

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

BY THE EDITOR.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

In the December number of the *CRAFTSMAN*, we gave some particulars as to the origin and history of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, at Wood Green, London, N., with a Leggotypo of the new buildings recently erected for the accommodation of the pupils. As with the Girls' School, to which we have already made reference, the school is largely maintained by donations carrying with them certain honorary rank in connection with the institution. Thus, fifty guineas constitutes a Vice-President with ten votes at all elections of boys; ten guineas constitute a Life Governor with two votes; five guineas constitute a Life Subscriber with one vote. And the payment of one guinea carries with it one vote for the year in which the grant was made. Similar privileges for like donations are enjoyed by Lodges, Chapters, &c., for the exercise of which any officer, or individual member may be nominated. This system has been found to work admirably; and has proved both in the case of the girls and boys school to be productive of valuable results to the Institutions. In addition to these honors, however, are those of the Stewards at the Annual Festival; for in England annual festivals are the inevitable accompaniments of all great undertakings. Our brethren recognise this fact, that there is no time when a man is more accessible to the claims of benevolence than when in the enjoyment of a good dinner. "The fee to the stewards' fund (£4 or £5, as the case may be) payable by any brother serving the office of steward at the anniversary festival, gives an additional vote when ten guineas or upwards are constituted by the brother serving such stewardship. And the like fee payable on serving a second, or any subsequent stewardship, at which not less than ten guineas is contributed, entitles the donor to two additional votes for any subsequent stewardship. Brethren serving the stewardship at two consecutive annual festivals and contributing five guineas, in addition to the stewards' fee on each occasion, becomes entitled, on serving the second stewardship, to the same number of votes, three, as those who contribute ten guineas at one stewardship."

Of the internal arrangements, and educational facilities of the institution, we cannot do better than quote from an exceedingly interesting article in *The Public Schools Chronicle*:

"Entering a deeply recessed porch, or vestibule, in one compartment of which is a stained glass window, by Lavers and Barnaud, while other panels are filled by the names of benefactors and assistants in the work, and merely stopping to give a hurried glance of interest at these, and of admiration at the moulding of the arched roof, we find ourselves in front of an elegant group of statuary, a figure of Charity with two children, the only piece of sheer ornament in the whole structure; and, with the win-