

last six months to have been very satisfactory. A greater number of affiliations and intrants have been returned than during the previous eighteen months. Fraternal recognitions were to hand from four Grand Lodges, namely, Arkansas, Ohio, Montana, and Alabama. One new lodge was opened at Jerilderie on 9th March.

ENGLAND.—List of lodges for which warrants have been granted by the M. W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, since the last Quarterly Communication:—

No. 1971.—The Aldershot, Army and Navy Lodge, Aldershot, Hants.

No. 1972.—The Urania Lodge, Willowmore, South Africa, E. D.

No. 1973.—The Saye and Sele Lodge, Belvedere, Kent.

No. 1974.—The Saint Mary Abbotts Lodge, Kensington.

No. 1975.—The Charles Egan Lodge, Untata, South Africa, E. D.

OPENING OF A MASONIC LODGE IN SUVA, FIJI.—On the 2nd of May last, the Lodge of Fiji was opened in Suva, under the E.C., and the proceedings in connection therewith appear to have been "the event of the week." The report in the *Suva Times*—a copy of which was kindly sent to us, with the compliments of the W. M. and officers of the lodge—is rather ambiguous, and, therefore, we give the following extract literally:—"Of the first part of the ceremony we cannot speak. It consisted of dedicating the lodge room to the purposes of Masonry and installing the Worshipful Master-elect in the chair, and investing his chosen officers with the symbols of their office. Being conducted with closed doors and surrounded by all the secrecy that encircles the Craft these proceedings can only be guessed at. It is understood, however, that Messrs. Duffy, Moore, and Smith came specially for the purpose of assisting, and Mr. P. S. Solomon, who had arrived two days before, was also one of the Elder Brethren. Mr. George Smith, we understand, was

the principal in the ceremony of conferring the dignities of office on the Master-Elected, Mr. D. Cuthbert, one of the oldest of Suva's residents. There were present some twenty or thirty Masons of different Constitutions. In the evening there was a grand ball."

EARLY CALIFORNIA MASONRY.—A correspondent of the *Fraternal Record* writes:—"I arrived in San Francisco on Tuesday, January 11, 1850, and first visited California Lodge, No. 13, of the District of Columbia (now No. 1), on Thursday, January 20th, and found the lodge domiciled in Levi Stowell's building, situated on the east side of Montgomery street, between Washington and Jackson streets, the present number would be either 722 or 724, rather nearer to Jackson street than Washington, and almost directly opposite the old Metropolitan theatre, where it had met since October, 1849. The building was a two-storey and attic wood structure, and the Masons occupied the attic. I well remember the roof came down so low on the sides of the room that while one could sit on the rough benches—used for seats—he could not stand erect; and it was always necessary to advance two paces to the front to obey the requirements of the Master in opening and closing the lodge. I also distinctly remember that the rafters and sides of the room were covered with a gaudy pattern of chintz, fashionable in those days, wherein peacocks and China asters are the prominent figures. The room was lighted by candles, in tin sconces, on the side and ends; and at the office desks by blocks of wood, with three nails driven triangularly therein to hold the candle, a device familiar to all old Californians. In this humble room I met the men who have since done so much to give our beloved Craft a status and a name in its western home, but as I only deal this time with lodge rooms, I will not particularize, but will leave them and their labors to a future article."