

widows, receiving annually half their late husbands' annuities or £20 each.

2. "The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," for which a sum of £14,315 and 6d. was collected, and in which institution about 200 boys are clothed, supported and educated till the age of 16, when positions are found for them, and a watchful eye preserved over them.

3. "The Royal Masonic Institution for Girls," of which Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales is Patroness, and for which a sum of £11,900 was collected. In this institution about 200 girls are cared for in the same way as the boys.

The education given in both these schools is of a very superior character. Of course you will understand that these are only some of the public charities of England. In addition to these there is an immense amount of charitable aid rendered by the Grand Lodge of England, and by its 1,600 Lodges. I do not now propose to speak of the charitable work done in Canada, although we have no reason to be ashamed of it, considering our means and numbers, but time will not permit any further particulars on this question. I think I have said enough to show you that the Masonic fraternity is deserving of the kind support which you have given us, and I have merely to conclude by expressing the hope that you may one and all enjoy the entertainment which we have provided for you. (Applause.)

In the duett, "La Radiense," by Gottschalk, which followed, played by Mrs. M. M. Tait and Mr. Septimus Fraser, the conception of the author was admirably rendered, Mr. Fraser performing the bass part with his usual well-known ability, and Mrs. Tait displaying brilliancy of execution in the treble. A quaint old English ballad, "The oak and the ash and the old ivy tree," was sung by Mrs. Barnes with a delicacy and pathos which earned for her repeated plaudits. Mr. Ernest Lavigne's cornet solo, a *Polka de Concert* of his own composition, with piano accompaniment by Madame Lavigne, was remarkable for the beauty of the theme and the exquisite manner in which it was rendered. The "Temple Quartette," of Boston, whose reputation had preceded them, and whose advent was eagerly looked forward to by our musical public, came next on the programme, and their performance did not belie but rather exceeded the expectations raised by their record in other cities. "Comrades in Arms" was the first piece in which they displayed their powers, and their rendering of it fairly enraptured the audience, who imperatively insisted on an encore, in response to which they gave "One Evening's Twilight," which again called forth prolonged applause. The finale from *Lucio Borgia*, a selection from Goria's works, by Mr. Septimus Fraser, was

a brilliant display of technique. The Temple Quartette again appeared, rendering the *Recordare Pia Jesus*, of Beethoven, and "Arise, Shine," by Rhodes, and in response to enthusiastic encores, sang the "Lord's Prayer."

Mr. Thos. White, M.P., was then introduced by the Chairman, and addressed the audience. He wished to remove false impressions which existed in relation to Freemasonry. It was not a political institution in the party sense of politics. There were men of all shades of politics in its lodges. Inside the portals they knew each other only as brethren with a common tie binding them together. There might be in relation to continental European Freemasonry some reason to believe that, in all cases, they had not abstained from politics. There were other societies, offshoots from Freemasonry, which sometimes brought the name into disrepute, but such associations met with no sympathy in Canada or in England. Freemasonry was not a religious association in the sense of doctrinal religion. They believed in the existence of an overruling Providence, the Great Architect of the Universe. It was not a benefit society, though that statement might seem at variance with the object of the concert. No Freemason had any legal claim on the funds of the association. They acted on the principle that it was more blessed to give than to receive. They gave their contributions into a common treasury for the maintenance of their members in want; and this concert was given to add to this benevolent fund. Freemasons were loyal to the institutions under which they lived. The association was a Conservative one, in the largest sense of the word. The magnificent reception given to our new Governor-General in Nova Scotia the other day was a true interpretation of the loyal sentiment of the Dominion, and it would be duplicated wherever His Excellency would go, from one end of the Dominion to the other. (Applause.) The Duke of Kent, grandfather of the Princess Louise, resided some time in Nova Scotia, and many a lodge in Canada bore evidence on its records of the Duke's attendance. The Prince of Wales was now Grand Master of Masonry, and so were other members of the Royal family; so the Association, sanctioned and supported by the leading people of the State, might fairly lay claim to being loyal. (Applause.) He expressed his pleasure at seeing such a large audience, which showed great sympathy with the object of the entertainment. (Applause.)

Mrs. Barnes then sang exquisitely: "Qui la voce," I Puritani, by Bellini. Her voice is liquid and full of Melody, and her rendering of the various shades of expression and difficult trills in the selection was artistic in a high degree. The Temple Quar-