

THE
MASONIC MIRROR;

A Journal of Freemasonry,

DEVOTED TO THE PROCEEDINGS AT

MASONIC LODGES,

THE

WELFARE OF THE ORDER,

THE

INTERESTS OF ITS CHARITIES,

LITERATURE AND NEWS.



London:

PRINTED BY FORD & TILT, 52, LONG ACRE.

Published by

BR. HENRY GEORGE WARREN,

2, RED LION COURT, FLEET STREET, LONDON.

1855.

PREFACE.

IN closing our Volume, we have to thank our friends for the support we have received—and though we have thought it advisable to unite our interests with those of the MONTHLY MAGAZINE, we trust we shall still continue to receive their countenance and patronage. We are aware, that in the past, there have been many shortcomings, owing to the difficulty of organising a correspondence throughout the kingdom; but we trust in the future, we shall be enabled to amend them, and that in the “FREEMASONS’ MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR,” we shall have it in our power to present to our readers, the most perfect record of Masonic proceedings ever published.

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THE MASONIC MIRROR:

FOR

NOVEMBER, 1854.

OUR ADDRESS TO THE BRETHREN.

IN claiming the patronage of the Masonic Order for a new periodical meant to be devoted to their interests, it may be desirable that its proprietors should explain the character and pretensions of the publication, and the purpose it is intended to serve. This we shall endeavour to do in as few words as possible.

We have observed that it has been long a subject of regret amongst the brethren of the square and compass, that they have no literary organ conducted on such a principle as to admit of its doing greater justice to masonic intelligence than it were reasonable to expect from weekly newspapers, whose mission is for the most part political, and whose columns are overloaded with miscellaneous matter. It is manifest that the interests of the craft would be materially promoted by the establishment of such a periodical, nor is there less necessity for it now than at any former period; the only attempt that has as yet been made to supply the desideratum being by the publication of a serial, issued at such remote intervals as to deprive its intelligence of the flavour of novelty, and to impart to its editorial writing a character rather of historic record than of contemporaneous comment. We have as little desire as occasion to call in question the necessity for a quarterly journal of Freemasonry, or to disparage the services of such a periodical; our purpose will have been sufficiently attained, if we shall have made out a case for a monthly organ. Anxious to live in the most friendly communion with all our contemporaries, and animated, we trust, with genuine feelings of fraternal sympathy, we disclaim the idea of assuming a position of antagonism towards any one. It is not the glove of defiance, but the hand of good fellowship that we offer to all as allies, not rivals—for such is the spirit of the age, and the genius of our order. We invade no man's right, we remove no man's land-mark.

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We merely step in to fill up a vacuum which, unfilled, is a source of weakness, but which we hope to occupy in a manner to benefit the cause of Masonry.

The "Masonic Mirror" will be conducted with the judgment and circumspection so essential for such a publication, so that whilst it will contain all that is requisite for the enlightenment of the Brethren, with regard to the position and proceedings of the various Lodges in Freemasonry, nothing will appear which can in any way tend to profane the sanctity of the masonic mystery, or to reveal to the gaze of the uninitiated what Burns happily describes as

"That hieroglyphic bright
Which none but craftsmen ever saw."

With a view to render our journal a welcome visitor in the families of the Brethren, we propose to combine amusement with the business of the order, by the insertion, in the literary columns of the "Mirror," of original and selected tales, &c., of a purely moral tendency.

The news department will present a complete epitome of all the important events, and Meetings of Scientific, Charitable, and Provident Institutions, throughout the month; thereby constituting the "Masonic Mirror" a valuable work of reference for all classes of society—each Volume comprising an Annual Register of events, to which an ample Index will be supplied, unsurpassed for its usefulness and readiness of reference.

Full reports of Masonic Charities, Presentations, and other meetings, will be regularly published in our columns, and, as these occasions have not merely the interest of sentiment to recommend them, but are of great practical importance to the cause of Freemasonry, we earnestly solicit the co-operation of Masters, Secretaries, and other members of the various Lodges, in enabling us to insure to them the fullest and most accurate publicity. We shall feel much obliged therefore to all officers and authorities of Lodges who may favour us with authentic notices of meetings. The strictest attention shall at all times be paid to such communications, and in cases where we receive intimation that the presence of a professional reporter at a meeting is deemed desirable, such a gentleman, being himself a properly qualified brother, shall attend from our office.

The "Masonic Mirror" will be conducted by Brethren well known in the order, and while no expense will be spared to render it one of the most useful and at the same time interesting works ever offered to the Craft, we have fixed its price at so low a sum, as to render it easy of access to all classes of the community. Nor is it intended to make any advance on this charge, in the event of extreme pressure of matter rendering it necessary that we should publish extra numbers.

It remains that we should say a word as to the time and form of our appearance. January is the most obvious, and in many respects, the most convenient month in which to commence a new serial, but October is generally regarded as the beginning of the Masonic year, and being a month whose transactions are especially deserving of being recorded, we

have thought it more judicious to cast our horoscope on the first of November. Our readers need not apprehend any inconvenience in the matter of binding, from this arrangement, for as a general rule our volumes will end with December; and though our first volume will contain fourteen numbers, each of the others will be comprised in twelve. It had been our original intention to publish our journal in the shape of a covered pamphlet, but urgent communications from country Brethren, induced us to alter this plan; and the requirements of the Post Office, which forbid a separate cover and compel publication on one sheet only, have obliged us, if we would not forfeit the postal privilege, to adopt our present form, and to limit the weight of the paper on which the "Mirror" is printed. Our readers, however, may rely upon it, that we will not allow them to suffer by these regulations. They shall have to the full as much, if not more, value for their money, than we could have given them had the journal come out in the shape of a pamphlet. We pledge ourselves to give in each number, at least forty-eight pages of readable matter, altogether irrespective of the advertisements, which will be so arranged and numbered, as not to interfere with the general body of the publication, from which they may be cut away to permit the binding of the "Mirror," in one continuous volume, at the close of the year.

It is scarcely necessary to add, that there shall be no taint of sectarianism on the pages of the "Masonic Mirror." Our mission being love, not hatred,—union, not discord,—religious rancour and party acrimony shall alike be relegated from our columns. Inspired with this purpose and animated with these feelings, we know not how better to conclude our address, than in the melodious language of the great poet, whose name we have already mentioned—a poet of whose glory assuredly no class of his countrymen has greater reason to be proud than they who were bound with him in the mystic tie of Masonry.

" May freedom, harmony, and love,
Unite you in the *grand design*,
Beneath th' Omniscent eye above,
The glorious *architect* divine !
That you may keep th' *unerring line*,
Still rising by the *plummet's law*,
Till *order* bright completely shine
Shall be our prayer for one and a' "

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

THE AGED FREEMASONS' ASYLUM.

It gives us sincere pleasure to be enabled to announce that the Asylum at Croydon, in connexion with the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and their widows, is now nearly completed, and that it will be capable of accommodating thirty-four inmates, not above half that number being at present within its walls. We are the more gratified to record the rapid approach to completion of the building, because it now

presents a very handsome appearance, and does honour to the craft, whilst in its unfinished state it had a most cold and forbidding aspect. Though the building is so nearly completed, some time must necessarily elapse before it can be furnished and inhabited. The rapid completion of the building is mainly due to the energy and exertion of Br. Geo. Barrett, and as there is a debt upon it of about 300*l.*, we trust the brethren throughout the various lodges will second that energy by using their utmost exertions to pay it off. A very small donation from each lodge would not only liquidate the debt, but form a sufficient fund to keep it in constant repair. We hope the next thing Br. Barrett and the Committee of Management will direct their attention to, will be the means of extending the influence and usefulness of the Institution, which appears hitherto to have been much neglected by the brethren, principally, we believe, in consequence of its having been brought so very little under their notice. The number of male annuitants at the present moment is fifty-two, and of widows thirteen; whilst at the last election there still remained twenty-five brethren and seven widows on the list of candidates who could not obtain admission. We are sure that these facts only require to be extensively known to insure a greatly increased support being given to the Institution. And we hope to live to see the day when the Masonic body will be enabled to boast of the Benevolent Institution as they do of the girls' school, that every approved candidate is sure of obtaining admission within a reasonable time.

LONDON LODGES.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—The members of this lodge met for the first time this season, on the 3rd of October, the W.M. Br. Mc Cullock presiding, when he duly raised a qualified Brother to the Third Degree in Freemasonry.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, the 19th of October, when Br. Hewlett, the W.M., passed two brothers to the Second Degree.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—The first meeting of the season of the members of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, the 2nd of October, when four gentlemen were duly initiated into the Order by Br. P. M. Goring. At the conclusion of the business, the brethren celebrated their re-assembling by a supper, over which the W.M., Br. Patterson, who was prevented being present in the early part of the evening, most ably presided; and in the course of the evening, Br. Watson, in returning thanks for the health of the P.M.'s, took occasion to refer to the great increase which had taken place in the number of Chapters, and the consequent increase in the number of Arch-masons since this lodge applied for and obtained a charter from the Grand Chapter, such a charter not having been previously granted for nearly thirty years.

EGYPTIAN LODGE (No. 29).—This lodge resumed its meetings for the season on the 5th of October, at the George and Blue Boar, Holborn, when Br. P.M. Goring, in the absence of the W.M., Br. Roughton, who was prevented attending by indisposition, most ably passed and raised two duly qualified brothers to their respective degrees.

OLD KINGS ARMS LODGE (No. 30).—At the first monthly meeting of this lodge, for the season, on Monday, October 23, Br. Burnidge, W. M., presiding, a gentleman who had been regularly proposed and seconded, was initiated into the order.

VITRUVIAN LODGE (No. 103.)—This Lodge held its first meeting for the season,

at the White Hart, College Street, Lambeth, on Wednesday, September 13th, Brother Crosby, well assisted by his officers, passed two Brethren in a most efficient manner; after which, about thirty Brethren sat down to an excellent supper, and spent the evening in the greatest harmony.

ST. LUKE'S LODGE (No. 168).—The anniversary meeting of this lodge was held at the Builders' Arms, Russell-street, Chelsea, on Monday, the 2nd of October. The lodge having been opened in due form, the immediate P.M., Br. Killick, proceeded to instal Br. Handover as his successor, in the chair—the ceremony being performed in a highly impressive manner. The new W.M. was pleased to appoint Brs. Tyrrell, S.W.; Taylor, J.W.; Collard, S.D.; and Kirk, J.D. The various officers having been appointed, the W.M., in the name of the lodge, proceeded to present a very elegant P.M. jewel to Br. Killick, and in doing so, took occasion to refer to the many services Br. Killick had rendered the lodge during the two years he had been W.M., trusting he should have the benefit of his advice and instruction during his year of office as W.M. Br. Killick, in returning thanks, expressed his grateful thanks for the handsome jewel presented to him that night, which he trusted would ever be regarded as a heirloom in his family. He wished to impress upon his brethren, that he looked upon the jewel as a reward for his exertions, and trusted that other brethren would, by their assiduity and attention to their offices, eventually have the same gratifying mark of favour bestowed upon them. After voting sums of money from their relief fund to two deserving applicants having a claim upon the lodge, the brethren adjourned to a banquet, both members and visitors, of whom there were a large number present, being well pleased with the ceremony and business of the evening.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, HAMPSTEAD (No. 196).—This excellent lodge closed its season at the Hollybush Tavern, Hampstead, on Tuesday, the 10th of October, when Br. T. A. Adams, P.M., installed Br. Thompson into the chair, as Master for the ensuing year, in a most impressive manner. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the new W.M. appointed Br. S. Aldrich, S.W.; Br. Hazard, J.W.; Br. Johnson, S.D.; Br. Wesson, J.D.; and Br. Whittett, J.G. Br. Holt was then appointed the Tyler of the lodge, in the room of Br. Dalton, deceased. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant banquet, and a most pleasant evening was passed by both members and visitors, amongst whom we observed Br. Smith, P.M., 206; Br. Kirby, P.M., 169; Br. Potter, P.M., &c., &c.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—This lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 3rd ult., when Br. Kennedy, W.M., very ably initiated a candidate for Masonic Secrets into the Order. Some alterations were then made in the bye laws, with the view of forming a benevolent fund, attached to the lodge—and the lodge broke up in the most perfect harmony.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—The brethren of this lodge assembled for the first time this season on Monday, the 11th September, in Br. Ireland's handsome new Masonic Hall, Falcon Tavern, Fetter-lane, the W.M. Br. Harvey presiding. The business consisted of an initiation, two passings, and a raising, the whole of which ceremonies were admirably performed. This being the commencement of the season, the brethren sat down to a very elegant supper; and the W.M. being unfortunately compelled by a domestic affliction to leave early, the chair was admirably filled by P.M. Jos. Smith, who, in the course of the evening, pointed out Br. T. A. Adams (P.M. of 196) the present J.W., who was initiated in the lodge as, no doubt, its destined Master for 1855. The second meeting of the season took place on Monday, October 9, when the W.M. passed, and raised, two brothers to their respective degrees.

UNIVERSAL LODGE (No. 212).—This lodge held its usual monthly meeting on the 27th October, Br. Patrick, W. M., presiding, when a candidate for the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry, was duly initiated into the order.

LODGE OF JOPPA (No. 225).—This lodge met for the first time this season at the White Hart, Bishopsgate-street, on Monday, October 9th, when three candidates were initiated into the order and six brethren raised to the third degree, the ceremonies of initiation and raising being performed by the W.M. Br. Jones in a manner highly creditable to the lodge and the craft. At the conclusion of business, the

brethren adjourned from labour to refreshment. In the course of the evening, Br. Canstatt returned thanks for the toast of "Prosperity to the Benevolent Fund," and exhorted the brethren not to relax in their exertions to make this fund worthy any institution in the country. It had been unfortunately proved that some of the recipients of various charities had been in early life as well positioned as any brother present, and had largely subscribed to the very charities they afterwards were compelled to receive assistance from. They had upwards of £400 in hand, which had been raised by the spontaneous donations of brethren. It was intended, not only to assist the distressed and decayed member, but also the widow and orphan, and it even extended to a marriage portion for a Mason's daughter, should such be required. Each of the initiates gave a donation to the Benevolent Fund, and the brethren separated at an early hour, after spending a most delightful evening.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—The first meeting of this lodge since the vacation, was held at Br. Rackstraw's, the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 10th ult. Br. P. M. Cooper, in the unavoidable absence of the W. M. Br. A. Tilt, presided, and in a very impressive manner, passed one brother and raised another to their respective degrees. At the close of the masonic business, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant banquet; at the close of which, a variety of masonic toasts were ably proposed and responded to. On the health of the visitors being given, Br. William Watson (one of the respected proprietors of the Freemasons' Tavern) returned thanks, and expressed the great pleasure he felt in being present at a meeting of so highly a respectable and well-managed a lodge as the United Strength, and urged the young members to profit by the excellent example set them by their respected P. M.'s, if they wished to obtain proficiency and honours in the craft. After spending a truly pleasant evening, the lodge separated.

LODGE OF UNITED PILGRIMS (No. 745).—The first meeting, for the season, of this lodge, was held at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, on Wednesday, October 25, when Br. Stroud, W. M., very ably initiated a gentleman as a Freemason. There were upwards of twenty brethren present.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

ROYAL YORK CHAPTER OF PERSEVERANCE (No. 7).—A convocation of this chapter was holden at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 24th October, Comp. Hervey, M.E.Z., presiding, when four qualified brethren were duly exalted in the Royal Arch. Amongst the visitors were Comp. Henriquez, of the Sussex Chapter, Kingston, Jamaica, and Comp. W. Edwards, of the Chapter of Phthagoras, Cambridge.

ENOCH CHAPTER, No. 11.—This prosperous Chapter held its second anniversary meeting at the Freemason's Tavern, on Tuesday, October 7th., when Companion Biggs, in a most able and impressive manner, installed Companions Williams, Z., Simpson, H., Young, J. A Brother was then exalted to the sublime degree of a Royal Arch Mason, in that impressive manner for which this Chapter is so justly celebrated. At the conclusion of the masonic business, the Companions sat down to an excellent dinner, provided by Messrs. Watson, Coggan, and Banks, with their usual good taste. The evening was spent in the greatest harmony, to which Brother Crew, accompanied by Brother Taylor, greatly contributed.

ROYAL UNION CHAPTER, UXBRIDGE. (No. 536).—This chapter held a convocation at the White Horse Hotel, Uxbridge, on the 21st October, when the following Comps. were severally installed as principals for the ensuing year: Benham, Z.; Adrian, H.; Shoppee, J. The various ceremonies were performed by Comp. Watson, P.Z., No. 23.

POLISH NATURAL CHAPTER (No. 778).—The sixth anniversary convocation of this chapter, which obtained its charter in 1848, was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 26th October, the business of the evening being the installation of the principals. The first and second principals elect—Comp. Lord Dudley Stuart, who is ill abroad, and Comp. J. W. Adams—being unavoidably absent, the only installation was that of Comp. H. G. Warren as J. The ceremony was very impressively performed by Comp. Watson, P.Z., assisted by Comps. Blackburn, P.Z., Sigrist,

P.Z., and Jos. Smith, P.Z. The Comps. subsequently supped together, in celebration of the anniversary, and a special toast was drunk to the better health of Comp. Lord Dudley Stuart, that nobleman being a great favourite amongst the members of the chapter.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

CUMBERLAND.

(From our own Reporter.)

THE Right Hon. Sir Jas. Graham, G.C.B., the Prov.-Grand Master, having appointed W. T. Greaves, Esq., of Penrith, P.M. of L. 184, and of L. 424, to the office of D.P.G.M. for this province, a large and influential assemblage of the brethren met in Pr. Grand Lodge on Wednesday, the 11th October, at the Crown and Mitre Hotel, in Carlisle. Br. Jos. Iredale, P. Prov. G.M., having declined the duty, Br. Dr. Wickham, P. M., opened the Prov. Grand Lodge, and ably performed the ceremony of installation. The usual business of the Prov. Grand Lodge having been gone through, Br. Greaves proceeded to appoint the Prov. Grand Officers for the ensuing year, as undermentioned. Br. J. Pearson, of L. 409, the senr. P.M. present, and almost the founder of his lodge, having, with a truly masonic feeling, waived the privilege offered to him in the first instance, in favour of a younger brother, the D.P.G.M. appointed as S.G.W.: Br. J. Wickham, M.D.; J.G.W.: T. Roper, W.M. of L. 409; G. Chaplains: Rev. Beilby Porteus, Vicar of Edendell, and Rev. S. Butler, Vicar of Penrith; G. Registr.: G. G. Mounsey, Esq., Carlisle; G. Sec.: R. G. Hindson, Esq., Penrith; S.G.D.: R. B. Willis, Esq., Elderbeck Lodge; J.G.D.: Br. T. Robinson, Longtown; S. of Works: J. Harvey, Esq., Sandgate Hall; G. Dr. Ceremon.: T. Robinson, Esq., Robinson House; Assistant D. of Ceremon.: Br. — Wigton; P. G. Organist: Br. S. Rowland, Penrith; P.G. Sword Bearer: Br. J. Teather, Keswick; P. G. Tyler: Br. J. Squire, Penrith. The Brethren then proceeded to exercise their privilege, and unanimously elected as their P. G. Treasurer, M. Rimington, Esq., of Tyne-field House. Br. Greaves announced his wish that the W. M. and brethren of six of the lodges would recommend to him each one brother from their respective lodges, to serve the office of P.G. Steward, so that from this list the higher offices might hereafter be filled up as vacancies occurred. For this purpose he deferred making these appointments until after their next lodge meetings.

The minutes of the last Prov. G. L., held at Longtown, in March, and which alluded to some unfortunate differences which have prevailed in the province, and which it was agreed should henceforth be buried in oblivion, were then confirmed. Br. Armstrong, the late P. G. Sec., complained of the communications of the province not having been acknowledged by the Sec. of the Grand Lodge of England, and moved a resolution to the effect that such conduct was "unmasonic."*—This resolution, however, was withdrawn, on an understanding that the newly appointed P. G. Sec. (Br. Hindson) should write for an explanation.

All business being ended, the Brethren adjourned to a very elegant dinner, provided in the large room of the hotel, the D. P. G. M. presiding.

After the removal of the cloth, the D. P. G. M. proceeded to give the usual loyal and masonic toasts, which were drunk with all the honours.

The D. P. G. M. had great pleasure in proposing the health of a gentleman too well known in Cumberland, indeed he might say throughout England and the whole of Europe, to need any eulogium from him. He alluded to the Rt. Hon. Sir J. Graham, P. G. M. who was proud of the position he held in the province (cheers).

Br. Holland, P.G. Treasurer of the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, had great pleasure in being allowed the honour of proposing a toast to so influential a body of the Brethren. He was highly delighted to observe the spirit of fraternal union and harmony which prevailed amongst them that day. Whilst the feelings existed

* It is but fair to state, that on inquiry, we are assured the communications have been acknowledged.

amongst them, their order must flourish, and he trusted they would be always found in their various lodges. He was happy to know that the lodges of the province were in a flourishing condition, and he trusted that under the superintendence of their new D. G. M., with whose talents and zeal he was well acquainted, that they would go on prospering in a still more marked degree (Cheers). He begged to propose the health of the M. W. D. G. M. for Cumberland, Br. Greaves.

The D. P. G. M. rose with considerable pride and pleasure to return thanks for the honour conferred upon him, and he did so with the utmost sincerity. He felt proud in presiding over so influential a body of the masons of Cumberland, and the kind reception he had that day met with from all parties would urge him forward to use his best endeavours to promote the interests of the order. He was sure that no man who joined the order of Freemasons, and saw the good they did, would wish to withdraw from it. By it the aged mason was relieved—the widow protected from want—and orphan boys and girls educated, clothed, and boarded. Whilst charity was their ground-work, they were always happy to meet one another at the social board, and he had never yet met with a man, who having once joined the order, had expressed a wish to withdraw from it. He again thanked them for the honour conferred upon him, and he trusted that next year they would be enabled to congratulate one another on the increased and increasing prosperity of the province (Cheers).

The D. P. G. M. then gave the health of the P. G. officers, from whose zeal in the discharge of the duties of their office, founded upon their character as good and efficient masons, he expected much benefit to arise to the province, and coupled with the toast the name of G. S. W., Br. Dr. Wickham (Cheers).

Br. Dr. Wickham thanked the W. D. G. M. for the manner in which the toast had been proposed, and the Brethren for the enthusiastic reception they had given it. He could assure them that no exertions would be wanted on his part, and he believed he might state the same of the whole of his colleagues, to promote the prosperity of the province, and, as far as in them lay, of the order generally.

Br. Sherrington, P. M., called on them as a mark of respect to the P. P. G. M., to drink the health of Br. Iredale, than whom no officer past or present could bring more zeal or talent to bear in support of his office. Br. Iredale had been for a period of twenty years a member of the Union Lodge, and during the whole of that lengthened period had not missed one meeting (Cheers). If Br. Iredale had not always agreed upon all points with the brethren present, he was sure they would all acknowledge his zeal and ability, and the conscientious spirit by which he was at all times actuated (Cheers).

The D. P. G. M. said, before giving the honours to the last toast, he must also be allowed to bear his testimony to the zeal and ability which the late D. G. M. had exhibited, and express his regret that he was not present at their festive board.

The honours were then given with great spirit.

Br. Armstrong, P. P. G. Sec., had a toast to propose which he was sure could never be omitted by a meeting of Freemasons, than whom there was no body of men more sensible of the kindly influences of home—he gave them the ladies (Cheers).

The health of the visitors, which was acknowledged by Br. Holland, P. G. T. of Yorkshire, and Br. Warren, P. M. 202, was then given, and the company separated shortly before six o'clock, many of the brethren having to return home by train.

CHESHIRE.

ON Friday, the 29th of September, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cheshire assembled at the Royal Hotel, Chester, for the purpose of transacting the usual business of the province, the R.W.P.G.M., Lord Viscount Combermere presiding. The following were invested as Grand Officers for the ensuing year:—Gibbs Crawford Antrobus, Esq., V.W.P.G.S.W.; Hon. Major Cotton, M.P. V.W.P.G.J.W.; Rev. John W. N. Tanner, V.W.P.G.C.; James Bland, V.W.P.G.T.; Wm. Courtenay Cruttenden, V.W.P.G.R.; Edw. H. Griffiths, F.W.P.G.S.; Charles Dutton, W.P.G.S.D.; Edward Samuelson, W.P.G.J.D.; Henry Holbrook, W.P.G.S. of W.; Walker Butterworth, W.P.G.S.B.; James Siddall, W.P.G.D. of C.; J. Twiss,

W.P.G.O.; Brs. John Hitchen, Prichard, Henry Nicholson, Dickson, and Rowlands, W.P.G. Stewards.

At four o'clock the brethren sat down to a banquet in the Assembly Room. The room was decorated with the masonic and other banners. The chair was occupied by the Noble P.G.M. Lord Combermere.

The musical performance was under the direction of Br. Twiss, W.P.G., Organist.

On the removal of the cloth, the R.W.P.G.M. gave the health of "Her Majesty," which was drunk with great enthusiasm, and followed by God Save the Queen, masonic version.

Other loyal and Masonic toasts having been drunk,

Br. G. C. Antrobus, in proposing the health of Lord Combermere, said, whetlier they looked at him as a commander in the army, as a landlord, as the head of a family, or as P.G.M., they always found him a leading star for admiration. "The health of Lord Combermere" was drunk with masonic honours.

Lord Combermere on rising to respond was greeted with renewed cheers. He was really at a loss to know how to express his gratitude to his excellent brother and friend for the very flattering manner in which he had proposed his health, and he had to thank the brethren present for the very handsome, warm, fraternal, and friendly manner in which they had received it. They must be aware that having so often to address them on the same subject, it was very difficult to introduce any thing new, but there was one subject he might always name, and that was the pleasure they all experienced in being enabled to have these opportunities of assembling together, and to have the opportunity, he trusted, of congratulating themselves on being better men than they were at the last meeting, and therefore better masons. Amidst all the conflicting interests which now disturb the world, their noble art, based as it was upon eternal principles, stood then undisturbed. It was gratifying to him to find that masonry was flourishing, not only in Cheshire, but as he (Lord Combermere) learned from the G.M. of England, throughout the world. His Lordship, after again thanking the brethren, proposed the health of "Sir Watkin W. Wynn," P.G.M. of Shropshire and North Wales, and expressed a confident anticipation that under the auspices of that hon. bart., masonry would flourish in that province.

His Lordship then gave the healths of the "Earl of Ellesmere and Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie," the Provisional Grand Masters of Lancashire, which were drunk with masonic honours.

The Noble Lord then said he had the honour of presenting to Br. Brown a purse containing twenty sovereigns, and a masonic jewel, the contribution of the brethren of the Cestrian Lodge, for the valuable services he had afforded that lodge as Treasurer and Secretary during the last twenty years. He could say that as P.G.M., he had the honour and pleasure of attending the Cestrian Lodge on many occasions, and had always found Br. Brown a good and excellent man and freemason, and an ornament to the craft. It therefore gave him great pleasure in conveying to him the good wishes of his brethren, as manifested in the substantial gift he had the honour of handing to Br. Brown.

The health of Br. Brown was drunk with masonic honours.

Lord Combermere, in a complimentary address, invested (at the request of the M. and brethren of the Cestrian, 615), Br. Brown with an elegant gold chain and medal, at the same time presenting the worthy Secretary with a purse of gold.

Br. Brown begged to thank his Lordship for the very flattering compliment just paid him by the R. W. Provincial Grand Master, and with some emotion said that the W. M. and his brethren of the Cestrian had laid him under a deep debt of gratitude for this munificent mark of their approbation of his humble services as their honorary treasurer and secretary for the last twenty years. When intrusted with their confidence on the first night of meeting in lodge, by being appointed their treasurer and secretary, he was quite sensible of the trust reposed in him, and he contemplated with great pleasure that from that moment he could say (what few others could besides him), that upon no one occasion had he ever been absent. In season and out of season he had had the real interests of his lodge at heart, and with feelings of pleasure he

flattered himself that his humble endeavours had given satisfaction, as proved by the voluntary present from his brethren just conferred upon him by the R. W. P. G. M., Visc. Combermere, and begged to assure them that the impression of their fraternal regards would be nearest his heart to the latest period of his existence, and would stimulate him to continue his best exertions for the Cestrian and the cause of Masonry in general. During the delivery of his speech, Brother Brown informed the brethren, that besides contributing to other charities during the year the Cestrian Lodge, 615, had contributed to the following Masonic Institutions:—To the School for Orphan Females, £70; to the School for Orphan Boys of Masons, £10; to the Freemasons' Widows' Fund, £5; to the Institutions for Aged Freemasons, £5; total, £30.

The following is a copy of the inscription on the jewel:—

“Presented to
BROTHER S. BROWN,
By the Brethren of the Cestrian Lodge,
for his
Services as Secretary and Treasurer
during the last 20 years,
Sept. '29, 1854.”

His Lordship then gave the health of “Brother Finchett-Maddock” D.P.G.M., to whose zeal and ability as a mason, and constant attendance to his duties, he (Lord Combermere) felt under considerable obligations. To this circumstance was mainly owing the success of masonry in the province, and he expressed his deep regret that the state of Mr. Maddock's health did not permit him to be present on the occasion.

Br. Thomas Finchett-Maddock returned thanks on behalf of his father, who, he said, desired him to convey his kind regards to his brethren, and to say that he regretted his state of health did not permit him to be present; but he hoped and trusted that ere long it would be so far restored as to enable him again to visit them.

Br. S. Moss, V.W.P.P.J.G.W., of Gloucestershire, after paying a compliment to the Marquis of Downshire as a good landlord, a kind husband, and an excellent mason, proposed his health as P.G.M. of Berkshire.

Lord Combermere returned thanks. He believed his lordship was a popular and good landlord both on his English and Irish estates, and he knew him to be a good mason.

A variety of other appropriate toasts were drunk, and the company separated about nine o'clock.

DURHAM.

On Tuesday the 19th September, the R. W. P. G. M. for the Province of Durham (Br. John Fawcett, Esq.), held his Annual Provincial Lodge in the Borough Hall, Stockton-upon-Tees, where he was honoured with the attendance of a very large number of the Brethren from the several lodges belonging to his Province. After the usual routine of business had been transacted, the following officers were appointed: P. D. G. Master, H. Fenwick, Esq.; P. S. G. W. Rev. James Milner; P. J. G. W. John Saville, Esq.; P. G. Chaplain, Rev. J. Simpson; P. G. Treasurer, Br. Reynolds; P. G. R. Br. Hunsdill; P. G. Secretary, Br. Crossby; P. G. D's. Brs. Hodgson and Ditchburn; P. G. S. W. Br. Gales; P. G. D. C. Br. Hammerbon; P. G. S. B., Br. J. Thompson; P. G. O., Br. J. Smith; P. G. P., Br. Douglas; P. G. T., Br. Laws.

Several large sums of money, were voted to the different Masonic Charities, and the R. W. P. G. M. informed the Brethren, that he had received an intimation from his Br. R. W. P. G. M. for Northumberland (Rev. E. C. Ogle), that the foundation stone of the Schools promoted by the Vicar of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on a scale of great magnitude, would be laid by him in a short time, and that the presence of the Brethren of this Province was requested at the ceremony. After the Lodge was closed the Brethren dined together at Br. Palphramand's, Black Lion Hotel, and an evening of rare conviviality was spent. The Brethren proceeded home by special train, kindly put on the line by the Stockton and Durham Railway Company.

LANCASHIRE.

MARINERS' LODGE (No. 310).—The monthly meeting of this excellent lodge of free and accepted Masons was held at their new lodge-room, Hauck's-buildings, No. 42, Duke-street, Liverpool, on Thursday, October 5th. The business of the lodge was opened by Br. James Hamer, P.M., who, with his accustomed efficiency, initiated several candidates into the order; after which the installation of Br. Samuel Lewis Caffé, as W.M. for the ensuing year, was proceeded with by Br. Hamer, with the assistance of several officers of P.G.L., who had most kindly tendered their services at this interesting and important ceremony of the lodge; and the newly-installed W.M. appointed Br. D. Myers, S.W., and Br. J. Ashton, J.W., and all the other officers for the ensuing year. Business being closed, an elegant banquet succeeded. The chair was taken by the W.M., who was supported on the right and left by the P.G. officers and P. masters of the lodge; and at the commencement of the banquet, "Praise the Lord" was sung in admirable style. On the removal of the cloth, *Non nobis* was sung, and the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk with great enthusiasm. Br. James Hamer, P.M., rose, and claimed the support of the brothers to do justice to the toast he was about to propose. He regretted that he was incompetent to do justice to the individual whose health they were about to drink; it could not possibly arise from the want of cordial feeling: he had known him for several years, and he believed they could coincide with him in the opinion, that for honesty and strict integrity, they could not do otherwise than admire him as a man and Mason. He requested the brothers to charge their glasses, and join him in drinking the health of Br. S. L. Caffé, their W.M. Br. S. L. Caffé, on rising to return thanks, was received with much cheering; on its subsiding, he proceeded to remark that his sincere and heartfelt thanks were due to the brethren for the high honour they had that day been pleased to confer on him. He was sensible of the kindness which had prompted them to select him for the important office of W.M. for the ensuing year; and although he was aware of the great responsibility he had incurred by his installation to the chair of the lodge, yet he hoped the same would be lessened by their affording him that much valued assistance which they had so liberally bestowed on his predecessors in that office. He should, therefore, in safety calculate on their continued exertions and assistance to enable him to carry out the noble example exhibited by his predecessors; and he could not withhold his praise for their zeal, as they retired from office, in leaving the funds in a prosperous condition, which would allow them to serve the holy cause of charity, and to continue to dispense relief to the widow and orphan, or to those who by misfortune are reduced to become recipients of Masonic bounty. Various other toasts were given and responded to, especially Br. Caffé's, W.M., proposal of the name of Br. Hamer, P.M., upon whom he passed a very high encomium for his long and valuable services in connexion with past offices of the lodge. The lodge was closed at the hour prescribed, and the brethren separated, expressing their gratification with the whole proceedings.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Monmouthshire, held its anniversary meeting on the 19th ult., at the King's Head, Newport.

The business of the day commenced with the opening of the Silurian Lodge 693, in the Masonic Hall.

The P.G.L. was then opened in form at the King's Head, by the R.W. Br. Rolls, D.P.G.M., who, in the absence of Br. Col. Tynte, P.G.M., occupied the chair.

After the accounts had been audited and the minutes of the last lodge confirmed, the R.W. the D.P.G.M. nominated as his officers for the ensuing year the following brethren, namely:—Br. Lyne, S.G.W., Br. Capt. Tynte, J.G.W., Br. the Rev. Jno. Roberts, G.C., Br. J. Nicholas, G. Treasurer, Br. Pearce King, G.S.D., Br. Works, G.J.D., Br. Childcot, D.C., Br. West, Assistant D.C., Br. Wells (Pursuivant), Br. Groves, Organist, and Br. Fienburg, Tyler.

A splendidly embossed testimonial on vellum was then, in the name of the P.G.L., presented by the R.W.M. to Br. Crook, who has long and energetically laboured to promote the prosperity of the craft in the province.

The office of Grand Organist has been in abeyance since the revival of the Grand Lodge of Monmouth, but it is gratifying to find it now actively filled by so distinguished a musician as Br. Groves.

At the conclusion of the immediate business of the Grand Lodge, its members proceeded to the Masonic Hall, where the Silurian Lodge was sitting. Arrangements were then made for the procession to the Town Hall, on the following programme:—

Band of the Monmouthshire Militia.
Brethren of the Silurian Lodge, two and two.
Brethren of the Monmouth Lodge, two and two.
The Provincial Grand Lodge.
The P.G. Chaplain and the Chaplain of 693.
The G.W.
The D.P.G.M.

The brethren having arrived at the Town Hall, divine service was performed; Br. Sidebottom, P.G.D.C., of Oxford, and Chaplain of 693, officiating in the reading-desk, and Br. Roberts, P.G.C., in the pulpit.

On their return, the lodge was called off in due form, and the brethren sat down to a banquet served at the King's Head Hotel, the D.G.M. presiding, when a very pleasant evening was passed.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

ST. PETER'S LODGE (No. 706).—A meeting of this was lodge, held at the Hope and Anchor Inn, Catterick's-buildings, near Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Monday evening, the 9th October. At the conclusion of the business of the Lodge, on the Brethren retiring to refreshment, a motion was made by the W. M. that a subscription be entered into in aid of the sufferers by the late awful conflagration in Newcastle and Gateshead, and the Brethren subscribed the sum of 4l. 10s. 6d.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

THE GRAND LODGE.—Br. William Stradling, of Chilton Villa, a Deputy-Lieutenant of the county of Somerset, has resigned the Grand Treasurership of the Province. He has been succeeded by the election by acclamation of Br. Eales White to that important office. The Provincial Grand Lodge have passed a vote of thanks to Br. Stradling. Br. A. P. Browne was appointed Provincial Grand Secretary at the same time.

LODGE OF UNANIMITY AND SINCERITY (No. 327), TAUNTON.—This important lodge has commenced its season of meetings most brilliantly. On the last lodge night, the R.W. the P.G.M., with Brs. Major Browne, Capt. Trevor, and other officers of the West Somerset Yeomanry Cavalry, were amongst the visitors. Four gentlemen were admitted into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry, and the son of the esteemed W.M. (Hon. Major Napier), took an advancing step in the order. The W.M. was ably assisted in the arduous duties of the evening by Br. P.M. Abrahams.

BATH.—The brethren of this city have presented a magnificent gold snuff-box to Br. Temple, in testimony of esteem for his services as a Mason. We are delighted to record this, and we cannot refrain from expressing a fervent hope that other brethren, whose admitted usefulness for 20 and 30 years have been so conspicuous, will have similar acknowledgments of their long-tried and unwearied services.—*Ed. M. M.*

The testimonial bore the following inscription:—

“PRESENTED BY SEVERAL BRETHREN TO
BROTHER GEORGE MATTHEW TEMPLE,

*P.P.G.S.W. Somerset,
P.M. Royal Cumberland Lodge, No. 48, and
P.M. Lodge of Rectitude, No. 420, also
Past M.E.Z. Royal Cumberland Chapter,*

AS AN

AFFECTIONATE MEMORIAL AND GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF MASONIC MERIT AND PRIVATE WORTH.

Bath, August 21, 1854.”

THE MASONIC CHARITIES.—The Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset have become annual subscribers to nearly the whole of the Masonic charities.

SUFFOLK.

ON the 25th ult., in honour to the flourishing lodge—the Phoenix—Stowmarket, the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Suffolk, was held in that town, and was attended by a large concourse of the brethren. The R.W., the P.G.M. Sir E. Gooch, Bart., M.P., presided. After the conclusion of the formal business of the lodge, the brethren attended Divine Service in the Parish Church, and listened to an eloquent and edifying sermon preached by Br. the Rev. G. Murgage, P.G.C., in aid of the National and British Schools of the town. The following gentlemen were appointed Grand Officers of the province for the ensuing year, by the R.W., P.G.M. Br. Sir Ed. Gooch, M.P.:—R. Martin, Esq., D.P.G.M.; L. Hutton, Esq., P.G.S.W.; F. B. Stratheon, Esq., P.G.J.W.; Rev. G. Murgage, P.G.C.; T. Jones, Esq., (Mayor of Sudbury), P.G. Treasurer. The banquet, which was held at the Corn Exchange, was attended by about eighty members of the craft, among whom were Capt. Gooch, R.N., P.P.G.S.W.; Rev. W. French, P.P.G.C.; Rev. F. W. Freeman, P.P.G.S.W.; P. Allez, Esq., P.P.G.S.W.; Br. Forbes, P.P.G.J.D. of the Essex Provincial Grand Lodge; Br. Fox, of the Norfolk Lodge (100); Br. Ballard, of (29), London; and Br. Balling, of lodge (59), Colchester. There were also present representatives from every lodge in the province. The courteous and dignified conduct of Br. Sir Ed. Gooch, was the theme of general praise; and it is, we understand, the intention of the brethren of the province to present him with a testimonial, in acknowledgement of his services as P.G.M., and his munificent support of Freemasonry generally.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

LODGE OF STABILITY (No. 824).—At the usual monthly meeting of this lodge held at Br. Brooks's, Talbot Hotel, Stourbridge, the brethren presented Br. Joseph Aston, W.M., with a beautiful gold pin and set of shirt studs, as a trifling memento of their esteem and respect, and in consideration of his indefatigable exertions in the cause of Masonry, but more especially towards the Lodge of Stability, over which he has presided as W. M. for two years. A full muster of the brethren added greatly to the happy event, and, after Lodge business, upwards of twenty sat down to an excellent banquet, provided by Br. Brooks. The usual toasts were given, and a very happy evening was spent with true masonic feeling.

SOUTH WALES.

ST. PETER'S LODGE (No. 698.) Carmarthen.—Upwards of eleven years' Brother Ribbans has been working in this Lodge—not in a useless or merely amusing manner, but in a way to do honour to the Society, and good to the charities connected with Free Masonry. Brother Ribbans's aim now seems to be to establish the senior warden of this lodge a governor of the Boys' School, and we believe it is his earnest desire to fill up the triangle, by bringing in the junior warden a governor of the Old Man's Asylum. Let every Lodge employ its funds thus, and in ten years time the Masonic Charities would be the richest specimen of Free Philanthropy in this or any other country.

SCOTLAND.

BANFF.—The members of the St. John's Lodge held their first meeting of the season, on the 23rd October. Br. Jas. Mason, W.M., occupied the chair, and, in his usual masterly style, initiated Mr. Alex. Bairn's father into the mysteries of the craft.

THE COLONIES.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—On Thursday, August 3rd., a grand ball was given at the Masonic Hotel, Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope, by the Brethren of the British Lodge (No. 419.), and the Goede Tronw Lodge (which is not on the official list in the calender); the Brethren appeared in full masonic costume. A tastefully laid out supper was provided, and after ample justice had been done to the profusion of good things set before them, the Brethren adjourned to a splendidly decorated suite of rooms, adorned with the flags of all nations, interspersed with masonic banners, emblems, and divers devices. Terpsichorean amusements then commenced, and were, to use a hackneyed but expressive phrase, "kept up to a late," or rather till an early "hour." Mr. Holt's excellent band was in attendance, and performed its part in an admirable manner. A more agreeable evening has rarely been passed by the brethren in that locality, and we are informed that so gratified were they with the entire proceedings, that a similar entertainment is speedily to be got up, in order that those who delight to "trip the light fantastic toe," may again indulge in their favourite pastime; to bring the Brethren, and the fair portion of their families, into pruternal communion, and thus promote that sociality and good feeling which distinguish your ancient and honorable fraternity.

AUSTRALIA.—PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.—On the 17th June, the various lodges of freemasons met at high twelve, at the Masonic Hall, Adelaide, to celebrate the festival of St. John the Baptist, upwards of seventy being present. The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form by brother G. S. Kingston, M.L.C. Acting Provincial Grand Master, and the various private lodges afterwards went through their routine business. At about six o'clock the officers and brothers adjourned to the assembly-room of the Napoleon Bonaparte, where a sumptuous banquet was provided by the host, Brother Ramsay. The chair was occupied by the Acting Provincial Grand Master, supported on the right by Brothers Dr. Kent, Deputy Prov. G. M.; Joseph, Bagot, M.L.C., and Henry, Prov. G. Stewards; and on his left by Brothers Alderman Lazar, Prov. G. Director of Ceremonies; Gleeson, J.D.; Haire, Prov. G. Pursuivant; Lomax, Prov. G. Steward; Dodgson, P.M.; Lambert, and Gosse. Brothers Wicksteed, Prov. J. G. Deacon, and Moore, Prov. G. Steward, acted as croupiers. The cloth having been drawn, the usual masonic toasts were honoured, interspersed and enlivened by songs and music. At half-past eleven, "Burns's Farewell" announced that the Sabbath day was approaching, and the knock from the chairman's gavel was followed by instant separation. The universal feeling was, that so pleasant a meeting had never before been held by the craft, in South Australia.

CELEBRATION OF ST. JOHN'S FESTIVAL, AT ADELAIDE.—On the evening of the 22nd June, the Brethren of the Lodge of Unity, and those of the Adelaide St. John's Lodge, met at Brother John Smith's, Port Adelaide, to celebrate the Festival of St. John. About fifty-three Brethren set down to supper. The usual masonic toasts were proposed and duly honoured. At 12 o'clock the Acting-Worshipful Master, Brother P. M. French, left the chair, and the Brethren retired, having spent a most agreeable masonic evening.

NEW MASONIC HALL, AT ADELAIDE.—A meeting of the shareholders of the "Masonic Hall Association," took place on Monday evening, June 5, at the lodge-room, North-terrace. The meeting was called to adopt a Deed of Settlement, to elect directors, trustees, and auditors. The chairman, Mr. J. Lazar, explained the nature of the business, and the position in which matters stood. He also congratulated the shareholders upon the success of the undertaking. A ballot for the officers then took place, the result of which was the return of the following gentlemen:—*Directors*, J. Lazar, Esq., R. McClure, Esq., E. Mitchell, Esq., F. Haire, Esq., and A. Abraham,

Esq. *Trustees*, L. Josaph, Esq., Dr. Gosse, J. S. Henry, Esq., C. S. Porle, Esq., and B. Nathan, Esq. *Auditors*, Messrs. Ball and Woods. There is a neat cottage attached to the hall, which is intended for the residence of Brother J. Wing, the tiler, who on this occasion was presented with a very handsome silver watch. About eighty brethren were present, and the evening was spent most agreeably.

NEW FREEMASONS HALL, AT HOBART TOWN.—A new masonic hall is also to be erected in this place, Brother William Champion having kindly given a very eligible site. The result is, that a company is in process of formation, with 5000*l.* capital, in 10*l.* shares, to erect a hall; these shares are to be held by and transferrable to those only who are true and faithful brothers amongst us. One pound is to be paid down, and the remainder is reserved in equal instalments by promissory notes, payable at three, six, nine, and twelve months, respectively, bearing date July 1, 1854. Brothers G. Stevenson, M. Kennett, and W. G. Hardy, are respectively treasurer, secretary, and solicitor. A provisional committee has been appointed, consisting of twelve brethren, and two hundred and sixty-four shares have already been taken. As soon as four hundred shares are taken, it is intended to hold a general meeting of shareholders for the election of officers, and the formal inauguration of the company.

ROYAL FREEMASONS GIRLS' SCHOOL.

On the 12th ult., the usual Quarterly Court of the Governors' of the Girls' School, was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, for the election of children, and for the transaction of general business.

Brother Mills occupied the chair.

Brother Crewe, the Secretary, read the minutes of the previous Quarterly Court, and of the several sittings of the House Committee, which had taken place during the three months intervening. From these records, it appeared, that the Grand Lodge has this year subscribed 350*l.* to the funds of the Institution. All the children with the exception of 12, spent the last vacation with their relatives and friends, and returned to the school in good health. One child unfortunately fell a victim to the late pestilence, notwithstanding the most attentive care of the medical officers and of the school-mistress. The conduct of Dr. Moore, M.D., Honorary Physician, the same gentleman who some time since filled the office of G. S. D., was beyond all praise. During the time that the child's illness continued, he attended her at Wandsworth, several times each day, and supplied her with wine and other necessaries from his own establishment. The House Committee fully recognising such an active exercise of the highest virtue that can adorn a mason, had placed on record the expression of their unanimous thanks to Brother Moore. Brother Howell, surgeon to the Institution, was also indefatigable in his exertions, and was in constant attendance on the child, while the care bestowed on the youthful sufferer, by Miss Jarwood, was characterised by all that fond attention which she has for so many years exercised towards the children placed under her care; and the relatives of the child, in most affecting terms expressed their gratitude for the careful and affectionate manner with which she had been treated.

The committee had defeated an attempt made by the churchwardens to subject the Institution to an annual charge of 4*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* for church rates, and received a letter from Brother Phillip Hardwicke, their architect, certifying, that the works at the School House had been completed to his satisfaction.

These minutes were, on the motion of Brother Symonds, confirmed by the Court.

The Treasurer was then authorised to pay 393*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, the expenses of the Institution for the quarter.

Brother Crewe then announced that there were six vacancies on the school, and that there were only five approved candidates: on which it was moved, that the five children so approved should be admitted without a poll. This was at once agreed to.

Brother Symonds next brought before the court, the case of a child who had been elected at the poll, which took place in April last, but who, on account of the extreme delicacy of her constitution was refused the necessary medical certificate to

qualify her admission. She had since been residing at Margate, and was now greatly improved in health as testified by letters from medical men resident in that town, addressed to Brother Patten. Under these circumstances, he thought that the unfilled vacancy should be kept open for her, subject to her obtaining a certificate of good health from the medical officers of the charity; and he had great pleasure in moving a resolution to that effect.

Brother Barrett seconded the proposition.

The Chairman thought that the child's illness did not nullify her election, but that she had a right to the first vacancy which might arise after her complete recovery.

There being some doubt on this point, the motion was put from the chair and unanimously agreed to.

The proceedings then terminated, with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

At a meeting of the General Committee on Thursday last, over which Br. Beadon presided, Miss Jarwood was appointed Matron, *pro tem.*, in the place of the late Mrs. Crooks.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.—At the monthly meeting of the Board of Benevolence, held at Freemasons' Hall, on Thursday, Oct. 26, nine applicants were relieved with various sums amounting in the aggregate to 85*l.* 17*s.*

BROTHERLY LOVE.

BY ALEX. HENRY GIRVEN, AUTHOR OF "REGINALD SELWYN," &c.

CHAPTER I.—PASSION AND DEFORMITY.

THE sun was sinking behind a range of vine-covered hills which formed the western boundary of an ancient and picturesque town in the south of France. It was the early part of autumn, and the foliage was beginning to assume those varied tints, which lend such diversity and beauty to woodland scenery, which in this locality abounded for miles in the direction of the receding orb. The scene upon which the eye of the spectator reposed, was one of those which a painter would have selected for his canvass, or which would have kindled into enthusiasm a mind possessing a particle of imagination.

A deep silence reigned around, and only one human form gave evidence of animated existence. It was that of a young man, who paced up and down the banks of a river that issued from an acclivity at some distance, and which pursued its course in graceful windings, until it reached the town, when its further progress ceased to be visible.

The person whom we have introduced, seemed entirely heedless of the surrounding objects, though the sun was then tinting every peak of the upland with glowing loveliness, and the water was rosy with its departing brilliancy, while in every direction there was some point of beauty that wooed the vision. He continued to walk up and down with his arms folded and his eyes fixed on the ground, apparently lost in abstraction. Occasionally he would direct his glance towards the town, as if he expected some one to approach thence, but, no one appearing, he would resume his walk with the same abstracted air.

It may be as well to supply the reader with some information respecting the town near which this opening scene of the narrative is laid, as well as

the pedestrian in question, which will render the interview that is about to take place, more intelligible.

It is to the imperishable honour of France, that her sons bend with enthusiasm and reverence at the shrine of genius, and that they preserve with fidelity and sentiments of affection and gratitude the remembrance of those who have shed a lustre on their native land, whether as poets, philosophers, historians, artists, or statesman. When their recognition of intellectual worth is tardy or inefficient, it arises from those unfortunate political circumstances which too frequently have rendered their nation a theatre of ambition and strife, instead of a temple for the worship of what is beautiful in science, art, and literature.

The town in question was not deficient in this laudable attribute of the national character, being amongst the foremost to do homage to such of their countrymen as had distinguished themselves by the brilliancy of their genius. It was the birth-place of one of those intellectual meteors, and annually the inhabitants assembled to commemorate his fame, and to offer to his memory a tribute of gratitude for the celebrity he had conferred on his native place.

These were not the days of Athenæums or Mechanics Institutes, or hebdomadal re-unions for the purpose of literary recreation, or the cultivation of intellectual pursuits, and this anniversary was hailed with pleasure by the inhabitants, as furnishing a means of gratifying that craving for mental pabulum which exists in every civilised community. The mode in which this anniversary was celebrated, was congenial to the character of the people, for on such occasions a prize was given to one of the younger inhabitants who had succeeded in delivering the best address on some literary or scientific subject, which might be selected by the chief magistrate and other influential inhabitants who had formed themselves into a committee for that purpose. The effect of this practice was not only to offer up a grateful expression of popular feeling to departed worth; but also to stimulate the young men of the neighbourhood into a competition, where success or distinction could only be obtained by study and superiority in mental qualifications. But not only were the juvenile inhabitants induced to engage in this intellectual contest from the honours attending success, for love lent its powerful incentive, and many a youthful candidate was tempted to engage in the strife, from which, without such a motive as to excel in the eyes of his mistress, the study requisite would have deterred. Thus in many cases, indolence or the love of pleasure incident to youth, was surmounted, and many who would have frittered away their time in frivolity or in inaction, were lured into exertion and to that mental activity which in after life exercised a most salutary influence on their characters.

But, notwithstanding, the beneficial results of these anniversary competitions on the youthful mind of the district, still they were not exempt from the imperfections attendant on all human institutions, and, as faithful chroniclers, we are compelled to state that they were frequently productive of disagreeable consequences. As the dispositions engaged in the rivalry were various, defeat was not always attended with resignation

or sustained without resentment, nor was success always accompanied with moderation.

Brotherly feeling was frequently interrupted, friendship and attachments that seemed too strong for even transient estrangement were impaired, and in some cases entirely destroyed. Indeed, on some occasions, serious feuds ensued and the vanquished would resort to more material weapons than could be found in the armories of logic or eloquence. But despite of the bitterness that these periodical contentions sometimes engendered, their general effect was beneficial and their advent was always hailed with pleasure by both old and young, as supplying a rational diversity of the monotonous existence of a provincial town, into which the gaieties of the metropolis at that period had not penetrated.

The day on which our tale opens was the eve of one of these anniversaries, which was regarded with more than usual interest by the inhabitants, for Napoleon had already given indications of that lust for conquest which threatened to involve the whole continent in the horrors of a protracted war. Conscription was proceeding in the surrounding vicinities at a rapid pace, and none of the young men could promise himself that he would again be present at another competition, for the proverbial uncertainty of individual life was increased by the impending dangers of conflict in which he might be engaged, which the restless ambition of one mortal threatened, and which were shortly afterwards so fearfully realised.

Amongst those who had eagerly engaged in these contests, was Simon Le Trouve, the solitary pedestrian to whom we have introduced our readers. Nothing was known of his parentage, for he had been left in a basket at the door of the chief magistrate, some twenty-four years before, with a request in writing that this functionary would take charge of him, and the writer stated that ample funds for his support and education would be supplied.

As the worthy magistrate was an amiable man, and as the promise of the writer was fulfilled, he adopted the child, and previous to his demise bequeathed it, with the property, to his successor, who undertook and discharged the trust. He was liberally educated, and on attaining his majority, his personal property, amounting to a rather large sum, was duly delivered to him.

Nature had been very ungracious towards the foundling in personal attributes, and had fashioned his features and form in a mode that rendered him more like some rude parody of humanity than an individual of the *genus homo*. His head was unusually small and sunk between his shoulders, while every feature was distorted, and the general expression of his countenance rendered more hideous by a swarthiness of complexion and thick bristly hair that overspread his face. His figure was colossal but a malformation of the spine made him stoop, and imparted a singularly disagreeable appearance of his frame. His disposition was moody and saturnine.

Notwithstanding these defects, there were some with whom Simon was a favourite. The reason of this was supposed to arise from pity for his

personal defects, which it was kindly suggested might account for the moroseness he displayed in his general intercourse with society, while it was further stated that he had on some occasions given revelations of a better and more generous spirit than his usual deportment exhibited. But there was another ground for recommending him to favour. The circumstance of his deformity of feature and figure, had the effect of estranging him at an early period of life from association with those of his own years, for with the thoughtlessness of youth, they ridiculed his personal defects until they drove him in the bitterness of mortified pride, into solitude, to commune with his own gloomy thoughts, and to brood over that deformity which he deemed entirely excluded him from the sympathy of his kind. This state of isolation, however, was favourable to the development of his mental faculties, which he strengthened by study and reflection. But here also, nature had been scant in dispensing her benefits, for he appeared to be deficient in the rarest, best gift of genius, a vivid imagination.

He could reason with closeness and with logical acumen on the subtlest and most complex subjects—he could disrobe fallacy of its meretricious drapery—he could wind through the maze of ingenuity with unwavering determination and fidelity to the point at issue. But when the invention that could enable him to shed new and various lights on his subject, and the warmth of fancy that could render analysis attractive, were required, he signally failed. He was critical, not creative.

Perhaps it is erroneous to attribute this mental constitution to nature, for, as will shortly be seen, he cherished a warmth of affection and a depth of sensibility for one object in creation, which were strangely at variance with the want of imagination displayed in his public exhibitions or his intercourse with society. His language also in her presence was different from his common phraseology, and instead of being precise and prosaic would rise into sublimity and poetry. It might be, that his unprepossessing face and form suggested to him a conformity between his mind and his exterior, and as the one was repulsive, he endeavoured to render the other cold and unfeeling.

Simon continued his walk to and fro for about an hour, when he perceived a form approaching from the direction of the town, and the auditor might have heard his heart throbbing in the silence. A few minutes and the young girl, for it was the form of a female, stood before him.

She appeared about seventeen or eighteen years of age, that period when incipient womanhood commences to develope itself on the unfolding form, and to trace on the countenance intellect and sensibility in their maturity of thought and feeling, where previously little else than a sense of physical existence was visible. Every look revealed the soul within, and this more than even her face, which was faultless and feminine, or her graceful figure, prepossessed the beholder in her favour.

Simon took her hand, and looking into her face with an expression in which hope, doubt, and deep affection, were blended, said.

"I almost feared, Ida, you would not come—it is past the hour we agreed to meet."

"I was unexpectedly detained by the arrival of my cousin, who has come to spend a few days with us. You know Alfred Beaufreere?" she replied.

"Yes," said Simon, and a dark cloud flitted across his coarse and swarthy features. "I don't forget how he won the medal from me at school, and, what even then my boyish spirit prized more, your congratulation."

"For shame, Simon, to retain the remembrance of that trivial incident. Don't you recollect that you both shook hands, here, by the very margin of this stream, and that you promised to me that you would never feel towards each other anything but brotherly love?"

"Well, we will not talk about anything disagreeable now. I am wearied with preparing my address for to-morrow, though I understand I am to have no competitor. But were it otherwise, here at least, I have little doubt of obtaining the prize—that prize which I would consider as futile as that moonbeam on the water, except—"

"Except what, Simon?" she asked, as the young man paused.

"That it may render me agreeable in your eyes—tempt you to overlook this deformity of feature from which your sex turns with loathing—make you see only the light of intellect kindled within this uncouth shrine—make you regard with tenderness one who loves you with that passion which only some outcast from common sympathy like myself can feel, when he twines his heart around one human thing."

He sank on his knees, and, pressing her hand to his brow, burst into a violent flood of tears.

His emotion extended itself to the young girl, in whose eyes glistened tears, but repressing her feelings she said,

"Simon, Simon, I beseech you to calm yourself. Surely you know how deeply I am interested in your welfare. There is nothing I would not do to serve you. I respect your intellect, and I know your nature is noble, though you suffer a morbid sensibility to—"

"To make me feel that I am an object that can never inspire affection," he exclaimed with vehemence as she faltered,—"*that the words of love should never be uttered by lips that seemed formed only to hiss forth the accents of hate.*"

He became too agitated to proceed for some minutes, and Ida remained silent, for experience had taught her the futility of attempting to remonstrate with him during these ebullitions of feeling. At length he resumed in a milder tone,

"I can scarcely aspire to your love, Ida. The beautiful should wed with the beautiful. I should seek to mate only with some distorted image of humanity like myself. There would be a sympathy between us—there would be an identity of feeling arising from mutual deformity—no union of beauty and the beast, ha, ha!"

A wild, mocking, bitter laugh followed these words, and rang through the solitude, as if it burst from the lips of a fiend.

"I will not speak to you, Simon, while you continue in this mood. If you required my presence merely to vent your morbid feelings, I regret

that I should have relinquished the duties of hospitality towards our relative and guest."

"And I suppose," said Simon, resuming his asperity, "that he is handsome—gifted with all the charms of comely youth. I do remember that he was a fair, symmetrical boy. His spring gave promise of a bright maturity of form and feature. His eyes were soft, and blue, and dreamy, just that description young maidens so much admire. He was our local Adonis, and I the Satyr. Ha, and he had a fluent tongue, and used to write sonnets made up of moonlight and stars, and rife with the soft images bred by reveries beside the murmuring stream, and, in the depths of the forest, musical with feathered minstrelsy, and fragrant with fresh flowers springing beneath his feet—while I have fed my soul on the cataract's roar, and the dark ravine, and the rude and stunted shrubs that sprang from its hoary fissures, and the hoarse croak of the raven, for these were a type of me, loveless, misshapen, rugged, and repulsive."

"For shame, I repeat, Simon, to indulge in such gloomy thoughts—think of your intellect."

"And what is the value of that intellect?" he exclaimed with bitterness; "what is its value, except to contrast with my physical deformity, and to fill my mind with images of beauty that one reflection of my coarse features and ungainly form makes me crush in their birth, from their dissimilarity to my loathed exterior? What is the value of that intellect—can it win me love?"

"I am sure, Simon, there are those who do love, and will always love you while you retain your reputation for superior intellect."

"Bless you for these words, Ida," he exclaimed, his manner suddenly altering. "I will retain here at least that reputation, and your words revive the hope that was dying in my soul, that even you, whom I love so ardently, who are so lovely in person and mind, whose voice is like some wild melody that finds an echo in my heart, where all beside is discord, whose presence alone can brighten the dark void of my existence, that even you may love the rude being whom you alone have saved from misanthropy."

What reply this impassioned speech might have elicited, it is impossible to say, for the young girl seemed deeply affected by the devotion of her rude suitor, but as she was about to answer, the sound of a clock issuing from the town was audible in the stillness of the evening. It caused her to start, and having taken a hurried adieu of Simon, she returned with a quick step in the direction by which she had approached. Simon gazed after her receding form till it was no longer visible, and then, with a sigh, followed the path by which she had departed.

CHAPTER II.—THE DEFEAT.

The next morning, at an early hour, a number of the inhabitants had assembled in a church in one of the suburbs of the town, where the ceremony of competing for the prize was to take place. This edifice was selected as being one of the most spacious in the vicinity, and containing

a monument to the memory of the deceased philosopher, in commemoration of whom this festival, for as such it was regarded, was instituted.

The aisle and galleries presented as lively an *ensemble* as gay dresses, animated countenances, and that *abandon* of manner for which on such occasions our mercurial neighbours are remarkable, could realise. The building itself was not deficient in attractive features, for it was a venerable Gothic pile, and it was richly decorated with carving, while the walls were hung round with exquisite paintings, after the fashion of Roman Catholic places of worship. The hand of genius had there traced in glowing lineaments, various episodes of scriptural history, and portrayed in vivid hues the form of the Virgin and the Magdalen, or various saints or martyrs who had spread the gospel abroad, or who had sealed the sincerity of their faith by the sacrifice of their lives at the gibbet or the stake. Nor were floral decorations wanting, for the pillars and galleries were wreathed with the shrubs of the season, which relieved the sombre character of the structure and the subjects which adorned it, and also imparted a freshness and fragrance to the whole scene. To the severe taste of Protestant Reformers, the edifice would have been more agreeable for the purposes of sacred worship, without its adornment, but its general appearance harmonised admirably with the object to which, on this occasion, it was devoted.

The mayor and some of the other magistrates of the town occupied a temporary platform at one side of the church, and immediately opposite, a rostrum was erected for the candidates.

The proceedings were opened by a venerable ecclesiastic, in a brief and earnest address, in which he implored the divine blessing on all assembled; and prayed that the competition might not create unpleasant feelings, or interrupt those sentiments of brotherly love which christians under all circumstances were commanded to cherish.

The mayor then stated the object of those who had instituted the annual assemblage, and then called on all who were desirous of competing, to come forward. A silence of some minutes followed, when Simon ascended the rostrum amid the acclamations of the multitude; for though, as we have already stated, he was not generally a favourite, still his ability was recognised.

His address was of that grave and cold description which is suited rather to the meridian of a university than to a popular assembly. The theme selected, was one which was not then as *effète* as it has now become, namely, the useful as compared with the beautiful. He contended that the former only should be studied by an intelligent being, and in his definition of what constituted utility, altogether excluded the pleasures of imagination. His address, in those days, and in certain coteries, would be considered of a very practical character, for it was void of all metaphor, fancy, or fervour, but full of dry deduction, and hard and ponderous erudition. However, it possessed solidity, and showed, notwithstanding its materialist tone, that the speaker was well-informed and clever. Though some of the younger auditors would have preferred a more animated address, still they joined in the general applause which greeted Simon.

when he descended from the rostrum, and which sent a flush of gratified pride across his sallow countenance.

An interval of some minutes elapsed after the cheers had subsided, and the mayor announced, that if no other candidate appeared, the prize must be awarded to Simon. A movement was then visible at the extremity of the building, and a young man announced that he was ready to compete for the prize. The crowd immediately divided, and the youthful candidate having reached the rostrum, ascended it, and bowed gracefully to the magistrates and the multitude around. A murmur of approbation ran through the assemblage, excited by the prepossessing appearance of the stranger, and the pleasure of witnessing a contest for the prize.

Perhaps a more striking contrast to Simon could not be presented than the new-comer. He was tall, slight, but admirably proportioned; his configuration indicating grace and agility. His features were strikingly handsome, and his complexion was almost femininely fair. A mass of light auburn hair, which was thrown back from a lofty brow, floated in curls down his shoulders, and his dark blue, lustrous eyes beamed with intelligence. Such were the principal facial and personal traits of Alfred Beaufriere, for it was he who now stood forward to contend with his former associate and rival.

To complete the picture, we may state, that he was attired in a light blue suit, which set off his fair complexion and eyes, and his collar was thrown open, revealing a throat and neck symmetrically moulded, and rivaling the marble in whiteness.

In reply to a question from the mayor, he announced his name, which was received with renewed applause, for the remembrance of the beautiful and gifted youth, who had left his native place some years previously, was not forgotten by many of those present, though few at first recognised him in the form that then stood before them in the maturity of manhood.

There were two who did not share in the feeling which the appearance of Alfred Beaufriere excited. These were Simon and Ida St. Claire, the young lady to whom the reader has already been introduced, and who would have endeavoured to dissuade her cousin from engaging in a contest with Simon, had she been aware of his intention. Simon felt instinctively that the prize of which he was so sure, and to obtain which he had spent many an hour in preparing his address, was about to be ravished from his grasp, and that he was to be hurled from that intellectual supremacy which he had so long enjoyed in his native place. It was with difficulty he could repress the groan that sprang to his lips, while an icy shudder crept through his frame, and he trembled as if stricken with palsy. But he knew that he stood in the presence of many who would gloat over his agony, and that consideration enabled him to stifle any indication of emotion. He withdrew into a recess in the wall behind the rostrum, and, folding his arms, awaited the address of his unexpected rival. He was tempted to turn his eyes towards Ida, who was seated in the gallery opposite, but he dared not trust himself. Had he done so, he would have seen there revealed the depth of a love which in the hour of his trial fully developed itself. He would have read in her pale cheek and glisten-

ing eye and quivering lip, and her look of sympathy, how fondly his uncouth image was shrined in the affections of that young and lovely maiden, who would have made any sacrifice to secure his happiness.

Alfred commenced his address amid profound silence. His voice was clear, sonorous and musical. He had not uttered a half a dozen sentences before it was evident that he was endued with rare eloquence. He asserted, that he fully concurred in the proposition enunciated by the preceding speaker, that nothing was beautiful that was not useful, but he denied the justice of the limitations assigned to utility. He maintained that whatever produced an agreeable emotion in the mind, was intrinsically useful, whether excited by the fragrance of a flower, the warbling of a bird, the meandering of a rivulet, or the twinkling of a star. He demonstrated the fallacy of regarding as useful what had reference to the requirements of material existence, or to the gratification of the animal senses, inasmuch as man was a compound being, made up of soul and body, both of which craved for food, which, if not supplied, would leave the human being imperfect in its enjoyments. He enlisted the local scenery and the objects by which the assembly were immediately surrounded, in behalf of his arguments. He illustrated his views by reference to the beautiful objects in the vicinity; the vine clad hills, amid which the sun sunk with such magnificence, tinting every acclivity with floods of radiance; the winding stream that mirrored back the glories of the skies, day and night, whose banks were fringed with flowers, and whose murmuring fell softly on the ear, like the voice of some spirit uttering its musical plaint in a language that seemed intelligible to some subtle sense or faculty with which the human mind was stored. He then adverted to the pleasures of the imagination in general, and the enjoyment to be derived from the works of the poet and the artist. He asked them to look around the sacred edifice where they were assembled, and gaze for one instant on the works of the painter which adorned its walls. Could they, he inquired, behold those monuments of genius into which the artist had infused his own conceptions of beauty and sensibility, which portrayed so vividly some of the chief episodes in the life of the Redeemer; and those followers, whose fidelity neither suffering nor death could destroy, without having a more lively conception of the sacred subjects which they depicted and animated, and made more vivid objects of sense and affection?

It is not our business to criticise the merits of this florid and impassioned address. It is sufficient to state that it was most effective; and when the young orator concluded, one simultaneous shout of applause burst from the multitude over whose imagination he had flung that spell which eloquence rarely fails to exercise in a popular assembly.

Upon the ears of Simon that applause fell like drops of molten lead, but no look or gesture revealed his feelings to the general scrutiny that was directed towards him, as if to read the sentiments which this display of incontestible excellence excited in his bosom.

No other candidate appearing the mayor consulted with his brother magistrates, and then desired Alfred to stand forward. The latter having complied, the worthy magistrate announced that he had been unanimously

awarded the prize. A faint cry broke from one of the galleries, followed by an exclamation that a woman had fainted. It was Ida St. Claire, who was borne from the church in a state of insensibility.

This incident had the effect of curtailing the ceremony, which was terminated by presenting to Alfred Beaufreere the prize, with which he retired. The crowd shortly afterwards departed, only one person remaining behind. It was Simon, who seemed unconscious of the occurrence which had taken place, and continued leaning against the wall with folded arms and statue-like appearance.

Poor fellow! he had sustained the severest shock it had been his fate to endure in the course of his existence. The hope he had cherished was shattered, that intellect on which he had prided himself was eclipsed, and he felt that sense of humiliation which an aspiring intellect endures when brought into contact with superior intelligence. A sinking sensation crept over him, and then he became like one who had been stunned, heedless of all around, but conscious of suffering. In this state he continued for some hours, without even noticing that twilight was darkening the church. He was suddenly aroused by some object rushing by him, and raising his eyes, he beheld a spectacle that rooted him to the spot in terror and amazement.

CHAPTER III.—THE MANIAC OF THE MOUNT.

It was not until two days after the events detailed in the preceding chapter, that Ida St. Claire was sufficiently recovered from the shock which her feelings had sustained by the defeat of her lover, to collect her scattered thoughts. Her mind first reverted to Simon, for whose situation she felt deeply distressed. She well knew with what a crushing weight his defeat must have fallen on his dark spirit, and, to use a popular and expressive figure, her heart bled for the sense of humiliation and mortified vanity, under which he must be labouring.

Her love for Simon was deep and sincere. It grew out of a sentiment of pity for his deformity, which rendered him an object of ridicule and aversion in the eyes of the young maidens of the neighbourhood, and, fostered by daily association and the warmth of his attachment to her, it gradually deepened into as pure and fervid a passion as ever animated the breast of young womanhood. The contempt which his uncouth appearance excited, the derision with which her companions treated her affection for him, which was apparent to all, only tended to bind her more strongly to him, and to rivet her affection more closely. But she was not blind to his defects. She perceived clearly that he was wayward and misanthropic; but she could not bring herself to believe that one who loved her so ardently, and who exhibited so much sensibility in her presence, was radically bad in disposition. She ascribed his faults to the morbid feelings which his personal misfortune engendered, and in this very circumstance she found an additional ground for commiseration. Vanity whispered to her that she might possess sufficient influence over his

affections to mould him to her will, and, by the gentleness of her own character, smoothen the asperity of his. Besides, as we have previously mentioned, he had outpoured all his softer nature to her, and she could perceive a better and kindlier feeling struggling in his bosom, which the fostering of affection might develope in its maturity. How far love might have assisted her in these deductions we will not pretend to determine.

But notwithstanding this lenity to his defects, Ida could not conceal from herself the fact that, her lover was fearfully vindictive. The tenacity with which he remembered the most trifling slight, and his fierce denunciations of those from whom he sustained it, which even her presence would not always repress, filled her with apprehension. She had been brought up in a school of strict piety. Her father, a Lutheran minister, had suffered severely from the enmity of an early period, and endured persecution for an adherence to the creed of his convictions. But all that he had sustained was unable to weaken his sentiments of brotherly love for the whole human race, and when he lay on his death-bed, though reduced to the greatest extremity by the perfidy of his former friend, and the bigotry of those who persecuted him for his creed, in his last appeal to heaven there was mingled a prayer for the forgiveness of those who had turned his days to bitterness, and brought him to an untimely grave. The impression which her father's precepts and death-bed had left on Ida's mind, was indelible, and her every endeavour was directed to the cultivation of an unbounded love for the human race. If resentment arose in her mind, it was only a transient denizen, and was soon replaced by forgiveness for the object which had excited it.

The want of a similarity of character in this respect was, perhaps, the only reason that prevented Ida answering in explicit terms the affection she felt for Simon, for she trembled at uniting her destiny to one who could feel violent or permanent resentment to a fellow-being. But her love whispered that the origin of this unamiable trait in her lover might be traced to his deformity, and that she would be the means of eradicating it from nature.

The anxiety which Ida felt for her lover, at this crisis, was heightened by the want of any person in whom she could confide. Her mother, who was of rather a puritanical turn, and whose views were more worldly than those of her departed spouse, regarded the attachment of her daughter, for Simon, as little short of insanity; and seldom omitted an opportunity of evincing her disapprobation of it to Ida. To her, therefore, the young girl could not apply for consolation or advice. Maiden modesty prevented her confiding in Alfred her solicitude, and, besides, she felt a hectic of resentment for the mortification he had occasioned her lover. From the young girls of her acquaintance she shrunk, in anything that related to Simon, for their ill suppressed sneer at his name wounded her to the heart.

Another day wore on, and Simon was not heard of. It was his practise to call daily to inquire after her health or to converse with her, and the

depth of his love was manifest in this, because Mrs. St. Claire scarcely endeavoured to conceal her aversion towards him. There were only two circumstances that prevented her openly insulting him, the first was that Ida, though gentle and submissive on other points, exhibited a determination in reference to Simon, which astonished her; and the second was, that it was reputed that Simon was possessed of considerable personal property. This latter circumstance would not of itself have been sufficient to have surmounted her aversion to him, but as she and her daughter were in a state of only moderate means, it was not without some weight. Indeed, as the good lady began to ponder on this point, she began to give her daughter credit for more good sense than she at first suspected in her "infatuated attachment," as she was accustomed to express herself, and arrived at the conclusion that it was his money which accounted for Ida's strange predilection for Simon.

The reader is not to consider that Mrs. St. Claire, was so deficient in perspicacity in her deduction with reference to Ida. She merely fell into a common error, which is of daily occurrence with the most sensible, namely, judging of others by themselves.

In the emergency in which she was placed, a thought suddenly occurred to Ida; it was no other than to visit a strange being, whose place of abode and eccentricities had acquired for him the designation of the Maniac of the Mount.

We must revert, for a short time, to Simon Le Trouve, whom we left in the church, under mingled feelings of fear and surprise, that for the instant suspended the bitterness of spirit produced by his recent humiliation.

The object which he beheld was one, which, seen in the uncertain light, might well excite these emotions. It was the form of a man worn almost to a skeleton, the pallor of whose features gave him a corpse-like appearance, but whose eyes emitted a wild and unearthly lustre, and whose hair, which was perfectly white, fell in long matted locks down his shoulders. He was attired in a loose gown that descended to his feet, and which was confined at the waist by a piece of cord. There was no vestige of any other garment discernible.

The apparition appeared not to notice Simon, sweeping by him with a shadowy motion, and a noiseless tread which awoke no echo in the deserted aisle. When he reached the extreme end of the edifice, he prostrated himself before a small mural monument, which had apparently been erected for some years, and burying his face in his hands, remained in that attitude without sound or gesture.

For sometime Simon was unable to collect his mental faculties, and a conviction that he was in the presence of a being of the other world became impressed on his imagination. He would have accosted the apparition in some form of appeal, such as he had heard prescribed by the superstitious in addressing the spirits of the departed, but his memory failed him, his powers of utterance were suspended, and a cold clammy perspiration burst from his pores. What effect a continuance of this state might have had on the young man's reason it is difficult to say, but he was soon relieved from his apprehension of

being in the presence of a supernatural being, for the object of his terror burst forth in a rhapsody which satisfied Simon that he was a creature of flesh and blood, though, seemingly, deprived of reason,

(To be continued.)

THE HEIR OF BENDERSLEIGH;

OR,

THE FREEMASON'S PROMISE.

(A Tale for a Summer's Day or a Winter's Night).

BY BROTHER C. J. COLLINS.

CHAPTER I.—INTRODUCES ALL THE CHARACTERS NECESSARY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLOT.

IN the north-west of England a mighty river rolls from the Irish sea, and constitutes the means of wealth of a vast trading port, in which great fleets of merchantmen from every country where commerce has a home, pours out the stores which have been accumulated in distant lands, to reward the industry of those whose toil has raised the country in which we live and thrive to the highest point of the renown and bustle of the World. Upon that river's bosom a hundred ships ride easily, waiting for admission to the crowded docks which line the right-hand shore, and mask the noble town that spreads beyond them. On either shore high massive piers are raised, to curb the fury of the rushing tide, as riding on the western gale it comes in all its strength towards the shore, and spends its anger in a misty shower. On, past the town, the river sweeps, expanding in its inland progress. The great edifices which have been raised to store the wealth that distant climates yield, are left behind; the towering steeples of the distant town are shadowy in the west; but still the rushing tide rolls on, and forms a great extent of water, appearing, as it widens, like an inland sea. On still it rolls, and ship and tower, and various fashioned steeples are all lost behind the green of nature's loveliness; and the green fields of earth, and the azure blue of heaven, mingle in the distance with the sparkling waves, as they break upon the sandy shore, and again roll back to gain fresh power. From either shore, so wide the river has become, the other side looks shadowy to the view, and hill, and dale, and forest glade, and waving fields of the long summer grass are blended into one.

It is a summer's day, and the bright noon-tide sun shines down upon the bosom of the mighty river, now smooth and motionless as a burnished plate. The full spring-tide has risen to its height, and hides the sand that marks the boundary of the fertile earth. The opposite shore seems almost buried by the water's bright expanse. It is a day of loveliness and beauty. From every bough the feathered warblers of the grove are pouring forth their native melody, and untrammelled nature seems to revel in her glad-

ness. The air is pregnant with the perfume of sweet flowers; the budding hawthorn and the blossom of the honeysuckle, the early summer rose, the woodbine and the sweetbriar, all pour out their treasures on the stilly air, and make enchanting nature doubly lovely to the enraptured eye. From the rising shore where now we stand, a bright and glowing scene spreads out before the view, bounded by the uneven line which marks the distant mountains on the horizon's verge.

Near to the spot which we have just described, a cottage lately stood, commanding in its front a view of the bright river and the fertile land beyond: and on its other side, the distant mountains of North Wales, and the bright verdant undulating land between. The little cottage had its lower storey ornamented by close trellis-work, into which were twined the woodbine and the rose. The entrance was in the middle, being supported by two bay windows, which reached down to the ground and opened into the front garden, which was variegated by a thousand different flowers, in thick profusion. Beyond this little garden there was a grass plot which looked like verdant velvet, stretching right down to the water's edge, and at the time of high tide, being level with it. It was a lovely spot, and Nature might have chosen it for her throne. Within, the elegance of art contrasted with, and was set off by, the horticultural glories which shone outside, and pressed, in their profusion, against the windows of the little house.

There were five inmates of this fairy dwelling, well suited to the spot in which they lived. These inmates consisted of a mother and two daughters—one a widow, and the other blooming in the freshness of nineteen, with all the luxurious loveliness which perfect womanhood at such an age displays. The other two of the quintette, were a male and female servant, who, at the very moment of which we write, are engaged in the well whitewashed kitchen, whose walls were crowded with clean wooden shelves, which, in turn, were laden with all those articles which the proper mode of keeping house requires, in packing two extensive hampers with various substantial edibles in the shape of a ham, a tongue, two or three couples of fowl, several dishes with paste coverings, sundry bottles, in different sizes; knives, forks, spoons, glasses, and various other things and substances which good people provide when they have the desire and the means of taking care of themselves.

"Well, this will be something like a pic-nic," said the female servant, as she pressed down a large pound cake into an unoccupied corner of the largest basket.

"Ah," said her fellow-labourer, "if this is what you calls a pick-lick, it's just the lick I likes."

"Pick-lick!" exclaimed Rachel, who prided herself upon her grammatical accuracy, "pick-lick! How often am I to tell you of them ungrammatical expressions? Pic-nic, it is."

"Why, it stands to sense that it's pick-lick," replied Jacob, as he brushed his forehead, after the exertion of fastening down the lid of one of the baskets; "What's all them things for but to pick and lick?"

This cogent argument seemed to stagger Rachel in her grammatical

firmness; but before she had time to reply to it the kitchen door was thrown open, and her two young mistresses entered the apartment, both attired in walking costume.

"Well, Rachel," said the widow, who was usually addressed as Mrs. William Chasey, or more frequently only as Mrs. William; "well, Rachel, are these things prepared? we shall have the folks here presently."

"Yes, Mrs. William," replied Rachel, "the pigeon-pies, and the tarts, and the wine, and the mince pies, and all them things, is in this basket; and the ham, and the tongue, and the chickens, is in that there basket of Jacob's."

"Very good," said Mrs. William Chasey, approvingly. "Now then, lay the cloth for luncheon, in the dining-room, for I suppose we shall want something before we start."

"It's already done, Mrs. William," replied Rachel.

"Here they are," joyously exclaimed the younger lady, looking out of the kitchen window, down a long and profusely stocked garden which was bounded at the bottom by one of those green lanes which poets love to prattle of. "Here they are—here's Mr. Grainger and Mrs. Puffer Smirke, leading the way; open the door Jacob."

Jacob opened a side door which led round into the back garden, and waited the arrival of the guests, who had been telegraphed from the kitchen window. Presently they came up to the porch which ornamented the door, and Mrs. William Chasey and her sister Harriet ran out to meet them, and to shake hands with them by twos at a time.

Frequent were the declarations as to the glorious day the party had been favoured with, and many the congratulations which were expressed, as the little party crowded into the little house, which now presented a striking contrast to its usual silent serenity.

And a snug little party it was that had assembled there. There was Mr. Grainger, by profession a solicitor, and reputed to be very rich; but the only peculiarity about whose appearance, at least peculiarity in these days, was, that he wore small clothes instead of trousers. Then there was Mrs. Puffer Smirke, decidedly the lioness of the party, and dressed accordingly. She was reputed to be on intimate terms with the editor of the leading newspaper of the neighbouring town, through the instrumentality of which publication, she weekly poured forth heart-stirring lines, which appeared under the head of "Poetry," and formed the leading feature of the "Bottle Pool Trident," the lines being subscribed, "Maria Puffer S—," which everybody of course knew meant Mrs. Puffer Smirke. This lady wore the usual light blue spectacles, which she invariably took off when she wished to look at anything minutely. Of course she was to be the enchantress of the pic-nic party, and surrounded by the glow of a well puffed out auber satin dress, it was expected that every ruffled leaf and every trampled flower would call forth a burst of poesy, only too rich to be remembered. Then there was Mr. Puffer Smirke, a nobody, and for ever lost behind the shadow of his wife. Equal in dignity with Mrs. Puffer Smirke, was the young Mr. Augustus Raker, who was the heir to a large but dilapidated house and a

fine estate; whose father from the young man's childhood had held some high appointment in the East Indies, from which invigorating regions the youth had been sent in his infancy, and had never seen his father since. Barely twenty years of age, he had the appearance of a man of upwards of thirty. On his lip he wore a thick moustache, slightly tinged with red, and his attire was that of the last fashion which had come from Bond-Street to the Provinces. Another gentleman was of the party, about his own age, but looking younger, modestly attired, but with that bearing which attests the gentleman, and for which there is no counterfeit. This was Mr. Henry Elliotson, an articled clerk to Mr. Grainger, in whose office he had been brought up from a mere child.

Beside these, there were a maiden lady of an uncertain age. Two poor relations of Mrs. Chasey's, like train-bearers to the rest, and who had been invited; the one because he could play the accordion, and the other because he "made such blunders," and "would be so very droll."

"But where's Mrs. Marshall?" enquired Mr. Grainger, when the party had seated themselves at the luncheon table.

"Oh, mamma will be down presently," replied Harriet, "but she will not be able to join us to day, as she is rather poorly; besides which she is afraid of leaving the house to the boy."

"Not go!" cried Mr. Grainger, "then I don't go."

"La! Mr. Grainger," exclaimed the ladies all at once.

"Oh, he wants to creep up Mrs. Marshall's sleeve," said the blundering cousin, intending to say something funny, and in the belief he had done so, laughing; but only for an instant, as Mr. Grainger himself did not relish the joke, consequently, he being rich, nobody else did; while Mr. Augustus Raker whispered to Harriet, next whom he sat, that in his opinion, the gent that had just spoken was what the fast men in London called "a flat;" and then he laughed and ogled Mrs. Puffler Smirke, as much as to say, you should have heard that; at which Mrs. Puffler Smirke practically illustrated her last name, and seemed to say, "ah, I can see what's going on," for she knew that Mr. Raker was an heir, and these great minded people though they write about and against "vanities," as they call them, nevertheless relish them mightily.

"Yes, as Mrs. Marshall remains at home, you must have your excursion without me, and you will enjoy it all the better I dare say," said Mr. Grainger.

Mr. Grainger had various reasons for remaining behind. First, he was fond of the country, and where could he see it in its eloquent silence to greater advantage than from Mrs. Marshall's cottage. Then he loved seclusion, and it struck him that perhaps he might be a restraint upon the enjoyment of the party, all so very much younger than himself; and finally, he had some matters to talk over with Mrs. Marshall herself; so his mind was made up, perhaps, beforehand.

A great many inducements were offered to Mr. Grainger, with the view of securing his company at the pic-nic, but that gentleman was firm in his determination; and he good-humouredly, but decidedly, met the arguments urged with a refusal.

The luncheon was rapidly dispatched, and the little party rose to enter upon the out-door enjoyments of the day.

"Ah! Mrs. Marshall," exclaimed Mr. Grainger, as a middle aged lady entered the room, "come at last. I thought you did not intend to show yourself to the young folks before they departed for the day. A set of madcaps they are."

"Mr. Grainger!" exclaimed Mrs. Puffer Smirke, loftily.

"Come, come," said Mrs. William Chasey, "the day is wearing."

Thus admonished, the assembled party, after having one and all shaken hands with Mrs. Marshall, the hostess of the little cottage, Mr. Grainger excepted, scampered down the garden into the lane at the bottom, where there was a kind of omnibus with three horses attached, waiting to carry the party to a distant hill, which commanded a view of as lovely a country as can be found within the limits of our island home.

Mr. Grainger and Mrs. Marshall walked to the bottom of the garden to see the little party off, and as soon as they were all seated, the two cousins on the outside of course, the vehicle drove smartly down the lane, and was soon lost behind the green hedges which beautifully fringed the scene. An hour's ride over pleasant hill and fertile valley, and by homely farmsteads and great mansions and vast wooded parks, brought the little party to the foot of the hill which they intended should be the scene of the pic-nic of that day.

CHAPTER II.—THE PIC-NIC.

Jacob and Rachel, who of course accompanied the party, unloaded the precious freight which the omnibus contained, and without which pic-nics would be nothing; and assisted by the coachman's cad, they carried them up the hill to a spot pointed out, with directions there to wait until the party, having taken their rambles, should be inclined for dinner on the green.

The summit of the hill, which should more properly be termed a mountain, was the first object which the party sought.

Mr. Raker advanced to offer Harriet his arm, but before he could do so, Mr. Elliotson had obtained the prize. Mr. Raker smiled at the young lady, but as he passed on, he honoured the gentleman upon whose arm she leant, with a scowl, which evinced but little feeling in harmony with the object of the party on the hill.

Mr. Raker, however, found a ready companion in Mrs. Puffer Smirke, who, with the sweetest smile that a poetess in green spectacles could give, took the proffered arm of the young heir.

There were many causes operating in Mr. Raker's mind, which induced him to look with anything but favour on Henry Elliotson. In the first place, Mr. Raker felt the proud position of independency in which he was placed, and, as he thought, he stood upon a high pedestal from which he could look down with scorn upon one who was but a dependent clerk. In the next place, Harriet was possessed of that beauty, which even in a

young libertine and a man of full-puffed up conceit, could produce a soft emotion; and lastly, another and a poorer man had been preferred to himself.

Arrived at the top of the hill, the party wandered in various directions, as their fancies led them. Mrs. Puffer Smirke gazed in a rapt attitude at the beauties of the scene before her, and with awful solemnity made a note of a great idea which suddenly had made itself manifest in her great mind. She made the note, and having done so, put on her spectacles again, having for the moment taken them off to see her pencil better.

Harriet and Henry Elliotson wandered down the hill, on the other side, and seemed delighted with each other. They had often met—had often walked together in the lanes which ran about the neighbourhood of Harriet's home. They had felt delighted in these rambles, but they had never discovered exactly in what their delight consisted. Of love they had never spoken, except when it had reference to others; but now the scene was changed—the opportunity was indeed most apt, and everything seemed propitious for a lover to unfold his mind to her on whom his heart was bent.

The two young fugitives from the pic-nic party, felt their situation, and wandered on in silence for some time. But at length that silence was broken, although the conversation only flowed in whispers, as though they feared that in the solitude of the beautiful scene over which they wandered, even the sound of their own voices might detract from the great bliss which they enjoyed. On they wandered, over the perfumed heath, and down by hedge rows at the foot of the hill, and still they whispered, and the honied words they uttered were almost lost upon the silent air.

Oh, how rapturous is the first declaration of a young love that is successful in its object.

Still they wandered on, and still they seemed enchanted, not with what they saw, but with the aspiration which both poured forth, each delighting each.

And on they would have wandered, had they not been startled by a merry laugh which came from some revellers behind a hedge.

"Why, here they are, at last;" exclaimed Mrs. William Chasey, "where have you been?—we have waited for you for half an hour."

Thus admonished, the two lovers—for such they had become—turned through a little gap in the hedge, and there they found a white table-cloth spread out, with all the substantials from the hampers arranged thereon, awaiting destruction.

A gentle blush suffused the cheeks of Harriet, as she took her seat upon a camp-stool which the gallantry of some of the gentlemen had provided. She felt that she blushed, and therefore she declared that it was very warm, and threw her bonnet off, releasing her long dark ringlets, which flowed down upon her bosom and made her look more beautiful than ever. And, oh, how beautiful she was.

The rattle of the knives and forks has commenced, and the little party are doing justice to the pic-nic which has been provided for their enjoy-

ment. The merry laugh grows louder and more general. Every heart is light, and in the midst of the gay joyous scene, Mr. Raker seems to forget his pride and his conceit; and Mrs. Puffler Smirke steps down to a level with more ordinary mortals. The joke goes gaily round, and toasts are proposed, and healths drunk, and all are merry in themselves.

"Let's have a dance," cries Mrs. William Chasey. "Ah, let's have a dance," exclaimed one of the cousins, jumping up, but in the effort, slipping backwards into one of the great dishes which contained the pie.

Loud was the laughter at the cousin's mishap, rendered still louder when the unfortunate cousin, turning round, displayed the marks which the greasy ingredients of the pie had left upon his nether garments.

"Well, let's have the dance, then," said Mr. Raker.

And so the couples were arranged—the accordion, which had already done duty on the hill, was brought out, and the dance commenced, and was kept up on the green turf with spirit and with glee. The stately quadrille soon gave way to the more rattling and more homely country dance—bonnets and coats were thrown off, and unalloyed enjoyment seemed to revel upon that sylvan scene. Mrs. Puffler Smirke threw off her spectacles, and enjoyed the sport, dancing with Mr. Raker, whom she seemed determined not to leave. At length they became tired, and the party was divided. One set danced while the other rested, in order to prolong the gay delight.

"Now, Jacob," said Rachel, "hand the wine about;" and she gave him a tray on which had been arranged stout glasses, for the revellers.

"Must I give it to them as is a doncing?" inquired Jacob.

"Them as is a doncing! No!" replied Rachel, mimicking her fellow-servant—"why don't you say dencing," whispered she into Jacob's ear.

"Give us the tray," said Jacob, rather contemptuously, and he hurried off to hand the refreshments round; but, unluckily, as he was passing the dancers, Mr. Raker caught Jacob's toe, and threw him, tray and all, right on to the player of the accordion; and both, accompanied by the tray and the glasses, rolled over in the grass.

This of course put a general stop to the dancing, and as soon as the unfortunates had been raised, a shout of laughter rang through the air.

Jacob, scratching his head, looked down upon the spot where he had been tripped up, and gazed at it as though there were some mystery hidden there, which he fain would fathom.

Suddenly it was discovered that it was growing late, and therefore all haste was made to clear the things away and prepare for home. The gay party strolled along the side of the hill towards the little public-house, where their conveyance had been left, while Jacob and Rachel brought up the rear, with the remains of the day's feast.

Arrived at the little hostelry, the horses were soon attached to the carriage in the yard. The driver, who appeared to have been in a little pic-nicing too, solemnly adjusted the harness upon the leader's neck, and then gathering the reins in his left hand, between his fore finger and thumb, and with the whip in his right hand, he brought the vehicle round to the front of the house with a dash.

With some little difficulty the party were stowed in their proper places, and away the carriage rolled, rumbling over the dust.

Now, it appeared that during the absence of the party on the hill, one of the horses had been sent back and exchanged for another, but not as it will presently appear, a better one. Immediately after leaving the house of public call, the road formed a rather sharp ascent, and at the bottom of this declivity the new horse suddenly stopped, and refused to move forward or to allow his companions to do so.

Reader, did you ever ride behind what in stable phraseology is called a "jibbing" horse? If you have, you will readily understand the situation in which our little party were placed. They were blessed in their return home with "a jibber," and a jibber too of great determination and vigour, though it was of the backward sort. The majority of the party did not know what a jibber was, therefore, they looked with some alarm at the sudden stop that had occurred. A jibber, is a horse that is determined when in harness, to draw the wrong way; that is, when it is required that he should pull forward, he invariably backs with might and main, straining the collar on his neck in such a manner as to lead an inexperienced beholder into the belief that the animal is imbued with a desire to pull his own head off. This was the situation in which the pic-nickers were placed. The coachman, animated, doubtless, by what is sometimes called "a drop too much," lashed the rebellious animal with his whip, with right good will; but the more he lashed, the more the jibber strained backwards from the collar and the pole. Tired with the exercise of castigation, the coachman tried a little eloquence, and attempted to coax the animal before him, but with the like result. The jibber seemed to look on kindness with greater contempt than he did coercion, for he bent back his ears close upon his head, and assumed a look which seemed to say, "It's no go, a jibber I am, and a jibber I'll be." Then the coachman bellowed and lashed again, "Hurroo—ye brute;" he cried "Whish," as he lashed the whip again, "Ah—hoo—ya—a-a-h," he cried, and jerked the rein with an energy that bent the jibber's head upon his breast.

"What is the matter?" shrieked the ladies; from the interior of the carriage.

"I'll jump out;" exclaimed Mrs. Puffer Smirke, as the back of the carriage approached in rather alarming and close proximity to the hedge at the side of the road.

"Sit where you be mum," cried the coachman, and then he lashed away again; "Hurroo, ah—booh, ye devil!" he cried again, and the other horses wondering no doubt what their neighbour was about, and hearing the whip without feeling it, began themselves to be a little excited.

"Blest if the others aint a going at it now," cried the coachman, beginning to lose his temper.

"Oh, lord!" exclaimed the maiden lady, "We shall all be killed. I hope it is not your fault, Mr. Muffer," continued she, addressing the unlucky cousin who was sitting on the box.

"Me! Miss Tiffin?" replied that individual, "Why should you think it is me. I should be very glad to be out of it!" And the tone of voice in which he spoke, certainly gave good evidence of his sincerity.

Just at this juncture the stable boy from the Inn came up, and announced his presence thus:—addressing the coachman,

“What’s oop, dick?”

“Oh!” replied the driver, “Here’s this blessed fifty shillin’ un again;” alluding, we presume, to the price which concluded the bargain and sale when last the animal referred to was the object of a transfer and ownership. “Lay hold of his head and kick him, Sam,” continued the coachman, in a malicious tone.

“If there is any cruelty practised here I’ll report it,” cried Mrs. Puffer Smirke, in great agitation.

“Cruelty to a jibber, Mum!” responded the coachman, in a tone which implied the impossibility of the thing.

Having kicked the jibber to his heart’s content, the boy went to the leader’s head, and dragged him first to one side of the road and then to the other, amidst the screams of the ladies, the laughter of the gentlemen, and the great confusion of all; until at last there was a sudden dash, and the jibber started off at a furious pace, as though he was determined now that he did start, that they should see what he could do.

“Hurroo—hoa—o!” cried the coachman, and he lashed away at the jibber again.

Up the hill the horses dashed, amidst clouds of dust, the jibber tearing away as though he was determined to make up for his late conduct, either by going home at a furious rate, or throwing the party behind him over the first convenient precipice. On he dashed like a mad-thing, the coachman whipping away at the animal, in order, as he himself expressed it, “to cut it out of him,” meaning we presume that the process of excision should be applied to the horse’s jibbing propensities.

“Hurroo—hoa—o!” shrieked the coachman, and whish, went the whip again upon the jibber’s back.

“Will ye remember who’s behind ye?” rejoined the driver, addressing himself to the unhappy quadruped; “will ye remember who’s behind ye?”

If he did not, he certainly was the dullest horse that ever ran in the “glorious old coaches.”

At length, the jibber fairly spent, sobered down into a more reasonable pace; and the vehicle, the strength of its motive power being slackened, went gently over the road without exhibiting any of those jumping, and to the inmates, not very agreeable propensities which had before so remarkably distinguished its progress.

By this time the sun had already dipped into the horizon, and yet the pic-nic party were several miles from home. As this fact was impressed upon the attention of the general party by the frequent declaration of several of the ladies, one of the cousins volunteered to direct the party by a nearer road home, by which a very considerable saving of distance would be effected.

The proposal was instantly adopted, and in a short time the party arrived at a branch road, up which the coachman was directed to drive, and in turning the corner, the jibber of course went through his performances again, though with far less impetuosity than he had exhibited in the earlier part of the journey; having, no doubt, a lively recollection of

the energetic treatment with which he had been visited in coming up the hill. After two or three plunges backwards, and driving the back of the carriage crash through the hedge, to the manifest horror of all concerned, he consented to canter down the cross road, and all went smoothly for a considerable distance, in travelling which, the little party recovered their equanimity and their good humour, which were only alloyed by the prospect of the darkening night. All of a sudden the vehicle was brought to a stand still, and before any of the party could enquire what was the cause of this further stoppage, they were considerably alarmed by the prophetic exclamation of the coachman, who cried out,

"Well, here is a go!"

"What's the matter now?" enquired Mr. Augustus Raker, with considerable irritation.

"Why, we *are* in a fix now, Sir, that's what it is," replied the coachman.

This information being considered anything but satisfactory, Mr. Raker, Henry Elliotson, and the other gentlemen got out of the carriage to ascertain the cause of the stoppage, and on advancing to the horses' heads, they there discovered what the coachman had very graphically described as, "a fix."

Just at this particular spot, the road ran across a bridge, which carried it over a small stream; and this bridge, whether from old age, which was very probable, or whether from some more summary cause, it did not then appear, had fallen in at the middle arch, and against the side of the road had been raised a most satisfactory notice to all travellers going upon that road, to the following laconic and conclusive effect:—"Notice! this road is stopped, by order of the Trustees."

"Well, now, this is really outrageously provoking," cried Mr. Raker.

"It is rather laughable," replied Henry Elliotson.

Mr. Raker merely turned up his nose, as much at the speaker as at the observation; and then re-joined the ladies.

"It's my belief," muttered the coachmen, "that them trustees does it a purpose. Here's a broken knee'd oss, a blind mar, and a jibber, and I've got to turn 'em in a lane six feet by four. Dash him."

This last rather emphatic exclamation had reference to the unfortunate jibber, and was accompanied by a cut of the whip, which made the horse exhibit a kind of involuntary polka step.

There was a long consultation held at the back of the vehicle, as to the position in which the party was placed, which was brought to a conclusion by the coachman suggesting that "summut must be done, as it was getting precious dark."

Thus admonished, the party decided upon walking the remainder of the distance, across the fields, being urged the stronger thereto by the discovery of the fact, that the cottage was only about half-a-mile off. The coachman, therefore, was left to extricate himself from the situation which he had so graphically described, as he best could. The good humour of the gay party was soon restored, and the alarm they had experienced vanished, as they skipped along the perfumed fields, now shining delightfully in the soft light of a bright harvest-moon, which rose above the eastern horizon with a flood of silver light, without a cloud to hide its

glories. The little house was soon reached, and there the party found Mrs. Marshall and Mr. Grainger at the door, rather anxiously waiting their arrival.

"Where *have* you all been?" inquired Mrs. Marshall, as the picnic party crowded into the house.

"Oh, such adventures, Ma," exclaimed Harriet, "and hair-breadth escapes and situations, which, the danger over, will be a mine of wealth to Mrs. Puffler Smirke."

"Really, Harriet, there are times when the most sublime situations are lost in the wonderful sensation of fear. So remarkable is the instinct of self preservation, which alike is felt by the savage mind, and the exalted man—or woman—a-hem—of genius. So strange it is; so vast, so wise, ah, as unfathomable as yon silver moon that sheds its silent brilliancy upon this sylvan scene."

This was the dreamy and rather alliterative mode in which Mrs. Puffler Smirke described the faculty which some of her own friends whisperingly said she herself remarkably possessed, of taking good care of number one.

The table had been spread for the refreshment of the rather jaded party, before they arrived, and so they quickly set themselves to the refreshing task before them. The incidents of the day were all recounted and described for the amusement and the wonder of Mr. Grainger and his hostess, and in this the time passed merrily on.

Great was Mrs. Puffler Smirke's eloquence when she described the dangers of the hill upon which the jibber first exhibited his exhilarating performances, and withering was her denunciation of all trustees of roads who broke down bridges and then stuck up notices to say that the roads across them were stopped; for she argued poetically, and with very considerable show of reason and research, that, if a bridge was broken down—in the very middle too—it was of no use sticking up a notice by the side of the bridge, to say that there was no road over it. And from the bridge again they jumped to the merry adventure of Jacob, and the wine, and the accordion, and the terror of Jacob, and the dilapidation of the player; and round and round the joke and laughter went, until the night waxed late and the moon was high in the meridian of night.

And thus they were amusing each other, and being amused, when Mr. Grainger beckoned Mr. Augustus Raker to the window, near which he stood.

"Since you have been out to-day," said he, in an under tone, "a letter, that arrived this morning, has been brought to me. It is from the East Indies. You see it bears a black edging," said he, with gravity, exhibiting a yellow-looking letter with a black band across it.

"You don't mean to say that the old chap's popped off?" exclaimed Mr. Raker, in something approaching to a gleeful tone, produced, doubtless, by emotion.

Mr. Grainger looked at the young man beside him with an expression of countenance which bespoke anything but satisfaction with the conduct of the person to whom he had addressed himself. But only for an instant was his countenance ruffled.

"Your father is no more, Mr. Raker," said Mr. Grainger, "and his will has, it seems, been forwarded to me, and it now lies at my office

with his other papers relating to his property. In a few days, if your convenience will permit, I shall be ready to go over them with you."

"Bless my soul!" said Mr. Raker; "well, I've long expected it."

"We had better take our leave here," said Mr. Grainger.

"Yes—of course—certainly," replied Mr. Raker. And the old man and the young heir turned, and joined the party in the room.

As it was conventional, Mr. Raker put on a sorrowful air, and, like most actors, played his part in violation of the rules of nature. Already had the news been whispered round, and sympathy was expressed by the assembled guests, and that solemn, unnatural—because unfelt—constrained and awkward exhibition of a sudden depression of spirits in those who have just been gay, took place in the bearing of Mrs. Puffer Smirke, the old maid, and one of the cousins; and those individuals, prominently displaying the dismals, of course inoculated the whole party. Mrs. William Chasey, therefore, wisely originated a move, and the male portion of the party took leave (the ladies having arranged to stay all night), and sought their several homes as best they could, not, however, before Harriet Marshall and Henry Elliotson had found the means of renewing those expressions of devotion with which that day had for the first time made them both acquainted.

(To be continued.)

CURRENT LITERATURE.

"THE PRUDENT MAN." *

UNDER this attractive title, a little book has been issued by Mr. William Bridges, the Secretary of the Mitre Life Office, which is deserving of very careful and general perusal. The author is already favourably known to the public by his various works, and the mere mention of his name in connection with such a heading, will suggest the topic discussed in the volume before us. It is a popular sketch of the great subject of assurance, and is calculated both to interest and instruct those vast multitudes who have neither the means nor the leisure required for the consultation of larger and more elaborate works. The author first addresses himself to the discussion of "The Extension of the Life Assurance Principle to sundry National and Social purposes." This is a valuable chapter, setting forth briefly, but yet forcibly, most of the more potent reasons why every man, whatever his present position, should feel it his duty to avail himself of the multifarious advantages presented by the wondrous development of the assurance principle, called forth by the intellectual energy of the present age. The subject is applied to some of the various classes of society specifically, and the references to the duty of military men in this respect have a touching and mournful significance at the present moment. In fact, the recent conflagrations at Memel and Newcastle, in addition to the havoc of war and pestilence in the East, have, by the vast destruction of life and property thereby occasioned, read a solemn and awful lesson to those who have not yet devoted themselves to the thoughtful consideration of this most momentous question. Enough is said in this brief chapter to convince the most sceptical that the official calculations of the respectable offices are based upon facts which admit of no dispute—which may in all cases be infallibly relied on—and this information, if candidly reflected on, will go far to remove from many minds the remaining obstacles to that step which all are called upon to take as a solemn act of duty to themselves and connections. The next topic is the application of life assurance to the industrial classes; and here the author, while justly deprecating

* The Prudent Man, or how to acquire land, and bequeath money, by means of co-operation, by William Bridges. London: Bulliere, Regent-street.

the tax upon assurance itself, as unworthy of the legislation of the 19th century, expresses an opinion in favour of an insurance tax, on a graduated scale, which, he thinks—and not without some show of reason—would be more willingly paid than most of the present taxes; and would, at the same time, confer upon society the great advantages of doing away, in the next generation, with nine-tenths of the “genteel pauperism” which will otherwise necessarily exist. The next topic is “Life assurance and the acquisition of property,” which the author dismisses summarily, referring to his plan of “Freehold assurance,” promulgated some years ago, by which he hopes that bye and bye—in the “good time which has been so long coming”—to settle the vexed question of tenant right; for, as every pound the tenant paid under this system would go reproductively to constitute him owner of the land he cultivates, the tenant would gradually merge into the landlord. The produce of the land is divided between the investor and the borrower, until the investment is replaced with profit; and the right of the borrower and the security of the lender increases daily. This point is further developed in the remainder of the treatise, and a chapter is devoted to an explanation of the system of benefit, emigration, and colonization societies, put forth by Mr. Scratchley, the eminent actuary. The present moment is peculiarly fitted for the development of such a scheme, inasmuch as the colonial governments are making large remittances to the home authorities for the purpose of encouraging emigration. The scheme, in substance, appears to be that the principle of the benefit building societies is to be applied to a species of joint-stock association for emigration purposes. “Intending emigrants join a benefit society as investors, and perform the conditions attached to that position. After they have acquired sufficient standing, they become, by rotation or by ballot, eligible to be sent out as colonists; that is to say, land and other requisites are supplied to them on selected spots of a value exceeding the money they have paid, credit being given for a term of years (or for the whole of life, if with a policy of assurance) for the excess in the value of the property handed over to them, for which, however, they execute a legal mortgage to the society. It is obvious that, by such a system, not only the bare land is given to the colonist, but material improvements in its condition can be effected by the society, in wholesale quantities, at a moderate cost, which, when subdivided, will produce a handsome profit. As regards the investors, or those who remain at home, no better security could be desired; for it would consist of land daily improving in value, once the colonist has taken possession, and from being a subscription society, the managers at all times will have the power of extending or curtailing, or putting an end to its operations. The plans of each society would embrace on the one hand, a safe mode of investing the periodical savings of small capitalists at home, at the high colonial rate of interest, on the security of lands necessarily increasing in value; and, on the other hand (besides supplying labour to the colony, by literally encouraging emigration), of gradually establishing a clan of colonial yeomanry, who shall hold and cultivate their own lands in fee simple.” For the further details of this plan, which is developed in the treatise before us, with great ability, we must refer our readers to the book itself, where they will also find an excellent chapter of advice to assurance agents, and a full and complete system of rules and regulations drawn up for a “Benefit Emigration and Land Society,” by Arthur Scratchley, Esq., M.A., the well-known actuary.

We regret that our limited space, and the multifarious demands upon it, forbid any further expatiation on so important and profitable a theme; and, in conclusion, we have only to say, that most cordially and unreservedly do we commend “The Prudent Man” to the thoughtful consideration of “The prudent Brethren” of the craft.

DICK DIMINY.*

THIS is a sporting novel of great interest, in which the author very clearly illustrates the moral, that on the Turf as in the general affairs of life, “Honesty is the best policy.” The work shows the author to be a man of considerable observation, well versed in the mysteries of the stable, and the tricks of the Turf. It is not, however, only to the sporting reader that Dick Diminy will prove interesting, but the general

* *Life and Adventures of Dick Diminy.* By C. J. Collins, Esq. London: Collins and Ponsford,

reader who takes up the book will not lay it down until he has turned over the last leaf. The characters of Dick Diminy, Bob Chinnery, and St. Ledger Bolt, Esq., are very graphically drawn, as are also those of a more gentle nature, of whom we will only introduce to our reader, Lady Agnes Leeson, leaving them to make acquaintance with the rest of the *dramatis personæ* in the pages of the work itself.

THE TEETH.*

ALTHOUGH Dental Surgery has made very great progress of late years, much still remains to be done in the way of further enlightenment before the general public will have even that superficial acquaintance with this great and important subject, which is necessary to enable them to instruct their children in those rudimental facts and principles which will show them how to mitigate, if not avoid, those sufferings which their parents, through neglect, have undergone. The work before us will be read with pleasure by the profession, while the technicalities are not too numerous for the general reader.

MENTAL DISORDERS.†

OF Dr. Maddox as a medical writer, nothing need be said in such pages as these. We may content ourselves with observing, that we do not accord with the sentiments expressed in some parts of this volume. They often differ from the notions commonly received. There is, nevertheless, much in this volume that is so ably written, so accurately stated, and so popularly displayed, that all classes of readers will be entertained and informed by the perusal of its pages.

TINTERN ABBEY.‡

WE strongly recommend this short poem to our readers, as a beautiful specimen of Messrs. Binns and Goodwin's work—and as an earnest of what may be expected from the pen of the author, many of whose works have been most favourably received by the public.

JOHN HOWARD.§

JOHN HOWARD was a man in whose amiable and excellent character shone forth many of those virtues which is one of the highest aims of the craft to inculcate. It is quite impossible to peruse the volume before us without acquiring such an admiration for the subject of the Memoir as cannot fail to have a beneficial effect upon the reader's own character. It is a curious fact that, although the book went the round of the trade, and was for some time refused even as a gift, it has reached its third edition, in the course of a year, from the date of its issue. The present edition is issued in a cheap form, and has been thoroughly re-cast and re-written. We cordially commend the volume to the attention of all those who are not already acquainted with it.

TURKEY.||

THESE volumes are replete with interest. Sir James Porter was one of those clear-headed men of whom it is sometimes said that they are "the architects of their own fortunes"; he, nevertheless, owed much to fortuitous circumstances and personal friendships. During his extended residence in the East, he acquired a vast amount of valuable information respecting the general condition of the Ottoman Empire, which these volumes present in a popular and interesting manner. The continuation up to the present day, and the memorial, are very creditably executed by Sir George Larpent. The latter portion of the work will be read with interest, even by those who may have perused the major part of what has been issued on the subject. Did space permit, it were an easy task, by the presentation of two or three extracts, to give such an idea of the general contents of these volumes as would send our readers to the perusal of their pages with a very high degree of expectation; and, in such anticipation, it is but justice to say they would not be disappointed.

* The Odontologist; or How to Preserve the Teeth; Cure the Tooth-ache; Regulate Dentition, from Infancy to Age. By J. Paterson Clark, M.A., Dentist to H.R.H. Prince Albert, &c. London: John Churchill.

† Practical Observations on Mental and Nervous Disorders. By Dr. Maddock. London: Bulliere.

‡ A poem by J. B. Ribbons, Esq., published by A. Hall & Co.

§ John Howard: a Memoir. By Hepworth Dixon. Jackson and Walford.

|| Turkey: its History and Progress, from the Journals and Correspondence of Sir James Porter, Fifteen Years Ambassador at Constantinople. Continued to the Present Time, with a Memorial of Sir James Porter, by his Grandson, Sir George Larpent, Bart. 2 vols. London: Hurst and Blackett.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR OCTOBER.

THE WAR.

In the early part of the month it was strongly reported that Sebastopol had fallen. It proved, however, that all that had been accomplished was the carrying, on the 20th of September, by the Allied Armies, of the fortified position of the Russians, estimated to have been defended by from 40,000 to 50,000 men, on the heights of the Alma. The action lasted about two hours and a half. The loss of the English in killed and wounded has been officially stated at 99 officers and 1884 men, and that of the French 65 officers and 1260 men. The Russian loss is estimated to have exceeded 8000.

After the battle of Alma, the Allies proceeded to turn the scene of operations to the south of Sebastopol, establishing their position, supported by the *Agamemnon* and other vessels of war, in the port at Balaklava, on 28th September. From this day until the 17th October, the Allies were engaged in making preparations for the bombardment of Sebastopol. On that day, the bombardment is said to have commenced, and to have continued up to the 21st, some of the forts having been silenced, but no authentic details have yet been received.

Marshal St. Arnaud, the Commander of the French troops, died of disease and fatigue on the 24th of September. He was succeeded in his command by General Canrobert. A pension of £4000 a year has been granted by the Emperor, to his widow.

The greater portion of the Baltic Fleet is expected almost immediately to return home for the winter.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

On the 3rd, William Steinfeld, a German, was convicted at the Middlesex Sessions, of having stolen Prussian and Austrian bank-notes to the value of £50, and a gold watch, the property of *Adèle Rudergauski*, a young Hungarian girl, whom he had induced to live with him under the pretence of making her his wife. The prisoner was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

On the 4th, a destructive fire broke out at Memel, in some large warehouses stored with flax and hemp, and rapidly extended until the Theatre, several Churches, the Exchange, and other principal buildings were destroyed. The loss is estimated at about £250,000.

On the evening of the 5th, an immense fire occurred at Gateshead, and afterwards communicated across the river to Newcastle, by which property to the extent of upwards of £200,000 is estimated to have been destroyed. We regret to add that 33 persons were killed and an immense number wounded. The cause of the fire has not been discovered.

On the 11th, the iron ship, *Ajax*, from London to Plymouth and back, struck on a reef of rocks to the westward of the Mewstone, which lies on the eastern shore outside Plymouth Sound. The *Ajax* had on board between 200 and 300 persons, the whole of whom were fortunately saved, principally through the assistance promptly rendered by the *Confiance*.

On the 12th, the *Cleopatra*, mail-steamer, arrived at Liverpool from Quebec, and reported the loss of the United States mail-steamer, *Arctic*, owing to a collision with the *Vesta*, with the sacrifice of upwards of 350 lives, on the 27th September, about 50 miles from Cape Race, during the prevalence of a dense fog, being out from Liverpool only six days. Of the number on board—185 first and 75 second class passengers and 130 crew—only 45 were saved—14 passengers and 31 of the crew.

On Sunday, the 15th, a most daring robbery was committed at the shop of Mr. Baumgart, watchmaker and jeweller, Regent-street. Mr. Baumgart only occupied the lower part of the premises, the remainder being used as a lodging-house. On the

Friday evening, a well-dressed man, who represented himself as having just arrived by railway, hired the first floor, and on the Sunday, assisted by two men whom he brought home with him, he effected the robbery, by cutting a hole through the flooring of his own apartments and ceiling of the shop, through which a man could easily descend, and pack up the contents of the shop at leisure. The loss is estimated at £500.

On the 25th, a large fire occurred at Manchester, by which various warehouses were destroyed, the estimated loss amounting to between £18,000 and £20,000.

On the 26th, the premises of Messrs. Babington and Co., wadding manufacturers, Spital-street, Spitalfields, were entirely destroyed by fire, caused, it is believed, by the friction of some of the machinery driven by steam power.

COURTS MARTIAL.

On the 10th, a Court Martial was held on board the Victory, flag ship, at Portsmouth, to try Lieut. Knight, on charges arising out of his having permitted two improper women to accompany him on board the Dauntless, and supplying them with immoderate quantities of wine and spirits; one of the said women having subsequently died from injuries, supposed to have been received by her whilst in a state of intoxication. The Lieutenant was sentenced to be placed at the bottom of the list of first Lieutenants of Royal Marines, whereby he will lose the benefit of 11 years' service.

On the 11th, Courts Martial were also held upon Lieut. Elphinstone and Lieut. Jarvis, arising out of the same transaction, when the former officer was admonished for having allowed the women to remain on board, and the latter was acquitted.

On the 17th, Courts Martial were held on Capt. McClure, Capt. Kellitt, Commander Richards, Sir Edward Belcher, and other officers of H. M. Ships, Investigator, Resolute, and Assistance, for the abandonment of their vessels, in the Arctic Seas. The whole of the officers were acquitted, it being clearly shown that Sir Ed. Belcher had full power entrusted to him; and, that he had acted, as he thought, most desirable, for the safety of the officers and men engaged in the expedition. Their swords were consequently returned to them.

PROVIDENT.

Three eminent actuaries, Messrs. Peter Hardy, Jenkins Jones, and Geo. Farrance, having made an inquiry into the affairs of the Professional Life Assurance Office, have reported, that it has a surplus of £23,000 applicable to a division between the assured and the proprietors, in accordance with the plan of the Institution. Upon the recommendation of the actuaries, however, it has been determined, not to make any division until the next quinquennial period of estimating the profits.

On the 11th, Sir John Key, Bart., Chamberlain of the City of London, was elected a Director of the Mutual Life Assurance Society, by a majority of 183 over his opponent, Mr. Battcock.

On the 12th, at a meeting of the Metropolitan Life Assurance Society, it was resolved to grant to Mr. Heathfield, late superintendent of the Institution, a retiring pension of £600 per annum.

On the 19th, the Second Annual Meeting of the Lancashire Assurance Company, was held at Manchester. The report stated, that the Directors had written off the sum of £1,006 4s. 4d. from the preliminary expenses accounts. The total life income had been £9,969 13s. 9d., of which the new premiums for the past year were £4,280 16s. 6d., the total policies being 626, of which 285, assuring £155,524, formed the new business of last year. In the fire department the increase of premiums was nearly 40 per cent., and they now amounted to £29,407 14s. 7d., whilst the increase in duty amounted to £15,809 10s. 6d.

BENEVOLENT.

A Royal Commission has been appointed to raise a Patriotic Fund by voluntary subscription, for the relief of the families of those who may be killed or wounded in

the war in the east. In the meantime the Central Association have put forth a balance sheet, showing that they have already received upwards of £80,000 for the aid of the wives and families, widows and orphans of the soldiers engaged on active service; and notwithstanding the large amount of relief that they have already afforded, a balance of upwards of £65,000 remains in hand. Benefits at the Polytechnic Institution and the Crystal Palace, have been held in aid of the funds of this and kindred societies. The Unity Fire Assurance Association have determined to aid the cause, by giving the services of their numerous agents throughout the country in collecting subscriptions.

The Cambridge Asylum directors have also put forward an appeal for increased support, to enable them to furnish 18 additional apartments and purchase more land for the extension of the Institution, which has this distinguishing feature, that whilst other funds propose to afford temporary aid to the soldier's widow, this is the only society that secures to her a permanent home.

On the 5th, the half yearly meeting of the Royal Dispensary for diseases of the ear was held, when a report was presented by Mr. Harvey the surgeon, stating that the number of cases admitted on the books, during the last six months, were upwards of 700, consisting of diseases of the throat, in connection with deafness, rheumatic affections of the head, noises in the ear, &c. This Institution has now been in active operation for 38 years, during which period there had been admitted on the books 31,400 cases of various conditions of deafness amongst the poorer classes.

The executor of Miss Augusta Mary Jane Short, has paid the residue of her property, £72, into the hands of the bankers of the Metropolitan Benefit Societies' Asylum, for the use of that Institution.

The managers of the London Orphan Asylum have passed a resolution, recommending to the General Court the free and immediate admission of six children of commissioned and non-commissioned officers of her Majesty's army (who have fallen in the present war) into the Institution.

At the meeting of the Governors of the Caledonian Asylum, on the 23rd, it was resolved at once to admit to the benefits of the Institution, 25 children—orphans of Scottish soldiers, sailors, or marines who may have fallen during the present war. It was also determined on the motion of Lord Kinnaird, to admit to the same benefits 100 more of the same class of children, whose fathers may have fallen or become disabled—on the presentation of other parties—they paying £52 10s. for each presentation, which is one half the ordinary charge; the boys, in both cases, to be retained until the age of 14, and the girls to that of 15 years.

The Governors of the British Beneficent Institution, elected on the 23rd, three additional pensioners on its funds, thus increasing the number of ladies partaking of its benefits to 34.

A special meeting of the subscribers to the Asylum for Idiots was held on the 26th. The report for 1854 stated that 242 pupils were in the Institutions at Highgate and Essex-Hall, near Colchester, and that the entire family consisted of 303 persons, which would be increased by the election of that day to 318. There were now in the male department persons engaged in the occupation of gardeners, matmakers, tailors, shoemakers, netters, plaiters, carpenters, and basketmakers. In the dumb classes, composed of about 60 children, nearly 30 were now beginning to speak. In the female department, there had been similar improvement, and classes had been formed for drilling, singing, knitting, bonnet-making, &c. Legacies have been left to the Society, during the year, amounting to £2,210; but the sum of £10,000 was still required to complete the asylum at Redhill, in Surrey. The statement of receipts and expenditure showed that the subscriptions, &c., during the past year had amounted to £9,478 5s. 4., and the expenditure to £8,909 9s. 8d.—leaving a balance in the hand of the treasurer of £568 15s. 8d.

On Tuesday, the 17th October, Mr. Tredwell for a second time entertained the children in the schools of that most excellent Institution, the Royal Society of Saint Anne's Asylum, at Brixton, in the grounds attached to his residence, Leigham Court, Streatham, the grounds being tastefully decorated for the occasion. At two o'clock

the children, to the number of about 250 were formed into procession at the Asylum, and, headed by a band of music and the members of the committee, proceeded in procession to the residence of Mr. Tredwell; many of the boys carrying flags and banners, which added considerably to the gaiety of the scene. At half-past four, the whole company assembled in a large temporary building, which was brilliantly illuminated, and decorated with banners, flowers, and evergreens—where an abundant supply of refreshments, as well for the visitors as the children, was provided by the generous host, and the evening was spent in innocent games, songs, speeches, and recitations. The grace before and after tea was chanted by the children with such sweetness and harmony, and their songs were sung with such musical correctness, as to elicit a warm approval from the visitors. Towards the close of the evening the tables were furnished with huge bowls of smoking negus, and when the multitude of cups were well filled, Mr. Barnard (one of the committee) proposed the health of Mr. and Mrs. Tredwell, which was most heartily responded to by all present. The Rev. Walter Field, chaplain to the society, then addressed the children in a very impressive manner, and concluded by thanking Mr. and Mrs. Tredwell in the name of the committee and the society, for their condescension and liberality, and called upon the children to give three hearty cheers for their munificent entertainers, which was most cordially responded to. The band then played the national anthem, and the company broke up; each of the children, on departing, receiving a small present as a memento of the day. This entertainment being only for the children in the Brixton establishment, the members of the committee determined to give a somewhat similar treat to those in the town school. Accordingly on the following Monday, these children to the number of about 60, were taken to the Crystal Palace by railway. After spending an hour or two in viewing the wonders of the Palace, the children were gathered together in the grand saloon, and a substantial and elegant dinner, provided under the direction of Mr. Horne, was set before them. Having asked for a blessing on the feast, the children showed how well they could appreciate the good things of life, and concluded by singing one or two appropriate hymns and the national anthem. After an hour or two more spent in viewing the Palace, the children were again gathered together, and returned to town shortly before five o'clock; having first attracted considerable attention by singing the National Anthem on the platform, whilst waiting the arrival of the train. It will at all times afford us the utmost pleasure to record such pleasing instances of the interest taken in the welfare of their pupils, by the managers and friends of this and similar institutions; and knowing the value of the Royal Saint Anne's Asylum, we can conscientiously recommend it to support.

On the morning of the 26th, a very destructive fire broke out in some large warehouses, known as Mullenneux's, at Lancelots Hey, near Liverpool. The warehouses were filled with cotton and other inflammable matters, and the fire was not subdued until very late at night, and again broke out on the following day. The estimated damage done to the premises, stock, and adjoining property (of which a considerable quantity is destroyed), is from 200,000*l.* to 300,000*l.* It is stated that the fire occurred through some men engaged in sampling turpentine in the cellars of the warehouses, using a naked candle—the snuff from which accidentally fell into the turpentine and ignited it.

MISCELLANIES.

Sunday, 1st of October, was observed throughout the country as a day of thanks-giving for the late abundant harvest.

The medical session for 1854-5 commenced on the 2nd.

On the 3rd, a new People's Park at Macclesfield was inaugurated, with great *eclat*. The park is sixteen acres in extent, beautifully laid out, and has been principally paid for by private subscription.

On the 6th, a grand banquet was given at Glasgow to the Earl of Eglintoun, as the president of the National Association for the Vindication of Scottish Rights.

On the 8th, a whale, weighing upwards of two tons, was caught in the Severn, near Newnham, in Gloucestershire. A similar capture was made about thirty years since.

On the 10th, the Earl of Aberdeen was entertained at a grand dinner in the Town Hall, Aberdeen, on occasion of the inauguration of his lordship's portrait, which has been placed therein by the authorities of the city.

On the 11th, the steam-ship *Brazilliera*, arrived at Liverpool, from Rio de Janeiro, with a cargo valued at about 50,000*l.*, consisting chiefly of gold and diamonds.

On the 11th, the new stamp duties on bills of exchange came into operation, the duty for bills not exceeding 5*l.*, being only 1*d.*

On the 12th, at a meeting of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, a dividend for the half year of 2*l.* per share, free of income-tax, was declared.

On the 13th, her Majesty, with her royal consort and the senior members of her family, paid a visit to Hull, on her return from the Highlands.

On the 17th, the clipper ship, *Guiding Star*, arrived from Australia, with a cargo of gold and specie valued at 204,444*l.*

On the 18th, Parliament was further prorogued to the 16th of November.

On the 22nd, intelligence was received at the Admiralty, from Dr. Rae, who has been engaged in completing the survey of the coast of Boothia, that he had learnt from a party of Esquimaux, that the remains of about forty persons, supposed to be the unfortunate Sir John Franklin and his crew, had been discovered near the Great Fish River, having evidently met with their death from exposure to the weather and famine. Dr. Rae purchased from the Esquimaux a number of articles, said to have been found near the place where the white men perished, which must evidently have belonged to Sir John and his party.

On the 22nd, the *Lightning*, arrived at Liverpool from Australia, with 40,000 ounces of gold on board.

On the 24th, a new Athenæum, containing a lecture-room, reading room, libraries, &c., was inaugurated at Bristol. Lord John Russell, the Bishop of Gloucester, Earl Ducie, the Attorney-General, Sir Robert Peel, Bart., M.P., and other distinguished individuals, taking part in the ceremony.

The Government have it in contemplation to erect a new General Post Office on the site of the late Compter prison. Messrs. Morrison and Co., the Manchester warehousemen, of Fore-street, have offered to purchase a lease of the building at St. Martin's-le-Grand, for the purposes of their enormous trade.

Messrs. Cooke and Sons and Co., St. Paul's-churchyard, are about to erect another monster warehouse in the same locality, the proportions of which are to exceed considerably those of the present building. The foundations will have to be dug thirty feet, it having been ascertained that the earth's surface in this neighbourhood is artificial to that depth.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

THE ST. JAMES'S THEATRE opened under the management of Mrs. Seymour, on the 2nd, with a new Drama entitled "*The King's Rival*," and a farce called "*My Friend the Major*," both of which were successful. The only new candidate for histrionic honors on the London boards was Mr. J. L. Toole, the son of the late toast-master who made a successful hit in eccentric comedy.

DRURY LANE THEATRE opened for a short and merry season of seven nights, on the 2nd. Mr. G. V. Brooke, who is about to depart for Australia, and Mr. Wright, the comedian, being the bright particular stars. M. Jullien resumed his bâton as leader of the ever popular promenade concerts, for the first time since his return from America, on the 30th, and was of course most rapturously received by a crowded audience.

On the 7th, the Marylebone Theatre was opened by Mr. William Wallack, for the performance of the higher class of drama. The inaugural play was "*As you like it*."

THE PRINCESS'S THEATRE was re-opened for the season on the 9th, with a new Drama by Mr. Douglas Jerrold, entitled "*A Heart of Gold*," together with a short comedy from the pen of a gentleman named Troughton.

On the evening of the 14th, Mr. Phelps revived Shakespeare's play of "Pericles, Prince of Tyre," at Sadlers Wells Theatre. The play as written would not bear acting, at all events on the modern stage, but Mr. Phelps has so well performed his duty as managerial editor, and converted it into so exquisite a spectacle, that there is no doubt it will ensure what it deserves, a long and prosperous run. The principal characters were artistically rendered by Mr. Phelps, and Miss Edith Heraud, who promises to become a great acquisition to the talented company which Mr. Phelps has so well brought together.

Mr. Wigan has re-opened the Olympic Theatre, with his Company greatly strengthened—and is nightly drawing crowded houses. A new bagatelle, entitled "a Blighted Being," was produced on the 16th, with complete success—the eccentricities of Mr. Robson keeping the audience in a constant roar of laughter. A new Drama called the "Trustee," was produced on the 23rd, with very moderate success.

Mr. Morris Barnett having completed a short starring engagement at the Adelphi, during which he enacted "Mon. Jaques," and his other favourite French characters with great eclat—a new Drama, entitled a "Summer Storm," was produced on the 19th, the life of which is likely to be almost as evanescent as summer storms generally are.

At ASTLEYS, a grand military spectacle entitled "The Battle of the Alma," was produced on the 23rd. Being magnificently mounted, well acted, and filled with a sufficient allowance of patriotic allusions, it met with complete success. Indeed, no similar spectacle—equally good—has been produced since the far-famed "Battle of Waterloo," which gained for this Theatre such well merited prosperity.

OBITUARY.

BR. H. STUART, M. P.—We are sure there is no brother in the order, whose loss will be more deeply felt and regretted, than that of Br. Stuart, M. P. for Bedford, which took place suddenly, on Wednesday last. Br. Stuart, who was a P. G. W. of England, having served the office in the year just past, 1853-4—a member of the Lodge of Antiquity—and of the Stuart Lodge, Bedford—named in honor of himself—attended his Masonic duties at the latter lodge, in apparent good health, on Wednesday evening last. On returning home, he was about to alight from his carriage, when he was seized with a convulsive fit, which terminated his existence within ten minutes of his being carried into the house. The late lamented Brother, who was born in 1804, was grandson of the third Earl of Bute, being the second son of the late Archbishop Stuart, of Armagh, and Sophia grand daughter of the celebrated Wm. Penn. The present Prov. G. M. for Hertfordshire, Br. Wm. Stuart, is a brother of the deceased.

BR. FRANCIS WATTS.—The craft and all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, have sustained a severe loss by the death of our esteemed Br. Watts, the respected P. M. of St. Mary's Lodge, No. 76, in which he was initiated in the year 1841, continuing a member until the time of his decease. Br. Watts was also a member of the Frederick Lodge of Unity, No. 661, Croydon, and a P. G. of the Chapter attached thereto. Br. Watts' health was never since we first had the honour of becoming acquainted with him, very strong, but the immediate cause of his death, which took place on the 12th of September, at his seat, Richmond, Surrey, was that fell pestilence—the cholera. Br. Watts was long the manager of the London Gazette—a gentleman at arms—a magistrate—a Director of the City of London Assurance Office—and, irrespective of the masonic charities in which he always evinced a most lively interest, a liberal supporter of the Royal St. Ann's Society, and other valuable beneficent institutions. In short, Br. Watts was a true christian—a most worthy mason—and a firm friend. The St. Mary's Lodge, in order to show the respect in which they held our esteemed brother whilst living, held an emergency lodge on the 5th October, at which Br. Skelton, W. M., presided, when a resolution of condolence with the widow and family of the deceased, at their irreparable loss, was unanimously come to.

BR. CAPT. HERBERT.—Amongst those brave men who have fallen in the East, not from

the sword but the ravages of disease, produced by over anxiety in the discharge of his military duties, we have to record the name of Br. Capt. Herbert, who was initiated into masonry, in the Lodge of Unanimity and Sincerity, Taunton, by Br. Eales White G. Treasurer, and P. G. W. of the province of Somerset. A better soldier or a more disinterested friend probably never yielded sword.

BR. JOHN DALTON.—We regret to announce the death of this brother, who was most extensively known and respected throughout the craft. His death took place on the 4th of October, the very day on which he completed his 83rd year. Br. Dalton was initiated in the Lodge of Nine Muses (then No. 421), in July, 1818; joined the Universal Lodge No. 212, in December, 1828; and was exalted in the British Chapter, No. 8, in December, 1829. He was a life subscriber to the Masonic Asylum, and an annual subscriber to the Benevolent Annuity Fund. Br. John Dalton was for a considerable time in the service of the Hon. East India Company, from which, for nearly twenty years, he has been in the enjoyment of a small pension. The remains of Br. Dalton were interred at Abney Park Cemetery.

Mrs. FRANCES CROOKS.—We have the painful duty of recording the death of this lady, who was so well known to all who have ever taken an interest in the welfare of the Freemasons' Girls School, as its respected Matron. Mrs. Crooks, at the time of her death, had been connected with the school upwards of 52 years, having been elected sub-Matron in 1802, and Matron, on the death of Mrs. Luffin, in 1807. Although Mrs. Crooks had for some time been in delicate health, she was of late supposed to have rallied to a considerable extent, and her death was, therefore, somewhat unexpected, her last illness being only of a few hours duration. Mrs. Crooks, who was 78 years of age, died on Sunday, the 15th October, and on the following Thursday her remains were interred in Norwood Cemetery; the funeral being attended by the members of the House Committee, many of the brethren who knew and appreciated her, and the children of that school over which she had so long presided, with all, if not more than, a mother's care. Although the school was established as long since as 1788, it has, as yet, had but two matrons; and Miss Jarwood, who succeeds Mrs. Crooks, in the office until the next Quarterly Court in January, when there can be little doubt the appointment will be confirmed, has been in the establishment upwards of 25 years.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have to offer our apologies to our advertising friends for omitting several of their favours which arrived too late for insertion in our present number, as the regulations of the Post-office forbid us increasing our size, and good faith to our subscribers equally forbid our entrenching on the space which we are pledged at all times to allot to the general contents of the "Masonic Mirror."

J. H., HARTLEPOOL.—We cannot recommend the work mentioned. If correct, the brother, if such he be, must have violated his obligation; and if incorrect, it is an imposition on the public.

C. J., JENSEY.—On good cause shown, the Supreme Grand Chapter will grant charters for chapters in connection with regularly authorised lodges. Several have been granted of late years.

The Universal Lodge of Instruction will meet at Br. Ireland's, Fetter-lane, for the first time this season on the evening of the 7th instant.

There are two excellent chapters of instruction for Archmasonry, in London—the Robert Burns, which meets at Br. Sheens, Sussex Stores, Upper St. Martin's-lane, every Wednesday evening, and the Domatic, which meets at Br. Ireland's, Fetter-lane, every Friday evening. To our Comps. in the West, we recommend the former; to our Comps. in the East, the latter; and to those in the North and South both.

A testimonial from the members of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, is to be presented to our respected Br. John Hervey, on the 30th instant. The lodge principally owes its prosperity to the exertions of Br. Hervey, and he well deserves the compliment.

We perceive that a testimonial is also about to be presented to Br. T. A. Adams from the members of the various lodges of instruction to which he belongs. Where is there one in London to which he does not belong? and what younger brother visiting them has not profited by his instruction? The subscription-list, which is already rapidly filling, will close on the 29th instant. The members of the St. John's Lodge, Hampstead, of which Br. Adams is a P.M., is also about to present him with a separate testimonial on their own account.

THE MASONIC MIRROR:

FOR

DECEMBER, 1854.

THE CRAFT AND THE WAR.

THE war in which we are engaged in the Crimea, is a subject which cannot fail to be regarded with the deepest interest by every true and faithful brother amongst us. How widely soever we may differ in opinion with respect to the conduct and circumstances which gave rise to the dispute, there can be no diversity of sentiment as to the duties devolving upon us at the present moment. The contest has already cost us some thousands of lives—it has shattered many an athletic frame—it has mangled many a comely form—it has broken many a cheerful heart—it has blighted many a happy family, by rendering vacant the seat occupied, till now, by him in whom were centered all its hopes and affections; and it has scattered broadcast, amidst our cheerful firesides and happy homes, the miseries and wretchedness of widowhood and orphanhood. Such have been, are, and will continue to be, the blighting influences of the war; and, doubtless, the worst is yet to come; for, having fairly engaged in the contest, our motto must be “Death or Victory!” We would say, most cordially, with the immortal bard, “Beware of entrance to a quarrel;” but we cannot withhold our most cordial assent to the continuance of his counsels—

“but, *being in*,
Bear ’t, that th’ opposed may beware of thee.”

Such is at present undoubtedly the feeling of the nation, and this being the case, the widowhood and orphanhood must continue and increase. But little need be said to elicit sympathy under these afflicting circumstances; the nation has already responded nobly and cheerfully to the call of their gracious sovereign, in regard to the Patriotic Fund.

But what has been done by those who constitute the society of the charitable *par excellence*? What is the part taken in this national work by those who are members of that glorious fraternity to which it is our privilege to

belong? We are not speaking to the brethren of their proceedings individually; for, as individuals, no doubt, they have already done their duty. But we do ask, whether it can be said that the Lodges, as a whole, have done the same? We fear not! There are some Lodges which have already come forward with donations, and we do trust that ere long there will not be found a single exception, at least upon the roll of the United Grand Lodge of England. We entreat our brethren to take this matter into their serious consideration at the very earliest opportunity; let them propose a sum in accordance with their means; present it at once to the authorized Secretaries of the Patriotic Fund, in their locality; and, if they will kindly apprise us of the fact, we shall be happy to announce it in these pages, as an inducement to others to go and do likewise. Let it never be said that the Masonic fraternity is backward in assuaging the griefs, and in administering to the necessities, of the widows and families of those who have shed their blood, and laid down their lives, that we might repose in peace and quietude! May we never be liable to reproach, as a fraternity, for not having done our duty in such a crisis as that which is now passing over us!

In these remarks, we have no intention or desire to adopt a tone either of reproach or regret; our idea is, simply to suggest: even this is not absolutely necessary to the ultimate accomplishment of that which we have taken the liberty to recommend; but our hints may, and we trust will, operate as a powerful incentive to *promptitude*, which is of vast importance in all such undertakings as that now under consideration. Let the brethren remember the ancient adage, *Bis dat qui cito dat*, and act accordingly.

The claims of the "Patriotic Fund," and similar appeals which are put forth at the present moment, are so obvious and self-evident, that the subject requires no elucidation or enforcement in articles addressed to a fraternity like ours; and were we to enter, at any length, into the advocacy of such projects, we should clearly demonstrate that we were not wise, but otherwise. But even were matters diametrically opposed to the state of things we believe to exist, and have endeavoured to indicate, the subject has been so ably taken up, and so clearly expounded from the pulpit and the platform—by tongue and pen—that our feeble echo would be but a work of supererogation. It may, however, be as well to point out the two leading modes in which the "Patriotic," and similar funds will prove a national blessing: they will alleviate the sorrows of those who are already plunged into the miseries of widowhood and orphanhood; whilst the existence of such measures of provision for those whom they leave behind them, will sweep away, from the bosoms of our brave ones, the last regret which lingers, and they will rush, by so much the more valiantly, into that deadly conflict which is hurling so many thousands of their comrades into the mysteries of futurity.

In addition to the direct subscriptions of the Lodges towards the Patriotic and other funds, taken up and conducted by the outer world, there are other duties devolving upon us as a fraternity, which must not be overlooked. Although it cannot be denied that many of the gallant officers, and other brethren engaged in the Crimea, of whose death on the

gory field we are unhappily liable at any moment to be informed, have been able to leave behind them ample provision for the material necessities of those who may have to deplore their loss; it is not the less true that as our fraternity embraces rich and poor, and places them all upon one common level, there are, at the same time, many brave brethren, both in the army and the navy, whose expiring moments may perchance be ruffled by an anxious thought respecting those whom they leave behind them to lament their departure!

We have charities—the pride and glory of the craft—which may speedily be made capable of meeting the exigencies of this case. We have room for the widow, and for the orphan of both sexes; and that justice may be done—that our obvious duty may be performed—it will become necessary to strengthen the hands of the worthy brethren who support and direct the girls' school, and boys' school, and the Royal Benevolent Institution. The first would of course receive the female, the second the male orphans; while the last would open its benignant portals to the disconsolate widow, or perchance to some eligible brother hopelessly disabled in the battles of his country. Let this be done with that energy, unanimity, and liberality which the case demands; and it will shed such a lustre upon our noble order as for many a day it has not been our good fortune to receive.

We purposely abstain from indicating our opinions with respect to any of the details by which these objects should be carried into effect. They are matters, the determination of which are obviously within the province of the Grand Lodge, to whose earnest and immediate consideration we respectfully, but most earnestly commend the entire subject.

If we might venture upon an additional suggestion, it would be this—that the Grand Lodge should take the initiative by at once contributing, from its funds, a handsome sum in the name of the fraternity at large, to the Patriotic Fund. Having done this, it might head the subscription lists of our own charities by donations, as the commencement of special funds to make provision for widows and orphans of our brethren who fall in the war. If they offered for instance to provide for those who are the orphans of masons, otherwise eligible, they might be aided, perhaps, by funds already in existence. At any rate, when their project became known, their generous exertions could not fail to elicit the sympathies, and to secure the pecuniary assistance of hundreds of our benevolent fellow-countrymen, who have never had the honour of admission to our fraternity.

Having said thus much, we confidently leave the matter in the hands of those to whom, being the executive of the order, belongs rightfully the honour and privilege of carrying such projects into effect.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

Freemasonry, is that noble science, which first taught man to hold out the hand of fellowship to his neighbour, and by the bond of brotherly love to consider the whole human species as one family—to help and relieve all those whose general character might render them worthy, no matter of what country, sect, or opinion. The most early traditions of this country, are so vague, that it is impossible to trace Freemasonry's first appearance as a native science. The Druids, a venerable order of priests, had many of the usages of masons amongst them. But the first English mason of any note, was Albanus, afterwards St. Alban, who formed the first Grand Lodge in Britain, A. D. 287. Old constitutions assert, and old masons as firmly believe that Carausius employed St. Alban to environ the City of Verulam with a wall, and to build him a fine palace; and the old chronicle asserts that "St. Alban loved masons well, and cherished them, and he made their pay right good, viz., two shillings per week, and threepence to their cheer; whereas before that time, a mason had but a penny a day and his meat.—He also obtained of the King, a charter for the free masons to hold a general council, and gave it the name of assembly, and was thereat himself as Grand Master, and helped to make masons, and gave them good charges and regulations." St. Alban was born at Verulam, of Pagan parents; in his youth he took a journey to Rome, in company with Amphibalus, and there served for seven years in the army of the Emperor Dioclesian.—Leland tells us, that, in the time St. Alban flourished, learning and polite arts had lately been introduced by the Romans into Britain, and that the youth of quality and distinction used to travel to Rome for improvement in knowledge and the sciences. Being returned home he lived highly honoured in the town of Verulam, where, by the example and instruction of his fellow traveller Amphibalus he became a thorough convert to the Christian religion, A. D. 303. In the tenth and last general persecution of the Christians, he was beheaded for his religion (a favour accorded him on account of his noble birth), at Holmhurst, since called Derswald, where now the town of St. Alban's stands. During the reign of the Emperor Carausius, Freemasons were greatly encouraged and employed by him in large numbers.

Eumenius, the panegyrist, setting forth what great numbers of masons had left the Island; "Even your City of Autin," says he "most devoted to your service, and in whose name I am especially to congratulate you, has been well stored with artificers (architects and masons) since your victory over the Britons, whose provinces abounded with them; and now by their workmanship, the same city of Autin rises in splendour, by the rebuilding of their ancient houses, erecting public works, and the instauration of temples: so that the ancient name of a Roman Brotherhood which they long since enjoyed is again restored, by having your imperial majesty for their second founder"—From whence it is obvious

that many excellent masons left Britain for the Continent, who had been entertained by Carausius.

The Romans during their residence in the island, propagated masonry in every garrison, and built many fine places. From the time of Constantine the Roman power declined in Britain, and from the unsettled state of the country, little quiet was afforded for masonic cultivation, for though many Roman families had settled in the South, and were blended with the Britains who had been well educated in the science and the art, yet the subsequent wars, confusions, and revolutions in this island, ruined ancient learning, till the fine artists were dead without successors. After the departure of the Romans, the Britons being divided under a number of petty sovereigns, solicited the assistance of the Saxons against the Scots and Picts, who had seized the land north of the Humber, and committed great ravages in the South. The Saxons having expelled the invaders, built Thong Castle, in Lincolnshire, and resolved to settle in Britain, and after much bloodshed in many battles with the natives, they overpowered them, and founded the heptarchy, or seven kingdoms.—The Saxons were all rough ignorant heathens; and despising everything but war, soon rooted out all the seeds of learning and arts, that the Romans had planted in Britain, till some pious preachers from Wales and Scotland, converted many of them by degrees to Christianity. But none of their kings relinquished paganism, till Augustin, with forty more monks, amongst whom the sciences at that time were preserved, were sent by Pope Gregory as missionaries into the island. They baptized Ethelbert king of Kent A. D. 597, and sixty years after all the kings of the heptarchy received the Christian religion. Then it was that churches, monasteries, palaces, and beautiful mansions began to be built, and they too late lamented the ignorant and destructive conduct of their forefathers. As they knew nothing of the principles of Roman architecture, they adopted that of the country they came from, and followed the gothic style in building cathedral churches, among which were the Cathedral of Canterbury, built A. D. 600; that of Rochester, 602; St. Paul's, London, 604; St. Peter's, Westminster, 605. They also erected many palaces and castles, and fortified their cities, especially on the borders of each kingdom. This required many masons, who soon formed themselves into societies or lodges, by the direction of foreigners, who came over to help them. But it was where the Welsh dwelt that we find the earliest accounts, at least of sacred architecture; as at Glastonbury, in Devonshire; Padstow, in Cornwall; Caërleon, or Chester; afterwards translated to St. Asaph's, in Flintshire; Llan Twit, or Church of Itutus; Llan Cadarn Vawr, or Church of Great St. Patirn; the Monastery of Llan Carvan; Bangor, in Caernarvonshire; Holyhead, in Anglesey; Llandaff, in Glamorganshire; Menevia, or St. David's, in Pembrokeshire; and many more churches, monasteries, and schools of learning. These Saxon Lodges continued to improve, till Kenred, King of Mercia, sent to Charles Martel, Grand Master of France, father of King Pepin (who had been educated by Brother Mimus Græcus), for a communication of worthy brethren to assist the craft, now in a flourishing condition in his dominions,

and to strengthen their Lodges, A. D. 710. To this their Royal brother, Martel, willingly agreed, and sent some expert masons to teach the Saxons those laws and usages of the craft that had been preserved from the ravages of the Goths. The clergy now studied geometry and architecture, and in their monasteries the Lodges were usually held. Owing to the piratical incursions of the Danes, nothing remarkable appears in masonry till the reign of Edward the elder, who left masonry to the care first of Ethred, Earl of Mercia, and next, the king put his learned brother, Ethelward, at the head of the fraternity, and founded the university of Cambridge, that had been long a nursery of the learned. This king died A. D. 924. Athelstan, his eldest son, succeeded, and at first left the care of the craft to his brother Edwin; for in all the old constitutions it is recited, "That though the ancient records of the brotherhood of England were mostly destroyed in the wars with the Danes, who burnt the monasteries where the records were kept, yet King Athelstan (the grandson of King Alfred), the first anointed King of England, who translated the Holy Bible into the Saxon language, when he had brought the land into rest and peace, built many great works, and encouraged many masons from France and elsewhere, whom he appointed overseers thereof; they brought with them the charges and regulations of the foreign Lodges, and prevailed with the king to increase the wages. That Prince Edwin, the king's brother, being taught geometry and masonry, for the love he had to the said craft, and to the honourable principles whereon it is grounded, purchased a free charter of King Athelstan, his brother, for Freemasons to have among themselves a correction, or a power of freedom to regulate themselves, and to hold a yearly communication in a general assembly. That accordingly, Prince Edwin summoned all free and accepted Masons in the realm to meet him in a congregation at York, who came and formed the Grand Lodge under him as their Grand Master, A. D. 926. That they brought with them many old writings and records of the Craft—some in Greek, some in Latin, and some in French and other languages; and from the contents thereof they framed the constitutions of the English Lodges, and made a law for themselves to preserve and observe the same in all time coming." But this good Prince Edwin died (A. D. 938) before the king, to the great grief of the fraternity, by whom his memory is revered in the Lodges, and honourably mentioned in the old constitutions. King Athelstan built many castles in Northumbria, the famous abbey of St. John, at Beverley, in Yorkshire; Melton Abbey, in Dorsetshire; and rebuilt the city of Exeter. From his death, A. D. 940, to the coming of William the Conqueror, A. D. 1066, many cities, churches, and pious houses were built, but nothing appears of the proceedings of the brethren, save that St. Dunstan presided as Grand Master from about A. D. 941.

(To be continued.)

BROTHERLY LOVE.

BY ALEX. HENRY GIRVEN, AUTHOR OF "REGINALD SELWYN," &c.

(Continued from p. 28.)

Simon, though at first somewhat startled, listened attentively, when he distinctly heard the stranger exclaim:—

"I seek you in the sanctuary, and in the abode of death, to ask your forgiveness, to supplicate your intercession. Are not my agonies by day, my tortured dreams by night, sufficient to appease you? Have you not driven me from the haunts of men and made me an outcast from my species, wild as the rude shrub that roots itself in the crevices of my mountain solitude? I have wronged you, turned your days to bitterness, but, cannot physical suffering, mental anguish atone? Is not a sleepless, corroding sorrow, written in gaunt and grisly characters on these withered limbs, and this furrowed brow? If I have permitted a fiend to seize my heart, and crush out every sentiment of brotherly love for one who excelled me in body and mind, have I not fearfully expiated my offence? And yet, thy shrouded form, and wan and wasted cheek, and thy reproaching looks haunt me day and night. Oh, for one look of forgiveness, to shew thy vanished resentment, and shed one ray upon my dark and despairing soul."

The anguish of the wretched being excited a feeling of pity in the mind of Simon, though he considered it arose from a disordered imagination, and approaching him, he said:

"I have been unintentionally a witness of your suffering, and have overheard your accent of sorrow. I am little used to the language of consolation, but I beseech you to moderate your grief, and not to give way to despair."

"And who are you?" said the strange being, starting to his feet, while a fierce lustre lit up his eyes; "who are you, that have dared to play the eaves-dropper, and violate the sanctity and secrecy of sorrow? *You* speak to me of consolation—*you* some minion of prosperity."

"There you are mistaken—greatly mistaken," said Simon, with bitterness, for he began to recal the events of the day. "Wretched as you appear, your suffering of spirit can scarcely exceed mine at the present moment. The hope that I cherished as my heart's blood, has been trampled in the dust."

"Ha! I can feel for you. I was once young, and had hopes as dear as your own, and they too were shattered. But have you hunted to death him who marred your day dream? Have you murdered him inch by inch—known that he was perishing in the strong grasp of poverty and privation? Have you done this? then we can meet on equal grounds. If you have drained vengeance to its dregs, and know the bitterness of the draught, seek me."

"I know not whether you are a lunatic or not, but there is something

in your words which thrills my soul, and draws me to you. I would have vengeance, deep, deadly vengeance."

Here a gleam of the dying sun broke in and filled the edifice with a purple light.

"And you will gratify your desire," exclaimed the strange being, gazing on Simon. "I read it in your countenance."

"I trust your words are prophetic, for a demon is in my breast—it is revenge."

"And will you murder him in cold blood—send to a premature grave the being whose hand you clasped in boyhood? Will you cruelly, inhumanly, fiendly murder him?"

"Stay, one word," said Simon, as his companion turned to depart. "Who are you? Are you he whom they name the Maniac of the Mount, the self-avowed homicide?"

"He comes," exclaimed the man, "in the grey of the dawn he comes; he comes in the twilight hour, he is with me by the margin of the stream, he is by my couch with cold and dewy hands, he mingles with moonlight, he is floating mid the stars, he rises from the fragrant shrub, he is everywhere, with the same look he wore in early youth; he beckons me now."

With these words, he strode from the church, and Simon could hear him uttering the words, "he comes in the grey of the dawn, he comes in the twilight hour, he is with me by the margin of the stream, &c," as he followed him through the cemetery that encircled the edifice.

This strange being was at once an object of terror, pity, and respect to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. For some years previously he had fixed his abode on the peak of a very high hill in the vicinity, which, from its superior altitude, was designated the Mount. Here he had constructed a rude edifice, to the interior of which no human being had yet been admitted, in which he dwelt the year round. He was occasionally overheard by some casual wanderer near his abode, to express himself in a strain similar to that we have already recorded, heightened, perhaps, by an apostrophe to some invisible being, whom it appeared from his incoherent observations he had murdered; and this circumstance procured for him the sobriquet of the Maniac of the Mount. Some, indeed, regarded him as a homicide, who was endeavouring by isolation and self-imposed mortification, to expiate the offence he had committed. But it was remarked, that it was only periodically that he was affected with fits of lunacy. On other occasions he was remarkable for nothing but a melancholy expression of countenance, and, if any object of distress—such as a wandering beggar, or some tired pedestrian—approached his abode, he exhibited benevolence in ministering to their necessities; for though he invited none to enter his dwelling, he would bring them forth fruits, and if they were mendicants, he would relieve them with money. His food was of the simplest description, and supplied by the inhabitants of the town, who would leave it outside his dwelling without seeking an interview with the singular object of their bounty, being uncertain as to the mood of mind in which they might find him.

But this liberality was amply recompensed, for during a period of

scarcity which visited the neighbourhood, large sums of money were placed at the disposal of the Mayor and the clergy, for the use of the suffering inhabitants, and these benefactions were traced to the mysterious resident on the Mount.

A pestilence ravaged the district, and spread terror around. Those who were enabled to leave, fled in affright, and so fatal was the disease that it suspended during its prevalence the ordinary feelings of humanity. The claims of affinity were forgotten, and kindred deserted kindred when stricken with the epidemic.

But while the disease was at its height a change was wrought in the feelings of the inhabitants, who were inspired with courage, and brought back to sentiments of humanity by the presence amongst them of a stranger.

No one knew whence he came; but his pecuniary resources appeared large, while the zeal and indifference to personal danger which he displayed in visiting and ministering to the necessities of the sufferers, were the theme of praise throughout the district. Some poor creature whom the fear of infection had deprived of the assistance of his friends and kindred, received at his hands, medicine, and those offices requisite for the sick and dying. At last, he was recognised as the recluse of the mountain, and from that moment he became an object of veneration amongst the inhabitants. But none ventured to intrude on his solitude, for the statements of some who had witnessed his wild demeanour and overheard his incoherent ravings when he deemed himself unobserved, left little doubt as to his being insane at certain periods.

Though curiosity was excited respecting him, the benevolence he had displayed and the services he had rendered during the prevalence of the pestilence, prevented any persons indulging that feeling in a manner disagreeable, by endeavouring to penetrate the mystery in which he was shrouded. The consequence was, that he was permitted to pass his days without any intrusion on his privacy.

CHAPTER IV.—FALSE CONCLUSIONS.

SOME days elapsed before Simon summoned resolution sufficient to venture abroad. The sense of the humiliation which he had sustained before his townsmen, in being flung from his pinnacle at the very moment when he considered his triumph certain, made him fearful of encountering the ridicule of those whom he had never endeavoured to conciliate, and who, he was well aware, hated him for his intellectual superiority. But the desire to see Ida triumphed over this feeling.

He had not mistaken the sentiments which his defeat excited amongst his townsmen. When he made his appearance in the street, he was accosted by some of his acquaintances with mock condolence, and some who regarded him with looks of gratified malevolence, addressed him in terms of sympathy that stung him to the soul. Others more bold, treated him with derision, or passed him without recognition.

With a spirit chafed almost to frenzy, and mentally vowing vengeance.

against those who had insulted him, he reached the residence of Mrs. St. Claire. To his mortification and disappointment, he learned from that lady that her daughter had left home some hours previously. He was about to turn away, when Mrs. St. Claire invited him in with a suavity of manner very different to her usual deportment towards him.

The fact was, that the good lady had been considering very seriously whether it was not a want of worldly wisdom on her part to throw any obstacle in the way of her daughter's marriage with Simon, notwithstanding her aversion to his personal appearance. She reasoned with some wisdom that, as Ida was the party chiefly concerned in the affair, her sentiments should be primarily consulted. Her former suspicion reverted to her mind, and she entertained little doubt that, in her preference for Simon, Ida was actuated by prudential considerations, instead of the disinterested motives for which the world gave her credit. "No doubt," thought the good lady, "she is wise enough to prefer an ugly husband with money to a handsome one without; gold, in her eyes, being a better patrimony than a pretty face." Then the candour and ingenuousness of Ida, occurred to her, and somewhat disturbed faith in her own deductions. But she determined not to oppose her daughter's inclinations, as they tended towards procuring for her a wealthy spouse.

We have previously requested the reader not to form a prejudicial opinion of Mrs. St. Claire's judgment, and we now ask a similar favour with reference to her disposition. No doubt, at this period, her mind had contracted a worldly spirit; but she had passed through a period of suffering, arising from indigence, that made her shudder at the thought of exposing her beloved child to the bitterness and privation she herself had experienced in poverty. She had seen the husband of her bosom stretched on his death-bed, without being able to supply him with the common necessities which his situation required; and she had seen him consigned to a pauper's tomb, without those marks of respect to which from his station he was entitled, and which are so grateful to the feelings of the surviving relatives. Though after his death she had been relieved, not only from poverty, but placed in a situation of comfort, still it was by an unknown hand, and she could not calculate upon a continuance of the benefactions of the mysterious donor no more than she could penetrate the secrecy in which he had shrouded himself. It was owing to these circumstances that the character of Mrs. St. Claire had become tinctured with worldliness.

The alteration in Mrs. St. Claire's manner surprised Simon. She had previously scarcely endeavoured to conceal her aversion towards him, and on some occasions, so fully revealed her sentiments, that he could entertain little doubt as to the light in which she regarded his attachment for her daughter. He expected, therefore, that she would have been happy of an opportunity of any circumstance that would tend to lower him in Ida's estimation, and of treating him with increased marks of disapprobation. But her cordial greeting in the moment of his humiliation, suggested a suspicion that he might have mistaken her sentiments altogether, and this

thought surprised and almost unnerved him. To meet kindness where he expected only harsh treatment, vibrated a soft chord in his bosom, and tears sprang to his eyes as he complied with the lady's invitation, and followed her into the parlour, and, at her request, seated himself.

Mrs. St. Claire was pleased at having an opportunity of conversing with him alone. As she attributed interested motives to her daughter, it is not to be wondered at, that a suspicion of the purity of Simon's motives should flash across her mind. It occurred to her, that perhaps he was not acquainted with her pecuniary position, and that when he was fully informed of the extent and precariousness of her resources, that his affection for her daughter would be diminished. There was certainly nothing in his manner to induce a supposition that any venal consideration mingled in his feelings towards Ida, but her sufferings and vicissitudes had rendered Mrs. St. Claire familiar with much that was sordid and selfish in human nature, and had gradually infused into her mind a distrust in the purity of the springs of human actions. She resolved, therefore, to sound the depths of his feelings as early as possible, and to penetrate the reserve which he exhibited in her presence, which arose from his disinclination to give utterance to his genuine sentiment before one, who he had every reason to believe, regarded him and his affection with an unfavourable eye. The extent of Mrs. St. Claire's tact in eliciting the information she required, and her success, will be understood from the following conversation.

"Have you noticed any alteration in Ida, lately, Simon?" said Mrs. St. Claire.

"No; she appears to me to be in excellent health;" he replied.

"I don't allude to her personal appearance, I mean her spirits."

"They were never high, but I have not perceived that they are depressed, or that they have undergone any change of late."

"My maternal anxiety, perhaps, has suggested an apprehension. But I have heard her sigh frequently, and it occurred to me that there might be something on her mind, though why she should conceal it from me, I cannot understand."

The young man made no reply, and Mrs. St. Claire proceeded.

"Do you know, Simon, that it has often surprised me, with Ida's beauty and amiability, she has not succeeded in making an impression on some of the comfortable young men in the neighbourhood. Life is uncertain, and it would be a sad thing, if at my death, she was thrown upon the world—that world of whose worthlessness I have had bitter experience. You are not aware, perhaps, that I am depending for subsistence on the benevolence of some unknown and mysterious person, which may be immediately suspended, or terminate with my death."

"I have not heard this before," said Simon, at a loss to comprehend the drift of the lady's conversation, though deeply interested in the subject of it.

Here Mrs. St. Claire scrutinized the countenance of Simon, with the view of ascertaining the effect which her communication produced. It only betrayed sensibility which the name of Ida invariably produced on

his coarse and swarthy features, and the curiosity which her narrative excited.

"He loves, truly loves, my daughter," she thought.

"Have you no suspicion who your benefactor is," he inquired.

"Not the least. Every quarter I receive a letter containing a remittance. The letter bears the Paris postmark, but nothing to indicate who the writer is. I have received this allowance regularly since the decease of my poor husband, but I never heard him mention having any friend whom I could suspect of rendering me this assistance. The only wealthy acquaintance I have heard him speak of was one who was his bitter unrelenting enemy, and whose malevolence sent him heart-broken to an early grave. But to return to Ida. It is the first wish of my heart that she should be comfortably provided for. It is true that she is very young, but she has sense far beyond her years, and would make an excellent wife."

Simon could not suppress a sigh; the praise of his mistress called up a deep emotion, and the uncertainty whether she would stand to him in the relation mentioned, gave him a transient pang.

"I have had offers for her," continued Mrs. St. Claire, "one only of which I deemed eligible, for the gentleman was in circumstances to support her in comfort and respectability. Strange to say, she did not regard him favourably. The others were young men, who possessed personal attractions, but were deficient in means." Here she enumerated several of the suitors of Ida, and as she finished the list, a look of gratified feeling was visible on Simon's countenance, which was further increased when she stated, that her daughter was as insensible to these personal qualifications as she was to the more substantial ones of the other aspirant to her hand.

"The truth is, Simon," proceeded Mrs. St. Claire, "I sometimes suspect that her affections are engaged. This causes me no uneasiness; for, with her good sense, I am satisfied she would not select some empty, foolish young man, with nothing to recommend him but a handsome face. A mere prepossessing exterior would not of itself attract her. In my opinion, good sense, affection for her, and a competency, are what she would chiefly value in a husband. Without certain means, there can be no happiness in the married life, however warm the attachment may be."

Here a light broke in upon Simon. His practical mind, ever ready to grasp at anything unfavourable to himself, immediately comprehended the drift of Mrs. St. Claire's discourse, and a distrust of Ida's truth flashed across him.

Mrs. St. Claire had exhausted her volubility, and considering that she had said sufficient to draw forth some observation from Simon, remained silent. She was disappointed, for he made no reply, and shortly afterwards took his departure, leaving Mrs. St. Claire at a loss what to conclude. But she did not continue long in a state of suspense, for her suspicion recurring, she construed his silence into the unworthy motive already hinted. Her feelings of maternal pride were deeply wounded by what she considered the venality of Simon, when she contrasted his repulsive person with the beauty of her daughter, and she resolved that in

future she would not be at the pains of concealing the aversion which he inspired in her mind.

CHAPTER V.—VARIED PASSIONS.

Meanwhile, the object of this unmerited suspicion was enduring a state of mental torture, produced by his fancied discovery of the real motive which had induced Ida to treat him with seeming affection.

Life has its varied bitter draughts—the hopes their many withering disappointments—the heart many searing pangs to be graven on its core, but far above them all, is the first discovery of perfidy in the being we have trusted. To find deception, where we fancied sincerity, to learn, that what we fondly deemed holiness and purity, is sordid and selfish; and that the bosom on which we reposed in confidence and security, as a haven when the storm tossed spirits might safely rest, is but a treacherous shallow, is one of those fearful lessons, which fling in the shade, all the other experiences, which the dissipated illusions of life, record in the volume of man's sufferings.

Had the world smiled on Simon, the revelation of what he regarded as truth, could not be received without anguish and sorrow. But he, poor fellow! had to endure more from the discovery than others; for he was placed under peculiar circumstances. He considered himself excluded from all sympathy from his kind, a creature, upon whose features were traced that deformity, which was destined to repel all human affection, and almost to banish him from the society of his species. There grew one only flower in existence for him, and which alone preserved his rugged heart from a sterility of human affections; it was the hope, that the beautiful and amiable girl he loved, reciprocated his passion. That idol of his feelings, shattered, he knew not whither to turn; there was no other object, around which the tendrils of his heart could entwine. With Ida's love, all sense of his deformity was deadened. The world might mouth at and mock him, but its derision could only leave a transient and feeble impression, to be speedily effaced by the look of affection, and the accents of tenderness, which greeted him from his beloved.

When he left Mrs. St. Claire's, he directed his step, towards the neighbouring hills, where he might give vent to his feelings in solitude, with no human eye to witness his anguish, or human ear to hear the stifling sighs, which almost suffocated him. There at least, that volcano, his heart, might outpour itself without anything to check its eruption.

It may be said, that his suspicion of Ida, was too hastily formed; that he should have waited for some confirmation of his doubts. But when did love ever study dialectics, or seek for sufficient *data*, upon which to base its deductions. He thought only of Ida's beauty in contrast with his own deformity, and then of her mother's words. He thought he saw it all clearly; the veil had dropped from his eyes; the young girl loved him for the wealth he was reputed to possess, which enabled her to sup-

press her disgust at his appearance, and to simulate an affection for himself alone, which he had been weak enough to believe was real.

He reached a secluded spot, a rude ravine, impassable to vehicles and seldom visited by pedestrians. There he flung himself on the ground, and burying his face in his hands, was about to vent his agony in a deep groan, when a suppressed chuckle, struck on his ear. Starting to his feet at once, he turned round, and beheld a young man within a few feet of him, whose features were convulsed with laughter, which he was endeavouring to repress. The countenance of the intruder, was singularly vacant, and approached almost to idiocy. He had soon occasion to repent his ill-timed mirth, for Simon, whose feelings were roused to madness, rushed upon him, and by his strength, which was considerable, bore him to the ground. A brief struggle ensued, but the young man proved no match for Simon, whose infuriated grasp was already on his throat. A loud shriek, arrested his murderous hand, and looking up, he beheld Ida, pale as death, and gazing at him with inarticulate horror. He loosened his grasp, and as the victim of his resentment, rose to his feet almost strangled, and his features livid, from partial suffocation, he exclaimed,

"Begone, wretch! and thank the Providence that has prevented my being a homicide, and saved your wretched existence. Begone, lest your presence may tempt me, to tear you limb from limb."

The young man, who seemed only too anxious to escape, tottered forward, and was shortly out of sight.

"God!" he exclaimed, "why hast thou called me into being. Would not the scheme of creation have been complete, without this wretched trunk, and these distorted features, to swell up the sum of humanity. Not even favors can win me affection, or purchase me gratitude. That half-witted wretch, whom I have rescued from insult, loaded with benefits, treated with frequent kindness, can find no meeter recompense for what I have conferred, than to mock me in the moment of tribulation, and to deride the agony of his uncouth benefactor."

"Simon!" said the terrified and trembling girl, "I beseech you, to be composed, and to be thankful to the Divine Being, that has preserved you from murder."

"And you too!" he said, with bitterness, "whom I deemed all purity and truth, as superior to your sex, in mind as in person, and whom this stricken heart worshipped, as its only good on earth, you too, are as false as the wretched minion, you rescued from my grasp."

Unable to comprehend his meaning, Ida remained silent.

"But I mean not to reproach you Ida, for feelings that are natural, and from which, even the beautiful in creation are not exempt. What recks it, if the bramble be uprooted, so that the rose be preserved. Farewell! Ida. While life remains, I will cherish your remembrance. I have my moments of piety and prayer, when my softened spirit sends up its incense to heaven, thy image shall mingle with it. Farewell! Ida. I will think of you, as some soft flower which wooed my transient vision, and then withered in my path; some softened melody that lulled me to repose in

infancy, and had almost died out of memory. Farewell! Ida. I leave you as our first parents departed from Eden, despairing and hopeless."

With a quick step, the young man proceeded up an unfrequented path that led to the summit of a lofty hill, and Ida returned homewards, with a mind saddened and perplexed.

For some time he proceeded in his ascent until he had reached the apex of one of the loftiest hills in the neighbourhood. The scene before him was rude, and contrasted strongly with the soft loveliness and verdure that clothed the adjacent declivities. It was steep, and scarce a trace of vegetation redeemed it from sterility. Large masses of shattered granite, and the prostrate trunks of mouldering trees were strewn along the path, and justified the history which tradition had assigned it, of having been at some remote period the scene of an earthquake. When he had gained the summit, his eye encountered a rude edifice in the form of a hut, and a human figure seated on a fragment of rock before the aperture which admitted to the interior of this primitive abode. The form, roused by his footsteps, raised its head, and he beheld the features of the maniac whom he had seen in the church. There was, however, a great change in his countenance. His eyes, which on the former occasion were lit up with the wild lustre of insanity, were now dimmed with tears; and there was a subdued and heart-stricken expression about his features that told the stormier passions were at rest.

Simon was about to retire, but the recluse had perceived him, and said, in an accent tremulous with emotion,—

"Come hither, Simon."

A superstitious awe crept over the mind of the latter at hearing himself addressed by his name, by one with whom he was unacquainted, and whose knowledge of him he was at a loss to understand. He hesitated to advance, and he felt unable to retire.

"Come hither, my son," said the strange being, in accents still milder, "if human eye should witness me in this moment of softer emotion, it should be yours."

Though somewhat surprised, and rather unwilling to comply, Simon seated himself at his side.

"Look," said the recluse, "how beautiful is the scene beneath. All is loveliness and serenity, a fitting temple for the spirit to kneel in and worship its Creator. How calmly glides you crystal rivulet to its ocean home, its glassy bosom scarcely curled with the breeze, and bearing on its surface the clear blue of heaven, and the shadows of the shrubs that fringe its margin. How lovely and graceful those vines bending in the breeze, and how fresh the fragrance that ascends from the flowers of the valley. Peace is written on every blossom and unfolding petal that has sprung into existence at the mandate of their maker. But the tempest impends, and will lay desolate this scene. It is a type of life, the life of youth, while the darker passions are at rest, and the volcano of the heart is undeveloped. For the storm will die away, and the voice of the tempest dwindle into the faint breathing of the summer breeze, and the loveliness of the hill and valley shine forth more glorious from being transiently

shrouded. The unwithered verdure and flowers, and the tempest that sweeps over them, are no similitude of the feelings and passions in their maturity. Cast your eye along this solitary mount where I have fixed my abode. Here you witness nought but devastation and enduring ruin. The rent rocks unite not again, the prostrate oak roots itself no more in its native soil, and the few leaves that cluster round its mouldering trunk are mere memorials of its vanished vegetation. These rugged crags, those withering trees, and the savage and ruthless eruption that caused this devastation, these are a type of man in the plenitude of his nature, and when his worst passions are developed; and which passion most resembles the earthquake and its effects on physical life?"

Though in the form of an interrogatory from the maniac, Simon perceived that the recluse was soliloquising and not addressing him, so he made no reply, and the other continued:

"It is revenge, the most promising fruit that hate feeds on, and yet the most unsubstantial. It supplies no lasting flavour, and turns to ashes in the taste. Other passions yield some fruition—revenge none. And am I not competent to describe it thus. Have I not drained the delusive draught to its dregs, and found it only bitterness, bitterness enhanced by the beauty of forgiveness and brotherly affection, which I spurned, madly spurned. Simon, you are young, and such happiness as mortals can taste is within your grasp. Oh, fling it not away; you can pluck the rose, do not grasp the aconite and cherish it in your bosom. What is the source of that felicity? It is an obedience to the mandate of your Creator, to love one another."

"It is a precept," said Simon, "that like others of divine origin, can scarcely be reduced to practice. It must be regulated by circumstances."

"Have you ever tried it?"

"No, nature formed me not for love."

"And yet you love?"

"Not my kind," said Simon, still more puzzled by the knowledge of the recluse respecting him.

"Is not Ida human?" said the latter.

"She is indeed," said Simon, stung to the quick, by the remembrance of what had taken place that day. "I have fatally learned it."

"And you would win her love while the only thing about you human is passion for her. You would have the love of her whose heart is a temple of brotherly love, while you have suffered your bosom to become a pandemonium of hatred and vengeance. But why do I speak to you in accents of harshness. You only inherit the disposition of your sire. Go, leave me, but return here this day twelvemonth; should this withered trunk be mould, seek out this address. Taking a tablet from his bosom, he traced a few words on it, and handed it to Simon. He then added:—

"But *we* should not part in unkindness. Go, pursue the path I have pointed out—it will secure your happiness."

"Stay," said Simon, as the recluse rose, "stay in mercy and answer me one question. You seem to possess a mysterious knowledge concerning me, say—have I ——."

The recluse heeded not his impassioned appeal, but retreated hastily into his hut, and Simon could hear him draw the bolt. He renewed his entreaty, but the recluse gave no response, and Simon, despairing of inducing him to comply with his request, descended from the mount, musing on the words of the mysterious being, and the knowledge he possessed respecting his present history and circumstances.

(To be continued.)

THE HEIR OF BENDERSLEIGH;

OR,

THE FREEMASON'S PROMISE.

(A Tale for a Summer's Day or a Winter's Night).

BY BROTHER C. J. COLLINS.

PART THE SECOND.

CHAPTER I.—THE FIRST USE THAT MR. AUGUSTUS RAKER MAKES OF THE POWER OF PROPERTY.

MR. Grainger's office was situated in a rather obscure street in the neighbourhood of the busiest part of the large town that stood upon the banks of the great river. Mr. Grainger was a conveyancer, and therefore he had little to do with that department of the legal profession, the chief characteristic of which is wide spread chicanery, supported by those delightful agents, deceit, dishonesty, and spite. The furniture of Mr. Grainger's office was of ante-date, and had grown brown in a long service of silent usefulness. There were an outer and an inner office, in the latter of which Mr. Grainger transacted his business, assisted by Henry Elliotson, who usually occupied the opposite side of the office table, which stood in the middle of the inner apartment. The other part of Mr. Grainger's offices was occupied by a little old man, who had been so long an inmate of the place that he seemed almost to have grown a part of the low desk at which he sat, which desk in former days had been also occupied by younger clerks, when Mr. Grainger did a large business, out of which he had made his fortune long ago. Mr. Grainger's little old clerk was known to all the neighbourhood round, and his good humoured face was ever met with welcome wherever he went.

Almost a sinecure now, was the office that Old Gabriel Hunter occupied under Mr. Grainger. But he ever made a show of being most busy and much occupied. He never could be brought to acknowledge that he had nothing to do. His business was his life, and public holidays, when they came, were nothing less than days of penance to him. So long had he gone on in the same unvaried round of occupation, that it had indeed grown a second nature to him. In keeping with the place in which he

passed so much of his time, he had a russet hue, which would probably have extended to his hair if that had not long been worn away, when he was indeed busy every day, and when he had substantially enough to do.

"Dear me," thought Gabriel, as he sat in his low arm chair, with his spectacles thrown on to the top of his bald head, "Dear me—the old man's dead. Well, he's been a client of our's a good many years, and we have managed his estate ever since he came to it. A long time ago it must be now—let me see—twenty—thirty," counting on his fingers, "twenty, thirty, why it must be five-and-thirty years ago since we first received the parchments, and there they have been lying ever since;" and as he mused, he looked up at some large tin boxes that were piled upon a thick shelf at the end of the room.

Poor old Gabriel, he gazed upon those boxes with as much interest as a royal academician would gaze upon that world's wonder which is in the transept of Antwerp cathedral. Yes, he gazed at it now with deeper interest than usual, albeit it had been "an old familiar face" to him for five-and-thirty years before. And then he'd rub his hands and smile, and fall to his slow work again—some old deed of which he was drawing up an abstract.

Again, the old boxes caught his eye, and he mused once more. "Yes, they'll come down to day—and now I come to think of it, the old deeds have never been abstracted."

Of course old Gabriel meant the legal mode of reducing unintelligible rolls of confusing words to an understandable form.

"Yes, now that the young man comes into possession, I shall suggest that they be all abstracted," and then the old man fell into an abstraction himself, from which he was however aroused by the entrance of some one to the office, from the hall, and on turning round, and drawing down his spectacles to his eyes, he recognised Mr. Augustus Raker.

"Good day, Mr. Augustus—melancholy news, sir, from—"

"Oh, ah, I know all about it," interrupted Mr. Raker, rather pettishly; "Is the old chap inside, Hunter?"

"Mr. Grainger is in his office," replied old Gabriel, not altogether relishing Mr. Raker's mode of referring to his employer. "Mr. Grainger is in his office; shall I say that you are here?"

"Oh, not a bit of it," replied Mr. Augustus Raker, "I'll walk in," and he did so without farther parley; the old man looking after him with an expression of blended astonishment and indignation.

As the young man entered the inner office, Mr. Grainger was seated at his desk, looking over various documents which appeared to have been recently compressed into a small compass. As Mr. Augustus Raker entered the room, the old conveyancer looked up, and immediately recognising his visitor, rose from his seat, and, as he exchanged the usual courtesies, handed Mr. Raker a chair.

"You know, Grainger," began Mr. Raker, "I can't be expected to go beyond this," pointing to his black attire, "in the mournful hue, because as you are aware, it is seventeen years since I saw the old man, and I'm only twenty-one. I dare say I ought to look very dejected and all that,

but I can't come it, and that's the long and the short of it. Besides which, it's a nuisance;" and having thus delivered himself, he thrust his hands through his hair, and otherwise exhibited an air of indifference to what would be generally considered as a bereavement.

"You seem to speak your mind at all events," replied Mr. Grainger.

"Oh, I hate the gammon of condolence," rejoined Mr. Raker, in a scornful tone, "so now let's to business, Grainger; for the fact is, I want to know exactly how matters stand. By the bye, where's that clerk of yours?"

"Henry Elliotson, do you mean?"

"Yes, I don't like that fellow, and I hope he won't be here to interrupt us."

"He is out to day," replied Mr. Grainger; "but I cannot understand why you should entertain any antipathy to Elliotson, seeing that you have never met him except in this office, and once the other day at Mrs. Marshall's."

"Never mind," retorted Mr. Raker, "I saw enough of him at Mrs. Marshall's, to fix me. I don't want to meet him here any more—that's the long and the short of it."

"Of course," began Mr. Grainger, "when you come here upon business, if you desire the absence of Elliotson, he shall be absent, although in the business we have to transact together, I shall be obliged occasionally to consult him. I have known Henry Elliotson," continued Mr. Grainger, mildly, "since he was a child, Mr. Raker. Aye, I knew him before he could know me—even before he could speak—and I never until now heard the tongue of animosity used against him. You are a rich man, Mr. Raker, now, and he is but a poor clerk, in my office, wholly dependent upon my will. Surely you cannot look upon Henry Elliotson with any feeling like animosity. I say again, that you are a rich man, Mr. Raker."

"And rich men, Grainger, are not the men to be trifled with. I form my likings and my dislikings in a hurry, friend Grainger," replied Mr. Raker, in a rather menacing tone.

"You are of course master of your own will," responded Mr. Grainger.

"Aye, and I'll use it too. I speak my mind too, as you have just said. Now, you were my father's agent here in England, and a deuced good thing you made of it, I'll be bound."

Mr. Grainger turned quickly round, and looked the young man full in the face, with something like sternness in his countenance; but he merely bowed to Mr. Raker, that he should proceed.

"Now, it's either worth having, or it is not. You may be agent for the Bendersleigh estates still, or you may not. It is a matter for your own choice;" and Mr. Raker twirled his stick between his finger and his thumb.

"I have been agent for your father many years," replied Mr. Grainger, calmly, "and I am anxious—very anxious to be still the agent of the Bendersleigh estates—anxious not on my own account, but for the property itself, Mr. Raker—for it is a noble property—and for you."

"Ah, very likely;" said Mr. Raker, mistaking the manner of the old man; "well then, a nod's as good as a wink, you know, and I don't

like that Elliotson ; and as you and I are likely to be so much together, I should think you could easily get him another berth."

As the young man uttered this half-expressed wish, there was an uneasiness about his manner which indicated there was something like a feeling of shame struggling with the selfishness which prompted the intimation he had just given.

"His legal term with me," replied Mr. Grainger, "will shortly expire, and then we shall separate—if that is what you mean."

"Oh just as you like," said Mr. Raker, impatiently, "I dare say you understand me. Now then, let's to business, where's the will?"

"It is very brief," replied Mr. Grainger, looking over a bundle of documents which he took up—"because, as you are aware, the property of Bendersleigh being entailed, goes to the heir ; and as you stand in that relation to your late father, the entire property devolves upon you with the exception of a few legacies which the will contains—and I should add, that your father has thought fit to appoint me sole executor."

"Very good, if that's all the will contains you may shut it up. I don't want to see it. Have you got the catalogue of the securities and deeds that you promised me?"

"I have," replied Mr. Grainger ; "shall I read it?"

"Let's have it," replied Mr. Raker, by way of request that Mr. Grainger should proceed.

The conveyancer accordingly read the catalogue of the varied deeds and securities relating to the Bendersleigh estates and property, until he came to one scheduled as "Mrs. Marshall's mortgage."

"Mrs. Marshall's mortgage, Grainger!—what mortgage is that?" eagerly exclaimed Mr. Raker, "not our friends over the water, is it?"

There was a peering eagerness about the inquiry, as Mr. Raker bent his face over the desk towards Mr. Grainger, which attracted that gentleman's attention forcibly. There was an expression in the young man's countenance, as he asked the question—of cunning, conceit, apprehension, delight, and fawning, which blended strangely and harshly together, and Mr. Grainger marked the expression as he replied,

"It is Mrs. Marshall's mortgage; and the money which it is intended to secure was advanced upon my recommendation, by your father, years ago. In years long—long gone by, your father and Mrs. Marshall were old friends. In fact, in childhood they commenced their friendship, which, however, was early severed. In those days, before your father left his native country for the East, Mrs. Marshall was the wife of a great merchant in this town—then a rising port. He stood high among the foreign traders of the place, and was much respected. In the prime however of his life—in the height of his business, he was cut off from amongst us, leaving his wife and an infant family, with but a slender competency. The house of business flourished, and to this day has been advancing, and now stands perhaps the greatest amongst us. Mrs. Marshall, however, is as she was left, with the exception, that the burden of this, your mortgage, is upon her income."

Mr. Raker looked down at his boot, and restlessly tapped his heel with the end of his cane. Mr. Grainger continued,—

“Your father—again upon my recommendation, for he knew the circumstances in which Mrs. Marshall was placed—never made any demand for the interest accruing on his mortgage. As to the disposition of that interest it is for you now to determine.”

“Oh, that’s it, is it?” eagerly inquired Mr. Raker.

“It rests with you—but as you are doubtless anxious to carry out your father’s intentions with respect to it as closely as you can, even though he has made no will to that effect, which, indeed, surprises me—I doubt not, that you will pursue the same course with Mrs. Marshall as your father did.”

“Well, Grainger, you know that’ll depend upon circumstances,” replied Mr. Raker, still tapping his boot, “and I’ll tell you presently. But I’ll tell you something else now. I intend to be married, Grainger;” and Mr. Raker leant back, and opened wide his eyes upon the old lawyer, as though he expected the old gentleman would be astonished at the intelligence.

“Yes, I’ve made up my mind to be married. What do you think of it?”

“Judiciously resolved;” replied Mr. Grainger, smiling. “Upon whom has your choice fallen, may I ask?”

“Why, you are such an outrageously crusty old dog, that you’ll open your jaws with wonder when I tell you, and you won’t believe it then,” said Mr. Raker, garnishing his attempted facetiousness with a laugh and an oath.

The young man was desirous that Mr. Grainger should question him as to the unknown fair one, but the old man only treated the coarse allusion to his general bearing, with a shrug, and Mr. Raker, therefore, was obliged to come to the point sooner than he desired.

“Ah, I see, you’ll have it all out of me,” continued he, “Well, then, who do you think it is?” and again he laughed.

“It is a useless question,” mildly responded Mr. Grainger.

“It is Harriet Marshall.”

“Harriet Marshall!” exclaimed Mr. Grainger, almost before Mr. Raker had closed his lips.

“Ah, I knew you’d stare,” said Mr. Raker, throwing himself back in his chair.

“Harriet Marshall!” again exclaimed the lawyer, with something like anxiety manifested in his voice.

“Harriet Marshall,” replied the young man decisively.

“Have you proposed to her?” inquired Mr. Grainger.

“Oh, no, I haven’t proposed to her; but that isn’t of much consequence—I mean to do it.”

Mr. Grainger mused.

“You don’t think she would refuse me, do you?” inquired Mr. Raker, in a bantering tone.

“On what do you build your confidence?” inquired Mr. Grainger.

“On the foundation of a mortgage deed, Grainger,” cried the young

man triumphantly, at the same time laughing loudly. "Come, now, that's what you lawyers would call a stroke of policy, isn't it?" continued Mr. Raker.

Mr. Grainger looked at his client, and as he did so, there was agitation in his countenance.

"Why, you could not look much blacker," said Mr. Raker, "if I had proposed that you should be married yourself. Come, I shall want your assistance in this matter, and you must carry it off for me."

"You can of course command my services," was Mr. Grainger's reply. "From what I have already told you, you will readily understand that I take a deep interest in the welfare of the Marshall's, and I may say so especially, with reference to Harriet. It will be a gratifying day to me to see her worthily married, and I am therefore glad that you have communicated your intentions to me, as you may understand that I can be of service in the matter."

"You're a trump, Grainger," said Mr. Raker, as he stared full in the old man's face.

"I will immediately communicate your intentions to Mrs. Marshall," continued Mr. Grainger, without noticing the interruption, "and connected as you are so closely with the interests of the family, I do not doubt that this alliance you propose will lead to satisfactory results."

"Oh, there'll be none of your straight-laced morality in my marriage, I can tell you," exclaimed Mr. Raker, rising. "Pleasure, and do as you like, will be my motto."

"There is a moral in every marriage," responded Mr. Grainger.

"Preaching in a lawyer's office! ho! ho! ho!" cried Mr. Raker, in great glee. "Come, Grainger, will you put this in train for me? For I must be brief and be off, for there's a skylarking chap waiting for me over at the George, and if I don't make haste he'll be smashing the glasses and throwing down the waiters, to amuse himself during my long absence. Capital chap; he'd just do for you, Grainger;" and thinking this immoderately facetious, the young heir laughed out loud again. Recovering himself, he continued with much volubility. "Well, you'll do it, Grainger, will you? You shall be father in church, and all that. I'll be here again the day after to-morrow, to know how the matter goes; so just draw me a cheque for 50*l.*, and then I'll be off."

Mr. Grainger was evidently not desirous of prolonging the interview with his hopeful client, and he, therefore, immediately drew the required cheque, and handed it over to Mr. Raker, who hastily put it in his pocket, gave a smart slap on the desk, with his cane, which made Mr. Grainger jump, and then walked out of the office, whistling a popular air.

"Hunter," said Mr. Grainger, putting his head into the outer office.

"Sir," of course, was the instantaneous reply.

"Look me out Mrs. Marshall's mortgage, and bring it in to me."

Gabriel Hunter, of course, knew where to put his hand upon the document in question at once, and but a few moments, therefore, elapsed before he appeared in Mr. Grainger's room, and placed the parchment before that gentleman.

"Oh, that's it, is it?" exclaimed Mr. Grainger, abstractedly.

"Archibald Raker and Margaret Marshall," replied Gabriel, reading from the parchment produced.

"That's right, Hunter," said Mr. Grainger, rising, and putting on his hat. "I'm going over to Mrs. Marshall's, and shall not be back till late. Tell Elliotson, when he comes, to follow me over there. I shall not be back to the office again until to-morrow morning."

"Very good, sir," replied Gabriel, as he opened the door for Mr. Grainger, who walked out of the office deeply absorbed in thought.

CHAPTER II.—THE PROPOSITION, AND ITS RECEPTION AT THE COTTAGE.

It was but natural that Harriet Marshall should confide the secret of her attachment to her sister, Mrs. William Chacey, because, pleasing and blissful as that attachment was, its happiness was heightened in Harriet's heart by the secret being confided to one who would experience happiness in the knowledge that she herself was happy. Since the pic-nic party on the hill Harriet had seemed to exist in a blissful dream. Her young heart had never known what love was until Henry Elliotson breathed it in her ear, and then she drank in at once the delicious rapture which a first affection gives, and which, when once created, knows no change. How eagerly she watched the coming of her lover each day, it were vain to tell; with what delight she wandered with him in the evenings through the fields—all Nature's loveliness, enchanting as it was, unheeded by her—it were impossible to describe. The two lovers lived in a world created by themselves, and so from day to day, and almost hour by hour, their strong affection grew. Thus smoothly ran the lovers' course, and they never dreamt of any chance that might bring a ruffle on its surface.

Henry Elliotson was now a constant visitor at the little cottage on the river's bank, where he was ever received by every inmate of that little dwelling as a welcome guest. Rachel never missed an opportunity of sounding his praises in the ears of any one who was inclined to listen to her, but more especially to Jacob, to whom Henry Elliotson was constantly held up as a great pattern for Jacob—at a great distance, of course—to emulate.

"Have we had any visitors to-day, Rachel?" enquired Mrs. William Chacey, as she entered the parlour with her sister, having just returned from a morning walk.

"Oh, Mrs. William, Mr. Grainger has been here this hour, and is in the drawing-room with Missis, now," replied Rachel.

"Mr. Grainger here!" exclaimed Mrs. William Chacey, in a tone of surprise. "Mr. Grainger here, my dear?" repeated she, inquiringly, to Harriet.

Harriet, having divested herself of her walking attire, proceeded to the drawing-room, where she found Mr. Grainger and the old lady, with several papers before them.

"Oh, here is Miss Harriet," said Mr. Grainger, as she entered.

Immediately upon the appearance of Harriet, Mrs. Marshall rose and went towards her, with an attempt to speak to her, but she failed, and fell sobbing on her daughter's neck.

"Good heavens, mamma! what has happened?" exclaimed Harriet, considerably alarmed.

"Oh, my dear child, I cannot bear it," sobbed Mrs. Marshall; and she hastily quitted the room, leaving Harriet transfixed with astonishment. Presently she was about to follow her mother, but Mr. Grainger gently detained her, saying,

"It is better so. Sit down, Harriet;" and he led her to a seat, which she mechanically took.

"I have much to talk to you about, Harriet," commenced Mr. Grainger, as he drew a chair and seated himself near to her. "I have heard from your mother of the constant visits here, of late, of Henry Elliotson."

Harriet, blushing for a moment, held down her beautiful head, but almost immediately raised it, and looked full into the face of the old man by her side. There was a sudden firmness in her manner which surprised her companion, and he paused to gaze at her before he proceeded.

"Pardon me, Harriet, if, for your welfare, I tell you I am come to forbid these visits;" said Mr. Grainger.

"Forbid these visits!" Harriet mechanically repeated, the faint blush which had suffused her features now giving way to pallor, as the blood rushed violently towards her heart.

"To forbid these visits," continued Mr. Grainger, "as dangerous to you both."

"Well, sir," said Harriet, with forced calmness.

"It will be better for you both—and I feel it will be so the stronger after consultation with your mother—that you meet no more upon the friendly terms upon which Henry Elliotson has lately visited your mother's house."

The agitation which Harriet naturally experienced at this communication was too great to be concealed. Her bosom heaved—the colour in her cheek came and went rapidly—she gazed at Mr. Grainger for a moment or two, and then, burying her face in her hands, burst into tears.

Mr. Grainger did not attempt to interrupt the torrent of her grief, and he did not speak for some minutes, during which time Harriet still kept her face in her hands. At length, when her grief was in some measure subdued, he continued:

"It is but an effort, Harriet. We have our trials—all of us; and this is yours—as yet the first. But there are happy days in store for you—honours and wealth are at your feet."

"Why, do you think I covet them?" exclaimed she, speaking through her tears.

"Not covet them! No; they are offered to you, Harriet," returned Mr. Grainger, as he turned to the table.

"Offered to me, Mr. Grainger?"

"Do you love your mother, Harriet?"

"Can you ask me?"

"I am sure you do Harriet," continued Mr. Grainger; "and I know you will think that I am advising you for the best."

"I do not understand you, Sir."

"In brief, then, the object of my visit here to day, is to convey a proposal to you from your friend Mr. Augustus Raker," said Mr. Grainger, emphasising deeply the word "friend," and gazing as he spoke, full into Harriet's face, "a proposition," continued he, "which I trust will lead to happy results to all of you. Mr. Raker, as you are aware, has succeeded to his property, and he is naturally anxious to settle in life, a desire which I need hardly say I have applauded. He has been a frequent visitor here, and I am given to understand that his admiration for you is not altogether unknown to you."

Harriet, as the old man earnestly addressed her, bent her gaze upon the ground, but as she did so, it was plain that she was agitated by the strongest emotions. Her bosom heaved convulsively, as she tightly clasped her hands before her, but she did not attempt to interrupt Mr. Grainger. He, therefore, proceeded.

"Do you hear me, Harriet?" he said, mildly, "I would see you well and happily married, and though I perceive, that what I thought was but an ordinary friendship, has grown into a feeling, which, as you see, can only produce pain; yet I find satisfaction in it too, because it may be the means of teaching you, how incapable we are of judging of those things which are for our own especial benefit. Mr. Raker is young and rich, Harriet, and through me he offers you his hand and fortune." He paused, as he thus abruptly arrived at the object of his visit, but Harriet made him no reply.

"You do not speak to me, Harriet," continued Mr. Grainger, gently taking her hand in his own. "Consider," said he, hesitatingly, "that the offer that I have been empowered to make to you, is a most advantageous one. Why are you silent?"

"Alas! Alas!" exclaimed Harriet, again burying her face in her hands.

"I cannot understand this agitation, Harriet," said Mr. Grainger. "What—what can it mean?"

"Can you ask me, Mr. Grainger?" at length expressed Harriet. "Can you think or believe that I can receive such a proposition as that which you have just mentioned with indifference? Oh! can you, Mr. Grainger, believe that I can calmly entertain it?"

And as she bent her dark and swimming eyes upon the old man beside her, there was something in them which made him pause for a moment in his object, and an expression of indecision appeared upon his countenance. Only for an instant, however, for he rejoined;

"Consider, Harriet, the position you will attain."

"At the sacrifice of my happiness?" she replied, sadly.

"With the security of happiness, if you would obtain it," replied Mr. Grainger.

"But really, Mr. Grainger," exclaimed Harriet, in a changed tone and rising from her seat, "really, Mr. Grainger, I know not why I

should be grieved at the proposal which you make. It may be as you say, in a worldly point of view, advantageous to me—in the eyes of some friends no doubt, I shall be considered headstrong, wayward and foolish, in rejecting such an offer, but I am not bound to accept it. Indeed, Mr. Grainger, I feel you mean us well—I'm sure you do;" continued she, taking his hand. "But do not counsel me to this alliance—an alliance which my heart can never sanction. Bear, then, to Mr. Raker, my respectful acknowledgments, and tell him why I decline his proffered hand."

"I cannot, Harriet," replied Mr. Grainger, after a pause, "You mistake me. I am deeply anxious that you should accept this offer—not on your account alone, but on your mother's."

"My Mother's!" exclaimed Harriet, in astonishment.

"Your mother's, Harriet;" said Mr. Grainger. "Listen. The slender income on which your mother has lived since you were left an orphan, has not, as you are aware, been more than sufficient for the station in which you have lived, and in which your father left you. Indeed, it has in years gone by, been trenched upon. You cannot understand these matters much, but perhaps it will be enough for me to say that in the marriage I propose, your family will be relieved from much embarrassment and perhaps pecuniary disaster."

"I do not understand you," cried Harriet, in a bewildered tone.

"Your mother is in danger, and you alone can save her;" replied Mr. Grainger.

"My mother in danger!" echoed Harriet, "why has she left us now?" and she turned as though she would leave the room to seek her.

"Stay," cried Mr. Grainger, "and I will briefly explain my meaning. Remember, Harriet, that there may be troubles sent to us only to make succeeding happiness more grateful to us. It may be, that which we look upon as the threshold of despair, is but the step towards enduring bliss. I hope—I do believe, that this apparent trouble which the proposition I have made seems to create in you, will be but the forerunner of a life of happiness. Consider that Mr. Raker is young—impetuous, perhaps, so much so as to lead occasionally to indiscretion, but through you he will be enabled to see his better self, and to improve, strengthening your happiness and his own. And oh, I need not tell you, that happiness so produced is far more lasting than that which springs from young desire, and has its foundation only in the promptings of a novel, and a transient sensation. I am an old man, Harriet. You were left a charge to me, and it is my desire to see you in possession of that lasting happiness of which I spoke just now. I will be frank and say, that the marriage I propose will, I hope, secure your happiness and restore Augustus Raker to his proper sphere, from which the uncontrolled possession of his own will may have perhaps—and naturally too—led him for a time away."

Harriet had again resumed her seat, and was attentively listening to the old man beside her.

"You are calmer now, Harriet," continued he, "and I will tell you how this marriage will indeed benefit you, for I speak of it in the hard

language of one who looks upon such matters with a view to the future of the lives of those most prominently interested in the matter. Your mother's income is under the control of Augustus Raker."

Harriet involuntarily started, and with her face still pale as before, she gazed upon the old lawyer, with a frightened look.

"Doubtless you are surprised, but the fact is so. The riches which Mr. Raker has lately obtained by the death of his father, include a mortgage of your mother's property, the interest upon which has for years accumulated. I will not say that Mr. Raker would use this power, which undoubtedly he possesses upon your mother's property, but possessing it, how much the more is the offer through me that he has made to you. Was I not right, Harriet, when I said I worked but for your happiness?"

He paused, for the young girl beside him was again weeping, and her distress appeared to overwhelm her. At length, the passion of her grief being spent, Mr. Grainger once more urged his suit with an earnestness indeed which seemed most strange beside the grief which it produced in her to whom he appealed. But his suit prevailed at last, and the deep intensity of Harriet's grief was succeeded by a calm, and a strange firmness appeared in the bearing of the young girl, which surprised Mr. Grainger, and almost shook him in his purpose.

It was remarkable, that in all this interview there appeared to be a studied desire to avoid the mention of the name of Henry Elliotson. That there should be silence in that respect, with Harriet, was not indeed a matter for much wonder, but with Mr. Grainger so closely connected as Henry Elliotson was with him, it was indeed strange that he should avoid as much as possible any reference to his name. How fain would Harriet have alluded to it, how gladly would she have pleaded his cause with the old man, and sought his help to strengthen the young affection which her heart had so recently conceived. But it was the very youth of that affection which operated as a check upon her. It was, indeed, new to her heart, and therefore she could scarcely believe that it really had an existence, at all events sufficient to give her strength necessary to discourse upon it. True, Mr. Grainger had mentioned Henry's name, to forbid his visits, but that was not enough to justify Harriet, at least she thought so, in avowing her passion to the old man; albeit, her bearing when Henry's name was mentioned, was more eloquent about that passion than all the words her tongue could utter.

The intensity of her grief was passed, and Mr. Grainger spoke to her more at length, and she listened to him calmly too, of the relative position of Henry and the young heir. She replied to the old man, and still calmly too, but it was rather the calmness of desperation than that which arises from the placid soul and the contented heart.

"Harriet," cried Mr. Grainger, "I am old now, but as I greet you the elected wife of the heir of Bendersleigh, I feel a joy and gratification which might warm a younger heart on such a subject. I can see," continued the old man, with more of feeling in his tone than he had yet displayed, "I can see the opening of a long line of happiness for you, in this marriage, of happiness for you all, and in that happiness I feel my own."

Harriet smiled as he spoke, but there was no joy expressed in her face. It was the cold smile that cloaks the heart's distress, and is a mockery of bliss.

"Yes, Harriet, I shall greet you as the beautiful young bride of the young heir of Bendersleigh, and I give you joy now. Come, let us join your mother, let us make her partaker of your hope, come."

He took the young girl's hand to lead her from the room, but as she rose to accompany him, the pallor on her cheek became painfully conspicuous.

"Harriet, you are not well," he anxiously exclaimed as he took her hand.

"Let us go to my mother," she replied, faintly.

She would have fallen had not Mr. Grainger supported her in his arms.

"Good God! Harriet," he cried, in alarm, "what is the matter?" but she did not hear him, and he cried aloud for help. With a violent effort he rang the bell, and the door was thrown open by Henry Elliotson, who was followed by Mrs. William Chasey and Mrs. Marshall.

"Good heavens! what has happened?" cried the young man, as he rushed up to Mr. Grainger.

"Some water, some water," gasped that gentleman.

Water was immediately procured, and Henry Elliotson took the hanging hand of Harriet, and sprinkled some cool drops on her face, Mr. Grainger resigning her into the care of the young man.

The alarm of Mrs. Marshall and her daughter was extreme, but as Harriet exhibited signs of recovery, they uttered no word to any one.

Gradually, returning consciousness displayed itself in Harriet's face as Henry Elliotson held her in his arms, chafing the beautiful brow that was turned towards his face, and from which the luxuriant hair was thrown back in wild disorder.

With a long drawn sigh, she opened her dark eyes, and looking for an instant vacantly round she recognised the presence of her lover, and with a wild shriek, sprang up and fell upon his neck, sobbing convulsively.

Mr. Grainger, for a moment or two allowed them to remain so, and then he tapped Henry Elliotson on the shoulder and motioned him to leave the room.

"Yes, sir," cried Henry, "in one moment. I have heard all, Harriet," said he, as he led her to a seat; "my hopes this morning were buoyant and bright, but an adverse destiny has wrecked them all in one short hour. Oh God!" he passionately exclaimed, "it appears like a dreadful dream. My brain seems all on fire. Farewell, Harriet," cried he, as he wildly kissed her forehead, "Farewell. Now, sir," he cried, as he waved his hand to Mr. Grainger.

"Stay, Henry, stay!" shrieked Harriet, as she darted from the chair towards him. "Henry—mother," she wildly cried, falling on her parents' neck, as the old lady stood near, weeping.

Again Mr. Grainger beckoned his pupil away.

"Hold, this marriage shall not take place," cried Mrs. Marshall, "my child's happiness shall not be sacrificed to my interest."

"Mother," cried Harriet, solemnly, "it must be so, the sacrifice has been made, Mr. Grainger has my promise; I could not see you deprived, perhaps of home, dependent on the bounty of others for the means wherewith to live. No, mother, there is one feeling greater even than love, and that feeling is pride. My resolution now is fixed, my hand is pledged, and you are saved."

She uttered this with a forced calmness which was painful to behold.

"Come," exclaimed Henry Elliotson, "again farewell, Harriet," he passionately exclaimed, as he took her hand and kissed it; "farewell, farewell, God bless you for ever."

Harriet remained reclining on her mother's neck some moments after Henry Elliotson had left the room, and both continued to weep.

"Cheer up," at length Mrs. Marshall exclaimed, "This is indeed the heaviest blow that I ever yet sustained."

"It is better so, perhaps, mother," replied Harriet, "You see that I am resigned. Yes, resigned as I ought to be," and then she took her mother's hand and told her to be cheerful.

(To be Continued.)

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

LONDON LODGES.

LODGE OF ANTIQUITY (No. 2).—The annual election for Master and Treasurer in this highly select Lodge took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, Nov. 22, when Br. Samuel Tomkins, G. Treasurer, was re-elected W. M. for the ensuing year, and Br. W. H. Smith, Treasurer. The after part of the evening was enlivened by the musical talents of Br. Jolly, D. King, Lawler, and H. Gear.

LODGE OF FIDELITY (No. 3).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on Wednesday, the 8th November, Br. Rignall presiding, the Masonic business was merely formal, but Br. P. M. Williams proposed and Br. P. M. Dearsly seconded a resolution to the effect, that a subscription should be opened amongst the brethren of the Lodge, in aid of the Patriotic Fund, for the aid of the families of those brave soldiers and sailors who may die or become disabled whilst discharging their duty to their Sovereign and their country, in the war in the east. The proposition was most warmly responded to, and upwards of £20 subscribed..

ROYAL SOMERSET HOUSE, AND INVERNESS LODGE (No 4).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Monday Nov. 27, under the presidency of Br. Levean, W. M., and P. G. S. W. The business consisted of one passing, and one raising, which, having been performed, the brethren adjourned—Amongst the visitors was Br. J. W. Baughton Leigh, P. D. G. M. for Warwickshire.

ROYAL YORK LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE (No. 7).—The members of this Lodge met together at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 15th ult., when Br. Hopwood, P. M. initiated a candidate into the order. The other Masonic business was of a formal nature.

BRITISH LODGE (No. 8).—The above Ancient, and highly distinguished Lodge, held its first meeting for the season, on Monday Nov. 20th, at the Freemasons Tavern, when the W. M. in a most able, and impressive manner, raised a brother to the sublime degree of a master mason, and initiated a gentleman into the order; after which about twenty of the brethren sat down to an excellent dinner, and spent the evening in great

harmony, assisted by Brs. H. Robinson and Mears. Among the visitors were P. Deputy G. M. and P. G. Sec. for Kent.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—After a short recess, which appears only to have tended to heighten the enjoyment of reunion, the members of this Lodge met together for the first time this season, on Wednesday the 8th November. The summons contained a most imposing show of business, but owing to unavoidable circumstances, it was reduced to three passings and two raisings, which were performed with his accustomed accuracy, by Br. P. M. Young. At the conclusion of the business the brethren adjourned to one of those elegant dinners for which the Freemasons Tavern is noted, the W.M., Br. Frederic Ledger presiding. There were several visitors present, amongst whom was Br. Stokes, an African missionary, who, with Br. J. W. Adams, returned thanks for the toast of the visitors, and the former described in glowing colours the cordial welcome which he, a native of Africa, had always met with from his brother masons in every part of the world in which it had been his lot to travel. The health of Br. Wilton, who took his second degree in the early part of the proceedings of the day, with prosperity to him in his forthcoming visit to California and Australia, in company with Mr. G. V. Brooke, the tragedian, was also drunk. In returning thanks, Br. Wilton assured the brethren that he felt deep regret at being compelled to leave friends amongst whom he had enjoyed so much unalloyed pleasure, and though he should take his third degree in a distant land, he should never fail to remember his brethren of the Enoch Lodge, with feelings of the deepest esteem and regard, trusting, that by the blessing of God, he would be enabled to rejoin them in their Lodge Room, in 1857. The evening passed off most harmoniously, and to show that the musical department was more than usually excellent, we need only mention that it comprised the talents of Bros. Leffler, T. Young, D. King, Lawler, Day, G. F. Taylor, Miss M. Taylor, and Miss Lucy Ledger. In the course of the evening a subscription was commenced in aid of the Patriotic Fund, which will remain open until after the next meeting.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—An emergency meeting of this Lodge, was held on the 16th November, when a gentleman was initiated into the order, a Br. passed, and two others raised to the then different degrees. The whole of the ceremonies were well performed by Br. P.M. Adams, in consequence of the absence of the W.M., Br. Hewlett, from indisposition.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—At the usual monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 6th of November, Br. Paterson, W. M., presiding, there were four brothers passed, and two raised to their respective degrees. One of the brethren passed was initiated some years since, but from that time residing abroad, he had delayed taking the second degree in Freemasonry, until he returned to his native land, where we trust he may long continue to dwell in happiness and prosperity. All masonic business having concluded, the brethren supped together, the evening's entertainment being heightened by the vocal exertions of Bros. Fielding, and G. F. Taylor.

MOUNT MORIAH LODGE (No. 40).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday, Nov. 22, under the presidency of Br. Samuel Oram, W. M., who initiated a candidate into the order with great impressiveness. Upwards of 30 brethren afterwards dined together, amongst whom were Br. John Harvey, G. S. D., and several other visitors.

GRENADIERS LODGE (No. 79).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge on Thursday, the 23rd November, Br. Tyler, W. M., initiated a properly qualified member into the order.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—The first meeting for the season of this Lodge, which is presided over by Br. Johnson, W.M., was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 9th November, when two candidates having been balloted for, the Lodge was adjourned until the following Tuesday, in consequence of a number of the brethren being engaged at civic festivals, consequent upon its being "Lord Mayor's Day." On Tuesday, the 14th, the Lodge reassembled, when the two candidates were

duly initiated into the order, and a Br. of the German Lodge, Prometheus, No. 8., admitted a joining member.

TUSCAN LODGE (No. 14).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday evening the 28th November, when Br. Ellis, W.M., very impressively initiated two candidates into the order. The S.W., Br. Moxon, was then elected W.M. for the ensuing year. The whole of the Masonic business being ended the brethren adjourned to refreshment, their being several visitors present, amongst whom were Br. Tyler, W.M., 79; Br. Sandford, 275; Br. Parbury; and Br. Ransford, G.O.

ST. MARY'S LODGE (No. 76).—At the first monthly Lodge of the season held on the 16th, Br. Skelton, W.M. presiding, Br. Kelly was unanimously elected Master for the ensuing year; Br. Ransford, G.O. was present during the evening.

MOIRA LODGE (No. 109).—The members of this Lodge reassembled for the season in great force, on the 30th October, at the London Tavern, there being about 40 brethren present. Br. Law, W.M., occupied the chair, but the only business of importance transacted, was the proposal of four candidates for admission into the order.

LODGE OF FAITH (No. 165).—The members of this Lodge met together at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 31st October, for the purpose of installing the Master for the ensuing year. After the usual formal business had been transacted, Br. Gillard was most ably installed by Br. Rackstraw, the oldest P.M. in the Lodge, with which he has been connected upwards of 30 years. The installation having been concluded, the new Master proceeded to appoint as his officers, Br. McManus, S.W.; Br. Odell, J.W.; Br. Carter, S.D.; Br. Fitch, J.D.; Br. Kardel, I.G.; and Br. Anslow, jun. secretary. Br. Anslow, sen., was also reinvested with the insignia of office as treasurer. Two gentlemen were initiated into masonry, and a Br. passed to the second degree. At the conclusion of the business, the whole of which was very neatly gone through, the brethren adjourned to an elegant banquet and spent a very pleasant evening, in the course of which many regrets were expressed that ere long the brethren would have to remove to a new Lodge House, Br. Rackstraw, the respected host of the Gun, having received notice that the premises would shortly be required for destruction, consequent upon the approaching completion of the improvements between Pimlico and Westminster.

ST. THOMAS'S LODGE (No. 166).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons Tavern on the 4th of November, when Br. Tucker, the W.M., presided, and the ceremonies of passing and raising were admirably performed.

CADOGAN LODGE (No. 188).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on the 17th November, the ceremonies of initiation, passing, and raising were all excellently performed by Br. Malkin, the W.M.

LODGE OF PRUDENT BRETHREN (No. 169).—The second meeting for the season was held at the Freemason's Tavern, on Tuesday, Br. Kirby in the chair, when the ceremony of initiation having been gone through, Br. Hewlett, S.W., (the present master of the Globe Lodge, the chair of which he is just about to quit, was elected W.M., for the ensuing year. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant supper. Amongst the visitors were, Br. Bohn, P.M., 201, and Br. Banks, who in the course of the evening, in acknowledging the toast of visitors, after Br. Bohn, said, that when he received the masters invitation to the Lodge, he had in his hands an ancient relic (which he was contemplating seriously), fashioned by one of a race which was ancient when Rome was young. The feeling he had at the moment, was one of gratitude, as a father of a large family, to the kind parent who could (at so remote a period) devote his thoughts to the pleasing task of amusing his children. He almost felt envious that he could not, as an adult, find an equal enjoyment of so antique a nature. The kind invitation to join a Freemasons Lodge immediately relieved his mind, for he knew that he should meet a society famous for its antiquity, a society formed by men coeval with the ancient Etruscan, who manufactured the relic he had alluded to—a clay doll, similar to the wooden ones of the present day, excepting that the head was exquisitely carved—which was found in an excavated tomb, and he was sure these ancient figures could not have pleased the

juvenile portion of the community of that age more than their noble order instructed, improved, and delighted, its members at the present.

LODGE OF OLD CONCORD (No. 201).—At the meeting of this Lodge, on the 7th November, when it assembled for the first time since the vacation; the W.M. Br. Kennedy, initiated two candidates (one of them being a clergyman), into the order, and a Br. was raised to the third degree. Br. Borth P.M., and Br. Watson P.M. were elected trustees to the Benevolent Fund of the Lodge.

PHOENIX LODGE (No. 202).—The first meeting for the season of this flourishing Lodge, was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 11th November, under the presidency of the new W. M., Br. Jno. Webber, when a candidate was admitted into the order, two brethren passed, and one raised, to their respective degrees. At the conclusion of the business, the brethren enjoyed a very happy evening, to the pleasures of which Bros. Genge, Farquharson, and Smythson, materially contributed.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—On Monday, the 13th ult., the members of this Lodge, held their monthly meeting at Br. Ireland's Masonic Hall, Fetter Lane, when a Br. was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M., and a candidate initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry, the ceremonies being very ably performed by Br. Joseph Smith P.M., acting for the W.M., whose absence was unavoidable, assisted by Br. Elmes, P.M., as S.W., and Br. Thomas A. Adams, J.W. The election for W.M., for the ensuing year took place, and the votes of the brethren were unanimously in favour of Br. Thomas A. Adams, J. W., of the Lodge, and P.M. (196), who in the course of the evening, proposed five gentlemen for initiation in the Lodge. Among the visitors present were, Br. Bennett (844), St. John's, Newfoundland; Br. George Addison, (259), Romford; Br. Thomas Bohn, P.M., (201), &c. Br. Josiah Smith, P.M., was re-elected treasurer of the Lodge, and Br. Sigrist, P.M., treasurer of the Fund of Benevolence, attached to the Lodge. The evening passed in perfect harmony, and the style in which the refreshments were served, conferred great credit on the worthy and respected caterer.

LODGE OF TRANQUILITY (No. 218).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the George and Vulture Tavern, Cornhill, on Monday, November 20, Br. Herman, the W.M., ably initiated two candidates into the order; and passed two brethren, who had duly gone through the necessary examination, to the second degree. In the course of the evening, the claims of the widow and the orphan on the support of the brethren was ably urged, and it was stated that a ball would take place in January, in aid of the benevolent fund attached to the Lodge.

LODGE OF JOPPA (No. 223).—The second monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the White Hart Inn, Bishopsgate, on the 16th Nov. The W.M. Br. Jones occupied the chair, and initiated two candidates for the mysteries of Freemasonry, into the order; he also passed two brothers to the Second Degree. It was resolved to make certain alterations in the bye-laws, whereby the fees payable in the Lodge will be increased. After the close of the Masonic business the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and in the course of the evening a special bumper was dedicated to the health of Br. Wade, who was passed in the car'y part of the business of the day, he being about to depart for Australia, wishing him God speed, prosperity in all his undertakings, and a safe and happy return to his native country whenever he may desire it.

JERUSALEM LODGE (No. 233).—This Lodge met for the first time after the recess, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 1st of November, Br. P.M. Rooke, presiding. After the usual business had been gone through, a ballot was taken for W.M. for the ensuing year, when it was declared to have unanimously fallen on Br. L. Crombie, S.W. The Treasurer of the past year having been re-elected, the Lodge was closed in perfect harmony.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281).—The first meeting for the season of this Lodge took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, the 2nd of November. The chair was occupied by Br. Richard Mills, W.M., who initiated a candidate into the order and passed a brother to the Second Degree. After the initiation, the charge (the giving of which is too often neglected) was most impressively delivered by the W.M. All other business being ended, the W.M. warmly urged the advantage to be derived from the re-establishment of a Lodge of Instruction in connection with the Lodge, that which formerly bore the name of St. Andrew having long since ceased to exist.

At an emergency meeting on the 16th, the W.M., Br. Mills, most ably initiated two brethren into the order.

LODGE OF UNIONS (No. 318).—Br. P.M. John Hervey presided over the monthly meeting of this Lodge, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, the 6th of November, when assisted by his Wardens and other officers, he most impressively performed the ceremony of raising.

POLISH NATIONAL LODGE (No. 778).—The first meeting of this Lodge for the season, took place on the 9th November, the whole of the business being very ably gone through by the W.M., Br. Ritterbandt. Brs. Coggin and Banks, two of the partners in the Freemason's Tavern, were elected joining members, Br. W. Watson, having been one of its earliest members. In the course of the evening Br. Banks, returned thanks for the honour conferred upon himself and partner, by being elected into the Lodge, and said, he was sorry he could bring no strength to it, some might bring them honour, some intelligence, but he could increase the value of the Lodge no further than by adding one more to their number. It was upwards of a quarter of a century since he was initiated into Freemasonry, and regretted to add, that his Masonic knowledge was very limited; but he trusted he possessed one qualification of Freemasonry, good-fellowship, which was strongly impressed upon him at an early period, when he was taught that the superstruction of society was comprised in the words 'brotherly love, relief, and truth.' He believed that Freemasonry was the foundation of all charitable feelings, and the various benevolent institutions, that existed in this great country. He would now revert to the constituent part of the Lodge, which was Polish. He had from an early period felt strongly in favour of the nationality of Poland, and had sympathised in the struggles of that gallant nation. He had formerly read a line of Campbell's, viz., "Freedom shrieked when Kosciusko fell;" he thought that that was the death knell of Poland; but on reflection, he found that a shriek was not the knell of death, but suffering only, and he was happy in the feeling that Poland was not dead, but that she would rise again from her sufferings like the 'Phoenix from her own ashes.'

INSTRUCTION.

EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT.—The Anniversary festival of this excellent Lodge of Instruction, was celebrated at the Freemons Tavern last night, by a very elegant supper, to which about 200 brethren sat down under the presidency of Br. Beadon, P. G. W. In the course of the evening, a testimonial consisting of a very valuable chronometer and chain, was presented to Br. John Hervey, G. S. D.—as a mark of respect due to him from the brethren, in conducting and bringing the Lodge to its present prosperous position. The chronometer bears the following inscription:—Presented by the brethren of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, No. 318, to Br. John Hervey, S.G.D., Treasurer, to evince their appreciation of the zeal and ability with which he has discharged his Masonic duties to the Lodges, and his unremitting attention to the interests of the craft in general; 1854. A full report of the proceedings will appear in our next number.

FIDELITY LODGE (No. 3).—The annual festival of this well supported Lodge of Instruction, which holds its meetings at the Yorkshire Grey, London-street, Fitzroy-square, was celebrated on the 9th ult., at Br. Ireland's Masonic Hall, Falcon Tavern, Fetter-lane, and was attended by more than 40 of the craft. Br. Dearsly, P.M., No. 3, occupied the chair; the vice-chair was filled by Br. Tyrrell. The chief interest of the re-union was the presentation of a P.M.'s jewel to Br. R. Grant, for the great services which he has rendered this Lodge of Instruction. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been duly honoured, Br. Heath, P.M. of No. 3, addressing Br. Grant, said, that it had fallen to his lot as a Mason to discharge many agreeable duties; but he had never been called to the performance of one so agreeable as that which he was then about to fulfil—namely, to present to him (Br. Grant) a P.M.'s jewel, voted by the Fidelity Lodge of Instruction in

appreciation of his services. He (Br. Heath) had been present at his initiation, and had carefully watched his Masonic career, and could safely say that he never knew a Mason who had in such a short time perfected himself in their mysteries; nor did he think there was in the craft a member who had more undeviatingly acted upon the grand principles upon which the Order was founded. Therefore, it was that he felt a peculiar pleasure in presenting him with that jewel, and he hoped that he might long live to wear it with honour to himself and advantage to the craft.—Br. Grant, in feeling terms, acknowledged the compliment, and stated that he considered that, as it had been in Lodges of Instruction he had himself acquired his Masonic knowledge, he was only fulfilling his duty in imparting that knowledge to the younger brethren in the craft.—The evening was enlivened by some excellent singing, and passed off in perfect harmony.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

CHAPTER OF FIDELITY (No. 3).—At a convocation of this Chapter, held on Friday, the 3rd of November, Comp. Jones was elected Z; Comp. Shackelton, H; Comp. Grant, J; Comp. Dr. Tomkins, E; Comp. Benwell, N; and Comp. Figg, P.S.

ST. GEORGE AND CORNER STONE CHAPTER (No. 5).—This Chapter met at the Freemasons Tavern, on Saturday, Nov. 25, when Comp. John Haver, P.Z., assisted by the other officers of Chapter, exalted a brother into the arch. The attendance of the Comps. was very limited.

MOUNT SINAI CHAPTER (No. 49).—The last meeting for the present year was held at Br. Rackstraw's, Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on Tuesday, Nov. 21, when Br. Henley and Kardel were exalted into the Royal Arch. The ceremony was very beautifully performed by Br. Andrews, Z; Kirby, H; Br. Cooper, J; and Br. Mortimer, P.S. The season closed with an elegant supper, at which "a bumper at parting" was drunk to "the next merry meeting."

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

At the monthly meeting of this Board on Wednesday last, Nov. 29, the sum of eighty eight pounds was voted amongst twelve recipients. This was the annual night for adding twelve past masters to the board, but in consequence of certain allegations as to the disposal of the funds, which we believe to be altogether unfounded, the absolute election was postponed, seventeen or eighteen candidates being proposed to fill the vacancies at the Board. We certainly wish that some one or two brethren, who are at the Board, would remember that they are placed there to afford relief to indigent brethren, and not in the character of relieving officers of a union.

MARK MASONS.

THE Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masons, which is held under a warrant from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, assembled together at the Freemasons' Tavern for the first time this season on the 1st of November. In consequence of the decease of our late much regretted Comp. Wm. Evans, the chair was occupied by P.M. Comp. Dr. Jones, through whose exertions the Charter for the Lodge was originally obtained. Two duly qualified brothers having been advanced to the degree, Comp. Norton was installed Master for the ensuing year, when he was pleased to appoint Comp. Sir John Delapole, S.W.; Comp. Vigin, J.W.; Comp. Cole, S.D.; Comp. Wheeler, J.D.; Comp. Lepper, I.G.; Comp. Ridgway, Sec.; and Comp. G. F. Taylor, Organist. Comp. P.M. Collins having been invested as Treasurer, it was resolved that a Committee should be appointed to consider the best means of raising a testimonial to the memory of the late Comp. Evans, and that a letter of condolence, expressive of the high regard in which he was held by the members of the Lodge, should be forwarded to his widow on her melancholy and irreparable loss. A Committee was also appointed to confer with Committees from other Lodges, with regard to a testimonial which it is proposed to present to Comp. Wm. Tucker, P.P.G.M. for Dorsetshire, as an acknowledgment of the services which he has rendered to the Bon Accord and other Lodges.

MASONIC KNIGHT TEMPLARS.

THE encampment of Mount Carmel mustered roll at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, on the 27th of October, when Sir Knt. Comp. T. Vesper was installed E.C. for the ensuing year. Amongst the visitors on the occasion was Sir Knt. Comp. Hy. Emly, Grand Chancellor of the order.

ROYAL FREEMASONS' GIRL SCHOOL.

At an adjourned meeting of the House Committee on Saturday, the 25th Nov., to consider the testimonials of the certificates for the situation of Governess vacant by the death of Mrs. Crooks, it was resolved to recommend Miss Suter to the General Court for the office. Miss Suter, who is the orphan daughter of the once well-known bookseller of Fleet-street, was originally educated in the Royal St. Ann's Asylum Schools, whence she proceeded to Whiteland's Training Institution, from which she holds a high certificate of her talents. From inquiries we have been able to make, we believe Miss Suter to be in every way suited to the situation to which she aspires.

 PROVINCIAL LODGES, &c..

DEVONSHIRE.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE, STONEHOUSE (No. 122).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge, was held at the George Hotel, on the second Wednesday (Nov. 8), Br. E. W. Cole, W.M. in the chair, when a Br. received the third degree in Freemasonry, the ceremony being performed by P. M. Doidge with his usual ability. There were eight visiting brothers, who expressed great gratification at the able and correct manner in which the ceremony was performed; after which the nomination of a W.M. for the year ensuing took place, and Br. Phillips the senior warden was unanimously named as successor to the present W. M.

A Royal Arch Chapter of this Lodge, was bolden on the 14th inst., when three qualified brethren were duly exalted, the ceremony being performed by P. Z. Companion Pollard, in his usual impressive and able manner. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the companions retired to partake of an excellent supper provided by Companion Killingly, M.E.Z., and the evening was much enlivened by some good songs and toasts. This Chapter is rapidly progressing in numbers, and bids fair to become the strongest in this province.

EXETER.—The St. George's Royal Arch Chapters (129) has aided the Patriotic Fund by voting to it out of the monies of the lodge the sum of £5.

STARCROSS.—The brethren of the Lodge of Union (650) have also voted the sum of £5 in aid of the Patriotic Fund.

DURHAM.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY LODGE, DURHAM (No. 146).—Among the additional subscribers to the "Patriotic Fund," we are glad to notice the donation of 10*l.* from this Lodge; and we trust the step taken by the Granby, will be followed by every Lodge in the United Kingdom. It will occur to all members of the craft that among our numerous soldiers and sailors at the seat of war there will be a large number of Freemasons; and this spontaneous act on the part of the craft in the city of Durham, shows, that apart from the nationality which always characterizes the order, they have not forgotten that to relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but more particularly so on Masons, who are linked together by an indivisible chain of sincere affection. To soothe calamity, alleviate misfortune, compassionate misery, and restore peace to the troubled mind, is the grand aim of the true Mason.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

On Friday, 25th August, the Grand Lodge of Northumberland held its annual meeting in the Town Hall, at Morpeth, when a new Lodge was constituted, consecrated, and dedicated as Lodge De Ogle, No. 919, under the authority of the G. M. of England, the Earl of Zetland—Br. Robert Shute, of Morpeth, being installed first W.M. of the new Lodge. The ceremonies of the occasion, under the able direction of Br. Dalziel, P.G. director of ceremonies, were much enhanced by the effective performance of the various anthems, &c., accompanied by Br. Barkers delightful instrumental music—not the least pleasing feature of the day being the attendance of several ladies during that part of the ceremony in which they could be admitted. The business of the Grand Lodge was then proceeded with, and the following brethren were installed office-bearers for the ensuing year:—William Berkley, P.G.S.W.; John S. Challoner, P. G. J. W.; Rev. John Bigge, P. G. Chaplain; Rev. Clement Moody, P. G. treasurer; Thomas Fenwick, P. G. Registrar; G. P. Birkenshaw, P. G. Sec.; John Clay Gibson, P. G. S. D.; R. Winlow, P. G. J. D.; W. Dalziel, P. G. Dr. of Ceremon.; John Green, P. G., S. of Works; Haswell, P. G. Organist; D. W. Spence, P. G. Usher; George Fenwick, P. G. Sword Bearer; W. E. Franklin, P. G. Standard-bearer; W. Richardson, P. G. Pursuivant; Alexander Dickson, P. G. Tyler.

Grand Stewards:—John Thompson, St. David's Lodge, Berwick; John Shield, Junr. Northern Counties' Lodge, Newcastle; Stephen Owen, St. George's Lodge, North Shields; Edward French, St. Peter's Lodge, Newcastle; James Gilpin, Junr. Lodge De Loraine, Newcastle; R. Vardy, Lodge De Ogle, Morpeth.

In addition to the brethren named above, there was a large and influential number of the fraternity present, among whom might be named Rev. E. C. Ogle, the Grand Master of the Province of Northumberland and Berwick-on-Tweed; Richard Medcalf, Esq., D.P.G.M.; Rev. R. Buckeridge; Rev. W. Shields; H. P. Monk, W. M., 586, &c, &c.

After concluding the business of the day, the brethren adjourned to dinner at the Black Bull Inn, where a large company spent the evening with that harmony and good feeling so characteristic of the Order.

NEWCASTLE.

On the 8th November, the foundation of some new Church Schools took place in this town, with Masonic honours, in order to bring the Mayoralty of Ralph Dodds, Esq., who has greatly interested himself with regard to the success of the schools, to a worthy conclusion.

The brethren who were to form the procession met at 9½ A.M. in the Assembly Rooms, where the P.G. Lodge was opened by the P.G.M. (Rev. E. C. Ogle).

A procession was then formed, and repaired to the church of St. Nicholas as under:—

Police Officers.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, and Members of the Corporation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The Clergy.

Band of Music.

Tyler.

Visiting Brethren, not Members of any Lodge present, two and two.

Visiting Lodges, according to rank, Junior Lodge going first.

Lodge "De Ogle,"	No. 919.
" "De Loraine,"	793.
" "St. Peter's,"	706.
" "St. George's,"	624.
" "Borough,"	614.
" "Northern Counties,"	586.
" "St. David's,"	554.
" "St. John's,"	95.
" "Industry,"	56.
" "Newcastle-on-Tyne,"	24.

Tyler.

Banner.

Brethren, two and two, Juniors first,

Inner Guard.

Senior Deacon, with Wand. Secretary. Senior Warden.	Past Masters, two and two. Worshipful Master	Junior Deacon, with Wand. Treasurer. Junior Warden.
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Steward, with Wand. Steward, with Wand.

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

P.G. Pursuivant, Wm. Richardson.
Cornucopia with Corn, borne by a P.M.

Blackwood.	Ewer with Wine, borne by P.M. Br. Hewett.	Ewer with Oil, borne by P.M. Br. Hodgson.
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P.G. Organist, James Spark.
P.G. Assistant Director of Ceremonies, D. W. Spence.
P.G. Director of Ceremonies, William Dalziel.
Silver Trowel, borne by Past Master, George Weatherhead, 24.
P.G. Superintendent of Works, with Plans, John Green.

Thomas Robinson.	Past P.G. Deacons.	John Barker.
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P.G. Secretaries, with Book of Constitutions and Brass Plate, with Inscription.
G. P. Birkenshaw, Esq.

J. Crosby. P.G. Registrar, bearing the Seal of P.G. Lodge, Thomas Fenwick.
P.G. Treasurer, carrying a Phial containing Coins, to be deposited in the Stone.
The Rev. C. Moody, M.A., Vicar of Newcastle.

P.G. CHAPLAIN, BEARING THE SACRED LAW ON A CUSHION, the Rev. J. F. Bigge, M.A.
Edward French, P.G. Steward. P.G. Steward, John Foreman.
William Panshon. Past P.G. Wardens. J. W. Mayson.

The Corinthian Light, borne by a Past Master.
The Column of the P.J.G. Warden, borne by a Past Master.
THE P.J.G. WARDEN, WITH THE PLUMB RULE, J. S. Challoner, Esq.
The Doric Light, borne by Br. L. H. Monro, P.M., 56.
The P.J.G. Deacon, with Wand, J. Winlow.

The Column of the Prov. S.G. Wardens, borne by a P. Master, Captain Ducane, R.E.
THE P.S.G. WARDEN WITH THE LEVEL, William Berkley, Esq.

THE V. WORSHIPFUL THE D.P.G. MASTER, RICHARD MEDCALF, Esq.
P.G. Steward. P.G. Steward, Stephen Owen

The Ionic Light, borne by Br. W. H. Smith, P.M., 706.
The Mallet, borne by Past Master, Jas. Calbreath, 24.
Banner of the P.G. Master of Northumberland, W. E. Franklin.
The P.G. Sword Bearer, George Fenwick.

THE R. WORSHIPFUL PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER, the Rev. E. C. Ogle.
John Shield, P.G. Steward. P.G. Steward, James Gilpin.

The P.G.S. Deacon, John C. Gibson.
P.G. Tyler, Alexander Dickson.

The church was crowded—the Freemasons occupying the pews on each side of the central aisle. Prayers were read by the Rev. Br. Clement Moody, Vicar, (who has become a Mason during his residence in Newcastle). The choral services of the church were admirably given. The Reverend R. W. Williamson, incumbent of Lamesley, preached the sermon, taking for his text Ephes. vi. 4, “Bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” On this theme the reverend gentleman delivered an earnest and appropriate discourse, in which he expressed a hope that the Vicar’s scheme for the establishment of schools would be carried out until not a poor child in Newcastle should lack a religious education.

At the close of the service, the procession was formed anew, and received the interesting addition of a long line of school children—so long that one might almost wonder where the untaught urchins were to come from.

As the procession wended its way from street to street, it was honoured with the presence of crowds of spectators, and a more pleasing and interesting spectacle has seldom been witnessed on any public occasion. The children of the different schools, amounting to about 2,000, all lively and healthy in appearance, and clean and neat in attire, attracted especial attention; and as to the masonic body, it formed quite a novelty, as it is many years since any similar demonstration has been made in this town. The dress of the Provincial Grand Lodge was very handsome, being ordered expressly for the occasion through brother Donald, P.P.G.S.W., at a cost of 120 guineas. The site fixed upon for the school for St. Andrew’s parish is situated behind the Percy-street Iron Manufactory. Previous to the arrival of the procession a numerous company of ladies had taken up their position near it to witness the ceremony. A short time after one o’clock the band of the N.N.V.C. entered the ground, playing, in beautiful style, the popular air of “Annie Laurie,” and as the children

entered they were marshalled into good order by Mr. Gibson, assistant overseer of St. Nicholas, whose exertions throughout were deserving of the highest praise. Next came the choir of St. Nicholas', together with the clergy and churchwardens, followed by the Mayor and Corporation. After a short delay, the Right Worshipful the Mayor proceeded with the ceremony of laying the stone, on which the stone was raised and maintained in its elevation until the children sung a hymn, entitled "THE FOUNDATION STONE," the words of which were written by the Right Hon. Stephen Lushington, D.C.L., and the music composed by Mr. J. Garnett. The first verse of the hymn ran thus:—

"Lord, to Thee our songs we raise,
Hear our prayer, accept our praise;
God of love, our efforts own,
Laying this Foundation Stone."

At the termination of the hymn, the Rev. Richard Buckeridge, Incumbent of St. Andrew's, offered up a suitable prayer, when a phial, containing several medals, was deposited in a cavity of the stone by the Mayor; after which, Mr. J. H. Ingledew read the following inscription, engraved on a brass plate, intended to cover the cavity:—

"The foundation stone of this school, being the first of a series of ten Church of England Schools about to be erected (God willing), for the industrial classes of this borough. It was laid by the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Newcastle, Ralph Dodds, Esq., on Wednesday, the 8th November, 1854.

The Right Rev. Edward Maltby, D.D., Bishop of this diocese of Durham.

The Rev. Clement Moody, Vicar of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The Rev. Richard Buckeridge, Incumbent of the parish of St. Andrew.

DEO GLORIA."

A handsome silver trowel manufactured by Messrs. Reid & Sons, Grey-street, was then presented to the Mayor as a gift, bearing the following inscription:—

"Presented to Ralph Dodds, Esq., Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of a school, for the parish of St. Andrew, by the Rev. Clement Moody, Vicar of Newcastle, and the Rev. Richard Buckeridge, Incumbent of the parish of St. Andrew.—Wednesday, Nov. 8, 1854."

The cement having been spread in a masterly style over the stone by the Mayor, it was lowered into its bed, and, after the plumb, level, and square had tested its true position, the children, aided by the band, and accompanied by a great number of the company, sang the inimitable and well-known Psalm of the "Old Hundred." The Vicar then proposed three cheers for the Mayor and Mrs. Mayoress, which was most heartily responded to. The blessing then followed, after which the National Anthem was sung in fine style by all present, which terminated this interesting part of the day's proceedings.

The procession then formed, with the exception of the members of the Corporation taking their places behind the Masonic body, and proceeded onward by Percy-street and Blakett-street, to the Shieldfield to lay the foundation stone of the school for the parish of All Saints, the ceremony having to be performed by the Rev. Edw. Challoner Ogle, of Kirkley Hall, P.G.M. of the Free and Accepted Masons of Northumberland and Berwick upon Tweed. The site fixed upon was a large piece of vacant ground, the property of Mr. Copeland, Shieldfield, and to prevent disorder and pressure by the crowd, a large space had been taken off, and enclosed by a wooden fence. As at the Percy-street site, a large company of ladies were assembled to witness the ceremony, including Mrs. Mayoress, Mrs. Dr. Headlam, the lady of the Vicar, and several other highly respectable individuals. On the arrival of the children, they were judiciously arranged around the extremities of the square, while within it were placed the ladies, and the numerous body of gentlemen and officials present to take part in the proceedings. The P.G.M. having approached the stone, it was raised, when the "Foundation Stone" hymn was again sung by the children. This having been concluded, a handsome silver trowel was presented to the reverend gentleman, bearing a similar inscription to that on the trowel previously presented to the Mayor, with the name of the Grand Master, the Vicar, and the Rev. Walter Irvine, incumbent of All Saints, upon it. The silver trowel was manufactured by Messrs. Donald & Son, New-

castle. The ceremony then proceeded, the stone having been placed in its bed and duly consecrated by the Grand Chaplain (the Rev. F. Bigge, Stamfordham). The elements of consecration were corn, wine, and oil; after which the Grand Chaplain offered up the following prayer:—

O Lord, Thou that inhabitest eternity, and hast raised out of nothing the mighty fabric of this universe, the heavens, the air, the earth, and the sea; Thou that fillest the whole and every thing that is in it, and art Thyself boundless and incomprehensible, look down graciously upon Thy servants who are about to presume to erect this building to the honour of Thy name. Let Thy Holy Spirit descend upon it in the blessing of Thy peculiar presence; Thou that art everywhere, deign also to be with us. Thou that seest and hearest all things, look down from Thy throne of glory, and give ear to our supplications; and if, at any time hereafter, Thou shalt be moved, in Thy just displeasure, to punish this people for their transgressions, with any of Thy terrible judgments—famine, pestilence, or the sword—yet, if they make supplication and return to Thee, with all their heart and with all their soul, then hear Thou them, O Lord, in heaven Thy dwelling place, and forgive their sin, and remove Thy judgment.

The Grand Master then said, "Having laid this stone, may the grand Architect, who has so kindly blessed us for the proceedings of the day, enable those engaged in the building to complete it, and may it hereafter be preserved from ruin and decay, and be of lasting prosperity. I therefore strew corn on the stone as the emblem of plenty; I pour wine on it as the emblem of cheerfulness; and I anoint it with oil as the emblem of comfort and consolation." The Grand Master then turning to the entire assembly, addressed it as follows:—"Fellow craftsmen, respected vicar, citizens of this great and important town, and all who are interested in this day's proceedings, if I had a hundred tongues and a hundred voices, I could not express to you sufficiently the probable result of the great events of this day's engagements. When men build schools it is impossible to see the end thereof. To a few the end may be unfortunate, but to the many the end must be blessed. The education which the sons and daughters of the labourer, the artizan, the mechanic may receive at school may, in a few cases, have results we do not wish to see, but in the great majority of instances the result is most harmonizing, not to say divine. But if anything will tend to promote the true design and the prosperity of this school and its kindred ones, which the vicar of this town so magnanimously contemplates, it will be the blessing of heaven which we have invoked this day on our undertaking. I almost invariably have found that out of evil good comes, that is, so long as man does not directly do evil that good may come; but if I am not mistaken, the very dire plague and grievous sickness which dessolated so many of the once happy homes of this town last year about this time, opened the eyes of the ecclesiastics as well as those of the civil authorities, to the alarming destitution of schools and the want of education for your children. I cannot but lament the destruction of valuable lives that pestilence made, but I must rejoice, as a Christian and as a man, that the rod has not smitten you in vain, that the scourge has produced such nobled-minded efforts to stem and turn the evil tide of ignorance, and misery, its great companion. The mayor and corporation, and the burgesses have been busily employed this day in laying the foundation stone for another school, but we, in no spirit of sectarian rivalry, have done the same for this school. There are, it is well known, other schools in this town and elsewhere, conducted on what are termed liberal principles; but these schools will be conducted on church principles. The scholastic duties within them are designed so that the children shall receive no religious bias or check from their teachers, as the schools are designed to teach dogmas of the church, and to bend the thoughts of children to a great and fixed society, and keep them there. These schools, therefore, will place the simple text of the Bible in the hands of their scholars, and leave it to their ministers to interpret, or authorize the teachers to interpret, the simple text by formularies and word of mouth. But however different may be the methods in which they proceed, I am sure that your mayor and your vicar have both one object in view, which is to promote the welfare of the present and the rising generation, and the glory of God. I may illustrate their respective proceedings by your ships in your port. You must have bent 'knees' as well as 'straight planks' for a perfect and proper vessel. So you must have the bendings of the church and the straight lines of unfettered religion to perfect the proper proportions of the great social edifice in this land. So you observe there is no rivalry in this day's proceedings except the emulation for good purposes.

There is, however, room for every possible exertion in bringing in the degraded and ignorant children from the streets and lanes of this town, and we all join head and heart in the excellent cause. We shall find that we can have unity of purpose without uniformity or practice in scholastic duties; and we shall rejoice to think that we have taken warning by times, when we see these schools flourishing and children brought up in "the nurture and fear of the Lord." And pardon me if I still retain the impression of my old calling in life, and thank God that he has vouchsafed to touch our heart with this admonition, and so to avoid His judgments—"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." The Grand Master, after paying a brief and merited mark of respect to the Vicar, whose exertions were beyond all comment in commencing this noble project, concluded by alluding to the gift of the trowel, as follows:—You have presented me with an instrument of our craft, which I will immensely prize, and I cordially thank you for it. I shall take it home and deposit it in a conspicuous place in my house of residence; and I will direct that it be handed from me to my son, and to my son's son "in perpetual generations," as a valuable ornament and as an excellent token—an ornament for its surpassing workmanship, which does honour to the silversmith—and a token, that as it spread the well-tempered mortar on the foundation stone, so may the well-tempered mortar of the prophet be spread by means of this school on the great edifice of humanity, which shall rise generation after generation from the people of this town." (Loud cheers.)

The schools which are to form a portion of ten, which it is proposed to erect in Newcastle, in accordance with a proposition made by the worthy Vicar, and which has been warmly seconded by the inhabitants, have been designed by Mr. George Wallen, Architect of Newcastle; and the building has been entrusted to Messrs. Gibson and Stewart.

Both before and after the ceremony, the children were regaled with substantial refreshments.

THE COLLATION.

About four o'clock, the ladies and gentlemen who had taken part in the ceremony, sat down to an elegant cold collation, provided at the Assembly Rooms, Westgate-street. The Mayor of Newcastle occupied the chair; the duties of the vice-chair being ably fulfilled by the Under-Sheriff (John Fenwick, Esq.), the Sheriff being unavoidably absent from indisposition. At the head table were observed the Mayoress, the Lady of the Vicar of Newcastle, Mrs. Dr. Headlam, Miss Walton, Miss Clayton, &c. The excellent band of the Northumberland and Newcastle Yeomanry Cavalry, stationed in an ante-room, boomed forth appropriate airs in the course of the evening.

At the conclusion of the repast, the health of Her Majesty, Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family; the Bishop and Clergy of the diocese; responded to by the Rev. Dr. Davies, Rector of Gateshead; the Army and Navy acknowledged by Capt. Weatherly, having been drunk with all the honors.

The Rev. E. C. OGLE rose to propose a toast. He said, that had not been to him a common day, beginning and ending merely with the usual occurrences of life, but had been a day which had opened up to him sources of satisfaction which he should not speedily forget. He had found himself associated with the Mayor and Corporation of Newcastle in one of the greatest works that man could put his hand to. If their fellow-creatures had souls to be saved, then they must feel that they had been engaged this day in promoting the noblest of man's work—namely, making preparations for the education of the child. By education he did not mean merely writing and reading, for these, after all, were only the instruments of education, and might be used against it; but he meant, that sound moral training which would enable the child to grow up into a man of good sound principles, wherewith to meet the attacks of the knave and the infidel. Associated in this work as he had been this day with the Mayor and Corporation of this important town, he had very great pleasure in proposing their health as a toast. (Applause.)

The MAYOR responded; observing that he scarcely remembered any day in his life the proceedings of which had afforded him more heartfelt gratification. He had given to this scheme all the assistance in his power; but he hoped, in a very short time, to have more leisure to lend his reverend friend the vicar a little more assistance. In nothing should he be more willing to co-operate than in the furtherance of such a scheme as the one they had that day so well commenced. (Applause.)

The Corporation of the Trinity House of Newcastle, having been toasted,

The VICE-CHAIRMAN then said:—Mr. Mayor, I do not know that a greater honor could have been done to myself than by entrusting to me the toast which I hold in my hand. I have the pleasure to propose to you the health of "The Provincial Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of Northumberland." Whether I consider the high character and attainments of the master of this important branch of masonry, or whether I look to the ancient and noble families with which he is connected, he is equally entitled to our admiration in these and in other respects. But when I look upon him as an individual associated with a most important society—a society which carries charity and benevolence in all directions, for I may almost say that in whatever country a man may find himself, he meets with a mason, and every mason he meets with is a brother and a friend,—I say, that to see a gentleman of Mr. Ogle's position in society making common cause with a number of gentlemen of the same benevolent feelings with himself, and bringing out all the influence which his station commands to bear on this great and important subject, it redounds in honor of the very highest degree to himself. I therefore propose, with very great pleasure, the health of Mr. Ogle, and all the brethren connected with the Lodges of Northumberland.

The Rev. C. E. OGLE, after a few preliminary remarks in responding, humorously continued:—It has been most truly said that Freemasons take a pleasure in associating themselves with those who engage in doing good to their fellow creatures. And there are many here present—amongst them, many of our fair guests—who would be glad to know from me, as the Provincial Grand Master of Northumberland, what is the great secret of masonry. I know that many of them have even asked their husbands what it is. I have often longed for a good opportunity of telling it myself; and where such an opportunity as the present is afforded, I will not allow it to escape, but I will reveal to our fair guests what is the great secret of Freemasonry, and set their curiosity at rest for ever. The great secret that we have to tell one another, is, that we promise to be good husbands, and good fathers, and good brothers. Therefore let me urge upon our fair guests the strong necessity of their immediately impressing upon all who are nearest and dearest to them the extreme importance of immediately joining our ranks. But, continued the reverend gentleman, in sober earnest, all that I have said is true. Their great object—and let that suffice—is to do good to all men. On all occasions where the good of our fellow-creatures is concerned, I and my fellow Masons of Northumberland will always be found at our post.

A variety of other toasts were drunk, not forgetting the health of the worthy Vicar, who had been the original cause of the meeting. A benediction closed the proceedings of the day, which were throughout of a most agreeable character.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

A fully attended meeting of the Grand Lodge of this Province was held on Wednesday, Nov. 15, in the Assembly-rooms, Wentworth-street, Peterboro', presided over by the most noble the Marquis of Huntley, P.G.M. The St. Peter's Lodge, 646, now hold their meetings regularly at this establishment. The excellent suite of apartments appropriated to their accommodation has elicited the approval of every member.

OXFORD.

APOLLO UNIVERSITY LODGE (No. 460). — The first meeting for the term, was held on the 1st, of November. In consequence of the absence from Oxford, of the W.M., Br. W. W. Beach of Christchurch, the chair was taken at the request of the

brethren, by the W.M., of the Alfred Lodge, Br. T. Randall. The ceremony of initiation was most ably performed, and several brothers passed to the second degree. There were also present, nine candidates for raising, but in consequence of the extent of the business, that ceremony was postponed until the following day. At the conclusion of their Masonic duties, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant dinner, which was presided over by Br. J. W. Malcolm, S.W., who was supported by Br. R. J. Spiers, Mayor of Oxford, P.G.S.B. for England, and several other distinguished brethren connected with Oxford; and a most agreeable evening was passed. This being the first meeting since the death of the late P.G.M., Br. the Rev. C. J. Ridley, the Lodge as well as the brethren who attended, were in mourning.

SUFFOLK.

A movement is on foot to present to Sir E. Gooch, M. P., the P.G.M., a testimonial in token of his services to the province, and the craft generally.

SUSSEX.

On Friday, November the 17th, there was a good assemblage of the brethren of this county, at the Old Ship Hotel, Brighton, in Provincial Grand Lodge, the first held in the province for twenty-seven years. The lodge was held under the auspices of the Royal Clarence Lodge, No. 338. Br. Lieut.-Colonel McQueen, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Sussex, presided; and was supported by nearly 400 brethren, amongst those present were Br. H. Winton, P.P.D.G.M.; Br. J. Snow, P.P.G.S.B.; Br. T. H. Wright, P.P.G.O.; Br. Blake, P.G.S.; Andrews, P.P.G.D. for Surrey, &c., &c. After the usual lodge duties were gone through, nearly 80 of the brethren attended the festival, which was sumptuously supplied by Mr. Bacon, of the Hotel; and a delightful evening to all present was the result. [Who is to blame for the business of the province having been so long neglected?]

WARWICKSHIRE.

On the 30th, of October, Lord Leigh, the Right Worshipful G.M., of this province, held his Annual Grand Lodge, at Br. Dee's Hotel, Birmingham. The lodge having been opened in due form, the Grand Officers of the province for the ensuing year, were nominated by his Lordship; after which a procession of the Brethren was formed to St. Philip's Church, where a sermon was preached in aid of the Masonic Charities, by Br. Rev. Z. P. Mercier, P.G.C. The prayers on the occasion were read by the Rector, Br. the Hon. and Rev. G. M. Yorke. In the evening, the Right Worshipful the P.G.M., supported by the D.P.G.M., J. W. Boughton Leigh, Esq., Br. Col. Vernon, P.G.M. of Staffordshire, Br. Dr. Fletcher, P.G.M. of Worcestershire, Br. Rev. Z. P. Mercier, P.G.C., and Br. Hon. and Rev. G. M. Yorke, presided over the Annual Banquet, which was numerously attended by brethren from all the Lodges in the province.

WILTSHIRE.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Wilts, was held on the 30th, of October, at the White Hart Hotel, Salisbury, under the presidency of the Right Worshipful the P.G.M., Br. Lord Methuen. The Lodge was opened in due form, and the Grand Officers nominated. At the Banquet, the chair was filled by the Right Worshipful the P.G.M.; and the vice-chair, by Br. Captain Prower, S.G.W. There were also present, Br. Sir Lucuis Carter, Bart., P.G.M. of Hampshire; Br. Fleming, M.P., the P.G.M. for the Isle of Wight; and about 40 of the brethren belonging to the various Lodges of the province.

WORCESTER.

SEMPER FIDELIS LODGE (No. 772).—The first monthly meeting after the summer recess took place on Monday, November 6th, when Br. William Conser, one of the oldest and most esteemed members of the Lodge, was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Br. Conser was absent from the city at the time, and

we understand he was elected without his consent, and, as such was the case, he positively refuses to rule the Lodge. This is learnt with regret, because many brethren who were absent upon the occasion have for some years been desirous to see Br. Consor succeed to the "post of honour" which he has so meritoriously deserved from the craft.

YORKSHIRE.

THE Provincial Grand Lodge for the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, was held in the Constitutional Lodge, Beverley, on the 31st October.

The Right Honourable and M.W. the Earl of Zetland, G.M. and P.G.M. for the North and East Ridings, on the throne, supported by the Right Honourable Lord Londesborough, the Marquis of Conyngham, Sir Wm. Somerville, Geo. Marwood, Esq., and other gentlemen of the county.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form and with solemn prayer; the minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge were read and confirmed; and the various Lodges in the province having communicated by representatives present, the Brethren proceeded to exercise their privilege by unanimously re-electing the V.W., Br. Hollon, P.G.S. for the ensuing year.

The M.W.G.M. then appointed the following officers:—R.W. Geo. Marwood, Esq., D.P.G.M.; R.W. Lord Londesborough, S.P.G.W.; R.W. Chas. Arden, Esq., J.P.G.W.; V.W. the Rev. Wm. Hutchinson, P.G.C.; V.W. J. C. Smith, P.G.R.; V.W. J. Stark, P.G.S.; W. J. Richardson, S.P.G.D.; W. Wm. Dobson, J.P.G.D.; W. R. R. Burgess, P.G.S.B.; W. W. J. Earle, P.G.S.B.; W. Wm. Rawling, P.G.O.

The M.W.G.M. gave notice that he would hold the next Provincial Grand Lodge in the Old Globe Lodge, Scarborough.

The M.W.G.M. congratulated the brethren on the flourishing condition of Masonry, not only in this province, but also throughout the world, and impressed on its members the necessity of upholding the dignity of the craft by increasing the respectability of the order, rather than by a mere increase in numbers, for by the former, rather than the latter, must Masonry maintain its position in the estimation of the public. The G.M., after alluding to the Masonic charities and other matters, trusted that the brethren would continue to meet in the spirit of brotherly love and kind feeling towards each other; so that this province, which happened to be presided over by the G.M. of England, would be a pattern to the lodges of other provinces.

All business being ended, the Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in ample form, and with solemn prayer.

At five o'clock, 150 brethren sat down to a most sumptuous banquet in the assembly room, which was beautifully decorated with banners and evergreens, and the flag of England united with the eagle and crescent.

During the evening, some stirring addresses were delivered by the M.W.G.M., Geo. Marwood, Esq., D.P.G.M., Lord Londesborough, and, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, by the Marquis of Conyngham and Sir Wm. Somerville. The brethren separated, highly edified and delighted with the proceedings of the day, and look forward with pleasure to the next anniversary at Scarborough.

OLD GLOBE LODGE, SCARBOROUGH (No. 236).—At the meeting of this Lodge, on the 6th, the brethren were honoured by the presence of the W.M., Lord Londesborough, S.G.W. of England, and the Marquis of Conyngham and Sir W. Somerville, Bart., from the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The brethren, of whom there was an unusually large attendance, were invited by the W.M. to a sumptuous banquet provided on the occasion, by his lordships directions; and were addressed in most eloquent language on the principals of Masonry, both by the W.M. and his distinguished visitors.

SCOTLAND.

It is stated that the brethren of Glasgow intend to have a Grand Masonic Festival in aid of the Patriotic Fund. We trust that the results of the effort may be worthy of

those who participate therein, and of the laudable object, towards which their exertions are directed. Of course the Provincial Grand Lodge will take the lead, and all the Lodges within a reasonable distance will feel it their duty to be in attendance. There is a fine military band attached to the regiment stationed in Glasgow; all our military brethren will naturally aid them in the promotion of such an object; and it is to be hoped that the result may prove the realization of a handsome contribution towards a Fund which has claims so strong upon all the right minded, charitable, and patriotic men amongst us.

PERTH.—On the evening of Friday, November 10th, Br. Matthew Gloag was entertained at supper, at the King's Arms Inn, by a number of the brethren of the Scone and Perth Masonic Lodge. In the course of the evening, Br. Thomas Duncan, D.M., in an appropriate speech, presented Br. Gloag with an elegant silver snuff-box, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to Br. Matthew Gloag, by members of the Lodge Scone and Perth, No. 3, as a mark of respect for his disinterested conduct as their R.W.M. Perth, Nov. 1854."—The presentation was suitably acknowledged by Br. Gloag, and the evening was spent in that harmony and good fellowship which characterize all meetings of the "brethren of the mystic tie."

AMERICA.

GRAND LODGE OF INDIANA.

At the last annual commemoration, of the grand Lodge of Indiana, held at Indianapolis, under the auspices of the M.W., the Grand Master, Br. Henry C. Lawrence, there were represented 147 warranted Lodges, and 14 under dispensation; the proceedings were of a most interesting character, in relation to the progress and prosperity of the craft. The address of the M.W., the Grand Master after dwelling forcibly upon the impropriety of Grand Lodges, granting new warrants without a reliable assurance, that they are required, and that the Lodges to be formed on them are likely to be supported by respectable members, went on to inculcate the practice of temperance, and wound up with an exhortation to the brethren to assist the "Tippicanoe movement." Although the distinguished brother declined his re-election, the members, as a tribute to his merit, unanimously placed him again at their head. In reference to a proposal for a national confederation of the grand Lodges of the Union, a resolution was agreed to, pledging the lodge to abide by it, if adopted and approved by two-thirds of the Grand Lodges of the United States.

CALIFORNIA.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE COURT HOUSE OF SACRAMENTO.—The corner stone of a court house, for the county of Sacramento, was lately laid in that city, with all the pomp and ceremony which Freemasonry could impart to it. The brethren having walked in procession from the Lodge to the site of the proposed structure, Br. Isaac Davies, grand lecturer, and acting master, advanced to the front of the stage, and claimed the attention of those present, to the ceremony about to be performed. The cap of the stone was then raised, on which Br. the Rev. B. T. Crouch, offered up an eloquent and appropriate prayer. The Grand Treasurer, then placed in a cavity of the quoin, the Sacred Law, Constitution of the United States, the Treaty with Mexico ceding California to the American Union, and the Newspapers published in the county. The stone was then lowered, when the master proved it true and trusty with square, level, and plumb rule, and announced to the crowd it was so. He then returned to the stone, and emptied on it successively, the contents of three silver goblets, saying, "According to the ancient customs, and ceremonies of the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons I now pour upon this stone, corn, wine, and oil," and concluded with a benediction. The tools were then restored to the car-

of the master architect, and Judge Curtis, Deputy Grand Master, addressed the county judge, in the following terms :—

Judge Heard, in obedience to your invitation, which we of the mystic tie construe into an order, for we are taught to obey legal authority, the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons assembled to act a part in the interesting ceremonies of this day. That pleasant duty has been now performed. The corner stone has been laid upon which is to be erected an edifice for the administration of public justice. May it long be preserved from inundation and conflagration—may it long remain as a proud monument of the energy and progress of the people of Sacramento. And now, sir, if we have performed the duty assigned us to your satisfaction, and that of the citizens of your county, which you so honourably represent, our reward is ample, our highest object has been attained.

Judge Heard briefly returned thanks.

Br. Judge Ralston, W.M., of Union Lodge, next addressed the assembly and having alluded to the history of the former court house, in a thorough Masonic speech, apostrophised the brethren and said :—

Brethren of the mystic tie ! you have done your work here well, square and true, according to the rules of architecture and the rules of our craft. The tools which you have used chiefly were the plumb, square, level and trowel. The plumb to establish perpendiculars—the square to square your work—the level to lay horizontals—the trowel to spread the cement so as to unite the whole building in a common mass. The mystic use of these tools should never be lost sight of by us as Free and Accepted Masons. We must walk uprightly before all mankind, on the platform of equality, remembering that we are travelling to that bourne whence no traveller ever returns—the great level where we shall all meet. Let us square our lives by the rules of truth and virtue, so that we may become living stones in that temple not made by hands eternal in the heavens. As the trowel unites the whole building in one common mass, let us spread the cement of brotherly love and affection, so as to unite our fraternity as one band of brothers, seeking the common good of all—may, our affection should extend to the whole human family—we should seek to unite all by the ties of sympathy and affection for ever indissoluble.

The business then concluded.

NORTH CAROLINA.

The "Pee Dee Star" informs us, that the foundations stones of a new Masonic Hall and Court House, have been just laid in that town with all the Masonic honours. Br. Luke Blackmer, the acting grand master, assisted by the brethren of the Kil-winning Lodge, (64)* performed the ceremonies. Under the corner stone of the Masonic Hall, was placed a silver plate, having engraved on it the names of the principal officers of Lodge (64). When it was lowered into its place, the grand master applied to it the plumb, square, and level, and declared that it was well formed, true, and trusty. The silver vessels were then presented to him, when he poured forth their contents upon it, saying, "May the all bounteous Author of Nature bless the inhabitants of this place with all the necessities, conveniences and comforts of life; assist in the erection and completion of this building; protect the workmen against accident, and long preserve this structure from decay; and grant to us a supply of the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment, and the oil of joy." At the conclusion a procession was formed, and the brethren betook themselves to their Lodges.

WASHINGTON.

On the 25th October, the officers of the Grand Lodge of the district of Columbia, paid their annual visit to the Federal Lodge (No. 1) Washington. On the previous Monday, the corner stone of the Metropolitan Methodist Church was laid with Masonic ceremonies, by the grand Lodge of the district of Columbia. The Masons of Washington will remove into their new hall, about the 1st of January, the present place of meeting being very inconvenient.

* It must be gratifying to the Masons of the United Kingdom to find that the names most endeared to the craft are adopted by our trans-atlantic brethren as titles for their Lodges.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR NOVEMBER.

THE WAR.

In our last number we brought up the news of the siege operations before Sebastopol to the 21st of October, at which date they were stated to be proceeding with the utmost vigour. Since that time, many stirring events have taken place, but it is now evident that the siege will be long and protracted.

On the 25th the Russians attacked four redoubts at Balaklava, garrisoned by Turkish troops, who, almost immediately fled. The 93rd Highlanders, the only British troops on the ground, with the exception of a battalion of Artillery of the 3rd division and a battalion of weakly men, however, remained firm, until they were supported by the 4th and 1st divisions under the command of the Duke of Cambridge, and Sir George Cathcart, from Sebastopol, and the 1st division of French Infantry, and the Chasseurs d'Afrique. The Russians were then speedily driven back behind the redoubts, though they succeeded in taking seven of the Turkish guns: and a brilliant charge of the light cavalry under Lord Cardigan, threw the Russians into great disorder, though not without immense loss to that important arm of the service, which was unfortunately exposed to a cross fire. The troops were well supported on the right by a body of marines landed from the fleet. On the following day the Russians attacked the left of the 2nd division of the British army near the heights of Tchernaya, commanded by Lieut.-General Sir De Lacy Evans, who, supported by the Brigade of Guards, some regiments of the 4th division, and in the rear by the French division commanded by General Bosquet, drove them back with great loss. The loss to the British troops between the 22nd and 26th of October—both days inclusive—is officially stated to be—killed 175, including 13 officers, and 251 wounded, of whom 27 were officers, making a total of 426, irrespective of the missing, of whom three fourths belonged to the light cavalry brigade above alluded to. The loss of the French did not exceed 20 or 30 in killed and wounded, whilst that of the Russians is estimated at about 1000.

On the 5th of November, the Russians under General Dannenberg attacked under cover of a drizzly mist and fog, the position of the British army on the heights of Inkermann, the attacking force being estimated to amount to, from 60,000 to 65,000 men. The attack was bravely met by the troops under Sir George Brown, Major General Pennefather (in the absence of Sir De Lacy Evans from indisposition—though he assisted with his advice throughout the contest), the Duke of Cambridge, and Sir George Cathcart, supported by two French battalions under General Bosquet; and after a most fierce contest which lasted between nine and ten hours; the Russians, who were accompanied by two of the Czar's sons, were utterly routed with an estimated loss in killed and wounded of 15,000 men. The loss on the side of the allies, of whom only 8,000 English and 6,000 French were engaged, has also been rather large—that of the English amounts to 457 killed, of whom 43 were commissioned officers, and 2,313 wounded, of whom 101 were officers, and 198 missing. The French loss is stated to be 1726 in killed and wounded, but this includes also those lost in a sortie made by the Russians at the same time against a portion of the French troops commanded by General Forey, which was likewise beaten back with a loss it is supposed of about 1,000 men. In our limited space it would be impossible to give a list of all the killed and wounded, but we have to regret the loss of three general officers,—Sir George Cathcart, who distinguished himself in the Cape from which he had only just returned when the present war broke out—Brigadier General Strangways, and Brigadier Goldie. Her Majesty has been pleased to raise Lord Raglan to the dignity of a Field Marshall, his commission being dated from the 5th, on which day the battle of Inkermann was fought.—From the 7th to the 19th, no official intelligence has been received; but it is generally understood that the siege was being rigorously continued, and that large reinforcements had arrived. The naval force took a considerable part in battering the forts in the early part of the siege, and sustained some damage. By recent accounts from the Black Sea, it would also appear that much loss has been sustained by heavy storms.

PROVIDENT.

The Trafalgar Life Assurance Company held its fourth annual meeting on November 28th, when a very satisfactory report was presented, showing the income to amount to upwards of 24,000*l.* per annum, and a dividend of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent was declared. On the following day a special meeting was held, when it was agreed to merge the Trafalgar into the Unity General Life Office, established in connexion with the Unity Fire Association.

The advantages of assurance on railways was lately shown in a very remarkable manner. An old woman in Yorkshire having been for some time an inmate of the union workhouse, visited her daughter at Burnley; on her return her son-in-law in paying her third class fare also took a penny ticket of the Railway Passengers Assurance Company, assuring 200*l.* on her life. Unfortunately the old lady did meet with an accident which terminated fatally, and after paying the parish for her support and the funeral expenses, the family will receive the balance of the amount assured.

On the 13th, the Third Annual Meeting of the Waterloo Life Education Self Relief Assurance Company was held at the Offices in the Strand. Mr. Williams, the Manager, read the report, which stated that, notwithstanding the war, increased income tax and consequent pressure upon the money market during the last year, 632 proposals had been made to the directors, of which 488 had been completed, assuring the sum of 128,620*l.*, and producing the annual income of 4,238*l.* Of the remaining proposals for assuring 45,534*l.*, several were in course of completion; others the directors had deemed it desirable altogether to decline. The annual income of the company, from premiums alone, exceeded 11,400*l.*; the total number of policies granted was 1,091*l.*; and the amount assured was 342,883*l.* Notwithstanding the number of parties assured, there was not a single claim from death during the whole year, and, indeed, only two claims had as yet come upon the company, in one of which death was caused by accident. The report was received, a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum declared, and a variety of complimentary resolutions, showing the confidence of the proprietors in the directors and manager—Mr. Williams—were passed.

On the 15th, the Unity Fire Insurance Company held its Annual General Meeting at Willis's Rooms, when a report was presented, showing that whereas the first proprietors of the association was issued in May, 1852; that on the 16th September, 1853, the share list was closed, and the original capital, 1,000,000*l.*, subscribed for by nearly 5,000 shareholders; in consequence of the extraordinary demand for shares. On the 28th November the proprietors, at a special meeting, sanctioned the creation of a new capital of 1,000,000*l.*, to be issued only at a premium of 100 per cent. on the deposit, *i.e.*, every 5*s.* so paid counting only as 2*s.* 6*d.* Of these new shares 129,496 had been allotted, the premiums received from which amounted to 10,815*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* From the commencement of the assurance business on the 29th September, 1852, to November 3rd, 1854, the number of policies effected with the company were 17,581, insuring 12,662,254*l.* The premiums on which, after deducting all cancelled policies, amounted to 26,010*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, irrespective of the Government duty of 20,843*l.* 16*s.* 0*d.* The report further stated that 18 branch establishments had been organised, and 886 agencies appointed, the total expense of the whole being about 40,000*l.*, irrespective of 11,580*l.* paid for fire losses, whilst the available funds at the command of the association, including the calls not yet made, were 947,368*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, in addition to 95,880*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* invested for the benefit of the association. Mr. J. H. Baylis, the acting manager of the institution entered into a long statement relative to its position, in which he contended that, were they disposed to part with it at the present moment, they could realise, after paying off all their capital and the premiums upon the new shares, a profit of 14,000*l.* The report was adopted, a dividend of 5 per cent. declared, and resolutions expressive of the fullest confidence in the management were passed.

OBITUARY.

BR. LORD DUDLEY STUART, P.S.G.W.—It is with the most heartfelt regret that we have the melancholy duty of recording the death of this distinguished brother which occurred at Stockholm, on the 18th November, after a somewhat protracted illness, in the 51st year of his age. There are few men who have been more before the public of late years than Lord Dudley Stuart, and since his election, as one of the members for the borough of Marylebone, he has rendered himself extremely useful by his ready attention to the requirements of all classes of his constituents. In the cause of charity, the deceased brother was never found wanting, and there are few institutions in this metropolis that have not, at some one or other period, derived advantage, as well from his earnest advocacy as from his own personal liberality. A more kind-hearted and well-intentioned man than Lord Dudley Stuart did not, we believe, exist. His Lordship was the seventh and last surviving son of the first Marquis of Bute, and grand-uncle of the present peer. He married, in 1824, a daughter of the Prince of Canino, by whom he leaves an only son, captain in the 68th Foot. Lord Dudley Stuart, whose efforts in the cause of Poland, are well-known, was, we believe, originally initiated into masonry some years since, in the Kilwinning Lodge, Edinburgh. On the consecration of the Polish National Lodge, (No. 776), under the charter of the Grand Lodge of England, the deceased noble brother was one of the first to join it. He took office as S.D., and after passing through the various grades, he was installed into the chair in 1851, and filled with honour to himself and advantage to the lodge, the members of it, in testimony of their respect and regard, presented him with his portrait, which now adorns the lodge-room in the Freemasons' Tavern. In 1849, the noble and distinguished Brother was exalted into the loyal Arch; he has since successively filled the 3d and 2d chair, and was elected in April last as first principal; but, owing to absence from England and illness, he has never been installed. Brother Lord Stuart was also P.S.G.W. for England, having served that office in the year 1852.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The delay in posting our first number, was consequent upon our not having received the formal permissions of the Post Master-General for the "Mirror," to pass through the post, in accordance with the post office regulations. The consent having been since received, no such delay can again occur.

We have to-day, somewhat altered, and we trust improved the appearance of the "Mirror," as we are now enabled to take a wrapper, owing to an alteration in the post office regulations.

We can confidently recommend the Masonic Frames (for certificates or testimonials) of brother Beckett, to the notice of the brethren; they are the only emblamatical frames worthy of the name we have yet seen.

We have already received several complaints of the inaccuracy of the Masonic Calendar for the ensuing year. We fear that the inaccuracies, in a great measure, arise from the various lodges not giving proper notice of alterations in the days or times of meeting. At the same time, there can be no doubt, that an annual circular, directed to each of the lodges, with a printed form of information required to make the Calendar perfect, would go far to obviate the evils complained of.

Z* * *.—We have made diligent inquiry and research, but have not as yet been enabled to obtain any explanation of the words in question, as they have been so long obsolete in the order. We hope, however, to be able to give a more satisfactory answer in our next. We thank our brother for the suggestions in the latter part of his letter, and can assure him, that we are not unmindful of the faults which attended the publication of our first number. That to which he particularly alludes was, in a great measure, consequent upon the requirements of the Post-office, that every publication to pass through the post, should be printed on one sheet. The regulation came into operation on the 1st of November, the day we were forced to appear, and was modified on the 4th.

S. C. S.—Is thanked. We shall be happy to hear from him.

J. F.—We are gratified by the good opinion formed of our exertions, by the brethren of Newcastle. We shall do our best to retain their confidence.

We cannot print the communication bearing the Holyhead post-mark. We do not approve of any brother adopting such a signature. What we are taught not to repeat at length ought surely not to be written.

J. M. C., HULL.—We certainly agree that it would be better that the Masons should have Halls of their own in every town of importance, than be scattered about in all directions. The Grand Stewards' Lodge give a public night on the 20th instant, to which the brethren are "fraternally invited." The second and third lectures will be worked in sections.