

A MASONIC BANQUET took place recently in London, which deserves notice. After the usual Lodge work was done, the members of the "Great City" Lodge of Freemasons adjourned to their banquet-room, where, instead of the accustomed sumptuous dinner, there was spread a frugal meal of bread and cheese and ale. The Worshipful Master presided, and all the officers and visitors partook of the repast; and when the cloth was removed, the President explained to the visitors that the Lodge had determined to give up one banquet (which cost between £50 and £60) and to give the amount thus saved to the charity fund of the Lodge. Most of the visitors spoke and expressed themselves as highly delighted with the novel banquet, and the members were so gratified at the unexpected success of the experiment that it was decided to give up four out of six monthly banquets, and so increase the charitable fund to the extent of about £200.

In France a very remarkable contest is apparently going on, and one which may affect the influence of the Grand Orient of France, or the governing Grand Lodge, very materially. The Grand Orient was composed of delegates of 270 Lodges, and of representatives from 56 "ateliers" of the high grades. Of the 270 Lodges, 25 are in other countries. It has recently been decided in the Grand Orient in its General Assembly, which began Monday, September 22nd, and ended Saturday, September 27th, by 111 votes to 99, to exclude the "ateliers," which represent the high grades, from the representation, and to abolish all payments except from the Lodges. Thus it would seem as if the Grand Orient had fallen back upon the organization simply of Craft Masonry. But as this resolution has been carried by the small majority of twelve votes, it is just possible that it may be yet reversed. We shall watch the future proceedings of the Grand Orient with deep interest.

THE *Masonic Magazine* for January says: We hope we are not wrong in anticipating for 1874 a prosperous year for Freemasonry in England. Last year as we shall all remember, contributions of £21,000, in round numbers were made to our great Masonic Charities by the combined donations of free-will offering of our brethren. What 1874 will produce time alone can fully show. But yet we are inclined to think, that, so far from any evidence yet of slackness on the part of the Craft in these their charitable efforts, in this their labor of love, there is on the contrary much proof in various ways that as a Brotherhood we are realizing more and more, that, if Freemasonry is what it professes to be, and is worth anything at all to us or the world, the best evidence both of its value and its vitality is to be found in its works of good-will and benevolence. Certain it is, that our Craft is largely augmenting in numbers every year, and with increasing numbers come necessarily increasing wants, and extended claims on our memories, our sympathy, and our brotherly relief.

THE first meeting of the recently-revived Provincial Grand Lodge of the West India Islands was held at Tobago on the 24th September last, under the presidency of its much-valued Provincial Grand Master, the Hon. Joseph King Wattley, Chief Justice of Tobago. The Lodge was opened in the first degree with solemn prayer, and raised to the sublime degree. The commission to the P. G. M., and letter therewith from the Grand Secretary, were read by the Provincial Grand Secretary-designate. Bro. Wattley thereafter administered the oath *de fide officio* to himself, and afterwards invested the Grand officers, among whom each island in the Province has a native. Among other business transacted, the following resolution was passed: "Resolved, That it is the opinion of the P. G. Lodge for the West India Islands, holding under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, that a brotherly connection and correspondence with Provincial Grand Lodge of Trinidad, holding under the Grand Lodge of England, will be found productive of honor and advantage to the fraternity in general and the Province in the West Indies in particular." It was also resolved that the future quarterly communications should be held on the first Wednesdays of December, March, June and September.

QUITE a discussion has arisen in England on the subject of the triangle and double triangle. A correspondent of the *Freemason* laid down the dictum that the double triangle was purely a Royal Arch emblem, and could not belong to Craft Masonry, because, as he said, "every Freemason knows that a Masonic mark must have an odd number of points." To this an intelligent correspondent replies: "I admit that properly the double triangle is an emblem of R. A. Masonry, but I cannot admit, therefore, that it does not belong to Craft Masonry. In our present arrangement, the R. A. is separated from Craft Masonry, but in treating of Masonic symbolism it would not have been out of place to allude to that remarkable figure, which, symbolical as it is, has been made use of by the operative Masons from the very first. When Bro. Paton says, 'every Freemason knows that a Masonic mark must have an odd number of points,' I cannot profess to understand what he really means. I never heard of such a rule, and I am not aware where it is so laid down, or how it is proved. I have