

**INSTALLATIONS.**—We will feel greatly indebted to the Secretaries of Lodges whose officers are installed on the 24th of June, if they will send us their new list as early as possible after their officers are installed. Please write names plainly.

**A CURIOUS APRON.**—The Apron, often called "the badge of innocence," has varied in form and style in the various ages and countries. Some of the old ones of Scotch lodges are very quaint, and may yet be seen. Lodge Journeyman No. 8, Edinburgh, has an old relic called the "blue blanket," which is only used on the affiliation of a distinguished member of the Craft to that lodge, and is considered the greatest honor that can be paid by the lodge to any Mason. It is not, however, to this that we wish now to allude, the apron in question being preserved at Hereford, together with an old certificate, dated Anno Lucis, 5800. "The apron, which is narrower at the top than at the bottom, is bound round with purple silk and has long purple strings; on it are figures of Faith, Hope and Charity—the latter on the flap, and the two former on each side; at the bottom, at a platform of three steps, with various Masonic emblems between, the Sacred Law opened at 2 Chron. ch. ii. and iii., with square and compass, and behind the sun, Jacob's ladder, Tuscan and Corinthian columns, rule, level and plumb-rule; on each side the moon and seven stars; and above the All-Seeing Eye; underneath, the interlaced triangle with G in the centre, the three candlesticks with lighted candles perfect ashlar and Lewis; rough ashlar, trowel and mallet, all these resting on the platform. Hope on the right hand, as worn, holds the traditional anchor, and Faith, on the left hand, holds a cross in her right hand, and a Bible under left arm, with I. H. S. on the cover." Truly a most interesting and instructive relic of the past.—*Scottish Freemason.*

**TRUE MASONIC WORK.**—The fire had burned low in the grate, the cellar was empty of coal, the larder contain-

ed neither bread nor meat, and *that* home was cheerless and cold. Death had entered that humble dwelling, with his stealthy noiseless tread, and taken thence the husband and father to the narrow house of the dead. The widow, with strength superhuman, had beaten back the wolf at the door, until by illness overwhelmed, when powerless to do more, she gave away to despair. Then not one ray of hope beamed in that stricken cottage, and it was indeed lonely and desolate. At that time, as God willed, a stranger, passing that way, learned the tale of sorrow, and being a Mason at heart, immediately extended relief. The children were fed and clothed, the mother was attended with skill by physician and nurse, a cheerful fire lit up the grate, and the cellar was filled with coal. The family purse, so long empty, was well supplied, and in lieu of distress, happiness prevailed. The donor, Masonically, having discharged his duty, quietly disappeared, none knowing whence he came or whither he went. His charity by no trumpet was bruited abroad, no one on the house-top proclaimed it, but the All-Seeing Eye benignly looked down and approved his deed of true merit.

**GENERAL STATISTICS.**—The following statistics of the number of lodges of Freemasons which existed at the end of last year will be read with interest:

In Germany there were 342 lodges; in Switzerland, 33; Hungary, 44; Roumania, 11; Servia, 1; England and Wales, 1,187; Scotland, 334; Ireland, 289; Gibraltar, 5; Malta, 4; Holland and Luxemburg, 46; Belgium, 15; Denmark, 7; Sweden and Norway, 18; France, 287; Spain about 300; Portugal, 22; Italy, 110; Greece, 11; Turkey, 26; Egypt, 28; Tunis, 2; Algeria, 11; Morocco, 2; the West Coast of Africa, 11; African Islands, 25; the Cape, 61; Arabia, (Aden,) 1; India, 118; Indian Islands, 16; China, 13; Japan, 5; Australian Islands, 4; Australia, 229; New Zealand, 84; United States, 9,894; Canada, 535; Cuba, 30; Hayti, 32; West Indian Islands, 65; Mexico, 13; Brazil, 256; other States in South America, 179—a total of about 15,000 lodges. The number of Freemasons is about 5,000,000.

The number of Masonic Lodges in the United States is more than double the number of lodges in all the rest of the world.