

To the Editor of "The Masonic Observer and Grand Lodge Chronicle."

Sir and Brother,—Will you kindly allow me through the medium of your columns to solicit the votes of your readers at the ensuing election of the above charity in favour of J. F. HARVEY, whose father died at the Cape, leaving a widow and eight children *totally unprovided for*. The poor child is a candidate for the fifth time.

I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
G. R. PORTAL, P. M., 10 & 460.

3, Wilton Crescent, London, S.W.

OXFORD FOOD AND OXFORD FLATTERY.

"Mulcet adulator fictis virtutibus aurem."

To be saved from one's friends is a wish often told,
And the Grand Master must have felt so,
Though our welcome was warm and our Sillery cold,
And we brought out the best of Bordeaux.
And when hearts with good cheer are aglow,
We know
How the speeches of orators flow;
But the most metaphorical orator out
Never drew like our Bowyer the bow.

Was it irony? that were too sadly misplaced;
What will Canada say, when they know
That we thought it consistent with truth and with taste
To butter our Grand Master so?
They'll say that six centuries ago

Or so,
In the days of the bold Ivanhoe,
An archer there lived, who'd have been a good match
With our Bowyer to draw the long bow.

Perorations on union, exordiums on peace
Were surely a little *de trop*;
For, though now wiser measures have bid the strife cease,
I fear it was not always so.
Why Apollo and Alfred and Co.

Well know
That those measures came painfully slow.
And painfully wide of the mark fell the shaft,
When our Bowyer thus drew the long bow.

But the tribute that good English gentlemen earn,
To England's Grand Master we owe;
And the same feeling bids us respectfully turn
To you, my bold Bowyer, also.
After hounds like a Briton you go,
And show
Good example to high and to low;
And your true love of sport perhaps led you to think,
That a Bowyer should draw the long bow.

Oxford, June, 1857.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

The air of the song known as "A free and an accepted Mason," was evidently composed prior to the year 1736. In one of Henry Fielding's dramatic pieces, all of which were composed before that year, there is a stupid song in praise of tobacco, to which the stage direction is, "Air—Freemason's tune." The first verse is quite sufficient to show that the air and words of our song were familiar to the composer of the parody—

"Let the learn'd talk of books,
The glutton of cooks,
The lover of Celia's soft smack-o;
No mortal can boast,
So noble a toast,
As a pipe of accepted tobacco."

Among the readers of the *Masonic Observer* I should be glad to meet with one who could recover the name of the composer of an air so dear to all Masons. I have a copy of the words in the *Freemasons' Pocket Companion*, for 1736, which are precisely the same as those now in use, and are preceded by this title—"The entered Prentice's Song—by the late Mr. Matthew Birkhead; to be sung when all grave business is over, and with the Master's leave." In the same volume are other curious Masonic songs and pieces, as well as a list of Lodges down to the year 1734.—PAULS.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—The Biennial Festival of this admirable Institution, for the support of decayed Masons and their Widows, was held at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday last the 17th inst, when one hundred and forty-two Brethren sat down to a sumptuous banquet. The Chair was taken by the R. W. Bro. Fenwick, M.P., J. G. W., who kindly presided in the absence of the Earl of Durham, S. G. W.; and was supported by several past and present Grand Officers, including—Bros. Tomkins, G. T.; Rawson, P. G. M. for China; Bowyer, P. G. M. for Oxford; H. Lloyd, P. G. D.; White, P. G. S.; Clarke, G. S.; Evans, P. G. S. B.; Hervey, P. G. D.; Beach, M.P., P. G. W. Oxford; Rev. G. R. Portal, P. G. W. Oxford; &c. The collection amounted to £1658 6s. 6d. We cannot conclude this notice, without expressing our hope that this Festival, like the Boys' and Girls', may in future have an annual celebration; and that the funds will, for the time to come, receive such support from the Craft at large, as will place it upon a more satisfactory footing, and permit of the relief of a larger number of decayed Brethren. At present, out of fifty approved candidates, only eight can be assisted.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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For Clothing, Educating, and Apprenticing the Sons of Indigent and Deceased Freemasons.

PATRON.—HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

PRESIDENT.—The Right Hon. THE EARL OF ZETLAND, M.W., *Grand Master*.

A QUARTERLY General Meeting of the Governors and MASONS' TAVERN, on MONDAY, the 20th July, 1857, at Twelve o'Clock at Noon precisely, to Elect EIGHT Boys out of FOURTEEN Candidates; and on general business. The Ballot will commence at Twelve and close at Two o'Clock precisely.—By Order,

AUGUSTUS U. THISELTON, *Secretary*.

16a, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTERS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, AND THE COLONIES AND POSSESSIONS OF THE BRITISH CROWN.

Bro. The LORD LEIGH, *Grand Master*.

Bro. The LORD METHUEN, *Deputy Grand Master*.

LODGES desirous of Uniting under the English Constitution, and Brethren wishing to obtain New Warrants to work the Mark degree, are requested to communicate with Bro. W. L. COLLINS, the Grand Secretary, at the Office of the Grand Lodge, No. 40, Leicester Square, London.

PROVINCIAL MESS.

DINNER is provided at 5-30 P.M. on the day of each Quarterly communication, at P. M. Tavern, for any Provincial Brethren who signify their intention of dining by the morning of that day.

Price, including wine, 5s., to those who subscribe for the year; 7s. 6d. for others.

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