

degree of P. M. in conformity with the practice which had for a long time previously prevailed there, without being elected and installed, and without having served the office of Master for one year as provided by the Book of Constitution. The practice of granting the honorary degree arose from the difficulty which was experienced in obtaining a sufficient number of installed masters. From the year of his obtaining the degree, Bro. Smithers was allowed all the privileges of a P. M. at installation meetings. A question was afterwards mooted about the irregularity of the practice, and it was discontinued. At first the change was not allowed to make any difference to this brother, but in June last at an installation, he was directed to retire, on the ground of his not being an actual P. M. and not competent to be present during the ceremony. He protested, but to avoid an unseemly contest, retired under protest. He petitioned the District Grand Lodge, which dismissed his petition, and he then appealed to the Grand Lodge of England. Grand Lodge sustained the decision of the District Grand Lodge and dismissed the appeal. An appeal of rather a complicated nature from a P. M. of Lodge No. 586, Salisbury against the decision of the Provincial G. M. for Wiltshire, upon a complaint respecting the election of Master of the Lodge was referred back to the Prov. G. M. in order that some errors which had crept into his decision might be corrected. In answer to Bro. C Hutton Gregory, Bro. Brackstone Baker stated that the tablet to record the successful completion of the buildings in which they were assembled, was completed and would be erected before the next meeting of Grand Lodge. In answer to Bro. the Earl of Limerick the acting G. M. stated that a circular letter had been received from the Grand Orient of France, soliciting the co-operation of Grand Lodge in giving aid to the wounded during the war on the Continent, and that an Emergent Communication would be held shortly to consider the subject.

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As intimated in the preceding paragraph, an emergent communication of the Grand Lodge of England was held on the 16th ult., for the purpose of considering and deciding upon a motion by the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl of Carnarvon, for a grant of £100 towards the fund now being raised, under the auspices of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, for aid to the sick and wounded in the Franco-Prussian War. Eloquent speeches were made by the mover of the resolution, and by the seconder, the Earl of Limerick, Prov. G. M. for Bristol, in support of the grant. There was but slight opposition, and the motion was declared carried. The Grand Treasurer stated that he should pay over the amount at once, without waiting for the confirmation of the grant by the next Grand Lodge.

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The quarterly assembly of the Premier Conclave of England of Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 5th ult. Three distinguished brethren, including M. W. Bro. the Rev. G. Raymond, Portal, Grand Mark Master Mason of England, were admitted and installed as Knights of this illustrious Order. The Conclave was then closed, and the Knights adjourned to the refectory, where a *recherche* repast, provided by the manager of the Freemasons' tavern, awaited them.