

WHITEFRIARS JOURNAL.

Edited by
**FRIAR ROBERT
LEIGHTON.**

No. 4, Vol. II.

JANUARY, 1904.

PRIVATE
CIRCULATION.

CLUB DIARY.

SINCE the last number of the *Journal* was issued the Club has been deprived by death of three loved and respected members.

Benjamin Leopold Farjeon.

It was on the occasion of the Ladies' Dinner in May that Friar B. L. Farjeon was present for the last time in our midst. In the reception room after the banquet he was the centre of a little group of Friars, and the talk turned upon the subject of literary methods and the preparation of manuscript. "I did not actually write my first book," he told us. "The story of 'Grif' had been in my head for a long time, out there in New Zealand. I despaired of getting it produced in the ordinary way, so I determined to print and publish it myself, and I set it up straight into the composing stick, without the intermediary of manuscript."

He had gone to Australia as a mere youth in search of fortune. For some time he was occupied at the gold diggings, but journalism soon drew him



The Late Friar B. L. Farjeon.

into its fold, and he started the first daily paper published in New Zealand. It was during his intervals of leisure while editing the *Otago Times* that he produced "Grif." A copy of the book got into the hands of Charles Dickens, who wrote

to the author encouraging him to devote himself wholly to novel writing. Fired with the ambition kindled by praise from such a quarter, Farjeon returned to London and imposed upon himself the task of writing a succession of stories in the Dickens vein. His early novels dealt chiefly with London life in its humbler walks ; with the pathos of poverty. There was in them a large measure of human sympathy and sentiment—that sentiment which is eternally true in the highest and deepest meaning of the word—and his Christmas stories, “Blade o’ Grass,” “Bread and Cheese and Kisses,” and “The King of Noland” are still remembered and appreciated for their delicacy and tenderness.

He found later on that the requirements of modern serial fiction demanded a fuller attention to the intricacies of plot and the dramatic presentation of thrilling situations, and his subsequent stories were, with few exceptions, of the Gaboriau rather than the Dickens school. Sensationalism laid its hand heavily upon him, and he devoted himself with untiring industry to the production of such novels as “Great Porter Square,” “Toilers of Babylon,” and “The House of White Shadows,” which are remarkable for their evidence of his skill in the weaving and unweaving of tortuous plots.

Mr. Farjeon married the daughter of Joseph Jefferson, the famous creator of the part of Rip Van Winkle, and he was wont to say that his greatest pleasures in life were the society of his wife and children, his library, and the accomplishment of his work.

He was a man of generous sympathy and impulsive kindness, firm in his friendships, loyal to the literary traditions ; a true Bohemian.

Gerbrand Luzac.

By nature retiring, the least pretentious of men, Friar Luzac, in his quiet unassuming way, had been a frequent and interested member of our weekly gatherings for four years, although to many of the Friars he was known only by name. Diffident of speaking before a company—perhaps too self-conscious of the difficulties of English to one whose mother-tongue it was not—he never took part in any of our discussions ; but he was a man of wide knowledge and bookish experience, whose opinion was always well worth having, and perhaps the more so because it was seldom advanced except on subjects with which he was familiar. As an authority on Oriental books he was too modest to claim more than the dealer’s knowledge of his wares, but he had a genuine enthusiasm for, and no inconsiderable

knowledge of, the literatures of the East, while he was well read in German, French, and his native Dutch.

His friends of the White Friars do not need to be told that he was head of the well-known firm of Oriental publishers bearing his name in Great Russell Street. One of his boldest enterprises in connection therewith was the establishment of *Luzac's Oriental List*, now in its fourteenth volume, a publication which has become indispensable to all who are interested in Eastern lore.

Gerbrand Luzac was born at Leyden on July 3rd, 1862. His family, of French extraction, had settled in Holland after the Edict of Nantes in 1685, and the name became one of great distinction, particularly through the world-renowned *Gazette de Leyde*, of which Professor Etienne Luzac was the founder and editor. Friar Luzac was educated at Leyden, where his father was a barrister and his grandfather the President of the Courts of Justice. At the age of seventeen he entered the house of Brill and Co., Oriental publishers of that city, and after three years with them widened his business experience with the firm of Brockhaus of Leipzig, and, later, with Mohr of Tübingen. It



The Late Friar C. G. Luzac.

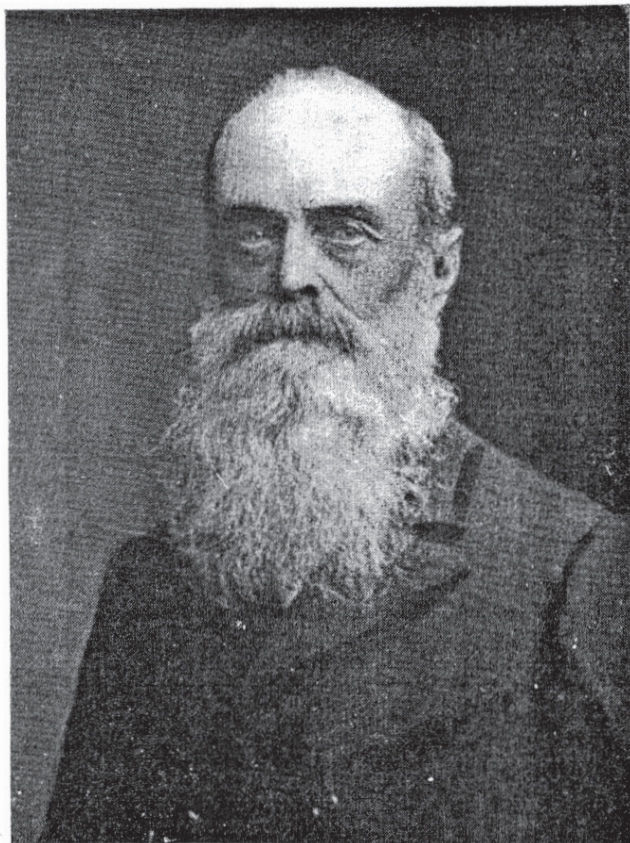
was in 1887 that he came to London, to Trübner and Co., with whom he became the head of the Oriental department. It is no disparagement to Mr. Trübner to say that he increased to a very considerable extent the business which that indefatigable man had so successfully established. In 1890, when changes in the firm of Trübner were in contemplation, he and the late Mr. Wohlleben started business under the title of Luzac and Co. After five years, however, the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Luzac was left alone in the firm.

The business which he had built up at the cost of so much

personal exertion, and for which his upright dealing had won a reputation of the highest character even in remote parts of the world, is being continued in the interests of Mrs. Luzac and her children, two girls and a boy, to whom the Friar's devotion was complete, and beautiful to see. Mrs. Luzac is a countrywoman of her deceased husband, and she has the sincerest sympathy of the White Friars in her great sorrow.

William Westall.

The late William Westall was a Lancashire man, the son of a prosperous cotton spinner, and he was proud of it. Born at White Ash in 1834, he was educated at the Liverpool High School



†The Late Friar William Westall.

and spent the early years of his manhood in business. He drifted into journalism and became the Swiss correspondent of the *Times* and the *Daily News*, and editor of the *Swiss Times*, living in Geneva, but also travelling, in connection with his work on the Press, in North and South America and the West Indies. He was forty-five years of age when he wrote his first novel, "The Old Factory," a story in which he embodied with vivid reality his knowledge of Lancashire life and character. It was the forerunner of a succession of novels—

"Red Rymington," "Trust Money," "Sons of Belial," "With the Red Eagle," "Her Two Millions,"—each of which gave example of his careful and conscientious workmanship, his accuracy of observation, and his natural gift as a story-teller.

He was recognised in Fleet Street as an authority on Russian politics. It was he who introduced Stepniak to the *Times*, and when the Continent became too hot for the alleged Nihilist, it was Westall who induced Stepniak to take refuge in London and to

collaborate with him in the writing of "Russia under the Tsars," and other volumes of Russian political interest. Prince Krapotkin was also at one time his associate.

It was in 1885 that he became a Friar. He was then residing in the neighbourhood of Epping Forest, and he frequently came to the Club fresh and rosy after a run with the Essex Hunt, of which he was an enthusiastic member. He had at that time very much the air of a country gentleman, but the variety of his interests in the life about him was ever apparent. He left upon one the impression of a man who was full of electric energy. His manner was direct, decisive, uncompromising, although never unduly assertive; there was no humbug about him, and he hated humbug in others. Sincerity was one of his most winning characteristics. He held his opinions in modest reserve, not obtruding them; but his wisdom and his knowledge were always at the service of those who sought to profit by his enlivening conversation, or who had the privilege of his intimate friendship.

Latterly he came very seldom to the Whitefriars Club, but the older Friars remember him with affection, and their regret at his death is sincere and deep.

THE Autumn Session opened with a large meeting of Friars on October 2nd, under the genial priorship of Friar William Senior. In accord with our custom at the opening dinner of the session, we drank in solemn silence to the memory of those literary brethren who have recently passed away, and to Friar Richard Whiteing fell the duty of pronouncing an obituary eulogy on the late B. L. Farjeon, C. G. Luzac and William Westall.

SIR ROBERT S. BALL, LL.D., who was the Club Guest, opened a discussion on "The Real Educational Needs of England." Taking as his text the speech of Sir Norman Lockyer at the British Association, Sir Robert made various interesting calculations on the expenses of education at the great public schools and the universities, and maintained that there was very little to show as a practical result of the vast expenditure. He reprehended the monstrous disproportion which exists between athletics and real scientific teaching, and advocated the replacing of the unprofitable study of Latin and Greek by the study of modern languages. Dr. Garnett, who followed, pointed out the advantages of the study of the dead languages as an intellectual training, and made comparisons

between the methods adopted in England and in Germany in the teaching of chemistry. Mr. G. Girling, who was present as the guest of Friar Ricks, spoke as a practical educationist on the growing necessity of training young men to meet the great national struggle for existence.

FRIAR EDWARD CLODD gave some of his experiences in connection with his work of examining candidates for bank clerkships, and deplored the fact that so very few of the young men who came before him had a handwriting that was legible or were able to add up a column of figures with accuracy. They reminded him, he said, of the little girl who, when puzzled over a sum declared that she wished she were a rabbit, "because father says they multiply so fast." There was something radically wrong with our system of higher education. We are labouring under the curse of a mechanical and mediæval curriculum, and there is an urgent need of a return to simpler methods. Friar Carruthers Gould made an excellent speech against the teaching of languages through grammar. Greek, he thought, should be a voluntary subject, but the practical utility of Latin could not be denied. Friars Helm, Hovenden, and Grundy also contributed to the conversation, the last in earnest support of modern collegiate methods.

ON our adjournment to the Club-room, Sir Robert Ball passed round for our inspection an atom of radium.

THERE was a representative gathering of Friars at the first house dinner of the Session on October 9th, when Friar A. G. Browning acted as Prior. The proceedings were freely informal, suggesting reminiscences of the earlier days of the Club. Friar G. H. Perkins exhibited a series of very fine lantern slides of holiday scenes—snapshots taken at the homes of Friars George Meredith, Thomas Hardy, and Kenric Murray, and during a fishing tour in Norway. These were peculiarly appreciated, for the reason that prominent members of the Brotherhood figured in many of them. Friar Senior was the hero of the Norwegian series, in which his prowess as an angler was liberally illustrated, accompanied by explanatory comments from himself. Friar Bowdler Sharpe also exhibited a number of beautiful lantern slides, selected from the photographs which are to illustrate his forthcoming book on Gilbert White's country.

At the dinner on October 16th Professor E. Ray Lankester, LL.D., was the Club Guest, and Friar Edward Clodd performed the duties of Prior. In introducing the topic of conversation, "The Degeneracy of the Race," Professor Lankester occupied a considerable amount of time in defining the terms of the proposition, but he made it clear that the balance of his opinion was averse from the belief that the human race is degenerate. This also was the opinion of Friar Whiteing, earnestly expressed in a persuasively optimistic speech. Friar Whiteing discussed the philosophy of Nietzsche and the recent arguments of Mr. Bernard Shaw on Man and Super-man, and concluded that in comparison with our ancestors we are at the present time immeasurably superior in all the conditions of life which make for happiness. Friar Clement Shorter vigorously opposed this view, submitting that we are entirely degenerate, and that we have lost all the attributes which in the times of Chaucer and of Shakespeare justified our name of "Merry England." Others who joined in the conversation were Mr. Cutcliffe Hyne, Mr. Fagan, and Friars Foster Fraser, W. Senior, Alfred Miles, and Moresby White.

THE after-dinner talk on Friday, October 23rd, was on a high philosophical level, which was perhaps to be expected when we had Friar Richard Whiteing in the chair, with the Rev. R. J. Campbell as the Club Guest. In introducing our guest, the Prior paid eloquent tribute to Mr. Campbell as a pulpit orator, and as a thinker whose powerful mind had gone deeper and further than our own in dealing with the difficulties of life. Mr. Campbell opened a discussion on what he called the somewhat hackneyed subject, "Are there Grounds for a Serious Optimism?" He began by defining and rejecting certain spurious types of optimism, instancing the belief of those who, like Walt Whitman, regarded this as the best of all possible worlds, and reprehending the optimism of sheer selfishness as exemplified in the character of Harold Skimpole and in the attitude of those who, having lived a sheltered life, close their eyes to the evil and sorrow around them. He approved the serious optimism of the man who, while not prepared to aver that this is the best of all possible worlds, is yet prepared to act on the belief that it is becoming so, and that every deed of individual heroism hastens the coming of it. He believed with Tennyson—

"That nothing walks with aimless feet,"

that the key to the universe is the moral nature of humanity, and

that faith is the adjustment of one's whole life to a moral ideal. "Give to the world the best that you have," were his concluding words, "and the best will come back to you."

Mr. G. K. Chesterton followed with an amusing speech that bristled with paradox, and Friar Silas Hocking, having been referred to by the guest as an old pessimist, defended himself by declaring that he was an optimist by profession. It was left to Mr. H. G. Wells to take up the argument for pessimism, which he did in an earnestly reasoned speech in review of the philosophical creeds of Schopenhauer and the author of "The Anatomy of Melancholy."

The guest of the evening left early, and for once we adjourned to the Club-room before half-past nine.

It was the general opinion of the Friars who were present that the dinner on October 30th was quite the most enjoyable and successful that we have had for some time. Friar Carruthers Gould is always a popular Prior, and he infused the proceedings with a lively geniality which put everyone into a good humour. The topic of conversation, too—"The Uses of Caricature"—had been appropriately chosen for an occasion when we had Mr. E. T. Reed of *Punch* as Club Guest. Mr. Reed's introductory speech sparkled with intellectual humour and merry jest, provoking rounds of laughter. He held that the primary use of caricature was to provide suitable and respectable employment for artists who would otherwise be thrown on the rates: it saved men from a life of stockbroking, the lash of the law, and the still heavier witticisms of the judicial bench. Caricature was creating by degrees a perfectly new and novel history of England. Moreover, it embellished the House of Commons and the House of Lords, just as Sir Walter Scott founded a spurious and more interesting but paying Scotland. Caricaturists turned the X rays of their humour on the devoted bodies of our public men and discovered points which otherwise might have remained undetected. People went to places to see the caricaturist's idea of statesmen—not statesmen as they really are. But caricature was not confined to the pencil, added Mr. Reed. He had recently read a description of a certain statesman from which he gathered that he was a quiet, mouselike, little country gentleman with an irresistible desire to efface himself and a dovelike humility. The caricaturist

was the natural ally of the journalist, and every caricaturist might reflect that he was either a potential Tenniel or a deflected Sir Joshua.

Mr. Reed's wit was infectious ; for the series of speeches which followed carried on the fluent current with hardly a break in its brightness. Mr. M. H. Spielmann gave some discerning definitions of caricature. Perhaps the best definition, however, was one quoted by Mr. Walter Emanuel, who said that "caricature is a nasty remark in pencil." Friar Whiteing was philosophically of opinion that caricature kept people in mind of the fact that life is a sublime sport in which you struck your stroke well and left the rest on the knees of the gods. People took themselves too seriously in imagining that the welfare of the world depended on them individually : it did not. Caricature was one of the essential things of the world—a philosophical reminder. Other members and guests who contributed to the conversation were Mr. G. R. Halkett, and Friars Sir Ernest Clarke, Haldane McFall, Alexander Paul, Sedgwick, and Grundy.

MR. G. K. CHESTERTON was our Club Guest on Friday, November 6th, when Friar J. A. Steuart acted as Prior. The topic of conversation was "The Old Journalist and the New," but most of the talk was centred upon a consideration of the modern popular newspaper, and one heard very little of the journalist himself. Mr. Chesterton referred to the French Press and to the large part taken by eminent authors in France in the discussion of public events, deploring the fact that in England our best writers, as a rule, hold themselves aloof from journalistic work. He regretted the decline of the fighting spirit in journalism and commended those pressmen who still had the courage to strike with the ungloved fist at public abuses and political shams. Comparing the new and the old journalism, he thought that the one great change which had taken place was to be seen in the fact that the old pomposity had gone and given place to snippety brevity. This led him to a consideration of the Americanisation of the modern English newspaper, and the point was taken up by subsequent speakers—by Mr. A. G. Gardner, the Editor of the *Daily News*, by Mr. Keighley Snowden, and Friars Whiteing, Lee Campbell, Robert Donald, Aaron Watson, and J. A. Hammerton—most of whom were unsparing in their criticisms of the modern halfpenny morning newspaper.

THE "Transformation of London" was discussed on November 13th, Friar Robert Donald being in the Prior's chair, with Sir William Blake Richmond, R.A., as Club Guest. In opening the conversation, Sir William pointed out that about thirty years ago he had advocated the purchase of open spaces in various parts of London as "Lungs" for the good of the people, but that his advice received no support. Such sites could then have been secured at a tithe of the sum demanded to-day, while many of the open spaces then available were now covered with bricks and mortar. He contended that no true beauty could exist in London so long as the factory chimneys were allowed to belch forth their sulphurous fumes, which were inimical not alone to animal and plant life but to architectural beauty. He dwelt at length on the possibilities of the artistic improvements of our streets. Mr. Laurence Gomme, who continued the conversation, explained the aims of the London County Council in regard to the transformation of London. Mr. Wilfred Whitten and Friars Carruthers Gould, Lee Campbell, William Senior, Burgin, and Grundy followed. Considerable amusement was caused when, in replying to certain points of the discussion, Sir William Richmond alluded to our jovial chaplain by the name of "Friar Tuck." Our Guest's concluding speech, in which he expressed his views on the rush for wealth and the necessity of a return to the simple life, was remarkable for its earnest eloquence.

At our symposium on November 20th, we had an interesting talk on the topic of "The Future of the Motor Car," introduced by Mr. John Scott Montagu, M.P., who was the Club Guest. Like the Prior for the evening (Friar C. Arthur Pearson), Mr. Scott Montagu is an expert in all matters concerning the automobile, and he gave us much enlightenment, particularly in regard to the alleged dangers of the car, the prevailing prejudice against its inartistic quality, and to the development of this form of locomotion. Many of his points were taken up by Friar Carruthers Gould, who spoke of the abuse of motoring and of the terrors which the motor car had brought into our streets. He objected strongly to racing-trials and reckless driving, mainly on the score that excessive speed adds needlessly to the rush of life, and is creative of nervous strain. On the æsthetic aspect of the motor car Friar Gould argued with admirable good sense. Friar Max Pemberton, who is himself an enthusiastic motorist, told us some humorous anecdotes bearing upon the

subject, and Friar Clement Shorter, always wholesomely critical, gave vent to his objections to the automobile, observing that nothing would satisfy him but the institution of separate roads to be reserved exclusively for motoring millionaires. The Prior and Mr. Scott Montagu both replied.

AN unusually large number of Friars and their Guests came to the dinner on November 27th, the attracting cause being the presence of the Duke of Marlborough as our Guest and Friar Winston Churchill, M.P., as our Prior. In responding to the toast of his health, the Duke of Marlborough quickly engaged the interest of his audience. The topic on the programme was "A Citizen's Duty to the Empire," and his Grace took into review the historical aspect of the question, referring to the renaissance of England's Imperial activity in her conquests of territory in the eighteenth century. This brought him to a consideration of our government of India and of the more complete establishment of civil and religious liberty. He showed how Great Britain had done her duty in the abolition of the slave trade and in the passing of legislative measures by which it has become the right of every citizen to be educated. He regarded the sense of duty and the performance of duty as the measure of a citizen's claim to privilege. One could not help admiring the modesty with which the Duke spoke of the devotion of wealthy men to public work and to Imperial duties. Friar Richard Whiteing's remarks were seriously cautionary. He warned his hearers against exhibiting a too blatant pride in our Empire, and expressed the wish that Kipling's "Recessional" might be regularly read from the pulpit. Friar Newton Crane made some apt comparisons between the British and the American methods of colonial expansion, and Friars Joseph Gilder and Haldane McFall and Dr. Waddell also spoke. The most forcible speech of the evening was that of the Prior, who inveighed eloquently against "pot-house Imperialism and music-hall finance." In his opinion the British Empire required no further expansion, but only just and sympathetic government. What should be striven after was not material force but moral force.

DECIDEDLY the most difficult task that a White Friar can be called upon to fulfil is that of presiding over the proceedings of an annual general meeting of the Club. This year the onerous duty fell to the lot of Friar George Manville Fenn, and it is

needless to say that he fulfilled it with exemplary discretion and dignity. Considerable time was occupied in the discussion of a member's grievance, brought before the meeting by Friar Alfred Miles as proxy for the absent member. The matter was amicably adjusted. The real business of the occasion was the passing of the annual report and balance-sheet and the election of officers. The Club is to be congratulated upon the fact that Friar Arthur Spurgeon permitted himself once more to be re-elected as Honorary Secretary. To his indefatigable devotion to the best interests of the Club, to his uniform tact, his willing sacrifice of time, his skill in organisation, and his ability to impart a successful swing to everything that he undertakes, the Brotherhood owe more than can be expressed in words. We are also much indebted to Friar G. H. Perkins for his consenting to be re-elected Honorary Treasurer. Having completed ten years of service as the guardian of the Club finances, he suggested that he should be allowed to retire from official life, but the Friars would not listen to such a suggestion, and Friar Perkins still "carries the bag."

THE Friars who were absent from our dinner on December 11th missed one of the most interesting series of speeches heard in the Club-room during the session. The Prior was Friar J. Foster Fraser, and the Guest Mr. Arthur Diosy. The topic of conversation was "What can we Learn from Japan?" Mr. Diosy's introductory speech was delightful in its grace of diction and its unhalting fluency, and he spoke of the Far East with the intimate knowledge of an expert. Much of his enthusiasm was centred upon the patriotism of the Japanese. Patriotism, he said, was the religion of Japan. It was esteemed to be the first duty of every able-bodied man in that land to submit himself to such training as would fit him to take his share in the defence of his country. Every Japanese was a patriot, and he had heard even very young children declare that their greatest ambition was to die for the Emperor. Among the things which he pointed out as being worthy of imitation were their methods of education, their cleanliness, their politeness, and their treatment of the blind. The Japanese, he said, had found the secret of happiness in being contented with little, they had a vivid sense of beauty. To them there was joy ineffable in the fragrance of the wild cherry blossom in the early rays of the sun. He had once encountered two agricultural labourers engaged in an æsthetic discussion as to the shape of a pine tree. Mr. G. W. Thomson, who had lived for

thirteen years in Japan, contributed to the conversation. He considered that the extraordinary imitative capacity of the Japanese was counterbalanced by their lack of originality. There were no original thinkers in Japan. Mr. Osman Edwards spoke of Japanese art, which he declared to be greatly overrated, and gave instances of the political corruption of Government officials. He was followed by Mr. Douglas Sladen, who made a fourth speaker who was able to give personal reminiscences of travel in the country under discussion. Lest we should go away with the impression that Japan was a land of perfection beyond the possibility of emulation, Friar Grundy supplied a wholesome antidote in a thoroughly British speech, in which he vigorously condemned a religion of patriotism and an educational system which left out the important element of moral teaching. Friar Lee Campbell also spoke, and spoke remarkably well ; and the Prior was congratulated on the success of the evening.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

THE Annual General Meeting was held on December 4th, under the Chairmanship of FRIAR GEORGE MANVILLE FENN. There was a large attendance of members.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed.

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET.

The Chairman moved, and Friar Shaylor seconded, the adoption of the report and balance-sheet as follow :—

It is once more the pleasing duty of the Committee to present to the Brotherhood a satisfactory Report of the year's working of the Club.

As the Town Membership is limited by the rules to one hundred, it is impossible to report any increase in the number of Town Members. The limit was reached three years ago, and, for every vacancy that has occurred since, twenty candidates have been nominated. There are now twenty-five Country Members in the Club and eleven Honorary Members.

The Committee record with very deep regret the death of Friars B. L. Farjeon, C. G. Luzac, and William Westall. (Special reference is made elsewhere to these departed brethren.)

Since the last annual meeting the following new Members have

been elected : J. Keble Bell, editor of the *Sketch* ; Robert Donald, editor of the *Daily Chronicle* ; Joseph B. Gilder, journalist ; A. St. John Adcock, author ; Harry J. Powell, art designer ; Walter Bayes, artist ; J. M. Dent, publisher ; Geo. Fox, contributor to the South African Press ; T. Athol Joyce, Ethnographical Department, British Museum ; Algernon S. Rose, musical critic ; H. Wood Smith, editor and author ; Rev. S. N. Sedgwick, author ; Philip Wilson, Printed Books Department, British Museum ; C. Arthur Pearson, editor and proprietor of the *Daily Express* ; Rev. W. J. Dawson, author.

There are now twenty candidates waiting for election.

During the twelve months the Committee have arranged altogether thirty Club Dinners. Our guests at the weekly gatherings have been the Duke of Marlborough, K.G., Lord Harris, the Ven. Archdeacon Sinclair, D.D., Mr. Benjamin Kidd, Mr. J. A. Spender, Sir Wm. H. Preece, Professor Jas. Bryce, M.P., Major Martin Sharp Hume, Mr. M. H. Spielmann, Mr. Hilaire Belloc, Mr. Edmund Gosse, Mr. Buxton Forman, Mr. H. Rider Haggard, Sir Robert S. Ball, LL.D., Professor E. Ray Lankester, LL.D., Rev. R. J. Campbell, Sir Wm. B. Richmond, Mr. E. T. Reed, Mr. G. K. Chesterton, and the Hon. John Scott Montagu, M.P.

The topics discussed have been as follow : "English Sports," "Contemporary Fashionable Life," "Britain and Civilisation," "Anonymity in Journalism," "The Magic of Electricity," "The Personal Factor in History," "The Romance of Spain," "Art and the Man in the Street," "Is the French Novel a True Representation of French Life?" "Victorian and Georgian Literature—A Comparison," "The Stress and Strain of Literary Life," "The Pleasures of a Bibliophile," "The Rush to the Towns," "The Real Educational Needs of England," "The Degeneracy of the Race," "Are there Grounds for a Serious Optimism?" "The Uses of Caricature," "The Old Journalist and the New," "The Transformation of London," "The Future of the Motor," "A Citizen's Duty to the Empire."

The Christmas Dinner was held at the Trocadero Restaurant on December 19th under the priorship of Friar Arthur Spurgeon. At this gathering a silver tea and coffee service was presented to Friar G. H. Perkins in recognition of the sterling services rendered to the Club as Hon. Treasurer. Friar Perkins has just completed his ten years of office, and we all rejoice that he is still willing to continue to serve the Club as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Among the guests at the Christmas Dinner was Monsieur Victor Taunay, President

of the Judiciary Press of Paris, and, during the evening, Monsieur Taunay presented Friars Spurgeon and Perkins with silver medals which had been struck by order of the President to celebrate the International Congress of the Press held at Paris in the Exhibition year. The recipients, he said, had rendered very great assistance in connection with the visit of the English journalists to the Great Exhibition in 1900. At a critical moment, the courageous attitude taken by Friar Spurgeon did much to soften the differences which had arisen between the Press of the two countries, while Friar Perkins had rendered invaluable assistance as interpreter.

The Annual Dinner, held on January 30th, was a striking success. Our good friend and comrade Friar Robert Leighton occupied the chair, and the guest of the evening was the Right Hon. Lord Goschen. The toast of "Our Guest" was proposed by Friar Hall Caine in felicitous terms, and, in response, Lord Goschen delivered a most fascinating speech. Mr. John Morley, who subsequently read the speech in a copy of the *Journal*, spoke of it as a truly brilliant speech, and added he had never read a better. Other speakers were Friar Anthony Hope, Friar Max Pemberton, and Friar F. Carruthers Gould.

The Annual Ladies' Banquet was held at the Hotel Cecil on Friday, May 1st. Friar Max Pemberton presided. The guests, who were received by the Prior and Mrs. Pemberton included the Countess of Warwick, Madame Sarah Grand, Mrs. W. K. Clifford, Mrs. Henry Dudeney, Mrs. Alice Meynell, Miss Lucy Kemp-Welch, Madame Amy Sherwin, Miss Beatrice Harraden, Mrs. Katherine Tynan Hinkson, and the American Ambassador. The toast of "Sovran Woman" was proposed by Mr. Choate, and responded to by Madame Sarah Grand. The Countess of Warwick submitted "Mere Man," coupled with the name of the Prior, whose health was drunk with great enthusiasm at the call of Friar F. Carruthers Gould.

The Annual Pilgrimage was held in June. The weather was not exactly summer-like, and the pictures in the *Journal* bear witness to the Pilgrims driving through floods to reach their destination. But the excursion, in spite of the unfavourable climatic conditions, was greatly enjoyed. The scene of the Pilgrimage was Cymbeline's Town and Constable's Country. Friar F. Carruthers Gould was Prior for the day. The local arrangements were admirably carried out by Friar W. Gurney Benham, who was also responsible for an illustrated Souvenir of the Pilgrimage. A reception was given by the Mayor in Colchester Town Hall.

All the Members have paid their subscriptions for the year. Including £42 os. 4d. brought forward, the receipts for the year amounted to £563 5s. 6d., and the expenditure to £473 8s. 7d., leaving a balance in hand of £89 16s. 11d.

Last year the Club purchased £200 of London County Council Stock for £198 1s. The sum of £29 8s. received for entrance fees during the year will be transferred to the capital account. According to the statement of accounts now submitted, which has been duly audited by Friars George Manville Fenn and W. N. Shansfield, the Club has now £287 17s. 11d. to the good, as compared with £240 1s. 4d. last year; £118 12s. in 1901; £116 10s. 7d. in 1899; and £27 12s. 10d. in 1898. Unless the Members express a desire to the contrary, the Committee hope to invest another hundred pounds early in the New Year.

It is the pleasant duty of the Committee again to thank Friar John Russell for his great kindness in adding portraits of Friars, old and new, to the Club Gallery. Friar George Meredith has presented an autographed portrait of himself to the Club, and our thanks are due to Friar Clive Holland for an excellent photograph of Friar Thomas Hardy taken at Max Gate.

The *Whitefriars Journal*, which is issued as occasion requires, is undoubtedly appreciated by the Members. It keeps us all in touch with the work of the Club, and the Committee are particularly grateful to Friar Robert Leighton for his labour of love in editing the little periodical.

There have been eight meetings of the Committee during the past year, at which the attendances have been: Friar F. A. Atkins, 7; H. J. Brown, 8; F. J. Cross, 8; F. Carruthers Gould, 7; T. Heath Joyce, 8; W. G. Lacy, 1; Robert Leighton, 8; Kenric B. Murray, 5; G. H. Perkins, 8; Wm. Senior, 6; Arthur Spurgeon, 8; Clement K. Shorter, 4; J. A. Steuart, 7; J. Farlow Wilson, 6.

The Luncheon served in the Club Room daily except Saturdays and Sundays has proved highly popular. Friar F. Carruthers Gould acts as Luncheon President, and the material comforts of the Friars are well looked after by the faithful "Robert."

The Committee rejoice with their fellow-members that the Club pursues its prosperous way unchecked. There are no rifts within the lute, and discords are unknown. The Club is indeed a band of brothers working together for the common good in literature, science, and art.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance brought forward	... ..	By Rent of Club Room	... .. 80 0 0
" Interest on Investments	... ..	" Christmas Dinner	... .. 31 19 0
" Members' Subscriptions...	... ..	" Annual Members' Dinner	... .. 26 2 6
" Entrance Fees ...	... ..	" Annual Ladies' Dinner	... .. 81 2 0
" Christmas Dinner	... ..	" Summer Pilgrimage	... .. 67 14 0
" Annual Members' Dinner	... ..	" Printing Club Journal	... .. 33 4 0
" Annual Ladies' Dinner	... ..	" Stationery ...	... .. 9 4 8
" Summer Pilgrimage	... ..	" Red Book for 1903	... .. 5 10 0
" Manchester Corporation.	... ..	" Circulars, Dinner Cards and General Printing	... .. 29 4 3
" expenses involved owing to changing Sir	... ..	" Special Programmes	... .. 13 13 3
James Crichton-Browne's date	... ..	" Blocks	... .. 10 8 6
	1 1 0	" Pilgrimage Booklet	... .. 6 3 3
		" Postage of Journals and Dinner Cards	... .. 7 2 7
		" Receipt Book	... .. 0 9 0
		" Gratuities to Hotel Servants, Waiters, etc...	... .. 6 16 0
		" Toastmaster	... .. 2 2 0
		" General Postage and Telegrams	... .. 7 0 0
		" Club Guests	... .. 6 19 7
		" Artistes	... .. 34 2 6
		" Refreshments for Artistes	... .. 2 15 6
		" Wreaths, etc.	... .. 3 3 0
		" Newspapers	... .. 1 10 4
		" Literary Year Book	... .. 0 5 5
		" Re-purchase of Copies of "Whitefriars	... .. 1 5 0
		"Chronicles"	... .. 2 2 0
		" Lantern Operator	... .. 0 6 3
		" Three Cheque Books	... .. 3 3 0
		" Reporting for Club Journal	... .. 0 1 0
		" Snuff for Club Room	... .. 89 16 11
		" To Balance at Bank, October 30th, 1903	... ..
Total ...	£563 5 6	Total ...	£563 5 6

Audited and found Correct, October 30th, 1903,

G. M. FENN, }
W. N. SHANSFIELD, } *Hon. Auditors.*

GEORGE HENRY PERKINS,
Hon. Treasurer.

The Club holds London County Council Stock, £200 nominal (purchased for £198 1s.), and in accordance with the resolution of the Executive Committee the amount received for Entrance Fees will be transferred to the Capital Account and invested in due course.

In the general discussion which took place, Friar Miles raised a personal question affecting one of the members, and this was satisfactorily dealt with by a resolution, proposed by Friar Whiteing and seconded by Friar Grundy, which was carried unanimously after the report and balance-sheet had been duly adopted.

ELECTION OF HON. TREASURER AND HON. SECRETARY.

On the motion of Friar Whiteing, seconded by Friar Lee Campbell, Friar Perkins was unanimously re-elected Hon. Treasurer, and, on the proposal of Friar Browning, seconded by Friar Leighton, Friar Arthur Spurgeon was re-elected Hon. Secretary. Both Friars heartily acknowledged the compliment paid to them.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE.

On a ballot the following members were elected to serve on the Committee for the ensuing year : Friars F. A. Atkins, H. J. Brown, F. J. Cross, F. Carruthers Gould, T. Heath Joyce, W. G. Lacy, R. Leighton, Kenric B. Murray, W. Senior, C. K. Shorter, Richard Whiteing, and J. Farlow Wilson.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS.

On the motion of Friar Joyce, seconded by Friar Murray, Friars G. Manville Fenn and W. N. Shansfield were re-elected auditors with warm thanks for their past services.

THE ROLL CALL OF WELCOME AND HOUSE DINNERS.

A brief discussion took place on these two subjects, but it was decided not to make any alteration in the present arrangement.

THE CLUB JOURNAL.

A very cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Friar Robert Leighton for his able editorship of the "Journal," on the motion of Friar Aaron Watson.

THE HEALTH OF THE CHAIRMAN.

At the call of Friar Grundy, seconded by Friar Alex. Paul, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman for presiding, and his health was drunk with musical honours.

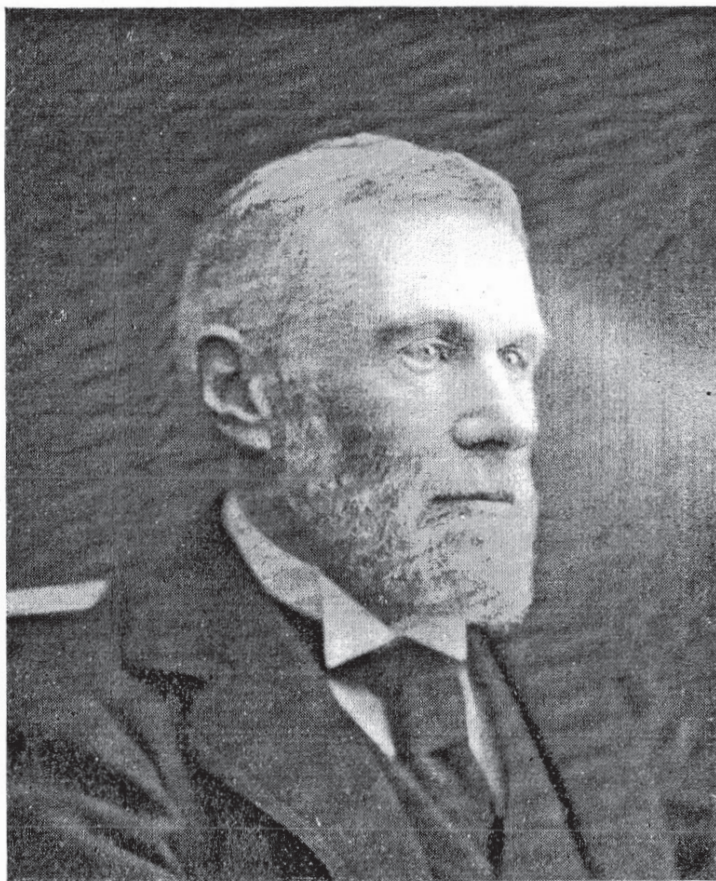
OUR CHIEF GUEST AT THE ANNUAL DINNER.

THE chief guest of the Club at the Annual Dinner to be held on February 19th—Sir George Trevelyan, Bart.—has written books which possess in England and the United States an equal renown. Some may think Charles Fox a more picturesque, if a less immaculate, hero than George Washington, and may therefore regret that Sir George Trevelyan left the leader of the Whig party for the chief of the American Revolution. But nobody can deny that the two volumes which Sir George brought out recently are as good reading as any historical book published since the death of Macaulay.

It is as Macaulay's biographer that he will always be best known. Except Boswell's "Life of Johnson," which is in a class by itself, no English biography can be put above Trevelyan's "Life of Macaulay." All who are old enough will remember that, familiar

as they may have been with the History, or, as is perhaps more probable, with the Essays, Sir George Trevelyan's book showed them a new man, and gave them a new friend for life.

Sir George Trevelyan commenced author before he took his degree. In a Cambridge paper, whose career was as brief as it was brilliant, he wrote a parody of Ruskin, which his illustrious uncle read not merely with admiration, but with envy. Macaulay did not live to read



Sir George Trevelyan, Bart.

"Cawnpore," which celebrates with glowing eloquence the heroic lives and deaths of Englishmen and women in India, or "The Competition Wallah," which illustrates with good-humoured banter the birth of the Indian Civil Service, new style.

Nobody would have enjoyed more than the author of "The Country Clergyman's Trip to Cambridge" the delicious revival of Aristophanes, called "The Ladies in Parliament," equal in merit, though dissimilar in style, to Mr. Courthope's "Paradise of Birds."

When Mr. Trevelyan himself entered Parliament after that great national epoch, the death of Lord Palmerston, it was not, to adapt the language of a kindred bard, as a Harrow boy grown heavy. He spoke as well as he wrote, and he was a pioneer of two reforms which came to be associated with a name even greater than his own. It was Mr. Gladstone who carried, but it was Mr. Trevelyan who raised, the abolition of purchase in the Army, and the extension of the suffrage to the agricultural labourer. Achievements such as these cannot be won by mere cleverness in speech-making. They require a courage, a perseverance, an honest singleness of purpose, which even opponents soon learn to respect.

These qualities Sir George Trevelyan derived from his father, and has transmitted to his sons. His literary style, both in prose and verse, bears a resemblance to his uncle's, which it would have been almost affectation to avoid. But there is an individual flavour, a personal charm, in everything that comes from his pen, which the most skilful of Macaulay's numerous imitators wholly lack. Sir George Trevelyan retired from the House of Commons at an age when some men's political success is only beginning, and literature gained what politics lost.

After the resignation of Mr. Gladstone he disputed, or might have disputed, with Mr. Bryce and Mr. Asquith the claim to be the best classical scholar in the last Liberal Cabinet. It is a question upon which Oxford and Cambridge men may hold different views, while the vast multitude whom circumstances have made impartial may be content to hold no view at all. The one result of a classical education which all the world can see is a good style, and in that respect Sir George Trevelyan is a shining example of the "grand old fortifying curriculum" about which Matthew Arnold jested with all the freedom of an admirer.

Sir George Trevelyan's passion for military history, which makes the battles in his "American Revolution" so intensely vivid, has diverted him from the task of doing for Fox what he did for Macaulay. But there is still time for the best qualified man in England to give us a complete picture of the true and perfect Whig. The leisure of a country gentleman and the evening of a statesman's life could not be better employed.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER.

The Annual Christmas Dinner of the Club was held on Friday, December 18th, at the Trocadero Restaurant, and, as on former occasions of the kind, the evening was remarkable for joviality, comradeship, and good humour. Friar Anthony Hope Hawkins acted as Prior for the evening. He brought with him Mrs. Hope Hawkins, to whom the Treasurer presented a handsome bouquet of red and white roses, and together they received the guests in the Alexandra Room. There were present :—

FRIAR F. A. ATKINS—Mrs. Atkins, Rev. R. E. and Mrs. Welsh, Mrs. Percy Parker, and Mr. Cecil Tindall. FRIAR G. B. BURGIN—Mrs. Burgin, Mr. Tom Gallon, Miss Nellie Gallon. FRIAR A. G. BROWNING—Mrs. Browning, Miss F. Browning, Miss G. Browning, Miss F. Aston. FRIAR H. J. BROWN—Miss Marie Garcia, Mr. Albert Garcia. FRIAR WILLIAM COLLEY—Mrs. Colley, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rewcastle. FRIAR R. LEE CAMPBELL—Mrs. Campbell, and Mr. Osborn Walford. FRIAR F. J. CROSS. FRIAR C. D. CROSS. FRIAR REV. W. J. DAWSON—Mrs. Dawson, Mr. Coningsby Dawson. FRIAR ROBERT DONALD—Mrs. Donald, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Paterson, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Alden. FRIAR LOUIS H. FALCK—Mrs. Falck, Miss Violet Falck, Mr. and Mrs. Osman Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Emanuel. FRIAR JOHN FOSTER FRASER—Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. Lawrence. FRIAR J. R. GEARD. FRIAR F. CARRUTHERS GOULD—Mrs. Gould, Miss Gould, Mr. Norman C. Gould. FRIAR DOUGLAS M. GANE—Mrs. Gane. FRIAR JOSEPH B. GILDER—Mrs. Gilder, Mr. and Mrs. George L. Beer, Mrs. Theodore Hellman. FRIAR REV. C. H. GRUNDY—Mrs. Grundy, Miss Ella Grundy, Mr. Norman Grundy, Mr. Wilfrid Trickett. FRIAR LIONEL F. GOWING—Mrs. Gowing. FRIAR W. H. HELM—Mrs. Helm, Miss Helm. FRIAR SILAS K. HOCKING—Mrs. Hocking, Miss Hocking, Miss Lloyd. FRIAR JOSEPH HOCKING—Mrs. Hocking. FRIAR R. HOVENDEN—Miss Hovenden, Miss Heath. FRIAR T. HEATH JOYCE—Mrs. Joyce. FRIAR T. ATHOL JOYCE—Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Hobson. FRIAR ROBERT LEIGHTON—Mrs. Leighton, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Summers. FRIAR F. S. A. LOWNDES—Mrs. Lowndes, Mr. and Mrs. Frankau (Frank Danby), Mr. and Mrs. Charles Weekes. FRIAR ANGELO LEWIS—Mr. N. Parry. FRIAR W. G. LACY—Miss Lacy, Miss Kathleen Lacy, Miss Pern, Miss Ortner, Dr. and Mrs. Allan, Dr. and Mrs. Neal, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Hughes, Dr. Robey. FRIAR R. DUPPA LLOYD—Mrs. Peter Russell. FRIAR HALDANE MACFALL. FRIAR A. E. W. MASON. FRIAR G. H. PERKINS—Mr. and Mrs. Paul Perkins. FRIAR ALEX. PAUL—Mrs. Paul, Dr. Creighton, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Wales, Miss Honnor Morten. FRIAR G. MOULTON PIPER—Mrs. Piper, Mr. and Mrs. R. Wade. FRIAR CHAS. E. PEARCE—Mrs. Pearce, Miss Dorothy Pearce. FRIAR HARRY J. POWELL—Mrs. Powell, Miss Powell, Miss

Marjorie Powell, Mr. F. Orme, Dr. E. A. Wood. FRIAR GEO. RICKS—Mrs. Burgwin, Miss S. Loch. FRIAR ARTHUR SPURGEON—Mrs. Spurgeon, Mr. and Mrs. W. Rayner. FRIAR WALTER SMITH—Mrs. Smith. FRIAR H. WOOD SMITH—Mrs. Wood Smith, Mr. W. Allen. FRIAR JOSEPH SHAYLOR—Mrs. Shaylor, Mr. and Mrs. T. Brown. FRIAR W. N. SHANSFIELD. FRIAR W. SENIOR—Mrs. Senior. FRIAR AARON WATSON—Mrs. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Watson, Miss Smallwood. FRIAR J. FARLOW WILSON—Mrs. Snudden, Mr. R. Crafter. FRIAR A. MORESBY WHITE. FRIAR RICHARD WHITEING—Mrs. Craigie, Miss Henriette Corkran, Miss Estelle Ross. THE PRIOR—Mrs. Hope Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Winkworth.

The following acted as Sub-Priors: Friars F. A. Atkins, Robert Leighton, F. J. Cross, and T. Heath Joyce. The dining tables in the Balmoral Room were decorated with brightly-coloured crackers, which at an appropriate time were duly “pulled,” their varied contents, including miniature copies of popular journals, being much appreciated.

“The Spirit of Christmas.”

After the toast of “The King” had been honoured, and the Prior had read the Roll-Call of Welcome, FRIAR THE REV. C. H. GRUNDY proposed “The Spirit of Christmas.” He said that as a clergyman he had preached vaguely from many texts, but that he was not aware of any time when he had a more vague subject to deal with than the Spirit of Christmas, that intangible, impalpable, indefinable something, so real, that comes to us all at Christmas-time. The wife of Mark Pattison, the head of Lincoln College, had told him she hated Christmas. (Laughter.) She said it came with a kind of intermittent bang when she did not want it. I see these crackers, he went on—these childish crackers—on the table. I see intelligent grown-up people for the moment become members of the second-childhood brotherhood. I think of the little girls I loved when I was fourteen or fifteen or sixteen. (Laughter.) Much as I love my wife, who is with me to-night, I am not sure I ever had a deeper, intenser, purer love than for a little girl of twelve in a muslin dress one Christmas party. (Laughter.) How we pulled crackers! How we nestled! (Laughter.) It is all over now—(laughter)—but the spirits of those children seem to be dancing around me at Christmas-time. I think of the spirits of these children—some of them still on the maiden shelf. (“Shame”!) Still, I cannot marry them all, Mr. Prior, not being a Mohammedan. (Laughter.) I think of their spirits to-night, and then I go on and wonder whether at this gathering, which comes just before the time when those who have

passed forty have to spend their pocket money for the younger ones, the spirits of those in whose steps we are treading—for apostolic succession is a mere baby compared with the lineal pedigree of the Whitefriars Club—are not murmuring to themselves in the spirit not of Christmas, but of Ash Wednesday. Then, asked to propose the toast of the “Spirit of Christmas,” can I forget the spirit of beauty which surrounds us here to-night? The spirit of beauty! I love all women for my wife’s sake. (Laughter.) My wife is to me merely the symbol to-night of all of them. (Laughter.) What should we miserable men be without women? Shirtless, buttonless, mannerless. It is the humanising influence of women, twice a year, which rescues the Whitefriars Club from barbarism. But I will not propose the “Spirit of Beauty” to-night. I suppose when I was asked to propose the “Spirit of Christmas,” I was asked really under another name to propose that spirit of conviviality, cordiality, philanthropy, and genuine good comradeship represented by the greatest club on earth, the Whitefriars. (Applause.)

“The Ladies.”

FRIAR A. E. W. MASON, in proposing “The Ladies,” said: It has always seemed to me a strange anomaly that the toast of the ladies should be given to a bachelor to propose. I think that at the Whitefriars Club it perhaps may not be so unusual as in most institutions, for we are, after all, or profess to be, a monastic body. At the same time, I feel there is a certain advantage, for we can, at all events, say what we like, and return to our homes without fear of subsequent recriminations. (Laughter.) However, I have always rather felt that this toast should be naturally proposed by a married man; and my conviction, I am bound to say, has been greatly strengthened to-night by the speech of Friar Grundy. I felt he was the man really to propose the toast of “The Ladies.” The married man, after all, when I come to think of it, has keener recollections than the bachelor, and he is, perhaps, less shy of relating them. (Laughter.) I never dared to look upon woman as a symbol—(laughter)—and, believe me, at the age of fourteen I never nestled. (Laughter.) Now, ladies and gentlemen, it is a most rash thing to attempt a definition of the ladies, but it happened that I opened a cracker, and in that cracker I saw what appears to be an advertisement. It begins with “The smallest magazine in the world; every word can be distinctly read by using a powerful magnifying glass.” No, I do not believe for an instant

that any woman can be read by using the most powerful magnifying glass in the world, but in a certain sense she is the smallest magazine in the world. When I say magazine I use the word, of course, in the sense of powder magazine. She can go off in fireworks, I believe, and she can also be the brightest illuminant of a man's life—(applause)—and it is rather in respect of that last meaning that I propose the toast of the ladies to-night. With that toast I have to couple a distinguished name well known to you all, and, I am sure, welcomed by you all, the name of Mrs. Craigie. No one, I think, can better show us of the inroads which woman has lately made in spheres which used to be the spheres of man, and we have seen that this is done with advantage to us all. I think we must all recognise that within the last years the ladies have taken a place in literary life which was not taken by them a few years ago ; but, whether bachelors or married men, we welcome the position which they take, and hope they will take a still larger and still wider one. Brother Friars, I propose to you the toast of the ladies, and I couple with it the name of Mrs. Craigie.

Greatly to the disappointment of the company, Mrs. Craigie did not rise to respond. The Prior explained that she had been absolutely forbidden by the highest medical authority to speak in public that night. He expressed the fervent hope, however, that if the doctors forbade Mrs. Craigie to speak they would never forbid her to write. (Applause.)

“The Prior.”

FRIAR F. CARRUTHERS GOULD proposed “The Prior.” The modesty of a brilliantly successful literary man, he said, is so proverbial it would be unfair to expect our Prior to propose his own health, and the pleasing duty devolves upon me. I remember a year ago suggesting in like circumstances you were one of the few Friars who maintained the condition of celibacy we were supposed to keep as members of a gracious order, but you have *changé tout cela*. (Laughter and applause). You have joined the great majority of the members of the Whitefriars Club, who believe that it is possible even for a Friar to maintain a dual existence. You may say with Benedick that when you said you would die a bachelor, you did not know you would live to be a married man. (Laughter.) You need no excuse or justification, however, for we all know you have brought your excuse and your justification with you. We greet that justification with all acclamation. We greet you heartily to-night. We thank you for your conduct in the chair. I am sure all will join with me in

drinking health to our Prior, and Mrs. Hawkins, and congratulate them on being in double harness. (Applause).

The toast was drunk with musical honours.

The Prior, in responding, said: I hardly know how to find words to thank you for the very kind way in which you have received the toast of my health—perhaps I am newly qualified to say “our” health—as proposed by Friar Carruthers Gould. I think we have had an exceedingly pleasant evening. I am indeed conscious that we have played the play of “Hamlet” with the part of Ophelia left out (laughter and applause), but it was a case of necessity, to which we bow with what resignation we may. I read this morning in a newspaper which my wife takes in—(laughter)—a series of extremely intelligent answers to examination papers, among which appeared the statement that in America people were put to death by elocution. (Laughter.) Nobody who has travelled in that great country can doubt the truth of the statement, but it constitutes a solemn warning for one about to take the chair at a public dinner. In spite of my entreaties my wife has refused to make a speech, a thing which has seldom happened to one of her countrymen or countrywomen before. Therefore, on her behalf, I have to thank you, and I have to thank you again, not for the first time, for the honour of occupying this chair, and I have to thank you, or fortune, or whatever it be, that, owing to reasons touched upon by my friend Friar Mason, I am for ever and henceforth and permanently absolved from the difficult duty of replying for the ladies. (Applause.)

During the evening Mr. Walter Churcher entertained us with his inimitable humorous sketches, and we had songs from Madame Edith Hands, Mr. Claude Ravenhill, and Mr. Albert Garcia, and at the conclusion of the *conversazione* the company joined in the singing of “Auld Lang Syne.”

CLUB NOTES.

Subscriptions for 1904 fall due on January 1st. The address of the Hon. Treasurer is 39, Christchurch Avenue, Brondesbury, N.W.

There will be no Club Dinner next Friday—New Year's Day. The first meeting for 1904 will be held on January 8th under the Priorship of Friar R. Lee Campbell, when Mr. Max Beerbohm is to be the Guest, and the topic for conversation—a somewhat novel one—will be "The Curse of Uniformity in Costume."

On the following Friday Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., M.P., is to be the Club Guest, and we are to have a Scots' night. The old question, put by Macduff, "Stands Scotland where it did?" is to be answered from a twentieth century point of view. The Southrons will, doubtless, have something to say on the subject, as well as those Friars who hail from across the Border. Friar Benjamin Swift will preside.

Lord Alverstone is to be entertained by the Club on January 22nd, with Friar R. Newton Crane, a distinguished member of both the English and American Bars, in the chair. The "Lord Chief," who was a noted athlete in his University days, will open a discussion on "The Gods of Muscle—False and True."

At the suggestion of several members the Committee have arranged for a musical entertainment on January 29th, with Friar Coulson Kernahan in the chair. The Club Guest will be Sir August Manns, in recognition of the honour recently conferred upon him by the King for his long and distinguished services in the musical world.

On February 5th Mr. A. C. Plowden, the witty Metropolitan Magistrate, whose recent book, "Grain or Chaff," has evoked widespread interest, is to be the Guest of the evening. Friar Haldane MacFall is to be Prior, and the topic for conversation will be, "Is Bohemianism of Advantage to Letters and the Arts?"

A House Dinner is to be held on February 12th, confined to Friars Past and Present. Friar Angelo Lewis is coming up from Hastings to take the chair, and an interesting gathering is anticipated. Invitations will be sent to all Past Friars whose addresses are ascertainable. I shall be glad of assistance in this direction.

The Annual Dinner—a Red-Letter event in the session's programme—is to be held in the Empire Hall, Trocadero Restaurant, on February 19th, with Friar Richard Whiteing as Prior for the evening. Literature and Science will be admirably represented by the two Club Guests, Sir George Trevelyan, Bart., and Signor Marconi. On another page will be found a personal sketch of the author of "The American Revolution." I gave some interesting particulars of Signor Marconi in the booklet issued for the May Banquet, and I need not repeat them here. It is the intention of the Committee to make the Dinner this year as representative as possible of Literature and Science. Another year special prominence will be given to Art.

The Dinner Card is being prepared by Friar Walter Bayes, one of the rising artists of the day, in connection with Friar R. Lee Campbell, who is ever ready to lend a helping hand in connection with the work of the Club.

Mr. Henry Newbolt, the Editor of the *Monthly Review*, is to be the Guest on February 26th, with Friar Clement Shorter as Prior. We are to discuss the alluring subject of "The Relations of Editors and Contributors."

Friar E. F. Knight had accepted the invitation of the Committee to preside on March 4th, but last Monday he sailed under orders to the Far East as the Special Correspondent of the *Morning Post*. His colleague on that journal, Friar W. H. Helm, has kindly consented to take his place. The Club Guest will be Sir H. H. Johnston, and the evening will be devoted to "Travel Reminiscences." Several other well-known travellers will be present as private guests.

Professor Herkomer will be the Guest on March 11th, with Friar Sir Ernest Clarke in the Prior's chair. The topic for talk is the very suggestive one, "The Influence of Art upon Life." No one is more qualified to open such a discussion than the head of the famous Bushey School.

"The Uses and Abuses of Modern Burlesque" will be wittily set forth on March 18th by the Club Guest, Mr. Adrian Ross, with Friar G. B. Burgin as Prior for the evening.

On March 25th Mr. Maurice Hewlett is to introduce the subject of "The Revival of Romance in Literature." We shall be glad to welcome the author of "The Forest Lovers" as our Guest, and it is interesting to know that one of his most brilliant disciples, Mr. Warwick Deeping, the writer of "Uther and Igraine," is to be the Guest of one of the Friars the same evening. The duties of Prior will be performed by Friar Robert Leighton.

There will be no meeting of the Club on Good Friday, April 1st.

On April 8th Mr. A. T. Quiller Couch, more familiar to us as "Q.," is to be the Guest of the Brotherhood, with Friar Dr. Robertson Nicoll as Prior. The topic for conversation will be, "What are the Dominating Influences in Literary Production?"—a congenial theme for the author of "Hetty Wesley."

Friar F. J. Cross is to preside on April 15th, with the Rev. J. M. Bacon, the well-known aeronaut, as the Club Guest. "The Conquest of the Air" is the order for the evening.

On the eve of St. George's Day we intend to have a Shakespeare Commemoration Dinner. Sir Squire Bancroft is to be our chief Guest, and to him will be entrusted the toast of the evening, "The Immortal Memory of William Shakespeare." Friar Max Pemberton will preside.

The Annual Ladies' Banquet is to be held at the Hotel Cecil on Friday, April 29th, under the Priorship of Friar A. E. W. Mason. The Victoria Room has been engaged for the dinner, and the Grand Hall for the reception and conversazione. This arrangement will be found much more conducive to the comfort of guests than meeting in the Oak Room before and after dinner, as we were compelled to do on the last occasion. The names of the Club Guests at the Ladies' Banquet will be announced in a special circular later on.

I have only to add that the summer pilgrimage—A Day in Dickens' Country—has been fixed for Saturday, June 25th.

Such is the outline of the programme for the second half of the Session, 1903-4, and I hope the Brethren will consider it worthy of the best traditions of the Club.

December 28th, 1903.

A. S.