

MASONIC FAIR.

Our brethren in New York have been for some months past making earnest preparations for holding "a Masonic Fair," the proceeds of which are to be appropriated toward the erection of a Masonic Asylum. The want of a home for the indigent widows and children of Free and Accepted Masons has long been felt, and it is now determined that a suitable asylum should be erected. Already the Masons have accumulated a fund of \$200,000 for this purpose, but this is not supposed to be sufficient for the successful working of the undertaking.

The fair was opened on the 5th December, instant, and from the statements in the New York newspapers, there is little doubt that it will realize the most sanguine expectations of its benevolent promoters. The *World*, speaking of the opening, says: "The hall, from being a church formerly, has undergone a complete metamorphosis. The seats have been removed, and in their place tables and stalls laden down with articles of every possible description calculated to tempt a purchase, while in lieu of sedate pew-openers most persuasive young ladies entreat you to take a chance for a doll, a piano, a morning wrapper, smoking cap and a hundred other articles. Where the gallery used to be a flooring has been laid, so that double the space is secured. Down stairs a well-kept restaurant, from which escapes a delicious odor, induces the visitor to order something wherewith to appease a newly-created appetite, while up-stairs streams cooling soda from an agreeable resort, after passing through the crowded and heated hall."

Over fifty lodges are represented by stalls, and applications were coming in for others, which for want of space could not be complied with. The fair was opened by prayer, by Bro. the Rev. Dr. McMurdy, and by an inaugural address by Most Worshipful Brother Simons, Past Grand Master of the State of New York. The fair is to continue open until after the new year.

CANADIAN MASONIC ITEMS.

The Freemasons of London intend celebrating the Festival of St. John the Evangelist by a Grand Masonic Ball at the Tecumseh House. The Band of the 53rd Regiment has been engaged for the occasion.

The following brothers were elected at the last regular Communication of Acacia Lodge, No. 61, as office bearers for the ensuing year: E. Mitchell, W. M.; Geo. Magill, S. W.; James Watson, J. W.; E. Magill, Treasurer; E. Laven, Secretary; W. W. Summers, Tyler.

We are glad to learn that the principles of Freemasonry are quietly extending their beneficial influence through the rural population of the thriving County of Ontario. For some years past a Lodge has been working at Brooklin, and for a season was removed up to Prince Albert, whence it was again removed back to Brooklin, at which place it has been gradually advancing in prosperity. The Brethren of Prince Albert, feeling that their numbers were sufficient to warrant them in seeking to have a Lodge in their midst, petitioned the M. W. Grand Master for a Dispensation to open a New Lodge, to be named "Prince Albert," and to meet in the village

of Prince Albert. The prayer of the petition has been granted, and this new Lodge will be presided over by W. Bro. James Baird as First Master, Bro. James Amaney, Senior Warden, and Bro. Archibald Sinclair, Junior Warden. The well-known masonic zeal and knowledge of W. Bro. Baird is a certain guarantee for the success of this new Lodge.

Sir William Colles, Knight, delivered a lecture in the Town Hall, Guelph, on Monday evening, the 19th November, at which W. Bro. J. M. Dunn, of Speed Lodge, presided. The lecture was not very largely attended, owing, the local chronicler tells us, to the fact that "there have been so many meetings and assemblies of one kind or another in the Town Hall lately, that people demand a little respite, and scarcely anything short of a declaration that the Bard of Avon was going to return, the first traveller from a certain bourne, and read one of his own plays for the intellectual awakening and improvement of the people of Guelph, would induce a large assembly at the present time." Brother Colles treated of the history of Masonry, tracing its progress from the earlier days of its existence to the present time, and eloquently portrayed its leading principles and maxims. A vote of thanks was passed to the eloquent lecturer for the valuable information imparted by him.

FOREIGN MASONIC ITEMS.

Dr. George Oliver, at the extreme age of 87, has written a work entitled "Papal Teachings in Freemasonry."

Rev. P. H. Waddel, a Scotch brother, is writing the life of Burns, having had access to all the correspondence and documents in possession of the family executors.

A new Masonic Lodge was instituted at Kutztown, Berks County, Pennsylvania, November 29, Bro. Stichter acting as Grand Master, 15 Lodges and 200 members of the Fraternity participating.

A Masonic Widow and Orphan Asylum and Infirmary, for the State of Kentucky, is being originated in Louisville. One brother heads the subscription list with \$1000.

The last number of the "*Bulletin du Grand Orient de France*," the official journal of French Freemasonry, contains an address from the Grand Master, announcing the opening of a subscription among Freemasons in behalf of the victims of the late inundations. The Grand Orient heads the subscription list with one thousand francs.

The body of Brother James Welch, who went to Baltimore to attend the Masonic ceremonial there on the 20th November, and who has been missing ever since, was found in the water at the foot of Gay street, on the 4th inst., almost entirely divested of clothing. The Brethren of Baltimore are making strict enquiry as to the cause of his death.

Bro. Lyon, P. S. W. of mother Kilwinning Lodge, and one of the Grand Stewards of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, has been recently examining the MSS. records of Masonic associations. It appears that the second Charter granted by the Scottish craft to Sir William St. Clair was executed between 1626 and 1628, these being the years during which William Wallace, who subscribed the Charter as Peacon of the Edinburgh Masons, acted in that capacity.