THE

MASONIC MIRROR:

FOR

JANUARY, 1855.

THE GRAND LODGE AND THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

It is with feelings of extreme gratification that we refer our brethren to the report of the proceedings at the last quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge, which appears in another part of the *Masonic Mirror*. It will there be seen that the M. W. G. M. has taken the initiative in giving notice of his intention at the next quarterly communication, to move that One Thousand Guineas be voted from the Funds of the Grand Lodge in aid of the Patriotic Fund established for the support and assistance of such of our brave soldiers and sailors now fighting the cause of England and of freedom in the East, as may be wounded or disabled, and of the families of those who may unfortunately fall in the contest. This is a munificent offering from our body, but not more than the respectability and the importance of the craft demand, and sure we are that when the resolution is regularly brought before the Grand Lodge, it will be carried without a dissentient voice. The speech of the M. W. G. M. to the Lodge in announcing his intention, was manly, straightforward, and dignified—and though he advocated with true charitable feelings the departing somewhat from precedent in making this grant for other than truly Masonic purposes, he never lost sight of the fact, nor endeavoured to conceal from the craft, that the war may, and most likely will, add to the claims upon our Masonic funds, to aid distressed brethren now serving in the army and navy, or those they may leave behind them, to look to their brethren in Freemasonry for assistance. We are sure, whatever, and whenever, such claims may come upon them, they will be cheerfully responded to by the brethren, and we almost feel we have done wrong in speaking of the proposed vote as for other than Masonic purposes. It cannot be so. The essence of our Order is charity, and in the hour of

their distress the Freemason regards all men as brothers whom it is his bounden duty to comfort and assist to the best of his ability. In giving notice of his motion, the M. W. G. M. made an eloquent appeal to the brethren to assist, by subscriptions from their private Lodges, the good cause, so that the grand total received from the Order of Freemasons may shew to the world that we not only preach, but practice charity. The appeal has been already most liberally responded to by various Lodges, not only in the metropolis, but throughout the country—indeed, in some it was anticipated—and sure we are that the Thousand Guineas from the Grand Lodge, though handsome in itself, will be but a mere per centage on the full amount contributed by the craft.

It would be presumption in us to suppose that our humble efforts have tended much towards this great end; but as we took the liberty in our last number to advocate the movement, and of a liberal donation being made from the Grand Lodge, to head the subscription and give it a proper standing in the craft, before we had the possibility of knowing what were the views and intentions of the M. W. G. M., we may be allowed to tender our congratulations to the brethren, that the head of our Order has come forward with such a motion, and so eloquently brought it under the consideration of the brethren—for from no other brother could it have more appropriately emanated than the noble lord who so worthily fills the distinguished position of G. M. of the Freemasons in England, and who, throughout his life, has set so bright an example to the brethren of the manner in which they are called upon to exercise their Masonic duties.

THE WIDOWS ANNUITY FUND.

At the same meeting of the Grand Lodge, to which we have alluded above, it was also resolved to increase the annual subscription from Grand Lodge to the Widows Annuity Fund, from £100 to £200 per annum. This also is most gratifying to us, for from the first moment we came before the brethren as journalists—and in our capacity as private members of the Order, we have been endeavouring to get some steps taken which should put this Fund on a footing more worthy of the Order than it now enjoys. True it is, that the Fund is a comparatively new charity amongst us; but Masons ought not to allow the widows of their brethren to come before them three, four, or more times to seek for votes to enable them to obtain that aid which we ought to be in a position to accord them at once, if they are found worthy of our assistance. The additional vote from Grand Lodge will do something towards putting us in that position, and it is most pleasing to us to know that, acting upon the hint which we gave in our article on "the Craft and the War," in our last month's publication, a number of the brethren are forming themselves into a committee, with the view of calling a meeting of the craft, at no distant day, to devise means for so increasing the Fund, that no deserving widow will hereafter have to appeal for our assistance without the certainty of receiving it. The brethren who have honoured us by acting upon our hint have claimed our aid in carrying out their charitable intentions, and they may rely upon it that any exertions on our part which can possibly tend

to the success of the design, will be most willingly and cheerfully accorded. In the meantime, should other brethren, either in the metropolis or the provinces, be desirous of assisting in the holy task, the provisional committee—for as such only will they come before the craft—have set themselves, we shall be most happy to become the medium of communication for bringing the various parties together.

PROSPERITY OF FREEMASONRY.

NEVER since the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England, has Freemasonry been in a more prosperous state, or more highly honored than during the past year—the number of craft certificates issued being, as nearly as possible, 3000, and of arch certificates 550. These numbers are at least ten per cent higher than have been shown upon the register in any previous year, which, coupled with the fact, that the year 1853 was peculiarly prosperous, evinces how well the excellent and charitable principles upon which our Order is founded, are becoming appreciated—not only in the mother country, but in the colonies, from whence a large number of the applications for certificates are received.

THE SQUARE AND COMPASSES.

THE emblems these, of Virtues rare,
And Lights that mystic lustre show:
What mean the compasses and square?
Ah! that, the Masons only know.

These are their famous working Tools:
They 're free for every one to use—
Not guided by Masonic rules,
We must their greatest uses lose!

What skill profound, these tools impart,
To those who wield them at command!
What Trophies of the noblest art,
Spring from *the learned Masons hand.*

True masons, hail with latest breath,
The triple Light of gentle ray:
The Light, that turns the Night of Death,
And all its glooms, to joyful day!

PHÆDO, P. M., Lodge 53.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

Continued from page 54.

William the Conqueror having established himself on the throne of England, appointed Gundulph, Bishop of Rochester, and Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury and Arundel, to be at the head of the fellow-crafts. They were employed first, in civil and military architecture, in building the tower of London, and the castles of Dover, Exeter, Win-Winchester, Warwick, Hereford, Stafford, York, Durham, Rohester, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne; then in sacred architecture, in building Battle Abbey, near Hastings, St. Saviour's, Southwark, and nine more religious houses, while others built forty-two monasteries and five cathedrals. The King brought many expert Masons from France, and died in Normandy A.D. 1087.

William Rufus succeeded his father, and employed his architects and craftsmen in building a new wall round the tower, and in rebuilding London Bridge of wood. By the advice of his Grand Lodge of Masters he built the great palace of Westminster, and four religious houses, while other parties founded twenty-eight more. He died A.D. 1100.

Henry I., his brother, succeeded to the throne, and built the great palace at Woodstock, and a little one at Oxford to converse with the learned, and fourteen religious houses; whilst others built about a hundred such beside, and many fine mansions.

"In this reign (as we are told by the author of a Saxon Chronicle) every one who was able built a castle, so that the poor people were worn out with the toil of these buildings, and the whole kingdom was covered with castles:" and as these castles were for residence as well as defence, a description will serve to shew the state of architecture in those times. They were mostly situated on an eminence, or near a river—a situation for several reasons eligible. The whole site of the castle (which was frequently of great extent and irregular figure), was surrounded by a deep and broad ditch, sometimes filled with water, and sometimes dry, called the fosse. Before the great gate was an outwork called a barbacan, or antemural, which was a strong and high wall, with turrets upon it, designed for the defence of the gate and drawbridge. On the inside of the ditch stood the wall of the castle, about eight or ten feet thick, and between twenty and thirty feet high, with a parapet and a kind of embrasures, called crennels, on the top. On this wall, at proper distances, square towers of two or three stories were built, which served for lodging some of the principal officers of the proprietor of the castle, and for other purposes; and on the inside were erected lodgings for the common servants and retainers, granaries, storehouses, and other necessary offices. On the top of this wall, and on the flat roofs of these buildings stood the defenders of the castle when it was besieged, and from thence discharged arrows, darts, and stones, on the besiegers. The great gate of the castle stood in the course of this wall, and was strongly fortified with a tower on each side, and rooms over the passage, which was closed with thick folding doors

of oak, often plated with iron, and with an iron portcullis or grate let down from above. Within this wall was a large outer space or court, called, in the largest and most perfect castles—the outer bayle or ballium, in which stood commonly a church or chapel. On the inside of this outer bayle was another ditch, wall-gate, and towers, inclosing the inner bayle or court within which the chief tower or keep was built. This was a very large square fabric, four or five stories high, having small windows in prodigious thick walls, which rendered the apartments within it, dark and gloomy. This great tower was the palace of the prince, prelate, or baron to whom the castle belonged, and the residence of the constable or governor. Under ground, were dismal vaults for the confinement of prisoners, which made it sometimes called the dungeon. In this building also was the great hall, in which the owner displayed his hospitality, by entertaining his numerous friends and followers. At one end of the great halls of castles, palaces, and monasteries, there was a place raised a little above the rest of the floor, called the dais, where the chief table stood, at which, persons of the highest rank dined. Though there were great variations of construction at this period, the most magnificent were nearly all on the above plan. The roofs of the best buildings were generally covered with lead, and the windows glazed. These structures must have been a work of prodigious expense and labour. And the master masons and craftsmen by which the work was planned and executed, had evidently attained considerable dexterity in the work, as it is impossible to view the remains of many magnificent fabrics, both sacred and civil, erected at this period, without admiring the genius of those who planned, and the dexterity of those by whom they were executed.

Stephen, his nephew, succeeded A.D. 1135. During the civil wars in this reign, the nobles and gentry laid hold of the occasion to build about 1100 castles. At this period, Masons were as much employed as soldiers, under their Grand Master, Gilbert de Clare, Marquis of Pembroke, through whom the King built four abbies and two nunneries, with St. Stephen's Chapel in the palace of Westminster, whilst others built about ninety religious houses. He died A.D. 1154.

Henry II., succeeded. This King fortified some castles against the Welsh and Scots, built some little palaces and ten religious houses, while others built about 100 such. The Grand Master of the Knights Templars, a military Order, then lately instituted at Jerusalem for the protection of the Holy Sepulchre and of the pilgrims who flocked to it; and who derived their name from stationing themselves on a spot where King Solomon's Temple stood, and who soon spread themselves over Europe; built their Temple in Fleet Street, London. This King was succeeded by his son, Richard I., A.D. 1189. In his reign about twenty religious houses were built.

John, his brother succeeded A. D. 1199, and employed his chaplain Peter de Cole Church, Grand Master of the Masons, in rebuilding London Bridge of stone. This was finished by the next Master, William Almain. The continual expense of repairing a wooden bridge being burdensome to the citizens

was the motive to this undertaking, the durability of which, in a situation so much exposed to the occasional attacks of two powerful enemies, air and water, and loaded as it was for many centuries with a line of houses on each side of the passage over it, is the best evidence that can be produced of the skill of the architects who constructed so vast a work. A drawbridge was contrived to give passage for vessels with provisions to Queehithe, at the north end of which stood a tower to resist the attempts of an enemy; this tower was begun to be built in 1426, but the other buildings increased very slowly. However, in Stowe's days, both sides were built up, so that the whole had the appearance of a large well-built street, there being only left three openings with stone breast walls and iron rails over them on each side, for prospect. The width of the river at the bridge is 915 feet, which was the length of the bridge; the height thereof was 43 feet seven inches. The width of the street was 20 feet, and the depth of the houses on both sides, 53 feet; together 73 feet. It consisted of twenty unequal arches, but by the great number of piers and extension of the starlings, the passage of the water was obstructed, the rapidity of the stream increased, and the charge of repairs enhanced. We are told that the Master Mason not only erected the chapel on the starling of the ninth pier from the north end, but likewise endowed the same for two priests, four clerks, &c. This was the first building on London Bridge. It was afterward augmented with so many chanteries, so that there were four chaplains belonging to it in the 23rd Henry VI. This chapel was not destroyed till the houses were taken down in the year 1758. It has been a vulgar notion, that the foundation of this bridge was laid upon woolpacks, an error which might owe its origin to a tax laid upon wool to raise a fund towards its erection. Peter de Rupibus, Bishop of Winchester, was next Grand Master, and under him Geoffrey Fitz Peter was chief surveyor, or deputy Grand Master. He built much for the King, while others built about forty religious houses.

Henry III., a minor of nine years, succeeded A.D. 1216, when Peter de Rupibus, the old Grand Master, came to be the Kings guardian. He levelled the foot-stone of Westminster Abbey in that part called Solomon's porch, but this King, though he reigned long did not live to complete the work. Peter Count of Savoy, brother of the Queen's mother, built the palace of Savoy, in the Strand, London; and John Baliol, Lord of Bernard Castle, in the county of Durham, father of John, King of Scotland, founded Baliol college at Oxford. The Templars built their Domus Dei at Dover.

In this reign, one hundred and fifty seven abbies, priories, and other religious houses were founded in England. Many of the cathedral and conventual churches were very large, lofty, and magnificent fabrics, which were raised at a very great expense of labour, time, and money. Of this the cathedrals of York, Salisbury, Litchfield, Worcester, Gloucester, Ely, Winchester, and several others which were built in this period, afford the most satisfactory proof, and at the same time give the clearest idea of the style of sacred architecture which then prevailed. In this century the fashionable pillars in churches were of Purbic marble, very slender and round, encompassed with marble shafts a little detached, having each capitol adorned with foliage, which, joined, formed one elegant capitol for the whole pillar. The

windows were long and narrow, with pointed arches and painted glass, which was introduced about that time, or at least became more common.

The opulence of the clergy and zeal of the laity furnished ample funds for building these magnificent structures, and it was with great difficulty that workmen could be procured to execute such extensive works. The Popes granted many indulgencies by their bulls, to the Society of Masons, in order to increase their numbers. These indulgencies produced their full effect, and the Society became very numerous. "For (as we are told by one who was well acquainted with their constitution) the Italians, with some Greek refugees, and with them French, Germans, and Flemings, joined into a fraternity of architects, procuring papal bulls for their encouragement and particular privileges; they styled themselves Free Masons and ranged from one nation to another as they found churches to be built; their government was regular, and where they fixed near the building in hand they made a camp of huts. A surveyor governed in chief; every tenth man was called a warden, and overlooked each nine. The gentlemen in the neighbourhood, either out of charity or commutation of penance, gave the materials and carriages. Those who have seen the accounts in records of the charge of the fabrics of some of our cathedrals, near four hundred years old, cannot but have a great esteem for their economy, and admire how soon they erected such lofty structures."

Edward I. succeeded, A. D. 1272, and being engaged in wars, left the craft to the care of successive Grand Masters, as Walter Gifford, Archbishop of York, Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, and Ralf, Lord of Mount Hermer, the progenitor of the Montagues, and by these the King fortified many castles, especially against the Welsh, till they submitted to him; when Edward, the King's son and heir was born at Caermarthen, A.D. 1284, and was the first English Prince of Wales. This King celebrated the fixing of the cape stone of Westminster Abbey, A.D. 1286, sixty-five years after the laying of the foundation stone:—this is the present pile. No sooner was it erected, than the wealth of the kingdom flowed to it from all quarters; the principal donors were, Queen Eleanor, wife of Henry III., and Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury.

The abbey church (which was stripped of many of its decorations by Henry VIII., and was much damaged within and without during the unhappy civil commotions under Charles I., that defaced the ancient beauty of most of the religious houses in this kingdom,) had continued from the death of Henry VII. without any considerable repairs, and was gradually falling into ruins, till parliament interposed and ordered a thorough reparation at the national expense. In this reign, Merton College, Oxford, the cathedral of Norwich, and about twenty more religious houses were founded.

Edward II. made Walter Stapleson, Bishop of Exeter, Grand Master, A.D. 1307. He built Exeter and Oriel Colleges, at Oxford, while others built Clarehall, at Cambridge, and eight religious houses.

(*To be continued.*)

BROTHERLY LOVE.

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

(*Continued from* p. 65.)

CHAPTER VI.—SEPARATION.

With feeble steps, and a mind bewildered by what she had heard and witnessed, Ida at length reached her home. Mrs. St. Claire at once perceived that something had occurred and began to question her, but without eliciting any information, for Ida evaded giving a direct answer to her inquiries.

The good lady was so anxious to give vent to her feelings respecting Simon, that she commenced on that subject almost immediately, but at the mention of his name, Ida became so agitated that she was compelled to desist, resolving, however, to introduce it at the earliest opportunity.

Ida had received a severe shock by the outbreak of frenzy on the part of Simon, for which, notwithstanding occasional revelations of his temper, she was altogether unprepared. His conduct appalled her, and a sus-suspicion that his violence was ungovernable, suggested itself to her mind. She shuddered at the thought, for it blighted the hope she had so fondly entertained of reforming his character. Her sentiments of benevolence, the christian tuition she had received from her deceased parent, and whose fruits were universal love for humanity, forbearance, and forgiveness, made her regard with more than ordinary horror the act which her lover committed, and she began to contemplate with fear, the idea of being allied to one whose temper would lead him to outrage her feelings daily, and interpose a shadow between her and her Maker.

It was in vain that she reverted to those incidents in her intercourse with Simon, on which she had founded her expectation of softening his character, and a withering distrust of her own judgment in this matter flashed across her thoughts. She began to suspect that the grounds of her confidence were rather the suggestions of her affection than the dictates of her reason, and, as she began to analyse her sentiments and to investigate all the circumstances of her intercourse with Simon, her doubt deepened into conviction.

Those who have had to disentwine from their feelings some cherished illusion which had "grown with their growth" and shed happiness on their existence, can well understand the painfulness of that mental process by which the young girl arrived, reluctantly, at a conclusion which laid waste the hope of years, and extinguished the "one bright particular star" of her young heart. The result fell crushingly on her spirit, and it was not till some days afterwards that she became sufficiently calm to resort to her usual source of consolation, that unerring spring of comfort for the Christian, the words of sacred writ.

There she found that peace which the world had denied her; and as she perused the inspired pages which speak of the vanity of human hopes, and the precepts that raise the heart from this world to another region,

where the weary are at rest, and the spirit tastes imperishable and unchanging felicity, she gradually became reconciled to her affliction, and the transitory sorrow of this life was forgotten in the contemplation of that permanent happiness which the words of a Creator have promised.

In an age where there is so much infidelity abroad, and where the sceptic is endeavouring to infuse the "leprous distilment" of his doctrines into the minds of the community, when the revelations of science are enlisted in this unhallowed crusade, and that literature, whose mission is to refine and elevate, is made the medium of polluting the imagination and desecrating the soul, how refreshing are such instances as that of the piety of this young maiden! And, if the tree is known by its fruits, can the Atheist, with his negation of scripture and his derision of mysteries, which we can feel if not comprehend, supply a more efficient lenitive for human affliction than is afforded to the true believer when he rises from this vale of tears to the promised land where sin, and sorrow, and death, are unknown?

When Ida came to the determination of relinquishing all hope of being united to Simon, she thought it would be unjust to him if she concealed the state of her sentiments longer than was necessary; she therefore addressed him a letter.

She commenced by adverting to the many years of their acquaintance, and to the feelings of affection with which she had regarded him from childhood. She then spoke of the love he had expressed, and which she did not deny that she reciprocated, though she had hesitated to avow it, from considerations which were subsequently found to be judicious. She spoke of the sentiments of christian benevolence which she herself felt, and the grief that the exhibition of his unforgiving and vengeful temper occasioned her, and which she felt satisfied it would not be in her power to alter. She then earnestly besought him to endeavour to eradicate his evil propensities, and she alluded to the death bed of her father, who, with almost his last breath, prayed for the false friend, and those persecutors who had brought him to an untimely grave. She then informed him of her resolution, which she stated it would be useless for him to attempt to change, and mentioned that she had accepted an invitation to a distant part of the country for which she was about immediately to depart. She concluded by expressing an earnest wish for his happiness and reformation, recommending strongly to his attention the mandate of his Saviour, that we should love one another. She accompanied the letter with a testament, where the passage alluded to was marked down. When the letter was concluded it was dispatched with her gift to Simon, and she felt for some time relieved by the consciousness of having done her duty.

But Ida's womanly feelings and her affection for Simon, still left that lingering, dull, corroding pain which remains after the first violence of grief has past away. Her determination to leave for a time the place where everything around could not fail to remind her of her lover was wise, and she resolved to carry it out as quickly as possible. But in making the arrangement for her departure, she had a further trial to

sustain. In her own room she encountered several presents from Simon, at various periods of their acquaintance from childhood to maturity. Some were the simple gifts of his earlier years, but more precious in her eyes than the costliest gems, for they were the tributes of affection, on which love in its dawn was legibly traced, and sanctified the childish relics. There, too, was one withered flower around which a host of tender memories clustered. It was the first sensible avowal of the love that was growing in his young heart, and which his reading had told him in the language of flowers was a declaration of passion. She had carefully preserved it, and now her tears fell fast on its sear and scentless petals.

There were also memorials, the gifts of his later years; and in these were indications of a taste and refinement which love was developing and fostering, and which seemed like some mountain shrub to contrast strongly with the rugged material amid which they grew. Some little classic piece of sculpture, selected from subjects with which few would have deemed him familiar; some exquisitely wrought bijoutrie, or some chaste ornament for the toilet or the work-table, in which it was evident that the rude donor either studied the taste and gentle character of his mistress, or endeavoured, by associating her image in his mind with what was beautiful in art, to wean her from the contemplation of his personal deformity, were scattered about in a profusion that told of love as prodigal in its sensible expression as it was intense in its nature.

On these Ida had to gaze, and they revived in all their bitterness the emotions which preceded the renunciation of Simon. But we must not linger in the description of feelings with which, no doubt many of our readers have been familier at some period of their lives, or which, at all events, those who are gifted with sensibility can easily imagine.

On the day which Ida had fixed for her departure, the morning broke brightly through the grey mists. The stars were growing dim in the dawn, and the occasional chirps from the boughs proclaimed that the feathered tribe was waking into sensible existence. The faint violet shades were brightening along the horizon's verge, and were beginning to assume clearer tints, while the outline of the spires and other pinnacles of the town were becoming clearly defined. The sun rose and revealed the whole landscape, and more frequent became the music from the trees, until it swelled into one anthem of matin minstrelsy. The river was flashing in its crystal, and the flowers were breathing forth their rich perfume.

The mists curled up the mountains' sides and disclosed the trees that clothed them, glistening with dew. The rudest object looked lovely and etherialised in that reviving light. All visible was nature, in her fairest form, and only one object proclaimed the presence of humanity. It was the figure of a man who stood at the brow of a hill, immediately facing the town, in the direction of Ida's dwelling, and commanding a view of the road which led from it.

His hair and clothes were wet with the dew, and he remained leaning against a tree on the summit of the hill, as immoveable as if he had been some granite monument erected on the spot. His features were pale and rigid as marble. The birds who had ventured from their nests, clustered

around his feet or perched on his shoulders, as if he had been some lifeless column, and no movement betrayed that he was conscious of their presence. His figure looked colossal, and fancy might have deemed him some emanation from the surrounding mountains which had assumed a human form.

A carriage issued from Mrs. St. Claire's, it approached, and he sprang forward, startling a flock of birds scattered around, strained his gaze at it while it approached, and when it disappeared in the distance, covering his face with his hands, and with a groan, he sank at the bottom of the tree.

It was Simon Le Trouve, and the carriage contained Ida St. Claire.

(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 THIRD.

Chapter I.—Preparations for the Coming Ceremony.

Three weeks had elapsed since the events narrated in the last part of this history, and Harriet Marshall had become resigned to her fate. She had striven hard to forget Henry Elliotson, and in the struggle, she had endured many bitter moments of anguish and distress. But her grief had gradually subsided into a general melancholy, and she had come to look upon Henry, as upon a dear relative that had suddenly been snatched from them, by that hand whose power is infinite, and against whose degree there is no appeal. As the hour of her nuptials—for they had been fixed—drew near, she displayed a calmness which surprised those about her, and made them feel more reconciled to the coming sacrifice—for so they all looked upon it—and strengthened them for the approaching trial. The current of the happiness of the little cottage on the great river's bank, seemed to have been suddenly turned away, and where unalloyed joyful happiness so lately reigned, a settled cloud seemed suddenly to have spread its darkening influence upon that little family.

The settlement for the marriage, had of course been prepared in Mr. Grainger's office, under the immediate care of old Gabriel Hunter, who, from such a sudden influx of weighty business, felt that it was his bounden duty to remain at the office very late every night, and not leave it until all the haunts of business in his busy neighbourhood were quiet and closed up. By his advice, abstracts had been made of

all the musty deeds that lay treasured up in the tin boxes, relating to the Bendersleigh Estates, and the preparation of those abstracts he had taken upon himself. It was curious to see him, having just prepared the draft of an abstract of a deed, how he read it carefully over late at night, when all was quiet, with as much attention, and more interest than if it had been a rare literary production, on which great powers of genius had been brought to bear. And then, having carefully read the rough draft, how he transcribed it all himself upon the sheets of paper used for the purpose; and having completed his task, how he handled it as if it were an infant, or a great treasure, which too roughly inspected might be impaired in value. It was, indeed, a proud day for old Gabriel, when having completed his great task, he looked upon the product of his labors as they were piled up before him, ready to be transmitted to Bendersleigh House. No Merchant could look upon a freight about to be embarked for a distant port, with more anxiety than did old Gabriel Hunter, upon the thick piles of thickly written paper which lay before him on the morning of which we speak. He stood with his hands behind his coat, and with his spectacles on his nose, and gazed at them with growing satisfaction, and as he did so, he fell into his old custom of musing and of communing with himself. He did not, however, muse long, for the tinkling sound of a little bell, which was just perceptible inside Mr. Grainger's office, summoned him to that gentleman's presence.

"Well, Hunter, you will be ready with all the documents for to morrow, will you?" enquired Mr. Grainger, reading over some labelled letters, and without looking up as he spoke.

"Everything, Mr. Grainger, is prepared;" replied Gabriel, rubbing his hands with evident satisfaction.

"Have you had the Settlement fair copied?" enquired Mr. Grainger.

"I have, Sir, and it is lying on the top of the Abstracts now, Sir," replied Gabriel.

"Ah! the abstracts!" said Mr. Grainger, "I think you have taken more trouble with them, than they were worth."

"Trouble, Sir!" exclaimed Gabriel, in a tone which seemed to imply that he was being joked with. "Trouble, Sir, in such a matter ought not to be considered, Sir. It is an old, but true adage with us, Sir—'Safe bind, safe find.'"

"You have the heart of a conveyancer," replied Mr. Grainger, smiling, "but if you succeed in getting Augustus Baker to go through those abstracts with you, you will exhibit more powers of persuasion than I give you credit for. By the bye, I suppose you know that he is coming here this morning, don't you?" enquired Mr. Grainger.

"I hope he is, Sir," replied Gabriel.

"He is coming to arrange about to-morrow," continued Mr. Grainger, "and we shall—"

He was here interrupted by the entrance of Henry Elliotson, who advanced to his usual place, and silently took his seat.

Mr. Grainger motioned Gabriel Hunter to withdraw, and the old clerk immediately left the room.

As soon as Henry Elliotson was seated, he busied himself with some papers before him, and seemed absorbed in their contemplation, while Mr. Grainger exhibited a restlessness in his manner, for he was evidently ill at ease. He rose from his seat, and going to a cabinet, opened it, but he seemed to find no satisfaction there and so he returned to his seat. At length, he addressed the young man near him.

"Henry," he said.

"Sir," was the short reply of the young clerk.

"This marriage, as you are aware, takes place to-morrow;" said Mr. Grainger.

"I know it too well, Sir," replied Henry Elliotson, in a melancholy tone.

"Doubtless, Henry," commenced Mr. Grainger, in a hesitating tone, "you consider this a severe trial—a trial I know it is—but it is said that trials such as these are sent but to chasten us. By a strange infatuation, we all seem to think that our own individual troubles are the greatest, but you will find, Henry, that many of the world's troubles are only those of self creation, and have their roots in our own passions and inclinations. It is true, that even the troubles that we create ourselves cannot be wholly avoided by any one, but the experience of a long life will teach that all troubles may be subdued, or softened by submission. I do not allude to a blind recklessness of consequences, but to that control of the passions which leads us to look upon the cares of life, as being for a far higher purpose than to inflict pain upon those who may endure them. There is a moral in every care—there is a wise purpose in every check that is offered us, in what we call our happiness, but which too often is the desire which our passions may create. Do you hear me, Henry?"

"I do, Sir," replied Henry, who, with his elbows on the desk had his face buried in his hands.

"Even in this marriage," continued Mr. Grainger, "you may learn a salutary lesson, and from it come to think as I do. No doubt you will think, as most people will do, that I have been what is called hardened by my intercourse with the world. Rather, have I learnt experience—learnt to know that a bridle on our passions is the surest instrument by which to ensure enduring happiness. Henry, you will accompany me to this ceremony to-morrow?" said Mr. Grainger, abruptly, alluding to the marriage of Harriet and Mr. Raker.

"Never! Sir!" exclaimed Henry, rising and standing before Mr. Grainger, boldly.

"Yes," returned Mr. Grainger, "you will, Henry."

"I cannot, Sir;" continued Henry. "In the philosophy you would inculcate in the cold and unimpassioned school of which you would have me be a member, no doubt it would be urged, that such a step would show a triumph over the passions of the heart, and be applauded. But I cannot, Sir, my heart in its rebellious energy to such a lesson as you teach, prompts me to feel, that that which you term calmness and submission, is but hypocrisy, or discontent wrapt in disguise. It may be that this is a

lesson for my future good—it may be that this trouble is but to chasten me, but while I concede the possibility of that, I cannot but feel the anguish of the wound which has been inflicted to produce the lesson."

"All's for the best, Henry," said Mr. Grainger.

"A doubtful creed, Sir," replied Henry, pacing the room.

"You will not think so as your life advances. I can understand full well the passion that is consuming you—I can understand the anguish of the wound you speak of, and I can see the possibility of how soon it may be healed by the course indicated."

"Alas, Sir, cold philosophy and a young heart's hope, are ill-assorted for communion," said Henry, sadly.

"Not so," replied Mr. Grainger. "The victories we achieve upon ourselves are the consolidation of our own happiness."

"I cannot argue with you, Sir, upon such a subject;" said Henry, in a melancholy tone.

"You will go with me to-morrow, then?" replied Mr. Grainger, in an enquiring tone.

"Why! oh, why can you wish me to do so?" replied Henry, stopping before the old man and looking him full in his face.

"Because your presence will support Harriet, in the trial which I admit it is that she has to go through," replied Mr. Grainger.

"Harriet!" exclaimed Henry Elliotson, in a tone of sorrowful astonishment, "you surely cannot mean what you say?"

"I seldom say what I do not mean, Henry," replied Mr. Grainger, "and I say again, that on Harriet's account I wish you to be present to-morrow."

Chapter II.—How Mr. Augustus Raker made Preparation for his Happiness.

Gabriel Hunter stopped the discussion narrated in the last Chapter, by putting his head into the office and announcing that a young woman wished to have audience with Mr. Grainger; and before that gentleman had time to consider whether the application should be granted or not, the lady unceremoniously forced herself past Gabriel, into the presence of Mr. Grainger, notwithstanding the strenuous and rather ungallant attempt of the old clerk, to keep her back.

"Why, Rachel!" exclaimed Mr. Grainger, in a tone of merry surprise, "what brings you here?"

"Oh, Mr. Grainger—Oh, Mr. Henry, excuse the liberty, but I have been in town about to-morrow's business, and being in this neighbourhood I made so bold as to come in here, Sir," turning to Mr. Grainger, "to let you know how the young missis takes on, Sir, about the marriage to morrow."

Henry Elliotson, rather abruptly went towards the door, to leave the room, and Mr. Grainger observing him, said,

"I shall see you again this afternoon, Henry?"

"Yes, Sir;" was Henry's short reply, and he went out of the office, leaving Rachel and Mr. Grainger together.

"Yes, Sir," continued Rachel, who had taken a seat, "yes, Sir, she takes on so, that I thought last night she would have been participated into a fit of *Delirium Tremours*."

"Indeed!" said Mr. Grainger, "I thought she had fully made up her mind to the change. But it is a natural anxiety, no doubt."

"Oh, it isn't afore her mother and her sister that she takes on so. Lord bless you, Sir, to see her before them, although she is as pale as a statute, yet she never afore them gives way. No, Sir, it is in the secret privacy of her seclusion that she is so wound upon," said Rachel, who, as we have before observed, was fond of the redundant mode of expressing herself.

"But why should she exhibit so much uneasiness?" enquired Mr. Grainger.

"Bless your soul, Sir, when I told her as the carriages was ordered at twelve, she looked as though a heavy blow had stagnated her." By which rather eccentric phrase it must be understood, that Rachel meant staggered.

"Ah, well, it is but natural," said Mr. Grainger, "the prospect of her happiness works upon her imagination."

"Happiness!" exclaimed Rachel, "I should think it did; Oh, Sir, Mr. Grainger, can't you break this horrid match asunder, Sir? Oh, do, Sir."

"Why are you so earnest in the matter, Rachel?" enquired Mr. Grainger,

"Oh, Sir, if you could be as I am, Sir," replied she loftily, "and feel what I feel, you would then feel what other people's feelings is," and believing that she had said something which ought to penetrate Mr. Grainger's heart, she drew herself very tightly up.

Mr. Grainger smiled.

"I would give up anything, Sir, I would go to the Injies and work among the blacks—I'd lie down and put my head upon the block, and call upon the executioner to excommunicate me there. I would—I would," exclaimed she, passionately, but hesitatingly, "go down upon my bended knees upon two spikes, if I could see Miss Harriet as happy as she used to be, Sir, before that—" and here she sunk the would be martyr in the woman, "before that nasty spottled Mr. Raker, which is as the scriptures says, the snake among the herbs—"

"You wrong the gentleman, I fear, Rachel," said Mr. Grainger, who could scarcely refrain from smiling.

"You cannot wrong the man, that wrongs a woman, Sir," replied Rachel, with determination.

"Without expressing any opinion upon your doctrine, I may say that in the matter which you are alluding to, no wrong is intended to any one."

"Oh, Sir, you can know very little about the young lady's heart—you know very little about a young lady's happiness, if you can talk in that way; I'd sooner cut both my hands off myself," a difficult operation by the way, "than I'd see that Mr. Raker—"

Rachel would have gone on at some length in her onslaught upon the character of Mr. Raker, if that gentleman himself had not thrown open the door at that very moment, exclaiming as he entered the office, "come along

Joe." This request was addressed to a person who was behind him, and who immediately afterwards made his appearance in Mr. Grainger's office, by the side of Mr. Raker. This individual might very reasonably have been taken for either an omnibus cad—a sporting nobleman—a prize fighter, or a blackleg. He had anything but an attractive countenance, in which, moreover, there was a permanent expression of impudent confidence and self possession, and about whose general bearing there was an offensive swagger, which, as far as outward appearances were concerned, consisted almost exclusively of a loose drab great coat, with buttons upon it as large as dessert plates. Below this article of his dress was just perceptible a pair of trowsers, the pattern of which was enormously large in keeping with the great coat, which covered them.

"Sit down, Joe," said Mr. Raker, with the air of one who was perfectly at home. Joe needed no second invitation, so down he sat, and having done so, stared at Rachel until she was quite confused, and then he whistled at his triumph.

"How are you? Grainger?" exclaimed Mr. Raker, in gleeful tone.

"Good morning, Mr. Raker;" replied Mr. Grainger.

"Hallo!" exclaimed Mr. Raker, "what brings you here, Rachel?"

"Oh, Mr. Raker, I was in town, and I merely made so bold as to call upon Mr. Grainger," said Rachel, rising, and exhibiting considerable embarrassment. "To think that he should have come in at this moment," thought Rachel to herself, "I could scratch his face, but my sex withholds me." Although this was secret it was very novel reasoning, inasmuch as scratching and the sex are not uncommonly associated.

"Well, Rachel," cried Mr. Raker, in a bantering tone, "lots of fun and bustle to-morrow, eh, over the water."

"Ah!" sighed Rachel.

"Why, you seem in the dumps, Rachel; now I'll be bound I can tell the reason. I suppose you'd rather see your friend Mr. Henry Elliotson walk off with Harriet! I've got the prize though!" and he laughed coaxingly in Rachel's face, and turned and winked upon his friend Joe, who went through a similar performance, ejaculating in a subdued tone, the word "prime," thereby intimating that he was amused amazingly by the scene before him.

"Come, now, Rachel, confess you'd rather see Harriet married to this Elliotson;" and he glanced over to Mr. Grainger.

"Comparisons is impious," replied Rachel, promptly.

"So they is;" said Joe, mimicking Rachel's tone and manner.

"No sneers, Joe;" cried Mr. Raker, in high glee. "He is such a chap for sneering, Rachel," continued he, turning to Rachel.

"Gammon," cried Mr. Joe, in a subdued tone, as before.

"Though I am but a poor servant, Mr. Raker, I have my feelings if other people has none," said she, fiercely; "I have my feelings, and so I'll take my leave. Good morning, Sir;" and she hastily quitted the office.

"Ha, ha, ha," laughed Mr. Raker, "there's a joke, Joe."

"Prime," replied Joe, who appeared actuated on that occasion with

a desire to compress his observations into the smallest possible compass.

It was strange that Mr. Grainger did not seem at all desirous of interrupting the merriment, which the two friends apparently were enjoying; while they amused themselves at the expense of Rachel, he threw himself back in his chair, and though the exhibition was an unusual and an unseemly one in his office, yet he did not attempt to curb, or in any way interfere with the proceedings of his client. He seemed by his bearing, to think that the connection existing between himself and Mr. Raker, was such as to give the latter a presumptive right to conduct himself as he pleased there. In fact, the bearing of the two towards each other, had all the appearance of that which exists between patrons and dependants, and on Mr. Raker's part, the resemblance was effectively kept up.

"Well, Grainger, my boy," said Mr. Raker, as soon as Rachel had left the room, and that gentleman and his friend had fully enjoyed the joke they had created, "Well, Grainger, I suppose everything is ready for to-morrow?"

"I believe nothing now remains but the ceremony, Mr. Raker;" replied Mr. Grainger, "but I will take the last opportunity of appealing to you in the matter."

"Now, I want no more preaching, Grainger. Damn it," said he, "I never come into this infernal office, but you commence some long winded oration about a person's feelings, and something being outraged; I'm sick of it;" continued he, confirming the declaration with an oath.

"I have only your welfare at heart, Mr. Raker; and I would appeal to you to forego this marriage, if you would wish for happiness;" said Mr. Grainger.

"Why you don't take me for such a precious flat, do you Grainger?" inquired Mr. Raker, "as to suppose that I would give up the game now it's all in my own hands;" and he laughed scornfully at the idea.

"It does not follow that, because possession seems so very near, it must necessarily be certain," replied Mr. Grainger,

"Why, what the devil do you mean?" asked Mr. Raker, "What the devil can prevent my having her?"

"Her own will, if strained too much," said Mr. Grainger. "It is true that she has yielded to you on account of the power which you have over her family; but the great test of her submission is yet to come, she may refuse you, even at the last hour, and then your mortification would scarcely be revenged, even if you exercised the power which you possess upon her mother's property; consider of this, Mr. Raker."

"Did you ever hear of such croaking?" inquired Mr. Raker, of his friend, who was beginning to exhibit signs of impatience.

The gentleman appealed to, intimated that the old buffer was a rum un, and the sooner he cut the matter short, the better.

"Come, come, Grainger," said Mr. Raker, in rather an authoritative tone, which evidently chafed Mr. Grainger; "Come, no more of this nonsense; let's see what has been done for to-morrow."

"I tell you," said Mr. Grainger, rising from his chair and speaking with much greater warmth than he had hitherto exhibited, "I tell you, if this marriage be proceeded with, your conduct will be selfish, pitiful, tyrannical, and mean; you will be the scorn of your own sex and the contempt of the other. I tell you that; but that I know I have done my duty and that good may come of all this, I should have hated myself promoting your views," continued Mr. Grainger, with much agitation and trembling as he spoke.

Mr. Raker stood transfixed, at what he looked upon as the temerity of the old man, in thus addressing his best client. At length, being encouraged by a laugh from his friend Joe, he said:

"Go on, Grainger; go on my old cock. I dare say this will do you good in the end. It'll improve your prospects, old as you are, no doubt;" and here he winked at Joe, for approval, at which that gentleman nodded his head in an oracular manner, as much as to say, "you hit the old boy there—follow it up."

"Your insinuated threat, Mr. Raker, passes harmlessly by me," replied Mr. Grainger, "but direful as I look upon this impending calamity, direful as I believe, if it occurs, it will prove to both the parties most interested, I yet believe that the Heir of Bendersleigh will not so conduct himself as to make his name a bye-word of scorn to all who know him."

"Oh, indeed; you know that I can't very well do without you to morrow; you know you have gone so far in this matter that I must have your assistance further," cried Mr. Raker, fiercely, "or else I'd have cut this matter short enough before this. But I perhaps may teach you a lesson, Master Grainger, that old as you are, and cunning as you are, and straight laced as you seem to be, you won't forget in a hurry;" said he, pacing the room.

"I know you cannot do without me at this marriage; you have forced me along with you in your headlong progress with respect to it, but I believe that the lesson you speak of will not be for me to learn. I believe, that in the ceremony of this marriage to morrow, you will taste the first drop of a bitter draught of which you little dream. I believe, that in attempting to compass the unhappiness of one who never wronged you, you will consummate your own. I would have saved you from it, but you have rushed upon your own destruction."

"By——I am surprised that you are not afraid of what you say. But I suppose you think you have fleeced perhaps enough, do you?" cried Raker, in an insulting tone.

"The miserable suspicion that you express is worthy of you, it is of a piece with all your proceedings since I have known you," replied Mr. Grainger, quietly.

"What do you think, Joe?" turning to his friend and speaking in a tone of choking passion; "this old lawyer—this chap that has had the picking that you know out of us for the last twenty years, sticks up against me in this way; thwarts me wherever I go, all for a paltry, miserable, snobbish clerk that he's got in this hole of his that he calls his office. Isn't it enough to make a fellow lose his temper?" inquired he of his friend.

"Cut him:" replied that Gentleman, in the same laconic manner as before.

"Mrs. Puffler Smirke, wished me to say she has called, Sir;" said Gabriel Hunter, putting his head in at the door.

"Mrs. Puffler Smirke!" exclaimed Mr. Raker, in gratified astonishment, "show her in;" said he, with as much authority as if he had been in his own house, which Mr. Grainger, however, did not seem disposed to check.

"What an extraordinary coincidence!" exclaimed Mrs. Puffler Smirke, as she tripped into the office, "to think that I should meet you here, Mr. Raker," said she, smiling; "Good morning, Mr. Grainger. Good morning, Sir," said she, curtesying low to Mr. Raker's friend.

"Oh! Mrs. Puffler Smirke, you have, I think, never seen my friend Mr. Joseph Smith. Mrs. Puffler Smirke—Mr. Joseph Smith."

Mrs Puffler Smirke of course bowed low to the intimate friend of Mr. Raker, while that individual in return bobbed in some embarrassment to the lady.

"Well, then, let me congratulate you in anticipation," said Mrs. Puffler Smirke, extending both her hands to Mr. Raker; "I received my cards of invitation yesterday," said she, "and as I read them I could not not help ejaculating to myself, and this has come out of our fancy pic-nic on the hill."

(To be continued.)

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

The last quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of England for the year 1854, took place in the Temple, on Wednesday, the 6th December. There were present, The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., on the the throne.

R.W. Thos. H. Hall, Prov. G.M. for Cambridgeshire, as D.G.M.

R.W. Brs. Bonamy Dobree, S.G.W; Edwd. Baldwin, J.G.W; Samuel Rawson, P.G.M. for China; Col. W. Burlton, P.G.M. for Bengal; C. P. Cooper, Q.C., P.G.M; for Kent; B. Bond Cabbell, M.P., P.G.M. for Norfolk; F. W. Beadon, P.S.G.W. F. Pattison, P.S.G.W; W. H. White, G. Sec.

Rev. J. E. Cox, and E. Moore, G. Chaplains.

W. Brs. John Hervey, S.G.D; Henry Faudel, J.G.D; P. Hardwick, G. Sup. of Works; R. W. Jennings, G. Dr. of Ceremon.; Th. Chapman, Assist. D. of Ceremon.; G. Biggs, G. Sword Bearer; W. Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; H. S. Crohn, G. Sec. for Foreign Correspondence; G. G. Elkington, G. Pursuivant.

W. Brs. Havers, Dr. Rowe, Nelson, Parkinson, Baumer, King, Leech, Hodgkinson, Norris, &c., P. G. Deacons; Spiers, Patten, Masson, P. G. S. Brs.; Hebeler, Rep. from G. Lo. of Prussia; Carver, Rep. from G. Lo. of Massachusetts, &c., &c., &c.

The Lodge having been opened in due form, a ballot was taken for twelve P.M's., from a list of 18 candidates, to fill the vacancies at the Board of Benevolence, which at a later period of the evening, was declared to be in favour of Brs. W. H. Absolon, No. 40; F. Adlard, 7; M. Attwood, 212; J. Barnes, 30; G. Barrett, 188; W. M. Bywater, 19; J. W. Long, 257; H. Prince, 15; C. Robinson, 8; D. Samuel, 264; W. H. Varden, 57; W. Young, 11.

The Grand Secretary read the minutes of the last quarterly communication, in which a reference was made to the improvement and lighting of the large hall.

The M.W.G.M., enquired of the G. Sup. of Works, if any progress had been made in the improvement.

Br. Hardwick replied, that the alterations in the lighting were completed, but the hall, he was happy to say, had been so fully engaged by public and private parties, that the operations of the workmen, with regard to the ventilation, had been somewhat impeded; nevertheless, it was making very satisfactory progress.

The M.W.G.M. having described a very simple method of ventilation (consisting of a shaft separated into two, by a division up the centre, the hot air being carried off by one half of the shaft and cold air admitted by the other,) which he had seen in operation in Yorkshire, and which he stated answered most perfectly, the minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

On the motion of Br. Joseph Smith, seconded by Br. Dr. Jones, the right honourable Br. the Earl of Zetland, M.G.W.M., was put in nomination as G.M. for the ensuing year, without opposition, no other brother being proposed.

The minutes and accounts of the Lodge of Benevolence, and Board of General purposes, were then read and approved.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

The M.W.G.M. next rose and said, he had to express to the brethren who had put him in nomination for re-election as G.M., his high sense of the honour conferred upon him, and to assure the craft, that should he be re-elected, he would use his best exertions to promote the interests of the Order. He had now to propose to them a resolution, which it was not without great hesitation and mature consideration he had determined to bring forward, it being, that the Grand Lodge should take part in that great national object, the raising of the Patriotic Fund—(Cheers). His hesitation had arisen from feeling that, properly, the funds of the Grand Lodge were not applicable for anything but purely Masonic purposes. This, however, was no ordinary occasion, and he felt sure, that the Grand Lodge, for the honour of the craft, would feel that they ought to do something, not only for the brethren of the Order, but for those soldiers, sailors, and marines, who were now fighting for the honour of their country, and especially for the widows and orphans of those who might fall in the discharge of their duty—(Cheers). At the same time, he thought it most desirable that they should take every precaution to prevent such a vote being drawn into a precedent, in cases of future appeals to public charity. When, however, they saw all classes of their fellow subjects pressing forward with energy and zeal to support the fund established for the relief of the widows and orphans of those who might be removed from this world whilst fighting in a just and good cause, he thought that every good Mason would agree with him, that the Masonic body ought not to be behind hand, in evincing their sympathy with the movement—(Cheers). Therefore, after the deepest consideration, he had come to the conclusion, that this was such an exceptional case that the Grand Lodge might, with propriety, subscribe to the fund—(Cheers). That they would have additional claims upon their own charities for aid to the widows and orphans of brethren who might perish in the conflict, there could be no doubt. That, however, he considered would be no reason, seeing the general feeling which existed on the subject, why they should not subscribe to the general fund. The result of their doing so must be, to raise the craft in the estimation of the public. Some of the private Lodges, he was pleased to see, had not been backward with their subscriptions, and he felt assured that if the Grand Lodge headed the list, the example would be liberally followed by the private Lodges, in all parts of the country. There were Lodges in which, perhaps, there might be no available funds for the purpose, but to those which were in the habit of having banquets, when they met, he might suggest, that the giving up one banquet would at once produce sufficient to evince their feeling with the movement. It was not, he thought, going too far, to express his belief that every Lodge would contribute something, and though the amount from each might appear comparatively small, yet, when added together, it would be something considerable. He would, therefore, at the next quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge, move, that viewing with approbation the fund now raising under the denomination of the Patriotic Fund, for the relief of

the families of the soldiers, sailors, and marines, engaged in the service of their country, and seeing with satisfaction, the sympathy evinced in every part of the country in support of that fund, the proper application of which had been guaranteed by a Royal Commission, the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of England desire not to be behind their fellow subjects in the expression of their sympathy, and, therefore, order that one thousand guineas be paid to such Commission, out of the fund for general purposes—(Loud Cheers). He had made inquiries into the state of their funds, and though it behoved them to be cautious in their disposal, he felt assured they could afford to make the vote without detriment to the objects for which that fund was established—(Cheers). He only regretted that the rules of the Grand Lodge would not allow the vote to be come to at once. That, however, could not be the case, and he regretted it the less, because, when it became known through that great organ, the public press, that a thousand guineas was to be voted to the Patriotic Fund, from the Grand Lodge of England, it would have a great moral weight, and it would be a matter of little consequence, whether the money was paid at once, or six months hence—(Hear hear). He trusted that the proposition would have the unanimous approbation of the Grand Lodge—(Loud cheers). Indeed, from the way in which his observations had been received he felt it would be so—(Cheers). And if their sentiments were now in favour of the vote, they would not be less so when they next met in Grand Lodge—(Cheers). There was another subject to which he wished briefly to allude. Since last he had the pleasure of meeting the brethren in Grand Lodge, they had been deprived by the hand of death, of two of their Past Grand Officers. The name of one of those brethren, the late Lord Dudley Stuart, was associated with every act of charity, and every noble and patriotic feeling which could dignify mankind; and even when he could not himself be present, his heart and feelings were always with the brethren in their works of charity and in good wishes for the welfare of the Order—(Hear, hear). Br. Henry Stuart, M.P., had only recently passed through office in the Grand Lodge, and, though not perhaps so well known as Br. Lord Dudley Stuart, he was alike distinguished for his charitable disposition and masonic feelings; and he could not but express the great regret which, in common he was sure with the other brethren felt at the loss they had sustained—(Hear, hear).

Br. Chas. Purton Cooper, Pl.G.M., for Kent, could not, in justice to the high position which the M.W.G.M. had been pleased to bestow upon him, sit in his place without giving vent to his feelings in reference to the subjects so ably brought before them by the M.W.G.M. The M.W.G.M. had alluded to the loss which they had sustained by the death of two most excellent brethren. In doing so, he was sorry to say that the noble Earl had only singled out two brethren as specimens and types of others whom they had also lost, and if their names had not also been mentioned, it was only because they were not so well known, though their memory would not be the less honoured and respected. They all knew the merits and the claims which the late Br. Lord Dudley Stuart had upon their respect, and he was sure his loss would be deeply mourned by the Masonic body. With Br. Henry Stuart, he was not so well acquainted as with Lord Dudley, but he sincerely regretted his loss, as he did also of other brethren, and he hoped it would be long before so melancholy a duty as that of calling attention to losses amongst their ranks, would again have to be performed. The other subject to which the M.W.G.M. had alluded, was one of overwhelming magnitude and importance, and he was sure the Masonic brethren would expect that they should do justice to it. Though there was no precedent for such a vote, he was proud to think, that in 1855 the Grand Lodge of England were about to set an example, which he trusted would be followed by all private Lodges. It was not their duty as Masons to engage in war or to shed blood, but when blood had once been shed—

Several brethren here rose and called the attention of the G.M. to the fact, that there was no motion before the chair, and the M.W.G.M. ruled that the discussion could not be proceeded with.

In reply to a question, the M.W.M.G. said, that their course with respect to the last Patriotic Fund could form no precedent as regarded their present proceedings that fund not having been raised under the guarantee of a Royal Commission.

GLOBE LODGE, (No. 23).—This Lodge, which has been so long distinguished for the excellent working of its members, and to which our late Br. Gilkes belonged, met on Thursday, Dec. 21, at the Freemason's Tavern. The W.M. Br. Hewlett, in a most able manner, raised two brethren to the sublime degree as Master Masons, and passed one to the degree of a Fellow craft. The brethren next proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year, when Br. Humphrey, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M., and Br. Watson, Treasurer. The Tyler was then unanimously elected, and afterwards invested with the Jewel of his office by the W.M., in a neat and impressive manner. The brethren afterwards sat down to a capital supper, and spent the evening in the greatest harmony, which was much enhanced by the excellent singing of Miss Taylor, accompained by Br. Taylor. Amongst the visitors were Br. Bohn, and Br. W. Lea.

ROBERT BURNS' LODGE (No. 25).—The last meeting for the year of this very numerous Lodge, took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, December the 4th, under the presidency of Br. Paterson, W.M. Two gentlemen were initiated into the Order, and four brethren raised to the third degree, amongst whom was the brother who took his second step in Freemasonry at the last meeting, after so long a sojourn abroad. Br. Dyte, S.W., was afterwards elected W.M. for the ensuing year. All business being ended, about fifty of the brethren supped together and spent a very pleasant evening.

EGYPTIAN LODGE (No. 29).—On Thursday, the 7th December, this Lodge met for the dispatch of Masonic business, at the George and Blue Boar Tavern, Holborn, when Br. Monro, of Boston, Lincolnshire, was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M., the ceremony being performed at the request of Br. Roughton, W.M., by Br. Thomas Bohn, P.M., 201, a visitor to the Lodge. During the evening, Br. Fernandez, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and Br. Todd, re-elected Treasurer. A gentleman was then proposed for initiation, and all business being ended the Lodge closed in harmony.

MOUNT MORIAH LODGE (No. 40).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge at the Freemasons Tavern, on Wednesday, December 27, one brother was passed, and another raised to their respective degrees. Br. Luis Artus, J.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing year, Br. Ashdown, the S.W., having declined to serve the office at present, in consequence of the pressure of his private avocations.

STRONG MAN LODGE (No. 53).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at Br. Ireland's Masonic Hall, Falcon Tavern, Fetter Lane, on Thursday the 7th Dec., when Br. P.M. Connelly (in the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Br. Axtell), initiated two gentlemen into the ancient Order, and passed one Br. and raised another to their respective degrees. This being election night, the ballot was taken for W.M. for the ensuing year, and unanimously fell upon Br. Turner, the present S.W. Br. Moss was unanimously re-elected Treasurer, having held that responsible office for several years, to the great satisfaction of the members of the Lodge. The brethren, at the conclusion of business, retired to refreshment, and seperated at a comparatively early hour.

GIHON LODGE (No. 57).—The anniversary meeting of this most excellent and highly respectable Lodge, was held at the Bridge House Hotel, on Thursday, December 21, when Br. Aspinwell, W.M., most ably passed a brother to the second degree. Br. G. England, P. Prov. G.W. for Surrey, was then duly installed into the chair by Br. P.M. Varden, assisted by P.M.'s Aspinwell and Monnery, and a numerous board of P.M.'s. The New Master invested Br. F. Willmott, as S.W.; Br. Sowden, J.W.; Br. P.M. Dray, Treasurer; and Br. P.M. Edmonds, Secretary, with their jewels of office. The other officers having been appointed, the new W.M. proceeded to raise a brother to the degree of a M.M. and performed the ceremony with great care and precision. At the conclusion of the Masonic business about 60 of the brethren, amongst whom were several visitors, including nearly every Prov. Grand officer for Surrey, sat down to a most recherché banquet, and the evening was spent in a most agreeable and harmonious manner. Br. Dobie, G. Registrar of England, was expected to have been present, but was prevented attending, owing to an accident he met with a short time since in Switzerland, by which his leg was broken, from the effects of which he has not yet completely recovered.

LODGE OF FELICITY (No. 66).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the London Tavern, on Monday, Dec. 18, Br. Wm. Smith, W.M., presiding, who, in a most masterly manner, initiated a gentleman into the Order.

ROYAL NAVAL LODGE (No. 70).—This highly respectable Lodge, which has been making great progress in the estimation of the Craft, and in numbers during the past four years, met on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Freemasons Tavern, to which house it has recently removed from Radley's Hotel, as more generally convenient to the members. Br. Rogers, W.M., who presided, initiated two gentleman into the Order, and passed and raised two duly qualified Brs. to their respective degrees. A ballot was taken for W.M. for the ensuing year, which was declared to be unanimously in favor of Br. Burden.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE (No. 164).—At the monthly meeting of this respectable and rising Lodge, held at the Yacht Tavern Greenwich, on Wednesday, December 20, Br. Booth, the S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. The W.M. elect, expressed his gratitude for the high honour conferred upon him, and sincerely hoped he might be found as efficient in the office as his predecessor—Br. Moor, to whom a vote of thanks was unanimously given by the brethren, for the able manner in which he presided over the Lodge during the past year.

ST. LUKE'S LODGE, (No. 168).—A numerous meeting of this Lodge assembled on the 4th Dec. at the Builders' Arms, Chelsea. The W.M. Br. Handover, ably passed a Br. to the degree of a F.C., and Br. Killick, P.M. afterwards explained the tracing board with his usual ability, in a most distinct and impressive manner. Some private Lodge business having been transacted the Lodge was closed, and the brethren sat down to a banquet liberally supplied for the occasion, and the evening was spent in truly Masonic enjoyment. Several visitors were present.

LODGE OF JUSTICE (No. 172).—This Lodge met on Wednesday the 13th Dec., at Br. Hall's, the Royal Albert, New-cross-road, Deptford, when a gentleman was initiated into Freemasonry, and a brother raised to the sublime degree of M.M. Br. Davis was then installed W.M. for the ensuing year by Br. Crouch, P.M. Br. Bolton was appointed S.W., and Br. G. Hall, J.W. At the close of the Masonic business, the brethren sat down to a splendid banquet, and spent a very pleasant evening.

CADOGAN LODGE (No. 188).—At the last monthly meeting of this Lodge, on Tuesday, December 19, the W.M., Br. Capt. Malkin, very impressively passed a brother to the second degree.

LODGE OF UNIONS (No. 195).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the London Tavern, on Friday, December 8, under the presidency of Br. Duff, W.M., when Br. Chas. Hill, the S.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing year.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, December the 5th, under the presidency of our worthy Br. Kennedy, W.M., who brought his year of office to a most successful termination by the initiation of two gentlemen into the Order, and the passing of three brothers to the F.C. degree. On a ballot being taken, Br. Gurton was unanimously elected as W.M. for the year just commencing.

PHŒNIX LODGE (No. 202).—The brethren of this now flourishing Lodge, met for the second time this season, on the 9th December, Br. Webber, W.M., presiding when one brother was passed to the second degree, and two raised to the third. Br. Brooke, who was nominated J.W. at the installation, in May, having declined to act, Br. Burton was invested with the collar of the office, and Br. Barton, Sec., appointed S.D. At the close of the Masonic business the brethren retired to refreshment, the toasts of the evening being interspersed with some excellent singing, for which the brethren were mainly indebted to Br. Genge, Br. Farquharson, who presided at the piano, and Br. Ford—certainly the best comic singer, altogether free from vulgarity,—of the day. The Lodge stands adjourned until February.

DOMATIC LODGE (No 206).—On Monday evening, 11th December, a large muster of the brethren took place at the Masonic Hall, Fetter Lane, to instal Br. Thomas A. Adams, as W.M. for the ensuing year, the ceremony being ably performed by Br. Joseph Smith, P.M., assisted by a numerous board of P.M.'s. The new W.M. then

initiated three gentlemen into the mysteries of the order, and displayed his usual abilities in the proceeding. Among the visitors we noticed :—Br. Winton, P.G.S.W., Sussex; Br. Adlard, P.M. (7); Br. Rackstraw, P.M. (9); Br. Lee, P.M. (9); Br. Henry Potter, P.M. (11); Br. Prince, P.M. (15); Br. Whitehouse, P.M. (15) Br. Mortimer, P.P.S.G.D., Surrey; Br. T. Anslow, P.M. (165); Br. Thomas Bolm, P.M. (201); Br. Thompson, W.M. (196); Br. Heywood, J.W. (752); Br. Hurry, (33); &c.

At the conclusion of Masonic business, the brethren adjourned to an elegant repast, provided by Br. Ireland, with his accustomed care. Br. Carpenter, P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., said he felt considerable embarrassment in the performance of the duty he had taken, inasmuch as he found a younger Mason than himself, arriving, by industry and perseverance, to a much higher position and to a larger participation of the honours in the craft, than he himself had attained; still he hoped that the example set by the W.M., would act as an inducement to younger brethren to exert themselves in the Masonic race, as he assured them, that similar honours could be obtained by a strict adherence to a like zeal and assiduity that Br. Adams was so preeminently admired for. He proposed the W.M's health, with much pleasure and satisfaction, and he was sure that, under his able guidance the Lodge must continue to prosper. The W.M., in a very neat address returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him, and assured the brethren that nothing should be wanting on his part, to increase the prosperity of the Lodge and the comforts of the brethren. Several other toasts were then proposed, that of the visitors being responded to by Br. Rackstraw, P.M. (9); and the brethren separated shortly before 12 o'clock, highly gratified with the proceedings of the evening. We may add, that 5*l.* was voted during the evening to the Widows Fund, and 5*l.* to the Patriotic Fund, thus carrying out the excellent recommendation of the M.W.G.M., at the last meeting of the Grand Lodge.

Universal Lodge (No. 212).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, December the 22nd, Br. Patrick, W.M., presiding. The business consisted of a raising, passing, and two initiations, the whole of which ceremonies were extremely well performed by the W.M., assisted by Br. P.M. Beale. Br. Law, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and Br. P.M. Algernon Attwood, was re-elected Treasurer. A proposition being made that twenty guineas should be voted to the Patriotic Fund, it was seconded, put, and carried, without a dissentient voice. It was also resolved to vote one guinea towards a fund for supplying the inmates of the Royal Freemasons' Asylum for aged Freemasons and their widows, at Croydon, with a Christmas dinner, worthy of the craft and the season. About thirty of the brethren afterwards partook of a sumptuous banquet, and the proceedings of the evening were enlivened by the excellent singing of Brs. Banks, Coggin, &c.

Lodge of Joppa (No. 223).—The brethren of this extremely numerous Lodge met together at the White Hart Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, on Monday, December the 4th, Br. A. J. Jones W.M. presiding. Three gentlemen were initiated into the order, and various brethren passed to the second, and received into the third degrees, the whole of the ceremonies being most efficiently performed. A brother from Lodge 247 (Israel), was admitted as a joining member. Br. Henry Lyons was elected W.M. or the ensuing year. The Treasurer was re-elected for the forty-fifth time, and the Tyler for the thirty-sixth time. In accordance with the bye-laws, the annual election of the Committee and Trustees of the benevolent fund of the Lodge, was then proceeded with; after which, various modifications and alterations in the bye-laws relative to the fees, &c., were confirmed. The whole of the business being ended, nearly 100 of the brethren sat down to an excellent supper, and passed the evening in the utmost harmony. We would suggest that a little more attention to the Master's gavel, especially in so numerous a Lodge, would considerably add to the comfort of the brethren.

Jerusalem Lodge (No. 233).—At the annual meeting of this Lodge, held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Wednesday, December 6, Br. L. Crombie, W.M. elect, was most impressively installed into the chair, as W.M. for the next twelve months. The other business having been disposed of, the brethren, to the number of 25, dined

together, and the harmony of the evening was much enhanced by the singing of Br. P.M. Crew, the indefatigable secretary of the Freemasons Girls School.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—The last meeting of this Lodge, for the present year, was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Friday, December 15. Br. Spooner, W.M., presided, and after having initiated a gentleman into the Order, passed two brethren to the second degree. Br. Stewart, S.W., was then elected W.M. for 1855. Br. Scambler, was re-elected Treasurer, and Br. E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B., Secretary Amongst the visitors on this occasion were Br. Dr. King, P.M., 196, and Br. F. Crew P.M., 1; and, as usual, the latter worthy brother contributed, by his vocal abilities much to the pleasures of that portion of the evening devoted to refreshment.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on Tuesday, the 12th December when the election for W.M. for the ensuing year fell upon Br. P.M. Cooper. After the business of the Lodge, the brethren adjourned to a banquet served in Br. Rackstraw's usual liberal manner. Amongst the visitors were Brs. Newton, P.M., No. 23 and 25; J W. Adams, No. 169; Br. Caldwell, No. 25, &c. In the course of the evening the retiring W.M.'s (Alfred Tilt) health was drunk with that sincerity and enthusiasm which evinced how well his efforts for the benefit of the Lodge are appreciated by the brethren; and we trust his successor, as we have no doubt he will, may be fortunate enough to maintain for the Lodge that reputation for excellent workmanship and good fellowship which it has so long enjoyed.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting, at the Freemason's Tavern, on Thursday, the 7th December, when Br. Mills, W.M., very ably initiated two gentlemen into the mysteries of the craft. The brethren then retired to refreshment, and the evening was spent in perfect harmony.

LODGE OF NINE MUSES (No. 286).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday, December 12, when Br. Chapman, W.M., very ably initiated a gentleman into our ancient order. This being election night a ballot was taken for W.M., for the ensuing year, and declared to have unanimously fallen on Br. Warner, S.W. There were several visitors present, including Brs. Crew, Coghlan, &c., &c.

LODGE OF UNIONS (No. 318).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held a the Freemasons Tavern, on Monday, December 4, two gentlemen were duly initiated into Freemasonry, by P.M. John Hervey, with his accustomed ability.

LODGE OF UNITED PILGRIMS (No. 745).—At the meeting of this Lodge, at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, on Wednesday, Dec. 27, Br. Stroud, W.M. most admirably initiated a gentleman into the Order, and raised a Br. to the third degree.

POLISH NATIONAL LODGE (No. 778).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Thursday, December 17, when the brethren appeared in Masonic mourning, as a mark of respect to their late distinguished brother and member of the Lodge, P.M. Lord Dudley Stuart. In the absence of the W.M. from indisposition, Br. Lemanski, P.M., presided, and initiated two gentlemen into the Order, in addition to passing two brethren to the F.C. degree. Br. Goodison, of No. 201, was elected a joining member. At the conclusion of the business nearly forty of the brethren supped together, and before proceeding with the customary toasts, Br. Lemanski proposed the "pious memory of Br. Lord Dudley Stuart, PM. of the Polish National Lodge." In doing so, he stated, he felt a great weight upon his heart, for not only that Lodge, but Poland had lost a dear and devoted friend. The heart of the noble lord was ever ready to respond to the cry of the distressed, and the fervency with which their departed brother had even advocated the cause of Poland, had endeared him to every friend of liberty and every true son of that unfortunate nation. He felt they had indeed cause to grieve at the untimely loss of their dear friend and brother, as it would be very long before Poland could hope to see *his place worthily filled amongst the advocates of their rights. The toast was drunk* in solemn silence, every brother appearing deeply impressed by the loss which the Lodge has sustained. The customary toasts followed, and Br. Massey Dawson, W.M. of No. 8, in returning thanks for the visitors (himself, Br. Tiley, S.W. 902, and Br. Carter, 23), also took occasion to bear testimony to the great worth and charit-

able feelings of their deceasedBr. Lord D. Stuart. The brethren separated at an early hour.

LODGE LA TOLERANCE (No. 784).—This, the only French Lodge in London, held its last meeting for the year, on Tuesday, December 5, when Br. Boura, the W.M., initiated a gentleman into the Order, the ceremony being that in practice in France, which somewhat differs from the English, although the Lodge is held under a charter from the Grand Lodge of England. The S.W. was elected W.M. for the ensuing year.

WELLINGTON LODGE (No. 895).—The brethren of this Lodge met on Tuesday, December 12, when a brother was passed to the second degree, and two others raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The brethren then went to the ballot for W.M. for the ensuing year, which was unanimous in favour of Br. Ireland, of the Masonic Hall, Fetter-lane; as it was also for Br. Hay, of the Lord Duncan, Deptford, as Treasurer. At the conclusion of the business the brethren spent a pleasant evening in perfect harmony.

BEADON LODGE (No. 902).—On Friday, 22nd December, this Lodge met at Br. J. W. Adams', Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, to raise two of the brethren, and initiate a gentlemen, who resides in the neighbourhood, into the Order. This being a Lodge of emergency, there were only 15 members present, Br. Watson, W.M., officiating with his usual ability. After the Lodge, the brethren partook of a very excellent supper provided by Br. Adams, who never fails to give satisfaction. The majority of the members returned to town by train, wishing each other at parting "the compliments of the season."

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

At the monthly meeting of this board, on Wednesday, Dec. 27, there were eight petitions for consideration. Four only of the petitioners however attended, and these were relieved by grants amounting in the aggregate to 22*l*.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

ST. JAMES'S CHAPTER (No. 2).—The quarterly convocation of this Chapter was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Thursday, Dec. 7, under the presidency of Comp. Henderson, M.E Z. but the business transacted was not of sufficient interest to require special notice. The pleasures of the after part of the evening were considerably increased by the excellent singing of Comp. F. Crew.

ROYAL YORK CHAPTER OF PERSEVERANCE (No. 7).—The members of this Chapter, held an emergency meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday, Dec. 12, when a duly qualified Br. was most impressively exalted into the Royal Arch, by the M E.Z. Comp. John Hervey, G. Standard Bearer of England.

BRITISH CHAPTER (No. 8).—This ancient and distinguished Chapter, met on Friday, Dec 1, at the Freemasons Tavern. After the usual business had been performed, the Companions sat down to an excellent dinner, and enjoyed a pleasant and rational evening.

MOUNT MORIAH CHAPTER (No. 9).—At the quarterly meeting of this Chapter on Thursday, Dec. 7, Comp. Roberts, M.E.Z. presiding, Comp. Benham, was elected Z., and the other officers appointed for the ensuing year.

ENOCH CHAPTER (No. 11).—This excellent Chapter met at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday, Dec. 19. After the usual business, the Companions sat down to partake of a dinner provided in the usual tasteful and recherche style, for which the proprietors of this Tavern are so much distinguished.

JERUSALEM CHAPTER (No. 218).—The Comps. of this Chapter held their monthly convocation at the George and Vulture Tavern, on Tuesday, Dec. 12, when the candidate for exaltation being unable to attend, Comp. Brightling, at the request of the Comps. present, gave the two first lectures in a manner which proved highly gratifying to those who had the pleasure to hear him. The Comps. then retired to supper, and after spending a very pleasant evening, adjourned at an early hour.

INSTRUCTION.

Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

The Annual meeting of this excellent Lodge of Instruction for Master Masons only, held under the warrant of the Lodge of Unions, No. 318, took place at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 30th ult.—as stated by us in No. 2 of the "*Masonic Mirror.*"

Br. W. F. Beadon, P. G. W., occupied the chair as W. M., supported by nearly 200 brethren—including Br. Gooch, D. Pr. G. M., for Wiltshire; Br. Rev. J. Campbell, Pr.G.C., Do.; Br. Stephen Barton Wilson, P.G.W., for Essex; Br. Hervey, G.S.D.; Br. Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; Br. Tomkins, W. M. G. S. Lodge, &c., &c.

The Lodge having been duly opened, the second and third lectures were most ably worked in sections, Br. Stephen Barton Wilson putting the questions. The second lecture was worked by Brs. Artus; Absolon; Rixon; Hervey; and Simmonds: and the third by Brs. Palmer; Oram; and S. B. Wilson, Junr.

The Masonic business having concluded, the Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to supper.

At the conclusion of the repast, which was very elegantly served, the memory of Br. Peter Gilkes, was drunk in solemn silence.

The W. M. next rose to propose the Queen—a toast which Masons always received with the utmost respect and loyalty. If ever there was a time when her Majesty, whose excellent qualities had endeared her to all her subjects, was more entitled to their loyal and undivided support than another, it was when she was engaged in a great contest, from which he trusted this country would soon come out victorious—(Cheers). He gave them, the Queen and the Craft.—(Cheers).

The next toast was the health of the Earl of Zetland, W. M. G. M., of Masons. The W.M. said the noble Earl had held his distinguished position for many years, with honor both to himself and the craft—and he trusted it would be many years before they lost his valuable services—(Cheers).

The W. M. would propose the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M., who was a most liberal supporter of all their charities—and the rest of the Grand Officers. With that toast he begged to couple the name of Br. Le Veau, who richly deserved the honors bestowed upon him by the M.W.G.M.

Br. Le Veau returned thanks for the honor conferred upon the Earl of Yarborough, who he knew in every respect to be a thoroughly conscientious Mason, and the other G. officers. He felt proud at having had his name associated with the toast, and, on behalf of the G. Officers, begged to assure the brethren that no zeal or exertion would ever be wanting on their part to promote the interests of the craft, and merit their approbation—(Cheers).

The W. M. had now to propose, what he might call the toast of the evening—it being Prosperity to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement—(Cheers). That Lodge had now been in existence more than 30 years, having been established in 1823 as the Royal York Lodge of Instruction. Seven or eight years afterwards, application was made to the Grand Lodge, for a distinct Charter—but the late G. M. the Duke of Sussex objected to granting it, being of opinion that all Lodges of Instruction should be held under the Charter of a regular Lodge, which must be answerable for its proceedings—and they therefore came under the patronage of the Lodge in whose name they now met. The brethren were aware that the chief object of their meeting that evening, was not so much to celebrate their anniversary, as to do honor to their respected Br. John Hervey, whose name he would associate with the toast—(Cheers). He was sure that there was no one who knew that worthy Br. who did not highly esteem and respect him, and it was therefore with great pleasure he had now to perform the duty of presenting a testimonial of respect to their worthy Br., from the Emulation Lodge of Improvement—(Cheers). He thought that such a testimonial came with peculiar grace from that Lodge, inasmuch as Br. Hervey first saw the light of Masonry in the Royal York Lodge, and had now been for some years a P.M. of the Lodge of Unions.—(Cheers). Br. Hervey was not a very old Mason, having seen the light for the first time in 1844, but they all knew how assiduously he had devoted himself to all the duties required of him by the craft—and how well he deserved the honour con-

ferred upon him by the M.W.G.M. in making him a G. Officer of England—(Cheers). The Lodge of Emulation was greatly indebted to Br. Hervey for his exertions in promoting its prosperity, and he therefore had the greatest pleasure in handing to him in the name of the Lodge, a gold watch and chain, as a token of their esteem and regard—(Cheers). He trusted that when he looked upon that watch, it would act as a powerful incentive to future exertion, and that whilst he marked the fleeting hours and minutes, he would be reminded, not only of the duties he had to perform in this world, in extending knowledge and kindness to his brethren—but those duties to his God, which would ensure him everlasting happiness when it should please the Almighty to remove him from amongst them. He was sure Br. Hervey would continue to set a bright example to the younger brethren, and in presenting him with the testimonial, he asked them to join in drinking health and long life to Br. Hervey—and the continued prosperity of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement—(Cheers).

[The testimonial, consisting of a very elegent gold watch (the inscription on which we published last month), together with a very handsome cable chain, was here handed to Br. Hervey, who appeared deeply effected by the applause of the brethren.]

Br. Hervey felt he was not gifted with speech to such a degree as to enable him to return thanks in sufficiently warm terms, for the kind manner in which he had been spoken of by the W. M., and the very handsome testimonial just presented him on behalf of the members of that Lodge of Improvement. He begged them, however, to accept his sincerest thanks—thanks which emanated from the bottom of his heart, for their kindness and consideration towards him. He accepted it with the more pleasure, because he felt it to be a mark of their approbation in the way at which he had always endeavoured to fulfil his duties, and he could assure them, that whenever his eyes rested on their very elegant present, it would remind him of one of the most pressing of his duties—that of endeavouring to promote the prosperity and welfare of the Lodge and of every Br., connected with it to the utmost of his ability and power. He felt that the Lodge was indebted for its present proud position, not so much to his exertions as to those of older Masons, whom it had been his pleasure and pride to endeavour to follow and imitate—Brs. Honey, Savage, Robb, Wilson, &c. He was highly gratified at having met with the approbation of the Lodge, and though that handsame testimonial had been unsought and unexpected on his part, he could assure them he received it most gratefully—he should ever look back upon the proceedings of that evening with the greatest satisfaction—and use his best exertions to merit a continuance of their approbation and esteem.—(Cheers).

The healths of the W.M. Br. Beadon, of the officers of the evening, and other appropriate toasts having been drunk, the brethren seperated, well pleased with the proceedings of the evening.

Lodge of United Pilgrims (No. 745).

This excellent Lodge of Instruction, held its usual meeting on the evening of Friday, December the 8th, at the house of Br. Foulsham, the Clayton Arms Tavern, Kennington Oval, when the ceremony of Installation was very ably performed by Br. J. Thomas, in the presence of nearly thirty brethren. After the ceremony, Br. J. Thomas, presented Br. W. H. Luckins, P.M., No. 745, with a handsome silver snuff-box, as a slight testimonial to mark the respect and brotherly esteem the brethren of this Lodge of Instruction hold him in, accompanied by the following address, which was read by the Hon. Sec. (Br. P. Moss).

To Br. W. H. Luckins, P.M., No. 745.

Dear Sir and Brother,

We, the undersigned brethren, members of the Lodgeof United Pilgrims Lodge of Instruction, No. 745, having so long experienced your great zeal and efficiency in Freemasonry, under whose kind care and instruction, and to whose diligence we are indebted for the valuable knowledge we possess and enjoy in the Masonic Art—feeling that to your valuable assistance alone—to your brotherly care, and constant attendance at the Lodge—your unceasing anxiety for its welfare both in and out of it—and your strict observance and fulfilment of the excellent laws and tenets of the Craft, the Lodge of Instruction owes its present existence and prosperity, are desirous to express our gratitude, by presenting you with a silver snuff box, which, although

J.D.; and Dickson, I.G. The Right Hon. Viscount Combermere, R.W.P.G.M., of Cheshire, occupied the throne on the occasion, and the ceremony was performed most admirably by Br. Lewis, P.M. and P.P.G.S.D.

The banquet was served at four o'clock, when the Right Worshipful P.G.M. presided, supported on his right by Sir Watkin W. Wynn, R.W.P.G.M. of Shropshire and North Wales, the Hon. Wellington Cotton, V.N.P.J.G.W.; Brs. Herbert Henry Wynn, the Hon. Major Rowley, the Hon. Br. Kenyon, Dr. Cumming, P.M.; S. Moss, V.W.P.P.J.G.W.; Billinge, P.G.D. of C. for West Lancashire: and on his left by Br. the Rev. J. Folliott, P.P.G.C.; Br. J.H. Leeche, of Carden, the W.M. of the Lodge, Br. Dixon, P.M. and V.W.P.G.J.D., &c., &c.

On the removal of the cloth, the R.W.P.G.M. gave, in succession, the healths of her Majesty the Queen, Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family, all of which were drank, with enthusiasm. The noble Lord in proposing the last-named toast observed, that he trusted yet to see the Prince of Wales a Mason, and if it should please God to spare him he hoped to see his friend on his right hand (Sir Watkin Wynn), perform the ceremony of initiation; for he could not think any one so fit to perform it as the P.G.M. of North Wales—(Loud cheers).

His lordship next gave the Navy and Army—(Three times three).

The Hon. Wellington Cotton being loudly called for responded to the toast. He need not say anything respecting the army as facts known to all spoke for that body. He felt confident that as hitherto the army would continue to merit the confidence of the country.

Then followed the healths of the M.W.G.M. of England, the Earl of Zetland, and his Deputy, the Earl of Yarborough, which were drank with masonic honours.

Br. Horatio Lloyd, in eloquent terms, proposed the health of the R.W.P.G.M., which was received with the utmost enthusiasm, and drank with masonic honours.

The noble Lord, in responding, said, he became every year more attached to Masonry and should do everything in his power to promote the interests of the craft in the province over which he had the honour to preside—(Loud cheers). After alluding to the fact that since the Hon. Baronet on his right had become G.M. of North Wales, Masonry had revived to a very considerable extent in the principality; the noble Lord concluded by proposing the health of Br. Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, P.G.M. of North Wales and Shropshire, which was enthusiastically received and drank with masonic honours.

Br. Sir Watkin Wynn returned thanks, expressing his determination to follow the good example set him by the noble Lord who presided over that province.

His Lordship then proposed the health of Br. J. F. Maddock, W.D.P.G.M., of Cheshire, expressing his regret that indispositon prevented his attendance that evening. The toast was drunk with all the honours and responded to by Br. Thomas F. Maddock, on behalf of his father.

His Lordship gave the health of the Earl of Ellesmere, R.W.P.G.M., of East Lancashire—(Masonic honours).

Br. W. Dixon, in a complimentary speech, proposed the health of Lady Combermere, eulogising her for promoting the interests of Masonry generally, but particularly for her support of the Ball.

His Lordship responded to the toast, and in complimentary terms proposed the health of Br. Lloyd, the newly installed W.M., to which that brother responded in eloquent terms.

Then followed the toast of the Provincial Grand Officers, which was responded to by the Rev. J. Folliott, P.P.G.C.

His Lordship next gave "The Visiting Brethren," which was responded to by Br. Moss, P.P.J.G.W., of Gloucestershire, in a most excellent and truly Masonic speech.

Br. Thomas Finchett Maddock next gave the health of the Marquis of Downshire, P.G.M., of Berkshire, to which his Lordship responded, and proposed Le-Gendre Nicholas Starkie, R.W.P.G.M., of West Lancashire, which was responded to by Br. Billinge, and, in the course of some excellent remarks, he observed that Masonry ought not to be confined to the Lodge-room. They ought always to remember that wherever they were they were still Masons—(Applause).

His Lordship next proposed "The City of Chester and its Trade," after which the noble Lord bade good night to the Brethren in his usual affectionate and friendly way.

Previous to the Lodge being closed, Br. S. Brown proposed the health of Br Twiss, P.G., Organist, and the Vocalists; in doing which he mentioned the fact that Br. Twiss had come a long distance to afford them the benefit of his valuable services gratuitously.

The Lodge was then closed.

We ought not to omit mentioning the fact that each toast was followed by appropriate music, all the glees exciting the warmest enthusiasm, and some of them being encored. The following were the performers:—Br. Twiss, P.G.O., Br. Edwardson, of the Manchester Concerts, Brs. Sandy, Prickley, and Curzon, Vicars of Chester Cathedral, and Br. Safino, whose effective manner of singing "Solomon Log," merited high eulogy.

On the following evening a magnificent ball took place in the Royal Assembly Rooms, attended by most of the leading families in the county. The profits are to be devoted to the Patriotic Fund.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

Scientific Lodge, Cambridge (No. 105).—The monthly meeting of the members of this Lodge was held on Monday, Dec. 11, and most numerously attended. Several young noblemen and other members of the University, and one resident in the county, were introduced and passed through several degrees; after which the Lodge proceeded to the election of a W.M. for the ensuing year, when Br. A. R. Ward, whose ability and zealous exertions have been most successfully displayed during the past twelvemonths, was re-elected in a highly flattering manner. A proposition to subscribe the liberal sum of £10 10s. to the Patriotic Fund, was unanimously carried.

Lodge of Three Grand Principles, Cambridge (No. 645).—The members of this Lodge held a meeting on Thursday, Dec. 14, at their Lodge-rooms, in Trumpington-street, Cambridge, for the purpose of electing a W.M. for the ensuing year, when Br. G. Massey, P.M., was unanimously elected Master, for the third time.

DERBYSHIRE.

Royal Sussex Lodge, Repton (No. 446).—The annual festival of this Lodge was celebrated on Wednesday, Dec. 6. The Right W.D.P.G.M., C. R. Colville, Esq., M.P., held a Provincial Grand Lodge on this occasion, and from the reports of the Worshipful Masters of the Lodges, it appears that Freemasonry is steadily progressing in Derbyshire. Br. George Mason has been re-elected W.M. of the Royal Sussex Lodge. Upwards of thirty brethren partook of an excellent banquet, provided by Br. W. Somers, of the Masonic Tavern, which comprised every delicacy in season. The brethren spent several hours in the interchange of those Masonic courtesies for which the craft is pre-eminent. Among the visitors were brethren from the Abbey Lodge, No. 907, Burton; the Devonshire Lodge, No. 908, Glossop; and the Tyrian Lodge, No. 315, Derby.

DURHAM.

St. Helens Lodge, Hartlepool (No. 774).—The members of this Lodge, at their last regular meeting on the 1st Dec., voted the sum of five guineas to the Patriotic Fund. They also intend presenting a P.M's. Jewel, to their worthy Br. W. J. Hodgson, W.M., on his retiring from the chair, on the festival and installation of his successor, Br. *H. A. Hammarborn.*

St. John's Lodge, Sunderland (No. 95).—At a meeting of this Lodge held on Thursday, Dec. 14, at Br. Jeffrey's Bath Hotel, the following brethren were installed officers for the ensuing year:—Brs. M. Douglass, W.M.; P. Ditchburn, P.M.; S. Jacobs, S.W.; W. H. Crooks, J.W.; G. Watson, Treasurer; T. Godferson, Secretary; R. Hodgson, I.G.; Wilson and Bailey, Deacons; Tyson and Hallard, Stewards; W. Young, Standard Bearer.

PALATINE LODGE, BISHOP WEARMOUTH (No. 114).—The annual meeting of the brethren of this Lodge, was held at the Bridge Hotel, on Thursday, Dec. 14, when Br. R. T. Wilkinson was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year; and was pleased to appoint Brs. J. M. Smith, S.W.; B. Brooks, J.W.; E. Smith, Tr.; St. Jno. Crookes, S.; R. A. Johnson, S.D.; B. Levy, J.D.; F. Rahn, I.G.; Wm. Laws, Tyler.

ST. HILDA'S LODGE, SOUTH SHIELDS (No. 292).—The brethren of this Lodge met in the Lodge-room on Monday, the 18th December, for the appointment of officers for the ensuing year, and the following brethren were appointed officers:—Br. Hen. Johnson was installed W.M.; J. Robb, P.M.; H. Hudson, S.W.; S. Simon, J.W.; R. S. Foster, S.D.; J. Hunter, J.D.; J. J. Oliver, G.G.; W. Ridey, S.S.; J. R. Walker, J.S.; and Thomas Rippon Tyler.

ESSEX.

LODGE OF GOOD FELLOWSHIP, CHELMSFORD (No. 343).—The annual festival of this Lodge was held on Thursday, at the Shire Hall, when Br. Capt. S. J. Skinner, R.A., D.P.G.M. for Essex, was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year—this being the second time the same honourable office has been conferred upon the gallant captain. The ceremony was well performed by Br. Peter Matthews, P.M., No. 11. A banquet, at the White Hart Hotel, followed the above proceedings, when a goodly muster did ample justice to the catering of Br. Andrew Durrant, and spent a merry evening in a style peculiar to the Craft.

HAMPSHIRE.

PORTSMOUTH LODGE (No. 717).—On the evening of Thursday, Dec. 16, the members of this Lodge gave a grand banquet in their Lodge room, High-street Portsmouth, to the brethren of the Phœnix Lodge (No. 319), Portsmouth, and the Royal Sussex Lodge (No. 428), Portsea. The W.M. for the year, Mr. Thos. Batchelor, presided, supported by the W.M's of the two Lodges, with their P.M's and officers About forty brethren sat down to a magnificient banquet, provided by Br. Crofts, of the George Hotel, High-street. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts followed the removal of the cloth, and several of the members of the naval and military services being present, the brethren did not think it a departure from Masonic principles, to give utterance to those sentiments of patriotic enthusiasm which the stirring incidents of the day so naturally inspire. The evening was spent in a manner that elicited the kindliest feelings on the part of all present; and such interchanges of social and hospitable feeling, cannot fail to foster and cherish a regard for the principles of Masonry, which are becoming so generally appreciated in these towns.

KENT.

UNION LODGE, MARGATE (No. 149).—At the last meeting of this Lodge, it was resolved to present £10 10s. from the Lodge funds, in aid of the Patriotic Fund, an example which will be doubtless liberally followed throughout the county.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

SILURIAN LODGE, NEWPORT (No. 693).—On St. John's day, Dec. 27, the members of this Lodge assembled at the Westgate Hotel, when Br. R. G. Thomas, Architect, was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year. The following are the officers appointed for the ensuing year:—Brs J. Hyndman, S.W.; T. W. Nicholas, J.W.; E. Wells, Treasurer; W. Williams, Secretary; J. H. Davies, S.D.; J. C. Nicholas, J.D.; G. W. Jones, J.G.; H. J. Groves, orgt.; J. S. Sidebotham, Chaplain; W. McFee, Tyler. The Brethren afterwards dined together at the Westgate Hotel, when a number of Masonic toasts were drank and enthusiastically responded to.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

NORTHAMPTON CHAPTER (No. 463).—A convocation of this Chapter was held on the 30th Nov., at the Assembly Rooms, Northampton, when Comp. C. Elkington,

was installed as Z., for the second time—he having filled that office the preceeding year; Comp. G. Worley, H, and the most noble Comp. the Marquis of Huntley, J. The ceremonies were most ably performed by Comps. W. Watson, and J. Savage, who attended from London for the purpose. The other officers of the Chapter consist of Comp. Welchman, E., Comp. Roberts, N., and Comp. Smith, P.S. In addition to the two Comps. above named, there were several visitors, including Comps. Boughton Leigh, Machin, &c., &c.

NORTH SHIELDS.

St. George's Lodge, Northumberland (No. 624).—At the regular meeting of this Lodge, at the George Hotel, on Monday, December 4th, 1854, there was a large attendance of members present to witness five initiations and three raisings, the ceremony being performed by the W.M. Thomas Fenwick, assisted by P.M., H. Johnson. This being the time for electing the Master for the ensuing year, Br. Thomas Fenwick was unanimously, and by acclamation re-elected to fill that office for the third time. Br. John Walker Mayson, P.M., 624, and P.P.G.J.W. (the present Mayor of Tynemouth), in a feeling and appropriate speech, moved that this Lodge subscribe £10 10s. to the Patriotic Fund, which was seconded by Br. William Berkley, P.G.S.W., who took occasion to observe, that if the Lodges under the banner of the G.M. of England would all do likewise Freemasonry would stand in the glorious position of subscribing the noble sum of £10,000. It is needless to add the motion was carried unanimously. The installation of Br. Thomas Fenwick, as W.M., took place at the Lodge-room, George Tavern, on Tuesday, the 19th inst., when the W.M. appointed the following brethren as officers for the ensuing year:—John G. Tulloch, S.W.; Stephen Owen, J.W.; Charles A. Adamson, Secretary; James D. Brown, S.D.; W. C. H. Willems, J.D.; William Twizell, I.G.; Thomas Haswell, Organist; John Evans, Tyler. The festival in celebration of the installation was held in the Assembly Rooms, George Tavern, on the following day, when a large number of brethren, including the principal officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Northumberland, viz., Richard Medcalf, D.P.G.M.; William Berkley, P.G.S.W.; John S. Challoner, P.G.J.W.; the Mayor of Tynemouth (Br. Mayson, P.M.); Br. Alderman Bartleman; Br. Councillor Johnson; Br. H. Johnson, W.M., of St. Hilda's Lodge, No. 292, and Br. J. Cook, W.M., St. Peter's Lodge, No. 706, sat down to a splendid dinner, served up in a superior style by Br. Coxon, and the evening was spent with that harmony which ever characterises the meetings of the craft.

OXFORDSHIRE.

Alfred Lodge, Oxford (No. 425).—The brethren of this Lodge met on Tuesday, Dec. 5, and unanimously elected Br. John Thorp, son of Mr. Alderman John Thorp, as W.M. for the ensuing year. At the same meeting Br. Frazer was re-elected Steward, and Br. Thurland was appointed Steward in the room of Br. Townsend, who resigned that office, which he has held for several years. The Benevolent Fund, established in connection with this Lodge, is progressing most satisfactorily, and a long list of donors and annual subscribers was read.

Apollo University Lodge, Oxford (No. 460).—At a meeting of the members of this Lodge, on Thursday, Dec. 7, Br. J. W. Malcolm, of Christ Church, was elected W.M. for the ensuing year. The present W.M., Br. W. H. H. Beach, of Christ Church, communicated to the brethren that he was present at a meeting of the Grand Lodge, in London, on the previous evening, when the G.M. of England gave notice of his intention to move that the sum of £1000 be voted out of their funds to the Partiotic Fund, a notification which was much applauded, and appeared to give universal satisfaction.

SHROPSHIRE.

St. John's Lodge, Admaston Spa, Wellington, Salop (No. 875).—A Lodge was held on Friday, Dec. 1, being the third meeting of the season, Br. Marriott, P. M., of No. 12, Fortitude and old Cumberland (a subscribing member of this Lodge), officiating as W.M., when Br. Ewitt was installed Master for the ensuing year.

The business of the Lodge being completed, the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided by Br. Pursill, and presided over by Br. Ewitt. In the course of the evening, the newly-installed W.M. paid a well-merited compliment to Br. Marriott, for his kind, able, and indefatigable exertions in bringing this Lodge to its present state of efficiency, his extreme willingness at all times to give his valuable assistance, his courteous bearing and urbanity of manners, rendering his presence whenever he could make it convenient to attend, a source of pleasure to every member of the Lodge. Br. Marriott also in feeling terms gave the health of the immediate Past Master, Br. Eyton, alluding to his punctual attendance and anxious care for the general interests of the Lodge, as also the many acts of liberality which had marked his year of office; and as a small token or tribute of respect, in which he was held by the brethren, begged his acceptance of a Past Master's Jewel, bearing an Inscription expresssive of the high regard they entertained for him, and their due appreciation of his past services. After spending a most agreable evening, the brethren adjourned at an early hour, to the first Friday in the present month.

SHREWSBURY.—The Salopian Lodge, No. 382, have contributed £10 10*s.* to the Patriotic Fund; and the Salopian Lodge of Charity, No. 135, £3 3*s.*

STAFFORDSHIRE.

CHAPTER OF PERSEVERANCE, NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYNE (No. 674).—At the last meeting of this Chapter, it was proposed by P.Z. and D.P.G.M. Ward, that ten guineas should be handed over to the Patriotic Fund, which was seconded by Companion Dutton, and carried unanimously.

KNIGHT TEMPLARS.—At an encampment of this Order lately held at the New Inn, Handsworth, it was proposed by Lieut.-Colonel Vernon, P.Z. and P.G.M. for the county of Stafford, that the sum of five guineas should be given to the Patriotic Fund. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

WEST YORKSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.—The D.P.G.M., Br. Charles Lee, has convened a Grand Lodge of the province of West Yorkshire, to be held in the Lodge-room of the Lodge of Probity No. 73, Halifax, on Wednesday next, the 3rd instant, when various subjects of importance are to be brought under consideration. On the subject of the Patriotic Fund, the P.G. Sec. thus addresses the brethren of the province. "Worthy brethren, with commendable patriotic zeal, and in the spirit of true benevolence, having signified their intention to move that certain sums of money shall be granted from the Provincial Grand Lodge Fund, in aid of the noble and philanthropic purpose contemplated by the Royal Patriotic Fund, the D.P.G.M. bids me subjoin the following extract from the 17th Provincial Grand Lodge By-law, for the information and guidance of the brethren:—

"A Provincial Grand Lodge Fund shall be established for the purposes of granting relief to brethren of this province who may have fallen into distress or difficulty, or who may have become disabled by accident, old age, or infirmities, and for granting relief to the indigent widows or children of the brethren of this province, and for other charitable purposes, exclusively of a masonic constitution and character, and in order to maintain the honor and dignity of the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire."

This by-law evidently was framed specially to guard against any appropriation of the funds of the Provincial Grand Lodge, otherwise than for the purposes for which they were instituted—Masonic Charities, and necessary machinery for the working of the Provincial Grand Lodge—but this does not prevent the benevolent action of private lodges in the good cause, where there are funds, and which funds are not under special restraint by the By-laws of such Lodges, and already two noble examples have been set, namely, by the Lodge of Probity, No. 73, which hath voted ten guineas, and by the Lodge of Harmony, No. 342, which hath voted twenty guineas, from the funds of their respective Lodges, to the Royal Patriotic Fund; and I believe the Lodge of Hope, No. 379, is taking steps for the same great and generous purpose; but where the funds of the Lodge will not admit of tact in such wise, it

is in the power of every Lodge to contribute by voluntary subscription among its members, according to their relative condition and inclination, and the D.P.G.M. being aware that the by-laws of some Lodges require a certain time to be given, he hereby gives dispensation to all W. Masters of Lodges throughout the province to convene Lodges of emergency for the purpose of affording every Lodge, and every brother of a Lodge, the opportunity of casting in a contribution, be the same small or large, as a Patriotic Benevolent Offering. The D.P.G.M. considers that, as the Annual Masonic Festival of St. John the Evangelist is nigh at hand, when in every Lodge throughout the land brother greets brother, and friendship and fraternity, in festive joy, come forth, it will be a fit season to place before the assembled brethren severally, the claims of the widows and the orphans of our gallant soldiers and sailors who have fallen—nobly fallen—fighting bravely for Britain's honour; and the D.P.G.M. requests that every Worshipful Master of the several Lodges in this province will come prepared to the Provincial Grand Lodge, with a statement, shewing the amount of money subscribed by the brethren of the Lodge over which he presides; and if it could be easily ascertained, a separate list of contributions otherwise made to the Royal Patriotic Fund, by the brethren—for the D.P.G.M. wishes to have it recorded in the minutes of the Provincial Grand Lodge, that the brethren of West Yorkshire are ever loyal and true—faithful to their country, and ready to sympathise with, and relieve all, who are in suffering and sorrow."

LODGE OF PROBITY, HALIFAX (No. 73).—The brethren of this Lodge, with hearty Masonic acclamations, have voted £10 10*s.* from their Lodge funds, as a subscription to the Royal Patriotic Fund; and the brethren expressed a hope that the example set by this, the oldest Lodge in the province, would be followed by all the Masonic Lodges in the kingdom.

ALFRED LODGE, LEEDS (No. 384).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting on Friday, the 1st of December, for the purpose of installing the W.M. elect, Br. Thos. Dixon. The ceremony of installation was admirably performed by Br. P.M. J. Hargreaves, Prov. G.S. of West Yorkshire. The W.M. appointed the following brethren as his officers:—Brs. W. Chadwick, S.W.; Dr. Hulme, J.W.; G. Pullan, S.D.; Dr. Knight, J.D.; C. Sharp, I.G.; W. H. Butterworth, Sec. This Lodge will celebrate the festival of St. John's at the Griffin Hotel, Leeds, on the 5th inst., when a numerous gathering of the provincial brethren is expected. The Alfred holds a Lodge of Instruction every Friday evening at seven o'clock, which is extremely well attended.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

HARMONIC LODGE, DUDLEY (No. 313).—The members of this Lodge held their usual monthly meeting on Tuesday, the 5th of December, under the presidency of Br. Cook, W.M. It is customary in Dudley for the W.M. of each of the Lodges (of which there are three), once during his year of office, to give a special invitation to the officers and past officers of the other Lodges to attend the Lodge and banquet, which arrangement has a very great tendency to promote that brotherly love and harmony which should at all times characterise Freemasons. The above being Br. Cook's invitation night, was marked by the attendance of a goodly number of visiting brethren. The bill of fare, both for labour and refreshment, was good. One brother was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by the W.M., and two gentlemen were initiated into the first degree by the R.W. Br. Mansfield, P.M., P.P.S.G.W. of Worcestershire. This being the night for the election of the W.M. and Treasurer for the ensuing year, Br. Bristow, S.W., was elected W.M., and Br. Light was re-elected Treasurer, he having ably discharged the duties of that office for the last three years. At the conclusion of Lodge business the brethren sat down in number about thirty to an excellent banquet, which reflected great credit on host Br. Roberts, and the evening was passed as usual in great harmony.

WORCESTER LODGE (No. 349).—The members of this Lodge have re-elected their esteemed Br. P. Nill, as W.M. for the ensuing year, and he was accordingly duly installed into the chair for the second time, at a meeting on Thursday, Dec. 7. The Lodge is highly prosperous, and under such able management there is no doubt it

will remain so. The brethren afterwards dined together at the Lodge House, the Bell Hotel, and passed a very pleasant evening.

SEMPER FIDELIS LODGE, WORCESTER (No. 772).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge held at the Crown Hotel, Worcester, on Monday, Dec. 4, Br. T. Clutterbuck, a highly respected member of the Lodge, was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. The brethren afterwards supped together, and in the course of the evening Br. Walter Cobley, an old and distinguished member of the Lodge, was presented with his portrait, most excellently painted, as a token of the esteem in which he is held by the brethren. We hear that both Lodges have opened subscription lists in aid of the Patriotic Fund.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.—The W.M.P.G. for Worcestershire has addressed the following letter to the R.W.J.B. Hyde, D.P.G.M.

Right Worshipful Sir, and Brother—At the quarterly meeting of the Grand Lodge the M.W. Grand Master gave notice that he should move at the next quarterly communication, in March, that the sum of 1000*l.* should be presented to the Patriotic Fund, and, in eloquent terms, called upon members of private Lodges to assist in rendering the offering worthy the position which the craft holds in society. When it is recollected that many distinguished military members of the Order are now engaged protecting, in the East, the lives and liberties of their brethren at home, I cannot believe that any of the brethren in my province, influenced, as I trust they are, by the holiest dictates of humanity and the irresistible calls of fraternal sympathy, will hesitate to adopt the advice of the noble Earl, our truly great and good Grand Master. I therefore propose that the Master of each Lodge in the province should move that a donation, to the utmost extent of prudence, should be voted from the funds of the Lodge to the Patriotic Fund, the minutes being confirmed, that the money may be sent to yourself, and when the whole of the Lodges have reciprocated to my appeal, I shall be glad to hear from you. As our own provincial meeting is not likely to take place until September next, I trust there will be no impropriety, with the concurrence of the finance committee, in adding from our P.G.L. Funds 10*l.* 10*s.* to the amount. —I remain, R. W. Sir and Brother, with fraternal regard,

H. C. VERNON, Provincial Grand Master, Worcestershire.

NORTH WALES.

ST. DAVID'S LODGE, BANGOR (No. 540).—The "brethren of the mystic tie" resident in Bangor and the neighbourhood, and subscribing to the St. David's Lodge, celebrated, by anticipation, on Tuesday, December 19th, the Festival of St. John, in order that their doing so on the regular Lodge night might save the unpleasantness of clashing with other celebrations of the Patron Saint, at the proper time, in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Shropshire.

The business of the Lodge, comprising two initiations, and one raising, having been transacted in the Lodge-room, the brethren adjoined for refreshment to the Castle Hotel, where Br. Bicknell had provided a most sumptuous and recherche banquet, which was enjoyed by the select number of eighteen. The W.M. of the Lodge, Br. Stevenson, V.W.P.P.J.G.D., of North Wales and Shropshire, presided, the W.M. of the Segontium Lodge, Carnarvon, Br. Jennings, V.W.P.P.G.D.C. of Oxfordshire, acting as S.W., and P.M. Br. Pritchard, V.W.P.P.S.G.D., North Wales and Shropshire, occupying the chair of the J.W., P.M. Br. Martin, V.W.P.P.J.G.W., West Lancashire, filled the important office of D.C., and Br. Hayden, of the Segontium, presided at the pianoforte. The other brethren present were, Captain Cummins, of the H.R.A.C. Malta; P.M. Aronson, P.M. Thomas, Algeo, S.D., Twigge, J.D., Hughes, I.G., Bicknell, Dew, Atkinson Williams, all of the St. David's, 540; and Potter, S.W., Turner, S.D., R. M. Williams, V.W.P.G. Steward, North Wales and Shropshire, all of the Segontium, 881. The evening was spent most delightfully, in the "feast of reason and the flow of soul," and in that feeling of loyalty and chastened joyousness, which are peculiarly the characteristics of the brethren, and indeed, in the experience of most of those present, was never surpassed for conviviality and harmony, and a full meed of gratification to every one.

On the cloth being drawn, and grace said, the W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft," which was drunk with heartfelt enthusiasm.

The National Anthem was sung in excellent style by Brs. Hayden, Jennings, and Martin, the other brethren joining the chorus.

The next toast given was "Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the other branches of the royal family."

P.M. Martin, in the absence of three reverend brethren, residing in the neighbour-

hood, and two of whom, the present and the past Chaplains of the Lodge, had promised to attend, made a few remarks upon the character of St. John, and its reflection of the principles of the Order, and explained how it was that the Evangelist and the Baptist had both been considered the Patron Saints of Masonry. He then gave "The Blessed Memory of St. John," which was drunk in solemn silence.

The W.M., with a suitable eulogium upon their government of the Craft, proposed "The Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M. of England, and the Earl of Yarborough, M.W.D.G.M."

The W.M. next gave "Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., M.P., R.W.P.G.M., North Wales and Shropshire, and Rev. E. Dymoke, R.W.D.P.G.M."

P.M. Pritchard, as a past grand officer of the province, responded, and urged that the Craft ought to feel deeply grateful that these and other distinguished personages came forward to promote the interests of the Order, and their doing so ought to be considered a clear proof that there was nothing but good to be found in Masonry. He then expressed his regret that their example was not followed by the leading gentry of our own neighbourhood, who, until they came amongst the brethren, could not, by possibility, know anything of the usefulness and excellence of the Craft.

The W.M. gave "The Dukes of Leinster and Athol, M.W.G.M. of Ireland and Scotland."

P.M. Pritchard drew attention to the bravery of Lord Combermere, and the literary and scientific accomplishments and liberal spirit of the Earl of Ellesmere, and proposed "Lord Combermere, Lord Ellesmere, and Le Gendre N. Starkie, Esq., R.W.P.G.M. Cheshire and Lancashire, and their deputies, John Finchett Maddock, Esq., the Rev. Gilmour Robinson, and Stephen Blair, Esq."

P.M. Martin, as a past grand officer of West Lancashire, replied, and spoke warmly of the liberality of Br. Starkie, who had sent 5*l.* to the Bangor New Church, though he had no connection whatever with the neighbourhood, and of the good qualities of Brs. Robinson and Maddock, with both of whom he had the honour of having been long acquainted. He then referred to the anxiety evinced by the W.M. to improve the Lodge, and to the sterling straightforward honesty and liberality, the admirable social disposition, and the practical kindness ever shown by him as a citizen of the world, and proposed "The W.M. of the St. David's Lodge, Bangor." (Cheers.)

The W.M. replied, and proposed "The Newly Initiated Brethren."

Brs. Dew and Williams expressed their satisfaction that they had been admitted into the Order.

P.M. Aronson proposed "The Segontium and the Hibernia Lodges," and "The Visiting Brethren."

Br. Jennings and Br. Pritchard returned thanks.

The W.M. gave the "Army and Navy," and "The Heroes of the Crimean War," calling upon Br. Captain Cummins, who acknowledged the toast in a very neat speech.

P.M. Pritchard referred to the kindness to the Craft of Lady Combermere and Lady Wynn, and proposed their healths, which were drunk, as were the other toasts of the evening, with Masonic honours.

The W.M. then gave the last toast, "All Poor and Distressed Masons throughout the globe, and speedy relief to them."

The Lodge then resumed labour, and shortly afterwards closed about a quarter to ten o'clock, in perfect harmony, all the brethren being delighted with the proceedings of the evening.

SOUTH WALES.

Glamorgan Lodge, Cardiff (No. 43).—The brethren of this Lodge have voted ten pounds out of the funds of the Lodge, to be placed in hands of the M.W. Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, towards the Patriotic Fund.

Lodge of Saint Peter, Carmarthen (No. 699).—We are very glad to have authority for reporting most favourably of the working of this Lodge, and of its increasing prosperity. We remember the reports made of the success attending

Lodge No. 51, when the same brother, who now takes such active interest here, resided in the neighbourhood of Birmingham; our readers well know his name, and the exertions he has made in every Lodge he has joined. We perceive that the brother alluded to, Br. Ribbans, still continues an absent member of Lodge 21, which Lodge he represented as Grand Steward, and was the mover of a *medal* testimonial to Br. Dobie, who also served the office of Grand Steward the same year, and acted as chairman at their meetings. The Bank of England Lodge also, has the name of the same brother upon the minutes of their proceedings. Our hearty best wishes attend Br. Ribbans. He is a consistent advocate of the Masonic Charities, and enjoys, as he deserves, the acquaintance of a large circle of friends.

SCOTLAND.

THE GRAND LODGE—EDINBURGH.

On St. Andrew's Day, November 30, the Grand Lodge of Scotland met in the Hall of the Royal Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh, for the annual election of office bearers, when the following were unanimously chosen:—His Grace the Duke of Athol, K.T., Grand Master; J. Whyte Melville, Esq., of Strathkinnis. Depute Grand Master; Sir Robert Menzies, Bart., Substitute Grand Master; Patrick Keir, Esq., of Kindrogan, Senior Grand Warden; Lord Loughborough, Junior Grand Warden; Samuel Hay, Esq., Grand Treasurer; William Alex. Laurie, Esq., Grand Secretary; James L. Woodman, Esq., Grand Clerk; Rev. David Arnot, D.D., Grand Chaplain; J. H. Erskine Wemyss, of Wemyss, Senior Grand Deacon; James Wolfe Murray, Esq., of Cringletie, Junior Grand Deacon; David Bryce, Esq., Grand Architect; Charles Mackay, Esq., Grand Jeweller; John Deuchar, Esq., Grand Bible Bearer; Lieutenant P. Deuchar, R.N., Grand Director of Ceremonies; Br. Andrew Murray, Grand Sword Bearer; Br. Alex. Mackenzie, Grand Director of Music; Brs. Alex. Menzies and James Wotters, Grand Marshals; Donald Ross and Wm. M. Bryce, Grand Tylers. After the election, the Grand Master, accompanied by his officer bearers, and a numerous assemblage of the brethren from Lodges in Edinburgh, Leith, and the Metropolitan Province, as well as from those in Glasgow, proceeded to a sumptuous banquet provided in an adjoining hall, when the chair was taken at seven o'clock by the M.W. the Grand Master, supported on the right and left by the Baron Panmure, K.T. and P.G.M. for Forfarshire, Sir Robert Menzies, Bart., Colonel Campbell, and Colonel Robertson, 82nd Regiment. The croupiers were Patrick Keir, Esq., and the R.W.M. of Lodge No. 1, Edinburgh. Amongst those attending the Grand Master were the following:—Br. Home Drummond, Br. W. Rashleigh, the Representative of the Grand Lodge of Hamburgh; the Grand Secretary, the Grand Clerk, Captain Wood, Br. Pilkington, Br. Wilkinson, Br. Edward Percy Thomson, 82nd Regiment, &c., &c. The band of the 82nd Regiment was in attendance, and performed a *recherche* selection of operatic music, which added much to the harmony, while assisting that usual flow of good and true Masonic feeling which has ever characterized the celebration of this ancient national festival by the Scotch craft.

BANFF.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE.—*During the month of November, this Lodge,* which is in a very flourishing condition, held no less than four meetings, under the presidency of Br. James Frazer, W.M. At those meetings five gentlemen were initiated into the order, and the whole of them have since been raised to the sublime degree of M.M.

DUNDEE.

The following were elected office-bearers by the Masonic Lodges of Dundee, on Thursday, November 30, being the Festival of St. Andrew:—

Operative Lodge (No. 47).—R.W.M.—Br. P. Stratton; S.W.—Br. J. Z. Kay; J.W.—Br. John Geekie, junr.; Treasurer—Br. James Bruce; Secretary—Br. John M'Dougall.

Ancient Lodge (No. 48).—R.W.M.—Br. P. Gardiner; S.W.—Br. David Dickson; J.W.—Br. John Mitchell; Treasurer—Br. James Gellatly; Secretary—Br. James Smith, junr.

St. David's Lodge (No. 78).—R.W.M.—Br. Thomas Russel; S.W.—Br. Wm. Nicoll; J.W.—Br. J. A. Hughes; Treasurer—Br. William Moir; Secretary—Br. James Winter.

Thistle Operative Lodge (No. 158).—R.W.M.—Br. James Skene: S.W.—Br. John Allan; J. W.—Br. Andrew Law; Treasurer—Br. James Webster; Secretary—Br. Thomas Anderson.

Forfar and Kincardine Lodge (No. 225).—R.W.M.—Br. Fr. Dick, junr.; S.W.—Br. K. W. Henderson; J.W.—Br. George Fleming; Treasurer—Br. John Pride; Secretary—Br. David Crabb.

Caledonian Lodge (No. 254).—R.W.M.—Br. C. D. Chalmers; S.W.—Br. J. R. Archer; J. W.—Br. James Rattray; Treasurer—Br. James Anderson; Secretary—Br. Andrew Greig, junr.

Camperdown Lodge (No. 317).—R.W.M.—Br. J. D. Wears: S.W.—Br. F. Whitton; J.W.—Br. James Will; Treasurer—Br. Charles Scott; Secretary—Br. *Joseph Fleming.*

At a Meeting of the members of St. David's Lodge, it was unanimously agreed to give 5*l.* 5*s.* from the fund of the Lodge to the Patriotic Fund.

PERTH.

The Scone and Perth Lodge.—This Lodge met on Thursday, November 30, being St. Andrew's Day, for the election of office-bearers, when the following brethren were elected for the ensuing year, viz.:—Matthew Gloag, R.W.M.; Thomas Duncan, D.M.; Alexander Robertson, S.D.M.; John M'Kay, S.W.; Wm. Miller, J.W.; Robert Peters, Treasurer; James Galletly, Clerk; James Thomon, Bible-bearer; Wm. Fyfe, right-hand Key-keeper; James Fenton, left-hand Key-keeper; John Murray, G.S.; John Kennedy, A.G.S.; RobertReid, Tyler; Alexander Paterson, Esq., Proxy Master to the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

CORRRESPONDENCE.

NATIONAL MASONIC BANQUET.

To the Editor of the "Masonic Mirror."

Dear Sir and Brother,—Observing in the *Times* of last week, that it is the intention of the R.W. the G.M., the Earl of Zetland, to propose that a grant of 1000*l.* should be made by the Grand Lodge of England, towards the Patriotic Fund; and that the R.W. the G.M. expressed a hope that the example would be followed by all the Lodges, I beg most humbly to suggest, that if the R.W. the G.M. should be pleased to call a Lodge of Emergency, at his earliest convenience on this occasion, and propose a Masonic National Banquet, at the Freemasons Tavern, to take place about the middle of February, causing a general invitation through all his P.G.M., and appointing every W.M.P.G. Wardens, and P.G. Secretaries Stewards, in addition to his Grand Stewards.

And that it be proposed that a general subscription be raised by the P.G.Ms. calling Lodges of Emergency throughout England, and proposing a banquet on the occasion; and that the subscriptions be raised at the banquet by the W.Ms., his Wardens, and the P.G. Stewards, and passed to the Grand Lodge Fund, and called the Freemasons Subscriptions of the United Grand and Provincial Lodges of England, on behalf of the Patriotic Fund.

Such as the above, I have no doubt, would be duly responded to by every brother in every sphere of life, for the support of his brethren in arms, the widow, and orphan, by carrying out the Masonic principles for which we live.

We live for those who love us,
For those who know us true;
For the heaven that smiles above us,
And awaits our spirits too;
For the cause that lacks assistance,
For the wrong that needs resistance,
For the future in the distance,
And the good that we can do.

Should you be pleased to consider this worthy to be inserted in the Masonic Mirror, for which I shall be very thankful, nothing would give me greater pleasure than in seeing those Masonic feelings of charity and brotherly love carried out, which would be an lasting honour to be remembered by the brethren.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother, yours, fraternally,

Thomas Witt. Dominy. 199.

Droits of Admiralty Office, Poole, 19th Dec. 1354.

FREEMASONRY IN BANFFSHIRE.

To the Editor of the "Masonic Mirror."

Sir and Brother,—Have the goodness to send me a copy of the "Masonic Mirror" (stamped), by post, as published, commencing with the first number. I have been a Mason,—an Arch-Mason—indeed, at the head of the tree,—for upwards of 40 years, and when I was initiated Masonry in this quarter was in a most flourishing state. Since that time it has declined a good deal—the light waned; but, as I have always endeavoured to instil into the minds of my brethren, although that glorious light might suffer an occultation for a little, the cloud would pass away, and the light again burst forth with as much splendour as in times bye-gone; and I am *glad to say that Masonry is again rapidly reviving, and that your "Mirror" will be of* great service in advancing it.

I remain, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally, W. M.

Banff, November,

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

To the Editor of the "Masonic Mirror."

Dear Sir and Brother,—I perceive by the "Masonic Mirror," that a testimonial is about being presented to Br. T. A. Adams, by the members of the various Lodges of Instruction to which that worthy brother belongs. This convinces me at once, that Lodges of Instruction are requisite, and must do good to young and inexperienced Masons. Why, then, should Liverpool not be able to boast of having a Lodge of Instruction? I am but a young Mason, and would like to gain instruction from my *elder brethren.* Whenever I meet with Brother Masons, from London, and they tell me that they visit Lodges of Instruction, and that they can learn more there than in open lodge, then am I sorry that I cannot, in a town like this, where there are many Lodges, and Masonry prospering, enjoy similar advantages. I am sure, if a Lodge of Instruction was opened here, that there would be many, very many, glad to join it.

I, therefore, pray you, as a friend and brother, to urge in your next "Mirror," that there should be a Lodge of Instruction established in Liverpool. It only wants commencing, and I know there would be many glad to lend a hand, and take the chair; and as your "Mirror" is read by many Masons in this district, your advising the establishment of such a Lodge, might lead some Mason, able and willing, to endeavour to establish it, and it could not fail to do good to all Masons.

Yours fraternally, A FREEMASON.

Duke-street, Liverpool,

She has laid him down in his russet gown
And his tabor pipe put by,
The berries red hang o'er his head
But his eye's towards the sky;
And his bed with leaves and strawen sheaves
She has made 'neath the oaken tree,
For the hectic flush like a summer blush
Tells the spirit soon will flee.—
But to soothe her grief as the ebb of life
Is departing strong with emotion rife
He cries, while the birds still near him sing
"Why weep? I shall return with spring."

D. M. E.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR DECEMBER.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

On the 12th of December the parliamentary session was opened some six or seven weeks earlier than usual, by her Majesty in person. The Queen's speech stated, that parliament was called together in order that by its assistance measures might be taken for carrying on the war with vigour and effect. The exertions of the army and navy hitherto had been beyond all praise, though unexpected difficulties had been met with in the Crimea. The hearty and effective co-operation of the French troops could not fail to cement more closely the union between France and England. A treaty had been entered into with Austria, from which important advantages were anticipated. A treaty had also been concluded with the United States, by which subjects of long and difficult discussion had been happily adjusted. Although the prosecution of the war would naturally occupy the principal attention of parliament, it was hoped that other matters of interest and importance to the national welfare would not be neglected. The speech concluded by expressing her Majesty's gratification at the continued prosperity of the country, and stated that in the estimates to be presented to parliament it was hoped that ample provision would be found to have been made to meet the exigencies of the public service.

On the same evening the addresses of the two houses of parliament, in reply to the speech, were agreed to without a division.

In the House of Lords on the 14th, the duke of Newcastle brought in a bill to authorise the enlistment of foreigners into the British service, and stated that after the expression of opinion elicited on Tuesday evening, he did not anticipate any objection to the measure. A general conviction was then expressed, that the country had not a sufficient body of troops in the Crimea to carry on the war with vigour, and that there was not a sufficient reserve. In 1794 the first act was passed to effect the same object as that proposed by the present bill. In 1804 and 1806, and at other periods as occasion arose, similar measures were passed. By the act of 1794, the number of foreigners authorised to serve in the British army was limited to 5,000. The number was extended by a subsequent act to 10,000, and then to 16,000, at which it continued until the termination of the war in 1815. It was now proposed that these foreign troops should be placed in separate depôts, and that the number should not exceed 15,000. The bill was read a first and second time, and on the following evening passed through committee, on the 15th, fifty-five voting for and forty-three against the bill. Votes of thanks were also unanimously given to the commanders, officers, and men concerned in the military and naval operations in the Crimea, and a similar compliment to the forces of our ally, the Emperor of the French. On the 18th, the Foreign Enlistment Bill was read a third time and passed. On the 19th, the Militia Bill was

brought from the Commons and read a first time. On the 21st, it was read a second time and passed through committee; and on the 22nd, it was read a third time and passed.

The House of Commons commenced their labours on the 13th, and Lord Palmerston asked leave to introduce a bill to enable the Queen to accept any offers which might be made by militia regiments, or parts of regiments, to service out of the united kingdom. The militia would be invited to volunteer for garrison service in certain places in the Mediterranean, so as to set free the regiments of the line for the purposes of the war. It might become advisable to extend the invitation to serve in North America; but, in the meantime, the offer would be limited to such places as Gibraltar, Malta, and the Ionian Islands. After a short discussion leave was given, and the bill brought in and read a first time. The bill was read a second time on the 14th, passed through committee on the 18th, and read a third time on the 19th. On the 15th a vote of thanks, similar to that in the Lords, was passed by the House of Commons to the troops and fleets engaged in the East for their gallant services. On the 18th, the Foreign Enlistment Bill was brought from the House of Lords and read a first time. On the question of the second reading on the 19th, Sir Ed. Lytton moved its adjournment for six months; but after a smart discussion, the second reading was passed by a majority of 241 to 202. The bill passed through committee with some trifling amendments on the 21st, and was read a third time on the 22nd, the numbers on a division being for the bill, 173; and against it, 135.

On the 23rd, the royal assent was given to the two bills, and both houses adjourned to the 23rd of January, when, what may be called the regular session, will commence.

THE WAR.

But little need be said of the progress of the war, the weather and the want of reinforcements having prevented any operations of importance before Sebastopol since the battle of Inkermann. Large reinforcements, both from France and England, have, however, by this time reached the Crimea, and 25,000 of Omer Pasha's troops were, at the last accounts, on their road. Every exertion has been made to secure the comfort of the troops during the winter, notwithstanding there were a great variety of stores lost by the destruction of the *Prince*, and other transports, in the storm in the Black Sea, last month. The latest accounts are to the 18th, at which period the army appear to have been in good health, and gradually gaining ground and strengthening their position. The Russians had made various sorties, but they were all repulsed, with but inconsiderable loss to the allies—though, in one of the latest, the Russians are stated to have lost 700 men. A large body of "Navvies" has been sent out to Balakclava to lay down a railway for facilitating the transport of artillery and stores to the camp of the allies; and every exertion is being made for carrying on the war with the utmost vigour. A treaty has been entered into with Austria, which it is hoped will have the effect of assisting in bringing the war to a speedy termination.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

A dreadful murder of a twofold nature was perpetrated in Warren-street, Fitzroy-square, on the 8th, the victims being Mr. George Moore, a soda water manufacturer, and Mr. C. Collard, a greengrocer. It appears that a man named Bartlémy, formerly employed by Mr. Moore, called upon him that evening, with a view, it would seem, either of extorting money or robbing him. Being opposed by Mr. Moore, the villain drew a pistol and shot him, as he did also poor Collard, who attempted to take him into custody. The assassin has been committed for trial, and a subscription opened for the benefit of the family of Collard, who was in very humble circumstances.

On the 1st of December, George Farrell, late a clerk in the Bank of England, was sentenced to fifteen years transportation, for obtaining large sums of money by forging dividend warrants.

On the 3rd, Isaac Hart, a general dealer, was transported for fourteen years for having received 600*l.* worth of plate, knowing it to be stolen.

On the morning of the 3rd, the building lately occupiedby the Whittington Club,

in Arundel-street, Strand, but better known as the once celebrated Crown and Anchor Tavern, was totally destroyed by fire, the servants, about twenty in number, escaping with great difficulty, with scarcely anything upon them but their bed clothes. The premises of the Illustrated News, and two or three tradesmen in the Strand, where also considerably damaged.

On the 5th, a destructive fire occurred on the premises of Mr. Heath, a builder in Bishopsgate-street, which extended itself to ten houses in Bishopsgate-street, Acorn-street, and Skinner-street, the inhabitants of which being principally of the working classes, and uninsured, have lost nearly all their household property and clothes.

On the 22nd, a trial upon criminal information took place in the Court of Queen's Bench, for libel, against "The Times" newspaper, in the case of the Queen v. Harrison, arising out of some remarks on the conduct of the Hon. Francis Scott, and other directors of the South Western Railway, which was described in the paper as dishonourable, and amounting to something like a swindle. The defendant was found guilty, but not called up for judgment.

PROVIDENT.

The Conservative Land Society held its second annual meeting at Exeter Hall on the 12th of December, Viscount Ranelagh presiding. Br. C. L. Gruneisen (an old member of the Masonic Craft) presented the report and statement of accounts, showing a balance in favour of the society for the financial year ending 29th September, 1854, of 4,909*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* The gross recepts of the second year exceeded those of the first year by 27,187*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, and the receipts of the last quarter of the second year far exceeded that of any previous quarter. The society has purchased twenty estates, which have been divided into 1,505 lots, of which 1,192 have been sold. The value of the various lots is 117,736*l.* 10*s.*, and the value of those sold 94,456*l.* 10*s.*, leaving 313 lots unsold, of the estimated value of 23.280*l.* The report was adopted; the retiring directors re-elected; and various votes of thanks passed, the noble Chairman bearing a strong testimony to the great exertions of our worthy Br. Gruneisen in carrying out the business of the society.

At a meeting of the proprietors in the Trafalgar Life Assurance Office on the 20th, the resolutions of a former meeting for transferring the business to the Unity General Assurance Association, were unanimously confirmed.

SCIENTIFIC.

The Royal Geographical Society has commenced its monthly meetings in the theatre of the United Service Institute, Scotland Yard, and a paper has been read by Dr. Rae upon the recent discoveries in the Arctic Regions, with the evidence that had been obtained of the probable fate of Sir John Franklin and his party. The paper was a repetition of the more interesting parts of the despatches and correspondence to which we alluded in our first number.

The institute of British Architects opened their session in Grosvenor Street, Grosvenor Square, in November, when Mr. Nelson, honorary secretary, read to the society a paper written by Mr. P. Hay, F.R.S., of Edinburgh, on the application of the harmonic laws of nature in the orthography of architectural designs, illustrated by a Gothic elevation similar to that of the east end of Lincoln Cathedral. Mr. Hay entered into an explanation of harmonic progression founded on the multiples of the unit—the first series being 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7, and exhibited several scales of this progression in rectangular figures, the proportion of whose horizontal sides to their vertical sides depended on the angle which their diagonals made with the latter in harmonic division. He also showed that the columnar arrangement of the portico of the temple of Theseus had been formed on the harmonic principle. To it, too, he referred the early works of the fraternity of Freemasons, and gave it as his opinion that such principle of harmony in construction had been one of the secrets of that Order.

The 101st session of the Society of Arts was commenced at the society's house in the Adelphi, on the 15th November, by an inaugural address by Viscount Ebrington, president of the council for the ensuing year, in which he traced the progress of arts and

manufactures, and alluded to the intention of the French Government to provide a working man's exhibition—showing everything that can lead to the improvement of the moral and social condition of the industrious classes—in a separate department of the forthcoming exhibition to be opened in Paris in May, 1855. Mr. Grace Calvert, of Manchester, has since delivered a most interesting lecture on the products derivable from coal, in which he showed that the refuse—formerly so considered—of gasworks, would produce the most valuable dyes, perfumes, and it was believed—medicines—yet known; and that, too, at the most economical rates.

MISCELLANEOUS.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company on the 6th, a dividend of five per cent., and a bonus of one pound per share, was declared for the past year. The position of the company appeared to give general satisfaction.

A postal agreement has been entered into with France, by which letters will be conveyed between England and France at a uniform postage, payable in advance of four pence each, providing such letters do not exceed a quarter of an ounce in weight.

During the month Sir Joseph Paxton has been returned to Parliament as member for Coventry, vice Mr. Geach, deceased; Lord Ebrington for Marylebone, in the place of the late Lord Dudley Stuart; Mr. Holford, of Westonbirt, for East Gloucestershire, in the room of the late Sir M. N. Beach; Sir S. Bignold for Norwich, vice Mr. Peto, resigned in consequence of having taken a government contract; and Sir R. Ferguson, who is serving with his regiment in the Crimea, for Ayr.

During the past month, several convictions have taken place under the Smoke Consuming Act, and various penalties inflicted, but in the majority of cases, the payment of the fines was suspended, to give the parties time to comply with the law.

The following is the estimated loss at the great fire of Liverpool, and the respective amounts claimed from the under-mentioned offices:—Liverpool and London, 19,740*l.*; Royal, 15,035*l.*; Lancashire, 8270*l.*; North British, 6060*l.*; County, 5730*l.*; Guardian, 5260*l.*; Phœnix, 4105*l.*; Globe, 3950*l.*; Atlas, 3200*l.*; Sun, 2870*l.*; West of England, 2210*l.*; Scottish Union, 2150*l.*; Alliance, 2100*l.*; London, 1820*l.*; Anchor, 1200*l.*; Yorkshire, 1200*l.*; Royal Exchange, 610*l.*; Manchester, 600*l.*; Imperial, 500*l.*; Norwich Union, 200*l.*; Norwich Equitable, 200*l.*; District, 125*l.*; North of England, 108*l.*; Leeds and Yorkshire, 90*l.*; total 87,333*l.* Salvage estimated to realise from 10 to 15 per cent.

From an official return just published by the Registrar General, it appears that in the Months of April, May, and June there were 40,389 marriages in England, being an excess of 54 over the corresponding period of 1853. The births registered for July, August, and September were 154,735, being 7,154 more than in the same period of last year. The deaths in the third quarter of the present year were 113,930, being an excess of 21,607 over the corresponding period of last year. Taking the difference between the births and the deaths, it shows an increase in the population on the summer quarter of 40,796, but in the same period 91,900 sailed as emigrants from the United Kingdom.

It appears from a parliamentary return just printed, that in England and Wales there are 480 savings banks', having 1,068,994 accounts open, the total amount owing to depositors being £29,467,831 15*s.* 11*d.* In Scotland, there are forty-five savings banks, with 116,113 accounts open, the amount invested being £1,837,103 11*s.* 8*d.*, and in Ireland there are fifty-one such banks, with 34,470 depositors, whose accounts amount to £1,587,448 11*s.* 6*d.* There are two savings banks in the islands of the British Seas, having 12,953 accounts open, amounting to £335,009 18*s.* 2*d.* The total number of savings banks in the United Kingdom is 616, and the total amount which they owe to depositors, £33,227,394 4*s.* 3*d.*, distributed over 1,253,685 accounts.

The Emperor of Austria has presented through the Consul-general in London, a donation of 100 guineas to the Seaman's Hospital Society in consideration of the services rendered to Austrian Seamen.

OBITUARY.

Br. George Moore.—It is with feelings of the deepest regret that we have to announce the death of this worthy Brother, who was murdered at his own house on the 8th ult. Br. Moore was initiated in the Lodge of Peace and Harmony (No. 72), in November, 1834, and has ever since continued a subscribing member. He had attained all the honours the Lodge could bestow upon him, having long since passed the chair, and served the office of Grand Steward at the last Anniversary Festival. At the time of his death, Br. Moore held the important and responsible office of Treasurer of the Lodge. Br. Moore was likewise a member of the Grand Stewards' Lodge, and a P.Z. of the Robert Burns Chapter (No. 25). The death of Br. Moore will long be regretted by the numerous Brethren who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

Br. Charles Samuel Heywood.—This Brother died on the 29th of November, at the Castle Hotel, Merthyr Tydvil, South Wales, in the 39th year of his age. He left his residence (Sheffield) on a journey for his employers (Messrs. Hoole and Co., Minerva Works), and on his route stayed at the Castle Hotel, where he died before his friends could reach him. They found he had met from the host, as a fellow-Mason, and his amiable family, that genuine kindness appreciated by the craft. He was well respected by his employers and a large circle of acquaintance; was a kind husband, a generous friend, and a good Mason.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Henri.—*The mark degree, not being English, the Jewel cannot be worn in Grand or Provincial Grand Lodge. It is tolerated in some Private Lodges, though not recognised. There is no rule that we ever heard of, that upon an officer of the Grand Lodge visiting a private Lodge, all the brethren are to rise to honor him, though it is very common to pay him that mark of respect—and we think, properly so. The visitor could have no right, however, to claim the immediate P.M.'s, chair. The G.M. or Prov.G.M. in his own Province, or his Deputy, would have a right to take the chair at a private Lodge, and also to put his Wardens into their respective chairs if he thought fit to do so—but it is a privilege very rarely if ever exercised. We should think a Br. who claimed so much respect and honor, as the visitor to the Lodge of our Correspondent appears to have done, entitled to very little of either, as he evidently does not understand the meaning, of the words "equality," "brotherly love," or "humility."*

Z***.—*We have not been very successful in our inquiries, but we have reason to believe, that the reference is to "Justice, Uprightness, and Righteousness." The reference in Calmet's dictionary, is clearly only to the articles under the respective headings of the personages alluded to. The reviser certainly did not perform his duty in the last number. suggestions shall be attended to as soon as present arrangements will permit.*

X. Y. Z.—*The* Masonic Mirror *has, upon each occasion of its publication, been ready for delivery on the 1st of the month. A slight delay occurred in posting the first number, owing to our not having received the formal assent of the Post Office, to our doing so, but all copies applied for at the office were duly supplied on the 1st. We do not publish before the time we profess, being anxious to give the Masonic news up to the latest possible date. The W.M. is not entitled to wear a P.M.'s jewel until the close of his year of office.*

The Royal Sussex Lodge (No. 61), has just been resuscitated, and now meets at Br. Amery's Commercial Hotel, High-street, Bath. We hope soon to have some good reports to make of its working and progress.

An Occasional Traveller.—*The use of Br. Beckett's frames for certificates does not prevent the latter being readily carried about whilst travelling—as by an ingenious contrivance, they can be removed from the frame and replaced in a moment.*

We have great pleasure in calling the attention of the brethren to Brother Genge's Concert and Ball, which takes place on the 9th inst. No brother is more ready to oblige the members of the Order, and he well deserves their support on the only occasion in the year on which he appeals to his friends.

We hear the United Masonic Ball on the 30th, will be upon a scale of grandeur never surpassed by any similar meeting of the Order; the excellence of the list of Stewards ensures success.

We have received several communications too late for notice in our present number.

We cannot undertake to return rejected manuscripts.

THE

MASONIC MIRROR:

FOR

FEBRUARY, 1855.

THE MASONIC MISSION.

A WINTER'S EVENING MEDITATION.

He prayeth best who loveth best.—
COLERIDGE.

"Floreat in æternum."

THE sentiment of Charity, in its genuine conception, has a meaning far more expansive than the one conventionally attributed to it by the sometimes deceptive courtesies of artificial society.

Ask a portly, comfortable gentleman, or a well-meaning elderly gentlewoman of easy circumstances and placid disposition, how this, the chief of virtues, is to be practised?—and the answer will probably be, the appropriation of some fragmentary portion of surplus income to the relief of the lower classes. Ask a sectarian, of the less robust order of intellectual conformation,—and you will be told that it consists solely in the industrious inculcation of his particular set of polemical points of doctrine. Ask the devoted political partisan, aye, or the statesman of high pretensions to broad views of men and society; and you are perhaps treated to a harangue on the virtues of some peculiar political recipe, physical, moral, social, educational, or what not, which, on inquiry, you shall find to be diametrically opposed to the equally cherished recipe of some neighbouring economist or statesman, of not inferior reputation and pretensions.

Now, the grave and profound error of these and other classes of *doctrinaires*, who talk *ex-cathedra* about methods for suppressing social and individual ills, arises from neglect of the meaning of the great principle of charity, as set forth in the BOOK which cannot deceive. That principle means LOVE. We call it a principle rather than an impulse, because, though it partakes essentially of the emotions flowing from the heart, it cannot exist in completeness unless associated with, and guided by, the faculties of the intellect and the reason. Love it is, through which, as

announced by prophecy and inspiration, in ages long anterior to that when it received its final interpretation from the Great Teacher, men must be reclaimed from hate, and hard cupidity, and the selfishness all-prolific of misery, into the state of mind, temper, and mutual feeling, wherein the unclouded brain admits what the purified heart suggests—that the bond of brotherhood, in affection and sincerity, conduces alike to the good of all and each—of the strong and of the weak—of the wealthy and of him across whose path the *res angustae domi* have cast their sombre shade.

And this principle the venerable founders of the ARCH UNBROKEN had in view, at the remote, mysterious epoch when the first Masons assembled and vowed a fraternity which was to be undying. Cycles of centuries before the earliest period at which authentic History begins to separate the realm of fact from that of fiction, the noble, humanising confederation of love and unity must have existed, according to the irrefragable evidence afforded by its condition of extension and maturity at the date of our first positive acquaintance with its operations. Even then, Tradition, sacred to the Mason, had handed down, through generations, records of deeds and principles in which we recognise the feelings which still beat in the bosoms of our brotherhood.

Now, the purpose which, through good report and evil, through periods of persecution as through those of prosperity and popularity, the Masonic fraternity hath faithfully preserved, is that of benefitting humanity through the medium and by the aid of human hearts and heads. In this holy work the Mason sets the example, takes the initiative, and invites men of all races and creeds, to join him. Universal in its purpose, and diffused, more or less, like that Christianity of which it is a type, over all the regions of the earth, it still endeavours to work through individuals; and in every faithful member added to its ranks, the Order recognises a new and valued co-labourer in the great design of good. It is for this reason, and not in any vain spirit of affectation or exclusiveness, that Masons are found so steadfastly to cherish each others' society, and to live upon terms of mutual confidence, and earnest, sympathising friendliness, to which the uninitiated are strangers, in like manner as they are to the mysteries which constitute the emblems of brotherhood. The Mason, who adequately appreciates the dignity and high import of his position, maintains those peculiar relations of amity with his fellow-Mason, because he feels that in the latter he deals with a man who is bound with him in the same cause; with whom he can freely interchange the same aspirations for the good of all of human kind; and who participates in the sentiments that move his own bosom, respecting the glorious scheme of universal benevolence in which each is an agent. It would be unreasonable to suppose that men placed in such relations, one to the other, should not entertain and evince reciprocal sentiments of a kind somewhat different from any which could be felt by persons who do not know, do not appreciate, and can have no intimate sympathy with, the high purposes which, amid all the varied and widely different pursuits of life, are never wholly absent from the mind of the earnest Mason.

If anything were required to refute the charges of exclusiveness and vain mysticism (as distinguished from honoured and venerable mysteries), which we sometimes hear preferred against Freemasonry, it is, that, like Religion, she invites all good men to enter her portals, to enlist under her beneficent standard. The Mason who has passed beyond the first stage of initiation already knows enough to feel convinced that, if all men were brethren in the Order, there would be an end of the oppressions, the abuses, the harsh dealings, and the other evils which constitute the most terrible curses of the world. He knows that Masonry, universal throughout the earth, would render these wickednesses impossible. He knows that it would prove the powerful ally and advocate of the Christian maxim, which proclaims good will to men as the indispensable test of true charity. And thus it is that he is anxious for the junction of as many as possible of his neighbours, in the conviction that it will prove an efficient step in correcting foibles and defects in the individual, as well as in sending forth missionaries of charity, to enrol new members, and extend the blessings of concord and brotherhood whithersoever their influence can penetrate.

Like every thing good and great ever instituted on earth, Masonry has been the object of fierce persecution and assiduous misrepresentation. In the vanity and selfishness of which it is the unswerving opponent, it has, in its turn, found formidable obstacles to its progress. In men's indolence it has met another obstacle; whilst yet another has existed in the too common tendency to receive, upon calumnious hearsay, the evil report which people will not take the trouble to examine and test. Lazy credulity is one of the most frequent, as it is one of the most mischievous, of the vices of the vulgar. In lazy credulity, stimulated to unhealthy activity by malevolent fanaticism, have originated the most fiery persecutions to which Truth has been subjected in ancient ages and modern.

And not a crime, not a vice, not a turpitude at which good men shudder, but has been at some time or another charged against Masonry, whilst each dark charge has been endorsed by this same lazy credulity. It is unnecessary to refer back to the days when ignorant prejudice set down the Craft as something demoniacal in its constitution and diabolical in its secrets, overlooking the obvious fact, that these secrets were accessible to every one who chose to exercise the patience, industry, steadiness, and faithfulness, which form the passports to a knowledge of the most solemn rites of the Order. It is unnecessary, we say, to go back to those ages of darkness; for in our own times, and in the great nation which accounts itself the most free and intelligent on earth, we have seen thousands on thousands of men—not the base and illiterate, but numbering many persons of education and talent—rising up in ferocious fury, at the instigation of a wretched impostor, and calling for the penal suppression of Masonry, and the extermination of the Brotherhood. That such things could be, may fill us with humiliation, in contemplation of the extremes to which inflamed passions seduce men; that they have been, and that very recently, all know who remember the too-famous "Anti-Masonic move-

ment" in the United States, its objects, its organization, the prodigious though ephemeral extension which it attained, until the "Anti-Masonic ticket" for President, for Governors of States, and for all high offices, created serious uneasiness to two great parties which usually divide the political suffrages of the people of the United States.* Still more astounding, still more ignominious, was the origin of this insane "movement," the growth, progress, culmination and catastrophe of which we may hereafter shortly sketch, forming, as it does, one of the most sad and shameful chapters in the annals of human infatuation. For the present we refer to it, merely as an illustration of the nature of the difficulties, misconceptions, and irrational calumny and prejudice with which Freemasonry, in common with all other institutions of high purpose, has had, and, peradventure, may yet have, to contend.

Now, the experience of all ages has manifestly proved, that nothing tends more effectually to dissipate prejudice, than that healthy collision of intellect which teaches men to think as well as to act, and to let thought take precedence of action. Therefore, one of the objects which on issuing our first number we proposed to ourselves, in the course of a career which the support of our brethren will, we trust, make a long and prosperous one, was to grapple, from time to time, with every one of the impediments which the Order may encounter in pursuing its ennobling mission. The nature of some of these impediments, whether arising from active malice or stolid indolence, we have already indicated. Of course, we address ourselves more especially to the existing Brotherhood of English, Scottish, and Irish Masonry—without aid from them, any isolated labours of ours must prove futile. But we do trust, that through their co-operation we may reach the eyes, and by and bye touch the convictions, of thousands on thousands of honest men amongst the general public, whose initiation would strengthen and promote the common cause.

Our own knowledge of society in various parts of the kingdom, inspires us with the belief that nothing but a little effort, such as men are wont to bestow on the most trivial affairs of every day life, is required at this moment, in order to elevate Masonry to a position of power, credit, and popularity, which would bring into operation, on a majestic scale, those capacities for beneficent working, in the results of which the world would participate. The effort to which we allude is at this time eminently necessary; and ours be the task to stimulate every member of the Fraternity, be his position or influence what they may, to do his part, in his own sphere, towards the success of that effort.

An important branch of our duties, too, is to establish, between Masons, a medium of cordial and facile intercourse, so that no one need in future remain, month after month, in ignorance of the movements which occur in the general body, or in any of the important local Lodges. Every Mason, however isolated he may happen to be,

* William Wirt was the Anti-Masonic candidate for the office of President at the election of 1832, in opposition to the Democratic and Whig candidates, General Jackson and Mr. Clay.

through the exigencies of local situation, from oral communion with his brethren, has now the means of becoming acquainted with all matters of current interest, touching the proceedings, the policy, and the progress of the Order, and of learning how he himself, even if living in a district remote from the associations of the Brotherhood, may acquit himself as a faithful and valuable member.

And there is a kindred people, already mighty in numbers, wealth, intelligence, and limitless expanse of fair and fertile territory,—a people which, ere the lapse of another century, will, beyond all human doubt, stand foremost and unrivalled amongst the powers of the world.—We mean America. In America, scarcely less than in our own insular home, we trust that our labours may produce worthy and abundant fruit. *There* lies, indeed, a field unlimited for useful work; for *there* still lingers a pestilent remnant of that furious Anti-Masonic bigotry to which brief allusion has been made above, and the removal of which, by the weapons of reason, remonstrance, and elucidation, is pre-eminently indispensable to the extension, to the comfort, nay, to the personal safety of the Brotherhood. Thus, the prospects of Masonry in America will require, and shall receive, no small share of our attention, with a view to the service of the Fraternity in that part of the world, as well as for the information of Masons residing elsewhere—of him, who, in the deep recesses of the colonial forest, sighs for the association which the in-flowing tide of population will hereafter bring with it, and of him who, dwells in the crowded bustle of European capitals.

The work is a noble one,—it is that of co-operation in that design of charity universal, which constitutes the essence and deathless spirit of Masonry.

IT SHALL BE DONE.

A TOAST.

A toast, a toast, a well-earned toast!—the goblet fill with pride,
It is the memory of the brave, who for the weak have died,—
A toast, a toast—the memory, sweet, precious evermore,
Of those who bore the battle's brunt, and fell red-stained with gore!
Green be the memory of the brave, the foremost in the van,
The Masons who for freedom died at Alma, Inkermann!

Can we deny so small a claim upon our gratitude,
A toast—the memory of the brave who spilt their precious blood
That trampled peoples might be free to live on freedom's sod,
Ay, free to live 'neath freedom's flag, and scorn the tyrants rod?
Then drink—the memory of the brave, the foremost in the van,
The Masons who for freedom died at Alma, Inkermann!

While pure still is a Mason's heart, and free still is his soul,
While Masons still with bitter scorn spurn tyranny's control,
While still the hot blood swells our veins or tears bedim our eyes,
As we hear the lonely widow's sigh and helpless orphans' cries,
In silence drink—their memory, the foremost in the van,
The Masons who for freedom died at Alma, Inkermann!

ROBERT FISHER, Lodge, 706.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, January 9th, 1855.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

Continued from page 103.

Edward III., A.D. 1327, became the patron of arts and sciences. He set up a table at Windsor, 600 feet round, for feasting the gallant knights of all nations, and rebuilt the castle of Windsor, as a Royal Grand Master, by his several deputies or masters of work, viz. :—1. John de Spoulee, called Master of the Giblim, who rebuilt St. George's Chapel, where the King constituted the order of the garter, A.D. 1375;—2. William of Wykeham, at the head of 400 Freemasons, who rebuilt the strong and stately castle, when he was made Bishop of Winchester;—3. Robert of Barnham succeeded at the head of 250 Freemasons, and finished St. George's great hall, and other works in the castle;—4. Henry Yevele, called at first in the old records, the King's Freemason. He built for the King the London Charter house, King's Hall, Cambridge, Queenborough Castle, and rebuilt St Stephen's Chapel, afterward the House of Commons in Parliament;—5. Simon Langham, Abbot of Westminster, who repaired the body of the Cathedral as it now stands. The King also founded the Abbey of Eastminster, near the Tower, upon the site of which now stands the Victualling Office; and his laudable example was well followed, for the Queen endowed Queen's College, Oxford, while others built many stately mansions and about thirty religious houses.

Notwithstanding the expensive wars in this reign, the constitutions were improved; for an old record imports.—"That in the glorious reign of King Edward III., when Lodges were many and frequent, the Grand Master, with his wardens at the head of the Grand Lodge, with consent of the lords of the realm, then generally Freemasons, ordained,

'That for the future, at the making or admission of a brother, the constitutions and charges shall be read:

'That Master Masons or masters of work shall be examined, whether they be able of cunning to serve their respective lords, as well the highest as the lowest, to the honour and worship of the aforesaid art, and to the profit of their lords; for they be their lords who employ and pay them for their travail:

'That when the Master and wardens preside in a Lodge, the sheriff, if need be, or the mayor, or the alderman, if a brother where the Chapter is held, shall be sociate to the Master, in help of him against rebels, and for upholding the rights of the realm:

'That entered prentices, at their making shall be charged not to be thieves, nor theives maintainers. That the fellow craft, shall travail honestly for their pay, and love their fellows as themselves; and that all shall be true to the King, to the Realm, and to the Lodge:

'That if any of the fraternity should be fractious, mutinous, or disobedient to the Grand Master's orders, and after proper admonitions, should persist in his rebellion, he shall forfeit all his claims to the rights, benefits and privileges of a true and faithful brother, &c., concluding with —Amen, so mote it be.'"

The necessity for the charges contained in these old constitutions, is an evidence of the rude state of manners and civil policy at that time, as well as the salutary tendency of an institution, which by its private regulations enforced what the laws had not the power to effect.

King Edward III. having buried his eldest son, Edward, the hope of England, commonly called the Black Prince, A.D. 1376, was so affected at his loss, that he died A.D. 1377.

Richard II., his grandson, succeeded, and employed William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, Grand Master, to rebuild Westminster Hall as it now stands. This building is of stone, in the Gothic stile, with a narrow front, and a tower on each side of the entrance adorned with abundance of carved work. The hall within is esteemed the largest in Europe unsupported with pillars, being 270 feet in length, and 74 in breadth, and the construction of its roof is much admired. William of Wykeham, at his own cost, built New College in Oxford, and founded Winchester College, while other persons built about fifteen religious houses.

The wars about this period, foreign and intestine, but more particularly the latter (which ever tend to foster despotic measures for the time), could not fail of being opposed to an Order, founded on the basis of freedom and good will to all. Many improvements were made in the art of war, and the science of shedding blood—the nobles and gentry made every exertion to bring as many of their retainers into the field as possible, some from motives of loyalty, others of aggrandisement, and perhaps the greater part to defend their very existence—and so great were its devastations, that many parts of the country became nearly depopulated. To prevent the land from being entirely uncultivated, many harsh laws were enacted to compel the people to follow agricultural pursuits, amongst which was one in the 7th year of the reign of Henry IV. "That none who had not lands or rents to the value of twenty shillings a year (equivalent to ten pounds at present), should be permitted to put any of their sons to any other trade, but should bring them all up to husbandry." These severe laws were enforced by very heavy penalties.

This King was deposed by parliament, under the influence of his cousin, Henry, Duke of Lancaster, and was afterwards murdered.

Henry IV., of Lancaster, succeeded A.D. 1399, and appointed Thomas Fitz-Allen, Earl of Surrey, Grand Master. He founded Battle Abbey, at Shrewsbury, and afterwards that of Fotheringay—six religious houses were also built, and the present Guildhall, in London, was founded.

Henry V. succeeded A.D. 1413, and caused the Palace and Abbey at Sheen, now called Richmond, to be rebuilt under the direction of the Grand Master, Henry Chicheley, Archbishop of Canterbury. Eight other religious houses were built during this reign.

Henry VI. came to the throne A.D. 1422, a minor of nine months old. In his third year the parliament endeavoured to disturb the Lodges by an act entitled—"Masons shall not confederate in chapters and congregations." It recited—

"Whereas, by yearly congregations and confederacies made by Masons in their general assemblies, the good cause and effect of the statutes of labourers be openly violated and broken, in subversion of the law, and to the great damage of all the commons, our sovereign lord the King, willing in this case to provide a remedy, by the advice and consent aforesaid, and at the special request of the commons, hath ordained and established,

"That such chapters and congregations shall not hereafter be holden; and if any such be made, they that cause such chapters and congregations to be assembled and holden, if they thereof be convict, shall be judged for felons: and that other Masons who come to such chapters and congregations, be punished by imprisonment of their bodies, and make fine and ransom at the King's will."

This act never prevented Freemasons holding their chapters and congregations, as it was never enforced, and being conscious of their integrity, and the rectitude of their proceedings, they used no endeavours to get it repealed. A great light is thrown on the matter by the publication of a curious manuscript at Frankfort, in Germany, in the year 1748, which refers to this time; it is introduced by a letter from the celebrated John Locke, dated 6th May, 1696, found in the desk of a deceased brother. In this letter, Mr. Locke informs his correspondent that he has procured from the Bodleian Library, a copy of the manuscript he was so desirous to see: and that he has sent it to him, with his notes annexed to it: and he concludes with expressing an intention of entering into the fraternity the next time he went to London. The manuscript from which it was copied, appeared, he says, to be about 160 years old; yet, from the title, is itself a copy of one yet more ancient by about 100 years, and that it appears to be the examination of some one of the brotherhood of Masons, taken probably before King Henry VI., who, after he became of age, entered himself among them, and thereby put a stop to the persecution that had been raised against them.

The following is an exact copy of this examination, with Mr. Locke's notes:—

"Certayne Questyons, with awnsweres to the same, concernynge the Mystery of Maçonrye;

"Wryttenne by the Hande of Kinge Henrye the sixthe of the name, and faythfullye copyed by me (1) Johan Leylande, Antiquarius, by the Commande of his Highnesse, (2)

"They be as followethe:—

"*Quest.* What mote ytt be? (3)

"*Answ* Ytt beeth the skylle of nature, the understondynge of the myghte that ys hereynne and its sondrye werekynges; sonderlyche, the skylle of rectenyngs, of waightes, and metynges, and the treu manere of façonnynge all thynges for mannes use, headlye, dwellynges, and buyldynges of alle kindes, and alle odher thynges that make gudde to manne.

"*Quest.* Where dyd ytt begynne?

"*Answ.* Ytt did begynne with the (4) fyrste menne yn the este, which

were before the (5) ffyrste manne of the weste, and comynge westlye, ytt hathe brought herwyth alle comfortes to the wylde and comfortlesse.

"*Quest.* Who dyd brynge ytt westlye?

"*Answ.* The (6) Venetians whoo beynge grate merchaundes comed ffyrste ffromme the este ynn Venetia, ffor the commodytye of marchaundysynge beithe easte and weste by the redde and myddlelonde sees.

"*Quest.* Howe commede ytt yn Engelonde?

"*Answ.* Peter Gower (7) a Grecian, journeyedde ffor kunnynge yn Egypte, and yn Syria, and yn everyche lond, whereas the Venetians hadde plauntedde maçonrye, and wynnage entraunce yn al lodges of maçonnes, he lerned muche, and retournedde, and woned yn Grecia Magna (8) wachsynge, and becommynge a myghtye (9) wyseacre, and gratelyche renowned, and her he framed a grate lodge at Groton (10) and maked manye maçonnes, some whereoffe dyd journeye yn Fraunce, and maked manye maçonnes, wherefromme, yn processe of tyme, the arte passed yn Englelonde.

"*Quest.* Dothe maçonnes descouer here artes unto odhers?

"*Answ.* Peter Gower, whenne he journeyedde to lernne, was ffyrste (11) made, and anone techedde, evenne so shulde all odhers beyn recht. Natheless (12) maçonnes haue the alweys yn everyche tyme, from tyme to tyme communicatedde to manukynde soche of her secrettes as generallyche myghte be usefulle: they haueth keped backe soche allein as shulde be harmfulle, yff they commed yn euylle haundes, oder soche as ne myghte be holpynge wythouten the techynges to be joynedde herwythe in the lodge, oder soche as do bynde the freres more stronglyche together, bey the *proffytte and commodytye commynge to the confrerie herfromme.*

"*Quest.* Whatte artes haueth the maçonnes techedde manukynde.

"*Answ.* The arts (13) agricultura, architectura, astronomia, geometria, numeres, musica, poesie, kymistrye, governmente, and relygponne.

"*Quest.* Howe commethe maçonnes more teachers than odher menne?

"*Answ.* The hemselfe haveth allein in (14) arte of fyndynge neue artes, wyche art the ffryste maçonnes receaued from Godde; by the whyche they fyndethe whatte artes hem plesethe, and the treu way of techynge the same. Whatt odher menne doethe ffynde out, ys onelyche bey chaunce, and herfore but lytel I tro.

"*Quest.* Whatte dothe the maçonnes concele and hyde?

"*Answ.* They concelethe the art of ffyndynge neue artes and thatt ys for here own proffytte, and preise (15): they concelethe the art of kepynge (16) secrettes, thatt soe the worlde mayeth nothynge concele from them. They concelethe the art of wunderwerckynge and of fore sayinge thynges to comme, that so thay same artes may not be usedde of the wyckedde to an euylle end; they also concelethe the (17) arte of chaunges, the wey of wynnygnge the facultye (18) of Abrac, the skylle of becommynge gude and parfyghte wythouten the holpynges of ffere and hope; and the universele longage of maçonnes.

"*Quest.* Wylle he teche me thay same artes?

"*Answ.* Ye shalle be techedde yff ye be werthye, and able to learn.

Quest. Dothe alle maçonnes kunne more than odher meune?

Answ. Not so. Thay onlyche haueth richt, and occasyonne more then odher menne to kunne, but many doth fale yn capacity and manye more doth wante industrye, that ys pernecessarye for the gaynynge all kunnynge.

"*Quest.* Are maçonnes guder menne then odhers?

"*Answ.* Some maçonnes are not so vertuous as some odher menne: but, yn the moste parte, they be more gude then thay would be yf thay war not maçonnes."

"*Quest.* Doth maçonnes love eidther odher myghtyly as beeth sayde?

"*Answ.* Yea verylyche, and yt may not odherwise be: for gude menne, and true, kennynge eider odher to be soche, doeth always love the more as thay be more gude.

"Here endethe the questyonnes and aunsweres."

Even during the King's minority there was a good Lodge under the Grand Master Chicheley, held at Canterbury, as appears from the Latin register of William Molart, Prior of Canterbury, in manuscript, in which are named Thomas Stapylton, the Master, and John Morris, custos de la lodge lathomorum, or Warden of the Lodge of Masons, with fifteen fellow crafts and three entered apprentices, all named there. And a record in the reign of Edward IV. says:—"The company of Masons, being otherwise termed Freemasons, of auntient standing and good reconing, by means of affable and kind meetings, dyverse tymes, and as a loving brotherhood used to do, did frequent this mutual assembly in the tyme of Henry VI., in the twelfth year of his most gracious reign."

Grand Master Chicheley, held also a Lodge at Oxford, where he built All Souls College, and Bernard, now St. John's College, &c. On his death the King appointed William Wane Gleet to the office.

NOTES.

(1). 'John Leylande' was appointed by King Henry VIII., at the dissolution of the monasteries, to search for and save such books and records, as were valuable among them. He was a man of great labour and industry.

(2). 'His Highnesse,' meaning the said King Henry VIII.; our kings had not then the title of majesty.

(3). 'What mote ytt be'.—That is, what may this mystery of Masonry be; the answer imports that it consisted in natural, mathematical, and mechanical knowledge. Some part of which, as appears by what follows, the masons pretend to have taught the rest of mankind, and some part they still conceal.

(4) (5). 'Fyrste menne yn the este,' &c.—It would seem by this that Masons believe that there were men in the East before Adam, who is called the ffyrste manne in the West; and that arts and sciences began in the East. Some authors of great note for learning have been of the same opinion, and it is certain that Europe and Africa (which in respect of Asia may be considered Western countries), were wild and savage, long after arts and politeness of manners were in great perfection in China and the Indies.

(6). 'The Venetians,' &c.—In the times of monkish ignorance it is no wonder that the Phœnicians should be mistaken for the Venetians. Or perhaps that the people were not taken one for the other, similitude of sound might deceive the clerk who first took down the examination. The Phœnicians were the greatest voyagers among the ancients, and were in Europe thought to be the inventors of letters, which, perhaps, they brought from the East with other arts.

(7.) 'Peter Gower.'—This must be another mistake of the writer. I was puzzled at first to guess who Peter Gower should be, the name being perfectly English, or how a Greek should come by such a name; but, as soon as I thought of Pythagoras, I could scarce forbear smiling to find that philosopher had undergone a metempsychosis he never dreamt of. We need only consider the French pronunciation of his name, Pythagore, that is, Petagore, to conceive how such a mistake might be made by an unlearned clerk. That Pythagoras travelled for knowledge into Egypt, &c., is known to all the learned; and that he was initiated into several different orders of priests, who in those days kept all their learning secret from the vulgar, is as well known. Pythagoras also made every geometrical theorem a secret, and admitted only such to the knowledge of them, as had first undergone a five years silence. He is supposed to be the inventor of the 47th of the First Book of Euclid, for which, in the joy of his heart, it is said, he sacrificed a hecatomb. He also knew the true system of the world, lately revived by Copernicus; and was certainly a most wonderful man. See his life by Dion. Hal.

(8.) 'Grecia Magna.'—A part of Italy formerly so called, in which the Greeks had settled a large colony.

(9). 'Wyseacre.'—This word at present signifies simpleton, but formerly had quite a contrary meaning. Weisager, in the old Saxon, is philosopher, wiseman, or wisard, and having been frequently used ironically, at length came to have a direct contrary meaning in the ironical sense. Thus, Duns Scotus, a man famed for the subtilty and acuteness of his understanding, has by the same method of irony, given a general name to modern dunces.

(10). 'Groton.'—Is the name of a place in England. The place here meant is Crotona, a city of Grecia Magna, which in the time of Pythagoras was very populous.

(11). 'Fyrste made.'—The word made, I suppose, has a particular meaning among the Masons; perhaps it signifies initiated.

(12.) 'Maçonnes haueth communycateede,' &c.—This paragraph hath something remarkable in it. It contains a justification of the secresy so much boasted of by Masons, and so much blamed by others, asserting that they have in all ages discovered such things as might be useful, and that they conceal such only as might be hurtful either to the world or themselves. What these secrets are we see afterwards.

(13). 'The arts and Agricultura,' &c.—It seems a bold pretence this of the Masons, that they have taught mankind all these arts. They have their own authority for it, and I know not how we shall disprove them. But what appears most odd is, that they reckon religion among the arts.

(14). 'Arte of ffyndynge neue artes.'—The art of inventing arts must certainly be a most useful art. My Lord Bacon's novum organum is an attempt towards somewhat of the same kind. But I much doubt that if ever the Masons had it, they have now lost it, since so few arts have been lately invented, and so many are wanted. The idea I have of such an art is, that it must be something proper to be applied to all the sciences generally, as algebra is in numbers, by the help of which new rules in arithmetic are and may be found.

(15). 'Preise'.—It seems that the Masons have great regard to the reputation as well as the profit of their Order; since they make it one reason for not divulging an art in common, that it may do honour to the possessors of it. I think in this particular they show too much regard for their own society, and too little for the rest of mankind.

(16). 'Arte of kepynge secrettes'.—What kind of art this is I can by no means imagine: but such an art the masons must have, for though, as some people suppose, they should have no secret at all, even that must be a secret which being discovered would expose them to the highest ridicule; and therefore it requires the utmost caution to conceal it.

(17). 'Arte of chaunges.'—I know not what this means unless it be the transmutation of metals.

(18). 'Facultye of Abrac.'—Here I am utterly in the dark.

(19). 'Universelle longage of maçonnes.'—An universal language has been much desired by the learned of many ages; it is a thing rather to be wished than hoped for. But it seems the Masons pretend to have such a thing among them. If it be true, I

guess it must be something like the language of the pantomimes, among the ancient Romans, who were said to be able, by signs only, to express and deliver any oration, intelligibly to men of all nations and languages. A man who has these arts and advantages, is certainly in a condition to be envied: but we are told that this is not the case with all Masons, for though these arts are among them, and all have a right and an opportunity to know them, yet some want capacity and others industry to acquire them. However, of all their arts and secrets, that which I most desire to know is, 'the skylle of becommynge gude and parfyghte;' and I wish it were communicated to all mankind, since there is nothing more true than the beautiful sentence contained in the last answer, 'That the better men are, the more they love one another.' Virtue having in itself something so amiable as to charm the hearts of all that behold it.

(To be continued.)

TO THE CRAFT.

Say, patriot spirit, say, do Masons
Slumber in such stirring times as these?
Do they, with sluggish indolence, forbear
To render help in time of deadly war?
When battle echoes o'er the ocean wide,
And gloomy news floats in with every tide—
When strife's fell elements their fury wage,
And Britons with a mighty foe engage!
Arouse ye, *Noble Craft*, evince your zeal,
For *England's* Queen, and *England's* commonweal!

Full well we know, the fate of war depends
On *His* unerring will, who rules supreme:
The mighty God of hosts, whose high decree,
Alone, can give defeat or victory.
Yet, say, when England fights, and Britons bleed,
Shall *British Masons* do no generous deed?
But, how can Masons aid the angry cause,
Or render help in these impending wars?—
Shall we, who ever peaceful habits boast,
Urge dreadful strife upon a neighburing coast;
Or feed, or fan, the flames of war?—Why, No!
But, Britons must repel a dangerous foe.
'Tis lawful, sure, to hold in check,
The power that fain would break a nations' neck;
Or with a tyrant hand foredoom its fate,
As Russia would the puny Turkish state.
So thinks the world;—we have the worlds' applause,
And nations sit as umpires in the cause!

Give help, then, Noble Craft, and sympathy—
Withold not these, while they are yours to give.
Not on the burly battle-field; 'tis true,
The battle-field may not be meant for you:
(Tho' Masons oft' have victor's laurels won,
And oft' in battle mighty deeds have done)
But, let *each Lodge* one banquet's cost bestow,
One single banquet's cost—Thus, let them show,
What bounty from the Noble Craft can flow!
Thus, comfort yet, the rifted widow's heart,
And succour to her anguished soul impart:
Let lisping orphans' tongues your bounty own:
Be this your rich reward, and this alone:
Tho' what reward can Masons ever need,
When Heaven itself approves their deed!

PHŒDO, P.M., *Lodge* 53.

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

FREEMASONS GIRLS SCHOOL.

On Thursday, Jan. 11, the Quarterly General Court was held at the School House, St. John's Rise, Br. J. Barnes, V.P. presiding. The minutes of the house committee, recommending the names of eight little girls as candidates to fill up the vacancies which will occur at the next quarterly court in April, were approved, with the exception of one candidate, whose case was reserved for further consideration, in consequence of a difference of opinion between two of the medical officers as to the state of her health. There are now sixty-five pupils in the institution. The report of the audit committee was also received, and the treasurer was instructed to pay bills to the amount of £435. The funds of the institution are in a very satisfactory state.

Br. Symonds proposed a resolution for placing the school under Government Inspection, and explained that Miss Souter, the new governess, holding a Government certificate of her capabilities for the situation, might thereby receive a grant of £15 or £17 from government in augmentation of her salary; and every year one child might be apprenticed to her as a pupil teacher, for five years; and the pupil afterwards might be examined for a Queen's scholarship, by means of which, if she deserved it, she might be educated in a training school, and ultimately, with a certificate of merit, obtain a good situation as a school-mistress. Br. Robinson seconded the motion which was opposed by Brs. Barrett, Patten, &c., who urged that the Freemason's school ought not to be subjected to interference from the government, or any body not connected with the Craft, and that if necessary they could themselves increase the salary of the schoolmistress. Upon a show of hands the resolution was lost, only three brethren voting for it—the meeting being very thinly attended in consequence of the inclemency of the weather.

The appointment of Miss Jarwood as matron, and that of Miss Souter as schoolmistress, were then confirmed. A motion, of which Br. Robinson had given notice, to provide that no child of a person who had ceased to subscribe towards Freemasonry for more than seven years (unless from circumstances beyond his own control) should be eligible for admission into the school, was deferred until a revision of the rules and bye-laws; a report from the committee upon which was ordered to be printed, and considered at a special court to be held in March.

LONDON LODGES.

Grand Masters Lodge (No. 1).—This highly respectable Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemason's Tavern, on Monday, Jan. 15, when Br. Potter initiated a brother into the Order, and was re-elected into the Chair, the newly elected W.M. not having come forward to accept the office. The Lodge having been closed, the brethren adjourned to an elegant banquet, which was attended by several visitors, amongst whom were Brs. White, G. Sec.; Udall, P.M.; E. Warwick, W.M., No. 30; Alderman Rose, &c. The brethren, after spending a most delightful evening, separated at a reasonable hour.

Lodge of Antiquity (No. 2).—This most celebrated Lodge, over which Sir Cristopher Wren and many other most highly distinguished Masons presided, held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, 24th, on which occasion the brethren re-elected their W.M. and Treasurer. The brethren afterwards dined together. The toasts of the evening being varied by the singing of Brs. Genge and Donald King.

Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge (No. 4).—This lodge, which acts under immemorial constitution, held a meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, Jan. 22, when Br. A. A. Leveau, W.M. and P.G.S.B., initiated three candidates into the Order, and raised a brother to the third degree. The S.W. Br. Chas. Locock Webb, G. Steward, was unanimously elected W.M. for the coming year. The

brethren, to the number of thirty-five, afterwards dined together, and spent a very pleasant evening, enlivened by the exertions of Brs. G. Perren, and Jolly. Amongst the visitors we observed Br. John Hervey, S.G.D.; Br. Hodgkinson, P.G.S.D.; Br. Beach, of the Apollo Lodge, Oxford, &c., &c.

St. George and Corner Stone Lodge (No. 5).—The members of this Lodge, which is certainly more select than numerous, held a meeting on Monday, Jan. 8, when Br. B. Head, W.M., initiated a candidate into the Order.

Royal York Lodge of Perseverance (No. 7).—On Wednesday, the 17th of January, the members of this excellent Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern for the dispatch of Masonic business—Br. Dr. Wm. Jones, W.M. A gentleman having been initiated into the secrets of the Mystic Tie, the brethren proceeded to the installation of Br. J. S. S. Hopwood, P.M., as W.M. for the year ensuing, the ceremony being very impressively performed by Br. John M. Hervey, S.G.D., assisted by a numerous board of P.M's. The new W.M. then appointed and invested the following brethren as his officers:—Br. John M. Hervey, S.G.D., S.W.; Br. Levinson, J.W.; Br. Fraser, S.D.; Br. Collings, J.D.; and Br. Siccama, J.G. All Masonic business having terminated, the brethren retired to an elegant dinner provided by the worthy hosts of the Tavern. Among the visitors we noticed Br. W. H. White, G.S; Br. J. B. King, P.J.G.D.; Br. Tomkins, W.M. of the Grand Steward's Lodge; Br. R. J. Bagshaw, P.P.G. Treasurer of Bengal; Br. C. Robinson, P.M., 8; Br. J. Nokes, P.M., 8; Br. C. Carter, S.W., 18; Br. M. Levinson, 19; Br. E. Warwick, W.M., 30; Br. W. H. Absolon, P.M., 40; Br. A. H. Rixon, I.G., 40; Br. N. Bradford, P.M., 54; Br. E. Roberts, P.M., 167; Br. J. Canham, P.M., 194; Br. Thomas Bohn, P.M., 201; Br. J. H. Figg, S.D., 318; Br. W. Lee Wright, P.M., 329; Br. Richard Spencer, P.M., 329; Br. Saml. W. Hopwood, S.D., 329; Br. H. Roby, 329; &c. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been disposed of, Br. W. H. White, G.S., returning thanks on behalf of the Grand Officers, Br. J. S. S. Hopwood then rose and said—he had much pleasure in proposing the health of Br. Adlard, P.M. and D.C., though he felt inadequate to the task of expressing sufficiently that which was due to the character of his friend as a man and brother Mason. All who had the pleasure of knowing him were so well acquainted with his inestimable, qualities that he was entitled to every consideration at their hands. The Lodge had long estimated his good qualities, and had by an unanimous vote passed a resolution that a testimonial should be presented to Br. Adlard that evening, proving how highly his conduct and services in the Lodge were appreciated. It became his duty as Master of the Lodge, to present him with the testimonial, and in doing so, Br. Hopwood paid a just tribute to the services of Br. Adlard, who has filled every office in the Lodge, and has been member of it for twenty years. In conclusion, the W.M. said, he believed that no member was more desirous of promoting the interest of the Lodge than his friend whose health he proposed. The W.M. then presented Br. Adlard with the testimonial, which consisted of the resolution referred to, written on vellum, in ornamental penmanship, elegantly bound, and signed by every member of the Lodge. The following is a copy of the resolution:—"We, the Master, Past-Masters, Officers, and Brethren of the Royal York Lodge of Perseverance, No. 7, present to our Brother Frederick Adlard, P.M., and D.C., this Testimonial, as a mark of our appreciation of, and gratitude for, the very able and zealous manner in which he has at all times promoted the interest, and sustained the character of the Lodge for the period of twenty years, during which he has been a member, and in token of our esteem and regard for him as a man and brother Mason, accompanied by our sincere wishes for the prosperity and happiness of himself and family." Br. Adlard, in returning thanks, expressed his regret that he could not convey in words his gratitude to the W.M. and the brethren for their kindness. If anything were wanting to enhance the value of the testimonial he had just received, the deficiency was amply supplied by the fact of its being presented to him in the presence of so many visiting brethren, by the W.M., whose long tried and steady support of the Lodge had made him deservedly respected by every member, and he felt a great additional satisfaction in receiving the testimonial frmo the hands of so old and esteemed member of the Lodge. He thanked the

brethren for their kind expresssions and for their good feeling towards him. The W.M. then proposed the health of the visitors, which Br. Bagshaw, P.P.G., Treasurer of Bengal, responded to in a neat speech. The health of the newly initiated brother having been given, Br. Dr. Jones proposed health and prosperity to the W.M. Br. Hopwood, in eloquent and feeling terms, thanked the brethren for the honour they had conferred on him. It was thirty-five years since he was initiated in the Lodge, and having passed the chair, his present position was unanticipated. He had seen a variety of changes in the Lodge, and many of those who had greeted him at his initiation had passed away. He had, however, the same interest for the Lodge at heart as from the first, and would do all in his power to promote the welfare of the ancient and universally great institution, of which he was proud to be a member, and more particularly to advance the interest of a Lodge over which he presided twenty-nine years ago. The W.M. resumed his seat amidst the applause of the brethren. Several other toasts were then proposed, among others, the Grand Stewards' Lodge, which was briefly responded to by Br. Tomkins, W.M., and the company separated soon after eleven o'clock, much delighted with the pleasures of the evening.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—A numerous meeting of this highly respectable Lodge, took place on the 2nd ult., at the Freemasons Tavern, when the W.M. Br. MacCulloch completed the duties of his year of office, by raising, in a most affecting manner, a properly qualified candidate to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. The chair was then taken by the Father of the Lodge, P.M. Br. Cant, when the W.M. Br. MacCulloch presented Br. F. Burton, W.M. elect, for the benefit of installation. This ceremony, the venerable P.M. went through in a manner most satisfactory to the Lodge, and at its conclusion, the newly installed Master, than whom there is not a more respected member in the Craft, received the congratulations of the brethren. He then appointed the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year:—Br. Wood, S.W.; Br. Moring, J.W.; Br. P.M. Lee, Treasurer, Br. P.M. Rackstraw, Secretary, Br. Perryman, S.D.; Br. Friend, J.D.; Br. Knight, I.G.; Br. Mitchell, Steward. The working of the Lodge having been thus efficiently provided for, the W.M. put it into play by ably passing two brethren to the second degree; after which, the Lodge was closed and the brethren retired to the banqueting room, where a most agreeable evening was spent, to the harmony of which Br. Genge, Br. Cant, Br. Crawley, Br. Houghton, Br. Goring, and Br. Mitchell, largely contributed. In returning thanks for the visitors, of whom there were a large number present, Br. Warren, P.M. of 202, said, that although many years had elapsed since last he sat a guest at the social board of the Albion, still they had not obliterated the kindly feelings with which he regarded the Lodge, it having been the first he had ever visited after joining the Craft; and he was delighted on looking round the table to see in the ranks of the Past Masters, so many well remembered faces; but that delight was enhanced, when he saw in the chair that night, a Br. whom he in common with all who knew him so highly appreciated—a Br. with whom he was Masonically connected in another Lodge, over which he hoped to see him preside as Master, with the same spirit and ability which he had displayed that night. Br. Crawley, P.M. of 25, also replied to the toast, and in feeling terms referred to his past association with some of the Past Masters from whom he had learned his Craft Masonry. Several other toasts followed, and the festivities terminated in the most harmonious manner.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—This numerous Lodge, held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 10, when a brother was raised to the third degree, and the Master elect, Br. Spooner, installed into the chair by Br. Young, P.M., in a most able and impressive manner, in the presence of a numerous board of installed Masters. The W.M. then appointed Brs. Bincks, S.W.; Masterman, J.W.; Austin, S.D.; Payne, J.D.; German, I.G. Br. Williams was reinvested as Treasurer; Br. Peter Mathews, as Secretary, and Br. Temple as D.C—an office which, in a Lodge like the Enoch, is one of the most onerous a brother can hold—and no one could better perform its duties than Br. Temple. At the conclusion of business, a large number of brethren adjourned to dinner, the visitors being Br. White, Grand Secretary; Br. Dr. Robert Rowe, G.D. and P.P., Dep. G.M. of Essex; Brs. Chown, 113; Woodley, 902; Kennedy, 201; England, 57; Marsh, 30; Goldsmith, 25; Mallalieu, 227 Barrett,

188; Morby, 169; Watson, 23; Taylor, 201; Lavender, 183. Br. White, G. Sec., returned thanks for the toast of the officers of the Grand Lodge, as did Br. Dr. Rowe, for the Prov. G. officers—both brothers expressing the great gratification they experienced in seeing the Lodge in so prosperous a condition. In proposing the health of the P.M.'s, the W.M. highly eulogised Br. Frederic Ledger, their late Master, upon his retiring from the chair, as his influence, with the combined and able assistance of the Past Masters, had raised the Lodge to that eminence in the Craft it then enjoyed. Various other toasts were drunk with great cordiality—the proceedings of the evening being enlivened by some excellent singing.

THE TUSCAN LODGE (No. 14), held its usual monthly meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday, Jan. the 23rd, when Br. Moxon was installed in the Chair in a very able manner by Br. W. Watson, P.M., No. 23. Br. Moxon then invested his officers. Brs. H. Lee, as S.W.; S. Glover, J.W. There were four candidates for the office of Tyler, vacant by the death of Br. Dalton, and the choice fell on Br. Beckett. The Lodge was then closed in perfect harmony, and the brethren partook of a very elegant banquet, prepared for them by Brs. Watson, Coggin, and Banks. Amongst the visitors we noticed Brs. E. Warwick, W.M., No. 30; W. Watson, P.M., No. 23; Paas, No. 30, &c. The Brs. Ransford and Holmes in the course of the evening amused the brethren with some excellent songs.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—The annual meeting of this now highly flourishing Lodge, which now numbers nearly 60 members, though but a few years since it appeared likely to be numbered only amongst the Lodges that had been, was held at the Freemason's Tavern, on Thursday the 18th January. Br. Hewlett, W.M. presided, supported by P.M's. Brs. Fenn, Watson, Bennett, Blackburn, Newton, and a very large number of brethren. The W.M. having initiated a candidate into the Order, in his usual excellent style, Br. P.M. Watson, the regenerator of the Lodge, proceeded to instal Br. Humphrey as W.M. for 1855; who, at the conclusion of the ceremony, invested Br. Brandon, S.W.; Br. Goodman, J.W., Br. P.M. Bennett, Treas,, Br. P.M. Blackburn, Sec., Br. Ponsford, S.D., Br. Collins, J.D., Br. Oliver, I.G., and Br. Wm. Watson, Junr., M.C. The Masonic business having been concluded, the Lodge was closed in due form; after which the brethren adjourned to one of the most elegant dinners of the season. There were a large number of visitors present, amongst whom we observed Br. Somers, P.M., No. 11; Br. Binckes, S.W., 11; Br. J. Coggin, 25; Br. Smith, P.M., 82; Br. How, P.M., 137; Br. Anderson, 137; Br. Normandy, W.M., 166; Br. Morbey, S.W, 169; Br. Hart, I.G., 169; Br. Kennedy, P.M., 201; Br. Warren, P.M., 202; and Br. Woodley, 902. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been duly honored, a special bumper was dedicated to the health of the W.M., than whom no brother is more universally or more deservedly esteemed by all who know him, wishing him a successful year of office. The W.M., replied and expressed a hope that he might give equal satisfaction to the brethren, as his most excellent predecessor in the chair, Br. Hewlett, had done, and he assured them that no exertions should be wanting on his part to do so. The health of Br. Hewlett, the P.M's., and a variety of other toasts, amongst which was the Press, coupled with the name of Br. Warren. Br. Warren as connected with the MASONIC MIRROR, returned thanks, and assured the brethren that no efforts would be wanting on the part of the Managers to make it worthy of their support; at the same time he begged to disavow on the part of the conductors of the Mirror, any rivalry, with the exception of that of endeavouring to give to the brethren the largest amount of Masonic information for the lowest amount of cost, with any Masonic publication; he being happy to be enabled to say that they enjoyed the honor of the acquaintance of the Editor of the Magazine, as well as of those having the management of Masonic intelligence in the Era and the Field. The evenings amusements were considerably enhanced by the vocal exertions of Brs. Perren, Fielding, Holmes, and Farquharson, the latter talented Br. presiding at the Piano-forte.

ROBERT BURNS (No. 25).—The annual meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemason's Tavern, on Monday, January 1, when Br. Wm. Watson, P.M., assisted by Brs. P.M. Goring and Fox, as Wardens, most impressively installed Br. Dyte into the chair as W.M.; and in doing so, Br. Watson called his attention to the fact

that their Lodge acted under an old Athol Charter granted to them in 1721, and which had been always well supported by the brethren. The new W.M. appointed Br. Le Gassick, S.W.; Br. Clements, J.W.; Br. Bennett, S.D.; Br. Farmer, J.D.; Br. Leek, I.G.; Brs. Goring and Warren, Stewards; and Br. P.M. Apted, Collecting Steward. Br. P.M. Charker was likewise invested with the Jewel of Treasurer, and Br. P.M. Newton that of Sec. The W.M., next addressing Br. Patteson, the immediate P.M., said it gave him great pleasure to present him, in the name of the Lodge, with a P.M.'s Jewel, as a token of their satisfaction at the manner in which he had performed his duties during the past year. Br. Patteson in a neat and feeling speech expressed his gratitude to the brethren for the kindness they had ever evinced towards him, for the handsome jewel then presented to him, and his deep regret that circumstances had not allowed him to pay so constant an attention to the business and interests of the Lodge as he could have wished. The W.M. having passed two brethren to the second degree in a manner to evince how well he deserved the office conferred upon him, Br. P.M. Watson said it was with deep regret that he had to make an announcement to the Lodge which he was sure they would all hear with pain. Their highly respected Br. Tombleson had desired him to inform the Lodge that in consequence of his advanced age and declining health he was afraid that he would not be able to attend the Lodge as he had hitherto done, and therefore he wished to resign his membership, though as long as life was spared him he should always continue to take the utmost interest in its welfare and prosperity. He had great pain in making this announcement, but, knowing the state of Br. Tombleson's health, he was not surprised that he should desire as much quiet as possible. He was sure, however, that the brethren of the Robert Burns Lodge would never consent to the name of their respected and venerable Br. being struck off the list of their members, and he would therefore move that Br. Tombleson be elected an honorary member, paying only his Grand Lodge dues. A similar compliment had been paid to their late respected Brs. Fortune and Scott, when their infirmities prevented them attending the Lodge, and he was sure it would not be refused to one so generally beloved and respected as Br. Tombleson. Br. Fox as, next to Br. Watson, the oldest P.M. in the Lodge, and, he believed, the oldest friend of Br. Tombleson, seconded the motion. Though he had had the honour of the friendship of that worthy brother for twenty-five years, he did not know his exact age, but as he was one of the veterans of Trafalgar, a battle fought upwards of thirty-nine years since, when he was a man of full age, they might be sure he could not be very young. He had always proved himself to be a most kind, charitable, and open-hearted man and Mason, and he was sure the motion before them would be carried unanimously. The W.M. having also borne testimony to the worth of Br. Tombleson, and expressed a hope that he might yet recover his health sufficiently to be frequently amongst them, the resolution was put and carried, *nem. con.* On the motion of Br. P. M. Watson, seconded by Br. P.M. Apted, 10*l.* 10*s.* were voted to the Patriotic Fund. The W.M. having expressed his intention of accepting the office of Steward to the Boys' School, the Lodge was closed in due form with solemn prayer. The brethren afterwards adjourned to a very elegant banquet, and passed an extremely pleasant evening.

Egyptian Lodge (No. 29).—On Thursday, the 4th Jan., the members of this Lodge met at the George and Blue Boar Tavern, High Holborn, for the purpose of installing their new W.M., Br. Fernandez, the ceremony being very ably performed by Br. P.M. John Savage, assisted by Br. P.M. Goring, and a full board of P.M's. The W.M. then appointed Brs. Dudden, S.W., Shepherd, J.W., Buss, Secretary, Marjorum, S.D., Sage, J.D, and Hughes, I.G, and invested them with the collar and jewel of their respective offices. The Lodge being closed, the brethren retired to refreshment under the presidency of their newly installed W.M., and the evening was passed in perfect harmony.

Old King's Arms Lodge (No. 30).—The members of this Lodge held their usual monthly meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Monday, Jan 22. The business consisted of raising and installation of W.M. The raising was performed by Br. Filer, P.M., in a very impressive manner. The installation of Br. Edward Warwick was next proceeded with by Br. Barnes, P.M. and Treas., in his usual able

manner. The W.M. then invested his officers, giving each of them a Masonic address, informing them of their duty and situation in the Lodge, and likewise describing their jewels of office. The officers appointed were—Br. Paas, S.W.; Br. Croft, J.W.; Br. Marsh, S.D.; Br. Gurney, J.W.; Br. Playford, I.G.; Br. P.M. Jaques, D.C.; Br. P.M. Barnes, Tres.; and Br. Scrivener, Hon Sec. The Lodge having been closed, the brethren retired to one of the most recherche banquets, prepared under the immediate superintendence of the proprietors. About 40 brethren sat down to dinner, amongst whom were three or four-and-twenty visitors, including Brs. Dr. Rowe, P.G.S.D. and P.P.G.M., for Essex; Bisgood, D.P.G.M., for Kent; Wing, P.M.; Z. Watkins, P.M.; Warren, P.M.; Adlard, P.M.; Pereira, P.M.; Crew, P.M.; Lenney, P.M.; Harris, P.M.; Oram, W.M., No. 40; Maudsley, Sams, Glover, Carter, Thompson, &c. The enjoyment of the evening was very much heightened by some first-rate music and singing by Brs. G. Genge, Farquharson, Donald King, and G. Perren; also by two of the visitors, one of whom, Br. Pereira, sang a Spanish song with great good taste and expression. The W.M. proposed the health of the Queen, the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., Lord Yarborough, and the rest of the Grand Officers, past and present, to which Br. Dr. Rowe returned thanks in a very neat speech, in the course of which he related one or two very pleasing anecdotes regarding Freemasonry. The health of the visitors was responded to by Br. Bisgood, D.P.G.M. for Kent. Br. P.M. Burnidge gave the health of the W.M., which was received with great applause. The W.M. in returning his heartfelt thanks said he was convinced he had the good opinion and wishes of every one of the brethren of the Old King's Arms Lodge. He should always endeavour to deserve it, and would do all in his power to maintain the dignity of that highly respectable Lodge. In concluding, the W.M. presented the Lodge with a case containing 30 very elegant Masonic Glasses, richly engraved with the Old King's Arms on the one side, and the three great lights in Masonry on the other. One of the glasses was rather different to the others, intended as the W.M's., and was beautifully executed. After the usual Masonic toasts had been given and responded to, the W.M. left the chair, and the brethren separated, each expressing his delight at the evening's entertainment, and congratulating the W.M. on his high position, and the very respectable and aimable Lodge he has to preside over, there being no Lodge that supports the different Masonic charities better than this. [We noticed the W.M.'s newly invented "Palmerston's or judicious bottle holders" were introduced on the table to all the champagne bottles. It is a very good and simple invention, which prevents dirtying the hands or warming the wine.]

Mount Moriah Lodge (No. 40).—The monthly meeting of this most excellent working Lodge, was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Wednesday the 24th January, Br. Oram, W.M., presiding, supported by a numerous assemblage of the brethren. The W.M. having most efficiently raised a brother to the third degree, a short conversation took place on the subject of the Patriotic Fund, which resulted in £10 10s. being voted towards it. The chair was then taken by Br. P.M., W. H. Absolon, who proceeded, in a very impressive manner, to instal Br. Luis Artus into the chair as W.M. for the ensuing year. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Br. Artus proceeded to invest the officers of the Lodge as follows:—Brs. Rixon, S.W.; W. Russell, J.W.; Hadley, Treasurer; W. H. Absolon, Secretary; the Rev. G. M. Braine, S.D.; Vine, J.D., and Costelloe, I.G. The business of the Lodge having been concluded, the Lodge was closed in perfect harmony; it being extremely gratifying to observe what a perfect command the W.M., who is a foreigner, has over our language, and how well he understands and appreciates the ceremonies of Freemasonry. The brethren then adjourned to dinner, and spent a very agreeable evening. Due honour having been done to the usual toasts and to the W.M. and immediate P.M., as most excellent worthy brothers, the health of the P.M.s, of whom there were a goodly row present, was drunk and responded to by Br. the Rev. Hill P.G.Ch., for Worcestershire. He said, that although he was not often able to be present amongst them, yet he felt proud of his connection with a Lodge which he was happy to see so fully carried out that spirit of charity for which their Order was so highly distinguished. Though comparatively, but a young man, he was now the father of their Lodge, in which he had

attained the highest honours; and he trusted it would long flourish and continue to be distinguished by the excellence of their work, and the extent of their charities. The health of the visitors responded to Br. Warwick, W.M., No. 30, and other toasts having been drunk, the company separated. We ought perhaps to mention that Br. W. Absolon, has undertaken the duties of Steward at the coming festival of the Boys School, when the brethren have determined to present £10 to that excellent Institution from the Lodge Funds.

STRONG MAN LODGE (No. 53).—This Lodge met at the Falcon Tavern, Fetter Lane, on Thursday, January 4, when a brother having been raised to the third degree, Br. P.M. Moss proceeded to instal Br. Turner, the W.M., into the Master's chair; the ceremony being very efficiently performed. The new W.M. invested his officers as follows: Br. Pollitt, J.W.; Br. Carter, J.W.; Br. P.M. Moss, Trea.; Br. P.M. Lewis, Sec.; Br. Codney, S.D.; Br. Harrison (the Strong Man), J.D.; and Br. Lundy, I.G. The brethren afterwards supped together, and did not separate until a late hour.

LODGE OF FELICITY (No. 66).—The brethren of this Lodge held a meeting at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street, on Tuesday, the 16th January, when the W.M., with the assistance of Br. Crohn, P.S. for G.C, passed a brother to the second degree.

ROYAL NAVAL LODGE (No. 70).—This Lodge held its second meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Wednesday, Jan. 10, when, in consequence of the unavoidable absence of the retiring W.M., P.M. Br. John Hervey, in the most efficient manner, installed the W.M. elect, Br. Burdon, into the chair of the Lodge. The new W.M. having appointed his officers, two gentlemen were initiated into the Order, two brethren passed to the second, and one raised to the third degree. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren retired to a most excellent banquet, and the only drawback to the pleasures of the evening was the regret felt that Br. Hervey was unable to stay and enjoy it with them, in consequence of previous engagements.

LODGE OF PEACE AND HARMONY (No. 72).—This Lodge held its meeting at the London Tavern, on Thursday, 25th January, when Br. Elwood was installed W.M. He afterwards appointed Brs. Robinson, S.W.; Long, J.W.; and invested Br. Tomkins as Treasurer. A brother was also passed to the second degree.

ST MARY'S LODGE (No. 76).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Freemason's Tavern, on Thursday, January 18, Br. Kelly, S.W. and W.M. elect, was ably installed into the chair by Br. P.M. Emly, the retiring W.M., Br. Skelton, having first initiated a candidate into the Order. The officers having been appointed, and the other masonic business gone through, the brethren, to the number of about twenty, dined together.

GRENADIERS' LODGE (No. 79).—The members of this Lodge met at the Freemason's Tavern, on Thursday, January 24, when Br. Peck was elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and the highly esteemed and valued Treasurer, Br. Neate, re-elected. The W.M., in a most able manner, initiated two gentlemen into the chair.

VITRUVIAN LODGE (No. 103.).—The usual monthly meeting of the members of this flourishing Lodge, was on the 10th ult., held at the White Hart Tavern, College Street, Lambeth, the W.M., Br. Crosbie, in the chair. The Lodge having been opened, and the minutes of the last meeting confirmed, the chair was taken by Br. P.M. Skiller, who, in the presence of a full board of Past Masters, ably installed Br. H. Maudesley, as W.M. for the ensuing year, who was thereupon pleased to make the following disposition of the other officers:—Br. Cherry, S.W.; Br. Lock, J.W.; Br. Horam, Trea.; Br. Noake, Sec.; Br. Horner, S.D.; Br. Ashfield, J.D.; Br. Martin, I.G.; and Br. Wicks, Tyler. After the business of the Lodge was concluded, the brethren, sixty-five in number, were called off to refreshment, and partook of an excellent banquet, served in Br. Heppo's best style. Br. Maudslay, W.M., in the course of the evening, expressed his determination of giving £10 10*s*. to the Aged Masons Asylum, in the name of the Lodge.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—This distinguished Lodge met at the Freemasons Tavern, on Thursday, the 11th Jan. One brother was raised to the third degree, two passed to the second degree, and two gentlemen initiated into the Order

Br. W. Johnson, P.M. presiding in the absence of Br. J. Johnson, W.M., who is at present on the Continent. The brethren then proceeded to the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, when the votes were unanimously in favour of Br. Lewis Solomon. Br. Mc Callan, was as unanimously re-elected Treas. Amongst the visitors were Brs. Crohn, G. Sec. for German Correspondence; Elkington, G.P.; Rackstraw, P.M., No. 9; *Watson, P.M., No. 23, &c.*

Burlington Lodge (No. 113).—This Lodge met at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, on Tuesday, 2nd Jan. One gentleman was initiated into the Order, and two brethren passed to the second degree. It was resolved that a subscription should be entered into in aid of the Patriotic Fund.

London Lodge (No. 125).—*The members of this Lodge, which is evidently* sadly in want of the infusion of a little new blood into its veins, met on Saturday, Jan. 6, when Br. Mackintoy, S.W., was installed into the chair as W.M., the ceremony being performed by P.M. Br. Philipe.

St. George's Lodge (No. 164).—This Lodge held its anniversary meeting at Br. Hart's, the celebrated Trafalgar Tavern, Greenwich, on the 17th of Jan. The business commenced with raising one qualified brother, and passing another; the ceremonies being performed by Br. Moore the W.M., in a most gratifying manner. Br. J. F. Booth, the W.M. elect, was then installed by Br. J. S. Turner, of Woolwich, with that impressive zeal and ability which marked him to be possessed of superior Masonic knowledge. Br. Booth thereupon appointed the following brethren to be his officers for the ensuing year:—Br. Hogg, S.W.; Br. Townsend, J.W.; Br. Figg Wright, S.D.; Br. Trafford, J.D.; Br. Robinson, I.G.; Br. Ryder, P.M., Secretary. Several visitors were present, among whom we noticed. Brs. Fox, P.M., 87; Laird, P.M., 13; Harris, P.M., 87; Laing, P.M., 65; Miller, P.M., 93. A jewel was unanimously voted to Br. Moore, for the praiseworthy and efficient manner in which he had conducted the office of W.M. during the past year, when the brethren, 26 in number, adjourned to a sumptuous and elegant banquet, and the evening was spent with an hilarity truly consistent with the tenets of Masonry.

Lodge of Faith (No. 165).—The members of this Lodge held a meeting at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 1st of January, it having been adjourned over the regular Lodge night in consequence of its falling on the 26th of December, when two brethren were passed and three raised to their respective degrees by the W.M., *pro tem*, Br. Onslow, in a most eloquent and efficient manner. At the close of the business the brethren retired to the banquet, which was supplied in that excellent style for which Br. Rackstraw, who has been thirty-four years a member of the Lodge, stands pre-eminent. There were several visitors present, and after spending a very harmonious evening the brethren adjourned at an early hour.

St. Thomas's Lodge (No. 166).—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Saturday the 6th Jan., when the W.M. elect was most ably installed into the chair by Br. P.M. Frampton. Mr. Luce, the respected host of the King's Arms Hotel, Hampton Court, and another gentleman, were then initiated into the Order. About fifteen of the brethren afterwards dined together.

Prudent Brethren Lodge (No. 169).—The members of this Lodge met at the Freemasons Tavern on Tuesday, the 23rd January, to instal Br. Hewlett, P.M., 23, as W.M. for the ensuing twelve months, Br. Kirby, the immediate P.M., being the installing master, and performing the ceremony in a highly creditable manner. Br. Hewelett appointed his officers as under:—*Brs. Morbey, S.W.; Blackburn, J.W.;* Haywood, S.D.; Lea, J.D.; Hart, I.G.; Boyd, M.C. A committee was appointed to revise the bye-laws. The visitors were Brs. Green, P.S.G.D., *Hertfordshire;* Potter, P.M., 11; Binckes, S.W., 11; Adams, 25; Allen, P.M., 276; Hammitt, P.M., 752; Collard, S.W., 209; Nicholson, J.W., 201; T. Bohn, P.M., 201; Davis, 902; Watson, Jr., 23; Grimstone, 276, &c., &c. The banquet table was sumptuously furnished by the worthy hosts, and the evening closed in harmony and brotherly kindness. The pleasures of the evening were much enhanced by the excellent singing of Miss Marian Taylor, Brs. Perren, Genge, Farquharson, Hart, &c., accompanied by Br. Taylor, on the piano forte.

Bedford Lodge (No. 183).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on Friday, Jan.

12, the S.W. Br. Sake deen Mahomed was most ably installed into the chair as W.M., by Br. P.M. Beadon, P.G.W. The officers having been invested with their jewels of office, and some other business transacted, the brethren, to the number of 26, adjourned to dinner, after which a very pleasant evening was spent.

CADOGAN LODGE (No. 188).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, Tuesday, Jan. 16. Br. Ruff, P.M., in the absence of the W.M., Br. Captain Malkin, in a most efficient manner, raised a brother to the M.M. degree, and initiated a gentleman into the Order.

LODGE OF HONOR OF GENEROSITY (No. 194).—The annual election for W. Master and Treasurer took place at the London Tavern (after the annual audit of accounts), on Monday, Jan. 1st., 1855. Br. Richard Bell, W.M., presided. Br. Charles Joseph Corbett was elected W.M., and Br. Richard Lea Wilson re-elected Treasurer for the 14th time since he resusitated the Lodge in 1841. In consequence of family parties on New Years' Day, the attendance of the brethren was not so numerous as usual, but, thanks to the able presidency of the W.M., nothing was wanting to make both Lodge and banquet most enjoyable.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The members of this first-rate Lodge assembled very numerously at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 2nd ult. This being the day of installing the new Master, the brethren met at 4 o'clock, when the retiring Master (Br. Kennedy) initiated two gentlemen into the noble Order; he also passed two brothers to the second degree, and raised two other brethren to the degree of Master Masons. These ceremonies were performed in Br. Kennedy's well-known, able and efficient manner. He then proceeded to instal his successor Br. G. M. Gurton, the worthy and respected S.W., who had been unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. This plan of the retiring Master doing the installation, is well worthy of imitation in other Lodges, and the beautiful style in which Br. Kennedy performed this ceremony, reflects the highest credit on him, and on this Lodge, of which the worthy brother is so distinguished a member. The W.M. then proceeded to appoint his officers as follows:—Br. Collard, S.W.; Br. Nicholson, J.W.; Br. Jeffries, S.D.; Br. G. Watson, J.D.; Br. Jackson, I.G.; Br. Kennedy, P.M., Treas.; and Br. Emmens, P.M. Sec. (for the fifteenth year). Br. the Rev. J. H. Loughlin was appointed Chaplain to the Lodge, and Brs. J. Gurton and Harrison, Stewards. Br. Maney then stated that he, having been appointed a member of the Audit Committee, could not let the opportunity pass without stating to the Lodge the result of that committee meeting. He found that Br. Kennedy was placed in great difficulties when he entered on the duties of his office, as W.M., by the death of the Treasurer, Br. G. Watkins, but that, through the efficient management of the W.M. and Secretary, those difficulties had been overcome. Br. Maney stated that he had minutely gone through the balance-sheet and accounts, and he had to congratulate the members of this Lodge that the funds were now in a prosperous state, after experiencing a loss of about £40. He, therefore, did think that Br. Kennedy was deserving of some special mark of their favour, and he would propose that a vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes accordingly. Br. Booth, P.M., seconded this proposition, which was unanimously agreed to. It was also proposed and unanimously agreed, that Br. Kennedy be presented with a Past Master's Jewel. After several other propositions, and the Lodge being closed, the brethren retired to the banquetting-room, when about fifty members and visitors partook of a very elegant dinner. The cloth having been removed, the W.M. proposed the health of "Her Most Gracious Majesty," which was responded to with true Masonic feeling. The National Anthem was delightfully given by Miss M. Taylor, Miss A. Taylor, and Brs. Lowick and Fortescue, Br. G. F. Taylor presiding at the Piano. After the usual Masonic toasts, the W.M. proposed the health of the visitors, and Br. W. Watson, in returning thanks, said how very much gratified he had been with the manner in which the business of this Lodge was conducted; and eulogised the conduct of Br. Kennedy in so ably carrying out the true principles of Masonry, in the arduous duties he had gone through this evening. He congratulated the W.M. on being elected to preside over so distinguished a Lodge, which he considered quite equal to any in the Craft, and he hoped long to see "The Old Concord" flourish and continue in such "concord" as he

now saw it. Br. Kennedy, in proposing the health of the W.M., took that opportunity of reminding the brethren of the time approaching for the "Annual Ball," which was fixed for the 8th of Feb. He said that, under the presidency of their W.M., who was so well-known and esteemed, he was quite sure the forth-coming ball would surpass all previous ones, but still he was proud in reverting to the last which took place under his guidance, whereby, in conjunction with his brother stewards, he was enabled to give 20 guineas to Masonic charities. The W.M. returned thanks in a neat speech, and informed the brethren, that he should make it his study to promote the interests of this Lodge in every manner, and he trusted to have the same support at the forth-coming ball, as had been bestowed on Br. Kennedy. Several other toasts were given, between each of which the above named vocalists enchanted their brethren with their delightful harmony. Coffee having been served, all the members and visitors retired, highly pleased with the evening's entertainment under Br. G. M. Gurton, the new W.M. The visitors were—Br. Somers, P.M., No. 11; Br. Watson, P.M., No. 23; Br. Lowick, P.M., No. 15; Br. Baker, P.M., No. 87; Br. Soloman, W.M. elect, No. 108; Br. Collard, No. 168; Br. Mc Manus, No. 165; Br. Barfield, P.M., No. 752; Br. Hammett, P.M., No. 752; Br. Kelly, No. 211; Br. Copas, No. 752; and several other brothers.

Lodge of Sincerity (No. 203).—The members of this Lodge held their usual monthly meeting at the Crooked Billet, Tower-hill, on Wednesday, January 17. The Lodge was opened at four o'clock in consequence of the extent of the business. The usual formal business having been transacted, a gentleman was initiated into the Order, three brothers passed, and two raised to their respective degrees. Br. A. Hicks was then duly installed W.M., the whole of the ceremonies being performed in a most eloquent and impressive manner by Br. P. M. Potts. A very large Lodge was present, and amongst the visitors were several brethren of Yarborough, Albion, and other lodges. All business being ended the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet, and the harmony of the evening was kept up until after midnight.

St. James's Union Lodge (No. 211).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Westmorland Arms, George Street, Portman Square, on the 9th of January, when it being installation night, there was a goodly muster of visitors, who must have been highly gratified at the very able and impressive manner in which Br. Kennedy, P.M. of 201, and also a member of this Lodge installed the W.M. elect, Br. Kelly, into the chair. We are confident there are few brethren in the Craft who have attained such perfection in Masonic working as our worthy Br. Kennedy, for so young a Mason. It was very gratifying also to hear the very able manner in which the new W.M. performed the ceremony of raising a brother to the third degree; because it shows that this Lodge has at length elected a brother who seems determined to carry Masonry properly out in its working, without calling on the P. Masters to fill the chair. We are sure that under the able guidance of so excellent a W.M., the officers who were appointed, will assist him in bringing this Lodge into a position second to none in the Craft, and it is always a treat to visit Lodges, where the ceremony is sure to be worked in a perfect manner. The officers appointed were Brs. J. Gurton, late of the Old Concord Lodge, S.W.; Paul, S.D.; Le Gassick, J.D.; and Dixon, I.G. Br. Hudson was again invested with the collar of Treasurer, which office he has filled for some years, with perfect satisfaction to the Lodge. The Lodge then adjourned to a sumptuous banquet provided by the worthy host, Br. Frampton, and the evening passed in delightful harmony. The visitors were, Brs. Storr, Rackstraw, Kitchen, Figg, Jeffries, Goodeson, Jackson, Tomalin and Barrett.

Universal Lodge (No. 212).—The brethren of this Lodge held their usual January meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Friday 26th. Br. Law was installed W.M. by Br. Algernon Attwood, in that able and impressive manner for which he has been so justly distinguished. Br. Green was appointed S.W; Br. Wharton, J.W.; and Br. Attwood was invested as Treasurer. After the other officers had been appointed the W.M., in a highly creditable manner, passed a brother to the second degree. In the course of the evening, £20 was unanimously voted to the Patriotic Fund. In proposing it, the worthy Treasurer observed, that though it was of the greatest importance to relieve the brethren of the Order, as well as their widows and

orphans whose necessities had a paramount claim upon their charity, yet Masonry should be as universal as its principles were pure, and show to the world that its charity was not confined only to members of their own body.

LODGE OF INDUSTRY (No. 219).—This Lodge held its anniversary meeting at the Swan Tavern, Hungerford-market, on Tuesday, January 23, Br. Carpenter, W.M., presiding, supported by Br. P.M.'s Querly, Suter, Reekes, Jenkins, Dawson, Dunn, &c. The Lodge having been opened in due form, a candidate for the mysteries of the Order was ballotted for, when it proving unanimously in his favour he was initiated. Br. Jas. Querly, J.W. and W.M. elect, was then presented to a Board of Installed Masters, and having assented to the ancient charges of the Order, he was duly installed into the Chair by Br. Goring, P.M. 25, when he was pleased to invest Brs. W. Debnam as S.W.; Suter, J.W.; Reekes, S.D.; Irvine, J.D.; Polden, I.G.; and Br. P.M. Carpenter as Treasurer and Secretary.

JOPPA LODGE (No. 223).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at the White Hart Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, on Monday, January 1, when Br. Lyons was most efficiently installed as W.M. for the current year, by Br. P.M. Sielig, when he was pleased to appoint Brs. S. G. Risch, S.W.; Alexander, J.W.; Harris, S.D.; Lewin, J.D.; and Gabrael, I.G. At the conclusion of the Masonic business the brethren adjourned to supper, to which upwards of ninety sat down. Both the supper and dessert, the latter of which was supplied by Br. Solomon, sen., gave the highest satisfaction. Br. Benjamin, from Australia, and a number of other visitors were present. The evening passed off with the utmost harmony, which was heightened by the exertions of Brs. G. F. Taylor, Lowich, and Fortescue, most ably assisted by Miss Taylor. We should not omit to observe, that £30 was collected amongst the brethren in aid of the Patriotic Fund.

ST. PAUL'S LODGE (No. 229).—The members of this Lodge met at the London Coffee House, Ludgate Hill, on Tuesday the 9th January, for the dispatch of business and the installation of the W.M. elect, Br. Fowler having resigned the chair to P.M. Br. Foster White; that worthy brother installed, in a most masterly manner, Br. Randall into the chair. It is needless to say, that in every degree where the effective working of Freemasonry is concerned, Br, White stands pre-eminent, and has raised for himself a very high reputation in the Craft. The new W.M. is a first rate working Mason, and immediately after being installed into the chair, he proceeded to initiate a candidate into the Order. The officers appointed, were:—Br. Green, S.W.; Br. R. Sparks, J W.; Br. Watson, S.D.; Br. Hawkins, J.D., and Br. W. Fowler, I.G. The brethren attended in large numbers, and after the conclusion of the business, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant banquet. The proceedings of the evening were enlivened by some excellent singing by Brs. Farquharson, Genge, and King.

PERCY LODGE (No. 234).—The members of this Lodge met at the Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall street, on Tuesday January 9, when Br. Sheridan the S.W. was installed W.M. for the ensuing year. Upwards of 20 of the brethren afterwards dined together and spent a very pleasant evening.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—The members of this Lodge met on Friday, the 19th ult., at the Freemasons Tavern, Br. Spooner, W.M., presiding. The minutes of the former meeting having been read, it was proposed and seconded, that the minutes be confirmed, excepting only that part which relates to the election of W.M.; which was put and carried unanimously. At a later period of the evening, a brother requested (on behalf of the brother previously elected), that the installation might be proceeded with. This, the W.M. declined, as the minutes had not been confirmed; when the brother, whose election had been annuled, together with four others, tendered their resignation and left the Lodge. Br. Eram, was then duly raised to the third degree; when the business being completed, the brethren adjourned to a splendid banquet, served up in Messrs. Watson, Coggin, and Banks's, usual recherché style. Among the visitors were, Brs. Burton, W.M., 9; and Beuler, 215. Br. S. Aznavour, the proprietor of the Turkish Exhibition, has been elected a member of this Lodge, on the motion of Br. Patten, P.M. and Sec.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge on Thursday January 4. Br. Dyke was elected W.M., for the ensuing 12 months, and Br. P.M. Linton, Treasurer. The other business was purely formal.

LODGE OF UNIONS (No. 318).—The first meeting of this Lodge for the year 1855, was held at the Freemason's Tavern, on Wednesday, January 3rd, when the new Master was installed into the chair, by Br. P.M., John Hervey, G.S.D. Two brethren were in the course of the evening, passed to the second degree. A number of the brethren afterwards dined together, and amongst the visitors we observed Br. Wm. Edwards, P.Prov. S.G.W., for Cambridgeshire, and Br. E. S. Snell, P.M., 205.

PRINCE OF WALES' LODGE (No. 322).—This highly distinguished Lodge, which nearly from the period of its constitution to the death of our lamented M.W.G.M., the Duke of Sussex, was under Royal patronage, and presided over by Princes of the Royal blood, and in which the Dukes of York and Clarence sat as Wardens, held its meeting on Tuesday, the 23rd January, at the Thatched House Tavern, St. James-street, when the brethren proceeded to re-elect their W.M., for the ensuing year, and also their much valued Treasurer.

BANK OF ENGLAND LODGE (No. 329).—At the meeting of this Lodge, on Thursday, January 11, Br. Warwick, the retiring W.M., installed the S.W., of the past year, into the chair, as Master for the coming year. The only other business consisted of the passing of a brother to the second degree.

POLISH NATIONAL LODGE (No. 778).—At the meeting of this Lodge, on Thursday, January 11, the business consisted of one initiation, two passings, and two raisings, the whole of which were excellently performed. A joining brother was also elected into the Lodge. The brethren still appeared in mourning, as a mark of respect to the memory of their lamented Br. Lord Dudley Stuart.

LODGE LA TOLERANCE (No. 784).—The members of this (the French) Lodge, met at the Freemason's Tavern, on Tuesday, Jan. 2, when two brethren having been passed to the second degree, the Installation of the W.M. for 1855 was proceeded with, the election having fallen for the fourth time on P.M. Br. J. Caplin. The worthy Br. was one of the founders of the Lodge—was its first Master—and successively occupied the chair in 1848 and 1849. The brethren of the Lodge are too much indebted to Br. Caplin, for his untiring zeal and energy in promoting its interests, not to regard with the utmost satisfaction his re-election to the office of Master—a satisfaction which, we are sure, will be shared by every brother who has the pleasure of his acquaintance. Contrary to the custom of English Lodges in which the officers are appointed by the W.M., the members of La Tolerance select them by ballot, and Br. Caplin had only to invest them with the insignia of office. Br. Gratia, was elected S.W.; Br. Martins, J.W.; Br. Lindy, Secretary, which office he has previously filled with great satisfaction to the members; Br. Paillier, G. Ex past; and Br. P. Boura, Treasurer. There were also elected Brs. Sullivan, as S.D.; Haussen, J D., &c. La Tolerance Lodge will not meet again until the 6th of March, when two raisings will be proceeded with, and the members will be happy to receive the support of their English brethren—whose attendance continues to increase from month to month.

WELLINGTON LODGE (No. 805).—The members of this excellent and thriving Lodge, held their anniversary meeting at the Railway Tavern, Lewisham, on the 9th, when Br. Ireland, the respected proprietor of the Falcon Tavern, Fetter Lane, was installed into the chair as W.M. for the coming year, by Br. T. A. Adams, W.M. (206), and P.M. (196)—in a manner to evince to the brethren how deeply he has studied, and how well he understands the Masonic ceremonies. The new W.M. immediately proceeded to invest his various officers, as follows:—Brs. Crossley, P.M. and Treasurer; Hayes, S.W.; Simmons, J.W.; Masters, Sec.; Bayley, S.D.; Oddy, J.D.; Silman, I.G. There being no other business on the Agenda, and there being a number of brethren present who do not often have the opportunity of hearing the lectures worked, the W.M. called upon them to assist him in working the sections of the first lecture, the first four of which were accordingly gone through in a very able manner. The brethren afterwards sat down to a very elegant supper, and the evening passed off in a very pleasant manner, as it would be impossible to find a more efficient chairman at the banquet table than our Br. Ireland, whose year of office will doubtless be one o the most prosperous the Lodge has yet seen.

INSTRUCTION.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, HAMPSTEAD (No. 196), .—Last evening there was a large assemblage of the brethren at the Holly Bush Tavern, Hampstead, when a testimonial consisting of a P.M. jewel of the value of £15, manufactured by Br. Lowenstark, and a silver snuff-box, was presented to P.M. Br. T. A. Adams, by Br. Wm. Watson, on behalf of the brethren of this and other Lodges of Instruction. The box and jewel both bear the following inscription:—"Presented to Br. Thos. Alex. Adams, P.M., St. John's Lodge, No. 196, by subscription of its members and brethren of several Lodges of Instruction, in testimony of the high estimation in which they hold his eminent Masonic qualifications, and of their sincere personal regards. Hampstead, 17th January, 1855." A testimonial was also presented from the Parent Lodge, but the lateness of the presentation obliges us to defer our report of the proceedings until our next number.

ROYAL ARCH.

ROBERT BURNS CHAPTER No. 25).—This Chapter met at the Freemason's Tavern on Monday, January 26, Comp. Goring, Z; Newton, H; and Robinson J. There were three exaltations, one Comp. proposed as a joining member, and a brother for exaltation. The election for the officers for the ensuing year were then proceeded with, and all those of the past year advanced in rotation; the principals will therefore stand Comp. Newton, Z; Robinson, H; and Kirby, J. There was an extremely numerous attendance.

OLD KING'S ARMS CHAPTER (No. 30). This Chapter met on the 1st of January, when the officers for the ensuing year were appointed as follows:—Comp. Linton, Z; Watkins, H; Plews, J; Paas, E; Maudslay, N; and G. England, P.S.

JERUSALEM CHAPTER (No. 218).—This Chapter held its usual monthly meeting at the George and Vulture Tavern, Cornhill, on Tuesday, January 9th. A Brother who had been proposed for exaltation, not being in attendance, the Comps. proceeded to discuss two motions, of which notice had been given the previous month, viz.:—That the sum of Five Guineas be given to the Patriotic Fund—which after some discussion was carried by a majority of four—and secondly, that any officer being absent fifteen minutes after the hour for which the Chapter was summoned, should be fined at the following rate, 10*s.* for either principal, and 5*s.* each other officer. This motion was carried. Other business having been transacted, the Chapter closed.

HOPE CHAPTER (No. 248).—A meeting of this excellent Chapter was held at the Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich, on Thursday, January 18, when although the numbers present fell somewhat short of that which usually attends (no doubt in consequence of the inclemency of the weather), and where disappointment was expressed at the absence of several invited companions, it was delightful to see amongst those assembled that veteran and true mason Comp. Dr. Leigh, P.Z., who, notwithstanding his advanced years, is ever ready to help and assist the various Comps. when inducted into their several chairs.

POLISH NATIONAL CHAPTER (No. 778).—This Chapter held a convocation at the Freemason's Tavern on Thursday, the 25th of January, when Comp. Lemanski, P.Z., officiated in the unavoidable absence of Comp. Szulczeioski, who, in consequence of the lamented death of Comp. Lord Dudley Stuart continues in the first chair, Comp. Watson acting as H, and Comp. Warren taking his place as J. Comps. H. R. Sharman and W. B. R. Evans (son of our late much regretted Comp. William Evans) were duly exalted as Arch Masons; after which Comp. J. W. Adams was installed as second principal. Comp. T. J. Coggin was also elected a joining member of the Chapter. The Comps. after supped together under the presidency of the M.E.Z. Comp. Szulczeioski, and spent a very pleasant evening.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

BERKSHIRE.

ETONIAN LODGE, WINDSOR (No. 252).—The members of this Lodge held their *annual festival* of St. John on Tuesday, the 2nd of January, at the New Inn. After raising a brother to the degree of M.M., and balloting for a candidate for initiation, Br. Charles Lambert, P.M. (198), was duly installed W.M. of this Lodge for the second time, he having held the same distinguished office in 1853, and having been earnestly requested to assume the onerous duties of the chair by the united voice of the brethren; the impressive ceremony of installation was very creditably performed by Br. Jenkins, P.M. and Sec., assisted by P.M. Wigginton, R. P. Blake (of Oxford), and Sir J. M. Doyle, K.C.B., and other qualified brethren. Br. Lambert appointed his officers as follows:—Brs. Palmer, S.W.; Harley, J.W.; Evens, S.D.; Lester, J.D.: and Cantrell, I.G. Br. P.M. Hall was elected Treasurer; Br. Holden, Sec.; and Br. P.M. Stacey, Organist. The brethren then adjourned to refreshment, and sat down to a banquet provided by Br. Dangerfield, which fully maintained the credit of his establishment. In token of gratitude for the prosperity which had attended this Lodge, it was resolved to propose at their next meeting a liberal grant to the Patriotic Fund.

CORNWALL.

MOUNT SINAI LODGE, PENZANCE (No. 142).—The anniversary festival in honor of St. John, was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Penzance, 27th December last. Br. Stephen Harvey James, jun., of St. Just, was installed in the chair, as Worshipful Master of the Lodge for the ensuing year, in the room of Br. Polkinghorne, whose period of office had expired. The new Master appointed Br. Barzillai Beckerleg his Senior Warden, and Br. Peter Roberts his Junior Warden. Br. Ball was appointed Treasurer in the room of Mr. John Curnow, who for many years held that office, but to the extreme regret of the Lodge, was now obliged to retire, on account of long-continued illness. Br. J. G. Beckerleg has retired from the Secretaryship, in consequence of a paralytic seisure, which now confines him to his bed; and Mr. Charlton, superintendent of the West Cornwall Railway, was appointed Secretary. After the business of the Lodge was over, the brethren retired to their banqueting room, where a splendid dinner awaited them. After spending a harmonious and pleasant evening, the Lodge closed about 10 o'clock.

CHESHIRE.

MASONIC BALL.—A grand Masonic Ball took place on Thursday evening, Jan. 5, in the Assembly Room, in the Town Hall, which was decorated for the occasion with profuse ornamentation. Not only were all the Masonic emblems displayed in glittering profusion, amidst a beautiful arrangement of evergreen and floral ornament, but in accordance with the prevailing military spirit, a splendid array of the flags and ensigns of the allied nations waved above and around the admiring visitors to the gay scene. Horabin's capital Quadrille Band gave forth its enlivening strains with customary zest, and was taxed unsparingly by the charming galaxy, and dancing was continued with much spirit and enjoyment throughout the evening. The object the Managers had in view, was the truly Masonic one—that of aiding the funds of the Dispensary.

CUMBERLAND.

LODGE OF UNANIMITY, PENRITH (No. 424).—The brethren of this Lodge met in their Lodge room, at the New Crown Hotel, on the evening of the 8th January, to celebrate the festival of St. John. Br. R. G. Hindson's year of office as W.M. having expired, Br. J. Walker was chosen W.M. for the present year. The evening was spent in the most agreeable manner.

HOLY TEMPLE LODGE, LONGTOWN (No. 595).—On St. John's day, Dec. 27th, the members of this Lodge assembled at their Lodge room at the house of Br. Johnston, Wheat Sheaf Inn, when Br. Thomas Robinson was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year. The following brethren were appointed office bearers:—Thos. Kerr, P.M.; Robt. Forster, S.W.; John Pasley, J.W.; Francis Lamb, S.D.; Wm. Nixon, J.D.; James Carruthers and Wm. Murray, Stewards; Joseph Johnson, Treasurer; David Murray, Secretary; Peter Hislop, Inner Guard; John Nixon, Outer Guard. The brethren afterwards retired, when they were joined by their wives and female friends, and partook of an excellent supper, provided in Mr. and Mrs. Johnston's best style. Duets, Glees, and Songs, accompanied by the pianoforte, followed each other, and the evening was spent in that happy manner which ever characterizes such meetings of the Craft. The Lodge has subscribed £1 1s. to the Patriotic Fund.

DEVONSHIRE.

BRUNSWICK LODGE, STONEHOUSE (No. 185).—The brethren of this Lodge met on December the 27th, at their Lodge-room, St. George's Hall, for the purpose of installing their W.M. for the year ensuing. The ceremony was most ably and impressively performed by Br. P. E. Rowe, P.M., P.P.G.D.C., and Br. Samuel Pearse was placed in the chair. The W.M. then named and installed the following brethren as his officers:—Br. James Classe, S.W.; Br. J. Mackey, J.W.; Br. W. Joll, S.D.; Br. A. Davies, J.D.; Br. W. Clark, Treasurer; Br. J. H. Cook, P.M., P.P.G.J.D., Secretary; Br. Cardell, I.G.; Br. Rogers, O.G. The brethren afterwards adjourned to Hussey's Albion Hotel, where they were joined by the W.M. of Sincerity, 224, Br. Damant, and his officers and brethren of his Lodge, Br. Hancock, S.W.; Br. Lidstone, J.W.; Brs. Gilbard, Rodd, Evens, L. Tripe, P.M., P.P.G.S.D., Devon; and spent a most delightful evening. The W.M. deputed Br. Boolds, P.M., P.G.R., Devon; and Br. Clase, S.W., P.G.S., to visit the other Lodges to present the fraternal regards of the Lodge Brunswick to them. In addition to the brethren above-named, were present—Br. Brereton, an officer of the Grand Lodge of England; W. Br. Russell, P.P.G.J.D; Stephens, Brizzi, P.G.J.D., &c., &c. The day will be remembered as a red letter day by the brethren for some time to come.

LODGE OF FRIENDSHIP, DEVONPORT (No. 238).—The brethren of this Lodge met at the "Lord Hood" Hotel, on the 27th December, to celebrate their annual festival of St. John's, for the installation of their several officers. Br. J. G. Richards, W.M.; Br. Elphinstone, S.W., and Br. E. Sleep, J.W., and other officers. The brethren present awarded five guineas to the Patriotic Fund in aid of the Widows and Orphans of the brave men who fell and who may fall in fighting the battles of our country. The Lodge having been closed, sat to a substantial and well provided banquet, and spent a very harmonious evening.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, PLYMOUTH (No. 83).—This old and influential Lodge assembled at the Commercial Hotel, on St. John's day, at half past two, when Br. Gambell, Senior Warden for the past year, having been unanimously elected, was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year, the following brethren being invested with the various collars:—Br. Foulds, S.W.; Br. Julian, J. W.; Br. Deagon, S.D.; Br. Pitchford, J.D.; Br. Gover, I.G. Brs. Ash and Thomas were re-elected Treasurer and Secretary, and Br. Kerkin, Tyler. The ceremony of installation was most impressively and efficiently performed by Br. P. M. Pollard, P.P.G.T., of Devon. At half past five about 30 of the brethren sat down to the banquet, for which Mr. Chubb deserves great commendation, and after the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, Lodge was closed in harmony shortly after eight. The whole of the furniture and paraphernalia of this Lodge was new, and used for the first time on this occasion—and 83 is now second to none in the neighbourhood.

DORSETSHIRE.

ALL SOULS LODGE WEYMOUTH (No. 199). At the annual meeting of this Lodge in the Masonic Hall, on the 22nd December, Br. Joseph B. Harvey was re-elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Captain William King Hall, of the Bulldog steamer,

who has just returned home to his family, paid the All Souls Lodge of Freemasons the compliment of sending them the "Flag of Truce" used at the capture of Bomarsund, on the 16th August last. This memorable trophy we understand will be placed in the Archives of the Lodge, as an interesting remembrance of the services to his country of an esteemed brother of the Order.

Lodge of Amity, Poole (No. 160).—The first meeting of this Lodge for the present year, was held on Wednesday, the 17th ult., at their Lodge room. After the usual business of the Lodge had been transacted, the ceremony of the installation of Br. C. J. Stone, as W.M., was performed in a most efficient and impressive manner by the immediate P.M., Br. J. Osment, assisted by Brs. P.M. the Rev. T. Pearce, P.G.C., of Dorset, P.M's. Sydenham and Colborne. The W.M. was pleased to appoint his officers as follows :—Brs. Moore, S.W.; Gutch, J.W.; Brown, S.D.; Pettit, J.D; P. M. Graves, Treasurer; Boyt, Secretary; Meaden, I.G. Each officer on being invested, was addressed in suitable terms by the installing M., Br. Osment, after which the Lodge was called from labour to refreshment. After spending a happy and cheerful evening, enlivened at intervals by the vocal exertions of several of the brethren, the Lodge seperated in perfect harmony. Several visitors were present from the neighbouring Lodges, and expressed themselves highly pleased with the superior working of this Lodge.

DURHAM.

St. Helen's Lodge, Hartlepool (No. 774).—The brethren of this Lodge held their annual festival on Friday the 29th December. The brethren assembled in the Lodge-room, King's Head Hotel, at three o'clock, afternoon, for the purpose of installing the W.M., Br. Henry A. Hammerbon, who then appointed Brs. Thos. Marshall, S.W.; George Moore, J.W; William J. Hodgson, P.M; Henry Hansen, Treasurer; Thomas W. Hearon, Secretary; Mark Child, S.D.; Thomas Cockburn, J.D.; Joseph Gaskell, I.G.; George Sanderson, and Robert Wilson, Stewards; and John Lundy, Tyler. The brethren afterwards sat down to an excellent dinner provided by Br. Robert Wilson. In the course of the evening the W.M. presented Br. Wm. J. Hodgson with a P.M.'s jewel, which had been unanimously voted to him for his strict attention to the duties of the Lodge, and the general courtesy shewn to the brethren during the term of his office. The proceedings of the evening were spent with a cordiality of feeling which so peculiarly characterises the meetings of the brotherhood. This body has pecsented a donation of one guinea to the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Marines' Royal Benevolent Institution.

Tees Lodge, Stockton (No. 749).—This Lodge held its annual festival on Thursday, January 4, at the Lodge-room, in the Black Lion Hotel, when Br. Joseph Doddswas installed W.M. for the present year, and the usual officers appointed according to the usages of the ancient Craft. After the labours of the day, the brethren retired to refreshment, and partook of a sumptuous dinner prepared in excellent style by Br. Palphammond. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the brethren passed a happpy and cheerful evening till a late hour, love and harmony prevailing to the edification and improvement of the brethren, which was greatly assisted by the professional taste and ability of Br. Jewson, who kindly presided at the piano during the labours of the Lodge, and occasionaly during the hours of refreshment.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

Berhampstead Lodge, Great Berkhampstead (No. 742).—The 10th anniversary of the opening of this Lodge took place at the King's Arms, Wednesday, January 3rd, when the W.M. elect, the Rev. F. B. Harvey, was installed, and a very elegant P.P.J.G. Warden's Jewel presented to the late W.M., Br. A. L. Bellinger, of Brockett Park, with the following inscription :—

"Presented to Br. A. L. Bellinger, P.M. and J.G.W., Herts, in remembrance of the magnificent and truly Masonic manner in which he presided over the Berkhampstead Lodge, No. 742, A.L. 5858, A.D. 1854."

The R.W. Prov. G.M., William Stuart, of Aldenham Abbey, was represented by his Deputy P.G.M., Br. T.A. Ward, who was received with all the honors.

KENT.

LODGE OF FREEDOM (No. 91), AND LODGE OF SYMPATHY, GRAVESEND (No. 709).—A very interesting meeting of the Members of these Lodges was held at the George Inn, in the early part of the month, where they sat down to a most sumptuous banquet, which did the greatest credit to the establishment of Br. Moore. The chair was taken by Br. F. Southgate, supported by his worship the Mayor (Br. W. F. Dobson), and Brs. Sharland, Nichol, Johnson, and Riveau. After the usual Masonic, loyal, and patriotic toasts had been given and responded to with great heartiness, the chairman said that the chief business of the evening was to do honour to a worthy brother, whose Masonic worth and great ability entitled him to the praise of the Craft, and whose kindness and affability had won for him the regard of all the brethren. In order to show their appreciation of such sterling Masonic worth, the members of the two Gravesend Lodges had subscribed upwards of thirty guineas, which had been expended in the purchase of a very handsome silver tea service, which, in the name of the assembled brethren, he now presented to Br. Moore, as a testimonial of their esteem and affection, and as a token of their sense of his services to Masonry at the Lodge of Instruction. Br. Moore's health was then drunk with three times three hearty cheers. Br. Moore acknowledged this distinguished compliment in a very appropriate speech, and after several other Masonic toasts the meeting separated. Round the lid and outer rim of the teapot is engraved the following inscription:—"Presented to Br. Henry William Moore, P.M. 20, and P.P.G.J.D. for the Province of Kent, by the Members of the Lodge of Instruction of Lodges 91 and 709, for his distinguished services."

ADAM'S LODGE, SHEERNESS (No, 184).—On Tuesday, 9th January, the installation of the W.M. took place. The business of the evening commenced by the raising of Br. G. M. Smith, Lieut. R.N., to the sublime degree of M.M., which ceremony was performed by Br. Keddell, P.S.G.W., Kent. The installation ceremony was ably conducted by Br. J. Townsend, P.P.G.R., P.P.G.S.W., and the able and active Secretary of the Lodge. The W.M. for the ensuing year, although a young Mason, bids fair to be an active one, having evinced, during the time he has been a member of the Lodge, such readiness in attaining that knowledge so requisite to fill the chair with honour to himself and advantage to the Lodge, that he has fully succeeded in convincing the brethren, that their choice will prove a happy one; indeed, the admirable manner in which he initiated two gentlemen into Masonry fully proved that Br. J. Whittall, Paymaster, R.N., has richly deserved the Gavel. The following brethren were then invested:—Brs. Bigley, S.W.; Capt. Forbes, (R.A) J.W.; Court, S.D.; Kett, J.D.; L. Shrubsole, P.; J. Townsend, S.; Bate, I.G.; Wilkins, Tyler. The Lodge having been closed, the brethren, to the number of 27, sat down to an excellent banquet, arranged by their judicious Steward, Br. Bigley, and provided by Br. Davis, "mine host," of the Fountain. The usual toasts were ably proposed by the W.M., and cordially responded to by the brethren, and a high fund of comic humour emanated from Brs. Swandale Keddell, sen. and jun. The prospects of Masonry at Sheerness, are at present peculiarly promising, many initiations having taken place during the past year, and these of a character calculated to raise the Lodge to as high position in the province, as well as to extend Masonry, inasmuch as several of the newly initiated are officers of the army and Navy; and we are happy to state, that three candidates for initiation were proposed for next Lodge night. Nor is this pleasing prospect confined to Craft Masonry, the Chapter attached to the Lodge is also prospering, and we have no doubt that both Lodge and Chapter will bear the test of a visit in the summer seasons from our metropolitan and our provincial brethren. We have much pleasure in adding, that the Lodge have unanimously voted £5 to the Patriotic Fund, which was forwarded to London last month.

LANCASHIRE—EAST DIVISION.

LODGE OF FAITH OPENSHAW, MANCHESTER (No. 847).—The members of this Lodge met on the 5th Jan., 1855, at the New Inn, Openshaw, when the W.M. Br. T. Swindells performed for the first time the beautiful and sublime ceremony of

raising Br. G. Thornton to the degree of a Master Mason, when he acquitted himself in such a manner as would have done credit to a Mason of twenty years standing, calling forth the warmest congratulation of several able and experienced P.M.'s, who were present during the ceremony, as well as the whole of the brethren in the Lodge. The W.M. then left the chair, which was afterwards taken by Br. W. Hill, of the Lodge of Loyalty, No. 402. He proceeded to instal Br. John Merrill, W.M. for the ensuing year. Br. Merrill having named his principal officers, Br. Hill proceeded to invest Bros. R. S. North, S.W.; G. Whyatt, J.W.; W. Turnbull, Treas.; R. Andrew, Sec., &c., &c. The installation was gone through in Br. Hill's usual correct manner, rivetting the attention of the brethren to the interesting ceremony. The Lodge was then formally closed, and the meeting adjourned to the 17th inst., when the brethren again assembled to celebrate the festival of St. John. The W.M. authorised the banquet to be held in open Lodge, and it was served by Br. Hammond in his well-known style of elegance. It consisted of almost every delicacy in season, to which the brethren did ample justice. After the cloth was drawn, and the usual loyal and other toasts had been given, and duly responded to, the W.M. called upon the S.W., Br. North, for the next toast. The S.W. rose and said, the W.M. had given him a very pleasing task to perform, but one which he regretted had not fallen into more able hands. He would, however, endeavour to be brief, and to the point. After giving the health of the immediate P.M., Br. T. Swindells, and eulogising his conduct as Master during the past year, he spoke highly of his unwearied diligence, and attention to the interests to the Lodge, which, together with his correct knowledge of working, and his general Masonic and obliging demeanour had endeared him to all the members of the Lodge. He then drew from his pocket a handsome Morocco case containing a splendid gold P.M.'s jewel, beautifully set with brilliants, which contained on the back the following inscription:—"Presented to Br. T. Swindells, by the Brethren of the Lodge of Faith, No. 847, as a small token of respect for his valuable service, Jan. 17, 1855," Br. North then presented the jewel to Br. Swindells hoping he might long be spared to wear it. Br. Swindells, after a brief interval, rose, and appeared deeply affected, having been kept in utter ignorance of the testimonial being in contemplation until the very moment of its presentation. He cordially thanked the brethren, and said their kindness had almost deprived him of utterance. After alluding to several interesting topics which had occurred during his Mastership, he concluded a very impressive and appropriate speech by again thanking them for the very handsome token they had been pleased to present to him, and said, if it pleased the G.A.O.T.U. to spare him, their kindness would stimulate him to further exertions in the good cause. After several appropriate songs and toasts had succeeded each other, the W.M. called upon the brethren to fill bumpers. He then gave the healths of the visiting brethren, with Masonic honours. Br. C. Ellis, the W.M. of the Caledonian Lodge, No. 246, Manchester, responded, and stated he always felt a great degree of pleasure in visiting the Lodge of Faith, from the agreeable and uniform kindness of its members, and concluded a neat speech by hoping that himself and the other visitors would have many more opportunities of visiting the Lodge. Br. Baldwin, Secretary for the Caledonian Lodge, No. 246, Manchester, in making allusion to the *Masonic Mirror* as a newly opened channel for Masonic information, took occasion to observe, that as such journals were instituted for the purpose of Masonic intercourse, it would be desirable that all the Lodges throughout the kingdom should, at least, once a year, publish a list of the names of its members, together with the names and address of the Master and Wardens of each Lodge, for the information of brethren like himself, who had to travel from city to town, and from town to city, during the greatest part of the year. They would then have much greater facilities of meeting with their brethren in almost every town in the kingdom, where they might exchange those Masonic greetings and sentiments of friendship, which might be productive of a great amount of good to the brethren and the Craft. Br. Tomlinson of the same Lodge, followed and made some suitable remarks on the same subject, and stating that the Masonic Pocket Book was not explicit in these matters. Several other toasts were given and most ably responded to by the W.M., by the Wardens and

the Secretary. The W.M. gave the J.W. orders to call the brethren from refreshment to labour, and after giving "our next merry meeting," the Lodge was closed in form and with prayer, at about eleven o'clock. The members departed from the Lodge much gratified with the proceedings of the day. The next meeting will take place on the third Wednesday in February.

LODGE OF FRIENDSHIP, OLDHAM (No. 344).—On Wednesday, the 3rd January, the brethren of the Lodge of Friendship celebrated the festival of St. John the Evangelist, in their new room, which has just been completed and decorated in the most characteristic and Masonic manner, rendering it one of the most commodious and best Lodge-rooms in the province. The Lodge was opened at 2 o'clock. After the confirmation of the minutes of the preceding meeting, and the transaction of some preliminary business, the W.M. elect, Br. Daniel Evans, was duly installed, the beautiful installation ceremony being performed in a very impressive manner by the Prov. J.G.D. of E.L., Br. Isaac Gaitskell, P.M. and P.Z. of 344. The W.M. then invested the following officers for the year, viz.:—Brs. Jno. Bamford, P.M.; H. W. Litler, S.W.; J. Booth, J.W.; T. Mattinson, Treasurer; Jno. S. Hague, Chaplain; W. Hudson, Secretary; Robert Holt, D.C.; S. Cooper, S.D.; Jno. Sharples, J.D.; E. Travis, I.G.; U. Shaw, Tyler. Br. Wm. Blackburne, and J. N. Breakey, Stewards; Richard Greaves, Organist. The banquet took place at 5 o'clock. The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts followed, but our limits will not permit us to give even an outline of the speeches, many of which were excellent. In the course of the evening the W.M., in a very feeling and impressive address, presented Br. Jno. Bamford, on passing the chair, with a beautiful P.M.'s jewel, as a small token of the high esteem entertained for Br. Bamford by the members of his Lodge, as a mark of their fraternal regard, and of their due appreciation of the benefits rendered by him to the Lodge whilst acting as W.M. The Lodge of Friendship is now in a very flourishing state, numbering upwards of 70 members. A Royal Arch Chapter was attached about three years ago, and on the 21st December last, a Knight Templars' Encampment was consecrated.

LANCASHIRE—WEST DIVISION.

LIVERPOOL.—The sixth annual Masonic ball took place in the Town-hall, on Tuesday, January 9, when upwards of five hundred ladies and gentlemen danced to the strains of two capital quadrille bands provided by Mr. G. A. W. Phillipps, whose selection comprised some of the latest effusions of D'Albert and other popular composers. Much credit is due to the Committee for their admirable arrangements.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

LODGE OF HARMONY, BOSTON (No. 339).—On the 28th Dec. last, Br. Fred. Cooke, P.G.S.D. (The Worshipful Mayor of Boston), was duly installed into the chair by Br. P. M. Greenwood, and the ceremony was performed most admirably. The W.M. then appointed Brs. Pocklington, S.W; Smith, J.W; Close, Secretary; Jackson, Treasurer; Koller, S.D; Ed. Jackson, J.D; and Howell, I.G. The brethren entered into a voluntary subscription in aid of the Patriotic Fund, when £5. 5s. was received and forwarded to the Treasurer, by P.M. Daulton. Br. Colyer was passed to the 2nd. degree, and a banquet was afterwards served at Br. Buttons, the W.M. presiding, and the S.W. occupying the vice-chair, when upwards of thirty brethren assembled, and the usual Masonic toasts were given, which were drank with great enthusiasm.

HUNDRED OF ELLOE LODGE, SPALDING (No. 690).—Wednesday the 27th Dec. last, being St. John's Day, a festival was held in celebration of the event. Br. Bates, was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year, after which he appointed Brs. Pocklington, S.W; Wood, J.W; and Clark, Secretary; and the brethren present then partook of a most sumptuous banquet provided by Br. Gray, at the White Hart Hotel.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

LOYAL MONMOUTH LODGE (No. 671).—The brethren of this Lodge assembled at the Freemason's Hall, on the 2nd Jan., and were ably presided over by the W.M. Br.

Thomas Prosser, Surgeon, of Monmouth. After the business of the evening, a sumptuous banquet was served from the Beaufort Arms Hotel, to the Masonic Hall. Br. Gaize, the senior warden of the Lodge, leaving the province, his health was proposed by the W.M., who, in a neat speech, alluded to his leaving the neighbourhood, and regretted the loss the brethren would sustain of his Masonic services. The senior warden acknowledged the toast, assuring the brethren that he deeply felt on leaving them, and that he wished them and the Loyal Monmouth Lodge, as well as the Silurian Lodge, success and prosperity. Several other toasts were proposed and acknowledged, and the evening was spent very harmoniously and pleasureably.

SILURIAN LODGE, NEWPORT (No. 693).—It is stated that the brethren of the Silurian Lodge, which has largely increased in numbers of late—are about erecting a capacious building upon the approved plans of Mr. Thomas, the architect, in Great Dock-street. The site is upon the property of John Arthur Herbert, Esq., and it is understood that gentleman has evinced a liberality in the transaction, which will doubtless cause feelings of enduring gratitude on the part of the Masonic body.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

ST. PETER'S LODGE, PETERBOROUGH (No. 646).—The brethren of this Lodge celebrated their annual meeting (the festival of St. John) at their new Lodge-room, Wentworth-street, Wednesday the 27th of December, when the installation of Br. Robert Richardson, Esq., the Worshipful Master for the present year, and his assistant officers, was performed according to ancient custom. The banquet was served by Br. John Ellis, the host and proprietor of the Assembly-rooms, of which the Lodge-room forms a part. Among the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, we must particularize that of "The Masonic Charities," a theme ever grateful to a Mason's heart, of the state and progress of which, at the present period, a brief but beautiful exposition was given by Br. John Hervey, Esq., P.G.D. of England. The most noble the Marquis of Huntley, P.G.M., honoured the brethren with his presence, and, as usual, contributed highly to the happiness of the evening. Amid other claims for sympathy, those of the Widows and Orphans of our gallant warriors were not forgotten; a vote of ten guineas was passed in aid of the Fund for that purpose.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

LODGE DE LORAINE, NEWCASTLE (No. 793).—On Tuesday, Jan. 2, the members of this Lodge assembled in the Freemasons Hall, for the installation of Br. John Lockhart Donald, W.M. elect for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was most ably performed by Br. E. D. Davies, P.M., of the Lodge of Industry, Gateshead; after which the W.M. proceeded to appoint and instal the following brethren as officers for the present year, viz.:—G. P. Birkenshaw, P.M.; Fred. Welford, S.W.; James Prendergast, J.W.; the Rev. W. P. Shield, Chap.; James Gilpin, jun., Treasurer; John Blackwell, jun., Secretary; Christopher Maling, S.D.; Frederick Myers, J.D.; George Hardey, S.S.; J. De Hart, J.S.; Edward James Willis, I.G.; A. Dickson, Tyler. In the evening upwards of thirty of the brethren sat down to an excellent dinner at the George Inn, provided by Br. Carmon in the most profuse style. The chair was occupied by the new W.M., supported on his right and left by past Masters E. D. Davis, James Donald, G. P. Berkinshaw, J. S. Challoner, &c. The vice-chairs were ably filled by the S.W. and J.W., and the evening was spent with that cordiality and harmony which so strikingly characterizes the Craft in general.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE LODGE (No. 24).—On Wednesday, the 27th Dec., the brethren of Newcastle-on-Tyne Lodge, No. 24, assembled in Freemason's Hall, Blackett Street, for the installation of Br. Wm. Johnston, W.M. elect for the ensuing year. Br. James Donald, the retiring Master, ably performed the ceremony of installation. The W.M. then proceeded to appoint and instal the following brethren as officers for the year, viz:—Jas. Donald, P.M.; John Hopper, S.W.; James King, J.W; Thomas Pattison, Treasurer; Fred. Shaw, Secretary; D. W. Spence, S.D.; Simeon Joel, J.D.; Henry Dixon, S.S.; Wm. Loades, J.S.; Richardson. J.G.; Alex. Dixon, Tyler. In the evening upwards of forty of the brethren sat down to dinner

at the George Inn, Grey Street, where Br. Carmon had displayed his most *recherche* style. The W.M. occupied the chair, supported on his right by Brs. J. S. Challoner, P.G.J.W.; and G. P. Birkenshaw, P.G.S.; and on his left by James Donald, P.P.G.S.W., and P.M., 24, and J. L. Donald, W.M. elect, 793. The vice-chairs were ably filled by the S.W. and J.W. Amongst the brethren present we also observed Brs. J. C. Gibson, P.G.S.D.; Henry Bell, P.P.G.S.D.; John Barker, P.P G.S.D.; Geo. Weatherhead, P.P.G.J.W.; W. E. Franklin, P.G.S.B.; John Hodge, P.M. 24; Thos. Pattison, P.M. 611; John Cook, W.M. St. Peter's Lodge, 706; Thos. Fenwick, W.M. St. George's Lodge, North Shields. The evening was spent in a truly Masonic manner, enlivened at intervals by several Masonic songs from Br. Tullock and other brethren; and, throughout, that love and harmony prevailing so peculiarly belonging to the Craft.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

PRESENTATION OF PLATE TO THE P.G.M.—On the the 21st Dec., a beautiful piece of plate was presented by the Freemasons of the Province, to the R.W.P.G.M., Col. Wildman, as a testimony of the regard and esteem in which he is held. Shortly after four o'clock, the Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in the Magistrates' room, at which nearly all the grand officers were present, and the Masters and wardens of the several lodges, to the number of about fifty. The usual business of the province having been transacted, the Lodge was closed, and the room appropriated, as far as space would permit, to the reception of the lay visitors. About half-past five o'clock, the company, to the number of nearly a hundred, sat down to a substantial repast in the large hall, whither, at a signal from a trumpet, the Earl of Scarborough, the Grand Master, and other officers of the Craft walked in procession, attired in their aprons, collars, and insignias of office. The band of the South Nottinghamshire Yeomanry, under their able conductor, Mr. Newham, was stationed in the anti-room, and played a variety of popular music during the dinner, and at intervals throughout the evening. At the rear of the centre table, the Provincial Grand and Lodge Banners were suspended. The dinner was supplied by Mr. Malpas, of the Flying Horse.

At the dais table we observed the following, viz.—The Right Hon. the Earl of Scarborough, Lord-lieutenant of the county, in the chair, supported on his right by Col. Wildman, P.G.M.; the Mayor, J. L. Thackeray, Esq.; Sir Thos. Parkyns, Bart., W.M. 576, Ruddington; Dr. Williams, P.P.G.S.W.; M. Mills, Esq., J.W., 576; E. Percy, Esq., P.G.S; and on his left, by Dr. Pigot, D.P.G.M.; Sir E. Walker; T. Close, Esq., P.G.T.; the Revs. L. Jackson and J. L. Prior, and G. Rawson, Esq., P.G.S.D. The vice chairs were occupied by Brs. Page, P.G. Registar, and J. Comyn, P.G.Supt. of works. Amongst the general company were M. Mason and F. Huggins, Esqrs., officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Derbyshire; Captain Wrightman; Lieutenant Kingston, R.N.; Drs. Ransom and Robertson; Aldermen Heymann and Cullen; Messrs. H. Hadden, Berenhart, T. A. Cullen, Saville, Jacobson, N. Hurst, W. F. Gibson, Parr, Hoyles, Hatton, Barwis, J. Webster, Abrahams, Sollory, Long, Miller, Tennant, T. Shaw, Warner, Martin, Morrison, Barber, J. A. Shaw, Johnson, Hearn, Maltby, Bradbury, Davis, Forman, Semple, Goodson, Evans, Campbell, Nixon, Siemers. The following gentlemen from Mansfield, the immediate neighbourhood of Col. Wildman, were also present, and returned by special train, viz., Messrs. J. Carter, C. J. Neale, H. J. Greenhalgh, R. Wright, W. E. Goodacre, W. J. Neale, E. Paulson, W. Midworth, T. Godfrey, S. Hurt, C. Lindley, R. White, J. Thompson, C. Revel, D. C. Barringer, G. Walkden, S. Allen, and J. Cooper.

Grace before and after dinner was said by the Rev. L. Jackson, of Hucknall, grand chaplain.

Dinner having been concluded and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts drunk, the band struck up a lively march, during the performance of which the testimonial was introduced, in the midst of a procession, formed in the following order :—

R. Allen, P.G.S.W. The Address. T. Danks, P.P.G.S.W. E. Percy, P.G. Secretary.
Masters Allen and Danks, with blue scarfs and wands.

THE TESTIMONIAL.

Masters Comyn and Bradbury, with blue scarfs and wands.

Having advanced to the dais table, the testimonial, a silver epergne, beautifully and tastefully decorated with flowers, kindly furnished from the green-houses of Sir Thomas Parkyns, Bart., was placed upon the table before the noble chairman. The weight of the plate is about 300 ounces, the base or tripod is formed into compartments, in one of which is a representation, in relief, of a Provincial Grand Master, wearing all the insignias of his office, and surrounded by emblems of the "Ancient Fraternity." In another, is a faithful portraiture of an officer of the 7th Hussars, the regiment at present occupying the barracks, and in which the gallant Colonel served; the military trappings of the officer, the horse, and every matter of detail is most carefully and correctly carried out. The last compartment exhibits the deadly implements of war converted into the more peaceful ones of the plough and harrow, and here we see a country gentleman, in the easy habiliments of one "well to do in the world," superintending the necessary work of agriculture. The stem of the epergne is a West Indian palm, having reference to the fact that the gallant colonel has estates in that distant quarter of the world; and on either side of it are figures representing "Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty." There are three shields at the feet of the figures, in one of which is engraved the arms of Col. Wildman, in another the arms of the "Provincial Grand Lodge," and in the third the following inscription:—

"Presented by the Freemasons of Nottinghamshire to Colonel Thomas Wildman, of Newstead Abbey, as a token of fraternal esteem and regard, for his valuable services as Grand Master of the Province, during a period of thirty-five years." December 21st.

As the procession advanced to the chairman's table, the company raised a right hearty English cheer. The band having ceased playing, the chairman proposed the health of the Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master, Col. Wildman. The toast having been drunk standing, Dr. Pigot, the Deputy Grand Master, called upon the P.G. Secretary to read the address, whereupon Mr. E. Percy rose and said, he esteemed it a high honour and privilege to have to read the following address:—

"Address from the Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Nottinghamshire, to Colonel Thomas Wildman, of Newstead Abbey, Provincial Grand Master.

"Right Worshipful Sir and Brother.—In the name of the Freemasons of Nottinghamshire, we joyfully avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our deep respect and affectionate attachment to you as our Provincial Grand Master, and to beg your acceptance of the accompanying piece of plate.

"As Grand Master of this Province for nearly thirty-five years, we gratefully acknowledge the valuable services you have rendered to our venerable Order, and the zeal and ability with which you have upheld and extended the principles of Masonry.

"At the present time, when all hearts are stirred and beat high with enthusiasm at the gallant deeds of our noble soldiers in the East, our thoughts naturally recur, with thankfulness, to the period when for so many years you were a distinguished member of that band of heroes who upheld the honour of England under the departed brother of the Craft and great captain of the age, the immortal Wellington, and shared in his crowning triumph on the field of Waterloo.

"Nor can we omit to bear our cordial testimony to the social and domestic virtues you have so long exhibited as a country gentleman, as a landlord, and as a friend and neighbour. Your name will long be held in honour as the ancient friend and schoolfellow of the noble and greatest poet, and as the munificent restorer of his much loved home, the 'Time honoured Abbey of Newstead.'

"In conclusion, and with 'all humility and reference,' we supplicate the Divine Disposer of Events, to bless and keep you, and your inestimable wife: preserve you in peace for many years to come, and guard you in happiness through the evening of life; and when you are called to leave this 'sublunary abode,' may you pass in faith and pious trusting, to those 'immortal mansions,' where 'the world's great Architect lives and reigns for ever.'

"December 21st, 1854."

The reading of the address was several times interrupted by the enthusiastic cheers of the audience. We understand it is the intention of the committee to have the address inscribed on vellum, and beautifully illuminated, after which it will doubtless figure amongst the numerous interesting objects with which Newstead Abbey abounds.

Colonel Wildman then rose, and was received with renewed and vociferous applause. Silence having been restored, he spoke in the following terms:—My Lord and Brethren,—Often as I have had the honour of addressing my Masonic brethren of this province, I most assuredly never rose to do so on any previous occasion with feelings in any respect to be compared with those which at this moment warm my heart towards them—(cheers); and I must beg the indulgence of this company, if, from the strong emotions which those sentiments inspire, I should find myself unable to

give expression to my feelings in as full and earnest a manner as I should desire to do. To do so, indeed, would require a far greater gift of natural eloquence than any I can by any means lay claim to—(applause). Brethren, when an individual has devoted for years his attention and exertions in any one pursuit, and is rewarded at the end by the good will, approbation, and regard of those whose good opinion he most esteems, he must certainly deem himself a most happy and fortunate man—(applause). But, brethren, when I look upon this magnificent, this beautiful work of art which you have now placed before me; when I recur to that eloquent and to me most interesting address with which it is accompanied, I cannot but feel that my debt of gratitude to you is of a threefold character. However much your partiality may have thought fit to exaggerate any merits of mine, at the same time I do feel proud—doubly, trebly proud of such a testimony, so awarded and so proclaimed, of your approbation and esteem—(cheers). You have thought fit in your address to advert most kindly to my humble services in the late war. Alas, they were long, long ago; but the memory of those stirring times is now vividly brought back to my recollection by the glorious achievements of our army in the east—(loud and prolonged cheering). I cannot but look back upon that eventful period, when I think that the noble chief who now leads our gallant army learnt the art of war on many a battle-field by the side of the great Wellington (loud applause), and who has certainly proved himself a most apt and worthy pupil—(hear, hear). Brethren, it has been well said "the warrior is no patriot, save when obedient to his country's call he draws the sword of justice;" and never, surely, did justice more loudly call, and never was her call more nobly answered than it has been by our gallant countrymen and their ancient rivals, now their glorious allies—(cheers). They are banded together to uphold the rights and liberties of nations, of Europe, of the world—(hear, hear). They are banded together to resist the foul usurpations and inordinate ambition of a base and unprincipled despot—(applause). I think we may fairly say, in allusion to the present struggle,

> "Oh war, when truth thine arm employs,
> And freedom's spirit guides the lab'ring storm,
> 'Tis then thy vengeance takes a hallowed form,
> And, like heav'n's lightning, sacredly destroys."

But I must not permit myself to be led away by old associations. I must remember that I am now—a quiet country gentleman; and there are duties, and important ones, attached to that position, which I trust, please God, I shall continue to discharge with all the ability which I am possessed of, cheered as I have been, and am now, by the kind support and by the amiable approbation of my valued friends and neighbours—(applause). Now, brethren, I really feel somewhat pained to be obliged to talk so much of myself. At the same time you must remember that it is your own kindness, partiality, and liberality which has placed me under such a necessity. I think it was the Prince de Ligne, who said, "Je n'aime pas parler de moi; et le mot je m'est odieux quand je m'en sers." With your permission, therefore, I will now come to that character in which especially I appear before you on this occasion—as the Provincial Grand Master for Nottinghamshire—(applause). Selected and appointed to this high and honourable office about thirty-five years ago, by the illustrious prince who then presided over the Craft, the name of the Duke of Sussex being ever a passport to the good will, the confidence and approbation of the Masonic body, I opened my career under most excellent auspices. For, if ever there was a mind and heart of man truly and thoroughly embued with the pure principles of Masonry and of patriotism, it was that of his Royal Highness—(cheers). I do consider it the most honourable and important circumstance of my life that I enjoyed the confidence and friendship of that illustrious individual. Now brethren it would not be suitable to the present occasion to enter into any lengthened details of the history of masonry during the last thirty years in this province. I will merely look at the result, and I would say to those who are not Masons, and are our visitors on this occasion, "Look around you," and to our brethren who are visitors here from other provinces, I would say, "Visit our Lodges: you will be received with kindness and hospitality; judge for yourselves as to the manner

in which they are conducted." But I would say more, and I am cautious how I express myself before a mixed company. I would have you remember we do not confine ourselves merely to the strict observance of the rites and ceremonies of our Ancient Order. We aim at something higher; we are anxious, by the high principles inculcated in the Craft, to exalt the character of man. There is a French saying, most consise and expressive—"*Noblesse, oblige.*" Applying this to Masonry, I may say, "*La Maçonnerie, oblige;*" that is, a brother should say, "I cannot descend to such and such follies or improprieties because I am a Mason." But, my brethren, I am not going to read you a moral lecture; it is unnecessary, and would be out of place. But I must say, if the important objects of our Order have been successfully carried out in this province; if we have had a great accession to our numbers, if numerous lodges have sprung up, and the duties of Masonry have been performed so as to meet the approbation of the Grand Lodge, and to secure the respect of neighbouring provinces, it is not due to the exertions of one individual alone, though such exertions may have contributed to so desirable a result. I will not pretend to say, for it would be false modesty—that I have not used my best zeal and exertions in behalf of the cause which I have so warmly at heart. But I will say that those exertions would have been unavailing, had I not been supported by the intelligence, by the experience, and by the talent and attainments of my brethren of the Craft during the whole period of my office. It is their kind support which has enabled me so agreeably to fulfil the duties which have devolved upon me. Brethren, I would merely add in respect to this beautiful testimonial, that if it had only been a sprig of heather from the forest so presented to me, I should have esteemed it above all price—(cheers). As it is, it will be treasured as one of my proudest and most valuable possessions, which I hope to transmit as a precious relic and memorial of this day to my family—(loud cheering).

Colonel Wildman again rose, and said he had to propose the health of a nobleman to whom he was sure they were all deeply grateful, for his kindness in presiding over them on this occasion. He (Colonel Wildman) had had the honour of making him a Mason, and he was sure he could say that every true Masonic feeling dwelt in the heart of the Earl Scarborough. They were proud to have such a Br. in this province as the lord-lieutenant of the county, and he had great pleasure in proposing his health—(cheers).

The noble Chairman said he was really unable to find words in which to express his acknowledgments for the compliment which they had just paid to him, and which he feared he hardly deserved.—(cheers). He was exceedingly gratified to be present on such an occasion, and to witness the kind feeling which had been testified to his old and tried friend—(cheers). He felt that institutions like these were the greatest in the country, and regretted that he was not associated with them earlier in life. Though from this cause he was not so accomplished a Mason as he might otherwise have been, he felt no lack of inclination or zeal in the furtherance of those principles which they had at heart. He begged, in conclusion, to thank the Grand Master for his kindness in proposing, and the company for the flattering manner in which they had received the toast.

The army and navy of Great Britain and our gallant allies, acknowledged by Col. Wildman. The mayor and magistrates of Nottingham, and the members of the House of Commons having been drunk, Mr. Close said, I rise to propose a toast which has been entrusted to my care, in doing which I hope I may be allowed to indulge in a few preliminary remarks, which I think will not eventually be found inconsistent with the toast which I shall have the honour to propose. I have many things in my heart, which I feel must be uttered, but my only fear is that my tongue will but inadequately express them—(cheers). As an old Mason in the province, and as the old and intimate friend of Colonel Wildman, I trust I may be permitted to refer once more to the beautiful testimonial which this day has been presented by our kind brother, the noble chairman. You will see engraved upon the testimonial, effigies of the human figure in three distinct attributes—of soldier, country gentleman, and Master Mason. It is on the separate phases of these three attributes, I should wish now to make a few observations, in connection with the occasion which has

brought us together—(cheers). In the first place, I shall allude to the character of a soldier; but here I must be allowed to trespass upon your patience for a few moments while I refer to the time when the Colonel was a boy, at the celebrated school of Harrow, and first became acquainted with Lord Byron. Little could the poet have then imagined that in the companion of his youthful sports he saw the friend of his manhood, the future owner and scrupulous restorer of the beautiful mansion in which, through a long series of years his illustrious forefathers had been cradled. From Harrow to Oxford, and from Oxford to the army, were short steps. In the peninsular wars, the gallant hussar, as you are aware, fought in that band of heroes which combated and triumphed over no ordinary foes—the numerous, highly-disciplined, chivalrous, and bravely led troops of the great Napoleon. How he distinguished himself in those combats was noticed and appreciated by the authorities at home, and his services were rewarded by a staff appointment in the war which, soon broke out afresh after the peace of Paris. As the aide-de-campt to the chivalrous Anglesea, he fought once more against the same formidable but brave and generous foes, then the hereditary enemies, now the firm friends and surest allies of this country. It is delightful for me to consider at this moment the two gallant nations of France and England; not in adverse ranks, but with their serried forces united, combatting together against the modern Attila and the barbarian Huns who are threatening the civilisation and liberties of Europe. May the battle of Inkermann, in which every soldier French and English was in himself a hero, blot out every painful reminiscence of the last stern conflict in which our friend appeared for the last time on the plains of Belgium as a soldier. I shall now refer to the second phase of his character. After the battle of Waterloo, Othello's occupation was gone, but other pursuits soon engaged the attention of Colonel Wildman. By the acquisition of the lordly demesne of Newstead, he became introduced for the first time to this county. I will not now, in his presence, dwell upon his kindness, the excellent qualities of his heart, his princely hospitalities, upon the charitable and conscientious mode in which he has discharged the duties of a magistrate. Still it would be unpardonable, especially at a meeting of Freemasons, not to allude to the good taste and feeling with which he has restored the mansion of the Byrons, the almost religious determination with which he has preserved every aechitectural feature, every heraldic allusion, every tree which could point out that all around him, now his, formerly belonged to the family of the Byron's—(cheers). Nor could I with propriety omit to make some slight allusion to the marked liberality with which that mansion is opened every day of the week, without regard to trouble or the interruption of domestic privacy—(loud cheers). Pilgrims arrive from every part of the world to contemplate the lovely ruins of the priory, or to pay homage at the classic shrine of Byron. If we may suppose that the spirit of the immortal poet still hovers round the disrupted, consecrated, and beautiful *façade* of the Abbey church, or, thanks to our Provincial Grand Master, the now no longer ruined halls which form the "vast and venerable pile" of Newstead, it must look down with smiles, and contemplate with satisfaction the works of the companion of his youth, and rejoice that henceforward in the annals of his country, and especially in the annals of this county, there will be entwined and interlaced with the name of Byron, that of Wildman—(cheers). I will now speak of that point of his character in which, as Masons, he is nearest to our hearts. It will be unnecessary to dwell upon the important services which he has rendered to the cause in this province. No one who has heard the earnest and impressive tones in which strangers are introduced to the mysteries of our Craft, and the instructive manner in which he is taught to plunge deeper into those mysteries, must have been otherwise than deeply struck with the great Masonic skill and sincerity of the colonel. But there is one point, one peculiar idiosyncracy of our friend, an absolute necessity of his nature, that no individual, whatsoever his rank and station, can approach him, without being made, as far as may lay in the power of Col. Wildman, comfortable and happy. Surely this is an attribute of a good man; and the retrospect of such a career may well be envied, That career reminds me of the beautiful lines of Sheridan Knowles, which I think very appropriate to the present occasion :

"Whether mine eyes with a new spirit sees,
Or nature is grown lovlier, I know not,
But ne'er, methinks, was sunset half so sweet.
He's down, and yet his glory still appears
Like to the memory of a well spent life
That's golden to the last, and when 'tis o'er
Shines in the witnesses it leaves behind."

But thank God, the sun of Newstead is not down. It's up, and "shines" amongst us even now, and is conscious of the "*witnesses*" which in this room by words and writings testify to his worth and goodness. And now, having trespassed so long upon your time, but little space is left to refer to the special toast which I am deputed to propose. It runs thus—"The Masonic charities and Mrs. Wildman." Of Mrs. Wildman I shall only say I can never forget her kindness, her cheerful disposition, her accomplishments, the graceful manner in which she administers the hospitality of her mansion. I am sure that the greatest pleasure I could ever give her is this attempt to do something like justice to the merits of her husband—(applause). With respect to Masonry, I believe she knows nothing about it—(laughter). But the charities of the Craft she does know, and she ever takes the greatest pains to promote them and to do them justice. I conclude by proposing "The Masonic charities and Mrs. Wildman."

Colonel Wildman, in responding to the toast, said it really required a great deal of fortitude to bear such an excess of kindness, as that with which he was overwhelmed this evening, and he might now say to his friend on the left, "*Et tu Brute.*" He had driven the dagger home to his heart. He had touched him in the most tender point by proposing the health of the amiable kind-hearted lady who was the blessing of his life, with whom he had lived so long and so happily—(cheers). She had some claim to have her health drunk amongst Freemasons, as she was a Life Governor of both the charities of Freemasons, an honour which was possessed by very few ladies besides her Majesty. He should have great pleasure in reporting to Mrs. Wildman the manner in which the toast had been received. There was, indeed, nothing more gratifying to her feelings than to know that she was respected amongst the Masonic body—(cheers).

A variety of other toasts were drunk, and the company did not seperate until a somewhat advanced hour.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

The Grand Lodge of this Province have voted the handsome sum of £100 to be paid by their Grand Treasurer of the Province (Br. Eales White), to the Patriotic Fund.

SOUTH WALES.

INDEFATIGABLE LODGE, SWANSEA (No. 288).—The members of this Lodge held their customary celebration of the anniversary of St. John, on Thursday, Dec. 28. The brethren went to their Lodge in the Assembly Rooms at 3 p.m., when Mr. F. J. Lloyd having been unanimously elected Master for the ensuing year, was installed in his office with the customary ceremonies of this ancient and Loyal body. Mr. Wm. Gronomo was also regularly initiated a member of the Order. At six o'clock the brethren met at the King's Arms Hotel, when they were joined by the Worshipful Master and several brethren of the Neath Lodge, when they sat down to dinner. On the cloth being removed, after the loyal toast, which ever mark the festivals of this ancient and dignified Order, a variety of sentiments from the chair as well as from the brethren present, were responded to, and the harmony of the meeting was further promoted by some capital songs given by Mr. Wm. Bowen and other gentlemen present. Mirth and joyous wit maintained their reign supreme throughout the evening, and the company separated with a common feeling, that they had this year celebrated their anniversary by one of the most pleasant and numerously attended meetings that has taken place for many a year gone by.

ST. PETER'S LODGE, CAMARTHEN (No. 690).—The annual festival of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, Dec. 27, at the Ivy Bush Hotel. About twenty of the brethren sat down to a sumptuous dinner. The chair was taken by the W.M. Br. S. Tardrew, while the S.W. Br. W. S. G. Thomas, officiated as vice chairman.

Prior to the dinner several new members were initiated into Masonic mysteries, including Col. Lloyd Vaughan Watkins, M.P., Lord Lieutenant of the county of Brecon, James Bowen, Esq., barrister-at-law, Lieutenant Bird, 11th Hussars.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

SUTHERLAND LODGE OF UNITY, NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME (No. 674).—The brethren of this Lodge assembled at the Castle Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyne, on the 5th Jan., for the purpose of installing Br. Thomas Mason, jun., as W.M. for the ensuing year. The R.W. Br. Thomas Ward, Esq., D.P.G.M., performed the ceremony of installation in a most impressive and correct manner. In the evening the brethren sat down to a sumptuous banquet provided by Brs. Venables and Swift. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the brethren seperated at an early hour.

NOAH'S ARK LODGE, TIPTON (No. 435).—This highly respectable Lodge, consisting principally of gentlemen engaged in the coal and iron trade of the district, celebrated the festival of St. John, on Friday Dec. 29. After the installation of Br. Gwynne, W.M., and the appointment of Brs. Howells, S.W.; E. S. Creswell, J.W.; Millward, Treasurer, &c., several brethren manifested their zeal and love of Masonry, by presenting the Lodge with a new banner, carpet, tracing boards, jewels, &c. Upwards of twenty members sat down to a most excellent dinner, and a most agreeable and harmonious evening was spent.

MENURIA LODGE, HANLEY (No. 606).—The St. John's Festival and celebration of the Jubilee Masonry in Hanley, took place on Tuesday, Jan. 2, when the Rev. W. H. Wright, Provincial Grand Chaplain, was duly installed W.M. for 1855, the R.W. Col. Vernon, P.G.M., acting as Installing Master, supported by the R. W. Thomas Ward, Esq., D.P.G.M. The banquet was held at the Saracen's Head Hotel. Col. Vernon stated he had undertaken the office of Installing Master as a special compliment to the profession of the new W.M., and the members for their praiseworthy efforts to revive a Lodge which had almost gone to decay. The Lodge closed in harmony at 10, after spending a most agreeable evening. Many visitors from the P.G. Lodge, &c., were present.

WALSALL.—The annual Masonic Ball was held on Friday evening, January 19, in the Guildhall Assembly Room, and went off with its usual spirit and *eclat*. The elegance of the ladies, the dresses of the brethren, and the Masonic decorations of the room, which were the theme of general admiration, combined to make this, as before, "the most brilliant" ball of the season. Dancing commenced at half-past nine o'clock to the lively strains of Harvey and Synyer's celebrated Quadrille Band, and if we may judge from the vigour with which it was continued until five o'clock on the following morning, and the delight and satisfaction which beamed on every face, never was there spent a more pleasant evening. The proceeds of the ball on this occasion will be devoted to the Patriotic Fund instead of the Masonic charities, as usual. There were 180 present, and the committee will be enabled to present to the Fund £35.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

HARMONIC LODGE DUDLEY (No. 313).—This Lodge, at its monthly meeting on 2nd Jan, celebrated the festival of St. John the Evangelist. Br. Bristow, S.W., the W.M. elect, was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year, the ceremony being ably performed by the R.W. Br. Masefield, P.M. There were two initiations and two passings, and ten guineas were voted from the funds of the Lodge to the Patriotic Fund, in answer to the appeal of the R.W. Br. H. C. Vernon, P.G.M., Worcestershire.

WORCESTER LODGE (No. 349).—The members of this Lodge dined together in honour of the same Festival, at the Bell Hotel, on Thursday, 28th Dec., presided over by the W.M., R. P. Hill, Esq. An elegant entertainment was provided.

SEMPER FIDELIS, WORCESTER (No. 772).—On the 1st of Jan. the members of this Lodge dined together at their Lodge room, at the Crown Hotel, in celebration of the Festival of St. John the Evangelist. The W.M. Thomas Clutterbuck presided on the occasion.

YORKSHIRE—West Riding.

Lodge of Hope, Bradford (No. 379).—The brethren of this Lodge have voted a donation of ten guineas to the Patriotic Fund; and also a donation of ten guineas for the relief of the suffering poor of the town, to be applied through the medium of the committee of the "Bradford Soup Kitchens."

Britannia Lodge, Sheffield (No. 162).—At the last meeting of this Lodge, it was unanimously resolved to alter the night from the second Wednesday to the second Thursday in the month; and to establish a Lodge of Instruction, to be held in the Music Hall (where the regular assemblies are held), on the 4th Thursday in the month. At the same meeting £5 was most cheerfully voted from the Lodge monies in aid of the Patriotic Fund.

Lodge of Three Grand Principles, Dewsbury (No. 251).—This flourishing Lodge held its monthly meeting in the Masonic Hall, on Thursday, Dec. 28th, when Br. Richard Reed Nelson, P.G.S., the S.W. of the Lodge for the past year, was most ably installed into the chair by W. Br. Thos. Hemingway, P.M., and P.P.S.G.W. of West Yorkshire, assisted by W.P.M's. Brs. J. O. Gill, P.G.P.; W. Audsley and C. Oldroyd, P.P.G.S.B.; after which the following brethren were appointed officers for the ensuing year:—Brs. D. Day, S.W.; John Newsome, J.W.; Dr. G. Fearnley, P.M. and P.P.S.G.W., Treasurer; Chas. Oldroyd, P.M. and P.P.G.S.B., Secretary; M. Grawdidge, S.D.; Joseph Harrison, J.D.; Benjamin Oates, I G.; Thomas Spedding, and Robert Walkington, Stewards. Luke Hunchcliffe, O.G., the W.M., passed a Br. to the second degree, the Lodge was then closed in peace and harmony. This being the festival of St John, upwards of fifty of the brethren sat down to a sumptuous banquet provided by Br E. Knowles, which reflected great credit upon him. On the cloth being drawn, the W.M. proposed the Queen, which was followed by the following loyal and Masonic toasts:—Prince Albert; Albert, Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family. The Army and Navy, and our Allies; the M.W.G.M. of England, the Earl of Zetland; the R.W.D.G.M. the Earl of Yarborough; the R.W. Prov. G.M. the Earl of Mexborough, the W. Br. Chas. Lee, D.P.G.M., and the rest of the Prov. G. Officers; the W.M. of the Lodge of Three Grand Principles (the W.M. in responding, after thanking the brethren for their kindness to him, alluded to the prosperity of the Lodge which numbers sixty contributing members, thirteen of whom are Past Master's); the immediate P.M. Br. J. O. Gill, P.G.P.; W. Br. Dr. Fearnley, P.M. and P.P.S.G.W., the Treasurer. Br. Raisbeck, P.M., in rising to propose the health of W. Br. Thos. Hemingway, P.P.S.G.W., P.M. and P. Treas., alluded in glowing and enthusiastic terms to the many valuable services rendered by him to the Masonic body in this province, complimenting him upon the high state of efficiency the brethren had attained during his connection with the Lodge, and concluded by wishing every happiness and prosperity to the very worthy and aged Br., a sentiment deeply participated in by all the brethren present. Br. Hemingway on rising to respond to the toast, was received by rounds of acclamation seldom heard even amongst our fraternity. After thanking the brethren of the Lodge for the compliment paid him, he stated that the welfare of the Lodge of Three Grand Principles, had at all times been dear unto him, that whilst he refrained from entering into details as to his reason for resigning the office of Treasurer, which he had held for thirty years that day, still he hoped that success might at all times be attendant upon the Lodge, and brethren individually, but he felt that having grown grey in the service, and having nearly reached the age allotted to man, the time had come when he must seek a participation in those matters which more immediately concerned the Grand Lodge above. Br. Barton, presided at the piano-forte, and the evening was spent most delightfully in the feast of reason and the flow of soul, without a single ripple to disturb that harmony, which is the peculiar characteristic of the brethren of the Mystic Tye. This Lodge holds a Lodge of Instruction every Tuesday evening, at the Masonic Hall.

SCOTLAND.

BANFF.

St. John's Lodge.—At a meeting of the members of this Lodge on the 18th December, 1854, the R.W. Br. Mason in the chair. Brs. Alexander, Watson, and Forbes Watt, having been previously initiated into the mysteries of the Craft, were passed and raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M., in the R.W.M.'s usual excellent style. And on the 5th January inst., at a full meeting, Brs. Charles Innes and Alexander Bairnsfather were passed as Fellow Crafts. The anniversary of this Lodge was held on the 8th of January, when a strong muster of brothers took place. After various routine business, much of which was of a cheering and gratifying kind, the meeting proceeded to the election of office bearers for the current year, and the following members were unanimously elected:—James Mason, R.W.M.; James Simpson, P.M.; Stenhouse Bairnsfather, D.M.; James Murray, S.W.; Alexander Watson, J. W.; James W. McKenzie, Sec.; William Hassath, Treas.; John McEwen, Chap.; Alexander Forsyth, S.D.; Charles Innes, J.D.; Alexander Mortimer, S.S.; George Watts, J.S.; Adam Mason, Clerk; Alexander Aikin, Tyler. After the election, about forty of the brethren sat down to an elegant and sumptuous entertainment, the R.W.M. occupied the chair. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, the R.W.M., in a neat and appropriate speech, proposed the health of the H.G.M. of St. Andrew's Lodge, Banff, the Right Hon. the Earl of Fife, stating how kind his Lordship invariably was to the Craft, and particularly to this Lodge. He begged to inform the brethren that on the present occasion his Lordship had exceeded his usual liberality in presenting to the Lodge, through the Treasurer, the handsome donation of £5 towards the funds. The toast was most warmly and enthusiastically received, and the thanks of the office bearers ordered to be tendered to his Lordship for the same. A very pleasant and agreeable evening was spent in true Masonic style.

GLASGOW.

Provincial Grand Lodge.—A meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, Union-street, Glasgow, on the 25th of January, when there were present the Substitute Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Secretary, the R.W.M. of St. Mark's Lodge, the R.W.M. of No. 332, and a large number of the members. The Provincial Grand Lodge having been opened, and the minutes read and approved, the Prov. Grand Secretary intimated that he had a balance left in his hands from the profits on the sale of the Calendar got up for this province, and which he would hand over to the Prov. Grand Treasurer. The Substitute Provincial G.M. then, in an able and clear manner, explained the 12th Section of the 21st Chapter of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. After some routine business the Provincial Grand Lodge was duly closed.

St. Mark's Lodge (No. 102).—On the evening of Saint John's day, Wednesday, 27th December, the members of this Lodge assembled in their Hall, Buchanan-street, Glasgow, for the purpose of electing and installing office bearers for the ensuing year. Br. James Miller, P.M. in the chair, at the opening of the Lodge, the S.W. Br. C. J. Hughes, the J.W. Br. John McDonald, other office bearers, and a very large number of the members being present.

The Secretary read last minute, which was approved of. Br. Miller gave the O.B. to Brs. W.B Huggins as R.W.M., and Donald Campbell as D.M., and invested them with the insignia of their respective offices. Whereupon Br. Huggins having taken the chair, the other office bearers before nominated, were, together with Br. the Rev. T. P. Fenner, who was now nominated to the office of Chaplain, elected, and invested with the symbols of their several offices. The Auditors appointed to examine this year's accounts, were Br. Alexander McDonald, C. J. Hughes, and John Elder. The Lodge having been formally closed, the brethren who had been all kindly invited to supper in the Queen's Hotel by R.W.M. Br. Huggins, adjourned thereto, and, along

with several of the Members of the Glasgow and St. John's Lodges, who joined in the festivity, spent a harmonious and happy Saint John's eve. The office bearers for the ensuing year therefore, are:—Brs. W. B. Huggins, R.W.M.; Donald Campbell, D.M.; George J. Lyon, S.M.; C. J, Hughes, S.W.; John Elder, J.W.; Rev. T. P. Fenner, Chap.; J. T. Rochead, Arch.; Wm. Cronin, Treas.; Robert Mitchell, Sec.; James Horne, S.D.; Robert Thomson, jun., J.D.; Ross Ferguson, S.S.; W. F. Buckie, J.S.; J. N. Sutherland, I.G.; Alex. McDonald, Jeweller; John Aird, Clothier; Alfred McLure, Director of Music; James Pollock, Tyler; John Denchar, of Morningside, Proxy Master.

The members of the Lodge again met on Monday, January 8, Br. D. Campbell, D.M., in the chair, supported by the S.W., Br. Hughes, and Br. R. Mitchell in the chair of the J.W., other office-bearers and brethren. The minutes of the former meeting were read and approved of. Br. James Miller, P.M., read a striking and instructive Essay on the "Plurality of Worlds," on which Br. Hughes made some judicious and eloquent remarks; and Br. Campbell moved that a vote of thanks to Br. Miller be inserted in the minute book, which motion was seconded by Br. Hughes, and carried *viva voce*. The treasurer intimated that his cash book had this night been audited, compared with the vouchers, and found correct, that the receipts for the year had been £458 odd. After refreshment, which was of a most agreeable character, the D.M. proposed that the Rev. James Gordon Carnachan be admitted a member of this Lodge, which motion was seconded by P.M. Br. Miller, and carried *nem. con.* Br. Alexander McDonald also proposed that the Rev. John Robertson be also admitted to the mysteries of the Craft, which motion was seconded by Br. Wm. Neilson, and carried unanimously, and shortly afterwards the meeting terminated.

On the 22nd January the Lodge met for the purpose of Initiation, when there were present Br. Donald Campbell, D.M., in the chair, the S.W. and J.W., other officers, and a large attendance of the members and brethren of sister and foreign Lodges. The acting R.W.M. read applications for admission, by the Rev. James Gordon Carnachan and Mr. William Miller, Junior, when the candidates having been found eligible, and prepared, were initiated in the mysteries of the Apprentice Degree. The Instructors appointed to Br. Carnachan were Brs. D. Campbell and C. J. Hughes, and to Br. Wm. Miller, Junior, Brs. R. Mackenzie and John Elder. It was then resolved that the whole office-bearers of the Lodge be appointed a committee to meet and consider the expediency of getting up their annual ball. A pleasant refreshment was partaken of, and the Lodge closed.

The Royal Arch Chapter, Glasgow (No. 50).—This Chapter met on the 19th January. Present: M.E. Donald Campbell, Z.; M.E. George J. Lyan, H.; M. E. C. J. Hughes, J.; E. Roderick Mackenzie, E.; E. James Horne, N.; and a large attendance of the Companions. The minutes of last meeting having been read and approved of, Br. J. S. Hamilton was admitted to the mark and past degrees, and after some routine business, the Mark and Past Lodges, in connection with the Chapter, were then closed.

IRELAND.

Eden Lodge of Limerick (No. 73).—The Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Brethren of this Lodge, No. 73 on the registry of Ireland, have contributed ten guineas to the Patriotic Fund, established for the benefit of the relatives of the brave fellows who have fallen or may hereafter fall fighting the battles of their country. It is peculiarly gratifying to find our Irish brethren, of whose proceedings we hear much too little, evincing so truly a masonic feeling as is here displayed in their endeavours to assist in alleviating the miseries which must be inevitably entailed upon a large number of widows and children—as well as many a poor disabled soldier—by the chances of war, however just the objects for which it is undertaken.

THE COLONIES.

AUSTRALIA.

ADELAIDE—The PATRIOTIC FUND.—A meeting of Freemasons was held at Adelaide, at the latter end of August, when, having resolved to raise a fund in aid of the Patriotic Fund, the following address to the Queen was agreed to:—

"We, your Majesty's loyal subjects, being members of various Lodges of the Craft of Freemasonry, established in South Australia, humbly desire to testify to your Majesty our hearty sympathy with the warlike proceedings in which your Majesty is at present engaged against the Emperor of Russia, for the maintenance of the integrity of the Turkish dominions and their defence from an unjust and unprovoked invasion.

"Belonging, as we do, to a community which, while warmly cherishing national ties, and admitting the obligations they impose, yet recognising a bond of brotherhood co-extensive with the human race, our approval of this war is founded upon the conviction that it is waged for purposes just and righteous, and in vindication of principles binding upon all peoples.

"We implore the Great Architect and Governor of the Universe to vouchsafe such wisdom to your Majesty's councils, and such aid to your Majesty's arms, that the war thus fairly and honourably commenced may be speedily and successfully concluded; and that it may result in a cordial and lasting union amongst the various European nations, and in an extension throughout the world of the inestimable blessings of peace.

"For the purpose of acknowledging our grateful sense of the sacrifices made by those of our fellow-countrymen whose lives are hazarded in your Majesty's military and naval services, we have collected the sum of £ , which we beg to transmit with this humble address to your Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, and humbly request that your Majesty will graciously direct that the amount be distributed amongst the wives and families, widows and orphans of British soldiers and sailors engaged in this war.

"And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray."

The amount of the subscription was not known when the accounts left Adelaide. The general public of the place had collected upwards of £3000 for the fund.

HOBSON'S BAY.—We learn by the latest intelligence from Australia, of the opening of a new Lodge (the Hobson's Bay) at the Albion Tavern, Williamstown, West Australia, when Br. Levick, W.M., of the Australia Felix Lodge, ably installed the first Master of the new Lodge. In the evening the brethren dined together at a banquet served by the proprietor of the establishment, Mr. Gallper.

CANADA.

LONDON, CANADA WEST.—The members of the St. John's Lodge celebrated the feast of St. John, on the 27th of December, by a grand Masonic banquet, at which Br. S. P. Ayres, W.M. for the present year, presided, ably supported by his wardens, Brs. J. Moffatt, and F. T. McKenize.

QUEBEC—At a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, Quebec and Three Rivers Districts, Registry of England, held on the 28th November, the following brethren were elected to office and invested for the year ensuing:—R.W. Br. T. D. Harington, P.G.M.; R.W. Br. G. Thompson, D.P.G.; V.W. Brs. W. Miller, S.G.W.; G. Irvine, J.G.W.; Rev. W. A. Adamson, P.G.C.; R. Neill, .P.G.T.; A. Simpson, P.G.R.; G. T. Cary, P.G.S.; Br. H. P. Leggatt, Asst. P.G.S.; W. Brs. J. Burgess, S.G.D.; T. Lamb, J.G.D.; G. R. Brown, P.G. Sup. of Works; J. Green, P.G.D.C.; Brs. J. Scott, Asst. P.G.D.C.; T. Andrews. P.G.S.B.; N. H. Bowen, P.G.O.; D. Gale, P.G.P.; D. Gillies, P.G.T. P. G Stewards.—Brs. Dean, jun., Hoffmann, Forsyth, Jacobs, Denechaud and Lowine

FESTIVAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, QUEBEC.—Never, perhaps in Canada was the Festival of St. John the Evangelist (on Wednesday, December 27th) more cordially observed, more joyfully sustained, or the ceremonies of the day conducted with greater harmony and unanimity of feeling, than was the anniversary this year. The brotherhood assembled at their respective Lodge rooms at different

hours, so as to afford the apprentices and those young in the craft an opportunity of witnessing and profitting by the imposing and instructive ceremonies of installation of each Lodge, which were performed by the most skilful and esteemed Masters of the art. We congratulate the brethren of the "mystic tie," upon the felicitous appointment of officers installed, and from the known experience of the masters elect (Brs. Eadon and Qailton, having been each elected for the fourth time), and the skill and devotion of the other masters, Brs. Dawson and White, in carrying out the principles of Free-Masonry; they well merit the distinguished positions which they now hold as rulers in the craft.

The installations were conducted by the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, Thos. Douglas Harington, aided by his worthy and R. W. Deputy, George Thompson, under the English constitution. Br. Harington, as Provincial Grand Master for Scotland, also installed the Master of St. Andrew's Lodge, in person. The installations were terminated in time to assemble the Grand Lodge for routine business, which adjourned from labour to refreshment to partake of a sumptuous dinner at Russell's Hotel.

The R.W. Provincial Grand Master presided, and although the dinner was strictly that of the Albion and St. John's Lodges, yet many members of the sister Lodges were in attendance, besides several distinguished guests; and the speeches delivered, together with the appropriate and national toasts and songs, would have done honour to an assembly of Masons in "our dear native home."

Quebec is now proud of four good working Lodges:—two under the Grand Lodge of England, one under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and one hailing from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, in all, numbering several hundred contributing members.

St. Andrew's Lodge, in one important point on this anniversary, took the initiative, by subscribing a handsome sum in aid of the Patriotic Fund, to be applied more particularly, however, to the relief of the widows and orphans of those brethren who may have fallen or suffered in the present war with Russia, and we are happy that the same spirit animates the other Lodges.

The following is a list of the officers installed for the ensuing year, including the officers of the Royal Arch Chapter attached to St. John's Lodge:—

Albion Lodge (No. 17, R.E.)—W. Br. S. J. Dawson, W.M.; W. Miller, P.M.; J. Burgess, S.W.; H. P. Leggatt, J.W.; P. St. Hill, Tr.; J. A. Staton, Secry.; J. Dawe, S.D.; H. Jackson, J.D.; W. Whittycomb, I.G.; J. Gillies, Tyler.

St. Andrew's Lodge (No. 356, R.S.)—R.W. Br. G. Railton, W.M.; T. King, P.M.; R. Neill, S.W.; A. McKay, J.W.; G. Hall, Tr.; G. T. Cary, Secry.; J. Harris, S.W.; R. Borland, J.D.; W. Wilkinson, I.G.; J. Ennis, Tyler; D. Melrose and J. Thomas, Stewards.

St. John's Lodge (No. 214, R. E.).—W. Br. Jos. White, W.M.; Geo. Irvine, P.M.; J. W. Harper, S.W.; James Dean, J.W.; R. Neill, Treasurer; Geo. Veasey, Secretary; E. F. King, Assistant Sec.; W. Adamson, Chaplain; W. H. Rankin, Senior Deacon; R. Coker, Junior Deacon; A. W. Hoffmann, Inner Guard; H. P. Leggatt, Master of Ceremonies; N. H. Bowen, Organist; W. Giles, Tyler.

Independent Lodge (No. 236, R. J.).—W. Br. W. Endon, W.M.; Dennis Gale, S.W.; Jas. Beattie, J.W.; John Lindsay, Treasurer; H. B. L. Goff, Secretary; R. A. Carden, Chaplain; Arch. McMaugh, S.D.; Angus McMay, J.D.; J. Patterson, I.G.; Charles Knowles, Tyler.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Wednesday, Dec. 27, being the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist, the members of St. John's Lodge met at noon, when Martin Petrie, Esq., having been duly installed as Master of the Lodge for the ensuing year, the other officers were appointed by him,

and severally invested with their respective badges of office, so that the offices of St. John's Lodge are now filled as understated:—Captain Martin Petrie, Royal Newfoundland Companies, W.M.; Br. Patrick Tasker, P.M.; Br. R. R. W. Lilly, S.W.; Br. P. G. Tessier, J.W.; Br. D. J. Henderson, Tr.; Br. J. S. Hayward, S.; Br. J. W. Prowse, S.D.; Br. Richard A. Law, Adjutant, R.N.C., J.D.; Br. W. H. Ellis, I.G.; Br. Corporal Wilkinson, Tyler; Brs. T. R. Smith, F. B. Carter, Stewards. Based as this ancient, honourable, and universal Institution is, on the foundation of a broad and practical charity, it was but reasonable to suppose that it would be active in carrying out any measure conducive to this benevolent end; but it is gratifying to be enabled to state, in the appropriate language of Captain Petrie, "that on a very recent occasion, from the members of the Lodge here, ever mindful of that love and allegiance that they owe to their country, came the first contribution from Newfoundland to that nobly charitable institution the Patriotic Fund, which is devoted to succouring the widows and children of those countrymen of ours, by whose heroism and devotion the flag of our powerful and arrogant foe has been swept from the wide ocean, from the poles to the line, leaving the sails of our countless ships to pursue their watery track in safety: while in Britain, as also in her vast and extended colonies, all over whom her time honoured flag waves, may sit in safety, 'every man under his own vine and under his own fig-tree.'" The amount contributed was the handsome sum of £60.

AMERICA.

ARKANSAS.

LITTLE ROCK.—The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Arkansas held its annual grand convocation in the city of Little Rock, on the 13th of November. This Grand Chapter has issued under its jurisdiction, ten subordinate Chapters, having in all 283 members, of whom fifty were exalted during the term just concluded. The Chapter voted a sum of 50 dollars for the purchase of additional works for the library, and 25 dollars to pay for the binding of such of them as required it. A sum too of 150 dollars was appropriated for the purchase of regalia and jewels for the Grand Chapter. An eloquent and instructive address was delivered to the assembled companions, by the M.E.G.H.P. Comp. Albert Pike. The following is a list of the Grand Officers for the ensuing year:—Comps. Albert Pike, M.E.G.H.P.; A. S. Huey, M.E.D.G.H.P.; J. R. Beeson, M.E.G.K.; W. D. Lee, M.E.G.S.; J. E. Reardon, G. Sec.; A. W. Webb, G. Tr.; Rev. R. A. Graham, G. Chap.; Jesse A. Jackson, G. Marshal; I. C. Mills, G.C.H.; J. C. Gainer, G.R.A.C.

CALIFORNIA.

ACCORDING to the *Masonic Register*, the following resolution has passed the Grand Lodge of California:—Resolved, That the practice of duelling is repugnant to the principles of Freemasonry, and in all cases where the brethren resort to this mode of settling their disputes, it becomes the duty of the Lodge or Lodges of which they are members, or under whose jurisdiction they may be, forthwith to expel them from all the rights and privileges of Masonry, subject to the confirmation of the Grand Lodge; and no brother who may fall in a duel shall be buried with Masonic honours.

CONNECTICUT.

NEWHAVEN.—The Wooster Lodge (No. 79), of this city, met on St. John's day, on which occasion Br. Charles Webster was regularly installed W.M. for the year now current, and he nominated the following brethren to their respective offices:—H. Bowman, jun., S.W.; F. J. Calhoun, J.W.; Julius Tyler, Treasurer; John C. Parmlee, Secretary; Thaddeus Beecher, S.D.; Chas. Bartram, J.D.

FRANKLIN CHAPTER (No. 2).—The companions of this Chapter met on the same evening, when the officers for the ensuing year were regulated as follows:—Brs.

C. H. Skiff, H.P.; Francis Turner, K; J. H. Leforge, S.; H. H. Dikeman, C.H.; F. J. Calhoun, P.S.; A. F. Wood, R.A.C.; Wm. Tuttle, M.O.; W. Hotchkiss, S.O.; P. A. Pinkerman, J.O; —Warner, Secretary; B. Beecher, jun., Treasurer.

COLUMBIA.

FEDERAL LODGE, WASHINGTON (No. 1).—On St. John's Day, Br. Joseph W. Nairn, was installed W.M. of this Lodge for the ensuing year, and he then appointed Br. Josiah Essex, S.W.; Br. Arthur Lunt, J.W.; Br. G. A. Schwarzman, Secretary; Br. T. B. Griffin, Treasurer, Br. Peter Emrich, Tyler.

NAVAL LODGE (No. 4).—The brethren of this Lodge held their usual meeting on St. John's Day, when Br. Jeremiah Cross was installed W.M. for 1855, and he appointed Brs. John Cook, S.W.; W. E. Hutchinson, J.W.; Jos. Mundell, Secretary; John Holroyd, Treasurer; Wm. Wilkeson, Tyler.

LEBANON LODGE (No. 7).—Br. Wm. J. Rheis was on St. John's Day installed W.M. of this Lodge, when he made the following disposition of the other offices, by appointing Brs. John Reese, S.W.; Jos. Friedenwald, J.W.; W. W. Hollingsworth, Secretary; Jas. O. Bryon, Treasurer; Peter Emrich, Tyler.

HIRAM LODGE (No. 10).—The festival of St John was duly observed by the *brethren of this Lodge*, when Br. S. D. Mills, was installed W.M. for the present year. The following members were then appointed to their respective offices:—Brs. B. B. Edmondson, S.W.; Charles Calvert, J.W.; W. S. Richardson, Secretary; T. Smith, Treasurer; John Dewdey, Tyler.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE (No. 11).—On the anniversary of the feast of St. John, Br S. T. Shuyvert, was installed W.M. for the year 1855. He then nominated Brs. Marcus Bull, S.W.; O. W. Marsh, J,W.; H. Lightner, Secretary; C. Cammack. Treasurer; Peter Emrich, Tyler.

NATIONAL LODGE (No. 12).—On St. John's Day, the members of this Lodge held their annual meeting, at which Br. Lynd Eliot was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, and he nominated Brs. T. S. Russwurm, S.W.; F. Housam, J.W.; S. B. Erwin, Secretary; Pollard Webb, Treasurer; Peter Emrich, Tyler.

WASHINGTON CENTENNIAL LODGE (No. 14).—Br. Craven Ashford, was on St. John's day newly installed W.M. of this Lodge, and he then apppointed Brs. W. H. Faulkner, S.W.; J. Stok, J.W.; John Stevenson, Secretary; J. Van Ryswick, Treasurer; W. Tucker, Tyler.

B. B. FRENCH LODGE (No. 15).—The brethren of this Lodge having elected Br. John C. Whiting, W.M. for the ensuing year, he was on St. John's day duly installed, after which he appointed Brs. S. T. Rand, S.W.; C. C. Leeds, J.W.; H. H. Heath, Secretary; W. M. Ferguson, Treasurer; Peter Emrich, Tyler.

GEORGIA.

ALBANY.—The members of the Craft resident in this district, met in Lodge to celebrate the festival of St. John. The attendance was not large, but peace and harmony characterized the assembly.

KENTUCKY.

CORINGTON.—The brethren of the Corington Lodge (No. 109), duly celebrated the feast of St. John, when Br. L. D. Croninger was elected W.M. for the year ensuing. The W.M. then appointed the following brethren to their respective offices:—Wm. C. Munger, S.W.; Wm. R. Evans, J.W.; Samuel Davis, Treasurer; C. W. Moar, Secretary; C. C. Langdon, S.D.; Noel, J.D.; H. Keller, S. and T.

COL CLAY LODGE (159).—On the same day there was also a meeting of the Col Clay Lodge, at which Br. L. C. Rankin was installed W.M. for 1855, when he distributed the other offices of the Lodge among the following brethren:—James A. Egelston, S.W.; M. P. Smith, J.W.; J. Sellers, Treasurer; J. M. Tipton, Secretary; J. P. M'Laughlin, S.D.; Moullins, J.D.; A. Caldwell, S. and T.

NEW JERSEY.

ELIZABETH TOWN.—On the 20th of December, a regular communication of the Washington Lodge, formerly No. 41, C.D., was held in this town, at which Br. P.M. John H. Janeway installed Br. James S. Green as W.M. for the ensuing year; and he was pleased to appoint Brs. Wallace L. Crowell, S.W.; Wm. H. Thurston, J.W.; Rev. Isaac Trotter, Chap.; Francis Sayre, Treas.; J. Rolla, Sec.; Lewis W. Oakley, S.D.; David Crowell, J.D.; David N. Crane, and Joseph C. Hinchman, Stewards.

RAKWAY.—The Lafayette Lodge, No. 27, belonging to this town, held its usual monthly communication on the 21st of Dec., when Br. John H. Janeway, P.M., installed Br. Crowell Marsh W.M. for the ensuing year, who appointed Brs. Stewart C. Marsh, S.W.; A. J. Halliday, J.W.; A. O. Houghton, Treas.; D. K. Ryno, Sec.; G. L. Trussler, S.D.; John M. Whitehead, J.D.; Josephus Shann and Franklin Hammill, Stewards; and J. Carl, Tyler.

NEWARK.—At the usual meeting of the brethren of the Newark Lodge, No. 7, held on the 22nd of Dec., at 314, Broad-street, Newark. Br. David S. Plume was elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and he nominated the following brethren to their respective offices:—Brs. J. M. Pool, S.W.; Frederick C. Dodd, J.W.; Simon Learning, Treas.; Milton Baldwin, Sec.; C. Dyden, S.D.; and Lorenzo Stone, J.D.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK.—At a regular communication of the Montgomery Lodge, No. 48, held on the 18th of December, the following brethren were elected to their respective offices:—Brs. Allen A. Burns, W.M.; Lionel Jacobs, S.W.; Edward Gallaher, J.W.; Joseph Hilton, S.D.; John Warren, J.D.; Thomas White, Tres.; Mosley Lyon, Sec.

TROY.—On St. John's Day, the brethren of the recently formed Lodge (the Zion, No. 311), of this town, held a Grand Masonic Festival in honour of the day at which Br. John S. Perry, was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, Br. De Witt Clinton Cram, S.W.; Br. George Babcock, J.W.; Br. Prentice L. Jones, Secretary; Br. Elias Ross, Treasurer; Br. Fred. T. Allen, S.D.; Br. W. H. Van Every, J.D. This Lodge, although scarcely more than a year and a half in existence, already numbers more than 100 members, and its treasury has been enriched by nearly 3,000 dollars, the subsciptions of the members.

PENNSYLVANIA.

ALTOONA.—On the 29th of December, the brethren of Mountain Lodge (No. 281), celebrated the festival of St. John by a banquet at Logan House, which was served in Br. Thompson's best style. Before the brethren were called off for refreshment, Br. R. A. Famkiton, D.D.G.M., installed the W.M. for the ensuing year.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE GRAND LODGE.—St. John's day, 1854, will henceforth be a day of the most pleasurable associations to the Masons of South Carolina, as on it was celebrated in Charlestown, with all the accessories of interest and eclat, the centennial anniversary of the Grand Lodge of the State. The various representatives of the distant Lodges, together with a full representation of the city Lodges, met at the Masonic Hall at the appointed hour, and the order of procession was followed according to a published programme. The day was peculiarly lively and inviting—indeed more suggestive of May than of December—and consequently the corners, streets and avenues that were supposed to afford good points of view, were crowded almost to suffocation at an early hour. The procession, under the escort and direction previously appointed, marched to the new hall of the South Carolina Institute, where the public observances and ceremonies of the day were to be celebrated. That edifice was nearly filled before the arrival of the procession, with the fair representatives of humanity, in its best estate,—the upper floor, indeed, was monopolized by the ladies, and the main

floor was occupied in a great part by this same class of welcome visitors. The first Ode presented on the occasion, was well executed by a volunteer choir of young vocalists, under the direction of Br. M. S. Reeves, who had been appointed to that charge by his Masonic brethren. The acting Chaplain of the day, the Rev. Br. John A. Honour, then offered up an appropriate prayer to the Supreme Architect Br. Dr. S. H. Dickson, the orator of the day, after referring to the change which had taken place in the political condition of America since the Grand Lodge of South Carolina was founded, proceeded to give a history of that institution, from which we extract the following remarks:—A century is long in reference to human life, or even in a survey of a nation's progress; but it is a brief space, and mere point of time in relation to the time-honoured order of Masonry. The eternal rules of justice, and benevolence and order know no changes—why then should Masonry change? The secret shelter and sacred enclosure of Masonry has ever afforded the nursery in which the great eternal principles of truth, and justice, and equality, could be preserved until they could be transplanted out into the world at large. If proofs of this ultimate tendency were demanded, the strongest would be found in the fact, that despotism and usurpation have ever marked their first encroachments by attempts for the suppression of the Masonic Order. The first Lodge, of whose institution in this State we have any record, was founded in 1735, under a warrant from Lord Viscount Montague, then Grand Master of the Free and Accepted Masons of the mother-country, and was established under the chartered name of Solomon's Lodge. The warrant of Prince George's Lodge, at George-town, is dated in 1743; and these are the only Lodges of which definite traces can be discovered prior to the organization of the Grand Lodge, whose first centenary is now completed. It is, however, highly probable that other Lodges were founded in the period between 1738 and 1754, whose records have been lost to us. On the 6th April, 1738, we have evidence that a "Provincial Grand Master of Carolina" was present at a meeting of the Grand Lodge of England. It is not reasonable to suppose that such an appointment would have been granted to a Province that contained but one Lodge. Nor is it reasonable or consistent with usage to suppose that the deputation which was granted in March, 1754, with a view to the establishment of a Grand Lodge of South Carolina, would have been accorded to two Lodges merely. Yet we find it asserted that a Provincial Grand Master was appointed as early as 1736, and the inference is, therefore, highly probable, that other Lodges were formed whose traces have been obliterated. On the 24th of December, 1754, the first Grand Lodge of South Carolina was solemnly constituted, and its first great festival was held on the day consecrated to St. John the Evangelist, at which 120 brethren were present. This Lodge continued through the Revolution, at the close of which the propriety and necessity of an independent and separate jurisdiction began to be considered. Some of the Lodges accordingly met in convention, and, after discussing the question fully, resolved on such a course, and appointed a day for action accordingly. On this day, the 5th of February, 1787, William Drayton was elected Grand Master in and for the State of South Carolina. As early as 1808 the evils and disadvantages of having two Masonic bodies of separate jurisdictions, in the same State, had been so clearly understood, that a strenuous effort was made for a union, the formal act for which purpose was duly ratified by both bodies in September of that year. This effort was more creditable, as the mother country herself then presented the evil example of two Grand Lodges, which were not united and consolidated until 1813, and then proceeded on the principles established by the South Carolina precedent. Discord and confusion, however, prevailed again to some degree, and some members withdrew from the consolidated jurisdiction of 1808, and revived one of the oldest Lodges as previously organized. This deplorable state continued until 1817, in January of which year an agreement was entered into by *authorised committees of both sides*; and, on the 26th December, a joint Grand Lodge was duly formed, with the style and title—"The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina," as still continued. Since this auspicious event, the history of Masonry in South Carolina has been gratifying, and its progress has vindicated the principles of the Order. The functions of this Lodge have not been confined exclusively to the territorial limits of the State, for

warrants have proceeded from it to Florida, Alabama, and even to the Island of Cuba. It has also been asserted that the Order was established in Mexico, by warrants issued from the Grand Lodge of South Carolina. Long may it flourish, dispensing the blessings of the Order, and recommending Masonry by its spirit and effects.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR JANUARY.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Parliament resumed its labours on the 23rd, when Mr. Roebuck having given notice of his intention to move for a Committee of Inquiry into the conduct of the war. Lord John Russell resigned his seat in the Cabinet as President of the Council, and from the explanation offered in both houses, it appears that his lordship did not consider the war had been conducted with that energy and foresight which ought to have distinguished it, and he was anxious for a modification in the Cabinet as long since as November last, which had not been acceded to. On Friday, Mr. Roebuck brought forward his motion, which was replied to by Mr. Sidney Herbert, and several gentlemen having expressed their opinion pro and con, the debate was adjourned until Monday, when the motion was carried by a majority of 305 against 148. The Ministry have accordingly resigned.

THE WAR.

The only noticeable feature in the war during the past month has been the consent of Russia to negotiate on the four points, as laid down by the allied powers; but how far the Czar is in earnest remains to be seen. With the exception of occasional sorties, nothing has taken place in the Crimea calling for comment, beyond the melancholy fact that our troops have been decimated by disease, owing to the inclemency of the weather, the want of sufficient clothing, and excessive fatigue, from their limited numbers. By a despatch of Lord Raglan, dated the 13th, however, it is gratifying to know that large quantities of warm clothing had arrived, and that every soldier was then well provided with it. The huts had arrived at Balaklava, but there was a difficulty in getting them up to the camp, owing to the badness of the roads, and their great weight. A depôt of provisions was also being formed near the camp. Nothing of importance, it is understood, had taken place up to the 20th inst. The Duke of Cambridge, Sir de Lacy Evans, Lord Cardigan, and other officers have returned home, but many of them, it is believed, will shortly proceed to rejoin the army.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

Emanuel Barthelemy, who murdered Mr. Moore and Mr. Collard in Warren-street, Fitzroy-square, on the 8th of December, was tried for the murder of the latter person on the 4th of January, and found guilty, with a recommendation to mercy. He was, however, executed on the 22nd, denying his belief in the existence of a God, to the last.

Charles King, an ex-policeman, has been remanded on a charge of having assisted a number of young pickpockets in the disposal of their gains, and directed their operations.

Another murder took place in Foley-place, on the 7th, when an Italian named Baranelli deliberately shot a Mr. Latham, alias Lambert, and a woman with whom he cohabited, whilst in their beds. Baranelli had formerly lodged in the house, and appears to have been exasperated at some statements made by the unfortunate man (who died upon the spot), with a view of breaking off the connection of Baranelli with a Mrs. Williamson. Mrs. Lambert, as she was called, appears likely to recover, as does also the assassin, who, immediately after completing his crime, attempted to commit suicide.

Four youths were drowned whilst skating on the ornamental water, in St. James's Park, on the 21st.

Charles Miller, a private in the Blues, died at Windsor on the 25th, from hydrophobia, caused by the bite of a dog, twelve months since, in consequence of his squeezing it to make it howl—as he said it was a good imitation of the bag-pipes.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

On the 12th, the Commercial Dock Company declared a dividend of 2 per cent. for the half-year, free of income-tax.

On the same day, the East and West India Dock Company declared a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, also free of income-tax, and it was stated the balance in hand would have allowed a larger distribution.

The dividend of the St. Katharine's Dock Company is at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

On the 17th, the London and Westminster Bank held its half-yearly meeting, when a dividend and bonus, equal to 8 per cent on the capital, was declared, making, with that declared in July, 14 per cent for the year. The earnings amounted to within a fraction of 15 per cent.

The London Joint Stock Bank held its meeting on the 18th, when the result was equally satisfactorily, the dividend being at the rate of 10 per cent per annum, with a bonus of £1 2*s*. 6*d*. per share for the half year.

The Union Bank of Australia met on the 21st, when a dividend was declared at the rate of 30 per cent per annum, and very favourable accounts given of future prospects.

The London and Brighton Railway Company pay a dividend, which makes that for the whole year 5½ per cent. The South Western at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum—*the North Staffordshire*, 3½ per cent—and *the Manchester and Lincolnshire*, ¾ per cent on the original stock.

The directors of the Crystal Palace Company propose to pay a dividend of 4 per cent for the past half-year.

PROVIDENT.

On the 1st, a meeting of the Defender Life and Fire Assurance Company was held, when a report was presented, showing that the fire business during the year had covered property of the value of £1,667,282, and with indirect insurances, £1,818,045, being an increase of £150,763 on the previous year. In the life department, new policies had been issued, assuring £34,845 16*s*. 11*d*. The foreign business had also been extremely satisfactory, and the losses comparatively small. *The report was adopted*, and the usual dividend declared.

The Sovereign Life Assurance Company held its annual meeting on the 3rd. The report stated that, notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages under which they had laboured during the past year, the directors had received 424 proposals, for the assurance of £225,600, which would have yielded an income of £7,500 a year. Of these proposals, 295 had been completed, assuring £124,790, and giving an income from new firms of £4,374 5*s*. 10*d*. *per annum, being an increase of* nearly 100 per cent on the new business transacted in the previous year; whilst the total claims from losses in the twelve months only amounted to £1,663 19*s*. 10*d*. The chairman congratulated the proprietors on the success of the Company, and stated that the annual income from premiums now amounted to about £16,000. Although, from the commencement of the Company, they had received £67,000 from premiums, the whole of their losses in the nine years did not exceed £11,000 or £12,000; and these losses had been covered by the premiums received from lapsed policies. The report was adopted, and a dividend of 5 per cent. declared.

The Prince of Wales Life Assurance Company held its annual meeting on the 24th, when a report was presented which stated that the Directors had to report 838 proposals for assurance of life, to the amount of £227,852 6*s*. 8*d*., received during the past year, and 593 policies issued, assuring £159,220 13*s*. 4*d*., producing premiums amounting to £5,635 2*s*. 1*d*. The income of the Company amounted to £10,498, and the losses of the year had only amounted to £561 11*s*. 5*d*. The report was adopted, and a dividend declared at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

BENEVOLENT.

At a meeting of the Female Orphan Asylum, Westminster Road, on the 4th, a letter was read from the Duke of Cambridge, accepting the five presentations placed at his disposal for the orphans of soldiers or sailors slain in the present war. The children are now, to a great extent, employed by the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Mary in knitting stockings for the use of the army in the Crimea. The number of children now in the school is 66; more than 2,600 having been brought up in it since the establishment in 1758. The total ordinary receipts for the past year were only £3,638 8*s.* 9*d.*, whilst the expenditure amounted to £4,142 13*s.*

The City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, held its annual meeting on the 9th, when a report was read which said "during the year 1854, 4,570 new cases have been admitted, making a total of 22,815 cases admitted since the charity was first established. During the last year the donations have amounted to £3,563 11*s.* 1*d.* and the subscriptions to £759 7*s.* 6*d.*; the total receipts from these and other sources being £4,822 12*s.* 11*d.* The disbursements during the year have amounted to £10,627 18*s.* 11*d.*; of which £1,913 17*s.* 3*d.* was expended in defraying the current expenses of the charity, and £8,714 1*s.* 8*d.* have been paid on account of the new building. To meet these expenses, the £500 invested in the stocks has been sold out, and a loan of £5,382 17*s.* has been obtained from the Treasury, leaving a balance of £312 6*s.* 7*d.* in the hands of the bankers. It will thus be seen that there is a total deficiency of £5,570 10*s.* 5*d.*" The report was adopted, and resolutions passed pledging the meeting to use every exertion to relieve the hospital from debt.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The total revenue of the United Kingdom for the year ending on the 5th, was £54,531,154. The receipts of the quarter ending on the same date was £17,134,406. The increase on the quarter amounted to £1,440,567, and on the year at £2,291,356.

One fourth of the County Court Judges have had their salaries increased from £1,200 to £1,500 a year.

Miss Mitford, the talented authoress of "Our Village," &c., died on the 10th, aged 66. She had long been confined to her house by illness.

A monument is to be erected in Edinburgh, to Wilson, the Scottish vocalist.

AMUSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH.

Amongst the exhibitions, none is more attractive than the Turkish, at Hyde Park Corner, which is under the direction of Br. Aznavour. At a recent meeting of the Ethnological Society, Mr. Cull, the Secretary, specially called attention to this Exhibition as peculiarly interesting, and the truest to nature which he, as an Ethnologist, had ever seen. We need not endorse such an opinion with any recommendation of ours.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ARTICLES OF NOAH.

To the Editor of the "Masonic Mirror."

Sir and Brother.—Perceiving that you have admitted into your pages the letters of correspondents, I write to say that I am not perfectly satisfied with the light which you have endeavoured to throw upon the question which I put subsequently to the publication of you first number. I will now venture again to put the question, in the hope that by your giving it entire, some brother, more skilful than myself, may be led to solve the riddle; for such, I confess, it appears to be.

As I told you before, at page 35 of the Old Book of Constitutions, published in 1767, is this passage—"Carefully to maintain the cement of the Lodge, and the three articles of Noah." You say, in your reply to my former letter, that the three articles of Noah have reference to "Justice, Uprightness, and Righteousness." With all respect to your researches, I think this is a somewhat lame and impotent

conclusion, and I trust that some brother will improve upon it. Words without *meaning* are valueless; and unless there is a meaning attached to these, the sooner they are expunged from all Masonic works the better, and many others along with them, which seem only inserted to puzzle and irritate the reader, and cause him to give up his studies in disgust.

I remain, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally, Z * * *

West Yorkshire, January, 1855.

[We consulted some of the oldest Masons in both England and Scotland on the subject, as well as several eminent divines, without effect; we only gave an *opinion doubtingly* founded on the 9th answer, in the 1st section of the 1st lecture.]

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

To the Editor of the "Masonic Mirror."

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—Cordially agreeing with the remarks in your last publication in reference to the Patriotic Fund, and that the amounts subscribed by the various Lodges should be published in your magazine, for that purpose I now furnish you with the amount given in this province.

Provincial Grand Lodge, £15 15s.; Clarence Lodge, No. 81, £10 10s.; Beaufort Lodge, No. 120, £10 10s.; Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 221, £10 10s.; Moira Lodge, No. 408, £10 10s.; Colston Lodge, No. 886, £10 10s.; Lodge of Instruction, £3 3s.; Total, £71 8s.

I am, Dear Sir and brother, yours fraternally, W. H. BOWKEN, 120.

Bristol, January 25, 1855.

OBITUARY.

BR. THE REV DANIEL FLYNN, A.M.—We regret to announce the sudden death of Br. the Rev. Daniel Flynn, which melancholy event took place at Limerick, on the 26th of December, in the house of Dr. Gilston, with whom he was spending the Christmas holidays. Our deceased brother, although comparatively a young man, being only 44 years of age at the time of his decease, had yet raised for himself an enviable reputation as being one of the most successful teachers of youth in Ireland. He was, indeed, a distinguished scholar, and a just and upright Freemason, beloved by his pupils and by the brethren of his Lodge, No. 620, a Lodge ranking among its members some of the most distinguished Masons in Ireland.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** The pressure of Masonic Intelligence this Month has not only compelled us to entrench upon our advertising pages, whereby our space has been increased from 48 to 52 pages, but we have been reluctantly obliged to defer the conclusion of the "Heir of Bendersleigh," and the continuation of "Brotherly Love," until our next Number, when we believe our space will be more at our disposal.

C. P., Boston.—*Masonic mourning consists in the wearing of black crape rosettes on the apron and collar, in lieu of the blue ribbon. In some cases of more than ordinary importance the apron is also bound with black, and the other ornaments covered with it.*

J. G., Oldham.—*Is thanked. We shall be at all times happy to hear from him.*

Br. B. has a right to describe himself as P.M. 201, *notwithstanding he has quitted the Lodge. He has not forfeited his privileges of a P.M.*

Z.—*We gave the letter as we received it—not holding ourselves answerable for either the opinions or style of our Correspondents.*

G. B.—*We have no faith in such works; they are either miserable catchpennys, or the productions of men altogether unworthy of credit. No such advertisement as that alluded to will ever find its way into the columns of the* Masonic Mirror.

T. W. D., Poole.—*No Master can be legally installed excepting in his own Lodge.*

Delta.—*White gloves form part of the Masonic costume; but we certainly should not think of excluding a brother from a Lodge because, being in mourning, he presented himself in black gloves, though were he in office taking part in the ceremonies, we might call upon him to take them off.*

The Old Concord Ball takes place at the Queen's Concert Room, Hanover Square, on the 8th inst. The ball will be, doubtless, fully attended, the proceeds being always devoted to charity.

THE

MASONIC MIRROR:

MARCH, 1855.

THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

THE boys' and the girls' schools are about to make their annual appeal to the brethren for renewed assistance by means of their festivals, and judging from the list of stewards which each institution has obtained, there appears likely to be no falling off in the attendance with which they are usually honoured. But there is a third, and no less if not more important charity than the schools, which, though it appeals not through the means of a festival this year, is equally deserving of the support, and greatly in want of renewed exertions on the part of the brethren, to place it on a footing consistent with the importance and position of the Craft. We need not say that we allude to the Royal Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and their widows. The Asylum at Croydon has just been completed, and the building committee have resigned their trust into the hands of the general committee. But there yet remains a debt upon the Asylum which calls aloud upon the brethren for immediate liquidation. The building committee in their report, which is dated the 19th of January, state that at the termination of their labours they have great pleasure in laying a full statement of their proceedings before the general committee (and, of course, through them, the Craft at large). The building committee commenced their labours on the 28th of October, 1847, and appointed Br. N. Fawdel as their chairman. The committee state, that from that time, until the amalgamation of the Royal Benevolent Annuity Fund, the Widows' Pension Society, and the Asylum for Aged and Decayed Freemasons, the governors and subscribers of the latter charity were the only authorized body to whom the building committee reported. After several meetings, it was resolved by the governors and subscribers to the Asylum to confirm the union of the charities, but to leave the building committee an independent body; and in that position it remained until the 19th of January of the present year, when, having terminated their labours, they, by their own vote

and in accordance with a resolution previously adopted, dissolved themselves, and presented to the general committee of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, their closing report. Accompanying the report, the Committee place in the custody of the general committee the reports of their proceedings, the title deeds, the conveyance, and every paper connected with the freehold building and land at Croydon. The amount of money received by the committee from donations, subscriptions, legacies, and the grant from the Grand Lodge, has been 7807*l.*, of which there has been disbursed for the land, conveyance, building, &c., 7804*l.*—there yet remaining a debt due upon the property of nearly 300*l.* Nor is this all; for we understand the general committee have been called upon to make certain alterations in the drainage, and to put the Asylum in order for the reception of the inmates some small further expenditure is yet necessary; so that we believe we shall not be far wrong if we say that from 400*l.* to 500*l.* will be required to leave the Asylum in the hands of the general committee, clear of liability. This, to the Craft, is but a small sum, not 1*l.* per Lodge; and surely there will be no difficulty in immediately raising the money, even though the brethren are not invited to dine at the Freemasons' Tavern for the purpose. Indeed, we almost anticipate that so soon after our publication appears, calling attention to the small sum required, as the various Lodges can meet, the whole will be subscribed. To return to the report. The building committee state that they visited the building and grounds on the 25th of January, and can speak most favourably of the manner in which the works have been completed; and they believe the interest of the sustentation fund will be sufficient to keep them in substantial repair for many years to come. The committee then record their thanks to Br. John Whitmore and Br. Wm. Farnfield, for their valuable assistance, and express their regret—a regret in which we are sure the brethren will generally concur—that they have not the means at their disposal to offer to those brethren a more substantial mark of their approbation. The committee also record their thanks to Br. Dawkes, the architect; and to Br. Barrett, "for his indefatigable zeal and perseverance as a member of the committee, and for his liberal donations and great exertions" to increase the funds.

We may be supposed to have brought this subject too prominently under the notice of the brethren, but we have done so from a paramount sense of duty, feeling that the Craft will cheerfully embrace the opportunity of cementing the prosperity of the institution by placing it in the hands of the general committee entirely freed from debt.

We do not know that we can better close our notice than by quoting the concluding words of the report, in which "the building committee congratulate the general committee on this happy termination of a labour, commenced under peculiar circumstances—conducted for some time with considerable difficulty—but ending in perfect peace and harmony; and they trust that this key-stone of the amalgamation of the three charities may continue a lasting memorial of brotherly love and good will to all mankind."

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

Continued from page 156.

On the appointment, by King Henry VI., of William Wanefleet, Bishop of Winchester, to be Grand Master, he was employed in building Eton College, near Windsor, and King's College, in Cambridge. The latter is a masterpiece of rich Gothic art, that can hardly be matched in the kingdom. The King also founded Christ's College, Cambridge, afterwards finished by Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond; and his Queen, Margaret of Anjou, founded Queen's College Cambridge. Wanefleet, also, at his own cost, built Magdalen College, Oxford, and other persons about twelve religious houses; so that Masons at this time were much employed and held in great esteem; for the before-mentioned record further says, that "the charges and laws of the Freemasons have been seen and perused by our late sovereign, Henry VI., and by the lords of his most honourable council, who have allowed them; and declared that they be right, good, and reasonable to be holden, as they have been drawn out, and collected from the records of ancient tymes," &c., &c.

During the civil wars which ensued between the houses of York and Lancaster, Masonry was much neglected, but on the election of Edward IV. to the throne, he employed the Grand Master, Richard Beauchamp, Bishop of Sarum, to repair the royal palaces and castles, and to make the castle and chapel at Windsor more magnificent, for which service the bishop was made Chancellor of the Garter. At the conclusion of the wars, great men also repaired and built extensively. Seven religious houses were raised, and the Londoners rebuilt their walls and gates.

During the short reign of Edward V., who was proclaimed but not crowned, A.D. 1483, and of his uncle, Richard III., who succeeded him in the same year, we have no records of Masonry—the people of England having for a considerable time been more employed, during the wars of the roses, in beating down than in building. Many magnificent castles were destroyed, and their noble proprietors, who might have rebuilt them, were either killed or ruined. So many artificers were killed in these and other wars that they became exceedingly scarce, and the price of their labour was very high, and all the laws made to remedy this evil proved ineffectual. The taste for founding and building monasteries and churches began to decline, partly from the unhappy state of the country, and partly from the doubts raised in the minds of many persons of all ranks by Wickliffe and his followers, concerning the efficacy of those pious but expensive works. Doubtless, however, the style of sacred architecture, commonly called Gothic, continued to be gradually improved, and arrived at its greatest perfection, with regard to loftiness and boldness of design and excellence of construction, about this period.

When Richard III. was slain on Bosworth field, A.D. 1485, Henry, Earl of Richmond, was proclaimed Henry VII., and was afterwards married to Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV., thereby putting an end to the unhappy civil wars by the union of the houses of York and Lancaster.

The Grand Master of the Order of St. John, at Rhodes, and afterwards at Malta, assembled at their Grand Lodge, and elected King Henry their protector, by which it appears that the King was already a Freemason.

The Royal Grand Master, A.D. 1500, chose for his wardens, or deputies, John Islip, Abbot of Westminster, and Sir Reginald Bray, Knight of the Garter. He summoned a Lodge of Masters in the palace, and walked in ample form to the east end of Westminster Abbey, where he levelled the footstone of his famous chapel, A.D. 1502. This chapel is one of the most beautiful remains of old English taste and magnificence, and well deserves to have stood alone instead of being a part of another edifice. It is styled by Leland the "wonder of the world," and certainly, the extraordinary taste and workmanship displayed in the construction of its ceiling, and other details, proves that the Gothic style of building had at that time arrived at its meridian. In the middle of the east end of the nave stands the magnificent tomb of its founder, inclosed with a screen of brass, most admirably designed and executed. This noble chapel was originally intended as a sepulchre solely for those of the royal blood, and none have yet been interred there but those of high quality, tracing their descent from some of our ancient kings.

The grand warden, Bray, was employed by the King to raise the middle chapel at Windsor, rebuild the palace of Sheen-upon-Thames, which was called Richmond, and to enlarge the old palace at Greenwich, calling it Peacentia, where he built the pretty box called the Queen's House. He also rebuilt Baynard Castle, London; founded six monasteries, and turned the old palace of Savoy into a hospital; Brazenose College, Oxford; Jesus' and St. John's Colleges, Cambridge; and about six religious houses were built by different founders in this reign.

This King died, aged only fifty-four years, and was succeeded by his son, Henry VIII., A.D. 1509. In this reign Cardinal Wolsey was chosen Grand Master. He built Hampton Court and Whitehall Palaces, and several more substantial and elegant edifices. Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, was the next patron of the Craft, under this King, for whom he built St. James's Palace; Christ's Hospital, London; and Greenwich Castle. In this reign the King and Parliament threw off the Pope's supremacy, the King was declared the head of the Church, in England, and religious houses, numbering about nine hundred and twenty-six, were suppressed. John Touchet, Lord Audley, succeeded Cromwell, and became Grand Master.

The suppression of religious houses did not permanently hurt Masonry, for architecture of a more commodious style was adopted. Those religious houses being sold at easy rates, caused those who purchased them to build many stately mansions. The Grand Master, Audley, built Magdalen College, Cambridge, and his house at Audley End.

Edward VI., a minor of nine years, succeeded A.D. 1547. The Regent, Edward, Duke of Somerset, as Grand Master, built as his palace, the house in the Strand, still called Somerset House. John Poynet, Bishop of Winchester, was afterwards patron of Freemasons till the death of the King, A.D. 1553.

During the reign of Mary we have no records of Masonry.

Elizabeth succeeded her sister Mary, A.D. 1558, and was made supreme head of the Church, in England. Now learning of all sorts revived, and the Italian style began to take the place of Gothic architecture. The Queen hearing that the Freemasons had certain secrets that could not be revealed to her, and being jealous of all secret assemblies, sent an armed force to break up their annual Grand Lodge at York, on St. John's Day, 1561, but the Grand Master, Sir Thomas Sackville, made some of the chief men sent on the errand, Freemasons, who then joining in that communicative, made an honourable report to the Queen, and she never afterwards attempted to disturb them, but esteemed them as a peculiar class of men, who cultivated peace and friendship, and the arts and sciences, without meddling in the affairs of Church and State.

Some colleges were built in this reign, and many stately mansions, particularly the famous Burleigh House. In consequence of many fine drawings and designs of the best Italian architects being brought home by travellers, the Gothic style became slighted, and no doubt it would have been entirely discontinued if the Queen had not encouraged the Craft. As it was, the system of building became mixed, and perhaps the magnificent house built by Cecil may be considered the best example of this new order. Great conveniences were introduced in all classes of buildings, owing, in some degree, to the increased cheapness of glass, which caused it to be more generally used in windows. And Harrison (a reverend associate-historian with the exact Holingshed, at the close of the sixteenth century), observes, "The ancient manor-houses of gentlemen were, for the most part, built of strong timber; howbeit," he adds, "such as be latelie builded are commonlie either of bricke, or hard stone, or both. Their roomes large and comelie, and their houses of office (that is, offices) farther distant from their lodgings," &c., &c. "So that if ever curious building did flourish in England, it is in these our yeares, wherein our workmen excel and are in manner comparable in skill to Vitruvius, Leo Baptista, and Serlo." He proceeds to mention one great alteration in point of convenience to the middling classes, which had taken place in his time, namely, "The multitude of chimnies lately erected; whereas, in their young daies, there were not above two or three, if so many, in most uplandish townes of the realme (the religious houses and manour-places of their lords alwaie excepted, and, peradventure, some great personages), but eche one made his fire against a rere dosse in the hall, where he dined and dressed his meat." Such is the honest picture of the want of convenience in the buildings of the middle classes as late as the time of Elizabeth. The alteration of the times, as well as the destruction of the old system of church government, which, with all its faults, had produced some of the most munificent patrons of architecture, as well as the most splendid architects (whose works are distinguished by the sublimity of their conception, and the geometrical accuracy of their designs), as well as the introduction of the ornamental style, which had been introduced for some considerable time past, and which is considered as debasing the true Masonic principles of construction, was no doubt the cause of the

decline of Gothic architecture, for the most simple savage in his hut or burrow, has a notion of ornament, whilst the sublime and beautiful can only be produced by the cultivated mind.

It may here be proper to signify the sentiment and practice of ancient Masons, viz., that Kings and other male sovereigns, when made Masons, were Grand Masters by prerogative, during their life; and might appoint a deputy or approve of his election, to preside over the Fraternity, with the title and honour of Grand Master. But if the sovereign was a female, or not a brother, or a minor, under a regent, not a brother, or if the male sovereign or the regent, though a brother was negligent of the Craft, then the old grand officers might assemble the Grand Lodge in due form, and elect a Grand Master to be annually rechosen while it was mutually agreeable. Accordingly, when the Grand Master, Sackville, declined, Francis Russell, Earl of Bedford, was chosen in the north, and Sir Thomas Gresham in the south. The latter brother built the first Royal Exchange, at London, A.D. 1570. Next, Charles Howard, Lord of Effingham, was Grand Master in the south till 1588; then George Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon, till the death of the Queen, when the crowns of England and Scotland were united by the succession of James VI., King of Scotland, great grandson of James IV., who married Margaret, eldest daughter of Henry VII. of England. He was proclaimed at London, James I. King of England, France and Ireland, on the 25th March, 1603. And, according to ancient custom, became grand master of England, having been previously made a Mason by Claude Hamilton, Lord Paisley.

(*To be continued.*)

MASONIC TESTIMONIAL.—We have just heard that a few commercial travellers and other gentlemen lately assembled at Bristol, admirers of, and old past fellow-workers with, Br. Ribbans, of Carmarthen, have subscribed for the purpose of presenting him with some token of their admiration of his career in the cause of universal benevolence. The last Masonic act of our late worthy Br. Shibbing was, to ascertain what form Br. Ribbans would be best pleased to receive this token of respect; and we are now informed, and with pleasure report, that the sum collected, and now in hand, is to be given in equal portions to twelve poor Masons' widows at this inclement season.

UNITED MASONIC BALL.—This re-union came off at the Freemasons Tavern, on the evening of the 29th of January, and was attended by nearly 300 ladies and gentlemen, principally consisting of the brethren, with their wives and daughters. Br. Frampton officiated with his usual courtesy as Master of the Ceremonies, and the dancing was kept up until an advanced hour in the morning, under the inspiriting influence of a most excellent band conducted by Br. T. A. Adams, in *propria personæ*. The whole of the arrangements reflected the greatest credit on the Stewards, and the supper, wines, and other refreshments (of which there was an unlimited supply), evinced how well Brs. Watson, Coggin, and Banks, understand the art of catering for the gratification of their friends and patrons. In the words of the song, it was "really a very pleasant ball."

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 FOURTH.

The Wedding.

Every preparation has been made at the cottage for the ceremony of the marriage of Harriet Marshall, and the morning has arrived on which that ceremony is to take place, at the romantic church, down in the valley yonder. The wedding breakfast has been arranged on the table in the dining room, and Rachel and Jacob have been so busy all the morning, that the former has almost forgotten the nature of the sacrifice which she feels her young mistress is about to make. Occasionally, however, the conviction forces itself upon her mind, and as it does so, she sighs in commisseration and sometimes gives audible expression to her feelings. While she is arranging the table, she thinks of Mr. Augustus Raker, and as she does so, she uses far more energy in manipulating the articles of utility on the table, than is absolutely necessary. She, however, finds relief in the operation, doubtless feeling, that each time she bangs a fork down, she has in thought inflicted a severe blow upon the person of Mr. Raker.

Harriet Marshall has long prepared herself for the sacrifice she has been called upon to make, and now as she is being attired for her bridal, she is perfectly resigned. She feels that her greatest trial has passed, and she has a feeling something akin to satisfaction, as she finds that she has been supported under the trial. True, she thinks of the approaching ceremony with a kind of shudder running through her frame, yet almost instantly her fortitude comes to her rescue, and in the presence of her mother, especially, she appears quite cheerful.

As the marriage feast was not at all likely to be a merry one, but a very few guests had been invited. No bridesmaids had been appointed, as it was intended that Mrs. Wm. Chasey, should alone act in that capacity. Mr. Grainger had, however, sent over to say, that he had taken upon himself to invite one or two friends of Mrs. Marshall's, in her name, and the consequence was, that Rachel had to rearrange the table. He had also in his letter, informed Mrs. Marshall that it was his intention to bring certain marriage settlements with him, which would have to be executed in due form, before the bridal party proceeded to the church to go through the marriage ceremony.

This allusion to the settlements was not at all calculated to relieve the feelings of the little family in the cottage, and the perusal of Mr. Grainger's note, plunged them into new distress, and when Harriet was fully attired,

her mother, Mrs. Wm. Chasey, and herself, could not refrain from tears, and they allowed them freely to flow.

Several of the guests have arrived below stairs, and the little cottage is becoming bustling. Rachel and Jacob are properly attired for the occasion, and both are brimming with excitement. Mr. and Mrs. Puffler Smirke have arrived, together with several young ladies and the two cousins of Mrs. Wm. Chasey, who were memorable in the picnic on the hill. Presently there is some commotion amongst the party, for Mr. Augustus Raker is announced, with his friend Mr. Joseph Smith, who is attired in a fashion peculiarly his own, but which he would himself designate as being "stunning." He has on a black dress coat, light grey trousers, and round his neck he has a white shawl, arranged in such a manner upon his chest as to look as much like a groom as possible. This was a style which he considered as the very acmé of perfection. In fact, he had his portrait taken "in this style," for twenty-five shillings, accompanied by a speaking likeness of a bulldog, the presence of which he considered was incontrovertible evidence of gentlemanly taste.

Mr. Augustus Raker was very facetious on this the happiest morning of his life. He entered the room with the acclamation of "here we are," in the tone usually employed by a leading character in pantomines, and giving Mr. Joseph Smith a thrust in his side, that gentleman threw himself into the attitude in which pantaloons according to stage traditions, invariably introduce themselves to an audience. This performance threw Mrs. Puffler Smirke into an ecstacy of delight, and she clapped her hands rapturously in applause, which became general as Mr. Augustus Raker introduced his friend to the company assembled as "the old un." This introduction placed the whole of the guests upon an easy footing with each other, and the young ladies at once entered upon a discussion amongst themselves, as to the relative merits of Mr. Augustus Raker and his friend.

The party were in rather noisy spirits when Mr. Grainger was announced, and his entrance into the room was the signal for general silence. Having chatted for a few minutes with Mrs. Puffler Smirke, he said, "now then if you please, ladies and gentlemen, we will proceed to business."

"Hear, hear," exclaimed Mr. Joseph Smith, in such a facetious tone that some of the young ladies shrieked with assumed merriment.

Mr. Grainger went to the door, and called to Henry Elliotson and Gabriel Hunter to bring in the papers. This mandate was immediately executed, and Henry Elliotson, who was exceedingly pale but still perfectly collected, placed a box on the table, and then, with Gabriel Hunter, retired to the further end of the room.

Mr. Grainger requested Rachel to inform Mrs. Marshall that they were ready, and Rachel left the room with the message.

Presently, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Wm. Chasey and Harriet, entered the room, and the young ladies thronged round the bride to congratulate her. We need hardly say how harshly such congratulations fell upon her ear. She acknowledged them, however, with a smile.

The bride took her seat between her mother and sister, and Mr. Grain-

ger, advancing to the table, took from the box thereon a document, which he proceeded to read. He said it was merely the draft that he should read, so that any alterations might be made in it that were necessary, and therefore he had left the names blank. The document merely recited that, certain annual sums were to be appropriated in a certain manner out of the revenues of the Bendersleigh estates, upon certain contingencies enumerated and set forth at length.

"Now, first of all," said Mr. Grainger, when he had finished reading the document, "I must call upon the Heir of Bendersleigh, as the principal party concerned in the matters set forth in this deed, to come forth and acknowledge it."

Mr. Augustus Raker, assuming a very bashful air, requested his friend, Mr. Joseph Smith, to support him to the table, which that gentleman did in burlesque seriousness.

"I think," said Mr. Grainger, "this is scarcely the moment for ribaldry of this character. Surely at a solemn time like the present, at least decorum might be observed by those chiefly interested."

Harriet Marshall buried her face in her handkerchief, and wept bittterly.

"I don't see why we should make it a funeral piece of business, Grainger," cried Mr. Augustus Raker, fiercely.

"It is a serious moment indeed for you," replied Mr. Grainger.

"That's my business," said Mr. Raker.

"It is, and bitter enough it may be to you," exclaimed Mr. Grainger.

"Bitter enough I know, if you could have your way," said Mr. Raker, maliciously.

"My way then," replied Mr. Grainger, "was to smooth yours. I call this company to witness that I have done what I could to promote the happiness of the young hearts engaged in this ceremony, and in confirmation of that I now proclaim my conviction, that this marriage, as proposed, cannot but be disastrous."

Mrs. Marshall advanced quietly to the side of Mr. Grainger, laid her hand upon his arm, and looked into his face with an imploring expression, but she uttered not a word.

"What is the old fiend going to do now?" roared Mr. Augustus Raker, and shaking his fist in Mr. Grainger's face.

"To complete these documents," replied Mr. Grainger, quietly. "And first of all, I require the assistance of the Heir of Bendersleigh."

"Oh, well, go on," said Mr. Augustus Raker, sullenly, and advancing to the table.

"Do you feel yourself in a position to act for him?" enquired Mr. Grainger.

"Don't be a fool," was Mr. Augustus Raker's reply.

"The question is not an irrelavent one on my part," added Mr. Grainger, quietly, "because I have been under the impression that the representative of the House of Bendersleigh would be worthy of his high position."

"What's the meaning of this stuff, Sir?" inquired Mr. Augustus Raker, in a tone which exhibited a strange mixture of fear and audacity.

"Again, I ask, do you feel yourself justified in assuming the position you would occupy here?" inquired Mr. Grainger.

"What the devil are you driving at?" cried Mr. Augustus Raker, "you ask me to come forward as the Heir of Bendersleigh, and here I am."

"Yes, here we are," echoed Mr. Joseph Smith, endeavouring thereby, no doubt, to give a turn to the aspect of affairs.

"Oh! you are the Heir of Bendersleigh—indeed! how then have I been mistaken. I have entertained the belief that the Heir of Bendersleigh was of a chivalrous and noble bearing, that he was worthy of the honour which he would inherit; but in you I find—what—something which I look upon with a feeling of contempt, a groveling spirit and a selfish heart—you the Heir of Bendersleigh, I do not believe it."

"Ha, ha, ha," laughed Mr. Augustus Raker, "I fancy you'll find it so, nevertheless, old chap."

"Then shall I be sorely disappointed—then shall I indeed feel that the sun of Bendersleigh is going down in obscurity."

"That's were the sun of Bendersleigh will send you, my boy," exclaimed Mr. Raker, "the sun of Bendersleigh shall shine on you no more, I can tell you."

"The sun of Bendersleigh shall shine out brightly yet, in spite of your declaration," cried Mr. Grainger, "but let us proceed; this conversation or rather altercation, is unseemly. Again I ask the Heir of Bendersleigh to stand forth."

"Is he not here?" roared Mr. Augustus Raker, in a tone of deep passion.

"Your name?" inquired Mr. Grainger.

"Augustus Raker," cried that gentleman.

"Such is not the name of the Heir of Bendersleigh," exclaimed Mr. Grainger.

"Not the Heir of Bendersleigh?" exclaimed all the guests, in a breath.

During this strange colloquy, Harriet Marshall had kept her face buried in her handkerchief, but when she heard the declaration which Mr. Grainger had just made, she started to her feet, and her bosom heaved with conflicting emotions.

"Are we to go on with this masquerading and fooling all day?" inquired Mr. Augustus Raker. "Curse the settlements, we'll go to the church without them."

"The settlements must be completed, and now, therefore, again I call upon the Heir of Bendersleigh to stand forth," said Mr. Grainger.

"For the last time, then, here he is," cried Mr. Augustus Raker.

"For the last time, yes," exclaimed Mr. Grainger in an exulting tone. "I told you, weak and selfish young man as you are, that you would rush upon your own degradation. I warned you in time to save you from that humiliation which is impending. I cautioned you, but your heart, devoid of all ennobling feeling, spurned my counsel and gave me insult for it. I pity you now, even as I pitied you then, but you have rushed upon your fate, and I cannot now ameliorate it. I have but to inform you and this good company, that the Heir of Bendersleigh is not Augustus Raker, but Henry Elliotson Raker. Come forward, Henry Elliotson, hitherto; henceforth, Henry Elliotson Raker."

Yes, the impulse is irresistable—why indeed should it be restrained—

Harriet Marshall, with a wild cry, flies across the room, and is locked in the arms of him, who, indeed, has possession of her heart.

Mr. Augustus Raker is dumb-founded. He is indeed humiliated. For an instant, however, his drowning hope grasps at the straw. "It's a trick," he cries, "I should like to see the proofs of such a trick as this—I can see through it, but it won't do."

"Here they are! here they are!" cries old Gabriel Hunter, rushing forward with a box in his hand. He had been almost bursting with the secret, which for five and twenty years he had calmly and religiously kept, and for once in his life he felt impulsive in the matter of legal documents. "Here they are!" he said, and took some papers from the box.

"A few words will soon explain this romance of your history," said Mr. Grainger, "Your father; Mr. Raker, left his native country five and twenty years ago for the East Indies—he left behind him a wife and infant, who were to follow him. Your father and myself were playmates, as boys. When we grew to man's estate, we together entered that fraternity whose holy motto is "Brotherly love, relief, and truth." Together, side by side we gained our several degrees, and when he left these shores, as he gave me that grip of brotherhood which characterizes our Order, I made him a solemn promise to see to the future of his infant son. I little thought how strangely that promise would be forced upon me, and how still more strangely it would be worked out. He arrived at his destination in the East, and immediately sent for his wife and child. A passage was taken for them, but on the night of their embarkation the vessel was lost in a tempest, at the very mouth of yonder river. Nearly all on board the ill-fated vessel were lost, but not all. The mother perished, but the infant was mysteriously preserved. The next day, a vessel sailed for the East, and the intelligence was conveyed to Mr. Raker of his loss. I need not detail how the infant so mysteriously preserved came to me, suffice it to say, that he, with one man was rescued by a merchantman which sailed the same day as the ill-fated ship, and the infant was conveyed to the West Indies. In the course of a twelve-month he was brought to me by the individual who had conveyed him thither, and by that time intelligence had reached me of the marriage again of Mr. Raker, in the East Indies. I took the boy under my charge, and brought him up to man's estate, and there he stands now;" and Mr. Grainger pointed to Henry Elliotson.

Old Gabriel Hunter rushed up to Henry, and seizing his hand convulsively, exclaimed, "Oh! Mr. Henry, many and many's the time that I have wished to tell you of this secret, but no, no, no; I was true to the trust that Mr. Grainger reposed in me.

"Aye, that he was" replied Mr. Grainger; and the two old men shook each other warmly by the hand; and we do beleive that the eyes of both were moist.

"And now," said Mr. Grainger, "I think we may proceed to the execution of these settlements."

"One moment, Sir," said Henry Elliotson, "the events of the last few minutes are indeed enough to bewilder me. You have, since I entered this room, presented me with three precious gifts, which I knew not until this hour that I should ever possess. A bride—look up Harriet, confidently now—a brother, and a fortune."

"That you will be worthy of all and each, I know full well, for I have watched you anxiously from youth upwards, and I have looked forward to this day with great hope," said Mr. Grainger.

"My first duty is to my brother," said Henry Elliotson. "Brother," he said, advancing to Mr. Augustus Raker, "will you take my hand?

Crest-fallen as he was—prostrated by the humiliation which he was suffering, the old spirit of the young man flamed up for an instant, and he darted a scowl of hatred at his new found brother, which pained all who beheld it; and we do believe that none present felt more pain than the "fast" friend of the fallen Augustus Raker. That gentleman interposed and said, "come, Raker, be a brick, and give him your hand as you ought to do; I would."

"Think not that we can be enemies," said Henry Elliotson, for we must still so designate him, and placing his hand upon his brother's shoulder, "though I am the Heir of Bendersleigh, to your deprivation, take my hand as a brother should, for rest assured that no act of mine shall ever make you feel the loss which you have sustained. Give me your hand."

Still Augustus Raker hesitated, but at length he extended his hand, and his brother grasped it fervently.

"Mr. Grainger told to me once," exclaimed Henry Elliotson, "that all was for the best. I doubted then, but I feel it now; let me then, now address you in the same words, my brother,—nay, let me alter the form of those words, and say, all shall be for the best. Bendersleigh Hall shall still be your home as long as you wish it to be so."

"And take my hand", said Mr. Grainger, advancing to Mr. Augustus Raker, "and let us if we can, forget the past; I told you once that you might have a bitter lesson to learn, and you have now accomplished it. Let me now give you a few more words of advice. To the past you may look for a guidance for the future, and as you scan the past, let it teach you to subdue those evil passions which indulged in, in the present, but too frequently leads to degradation and disaster in the future. There is my hand, I am glad you take it; but here is another that you must grasp, that of one whom you would have wronged, and whose life you would have embittered; take that hand—the hand of a sister now, and thank me that I have saved you the crime of wantonly blasting a young heart's hope."

Mr. Augustus Raker was subdued—his bearing was changed, and grasping the hand of Harriet Marshall, who now came forward, he rushed out of the room.

Our tale is ended. The marriage settlements were speedily executed, and they were merry marriage bells indeed, which announced the completon of the nuptials of the Heir of Bendersleigh.

BROTHERLY LOVE.

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

(*Continued from* p. 107.)

Chapter VII.—A Discovery.

There were others besides Ida St. Claire whose thoughts were directed towards Simon Le Trouve, but with very different feelings.

The ingrate and half-witted being who had been so providentially rescued from the frenzy of Simon, was one of those creatures, a specimen of which is to be found in almost every community of any extent. Without being entirely idiotic, his mental imbecility approached very near it, but, like some persons of this description, he had a large amount of vanity and conceit, which rendered his mental weakness more conspicuous, and subjected him to ridicule and insult.

The statement of Simon, when he encountered him on the mountain, was perfectly correct. Seeing the weakness of his character, some better impulse of his own nature made him chivalrously espouse his cause, and saved him from the result of his folly on many an occasion.

But gratitude was not an attribute of the semi-idiot's character, and though he availed himself of the patronage and protection of Simon, he secretly ridiculed his deformity, though he had sufficient prudence to conceal his sentiments towards his benefactor.

The rough treatment he had received exasperated him, and it being so much at variance with Simon's usual conduct towards him, he was totally at a loss to account for it. His mind, as may be perceived, was not of a very logical character, and was well adapted to receive any suggestion of his fancy, which on this occasion suggested as a solution of Simon's conduct, that the latter must be mad.

Having settled this matter to his own satisfaction, he resolved to communicate his conviction immediately to his fellow-townsmen. He would have carried out this intention, but the partial strangulation he had undergone made him more inclined to seek his way home, and endeavour to recover from its effect.

He was received by his mother, an aged and respectable widow, who was tenderly attached to him notwithstanding his imbecility, for he was her only child. To her he communicated a rather fanciful account of what had occurred. According to his statement, he had encountered Simon in the mountains, who, without the slightest provocation, sprang upon him like a wild beast, and, his intention being to murder him, would have strangled him on the spot, but for the courage and strength with which he resisted his attack. He stated, that in self-defence he was compelled to turn aggressor, and would have inflicted such chastisement on Simon as would have effectually prevented his renewing his murderous design, if he had not been prevented by the sudden appearance of Ida St. Claire, which made him release him from his grasp. He added, that Simon addressed him in a strain, subsequently, that clearly proved he was insane.

The narrative of Andrê Buffon, for such was the name of this worthy, was soon circulated through the town; but with such exaggerations and alterations, as the imagination of those who related it suggested, that Andrê would have been at a loss to recognise his own story amid the distortions and novelties which it had undergone.

Some stated, that an encounter had taken place between the Maniac of the Mount and Simon, and that Andrê, happening to pass at the time, interposed, and was nearly murdered by the latter. Another version was, that Simon, who had become suddenly mad, attempted the life of Ida St. Claire, who was providentially rescued by Andrê, whose life had nearly fallen a sacrifice to the insane fury of Simon. Again, it was asserted, that Simon met Alfred Beaufrere, and that a quarrel ensued between them which rose to blows; and being defeated, that Simon had flung himself over a precipice, thus terminating his existence. This latter statement relative to the suicide of Simon received something like a confirmation, as he had not been seen for some days, and the vulgar mind, with its love for the marvellous and horrible, was ready to adopt anything as truth that pandered to its morbid appetite, without subjecting it to any severe scrutiny.

The whole story was as fine a specimen of that feeling common to humanity, which is so admirably illustrated in the fable of the "Three Black Crows," as could well be furnished.

For the moment, Andrê was exalted into the character of a hero; and when he was sufficiently recovered to make his appearance in the town, he found himself an object of general interest. Those who had never met him without a jibe or mocking, now accosted him in the most friendly manner, expressing sympathy for his suffering and admiration for his courage, beseeching him at the same time to give them a full account of all that had taken place.

Some related what they had heard, and though he was rather startled at some of the mutations which his narrative had undergone, still he was so pleased with what he was told, that he did not contradict directly the absurd statements. He was proud to find that in all the versions he was the hero, and he offered up a fervent aspiration that the statement relative to Simon having committed suicide, might be verified, on the strength of which he added a supplemental and detailed account, in which his own valour shone conspicuous.

Then there were various acts of eccentricity or actual indications of insanity in the manner of Simon, which were cited by some of his townsmen, all tending to prove that he was deranged. Indeed, several of these were derived from the fancy of the speakers, and invented for the immediate occasion, but they had their weight with an auditory who wished them true; and two facts were established in their minds, namely, that Simon Le Trouve was mad, and that under the influence of his mental aberration he had attempted to commit murder, if not suicide.

Some who were not quite so sanguine in temperament or so ready to jump at a conclusion, suggested that it would be as well to institute some inquiries at the residence of Simon. This was readily adopted, and

it was proposed that Andrê should lead the party. It was strange that one who, according to his own statement, had exhibited such recent valour, should decline the proposed honour, and that so much persuasion was required to induce him to alter his determination. Indeed, it was with considerable reluctance that he could be induced to form one of the party, for, as the reader can understand, he had no desire to be confronted with Simon, who, if sane, could at once disprove his vain-glorious narrative; or who, if deranged, might single him out as an object on which to vent his fury. However, the party being numerically strong, he consented to join them, though so far from taking a prominent part he kept as much in the rear as possible, and a close observer might have detected some hesitation and timidity in his manner as he approached the dwelling of Simon, which was situated in a lonely and secluded suburb of the town.

As the party proceeded, their number was increased till it amounted to about fifty persons of both sexes. When they reached the door, a consultation was held as to the *modus operandi*. The door was a jar, and it was suggested that one of the foremost should enter and make some inquiries of the domestic of Simon, an aged female, the only servant he kept, and who was as morose in temper as her master.

Here, again, with singular modesty, Andrê declined the offer of leading the party, and slunk back to the very extremity of the crowd. But the honour of entering first was thrust on the two foremost of the party, for the pressure from behind precipitated them through the doorway, and with such violence, that they measured their length in the passage. Those who were immediately behind were propelled with a similar momentum, and with the same result, only that they had the advantage of falling on their prostrate companions. On, the party still pressed, and it is hard to state what the result would have been had not a loud shriek burst from one of the party in the passage, which caused the remainder to retreat hastily.

It happened that one of those who had fallen, was rather puny in person, and had to sustain the weight of a fat and unwieldy individual, so that apprehending suffocation he began to roar lustily. This incident had the effect of causing a backward movement, and some of the more timid were about to take to their heels, supposing that it was Simon who was infuriated by the intrusion and was venting his frenzy on the foremost of their party. However, those in the passage succeeded in recovering their equilibrium and proceeded with their search. Having cautiously knocked at the door of the apartments on the ground floor and receiving no answer, they returned and reported progress. It was then agreed that about a dozen of them should enter the house together, and those who were the most apprehensive, considering that the tenement was deserted and therefore that they would incur no risk, volunteered their services.

The party thus reinforced, ascended the staircase, but when they reached the apartment which it was known that Simon occupied, they made a dead pause. Some peeped through the keyhole, but derived no information from their scrutiny, and none seemed desirous of being the first to enter.

In the meantime there had been a new comer, Alfred Beaufrere. He

happened to be on his way to Simon's, for the purpose of asking his forgiveness for having caused him any pain by his thoughtless conduct in entering the lists with him. Great was his surprise when he found the crowd that was assembled, and he heard with sincere grief, the exaggerated narrative that was poured into his ears. He was a member of the Masonic body, and he felt that he had allowed his vanity to betray him into an act at variance with the principles of his Craft and with his own feelings of brotherly love, by which the mystic Order to which he belonged had banded themselves together to cement and extend. He would have made almost any sacrifice to repair the pain he had inflicted, and he resolved that, if ever the opportunity occurred he would atone to his early friend and associate.

He pressed through the crowd until he reached the door where the party were assembled.

"Have you knocked?" he inquired.

"No," replied one of the party, "we are uncertain how to act."

"Common humanity should have instructed you;" he said. "A man whom you believe is insane is left in a house by himself, and yet you hesitate in ascertaining his situation. I see some of you here are Freemasons; is such conduct towards a townsman according to the fraternal principles you possess? How do you know, but at this very moment he may be meditating or even committing suicide? Stand back."

The party readily complied with this order, and retreated down stairs, leaving Alfred to encounter alone the danger he might incur from the violence of Simon.

Alfred knocked, but receiving no answer, he turned the handle of the door and entered the room. It was empty, while several pieces of cord were strewn about, and there were other indications of things being packed up there recently. Several rude and uncouth images stood in recesses around the room—they were representations of those objects of worship found amongst the nations who have deified deformity. They were the lares and penates of Simon's abode, with the contemplation of which he nourished his morbid feelings.

Chapter VIII.—Simon's Departure.

We trust that we have succeeded in interesting our readers sufficiently in the fate of Simon Le Trouve to induce them to follow his fortunes without weariness or disgust. It would have been easy to have selected for the hero of this narrative some character more agreeable to the taste of readers of fiction generally, and to have arrayed him in personal and mental attributes that would inspire love and admiration. But we question much, whether the object we propose in developing the growth of brotherly love, and the humanising influence it can exercise over all brought within its sphere, may not be more clearly demonstrated by showing its operation upon one who stands out in bold relief from the mass of mankind, but still claims affinity to the human family by feelings common to all, though affected by individual circumstances. Some may

shrink from physical deformity, but the anatomist contemplates it with interest, because its very irregularity may enable him to arrive at more correct conceptions of what is just and beautifnl in human physiology. Viewed critically, in even this point, the moral character of our hero may furnish some study for those who are desirous of investigating mental phenomena.

Simon had received Ida's letter, and its contents added another pang to his feelings of torture. He was also puzzled how to regard it. At first he felt the force of the argument for renouncing him, and he was tempted to believe that Ida did really love him, for her avowal was expressed in terms that carried conviction. There was quite sufficient in the exhibition of his ungovernable frenzy to make the gentle and Christian girl recoil from him with horror. And then came the remembrance of the instances of interest in his fate, and the desire to soften his nature which Ida had given, and which from what he thought of her character he could not bring himself to believe were simulated. And further, he began to consider that Ida's conduct was dictated by principle, for he was well aware that she possessed, notwithstanding her gentleness, what is called character. This bore out her statement that she loved him, but it was with a hope that she had succeeded, or would eventually succeeded, in working out his moral reformation. There was consolation in the thought that he possessed her affection, though he had forfeited her esteem.

However, this source of comfort was quickly dried up, for he remembered the conversation of Mrs. St. Claire, and his original distrust revived: Ida's youth, her beauty and feminine qualities might perhaps have secured for her the affections of her handsome kinsman, Alfred Beaufrère, who was his equal in wealth. His feelings were too deeply concerned to enable him to reason clearly, and the sense of his deformity intruded on his mind and confirmed his doubt as to the sincerity of Ida.

Acting upon his conviction he resolved to give her one final proof of his disinterested attachment. Accordingly, he enclosed to her a deed conveying to her one half of his fortune, which he described as the dross for which she had valued him, and expressing a hope that it might be instrumental to her happiness. He made no allusion to the past, the future, or to himself, and there was eloquence in his silence. He could not suffer her to depart without seeing her once again, and being aware of the time she was to leave, he lingered from midnight till morning on the hill, as we have already stated.

Before he descended from the eminence he cast a look around the neighbourhood where he had dwelt from childhood till that moment. Every object was familiar and teeming with beauty; but it might as well have been some strange and unbroken scene of sterility, for his heart was a sepulchre, and could no longer commune with in what was fresh and reviving in the panorama on which his eyes rested vacantly. What was it that had lent beauty to landscape, which had rendered the revolution of the seasons, and day and night, the budding and decay of floral life, objects of interest or sources of sensibility? It was the presence of Ida. It was her looks, her voice, the belief that the heart by his side was throb-

bing with affection for him, that lit up the scenery and gave a voice to creation.

The mountain in the distance from which he had been accustomed to gaze with Ida, on the country around, had once been consecrated in his eyes—she had poetised it. But it was now a mere material elevation. He turned from it as the Parsee might have done from the temple where the sacred fire was extinguished. He departed from the neighbourhood, bearing in his mind the conviction that the only object which charmed his existence was an illusion, and that in all creation there was not an eye that would brighten at his approach or shed a tear on his tomb were he consigned to it on the morrow.

Simon proceeded for some distance without encountering any person with whom he was acquainted, until he reached a point where the road diverged, and there he met Alfred Beaufrère. He would have passed him without recognition had not the latter accosted him in friendly terms, which he acknowledged only by a bitter and contemptuous smile.

"Simon," said Alfred, "we must not part thus. I have thoughtlessly wounded your feelings, and I sought your abode to ask your forgiveness. Will you say you forgive me?"

"'Forgive!' I, the rude, deformed, defeated and reviled, forgive the handsome, gifted and successful Alfred Beaufrère for having stepped between me and the miserable bauble I sought?—by heaven, except that you know my spirit too well to chafe me recklessly, I should deem this some mockery."

"As I hope for that heaven, I mean what I say. Listen to me patiently, Simon, we have once been children together—"

"And there was no other point of resemblance between us. We were children in years, not in circumstances; for what was my childhood? a waste as sterile as my manhood. The authors of my being disowned me; they gave me material dross instead of affection, and left their misshapen offspring at his birth to the charity of strangers. Yes, *we* were once children, but what was *my* childhood? I was a child in years alone; no genial attribute of childhood surrounded me. I had a childhood without love, without a parental eye to gaze on me, without a maternal caress to warm me. If there be such a thing as human love, it was not shewn to me. All shrunk from the repulsive infant; his tears or smiles were alike unheeded, and awoke no sympathy. The childish prattle that rose to my lips died in utterance, for it gladdened no ear and received no encouragement. And when I emerged from the nursery, and felt growing life stirring in every thew and sinew, it was only to encounter mockery and derision from the associates of my years. I never was a child."

"I am sorry that I should have said anything to excite disagreeable feelings, Simon, but do you not exaggerate circumstances? If nature has not been bountiful to you, all are not so ungenerous as to turn away from you on that account. Have I done so?"

"You talk to me of childhood," said Simon, not heeding Alfred's observation, "and I cannot understand you. I can imagine *your* childhood, for you were formed to be an object, a sensible object of affection. You

grew, your faculties unfolded, and eyes of love hailed your growth, and watched with rapture your dawning and ripening intelligence. I grew, every fibre of my frame was stringing, and the spirit of enquiry came forth, ellicited by expanding intelligence; but what eye marked my physical or mental development. There were none to praise, not even to censure; for though thoughts and feelings, and fancies, warm and pure and varied, grew out of my heart and brain, they withered in the bleak atmosphere of neglect; for who could regard this rude tenement that contained them? Go; you have called forth the past from grateful oblivion, to embitter the present and render hopeless the future."

"If I have done so, heaven is my witness, Simon, that it was unintentional. I feel for you, for all creation, only genuine sentiments of brotherly love. It is only recently that I have joined the Masonic body, and my natural feelings have become more intensified by my union with that fraternity. Would that you were one of us! The vulgar mind and superstition have thrown an absurd aspersion on us, and yet what is our sole object? To promote universal brotherhood to meet with the cordial grasp of friendship our fellow men who have enrolled themselves amongst us, without reference to rank, country, or creed; to rise superior to social, local, or religious distinctions; and to hail as a brother every man who treads the earth untainted with crime. Would that you were one of us, Simon. I repeat, you would find amongst us a solace for the wounds your feelings might sustain in your intercourse with the cold, the malevolent, or thoughtless."

"And yet," said Simon, with a sneer, "with such professions, and though you are a Freemason, you could interpose between me and a paltry toy I sought, whose possession could yield you little gratification."

"I grant, that in so doing," said Alfred, "I acted according to the impulses of my vanity, and you must make some allowance for the frailty of human nature, which will sometimes tempt us to stray from the path of principle."

"Human nature, whose very development is to make the strong oppress the weak. Can your boasted Order loosen the gripe of the strong from the throat of the weak? You may form yourselves into societies, clothe yourselves with formalities, and veil yourselves in mysteries, but you cannot change human nature. The man who can trample down his fellow man, will do so when he stands in his way, in the face of all the Freemasonry in the world. Physical strength will beat down physical weakness, mental power will prostrate mental imbecility, and beauty crush deformity. The beast of the desert, the brute creation generally, are a correct type of man in his deeds, only the one acts from his physical impulses, the other from the promptings of a depraved heart and reason, the most relentless of the two."

"I grant that there is much of truth in what you say. The imperfection of humanity too often tempts the human being from the path of duty. He infringes the impulses of his better nature, and the Divine Archtype which is impressed upon his spirit, which I maintain asserts its supremacy though warped and disfigured by the circumstances of his being. But,

I ask you, notwithstanding your misanthropic tendencies, if you have not frequently found some kindly feeling for your fellow creatures struggling with dark and selfish passions? Have you not felt a desire to travel out of your own personal existence, and to render a service to your fellow creatures? Have you not felt there a want in your being, a thing indispensable to your complete happiness, a craving, a sound that wanted an echo from some other human heart? Religion itself fails in eradicating the evil propensities of our nature, but it holds forth bright exemplars, which we can scarcely contemplate without desiring to imitate, and that desire, and the practise which it suggests, bring us nearer to the standard of perfection which it has reared. We cannot carry out in their entirety what a duty descended from heaven ought to shew us. All may not be able to take to their bosom the penitent thief: and human purity, while it pities, may shrink from a repentant Magdalen. But is there no benefit to be derived from the contemplation of those exalted images of the divine light, irradiating the darkness of our moral atmosphere, and defining clearly the objects of perception, and the proper motives of action? We can imitate what has been shown, and, by doing so, we approach nearer to the precepts and practise of the Divine Original. Then the order which you deride, though a mere human institution, is an embodiment of the principle of love, which it would disseminate through society. It has had to contend with those various impediments which have obstructed the noblest and most permament institutions. It has been vilified, but those who are initiated well know that its object is to gather all within a cestus of brotherhood."

How far Alfred, whose enthusiasm and rhetorical powers were aroused, would have carried him, or what effect they would have produced on his auditor, we cannot say, for here the discussion was interrupted by the appearance of a man who rushed up the road towards them, and, pale and panting, flung himself at their feet, beseeching their protection.

It was Andrê Buffon, who, in a hurried narrative, stated that he had been drawn in the conscription which had commenced in the neighbourhood. He suppressed, however, the fact, that his imbecility would have been the means of his escaping, had it not been that his version of his encounter with Simon had reached the ears of one of the functionaries to whom the conscription in the town was intrusted, and impressed him so favourably respecting Andrê's valour, that neither his supplications nor those of his mother were listened to, and he was ordered to prepare himself for immediate service.

Alfred promised to do what he could towards procuring a substitute. Simon regarded him with a look of ineffable disgust, and waving his hand haughtily to Alfred, departed.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

NEW PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTERS.

We have great pleasure in being enabled to announce, that the M.W.G.M. has been pleased to appoint Robt. John Bagshaw, Esq., of Dovercourt, Harwich, to be Prov. G.M. for Essex, vice Br, Rowland Alston, resigned. The W.M. has also been pleased to appoint John Atkins Bowyer, Esq., of Steeple Ashton, to be Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire, vice Br. C. Ridley, deceased.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

We beg to remind the brethren that the annual festival of this charity will take place on the 14th inst., when we are informed a very numerous party is expected to attend. The musical arrangements have been entrusted to Br. Lawler, and are more than usually attractive. Br. Lawler will be assisted by Miss Birch, Miss Poole, Miss Clara Henderson, and Brs. Allen, and Donald King. Br. T. Jolly, jun., will preside at the piano.

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.

At the meeting of this Lodge, on the 31st January, Br. G.W. Potter in the chair, £63 were disbursed in affording relief to seven petitioners.

LONDON LODGES.

Grand Stewards Lodge.—A meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, February 21st, when Br. Tomkins, the immediate P.M., installed Br. Blake into the chair, as his successor. The new W.M. was pleased to invest his officers, as follows:—Br. Burgess, S.W.; Br. Johnson, J.W.; Br. Stohwasser, S.D.; Br. Dawson, J.D.; Br. Hewlett, I.G.; Br. Giraud, Treasurer.

Grand Master's Lodge (No. 1).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, February 19th, the business consisted of the passing of a brother to the second degree, the ceremony being most ably performed by the W.M., Br. G. W. K. Potter. Amongst the visitors were Br. R. S. Williams, P.M., No. 11; Br. C. Lenny, P.M., No. 27; and Br. Donald Nicoll, of No. 109. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and the proceedings of the evening were enlivened by the musical talents of Br. Jolly, and Br. P.M. Francis Crew, the able and indefatigable Secretary of the Lodge.

Lodge of Fidelity (No. 3).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, the 14th February, when the W.M. elect, Br. Low, was most ably installed into the chair by P.M. Br. Grant, assisted by Br. Goldsworthy, and a duly constituted board of installed Masters. The officers having been appointed and other business transacted, the Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

St. George and Corner Stone Lodge (No. 5).—This Lodge, which, after a period of some depression, is now progressing most favourably, and rapidly assuming its former high position in the Order, held its annual meeting, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, February 12th, when Br. Head was re-installed W.M. for the ensuing year. The W.M. passed one, and raised four duly qualified brethren to their respective degrees in a very impressive manner. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant dinner, to which nearly 30 sat down, the W.M. presiding with great good taste and *bonhommie*. There were numerous visitors present, amongst whom we observed Brs. Keightley, P.G.D.; Kingsbury, P.G.D.; Wm. Farnfield, P.M., 318; Taylor, P.M., 21; Marston, P.M., 1; Clifton, Wood, &c. During the evening, the speeches were interspersed with some excellent singing by Brs. T. Young, Leffler, and Jolly.

British Lodge (No. 8).—The brethren of this eminent Lodge held their meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, February 19th. The W.M., Br. F. D. Massey Dawson, in a most efficient and impressive manner raised a

brother to the third degree, after which Br. P.M. Bisgood ably installed the W.M. into the chair, for the second year, when the W.M. re-appointed his officers. The brethren, at the close of business, proceeded to partake of an elegant dinner. After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the W.M., in proposing the healths of the Grand Officers, congratulated the Lodge in having so distinguished a representative of that excellent body amongst them as Br. Purton Cooper, P.G.M., of Kent. In returning thanks, Br. Cooper stated that he had long been a member of the British Lodge, and whatever honours he had attained in Masonry must be attributed to that Lodge; and he could assure the brethren that he never felt greater pleasure than in being present at their meetings.—The W.M. then proposed "The Provincial Lodges, more particularly that of Kent," which was so much distinguished for its charities and other excellent Masonic qualities, and coupled with it the health of Br. Bisgood, D.G.M. for that province.—Br. Bisgood, in reply, expressed his surprise at being placed in such a position when so eminent and esteemed a brother as the P.G.M. (Br. Cooper) was present, who was so much better qualified than himself to explain how Masonry in that province had attained so high a degree of usefulness than he could possibly be.—The W.M. then proposed the health of the visitors—Brs. Adlard, P.M., 7; Warwick, W.M., 30; Smith, 30; and Powell, 109. In doing so, he eloquently alluded to the benefit derived by Masonry from the visits of the members of other Lodges, tending, as it did, to cement the true fellowship which should always exist amongst Masons.—Br. Stolwasser, P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., said that it afforded him peculiar pleasure to do so, inasmuch that the Lodge had done honour to the Brother and credit to itself in re-electing him W.M. for the ensuing year. As a memorial of the estimation which the brethren had of his great talent, he had, on their behalf, to invest him with a handsome Past Master's jewel, inscribed with the thanks of the Lodge for his eminent services during the year 1854. After a suitable and feeling reply, the W.M. proposed the health of the Past Masters, which was responded to by Br. Gillman and several other Past Masters.—The W.M. next proposed the health of his officers, and thanked them for their services during the past year.—The S.W., in reply, said, he felt a greater difficulty in returning thanks than he had before experienced, as on previous occasions any little error might be attributed to inexperience, which could not now be pleaded.—Br. Pigot, J.W., having been unanimously elected Grand Steward for the ensuing year, stated that it should be his study to discharge the duties of the office to the best of his ability, and add to the comforts of all those who put themselves under his banner; and, at the same time, as he was about to serve the office of Steward to the festival of the Boys' School,—an institution whose merits were such that it required no advocacy,—he should be glad to see as many members of the Lodge present as possible.—Br. Bisgood stated that it had been his intention to stand as Steward for the festival of the Girl's School, but had been only too happy to give way for a younger and most rising Brother, viz., Br. Baxter, J.D.—The Lodge was closed in perfect harmony.

Albion Lodge (No. 9).—At the meeting of this Lodge, on Tuesday, January 6, Br. Burton, W.M., presiding, two brethren were raised to the third degree in a very efficient manner. At the conclusion of business the brethren adjourned, and the proceedings of the latter part of the evening were enlivened by the excellent comic singing of Br. Beular.

Enoch Lodge (No. 11).—This numerous and excellent Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, Feb. 14th. Br. Spooner, W.M., assisted by his wardens, Brs. Bincks and Masterman, and the rest of his officers, initiated five gentlemen into the mysteries of Masonry, in a manner hardly to be equalled by a Master so young in chair. On the motion of Br. P.M. Young, seconded by Br. Isaac Bird, it was unanimously resolved that a P.M. jewel of the value of £5 5s. should be presented to the Immediate Past Master, Frederic Ledger, for the great interest he had always taken in the welfare of the Lodge, and for the zeal and urbanity displayed by him during his mastership. The business having concluded, the brethren adjourned to dinner. Subsequent to the usual loyal toasts the

W.M. in proposing the health of the Grand Officers, congratulated the Lodge on the presence of Br. England, whom he knew from long acquaintance to be not only a good Mason but a good man, fully bearing out the qualities attached to the name of Old England. Br. England, P.G.W. for Surrey, in reply, expressed the pleasure he always felt in visiting the Enoch Lodge, which he trusted he should often have the opportunity of enjoying. In proposing the health of the newly initiated brethren, the W.M. expressed the very great pleasure he felt in introducing into Masonry two of his oldest and most valued friends, father and son, as the only drawback was now removed which had in many instances prevented him from enjoying their society. With the other initiated brethren he had not the pleasure of a previous acquaintance, but from the manner in which they had gone through the ceremony, they could not fail of being cemented by that brotherly feeling which stamped the true character of Masonry. Br. Young, P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., spoke in the highest terms of the manner in which he had discharged his duties in going through the five initiations, and expressed himself perfectly assured that if there had been any other ceremonies they would have been performed in an equal style of excellence. He also congratulated the brethren in having a Master so well calculated to advance the interests of the Lodge. The W.M., after returning thanks in a most suitable speech, proposed the health of the visitors, Brs. England, P.M., 57; Hewlett, P.M., 23; J. Adams, P.M., 23; Day, 218; Playford, 255; and Br. Crew, the much esteemed Secretary of the Girl's School; and expressed on the part of the brethren of the Lodge, the great pleasure they always felt in being honored by the presence of such distinguished visitors. In proposing the health of the Past Masters, the W.M. expressed his thanks for their readiness at all times to render their valuable advice and assistance to the Lodge when called upon, but more particularly for their kindness to himself, in rendering him instruction and support in whatever office he had had the honor of being placed. In calling upon the brethren to drink the health of the Officers, the W.M. thanked them for the able manner they always had discharged their duties, and more particularly for the able support he had received on the present occasion. Br. Bincks, S.W., and Br. German, returned thanks. The pleasure of the evening was much enhanced by the excellent singing of Br. Day, Br. Crew, and several other brethren.

Lodge of Fortitude and Old Cumberland (No. 12).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, February 12, under the presidency of Br. Louis Meunier, W.M., when a candidate was initiated into the mysteries of the Order, and two brethren passed and one raised to their respective degrees. The brethren afterwards dined together, and the enjoyment of the evening was much enhanced by the exertions of Br. Donald King, J.W., Br. A. Braham, and Br. Binge.

Globe Lodge (No. 23).—This distinguished Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, February 15th, when the W.M. (Br. Humphrey) passed a brother to the second degree, and initiated a gentleman into the mysteries of Masonry. Br. J.W. Adams was elected to serve the office of Grand Steward for the year 1855-6. The W.M. stated, that as he had the honour of serving as Steward at the festival of the Boys' School, he should feel obliged by the support of as many brethren as could make it convenient to attend on that occasion. Before the close of the Lodge, a tribute of respect was deservedly paid to the memory of Br. Edward Charker, P.M., whose recent death is greatly lamented by his brethren and friends.

Robert Burns Lodge (No. 25).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, February 5th. Br. Goring ably presided, in the absence of the W.M., from indisposition. Two brethren (Brs. Powell and Dougal) were raised to the third degree, and another addition was made to the number of members by the initiation of a gentleman into the Order. All business being concluded, the Lodge was closed at nine o'clock. We were surprised, out of the long list of P.M.'s belonging to the Lodge, to find but two present on this occasion, Brs. Goring and Newton.

Old Kings Arms Lodge (No. 30).—This Lodge met on Monday, February

26th, under the presidency of the W.M., B. Edward Warwick, when the brethren appeared in Masonic mourning, as a mark of respect to our deceased Br. Scrivener, the late Honorary Secretary of the Lodge; to whose memory the W.M. in the course of the evening, took occasion to call upon the brethren to pay a tribute of regard and esteem.

Gihon Lodge (No. 57).—The members of this Lodge met at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, on the 15th February, Br. England, P.P.G.S.W., W.M. presiding. The business consisted of two initiations; four passings, and two raisings. Amongst the brethren passed, were Capt. Macdonald, and the chief mate of the Ballarat, about immediately to proceed to Australia. Nearly forty brethren afterwards dined together, and the Lodge separated in perfect harmony.

Constitutional Lodge (No. 63).—This Lodge held its meeting at the Exeter Hall Hotel, Strand, on Thursday, February 15th, 1855, when Br. John Shirley, P.M., in a very able manner, installed Br. William Vince, W.M. for the ensuing twelve months. He was pleased to appoint Br. Percy Moss, S.W.; Br. James Robert Horn, J.W.; Br. John Shirley, Treasurer; Br. William Farnfield, Secretary; Br. George Grumbridge, S.D.; Br. John Ward, J.D.; Br. Joseph Smith, I.G. The Secretary gave a statement of the usefulness of the several Masonic charities; after which, the usual annual subscriptions were voted to the Freemasons' Girls' School, Boys' School, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and Widows' Fund. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren proceeded to the banquet, when, in due time, a P.M. jewel was presented to Br. John Mules, in token of respect for the manner in which he presided over the Lodge during the past year. The presentation was acknowledged in a neat and appropriate speech. Many of the brethren of the Lodge having received much valuable instruction, both privately and at the Lodge of Instruction, from Br. Thomas Scotcher, P.M., they and the other members of the Lodge, as a mark of the high estimation in which he is held by them, took this opportunity of presenting him with a silver tankard, for which mark of esteem and friendship Br. Scotcher, in a very able speech, thanked the brethren; at the same time pointing out the beauties of Freemasonry, and further stating that he had but one son to whom this mark of their kindness would be handed down, when it pleased the G.A.O.T.U. to call him from this world. With a view, as an inducement to others to do the same, he thought it proper to mention that, from the able manner the Secretary (Br. Farnfield) explained the benefits of the several charities to their poorer brethren and their widows, a brother of the Lodge, not yet in office, had handed him a cheque for the sum of £26 5s., with a request that he would pay the same to the proper parties, to enable him to become a Governor of the four charities above named.

Lodge of Felicity (No. 66).—The only business transacted at the meeting of this Lodge, which took place at the London Tavern, on Monday the 19th, was the election of Br. Kynaston as G.S. for the ensuing year, the candidate for raising not arriving until the Lodge was closed.

Royal Naval Lodge (No. 70).—The members of this Lodge assembled together at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, the 14th ult., when a brother was passed to the second and another raised to the third degree.

St. Mary's Lodge (No. 76).—This highly respectable Lodge held its meeting, at the Freemason's Tavern, on Thursday, February 15th, when a Brother was passed to the Second Degree.

Grenadiers Lodge (No 79).—The brethren of this Lodge, held their monthly meeting, on Thursday, February 22nd, when the W.M. elect, Br. Peek, was installed into the chair, by Br. P.M. Tyler. The other business of the evening consisted of two passings and one raising; the whole of the ceremonies being extremely well performed. The brethren afterwards adjourned to refreshments, and spent a very agreeable evening.

Lodge of Unity (No. 82).—The members of this Lodge met together, at the London Tavern, on Monday evening, February 5th, when Br. Bellinger was most effectively installed into the chair by Br. P.M. Howe. The new W.M. was pleased to

appoint Br. Masterman, S.W.; Br. Sleigh, J.W.; Br. Slight, S.D.; Br. Anderson, J.D.; Br. Porter, I.G. Three candidates (amongst whom was Mr. Funge, whose urbanity and kindness is highly appreciated by every visitor to the London Tavern) were duly initiated into the Order. At the close of the Masonic business, upwards of twenty brethren adjourned to a very elegant dinner, served in Br. Bathes' best style.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge on Thursday, Feb. 8, two brethren were passed and two raised to their respective degrees, by Br. P.M. Wm. Johnson, who also explained the tracing boards. Br. Lewis Solomon having been duly presented to a Board of Installed Masters, was then duly inducted into the chair by Br. H. L. Crohn, G.S.G.C. At the conclusion of the ceremony of installation, the officers were invested as follows:—Br. Albertz, S.W.; Br. Grosjean, J.W.; Br. McCallan, Treas.; Br. Angero, Sec.; Br. Rea, S.D.; Br. Azemar, J.D.; Br. Bosen, I.G.. A ballot was then taken for Grand Steward, which was declared to be in favour of Br. Warren, P.M., 202. Owing to engagements of numerous brethren, the installation banquet was postponed.

BURLINGTON LODGE (No. 113).—This Lodge met at the Albion, Aldersgate-street, on Tuesday, February 13th, for the usual transaction of business, and the more important object of installing the W.M. for the ensuing year. Br. Coutts having resigned the chair to Br. Dr. Rowe, P.G.D., he proceeded to instal the newly-elected W.M., Br. George Borlasse Childs, the ceremony being performed in a very impressive manner. The working of this excellent Lodge we have before alluded to, and we have every reason to be pleased that the duties have fallen on a brother so highly esteemed and respected by all. Br. Childs has earned for himself a very warm feeling in the Masonic body, he being a great supporter of our charities and a strict disciplinarian for the Masonic duties. It is pleasing to find the W.M. at once ready to commence operations. The initiation of a new brother was performed with great ability. As before, we shall repeat the hope that the Master, in vacating the chair in the Lodge for his successor, will install his successor himself, and not hand it over to others; this, we believe, will keep more alive the practical bearing of Freemasonry than is at present the case. After the close of the business, the evening was passed with mirth and conviviality, upwards of forty brethren sitting down to a most sumptuous banquet.

LODGE OF GOOD REPORT (No. 158).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at Radley's Hotel, on Thursday, 1st of February, when the brethren presented to Br. Fish a P.M.'s jewel, in testimony of their regard for the immense services rendered to the Lodge during his years of office as W.M., 1854.

LODGE OF FAITH (No. 165).—This Lodge held its regular meeting at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on Wednesday, January 31, when the W.M., Br. Gilton, initiated two gentlemen into the secrets and mysteries of ancient Freemasonry, and raised two brethren to the third degree.

ST. LUKE'S LODGE (No. 168).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, at the Builders' Arms, Chelsea, on the 5th inst., after the usual business had been transacted, it was resolved to present £5 to the Royal Patriotic Fund.

CADOGAN LODGE (No. 188).—The members of this Lodge met together on Tuesday, February 20, for the dispatch of business. The W.M. Br. Capt. T. Malkin, who presided, initiated a gentleman into the mysteries of the Craft, and passed a duly qualified Brother to the F.C. degree.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 6th ult. The business consisted of initiating three gentlemen into the noble Order, passing Br. Edmonds and Br. Nisbett to the second degree, the latter brother being a joining member (having taken his first degree in Malta), and of raising Brs. Taylor, Westwood and Darby to the degree of Master Masons. The whole of this business was gone through in the usual able manner, for which this very excellent Lodge is so well known and distinguished in the Craft. Br. Baker, an old member of this Lodge, and P.M. of the Mount Lebanon, having been elected a joining member, and all other business being concluded, the brethren adjourned to the banquet, and spent the evening in perfect

harmony and true Masonic feeling. Br. Taylor presided at the piano, and Miss Taylor delighted the brethren with her charming singing. The W.M., Br. G. M. Gurton, after the usual Masonic toasts, proposed "The Visitors," on whose behalf Br. Crew returned thanks, and spoke of the happiness he felt in visiting this Lodge, where he had always found the true principles of Masonry so effectually carried out. The W.M. then took the opportunity of reminding the brethren of the near approach of their "Annual Ball" (on the following Thursday), and said he felt quite sanguine of meeting with the same support which had been given to the last ball under the presidency of the "immediate P.M.," Br. Kennedy. The brethren separated in high anticipation of their happy evening on the following Thursday. The Ball took place at the Hanover Square Rooms on the evening appointed, when, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, there were present about 350 of the brethren, their ladies, and friends. Dancing commenced soon after nine o'clock, and at half past twelve the whole of the company sat down to a very excellent supper, supplied by Mr. Withers; and the wines, supplied by Br. Arnell, of this Lodge, were all of first-rate quality. Br. G. M. Gurton (the President), then proposed "The Queen," after which Br. Booth, P.M., proposed the health of Br. G. M. Gurton, which was drunk with "three times three." The President returned thanks in an appropriate speech, and proposed "The Ladies," which was drunk with enthusiasm. Br. Kennedy, P.M., as the ladies' representative, returned thanks, and assured the president and gentlemen they were greatly obliged to them, also that they were delighted with the ball and all the arrangements which had been made, and they (the ladies) certainly would give this masonic ball their support on every occasion. The company again returned to the ball room, when dancing was resumed and continued until past five o'clock. The band, supplied by Br. F. G. Taylor, was excellent, and Br. H. A. Taylor, as M.C., gave general satisfaction. We are pleased in being enabled to announce the proceeds will realize 20 guineas, "in aid of Masonic Charity."

Phœnix Lodge (No. 202.)—This rising Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern on Saturday, the 10th ult., when three brethren were very efficiently raised to the third degree by the W.M., Br. John Webber. Three candidates having been proposed for initiation, the Lodge was closed in the most perfect harmony. The brethren afterwards adjourned to refreshment, and in the course of the evening were entertained by the vocal exertions of Brs. Lawler, Donald King, and Beular, the celebrated comic singer.

Domatic Lodge (No. 206).—On Monday, Feb. 12, the members of this Lodge assembled in great force at Br. Ireland's, Masonic Hall, Falcon Tavern, Fetter lane, under the presidency of Br. T. A. Adams, W.M., who passed six brethren to the second degree, in his usual style of excellence. A Brother was admitted a joining member, and two candidates were proposed for initiation. In our notice of the installation of Br. Adams, we omitted to give the name of his officers; they are Brs. Shea, S.W.; Marshall, J.W.; Smith, Treas.; Childs, Sec.; Gast, I.D.; Dearth, J.D.; and Baker, I.G.

St. James's Union Lodge (No. 211).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held as usual at the Westmorland Arms, George-street, Portman square, on Tuesday, the 13th ult., when two candidates were very ably initiated into the Order by the W.M. Br. Kelly, who concluded by giving them the beautiful charge on the principles and excellency of the Institution, which is too often omitted. In the course of the evening, a handsome P.M.'s jewel was presented to Br. P.M. Hudson, the W.M. complimenting him in the name of the Lodge for the excellent manner in which he had performed the duties of the chair during his year of office as W.M.

Universal Lodge (No. 212).—This prosperous Lodge met on Friday, the 23rd inst., and at the Freemasons' Tavern, when four gentlemen were duly inducted into the mysteries of the Craft. A brother was also passed and another raised to their respective degrees. At the conclusion of the business, 33 of the brethren (amongst whom were two visitors) supped together and spent a very pleasant evening.

Lodge of Tranquillity (No. 218).—This Lodge held its Meeting on February

the 19th. It being Installation night the brethren met early. Br. Herman initiated one brother and raised four brothers to the sublime degree of M.M., after which Br. Seeley, P.M., of the Lodge of Joppa, installed Br. Saul Solomons as W.M., in a most impressive manner. The W.M. presented (in the name of the Lodge) a very splendid jewel to Br. Herman, the immediate P.M. The Lodge was then called off, and the brethren retired to an excellent dinner. Amongst the visitors were Brs. Burton, W.M., *9*; Lyon, W.M., *223*; *H. Levy, P.M., 223*; *Desolla Chaplain, 223*; Moss Ansell, Yarborough Lodge; S. Isaacs, P.M., Chatham Lodge; C. Isaacs, P.G.W., of Kent; H. S. Samuel; Poole, &c. The festivities were kept up with great spirit throughout the evening, the new Master performing his duties most efficiently. There were nearly 50 brethren present.

Lodge of Confidence (No. 228).—The usual monthly monthly meeting of this Lodge, was held on the 12th ult, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street. As there were no ceremonies to be performed, the business of the evening was merely routine, on the conclusion of which the brethren adjourned to the banqueting, where the W.M. Br. J. Nesbitt, jun., ably presided. Harmony and good fellowship prevailed, and the brethren enjoyed a delighful evening. The visitors were Br. Blackburn, a Past Master of the Lodge, and Brs. Sharman and Williams, of the Phœnix, 202. The officers of the year, are Brs. Nisbett, jun., W.M.; Follett, S.W.; Jackson, J.W.; W. Jones, sen. S.D.; W. B. Baker, J.D.; and Br. Cummins, I.G. This Lodge has voted 5*l*. 5*s*. to the Patriotic Fund.

St. Paul's Lodge (No, 229).—The monthly meeting of this well-regulated Lodge took place at the London Coffee-house, Ludgate-hill, on Tuesday, February 20th. The W.M. (Br. Randall) passed two candidates to the second degree, performing the ceremony with great ability. This most worthy Brother has always interested the visitors to the Lodge by his excellent working and practical knowledge of Freemasonry. Amongst the other business performed was the appointment of a Steward for the annual festival of the Girls' School. It is needless to say that the Stewardships of the charities have been always readily accepted in this Lodge. Br. John Watson, who takes upon himself the responsible office this year, is highly respected and esteemed, and will be, doubtless, well supported on the evening of the festival. The banquet which followed the business of the evening was well attended, and passed off with the greatest cordiality. How could it do otherwise, enlivened as it was by the excellent singing of Br. Crew?

Jerusalem Lodge (No. 233).—The monthly meeting of the members of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, February 7th. Br. Lewis Crombie, the W.M., was in the chair. A gentleman was initiated into the Order, and a duly qualified brother passed to the second degree. Br. Frederic Slight has become a joining member of the Lodge. At the conclusion of the business, nearly 30 of the brethren dined together; and amongst the visitors we observed Br. England, P.Prov.G.S.W., W.M., 57; Br. Berringer, P.M., 229; Br. Levinson, J.W., 7; Br. H. Kyd, 318, &c., &c.

Jordan Lodge (No. 237).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, February 16th; Br. Spooner, W.M., presiding. Mr. James Robinson was initiated into the Order, and Br. Michael raised to the third degree by the W.M., in the most impressive manner. The only other business consisted of the re-election of the W.M. as Master for the ensuing year. The brethren then retired to a splendid repast, and the remainder of the evening was spent in the most harmonious manner. We may here observe, that we last month erroneously intimated that Br. Aznavour, of the Turkish Exhibition, had become a joining member of the Lodge.—It appears that the worthy brother was initiated in the Lodge on the 17th February, 1854, and was raised to the third degree on the 24th April following.

Lodge of Stability (No. 264).—This Lodge met at the George and Vulture, Cornhill, on Tuesday, February 6th, when Brs. Sillifant, Perch, and Holenbole were very ably passed to the second degree by the W.M.; and after other private business, the Lodge adjourned to refreshment.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, the 13th of February inst., at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, when Br. P.M. Cooper, the proprietor of the Adam and Eve Tavern, Kensington, was installed for the second time, as Master for the ensuing year. After the ceremony, which was ably performed by Br. P.M. Andrews, the new W.M. was pleased to invest his officers as follows, viz.: Br. Carter, S.W.; Br. Lugg, J.W.; Br. John Coggin, S.D.; Br. Collard, J.D.; and Br. Bromley, I.G. Br. Grimstone was again unanimously elected Treasurer. The other business consisted of initiating into the mysteries of Freemasonry two eligible candidates—the ceremony being performed by Br. P. M. Grimstone, assisted by the officers. The business of the Lodge being ended, the Brethren adjourned to the banqueting room, which was most liberally and tastefully supplied by Br. Rackstraw. Amongst the visitors we noticed Br. Hughes (No. 9), Br. Potter (No. 11), Br. Wm. Watson, Jun. (No. 23), Br. Andrews (No. 752), and Br. Morley (No. 169), &c., &c. After the usual toasts, and some excellent singing, the Brethren separated in perfect harmony.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281).—At the February meeting of this Lodge, held on the 1st instant, a candidate was initiated into the Order, three of the brotherhood passed to the second, and one (Br. Ive, who is about to proceed to Australia) raised to the third degree. This being installation-night, Br. Dyke, the W.M. elect, was most ably installed into the chair by Br. P.M. Mills. Br. Dr. Paul having been invested with the S.W.'s collar, Br. Pierce Egan, jun., with that of J.W., and the other officers appointed, the Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to a very elegant banquet prepared for the occasion.

LODGE OF UNION (No. 318).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemason's Tavern, on the 5th of February, the W.M., Br. Blair, presiding. The business consisted of two raisings, which were very efficiently performed. At the close of the business the Brethren adjourned to refreshment—and Br. Bacon, P.M. of the Bedford Lodge, returned thanks for the visitors.

POLISH NATIONAL LODGE (No. 778).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on the 8th of February, a duly qualified brother was raised to the third degree.

WELLINGTON LODGE (No. 805).—The February meeting of this flourishing Lodge took place at the Railway Tavern, Lewisham, on Tuesday, the 13th, and, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, was extremely well attended. Br. Ireland, the new Master, initiated a candidate into the Order, and afterwards worked several sections in the first lecture, in a very excellent style. After partaking of refreshment, the brethren separated at an early hour.

FITZROY LODGE (No. 830).—The members of this Lodge assembled together in their lodge-room at the head-quarters of the Royal Artillery Company, on Friday, the 23rd ult.; but the Lodge was almost immediately adjourned on the formal business having been gone through, on account of a large number of the brethren having their military duties to attend to.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.—The quarterly communication of Grand Chapter was held in the Temple, on Wednesday, the 7th February, the attendance being very limited. Present: Comp. Crohn, who acted as Z; Comp. Pattison, as H; Comp. Rev. E. Moore, as J.; Comp. W. H. White, E.; Comp John Hervey, as N.; Comp. Tombleson, as P.S.; Comp. Potter, as 1st A.S.; Comp. Bonamy Dobree, 2nd A.S.; Comp. Biggs, as S.B.; Comps. J. Biggs, as Stan. B.; Comp. Herbert Lloyd, D.C.; Comps. John Havers, Thomas Parkinson, J. H. Goldsworthy, C. Baumer, R. Gibson, Leech, W. Farnfield, G. Elkington, Hewlett, Newton, Allen, Robinson, &c., &c. The Chapter having been opened in due form, the minutes of the last quarterly communication, and the report of the Committee of General Purposes were read and confirmed. A petition was then presented from the Howe Lodge, No. 857, Birmingham, praying for a Charter to enable them to establish a new Chapter in connection with their Lodge. The petition, which was very numerously signed by members of the Lodge, and of different neighbouring Chapters,

fixed the 10th Wednesday in every quarter as the day on which it was proposed to hold the Chapter, and nominated Comp. Wm. Goode, as Z.; Comp. J. H. Bedford, H.; and Comp. J. Thos. Goode, J. On the motion of Comp. Savage, seconded by Comp. Leech, it was unanimously resolved that the prayer of the petition should be complied with, and the Charter for the new Chapter granted. All business being ended, the convocation was closed in due form.

St. James's Chapter (No. 2).—This Chapter, which is attached to the Lodge of Antiquity, met at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 1st ult., when the principals for the ensuing year were elected. At the conclusion of the business, the Comps., to the number of 20, dined together, under the presidency of Comp. Henderson, M.E.Z. Comp. Thisleton, Secretary to the Boys School was amongst the visitors, and, in the course of the evening, made an eloquent appeal to the Comps. on behalf of the Masonic Charities.

British Chapter (No. 8).—This distinguished Chapter met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday 2nd February, when Br. Valence was exalted in a most able manner by Comp. Herbert Lloyd, P.Z., assisted by Comps. C. Robinson, Wm. Watson, M. Dawson, &c. After which the Companions proceeded to elect Comps. Herbert Lloyd Z.; Stowasser, H.; M. Dawson, J.; Purton Cooper, E.; Else, N. The Companions after the business of the Chapter was completed, sat down to an elegant banquet. In proposing the health of the grand officer, Comp. Lloyd, as Z., took occasion to express the pleasure he felt in seeing so excellent a member of their body as Comp. Dr. Rowe, a visitor, and he hoped to have the pleasure of meeting him for a number of years in Masonry, but more particularly the British Chapter. After a suitable reply from Comp. Rowe, the health of the principals was drunk, and the merits of Comp. Charles Robinson, in discharging his duties as Z., in conjunction with the H. and J., were adverted to in terms of strong praise. In returning thanks, Comp. Robinson stated that it had always been his study to perform his duties to the best of his ability, when called upon. He had been requested to hold the office for the ensuing year, but he had requested to be allowed to retire, in favour of Comp. Herbert Lloyd, *from a conviction of the benefit that must accrue to any* Chapter, by being presided over, by so eminent a Companion, and he felt exceedingly pleased to find the Chapter had fallen into his views in so unanimous a manner. In drinking the health of the visitors, the M.E.Z. expressed the thanks of the Companions to Comp. W. Watson, for his readiness at all times to render his valuable assistance in Masonry when called upon. The M.E.Z., in proposing the health of the newly exalted Companion said, that he had had the great pleasure of his acquaintance for a number of years, and although he had not increased in stature, he had increased in grace, which had been amply exemplified by his firmness and correct bearing during the recent ceremony. Comp. Valence, in a most eloquent and amusing speech, expressed his thanks, and trusted that his grace might still continue to grow in the esteem of his Companions. The health of Comp. Gibson, P.Z., was drunk in conjunction with the past principles of the Chapter, and in proposing the toast M.E.Z., said, that the thanks of the Chapter were due to the past principals, but to none more than to Comp. Gibson. In proposing the health of the officers, the manner in which they had discharged their duties was alluded to in terms of the highest commendation, and particularly to Comp. Bisgood, Treasurer, for the able manner in which he at all times maintained the interest of the Chapter.

Mount Moriah Chapter (No. 9).—This Chapter held a convocation at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 1st ult., Comp. Roberts, M.E.Z., presiding, when Comp. D. Gooch, was elected 2nd principal, and Comp. G. Lyons, 3rd principal. Comp. John Hervey, G.S., and P.Z., No. 7, honoured the Chapter by his attendance.

Enoch Chapter (No. 11).—This well appointed Chapter, held its meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday, February the 20th. The M.E.Z., Comp. Robert Williams, proposed three brethren for exaltation.

Mount Sinai Chapter (No. 49).—A convocation of this Chapter was holden at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on Tuesday the 20th ult., when three brethren were exalted into the Royal Arch, the ceremony being most beautifully performed by Com. Andrews, M.E.Z., assisted by the other officers of the Chapter.

JERUSALEM CHAPTER (No. 218).—The members of this Chapter met at the George and Vulture, Cornhill, on Tuesday, the 13th ult., Comp. Newsom, Z., presiding. The candidates for exaltation not being in attendance, the removal of the Chapter was taken into consideration. It being thought desirable this Chapter should, as far as was practicable, remain in an eastern locality, Burrell's Bridge Hotel, London Bridge, was proposed as its future place of meeting, which, after some discussion, was carried. It is to be hoped that a change of quarters will prove the advent of increased prosperity to this Chapter. The attendance of Companions on this occasion was very limited.

INSTRUCTION.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, HAMPSTEAD (No. 196).—On the 31st January, a number of the brethren connected with this and other Lodges, entertained Br. P.M. Thomas A. Adams at dinner, at the Holly Bush Tavern, in order to present him with the testimonials mentioned in our last Number. Br. Wm. Watson, P.M. (No. 23), presided, but owing to the inclemency of the weather, the attendance was not so numerous as had been expected.

After dinner, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honored, and the Worshipful Master said that Free Masons were ever ready to pay respect where it was earned by merit, and therefore it was that they were that evening assembled to do honor to the worthy Brother on his right, the value and extent of whose services to the Craft, it was difficult for them properly to estimate. He found himself in somewhat a different position from the rest of the brethren whom he saw around him, for he had known and esteemed Br. Adams before he became a Mason; his first communication with him had been, however, for a Masonic purpose, and he was happy to say, that he thought that it had had some influence in inducing him to join the Order. He had also a great respect for the Lodge in which his Brother had been initiated, and over which he now so worthily presided. Indeed, no one who would visit the Domatic, the Lodge to which he referred, could help remarking the vast amount of care Br. Adams had taken, and the great sacrifice, both of time and professional engagements, he must have made to ensure to the brethren so great an advance in the science as that which distinguished the members of that Lodge. No one could have listened to the beautiful manner in which he gave the illustrations of the several Lectures, and to the force with which he impressed the beauties and excellencies of Masonry, upon the minds of the brethren, without being pleased and enlightened, gratified and improved—(hear, hear, and loud cheers). His Masonry too, was, they all knew, orthodox. There was no doubt of that. These were circumstances which ensured for him a high place in Masonry; but the qualities which endeared him to every Mason of his acquaintance, and where in the Metropolis was there a Mason desirous of learning the science, who did not know Br. Adams? were his *bonhommie*, his kindliness of disposition, his willingness to instruct the learner, and his anxiety to attend to any office where his great talents could be made available for the furtherance of Masonic Instruction, as he held with him, that the most humble place in a Freemason's Lodge, was yet a post of honour. Now, they were aware that nothing so much redounded to the renown and credit of Masonry, as a strict adherence to the ritual, and that was observable in all the Masonic labours of Br. Adams. He had, in fact, in every way so endeared himself to the Craft, that he was that night in a position to receive from their hands a recognition of his industry, his perseverance and high talents—(hear, hear). He was delighted that it should have fallen to his lot to present that token—a token which held out a bright example to their younger brethren, and set before them the glorious truth that each man had but to do his duty, and he was sure to meet his due reward. He considered that in presenting Br. Adams with that token, the Craft had done honour to themselves, and it was a proof of their excellency as Masons, that they had been able to estimate the worth of their excellent Brother—(hear, hear). Here, addressing Br. Adams, the Worshipful Master said, Br. Adams, it affords me inexpressible pleasure to present to you, in the name of our brethren, this jewel. The inscription which it bears, will, I hope, ever recal to your memory the pleasurable feelings of this

evening, and the remembrance of those esteemed brethren who have done themselves the honour of attending here to night; with them, I wish you many years of health and happiness. May the great Spiritural Architect who formed the Universe, ever have you in his keeping. May he bless you. May he prosper you. These, Sir, are mine and their sincerest aspirations—(Cheers).

Br. Hazard, P.M., 196, in presenting the memorial from the St. John's Lodge of Instruction, said, that it had fallen to his lot to perform one of the most pleasing duties that could befal one man who respected another. After the truly Masonic speech of the W.M., it would be out of placeif he were to follow him in the same strain. His duty was to present to Br. Adams the testimonial voted to him by the St. John's Lodge, Hampstead, and, in doing so, to set before the brethren how it was that testimonial had been earned. When Br. Adams became W.M. of the St. John's Lodge, he said that there was in it plenty of ready material to make good Masons, but that a workshop was required for such a purpose; and knowing that a Lodge of Instruction would be of the greatest benefit to the Lodge, he granted his warrant for the opening of one, that the Hampstead Masons might make a further progress in Masonry, Having so originated the Lodge of Instruction in which they were now met, he had not forsaken it, for, in the first year of its working, he visited it thirty-two times. Now, that circumstance demonstrated that he must have had the good of the Lodge at heart, for they all knew that he could not have journeyed so often from London without great sacrifice of his time and professional engagements and great expense—(Hear, hear). They might ask what Br. Adams had done during the thirty-two visits to which he referred. He would tell them what he had done. He had worked 62 sections of the first lecture, 11 of the second, and 20 of the third—(Hear, hear, and cheers). He had, besides, assisted in working many more, and had several times worked the ceremony of each degree. That working had proved most instructive to the brethren, and for himself he would say, that his first inquiry on reaching the door was if Br. Adams was present, and he was always delighted to receive an affirmative reply; for without disparaging other Masonic teachers, he could always understand the lectures when given by their excellent and worthy brother (Hear, hear). Having thus inadequately, he was sorry to say, endeavoured to lay before the brethren how it was that Br. Adams had deserved the testimonial at their hands, he should now speak of the testimonial (Hear). It was in itself a beautiful thing, and he was delighted with it. He had, however, to confess that he had failed in his endeavours to read it, because some of the letters must, he was sure, have been invented since his school-boy days—(Laughter). Joking apart, the design was most beautiful, and the penmanship chaste and exquisite. Here, turning to Br. Adams, he said:—If, sir, I have been unable to read it, I hope and trust that you will have health and strength to read it for many years to come; and, when summoned to the Grand Lodge above, may you leave it as a proud heirloom to your family, so that in years to come your child may be able to say in exultation, "See how my father was respected." Believe me, sir, it is a grand thing to be able to point in honourable pride to such a testimonial, and that it is a significance beyond that pride. It says, can a bad child come from such a stock? And I am glad to find that you, sir, are in your children one of the happiest men I know. May that happiness ever abide with you, and may every other species of happiness attend you—(Cheers).

Br. Adams arose with deep emotion to express his acknowledgments for the presentations, and said that he tendered to his brethren his sincere and grateful thanks for the honour they had done him; and he had to confess that, from the eloquent and able manner in which the W.M. and Br. Hayward had performed the parts which had devolved on them, he found himself in some difficulty to find language adequately to express his feelings. It could not but be highly gratifying to him to find that he was held in such high esteem by the brethren; for he valued their esteem, and hoped he should never be found unworthy of it—(Hear, hear). He should never forget the address he had received from the W.M. when he was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and was informed by him that

the badge with which he had been invested, not only pointed out his rank in the Order, but was also to remind him that he was called on to supply instruction to those in inferior degrees of the Craft. He believed that he had ever acted on that principle—(Hear). Indeed, nothing afforded him greater pleasure than his endeavours to extend the influence of Freemasonry, founded, as it was, on the purest principles of piety and virtue, and, foremost of all, on brotherly love, by the exercise of which they were taught to regard the whole human species as one family, high, low, rich, and poor, created by the same Almighty Being, and sent into the world for the mutual aid, protection, and support of each other. That was, they knew, the grand principle on which Freemasonry united men of every country, sect, and opinion, and, by its unerring dictates, conciliated a true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance. Brotherly love was, he was sure, the motive which influenced the brethren in paying him the high compliment with which he had that night been honoured, and for which he, in a great measure, felt indebted to the zealous and untiring efforts of their esteemed Secretary, Br. Aldrich. He felt he owed that Brother a deep debt of gratitude. In conclusion, he had to say that the testimonials with which he had that night been presented should always remind him of those beloved brethren to whose liberality he was indebted for them, and of the many kind faces which he saw around him. The pleasurable feeling of that evening should never leave his breast while the G.A.O.T.U. allowed him to sojourn here. He should retain it until time was no more, and until he received his summons to attend the Grand Lodge above. Again assuring them of his eternal gratitude, he begged leave to drink health and prosperity to them all.

The health of the W.M. for the evening and a variety of other toasts having been drunk, the company separated, after spending a most agreeable evening.

Universal Lodge (No. 212).—The members of this Lodge held their anniversary meeting at the Falcon Tavern, Fetter Lane, on Tuesday, Feb. 6. The ceremony of Passing was ably performed by Br. M. Attwood, P.M. On the arrival of Br. Law, W.M., of the Parent Lodge, and Master for the evening, who was assisted by Br. Sargeant, of the Middlesex Lodge, No. 167, as S.W., and Br. Christie, of No. 212, as J.W., the Lodge was resumed to the First Degree. The fourth and fifth sections of the first Lecture were worked by Brs. Crawley, Secretary, and Hill, Treasurer, in that style of excellence for which this Lodge is so much distinguished.

After the unanimous election of Br. Bincks, of the Enoch Lodge, No. 11, as a joining Member, the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet to celebrate the 47th anniversary of this Lodge of Instruction.

After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the W.M. proposed the Parent Lodge in connection with Br. Hill, P.M. Br. Hill, in returning thanks on behalf of the Members of the Universal Lodge, alluded to the readiness of the Past Masters at all times to give their sanction and assistance to the Lodge of Instruction, which had proved so excellent a school, not only for members of the Parent Lodge, but to those of many other Lodges which attended it.

The Universal Lodge of Instruction, in connection with Br. Crawley, Secretary, was next proposed.

Br. Crawley expressed the difficulty he felt in returning thanks to the toast, owing to having been prevented by business from attending the Lodge so regularly as he could desire; but he was well convinced of the benefits derived from Lodges of Instruction. This had been fully borne out by the Universal, in which he had seen members (when he first had the pleasure of joining), whose Masonic knowledge was very small, and who had afterwards ranked amongst the most distinguished in the Order, not only for their working, but for their charitable and brotherly feeling. Br. Crawley concluded by saying, that as he had experienced the difficulty of gaining Masonic instruction, he should, as heretofore, be always happy to afford it to others whenever it laid in his power.

The health of the W.M. in the Chair, and Master of the Regular Lodge, was then drunk, and most honourable mention being made of the able and efficient manner in which he at all times discharged the duties of his office.

The W.M., after a most unaffected and suitable reply, proposed the health of the visitors, and expressed the pleasure he felt at all times in meeting brethren from the country who visited the Lodge. With the toast he coupled the name of Br. Bincks, the joining member, whom he trusted he should long have the pleasure of meeting as a member.

Br. Bincks in reply stated, that he had been led to join the Lodge from its high character for working, a character which he had seen fully borne out that evening. It was his opinion that Lodges of Instruction were of the greatest importance in furthering the interest of Masonry, for though he in no way objected to brethren enjoying themselves over the banquet, he considered that so far from that being the object (as supposed by some of the uninitiated), it was only a means by bringing brethren together from different Lodges—of rendering the bond of brotherly love more universal and binding.

The W.M. then proposed the health of the Past Masters, and in doing so expressed the thanks of the members to them, and more particularly to Brs. Attwood and Naghten, whose exertions had rendered such valuable assistance to the Lodge.

The health of the Stewards was then proposed, in connection with the Chairman and the host, Br. Chas. Ireland. In giving this toast, the W.M., in the name of the Lodge, thanked Br. Ireland for the handsome and liberal manner in which he had provided the banquet, and for his readiness at all times to give assistance in Masonry when called upon.

The health of the officers having been drunk, the brethren retired, after spending the evening in the greatest harmony, enlivened by some excellent singing.

Albion Lodge (No. 9).—We understand that this long established Lodge of Instruction will have their annual supper somewhat earlier than usual this year. It is fixed for Thursday, March the 29th, at Br. Testar's, Union Tavern, Air-street, Piccadilly. We can, without fear of contradiction, say that this Lodge has turned out some of the best working Masons in London; and when we inform the Craft that Br. Rackstraw will preside upon the occasion of the annual supper, faced by Br. Watson, we are sure we need say no more, as their names will be enough to fill any table, however large and long. The above brethren will be assisted as Stewards by Brs. Allen, Burton, Caulcher, Copus, Dyte, Gladwin, Kardall, Murray, Tyrrell, and Newton, Hon. Sec.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

DEVONSHIRE.

St. John the Baptist Lodge, Plymouth (No. 83).—On February 6th, the members of this old and influential Lodge held their usual monthly communication. Br. Pollard, P.M., P.P.G.T. for Devon, &c., &c., passed two brothers to the second degree, in his usual impressive and effective manner. A gentleman was balloted for, but being prevented from attending, his initiation will probably take place at next Lodge meeting. Br. Deacon moved that the thanks of the brethren be presented to Br. Gower, for his very kind present of a perfect Ashlar stand, and which was passed with acclamation. The Lodge was closed in peace and harmony, at 9 o'clock, many visitors from neighbouring Lodges favouring the brethren with their presence, and the banquet that followed. This thriving Lodge instead of being second, is at the top of the tree as regards the efficiency of its present officers.

Lodge of Fortitude, Stonehouse (No. 122).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 14th February, when Br. P.M. Doidge raised a brother to the sublime degree, in a manner worthy the occasion. The Lodge was

closed in love and harmony, at 10 p.m.; the brethren retired to refreshment, served in a style that reflected great credit on the purveyor.

HARMONY LODGE, PLYMOUTH (No. 182).—This rising Lodge met shortly after 6 o'clock, p m., on the 5th February, when Br. P.M. Watts raised a brother to the sublime degree of a M.M., after which the newly elected Master, Br. Earle, initiated a gentleman, in an exceedingly able manner—Br. Earle from his Masonic age, or rather youth, giving great promise of future excellence. The Lodge closed in full accordance with its "Title," at 9.30, the brethren retiring to refreshment, served in Br. Watts' usual style of superiority.

STAR OF BRUNSWICK LODGE, DEVONPORT (No. 185).—The members of this respectable Lodge met on Wednesday, the 7th February, when Br. Gidby, P.M., most ably initiated a gentlemen into the science. The Lodge was closed at 9.45., in perfect harmony, and the brethren retired to a supper of the most recherche description, for which great praise is due to the indefatigable exertions of the Stewards, and which was acknowledged by bumpers to their health and prosperity. Many visitors favoured the brethren with their presence.

LODGE OF SINCERITY, PLYMOUTH (No. 224.)—This most respectable Lodge met on February 12, in St. George's Hall. Labour being ended, the Lodge was closed in unanimity at 8.45, and the brethren retired to supper (at their own houses). At a Lodge of emergency held on the 19th, Br. Damant, the W.M., most ably passed a brother to the second degree; labour being ended, the brethren retired to refreshment, and spent an hour most harmoniously. Brothers from other Lodges being present—the emergency in which this Lodge is worked, should be an example of how *well* things can be done when the heart is in the matter.

LODGE OF CHARITY, PLYMOUTH (No. 270).—The members of this Lodge of "hearty good fellows," met as usual on the Tuesday, 20th inst. The business of the evening (which was not laborious), being ended, the brethren retired to refreshment at 8.15. p.m., having been favoured with the company of several visitors.

DURHAM.

LODGE OF INDUSTRY, GATESHEAD (No. 56).—The sum of £10 has been contributed by this Lodge to the Royal Patriotic Fund.

BOROUGH LODGE, GATESHEAD (No. 614).—The brethren of this Lodge assembled on Monday, the 19th Feb., in their Lodge room, at Br. Bunton's, the Black Bull Inn, Gateshead, for the installation of Br. Phillip Holloway, W.M. elect for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was ably performed by Br. Wm. Dalziel, P.M., and P.G.D.C. for Northumberland. The W.M. then proceeded to appoint and invest the following brethren as officers for the year:—Brs. John Hopper, P.M.. S. Joel, S.W.; D. W. Spence, J.W.; W. Dalziel, D.C.; W. Johnson, Treas.; R; Fell, Sec.; Peter Brown, S.D.; J. Terry, J.D.; R. Jefferson, S.S.; J. Rose, J.S.; D. O'Neill, I.G.; Alex. Dickson, Tyler. The ceremonies having been concluded, the brethren dined together in the Lodge room. The W.M. occupied the chair, supported on his right by Brs. Geo. Weatherhead, P.M., and P.P.G.I.W. for Northumberland; W. Dalziel, P.M., and P.G.D.C. for Northumberland; W. Johnson, P.M. and P.P.G.I.W. for Northumberland; and George Weppel, P.M.; and on his left by Brs. John Hopper, P.M.; Wm. Berkley, P.M. and P.G.S.W. for Northumberland; Wm. Punshow, P.M.; and John Cook, W.M. St. Peter's Lodge, 706. The vice-chairs were ably filled by the S.W. and J.W. The usual Masonic, loyal, and patriotic toasts were given, and most heartily responded to, and the evening was characterised by that love and harmony so peculiarly belonging to the Craft. We cannot omit to state that the greatest praise is due to Br. Bunton, for the *recherche* entertainment provided on the very interesting occasion.

HAMPSHIRE.

PORTSMOUTH LODGE (No. 717).—The installation banquet of the Worshipful Master, Br. Joseph J. Galt, was held at the above Lodge on the 1st February. The

W.M. was supported by the Provincial Grand Master, Br. Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart.; the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Br. Charles E. Deacon, Esq.; the Past Grand Warden of England, Br. Lord George Lennox; the Immediate Past Master, Br. Batchelor; and Past Masters of the Lodge, Brs. G. Stebbing, E Galt, W. Mitchell, and Dr. Owen; the Worshipful Master of the Sussex Lodge, Br. Slade; Br. Captain Atkinson, Br. J. Hills, Br. Pinco, and other visiting Brethren. At the Installation of the W.M. on the 11th ult., the following Brethren were appointed to hold office:—Br. M. Frost, S.W.; Br. Castell, J.W.; Br. Luke Camwell, S.D.; Br. Rake, J.D.; Br. W. Cavander, T.; Br. H. Hollingsworth, Secretary; Br. Weston, I.G.; Br. Way, Tyler. The banquet, by Br. Crofts, of the George Hotel, was well provided.

LANCASHIRE—East Division.

Keystone Lodge, Facit (No. 469).—This Lodge held its anniversary festival of St. John, on Wednesday, January 10th. The Lodge was opened in due form at the hour of 4 o'clock p.m., in the first degree. The minutes of the former Lodge night were read and confirmed. The Lodge was opened on the second degree, when the W.M. elect, Br. Abraham Shackleton, was presented for the purpose of being installed. The Lodge was then opened in the third degree, and a board of installed Masters formed, when the ceremony of installation was most impressively performed by Br. John Leach Holland. The W.M. appointed the following brethren as his officers, namely:—Brs. Charles Farrow, S. W.; Joseph Collingwood, J.W.; James Hoyle, S.D.; Adam Hill, J.D.; and James Rawstras I.G. The Lodge being closed down to the first degree, was called to refreshment, and an excellent dinner being provided, the brethren did ample justice to the good things of this world. After dinner, and the usual Masonic toasts had been given, Br. Edward Whitworth, at the request of the W.M., said he had one more toast to give, which he hoped would be drunk in a bumper. He would propose health and happiness to Br. John Leach Holland, whose services to the Lodge it would be impossible to adequately reward. He then proceeded to say;—Br. Holland, the brethren have delegated to me the pleasing task of presenting you with this token of their esteem, not as a reward or payment for services, but as a token of their appreciations of those services; may you long live to wear it, and may it be as a memento of time to prepare you for eternity, and may your childrens children for many generations, keep it as an heirloom in the family, and look upon it with proud satisfaction as a token of the esteem in which you were held among your friends and brother Masons. The present, a valuable gold watch and appendages, having the following inscription neatly engraved upon the inner case ("From the Brethren of the Keystone Lodge, No. 469, of F. and A. Masons, to Br. John Leach Holland, as a token of their esteem"), was then handed to Br. Holland, and his health drunk with the greatest enthusiasm. Br. Holland, almost overpowered with emotion, made a few brief remarks in reply, but having no previous intimation of the gift, it had come upon him most unexpectedly, and his looks, more eloquent than words, testified to the intensity of his feelings. He resumed his seat amidst the most hearty cheering of all the brethren. It was altogether a scene that will long live in the memory of all who had the pleasure of witnessing it. The Lodge having resumed labours, finally closed at half past eleven, p.m.

Tudor Chapter, Oldham (No. 344).—The annual meeting of this Chapter was held on Monday the 19th inst., when the following officers were installed for the ensuing year:—Comps. Thomas Mattinson, Z., by R. Holt, P.Z; John Bamford, H., by R. Holt, P.Z.; W.H, Brideoake, J., by J. Gaitskell, P.Z.; S. Smith, of 177, Manchester, J., by J. Gaitskell, P.Z ; D. Evans, S.E.; J. H. Hayes, S.N.; J. Booth, Treasurer; Abraham Milnes, Prin. Sec.; Bros. H. W. Litler, Solicitor, and Wm. Ogden, Cotton Manufacturer, both of 344, were afterwards exalted. At the conclusion of the business of the Chapter, the Companions sat down to refreshment, and after spending a couple of hours in harmony, retired at eleven o'clock, much pleased and gratified with the evenings proceedings. This Chapter having been recently completely refurnished looks remarkably well, the ceremonies are

performed correctly in a becoming manner, and the meetings are consequently interesting and well attended.

NORFOLK.

LODGE OF FRIENDSHIP, YARMOUTH (No. 667).—On the 23rd January, the members of this Lodge held their anniversary dinner at the Duke's Head Inn, when Br. William Lucia was installed into office as Worshipful Master, and on which occasion he presented the Lodge with a large and handsome Bible.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

ST. PETER'S LODGE, BYKER, NEAR NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (No. 706).—The brethren of this Lodge have subscribed the sum of ten guineas to the Royal Patriotic Fund. Br. John Cook, W.M. of the Lodge, has received a truly fraternal letter from Br. Major Powy's, acknowledging the receipt of the above sum.

THE ROYAL ARCH.—CHAPTER DE SUSSEX, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (No. 586).—On Wednesday, the 14th Feb., the members of this excellent Chapter held their anniversary meeting at Freemason's Hall, Bell's court, Newgate street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, when the following Comps. were installed officers for the ensuing year:—Comps. R. W. Todd, G.; J. S. Challoner, H.; G. Beldon, J.; J. R. Hodge, E.; H. Bell, N.; G. P. Birkenshaw, P.S.; T. Hornsby, Janitor. The Comps. then visited the Chapter de Swinburne, No. 24., Freemason's Hall, Blacket street, after which the members of both Chapters partook of an excellent supper, provided for them by Comp. Rogerson of the Crown and Thistle Inn.

OXFORDSHIRE.

APOLLO UNIVERSITY LODGE, OXFORD (No. 460.)—On Friday the 16th Feb., the brethren of this Lodge assembled in the Masonic Hall for the purpose of assisting in the installation of the Worshipful Master elect, Br. J. W. Malcolm, of Christ Church. The ceremony was conducted by the retiring Worshipful Master, Br. W. W. Beech, and was performed in an admirable manner. On the conclusion of the ceremony, the W.M. appointed the following brethren to be his officers for the year:—S.W., Br. W. W. Harrison, M.A., Brasenose College; J.W. Br. Hon. W. J. Vernon, Christ Church; Chap. Br. Rev. John Sedgwick, M.A., Magdalen College; Treas. Br. W. Thompson; Sec. Br. Hon. Gerald Dillon, Balliol College; S.D. Br. H. Barter, Merton College; J.D. Br. J. E. Codrington, Brasenose College; D.C. Br. the Earl of Lincoln, Christ Church, and Br. W. Gainer, St. Mary Hall; I.G. Br. J. C. Farnborough, Magdalen Hall; Organist, Br. Dr. Elvey, New College; Stewards, Brs. Viscount Garlies, Christ Church; G. Drummond, Christ Church; C. Dalison, Merton College; and Hon. Henry Wodehouse, Christ Church; Tyler, Br. Tipton. In the evening, about 70 of the brethren sat down to an elegant entertainment, in the banquet-room, when the W.M. presided, supported by Br. Alderman Sadler, the present Mayor of Oxford; Br. Alderman Spiers, late Mayor of Oxford; the late W.M. of the Apollo Lodge, Br. Beech; the late W.M. of the Alfred City Lodge, Br. Randall; the W.M. of the Cherwell Banbury Lodge, Br. Rev. Vernon Blake, M.A.; the W.M. of the Churchill Lodge, Br. T. Joy; the officers and brethren of the Apollo and Alfred Lodges, and many other brethren from various parts of the province. In the course of the evening, Br. Alderman Spiers announced that the Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland, had conferred the appointment of Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire, vacant by the death of the Rev. C. J. Ridley, on Br. Captain Bowyer, and that his lordship looked forward to the pleasure of installing that brother into his office, in Oxford, in the course of a short time, when it was probable that a large number of the officers of Grand Lodge would accompany his lordship. The announcement was received with great applause, for the appointment is one so well deserved, that it cannot fail to give satisfaction to the whole province. Br. Bowyer holds the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire, and the general expectation is that that office will be conferred on Br. Spiers, who was honoured by the Earl of Zetland with the appointment of Grand

Sword-bearer of England for two years, and who has done much to raise the character of Masonry in this province, and to place it in its present proud position.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

MENTURIA LODGE, HANLEY (No. 606).—In addition to our notice of the proceedings at the St. John's Festival of the above Lodge, when the Rev. W. H. Wright, P.G.C. for Staffs., was installed as W.M., we have the pleasure to add that testimonials of respect were presented to Br. W. K. Harvey, the Immediate Past Master of the Lodge, and also to Br. John Horton, J.W., for their efforts in reviving the Lodge, and the latter for continuing in office as J.W. In the course of the banquet, the R.W.P.G.M., Colonel Vernon, in an able speech, spoke encouragingly of the efforts which had been made to bring the Lodge into an effective condition, and the K.W., Thos. Ward, Esq., D.P.G.M., in alluding to the fact that Masonry had now been introduced in Hanley fifty years, called attention to many Masons, claiming this as their mother Lodge, who had attained to high honours in the Craft, and had adorned Masonry by the excellence of their private life. He trusted that the improvements in Masonic administration and the example of so many excellent Masons would so stimulate the efforts of the Menturians, that the next fifty years of Masonry in Hanley should be years of increasing efficiency and prosperity.

WARWICKSHIRE.

BIRMINGHAM MASONIC FULL DRESS BALL.—On Wednesday evening, the 14th of February, the seventh annual ball took place at the Royal Hotel, Birmingham, under the patronage of the Right Honourable Lord Leigh, P.G.M., and the Masons of the province, in aid of the funds of the Masonic Provident, Benevolent, and Annuity Association. About 220 were present, and dancing commenced at half-past nine; the Past Deputy Grand Master of the province (one of the founders of the Association), Dr. Bele Fletcher, and Mrs. C. W. Elkington, opening the ball, from which time, till nearly daylight, the company kept up the merry dance with unabted spirit, to the enlivening music of Hayward and Tilly's band. Supper was announced at 12 o'clock, when the whole suite of rooms were thrown open, and substantial refreshments, with ices, tea, and coffee were replenished the whole night. The Stewards were indefatigable in their exertions, and the Secretaries, Brs. Kettle, Charles W. Elkington, and Empson, exerted themselves, not without success, in making all enjoy the delightful evening. Br. Dee officiated as musical steward, and Br. Ridgway as director of ceremonies. We should here mention, that this excellent Association has derived most substantial assistance from these annual re-unions, upwards of £600 having been realized and invested. We never remember to have passed a more enjoyable evening—the magnificent dresses of the lovely women present, intermixed with the various Masonic dresses of Craft, Provincial Royal Arch, and the higher grades, gave brilliancy to the scene. The room was most tastefully decorated with the banners of the provinces of Warwick and Stafford, the various Lodges, and the standards of the Knight Templars. The supper was most excellent, consisting of the great delicacies of the season.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

DUDLEY ANNUAL MASONIC BALL.—This annual ball took place at the Dudley Arms Hotel, Dudley, on Thursday evening, February 8, and although it was not so numerously attended as on former occasions, which may be ascribable to the severity of the weather, and the postponement from the time originally fixed, on account of the sudden and lamented death of the late Edward Dixon, Esq., it nevertheless passed off with its wonted eclat. The company numbered about 120. The room was, as usual, tastefully decorated with the various banners and ensigns of the Order, and the brethren appeared in full Masonic costume. Dancing commenced at nine, and was continued with great spirit to the strains of Synyer's band, till about five on Friday morning. The supper arrangements were of the first character, and reflected great credit on the respected hostess, Mrs. Smith,

and Br. Gilmer's services as master of the ceremonies were fully appreciated. Amongst the company present were :—Br. H. M. Wainwright; J. S. Bourne, and Mrs. Bourne; C. H. Homer, Esq.; Joseph Walker, Esq.; S. D. Foreday, Esq., and Mrs. Foreday; H. Elliott, Esq.;—Tierney, Esq.; J. S. Naylor, Esq;—Cresswell, Esq.; W. Williams, Esq.—H. T. Hickman, Esq.—Hooman, Esq.; Brs. Masefield, P.M.; Dennison, P.M.; Dudley, P.M.; John Aston P.M.; Bateman, P.M.; Brettle, P.M.; Morris, P.M.; Bristow, W.M., 313, and Mrs. Bristow; Williscroft, W.M., 838; Dudley, P.M., and Mrs. Dudley; A. Patterson; J. Ward; Miss Patterson; G. R. Shaw, and Mrs. Shaw; W. Wilkinson, and Mrs. Wilkinson; T. C. Shaw, and Mrs. T. C. Shaw; Clarke, and Mrs. Clarke; Cooper, Wright, Sparrow, Kenwick, &c.; Mr. T. Hancox; Mr. Yardley, jun.; and the Misses Yardley; Miss Bourne; Miss Piggott; Miss Wilkinson; Miss M. A. Wood; the Misses Wilson; Miss Saunders; the Misses Minty; and Mrs. Whitehouse.

Harmonic Lodge, Dudley (No. 313).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting, on Tuesday, the 6th February, and was honoured with the attendance of a goodly number of visitors. Br. Bristow, W.M., raised two brethren to the sublime degree of M.M., and passed one to the degree of F.C.

SCOTLAND.

BANFFSHIRE.

St. Andrew's Lodge, Castle Street, Banff (No. 60).—A meeting of this Lodge, duly called, was held on the 31st January, when there were present the R.W.M., Br. James Frazer, Jun., Br Dr. Whyte, Br. Rust, Br. Barclay, Br. Mackay, Br. Duff, and Hendry. There were also present from the St. John's Lodge, Br. Bairnsfather, Br. Mc Kenzie, &c., &c. The R.W.M. stated that he had called the present meeting for the purpose of initiating two gentlemen from Mc Duff, viz. :—Mr. Alexander Carney, and Mr. John Cruickshank, both of whom were well recommended, and he had no doubt would make excellent Masons. The candidates were then initiated into the Order. At the conclusion of the business, about 26 gentlemen sat down to an excellent refreshment, and spent the evening in the greatest Masonic harmony.

On the 6th of February, the members of the same Lodge held a meeting for the purpose of advancing three Brothers, viz. :—Brs. Cumming, Carney and Cruickshank, to the sublime degree of M.M. The R.W.M., well assisted by Br. Bairnsfather and his officers, performed the ceremony in a manner reflecting the highest credit on the Lodge and the Craft. The business being over, the Brethren retired to refreshment. The R.W.M., in giving the first toast, The health of the Honorary Grand Master, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Fife, said that nobleman was ever mindful of the Brethren of the Lodge—(cheers). The next toast, the W.M. said he had great pleasure in proposing, as it was the health of the very worthy, respected and excellent Mason, whose services were at all times of great benefit to the Lodge; he alluded to Br. Bairnsfather. The Brethren, about 27 in number, very cordially drunk the toast with great Masonic cheering. Br. Bairnsfather returned thanks and said, he was highly delighted to observe the spirit of fraternal union and harmony which prevailed amongst them that evening. Whilst these feelings existed among them, their Order must flourish, and he trusted they would always be found pre-eminent in their various Lodges—(cheers). After a few more toasts, interspersed with excellent songs, the Lodge broke up in the most perfect harmony.

On the evening of the 13th of February, the Lodge held its annual ball, and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, by nine o'clock the spacious hall was well filled with the most respectable and fashionable company of the neighbourhood. Dancing was carried on with great spirit, and, at twelve o'clock, the party retired into the drawing room to partake of an excellent supper. The cloth being removed, the R.W.M. requested Br. Dr. Whyte to give a toast. Br. Whyte, in his excellent

and masterly style, said: "Ladies and Gentlemen, I am called upon by our R.W.M to give a toast, and I am sure you will all be delighted to join with me in drinking to our Honorary Grand Master, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Fife, who is at all times mindful of the brethren of this Lodge—(cheers). I believe, if possible, the noble Earl has this year exceeded his usual liberality, having specially ordered some choice boxes of fruit from London for our ball, besides sending us a large cake, with wines, ham, venison," &c. The toast was received with vehement cheering. The gallant Br. then said, "the next toast, ladies and gentlemen, you will also cordially join me in, it being the health of our Lady Patroness, Mrs. Gray. It is well known to us all that, were it not for our Lady Patroness, we never should have had such an excellent and splendid hall as we now have"—(loud cheering). The dancing was then resumed, and kept up with considerable spirit until four in the morning, at which time the Lady Patroness concluded the ball in a reel with the R.W.M.

St. John's Lodge, Banff.—The members of this Lodge held a meeting on the 30th January, for the purpose of raising two F.C.'s, Brs. Alex. Bairnsfather and Charles Innes, to the sublime degree of M.M. Br. James Mason performed the ceremony in his usual excellent style, and requested the D.M. to deliver the charge, which was done in a very impressive and forcible manner; after which the evening was spent in a way known only to the brethren of the "mystic tie."

THE COLONIES.

WEST INDIES.

Philanthropic Lodge (No. 515), Port of Spain, Trinidad.—At the first regular meeting of the above-mentioned Lodge, for December, Br. Daniel Hart was installed for the fourth time W.M. He appointed the following office-bearers:—George Telford Malvaney, S.W.; Cleomens A. Rousseau, J.W.; Louis Serville, Treasurer; Frederick Ralph Hart, Secretary; Alexander Savary, D.C.; Michael A. Hart, S.D.; Charles Bradshaw, J.D.; Louis Bath and Auguste Hypolite, Stewards; and John Jas. Elie, I.G.—There was a full attendance of members. As soon as the Lodge was closed, the members all hastened to the east, to congratulate Br. Hart. Soon after the brethren were summoned to the banquetting-hall. The members formed a line, and received their W.M. with cheers and clapping of hands.

INDIA.

CALCUTTA.

St. John's Day.—Masonic Procession.

The Brethren of the Mystic Tie assembled at the Freemasons' Hall, at half past 9 A.M., yesterday. The Grand Director of Ceremonies marshalled the Lodges for the Procession, in the following order:—

Governor General's Band.
Lodges, according to Juniority,
viz.:
Killoinning in the East,
St. John's,
Courage with Humanity,
Marine,
Humility with Fortitude,
True Friendship,
Industry and Perseverance,
Star in the East,
Each Lodge preceded by its Banner.
Grand Director of Ceremonies, (Bro. Roberts.)

Two Grand Stewards.
Grand Pursuivant,
(Bro. Cohn.)
Grand Organist and Past Grand Organist,
(Brors. Emanuel and Clingen.)
Grand Superintendent of Works,
(Bro. Fraser.)
Grand Deacons,
(Brors. Gray and Crawford.)
Assistant Grand Secretary,
(Bro. W. H. Hoff,
Bearing the Book of Constitutions.)
Past Grand Registrar,
(Bro. Harris.)
Grand Registrar and Deputy Grand Registrar,
(Brors. Colebrooke and Clarke.)
Grand Chaplain,
(Rev. Bro. Bellew.)
Past Grand Wardens,
(Brors. Montcith and Burking Young.)
Grand Wardens,
(Brors. Howe and Abercrombie.)
Banner of the Grand Lodge,
Borne by M.M.

A Grand Steward } Volume of the Sacred Law, Borne by a M.M. { A Grand Steward

Banners of the Lord Patron and of the
Grand Master,
Borne by Wor. Bro. Hennessey and Bro. Kiernan.
Deputy Grand Masters,
(Brors. Hoff and Watson.)
Grand Sword Bearer,
(Bro. Rennie.)

A Grand Steward } PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER. { A Grand Steward

Grand Tyler,
(Bro. Daniel.)

At 10-45 A.M. the procession arrived at the gate of St. John's Church. The Brethren halted, and opened to the right and left. They then entered the church in reversed order, and took their seats as they entered. The music continued playing until the whole of the procession entered the church. The two front pews were occupied: viz., that on the left of the pulpit by the Grand Master, with the Deputy Grand Masters, one on each side of him; that on the right of the pulpit by the Past Deputy Grand Master, with the Grand Wardens, one on each side of him; and so on.

The service and prayers were read by the Rev. A. Hamilton, and an eloquent sermon was preached by the Rev. J. M. Bellew. The text was taken from the First Epistle General of St. John, chap. iv., verses 20 and 21:—

"20. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar. For he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

"21. And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God, love his brother also."

The collection at church, for the benefit of the Masonic Fund of Benevolence, was made by four Grand Stewards, two below and two in the galleries.

After divine service the procession was reformed by the Grand Directors of Ceremonies, and returned to the Freemasons' Hall in the same order as before, halting at the gate, and entering as at the Church. The grand officers and representatives of Lodges proceeded direct to the Lodge-room, on the third floor, while the other Brethren unrobed and retired.

The Grand Lodge then opened, and proceeded to business. The Grand Trasurer retired into the adjoining room, and with the assistance of the Grand Deacons ascer-

tained the amount collected at church; and on their return into the Lodge-room they reported the result, which was Co.'s Rs. 652, and odd.

At the conclusion of business, the Grand Lodge closed; and in the evening the officers of the Grand Lodge, together with the representatives of Lodges, met at the Hall, and partook of a dinner provided in the banquetting room.

The Brethren appeared in *full masonic costume* on this occasion, it being a Farewell Dinner to the R.W. the Provincial Grand Master, previous to his departure from Calcutta.—*Bengal Hurkara, Dec. 24th,* 1854.

AMERICA.

ALABAMA.

YORKVILLE.—The Yorkville Lodge (131) is reported to be in a harmonious and prosperous condition, and steadily increasing in numbers.

FARRAR LODGE, ELYTON (No. 8).—On St. John's day, Br. W. S. Mudd was installed W.M. of this Lodge, when he appointed the following brethren to their respective offices:—Robt. T. Emond, S.W.; Nathaniel Hawkins, J.W.; James A. Mudd, Sec.; Thomas J. Wright, Tr.; M. T. Porter, S.D.; T. M. Adkins, J.D.; W. S. Earnest, Tyler.

CARROLTON.—On St. John's day, a new Lodge was opened in this town with great Masonic splendour. A large body of visitors from other Lodges of the province participated in the ceremony. The Carrolton Lodge makes the 221st on the Alabama Register.

ARKANSAS.

LITTLE ROCK.—The annual communication from Grand Lodge of the State Arkansas, was held at the City of Little Rock, immediately after the close of the sittings of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, a notice of which we inserted in the last number of the *Masonic Mirror*. At this communication which lasted four days, 53 out of the 84 Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, were represented. The M.W., the G.M. Br. Luke E. Barber, presided. The Grand Secretary reported that he had received from 75 subordinate Lodges in fees for dispensations, charters, &c., a sum of 2,495 dollars 60 cents. Several admirable addresses were read and the proceedings terminated by the appointment of the following officers:—R.W. Nat. G. Smith, Grand Master; R.W., W. D. Lee, Grand Lecturer; R.W., W. K. Patterson, Grand Orator; R.W., D. F. Armstrong, Sen. G. Warden; R.W., A. S. Huey, Junior Grand Warden; R.W., R. L. Dodge, Grand Treasurer; R.W., T. D. Merrick, Grand Secretary.

CALIFORNIA.

VERY SUSPICIOUS.—The Masonic Hall building in Bucksport, says the *St. Francisco Times,* is occupied, the lower story as a Lyceum, the upper as a Lodge Room. On Friday night, the 8th Dec., the lower room was occupied by the members of the Lyceum, at 11 o'clock a bright light was seen in the Lodge Room; on last evening the Lodge Room was occupied by the Masons, and the same light was seen in the lower story. The respective rooms were locked up at the time. The appearance of the lights has given rise to various speculations. Some of the old women, of the masculine gender, finding blood, hair, etc., on the stairway, suppose that a *Mason had been murdered,* or a Know Nothing initiated. The old women, of the feminine gender, are sorely puzzled.

GEORGIA.

ALBANY.—ALBANY CHAPTER (No. 15).—At the last meeting of this Chapter, the following Comps. were elected as the governing officers for the ensuing year:—F. M. Thompson, H.P.; J. S. Moreman, K.; James M. Mercer, Scribe; R. T. Bradly, C.H.; J. H. Watson, P.S.; W. H. Owens, R.A.C.;—S. D. McLendan, M. 3d V.; Joel E. Hunter, M. 2d V.; John Turner, M. 1st V.; A. P. Grier, Tr.; S. D. Irvin, Sec.; Jesse Floyd, Sentinel.

Albany Lodge (No. 24).—The brethren of this Lodge at their last meeting made the following disposition of offices for the ensuing year:—A. P. Grier, W.M.; E. A. Roberts, S.W.; H. G. Alexander, J.W.; Mark Smith, Tr.; J. M. Mercer, Sec.; J. C. Gardner, S.D.; J. D. Kettlehand, J.D.; Jesse Floyd, Tyler.

Clinton Lodge, Savannah (No. 54).—On St. John's day, Br. Wm. Cox was duly installed W.M. of this Lodge, when he nominated the following brethren to their respective offices:—Brs. G. W. Hardcastle, S.W.; —— Parker, J.W.; W. M. Davidson, Tr.; D. H. Galloway, Sec.; E. O. Withington, S.D.; H. Sheppard, J.D.; R. Thomas, Tyler.

Royal and Select Masters.—The Grand Council of the members of this degree was also held here at the same season with the Grand Lodge of the Craft, under the presidency of the Z.I. Grand Puissant Br. J. M. Barrere. The condition of this branch of the Order was represented to be in a highly flourishing condition in Ohio. At this Communication thirteen Councils were represented out of nineteen, which is a fair evidence of zeal on the part of the Companions. The following preamble and resolution were submitted by Comp. Dodds, and agreed to:—"Whereas, It is of the utmost importance to R. and S.M. Masonry, that uniformity in the work and lectures of those degrees should exist; and, whereas, such uniformity can be more readily produced, while those degrees are cultivated to but a limited extent, (as is the case at present,) than it could be if they were more extensively diffused; and, whereas, there does exist discrepancies in the work and lectures of those degrees in different parts of the country, and also in our own jurisdiction, and believing it to be incumbent upon this Grand Chapter to use every effort in her power to cure such evils: Therefore, Resolved, That the T.I. Grand Puissant be requested to open a correspondence with the G. Puissant of our sister Grand Councils, and urge upon them the necessity of a Convention of Delegates from each Grand Council, whose duty it shall be to confer together and adopt some uniform mode of work for those degrees, and report to the next Communication of this Grand Council."

ILLINOIS.

De Kalb Centre.—De Kalb Lodge (No. 144), is located in this village. It commenced work in September last, and, of course, its numbers as yet are few; but, all "good and true" men, and brotherly love, relief and truth prevail among the members. At the annual communication for the election of officers, held on St. John's day, the following named brothers were elected for the ensuing year, viz:—T. C. Wetmore, W.M.; E. G. Gilbert, S.W.; J. H. Burget, J.W.; Samuel Brookings, Treas.; James Brookings, Sec.; J. D. Butts, S.D.; B. F. Humphrey, J.D.; Richard Jemis, Chap.; S. R. Hyslop, and James Daniels, Stewards; and Norris Sweet, Tyler.

Jacksonville.—The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Illinois, at its last annual convocation, held at Jacksonville, was thus addressed by the M.E., Br. M. J. Noyes, G.H.P. Companions:—We are now at the close of the Masonic year; twelve months have elapsed since the last Grand Annual Convocation of this Grand Body, and we are again permitted to meet under such favourable circumstances as to call forth, from every Masonic heart, deep and abiding sentiments of gratitude to the Supreme G.H.P. of the Universe, for all the multiplied and varied manifestations of his enduring goodness. As men and citizens, we have shared the common blessings of a benificent providence upon our favoured land—and as Masons, we have especial cause of congratulation and joy for the unusual measure of prosperity which the All Wise has vouchsafed to our honoured and beloved Institution. And we have the greater cause for thankfulness, that this unusual degree of prosperity of our noble Order, is not partial to our own particular locality and jurisdiction, but that it pervades our common country, and extends to other lands. The star of Masonry is everywhere in the ascendant, and especially is R. A. Masonry flourishing and expanding its benign influences to an extent hitherto unknown; and my greatest fear is, that amidst so much prosperity, sufficient caution may not always mark the "guarded way."

NEW JERSEY.

TRENTON.—The Grand Lodge of the State of New Jersey met on St. John's day, at ten o'clock, and adjourned about five p.m., the following day, with a representation from 28 Lodges. Every act of the session was characterized with perfect harmony, good feeling, and fraternal courtesy. The following are the officers elect:—Edward Stewart, (re-elected), Grand Master; Samuel Reed, Dep. Gr. Master; John Hill, S. G. Warden; Dr. John H. Janeway. J.G. Warden; Elias Phillips, G. Tr.; Joseph H. Hough, Gr. Sec.; and John R. Chapin, Dep. Gr. Sec.

BURLINGTON.—On the 20th of December, the M.W. the Grand Master, Br. Edwd. Stewart, assisted by the R.W. Rev. Br. J. L. Lenhart, installed Br. John Rodgers W.M. of this Lodge, and he appointed Brs. Ellwood Conner, S.W.; John F. Kelly, J.W.; E. E. Boudinot, Treasurer; James Watts, Secretary; Rev. Thos. Neall, Chaplain; Samuel Keys, S.D.; Ferd. Brother, J.D.; Lewis Gotta, Tyler.

NEW YORK.

UNITY LODGE, NEW LEBANON (No. 9).—The following brethren were, on the anniversary of the Lodge, elected to their several offices for the ensuing year:—Nelson Tanner, W.M.; Loren L. Kingsley, S.W.; Joseph K. Royce, J.W.; John C. Clark, Sec.

KINGSTON LODGE, KINGSTON (No. 10).—Br. Warren Chipps was, on St. John's day, installed W.M. of this Lodge, and he appointed the following brethren his officers for the year ensuing:—Brs. William Templar, S.W.; Jacob H. Dubois, J.W.; Augs. Schoonmaker, Tr.; P. H. Van Buren, Sec.; Wm. M. Hayes, S.D.; James Brown, J.D.; Thomas L. Johnston, 1st Steward; John S. Langworthy, 2nd Steward; Henry S. Van Ettew and Peter E. Cole, M. Cer.; Aaron, Newkirk, Tyler; C. D. Westbrook, Chap.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER, LEBANON (No. 13).—The following Companions constitute the board of officers for 1855:—Henry Hull, H.P.; Hampton C. Bull, K.; Elias Gates, S.; Henry D. Gay, Sec.

AMES CHAPTER (No. 88).—At the anniversary meeting of this Chapter, the following disposition of the several chairs and offices was made by the votes of the assembled Comps.:—P. P. Murphy, H.P.; T. Baker, Jr. K.; Wm. B. Lusk, Scribe; J. W. Steel, Capt. H.; S. L. Chase, P.S.; A. Furgerson, R.A.C.; A. Day, M. 3rd V.; B. M. Woods, M. 2nd V.; W. G. Richardson, M. 1st V.; James McKain, Tr.; W. W. Douglass, Sec.; B. Bunnell, Sentinel.

LOCKPORT LODGE, LOCKPORT (No. 73).—Br. Asher France, was at the last meeting of this Lodge, installed W.M. for 1855, and he appointed the following brethren to their respective offices:—Wm. B. Lusk, S.W.; O. F. Starkey, J.W.; J. D. Higgins, Tr.; E. D. Shriler, Sec.; B. H. Fletcher, S.D.; J. W. Steel, J.D.; B. Bunnell, Tyler.

LITTLE FALLS, HERKEMER COUNTY.—Lodge 181, belonging to this town, is reported to be in a very prosperous condition, and numbers above 60 members. The following brethren were, on St. John's day, elected to their respective offices: Micaiah Benedict, W.M.; John P. Bellinger, S.W.; Peter Snyder, J.W.; Charles Benedict, Tr.; M. R. Casler, Sec.; James H. Bellinger, S.D.; T. A. Burnham, J.D.; Rev. J. H. Skinner, Chaplain; Joseph Lee, jun., M.C.; E. G. Chapin, and S. J. Waters, Stewards; and Benjamin Klock, Tyler.

BOLIVAR, ALLEGHENY COUNTY.—The members of Macedonia Lodge, (258) and a number of visitors, assembled on St. John's day, at Forest Hall, to commemorate the Patron Saint, when the W.M., Br. S. G. S. Rowley, in a very appropriate and solemn manner, installed the following officers:—S. W. Thomas, W.M.; A. G. Williams, S.W.; D. A. Hix, J.W.; Alva Withy, Treasurer; C. B. Davy, Secretary; Charles Withy, S.D.; D. C. Root, J.D.; J. W. Hoyt, J. M. Curtiss, Stewards; Chester Davy, Tyler. After which he arose and addressed the audience in the following brief remarks, which were received with the most candid and profound attention. Worshipful Master, Wardens, and brethren of Macedonia Lodge (No. 258), of F. A. M.—The transactions of this day call up in my mind the many pleasant meetings I have enjoyed

of a like kind. On casting my mind back to my Masonic birth-day, I find that sixty eight festivals of St. John's day have past; yet I am prepared to say the moment of regret that I was a Mason has never flitted across my mind; but, on the contrary, I can say it has ever been a solace, a comfort, and sure foundation. Brethren, I can say with our worthy patron, "*it is good for me to be here.*" Although a furious tornado has passed over our Masonic Mount, yet our hallowed Order stands unshaken. As the howling, angry winds tries the strength of the timber on the mountain top, hoarsely shaking and bending many almost to the earth, yet as it passess they return with a mighty spring to their perpendicular standing, the better prepared to withstand a more severe shock. They have been tried and found able to stand; the timber is of fine and consolidated texture; the heart is sound; the roots have struck deep into the earth; the tendrils thereof have laid hold of the abiding Rock of Ages, and their tops are aspiring to Heaven! But, alas! in the same grove we see many mutilated; instead of comparing with the plumb-line in beauty of standing, are bending in disorder, casting their fruit and unhallowed seeds to cowans and eavesdroppers.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Bentley Bridge.—At the last communication of the Grand Lodge, a charter was granted for holding in this town a Lodge of the brethren under the designation of St. Paul's Lodge, and on the 5th of January, the D.G.M., Br. Green, installed its first officers. The Lodge is in a flourishing condition, and the members are fully determined to admit no material which will not pass the *square*. The above determination of the members of this new Lodge is surely worthy of all praise, and we hope it may be extensively initiated. We should have no cause to fear from the large increase of initiates wherever Freemasonry is planted at the present time, if all Freemasons would come to the same determination. We have no doubt that the members of this Lodge will pursue the course they have resolved on. They have taken the proper step to become intelligent Masons, and this is a sure guarantee that they will also be *bright*.

OHIO.

Chillicothe.—At the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, lately held in this city, the M.W., G.M. Br Zacius V. Bierce, gave to the brethren a most interesting account of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge for the past year, and of his own labours to promote the welfare of the Order. He concluded his address in the following terms. In closing this communication, and with the present session my official connection with the Grand Lodge, I have the pleasing consciousness of restoring the charge entrusted to me unfarnished, and the ancient landmarks still well defined. It has been my aim and object, by discipline, to maintain the moral reputation of our Order, that Masonry may not be regarded as a post for characters to lean on that are too rotten to stand alone. Intemperance and profanity I have treated as sins that required reproof, admonition, suspension or expulsion. If tolerated in our Lodges, we may as well lay aside our claim to the designation of a moral institution. To preserve the ancient landmarks, promote the morals and preserve harmony and uniformity, I have devoted over two months of my time in visiting Lodges and attending on the business of the Order, besides what I have spent in my office; travelled over twenty-five hundred miles, written over one thousand letters, decided one hundred and nine cases of Masonic jurisprudence which were submitted to me, granted seventeen dispensations for new Lodges, and expended over two hundred dollars in money. No one can discharge the duties of Grand Master properly and efficiently, short of devoting at least two-thirds of his time to that service. There being now two hundred and sixty Lodges in the state, and over five thousand miles of travel, to visit them all would require all his time,. Finally, brethren, having discharged the duties entrusted to me to the best of my abilities, I must ask you to charitably attribute any defects in my administration to the head, and not to the heart; and I shall be happy to aid you, in the choice of my successor, in selecting one who, with more means at his command than I can control, is willing to devote them to the cause of Masonry and the consequent good of man.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

SOLOMON LODGE, CHARLESTON (No. 1).—At the regular stated meeting of this Lodge, held on the 1st of January last, a handsome silver cup was presented to the efficient and worthy Secretary, Br. Andreas Meyer, by the brethren, as a token of their esteem for his high moral worth and Masonic character, as well as for the able and correct manner in which he has discharged his duties since his election to that honourable station. The inscription on the cup reads as follows: "As a token of esteem and regard of the brethren of Solomon Lodge, No. 1, A. F. M., to their Secretary, Andreas Mazure Meyer, January 1st, 1855." The cup has also engraved on it, the square and compasses and cross pens, emblematic of the office. This testimonial was presented to Br. Meyer, by Br. P.M.E. Thayer, in a neat and appropriate speech, expressive of his own warm feelings, as well as the high estimation entertained by all of the members towards their Secretary. The following brethren were elected to their respective offices for the ensuing year:—J. W. Lee, W.M.; W. A. Wilson, S.W.; W. Reed, J.W.; E. Thayer, Treas.; Andreas Meyer, Sec.; ——— ———, S.D.; J. Dowell, J.D.; G. C. Relyea, and A. Marines, Stewards; J. H. Schmidt, Tyler.

UNION CHAPTER (No. 3).—At the last meeting of this Chapter, the following Comps. were installed as follows:—T. Allason, H.P.; W. Reed King; P.H.P.C. Fromberger, Scribe; P.H.P.E. Thayer, Treas.; A. Meyer, Sec.; J. Lymons, C.H.; C. C. White, P.S.; W. A. Skrine, R.A.C.; R. W. Seymour, M. 3d V.; H. W. Schroeder, M. 2d. V.; E. Huckel, M. 1st V.; J. H. Schmidt, Sent.

GERMANIA CHAPTER (No. 12).—The following Comps. were at the last meeting of this Chapter elected to their respective offices.—F. Melchers, H.P.; J. G. Ranken, King; H. N. Ellerhorst, Scribe; J. H. Jemgluth, C.H.; H. H. Miller, P.S.; J. Ansel, R.A.C.; H. H. Hahn, M. 3d V.; A. Melchers, M. 2d V.; J. Campren, Treas.; B. Bollman, Sec.; J. H. Schmidt, Sent.

VERMONT.

LEE LODGE, CASTLETON.—At the last meeting of the brethren of this Lodge, Br. A. C. Hobson was installed W.M., and he appointed Brs. A. T. Woodand, S.W.; F. H. Smith, J.W.; S. H. Root, Sec.; Smith Sherman, Tr.

VIRGINIA.

NORFOLK LODGE (No. 1).—Br. Thomas F. Owens, on being installed W.M. of this Lodge for 1855, made the following disposition of the other officers:—Br. H. S. Williams, S.W.; Henry Yeatman, J.W.; Wm. M. McKenney, Sec.; T. E. Sale, Tr.; Wm. Reynolds, S.D.; J. J. Tompkins, J.D.; Wm. Rogers, Tyler.

THE ATLANTIC LODGE, NORFOLK.—The following brethren are the officers for 1855, viz.:—George L. Upshur, W.M.; James Y. Leigh, S.W.; Wm. A. Graves, JW.; T. M. Crowder, Sec.; John P. Biddle, Tr.; John Bonsall, S.D.; R. M. Butler, J.D.; Wm. Rogers, Tyler.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE THREE ARTICLES OF NOAH.*

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR AND BROTHER.—I am very sorry to perceive that scarcely have you made four respirations in your Editorial existence, than you are likely to be strangled by the incubus of controversy and disputation.

It is vexing, that after having answered a Correspondent's question to the best of your ability, and which answer I will presently make appear to be correct, you should

* By a Printer's error we were made in our last number to refer to the 1st section of the 1st lecture, instead of the 4th section in that lecture.

have been subjected (in my opinion) to so uncourteous a letter as that inserted in your last number, from Z***.

I believe it to be a fact, patent to all, that the road to knowledge (whether Masonic or other) is both steep and rugged, and beset with many difficulties; and I further believe it to be generally acknowledged, that the student, who does not bring to his aid humility, patience, industry and perseverance, will never arrive at the goal. From the petulancy exhibited by your Correspondent, when he writes about *irritation*, and leaving off in *disgust* (rather inelegant), upon so trifling a matter, I am fearful he must be minus some of the qualifications just mentioned.

It appears that in a Book of Constitutions, about ninety years old, are these words—"Cement of the Lodge," and "the three Articles of Noah," for which an explanation is required, and which (premising that our system is veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols), I will endeavour to give—

1st "Cement of the Lodge."

In the Book of Constitutions, of the respective dates of 1827 and 1841, page 14, may be read thus:—"*cultivating brotherly love, the foundation and cape-stones, the cement and glory of this antient fraternity;*" from which it is clear that the word *Cement* has a meaning, and of the highest character, being in accordance with the commandment given by the great founder of our holy religion—"*Love one another.*"

2nd "Three Articles of Noah."

On reference to the Great Light in Masonry, it will therein be found that Noah, is stated to have been a "just and perfect man," and "a righteous man;" here the meaning is equally clear and distinct; these were Noah's *Articles*, his distinguishing characteristics; what more noble! what more grand! what more beautiful! would that the Great Architect of the Universe inspired all men with the desire for such! then the produce of love and charity would abound more extensively. In addition, see the 39th Ques. and Ans. 2nd Sec. 1st *Lecture; also the address to the candidate at the N.E. part of the Lodge.*

Having thus proved, as I believe, the answer you gave to the question, a correct one, I hope that in future no one will rashly denounce conclusions which are just and proper as "*lame and impotent.*

In conclusion, I will only add for the information of your Correspondent, that the *riddle*, he has been so much *puzzled* about, the mole hill over which he has stumbled, no longer exists—in neither of the *Books* in my possession are the words in question to be found. Wishing all success to the "*Mirror*,"

I remain, Sir and brother, yours very fraternally,

Peckham, February 19, 1855. P. McC., late P.M. 198.

[We have received other letters on the same subject, for which we thank the brethren, but as while agreeing with us in opinion, they throw no further light upon the matter, we do not think it necessary to publish them.—Ed. M. M.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MASONIC MIRROR.

Dear Sir and Brother,—Some twenty years ago, I recollect a cant phrase of "Flare-up," being all the rage. A gentleman of some standing as an elocutionist, wrote a parody on the then vulgarism, to the tune of "Miss Bailey," wherein the following prophetic verse may be found:—

"Young Nick, the Czar, has too long been
The gallant Poles oppressing,
But soon the Sons of Freedom mean
To give this brute a dressing;
We'll gladly spend our hard-earned coin
To blow this Russian Bear up,
Old England too, with France will join,
In such a glorious "flare up."

Feeling very anxious for your success, I offer the above as a small contribution, and trust that other brothers will unite and flare up a little to support your good efforts.

T. B.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Revelations of a Square. By the Rev. G. Oliver, D.D. *Spencer.*—Dr. Oliver is so well known as a Masonic writer, that we need scarcely inform the brethren that this is a most valuable addition to our literature. A portion of these revelations have already appeared in the late *Quarterly Freemasons' Magazine,* but in their collected form, revised and extended by our Rev. Brother, they lose none of their value from that circumstance. These revelations, which treat of the sayings and doings of eminent free and accepted Masons, from the revival of the Order in England, in 1717, by Dr. Desaguiliers, to the reunion in 1813 under their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Kent and Sussex, are supposed to be made by an old silver square which formerly belonged to Sir Christopher Wren, presented to Dr. Oliver by a friend. The square having, in the imagination of the worthy Doctor, taken upon itself the power of speech, recounts how, after Sir Christopher Wren ceased to be G.M., Freemasonry fell for a few years into disrepute, until it was taken up by Dr. Desaguiliers, a Fellow of the Royal Society, who was initiated in the present Lodge of Antiquity. Under his influence, rules and regulations were laid down for the guidance of the Craft, which again sprung into eminence, and has ever since continued to hold a prominent position amongst the institutions of the world. The work is full of anecdote in reference to distinguished Masons, and records many peculiar usages and customs, which, though now obsolete, are not the less interesting to the student in Freemasonry, as evincing the spirit which actuated the Craft in times gone by. The revelations are illustrated by several curious engravings, and are certainly well worthy the attention of the brethren.

The Ear in Health and Disease, with Remarks on the Nature and Prevention of Deafness. Illustrated with Wood Engravings. By William Harvey, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Royal Dispensary. *Renshaw.*—This is a very important, well-written, and concise work, and displays with clearness and in simple language the diseases of the ear and the causes of deafness. Br. Harvey has met a difficulty—that of giving to the reader at a moderate price and size, a work of this nature; and we doubt not it will have an extensive circulation, as coming from one who can write from much experience on the subject of deafness and its many causes.—We may add that Br. Harvey is one of the medical officers of the Freemasons' Girls' School.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR FEBRUARY.

THE MINISTRY.

As we stated in our last, the Ministry resigned just as we were going to press. After ineffectual attempts on the part of Lords Derby and John Russell to form an Administration, Lord Palmerston received her Majesty's commands to do so. After some delay, the Ministry was announced to have been completed on the 6th February; the only alterations from the Aberdeen Ministry being the secession of the Premier, the Duke of Newcastle, and Lord John Russell—Lord Palmerston taking the position of First Lord of the Treasury; Lord Panmure, Minister of War (the Secretaryship of War being suppressed); Mr. Sidney Herbert, Secretary for the Colonies; Sir George Grey, the Home Department; and Lord Granville returning as President of the Council. Things remained in this state until the 21st, when, in consequence of a portion of the Government being opposed to the appointment of the Roebuck Committee, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Sidney Herbert, and Sir James Graham resigned. Their offices have since been filled up by Lord John Russell as Colonial Secretary, Sir George Cornewall Lewis as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Sir Chas. Wood as first Lord of the Admiralty. The Presidency of the Board of Trade (vacated by Mr. Cardwell) and other minor appointments still remain vacant.

Lord John Russell is absent from London, having proceeded to Vienna to take part in the conference between the representatives of the five Powers for peace, on the basis of the four propositions of the allies.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Nothing was done in the House of Lords on the 1st of February, beyond receiving the explanation of Lord Aberdeen, for the resignation of their offices in the Ministry, by himself and colleagues. On the 8th, Lord Derby entered into an explanation, showing that he had endeavoured to form an administration on the basis of coalition, and failed. Lord Panmure, as a member of the Palmerston Administration, assured the House of his determination to conduct the war with the utmost vigour.

On the 16th, the House resumed after the adjournment, consequent on the change in the Ministry, when Lord Ellenborough complained of the system of promotions in the army, and also, that General Simpson, who had distinguished himself as Commander of the Army at Scinde, had not been employed in the Crimea. Lord Panmure in reply, agreed in the necessity of improving our present military system, and stated his willingness to carry out, as far as practicable, the various suggestions that had been thrown out. Referring to the exertions of the new Administration, he remarked that General Simpson had been sent to the Crimea to discharge the new duties of "chief of the staff."

On the 19th, a Bill was brought in, to enable men up to the age of 34, to enlist in the Army for limited periods. The Bill was read a second and third time on the 20th—its operation being limimited for a space of three years.

On the 22nd, Earl Granville stated, that it was the intention of the Ministers to advise the Queen to fix a day for humiliation and prayer, in connection with the war.

On the 24th, Lord Panmure informed the house, that Sir John Burgoyne was coming home from the Crimea, to resume his old duties—and he would be succeeded by a younger man, General Jones. Every arrangement was being made to prepare summer clothing for the troops.

On the 26th the only business transacted, was the reading for a second time a Bill previously introduced for facilitating criminal prosecution.

In the House of Commons, on Monday, 1st February, the time was occupied with Ministerial explanations relative to their resignation of office.

On the 2nd, on the call of the Speaker, Lieut. Gen. Sir De Lacy Evans rose in his place, when the vote of thanks passed to him on the 15th Dec., was read from the chair. The Speaker then addressed him in a speech of excellent taste, adverting to the brilliant services of the gallant officer at Alma, Balaklava, and particularly at Inkerman. For these services, the Speaker had to tender in the name and by command of the Commons of England, their unanimous thanks. General Evans replied, and the proceedings were ordered to be entered on the minutes. Nothing further of consequence took place, until the 7th, when writs were moved for, for those Ministers who had accepted or exchanged office—and some estimates were moved for regarding the Ordnance in Committee of supply to the extent of £1,200,000, and agreed to. On the following day, £1,615,600, was voted in excess of the Navy estimate of 1854—5. On the 9th, £2,000,000 was granted from the Consolidated Fund, to make good deficiencies in the votes of supply for 1855.

The House did not meet again until the 16th, to give Lord Palmerston and Mr. Sidney Herbert an opportunity of being again returned to the House. On that day, Lord Palmerston entered into a variety of explanations relative to measures for improving the Army, and expressed a hope that Mr. Roebuck would not proceed with his resolution for appointing a Committee of the House, but that gentleman expressed his intention to persevere, in which he was supported by Mr. Disraeli, and other prominent members on both sides of the House. In Committee of supply, the House voted £10,716,338 for the Navy, and £5,181,465 for the transport service.

On the 19th, after another discussion relative to Mr. Roebuck's Committee, the House went into a Committee of supply on the Army estimates. The number of men to be provided for, was stated at 193,575, (of whom 14,950 were foreigners)—the money vote being £7,00,000. On the same evening, the Chancellor of the Exchequer carried a resolution, upon which to found a bill for abolishing the Newspaper Stamp, and allowing all printed papers to pass through the post at a rate of 1d for every 4 ounces, or fractional parts thereof.

On the 20th, a discussion took place on the naval blockade of Russian ports, and

it was explained it could not well have been more vigorously enforced in the early part of the war, without detriment to British subjects, who had paid for merchandise, but a more vigorous blockade would take place in the coming season. The enlistment bill was brought in, and read a first time, and on the following day for a second time.

On the 23rd, it passed through committee, and Lord Palmerston informed the House of the resignation of three of his colleagues.

The bill was read a third time, on the 23d, and the ex-ministers entered into various explanations of their reasons for withdrawing from the Government, because they could not agree to the appointment of Mr. Roebuck's committee. After some discussion, the committee was appointed as follows, by consent of the Premier: Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Drummond, Sir John Pakington, Colonel Lindsay, Mr. Layard, Mr. Ellice, Lord Seymour, Sir George C. Lewis, General Peel, Mr. Bramston, and Mr John Ball—the quorum to be seven.

The House was engaged in Committee of Supply on the 26th, passing Army Estimates.

THE WAR.

All the accounts from the Crimea show that though no operations of importance have taken place, everything is much improved, the troops being better clothed, fed, and housed, than for some time previously. The navvies were proceeding rapidly in their work of making a railway to the camp. The health of the troops appears to be improving, and the Russians, who are stated to have received considerable reinforcements, have made several sorties which the French have successfully repulsed, though upon one occasion a French mine had been destroyed. Omar Pacha, with his troops, had arrived at Eupatoria, and a telegraphic despatch from Lord Raglan, dated the 18th, states that, on the previous day, he was attacked by the Russian troops, 40,000 strong, but the Turks beat them back with great loss. The Turkish loss is said to be inconsiderable, but Selim Pacha, commanding the Egyptian brigade, was killed. The British men of war, under the Hon. Captain Hastings, covered both flanks with great effect.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

A verdict of wilful murder was returned by a Coroner's jury at Chatham, on the 6th, against Elizabeth Laws, a servant aged seventeen, for having destroyed her Mistress, Mrs. Bacon, a widow lady aged 79, by beating in her skull. The girl alleged that the crime was committed by two men, and to give a colour to her story, had slightly cut her own throat.

The Will o' the Wisp, a screw steamer was wrecked at Lambay, on the Coast of Ireland, during a storm on the 8th, and her crew and passengers numbering about 20 individuals, all lost.

A dilapidated house in Lower Road, Islington, fell on the night of the eleventh, and killed seven persons. The Coroner's jury have returned a verdict of accidental death, but censured the owner for having had repairs executed by an incompetent person without giving notice to the district surveyor.

The screw steamer Mauritius, belonging to the General Screw Navigation Company, was destroyed by fire in the Southampton Docks, on the 16th. She was of 1800 tons burthen, and valued at between £70,000 and £80,000.

During the month there have been various bread riots in the lower parts of London, Liverpool, Birmingham, and other parts of the country, owing to the severity of the weather having thrown large numbers of the working classes out of employ. Fortunately, no very serious damage was done, and as the frost after six weeks duration appears now to have passed away, so with the return of employment will all incentives to violence.

A disastrous fire occurred on the night of the 16th, at the Steam Saw Mills of Samuel Routledge & Co., Holland-street, Blackfriars-road, which rapidly extended to the adjoining buildings, causing the destruction of property to the estimated value of £150,000. Mr. Jackson, one of the Surveyors of the Sun Fire Office, was killed by the falling of a stack of burning timber.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

The Railway Companies have been holding their meetings during the past month; but it would be impossible for us to enter into anything like a detail of the proceedings. The dividend of the Great Western has been confirmed at the rate of 3 per cent., and the Directors have been authorized to raise £1,325,000 by the issue of 5 per cent. preference shares. The revenue has been unfavourably affected by the war. The South-Western dividend is at the rate of 5 per cent., and the revenue shews an increase through the military and naval movements at the port of Southampton; but it is stated that even under other circumstances a favourable result would have been manifested. The dividend of the London and North-Western has been confirmed at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, leaving a balance of £71,270 to be carried forward. The Great Northern dividend is at the rate of 5¾ per cent., and an agreement with the Ambergate Company has been arranged. The traffic of the North and South-Western Junction presents a steady increase, and the dividend is at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. The dividend of the Eastern Counties Company will be 7*s.* per share, carrying over £5080, which, with the former amount, constitutes a total of £11,642. The Directors of the London and Blackwall Company recommended a dividend of 4*s.* 6*d.* per share, leaving a balance of £385; the receipts exhibit an increase, and the widening of the railway to Stepney is proceeding as rapidly as circumstances will admit. The dividend of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company will be at the rate of 4 per cent. In the case of the North-Eastern Company, the proportion of dividend on the York and Berwick shares will be at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, and on the York and North-Midland at 2¾, while on the Leeds it will be at the rate of 6 per cent. on the first and second preference shares. The traffic on the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton line is improving, and the Directors have at length been enabled to declare the full dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. on the preference shares. At the meeting of the Midland Company, the dividend is equal to 3¾ per cent. on the consolidated stock, and in proportion on other descriptions. The line, it is stated, is worked in a satisfactory manner, and the arrangements with the London and North-Western and Midland Railway will, it is expected, prove advantageous. The dividend of the East Lancashire Company is at the rate of 4 per cent., and the Directors have been authorized to raise additional capital. At the meeting of the Bristol and Exeter Company the dividend of 4½ per cent. was agreed to, the report being received as satisfactory. Various guaranteed dividends have also been declared during the month.

A new project, for which the Bill has been already obtained, is before the public under the name of the Metropolitan Railway, to unite the Great Western, the Great Northern, and the London and North-Western Railways with the Post-Office. There will be half-mile stations throughout the centre of the Metropolis, and the line has already received most influential support.

The Royal British Bank has declared a dividend for the past year, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum. The reserved fund now amounts to £15,006.

The dividend and bonus declared at the half-year meeting of the London and County Bank, on the 1st February, made the return for the year 12 per cent. free of Income Tax. The Guarantee Fund now amounts to £69,000, and will be limited to £100,000.

The Crystal Palace Company held their half-yearly meeting on the 8th, when a dividend at the rate of 5 per Cent. per annum was declared, notwithstanding the Directors only recommended 4 per Cent. It was also resolved to raise £150,000 on preference shares bearing 7 per cent. interest, to complete the water and other works—the whole of which are expected to be ready for opening early in June.

BENEVOLENT.

The Committee of the Middlesex Hospital have placed 40 beds at the disposal of the Government, for the use of the sick and wounded from the seat of war.

The Royal General Annuity Society held its Anniversary Festival on the 14th, when nearly £400 was received as donations in aid of its funds, which are unduly depressed.

The Annual Dinner of the Stationers' Mutual Benefit Society took place on the

19th. During the ten years of its existence, £659 9s. 6d. have been expended in relief to members in their sickness, and £305 to members on the death of their wives, or, on the death of members, to their widows or nominees, making the total disbursed £964 9s. 6d.; and the invested fund now amounts to £1070.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Bill is to be brought into Parliament for the establishment of limited liability in Partnership.

Admiral Sir Charles Napier and the Earl of Cardigan were entertained at a grand dinner at the Mansion House, by the Lord Mayor, on the 6th, when the gallant Admiral declared that the Admiralty, and especially Sir James Graham, had prevented his taking active operations when he first proceeded to the Baltic, and had afterwards urged him to operations, which, if adopted, would have ensured the destruction of the fleet. Sir Charles's statements have been denied by the Admiralty and re-affirmed by him. Earl Cardigan briefly alluded to the Light Cavalry charge at Balaklava, and stated that he made it in obedience to orders, though contrary to his own judgment—a statement which he has since repeated.

Mr. Peto, the eminent contractor, who undertook the construction of a railway at Balaklava, has been created a baronet—and therefore has now become Sir Samuel Morton Peto.

Mr. Hume, M.P., died on the 20th, aged 79, deeply regretted by all political parties.

OBITUARY.

Br. Wm. Hardy.—On the 31st ultimo, Br. William Hardy, Clothier, Sunderland, aged 83 years, who had been a Master Mason for the last 56 years, and is reputed to be the oldest Freemason in England, was buried with Masonic honours. During his Masonic career, the deceased Brother initiated the late Earl of Durham, Sir Cuthbert Sharp, and many other eminent men, into the mysteries of the Craft. Brother Hardy was one of the annuitants of the Royal Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and their widows, from which he received £30 per annum.

Br. James Cosgrove.—Died on Friday, the 10th of February, Brother James Cosgrove, of the Old Concord Lodge, 201.

Br. Edward Charker.—This deeply-regretted and ever-to-be-lamented Brother departed this life rather suddenly on Tuesday, Feb. 6th, aged 64. Br. Charker was initiated in the Robert Burns' Lodge, No. 25, in April, 1842, and became W.M. in 1849, which office was most efficiently carried out by him. Br. Charker was one of the first twelve brethren that was exalted in the Robert Burns' Chapter, and filled all the subordinate offices until he became M.E.Z., in 1852. Br. Charker was one of the resuscitators of the Globe Lodge (Peter Gilke's Lodge), with Brs. Watson, Tombleson, Bennett, Newton, Goring, and B. Webster; he was also Treasurer of the Robert Burns' Lodge and Chapter up to the time of his death, and here his loss will be severely felt. Our late brother was interred on Tuesday, Feb. 13th, in the Brompton Cemetery. In addition to his relatives, Brs. Watson, Tombleson, P.M's. (No. 25), and Neat's, followed his earthly remains to the grave. We know that our worthy brother had great reliance in the G.A.O.T.U., and we trust he is now in the G.L. above. In the chapel of the Cemetery we observed Brs. Fox, Apted, Goring, and Newton P.M's. (No. 25), Langley, Blackburn, P.M. (Globe Lodge), Quelly, Goldschmidt, Sheen, Testar, Gladwin, Davis, Allen, and Privett, and more than twenty others, as friends and neighbours. A great number of his neighbours paid a further mark of respect to departed merit, by partially closing their shops and houses on the day of the funeral.

Br. Thomas Scrivener.—We regret to have to announce the death of this worthy Br., which occurred on the 21st ult., after a few days illness. Br. Scrivener was initiated in the Old King's Arms Lodge, No. 30, in 1835, and subsequently went through all the offices of the Lodge of which, at the time of his death, he was a P.M. and Hon. Sec. Br. Scrivener was a liberal supporter of the charities, having served the office of Steward at festivals of both the Girls' and the Boys' schools, in addition to that of G. Steward.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Booksellers in the Provinces wishing their names to appear as Agents for the "Masonic Mirror," are requested to forward their cards to our Office, with the address of their London agents.

Brethren having any difficulty in procuring the "Masonic Mirror," are respectfully requested to forward their orders direct to the Office, and we will find an agent to regularly supply them.

H. J. J.—The Numbers of the "Masonic Mirror" are all in print, and your Bookseller must, we presume, have been misled by his London agent in stating that they were not to be had.

We must request our correspondents to send their communications as early as possible in the month. Both delay and expense are incurred by a disregard of this rule.

The "Reminiscences of a Freemason," by a past Master of Lodge (No. 50), Ireland, are unavoidably postponed until our next number.

Several valuable communications must stand over until present arrangements are carried out.

P. M.—*The resolution prohibiting a Brother from sitting as W.M. for two Lodges at the same time, received the sanction of Grand Lodge, Nov. 29, 1847. We think it a very unwise resolution, as the brethren are the best judges of the claims of their members to preside over them, and a Master of a Lodge in London may have quite a distinct connection amongst his friends in the country.*

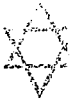
A Subscriber.—*The number of Widows who now receive Annuities from the Royal Benevolent Institution, is 13; and it is worthy of remark, that from the establishment of the Widows Fund in 1849, to the present time, not one of the Widows admitted to its benefits has died.*

H.—*The Companion alluded to had no right, under the Constitutions, to wear such frippery as gold lace upon his collar, although he is a P.Z. We should doubt whether he would be allowed again to enter G. Chapter with it, as we know it was observed and commented upon by others as well as H.*

J. J. C.—*We certainly think that the Master of a Lodge has the right to ask Visitors to withdraw whilst the Treasurer is making a financial statement, or during other private business concerning the interests of the Lodge only, and which it might be detrimental to be made known. To the second question, regarding the power of a Master to delegate his duties to a Warden, our correspondent will find by the Book of Constitutions, that he has that power, and that the Warden, whilst performing the ceremonies, takes his seat immediately to the right of the Master. Of course, should the Warden be a P.M. of the Lodge in which he was acting, or any other, he would take the chair. A P. Warden might be employed in like manner to perform the ceremonies, should there not be a P.M. in the Lodge capable of going through the duties—a state of things which we trust exists only in a very few, if any, of the Lodges.*

Ethée.—*At a Masonic ball held under the sanction of a Lodge, with directions to appear in Masonic clothing, we should consider ourselves bound to appear in the Craft Apron; but the Arch sash is also very generally worn upon such occasions.*

E. B.—*The —— is a very respectable and good Lodge. It is, however, in our opinion too numerous, and though we have the pleasure of the acquaintance of many of the brethren connected with it; we should not recommend any person to become a member who wishes to progress in the order, the more especially as our correspondent informs us he does not know any member of the Lodge.*



Is thanked for his kind communications. The R.A. jewels ought most certainly to be in accordance with the drawings in the Book of Constitutions. The difference observed originates in some old Jewels being still in use, and the too great fancy often shown for undue ornament. We did not defend the wearing of black gloves, but merely stated that we would not turn a brother out of Lodge for it, though we did not believe they would be admitted into Grand Lodge.

THE

MASONIC MIRROR:

APRIL, 1855.

THE GRAND LODGE AND THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

The Grand Lodge have adopted the proposition of the M.W.G.M., of which notice was given in December, and voted £1000 to the Patriotic Fund—though not with that unanimity we could have desired. Though we sincerely honour the opinions of those who felt themselves constrained to vote against the motion, on the ground that the funds of Grand Lodge were only applicable to the promotion of purely Masonic purposes, we yet agree with the G.M. that the Patriotic Fund is an exceptional case—and one which we think the Grand Lodge have done well, in not only taking into consideration, but most liberally supporting. It may be, that some of our Masonic brethren or their families will become partakers of the advantages offered through the Patriotic Fund, and should they do so, their gratification we are sure will be enhanced by the knowledge, that amongst the Subscribers, the Freemasons form no inconsiderable body. True it is, that many private Lodges (to say nothing of individual brethren) have liberally subscribed to the Fund—but the support so extended, would in a great measure have lost its importance and character, had the Grand Lodge not placed its seal of approbation upon what had been done, by most liberally heading the list with a subscription of sufficient amount to prove to the world the liberality and the power of Freemasons in their corporate capacity.

THE ASYLUM FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

A circular has been issued to the various Lodges of England, under the signature of Br. White, the G. Sec., calling for a little additional aid towards paying off the debt upon this building, and putting it in such a state that it may be referred to with pride and pleasure by the brethren—which cannot be the case whilst it is known that there is a debt against it. As we stated in our last, less than £1 per Lodge will be sufficient for the purpose, and any surplus obtained beyond the amount required will be devoted to the general objects of the Institution. Our advertising pages to-day,

show that the subscription has been well commenced—and we hope that in our next we may be enabled to state it has been successfully completed. Those of our brethren who intend to subscribe to the Fund, should recollect that their donations will assume the greater value in accordance to the promptitude with which they are forwarded to the Secretary.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

The festival of the Boys' School, which took place on the 14th ult., may be regarded as extremely successful, notwithstanding the attendance was not so numerous as we could have wished, and the banners of some of the stewards were altogether unsupported. A better chairman than the R.W.D.G.M. could not well be found, and sure we are that no brother could have heard his well-timed and judicious observations to the children without feeling an inward satisfaction that we have amongst the heads of the Craft, a nobleman who so truly understands and acts upon his Masonic obligations. The festival was well arranged, and did great credit to the stewards for the order with which everything was conducted, but we wish to persuade future stewards to abolish the glee-room as altogether an unnecessary surplusage to the entertainment of the evening. Let there be well-regulated tea rooms provided, in which the ladies can meet their friends at the close of the proceedings, but let the music cease with the chair being vacated—not to be renewed that evening. If, however, the stewards will persevere in keeping up what is felt by everyone to be little short of a positive nuisance, at least let them do away with, or abridge the half hour during which the brethren are not allowed to enter the glee-room after the chairman and his officers have quitted the hall. At the festivals of the Benevolent Institution and the Girls' School, last year, the time was reduced to five minutes, and was shown to work advantageously. In the course of the proceedings of this festival, the R.W.D.G.M. recommended that a second festival should be held towards the close of the season to aid the building fund, in order that the boys may be brought together under one roof, and their education be thereby placed under the closest supervision. We have no doubt, from the manner in which it was hailed, the proposition will be carried out and the second festival held, when the noble Earl has promised to head the subscription list with a donation of £50. We trust, when we get the school completed, the boys will not be marked with a badge like that, which in our opinion, it is a degradation to the brethren to let the girls wear. We should equally know them to be the children of the Freemason's school without the badge as with it, and we never see the red patch like a newspaper stamp on the sleeves of their frocks without a blush mantling on our cheeks, that the children of our brothers, because they may not have been quite so fortunate in the world as others, should be subjected to continually bear a degrading badge of charity about them. The holding of the second festival, when the stewards need not be trammelled by the useless forms of custom, will be also a good opportunity for trying the experiment of dispensing with the glee room. We warrant its success.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

Continued from page 202.

On the accession of James I., the great alteration in the style of building introduced in the former reign, became more generally adopted; the Gothic, which had been brought over by the Saxons, and in use for upwards of a thousand years, now gave way to the Italian or Augustan style, an innovation no doubt caused in a great measure by increased intercourse with the Continent; and it having become a general custom for gentlemen to travel for improvement, during which they could not fail to be fascinated with the remains of the noble works of our ancient Roman and Greek brethren, which caused them to imitate, if not to endeavour to excel them. To such an extent was this enthusiasm carried, that the word Gothic became almost synonymous with barbarism. But, perhaps, the greatest cause of the change, was the appointment by the King (who was a great patron of Masonry), of Br. Inigo Jones, as his acting Grand Master. This extraordinary man was born in London, 1572, and was the son of Mr. Innatius or Inigo Jones, a citizen and clothworker. He was educated at Cambridge; and first dsiplayed his genius in the art of designing and landscape painting. Under the patronage of the learned William Herbert, afterwards Earl of Pembroke, he made a tour of Italy, during which he suffered no work of merit to escape his observation. Architecture at length engrossed his attention, and he displayed such extraordinary ability in it, that Christian IV., of Denmark, appointed him his architect-general. After enjoying this post for some years, he returned to England, and was made architect to the Queen. He afterwards took a second tour in Italy, where he stayed some years, still improving his taste and perfecting himself in his favourite art. On the place of surveyor-general, of which the King had promised him the reversion, becoming vacant, he returned to England, and commenced ornamenting and enriching his native country with the fruits of his genius and industry; the great elegance and beauty of his classic designs, together with the increased security of the times, which rendered fortified dwellings unnecessary, and the improvement of all classes in arts and civilization causing a greater demand for ease and comfort. This being afforded by the Roman and Grecian style of architecture, was the principal reason of its great popularity; for although in the Gothic of the reigns of the VIIth and VIIIth Henrys', called Tudor, the most successful attempts had been made to adapt it to the increased luxury of the times, the majority were of opinion that it thereby lost its greatest beauties.

James employed the new surveyor-general to plan a palace at Whitehall, worthy of the residence of the Kings of England; and when the old banquetting house was pulled down, the King, with his Grand Master, Jones, and his Grand Wardens, William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, and Nicholas Stone, Esq., Master Mason to His Majesty, attended by many brothers in due form, and other eminent persons, walked to Whitehall gate, and levelled the foot stone of the new banquetting house with

"three great knocks," loud hussas, and sound of trumpets. At the conclusion of this ceremony, a purse of broad pieces of gold was laid upon the stone, for the masons to drink to the King and the Craft.

The want of parliamentary funds prevented more than the banquetting house (which contained the finest room, of the extent, since the times of Augustus,) being built. It was a magnificent building of three stories, and the finest piece of architecture executed in this reign. The beauty of its proportions were not to be surpassed, and its projections produced those happy effects of light and shade so highly esteemed in the best specimens of architecture. The ceiling of the grand room was richly painted, by the celebrated Sir Peter Paul Rubens, who was ambassador to the court of Charles I. It was considered one of the best performances and not to be surpassed by any in the world.

The Grand Master, Jones, was much esteemed by his craftsmen for the excellence of his government of the Lodges, which he constituted with bye-laws calculated to render them like the schools or academies of the designers, in Italy. He allowed good wages, and was much resorted to by Masons from all parts of the world. He held quarterly communications of the Master and Wardens, and an annual festival on St. John's day, when he was annually rechosen Grand Master, until 1618, when William, Earl of Pembroke, was elected in his stead; and being approved by the King, he appointed Br. Inigo Jones, his Deputy Grand Master. In this reign Masonry flourished exceedingly, and many eminent, wealthy, and learned men were accepted as brothers, who, by their works, reflected great honour on the Craft.

Charles I. became Grand Master, by prerogative, A.D. 1625, and was well skilled in the science of Masonry. He much encouraged foreign brethren, but none at that time were so distinguished for the beauty of their works as Inigo Jones and his disciples.

Henry Danvers, Earl of Danby, succeeded the Earl of Pembroke, in Solomon's chair, by the King's approbation, in 1630; and at his own cost, according to the design of Jones, his deputy, erected the beautiful gate of the physic garden at Oxford.

Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel, afterwards became Grand Master, and appointed Inigo Jones his deputy. Indeed, he was never out of office, being employed under this and the succeeding Grand Master, the Duke of Bedford, in many great works.

Inigo Jones again succeeded to Solomon's chair, and was employed by the King to build the stately gallery of Somerset House, fronting the Thames. It was also intended to carry on Whitehall, according to original Jones's plan, but this was prevented by the civil war, during which the King unhappily lost his life, A.D. 1649.

The unfortunate death of his Royal Master, closed with sorrow the last days of Inigo Jones; he died in the eightyeth year of his age, after a life of great usefulness, during which he reflected great honour on the land of his birth, and no more than justice has been done to his memory in *styling him the British Vitruvius.*

During this interval, between the death of Charles I., and the

Restoration of his son, much damage was done to many of the most beautiful works of art in different parts of the country, through the mistaken zeal of the puritans, who then governed the nation. As must be supposed, such destructive feelings were ill calculated to encourage masonry, consequently, all the information we can gain of this period, is, that the pupils of Inigo Jones met privately for their mutual improvement, and preserved their drawings and designs until the Restoration.

Charles II. was restored to the throne with great magnificence, on his birthday, the 29th of May, 1660. In his travels he had been made a Freemason, and having been a great observer of the finest buildings on the Continent, resolved to encourage the arts and sciences as much as possible in his own kingdom. The return of regal government was peculiarly favourable to the encouragement of Masonry, as the majority of mens' minds were tired of looking on the gloomy picture which had been so long held up to them, by those whose religious fears prevented their enjoying the beauties of nature and art which the Great Architect had bestowed on man. Their narrow minded bigotry also made them shrink from holding out the hand of fellowship to any but those of their own peculiar tenets, and rendered them incapable of understanding those vast conceptions and wonderful works of art, which claim our admiration, and are but blessings bestowed by the Great Creator on his creatures, who, in endowing them with the faculty of communicating their thoughts to each other, but enables them to perform the duties assigned to each in completing the vast machine, the wonders of which are not to be measured by the conception of the human mind, unless assisted by the emanations of Divine Wisdom.

Under the royal favour and protection, Henry Jermyn, Earl of St. Albans, was chosen Grand Master. He appointed Sir John Denham, surveyor-general of the royal works, of which office he had been previously granted the reversion, by Charles I., after the death of Inigo Jones. Br. Christopher Wren, and Br. John Web, were appointed Grand Wardens.

According to a copy of the old constitutions, this Grand Master held a great assembly and feast on St. John the Evangelist's day, 27th December, 1663, when the following regulations were made:—

"1st. That no person of what degree soever, be made or accepted a Freemason unless in a regular Lodge, whereof one be a Master, or a Warden, in that limit or division where such Lodge is kept, and another to be a Craftsman in the trade of Freemasonry.

2nd. That no person shall be accepted a Freemason, but such as are of able body, honest parentage, good reputation, and an observer of the laws of the land.

3rd. That no person hereafter, who shall be accepted a Freemason, shall be admitted into any Lodge or assembly, until he has brought a certificate of the time and place of his acceptation, from the Lodge that accepted him, unto the Master of that limit or division, where such Lodge is kept; and the said Master shall enrol the same in a roll of parchment to be kept for that purpose, and shall give an account of all such acceptations at every general assembly.

4th. That every person who is now a Freemason, shall bring the Master a note of the time of his acceptation, to the end the same may be enrolled in such priority of place as the brother deserves, and that the whole company and fellows may the better know each other.

5th. That for the future, the said fraternity of Freemasons shall be regulated and governed by one Grand Master, and as many Wardens as the said society shall think fit to appoint at every annual general assembly.

6th. That no person be accepted unless he be twenty one years old or more."

Br. Wren, afterwards Sir Christopher Wren, who, from his great abilities and the great solicitude he displayed to promote the interests of Masonry, and the prosperity of those Lodges which met in his time, more particularly the old Lodge of St. Paul, now the Lodge of Antiquity, of which he was a member for upwards of eighteen years, was no doubt the principal originater of these laws. This distinguished Mason was the only son of Dr. Christopher Wren, Dean of Windsor, and was born in 1632. His genius for arts and sciences was exhibited early, for when very young he invented a new astronomical instrument, by the name of Pan-Organum, and wrote a treatise on the origin of rivers. He also invented a pneumatic and a peculiar instrument in gnomonics, to solve this problem, viz.—"On a known plane, in a known elevation, to discribe such lines with the expedite turning of rundles to certain divisions, as by the shadow of the stile may shew the equal hours of the day."

In 1646, Mr. Wren was admitted at the age of fourteen, a gentleman commoner of Wadham College, Oxford, where he profited greatly under the instruction and friendship of Dr. John Wilkins, and Dr. Seth Ward, who were both gentlemen of great learning, and afterward promoted by King Charles II. to the mitre. His other juvenile productions in mathematics, are highly worthy of attention, and speak this Grand Warden, a scholar of a most exalted genius, but they are too many to be here recapitulated. He assisted Dr. Scarborough in anatomical preparations and experiments on the muscles of the human body, from whence are dated the first introduction of geometrical and mechanical speculations in anatomy; and wrote discourses of the longitude; the variations of the magnetical needle; De re nautica veterum; to find the velocity of a ship in sailing; of the improvement of gallies; of an instrument perpetually noting soundings in shallows; to recover wrecks; a convenient way of using artillery on ship board; to build in deep water; to build a mole into the sea, without Puzzolan dust, or cisterns; and of the improvement of river navigation, by the joining of rivers.

His works altogether appear to be rather the united efforts of a whole century, than the productions of one man; whilst the patient perseverance he displayed in after life, in not only overcoming the difficulties incident to the working out of his great undertakings, but in combating with the selfish and ignorant obstinacy of those who were unable to understand the emanations of his great mind, but more particularly his attention to the interests of Masonry, by improving its constitutions, and studying the

welfare of the Craftsmen employed, prove that the great honours paid to his character by the brethren, have not been misapplied.

St. Albans was succeeded as Grand Master by Thomas Savage, Earl Rivers, who appointed Sir Christopher Wren his deputy, and he with the assistance of his wardens, "mannaged all things." The Grand Wardens were Br. John Web, and Br. Grinlin Gibbons.

(*To be continued.*)

BROTHERLY LOVE.

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

(*Continued from* p. 107.)

Chapter IX.—New Faces and Old Scenes.

The society in which Ida had been passing her time since her departure from her mother's, was by no means congenial to her taste. Her hostess had at one time been her most intimate acquaintance, and closely resembled her in character; but having married a gentleman of fortune, and mixing continually with only the gay world, she had lost those traits which recommended her to Ida, and from the modest and retiring maiden, had become a confident and dashing woman. But the kindness with which Ida was welcomed, and the desire displayed to render her stay agreeable, made her overlook the alteration in her early friend and associate. Besides, there was a something in Madame Lefebre's manner occasionally that induced her to suspect she was not as happy as she appeared to be in society. She thought she detected a pensiveness underlying the surface of her levity of manner and seemingly high flow of spirits, and an absence of mind amid the glitter and gaiety by which she was surrounded, that showed her spirit was not altogether absorbed by the artificial life which she was leading.

It had been whispered abroad that Monsieur Lefebre, who had formerly been a *roué*, had begun to treat his wife with indifference, and that she still retained an attachment for a young Lutheran minister in the neighbourhood, named Jeune Grace, a cousin of her husband. However, they appeared to live on fair matrimonial terms, rather at variance with this rumour; and the gay circle in which they moved were too much occupied in pursuing their own enjoyments to trouble themselves with the joys or sorrows of their fashionable acquaintances.

Ida had now been three months with her friend, and she determined to quit society which had no attraction for her unsophisticated mind. She considered the atmosphere she respired as artificial—a region of exotic and scent, not the fresh life to which she had been accustomed, and for which the grace and refinement that mingled with its constitution could not compensate.

But there was another circumstance which made her extremely desirous

of quitting the château of Monsieur Lefebre. At this period, the taint of infidelity was rife in the coteries of France, and the spirit of Voltaire still impurified the sentiments of the fashionable and philosophic world. The grave dogmas of Christianity, which she had been accustomed to revere as sacred from human doubt, were treated with a scepticism or derision that made her shrink with horror from the conversation to which she was sometimes compelled to listen.

However, there was one visitor at Monsieur Lefebre's who was the very reverse of his other guests, and from whose society Ida derived the greatest enjoyment. It was the young clergyman already mentioned, who officiated in a small chapel in the vicinity—for at that time religious toleration in France was extended to Protestants and Dissenters so far as permitting them to the exercise of their religious worship without any very stringent limitations. Ida was a constant attendant at service, and accident made her still further acquainted with the cousin of her host, who was prepossessing in manner and person, but chiefly distinguished for the zeal and piety with which he discharged his sacred functions. His religious feeling displayed itself not only by fervid eloquence in the pulpit, but by the energy with which he entered into the concerns of his flock, administering religious consolation and affording pecuniary relief as far as his circumstances permitted, where it was required.

Ida met him frequently in her visits in the neighbourhood where indigence or disease prevailed, and very shortly a friendly and unreserved intercourse sprang up between them.

She related to him the particulars of her father's fate, and described the different subjects of interest in her own locality. He appeared greatly interested in the unfortunate maniac, whom he advised her to visit as often as was consistent with her convenience or personal safety, and he spoke with something like confidence of her presence and conversation being not only the means of ameliorating his condition, but perhaps of eventually restoring him to reason. He spoke with enthusiasm on this subject, and expressed a regret that the scene of his ministery was too remote to permit of his assisting her in this work of mercy and love. On one occasion there was an earnestness in his manner, when he spoke of the latter, that made Ida raise her eyes involuntarily to his; but she encountered so much ardour and sensibility in his glance, that she immediately bent them down, and felt her cheek blushing. She subsequently perceived a constraint in his manner for which she was at a loss to account, and which extended itself to her while in his company.

This circumstance induced her to take farewell of him by a letter, in which she expressed the pleasure she derived from his society, and her wishes for the prosperity of himself and his little flock.

On the morning of her departure, Ida rose early, and the carriage that was to convey her to the next post-town not being ready, and the morning being very fine, she resolved to walk some distance, and gave directions that the vehicle should follow her. She had proceeded a short way along the main road, when she perceived the figure of a man leaning against a

tree, apparently lost in thought. As she approached, he raised his head, and she perceived that it was Jeune Grace. His features had undergone a change since she had seen him last, for he was thin and pale, and appeared as if he was suffering from mental anxiety or bodily disease. He approached her, and said in a tremulous voice:

"I could not suffer you to depart without taking leave of you personally, and saying how much I shall miss your society."

There was a despondency in his look and tone as he uttered these words, and Ida scarcely knew in what terms to reply. At last she said:

"I should be ungrateful if I did not also express thanks for your kindness during our short acquaintance."

She was about to add, that his society was her chief pleasure during her stay in the neighbourhood; but she checked herself, for her Christian sentiment would not permit her to say anything uncharitable respecting others, while her sense of propriety suggested that it would be indiscreet to express herself in such terms to a person of the opposite sex.

"Believe me, Miss St. Claire," he said, "that, whatever may be my destiny, I shall reflect on our intimacy as one of the happiest incidents of my life."

The warmth with which he spoke made Ida blush, but she made no reply, and he proceeded.

"My secluded life, the dangers that encompass my flock from war, the presence of a lawless soldiery, and a possible eruption of popular prejudice against my creed, make the future an uncertainty, and have hitherto prevented my cultivating female society. I knew not my loss till I saw you, Miss St. Claire."

Ida bowed to the compliment, and he said:

"It may be that I see you for the last time."

"I trust not;" said Ida, earnestly.

"Should it be so," he added, "it may be for the better. God's will be done! I do not murmur at His decree."

The sound of the carriage approaching prevented further conversation. Ida held forth her hand; he pressed it warmly, and departed without a word.

Ida was quite at a loss to what the manner of the young clergyman was to be ascribed. At first she thought his despondency resulted from ill health, arising from a delicacy of constitution, for he had often expressed a fear that his physical strength would prove unequal to the efficient discharge of his pastoral duties. Our female readers, no doubt, have discovered the real cause of his manner towards Ida, and must consider her rather deficient in feminine perspicuity in not ascertaining it also. Indeed, a suspicion of the truth flashed across her mind, but she could scarcely credit that so short an acquaintance, without any encouragement on her part, could have produced a deep or permanent affection in one whom she considered entirely devoted to promoting the spiritual and temporal interests of his flock.

Though happy to escape from her recent associations, still it was with a saddened spirit that Ida beheld her native town in the distance, for every

object she encountered was associated with the remembrance of Simon, to whom her affections still clung with all the tenderness and tenacity of a first attachment, which not even the worthlessness of its object can speedily erase from the female mind. Since the unfortunate event that led to their separation, there was much in what had taken place to prevent Ida's feelings towards Simon undergoing any material change. She had received his letter, and though she declined his offer, still there was so much generosity in his act, so much of genuine and enduring affection, that she could not think of it without feeling deeply for one whose attachment was so intense, and whose conduct was so disinterested. She had heard also of his reputed insanity, and from his observations where they last met, and his letter imputing to her venal considerations, she was induced to believe that he was labouring under mental delusion. She then began to reproach herself for having acted too hastily towards him. In this mood of mind she reached her home, and almost her first inquiry was relative to Simon.

Mrs. St. Claire, whose asperity was roused by the mention of his name, replied,

"I have heard nothing further of him—indeed, I do not wish to hear anything more about him."

Ida looked at her inquiringly, and she continued,

"I believe that he has really gone mad, and I believe, moreover, that he is as base as mad and deformed."

"Simon base!" exclaimed Ida, "I do not understand you, mother. I know he was no favourite with you—"

"Favourite, indeed!" interrupted Mrs. St. Claire, "A pretty sort of person you selected to fall in love with—but then I wrong you, my dear. I know, that in entertaining his suit, you were actuated by prudential considerations. A mercenary monster! but I trust we have seen the last of him."

"But mother, you forget his unvarying kindness, from the period of our childhood. Has he not always loved me like a brother? Don't you remember when I was ill, how nothing could tempt him from my side? and—"

"Oh, yes, my dear; and I am only sorry that your father's mistaken kindness should have allowed you such a companion. But it was sufficient for him, poor man, that any one was unfortunate to make him take an interest in him. I have often reasoned with him on this subject, but his reply always was, 'poor little fellow, I cannot see him moping there lonely without any companion of his own age. The same hand created him and Ida, though one is beautiful, and the other the reverse. His very deformity should make us feel an interest in him.'"

This answer bore Ida back to the days of her childhood, and to the many incidents of her intercourse with Simon, and she sighed heavily.

Mrs. St. Claire observed this, and her conviction respecting her daughter was once more disturbed; she mentally ejaculated a fervid

thanksgiving that the object of her aversion was removed from the presence of her daughter, and that he had no opportunity of fostering her "infatuated attachment."

The subject was dropped, and Mrs. St. Claire informed Ida of all that had taken place in the neighbourhood since her departure. It appeared that several of the young men had either joined the army of the Emperor, voluntarily, or been forced into it by conscription. Amongst the former was Alfred Beaufiere, who entered the service in a medical capacity, for which his studies qualified him, and which afforded him an opportunity of indulging his benevolent feelings in alleviating the sufferings of his fellow creatures. Nothing had been heard from him, but a rumour had reached the neighbourhood that he had been dangerously wounded. He had been unable to procure a substitute for Andrê Buffon, who was obliged to depart with a number of his fellow townsmen to join the army. Mrs. St. Claire described the distress of this latter worthy at being compelled to enter on a service of peril, as most ludicrous, and stated that he departed amid the derision of the inhabitants, some of whom had contributed to his enlistment, which they regarded as an excellent practical joke.

Ida did not omit to inquire after the Maniac of the Mount, and she heard with much regret, that since her departure he had been seldom seen. Some were of opinion that he was dead, but as his usual provisions were consumed, and funds which were supposed to have been supplied by him found their way regularly into the civic exchequer, it was generally believed that either the severity of the past season or increasing mental disease, made him seclude himself more than ever from public observation. Ida remembered the words of the young clergyman, which were so much in unison with her own feelings, and the next morning she departed for the Mount.

It may be necessary at this point, to furnish the reader with some information to elucidate the causes that led to Ida's acquaintance with the Maniac. During the epidemic which prevailed in the neighbourhood, her mother had been seized with the disease, and visited by this strange being, who spared no expense in procuring her the best medical attendance and other requisites. His solicitude on that occasion partook more of the character of a brother's than that of a mere benovolent stranger, and the gratitude of Ida was excessive; for when her mother was restored to convalesence, she attributed that result chiefly to his timely assistance. He also appeared to take the deepest interest in Ida herself, and though he had been traced out in other cases of charity, it was to her alone that he revealed himself. From the moment of her mother's recovery, she never failed to visit him at periods when she knew that he was free from the influence of his mental malady, and he treated her with the greatest kindness, and with the affection of a parent. He inquired minutely after all the circumstances connected with her father's last days, and would make her repeat the same over and over again to the most trivial detail. There appeared to be a strange fascination in that subject, though it

was evidently productive of painful emotions; for he would groan in bitterness of spirit as she related the privations of her father, the meekness with which he endured his sufferings, and his frequent and fervent prayers for the forgiveness of heaven on that friend who had reduced him to the last extremity of distress. He used also to speak much to her about Simon, in whose fate he appeared to take a great interest, and it was this circumstance more than anything else that attracted her towards the recluse. He was the only one, except Alfred Beaufiere, whom she had ever heard speak a kind word respecting Simon; and it was grateful to the feelings of the young girl to know that if all the world beside reviled or ridiculed the companion of her childhood and the object of the affections of her young womanhood, there was one who, in his moments of sanity, was ready to espouse his cause, make allowance for his defects, and dwell with visible gratification on any revelation of his better nature. What motive tempted him to take such an interest in Simon, she was at a loss to conceive, nor did she seek to trace its source—it was sufficient for her, that he did feel that interest to make his society grateful and her young heart throb with thankfulness towards him.

Never before did Ida seek him with so much of sadness as on the present occasion, for she fancied that the subject which had formed the chief bond between two so dissimilar, was one that she must consider henceforth as interdicted, so far as related to herself, for she had formed the resolution of not introducing Simon's name again into conversation. And yet, such a casuist is the human heart, that although she persuaded herself that her chief motive in visiting the Recluse at this time, was one of mere humanity, she was aware, without avowing it to herself, that the prohibited object would form the chief topic of their discourse, and that it was that conviction which made her seek his abode at so early a period after her return.

(To be continued.)

THE SWEETEST FLOWER.

Some flowers there are of beauty rare,
We covet them as soon as met;
Say, walking down a flower'd parterre,
Would you not cull the violet?

I know a flower more fair than this
With all its perfume and its bloom;
I'd wear it on my heart—it is—
I leave you to imagine whom.—J. W. R.

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The first quarterly communication for the year 1855, was held on Wednesday, March 7th. The M.W.G.M., The Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland presiding, supported by the R.W.D.G.M. the Earl of Yarborough; B. Dobree, S.G.W.; J. Pattison, J.G.W.; Col. Burlton, P. Prov. G.M., Bengal; A. Dobie, P.G.M., Surrey; Purton Cooper, Prov. G.M., Kent; J. Fawcett, Prov. G.M., Durham; J. Bagshaw, Prov. G.M., Essex; J. A. Bowyer, Prov. G.M., Oxford; Rev. J. E. Cox, and J. E. Moore, G. Chaplains; Rev. Sir J. W. Hayes, P.G.C.; W. H. White, G.S.; H. S. Crohn, G.S., for German Correspondence; J. Hervey, S.G.D.; H. Faudel, S.G.D.; J. Havers, P.G.D.; G. K. Potter, P.G.D.; G. Leach, P.G.D.; J. H. Goldsworthy, P.G.D.; T. Parkinson, P.D.G.; H. Gireaud, P.G.D.; R. W. Jennings, G. Dir. of Cers.; J. Chapman, Asst. G. Dir. Cerrs.; G. Biggs, G.S.B.; Br. J. Masson, P.G.S.B.; R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B., Br. W. Farnfield, Asst. G.S.; E. Ransford, Grand Organist; G. G. Elkington, G. Pur.; and others.

The minutes of the Lodge of Benevolence and the Board of General purposes having been read, Br. Joseph Smith, P.M. 206, said, that having had the honour when they met on the last occasion, to put in nomination the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland for re-election as Grand Master for the ensuing year, he had now to propose that the election be at once proceeded with. They all knew the ability, courtesy, and kindliness with which the noble Earl had for many years filled the Office, and they could not better shew their confidence in him, or respect for his character than by unanimously re-electing his Lordship; and in doing so, he felt assured they would be studying the welfare of the Craft, and the interest of the brethren at large—(cheers).

Br. Ireland, W.M. 805, had great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The motion having been carried *nemine contra discente*, and the G.M. duly proclaimed, the noble Earl rose amidst loud applause, and begged to acknowledge the compliment paid to him. He could assure them that he felt proud of their having again entrusted him with the office of Grand Master. No higher honour could have been conferred upon him. He knew how important were the duties he had to discharge, but he hoped, notwithstanding he felt old age advancing upon him, to continue to discharge them to the satisfaction of the brethren. He remembered reading in a book, with which he had no doubt they were all acquainted, *Gil Blas*, that when the Author became Secretary to the Archbishop of Toledo, he was strictly enjoined, that should he ever notice any falling off in the powers of his Master through old age or infirmity, he was to acquaint him with it. For a time every thing went well, but when the Secretary felt bound to hint that the Archbishop was falling off in his powers, he grew angry, and drove his faithful servant from his door. Now he could assure them, that he would never need a hint that it was time for him to resign; but the instant he felt that he could no longer, from advancing age, efficiently discharge the duties of the office, he would resign his trust into the hands of the brethren, but in the mean time he would endeavour to do his utmost to promote the best interests of the Craft—(cheers).

Br. Herbert Lloyd, then proposed the re-election of Br. Tomkins, as Grand Treasurer, which having been duly seconded, was put and carried unanimously.

The M.W.G.M. next rose to propose the motion of which he had given notice at the previous meeting, for granting £1000 out of the funds of the Grand Lodge, to the Patriotic Fund. He trusted that the Grand Lodge would be unanimous in carrying the resolution, as, though he was aware some of the brethren held the opinion, that the funds ought to be devoted to the purposes of Masonic charity only, he could not but feel that this was an exceptional case, and that at the present moment, there was no charity having such peculiar claims upon them, as that for providing for the Widows and Orphans of the gallant defenders of the honour of their country now engaged in the war in the East. It might be said, that they should confine their bounty

to the Widows and Orphans of their own brethren, but though on ordinary occasions that might be true, he begged them to remember that the principles of Freemasonry were founded upon universal charity and beneficence, and that an institution so important as theirs should not be behind other Corporations in supporting its honour, and assisting the Widows and Orphans of the soldiers, sailors, and marines, many of whom were, no doubt, members of the Craft. He knew that many private Lodges had liberally subscribed towards the Patriotic Fund, and it was only the other day that he received a letter from the Zetland Lodge, Montreal, inclosing a cheque for £10 in aid of that fund. He was aware that many other Lodges at both sides of the Atlantic had liberally contributed to the Patriotic Fund, and he hoped the Grand Lodge would not be behind hand in endeavouring to support the honour and dignity of the Craft. He would not longer delay the time of Grand Lodge, but at once propose that £1000 be voted from the Fund for General Purposes, as a subscription from the United Grand Lodge of England to the Royal Patriotic Fund.

The R.W.D.G.M. rose to second the motion, feeling quite satisfied that the Grand Lodge would not refuse to vote £1000 to so holy and sacred a purpose. He thought it required but little to prove that it would be unwise to show to the world that they were actuated by feelings of charity only to members of their Order, the more especially at the present moment, when the case before them was so purely exceptional, that it had enlisted the feelings of every class of the community in its favour. He thought that under the circumstances, they might safely so far entrench upon their funds as to make this vote to the Patriotic Fund, the more especially as it had gone forth through the columns of the Press that they intended to do so. But he was at the same time of opinion, that the vote ought to be so guarded as not to be drawn into a precedent for the future. He was certain that the M.W.G.M. would not have proposed any motion to them without due consideration, and being fully convinced that they could not only legally pass it, but that it would be of advantage to the Craft—(hear hear). He therefore trusted that the motion would be unanimously carried, feeling assured that it would reflect honour on the Grand Lodge, and their valuable Institution.

Br. Chas. Purton Cooper, Q.C., Pl.G.M. for Kent, next rose, and expressed his opinion that it would be most unbecoming in Grand Lodge to adopt any proposition, merely because it had become known through the medium of the Press that it was to be brought before them. As a Mason, he was determined to exercise his own judgment free and unfettered, without reference to the daily or any other Press—(cheers). The subject now before them, was one of great importance, and he could conscientiously say that it had occupied a large portion of his attention, both by day and by night. He had considered whether they could properly devote any portion of their funds to other than purely Masonic purposes, and whether if they did so, it was likely to tend to any results favourable to the interests of Masonry. He had had grave doubts whether they could so divert their funds, and he had searched through their records for seventy or eighty years back, without being enabled to find a single instance in which such a course had been pursued. The M.W.G.M. had, however, truly stated that this occasion was one of a peculiar and exceptional kind, inasmuch as it was the first occasion in which a Patriotic Fund had been collected under the authority of a Royal Commission, and that Her Majesty had called upon all classes of society to support it. If, therefore, it was not inconsistent with the principles of the Order to vote a sum of money to other than truly Masonic purposes, then ought they to adopt this resolution. In aiding the widows and orphans of those gallant men who might fall in the Crimea, it must be recollected that many of them would probably be connected with their brethren, whom it would be their bounden duty to support, and he asked them whether they might not go a little further to aid the relatives of those, who, if not so immediately connected with the Craft, were fighting the battles of their country in defence of civilization and freedom. Might not such a consideration enable them to resolve their doubts, if doubts they had, as he admitted he had on the subject, and give their vote in favour of the more extended principles of charity—(cheers). He believed that the M.W.G.M. would never have proposed the resolution, had he not been fully convinced that it was consistent with their principles, and with the regulations of Grand Lodge, and therefore after the deepest consideration, he (Br. Cooper), had come to

the conclusion, that he could conscientiously recommend the brethren to support the vote, which with all his heart and all his soul he called upon them to do—(cheers).

Br. Bell, of Manchester, stated that he represented a large number of the brethren in Manchester, and other parts of Lancashire, with many of whom he had spoken on the subject, and all of whom with one exception were in favour of the vote. He should therefore support it, and he might mention that the Lodge to which he belonged, though far from numerous or affluent, had given ten guineas to the fund.

Br. Geo. Barrett, P.M. of No. 188, said he had entered the room with the determination to oppose the vote, but after what had taken place, and the evident feeling of the Grand Lodge, he did not feel himself in a position to go to a division on the question. He hoped, however, that there would never be an attempt made to draw this vote into a precedent, for should there be, they might rely upon it there would be a powerful opposition, organised to prevent what he must consider an illegal appropriation of their funds.

Br. Dr. Rowe, P.G.D., as an old Peninsular officer, supported the motion, feeling assured that the Masonic body could not better carry out their principles, than in aiding by their charity, the widows and orphans of those brave men who lost their lives in defence of the honour of their country.

The motion was then put, when (there being close upon three hundred of the brethren present) about a hundred, or a hundred and twenty voted in its favour, and something like half that number against it, the remainder of the brethren abstaining from voting. The motion having been declared carried amidst considerable applause, Br. Wm. H. White, G. Sec. read the accounts of Grand Lodge, from which it appeared that there was a balance in stock and cash in favour of the Order, of £15,500, of which £6,300 is applicable to general purposes—£30 having been voted to the widow of a deceased brother, on the recommendation of the Board of Benevolence. A report was brought forward from the Board of general purposes, recommending one or two trivial alterations in the Constitutions, and that (the whole of the last edition having been sold) they be re-printed. After a short discussion, the alterations were agreed to, and it was resolved that two editions should be published, one in the usual form, and one in a size convenient for the pocket. All business being ended, the Quarterly Communication was closed in due form.

THE GRAND FESTIVAL.

The annual festival on the installation of the M.W.G.M. takes place on the 25th inst., when we understand every arrangement has been made for the accommodation of those of the brethren and their ladies as can make it convenient to be present. Br. Lewis Solomon has been elected as hon. Sec. The G.O., Br. Ransford, will have the arrangement of the music.

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.

At the monthly meeting, on the 28th Feb., £78 10s. was voted to be given between nine applicants, and one for £30 recommended to G.L., which has since adopted the recommendation. On the 28th of March, the relief voted between eleven applicants was £115.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The anniversary festival of this Institution, established for the purpose of clothing, educating, and apprenticing the sons of indigent and deceased Freemasons, was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, March 14, the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, R.W.D.G.M., presiding, supported by Br. Bonamy Dobree, G.S.W.; Ed. Baldwin, G.J.W.; J. Hervey, G.S.D.; J.E. Cox, G.C.;—Bagshaw, P.G.M., for Essex;—Spiers, P.G.S. B.; and about 180 other brethren. At the conclusion of the dinner, which was most elegantly served and gave general satisfaction to the brethren, the R.W.D.G.M. said, before they proceeded to the business of the evening they must allow him to express his regret at the absence of his right hon. friend, the M.W.G.M. He knew that the noble Earl continued to take the deepest interest in the welfare of the Institution, but he was advised by his medical attendants to abstain, for the present, as much as possible from attending festivals of the description

which had brought them together, though he was sure that the M.W.G.M., would give them every support in his power—(cheers). In proposing the first toast, he was sure that he need only mention the name of Her Majesty, to ensure its being most heartily responded to, as she has not only shown that she at all times took the liviest interest in the welfare of all classes of her subjects, but was the Patroness of the Freemasons Boys School, to which she had that day sent her usual annual donation of £10 10*s.* 0*d.*—(cheers). He begged to give them the health of "Her Majesty—God bless her." The national anthem having been sung by Miss Birch, Miss Poole, Miss Clara Henderson, and Brs. Lawler, King, and Allen, the R.W.D.G.M. said, that having met to promote the interests of an Institution established for the education of youth, he was sure they would drink the next toast with the greatest satisfaction, as they would agree with him that no one had shown himself a greater friend to education, than H.R.H. Prince Albert—(cheers). He therefore begged to give them the health of "H.R.H. Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal family"—(cheers). The R.W.D.G.M. said, the next toast he had to propose was one which, under ordinary circumstances, might be well left out in an assembly like theirs, but were they to do so upon the present occasion, they might, perhaps, be accused of injustice and ingratitude to a large body of men, to whom the country were deeply indebted, and in whose ranks were to be found very many of their brethren. He alluded to the Army and Navy—(cheers). He was sure that they must all have noticed with admiration not only their gallantry, but the patience and endurance the troops had exhibited in the East, under the most trying circumstances, and that they would, therefore, cordially join him in drinking the toast—(cheers). He could not give them The Army and Navy upon the present occasion without also coupling with it the toast the services of their gallant Allies—(loud cheers). He was glad to find that his sentiments met with their approbation; and, trusting that the two countries might continue, in war or in peace, in amity together, he begged to propose "The Allied Armies and Navies of England and France"—(cheers). He was glad to see when he attended Grand Lodge, the other day, that the efforts of their gallant Army and Navy was appreciated, and that £1000 was voted to the Patriotic Fund in Aid of the Widows and Orphans of those who might unfortunately fall in the unfortunate contest in which they were engaged. He knew that very many private Lodges had also come forward in a most laudable spirit to support that fund. He trusted that every success would attend the efforts of their Army and Navy, and that very many of them might be spared to return home and enjoy the remainder of their lives in the full confidence that they had earned, the gratitude of their country. His toast was the "Allied Armies and Navies of England and France"—(cheers). The R.W. chairman, in proposing the next toast, "The health of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M.," expressed his regret that the noble Lord was absent from their festival that day—a regret in which he was sure they all deeply sympathised, knowing as they did, from what he had stated in the early part of the evening, that the state of the noble Lord's health precluded him from attending such festivals as that at which they were then assembled. He was sure, however, that though not present in person, the heart of the M.W.G.M., the Earl of Zetland, was with them, and he held in his hand a note from the noble Lord, expressing his deep regret at being unable to attend, and enclosing a cheque of £10 10*s.* in aid of the funds of the Institution—(cheers). He was sure it was unnecessary for him to say much in recommendation of the toast, as they were well aware that the G.M. had at all times been ready to set an example in supporting the Masonic charities and upholding those principles which should distinguish Freemasons. He believed that no one could fill the high post to which he had been elected by the brethren more conscientiously, or so as to give greater satisfaction to the Craft, than the M.W.G.M., and he, therefore, begged to propose to them the "Health of the M.W.G.M., the Earl of Zetland"—(cheers). Br. Bagshaw, Pr. G.M. for Essex, had certainly not expected when he entered that room to have to address the brethren. It was the first time he had had the pleasure to meet them since he had been honoured by the G.M with the distinguished position he now held, and whilst regretting the absence of the M.W.G.M., he had the greatest pleasure in proposing a toast with which he had been entrusted, the health of their noble chairman, the R.W.D.G.M.—(loud cheers). He

was aware that that toast would be most cordially responded to by the Craft, as the Earl of Yarborough was known to them all as one of the warmest supporters of their charities, and as always discharging with the utmost fidelity his duties as a man and a Mason—(cheers). It was a most pleasing duty for him to have to propose the health of the noble Earl—knowing him to be an honour to their noble Craft, and he, therefore, now called upon the brethren to join him in drinking the health of "the D.G.M., the chairman of the evening"—(cheers). The D.G.M. said the very flattering manner in which the toast had been proposed and responded to, rendered it impossible for him to return them thanks in the manner he felt to be due to them. He could assure the brethren it would give great encouragement for the future in the performance of his duties—(cheers). When he was informed that the M.W.G.M. must be unavoidably absent, and he was requested to take the chair at that festival, he at once acceded—(cheers)—and he should be glad at any time to do everything in his power to promote the prosperity of this Institution and the other charities, and show the interest he took in the Craft. He wished to show them that he was not an idle man—that he was determined to do his duty in the high position he had the honour to fill, and the reception he had received that evening would encourage him in his determination—(cheers). He was desirous to see this Institution made as perfect as possible, so that the boys might be educated so as to be not only useful to themselves, but as they grew up they might assist their aged parents—(cheers). It was to support a noble Institution that they had come together that evening, and he hoped they would show by their contributions how anxious they were to carry out the charity to the utmost efficiency—(cheers). He was sure the Committee only required the support of the brethren to make the school second to none in the kingdom—(cheers). The toast having been heartily responded to, the D.G.M. said he was sure the brethren would excuse him if he appeared to press the toasts upon them somewhat quickly, but the fact was they had not yet come to the most interesting part of the business of the evening. He had now to propose to them "the Prov. G.M.'s and the Past and Present Grand Officers," and he was glad to see by the number of them present, how deeply they valued the importance of the Boys School. Br. Bonamy Dobree, G.S.W., acknowledged the compliment on behalf of the Prov. G. M.'s and the Grand Officers, and assured the brethren that upon all occasions it was most gratifying to the G.O.'s to show, in the discharge of their duties, their attachment to the Masonic charities, in the support of which they were set so bright an example by their noble chairman. The boys were here introduced into the room, and excited much interest from their healthy and genteel appearance. The G. Chaplain, Br. the Rev. J. E. Cox, said it gave him great pleasure to introduce to the notice of his Lordship, the boys, whom as examiner he had had the honour to recommend for prizes viz:—1st Writing—John William Hill; 1st History—John William Hill; 2nd or Junior ditto—Frederick Kislingbury; 1st Geography—George John Crichton; 2nd or Junior ditto—George Bruhl Daly; 1st General Information—William Turner Manger; 2nd or Junior ditto—George John Chrichton; 1st Arithmetic—John William Hill; Howlett and Chrichton commended; 2nd ditto—Louis Gamauf. He had great pleasure in bearing his testimony to their good conduct, and the general attainments of the boys. He regretted, however, that they had not yet the opportunity of bringing the whole of the boys under one roof, in the same manner as the girls, as they could not have that general supervision over them whilst they were scattered about all over the country, which was desirable; though in London that objection was not so strong, in consequence of the metropolis being divided into sections, and the boys placed in good schools so as to bring them up as nearly as possible on one principle. The noble chairman having complimented the boy, Hill, on the number of prizes he had obtained and advised him to persevere in the course he had begun, as if he did so it would be sure to lead him to prosperity, proceeded to present the various prizes to the different boys, accompanying each with a few appropriate remarks. The noble chairman then proceeded to address the children generally, and said it gave him great pleasure to hear so good a report of them, and he trusted that they would endeavour to continue to merit the kind encomiums of the Rev. Mr. Cox. He hoped they would continue in the course they had begun, and that when they left school they would strive to make the best use of the talents and education with which they

were blessed. If they continued to distinguish themselves and still proved worthy of the prizes he had that day presented, he would be happy if they required it in after life to do everything in his power to assist them. He did not wish it to be understood that if they were comfortably situated and were receiving fair remuneration for their services, that they were to expect him to give them any assistance; but if unfortunately any of them could not find that employment which their friends thought their talents deserved, if they would come to him, and they thought he could assist them, he would do the utmost in his power for the purpose—(cheers). He would now address himself to the company generally. He knew that nothing could be more gratifying to the ladies than to see children brought up in the way they should go. He was gratified to see the ladies honouring their annual festivals with their presence, and he hoped they would take every opportunity of informing their friends of the good that was done by the Institution, and of assisting them to continue that good. The Institution was established in 1798, for the purpose of giving a good education to the children of deceased or aged Freemasons, and he would ask the brethren how could they spend their money better than in giving education to the children of those who were unable themselves to find the means for doing so? They educated and clothed, and he wished he could say, boarded and lodged, the boys. They were, however, as yet unable to do so, though he trusted the day would come when the Institution would be made more efficient than it was at present—(hear, hear). As had been stated by Br. Cox, it was impossible under the present system to have that superintendence over the boys which was desirable. In the metropolis, which was carefully divided into districts, the boys were sent to selected schools in the neighbourhood in which they lived, and everything was done under an understood system to develop their energies and talents. But even this system had its disadvantages when compared with that of bringing the boys together under one roof, and placing them under the eye of one superintendent. It was not only book learning which they wished to give them, but they wished to place good examples of living before them, to teach them when they grew up, how best to expend their time, and impress upon them that, if they expended it properly, they might provide not only for themselves, but their aged friends. He thought they would agree with him, that such an Institution was most desirable, and he would suggest that a committee should be formed to assist in carrying out so desirable an object. They would see by the report that they had £2000 in hand towards a building fund, and what he would propose was, that they might have another dinner some time after the Girls Festival, for the special object of collecting subscriptions in augmentation of that fund—(hear, hear). In the lists going round that evening they would find a column for the building fund, and he hoped that they would not overlook it whilst supporting the general objects of the Institution. He might inform them that the receipts for 1854-5 were less than for 1853-4, and he would urge them, if they wished to give the children of the brethren a good education, to strengthen the hands of the committee by liberal subscriptions. The noble Earl concluded by giving "Prosperity to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," which was drunk with loud applause. The R.W.D.G.M. said that the next toast he had to propose to their notice, was the health of a brother who he regretted was not present to-day, in consequence of illness, but who had always shown himself a most earnest friend not only to the Boys School, but to every charity which had been brought under his notice. He gave them the health of their "worthy Treasurer, Br. Benj. Bond Cabbell"—(cheers). Br. John Hervey, G.S.D., begged, on the part of Br. Cabbell, to return thanks for the compliment paid to him, and to state that he had been instructed by the worthy brother, who regretted he was unable to attend, to hand in his donation of £10 10s. to the Charity—(cheers). The D.G.M. said that though they were assembled especially to promote the interests of one particular charity, he was sure that they would very much regret that the others should be forgotten. The Girls School and the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons, must not be forgotten, and he would therefore, with their leave, propose "prosperity to the Masonic Charities," with which he would couple the name of "Br. Francis Crew"—(cheers). Br. Crew said that though he had been for thirteen years the Secretary of the Girls School, it was the first time that he had been called upon to address the brethren in that room. He was much obliged to the noble chairman for the great

honour he had done him by coupling his name with so excellent a toast. He delighted at all times in witnessing the prosperity of the Masonic Charities, and it was highly gratifying to him to notice the progress making by the Boys School, and he sincerely hoped, that ere long, to see the boys gathered under one roof receiving the advantages which the Girls now derived from one general superintendence. He was sure that no person could visit the Girls School without being delighted with all the arrangements, and here he particularly wished to impress upon the ladies that it was peculiarly their province to watch over, and guard that School—(cheers). He could not conclude without reminding them that the festival of the Girls School would take place in that room on the 16th of May, when he trusted that the brethren would rally round them and show their appreciation of its value, by a numerous attendance—(cheers). The children in that School were of a class that any brother might be proud to call his own daughters, and their health and acquirements were most strictly attended to—(cheers). He thought it was somewhat extraordinary, that looking at the severe winter they had gone through, there had not been a child who had a cough or cold—(cheers). He presumed he was indebted for being now called upon to address them, to the kindness of his Br. Cox, whose many kindnesses he could never forget, and he assured the R.W.D.G.M., Br. Cox, and the rest of the brethren, that he felt deeply grateful for the compliment which had been paid to him, and through him to the Masonic Charities—(cheers). The D.G.M. then proposed the Committee of Management, which was acknowledged by Br. John Hervey, G.S.D., who assured the company that the committee were deeply sensible of the obligations they owed to the brethren for their attendance. Br. A.U. Thisleton, then read the lists of subscriptions to the names of the different Stewards, as nearly as we could collect as follows :—

Br. The Rev. John Edmund Cox, Grand Chaplain, Lodge of Unity, 82, *President*..		42	0	0
„ Walter Prideaux, J. W., Lodge of Friendship..	6, *Vice-Pres*..	39	18	0
„ William H. Absolon, P.M., Mount Moriah Lodge	40, *Treasurer* .	51	9	0
„ Joseph Henry Dart, Grand Master's Lodge	1	50	8	0
„ Henry Morgan Vane, S.D. Lodge of Antiquity	2	4	2	0
„ John Collier Shackleton, P.M. 340, and J.W., Lodge of Fidelity.....	3	77	14	0
„ Charles Locock Webb, W.M. Royal Somerset House & Inverness Lodge	4	36	5	0
„ Richard Havers, St. George and Corner Stone Lodge	5	49	4	0
„ Henry Becher Pigott, J. W. British Lodge	8	14	14	0
„ James Burton, W.M. Albion Lodge	9	11	11	0
„ John Scott, Enoch Lodge.....	11	27	9	6
„ Henry Browse, P.M. Old Dundee Lodge	18	29	8	0
„ David Samuels, P.M. 264, and Lodge of Emulation.....	21	24	0	0
„ M. P. Humphrey, W.M. Globe Lodge	23	8	8	0
„ William Croft, S.D. Old King's Arms Lodge	30	13	13	0
„ Thomas Hutchings, St. Alban's Lodge	32	15	15	0
„ William Smith, W.M. Lodge of Felicity	66	10	10	0
„ Lewis Solomons, W.M. Lodge of Regularity	108	14	14	0
„ G. H. Baskcomb, Middlesex Lodge.....	167	21	0	0
„ Capt. Thomas Malkin, W.M. Cadogan Lodge	188	84	0	0
„ John Webber, W.M. Phœnix Lodge	202	17	17	0
„ William Simpson, P.M., Jerusalem Lodge.....	233	32	11	0
„ Joseph D. Rigby, Prince of Wales' Lodge.....	324	21	0	0
„ William Barter, Apollo University Lodge.....	460	16	16	0
„ Horatio Semon Samuel Polish National Lodge.....	778	24	3	0
„ Thomas Campbell Eyton, J.G.W. North Wales and Shropshire. and St. John's Lodge	875	44	0	0
„ Benjamin Banks, Beadon Lodge.....	902	10	10	0

Amongst the subscriptions we noticed, Her Majesty, £10 10*s*.; the M.W.G.M., £10 10*s*.; the R.W.D.G.M, £10 10*s*.; Br. B. Bond Cabbell, Treasurer, £10 10*s*.; Br. Rev. J. E. Cox. G. Chaplain, £5 5*s*.: Mrs. Cox, £5 5*s*.; the *Masonic Mirror*, £2 2*s*., &c., &c. The R.W.D.G.M. said that though it was late in the evening, he was sure they would be glad of the opportunity of showing their respect for the Stewards of the day, by drinking their health, for it was owing to their exertions they were indebted for so pleasant and orderly a meeting. Br. the Rev. J. E. Cox, as chairman of the Board of Stewards, acknowledged the compliment, and assured his Lordship, that the Stewards felt themselves deeply indebted to him for the readiness with which he had undertaken to occupy the chair upon that occasion. The Stewards

had endeavoured to do their duty and if they had not with the approbation of the brethren, they felt themselves amply rewarded for all their exertions. He trusted that the suggestion of the R.W.D.G.M., that there should be another festival in the course of the year, in aid of the Building Fund for the Boys School, would be carried out, and that ere long, they might be enabled to refer with pride, to a noble building in which as many as possible of their boys might be educated together on one system. The right hon. chairman was sure that they could not adjourn to the glee room without drinking to the health of the ladies who had honoured them with their presence that evening. The toast having been most rapturously responded to, the D.G.M again called attention to the propriety of forming a committee to get up a second festival in aid of the Building Fund, promising if the committee would communicate with him, he would obtain the consent of the G.M. to its being held, and head the list of subscriptions with a donation of £50. The company then separated, such of the brethren who had the entree, amusing themselves as best they could, until permitted, under the absurd regulations of the Stewards, to join their ladies in, to us, that abomination of abominations, the glee room. The musical arrangements, under the direction of our worthy Br. Lawler, assisted by the Misses Birch, Poole, and Clara Henderson, and Brs. Allen, Donald King, and T. Jolly, were excellent, and gave the most perfect satisfaction to every person present. Mr. Higgs was an efficient toastmaster, but though knowing the excellence of his private character, we must protest against non-masons being employed in such an office, where he cannot fail to hear observations and witness signs which should be understood only by the initiated. We the more especially object to the arrangement, inasmuch as we know that many competent brethren would have been glad to undertake the duties.

LONDON LODGES.

Grand Steward Lodge.—Owing to the National Fast, the meeting of this Lodge, which ought to have taken place on the 21st, was postponed until the third Wednesday in the present month.

Grand Master's Lodge (No. 1).—This highly distinguished and well appointed Lodge, whose splendid Gothic furniture is not only most elegant, but well adapted to modern convenience, held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on March 19th, when the W.M. Br. Potter, in a most able manner, raised a brother to the third degree. Several distinguished visitors were present, who expressed great delight at the excellent government and working of the Lodge.

Lodge of Antiquity (No. 2).—This Lodge held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, February 28th, the W.M. Br. Tomkin, presiding. The furniture and general appearance of this venerable Lodge, though perhaps ill suited for the convenience of modern rooms, seems, on entering, to strike the mind of a Mason with awe and reverence, when he considers that it is the only Lodge in existance in London which connects us with Masonry in its primitive state. Here, a brother may fancy he sees in his mind's eye, Sir Christopher Wren sitting on the dais, supported by his lords, as they were termed in those days (or employers in the modern), and his well-selected Wardens sitting by their stone pedestals, listening to the report of a brother in the West, or entering into and explaining the details of some of the wonderful emanations of his master mind, or perhaps illustrating the beauty of Masonry by the practice of its greatest ornament—charity. Or he may carry his reflections to the time when our ancient brethren met in Monastic structures, surrounded by the glories of their art, protected against the lawlessness of the times (when men were shedding their blood like water, and seeming only to try how far the power of destruction might be carried), knowing in their sacred retreats, wisdom and skill could alone hold their meetings in security. Again, when a brother looks round the festive board, and hears Brs. King, Lawler, Genge and others, singing their good old English songs, he may fancy he sits amongst the ancient brethren, after their labours, and looking upon the proud and happy expression of their countenances as they sang the jocund song, and drank prosperity to the Craft, and to those who supported them in the execution of their stupendous works. We trust for the sake of those who prize our ancient traditions, that the members of this Lodge will ever maintain it against the destructive hand of time, and show to the Masonic

world, that though they admit that Masonry is progressive, they will preserve their Lodge from the innovations of modernism, and show a pattern of love for the reminiscences of olden time. Existing from time immemorial, may it ever remain, as it has so long continued to be, a perfect monument of past and present usefulness. On Thursday last, the 29th March, the foundation stone of the Junior United Service Club, Regent Street, was laid by the Right Hon. the Earl of Orkney, with the ancient mall belonging to this Lodge, which was used at the laying of the foundation stone of St. Paul's, by King Charles II. This is the first time the Lodge has ever lent the mall for other than Masonic business; and upon this occasion it was entrusted to the care of Br. Thiselton, the Sec. of the Boy's School, to whom it was returned by his Lordship the instant the ceremony was completed.

Royal Somerset House, and Inverness Lodge (No. 4).—At the meeting of this Lodge, on the 26th March, the W.M., Br. C. L. Webb, raised a brother to the third degree.

Royal York Lodge of Perseverance (No. 7).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday the 21st February. Br. P.M. Dr. W. Jones, in the absence of the W.M. Br. J. S. S. Hopwood, raised Br. Webb to the sublime degree of a M.M., performing the ceremony with his accustomed ability. Br. Thomas Bohn, P.M. 201, was unanimously elected a member of the Lodge, having been proposed by Br. John Hervey, S.G.D., and seconded by Br. F. Adlard, P.M., at the meeting in January. All Masonic business completed, the brethren retired to refreshment, under the presidency of the W.M., and the evening passed away most pleasantly. Among the numerous visitors were—Brs. Brigg, P.M. 79, Gustavus Hamilton, P.M. 2 (Dublin), S. W. Hopwood, S.D. 329, Lambert, P.M. 234, &c., &c. The next appointed meeting falling on the day fixed by Her Majesty for a General Fast, the Lodge was adjourned by the W.M. until some day later in the season, to be fixed or determined upon by the Lodge. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday the 18th April.

British Lodge (No. 8).—The members of this distinguished Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday March 19th, when a ballot was taken for several joining members, and for a gentleman to be initiated into Masonry, which proved unanimous.

Enoch Lodge (No. 11).—This numerous Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, March 14th. The W.M. Br. Spooner (assisted by his officers), in a most able manner passed four brethren to the second degree, and initiated two gentlemen into Masonry; after which, he with great eloquence and feeling invested Br. P.M. Ledger with a P.M.'s Jewel, as a mark of respect for his exertions for the welfare of the Lodge, during his year of office. The brethren to the number of forty adjourned to dine with the Festival of the Boys' School.

Tuscan Lodge (No. 14).—The members of this Lodge met together on the 27th February, when a gentleman was initiated into the Order, a brother passed to the second, and another to the third degree.

At the meeting on the 27th March, the ceremonies of all the three degrees were ably worked.

Kent Lodge (No. 15).—The monthly meeting of this ancient Lodge was held at Br. Harris's, the Three Tuns Tavern, Borough, on Wednesday, March 14. Br. Henry Smith, W.M., assisted by his Wardens, Brs. Procter and Westley, and the rest of the officers, initiated two gentlemen into the mysteries of Masonry. The brethren then proceeded to the installation, which ceremony was most ably and efficiently performed by Br. E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B., who installed Br. J. B. Procter as W.M. for the year 1855. The new W.M. was pleased to invest his officers as follows:—Br. Westley as S.W., Br. Trebeck as J.W., Br. Field as S.D., Br. Gibbs as J.D., Br. Jones as I.G., Br. Rich. Barnes, P.M., as Treasurer (being his thirtieth year of appointment to that office, and father of the Lodge), and Br. R. E. Barnes, P.M., as H.S. At the conclusion of the installation, Br. Barnes, sen., was called on to present a vote of thanks, handsomely inscribed on vellum, embellished, framed and glazed in one of Br. Beckett's emblematic frames, to Br. Henry Smith, now P.M., of which the following is a copy—"Resolved unanimously, That the best thanks of the Lodge are especially due, and are hereby tendered to our highly esteemed and much respected Br. Henry

Smith, W.M., for the urbanity of manners and integrity of conduct evinced to the members thereof during his year of office, also his truly Masonic feeling in kindly considering the necessities of his aged brethren and their widows. That the above resolution be recorded on the minutes of this day; and as a further testimonial of the gratitude of his brethren, that it be inscribed on vellum, framed and glazed, and presented to him at the ensuing Lodge meeting." The presentation was acknowledged in a neat and appropriate speech. The business having concluded, the brethren, about thirty in number, sat down to an elegant supper, supplied by their highly esteemed host, Br. Harris, in his accustomed and liberal manner. After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the late W.M., Br. Smith, proposed the health of the newly installed W.M. Br. Procter. In reply, the W.M. assured the brethren he felt deeply honoured for the distinguished position in which the Lodge had placed him, and that his utmost endeavours would be used to further the interest of the Lodge, and to promote that harmony and unanimity for which the Kent Lodge had ever been characterized. The W.M. then proposed the health of the visitors—Brs. Shepherd, J.W. 29; Davies, P.M. 87; Harris, P.M. 87; Vell, W.M. 87; Lezard, 218; Bromley, 276. In proposing the health of the Past Masters, the W.M. expressed his thanks for their willingness at all times to render their valuable assistance to the Lodge when called upon, more particularly to their S.P.M. and Father, Br. Richard Barnes, whose presence was at all times hailed with delight. In calling upon the brethren to drink the health of the officers, the W.M. expressed his entire satisfaction at the selection he had made. Br. Westley, S.W., and Br. Trebeck, J.W., returned thanks in a very able manner. The pleasure of the evening was greatly enhanced by the singing of Brs. Harris, Hart, Westley, and several other brethren.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—This Lodge, so much distinguished for the working of its officers, held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, March 15th. The W.M., in a most efficient and impressive manner, raised two brethren to the third degree, and initiated two gentlemen into the mysteries of masonry. The visitors were Brs. Sternberg, from Berlin; Seight, No. 4; Bennet, 25; How, 82; P.M. Shrewsbury, 108, &c., &c.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—Held its monthly meeting on Monday, March 5th, at the Freemasons' Tavern. The business of the evening was three initiations (Messrs. Schaller, Wise, and Walter), and one passing (Br. Hopkins). The W.M. Br. John Dyte, very ably performed the duties of his office. Three gentlemen were proposed for initiation at the meeting in April. Br. Watson, P.M., in a very feeling and impressive manner, spoke of the many good qualities of the late Treasurer, Br. E. Charker, P.M, and proposed that a letter of condolence be sent to his brother, Mr. H. Charker, and that the same be signed by the W.M. on behalf of the Lodge, and entered on the minutes. The motion seconded by Br. Fox, P.M., and agreed to both by old and young members, responded to the late Treasurer's good qualities. The whole of the members wore crape over the rosettes on their aprons, as a mark of respect to departed merit. Br. Aphed, P.M., was elected the new Treasurer. The Lodge was attended by eight of its P.M.'s At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren, to the number of upwards of 50, supped together. Amongst the visitors were Br. Steward, No. 325, Irish Constitution; and Br. Shepherd, 326, Scotch Constitution. Br. Shepherd, who is a colour-sergeant in the Fusileer Guards, in returning thanks for the visitors, briefly alluded to his having recently returned from the Crimea, invalided, and his having fought in the three great battles of the past campaign, at Alma, Balaclava, and Inkerman. The company separated at an early hour.

EGYPTIAN LODGE, (No. 29).—This Lodge met at the George and Blue Boar, Holborn, on Thursday the 1st of March, the W.M. Br. Fernandez, presiding. After the business, the brethren sat down to an excellent supper provided by the worthy host, Br. Haynes (who is a member of this Lodge), in his usual style. The visitors were Brs. Stapleton and Clarke, of the Joppa Lodge, No. 223. The cloth being cleared, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts drunk, Br. Todd, P.M., in a neat speech presented to Br. H. G. Buss, P.M. and Sec., a very handsome gold chain, voted by the Lodge in December last, as a mark of esteem, and in acknowledgment of his services as secretary to the Lodge for several years past.

Old King's Arms Lodge (No. 30).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 26, when the brethren were much astonished and grieved to see a notice in the ante-room, signed by the W.M., requesting all the brethren to appear with black rosettes on their aprons, in consequence of the sudden death of P.M. and Treas. Br. Scrivener, the father of the Lodge, which threw quite a damp over the proceedings of the evening. The W.M. took occasion in the latter part of the evening of alluding to the death of Br. Scrivener in a very feeling manner, and said he was sure the Lodge would feel his loss for some time to come. Br. Barnes proposed a vote of condolence to the widow and family of their late lamented brother, which was unanimously agreed to. There were several visitors from other Lodges present, amongst whom were a Br. who was initiated in this Lodge 24 years ago ,and who initiated the late Br. Scrivener into the Order; Br. Gilman, 8; Br. Powell, 109; Br. Freeman; Br. Hutchings, &c., &c. The brethren separated at an early hour. Br. Filer, P.M., has kindly consented to act as steward at the approaching Festival of the Girls' School, to which, on the motion of Br. Barnes, £10 10s. has been voted from the funds of the Lodge.

At the meeting of the 26th March, the W.M. initiated two candidates into the Order. Amongst the visitor were, Br. Dr. Rowe, P.G.D.; Br. Bisgood, D.P.G.M., for Kent; and Br. George Perren, who delighted the company the latter part of the evening, by his excellent singing.

Mount Moriah Lodge, (No. 40).—The usual monthly Meeting of this Lodge took place on Wednesday, Feb. 28. The business consisted of three Initiations and one Raising. Two of the Initiations were performed in an admirable manner, by the W.M., Br. Artus; it is seldom we hear a foreigner perform the ceremony so well. Br. Oram, P.M., then performed the other Initiation in his usual able manner. The W.M. then took the chair again, and went through the ceremony of Raising in a wonderfully correct and impressive manner. Br. Peck proposed that a Jewel to the value of £5 5s. be presented to the late W.M. from the funds of the Lodge, for the skill and ability he had evinced during his year of office in the chair, which was carried unanimously. The brethren then adjourned to partake of the festivities of the banquet table. There were several visitors, amongst them were Br. E. Warwick, W.M., 30; Br. Rowe, 183; Br. Balleral, 4, &c. Br. Warwick returned thanks for the visitors, and said he was always delighted to visit his mother Lodge, and was glad to see it in such a flourishing state, remarking also that he was initiated in the Lodge he believed before any brother now a member of it; he was glad to hear they supported the Charities by sending a steward to the Boys School. The brethren then separated after a very pleasant evening.

Strong Man Lodge, (No. 53).—This Lodge met on the 1st ult., at the Falcon Tavern, Fetter Lane. As the gentlemen proposed for initiation did not come up for the ceremony, the labours of the brethren were comparatively light. The Lodge having been closed in harmony, the brethren supped together under the able presidency of the W.M., Br. Turner.

Gihon Lodge (No 57).—This respectable and numerous Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Bridge House Hotel, on Thursday the 15th March, Br. G. England W.M, presiding. Four brethren were initiated into the Order, two brethren passed to the second, and two (by blood as well as in Masonry) raised to the third degree. Upwards of 40 of the brethren afterwards dined together.

Royal Naval Lodge (No. 70),—.The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, March 14, when a gentleman was initiated into the Order; two brethren raised to the second, and one to the third degree.

St. Mary's Lodge (No. 76).—The brethren of this Lodge held their meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, March 15, when the W.M., Br. Kelly, raised a brother to the sublime degree of a M.M., in that able manner for which this Lodge is so much distinguished.

Pythagorean Lodge (No. 93).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge at the Globe Tavern, Royal-hill, Greenwich, on the 26th Feb, Br. Hedley was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. Br. Adams was raised to the degree of a M.M., and all

business being ended, the brethren retired to refreshment, and spent an extremely pleasant evening.

VITRUVIAN LODGE (No. 103).—This excellent Lodge met at the White Hart, College-street, Lambeth, on the 14th March. The W.M., Br. Maudsley, being absent in consequence of a recent death in his family, the P.M., Br. Crosby, initiated two gentlemen into the Order. Several visitors were present, and the true Masonic feeling, for which this Lodge is so much distinguished, was truly carried out.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—The members of this excellent Lodge held their meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, March 8. Br. Crohn, G.S.G.C., in his usual impressive manner raised two brethren to the third degree. Other business having been transacted, the brethren adjourned to partake of an elegant banquet, in honour of the installation (which took place in January) of the new W.M., Br. Lewis Solomon. The health of the Queen, and the Most Worshipful G.M. having been duly honoured, the W.M., in proposing the health of the Grand Officers, congratulated the Lodge in having amongst them so excellent a member of that distinguished body, as Br. Crohn, and thanked him for his readiness at all times to render good suit and service to the Lodge whenever his assistance was required. Br. Crohn, in returning thanks, said he believed that the Grand Officers had on all occasions endeavoured to discharge their duties to the best of their ability, and if, in doing so, they received the thanks of the Craft, it would incite them to still greater exertions. With regard to his assistance to the Lodge, he always felt it as more than sufficient compliment to be asked to render it, though he believed it to be quite unnecessary, for the Lodge, in itself, contained more than sufficient talent to meet any emergency. Br. Johnson, P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., said that the Lodge felt peculiarly fortunate in having a Master so eminently qualified to preside, as he had not only discharged the subordinate offices with great talent, but at all times shown the greatest interest for its welfare; and as the Lodge was about to celebrate its centenary, it being in May, 1755, in the reign of George II. that it was constituted, they felt great pleasure in having a brother of such talent and excellence to preside over them. The W.M., in a most feeling manner, expressed his thanks for the compliment, and, in proposing the health of the Past Masters, took occasion to thank them for the valuable assistance they were ever ready to render, and more especially to express the pleasure he felt in having to invest the immediate P.M., Br. John Johnson, with a jewel, as a token of respect from the Lodge, for the able manner in which he had discharged his duties while in the chair. Br. John Johnson, in returning thanks, said that he felt that his brother P.M. had more right to reply than himself. For his own part, he feared the Lodge had complimented him too much on what he had done; but his public and private avocations, at some hundreds of miles distance, had often unavoidably prevented his attendence when his inclination would have prompted him to be amongst them not only as a duty, but for the enjoyment he felt in their society. He trusted that such an excuse would not have to be made by any brother holding office in this Lodge, and to show the sorrow he felt for his unavoidable want of attention, whilst in the chair, he would endeavour, by his future conduct, to prove the interest he felt in the welfare of the Lodge. In proposing the health of the visitors, Brs. Bellinger, W.M., 82, and P.G.M.; Vickers, P.M., 82; Anderson, 82; Burton, W.M., 9; Webber, W.M., 202; Butts, 116; and C. Solomon, 223, the W.M. said the Lodge of Regularity always felt the greatest pleasure in being honoured by the presence of visitors, but, if possible, still more so on the present occasion, from the high and distinguished position which they held in Masonry. With the majority he had the pleasure of being personally acquainted, and he trusted that Masonry, that great cement of mankind, would lead to his becoming better acquainted than at present with the remainder. Br. Bellinger returned thanks, and expressed the pleasure he and his brethren felt in visiting the Lodge, and trusted that this would not be the last time they would have that gratification. The W.M. then proposed the health of the officers, and expressed his thanks for their able support. The S.W., Br. Albertz, in returning thanks, said that, although as a foreigner he had had greater difficulties to surmount than others in learning his duties, he felt grateful for the kindness with which he was always treated, and would, in conjunction with his brother officers, ever exert himself

to the utmost for the benefit of the Lodge. The harmony of the evening was greatly increased by the excellent singing of Br. C. Solomon, the Misses Taylor, and Br. Taylor, who presided at the pianoforte.

MOIRA LODGE (No. 109).—This Lodge held its regular monthly meeting at the London Tavern, on Tuesday, February 27, when two candidates were most ably initiated into the Order by Br. Hogg, W.M. The Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to a most sumptuous banquet. There were several visitors present, amongst whom were Br. E. Warwick, W.M., No. 30; Br. Childs, W.M., 13; &c., &c. The brethren, after spending a most delightful evening, enlivened by the vocal abilities of three or four of the members, separated at an early hour.

LONDON LODGE (No. 125).—This Lodge which has long wanted an infusion of new blood, met on Saturday, March 3, under the presidency of Br. Mackintyre, W.M., when five brethren were elected joining members. All business being ended, the brethren, to the number of twelve, adjourned to refreshment.

LODGE OF FAITH (No. 165).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 27th Feb., Br. McManus, W.M., presiding, a duly qualified candidate was initiated into the Order in a very able manner.

ST. THOMAS'S LODGE (No. 166).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge on Saturday, March 3, Br. Normandy, W.M., presiding, two brothers were passed to the second degree.

LODGE OF PRUDENT BRETHREN (No. 169).—A meeting of this Lodge was held on the evening of February 27, Br. Hewlett, W.M., presiding, when Br. Holman Smith was raised to the third degree, and the bye-laws revised and ordered to be printed.

LODGE OF JUSTICE (No. 172).—The members of this thriving Lodge met at Br. Hall's, the Royal Albert, New-cross Road, Deptford, on Wednesday, the 14th March, when a gentleman was initiated and a brother passed to the second degree. We are glad to see, that through the exertions of the W.M. and the brethren generally, that this Lodge has since its removal prospered so well, and from the brotherly feeling existing among its members it cannot do otherwise. All business being ended, nearly thirty of the brethren sat down to a banquet, and spent a very pleasant evening.

BEDFORD LODGE (No. 183).—*This Lodge held a meeting on the 9th of March,* when Br. P.M. Cooper presided, in consequence of the unavoidable absence of Br. Sake Deen Mahomed. The business, which all excellently executed, consisted of the initiation of five gentlemen into the Order, and the raising of a brother to the third degree. At the conclusion of the business, the brethren, nearly thirty in number, retired to refreshment, and in the course of the evening, the brethren were charmed with some excellent singing by Br. P.M. Jerwood, and others.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 6th ultimo. The W.M. being absent through indisposition, Br. Kennedy presided, and initiated Mr. Dodswell into the mysteries of the Order, passed Brs. Smith, Carne, and Holden to the second degree, and raised Brs. Edmonds and Nisbett to the degree of Master Masons. These ceremonies were all gone through in Br. Kennedy's well-known able and efficient manner. He then stated to the Lodge that the stewards of "the Old Concord Annual Ball" having met to audit the accounts, it gave him great pleasure to inform the brethren, they had a surplus of twenty guineas, which sum, he was pleased to add, they had voted to "the Benevolent Fund of this Lodge." He wished also to make it known that a unanimous vote of thanks had been recorded to the members of the Lodge for the able support they had given to the ball, and he felt quite sure that this "annual ball" was now so firmly established, it would be the means of augmenting their Funds very considerably, and must add that he felt quite delighted at their continued success. A statement of the receipts and expenditure was now in the hands of Br. Emmens, Honorary Secretary to the Ball; and when he informed the brethren that the expenses incurred amounted to more than £150, he was quite sure they would share his delight and surprise that this Lodge should, without any public appeal have been so succesful, through the interest of the stewards, and their friends. All must be pleased at such favourable and happy results. Some other business of the Lodge having been concluded, it was then closed, when the brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was served

in Brs. Watson, Coggin, and Banke's usual excellent style. The evening was spent in harmony and true Masonic feeling, and the brethren separated, highly pleased with their entertainment.

PHŒNIX LODGE (No. 202).—This now flourishing Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemason's Tavern, on Saturday, March 10, under the able presidency of the W.M. Br. John Webber, when three gentlemen were duly initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. The other business having been disposed of, the Lodge voted £2 2s. as a donation to the Boys' School, and £1 1s. towards the fund now raising for relieving the Aged Masons' Asylum at Croydon from debt At the close of the business the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and the enjoyment of the after part of the evening was much enhanced by the excellent singing of Brs. Geo. Perren, Geo. Ford, the veteran Beular, and many other brothers.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—A very large muster of the members of this prosperous Lodge met at the Masonic Hall, Fetter-lane, on Monday, the 12th March, under the able presidency of their esteemed W.M. Br. T. Adams, P.M. 196. The summonses to the brethren announced an unusually large amount of business, even for this Lodge, the greater part of which, viz., six raisings and one initiation, was performed by the W.M. with his well-known care and ability, assisted by a very efficient body of officers. At the close of Masonic business the brethren retired to an elegant repast supplied by Br. Ireland, and the happiness which reigned throughout the evening fully evinced the kindly feeling that exists among the brethren of the Lodge. Among the visitors were Brs. Suter, Wm. Bennett, J. Greenwood, Barker, Murray, &c., &c. During the evening the sum of £5 was voted to the Asylum Fund, on the proposition of Br. Joseph Smith, P.M.

LODGE OF JOPPA, (No. 223).—This highly numerous, respectable, and excellent working Lodge, held its monthly meeting at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate (whence it has removed in consequence of the want of accommodation for its increasing numbers at its former Lodge house), on Monday, March 5. The W.M., Br. Henry Lyons most ably presided, and initiated into the Order two candidates, Messrs. Hugo Cantor, and Kreisner, with a solemnity which we have never seen excelled. On the motion of Br. P.M. Aarons, seconded by Br. P.M. Jones, it was resolved to give £1 1s. from the funds to the Boys' School, as a donation from the Lodge. At the conclusion of the business, the brethren, upwards of sixty in number, adjourned to a very elegant banquet, which did great credit to the establishment of the Messrs. Staples. The cloth having been removed, and grace said, the W.M. proposed the Queen and Craft—and in an appropriate speech dilated upon the virtues of that illustrious and excellent lady—adverting to the kind feeling and anxiety she had shown towards those poor wounded fellows, who had suffered in the cause of their country. The prosperity of the benevolent fund was proposed, the chairman stating, that though it had been established for upwards of five years, there had as yet been no claim upon it. The chairman also alluded to the fact that that excellent charity, the Jewish Soup Kitchen, had been mainly established and supported by members of the Joppa Lodge. The health of the most excellent W.M., of the P.M.'s, and other toasts were drunk and ably responded to. There were several visitors present, amongst whom were Brs. Warren, P.M., 202; Pyke, 218; Gabriel, 310; Isaacs, 368; Eisenburg, Lowing, &c., &c. In proposing this toast the W.M. referred in very handsome terms to the *Masonic Mirror*, which was acknowledged by Br. Warren, who thanked the members of the Lodge for their liberal support, and assured the brethren that the proprietors were determined to do everything in their power to make the *Mirror* of the greatett possible utility to the Craft. The proceedings of the evening were enlivened by some charming singing by the Misses Marian and Ada Taylor, Br. G. F. Taylor, presiding at the pianoforte.

JERUSALEM LODGE (No. 233).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on the 7th March, Br. Lewis Crombie, W.M., presiding, a brother was ably passed as a F.C.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting on Friday, the 16th March, at the Freemasons' Tavern. In the unavoidable absence of Br. Spooner, W.M. (who had been re-elected to the office), Br. Sheen, P.M., officiated in passing Br. Robinson to the second degree, and afterwards pro-

ceeded to invest the officers as follows:—Brs. Young, S.W.; Utton, J.W.; Arliss, S.D.; Aznavour, J.D.; Watt, I.G.; Patten, P.M. and P.G.S.B., Sec.; and Scambler, P.M., Treasurer. The business of the evening being completed, the brethren retired to a banquet, the excellence of which fully justified the high character which this establishment enjoys,

Lodge of Tranquility (No. 218).—This numerous Lodge met on Monday, March 18, for the first time, at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, having removed from the George and Vulture, Br. Saul Solomon, W.M., presiding. There being no business of importance to transact, the Brethren adjourned early to banquet, after which the usual loyal and masonic toasts were proposed, among which was that of the visitors, coupling with it the name of Br. Sternberg, from Prussia. The worshipful Master took the opportunity of saying, that the tenets of Freemasonry allowed neither country nor creed to be studied, but every Mason was received with open arms by all Lodges carrying out the true principles of Masonry. He trusted Br. Sternberg was satisfied with his Masonic reception in England. Now, he would ask Br. Sternberg if he could inform this Lodge why Jews were excluded from the Lodges in Prussia? for such he knew had been the case—thus destroying the universality which was the great basis of Freemasonry. Br. Sternberg, in returning thanks for the visitors, said (through the medium of an interpreter), it was with regret he was compelled to acknowledge the justice of the Worshipful Master's remarks. It was true that Jews had been refused admittance to the Prussian Lodges; it had been caused, he believed, by certain parties inimical to the best interests of Masonry taking advantage of political matters, which, for a time, had prevented the Crown Prince devoting his usual attention to the Lodges (Hear). The moment, however, it reached the ears of his Royal Highness, true to his position as "Protector of the Masonic Lodges in the Prussian Monarchy," he issued an order that no Mason, be his country or creed what it might, should for the future be refused admittance to a Prussian Lodge; and he (Br. Sternberg) had much pleasure in saying, that since then Jews *had* been admitted, the Prince did them honour by being present on the occasion.

St. Paul's Lodge (No. 229).—This Lodge held its ordinary meeting on Tuesday, the 27th of March. The business was conducted in the usual masterly style. The W.M., Br. Randall, initiated a candidate with great ability. The charge was given by the Treasurer, Br. Foster White; and we have seldom listened to this charge, given by this excellent Mason, without admiration and instruction,—his clear syllabic articulation and emphatic manner, strongly impresses its force upon all, and we may say, "Can such things be, and overcome us like a summer's cloud, without our special wonder." Our congratulations are due to this benevolent man, not more so as Masons, for he is now of a larger circle, dispensing his patronage over one of the largest institutions of the metropolis, we allude to his election as Treasurer to St. Bartholomew's Hospital; long may he be spared, with health and strength, to carry forward this good work. The Girls' Charity Festival was prominently placed before the Lodge, and, as usual, a liberal sum voted. As this, with the other charities, will be touched upon in a separate article, we decline further observation, than to hope, that our provincial brethren will give them all the support they so much require at this auspicious period. The brethren assembled in good number. We noticed several of the Grand Lodge, and one worthy brother from the Apollo Lodge, Oxford, Br. Wood. The health of this visiting brother was proposed in a separate toast, and received with great enthusiasm. The other usual toasts were responded to with feelings of satisfaction and welcome. This Lodge has amongst its members many who cannot be surpassed for their strong attachment to Masonry, as well as their benevolence; how can we say more than point to a Leonard Chandler, a Wilson, and others always prominent in charity and hospitality, the great "land-marks of the order."

Lodge of United Strength (No. 276).—This Lodge held its regular monthly meeting at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 13th March, when the W.M. Br. Cooper, in his usual learned manner, initiated Mr. Waterhouse into the mysteries of Freemasonry, and passed his brother, Br. C. F. Waterhouse, also Br. Cowdrey, to the second degree. The other business was only formal. The Lodge being closed, the

brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was favoured by the presence of several visitors, amongst whom we noticed Br. Shephard, who has just returned from the Crimea, and who has been at the battles of Balaklava, Inkerman, and Alma. He returned thanks for the visitors. The Lodge also had the pleasure of the company of the immediate P.M., Br. Alfred Tilt, for the first time since his indisposition. The W.M. proposed the health of Br. A. Tilt, which was responded to in a manner which must have convinced the visitors how much he is respected. The regular routine toasts having been proposed and responded to, the brethren adjourned until the second Tuesday in April, when, we have been given to understand, a great multiplicity of business is to be performed.

St. Andrews Lodge (No. 281).—Br. Dyke, W.M., presided over the monthly meeting of this Lodge, at the Freemason's Tavern, on the 1st of March, and passed one brother to the second, and two others to the third degree. Nearly thirty of the brethren afterwards supped together.

Prince of Wales' Lodge (No. 324).—This distinguished Lodge, which enjoyed the especial patronage of George IV., the Duke of York, and William IV., held its meeting at the Thatched-house Tavern, on Tuesday, Feb. 27th. The W.M., who, on the former meeting was re-elected for the ensuing year, not being able to attend, the Past Master installed and invested the officers.

Bank of England Lodge (No. 329).—The members of this Lodge met on Thursday, the 8th ult., at Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, for the dispatch of Masonic business, Br. Charles Stronghill, W.M. Br. Addison was raised to the third degree. The brethren then retired to refreshment, and concluded the evening with true Masonic good feeling. Br. Thomas Bohn, P.M., 201, was the only visitor. The furniture of this Lodge, and the elegant adornments of the banquet table, have been presented by various P.M.'s of the Lodge, and are worthy of admiration.

Zetland Lodge (No. 752.)—This Lodge resumed its meetings after the recess, at Br. Cooper's, Adam and Eve Tavern, Kensington, on Wednesday, March 14, when a very handsome P.M. jewel was presented, in the name of the Lodge, to Br. Barfield, by the W.M., Br. Schofield, with a very flattering and well deserved compliment for the manner in which he had filled the chair during his year of office. Br. Copas was appointed S.D., vice Br. Jordan resigned, after which the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided by the host, Br. Cooper, in his usual good style. Among the visitors were Br. Fever, from Jersey, and Br. Shepherd, from Scotland.

Polish National Lodge, (No. 778).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, of which Br. Ritterbrandt is the W.M., on the 8th of March, a brother was raised to the second degree. There appears to be a long arrear of business on hand in this Lodge, in consequence of brethren not coming up to be advanced to their respective degrees. A Lodge of emergency was also held on the 22nd, for the purpose of initiating a candidate about to proceed abroad.

Wellington Lodge (No. 805).—At the meeting of this Lodge, at the Railway Tavern, Lewisham, on the 13th March, it was resolved to remove it to the Roebuck, as more convenient for the members. A Lodge of Emergency was held at the new place of meeting, on the 26th, when three candidates were initiated into the Order by the W.M., Br. Ireland, in his usual excellent style.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

St. James's Chapter (No. 2).—This rapidly progressing Chapter held a convocation at the Freemasons' Tavern, on March 1st, when Comp. Wm. Stuart, jun., was duly installed as principal Z.; Comp. Wm. Stuart, jun., H.; and Comp. — Henderson, J. The Comps. afterwards retired to refreshment and the proceedings of the evening were enlivened by the excellent singing of Comp. Lawler.

British Chapter (No. 8).—This Chapter met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, 2nd February. Comp. Wm. Watson, P.Z. 25, in his usual efficient manner installed Comp. Stohwasser into the Second Chair, and Comp. Massey Dawson, into the Third. After which Comp. Herbert Lloyd, Z., invested the remainder of the officers, and exalted Br. Maxwell of No. 8, into the Sublime Degree of the Royal Arch. The Companions then adjourned to partake of a splendid banquet. In proposing the health of the G.Z. of the Order, the M.E.Z. said that although he had not had the

honour of meeting him much in Masonry, yet his readiness at all times to render assistance to the Craft either through the Charities or by any other means in his power, was sufficiently known and appreciated to render the toast acceptable to every Companion. Comp. Robinson, P.Z., proposed the health of the Grand Officers, and said that in consequence of the M.E.Z. being a member of that body, he, as P.Z., had the honour of expressing the thanks of the Chapter to the Grand Officers, but more particularly to the M.E.Z. who was so much distinguished by his talents for his eminent services to the Order. The M.E.Z., in returning thanks, expressed the pleasure he felt in being one of the Grand Officers, feeling assured that they endeavoured at all times to discharge their duties to the utmost. Comp. Robinson, in proposing the health of the M.E.Z. and the two other Principals, congratulated the Chapter on having so able and distinguished a member to preside over them as Comp. Herbert Lloyd, whose talents and urbanity, displayed not only on this but on all occasions, could not but render him eminently serviceable in promoting its prosperity, and to whom he felt the greatest satisfaction in resigning the office. With regard to the two other principals, the able manner in which they had hitherto discharged the duties of their various offices was a sufficient guarantee for their future exertions. The M.E.Z. in return said, that in being so soon called upon to speak of himself, he could only say that although at present not in such good practice as he had formerly been, he would take care that during his year of office nothing should be wanting on his part to further the interests of the Chapter, and he felt the greatest reliance on the support of his two Principals and the other officers. He then proposed the health of Comp. Robinson, P.Z., and thanked him on behalf of the Chapter for the manner in which he had discharged his duties during his year of office, and trusted that it would long have his valuable assistance. The P.Z., in return, thanked the Chapter for its support, and said, that although the only P.Z. present, he felt that his predecessors were all animated with the same desire to exert themselves for the benefit of the Chapter. In proposing the health of the visitors, Comp. W. Watson, P.Z. 25, and Comp. Warmington, No. 7, the M.E.Z. expressed the pleasure felt by the Companions in meeting them in their Chapter, and more particularly Comp. Watson, who might justly be denominated the King of Arch Masons, being always able and willing to render assistance in whatever ceremony he might be called upon. The toast having been acknowledged the M.E.Z. proposed the health of the newly exalted Companion, and expressed the great pleasure felt by older members of the Order in seeing younger brethren following in their steps. Comp. Stohwasser proposed the health of the two Scribes, and in doing so paid a just tribute to their great ability and services in Masonry. Comp. Dawson proposed the health of the Officers, Comp. Cotterell, P.S.; Peffer, 1st Assistant, and Baxter, 2nd Assistant, and in his usual eloquent manner acknowledged the merits of the officers of the Chapter generally.

UNION WATERLOO CHAPTER (No. 13).—This Chapter attached to the Union Waterloo Lodge, met at the Queen's Arms Tavern, Woolwich, on Wednesday, the 28th of February, when the principals and officers were duly installed into their several offices. The installation of the 1st Comp. Principal, Hy. Muggeridge, was performed in a very efficient manner by Comp. Geo. Biggs, P.G.S.B. Comp. Muggeridge then proceeded with the installation of Comp. Oliphant, as H., and — Gaird, as I. The other officers consist of Comps. R. E. Barnes, E.; — Weld, N.; G. T. Fox, P.S.; and G. W. Turner, P.Z., as Treasurer. One exaltation took place, which ceremony was well given by Comp. Muggeridge, with the assistance of the officers. A vote of thanks to Comp. Clerk, R.A., was recorded on the Minutes for his handsome present of the Four Principal Banners to the Chapter. At the conclusion of the business the Companions, to the number of about twenty, including as visitors, Comps. — Potter, of Mount Sinai Chapter, and R. B. Newsom, M.E.Z., of the Jerusalem Chapter dined together. The evening was spent in perfect harmony and true masonic feeling.

ROBERT BURNS CHAPTER (No. 25).—This Chapter held its meeting on Monday, March 26, when Comp. Newton was installed as Z., and Comp. Robinson, H. The other officers consist of Comps. Kirby, J; Tombleson, E.; Carpenter, N.; Allan, P.S.; Hewlett and Frampton as As. S.; Goring and Harrison, stewards. A duly

qualified brother was afterwards exalted into the Royal Arch. The visitors present comprised Comps. Haywood, Spencer, How, Cooper, and Bellinger.

MOUNT SINAI CHAPTER (No. 49).—The Companions of this Chapter held a convocation at Comp. Rackstraw's, Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 20th of March, when Br. Binckes, S.W., of the Enoch Lodge, was duly exalted into the Royal Arch by the M.E.Z. Comp. Andrew, Comp, Couchman, H. (in the absence of Comp. Jos. Smith), and Comp. Cooper, J., Comp. Mortimer officiating as P.S. After the Chapter was closed, the Comps., about twenty-two, sat down to an excellent supper. The visitors present were Comps. Archer, P.Z. (Chapter 25); Goring, P.Z. (25); Morbey (778), and Haywood (778). The members separated at an early hour, after spending a very pleasant evening.

JERUSALEM CHAPTER (No. 218).—This Chapter met on Tuesday, March 13, for the first time, at its new quarters, the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, Comp. Newsom, M.E.Z., presiding. There being no other business before the Chapter, the Comps. proceeded to the election of principals and other officers for the ensuing year, when Comp. Scambler was elected Z.; Comp. Thomson, H.; Comp. Sheen, J.; Comp. Manico, P.Z., S.E.; Comp. Levy, S.N.; Comp. M'Culloch, P.S., and Comp. Patten, P.Z. and P.G.S.B., Treasurer. The Companions then retired to refreshment, and the remainder of the evening was spent in the most harmonious manner. Among the visitors were three military Companions from the Union and Waterloo Chapter (No. 13); Comp. Richardson (No. 12), and Comp. Thursfield, formerly Companion of this Chapter.

INSTRUCTION.

JOPPA LODGE (No. 223).—This admirable Lodge of Instruction lately removed to the Crooked Billet Tavern, King street, Tower-hill, has just voted £3 3*s*. 0*d*., to the Patriotic Fund.

UNITED PILGRIM LODGE (No. 745).—This excellent Lodge of Instruction, ever ready to fulfil an act of charity, has come forward with £5 for the Patriotic Fund, and some few weeks back voted £5 5*s*. 0*d*. to the F. M. Widows Fund. The Lodge has not been established more than ten years, and during that time it has contributed £5 to the F. M. Annuity Fund, £10 10*s*. 0*d*. to the Boys Institution, and £15 5*s*. to the Widows Fund, and now added £5 to the Patriotic Fund.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

CHESHIRE.

EATON LODGE, CONGLETON (No. 777).—This Lodge held its quarterly meeting at the usual place, Golden Lion Inn, on the 7th March After transacting the ordinary Lodge business, the brethren adjourned to the Bull's Head Hotel—of which Br. Ullivero has recently become the landlord—where an excellent dinner was served, to which a goodly company sat down, Br. G. C. Antrobus, W.M. of the Lodge, occupying the chair, supported by the Mayor of Congleton, Dr. Beales, and other gentlemen. The customary loyal and fraternal toasts were given, and responded to in true Masonic style, and the evening was spent most agreeably. It was unanimously agreed that the Eaton Lodge should in future be held at the Bull's Head.

DEVONSHIRE.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST LODGE, PLYMOUTH (No. 83).—The regular monthly meeting of the above Lodge was held on Tuesday, the 6th of March. The minutes of the previous Lodge having been confirmed, and some private business transacted, a brother was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. This beautiful and interesting ceremony being performed by Br. Pollard, P.M., P.P.G.T., the Lodge closed in harmony at 9 o'clock.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE, STONEHOUSE (No. 122).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on the 14th of March, at the Prince George Hotel, when the W.M., Br.

Phillips, initiated Mr. Charles Dyer, auctioneer, &c., of this town, into the Order, the ceremony being performed in a style that reflects great credit on the Lodge, which closed in peace and harmony at 10 p.m., the brethren retired, and supper was served in Br. Killingly's usual style.

LODGE OF HARMONY, PLYMOUTH (No. 182).—The members held their regular monthly meeting on the 5th of March, when Br. Earl initiated three gentlemen into the Order; after which, Br. Gidley passed a brother to the second degree. After the business of the evening the brethren retired to refreshment, and parted at an early hour.

STAR OF BRUNSWICK, STONEHOUSE (No. 185).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at St. George's Hall, having removed from Devonport on the 7th of March. Br. P. E. Rowe, P.M., P.P.G.D.C. for Devon, initiated a gentleman into the mystic art in his usual style. The Lodge closed at 10 o'clock in peace and harmony and good fellowship.

LODGE OF SINCERITY, ST. GEORGE'S HALL, STONEHOUSE (No. 224), removed from the the Royal Hotel, Plymouth.—The members of this Corinthian Lodge held an emergency meeting on Friday, the 9th of March, when Br. Tripe, P.M., P.P.G.R. for Devon, &c., very ably initiated Lieut. Pim into the Order. This is a gentleman of whom all the world has heard; one of those brave men sent in quest of Sir John Franklin and companions. There was a very large muster of friends and brothers to do honour to the initiate, upwards of 40 being present. On the candidate's health being proposed at the refreshment table, he made a most interesting statement of his travels in the Arctic Regions.

LODGE OF FRIENDSHIP, DEVONPORT (No. 238).—The members of this exceedingly well worked Lodge met at the Lord Hood, when the W.M. presided at a Lodge of emergency, and most ably initiated and passed two brethren. This, although his first attempt, was so successful as to cause the visitors who were present to wish that the W.M.'s of other Lodges would visit this—take a lesson and profit by it. The regular Lodge was held on the 22nd of February, when the W.M., Br. Richards, raised a brother to the sublime degree of M.M. in such an impressive manner, as induced the visitors to tender their congratulations to one, who, though so young a member of the Craft, has shewn such proficiency. The brethren were then called from labour to refreshment, and passed a very pleasant evening.

DURHAM.

LODGE OF INDUSTRY, GATESHEAD (No. 56).—The Ball.—On Thursday evening, the 8th of March, a ball took place in the lodge-room of the brethren, at the Queen's Head Hotel, Gateshead. The Stewards, Brs. Wm. Morrow, W.M.; E. D. Davis, P.M.; F. P. Tonn, P.M.; H. L. Monro, P.M.; D. Robson; T. Andrews, and W. E. Wilkinson, had been looked upon as a guarantee of a really pleasant ball, and, as was anticipated, it went off with great eclât. The Mayor of Gateshead, R. W. Hodgson, Esq., who wore the insignia of his office, and Mrs. T. Andrews, opened the ball. The rank, fashion and beauty of the sister counties, Durham and Northumberland, assembled on the occasion; the beautiful and artistic decorations of the room, and the magnificent dresses of the lovely daughters of the North, rendered the scene a brilliant one; happiness was in every countenance;—

> "Music arose with its voluptuous swell,
> Soft eyes looked love to eyes which spake again,
> And all went merry as a marriage bell!"

The graceful waltz and light quadrille wese kept up with unabated spirit until an early hour in the morning. Brs. H. L. Monro, P.M., and D. Robson, as Masters of the Ceremonies, performed their duties to universal satisfaction. The refreshments, which were provided by the much-respected hostess, Miss Murray, comprised delicacies to please the most fastidious taste. We understand that, in consequence of the great satisfaction expressed by all, the ball is likely to become an annual one. On Monday, the 26th March, the Brethren of this Lodge assembled in their Lodge-room, at the Queen's Head Hotel, Gateshead, for the installation of Br. Wm. Morrow, the W.M. re-elect for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was ably performed by

Br. Wm. Dalziel, P.M., and P.G.D C. for Northumberland. On the conclusion of the installation, the W.M. proceeded to appoint and invest the following Brethren as officers for the year, viz:—A. Stewart, S.W.; W. E. Franklyn, J.W.; J. Potts, S.D.; T. Andrews, J.D.; F. P. Ionn, Treasurer; C J. Brinton, Sec.; T. Richardson, S.S.; D. Robson, J. S.; H. L. Munro, D.C.; Hy. Dickson, J.G.; Alex. Dickson, Tyler. The Brethren, numbering about forty, afterwards dined together in their Lodge-room, the W.M. presiding, supported on his right by Br. Wm. Dalziel, P.M., and P.G.D.C. for Northumberland, and on his left by Br. H.L. Monro, P.M. The Vice-chairs were occupied by the S.W. and J.W. Amongst the company we observed the following P.M's.:—Brs. Wm. Punson, F. P. Ionn, J. Donald, — Barker, Benj. Thompson, J. Hopper; also, the following W.M's.:—Brs. W. Johnson, P. Mork, and P. Holloway. The usual Masonic, loyal, and patriotic toasts were proposed and enthusiastically responded to. In the course of the evening Br. Wm. Punshon, P.M. of Lodge No. 586, rose and said,—being the oldest P.M. in the room, he had the pleasing duty to perform of proposing to them a health which he felt was worthy their warmest approbation, and which he knew they would drink in a bumper, he meant the health of the W.M. (cheers). He (Br. Punshon) begged most sincerely to congratulate the W.M. on his having been re-elected to fill the Chair of Lodge 56, an honor of which he (the W.M.) was richly deserving, for he had won it by the very efficient manner in which he had presided over the Lodge during the past twelve months. Wherever he (Br. Punshon) had met the W.M., whether in the chair of the Lodge of Industry, or "over the water," he had always met with a true brother. It was unnecessary for him to tell them that the W.M. always welcomed visitors to Lodge 56, with masonic cordiality. He would not say more, but would conclude by proposing, in a bumper, the health of their much-respected W.M. Drunk with enthusiasm and Masonic honors. The W.M. in reply, said:—Br. P.M. Punshon, to you for so kindly and feelingly proposing my health, and to you and my brethren for so warmly drinking the same, I feel deeply grateful. The Hon. Br. P.M. Punshon has paid me many flattering compliments. I assure you I have the interests of Masonry warmly at heart; I can only say that I have, during my year of office, endeavoured to act strictly according to constitutions, and to abide by the ancient landmarks of the Order; any errors I may have committed have been, I trust, rather those of the head than of the heart. It will be my endeavour in the future so to act that my brethren may not have to regret the very high honor they have paid me in re-electing me to fill the chair of Lodge 56—(Cheers). Deeply grateful to you all, allow me in conclusion, again to express my grateful acknowledgments—(Cheers). The proceedings of the evening were much enlivened by several songs from Brs. Dalziel, Stewart, Tullock and Hogan. Altogether the evening was spent in a truly Masonic manner, in every heart that good feeling reigning, so peculiarly belonging to the Craft.

Chapter of Strict Benevolence, Sunderland (No. 114).—At the convocation of the Royal Arch Chapter, held at the Palatine Lodge Room, Bridge Hotel, on Thursday evening, the 1st of March, the following Companions were installed officers for the ensuing year, viz.:—Edward D. Davis, Z.; Robert Saville, H.; John Crosby, J.; Frank H. Rahn, E.; Edward Evans (as) N.; Edward Smith, Treasurer; Benj. Brooks, P.S.; Edwd. Brown (as) A.S. 1; Benj. Levy, A.S. 1; Wm. M. Laws, Janitor.

KENT.

Adam's Lodge, Sheerness (No. 184).—The Lodge met at the Fountain Inn on Tuesday, the 6th of February, when two brethren were passed to the Second Degree and three gentlemen were initiated into Freemasonry, in a most impressive manner, by the W.M., Br. J. Whittal. The lectures on the Tracing Boards of the First and Second Degree were delivered by Br. Keddell, to the high gratification and instruction of the brethren. A Lodge of Emergency was held on the 15th of February, to initiate a member of the medical profession about to leave England.

A convocation of Adam's Chapter was held on Friday, the 23rd, where a candidate was exalted by E. C. Keddell, P.Z., assisted by E. C. Townsend, who ably performed the duties of P.S. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the attendance was

limited, but a spirit of harmony and order among the select few compensated, in some degree, for the absence of several Companions.

A Convocation of Emergency of Adam's Chapter was held on the 5th of March, for the exaltation of a brother about to leave England for the Baltic. The Companions assembled at 7 p.m., and the ceremony was conducted by E. C. Keddell, P.Z., and E. C. Townsend, H. as P S. After the exaltation, the Companions partook of a banquet prepared by Br. Green, of the Crown, and separated after a very cheerful evening.

The Lodge again met on Tuesday, the 6th of March, and three brethren were raised to the S.D. of M.M. by the W.M., Br. Whittall, in a manner suitable for the solemnity of that important degree. Three brethren were also passed to the degree of F.C., and Lieut. J. B. Parkins, R.A., was initiated into Masonry. The whole of the ceremonies were performed with a due regard to order and decorum, so as to impress the recipients of the various degrees with exalted notions of the excellency and dignity of Freemasonry.

At the banquet the W.M., on behalf of the brethren, presented the Secretary of the Lodge, Br. Isaac Townsend, P.M., with a handsome silver watch, as a testimonial of their esteem and regard for his long and valuable services to the Lodge. The W.M. dilated very pleasingly on the claims of the worthy and excellent brother to the gratitude and respect of the Lodge, not only for his faithful services as Secretary, but for the zeal and energy manifested by him as a Past Master, which had resulted in bringing the Lodge into its present state of prosperrity, Indeed, the services rendered by Br. Townsend, in keeping alive the sacred flame of Freemasonry when adversity and clouds threatened to overwhelm in its ruin, could not be too highly appreciated; and we are sure that the brethren of No. 184, as well as the brethren of the province of Kent, entertain a due sense of the value of such a Mason as Br. Townsend, sen.

Br. W. F. Keddell, the son of Br. J. S. Keddell, P.S.G.W. for Kent, took his farewell of the brethren, he being about to proceed to the Crimea for the medical department at Eupatoria. Though a young Mason, he will be a valuable accession to the Craft who may be there already, and the brethren took their leave of him with every fraternal wish for his health and success.

LANCASHIRE, East Division.

Chapter of Hope, Rochdale (No. 62).—This excellent Chapter held its annual convocation on the 5th inst., at the Spread Eagle Inn, at 6 o'clock, p.m. The Chapter having been opened in due form, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and the following Companions re-elected officers for 1855:—Com. John Lord, Z.; W. Roberts, H., P.Z.; J. L. Holland, J.; T. Reed, S.E.; G. Hulme, N.; P. P. Baker, P.S.; S. Stott, Treasurer; E. Clegg, Secretary; and R. Nield, Janitor. The bye-laws having been revised by the principals, were presented and read by W. Roberts, H., and, with slight amendments, passed. At the conclusion of the business of the Chapter the Companions sat down to refreshment, and after spending a couple of hours in perfect harmony, retired at half-past nine o'clock, well pleased with the evening's transactions.

Keystone Lodge, Facit (No. 469).—The Monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Bay Horse Inn, on Wednesday, the 7th inst., at 7 o'clock, p.m., the W.M. Br. Shackleton presiding. The business of the evening consisted of appointing a Treasurer in the place of Br. James Butterworth, resigned. At the conclusion of the Masonic business the Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and spent a very pleasant evening.

OXFORDSHIRE.

Cherwell Lodge, Banbury (No. 873).—The anniversary festival of the Cherwell Lodge was held at the Red Lion Hotel, Banbury, on the 26th of February, when a large number of the brethren attended. The Lodge was opened at three o'clock, when the retiring Worshipful Master, Br. Rev. Vernon Blake, presided. Br. Calcutt was passed, and two candidates, Br. Faulkner, solicitor, of Deddington, and Br. Lampitt, engineer, of Banbury, were initiated. The ceremony of installing the W.M.

elect, Br. Captain Bowyer, then took place, Br. Blake fulfilling the duties in an impressive and admirable manner. On the conclusion of the ceremony, the W.M. addressed the brethren, and besought their indulgence and support during his year of office.

The W.M. then appointed the following brethren to be his officers for the year, and invested them with the various insignia of office:—Senior Warden, Br. W. J. Birch; Junior Warden, Br. Hayward; Senior Deacon, Br. Clement Cottrell Dormer; Junior ditto, Br. J. Cooke; Treasurer, Br. Bryden; Secretary, Br. J. B. Looker; Director of Ceremonies, Br. Rusher; Organist, Br. Calcutt; Inner Guard, Br. Margetts; Tyler, Br. Moss.

About six o'clock the brethren proceeded in due form and order to the banquet room, where a sumptuous entertainment awaited them. The dinner was succeeded by an elegant dessert, and the wines supplied on the occasion were of a superior character, and such as met with general approbation. The W.M. presided, and was supported by Br. R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B.; Br. Rev, V. Blake, the late W.M. of the Cherwell Lodge; Br. Beech, P.M. of the Apollo University Lodge; Brs. W. Thompson and J. Wyatt, Past Masters of the Alfred City Lodge; Br. T. Joy, W.M. of the Churchill Lodge; Br. W. W. Harrison, of Brasenose College, Senior Warden of the Apollo Lodge; Brs. Birch, C. C. Dormer; Atkinson, St. Edmund Hall; Bond, Trinity College; Stother, Magdalen Hall; Codrington, Brasenose College; Joseph Prior, of Woodstock; B. W. Aplin, Rowell, Bryden; Foot, Deptford; Cook, Scroggs, Kirby, Gardiner, Rusher, Havers, Perry, Birch, jun.; Margetts, Coleman, G. Druce, Lampitt, Faulkner, Joseph Plowman. &c., &c.

On the removal of the cloth, the W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft"—"The Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland."

In proposing "The health of the Deputy Grand Master of England, the Earl of Yarborough, and the other Grand Officers," the W.M. begged to couple with the toast the name of Br. Spiers, Past Grand Swordbearer, who, he remarked, was not only a most skilful and zealous Mason, but might be regarded as the great promoter and benefactor of Masonry in this province—(Loud cheers).

Br. Spiers responded to the toast, and observed that the most gratifying circumstance which had occurred in this province, and, he might add, in the Grand Lodge, was the welcoming among the Grand Officers the distinguished brother, Capt. Bowyer, who so ably presided over the Cherwell Lodge, at the present moment. Although the announcement had not been officially made, yet Br. Bowyer was at that time Pro. G.M. of Oxfordshire; for four days ago, he (Br. Spiers) saw his patent signed by the Grand Master, the Deputy G.M., and the Grand Secretary, and it only waited some formal proceeding to constitute him *de facto* Prov. G.M. of this province—(Much cheering). The compliment paid to that brother was enhanced by the fact that the appointment had been made at the earliest possible moment—(Cheers). Although this province had not been accustomed to have Grand Officers, it now possessed two very energetic ones in Br. Bowyer and Br. Moore. He (Br. Spiers) had had great pleasure in being present at the consecration and foundation of the Cherwell Lodge, and the success which had attended it, and the important position which it had attained in four years, were the best proofs that they had laid their lines carefully, and acted wisely in selecting Banbury as the site for a new Masonic Lodge. They had been fortunate in having such good Masters to preside over them, and such efficient officers to carry on the work; but, as in the case of all young Lodges, there was much to be learned, he hoped that the brethren of Banbury would embrace every opportunity of visiting the Lodges at Oxford, where they would meet with a cordial reception, and gain instruction which would be very useful to them; for not only as Masons, but as citizens in the same county, it was desirable that they should know more of each other, and meet more frequently—(Cheers).

Br. Blake proposed "The health of the W.M. and P.G.M. of Oxfordshire, Br. Bowyer," and said that he felt how unequal he was to express their feelings and his own towards that distinguished brother, but he knew how much he was beloved and respected by every one present; his unwearied and continued kindness to every member of the Lodge, and the unexcelled way in which he carried into public and

private life the principles which he inculcated in the Lodge, had won the respect and regard of every member in the province—(Cheers). He felt assured that they would all join with him in sincerely congratulating Br. Bowyer in having received that reward, the appointment of P.G.M. of Oxfordshire, which the Earl of Zetland had bestowed upon him, and which he had so deservedly won—(Cheers). It was not an office which he sought for or had acquired by interest, but it was conferred upon him simply because his fame and his character as a man and a Mason had reached the ears of the G.M. of England—(Cheers). He sincerely hoped, and felt that all the brethren would concur in it, that he might long continue to rule over this province, and to afford to the Craft for many years to come his bright example as a man and a Mason—(Much cheering).

Br. Bowyer returned thanks, and said that it would be the utmost vanity on his part to imagine that he had attained that high standard which the late W.M. and the brethren had given him credit for, nor could he hope to attain it, however desirous he might be of doing so. He had, however, one most grateful reflection, and that was, that he had enjoyed to the fullest extent the kind co-operation and support of the Masons of Oxfordshire ever since he had come among them. It was no merit of his own which had gained for him so much regard and esteem, and which had procured for him the highest honour which could be conferred upon him; and, highly as he valued the distinction of P.G.M. for Oxfordshire, it would have no value in his eyes if he did not believe that it emanated from the kind feeling and expressed wish of the brethren—(Cheers). Although he had long been connected with the Craft, and had many personal friends who held high positions in the Order, he had studiously abstained from putting forward any pretensions to the office, and consequently he valued the honour the more on account of the noble and generous manner in which it had been conferred upon him. On the brethren of the province, through whose instrumentality he had received the appointment, the responsibility devolved; but he could assure them that every talent and energy which he could command should be devoted to their service, and he sincerely hoped that a still closer connection with them might be lasting, and tend to their mutual benefit—(Cheers). In conclusion, he would only add, that whenever he surrendered that office, whether by the will of the Great Architect of the Universe, or through any other cause, he desired no better epitaph or memorial than this, that he had at least endeavoured to do his duty—(Much cheering).

The W.M. proposed "The health of the Past Masters of the Cherwell Lodge," and coupled with the toast the name of the late W.M., Br. Blake, whose services, he said, would long be borne in grateful remembrance, for he had fulfilled all the duties of the chair in a solemn and impressive manner, and in a way which became his sacred character as well as the real dignity of Freemasonry—(Cheers).

Br. Blake, in returning thanks, said, that although it was well known that one of the chief tenets and peculiar characteristics of this Order was good will, yet he felt that on the present occasion the W.M. and brethren had carried it to a greater extent than he deserved, and the terms in which they had spoken of him proceeded not so much from any merit of his own as from their general good feeling towards him personally, and from that excellent spirit which pervaded every true Mason—(Cheers).

The W.M. then proposed "The healths of the newly initiated brethren, Brs. Faulkner and Lampitt," after which Br. Spiers sang, with excellent effect, "The Entered Apprentice's song."

Br. Faulkner briefly returned thanks.

The W.M. proposed "The healths of the Past Masters of the Alfred Lodge, (Brs. Wyatt and Thompson), the officers and brethren of that Lodge, and success to it," and adverted to the admirable working which had made it so distinguished in the Craft—(Cheers).

Br. James Wyatt responded to the toast, and expressed his regret that the W.M., Br. J. Thorp, was too ill to be present. He assured them that it afforded the brethren of the Alfred Lodge great pleasure to witness the continued prosperity of Masonry in this part of the county; and he congratulated them on having Masters to preside over them, and officers who could not be surpassed for zeal, energy, and ability—(Cheers).

He alluded to the appointment of Capt. Bowyer as Prov. G.M., and said that it would have been impossible for one to have been made more in accordance with the wishes and feelings of the whole province, and assured that brother, that in Oxford it was hailed with such satisfaction and delight, that he might depend upon every assistance and support which it was possible for the brethren of the Oxford Lodges to give him on every occasion—(Loud cheers).

The W.M. proposed "The healths of the Past Masters, officers, and brethren, of the Apollo Lodge," which, as a working Lodge, was inferior to none in England. He coupled with the toast the name of Past Master Beech, and complimented him on the admirable manner in which he fulfilled the duties of the chair for two years—(Cheers).

Br. Beech responded to the toast, and remarked that he was present at the foundation and consecration of the Cherwell Lodge, when among those who took part in the ceremony was that estimable brother, their late Prov. G.M., Br. Ridley, whose many virtues and truly Masonic character were cherished in affectionate remembrance throughout the province, and their esteemed brother, Br. Burstall, who was now located in a far distand land, but whose dearest recollections of England were associated with Freemasonry—(Cheers). Although these were some of the changes which had occurred since that memorable occasion, he rejoiced to find that no change had come over the Lodge, but that it continued in the same uninterrupted career of prosperity, that it still flourished, and it could not fail to do so under such auspices—(Cheers). It was with sincere pleasure that he and his brethren of the Apollo Lodge heard of the appointment of Br. Bowyer as Prov. G.M., for he was no less esteemed, and no less cordially welcomed, in Oxford than he was at Banbury, where he was more immediately connected—(Cheers). Before sitting down, Br. Beech proposed "Prosperity to the Cherwell Lodge."

The W.M. proposed "The health of the Master, officers, and brethren of the Churchill Lodge," associating with the toast the name of the present W.M., Br. T. Joy.

Br. Joy returned thanks, and said he had reason to be proud of his Lodge, which was making great progress, and where any visiting brother would see some excellent working, and receive a cordial and hospitable welcome.

The W.M. proposed "The healths of the officers of the Cherwell Lodge," and expressed his regret that the late Senior Warden, Br. B. W. Aplin, had declined to take the Master's chair, which had been offered him, and for which he was so eminently qualified.

Br. Birch, S.W., acknowledged the toast, and remarked, that Masonry should be a pattern to all mankind, on account of the sound moral principle which it inculcated. In conclusion, he expressed a hope that all who had taken office would fulfil the duties devolving on them, and that Masonry might not only gain strength among themselves, but that its sentiments and principles might spread all over the world—(Much cheering).

Br. Aplin briefly explained that his only reason for declining the chair at present was, that his engagements would preclude him from fulfilling the duties in the way he wished or was due to the Lodge; but if at some future time he should feel himself more at liberty, he would not shrink from the responsibility.

The W.M. then gave the parting toast, "To all poor and distressed Masons;" after which tea and coffee were served, and the brethren separated.

SHROPSHIRE.

Salopian Lodge, Shrewsbury (No. 328).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Monday the 12th of March, at the Raven and Bell Hotel. The Lodge was opened in due form at 4 o'clock. The minutes of the former Lodge were read and confirmed. The brethren had the painful duty to proceed to the election of a Master to preside over them, in consequence of the demise of the late lamented and esteemed Br. Benjamin Churchill, the W.M. elect for the ensuing year, being summoned from this sublunary abode, to the Grand Lodge above, the very day on which the ceremony for his installation was fixed. Br. the Rev. G. C. Guise being unanimously elected

W.M., and the Lodge being opened on the second degree, the W.M. was duly and formally presented. Four brothers were passed by Br. W. Brightwell, P.M. The Lodge was then opened in the third degree, and a board of installed Masters being formed, the ceremony of installation was impressively performed by Br. Henry T. Wace, P.M. The W.M. then proceeded to appoint the following brethren as his officers:—Brs. the Rev. — Bluck, S.W.; Robert Haycock, J.W.; Rev. — Elliott, Chaplain; John Leech Rowland, Hon. Sec.; J. C. Randal, S.D.; W. H. Bayley, J.D.; J. P. White, H. A. Jones, Sen. Stewards; S. Wood, for the third time, being unanimously re-elected Treasurer. The Lodge being closed in perfect harmony, the brethren, about 30 in number, proceeded to an elegant banquet. The vice chairs were efficiently filled by the S.W. and J.W. The customary loyal, Masonic, and patriotic toasts were given, and most suitably responded to, and the evening was characterised by that love and harmony, so peculiarly appertaining to the Craft, and to this Lodge in particular. We cannot refrain from mentioning the manner in which the newly appointed Master closed the Lodge in the various degrees, and conducted the proceedings of the evening, which reflected not only great credit on himself, but was also the theme of general admiration. The brethren were happy to congratulate brother Capt. Hubert Freme, of the 69th Highlanders, on his safe, but temporary, return from the Crimea.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

Vale of Jehoshaphat, Highbridge, Chapter (No. 367).—The Grand Superintendent of the Province of Somerset, Colonel C. K. K. Tynte, having granted a dispensation to the Companions to meet and reopen their Chapter, a numerous meeting lately assembled at the Highbridge Inn, Huntspill. The Chapter was honoured by the attendance of many worthy companions from Bristol. The ceremonies of instalment into the different chairs were admirably gone through by Comps. Taylor, P.Z.; Page, Z.; and Evans, S.E.; all of the Beaufort Lodge, Bristol. The following are the names of the officers for the ensuing year:—H. Bridges, Z.; J. B. Thwaites, H.; C. H. Gregory, J.; B. T. Allen, E.; W. Harwood, N.; W. Walkley, P.S.; H. Bridges, Treasurer.

YORKSHIRE.

Lodge of Hope, Bradford (No. 379).—We have been favoured with a summary of the proceedings of this Lodge for the last three months. On the 27th Dec. last, 1854, the W.M. elect, Br. David Salmond, was installed according to ancient custom. He then invested his officers in due form. After which the brethren adjourned to the Bowling Green Hotel, where they partook of a sumptuous repast provided by Br. John Lupton, the worthy host. The evening was spent in true Masonic love and harmony, and was terminated to the pleasure and satisfaction of all. On the 1st of January, a donation of ten guineas was voted from the funds of the Lodge for the Patriotic Fund; also ten guineas for the relief of the suffering poor of Bradford, to be applied through the medium of the Committee of the "Bradford Soup-kitchen." At a meeting on March the 5th, the W.M. Br. David Salmond presiding, agreeably to announcement contained in our monthly summons, Br. P.M. Henry Farrar delivered a Lecture, which occupied an hour and a quarter, the subject being, "What is Freemasonry, considered in its origin and history, its symbolical meaning, and its practical objects?" A great number of the brethren of the Lodge were present, and among others who had came from a distance were Br. Charles Lee, R.W.D.P.G.M., and Br. Dixon, P.G. Treasurer of West Yorkshire; also the W.M. officers and many of the brethren from the Lodge of Harmony, 874, Bradford. The Lecture contained a great amount of valuable and interesting information, and was received with a great demonstration of satisfaction from the brethren present. The Lecturer concluded by saying, "That having very feebly and imperfectly portrayed to you the divine origin of our ancient institution, coupled with an imperfect exposition of its symbolical and emblematical teachings, I solicit your attention for a few

moments only, to their practical or personal objects. I beg sincerely to thank you for the kind attention which you have given me, and in conclusion to solicit your earnest study and meditation of the Principles of our Order; that, by such means, you may add an intellectual buttress, pinnacle, or cape-stone, to our beautiful moral superstructure. Those who have the *will* can always find the opportunity to add their mite to the treasury of Masonic knowledge, for it is in the power of all to give such direction to our Masonic labours as may dignify our profession—invest it with enduring interest—to make it the depository of the arts and sciences, and the bright exemplar of moral power and union throughout the civilised world; so that it may be our boast, that during the revolutions of sixty centuries, amid the fall of mighty empires and the destroying hand of time, it still survives, shedding, though diminished, a halo of light over its votaries, and promising to prolong its benign influence, until all the nations of the earth shall unite as one people in praise and thanksgiving to their Creator—when distinctive unions of men shall be no longer required, but from the Heavens again shall be sung the Angelic Anthem, 'Glory to God in the Highest—on earth, peace and good will towards men.' Think not, brethren, for one moment, that you are disqualified to be useful labourers in the Masonic vineyard. All have talents, more or less, and there is ample work for their employment; duties to perform, onerous and extensive, and scope for their full exercise; be it then your task to soften aspirities, to promote the adjustment of differences, and to strengthen and otherwise develope our union, by promoting the study of the sacred Law, and the benign principles of our Order, by prudence, fortitude, temperance, and justice, but above all, *charity*. Thus to sooth the afflicted, and aid the distressed, to sympathise with them in the hour of trial, and to join in tempered congratulations in their prosperity; to give to the fraternity the hand of brotherhood, the foot of support; to bend the knee in supplication for their welfare; to offer the breast of fidelity, and to afford them defence and protection when absent, so that we, as an Order and as a Lodge, may exemplify that divine saying, 'A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another: as I have loved you—that ye also love one another.' 'So mote it be.'" At the conclusion of the Lecture, Br. Chas. Lee, R.W.D.P.G.M., proposed a vote of thanks for Br. Farrar, the Lecturer, seconded by Br. Dixon, P. G. Treasurer, supported in a very able manner by the Rev. Br. H. D. L. Willis, chaplain of the Lodge, and unanimously carried.

Lodge of St. German, Selby (No. 827).—The annual meeting of the brethren of this Lodge was held at Selby on the 2nd of March, when Br. John Fothergill was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, and appointed his officers as follows:—Whitehead, S.W.; Pearson, J.W.; Wright and Richardson, Stewards; Culting, S.D.; Tinkinson, J.D.; Romans, Trea.; Marshall, Sec.; Werry, F.G.; and Hardisly, Tyler. After the ceremony of installation, which was performed by Br. Dr. Bell, of Hull, the brethren adjourned for refreshment, and partook of an excellent dinner at the George Hotel, after which a pleasant and joyous evening was spent. The number present was about *30; several of the brethren being Past Masters of this* very flourishing Lodge.

Provincial Grand Lodge.—A Provincial Grand Lodge for West Yorkshire was held at the Old Cock Inn, Halifax, on the 3rd of January (though the proceedings only reached us on the 24th March), when there were present the W. Charles Lee, D.P.G. Master; W. Bentley Shaw, P.S.G.W., 342; W. Richard Carter, P.P.S.G.W., 73; W. James Peace (P.P.J.G.W.), as P.J.G.W., 342; W. Josh. Senior, L.L.D. (P.P.J.G.W.), P.G.C., 727; W. Rev. J. G. Fardell, M.A., P.P.G.C., 298; W. Rev. A. Woodford, M.A., P.P.G.C. for Durham, 382; W. Wm. Dixon, P.G. Treasurer, 529; W. J. A. Unna, P.G.R., 379 and 874; W. James Hargreaves, P.G. Secretary, 384; W. Thomas Dewhirst, P.S.G.D., 379; W. John Lee (P.P.G.R.) as P.J.G.D., 382; W. Wm. Smith, P.G.D.C., 365; W. Wm. Smith, P.G.S.B., 73; W. W. W. Widdopp, P.P.G.S.B., 342 and 422; W. Solomon Clayton, P.G.O., 379; W. J. O. Gill, P.G. Pursuivant, 251; Brs. Josiah Thomas, P.G.S., 365; R. R. Nelson, P.G.S., 251 and 384; John Becket, P.G. Tyler, 727; and a large number of Masters, Past Masters, officers, and brethren from other Lodges. The business of

the day commenced by the W.M. and officers of the Lodge of Probity, No. 73, opening in the three Degrees. The Provincial Grand Officers then entered in due order, and the Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in form, and with solemn prayer. Scripture was read. The minutes of the last P.G.L. having been read and confirmed, various petititions were relieved by the votes of sums of money to be given to them in such amounts as their own Lodges might determine. Several truly fraternal letters having been read, it was proposed by Br. W. G. Warriner, P.G.S., No. 727; and seconded by Br. Rev. A. Woodford, M.A., P.P.G. Chaplain of Durham, and chaplain of the Lodge No. 382, Leeds: That it be a bye-lawe of this Provincial Grand Lodge, that a committee of reference shall be appointed at every annual Provincial Grand Lodge, to which committee all doubtful and disputed points relative to the ritual or mode and manner of masonic working, shall be submitted for decision and determination; and every Lodge in the province shall nominate one of its members as a member of such committee, every such member being either the Worshipful Master or a Past Master of such Lodge. Br. James Peace, P.P.J.G.W. was re-appointed a member of the committee for receiving, arranging, and forwarding the voting papers of the brethren of this province to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and their widows, and Br. Peace again impressed upon the brethren the necessity of sending their contributions early, and not later than April. A conversation having taken place on the subject of contributing to the Patriotic Fund, Br. Josh. Batley, W.M. of the Harmony Lodge, No. 342, gave notice of a motion at the next Provincial Grand Lodge to suspend the operation of bye-law 17, in order that the funds of the Provincial Grand Lodge may be rendered applicable in suchwise as that a sum therefrom may be granted to the Royal Patriotic Fund. The following additions to the bye-law 1, of the Provincial Grand Lodge, was proposed and seconded:—Then and in such case, notice of such matter shall be sufficient, if transmitted to the respective Worshipful Masters of Lodges in the Province, and it shall not be deemed expedient on such occasions to open the Provincial Grand Lodge, but the members thereof then assembled shall hear and determine concerning any application for relief, and grant such aid as the case may warrant, and the law, as is hereafter set forth, allow. This proposed alteration was negatived almost unanimously, after some discussion. The Lodges were called over in order to ascertain, in accordance with the circular addressed to the several Lodges, what amount each Lodge had subscribed to the Royal Patriotic Fund, and the following Lodges were returned as direct contributors thereto:

		£	s.	d.
The Probity	No. 73	10	10	0
The Britannia	,, 162	5	0	0
The Hope	,, 379	10	10	0
The Harmony	,, 342	20	0	0
The Alfred	,, 384	10	10	0
The Scientific	,, 642	13	9	0
		£69	19	0

And also in accordance with the request expressed in the circular, the following Lodges stated that the members thereof had contributed, as citizens, to the Royal Patriotic Fund, as respectively set forth hereunder:

		£	s.	d.	
The Probity	No. 73	100	0	0	
The Three Grand Principles	,, 251	60	0	0	
The Amphibious	,, 322	100	0	0	to £150
The Royal Yorkshire	,, 332	25	0	0	
The Huddersfield	,, 365	30	0	0	
The Hope	,, 379	270	0	0	
The Harmony	,, 342	350	0	0	
The Three Graces	,, 591	7	2	6	
The Scientific	,, 642	22	10	0	
The Truth	,, 763	105	11	8	
The Harmony	,, 874	80	0	0	to £100

Thus shewing that the members of the above-named eleven Lodges, in the West Riding, have nobly contributed as citizens in their respective districts the sum of £1200 and upwards, to the Royal Patriotic Fund, and the brethren of nineteen other Lodges have subscribed to the Fund, but no retnrn made of the amount to G. Lodge.

Another P. G. L. is to be held at Huddersfield, on the 11th inst., when the proposition for suspending the bye-law in order to all the P. G. L. to subscribe to the Patriotic Fund, will be taken into consideration, and the officers for the ensuing year will be appointed and invested. The R.W.P.G.M. the Right Hon. the Earl of Maxborough, is expected to preside on the occasion.

WALES—WESTERN DIVISION.

St. Peter's Lodge, Carmarthen (No. 699).—At the last meeting of this Lodge two brethren were raised to the sublime degree, and one candidate received into Masonry. We understand it to be in contemplation to establish a Royal Arch Chapter here, with Br. Ribbans 1st Principal. The W.M. of this Lodge has ordered the *Masonic Mirror* to be regularly taken in; and, says our correspondent, if every Lodge in the Kingdom were to follow his example, the little periodical would flourish and grow into a Mosonic library. Br. Ribbans has received the sanction of our M.W.G.M. to dedicate his forthcoming collection of Masonic songs to his Lordship, and we wish him every success. By the way, we may as well mention a suggestion made by our correspondent, that any particular Masonic song, or the source of some of the best songs would be acceptable to the literary brother; and we shall feel obliged by any reference to works of the kind, so as to give Br. Ribbans every facility to make his collection complete.

SCOTLAND.

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

The following are the Grand Officers of Scotland for the year 1855-6:—

The Most Noble George Augustus Fred. John, Duke of Athole, K.T., Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland.;

J. Whyte Melville, of Bennochy and Strathkinness, R.W. Deputy Grand Master; Sir Robert Menzies, of that Ilk, Bart., R.W. Substitute Grand Master; Patrick Keir, of Kindrogan, R.W. Senior Grand Warden; Right Hon. Lord Loughborough, R.W. Junior Grand Warden; Samuel Hay (Union Bank), Pr. M. No. 24, R.W. Grand Treasurer; William Alex. Laurie, W.S. Pr. M. No. 342, R.W. Grand Secretary; Jas. Linning Woodman, C.S. Pr. M. No. 20, R.W. Grand Clerk; Rev. David Arnot, D.D., Pr. M. No. 352, V.W. Grand Chaplain; J. H. Erskine Wemyss, of Wemyss, Pr. S.W. No. 43, V.W. Senior Grand Deacon; James Wolfe Murray, of Cringletie, Pr. M. No. 23, V.W. Junior Grand Deacon; David Bryce, Pr. M. No. 165, V.W. Architect; Charles Mackay, Pr. M. No. 116, V.W. Grand Jeweller; John Deuchar, of Morningside, Pr. M. No. 102, V.W. Grand Bible-Bearer; Lieut. P. Deuchar, R.N., Pr. M. No. 66, Grand Director of Ceremonies; Andrew Murray, Pr. M. No. 75, Grand Sword Bearer; Alexander Mackenzie, Pr. S.W., No. 49, Grand Director of Music.

The following comprise the Grand Committee for the year, as elected on 5th February, 1855:—

The Grand Master; Depute Grand Master; Substitute Grand Master; the Masters of all Lodges in Edinburgh, Leith, and Portobello, viz.:—Br. F. D. M'Cowan, No. 1; Br. W. N. Fraser, No. 2; Br. Thomas Pearson, No. 5; Br. D. M'Ewan, No. 8; Br. Alex. Downie, No. 36; Br. J Stewart, No. 44; Lodge No. 48, Dormant; Br. Thomas Keith, No. 97 (Dues on Enrolment unpaid); Br. William Millar, No. 145 (Lodge under suspension); Br. William Smith, No. 151; Br. James Knox, No. 160; Br. William Bailey, No. 226 (Dues on Enrolment unpaid); Br. James Dobie, No. 291, *Lodge No. 354, Election not intimated;* Br. Henry Wright, No. 349.

And the following Proxy Masters:—

Br. P. Hamilton, No. 119; Br. W. Pringle, No. 157; Br. J. Steventon, No. 199; Br. F. S. Melville, No. 225; Br. D. Kinnear, No. 234; Br. A. Trail, No. 120; Br.

James Nairne, No. 114; Br. William Belfrage, No. 30; Br. A. J. Stewart, No. 14, Br. A. Sclanders, No. 37; Br. W. Donaldson, No. 152; Br. George Murray; No. 280; Br. James Laing, No. 63; Br. S. Somerville, No. 248; Br. R. Ramage, No. 3-2; Br. John Cunningham, No. 281; Br. John Kay, No. 356; (One vacant, Brother Wright having, since Election, become R.W.M. 349).

BANFFSHIRE.

We are assured upon the best authority that the St. Andrew and the St. John's Operative Lodge, Banff, have been struck off the roll of Lodges of the G.L. of Scotland, for some years; that their members cannot therefore obtain G.L. diplomas, and ought not to be admitted into any regular Lodge. We trust the members of the Banff Lodges will take an early opportunity of endeavouring to put themselves right with the G,L., and not continue to perform ceremonies without proper authority, and create new members who would not be received in any authorised Lodge throughout the United Kingdom. In the mean time, we publish the following merely because it is distinctly stated on the face of the notice, that the Chapter is held under authority from the G. Chapter, though we cannot understand how irregularly made Masons can be allowed to hold office in a Chapter acting under the G. Chapter Charter.

"BANFF.—The Operative Royal Arch Chapter (No. 4), (under Charter from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland), held a convocation on Thursday, the 22nd of March, for the purpose of electing office bearers for the ensuing year, when the following Companions were unanimously elected, viz.:—James Mason, Principal Z.; William Hossack, sen., Principal H.; James Murray, Principal J.; Stenhouse Bairnsfather, 1st Sojourner; Alexander Greig, 2nd Sojourner; James Simpson, sen., 3rd Sojourner; Adam Mason, sen., Scribe E.; James Wm. Mackenzie, Scribe N.; John McEwen, High Priest; George Watt, Steward; Alexander Mortimer, Treasurer; Alexander Aitken, Janitor."

"Masonic Knight Templars.—St. John's encampment mustered roll at the Seatown, on Thursday, the 22nd day of March, when Sir Kt. Companion James Mason, was installed E.C. for the ensuing year."

EDINBURGH.

BR. THE LATE LORD FREDERICK FITZCLARENCE, G.C.H., P.G.M. of SCOTLAND —On Saturday, February 24, there was a Grand Funeral Lodge held by the G.L. of Scotland, in the Queen Street Hall, Edinburgh, in memory of the late distinguished brother. None but M.M.'s were admitted, each of whom was in mourning, with three black crape rosettes on the apron, and the jewels covered with crape. In the unavoidable absence of his Grace the Duke of Athole, G.M. Mason of Scotland, the R.W. Br. G. W. Whyte Melville, Deputy G.M., presided. Brs. Lord Loughborough and Dr. M'Gowan officiated as the senior and junior Grand Wardens. There were upwards of 300 brethren present, comprising Major Nasmyth, the hero of Silistria, Brs. Wm. Hunt, of Pittencrieff, G.S.D., Lieut. Duchar, G.J.D., J. F. Oswald, of Dunnikier, Samuel Somerville, Adolphus Robinow (the two latter representing Foreign Grand Lodges), Rev. Dr. Arnot, Grand Chaplain, J. L. Woodman, Grand Clerk, &c., &c.; with deputations from most of the sister Lodges in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and a number of the adjacent towns. The G.L. having been opened in due form, the service was commenced by the G. Chaplain delivering the following prayer:—

Most Glorious God, Author of all good, and Giver of all mercy, pour down thy blessings upon us, and strengthen all our solemn engagements with the ties of fraternal affection. Let this striking instance of mortality remind us of our approaching fate, and so fit and prepare us for that awful period, whenever it may arrive, that after our departure hence, in peace and in Thy favour, we may be received into Thy Everlasting Kingdom.—Amen.

Grand honours having been paid to the memory of the departed, Br. Kieser played a solemn dirge on the organ, which was followed by Mozart's aria, "O, Isis!" beautifully rendered by Br. Formes, assisted by the chorus.

Then came a service, with responses, as follows:—

Grand Master.—What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of death?

Brethren.—Man walketh in a vain shadow, he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.

Grand Master.—When he dieth he shall carry nothing away; his glory shall not descend after him.

Brethren.—Naked we came into the world, and naked we must return. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

Br. Reichardt having sung an aria from Mendelsohn's Elijah, the service was continued:—

Grand Master.—Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his.

Brethren.—God is our God for ever and ever; He will be our guide even unto death.

Br. Formes next gave Handel's recitative and aria, "For behold the darkness shall cover the earth," which was succeeded by an eloquent and powerful oration delivered by the G. Chaplain, after which the following music was performed:—

Duett—"Now we are Ambassadors," by Brs. Reichardt and Gregoria.

Instrumental Quartett—Haydn's Hymn, and an aria of Mendelsohn's by Br. Reichardt.

The service was then resumed as follows:—

Grand Master.—May we be true and faithful; and may we live and die in love.

Brethren.—So mote it be.

Grand Master.—May we always profess what is good; and may we always act agreeably to our profession.

Brethren.—So mote it be.

Grand Master.—May the Lord bless us, and prosper us: and may all our good intentions be crowned with success.

Brethren.—So mote it be

Grand Master.—Glory be to God on high—on earth peace, and goodwill towards men.

Brethren.—So mote it be; now, from henceforth, and for evermore.—Amen.

Br. Formes having sung Mozart's aria, "In deesen Heiligen Hallen," the G. Chaplain delivered the following prayer:—

Almighty Architect of the Universe, unto the grave has been resigned the body of our loving Brother the Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Mason of Scotland, to remain until the day of general resurrection. We earnestly pray Thee at that great and dreadful day to extend Thy infinite mercy towards all of us, and to crown our felicity with everlasting bliss in Thy Heavenly Kingdom.—Amen.

To this succeeded "The Dead March in Saul," by the band; grand honours; and the National Anthem, sung by the whole of the Brethren in Chorus.

An appropriate address followed from the Grand Master, and the Ceremony having been concluded, the Lodge was closed with solemn prayer.

The ceremony was conducted in a most excellent manner. The stage or platform upon which the readings took place was covered with black cloth, with rich festoons, and in the panels of the platform were delineated the working tools of the Grand Lodge. The silver candelabra, one of five, and two of three lights, were festooned with crape; and the large wax-lights, the exquisite music, and the singing of Herr Formes and the other brethren, added much to the solemnity. A more impressive or truly Masonic Meeting has not been held in Scotland for some years. Indeed, we are informed that this is the only ceremony of the kind which has been celebrated by the Grand Lodge of Scotland since the death of the Duke of Sussex, in 1843.

GLASGOW.

Royal Arch Chapter (No. 50).—This Chapter met on the 2nd of February, when there were present the M.E. Comp., Donald Campbell, Z.; C. J. Hughes, H.; R. M'Kenzie, J., and a large attendance of the members, when Br. John Scott Hamilton was exalted to the sublime degree.

St. Mark's Lodge (No. 102).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on the 5th of Feb, Br. R.W.M. W. B. Huggins occupied the chair at the opening of the Lodge; the Substitute Prov. Grand Master, Br. Dr. Walker Arnott, afterwards took the chair. Six eligible gentlemen, two of whom were clergymen, were initiated in the apprentice degree. On the 12th of February this Lodge met, when Br. D. Campbell, acting R.W.M., passed a reverend brother into the fellow-craft degree. On the 19th of February, being the second regular meeting of the month, the members assembled, and four qualified apprentices were passed as fellow-crafts by Br. Donald Campbell, D.M., who officiated as R.W.M. Br. J. T. Nicholson gave an interesting and able reading from Shakespeare. At the meeting of this Lodge on the 26th February, Br. D. Campbell, D.M., in the chair, nine brethren were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, one brother was affiliated, and the Sub. Prov. G.M., Br. Dr. Walker Arnott, read a learned paper in explanation of the Ancient Mysteries.

THE COLONIES.

AUSTRALIA.

A letter dated Ballarat, Jan. 5, says "a meeting of considerable importance took place last night at Bath's Hotel; being that of the Free and Accepted Masons on the gold-fields of Ballarat. Mr. Henry Harris (auctioneer), was unanimously called to the chair; when it was determined that a dispensation from the Provincial Grand Lodge at Sydney should be immediately applied for; and that under it (pending a warrant from the Grand Lodge of England) a Lodge should be at once opened on Ballarat, under the name, style, and title of the 'Lodge of Victoria,' which would form a nucleus for the meeting of the brethren, and the furtherance of loyal, constitutional, and fraternal principles, which have been much required upon these diggins. The attendance was numerous and respectable, embracing, as it did, the principal Camp officials, merchants, store-keepers, and residents on the township; and I confess, I hail as a boon to the colony in general, such a demonstration with its ulterior views, as took place at Br. Bath's, Ballarat Hotel, last night. It is understood that a Lodge has already been opened, under similar circumstances, at Bendigo, called 'Golden Lodge of Bendigo,' and I can only reiterate my hope that Masonry will act as a healing ointment to mollify our social wounds, and as a tie to cement more firmly together,—unity, peace, and order, wherever it may raise its ancient head; and that brotherly love may continue as of yore."

A letter dated Melbourne, Dec. 13, says the Freemasons had a grand field-day last week, when the foundation-stone of the large chimney-stack of the Melbourne Gas Works was laid, with all Masonic ceremonies, by Br. John Thomas Smith, the mayor.

CANADA.

Hamilton.—On the late Festival of St. John the Evangelist, the Lodges of Strict Observance and St. John's, installed their officers for the current Masonic years, as follows:—Strict Observance, Brs. Wm. Bellhouse, W.M.; J. Harris, P.M.; J. Osborne, S.W.; E. M. Harris, J.W.; Richd. Benner, Treas.; H. Grist, Sec.; J. M. Rogerson, S.D.; D. Benedict, J.D: F. J. Rastrick, M. of C.; Samuel Wilson, I.G.; John Morrison, Tyler.—St. John's, Brs. J. W. Baine, W.M.; J. W. Kerr, P.M.; Jas. Jarvie, S.W.; J. F. McCuaig, J.W.; H. Langdon, Treas.; T. B. Harris, Sec.; Brackstone Baker, S.D.; L. Rosenband, J.D.; Wm. Thomas, Organist; W. G. Capp, M. of C.; Albert Drey, I.G.; J. Morrison, Tyler.

Toronto.—The Ball given by the Masonic fraternity, in aid of the Charities of Toronto, took place in the St. Lawrence Hall, on Wednesday evening, the 14th Feb. The result of the ball was the realization of the handsome sum of £250, which was placed in the hands of G. W. Allan, Esq., for the benefit of the principal charities. The Ball being "Masonic," all brethren were notified of the necessity for appearing

"properly clothed"—*i.e.*, in the insignia of their repective Orders. The effect, of the "proper clothing," was such as to render the procession the principal feature of the evening, the light blue of the Master Masons, the scarlet of the Royal Arch, the waving plumes and white cloaks of the Knights Templar, and the dark blue regalia of the Grand Lodge, forming a brilliant contrast. The procession was marshalled in the drawing room at 9 30 p. m., and marched from thence up the centre of the Ball room—the band playing the "Entered Apprentice Quick-step"—in the following order:—

Masters of the Ceremonies,	Royal Arch Masons,
Standard Bearer,	Knights Templar,
Entered Apprentices,	Officers of the G. Lodge,
Master Masons,	D. P. Grand Master.

Having reached the head of the room the procession formed in two lines, facing inwards, reaching down the full length, The Master of Ceremonies then proceeded to the foot, and conducted the R.W.D.P.G.M., T. G. Ridout, to the throne, placed at the head of the hall: the two lines filing inwards from the bottom, passed in front. Each Mason saluting the D.G.M. in the usual manner. This ceremony having been performed, the brethren of the Order mingled with the crowd, and the real business of the evening commenced. The first Quadrille was formed at 10, and dancing was kept up with great spirit until half past twelve—when the supper room was thrown open—and although it was not large enough to accomodate the whole the people assembled at one time—the arrangements were such as to render every one satisfied with the treatment they received. After supper dancing was resumed, and continued until half past four next morning, and even then there appeared to be a strong disinclination on the part of many to leave off so soon—thus giving undeniable evidence in favour of the success of the evening, which was in a great measure due to the excellence of the music, conducted by Mr. Harkness, late R. C. Rifles.

MONTREAL. THE ST. LAWRENCE LODGE.—A meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Montreal, and William Henry, on the 26th ult. performed the grand and imposing ceremony of consecration in the case of the St. Lawrence Lodge, which owing to the zeal and energy of its W.M. Br. M. Morrison, has, since the date of its dispensation, about eight months since, so increased in favour and reputation among the Craft, that at present it occupies a position superior to that of many Lodges which boast of their antiquity.

INDIA.

MADRAS.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.—At a Communication, holden at the Hall of Lodge, Universal Charity, Esplanade, Madras, at half-past 6 p m., on Friday, the 12th January, A.D. 1855, A.L. 5855. There were present, Brs. M.W. R. H. Williamson, G.M.; W. W. P. Macdonald, as S.G.W.; W. P. Coultrup, J.G.W.; W. C. A. Roberts, G.T.; W. J. Maskell, G.Sec.; W. J. T. Greatorex, Dy. Sec.; R. T. Laurence, as S.G.D.; R. P. Campbell, as J.G.D,; W. J. Dickson, G.D. of Ceremonies; W. H. O'Hara, G.S.B.; J. Brock, as G.T. And the representatives of the undermentioned Lodges:—Pefect Unanimity, No. 175, (1); Universal Charity, No. 326, (4); Pilgrims of Light, No. 831, (5); Good Will, No. 684 (1). The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form, and with solemn invocation of God's blessing. The Grand Master stated that it was known to most of the Worshipful Brethren and Brethren present, that he had summoned them to meet him on this day in lieu of St. John's day, as the latter occurred during the holidays, when it would have been inconvenient for the brethren to attend. He expressed his congratulations at meeting the members of Grand Lodge at the beginning of the year, and hoped that the New Year had been a happy one to the whole of them. The proceedings of the last Communication of Grand Lodge held on the 24th of June, 1854, were read and confirmed. The Grand Treasurer produced his accounts, which were read, and exhi-

bited the following Cash balances:—In favor of Grand Lodge, Rs. 278-7-6; in favor of G.M.C. Fund, Rs. 4-3-5. The Grand Secretary stated that it was with much regret that he had to report the dicease, since the last Communication, of the two Grand Deacons, viz., Worshipful Br. G. M. A. Storey, P.M. of Lodge Uuiversal Charity, and Worshipful Br. George Snelgrove, P.M. of Lodge Pilgrims of Light. He further stated that these brethren were, at their own request, and by dispensations obtained from the Grand Master, buried as Masons. The Grand Master expressed his regret at the loss this Grand Lodge and the Craft had sustained by the death of the two worthy brethren alluded to, and he was sure that in doing so he also expressed the feelings of the rest of the brethren. The following Report was then made by the Grand Secretary on the state of the Lodges in this Presidency. There are three Lodges at the Presidency in a healthy and thriving condition, viz., Perfect Unanimity, Universal Charity, and Pilgrims of Light. Returns and remittanees had been received from the first Lodge to 30th Sept., and from the other two to 31st December, 1854. In the Provinces, three Lodges were apparently working (in addition to the one recently revived which will be alluded to presently,) viz., St. John, Rock, and St. Andrew, but they had all, from some unknown cause, ceased to furnish the prescribed returns and payments. St. John was in arrears for two whole years, and the Rock and St. Andrew for eighteen months respectively. No communication of any kind had been received from any of these Lodges, and as they had no representatives at Madras, the cause of their silence may be explained. The Grand Master was concerned to hear so unfavourable a report of the Mofussil Lodges, and directed the Grand Secretary to write a special letter to each of the Worshipful Masters of those Lodges, expressing his particular wish that they would be good enough to favor him with some account of their state and prospects, as he was anxious to ascertain whether the incessant changes and movements at military stations had in any way interfered with their condition and progress. The Grand Secretary reported that Lodge Good Will, Bellary, had been revived, and was now in a highly flourishing condition, under the mastership of Worshipful Br. A. J. Greenlaw, P.J.G.W. He also read a letter from the Secretary of Lodge Good Will, nominating W. Br. W. H. Ross, one of the founders of that Lodge, and at present a resident of Madras to represent the Lodge in this Grand Lodge. The Grand Master stated that he was happy to hear the report just made. He had himself received a letter from Worshipful Br. Greenlaw, in which he informed him that the Lodge had increased from 7 to 27 Members. He was also glad that W. Br. Ross had been appointed representative of that Lodge in Grand Lodge, and would acknowledge him as such. The Grand Secretary read a letter which he had received from the Deputy Grand Secretary at Calcutta, enclosing two copies of the Prospectus of "The Indian Free Mason's Friend," a serial in 12 monthly numbers, to be published from the 1st January, 1855, under the patronage of the Provincial Grand Master of Bengal, at a subscription of five rupees a quarter, or sixteen rupees a year. The Grand Secretary read extracts from the Prospectus, and stated that his object in bringing it before Grand Lodge, was to secure extended publicity by having the subject noticed in the proceedings of this meeting, which would be printed and circulated to all Lodges in the province. The G.M. suggested that as two copies of the Prospectus had been received, one had better be circulated to the Provincial Grand Officers, and the other to the subordinate Lodges at the Presidency. This the Grand Secretary promised to do. Before proceeding to the election of a Grand Treasurer, Worshipful Br. C. A. Roberts, the present Grand Treasurer, observed, that, with reference to the minutes of the last Communication of Grand Lodge, he would feel particularly obliged if the Wardens of the past year would audit his accounts. He would leave Madras for England by the steamer expected next day, but he had delivered to the Deputy Grand Secretary all the vouchers and documents necessary to make over charge of his office, and his accounts. The Grand Master replied that he would be obliged if the Grand Wardens of the past year would comply with the wishes of W. Br. Roberts. A ballot was then taken for a Grand Treasurer for the current year, and on its termination, W. Br. M. McDowell was declared duly elected to that office, the majority of votes being in his favor. The Grand Master was pleased to appoint the undermentioned brethren to

be Grand Officers for the year 1855:—Brs. R. W. J. Ouchterlony, D.G.M.; W. Brs. Coultrup, S.G.W.; W. A. Serle, J.G.W.; Rev. H. Taylor, G.C.; J. Dickson, G.R.; J. Maskell, G.S.; J. T. Greatorex, D.S.; H. O'Hara, S.G D.; T. A. Chamier, J.G.D.; G. Williams, G.D. of Ceremonies; R. Hunter, G.S.B. The following is a list of Stewards for the current year nominated by the Presidency Lodges:—Lodge Perfect Unanimity, Brs. J. W. Sherman, and H. C. Roberts; Lodge Universal Charity, R. P. Campbell, and W. R. Williams; Lodge Pilgrims of Light, P. G. Winter, and J. P. Waller. W. Br. Macdonald proposed that by a special record on the proceedings of this meeting of Grand Lodge, the attention of Lodges should be called to the impoverished state of the Grand Masonic Charity Fund, in the hope that all Masons will subscribe to the support of that noble Institution. The motion was seconded by W. Br. Ross, and carried unanimously. Before closing the meeting, the Grand Master returned his thanks to the Grand Officers of the past year. for the efficient manner in which they had performed their duties. He alluded to the departure of W. Br. Roberts, Grand Treasurer. He would not, he said, detain Grand Lodge by dwelling upon the manner in which W. Br. Robers had performed his duties not only in Grand Lodge, but in his own Lodge, as it was well known to all the Members present. The approaching separation was a source of regret to all the brethren and he felt assured that he was only their mouth-piece in wishing Br. Roberts a prosperous voyage, happiness with his friends at home, and health to enjoy his relaxation from official duties. Br. Kenrick was likewise going to England by the same steamer, and the Grand Master availed himself of the same opportunity of wishing him also health and happiness. There being no other business, and no brother proposing anything further for the good of Masonry in general, or this Provincial Grond Lodge in particular, it was closed in due form, and with solemn invocation of the Almighty's Blessing.

Universal Charity Lodge (No. 340).—A gay ball, given by the Masonic brethren of this Lodge to their friends, came off, on Friday Jan. 5, at the Masonic Temple, on the South Beach. The spacious halls of that beautiful edifice were decorated with festoons of flowers and ever-greens in very good tastes; and the hosts were all gallantry and attention to the fair crowd that thronged them. It is hard to blame the excess of good will; but, had fewer guests been invited to share the hospitality of the brethren of Lodge "Universal Charity," a little inconvenience might no doubt have been obviated.

SINGAPORE.

Zetland Lodge in the East (No. 748).—Wednesday, Dec. 27, being the anniversay of St. John the Evangelist, in accordance with established custom, the members of this Lodge assembled in their Masonic Temple, in North Bridge Road, for the installation of the Worshipful Br. W. C. Leisk, the Master Elect, and for the investiture of the other officers chosen for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was conducted by the Worshipful Br. W. H. Read, assisted by the Worshipful Br. C. W. Bradley of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, with the Past Masters of the Lodge Zetland in the East, after which the other officers were severally introduced to their new Master, and by him, in due form, invested with the insignia of their respective offices. The following are the Office-bearers for the present year. W. Br. W. C. Leisk, R.A.W.M.; Br. W. H. Read, R.A.P.M.; Brs. T. Tivendale; R.A.S.W.; C. Frommurze, R.A.J.W.; Rev. F. W. Linstedt, R.A. Chaplain; J. C. Smith, K.C.H.,T.M.Treasurer; F. H. Gottlieb, R.A. Sec., J. Webster, M.M.S.D., J. Baxter, M.M.J.D.; H. W. Wood, M.M.I.G.; W. Kraal, R.A. and C. Perreau, R.A. Tylers. The particular business of the day having been concluded, the brethren sat down to their annual Masonic banquet at 6. 30 p. m., when by the kind permission of the Hon. Captain Elliott, the Band of H. M's. Ship Sybille was in attendance. An excellent spread was laid in the banqueting hall which was tastefully decorated for the occasion with the Masonic banners and various national ensigns—those of England France and the United States being most conspicuous. The duties of president were ably conducted by the W.M., and he was well supported by his officers, so that harmony and good humour never flagged throughout the evening. Some suitable speeches

and good songs were given, but the great enjoyment of the evening was the excellent music of the Sybille band, which performed some admirable operatic pieces, besides the usual Masonic and national airs. The speeches of the W.P.M. Br. W. H. Read were as usual very successful, and his representation of the benign influences of Masonry softening the sufferings and horrors of War, illustrated by the well-known example of the late illustrious Br. Sir Charles Napier at and after the battle of Corunna, was very appropriate, and elicited warm approbation. The brethren seperated. rejoicing in the happy evening they had spent together, and proud of the tie which binds them in mutual offices, love, respect and kindness whatever men's relative positions and duties in the world may be.

CHINA.

HONG KONG.

The Zetland Lodge, No. 768, instead of a banquet confined to the brethren, gave on St. Johns Day, Dec. 27, a ball, which afforded the uninitiated, of both sexes, the privilege of participating in the celebration of the festival of St. John. The Rooms were handsomely fitted up for the occasion, and every provision in their power was made by the Masons for the gratification of their guests, the only want being the inevitable one of a disproportion of ladies. They were not the less thought of on that account, and after a splendid supper, afforded the W.M., the Hon. W. T. Mercer, D.P.G.M., occasion for an eloquent and effective speech, in proposing their health, in which he took occasion to defend the principles upon which the Order is founded, and its excellence in extending the hand of Charity, to aid not only the brethren but others who may need assistance. The worthy brother also ingeniously contrived to interlay his theme with an appeal on behalf of the widows and orphans of the soldiers and sailors who may fall in the war with Russia. The Lodge, he said, had that day agreed as a body to contribute £50, and it was to be hoped the example would be followed by the community generally.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE THREE ARTICLES OF NOAH.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR AND BROTHER,—Your correspondent, P. M'C., of Peckham, seems wishful to have a "peck" at me, and accordingly charges me with being uncourteous. I don't reply to the charge; but I do wish to say that some of the words he has italicised are not mine, but his. I would also say in answer to his last paragraph, that the "riddle" *does still exist*, though perhaps not in the *books* which he happens to possess. And for his information and yours I would refer him to "The Book of the Lodge," by Dr. Oliver, and published very recently. I have not the book at present by me, but I think the passage reads thus: "They all agree in the three great articles, Noah, enough to preserve the cement of the Lodge."

I have not only to say that I am greatly obliged to you for your kindness in so promptly attending to my question, but for your trouble in this matter. I am also under an obligation to your worthy correspondent, who has given so able and satisfactory an explanation. Notwithstanding that, I think he is somewhat severe upon a brother, whose only fault (if fault it be) is an anxious desire to attain Masonic knowledge, but who has not the same opportunities for doing so as are possessed by many other brethren and members of Lodges.

I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

West Yorkshire, March, 1855. Z * * *

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR MARCH.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

During the past month very little of consequence has taken place in either of the Houses, which now stand adjourned for the Easter holidays, beyond the announcement in both, on the evening of the 2nd, that the Emperor of Russia had died the previous day.

In the House of Lords on the 9th Earl Granville stated, in answer to a question, that though the Government had no new plan with regard to ticket of leave convicts, they would endeavour to improve the present system. On the 19th Lord Lucan moved for certain returns relative to the battle of Balaklava, which were agreed to. On the 20th Lord Lyndhurst called attention to the conduct of Prussia, which Lord Clarendon admitted to be vacillating, but expressed a hope that she would yet join in the alliance against Russia. On the 21st neither House met, the day being set aside for a national humiliation and fast; but on the 22nd Lord Stanley of Alderley promised that a Bill for regulating partnerships, with limited liability, should be brought in after Easter. On the 23rd a message from the Queen relative to the Sardinian contingent was received, and considered the 26th. On the following day some Bills were advanced a stage, and the Queen's reply received.

In the House of Commons on the 1st Lord Goderich brought forward a motion against the system of purchase in the British army as injurious to the public service, and unjust to the private soldiers, which was negatived by a majority of 158 to 114, On the 2nd an attempt to make the Sebastopol Committee secret was unsuccessful, and a Bill for doing away with the qualification of members was negatived. On the 5th the Reduction of Tea Duties Suspension Bill was read a second time, and in Committee of Supply a motion against the Government manufactory of small arms was negatived by a majority of 170 to 34. On the 7th the Judgments' Execution Bill was defeated as defective; the Tea Duties and Marine Mutiny Bills passed through Committee, and other bills advanced a stage. On the 8th the House was principally occupied with a discussion brought on by Mr. Malins relative to the conduct of Sir C. Napier, which resulted in nothing, and without at all adding to the reputation for discretion of the gallant admiral. On the 9th the House was occupied in Committee of Supply, and, with the exception of a few questions put and answered, the same business was continued on the 12th. On the 13th Mr. Heywood obtained leave to bring in a Bill to legalise marriages with a deceased wife's sister. On the 14th a few Bills were advanced a stage. On the 15th a Bill of Mr. Locke King's for the better settling the real estates of intestates was negatived by a majority of 156 to 84; a similar fate befel a motion of Mr. Williams' to regulate the probate duty on real property and impropriate tithes by 84 to 61; and to one by Mr. Cobbett to regulate the hours of labour in factories by 109 to 101. On the 16th Sir John Pakington obtained leave to bring in a Bill for better encouragement and promotion of education, and Sir Benjamin Hall for the better local management of the metropolis. On the 19th the newspaper stamp Bill for enabling newspaper proprietors to use their option with regard to stamping their papers, or such portion of the impression they thought fit, was brought in by the Chancellor of the Exchequer; after which the House went into Committee of Supply. The principal discussion on the following day was on a motion of Sir Joshua Walmsley for opening the British Museum and National Gallery on Sundays, which was negatived by 235 to 48. The Newspaper Stamp Bill was read a first time. The House did not again meet until the 23rd, when the Lord Advocate brought in a Bill relative to education in Scotland, and the House went into Committee of Supply. The Queen's message was also communicated to this House. It was considered on the 26th, and a reply given. The Newspaper Stamp Duties Bill was then taken into consideration and read a second time by a majority of 215 to 161. On the 27th a motion of Colonel Reed to inquire into the system of conferring appointments in the army was rejected by a majority of 104 to 70. On the 28th the bills of exchange and promissory notes bills, by which great additional power are given to the holders, was read a second time, and referred to a select Committee.

THE WAR.

In the early part of the month, the death of the Emperor of Russia, gave rise to hopes of peace, which have since been nearly dissipated, by the Manifestoes of the new Emperor. In the mean time every thing appears to be mending in the Crimea, the works are being pushed steadily on; the health of the men is improving, and the Allied Armies are said to be ready to act on the offensive. There have been some skirmishes between the French and Russians, without any great advantage to either side. The negociations have been opened at Vienna, and the two first articles of the protocol for peace agreed to; but the Morning Post informs us, that on the third, which stipulates for the entrance of Turkey into the European family, and for the limitation of the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea, a difficulty has been started on the part of the representatives of Russia, which renders it necessary for the plenipotentiaries to communicate with their respective Governments. A large portion of the Baltic Fleet has already sailed.

BENEVOLENT.

The Anniversary Festival of the Royal Medical College (to provide for decayed Medical men or their widows, and afford education to their children, was celebrated at the London Tavern on the 29th Feb., and subscriptions amounting to nearly 2200*l.* announced.

The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, have presented a donation of 100*l.* to that excellent Charity—the Royal St. Anns Asylum.

The City of London Hospital for diseases of the chest, had a dinner at the London Tavern on the 7th, when subscriptions to the amount of 3700*l.* were announced. The Hospital is in want of further aid, to enable the Governors to complete the building in Victoria Park, which is now nearly ready for opening.

On the same day, the Central Association in aid of Soldiers wives and widows, held their first annual meeting, the Duke of Cambridge presiding. Br. the Hon. Major Powys read the report, from which it resulted that the total amount received, up to the 7th inst.. was 104,853*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*, of which 34,643*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* had been spent in relief, and 5,812*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* in advertisements, printing, &c., leaving a balance in Exchequer bills, and at the bankers, of 64,379*l.* 8*s.* Resolutions in support of the Charity were passed.

A Committee has been appointed to inquire into the position and management of the Literary Fund.

The Seamans Hospital Anniversary Festival was celebrated on the 28th, with Lord Palmerston in the chair, when a subscription list of nearly 2000*l.* was obtained.

The subscribers to the Cambridge Asylum are about to elect 10 inmates—being the widows of soldiers killed in the present war.

PROVIDENT.

The Engineer's Masonic, &c., Life Assurance Society held its annual meeting on the 6th, when a report was presented which stated that the total number of proposals received by the directors during the past year has been 207; the annual premiums derivable from which would have amounted to 2,343*l.* 3*s.*. assuring the sum of 62,640*l.*; of these, 154, producing an annual income of 1,761*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*, and assuring a sum of 45,840*l.*, have been completed. The claims from death during the past year have amounted to 3,750*l*: these claims have accrued upon the death of 18 members, which is below the average calculated mortality.

On the 7th the Palladium Assurance Company held its 13th annual meeting. The report said the new premiums received in 1854 were nearly 33 per cent greater than those received in 1853; the amount assured was nearly 5 per cent greater; and the number of policies in force about 3½ per cent greater; and the surplus balance larger than that of the previous year by 23,207*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* On the other hand, the amount paid as claims was less in 1854 than in 1853 by 55½ per cent. The policies issued during the year numbered 153, assuring 150,920*l.*, and yielding new premiums to the amount of 5,524*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* The report was adopted.

At the half yearly meeting of the Railway Passengers Assurance Company, the same day, Mr. Vian, the Secretary, read a report which said:—The amount of premiums for the half-year to 31st. Dec. received and due, is 4,394*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, making with that for the previous six months, a total income of 9,488*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* for the year just closed. The amount actually received is 3,516*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, which, with the balance from last half-year, and the interest on investments, makes the sum of 7,294*l.* 6*s.* to credit of revenue account. The disbursements include, besides the ordinary expenses, the large sum of 2,246*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* for compensation, and a charge of 150*l.* towards the liquidation of preliminary expenses, in all 5,424*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* and this leaves a balance of 2,747*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, from which sum your directors recommend the payment of interest of the paid up capital, at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, free from income tax. The report was adopted, and the dividend declared. It is astonishing that any one travels without an assurance ticket.

The Conservative Land Society held its quarterly meeting on the 14th. Br. Gruneisen, the Secretary, presented a report, which, after alluding to the eagerness with which the Old Ford estate was taken up, said the total receipts had been 152,730*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, and the shares issued, 10,729*l.* The returns of the register of order of rights are as follows:—Total to March 10, 1855—Completed, 1,462, Drawn, 1,724, Seniority, 870, Total, 4,056; Deduct rights exercised, 1,917; Total, 2,139. The last share to be placed on the list of rights by seniority after the 25th public drawing this day, is No. 1,554. The returns of the sale of land are as gratifying as the general receipts. From Michaelmas to Christmas the amount was 2,985; from Christmas to March 10th, 7,892*l.* 10*s.*; total amount of land sold in less than six months, 10,877*l.* 10*s.* The total amount of land sold by the society up to March 10, 1855, is the large sum of 102,994*l.* The report was adopted, and the quarterly ballot for rights of allotment proceeded with.

On the same day, a special meeting of the Householders' Life Assurance Company was held, and the interest on shares raised from 5 to 6 per cent.

The National Live Stock Insurance Company held its first annual meeting the same day, when Mr. Ryland read the report of the Directors. It stated that the Directors issued the first policy on the 30th of Sept., 1853, and to the 31st of Dec. last, the board had issued 1,855 policies, insuring live stock valued at 285,539*l.*, the premiums upon which amounted to 8,277*l.*, whilst the claims had amounted to 6,377*l.*, exclusive of salvage. The business was increasing, and the board had every expectation of an extended success. The report was adopted.

The Merchant and Tradesmen's Mutual Life Assurance Society held its annual meeting on the 15th. The report, which was adopted, said—"The number of proposals for assurance submitted during the year was 911, for sums amounting to 209,135*l.*; the number of policies issued from February 1, 1854, to January 31, 1855, had been 797, assuring 182,735*l.*; the premiums on which amounted to 5,491*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*; the amount assured prior to Feb. 1, 1854, and still in force was, on 1,467 polices, 357,666*l.*; the annual premiums on which were 11,251*l.* 8s. 6*d.* Sixty-three proposals had since passed the board and been completed, amounting to 17,300*l.*; the annual premiums on which were 520*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*; making the amount of current insurances 557,701*l.*; the number of policies 2,327; and the present income of the society 16,743*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* Claims in respect of deaths, with bonus additions, amounting to 3,441*l* 14*s.* 2*d.*, had been duly discharged."

At the annual meeting of the Economic Life Assurance Society on the 24th, it was explained that the total sum at present insured was 5,559,368*l.*, without bonus, so that the present condition of the society might be stated at 6,000,000*l.* of risk, to meet which they had one million and a half of invested capital, and a premium income of 168,121*l.* per annum.

The Professional Life Assurance Company held its annual meeting on the 28th, when the new manager (Mr. Massey) presented a report, which showed that during the past year there had been issued 630 new policies, assuring 263,320*l.*, and producing an income, from premiums, of 7,541*l.*, being a large increase on the business of the previous year. The premium income of the company is now about 30,000*l.*

An inaugural meeting of a new Assurance Company, entitled the British Nation, combining all the late improvements of the young offices, was held on the 28th, Mr. Edward Baylis presiding, when its objects were lucidly explained. A library and reading room is to be attached to the office for the gratuitous use of the proprietors and assurers.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A public dinner has been given to Mr. Jacob Bell to console him for his defeat, and another to Lord Ebrington, to congratulate him upon his success at the late Marylebone election.

The Freedom of Edinburgh was presented to Br. Major Nasmyth, the hero of Silistria, on the 2nd March.

Don Carlos, of Spain, died on the 10th.

At the meeting of the South Eastern Railway Company on the 15th, the Board of Directors was remodelled.

The great highway bridge at Bristol has been destroyed by a steamer coming into collision with it.

A subscription has been commenced to raise a memorial to the memory of our much lamented Br., the late Lord Dudley Stuart, M.P.

Henry Garrett, who was concerned in the late extensive bank robbery in Australia, has been arrested in London, having in his possession a considerable portion of the booty.

OBITUARY.

Br. Benjamin Churchill.—We regret to announce the almost sudden death of this worthy Br., the W.M. elect of the Salopian Lodge, Shrewsbury, the melancholy event having taken place on the morning of the day upon which he was to have been installed into the Master's Chair.

Br. the Rev. Thos. Gwynne.—Lately, at the Vicarage, St. Ishmael, Carmarthen, aged 58, the Rev. Thos. Gwynne, M.A. Oxon, formerly Chaplain to the P.G.L., and a Magistrate for the County. His death was by no means expected, as he had performed the clerical duty at his church about three hours before he departed this life.

Br. Philip Griffith Jones.—This worthy brother, many years a member of Saint Peter's Lodge, No. 699, Carmarthen, and W.M. for the year 1848. Br. Jones was very highly respected by the Lodge; he has left a widow and four daughters; his son succeeds to his professional affairs as a solicitor, at Carmarthen.

Br. Henry Vernon.—The brethren of the Lodge of St. Matthew, No. 786, Walsall, heard with feelings of the deepest regret, on the 22nd of February, a rumour of the unexpected death of Brother Henry Vernon, J.D. of the Lodge, which melancholy intelligence was confirmed by a letter from his uncle, Col. Vernon, R.W.P.G.M. to the W.M. At a meeting of emergency, the same evening, a wish was generally expressed that, as a mark of the respect and esteem in which he was held by the Lodge, a deputation should proceed to Hilton Park to ascertain if there would be any objection on the part of his family, to some of the members paying the final sad tribute of respect to departed merit, by accompanying his remains to their last home. Brs. Wood, W.M.; Thos. James, P.M.; and the Rev. Jas. Downes, Chaplain, accordingly waited on the R.W.P.G.M., by whom they were most graciously and courteously received; but he requested them to assure the brethren of 786 that, though he felt sincerely such a mark of their attention, his brother's wish to have the funeral conducted as privately as possible, would preclude their intention being carried into effect. At the suggestion of Br. Downes, Chaplain, the W.M. convened a special meeting of the Lodge, at which an ancient and appropriate solemn ceremony was conducted, and an oration delivered by the reverend brother, which, at the unanimous request of the members present on the occasion, has been printed. The death of this estimable young brother is not only a loss to the Lodge 786, to every member of which he had endeared himself by his amiable and noble disposition, but to the Craft in Staffordshire in general, as, during his short career as a Mason he evinced so much zeal, that no doubt he would, in due time, have emulated the example of his revered parent and uncle, whose services to Masonry are so universally known. The late Brother Henry Vernon was initiated in the Lodge of St. Matthew, February 1st, 1854.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. B. G.—*Is thanked. We shall be at all times happy to hear from him.*

Z.—*We consider the lectures as much a sealed book as the ceremonies. They are briefly described in Preston. Perhaps Z. will favour us with his address, that we may communicate with him privately.*

J. H. *requests us to state with regard to our notice of the Burlington Lodge in our last number, that it was at the request of the W.M. elect that Br. Coates waived his right as immediate P.M., of installing his successor, in favour of Br. Dr. Rowe, P.G.D.*

It is certainly difficult to define exactly upon what grounds a Lodge of emergency may be held. We consider that all business which cannot well be postponed to the following regular Lodge—such as the initiation of a candidate about to proceed abroad, or the consideration of a communication from G.L.—warrant the W.M. in calling a Lodge of emergency, or he may do so in order to lighten the business of his next regular Lodge.

A FREEMASON *at Plymouth calls our attention to an irregularity said to be frequently practised in that town and neighbourhood, of initiating candidates without giving the legal weeks notice, and of not stating in the summons the cause of an "Emergency" being called. Such a course cannot be too severely deprecated, as in all cases were a candidate has not been previously proposed in open Lodge, it is most important that the brethren should have the full notice required by the Book of Constitutions, in order to give ample time for inquiry as to his position and qualifications for admission into the Order.*

R.A. Jewels.—*The box-jewels, with a glass over the "triple tor," or with the "triple tor" upon enamel, are very commonly used though not in exact accordance with the "regulation jewel," which we much prefer, and which we think every Comp. ought to wear. The "box jewels" are very well for complimentary presentation in order to allow an inscription to be placed upon the back, but if we possessed one we should still wear our "regulation jewel."*

A Correspondent, not 100 miles from Plymouth, thus writes regarding a Lodge in the district:—"This Lodge being like the Lodge of Antiquity, independent of the G.L. of England, is not cramped and confined by conforming to the Constitutions, which is a great thing for it, and gives it an advantage over all the others in this neighbourhood, who are obliged by the Ob. to pay respect to those in authority, and advance candidates only after a lapse of four weeks between each degree, and are consequently obliged to refuse candidates who must have the whole done in a month, *and be off to sea, or it may be emigrate to a foreign land. In addition to the foregoing advantages, the brethren are not compelled to observe uniformity in costume, but please themselves as to wearing R.A. or any other apron they may fancy." We find the Lodge spoken of in our Calendar as on the register of the G.L. of England, and therefore it is bound to obey the Constitutions. The Lodge of Antiquity claims no advantage, though stated to have existed from time immemorial, like those claimed for the Lodge above alluded to. We see no great disadvantage likely to attend a Br. about to proceed to sea or emigrate, in not being able to obtain more than his first or second degree prior to that event. It being stated on his certificate, which may be obtained from G.L. in twenty-four hours, the degree he holds, he can easily be advanced in another Lodge, or wait till a fitting opportunity for advancement in England. If these irregularities exist in the Lodge, the G.L. could not grant certificates to members so advanced, as may be seen by reference to Art 7, page 80, of the Book of Constitutions, edition of 1853. We trust the P.G.M. or his Deputy will at once look into the matter, and that the good sense of the officers of the Lodge will put an end to the other, but lesser irregularity, of allowing the brethren to appear in other than their Craft clothing.*

A TYRO IN MASONIC LORE.—*The foundation stone of Freemasons' Hall, in Great Queen Street, London, was laid on the 1st of May, 1775, and the building opened and inaugurated on the 23rd of May, 1776. An account of the dedication will be found in* Preston's Masonry.

*The Plymouth parcel of the "*Mirror*" for March was dispatched from our office on the* 1st. *We are sorry to hear, therefore, that our subscribers could not obtain their numbers until the 5th.*

A.B.—*In Scotland, and we believe, in Ireland, candidates are sometimes put through the three degrees in one night—though the Scottish Book of Constitutions lays it down that an interval of two weeks shall elapse between each degree, "unless it shall be certified by two brethren of the Lodge in which the candidate is to be passed or raised, that he is about to remove from Scotland within the interval prescribed," or other cases of emergency.*

P.M.—*The Pocket edition of the Constitutions will be sold at the same price as the larger edition—at least so we understood it to be arranged in G.L.*

One of the Number.—*We do not know how many G. Stewards attended the last communication of G.L.*

We regret that we are again compelled to omit the Reminiscences of a Freemason, and other valuable Communications. Notwithstanding, we present our Readers with four extra pages.

THE

MASONIC MIRROR:

MAY, 1855.

THE LITERATURE OF FREEMASONRY.

THERE is in the last number of the *Freemasons Monthly Magazine*, an article so remarkable in style and sentiment, that to use the language of H. R. H. Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, we deem it "writ down in our duty" to make a brief allusion to it. The paper in question bears an interrogative title, and affects to solve the knotty problem "What is Masonry doing for intellectual progress?" After some common-place, and, sooth to say, not over wise platitudes about the selfishness and utilitarianism of the present age, when "even the amenities and courtesies of life are weighed before they are dispensed, in the scales of profit and loss, and when friendship is valued by how much it will fetch,"—the author waxes wrath againt the Masons, and comes down like a wolf on that very fold of whose honour and interests he assumes to be the peculiar and exclusive guardian. He accuses them of not fostering "the intellectual expansion of the age" (whatever that may mean) and roundly asserts that "the Fraternity is constrained to admit itself sluggish and inefficient towards the mental development of the people." The public will be curious to learn by what facts and figures the author makes good an assertion so damaging to the fair fame of Masonry; and, here we can promise our readers that we have an agreeable surprise in store for them. How great must be their astonishment, when we assure them that the writer proceeds to illustrate his position by a reference, not to the Masonic "schools," nor yet to those "nobly maintained endowments, which reflect a lustre on our ancient Order," but—of all things in the world—to "*the publications connected with the Craft.*" Now, inasmuch as "the publications connected with the Craft" were confined, as far as periodical literature is concerned, *for one-and-twenty years* to the serial formerly published under the title of *The Freemasons Quarterly Review* and now known as the *The Freemasons Monthly Magazine*, it is as clear as sunlight in the tropics, that it is to *his own pages* that our author appeals for testimony to support his charge. Our readers are familiar with the old story of the Temperance

Lecturer, who used to carry about with him a drunken man as "the terrible example" of the evils of intoxication. Our friend of the "monthly" is not under the necessity of aggravating his hotel expenses by any such costly expedient. He brings a charge of intellectual "sluggishness" and "inefficiency," against the Masonic body, and he is himself the terrible example of the truth of his accusation. What he says, is in effect this—"We, Masons, are sluggish, inert, inefficient in matters intellectual. If you doubt it, LOOK AT ME!" With the solitary exception of the man of whom we remember to have read in an Eastern story, that he was so modest that he died of shame, we cannot call to mind any such instance of modesty as that with which the writer in the "Freemason's Monthly" has in his own person furnished us. That he cannot for one moment have intended to include us of the "Mirror" in his tremenduous censure is evident from the fact that he ignores our existence altogether. He takes no more notice of us "than if we had never been such," as the grave-digger says in Shakespeare's play. He gives it forth to the world that his own magazine is "the literary organ of the Craft," "the expositor of the Craft," and the Mason's "own authorised periodical." In fact, he claims to be the sole personification of Masonic literature. *L'état cest moi* is his motto, and as he assumes the dignity, it is clear he cannot refuse the responsibility of so exclusive a position. It is really painful to observe how sensible he is of his own shortcomings. "How," he asks, "does the Mason regard the literary organ of his Craft?" meaning the "Freemasons Monthly Magazine," "does *it* challenge competition with any periodical, as containing whatever is highest in science, noblest in history, rarest in literature, and latest intelligence?"—to all of which we reply that it may if it please *challenge* competition, but that as surely as it does, it will suffer in the conflict. "Does the literature emanating from the Masonic Order," he again inquires, "prove intellectual advancement to be their study,"—to which we again take leave to reply that if it does not, the greater shame and the more bitter reproach to the "Freemasons Monthly Magazine," which having had the field of Masonic periodic literature to itself for twenty-one years, and being, as it loves to boast, the Mason's "own authorised periodical," is at the end of that time compelled to point to its own deficiencies as the strongest attestations of the intellectual "sluggishness and inefficiency" of the Masonic body.

So far as we are ourselves concerned, we have experienced from our contemporary, a course of treatment which savours of anything rather than that zeal for "intellectual advancement," which he here affects to value so highly. Our plan of publication was such as could not have interefered with that of any other periodical in existence, at the time of our first appearance. When the "Masonic Mirror" was started, its proprietors were most distinct and emphatic in the declaration that it was "the hand of good-fellowship," not the glove of defiance, which they offered to their contemporaries. They put themselves forward not as rivals, but as allies. They invaded no man's territory—they removed no man's landmark—but, finding that there was no monthly organ of

Masonry, they stepped in to supply the deficiency. They should have thought that their enterprise would have commanded the sympathy of all persons assuming to have at heart the cause of "intellectual advancement," but in this expectation they were doomed to dissappointment, so far, at least, as regarded the periodical now known as the *Freemasons Monthly*. That periodical lost no time in taking up a position of antagonism towards the "Mirror." Its intervals of publication had previously been quarterly, they now become monthly; and whereas the price had formerly been two and sixpence, it was now lowered to a shilling, that it might enter into closer rivalry with the "Mirror."

This conduct, however unkind and illiberal as regards ourselves, we should try to endure with what philosophy we might, if we had the consolation of knowing that our contemporary was *improving*, and that its literary character was such as to reflect credit on the Craft, but we lose all patience when we find that it has entirely ceased to be that valuable and interesting work which we remember it to have been under the *regime* of Dr. Crucifix, and that, in fact, it has so deplorably degenerated, that its writers make no scruple to cite its errors and short-comings in proof of the intellectual "sluggishness and inefficiency" of the Masonic body! Such a proceeding on their part has the merit of modesty, but we cannot think that it is fair towards the Craft. With all possible respect for our contemporary we must protest against the right of any man to publish a stupid magazine and then to make its stupidity a basis on which to found a charge of intellectual depravity against any class of persons, Masonic or other, whose names he may think fit to print upon his cover! What possible right could a man have to publish a trashy periodical, under the designation of the *Shakesperian Magazine*, and then to point to its nonsensical absurdities as a proof of Shakespere's want of genius? Such a movement savours of malice, and we protest against it altogether.

Having been reluctantly compelled in self-defence to make these observations, we must take leave to add that we confidently appeal to our own pages in corroboration of the claim which, with all deference to our contemporary, we now respectfully put forward to be regarded as an organ and exponant of the Masonic body. We challenge comparison with our contemporary, and we do not hesitate to allege that we give better value for our money than he does. The price of the "Mirror" is sixpence—that of the "Magazine" a shilling, and our contemporary gives but one-sixth, or at most one-fifth more paper, which is spread out in large type, so as not to contain the same amount of intelligence. Any one who will take the trouble of contrasting the contents of the two periodicals will find that the "Mirror" contains the largest quantity of information, and is in all respects the most complete record of Masonic proceedings and the most faithful guardian of Masonic interests. But our contemporary promises amendment, and if he improves he shall find that we will not be slow in expressing our satisfaction at an event, the imperative necessity of which is so conspicuously and avowedly apparent.

THE GIRLS SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

This interesting Festival in support of the favourite charity of the Craft, takes place on the 16th of this month, and as we promised in a former number of the Mirror, to give a notice of the forthcoming meeting, we do so with sincere pleasure, and the more so, as our recent investigations have given us some anxiety as to the funds, which we perceive are not as they should be, promising for the present, or indeed can we say for the future. We ask, wherein lay our hopes for the support of this noble Institution? Are they to be looked forward for in expectation, and, perhaps some fine day, found wanting, because the Festival has been a disappointment? or are we, as was the hope of the illustrious founder, Ruspini, each and all to subscribe our individual help, ever so little, for the support and the protection of a number of helpless Girls, the majority of whom are orphans unprovided for but for this Asylum, and which, we regret to be compelled to place it on paper, is in a precarious condition for a settled income? Can we say that Masonry has done its best or its all, when a charity, each meeting of which appeals to our feelings and liviest sympathies, looks forward for its income—two-thirds of which is realised by a Festival? Let us rather take example from those charities which have funded a small sum annually, that in case of need they may fall back upon, and not be taken by surprise by a bad year or unsettled times like the present. We may be told that the splendid and useful building, the admiration of all, has prevented this wise provision, and that thirteen thousand pounds is not a sum to collect in a few years. So granted, but does not the Croydon Asylum answer to a great extent this position? Economy within, and a strict regulation of all expenditure, has given that Charity a fund. Why then, after so much has been said by each noble chairman advocating its cause and carrying out the argument to its full vindication, cannot a fund be forthwith raised and set aside for a future event? and thus place this charity, the most interesting of all, beyond reliance upon an annual collection, which, though we trust it will never be the case, may, some day fail of realising all that is required for the succour and protection of sixty-five children—and those the children of the Masons of England.

THE AGED MASONS' ASYLUM.

It gives us sincere pleasure to observe that the subscription for releasing the Asylum for Aged and Decayed Freemasons from debt, and placing it in a position by which it will become, as it ought to be, the pride of the Craft, is very satisfactorily progressing. Something like £200, out of the £360 required, has already been received, and, in looking over the reports of various Lodges, obligingly furnished us by our friends, we feel assured that not only the whole amount sought will be forthcoming, but that a handsome surplus may be relied upon, to be applied in increasing the

Annuity Fund for Aged Masons,—a fund much too low for the claims which come upon it, but which we hope to see ere long so large that we may be enabled to boast that a distressed and worthy brother never seeks its aid without being certain to obtain it. Much has been done within the last few years towards obtaining that position: but much more yet remains to be accomplished. We know, however, that we have willing, charitable, and active men amongst us,—aye, and on the Committee of the Benevolent Institution too,—who will never rest until every department has been put in an efficient state, corresponding not only with the importance of the Craft, but those holy principles of brotherly love and charity upon which the Order, in the ranks of which it is our pride to be enrolled, is founded.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

Continued from page 255.

The ever-memorable year, 1666, presented a scope for the exercise of Masonic abilities in the fullest extent. London having been built at different periods, and according to the individual conveniences of those who were driven to seek the protection of its walls, in early days, and afterwards that afforded by its corporate bodies, which the bravery and independence of its citizens had maintained against those who called themselves the lords of the soil; but who, instead of taking advantage of the blessings it produced, too often caused it to stink with the blood of those who fell in the wars caused by their ambition or covetousness; and whose boasted bravery was but similar to that of the wild beasts of the fields, which they were always amusing themselves in hunting, when not engaged in destroying their own kind. This progressive system of building without any settled plan as a guide, was entirely subversive of all order and regularity; the streets were narrow and crooked, and the houses, though admirably adapted to make the best of the ground upon which they were built, were, by their overhanging stories, the means of preventing proper ventilation. Their crowded state, together with the bad cleansing of the streets, caused the inhabitants to be continually exposed to contagious disorders, and the plague in hot seasons was excessively destructive. In the year 1665 nearly 100,000 were swept away by this dreadful scourge. By the death of so great a number of its inhabitants, and the desertion of all those who had the means of flying to places where the contagion had not reached, the streets became so untenanted and forlorn, that grass grew in them; and this dreadful visitation had scarcely passed away, and the refugees and new comers settled in their dwellings than they were obliged to fly by a most awful conflagration, which laid the principal part of the city in ashes. This dreadful fire broke out on the 2nd of September, at the house of a baker in Pudding-lane, which consisted of a wooden building pitched on the outside, as did all the rest of the houses in the lane, which was very narrow, whilst the projections of the stories on either side caused them to nearly meet at

the top. The house where the fire began being nearly full of faggots and brushwood, the flames raged with great fury, and spreading all ways, caught the Star Inn, which was full of hay and straw. Proceeding onwards to Thames-street, it was fed by magazines of combustibles of all sorts. The buildings on London-bridge were consumed, as well as the water-works underneath, which prevented the people from obtaining any water by that means. The fire soon crossed Cornhill, by the train of wood that lay in the street, from houses pulled down to prevent its spreading, and then proceeded on both sides with equal fury. It appears by the certificate of Jonas Moore and Ralph Gratrix, the surveyors appointed to examine the ruins, that the fire overran 373 acres within the walls; and burnt 13,200 houses, 89 parish churches, besides chapels; and that eleven parishes within the walls only remained standing. To this account may be subjoined several public buildings, including the Royal Exchange, Custom House, Guildhall, Blackwell Hall, St. Paul's Cathedral, Bridewell, the two Compters, fifty-two halls of the city companies, and three city gates. The loss has been computed at 10,000,000*l.* sterling. Notwithstanding all this destruction, providentially but six persons lost their lives.

After taking such temporary measures as were rendered necessary by the suddenness and extensiveness of the calamnity, the King and Grand Master gave orders to the Deputy Grand Master to draw out a plan of a new city, wherein the rights of private property were to be considered, but in all cases to contrive broad and regular streets, and thereby not only add to the beauty and convenience of the dwellings, but prevent the recurrence of those dreadful calamities with which the city was so frequently visited, in consequence of the narrowness and ill-ventilation of its thoroughfares, and the combustible materials of which the houses were constructed; it was therefore resolved that the new buildings should be of stone and bricks.

Many persons of enlightened and liberal views were of opinion that in rebuilding the city, not only convenience should be considered in the arrangement of wharfs and other facilities, but that a regularity and beauty in the arrangement of the streets and public buildings was desirable in the metropolis of a great and commercial nation. Influenced by these suggestions, Br. Wren, by royal command, took an exact survey of the whole area, a work of great difficulty and danger in passing over the great plain of ashes and ruins. His idea was to enlarge the streets and lanes, to carry them parallel to each other, and, as circumstances would admit, to avoid all acute angles, to erect the parochial churches conspicuous and insular, to form most public places into piazzas, the centres of eight ways; to unite the halls of the twelve principal companies into one square annexed to Guildhall, and to make a commodious quay on the whole bank of the river from Blackfriars to the Tower. The streets were to be of three magnitudes; the three principal leading straight through the city and one or two cross streets, to be at least ninety feet wide; others sixty feet; and lanes about thirty feet, excluding all narrow, dark allies, without thoroughfares, and courts. The Exchange was to stand in the middle of a piazza,

and to be the centre of the town, from whence sixty streets were to lead to the principal parts of the city. The quays on the banks of the Thames to be open, continuous, and convenient, with docks for the reception of barges heavily laden. The churches to be constructed in the best manner for the convenience and hearing of their congregations, to be adorned with porticos, towers, and steeples; all churchyards, gardens, and unnecessary vacuities, and all trades using great fires, or yielding unwholesome smells, to be excluded from the town.

A plan was constructed and laid before the King and House of Commons, exemplifying those arrangements, and explanations given as to the practicability of carrying them out; but it unfortunately met with great opposition from those who had for a number of years been accustomed to carry on their business on a certain site, and could not, or would not understand the necessity of the change, and distrusted the giving up their properties into the hands of public trustees, until they were certain of an equivalent. Hence the representation of these improvements was lost on the citizens, who were disposed rather to have their old city again, under all its disadvantages, than one which they were not only unable but unwilling to understand. In consequence of this feeling, the opportunity was lost, of making it not only the most commodious, but the most healthy city in the world; and it was only with extreme labour and difficulty, that the ultimate arrangements for its construction were made.

Among the public buildings of the city when rebuilt, most worthy of notice, was the Custom House for the Port of London, situated on the south side of Thames Street, and erected 1668. It was adorned with an upper and a lower order of architecture; in the latter were stone columns, and entablement of the Tuscan Order; in the former, pilasters, entabliture, and five pediments of the Ionic Order. The wings were elevated on columns, forming piazzas. The length of the building was 189 feet, breadth in the middle part 27 feet, and at the west end, &c., 60 feet.

On the 13th of October, 1667, the King levelled the foot stone of the new Royal Exchange, in solemn form, and it was opened by the Mayor and Aldermen, on the 28th September, 1669. Round the inside of the square, above the arcades, and between the windows, were the statues of the Sovereigns of England. Afterwards, the merchant adventurers employed the Grand Warder, Gibbons, to erect in the middle of the square the statue of the King, in a Cæsarean habit, sculptured in white marble; with the following inscription:—

Carolo Secundo Cæsari Britannico
Patriæ Patri
Regum Optimo Clementissimo Augustissimo
Generis Humani Deliciis
Utriusque Fortunæ Victori
Pacis Europæ Arbitro
Maris Domino Ac Vindici
Societas Mercatorum Adventer Angliæ
Quæ Par CCCC Iam Prope Annos
Regia Benignitate Floret

Fidei Intemeratæ Gratitudinis Æternæ
Hoc Testimonium
Venerabunda Posuit
Anno Salutis Humanæ MDCLXXXIV.

Gilbert Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury, an excellent Architect, displayed great skill in designing the famous Theatrium Sheldonium, at Oxford, and at his expense it was conducted and finished by the Deputy Wren, and the Grand Warden Web, and the Craftsmen having celebrated the Cape stone, it was opened with an elegant oration by Dr. South, on the 9th of July, 1669. The D.G.M. Wren, built also another masterpiece, the pretty Museum near the Theatre, at the charge of the University.

The before mentioned theatre was the first public work in architecture by Br. Wren, and much admired for its magnificence, but more particularly for the skill displayed in the contrivance and construction of its geometrical ceiling, eighty feet one way, and seventy the other, without any pillars to support it, and its principal beams composed of several pieces of timber.

In the year 1671, the D.G.M. Wren, commenced building the great fluted column, usually called the Monument, in memory of the burning and rebuilding of the City of London, which he completed in 1677, at the expense of fourteen thousand five hundred pounds. The work was frequently delayed for want of stones of proper size, which caused it to be a longer time in hand than it otherwise would have been. In forming this column, he took the liberty of exceeding the established proportion of the order, by half a diameter. This column, which is twenty-four feet higher than Trajan's pillar at Rome, is built of Portland stone, of the Doric order, and fluted. Its height from the ground is 202 feet, the greatest diameter of the shaft or body of the column is 15 feet, the ground plinth or bottom of the pedestal, is 28 feet square, and the pedestal is 40 feet high; over the capitol is an iron balcony, encompassing a cone 32 feet high, supporting a blazing urn of gilt brass. Within, is a large staircase of black marble, containing 345 steps, each ten inches and a half broad and six inches thick. In place of the brass urn, which has nothing to recommend it in point of beauty, and was placed there contrary to his opinion, Sir Christopher intended to have erected a colossal statue in brass gilt of King Charles II., as founder of the new city, in the manner of the Roman pillars; or else the figure of a woman crowned with turrets, holding a sword and cap of maintenance, with other ensigns of the city's grandeur and re-erection.

The west side of the pedestal is adorned with curious emblems, designed by the masterly hand of Mr. Cibber, father of the Poet Laureat, Colley Cibber, in which the eleven principal figures are done in alto, and the rest in basso relievo. That to which the eye is particularly directed, is a female representing the City of London, sitting among the ruins in a languishing posture, with her head dejected, hair dishevelled, and her hand carelessly lying on her sword. Behind is Time, gradually raising her up; at her side a woman representing Providence, gently touching her with one hand, and with a winged sceptre in the other

directing her to regard the godesses in the clouds, one with a cornucopia denoting plenty, the other with a palm branch, the emblem of peace. At her feet is a beehive, shewing that by industry and application the greatest misfortunes are to be overcome. Behind Time, are citizens exulting at his endeavours to restore her; and beneath, in the midst of the ruins, is a dragon, which, as supporter of the City Arms, with his paw endeavours to preserve the same. Still farther at the north end is a view of the city in flames, the inhabitants in consternation, with their arms extended upwards, as crying out for succour. Opposite the city on an elevated pavement, stands the King, in a Roman habit, with a laurel on his head and a truncheon in his hand, and approaching her, commands three of his attendants to descend to her relief:—the first represents the Sciences, with a winged head, and a circle of naked boys dancing thereon, holding Nature by the hand, with her numerous breasts ready to give assistance to all:—the second is Architecture, with a plan in one hand, and a square and pair of compasses in the other:—and the third is Liberty, waving a hat in the air, shewing her joy at the pleasing prospect of the city's speedy recovery. Behind the King stands his brother, the Duke of York, with a garland in one hand to crown the rising city, and a sword in the other for her defence. The two figures behind are Justice and Fortitude, the former with a coronet, and the latter with a reined lion; and under the royal pavement, in a vault, lieth Envy, gnawing a heart, and incessantly emitting pestiferous fumes of her invenomed mouth. In the upper part of the plinth the reconstruction of the city is represented by builders and labourers at work upon houses.

On two of the other facades of the plinth are latin inscriptions: that on the north side is thus rendered—"In the year of Christ, 1666, September 2, eastward from hence at the distance of two hundred and two feet, the height of this column, a terrible fire broke out about midnight; which, driven on by a high wind, not only wasted the adjacent parts, but also very remote places, with incredible noise and fury. It consumed eighty-nine churches, the city gates, guildhall, many public structures, hospitals, schools, libraries, and a vast number of stately edifices, thirteen thousand dwelling houses, and four hundred streets. Of the twenty-six wards, it utterly destroyed fifteen; and left eight others shattered and half burnt. The ruins of the city were four hundred and thirty-six acres, from the Tower, by the Thames side to the Temple church; and from the north east, along the wall to Holborn bridge. To the estates and fortunes of the citizens it was merciless, but to their lives very favourable, that it might in all things resemble the last conflagration of the world. The destruction was sudden; for in a small space of time the city was seen most flourishing, and reduced to nothing. Three days after, when in the opinion of all this fatal fire had baffled all human councils and endeavours, it stopped as it were by the command of heaven, and was on every side extinguished."

The inscription on the south side is translated thus:—

"Charles II., son of Charles the Martyr, King of Great Britain France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, a most gracious prince, commiserating the deplorable state of things, whilst the ruins were smoking,

provided for the comfort of the citizens and ornament of his city, remitted their taxes and referred the petition of the magistrates and inhabitants to parliament, who immediately passed an act that public works should be restored to greater beauty with public money, to be raised by an impost on coals; that churches, and the cathedral of Saint Paul's, should be rebuilt from their foundations, with all magnificence: that the bridges, gates, and prisons, should be new made, and sewers cleansed, the streets made straight, and regular: such as were steep, levelled, and those too narrow, to be made wider; and that the markets and shambles should be removed to separate places. They also enacted that every house should be built with party walls, and all in front raised of equal height, and those walls all of squared stone or bricks; and that no man should delay building beyond the space of seven years. Moreover, care was taken by law to prevent all suits about their bounds. Also anniversary prayers were enjoined, and, to perpetuate the memory hereof to posterity, they caused this column to be erected. The work was carried on with diligence, and London is restored, but whether with greater speed or beauty may be made a question. At three years time the world saw that finished, which was supposed to be the business of an age."

The inscription on the east side is in English thus:—

"This pillar was begun,
Sir Richard Ford, Knight, being Lord Mayor
of London, in the year 1671.
Carried on in the Mayoralities of
Sir George Waterman, Knt.
Sir Robert Hanson, Knt.
Sir William Hooker, Knt.
Sir Robert Nine, Knt.
Sir Joseph Sheldon, Knt.
} Lord Mayors;
and finished,
Sir Thomas Davis being Lord Mayor, in the year 1677.

The prevailing opinion of the citizens of London and of the generality of protestants, of all denominations, was, that if it had been occasioned by the contrivances of the papists, for which reason the following inscription was engraved round the pedestal:—

"This pillar was set up in perpetual remembrance of the most dreadful burning of this protestant city, begun and carried on by the treachery and malice of the popish faction, in the beginning of September, in the year of our Lord 1666, in order to carrying on their horrid plot for extirpating the protestant religion and old English liberty, and introducing popery and slavery."

This inscription was expunged in the time of James II., but restored in the next reign.

The cornice of the pedestal is adorned with the King's arms, the sword, mace, cap of maintenance, &c., enriched with trophies; and at each angle are winged dragons, the supporters of the city arms.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC REMINISCENCES.

By Φωτοφιλος, P.M., L. 50, Dublin.

Chapter I.—Our Early Impressions of Masonry—A Cynic's Objections Considered.

How well do we remember the awful and mysterious feeling with which, in our sunny days of boyhood, we looked upon the man who was in possession of the secrets of Freemasonry; and still the wonder grew upon us whether the day would ever arrive when we ourselves should don the apron and make one of the chosen few.

Our immediate paternal ancestor was a Mason, high in the Order, but he seldom spoke of it, unless when drawn out by a vigorous sally from his beloved better half, or one of her fair visitors. To do them justice, however, their arguments seldom extended beyond those stale jokes which have been current against the Craft for ages. His Masonic sensibilities were more seriously affected, and his indignant defence more frequently called forth, by the ingenious libels of a neighbouring relative, who, having in his days of youthful gallantry committed some grievous *escapade*, was black-balled in the County Lodge, and thus was generated in him a feeling of enmity against the Order, which, upon every occasion, he poured forth with all the power of a scholar and all the bitterness of a cynic. Yet he seemed to gain but few adherents, and these amongst the gentler sex—bless them! they generally side with the weak—while the eulogiums he drew forth in defence of Freemasonry, sunk deep into the minds of the listeners, and upon ours left an impression which time cannot efface.

On many occasions we ourselves have been made the starting point of attack, when our cynical kinsman, placing his hand upon our head, would indulge somewhat after this fashion:—"My dear boy, I hope you will have too much sense ever to have anything to do with this tom-foolery called Freemasonry; it is a mere apology for eating and drinking, an excuse for the dissipation of the young, and for the deserted fire-sides of the old. They have no secrets, no mysteries worth knowing, and any they profess to be possessed of have their origin in evil.

"They date their foundation from the building of Solomon's Temple, and seem proud of the antiquity of their Order.

"I would allow them to go further back—aye, to the days of Cain—when the sons of the "fugitive and the vagabond" banded together in an unholy brotherhood to corrupt the earth, and thus brought upon it the curse of the Deluge.

"If the Origin of Masonry could be traced to its source, we have very little doubt it would be discovered that one of the descendants of him upon whom was set the mark of sin, had eluded the vigilance of Noah, and having somehow leaked through the Ark, contrived to re-establish a remnant of that antediluvian *diablerie* practised by the old magi-

cians, faintly imitated by the Pagans in their Eleusinian mysteries, by the Hebrews in their traditional *cabala*, by the Chinese in their jugglery, by the Brahmins in their chants and incantations, the Rosicrucians in their affectation of preternatural power and knowledge, and which dwindles into utter insignificance in the puerilities of Freemasonry.

"Modern Freemasonry, we believe, lays no pretensions to the power of enchantment practised by the old Egyptian magicians; nor are the silly candidates for admission into its cabalistic Order subjected to the ancient ordeals of fire, air, and water; yet it would seem they still indulge in some silly mimicry of those preliminaries so graphically described by the justly admired poet Moore, in the 'Epicurean.'

"Masonry seems to me to be no more than an empty form pretending to some occult mystery, without object and without profit. If the Freemasons have any knowledge tending to benefit mankind, why conceal it? If they have any secret calculated to make their fellow men better, why not openly reveal it? But they have no such thing; and it would be an insult to morality and religion to suppose that what they fail to accomplish can be effected by the stupid mysticism of Freemasonry."

The wrath and argument of the cynic having been both exhausted, all eyes were turned towards a gentle, smiling face, that for some time had been fixed upon the speaker with evident sensations of pity and sorrow, untinged by the slightest shade of anger—the curate of the parish, chaplain to a neighbouring Lodge, happened to be present ("A man he was to all the country dear"), in whom was united learning without ostentation, and piety without pride. In the mild accents of his persuasive eloquence, and which we can but faintly imitate, he thus replied to the objections of the cynic:—

"I shall take leave to pass over the ingenious witticism at the expense of Scripture truth, which would concede to us the privilege of tracing our origin from the Man of Sin: we profess no peculiar knowledge of the *arcana* practised at *Eleusis*; we affect not the miraculous powers of the Rosicrucians; we are not skilled in Chinese jugglery; nor deeply read in the Vedas or Zendavesta. Freemasonry has nothing to do with these obsolete absurdities.

"Its foundation was laid when that noble structure, *man*, was formed by the glorious founder of our Order—'the *Divine Architect of the Universe*;' its principles flow from the study and knowledge of God's most perfect and exalted works; its essence is 'Peace on earth, and goodwill towards men.' Stainless must be the character of him who aspires to the honours of Masonry.

"Look around, and see who are its patrons and supporters. In every age men the most illustrious in station, the most eminent in learning, wisdom, and virtue, have felt proud to be ranked among its members. Behold at the head of the Order in our own land, Ireland's only duke,* the gentle Geraldine, rich in every social virtue, and all the graceful amenities of life. In England, a royal duke, the pious and amiable

* Duke of Leinster.

Sussex,* presides over the Order with the most devoted affection. Men such as these, and we could make their name Legion, not more exalted by their rank than by their virtues, should guard us from such defamatory attacks as we have heard this evening. In the name of common sense, if not of common charity, is it within the range of probability that they should lend the sanction of their high names to anything founded in evil?

"'But the tree is known by its fruits.' Behold, then, the fruits of Freemasonry in its manifold charities; see it in the salvation of the bereaved female orphan, saved, perhaps, from a life of sin and shame, trained up to virtue, and made a happy and creditable member of society.

"Behold it in the aged and infirm brother who had failed in the battle of life, and now at the hands of his brother, in his declining years, finds a peaceful asylum to rest his tired spirit and sinking heart. Examine our schools, our hospitals; can a society producing results like these be banded together for evil? Forbid it, the God of charity and love!

"It is charged against our Order that it is inconsistent with, and would supersede morality and religion.

"The municipal institutions necessarily established throughout the civilised world, prove how ineffective have been all known systems of faith and morals hitherto promulgated to keep man in the rigid path of duty towards his Creator and his fellow creature. The bitter controversies among Christian sects show how imperfectly are still felt and practised the divine precepts of the pure religion of the Cross.

"It is thus manifest that, in man's present imperfect state, the soundest code of morals and the purest system of religion require additional helps and assistants; and the minister of God, as well as the administrator of human laws, would find no more powerful assistant than in making Masonry auxiliary to their high purposes, by encouraging the extension of its principles throughout the length and breadth of every land, till the whole globe should become one Lodge, and all mankind Brothers.

"Freemasonry is not the enemy of faith and morals; but rather the gentle and effective helpmate of both: it excludes none from its communion but the vicious and the profligate; it comprehends within its extended circle men of every clime, and creed, and colour, without distinction; it recognizes no qualities but those of the head and the heart; it is universal as God's love, throwing its fraternal arms open wide as the poles, inviting all into its sacred brotherhood, merely observing those forms essential to the preservation of its rules and the observance of its solemn sanctions.

"The discordant elements which disturb the world abroad, find no place in the Masonic sanctuary; all minor differences are sacrificed at that shrine of peace, and merge in its god-like universality.

"Numberless instances could be adduced to prove how binding and deep-felt are the sanctions of the Masonic bond, and how rigidly they are observed, even under the most extraordinary circumstances. One recent

* Long since summoned to the Grand Lodge above, to receive, we trust, the reward of a good Mason.

instance just occurs to me, of an eminent medical friend* in a neighbouring city, who happened to be on board a ship seized by pirates, when the lives of the whole crew and passengers were saved, and the red hand of the murderous pirate was arrested in his work of carnage and plunder, on beholding a Masonic emblem.

"Yes, that ruthless man of blood became humanised; the hell-fire which evil passions had lighted up in his eyes, became dimmed with an unaccustomed tear on seeing that symbol of peace and love from a shrine at which he knelt in his earlier and happier days, and where he imbibed those lessons of moral beauty and truth that long years of sin and crime were not able wholly to obliterate. In the field of deadly conflict, men in adverse ranks have been known to turn aside the sword on receiving that SIGN by which brother recognizes brother.

"Hope never can desert the breast of the true Mason: on the trackless deep, in the wildest solitude, the star of Masonry cheers him on—even there in his hour of peril and desolation, when despair seizes all around, for him the spring in the desert may well up, and in the reckless pirate or the wild wandering Arab, he may find a brother and a friend."

A burst of applause greeted the good man on his conclusion, and even the cynic reluctantly admitted that his defence of Masonry was powerful and enthusiastic, and did him honour as a Man, a Mason, and a Clergyman.

Mid scenes and discussions like these were our early notions of Masonry nurtured; and it will not surprise, if the impressions made on our youthful mind should "grow with our growth, and strengthen with our strength," and produce in us aspirations to seek admission into an Order of which we had heard such favourable report—an honour which in due time we sought, and won with higher and better feeligs, we trust, than mere curiosity.

And if our readers will deign to accompany us through the pains and pleasures of our Masonic recollections, though we cannot promise even our fair friends admission behind the scenes, or an accurate knowledge of that grand secret which we are supposed to possess, yet shall they be made acquainted with some of the sayings and doings of one of the oldest and most interesting societies in the world; and we hope so to place before them those Masonic and other incidents, grave or gay, as they emerge from the past and float along the tide of our memory, as shall, mayhap, amuse if not instruct, and enable the uninitiated curious to arrive at a fair judgment on the merits of our ancient Order.

CHAPTER II.—A FATAL DUEL—OUR INITIATION.

THOUGH years of eventful interest in our life's history have rolled by since we first saw the glorious light of Masonry in one of the crack Lodges of the Sister Isle, still are the startling minutiæ of that (to us) awful night as bright and vivid in our memory as the scenes of yesterday.

* The well-known Dr. W——e of Cork, now retired after having realised an honourable independence.

Our initiation into the sublime mysteries took place at a period while yet "young fire-eyed disputants" in that gallant and chivalrous land generally made the pistol the unreasoning arbiter of the slightest difference of opinion; and one of those fatal and appalling cases of duelling, from trivial causes, mismanaged by reckless or inexperienced seconds, marks the day on which we were first invested with an apron in our Parent Lodge, 50, Dublin, by that most able, zealous, and indefatigable of Secretaries, G—e J. B—ld—n, Esq.; to whom not only his own Lodge, but the whole Order is indebted, and of whose services, as well as those of a few other *notables*, who have contributed to the dissemination of Freemasonry in Ireland, we shall have a word or two to say in the progress of these reminiscences.

REFLECTIONS ON THE EFFECTS OF MASONRY UPON DUELLING.

"Alas! how light a cause may move
Dissension between hearts that love—
Hearts that the world in vain has tried,
And sorrow but more closely tied,
Yet in a sunny hour fall off."

Slight and unworthy were the pretexts which in those days sufficed for an invitation to scent the morning air and *tremble on the daisies;* the tried and well-proved friends of many years have been known to meet in deadly conflict for differences about trifles "light as air." We remember five duels to result from the foolish incidents of a Regatta Ball, presided over, too, by the representative of the Queen, the late noble and gallant Marquis of Anglesea, then Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whose high bearing as a soldier and a gentleman would, if anything could, have preserved order and decorum.

One of these duels was somewhat characteristic, and we feel we shall be excused if we very briefly refer to it. The unfortunate principals were permitted to exchange four shots each; and such was their steadiness and determination that two of the shots took effect slightly without the knowledge or notice of the seconds. After the fourth discharge, the challenger's friend declared himself satisfied, and thus matters so far ended.

On quitting the ground, one of the principals walking up to the other, addressed him thus: "Now, Sir, that you can do so without any imputation on your honour, may I ask if you were the party who threw the turkey bone that happened to *fall near my plate?*" "Well, Sir," replied the other, "as you have expressed yourself satisfied, I can no longer hesitate to assure you *I know nothing whatever about it*, but it would be impossible for me to give any explanation *after* receiving a hostile message; had you asked it *before*, or withdrawn your message, you certainly should have received the same explanation you now do, but with your message suspended over my head, *the thing was out of the question.*" "My dear Sir, there is my hand, let us be friends as of old, and pray do excuse me for having placed in jeopardy the life of so brave a man."

During this interesting dialogue, a gentle pallor was suffusing the face

of either, each endeavouring to hide from the other the fact of his being hit; at last, one timidly hinted, "I fear you're hit." "Oh! a mere scratch, but I greatly fear *you* must be hurt; here, Doctor, attend to Mr. O——." "By no means, Doctor, attend first to Mr. W——" (there happened to be but one medical man on the grouud); and it was thus most amusing, if not ludicrous, to see two men a moment before armed with deadly weapons against each other's life, now vieing in acts of kindness, courtesy, and good nature.

But no excuse for quarrel could be more foolish or unjustifiable than that with which our introduction to the Order is associated, by which Masonry lost a brother, society an ornament, and by which another victim to that blood-stained Moloch of the duellist, misnamed honour, was added, in the premature homicide of poor P—r W—e.

On the evening but one previous to our initiation, we happened to meet this gentleman and a few others at the theatre, and, as was then the custom, all adjourned to eat oysters and devilled kidneys, and imbibe divers potations of that inspiring beverage, whiskey punch. The house chosen was one just opened in Grafton Street, called the New Shades, and which we understand is at present admirably conducted by Br. Jude.

It was at this time the rendezvous of the students of T. C. D., who often came there in the wild spirit of frolic, to kick up a row, a consummation by no means difficult to accomplish with such combustible materials as were generally to be found there; a flash of wit was often sufficient to set all in a blaze, particularly should it happen to be about the 12th of July, the period of the dog-days, when the baleful influence of *sirius* would seem to produce a maddening influence on most of the inhabitants of that island.

While awaiting the efforts of the cook, one of our symposial companions, the fastest man of his day in college, but now a veteran upon whose brow the snowfall of time was leaving the unmistakeable marks of winter, was entertaining us with his recollections of bygone freaks. He told us of a college wag frequently beginning the fun of the evening somewhat in this way:—"Boys, have ye heard the news? I have it direct from the Lady Mayoress, that his grace the Archbishop has just received special intelligence that the bottom of purgatory has given way, and all the inhabitants have tumbled into ——." "Dear me! what an awful crushing the poor heretics must have got," was the witty rejoinder.

The roaring laugh which followed these and other sharp passes of wit, tended to keep up the good humour for awhile, but a few irreverent hits at the Pope, or the Scarlet Lady, Daniel O'Connell or the Repeal, was sure to produce the desired effect; at first it commenced with a quiet turn-up between a couple in a corner. One interfered, then another, and another still, till the whole company, young and old, as if drawn by some irresistible attraction, joined in the *mêlée*, when, to use a graphic Hibernicism, it grew into one universal "scrimmage," in which no one knew, or cared about the original cause of quarrel, but pelted away, right and left, friend or foe, all alike.

At this point of their amusement, a general cry of "Watch, Watch,"

frequently made the belligerents pause, only, however, to prepare for a more serious row: the two parties uniting against the common enemy, the old *Charlies*, those primitive nocturnal shepherds of our forefathers, generally full of roguery, whiskey, and fun, long since fortunately superseded by the new police. Now came the tug of war—who was to lead the forlorn hope against the serried phalanx of watchmen standing to the charge with their formidable lances.

This dangerous weapon need not be described to our Irish readers, many of whom have, no doubt seen, and perhaps some of them, FELT it; but we may inform our English friends that it consisted of a long, heavy, ashen pole, armed at one end with a double-edged blade, some ten inches long, and a strong sharp hook, so that if you made fight, you were received on the point of the blade, and if you bolted, you were sure to be hooked, fortunate if a slice from the nape of your neck, or the calf of your leg, did not remain behind with a portion of your habiliments. It was said to be made on the plan of the pikes used by the insurgents in '98, the use of the hook being to cut the reins of the cavalry.

A council of war was called, and after sundry volunteers had offered their services, the president thus addressed a Mr. B., familiarly known as the "babe of grace:"—"I say, B., I don't think you're in the sweetest odour with the *Dean*, and if you should be brought up again this week, it is ten to one but you'll get special leave to visit your respected parents long before they expect you, so, as a friend, I recommend you to run the gauntlet; it will perhaps cost you a gash and a coat, but even so, just trust to your heels and leave the fighting to us, for this night"

The "babe" consented, and having broken cover by upsetting the nearest *Charlie*, made for old Trinity like "a three year old," the whole *posse* of night guards after him in full chase and cry, with rattles creaking as if the whole city were in a blaze; then indeed was it an exciting scene to see Charlies tripped up and rolling over hatless *jibs*, with fragments of coats, one fellow trying with desperate efforts to retain a recusant prisoner, with his little red scull cap bordered with his black grizzly hair thrust through that part of his hat where the crown should be, the body forming a most grotesque neck collar, looking exactly as if he had been in the *pillory*, seemed to give great delight to the mob.

Our veteran friend, warming with the recollections of the past, wound up thus:—"Well, often since I left college, when mounted on my bounding steed, with my faithful dog gambolling around in the pride of his joyousness, awaking the echoes with the music of his ringing bark, have I felt proud; and if there be any one position more than another in which man can feel the dignity of his position on earth, it is this. Yes; he can then really feel his glorious inheritance from his Creator, the proud lordship over all other created things; but pray do not laugh at me when I assure you that I never felt prouder in my life than when I beat *old Castelloe*, the *watchman*, in a fair run from the top of Grafton Street to the College gate, and could just hear him soliloquize thus after I got inside:—'The tuntherin rogue has bet me agin; that last *bonnet* he *lint* me over the *night-cap* completely dumfoundered me, but I'll have him yet, an' be me

sowl afore the long wacation, and God knows I wish that same wacation would last the whole year round, to keep such rake-helly d——s at home. I'll show him I took that '*wallop*' only as a *loan*, by giving it him back wid honest interest: he's the greatest scape-grace ever crossed my bait since that Galway lamb, Tom the d——l was made a parson, and they say took to the Church like a sucking dove; Heaven protect us.'"

(*To be continued.*)

BROTHERLY LOVE.

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

(*Continued from* p. 260.)

With a palpitating heart, Ida reached the hut of the Maniac. She knocked at first gently, and receiving no answer she knocked again, announcing her name. The bolt was slowly withdrawn, and the Maniac opening the door, stood before her. He extended his hand, which she took, and overcome by a host of feelings which his presence conjured up, she sank on her knees and burst into a violent flood of tears.

"So young, so beautiful, so innocent," said the Maniac, leading her to the stone bench before the door, "and yet in sorrow. And what have you done my child that affliction should visit you? You have cherished no revenge—your gentle and christian spirit is torn by no remorse for the past—no phantom of memory embodied by a disordered fancy haunts your young days, and turns your existence to bitterness! You at least have not trampled under foot your better nature—you have not murdered the early associate and friend to whom you pledged Brotherly Love, and whom you were bound to succour and protect."

Ida made no reply, for she was accustomed to hear him speak in this strain, which she did not receive literally, but as the dictates of a disordered imagination, brooding over and magnifying some incident of the past. She was also prevented speaking from not having sufficiently subdued her emotion to answer with calmness.

"But fear not, child," he continued, "your grief will be as short lived as the summer-cloud—your tears as evanescent as the morning dew upon the flower. None but the wicked can be permanently unhappy."

To an inquiry respecting his health, he replied, "I have not felt ill—it is the mind that is smitten with disease—and what have I not endured since your absence! The fearful phantom has haunted me more incessantly than ever. It greets my awaking eyes, it breathes on me its icy breath, presses my brow with its cold and clammy hands, and turns my heart to mould. And see," he exclaimed, a wild lustre lighting up his eyes, "see, it rises from the rock, it flits by the shadow of that mouldering oak, it is by the margin of the stream, it

sinks into the water, and vanishes from my sight. Saw you it not?"

"No, sir, no. Believe me it was only the effect of your imagination. Why do you not pray to God to banish these fearful fancies from your mind?"

"And have I not endeavoured to pray? have I not striven with the madness of my brain, have I not knelt unseen in the sanctuary at midnight before the monument to his memory, and as the almost forgotten words of prayer were forming on my lips, have I not felt that icy breath again on my cheek? have I not heard that familiar voice whispering in my ear of my violated vow of Brotherly Love? have I not beheld his reproachful looks freezing every sense, until the words died out of my memory? The gift of prayer is denied me—but I will not detain you longer, Ida. Leave me now, but return to-morrow. I shall then give you my promised history, tell you who I am, and make you flee with loathing from my presence."

Though Ida would have preferred remaining with him, and endeavoured to console him, she was aware that it was useless to act contrary to his wishes, and she departed.

Chapter X.—The Volunteer.

We must now return for a time to follow the fortunes of Simon. Some months had elapsed since the events recorded in Chapter VIII. The war, which we intimated was impending, had already been resumed by Napoleon, who, undeterred by the disasters he had sustained in his Russian campaign, had again raised his banner, around which a numerous and enthusiastic soldiery rallied. The chief Continental States were not behind in assuming a martial attitude, to resist the threatened aggression of the French Emperor, and vast masses of armed men were assembled between the Vistula, the frontiers of Austria, and the Elbe, awaiting his approach, and sanguine with expectation of seeing the flag of national independence once more floating above the banks of the Rhine.

But nothing daunted, on "the scourge of Europe and the terror of the North" proceeded, and in the May of 1813, he stood front to front with the combined forces of Prussia and Russia, at Lutzen.

Though some doubts existed at the time as to who were the conquerors on that occasion, we believe it is now admitted that the French had the superiority; but there is little doubt as to the bravery and determination with which both parties contested the battle. True to her traditions, France added another laurel to the wreath of valour which distinguished her sons, whether in triumph or defeat. However, it is not our intention to enter into any details respecting this sanguinary affray, further than is requisite to the purposes of our narrative.

The battle was at its height, and a small detachment of the French were endeavouring to force their way to an eminence commanded by the enemy, who were mowing them down with shell and grape-shot as they

advanced. For an instant the assailants wavered; but the commander of the party, dashing forward to their head, besought them not to desist, for the honor of their country and their love of the Emperor, promising promotion to the man who should plant the Imperial eagle on the height. "*Vive la France,*" "*Vive l'Empereur,*" burst from a dozen of the enthusiastic little band, as they rushed up the height with a determination to conquer or perish in the attempt. The foremost of the band who bore the colours, fell; but his place was immediately filled by another, who rushed from the ranks, and, seizing the national emblem, waived it over his head, and dashed up the acclivity, followed closely by his companions. He had to hew his way through the enemy; but his strength which appeared extraordinary, effected a passage, and he succeeded in planting the standard on the height.

Animated by this daring feat, the advancing party gathered fresh courage, and their opponents, being disheartened in proportion as they were elated, began to retreat in disorder, closely pursued. But this success was nearly proving fatal to the French band; for, borne away in the ardour of the pursuit, they followed without order, and the retreating party perceiving that they were numerically inferior to them, rallied, poured in an effective fire, and then charged them. At this juncture, a body of French cavalry unexpectedly made their appearance, and created a diversion, allowing the little party to retreat. This was effected by all except the leader, who had been successful in planting the standard on the height, and who was too much in advance of his party to avail himself of the succour. He was hemmed in, and though defending himself with superhuman strength, he must have eventually been overpowered, but for one of the cavalry officers who galloped up at full speed to the spot, and riding into the midst, cut right and left, until he reached the soldier, whom he seized by the arm, and dragged upon the horse. But he had scarcely effected this, than a ball struck him, and he rolled with the man he had rescued on the ground, apparently lifeless. The relief had by this time approached, and both were conveyed to the rear. The rescued man soon recovered from his state of unconsciousness occasioned by the fall, and was ordered to resume duty, while the officer to whom he was indebted for his life was borne away in a state of insensibility and bleeding profusely from a wound in his side, before he could ascertain who he was.

The soldier who had so narrowly escaped death was Simon Le Trouve. Wearied of life, which had lost all enjoyment for him, he entered as a volunteer in the service of Napoleon. He had little interest in the objects of the war, but he considered that the stirring scenes of military life would wean his thoughts from the past, and supply a void in his mind. Besides, there was something of the gladiator in his spirit, which only required the breath of strife to kindle it into flame. Scarcely valuing his existence, and endued with savage valour, as well as great physical strength, he sought the contest with ardour and determination. Even amongst his brave associates in arms, he had already distinguished himself by the recklessness with which he rushed into the thickest of the fight, utterly indifferent to personal danger, and animated, as they fancied, by motives similar to their own.

It is rarely that emulation exists without producing envy, and a few endeavoured to detract from Simon's achievements, but the majority still admitted his claims, and awarded him their praise. If they knew how little at first he was actuated by the love of country, devotion to the military meteor who surveyed their destinies, or by the other feelings which had drawn them into strife, they would have viewed him with aversion. But they could not penetrate the springs of his actions, it was sufficient that they recognised and applauded them.

Once more he found himself in a position of superiority, but, oh, how different from that in which he had first sought distinction! The contrast suggested itself to Simon's mind, but he wisely banished it together with the soft image of Ida, which also intruded. Notwithstanding his idiosyncracies, he was human in heart, and as such, could not altogether be unaffected by the praises bestowed on his bravery, and the community of enterprise and association to which he was admitted, without reference to his exterior. Despite of the misanthrophy which he strove to cherish, a bloom was creeping over his existence. It was true that the alteration was produced, not by means consonant to the sentiments of a Christian, or in harmony with the feelings of a philanthrophist. The accident that made him a homicide was also rendering him more human. A fiend that had been slumbering in his bosom might have been awakened, but it was no sooner roused to action, than it showed that he had faculties that enabled him to surmount his personal defects, and even win him an honourable position amongst his fellow men.

And who ever felt himself on an equality with his fellow men without some sympathy springing from that consciousness? The man who has been trodden down by adversity, felt the iron heel of poverty or disease pressing daily on his spirit, may well grow cynical. But it is only the surface that is frozen, for let a few gleams of prosperity shine forth, and the crust will dissolve, and the living spring of human love and feeling will bubble forth in all its natural warmth and play. What wonder, then, if there should be a change wrought even in Simon, by an intercourse with his fellow men, sharing the same perils, enduring the same hardships, gazing upon the same scenes, and breathing daily the same atmosphere? But we must not anticipate, for at the period when he has just re-appeared there was much of the Simon in his breast, for he was still brooding in bitterness of spirit over the past incidents of his life.

On the night after the battle of Lutzen, Simon was roused from a short repose to take his place on watch. It was a bright moonlight night, and the battle field in all its gory attributes was fully revealed. The soft light fell upon many an upturned face with cold leaden eye, and with features on which was traced, in convulsion, all the agony of a violent death; or, perhaps, it irradiated the countenance soft and calm of one whose spirit had passed away without a pang. There was the young stripling with scarce the down on his youthful and rounded cheek, stretched beside the veteran with his grizzled locks, and seamed and scarred features,—the young and old victims at a common alter. And struggling through the torn vest might be seen glittering, some locket sparkling in that grey light,

a memorial of love, containing, perhaps, the hair of some cherished object, but at all events a relic too sacred to be parted with in life.

Had Simon been inclined to meditate on the effects of war, he had sufficient material strewn around him for that purpose; but all such desire, if it existed, was repressed by the sound of voices issuing from behind a barrier erected near the spot where he stood. The persons of the speakers were effectually concealed, and their words were scarcely audible, but he heard distinctly a name pronounced which made him hush his breath and strain every nerve to catch the conversation.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The Annual meeting for the Installation of Grand Master for the coming year, was held on Wednesday last, April 25, when the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Zetland having been duly re-installed and proclaimed as G. Master, he was pleased to appoint his officers as follows:—

Dep. G.M.	Rt. Hon. Earl of Yarborough.
Senior G.W.	Wm. Stuart M.P.
J.G.W.	Henry Wm. Eaton.
G. Chaplains	Rev. J. E. Cox. Rev. E. Moore.
G. Treasurer	S. Tomkins.
G. Registrar	Alex. Dobie.
G. Secretary	W. H. White.
G. Sec. for German Correspondence.	H. S. Crohn.
S.G. Deacon	H. Lloyd.
J.G. Deacon	J. N. Tomkins.
G. Sup. of Works	P. Hardwick.
G. Dir. of Cer.	R. W. Jennings.
Asst. G. Dir. of Cer.	J. Chapman.
Grand Sword Bearer	Chas. Wm. Elkington,
Asst. G. Sec.	W. Farnfield.
G. Organist	E. Ransford
G. Pursuivant	G. G. Elkington.

The Grand Stewards for 1856 were presented as follows:—Arthur S. Douglas, 1; James Scott, 2; John Randall, 4; Benjamin Head, 5; R. W. Crawford, 6; H. B. Pigott, 8; Henry Lee, 14; F. B. Thomas, 21; Jas. W. Adams, 23; Thos. H. Hill, 27; Thos. Hutchings, 32; Andrew Holman, 54; Robert Kynaston, 66; Jeremiah Long, 72; H. G. Warren, 108; J. H. Hervey, 116; A. B. Frend, 233; G. J. Lyons, 324.

The whole of the business having ended, the Lodge was closed in due form, and the Brethren proceeded to the Hall to take part in the

GRAND FESTIVAL.

The hall was densely crowded by the Brethren, and on the entrance of the Grand Master, he was received with loud and long continued cheers. The noble Earl on taking the chair, was supported by his Grand Officers; by Br. Bagshaw, R.G.M. for Essex; T. H. Hall, Pl. G.M. for Cambridge; Dr. Kent, Pl. G.M. for Australia; Col. Burlton, Pl. G.M. for Bengal; Br. Nollond, P.G.W.; P. J. Solomons, P.G.D; T. Parkinson, P.G.D.; J. Nelson, P.G.D.; H. Faudel, P.G.D.; Jno. Hervey, P.G.D; C. Baumer, P.G.D.; J. S. Gaskoin, P.G.D.; J. B. King, P.G.D.; — Goldsworthy, P G.D. S. C. Norris, P.G.D.; T. R. White, P.G.D.; Jno. Havers, P.G.D.;

Rev. Sir M. Hayes, P.G. Chap.; R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B.; G. P. de Rhe Philipe, P.G.S.B.; G. W. K. Potter, P.G.S.B; E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B.; A. A. Le Vean, P.G.S.B.; Geo. Biggs, P.G.S.B.; Jno. Masson, P.G.S.B.; &c., &c.

A very elegant repast was prepared by Brs. Watson, Coggen, and Banks; upwards of two hundred brethren sat down to the dinner, and the gallery was filled with elegantly dressed ladies.

The cloth having been removed the M.W.G.M. rose and said, that there was one toast always acceptable in every committee of Englishmen, but especially so among Masons, the health of the Sovereign—(applause). He begged, therefore, to propose her most gracious Majesty "The Queen." The toast having been drunk with enthusiasm, the M.W.G.M. proposed the health of "His Royal Highness Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family"—(applause).

The M.W.G.M. said there was another toast which he had great pleasure in proposing. Perceiving that there were a great many brethren present from Ireland and Scotland, he begged to propose "The Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland"—(applause).

Br. Thomas Henry Hall, P.G.M. of Cambridge, then rose and said that he had the permission of the M.W.G.M. to propose a toast which was one that he had no doubt every brother present would drink with enthusiasm. By the cordial manner in which they had drank the health of the Queen, they had shown their attachment to their Sovereign, and he was sure there was no brother present who would not exhibit t same feeling towards their Masonic Chief, on whom they had conferred the hon that day of placing him, for the twelfth time, in the G.M's. chair—(loud cheer The services which the M.W.G.M. had conferred upon the Craft were fresh in the recollection of all, and it would be strange if one who had so much Masonic blood in his veins, should be wanting in those qualities and feelings associated and identified with Masonry—(applause). There was no one more sensible of the duties of his station than the G.M., and there was no one who had taken the obligations devolving upon him in virtue of that office with more readiness and goodwill—(hear, hear). He (Br. Hall), appealed to the brethren whether the G.M. had not fulfilled his obligations, and whether the brethren had not been justified in confiding to him the honour and interest of their Order. He was also happy to be able to state that nothing could exceed the prosperity which had attended the Order since the W.G.M. had assumed his office—(applause). Since that period no fewer than 200 new Lodges had been opened in England, in addition to a great number in the Colonies. The reign of Masonry was essentially a reign of peace, and whatever quarrels might rage without, they could never in this free country intrude upon the threshold of the Temple of Masonry —(applause). Long might this state of things last, and long might their G.M. enjoy the confidence, affection, and loyalty of the brethren—(applause). He begged to propose "The health of the M.W.G.M."

The toast having been responded to with every demonstration of cordiality,

The M.W.G.M. returned thanks in the following terms:—Brethren, I sincerely thank you for the kind manner in which you have drunk the toast just proposed. On every occasion when I have presented myself to you, I have always had to acknowledge your kindness, and to express my gratitude for the cordial manner in which you have received me. I assure you, I feel deeply the kindness and confidence reposed in me, and the more so, when I find that during a period of 12 years that confidence has not been diminished. Brethren, my worthy friend and brother on my right, has told you that ours is a reign of peace. It is so essentially, and if we look at the progress of Masonry all over the world, you will find that those nations which have longest preserved peace are the free nations in which the principles of Masonry have been received and approved—(applause). Brethren, I do not mean to verge upon politics; but I must ask you what nations are really free in which Masonry is not encouraged? Brethren, whatever other nations may think of Masonry, this we know, that wherever one Mason meets another, even if it be among a nation hostile to us, he will be received as a brother—(applause). Our object is peace and good-will towards men. It is, I assure you, most gratifying to me to be assured that Masonry has not only improved in the number of Lodges, and in the number of members fre-

quenting each Lodge, but also that in distant colonies where some years ago Masonry was scarcely known, there are now numerous Lodges formed. When we see also that our charities are increasing in wealth and usefulness (applause), it must be gratifying to see the good that we are doing, not only in this country, but over a large portion of the globe. I assure you, brethren, in conclusion, that it will be my anxious desire as long as I hold this office, to promote the prosperity of our Order; and again I beg to thank you for the kindness and confidence you have accorded to me this day—(applause).

The M.W.G M. shortly afterwards rose and proposed "The health of the D.G.M., the Earl of Yarborough"—(applause). There was no one who had performed his duty more conscientiously than their D.G.M. He had not seen their brother for some time, and could not consequently state the reason of his not being present, but there could be no doubt that his engagements were urgent and numerous. They all knew, however, that when the D.G.M.'s services were required, he was always anxious to do his duty in Masonry.

The toast was very warmly responded to.

The M.W.G.M.—Brethren, I have now to draw your attention to the next toast, which is, "Our Grand Wardens and Officers of the year"—(applause). These gentlemen are new in their offices, but old in Masonry, and they are well known for their zeal and sincerity in all that relates to the Order. I am sure you will heartily and sincerely join with me in drinking the healths of the Grand Wardens and Grand Officers of the year.

Br. Stuart, G.S.W., returned thanks for himself, and the other Grand Officers. He had only been a Mason twelve years, but during that time, he was glad to say, that Masonry had increased in strength, and had spread widely in India, and other distant lands. On the Continent, in France, Germany, and even in Spain, it had taken hold, and it was some consolation to know, now that we were engaged in war, that there was a bond of union even in the battle-field, which had spread widely through every Christian clime. And that, amid the plain where the horrors of war were rife, a friend might be found among the ranks of the foeman—(applause). He felt assured that he spoke the sentiments of all the Grand Officers, when he said, that they would faithfully discharge their duties to the Craft, to the W.G.M., and to the Grand Lodge—(hear, hear).

The M.W.G.M. next proposed the health of "The Prov. G.Ms.," and called attention to the fact that the Prov. G.M. of Australia was present.

Br. Dobie, P.G.M., of Surrey, and G.R. of England, in acknowledging the compliment, expressed his regret that some other brother, better qualified to do justice to the toast, had not risen. He sincerely thanked the brethren for the honour they had done the P.G.Ms., and he might say on their behalf, that they would upon all occasions discharge the duties devolving upon them, and support the G.M., and like him, do all in their power to promote the honour, and extend the usefulness of the Craft —(applause).

Br. Kent, G.M. of Australia, also returned thanks. He assured the brethren that it afforded him great pleasure to be able to report that Masonry was flourishing in South Australia, and that the number of Lodges was rapidly increasing. When he first went to that distant colony, there was only one Lodge in it (No. 613), and now there were several. The last official act which he had performed before leaving the colony, a short time since, was to open a new Lodge, the warrant for which he had brought over, in order to obtain the signature of the G.M. He was happy, also, to be able to state that the Order held a high position in the estimation of those who were not Masons in South Australia; and a proof of this was to be found in the fact, that when application was made for the use of the cathedral to preach the inauguration sermon, the Dean and Senior Canon, although not Masons, assisted at the divine service, thereby showing the respect which they entertained for the principles of the Order. He might also add his testimony to the loyalty which was felt in the colony to the W.G.M., whose courtesy upon all occasions he was now desirous to acknowledge. He hoped that upon his return to the colony, he would be enabled still more to further the interests of Masonry in that remote dependency—(applause).

The W.G.M. next proposed The Masonic Charities, not forgetting the Girls' Festival on the 16th of May—(applause). He was sure that this was a toast in which they could all sympathise. At the late Festival of the Boys' School, which he was prevented from attending, he was given to understand that a large sum of money had been collected, and he trusted that the sympathies of the Brethren would be yet more generously evoked in aid of the gentler sex. The Institution had lately been increased, a considerable sum of money had been expended in re-building the School, and the health of the children was now much better than it had been before. (Hear). He felt he need say no more in recommending the Masonic Charities to their notice, but would conclude by giving, "Success to the Masonic Charities, not forgetting the Girls' Festival on the 16th of May."

The W.G.M.—Brethren, I know you will drink the next toast I have to offer you with the enthusiasm it deserves. I beg to propose "The health of the Ladies in the gallery," and I am sure you will join with me in thanking them for the honour they have done our Festival by consenting to be present on this occasion. The toast was drunk amid loud applause.

The W.G.M. again rose and said, Brethren, I beg to propose the last toast of the evening, "The health of the Grand Stewards"—(applause.) I am sure we have to express our thanks to the Stewards for the excellent arrangements of the day, and for the exertions which they have made to secure our comfort at the present entertainment. I beg you will join me in drinking the health of the Grand Stewards.

Br. Scott briefly returned thanks for the Grand Stewards.

The G.M. then left the chair, and the privileged Brethren shortly adjourned to the glee room, to join the ladies, and where it is needless to say we did not follow them. Indeed, no one who values his health can be expected to enter a place which he knows to be more hurtful to the constitution than would be the proferred performance of the late M. Chabot, of being shut up for an hour in a baker's oven whilst the Sunday dinners were cooking.

The musical arrangements which gave general satisfaction, were under the direction of Br. Ransford, (grand organist), assisted by Miss Birch, Miss Eliza Birch, Miss Ransford, and Brs Donald King, Genge, G. Perren, W. E. Ransford, and Smythson.

Br. Harker officiated as toast master.

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.

At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on Thursday, April 26th, petitions of a number of applicants for relief were taken into consideration, and various sums, amounting in the whole to £38, disbursed.

THE FREEMASONS GIRLS SCHOOL.

On the 12th ult. the quarterly court of the Governors of the Girls School, was held at the Freemasons Tavern, Br. Taylor in the chair. There were also present Br. W. H. White, Grand Sec.; Br. Barrett, Br. Adlard, Br. Barnes, Br. Davis, Br. Patten, Br. Robinson, Br. Symmonds, Br. Tomlinson, &c., &c.

Br. Crew, the esteemed Secretary of the Institution, read the minutes of the proceedings of the last quarterly court, and of the special court held on the 29th of March, which were unanimously confirmed.

The court then authorised the payment of the accounts, for the maintenance of the Institution, up to last Lady day.

The Secretary next informed the court that the committee had considered and approved of the petitions of seven candidates, for election into the school, and that as there were vacancies for that number it would not be necessary to have recourse to the ballot.

The Chairman upon this intimation put the names of the candidates to the court, for the formal declaration of their election. They were, Emma Charlotte Thurrell, Ellen Jackson, Sarah Osborne, Caroline Priest, Malvina Rogers, Helen Shaw, and Selina Taggart.

Br. Crew remarked, that although the Institution was chiefly maintained by the

subscriptions of the metropolitan brethren, yet that in the election of children no difference was made between those coming from the London, and those from the Provincial Lodges. He wished this fact to be understood by the Craft, as he was afraid that the country Masons were of opinion that the opposite was the case. At almost every one of the recent elections, the majority of the children admitted came from country Lodges. Some conversation here arose with respect to the case of a child who had been after election, refused admission on the authority of the medical officers who certified that she was labouring under a scrofulous affection. She had been sent to Margate, for sea bathing, and would in the event of her recovery be at once taken into the school. The consideration of the bye-laws was then proceeded with, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

NEW JUNIOR UNITED SERVICE CLUBHOUSE.

On Thursday, March 29 (briefly noticed in our last), the Right Hon. the Earl of Orkney, assisted by the committee, performed the ceremony of laying the first stone of the new Club-house, in Regent-street, Waterloo-place, numerous members of the club being in attendance. His lordship explained, that the first stone of the old Club-house was found in the south-west corner of the building; but the present stone was to be laid in the north-east corner, that being the recognised Masonic position for placing a foundation-stone. He then read the inscription on the plate as follows:—

"The Club-house, built by the United Service Club in the year 1817, was purchased by the Junior United Service Club, on its formation in 1827, and occupied by the latter Club until 1854, when the original building was taken down, and a new Club-house erected on the site." The stone bore the following inscription:—

"'The first stone of the new Club-house was laid by the Right Hon. the Earl of Orkney, late of the 9th Lancers, and the committee of the Junior United Service Club, on the 29th day of March, in the 18th year of the reign of Queen Victoria, 1855.'"

A series of coins of the present year were deposited under the stone, and the mortar having been spread with a silver trowel, presented by the Club to Lord Orkney, the stone was lowered into its position.

The ceremony was invested with more than usual interest, by its being known that the celebrated mallet which originally belonged to Sir Christopher Wren, and had been used by Charles II., in 1673, in laying the first stone of St. Paul's Cathedral, would be made use of on this occasion.

In alluding to the mallet, his Lordship stated that it had never been used since the death of the Duke of Sussex, who was master of the Lodge of Antiquity; and after passing a eulogium upon his late Royal Highness, and thanking the Lodge for their kindness in lending it, he proceeded to announce to the workmen that it was the intention of the committee to give each man a day's wages instead of a dinner. His lordship, in the course of his speech, expressed a hope that the good understanding now so happily existing between masters and workmen in this country would always continue; and that there might never be a scarcity of labour for those willing to work, and a fair remuneration as the reward of their exertions.

Mr. Foudrinier, Past Master of the Lodge of Antiquity, acknowledged the compliment that had been paid to the Lodge, and said that although it was unusual to lend the mallet, they had on this occasion unanimously agreed to do so, in recognition of the eminent services lately rendered to the country by members of the Club.

Three cheers were given by the workmen, and Lord Orkney having struck the stone three times with the mallet, declared it to be well and duly laid, and the ceremony concluded.

LONDON LODGES.

Grand Masters Lodge (No. 1).—This Lodge held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, the 16th April, under the presidency of the W.M. Br Geo. W. K. Potter, who is now performing the duties for the second year. The business, which were merely of a former nature, having been transacted, upwards of thirty of the brethren adjourned to dinner. Amongst the visitors were Brs. John Hervey,

P.M., No. 7, P.G.S.D.; Biggs, G.S.B.; Adlard, P.M., No. 7; Capt, Ward, No. 6; Hdland, N. 5; &c. The evenings amusements were varied by the vocal exertions of Brs, T. Jolley, Lea, &c.

Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge (No. 4).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge on Monday, the 23rd April, Br. Locock Webb, W.M., was duly initiated a brother into the Order. After the transaction of some other business the brethren, to the number of 35, adjourned to refreshment—the intervals between the toasts being well filled up by some excellent music, to which Br. Jolley much contributed.

St. George and Corner Stone Lodge (No. 5).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 9th of April, when the M.'s chair was occupied by P.M., Br. E. S. Snell, in the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Br. Benjamin Head. The business was merely formal. Amongst the visitors were Brs. John Hervey, now P.G.S.D.; and Dr. Tomkins, G.J.D. for 1855-6. In the after part of the evening, when the brethren retired to refreshment, the musical efforts of Br. T. Jolley tended much to the general enjoyment.

Royal York Lodge of Perseverance (No. 7).—On Wednesday, the 18th April, the members of this distinguished Lodge met for the despatch of Masonic business, when Br. John Hervey, S.G.D., acting for the W.M., very ably initiated Mr. Frederick H. Geach into the mysteries of Freemasonry, and passed Br. Champtaloup to the second degree. A sum of 2*l.* 2*s.* was voted to the Asylum Fund, and at the conclusion of the Lodge business, the brethren retired to an elegant dinner, provided by the worthy hosts of the Freemasons Tavern, Br. J.S.S. Hopwood, W.M presiding. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drank, and all appeared happiness and good feeling; indeed, no Lodge in the Craft can possibly be more united than the Royal York. The visitors included Brs. J. Bagshawe, P.G.M., Essex; G. W. K. Potter, P.J.G D. W.M., 1; Albertz, S.W., 108; Wm. Atkins, 164; W. G. Moore, 23; Sable, 229; Leslie, 329, &c., &c.

British Lodge (No. 8).—This distinguished Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Monday, April 16th. The W.M., Br. Massey Dawson, gave a lecture on Masonry. The Lodge then voted 5*l.* to the widow of their deceased Tyler, Br. Dalson, as a slight acknowledgement of the value of his services, during eighteen years he held that office. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to partake of a most elegant banquet. After proposing the health of the Queen, which was responded to with the greatest enthusiasm, the W.M. proposed the health of the Emperor and Empress of the French, and spoke in the most eloquent terms of the pleasure every Englishman must feel at the happy union existing between two such great nations as France and England, and stated that he had had the honour of being introduced, while in France, to those august personages. The brethren responded to the toast in the most Masonic spirit. The W.M. then proposed the health of the M.W.G.M., and after eulogising his merits, the brethren responded in the usual Masonic manner. He next gave the health of the Earl of Yarborough, and the rest of the grand officers, coupling with the toast the health of Br. Dr. Rowe, as a visitor, and observed that the pleasure felt by the brethren in his presence was but shown by the regret expressed on all occasions when his professional engagements prevented his attendance. Br. Rowe, in a most feeling and eloquent manner, returned thanks for the grand officers, expressing his conviction that it was at all times a great satisfaction to them to feel that they had done their duty; and next to that, for his own part, he knew no greater pleasure than visiting the British Lodge. The W.M. then proposed the P.G.M. of Kent and his deputy, and regretting the absence of the former, Br. Purton Cooper, he congratulated the Lodge on the presence of the latter, Br. Bisgood. After speaking in the highest terms of the province, as pre-eminently distinguished for its working and Masonic charity, he called upon the brethren to drink the toast, as expressing the pleasure they felt in having such eminent Masons among them. Br. Bisgood, in a most witty speech explained the reason of Br. Cooper not attending, and questioning whether the province of Kent meritted the pre-eminence in matters of charity ascribed to it, assured the brethren that it always endeavoured to maintain the principles of Masonry in the fullest extent. The health

of the W.M. was then proposed, and reference having been made to the ability with which he discharged the duties of his high office, during the past year, as well as in the present, not only in the performance of the ceremonies; but in amusing and instructing the brethren with his lectures. A strong conviction was expressed that no Master could leave the chair with greater honour. After returning thanks to the brethren for their kindness and support on all occasions, the W.M. proposed the health of the P.M., whom he denominated the sustenance and support of the Lodge, and thanked them for their extreme readiness to render assistance in the working whenever required. He then proposed the health of the officers of the Lodge, particularising the Treasurer and Secretary, for their ability and attention in keeping the affairs of the Lodge in order; and, also, expressed the great obligation he felt under to the remainder of the officers for their constant support. The S.W., in returning thanks, said the officers could not fail in doing their duty, when so excellent an example was set them by the W.M., and P.M's.; indeed, the greatest satisfaction they could desire was to feel that they had discharged that duty.

Albion Lodge (No. 9).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday the 3rd ult., under the able presidency of the W.M., Br. James Burton, when some alterations were made in the bye-laws, and three gentlemen proposed for initiation. The Lodge having been closed in perfect harmony, the brethren entertained at their hospitable board the following visitors:—Brs. T. Ferguson, P.M., No. 2 (Irish Registry); J. Coggin, No. 25; Williams, No. 202; and Benlar, the vivacity of whose singing, and the sparkling fun of whose songs gave a peculiar zest to the pleasures of the evening.

Enoch Lodge (No. 11).—The last regular meeting of this Lodge for the season which, principally owing to the exertions of the late W.M., Br. Ledger, has been more than usually prosperous, took place on Wednesday, the 11th April, when the W.M. Br. Spooner passed two brethren to the second, and raised four to the third degree. On the motion of Br. Bincks, S.W., seconded by Br. W. Young, P.M., the sum of £5 was voted towards the building fund for the "Asylum for Aged Freemasons and their Widows," at Croydon. At the conclusion of the business, the Lodge was formally adjourned till November, but the brethren will assemble under the banner of Br. Spooner, W.M., at the Girls School Festival, on the 16th inst., and once again in the course of the summer at a grand banquet—the time or the whereabouts being as yet undecided—to commemorate the completion of the first 100 years since the granting of their Charter. We believe few Lodges can boast of passing through a century with such continued and uninterrupted prosperity as the Enoch.

Lodge of Fortitude and Old Cumberland (No. 12).—The members of this Lodge assembled together at the Freemasons Tavern, on Monday, April 9, when Br. Louis Meunier initiated a candidate into the Order, passed one brother to the second degree, and raised another to the third degree, the whole of the ceremonies being excellently performed. Br. Marriott, P.M., then rose to propose that £2 be voted towards the fund for relieving the Asylum at Croydon from debt. In doing so, he said, "With the fear of a failure before our eyes, have we not reason to rally round such an Institution, whose permanent establishment I am now advocating? How unspeakably must needs be the embittered fears that this great and excellent Institution should not be placed beyond the pale of a failure, knowing, as we do, the many increasing, and at the same time deserving, claims that must of necessity be made on this noble charity by the great augmentation to the Craft by the members that have within the last few years enrolled themselves under the banners of a free and an accepted Mason? Then, brethren, while we have so much young blood infused into our respective Lodges, let us take every opportunity of fully developing our distinguishing characteristic (charity), and of finally cementing it in the breast of every young Mason, in order that its powerful ramifications may ever prove lovely in his sight; and if we fully establish this, our Masonic charities cannot fail, for the very thought and fear of a failure exercises and influences our charitable feelings, and thereby insures our faith in success, without despondency, by awakening us into a consideration of the powerful motives by which we are prompted, and confirms our hope by the experience of the great good already achieved. It teaches prudence in

our anticipations; temperance in our desires to attain that great climax—permanent establishment; and we have learnt fortitude in bearing and being inured to many difficulties in establishing this Asylum, where those unfortunate brethren whom we may have removed from entire adversity, may all mingle their remembrance of their past affliction with the acknowledgment of the present blessing they experience in their abode of charity." The motion was of course unanimously carried. The brethren afterwards retired to refreshment, and in the course of the evening, Br. Donald King favoured them with some of his manly and patriotic songs, which never fail to give unqualified pleasure wherever he sings them.

KENT LODGE (No. 15).—The members of this flourishing Lodge met at Br. Harris's, the Three Tuns, High Street, Borough, on Wednesday the 11th day of April. In consequence of the sudden indisposition of the W.M., the ceremonies of the Lodge were ably given by Br. Whitehouse, P.M, who initiated one gentleman into the mysteries of the Order, and passed Brs. Jones and Crannis to the second degree. All business being concluded, the brethren adjourned to the banquet. The usual toasts having been duly honoured, the W.M.P.T. Br. Whitehouse, proposed the better health of the W.M., Br. Procter, whose sudden and alarming indisposition they so much regretted. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Past Masters, which was responded to by Br. Smith, P.M. The next toast given was the newly initiated Br. Plummer, who expressed himself highly delighted with the ceremony of initiation, also his full conviction that Freemasonry possessed more than a superficial surface; and assured the brethren, it would be his utmost endeavour to carry out those truly Masonic principles which had been so beautifully delineated to him that evening. The W.M. next proposed the healths of Br. Richard Barnes, Treasurer, and Br. R. E. Barnes, Hon. Sec., who severally returned thanks. Br. Barnes, Treas., proposed, prosperity to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Annuity Fund, which was received by the brethren with marked enthusiasm. The Wardens and officers was next proposed. Br. Westley, S.W., returned thanks, and assured the brethren the honour conferred would be a stimulus to future exertions in the cause of Masonry. The evening was spent in true Masonic feeling.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—This distinguished Lodge held its meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Thursday 19th April. Two brethren were passed to the second degree, and three gentlemen initiated into the mysteries of the Order, amongst whom was the talented (now) Br. Emery, of the Olympic Theatre. After discharging their Masonic duties in a most efficient manner, the brethren proceeded to partake of an elegant banquet. Subsequent to the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the W.M. proposed the health of the newly initiated brethren, and expressed the pleasure he felt in receiving them into Masonry, more particularly his old and esteemed friend Br. Emery, and assured them that what they had seen that evening was but a small instalment of the beauties of the Order. Br. Emery in a most eloquent manner returned thanks, and stated that he felt so much impressed with what he had already seen of the Order, that it should always be his study to render it every support in his power. The W.M. then proposed the health of the visitors, Brs. Crew, No. 1; Bennet, 25; Aznavours, 237 (Proprietor of the Turkish Exhibition). Br. Crew in returning thanks explained to the younger brethren in a most feeling and eloquent manner, the excellent charities for which the Order is so eminently distinguished, and concluded by saying that as in his early days he had known this Lodge as one of the most eminent in the Order for its working and support of the charities, he felt delighted in seeing that it had regained its former position. The health of the W.M. was then proposed by Br. Hewlett, P.M., who thanked him on behalf of the Lodge for his great attention and his ability in discharging the duties of the office. After returning thanks the W.M. proposed the health of the Past Masters, thanking them severally for the eminent services they had rendered to the Lodge, from Br. Watson who had first taken the child by the hand and taught it to walk, to those who had rendered such valuable assistance in bringing it to maturity. The W.M. then proposed the health of the officers, which was responded to by Br. Oliver, as locum tenens for the S.W. The evening was enlivened with some excellent songs and the brethren did not separate until a late hour.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—This Lodge met at the Freemason's Tavern, on Monday, April 2nd, when two brethren were passed to the degree of Fellow-crafts, and one Br. raised to the third degree. In accordance with the Circular signed by the G.S., calling upon Lodges to subscribe £1 each for the purpose of paying off the debt of £362 still upon the Masonic Asylum at Croydon, £1 was cheerfully given as their mite, and it is to be hoped that the call will not be made in vain.

UNITED MARINERS LODGE (No. 33).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on the 3rd ult. at Br. Jagel's, the Chequers Tavern, Finsbury. The W.M. Br. Hookey, being absent from indisposition. Br. Richard Barnes, P. M., presided, and performed the duties of the Lodge in his well-known and efficient manner. The business of the Lodge having been concluded, it was then closed, when the brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was served in Br. Jagel's usual excellent style. The health of the Queen and the M.W.G.M. having been duly honoured, Br. Barnes, P.M., proposed the health of the presiding Master at the banquet, Br. J.Turner, P.M., which was responded to in a very able and effective speech. The next toast proposed by Br. Turner, was the health of the Past Masters, Br. Barnes, Senr., Br. Vagts, and Br. Wood, who were not only the pillars of the Lodge, but upon whose individual qualification he could not refrain from dilating. In alluding to P.M. Barnes, he begged to remind the younger members of the Lodge, of his high standing in the Craft as a teacher—of his willingness at all times to impart Masonic information to all who might claim his assistance—and to Brs. Vagts and Wood, that the thanks of the members were *especially due for their unceasing energy in promoting the welfare of the Lodge for* very many years. Br. Barnes, Senr., having returned thanks in behalf of the Past Masters, drew the attention of the Junior Members of the Lodge to the pleasing fact, "That the Boys' School originated from this Lodge," and gave them a brief account of the Masonic Charity for clothing, educating and apprenticing the sons of indigent and deceased Freemasons, Established 1798, and sanctioned by his Grace, John Duke of Athol, 1801. Br. Barnes,—continued, that the United Mariners Lodge, No. 23 —now 33, observing with concern the distressed circumstances of several brethren, and the exposed situation of their children; at the same time viewing with pleasure, the daily progress making in the Masonic School *for female children—induced them*, at a meeting held on the 3rd day of July, 1798, to consider the means of establishing a Masonic Charity for clothing and educating the sons of indigent Freemasons—and for that purpose they immediately opened a subscription, which at their second meeting increased beyond their most sanguine expectations. They were thus enabled to receive six children to the benefit of this charity, but as it was their intention to extend the same—the fraternity at large were most earnestly solicited to contribute towards accomplishing this laudable undertaking—whose object was to clothe and instruct the sons of indigent Freemasons, and to train them up in the knowledge of virtue and religion, and to inculcate strongly on their minds, *obedience to their superiors*. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Wardens, Br. Tyler, S.W., and Br. Adamthwaite, thanking them for their support, and the efficient manner in which they had discharged the duties of their respective offices; which was responded to in a feeling manner. The evening was spent in true Masonic feeling, and the brethren *seperated, highly* pleased with their meeting.

CONSTITUTIONAL LODGE (No. 63).—This Lodge met on Thursday, April 26th, it having deferred its meeting from the usual night (the third Thursday). The W.M. being obliged to leave the Lodge on business, the P.M. and Treasurer passed one brother, and initiated two gentlemen into the mysteries of Masonry.

GRENADIERS' LODGE (No. 79).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on the 26th, a brother was ably passed to the second degree.

LODGE OF UNITY (No. 82).—A very crowded meeting of the members of this Lodge was held at the London Tavern, on Monday the 2nd of April, under the able presidency of Br. Bellinger, W.M., when Br. Funge was raised to the third degree; two Brethren passed to the second degree; and three candidates initiated into the Order; the whole of the ceremonies being ably performed, and the different officers evidently well skilled in their respective duties. At the conclusion of these ceremonies, the

W.M. had the agreeable duty to perform of presenting ten or a dozen P.M.'s with jewels as a mark of esteem from the members of the Lodge. The Lodge appears to have been about as dilatory in rewarding its officers as the most model Government board could well be; but this advantage has at least been obtained, uniformity in the Lodge Jewels. The brethren, amongst whom were a number of visitors, afterwards dined together, and spent an hour or two in most agreeable and brotherly communion.

TEMPLE LODGE (No. 118).—The members of this Lodge, held their monthly meeting at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall Street, on Tuesday, April 3rd, when three brethren were passed to the second degree, and a candidate initiated into the Order. Other business having been transacted, the brethren to the number of upwards of 30 adjourned to refreshment.

LONDON LODGE (No. 125).—On the 7th of April, a meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, when Br. P.M. Phillips, in the unavoidable absence of the W.M. Br. Bouverie, initiated three candidates into the Order. At the conclusion of the business, the members of the Lodge dined together, and passed a very pleasant evening. This Lodge has for a long time past been in a very drooping position, but having been lately taken up by the Oxford men, it is likely, ere long, to become one of the most flourishing in the Order. Looking at the number of excellent and distinguished Masons which *Alma Mater* turns out, it has been matter of surprise that they have not before formed a re-union under the banners of a London Lodge.

CADOGAN LODGE (188).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, April 17th, Br. Hardman, W.M., presiding, a candidate was initiated into the Order, and a duly qualified brother raised to the third degree. There were upwards of twenty brethren present.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, April 3rd. The business of the evening consisted in passing Br. Dadswell to the Second Degree, and raising Brs. Smith, Carne, and Holden, to the Sublime Degree of Master Masons; after which, the Lodge voted one pound to the Building Fund of the Royal Benevolent Institution; several propositions for new members were made, and some other business of the Lodge having been gone through, it was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to partake of a very excellent banquet, after which the usual Masonic toasts were proposed and heartily responded to. The W.M. (Br. G. M. Gurton) then proposed "The Visitors," when Br. Dix (19), Br. Frampton, (211), and Br. Thomas Hill (356), each returned thanks, and expressed their gratification in visiting this Lodge, and the admirable manner the business of the same was conducted. The W.M. then proposed the health of Br. the Rev. J. W. Laughlin (Chaplain to the Lodge), and in doing so, expressed the great pleasure it gave him at seeing Br. Laughlin remaining at the banquet (which was the first time since his initiation), to give him and the rest of the Brethren an opportunity of drinking to his good health. The Rev. Brother, in returning thanks, expressed his gratification of the step he had taken in seeking admission into the ancient and honorable body of Masons. The son of a P.M., he had always heard his father say, that to be a good Mason, one must be a good man, and his own observations led him to see and feel the truth of that remark, but he begged to say to his brethren, that in order to recommend Masonry to the external world, they must not fancy it to consist merely in attending the Lodge and seeing Initiations, Passings and Raisings, or even in witnessing that display of brotherly love, so evident at the banquet which succeeds; they must study Masonry, and they will see that it is as old as the creation; "that wherever 'light' existed, there Masonry was to be found, and wherever Masonry existed, there was 'light.'" One of its most admirable features, is its avoidance of political and religious warfare, so that the true Mason is ever a quiet citizen; and whatever be his political opinions, he creates no evil commotion, but where he cannot approve, he is at least silent and peaceful. As brotherly love is the doctrine which it is his (the chaplain's) mission to preach, so he rejoices to see the development of it, which Masonry affords, and which must recommend it to the world, if carried out in its integrity. He begged to thank the W.M., and the rest of

brethren for the compliment paid him, and to add, the great pleasure it gave him in witnessing the brotherly love and cordiality which existed amongst the members of this Lodge, and he hoped to be with them to witness the same for many years to come. Several other toasts having been proposed and responded to, the brethren retired.

PHOENIX LODGE (No. 202).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Saturday, April 14, Br. Webber, W.M., presiding. Three brethren having been raised to the third degree, a ballot was taken for Master for the ensuing year, which unanimously fell upon our highly esteemed Br. Chas. Russell Harrison. Br. Lewis Houghton, than whom none can better fill the office, nor be more highly respected in the Lodge, was also unanimously re-elected Treasurer. At the close of the Masonic business, the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and a variety of toasts and songs very pleasantly wiled away an hour or two. Br. P.M. Bohn, of No. 7, returned thanks for the visitors, and expressed his gratification at observing the flourishing state of the Lodge, and the excellence of the work—and Br. Jacob Beular, by his comic singing added much to the general enjoyment.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—This Lodge held its last meeting for the season of 1854-5, on Monday, the 9th of April, when Br. Adams, the W.M., initiated a candidate into the Order, and afterwards worked the first and second sections of the first lecture. It having been resolved to hold a summer festival in the course of six weeks or two months the Lodge was adjourned until October next, unless indeed the pressure of business, which is very probable under the presidency of so energetic a Master as Br. Adams, should render emergency meetings necessary. The Brethren afterwards supped together, and to those who know the Lodge and the worthy host, Br. Ireland, we need not say spent a very pleasant evening.

ST. PAUL'S LODGE (No. 229).—The brethren of this Lodge, assembled at the London Coffee House, on Tuesday the 17th April. The members present were as usual, excepting the Treasurer, Br. Foster White, who was absent from illness, which was announced as progressing favourably. The W.M. Br. Randall, proceeded with the business in his usual practical manner. The Girls' School Festival was the engrossing subject, and we have reason to think will be well attended on this occasion; the Steward, Br. Watson, having exerted himself on behalf of the Charity, very much. But little more than the ordinary business was transacted, and the Lodge seperated with every satisfaction and harmony.

JERUSALEM LODGE (No. 233).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Wednesday, the 4th April. Br. Lewis Crombie, W.M, presiding, a duly qualified brother was raised to the third degree. At the conclusion of the Masonic business the brethren adjourned to refreshment, the visitors present being:—Br. E. L. Bellinger, W.M., No. 82; Br. Anderson, and Br. F. Crew. In the course of the evening Br. Crew most ably advocated the cause of the Masonic charities, and sung a number of songs as he only can sing them. It would be a curious statistical problem to ascertain how many brethren have been induced to visit the festival of the Girls' School, and other charities by Br. Crew's winning eloquence and exquisite singing, and how many guineas they are the richer in consequence of such visits. We should be inclined to think that the result would be found to weigh down the balance against the salary which he so well earns as Secretary of the Girls' School a position for which no brother could be better fitted. May his shadow never grow less.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—The members of this Lodge met on Friday, the 20th ult., at the Freemasons Tavern, Br. Spooner, W.M. presiding; when Br. Robinson was raised to the third degree, and Major E. W. Chichely Plowden, was initiated into Masonry. In proposing the health of the initiated brother, the W.M. took the opportunity of alluding to his early departure for the seat of war. In reply, Br. Plowden, in an eloquent and characteristic address, expressed his acknowledgments to the brethren for their good wishes; and the remainder of the evening passed in the enjoyment of every social and Masonic feeling.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at Br. Rackshaw's, Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on Tuesday, April 10th. The W.M., Br. Cooper, raised two brethren (Br. Waterhouse and Cowdrey), to the third degree,

passed Br. Waterhouse, jun., to the second degree, and initiated a gentleman into the mysteries of Masonry, in a manner highly creditable to himself and his officers. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren proceeded to partake of an excellent banquet. After the usual Masonic toasts the W.M. proposed the health of the visitors, Brs. Fox, P.M. 25; Caldwell, 25; Turner, W.M. 53; Crawley, P.M. 103: Kardel, I.G. 165, and several others. The W.M. stated that he had had the pleasure of being acquainted with the majority of the visitors for a number of years, and expressed the great satisfaction felt by the Lodge and himself in seeing them at their meeting. Br. Turner in returning thanks for the visitors, expressed the pleasure they all experienced in observing the ability and unanimity with which the business was conducted. The W.M. then proposed the health of the newly initiated brother, thanking him for his selection of this Lodge, and trusting that he would duly appreciate the principles inculcated in Masonry. The newly initiated brother in return, expressed much delight in being received into the Order, and stated that as long as he lived he would do his best to support it. Br. Tilt, P.M., in proposing to the health of the W.M., thanked him on behalf of the Lodge, for the kindness he at all times displayed as well as his great ability in discharging the duties of his office. The W.M. returned thanks, and stated that he had gone through all the various offices, and whether in the chair or amongst the Past Masters, as long as he lived, it should be his study to render every assistance in his power to the Lodge. In proposing the health of the Past Masters, he thanked them severally for their support, and for the valuable service they had each rendered to the Lodge. The Past Masters having returned thanks, the W.M. expressed his obligations to his officers for the able manner they discharged their duties. Br. Carter, S.W., after stating the readiness of the officers at all times to support the W.M., begged to call the attention of the brethren to the United Strength Lodge of Instruction, lately held at the Stafford Arms, and proposed that it be removed to Br. Lloyds, Enterprise Tavern, corner of Endell Street and Long Acre, which was unanimously agreed to. The health of Jerome Buonaparte, Grand Master of France, in connection with French Masons, was next proposed by a brother, who stated, that during his travels in that country he had always met with the greatest kindness, and truly Masonic feeling. The toast was greeted by the brethren with the greatest enthusiasm.

Lodge of Unions (No. 318).—The brethren of this Lodge, held their monthly meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Monday the 2nd inst., under the able presidency of Br. Blair, W.M., who initiated two gentlemen into the Order, and passed a brother to the second degree. On the motion of the Treasurer, Br. Rouse, the sum of £2 was unanimously voted to the fund for defraying the debt on the building of the Croydon Asylum. The brethren afterwards adjourned to refreshment. Amongst the visitors we observed Brs. Binckes, No. 11; Rebbeck, No. 23, and Fielding, No. 25, the latter of whom contributed by his excellent singing not a little to the harmony of the evening.

United Pilgrims Lodge (No. 745).—This Lodge is going to have a Masonic ball in aid of the Benevolent Fund attached to it. The ball will take place on Monday the 7th May next, at the Manor House Rooms, Walworth. Br. Adams is engaged, with his celebrated quadrille band, to enliven the scene, and Br. P. Moss acts as the M.C. The Stewards, upwards of twenty in number, are determined, with the assistance of the Craft generally, to spare no pains in making the evening pass off agreeably to all that may patronize them on the occasion. The Lodge met on Wednesday, 28th March, for the first time in its new quarters, the Manor House Tavern, Walworth, when Br. D. Farmer was installed in ancient form as W.M. for the year, the ceremony being efficiently performed by Br. J. Thomas, P.M. of the Lodge. This done, the W.M. proceeded to appoint and invest his officers as follows:—Brs. J. R. Warren, S.W.; Neats, J.W.; C. Ellis, S.D.; Josh. Warren, J.D.; Batley, I.G.; Mackintosh, Steward; Wood, Treasurer; and Angus, Secretary. The W.M. then initiated Mr. W. W. Wale (the proprietor of the tavern), and Mr. J. Harrop into the Order; passed two brethren to the second degree, and raised one to the third degree. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren, to the number of thirty-four, adjourned to banquet, which was served in excellent style, the whole of

the arrangements auguring well as to the desire of Br. Wale to do all in his power to promote the comfort of the brethren. Br. T. A. Adams, P.M., No. 196, returned thanks on behalf of the visitors, among whom we noticed Brs. Drysdal, P.M., No. 253; W. Walkley, W.M., No. 367; Ireland, W.M., No. 805; Morris, P.M., No. 103; Slee, No. 11; Binkes, S.W., No. 11; J. W. Ward, No. 12; Reach, No. 25; and H. Garrod, No. 206. [We ought to observe that no notice of removal was given to us. If Masters or Secretaries will not pay us that courtesy, it is impossible to keep our list of Masonic appointments correct.—Ed.]

Beadon Lodge (No. 902).—An Emergency Meeting of this Lodge was held at Br. Adams', Star and Garter Tavern, Kew, on Wednesday, April 4, when two candidates were duly initiated into the Order, by Br. Watson, W.M., and a brother having gone through the necessary examination, passed to the second degree. The newly initiated Br. Kingshote is the worthy host of the Railway Inn, Isleworth, a house much resorted to by brethren resident in that district.

ROYAL ARCH.

Royal York Chapter (No. 7).—The members of this flourishing Chapter, held a convocation on Tuesday, the 24th April, when Comp. A. A. Le Veau was most ably installed into the first principals chair, by Comp. John Hervey, M.E.Z. Two brethren were afterwards exalted into the Royal Arch. All business being ended, upwards of 40 of the companions dined together, and spent a very pleasant evening.

Mount Sinai Chapter (No. 49).—On Tuesday, 17th April, the Companions of the Chapter met at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, to elect the officers for the ensuing year, and Exalt Br. Levinson and Comp. Joseph Smith was elected Z.; Comp. Cooper, H.; Comp. Potter, J.; and Comp. Daly, P.S. Comp. Andrew exalted Br. Levinson with with his usual ability, and, after the close of business, the Companions sat down to an excellent supper, and separated early.

Domatic Chapter (No. 206).—A Convocation of this Chapter was held at Comp. Ireland's, Falcon Tavern, Fetter Lane, on the 26th April, when Br. Odell was exalted into Royal Arch Masonry. The installation of officers for the year then took place. Comp. Sigrist, assisted by Comp. Blackburn, installed Comp. Clark, Z.; Comp. Buss, H.; and Comp. T. A. Adams, J. On the motion of Comp. Child, seconded by Comp. T. A. Adams, it was resolved that Comp. Selig should be presented with a jewel, for the very able manner in which he had presided over the Chapter during his year of office. All business being ended the Comps. adjourned to a very elegant supper, and spent an evening of unalloyed enjoyment in the interchange of those courtesies and amenities which so much distinguish the order.

Jerusalem Chapter (No. 218).—This Chapter held its monthly meeting, on Tuesday, the 10th ult., at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, when Comp. Scambler was duly installed Z.; Comp. Thomson, H.; and Comp. Sheen, J. Br. Rippin, No. 196, was exalted to the sublime degree of the Royal Arch. The companions then retired to refreshment, and the evening was spent in perfect harmony and true Masonic feeling. The visitors present were Comps. Muggeridge, Z., 13; Mallalieu, P.Z., formerly of this Chapter; Levinson, 7; Beular, 593. The members also met, according to summons, to a Chapter of Emergency at the same place, on Wednesday, the 18th ult., when Brs. Joseph Henry, and Levy, jun., were exalted into Royal Arch Masonry. The Chapter was then adjourned (E E) to the second Tuesday in October; after which the companions retired to refreshment, and, after having passed a pleasant evening, parted at an early hour. The visiting Comps. present were Comps. Solomons and Ely, both of 223.

Polish National Chapter (No. 788),—The April convocation of this Chapter was held at the Freemason's Tavern, on the 26th, to elect the officers for the ensuing year. The election for principals fell upon Comp. James Wilder Adams, as Z.; Comp. Henry, Geo. Warren, as H.; and Comp. Mickalski (who has already filled all the offices in the Chapter with distinguished honour to himself and advantage to the Comps.), as J. A duly qualified brother was afterwards exalted into the Arch. The Comps. subsequently supped together, and having spent a pleasant evening, adjourned until the last Thursday in October.

INSTRUCTION.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—This Lodge of Instruction had its Annual Supper at Br. Testar's, Union Tavern, Marylebone Street, on Thursday evening, March 29, Br. Rackstraw, P.M., 9, W.M.; and Br. Watson, P.M.. 25, S.W. Forty-one brethren were present, and a most delightful and harmonious evening was spent. After the usual Masonic toasts were given, prosperity to our various Lodges was responded to by different brethren. The evening was farther enlivened by the excellent singing of Brs. Cogan, Bennett, Tyrrell, and the particularly quaint harmony of Br. Goring; the banquet was most ably carried out by Br. Testar, and the brethren separated long before chanticleer was awakened. This Lodge of Instruction, with the very small fee for each attendance, contributed during the season £3 each to the old mens' and widows' annuities; also 21*s.* to the boys' and girls' schools.

KENT LODGE (No. 15).—The members of this excellent working Lodge of Instruction held their usual weekly meeting on Friday, the 13th ult., at the Half-way House, Webber Street, Blackfriars. After the usual business of the Lodge, which is at all times admirably conducted, and reflects the highest credit upon the members generally, for the very efficient manner in which the ceremonies and lectures are given, the following sums were voted from the Funds to the under-mentioned Masonic Charities:—to the Annuity Fund, £2 2*s.*; to the Widows Fund, £1 1*s.*; to the Boys School, £1 1*s.*; to the Girls School, £1 1*s.*; to the Building Fund for the Almshouses at Croydon, £1 1*s.*; to the Building Fund for the Boys School, £1 1*s.*; Total £7 7*s.*

STRONG MAN LODGE (No. 53).—The brethren of this Lodge of Instruction celebrated their annual festival on Monday evening, the 2nd ult., at Br. Morbey's, Sun Tavern, Long Acre, on which occasion Br. Wm. Carpenter, P.M., of the Domatic Lodge, No. 206, most ably fulfilled the duties of chairman, supported by Br. John Webber, W.M. of the Phoenix Lodge, No. 202, who, with equal ability, acted as vice-chairman. The evening was most pleasantly spent, the only subject of regret being, that when the toast of the parent Lodge was proposed, there was no one to reply to it but the Tyler, Br. Bradley, a worthy Mason, esteemed and respected by all who know him, but scarcely the proper representative of the Mother Lodge on such an occasion.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—This Lodge of Instruction has just been re-established in a district where one was much wanted, Walworth. The first meeting for the season was held on Wednesday, April 4, at the Queen Elizabeth, King's-row, Camberwell-gate. Br. T. A. Adams, W.M., 206, and P.M., 196, presided on the occasion, and was efficiently supported by Brs. T. Thomas, P.M., 745, as P.M.; Dr. Farmer, 745, as S.W.; Josh. Warren, S.W., 745, as J.W.; Hill, P.M., 212, S.D.; Oddey, 206, J.D.; Garrod, 206, I.G.; Ireland, W.M., 805, Sec. The ceremony of initiation, and the seven sections of the first lecture were ably worked, at the conclusion of which the brethren separated, evidently pleased with the success of the evening's labours. This Lodge of Instruction will meet every succeeding Wednesday evening, at eight o'clock, and we can conscientiously recommend every brother who seeks to make a progress in Masonic science, to attend as often as possible. The accommodation is ample, the room spacious and comfortable, and the whole of the arrangements being under the superintendence of Br. Ireland, the respected host of the Masonic Hall, in Fetter-lane; nothing more need be said in its recommendation.

PERCY LODGE (No. 234).—This Lodge will to-morrow, present a handsome testimonial to Br. Bywater, in acknowledgment of his valuable services.

STABILITY LODGE OF INSTRUCTION (No. 264).—On the evening of the 27th ult., the anniversary festival of this excellent Lodge of Instruction was held at Radley's Hotel, New Bridge Street, and was attended by about 150 of the brethren, among whom Br. Havers, P.G.D.; Br. Potter, P.G.D.; Br. John Hervey, P.G.D.; Br. Evans, P.G.S.B.; Br. Masson, P.G.S.B.; Br. Patten, P.G.S.B.; Br. Biggs, P.G.S.B.; Br. Massey Dawson, Br. John Dennison, Br. Donald King, &c. Br. Muggeridge

occupied the Master's chair and directed the working of the Lodge which consisted of the sections of the first lecture. These were given with beautiful precision, and elicited the warmest applause from all the visiting brethren. A sum of £5 5s. was voted to the Girls' School, the same amount to the Widows' Fund, two guineas to the Boys' Institution, and a like sum to the Annuity Fund. The Lodge having been closed for the season, adjourned to the first Friday in September. The brethren sat down to an excellent supper, over which Br. Havers, P.G.D., presided with great ability. The cloth having been removed and Grace having been said. The Chairman gave the "Queen and Craft" a toast which was received with all the masonic honors. The Chairman then said that, in proposing to them the next toast, he was aware that he was in some degree departing from Masonic precedent, but he was sure that ere he was done he would strike a chord which would meet with a generous response in the heart of each one present. As Masons, they were men of peace; but they were also patriots, and he was sure that when they bore in mind the present situation of our troops in the East, and that there were both in the Army and Navy some of the brightest ornaments of Masonry, they would feel no reluctance to drink the toast he was about to propose to them. Whether they contemplated the bravery of the British soldier storming the heights of Alma, sustaining the attack on Inkermann, and participating in the glorious charge of Balaklava, or bearing without a murmur the dreadful horrors of sickness, exposure, and disease, they would find him equally entitled to their admiration, for it was impossible in the whole range of history to point to anything to equal such bravery and such endurance. They should not, then, forget their soldiers and sailors on an occasion like the present. Two members of his own Lodge were among them in the Crimea, and it might be that there were those present knew other brethren similarly situated, and nobly doing their country's service. With these remarks, he would give them "The Army and Navy," wishing them a speedy victory. The toast having been received with enthusiasm, Br. Donald King sang in admirable style the popular song, "the Queen's Letter." In proposing the next toast, "the health of the Earl of Zetland," the M.W.G.M. the Chairman, said that they had now for the twelfth time elected him to the high office of G.M., a proof of the respect entertained towards him by the Craft. Coming from a good old Masonic stock, he felt the greatest interest in Masonry and was as accessible to the humblest Mason in the Craft as to the highest in the land. Next followed the health of the "Earl of Yarborough and of the other Grand Officers," in proposing which the Chairman observed that to any one acquainted with the noble Lord's urbanity to all, but to Masons in particular, it would be unnecessary for him to say a single word in recommendation of that portion of the toast which related to him. Of the Grand Officers they had before them a goodly array, and it was with peculiar pleasure he saw so many of them present, for if there was one society more than another which their attendance could promote, it was the Lodge of Instruction meeting under the Lodge of Stability. Having highly complimented each of the Grand Officers present, he concluded by associating with the toast the name of "Br. Evans, P.G.S.B." The toasts having been duly honoured Br. Evans briefly expressed his acknowledgements of the compliment, after which the Chairman proceeded to give the toast of the evening, and in doing so said that if he thought any words of his could add dignity to the toast he would wish to be possessed of the eloquence of Demosthenes and to be able to speak in impressive tones. His duty, however, was but a simple one, being merely to propose a toast and in the list of toasts before him he saw none more worthy of their attention than "Prosperity to the Stability Lodge of Instruction." He believed from his heart that there existed in Masonry one of the kindest of bonds—a bond which bound them together as creatures willing to acknowledge their want and to pay due reverence to the Great Power of their Creator. It was necessary, he thought, that there should be some forms and observances in carrying out Masonry. Hence it was desirable that they should agree together on one form of ritual which they would adopt. It was, he knew, impossible that they could have any form which would be universally observed to the letter, but they could have an unity of principle of thought and of idea. He would, therefore, impress upon the younger brethren the policy of their trying to

follow out the ritual of that Lodge of Instruction to which he belonged. For himself, he would say that, having been instructed by their late worthy brother, Peter Thompson, he felt an attachment to the ritual in use in the Stability Lodge of Instruction. Having spoken of the Lodge, he now wished to turn to those who have helped in its working, and couple with the toast the name of him who had been their teacher in Freemasonry since the death of Peter Thompson. The zeal, the labour, the care, and the constant attention of Br. Muggeridge to the instruction of the Lodge deserved all the praise they could give him. He was quite sure that they would rejoice with him that, by his willingness to give up every Friday evening to Masonic instruction, and to be ever ready to prompt the learner, and to point out whatever might be amiss, he had well merited the high estimation in which they all held him. He, therefore, wished them to rise with him, and drink "prosperity to the Stability Lodge of Instruction, and long life and prosperity, and a great deal more the high honours which he had already attained in Masonry, to his esteemed friend, Br. Muggeridge." To this compliment Br. Muggeridge replied, and said that for many years past, both before and since the death of Peter Thompson, he had done every thing in his power to promote the usefulness of the Lodge, and if supported by the brethren in the manner in which they had already supported, he should continue to exert himself in the same manner. The Chairman then gave "the health of the brethren who had worked the sections of the lecture," and highly eulogized the manner of their working. This toast having been drunk and responded to, the Chairman said that as they had present a gentleman, Br. John Hervey, P.G.D., who was the representative of the rival Lodge of Instruction—the Lodge of Emulation,—he would now propose to them the health of that distinguished and popular Mason, who had lately received from that Lodge a mark of the high esteem in which its members held him. The company having drank the toast, Br. Hervey briefly expressed his thanks for the honor which they had done him. Several other toasts followed, which were cordially received by the brethren, who expressed themselves gratified with all they had seen and participated in. It is but due to Br. Donald King and the other musical brethren to state that the musical arrangements gave the highest satisfaction to all present.

MARK MASONS.

☞ The Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masons meeting in London, without, as we are informed, any legal authority—though professing to do so under the G.C. of Scotland, assembled together at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 11th of April, when Lord Leigh was elected W.M. for the coming year. We trust his Lordship will make the necessary inquiries from the S.G.C. of Scotland, as to the *bona fides* of the Charter before allowing himself to be installed.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

BRISTOL.

Lodge of Instruction.—The annual Festival of this very useful Lodge was celebrated on Friday, March 23rd, at the Montague Tavern, Kingsdown, when upwards of fifty brethren partook of an excellent supper, prepared by the worthy host, Br. Ward, with his usual good taste. The chair was taken at eight o'clock p.m., by the president, W. H. Bowden, supported by the R.W.D.P.G.M., and other officers of the G.L. On the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been duly honoured, the president called on the brethren assembled to join him in drinking the health of the R.W.P.G.M., the R.W.D.P.G.M. and G.L. of Bristol. He regretted the unavoidable absence of their P.G.M., but congratulated them upon

having, on this occasion, the countenance and support of their greatly esteemed and talented Br. D. W. Nash. D.P.G.M., whose presence he felt to be a high compliment to himself and the Lodge of Instruction. The R.W.D.P.G.M., in rising to return thanks was received with enthusiasm. After reading a letter from the R.W.P.G.M., stating the reasons for, and much regretting, his inability to be present, he said, he felt it his duty and privilege to be amongst them on this occasion, and assured them he was at all times accessible to every member of the province, and felt great pleasure in giving them any assistance or advice they might require. This was the duty of one filling the high and distinguished position he had the honour to hold; and of which he was justly proud, but every member of the Order had also his duty to perform. Masonry, like every other institution, having a great end in view, required strict obedience to the laws by which it was governed; those laws were patent, and by them he should at all times regulate the business of his province. And, as it was the duty of the superior officers to enforce such lawful obedience, so it was the duty and privilege of those in a less exalted position, to assist them in keeping up harmony, good-fellowship, and fraternal feeling, by a proper observance of the duties they had to fulfil. He could point to many distinguished brethren in the province of Bristol, who had commenced their Masonic career in the Lodge of Instruction, and having there laid the foundation, had raised a superstructure alike honourable to themselves, and beneficial to their brethren. He could not, therefore, but at all times give his most cordial support to that Lodge, which he was glad to find was working steadily, and was well supported. The D.P.G.M. subsequently called upon the brethren to charge their glasses, as he was about to propose a toast, which, on such an occasion, might be considered the toast of the evening, namely, the health of their worthy president, Br. W. H. Bowden, whose zeal and energy in the cause of Masonry and its best interests, were well known to them all. He (the D.P.G.M.) attached great importance to Lodges of Instruction. Masonic Lodges met to carry out the three grand principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, and to do this according to the ancient Masonic plan, it was necessary that the ceremonies, as well as all their other proceeding, should be conducted in strict conformity with those land-marks which our fore-fathers had handed down. The Lodge of instruction, however, not only afforded brethren the readiest means of acquiring such experience as it was only their *bounden duty* to acquire, before accepting any office to which they might be called, but it was here more especially that the Masonic lectures, which to his mind, contained much matter interesting and instructive alike to the historian and antiquarian, were given, and studied. These lectures, it was true, were sometimes heard in the regular Lodges, but it too frequently happened that the other onerous duties of the W.M., and prepare of necessary business, rendered it impossible to give them that attention they merited. In the Lodge of Instruction, it was otherwise; there the younger brethren especially would have ample opportunity of studying more closely the true principles of the Craft, and of admiring the beauty and symmetry of the design. Now, as to their president, they all knew him to be a zealous and good working Mason, ever at his post, and ever ready and willing to devote his services to the cause of Masonry. If proof were wanting to show the estimation in which he was held, and their appreciation of his ability, he would only refer to the fact, that for seven consecutive periods of thirteen weeks, he had been unanimously elected to fill the (he would say) very important office of President of the Lodge of Instruction. He, therefore, had much pleasure in proposing the health of their president, Br. W. H. Bowden. The president, having returned thanks in a brief speech, but replete with feeling, and several other toasts having been drunk, the brethren separated in perfect harmony, much pleased with the evenings entertainment.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

Scientific Lodge, Cambridge (No. 105).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Monday, April 9, at Br. Mitchell's, the Lion Hotel, in the Petty Cury. The business consisted of three initiations and one raising, the ceremonies being most efficiently performed by the W.M., Br. A. R. Ward. Too much cannot be said of the manner in which the whole of the business of the evening was carried out. A

most excellent supper was served for the refreshment of the brethren, about twenty-five in number, after the labours of the evening. The only visitor was Br. Binckes, S.W. (No. 11), who, in returning thanks for the toast of which he was the subject, passed a well-deserved eulogium on the W.M. and his officers, for the style in which the ceremonies had been worked, expressing his gratification at the truly kind and hospitable reception he, a total stranger, had met with, and assuring the brethren generally that amongst the most treasured of his Masonic reminiscences would be the occasion of this, his first visit to the Scientific Lodge.

DERBYSHIRE.

ROYAL SUSSEX LODGE REPTON (No. 446).—At a meeting of this Lodge on Monday, April 2nd, Mr. Walter Norton Evans, of Swadlincote, near Burton-on-Trent, son of Br. S. N. Evans, P.M. of 769, was initiated into Freemasonry. by his father in a most impressive manner. A dispensation was obtained for the purpose, he being a Lewis. Among the visitors were Brs. Stewart, W.M. (769), Wolverhampton; S. Henchly, jun., W.M. (315); and Haywood (75), Manchester. An excellent supper was provided by Br. Somers, of the Masonic Tavern, and the brethren were amused by the harmony of Brs. Smith, Evans, Henchley, Peach, Allen, &c. The Lodge is progressing favourably under the auspices of the W.M. Br. George Mason, and his Wardens, Brs. W. Allen and W. Prince.

DEVONSHIRE.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST LODGE, PLYMOUTH (No. 83).—The regular monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, 4th April. The minutes of the previous Lodge having been confirmed, the W.M. Br. Gambell, read a communication from Br. White, Grand Secretary, calling attention to the want of funds for the completion of the Aged Freemasons' Asylum; and, in accordance with the request therein contained, it was resolved that the sum of £1 be contributed. A gentleman who had been previously ballotted for, and unanimously approved of, was then initiated into the Order, by Br. Pollard, P.M., P.P.G.T., after which ceremony, the Lodge being closed, the brethren retired to refreshment.

DURHAM.

ST. HELEN'S LODGE, HARTLEPOOL (No. 774).—The members of this Lodge have obtained leave from the P.G.M. for Durham, to change their days of meeting from the 1st and 3rd Fridays to the 1st and 3rd Thursdays, in each month, commencing from Thursday, the 5th April past.

LANCASHIRE—(EAST DIVISION).

KEYSTONE LODGE, FACIT (No. 469).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on the 4th April, at the Bay Horse Inn, at 7 o'clock, P.M. The W.M. Br. A. Shackleton presiding. The Lodge was opened in due form, on the three degrees, and when closed to the first degree, Mr. Edward Law was proposed as a fit and proper person to be admitted to the mysteries of Masonry. Afterwards, the brethren ably worked a portion of the sections of the first degree. There being no other business the Lodge was closed finally in due form, and with prayer, at half-past 9 o'clock. The brethren then adjourned to refreshment, and after spending a couple of hours in harmony, retired to their respective homes.

LODGE OF FIDELITY, BLACKBURN (No. 336).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Angel Inn, on the 13th April, in consequence of the previous Friday being Good Friday. After the Lodge had been duly opened, Br. John Nevill Haworth, was elected and initiated in a most impressive manner, by Br. Whewell, assisted by Br. Stocks, P.M., as S.W.; and Br. Yates, P.P.G.S., as J.W. After the ceremony, the brethren present partook of an excellent supper, provided by the worthy hostess, Mrs. Pemberton, and spent the evening most agreeably, and in a truly Masonic manner. It is worthy of remark, that although Br. Whewell is a young Mason, he has attained remarkable proficency in the Masonic art, and promises to attain to much eminence in the Craft.

OXFORD.

A grand Masonic festival is to open in Oxford, on Monday, the 7th instant. At 12 o'clock upon that day, the Churchill Lodge is to meet, when the Rev. J. J. Sidebotham will be installed as W.M. for the ensuing year, and, at 7 p.m., the companions of the Alfred Chapter hold a convocation for the exaltation of brethren into the Royal Arch. Rumour states, that on the same evening, Br. Ald. Spiers, (the late Mayor), P.G.S.B., is to invite a party of his Masonic brethren to meet the new Pl.G.M., Br. John Atkins Bowyer, and his friends, at his house. On the following morning, it is also rumoured, that the P.G.M. will entertain his friends and the brethren visiting Oxford, at breakfast, prior to proceeding to the Provincial Grand Lodge, which is to open at twelve o'clock, when the new G.M. will be installed. And at half-past five o'clock, the brethren will meet at a grand banquet, at the town hall, in honour of the event. On the Wednesday, the annual festival of the encampment of Cœur-de-lion will take place. Candidates are to be installed at three, and the banquet is to be on table at five.

SOUTH WALES—WESTERN DIVISION.

St. Peter's Lodge, Carmarthen, (No. 669).—The *nucleus* for a testimonial to our worthy Br. Ribbans, the Treasurer of this Lodge, has just been laid by the *unanimous* vote of the Lodge, of five guineas from their funds, for the purpose of presenting some useful present in token of remembrance of the many benefits conferred on Masonry in general through the exertions of Br. Ribbans. We shall be happy to enrol the names of those who contribute in the pages of the "Masonic Mirror."

STAFFORDSHIRE.

Lodge of St. Matthew, Walsall (No. 786).—The annual festival of this Lodge took place on the 4th April, at St. Matthew's Hall, on which occasion Br. John Wood installed his successor, Br. Frank James, who appointed the following brethren officers, viz.:—Brs. E. Jeavons. S.W.; F. A. Edwards, J.W.; W. Tolbey, Treas.; Thomas James, P.M. Sec.; Aldxander Brogden, S.D.; James Douglas, J.D.; Rev. James Dowries, Chaplain; George Morley, I.G.; Dr. Burton, P.M., D. of Cer.; M. Cozens, and John Fairfield, Stewards. A handsome P.M's jewel was presented to Br. Wood. After the business of the Lodge was concluded, the brethren retired to a banquet, and devoted the remainder of the evening to social harmony and brotherly love.

WARWICKSHIRE.

First Lodge of Light, Birmingham (No. 689).—The Brethren of this Lodge met at the Royal Hotel, on Tuesday, the 17th of April, when the Rev. Hamilton Lowry and another candidate were duly initiated into the Order. The W.M. and Treasurer for the ensuing year were then elected, but the Secretary has not as yet forwarded to us their names.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

Lodge of Perseverance, Dudley (No. 838).—Br. A. Patterson, the much-respected host of the Swan Inn, being about to leave in consequence of his premises having been purchased by the Board of Health for town improvements, the above numerous and highly respectable Lodge have determined to remove to the house of Br. Evan Roberts, Saracen's Head, Stone-street, that gentleman having promised to enlarge his house for their accommodation.

YORKSHIRE.—(West Riding).

Lodge of Three Grand Principles, Dewsbury (No. 251).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting in the Masonic Hall, on Thursday, the 29th March, when the W.M., Br. R. R. Nelson passed a brother to the second degree. Certain alterations in the bye-laws, suggested by the W.D.P.G.M., were agreed to. The quarterly communication, convoking a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire, to be holden at Huddersfield, on the 11th April, was read, when W. Br. J. O. Gill, P.M. and P.G.P., was unanimously elected to represent the Lodge on the ritual

committee of the province, for the ensuing year. The W.M. read to the brethren a circular he had received from Br. White, G.S., requesting subscriptions to pay off the debt on the Asylum at Croydon, for Aged Freemasons and Widows. It was unanimously resolved that a donation of £1 be granted from the funds of the Lodge, for this Masonic purpose, which sum the Treasurer, Br. G. Fearnley, M.D. P.M. and P.P.S.G.W. was requested to forward; and, also, the annual subscription of the Lodge of £2 to the Girls' School, and of £1 to the Boys' School.

KNIGHT TEMPLARS.

LANCASHIRE.—WEST DIVISION.

LIVERPOOL.—On the 16th of March, an encampment of Jacques de Molay was held at the Adelphi Hotel, when the Sir Knights present proceeded to elect Sir Knt. H. S. Alpass as E.C. for the ensuing year. Two companions of the Royal Arch were then installed Sir Knts., and the encampment closed. The members of the encampment afterwards dined at the Adelphi Hotel.

JERUSALEM ENCAMPMENT, MANCHESTER (No. 9).—On Friday, April 13th, 1855, the Provincial Grand Commander for Lancashire, the E. F. Matthew Dawes, installed Sir Knt, J. A. Hahnel, as E.C. of the above encampment for the ensuing year. The principal offices being distributed as follows:—Sir Knt. Richard Wood, Prelate; Chas. Ellis, 1st Capt.; Stephen Smith, 2nd Capt.; Lyons Wright, Export; Charles Clay, P.E.C. and Treasurer, Newton Bentley, Reg., &c. Afterwards the Sir Knt. sat down to an excellent dinner, provided by Bro. Halsey, of the Waterloo Hotel, and with the usual loyal and Masonic toasts concluded a very pleasant evening. We may mention that the care which is manifested in the working of this encampment which is the oldest in the district, is highly creditable to the officers.

SCOTLAND.

BANFFSHIRE.

Although it is far from our desire to enter into Masonic disputes, the more especially between the Grand Lodge of a country and subsidiary Lodges, yet we feel compelled to publish the following, in hopes that it may lead the way to the healing of a most unfortunate breach between the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Masons of Banff. A little concession, perhaps, on either side may be all that is required to bring the one again into friendly connexion with the other. At the same time, we must admit that we are somewhat astonished to find a claim set up for a divided authority between the S.G.R.A.C. and the G.L.; surely the former cannot acknowledge what the latter repudiates? We shall be glad to receive an explanation upon this subject from some competent authority, and trust that we shall then never have cause again to allude to the subject, until we have the pleasure of announcing that all differences are adjusted, and that every Freemason in Scotland acknowledges one and the same head.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR.—With reference to the paragraph that appeared in your last number of the "Mirror," regarding the position the St. Andrew's and St. John's Mason Lodges in this place, occupy with the Grand Lodge of Scotland, I would premise in regard to St. Andrew's, that that Lodge has been in existence for upwards of 150 years, and in reference to St. John's Operative, and St. John's R. A. Chapter, that they have existed over 91 years. I shall now state briefly how it happened that the St. John's Lodge is in the anamolous position, if such it can be called, in regard to the Grand Lodge. In the year 1830, a faction rose up among

us, bent upon a dissolution and division of the funds, which was strenuously opposed by another portion of the members, who, being good Masons and true, were determined to keep up the Lodge, and preserve the funds inviolate for their orignal ends and purposes—this state of matters went on till the year 1847, at which time the conservative party prevailed, and were in office, and the Lodge and its officers were beginning to recover from the effects of the schism that had so long prevailed. At that time an intimation was received from the G. Lodge Secretary, stating that St. John's Lodge was considerably in arrears for annual certificates, and fees for recording in G.L. Books, the names of Entrants—in replying to this intimation, the very peculiar position in which the Lodge had been placed for a long series of years, was brought before the G.L.—that we were by no means aware, nor had we any opportunity of knowing that such sums were due, especially as having come under the Friendly Society Act, we were precluded from touching for such a purpose our funds—that our Lodge at one time numbered about 800 members, but at that time it only mustered about 50 paying members, while we had over 100 decayed and superannuated members, widows &c., and we hoped in the circumstances they would accept of a composition—we were however told that a composition could not be entertained. On this last communicatien being laid before a meeting, it was resolved in order to satisfy the demands of the G.L., the amount be raised by the members, and that notice by the Secretary be made to Grand Lodge, that their claims would be satisfied. No sooner, however, did the Grand Lodge officials see that the demands already made upon us were to be paid, than proceedings of a most extraordinary kind, most unfeeling in the circumstances, and of a very unmasonic nature, were intimated as about to be taken—nothing less than an intimation that our Lodge had been struck off their Roll! and to forthwith send to them our Charter Books, &c., with a petition craving to be re-proved. This we absolutely and positively refused to do, as these documents shew or form the foundation for shewing the large sums that have, first and last, been paid from our Lodge, its funds and off-shoots of which there were no less than seven branches in and around this place.

In regard to the statement in the "Mirror," that our Members cannot obtain Diplomas from the Grand Lodge, the assertion is surely gratuitous, as there are still three-fourths of them for whom the Grand Lodge officials were paid fees for entering their names in their Register, and as a matter of course are entitled to a Diploma in a proper certified demand.

I speak truly in saying that the Lodges in this place have done a great deal for Masonry, kept its light burning in its purest splendour through years of difficulty and trouble. Should any of the members of the Grand Lodge come this way, we would be ready to shew them the true light of Masonry; and for the rest we shall refer all real Masons to our present Masonic Head, the Supreme R.A.C. of Scotland, who were recently visited by some of our newly exalted Brethren, as well as elder Fellows, and have shewn them true Masonic kindness and feeling.

Yours fraternally,

Banff, April 24, 1855. JAMES MASON, R.W.M.

MASONIC PRESENTATION.—In consequence of the long and valuable services rendered to the St. Andrew and St. John's Masonic Lodges of Banff, by Br. Adam Mason, it was resolved to present him with some tangible mark of respect and token of regard for such services to the Craft. The Committee of Subscribers considered that in the circumstances a jewel would be a thing the most appropriate, and which Br. Black, jeweller, in this place, was requested to furnish. On the evening of the 20th inst., the brethren of both Lodges met in St. John's Hall, on which occasion Br. Rust, of St. Andrews, in a neat and humorous speech, and in the name of the numerous subscribers, presented to Br. Mason a very handsome gold jewel, having on one side various Masonic representations, and on the other the following inscription:—"Presented to Br. Adam Mason, for his invaluable services towards the Craft, for upwards of fifty years." Br. Mason replied to the honour in suitable terms. We may add that the Hon. G.M. of St. Andrews Lodge, the Earl of Fife, was a liberal subscriber.

GLASGOW.

The Lodge St. Mark, Glasgow, held their annual festival in their unique hall, Buchanan-street, on the evening of the 25th of April, the feast day of their titular saint, when about eighty of the Craft sat down to dinner, under the able presidency of their respected R.W.M., W. H. Huggins, Esq., of Craigton. The entertainment was of the most recherche description, and the pleasure it gave was much enhanced by the presence of many and highly illustrious visiting brethren. Amongst these we may name Brs. John Whyle Melville, Esq., of Mount Melville and Bamody, D.G.M. of Scotland; W. A. Laurie, Esq., W.S.R.W.G.S.; J. L. Woodman, Esq., C.S.R.W.G.C.; John Deuchar, Esq., of Morningside, V.W.G. Bible Bearer: John Boyle Gray, Esq., Kilwinning, P.G.M. of Ayrshire; G. A. Walker Arnott, Esq., of Arlary, L.L.D., Sub P.G.M., of Glasgow, &c.; also deputations from the Mother Kilwinning Lodge, the Lodge of Glasgow, St. John, the Glasgow Kilwinning Lodge, and the Greenock St. John's Lodge, No. 175; the officers of the Duke of Lancaster's own rifle regiment, and numerous others. After spending a very happy evening, enlivened by the spirit-stirring strains of melody from Brs. McClure and Julien Adams, the brethren separated, happy that they had met, sorry to part, and happy in the hope of meeting again.

St. Mark's Lodge (No. 102.)—At the monthly meeting held on the 5th March, Br. Donald Campbell, D.M. in the chair, Br. Hughes, S.W., and Br. Elder, J.W., other office bearers and brethren inter alia, the R.W.M. officiating, read a circular from Br. J. Linning Woodman, Clerk G.L. of Scotland, intimating the suspension of St. Stephen's Lodge, Edingburgh, No. 145, from Masonic privileges, and requesting Daughter Lodges and the brethren generally, to give effect thereto. A Committee of the office bearers, and P.M. Br. James Miller, and Br. William Murray, were, on a motion to that effect, appointed to carry out the preliminaries to the annual festival. Br. Murray read an interesting paper on "The Manners and Customs of the Highlanders of Scotland," which was well received by the meeting; and Br. Murray, intimated that next monthly meeting, he would read the concluding portion of the Essay. The J.W. exercised the powers of his office, and after refreshment the Lodge was formally closed. On Monday, 12th March, at an Emergency meeting, presided over by Br. D. Campbell, D.M., the S.W., and acting J.W. Br. John McGaan, present, also the S.M., other office bearers, and a large attendance of brethren. The Secretary read last minute, which was approved of, the officiating R.W.M. read applications for admission to the mysteries of the Order, from four gentlemen, who, being all found properly recommended, &c., were initiated in the apprentice degree. Instructors were appointed to these apprentices. Brs. Carl Formes, Otto Gregor, Hubert Formes, and Guiseppe Cognà, all artists of the Italian Opera, then sojourning in the city, were affiliated, and were each presented with the jewel of the Lodge, in *propria forma*, by the R.W.M. The brethren having harmonized in the light, for a short period, and the meeting terminated. On the 19th March, a Bi-Monthly meeting was held. Present, D.M. Br. Campbell, in the chair, the S.W. and acting J.W. Br. James Horne, other officers, and a full attendance of members of this and other Lodges. The minutes of previous meeting were read, and a circular from the Glasgow Kilwinning, No. 4, inviting a deputation of the members of this Lodge, to their 120th anniversary, was laid before the brethren, several of whom agreed to attend. On the motion of the R.W.M., Br. A. Reichardt, of the Italian Opera, was affiliated and presented with the jewel of the Lodge. Brs. Jamieson St. Clair Nicholson, W. D. Sellar, Wm. Franklin, and Robert Cogan, having served a lawful apprenticeship, were passed to the degree of Fellow-craft. Br. Julian Adams, delighted the brethren with his beautiful execution of music on the concertino. On Tuesday, 20th March, Br. Donald Campbell, D.M. in the chair, the S.W. and acting J.W., and others. The minutes were approved of, and the applications for admission of Messrs. John Macadam, M.D., and Alexander McDowall, M.D., being found properly recommended, these candidates were initiated apprentices, and had instructors appointed to them; and after refreshment and the usual ceremonies, the Lodge was declared closed. On the evening of Monday, the 26th March, the members assembled, there being present Br. D. Campbell, officating R.W.M., both Wardens,

and a large number of brethren. The minutes were read by the Secretary, and approved of. And petitions for admission from Messrs. Charles Scott, and David Houston, were considered by the meeting. These applications being found well recommended, and the candidates otherwise eligible, they were initiated, and instructors were nominated to them. Br. Friend, of the Glasgow Kilwinning, No. 4, was affiliated. Br. Campbell, read a circular, inviting a deputation of this Lodge to the Annual Festival of the Edinburgh Lodges. Brs. Wm. Liddell, Alexander A. McDowall, John Macadam, and A. Vauvert de Meaw, were (on a motion duly proposed, seconded and carried, and on account of Br. Macadam having to leave this country in a few days) passed to the Fellow-craft degree.

Royal Arch.—The Glasgow Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, met on the 2nd March, M.E. Comp. Donald Campbell, Z., when Br. the Rev. T. P. Fenner, was admitted to the Mark and Past degrees, preparatory to his being exalted at the next meeting.

THE COLONIES.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTURE FROM ADELAIDE OF DR. KENT, PL.G.M.

"And you, farewell, whose merits claim
Justly that highest badge to wear."—Burns.

Saturday the 23rd December, having been fixed on for Dr. Kent to go on board the *Antelope* steamer, an invitation appeared in the papers, addressed to all free and accepted Masons, to join in a farewell demonstration to their Pl.G.M. on the occasion of his departure for the mother-country. Shortly after two o'clock a considerable number of the officers and brothers of the various Lodges assembled at the Masonic Hall, North Terrace. When the room was nearly full, a deputation proceeded for Dr. Kent in a chariot drawn by eight horses, all iron-greys, most spirited animals, and beautifully matched. This imposing turn-out, with its postilions in scarlet and gold, and other brilliant appointments, attracted general notice. On the arrival of Dr. Kent at the Masonic Hall, the Grand Lodge was opened in due form by the D.P.G.M., Br. Lazar, and the dispensation appointing him to act during the absence of the Pl.G.M. was read by the Pl.G.S., Br. Dr. Moore. The Pl.G.M., Dr. Kent, then presented the patent of authority (granted to him by the Earl of Zetland, G.M. of England) to Br. Lazar, who in a short but appropriate address acknowledged the honour that had been conferred upon him. The Pl.G.M. then took leave of the Grand Lodge in an affecting speech, and the Lodge was closed according to ancient usage.

While those proceedings engaged attention within the Lodge, numerous vehicles arrived with brothers anxious to join the procession. This concourse, together with the strains of a brass band, attracted a considerable crowd outside of the Masonic Hall, and several ladies secured seats under the ornate verandah which shades the front of the building. When the door of the Lodge-room was thrown open and Dr. Kent appeared, escorted by the principal officers in their regalia, several persons pressed forward, anxious to grasp the hand, to breathe a parting word, or catch a nod of recognition from one who seemed to have enjoyed the rare good fortune of living many years among them with universal respect, and whose departure was looked upon by all with regret. As the worthy Pl.G.M. proceeded to his seat in the chariot, he was saluted with Masonic honours by the Craft. When they subsided he arose, and taking off his hat, bade farewell to all his friends present who were not Freemasons. This courteous act elicited a round of cheers in reply. The procession started along North Terrace in an easterly direction until it reached King William Street, where it turned into Hindley Street. At the top of Hindley Street the cavalcade paused for a few moments, where the last arrangement of the procession was effected, and it proceeded rapidly to the Port, being loudly cheered at various points throughout the journey.

When the *cortège* arrived at the Port the harbour presented a most animated ap-

pearance. Nearly all the vessels were decorated with flags, and several displayed the "hieroglyphics bright" which none but Craftsmen understand, and as the leading carriages of the procession drew up in front of the Britannia hotel, some of the ships fired a salute. A double line was formed by brothers from the carriages to the entrance of the hotel, and the P.G.M. Kent, was met on alighting by Br. Leon, the W.M. of the Lodge of Unity, with several of his officers, who escorted him to the Lodge-room, where the ceremony of leave-taking was most impressive. The procession again formed and proceeded to the steam-tug, which was boarded by all the brethren, who seemed determined not to part from their respected President until the last moment. On the signal to start being given, the air was rent with cheerings from the shore and the deep booming of guns from the saluting battery below the Company's Bridge. On boarding the *Antelope*, the party proceeded to the saloon, which presented a most imposing appearance, as nearly two hundred Masons, in their rich regalia, occupied it. D.P.G.M. Lazar proposed the farewell toast in a brief but impressive speech; it was received with an unmistakeable manifestation of sincerity, and was responded to by P.G.M. Kent, who was deeply affected, in an eloquent reply. He acknowledged for himself and his family the great honour conferred upon him by the Craft in that public demonstration; he referred regretfully to the suspension of the intercourse that had evoked such kindly feelings, and declared that

> "Strong memory on his heart shall write
> Those happy scenes when far awa'."

He then bade "a heart-warm fond adie" to every brother present, and they, wishing him all prosperity, took their leave.—*Adelaide Observer.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND AND THE ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—Allow me a little space in your useful and valuable (and I mean what I say) infant publication, on the point of the late grant of £1000 to the Patriotic Fund, for the relief of the widows and orphans of the disabled and wounded British seamen, and marines, serving in the war in the East. I need not remind you that there is a maxim, and a very old one, "That we should always be just before we are generous," and another is, that "Charity begins at home," or should do so.

Now, taking these premises, I should be last in the world to say a word about the noble and princely vote, on the part of the most worshipful Grand Master, who was mainly instrumental in its grant, but that I fear, from the state of the funds of the Masonic Benevolent Institution, for the granting annuities to the distressed and decayed brother Freemasons, it has made a most serious and frightful inroad on the finances of that excellent and praiseworthy Institution. Can it be possible, that out of a list of thirty-five candidates, only two can be admitted to participate in its bounty. And that is actually occasioned by the vote of £1000 to the Patriotic Fund just named. I would not for a moment attempt to cast the slightest shadow of reflection on our excellent Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, but it is much to be deplored that the funds will not allow the whole of the applicants to be admitted; more particularly, when it is taken into consideration, that not a few have applied, two, three, four, and even some eleven years following. And how dreadful it is to contemplate that, perhaps, the two candidates may be taken in on their first application. I have no doubt but that our excellent Grand Master brought forward the vote with the best Masonic feelings that even a brother could possess, and the only remedy I see, is to propose, through your widely reflecting "Mirror," that every Lodge would pay *for every Member contributing, the sum of One Shilling*, for three years, to put the fund in a proper condition. I think, if this be proposed, it will be most cheerfully responded to by the fraternity. Now, there happens to be about 800 contributing Lodges, and say there are twenty members to every Lodge, whose contributions may be depended on;

this will raise a sum of nearly £3000 in three years, and it would not be felt by the brethren or the Lodges respectively.

In the hope that something like a scheme for the augmenting the Royal Benevolent Institution may suggest itself from this hint, is the sincere desire of

Plymouth, April 17. AN OLD PAST-MASTER.

[We insert the above, because we have evinced, from our earliest number, how anxious we are to increase the efficiency of the Royal Benevolent Institution, and we belive that something like the scheme indicated by our worthy brother, might be advantageously carried out. He is, however, altogether wrong regarding the fund from which the vote to the Patriotic Fund has been paid. It was made from the Fund of General Purposes, arising from the fees payable upon initiation, registration, &c., and which is altogether distinct, even from the Benevolent Fund of the Grand Lodge, arising from the quarterage of the members of the different Lodges in connection with it. The Royal Benevolent Institution is still much more distinct, not being even under the control of the Grand Lodge, though it has been often liberally supported from the very fund out of which the grant to the Patriotic Fund was made. Indeed, Grand Lodge grants £400 a year in its aid, and last year presented the Asylum, in common with the other charities, with a donation of £350. It is in fact a private charity of the Craft, supported by the donations of the brethren, these donations being so small (5*s*. per annum for the Male Annuity Fund, and a like sum for the Widows Fund) that we are indeed astonished the Institution is not more liberally supported; and we can only ascribe its not being so to the fact that the nature of its constitution is not generally understood. And here we may be allowed to add, that one reason why the "Mirror" was established, was the knowledge that the charities were not understood as they ought to be, and there being no convenient channel, of a sufficiently popular nature, through which information on the subject might be readily obtained, a want which we hope the "Masonic Mirror" now efficiently answers. Our brother is wrong in supposing that there are 800 Lodges from whom contributions might be expected. If he deducts the Colonial and Foreign Lodges, he will find that 600 is something nearer the mark.—Ed. M. M.]

TESTIMONIAL TO BR. LORD DUDLEY STUART, P.G.M.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

A monument, or testimonial, is intended to be raised to the memory of our late lamented Brother, Lord Dudley Coutts Stuart. By the good, his loss is deeply deplored—by the Craft, who know how well he discharged his Masonic duties, especially that virtue which may justly be denominated the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart. May I suggest, through your columns, the propriety of laying the foundation stone of that testimonial with Masonic honours.

I think it would be a high honour to the Lodges to contribute to the fund.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

St. John's Wood, April 16, 1855. A.—P.M.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR APRIL.

THE COURT.

The great event of the month has been the visit of the Emperor and Empress of the French, to the Queen at Windsor. On the night of Sunday the 15th H. R. H. Prince Albert proceeded to Dover to be in readiness to receive their Imperial Majesties, who were to leave Calais on the following morning. Their Imperial Majesties left Calais shortly after eleven o'clock, but owing to a dense fog nothing was heard of them until past one, when they were close in port At half-past one the illustrious visitors landed, and were received by H. R. H. Prince Albert and the Corporation of Dover, by whom they were conducted to the Lord Warden Hotel. After partaking of some slight refreshment their Majesties descended to the saloon, when the Corporation presented the Emperor with an address of congratulation, to which he made a

suitable reply. At a quarter to three the Royal and Imperial party proceeded by the South Eastern Railway to the Bricklayer's Arms station, where they arrived about five. Their Majesties and party having entered the carriages waiting for them, proceeded at a slow pace, owing to the dense crowds in the streets, to the Paddington station of the Great Western Railway, and from thence by train to Windsor, where they arrived at ten minutes past seven, and were received by Her Majesty at the grand entrance of the castle. Their Majesties were loudly cheered throughout the whole of their journey, and Windsor in the evening was a complete blaze of illumination. On the 17th their Imperial Majesties received addresses from the Corporation of Windsor and other bodies, and in the afternoon attended a review of the 2nd Life Guards in the Home Park. On the following day his Imperial Majesty was invested with the Order of the Garter, in St. George's Hall, but did not appear in public during the day. On the 19th the Emperor and Empress came to town from Windsor, and paid a visit to the Corporation of the City of London in the Guildhall, being received throughout their route with the utmost acclamation. Their Majesties arrived at the Guildhall about half-past two o'clock. Shortly after which an address from the Corporation was presented to the Emperor, to which he made a suitable reply, in the course of which he said:—"For myself I have retained on the throne the same sentiments of sympathy and esteem for the English people, that I professed as an exile while I enjoyed here the hospitality of your country; and if I have acted in accordance with my convictions, it is that the interests of the nation which has chosen me, no less than those of universal civilization, have made it a duty. Indeed, England and France are naturally united on all the great questions of politics and of human progress that agitate the world—(cheers)—from the shores of the Atlantic to those of the Mediterranean—from the Baltic to the Black Sea—from the desire to abolish slavery to the hope of amelioration for all the countries of Europe. I see in the moral as in the political world two nations, but one course and one end." At the conclusion of this ceremony and the presentations of various civic dignitaries their Imperial Majesties were conducted to the Council Chamber, where an elegant luncheon had been prepared under the able superintendence of Br. Staples of the Albion Tavern. No guests were admitted to the luncheon excepting their Imperial Majesties, H. R. H. the Duke of Cambridge, the Ambassadors, and the Cabinet Ministers. In the evening the Emperor and Empress accompanied Her Majesty and H. R. H. Prince Albert in a state visit to the Royal Italian Opera, when *Fidelio* was performed for the first time this season, and *Cerito* made her first appearance at this house in a new ballet; but the only objects which excited any interest in the audience were the Royal visitors, and the performance of "God Save the Queen" and "Partant pour la Syrie." The club-houses and places of business of many of the principal tradesmen in the metropolis were illuminated in the evening.—On Friday, the Queen, Prince Albert, the Emperor, and Empress of the French visited the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, and expressed themselves highly delighted with the works of art it contains, the beauty of the gardens, and the general effect of the whole building and grounds. There were between 24,000 and 25,000 persons present; but they were not admitted to the interior of the building until the Royal party had completed their inspection.—Their Imperial Majesties took leave of the Queen and left London at ten o'clock on Saturday morning, and arrived at the Tuilleries early on the Sunday.

PARLIAMENT.

The Easter Holidays did not expire until the 16th, and very little in the way of the advancement of legislation has yet been effected. In the House of Lords on that day, the Charitable Trusts Bill (1855) was read a second time. On the following day, the Cambridge University Bill was read a second time, the discussion being postponed until the Committee. On the 20th, the Sardinian Treaty Bill, relative to the contingent, was read a second time; and, on the 23rd, it passed through Committee. On the 24th, the Cambridge University Bill passed through Committee, Lord Lyndhurst announcing his intention to propose some amendments at a future stage. On the 26th, the Militia (Ireland) Bill was read a third time and certain returns ordered. On the 27th, a discussion took place on Church Rates and Russian Produce, which came to nothing.

In the House of Commons on the 16th, the Metropolis Management Bill of Sir B. Hall was read a second time, and the House went into Committee of Supply. It was stated that the amount already voted for the new Houses of Parliament was £1,690,000, it was then proposed to vote £172,000, and a further sum of £651,000 would be required to fully carry out the views of Sir C. Barry. The vote was approved, and £100,000 voted on account of the Education Board. On the 17th, Sir George Grey stated that certain changes were contemplated in the construction of the Committee of Council for Education; and Capt. Boldero moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the state of the medical departments of the Army and Navy, but the motion was negatived by a majority of 73 to 69. On the 18th, Mr. McMahon moved the second reading of the Sea Coast Fisheries (Ireland) Bill, which, after a long discussion, was lost by a majority of 145 to 19. On the 20th, the Chancellor of the Exchequer brought forward his Budget. He calculated the income for the coming year, existing sources of taxation, exclusive of the sum to be lost by the repeal of the newspaper stamp, at £63,339,000; and the expenditure, including a margin of £4,400,000, at £86,339,000. This showed a deficit of £23,000,000, which he proposed to make good by a loan of £16,000,000, already contracted for at par; by an addition of 2*d.* in the pound on the income tax, calculated to produce £2,000,000; by an addition to the sugar duties of 3*s.* per cwt., calculated to produce £1,200,000; an addition of 1*d.* in the lb. on coffee, £150,000; an addition of 3*d.* in the lb. on tea, £750,000; stamps upon bankers' cheques of 1*d.* each, £200,000; and equalisation of English and Scotch spirits, and increase of 2*s.* upon Irish, £1,000,000. Resolutions in accordance with the proposal were agreed to, leaving the various points open for future discussion. On the 23rd, Lord Palmerston, in reply to a question, stated that the Conference at Vienna had come to an unsatisfactory conclusion; and the House went into a Committee of Ways and Means on the Budget, and, after a long discussion, the report was agreed to, and leave given to bring in the various bills necessary for carrying it out. The Newspaper Stamp Duties Bill then went into Committee, and the general principles were again affirmed, though it was resolved that the proprietors of all newspapers should register them, and give sureties against libel, as at present. On the 24th, the House was counted out without any business of importance being transacted. On the 25th, the second reading of the Marriage Law Amendment Bill came under consideration, but, after a long discussion, was adjourned to the 9th instant. On the 26th, various Bills in connection with the Budget were advanced a stage, and the second reading of the Testamentary Jurisdiction Bill postponed, but at 12 o'clock the debate was adjourned. On the 27th, the Scotch Education Bill was read a second time by a majority of 39, the numbers being, for the second reading 210 against 171.

THE WAR.

Operations in the Crimea have at last been renewed with great activity—and news of importance is almost hourly looked for. The allied armies commenced the bombardment of the town on the 9th., but up to the 20th no national advantage appears to have been gained, though the allies were said to have the advantage, and a sortie of the Russians on the night of the 18th to have been repulsed with loss.

Omar Pasha, with 20,000 Egyptian troops are said to have arrived at Balaklava—and the fleets were understood to be preparing for some decisive course of action.

The Baltic fleet has sailed; and the peace conference having terminated unsatisfactorily, Lord John Russell, and M. Drouyn de Lhuys are on their return home to their respective courts.

PROVIDENT.

On the 3rd April, the Southampton Directors of the Unity Fire Insurance Association, entertained a deputation from the London Board, at dinner, to celebrate the completion of insurances of £1,000,000 of property in that district within two years. The proceedings were presided over by the Mayor, who was supported by several Aldermen and Magistrates of the town and neighbourhood, and in the course of the evening Br. *T. H. Baylis*, the manager, brought forward a plan for establishing a Unity Bank upon

Mutual principles—one half of the profits to go to the depositors, and one half to the shareholders, whose capital guarantees the safety of the bank.

The Waterloo Life Assurance Company held meetings at Doncaster, Wakefield, and Barnsley, on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of April, to explain the position and prospects of the Company. The whole of the meetings, the more especially that at Barnsley, were well attended, and resolutions in support of the Company were passed unanimously—votes of thanks being given to the deputation, consisting of Mr. Williams, the Manager, Mr. Ed. Baylis, Dr. Hall, of Sheffield, and Mr. Saunders, for their attendance. In the course of the proceedings it was explained that the subscribed capital of the Company was 400,000*l.*, of which only 20,000*l.* was as yet called up. The Company had only been established four years, but had already obtained a premium income of 14,000*l.* a year, and had 30,000*l.* invested in a reserve fund. The Company set aside a portion of its profits to prevent assurers ever coming to want, by the creation of an annuity fund, and another portion as an educational fund for the benefit of their children—and above all, a policy once issued, could never be disputed.

The British Provident Life and Fire Assurance Company, held its third annual meeting on the 12th. The report stated that the total amount of business performed in the life department by the Company for the three years, might be thus summed up. —*Proposals received, 1678; policies issued, 1269; premiums received, 6671l. 17s. 3d.;* annual income, 6831*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, being an increase upon the last year of 342 in the number of proposals received, 366 in the number of policies issued, 2016*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* in the amount of premiums received, and 1083*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* in the income. The fire department was also going on very successfully, and the subscribed capital of the company now, amounted to 69,710*l.*, being an addition of 27,440*l*, upon the last return. The report was adopted, and the dividend at the rate of 5 per cent per annum declared.

BENEVOLENT.

The Royal General Theatrical Fund Anniversary Festival took place according to custom, on the Monday in Passion Week, April 3, Mr. Buckstone presiding. He stated that after disbursing all the expenses of the year, including sums returned to the families of deceased members, the payment of funeral expenses, the payment of ten annuities, five of £30, four of £60, and one of £90, there still remained to the credit of the society, a balance of nearly £9,000. The subscriptions of the evening amounted to rather more than £300.

The Artists General Benevolent Institution held its Anniversary Festival on the 31st March, the Lord Mayor presiding. It appears that during the past year, upwards of sixty cases have been relieved with various sums amounting to £826; and, since the establishment of the Institution, 1,479 cases have been relieved with sums amounting to £16,936. The subscriptions of the evening amounted to upwards of £600.

The Fund of the Clergy held its Anniversary Festival on the 18th, when about £2,000 were added to the funds of the charity, but considerable gloom was cast over the proceedings by the announcement of a considsrable defalcation having occurred, the late secretary having left the country.

That most excellent Institution, the Royal Society of St. Ann's, for affording clothing, maintenance, and education to children of those once in prosperity, orphans or not, held its Anniversary Festival on the 24th, Sir Robert Peel presiding, when upwards of £1,800 were added to the funds. The Hon. Chairman said he had only been induced to take the chair by the respect he entertained for our worthy Br. Lake.

On the following day the Anniversary Festival of St. Mark's Hospital took place, £1,350 being subscribed in its aid in the course of the evening.

The Anniversary of the London Hospital was celebrated on the 26th, under the presidency of the Duke of Cambridge. In the course of the evening H.R.H. stated the regular annual income of the hospital was about £11,000 and the expenditure about £4,000, generally made up by subscriptions and donations, but during the past year there had been a deficiency from those sources of £2,000. The subscriptions of the evening amounted to £1,350.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Quarters Revenue, ending March 31, showed a total income of £15,021,276, being an increase of £4,384,308 over the corresponding quarter of last year. The total revenue for the year was £59,496,154, and the net increase, £6,312,624, principally due to the doubled income tax.

A new Law Reform Association has been started, under the title of the Juridical Society.

Damages of 1,000*l.* have been given against Cardinal Wiseman, in an action for libel on the Rev. Mr. Boyle, a Roman Catholic priest.

AMUSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH.

Wm. Gran, having been charged with obtaining money from the Earl of Essex, by false representations, proposed to the magistrate, that instead of being sent to prison, he might be more usefully employed as a detective officer, to bring begging letter impostors to justice. Mr. Broderip, however, not approving of the proposition, sent him to prison for three months.

A Mr. Fitzroy, who gained a somewhat unenviable notoriety in October last, for riotous conduct at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, has been convicted at Chichester of uttering forged cheques, and sentenced to four months imprisonment. Mr. Fitzroy does not obtain his majority until June next, when he comes into 24,000*l.*

The Pope had a narrow escape from loss of life or injury at Turin, on the 12th. His Holiness, accompanied by several persons, was in the hall of the Convent of St. Agnes, near Rome, the floor fell in. Cardinal Antonelli and the French General Montreal received some slight contusions.

Mr. Gye, though somewhat tardily, has reopened the Royal Italian Opera, and has promised that in the course of the season he will produce at least two novelties, *L' Etoile du Nord,* of Meyerbeer, and the *Trovatore*, of Verdi, both possessing a great continental reputation, which, from what we have heard, appears to be fully deserved. The house opened on the 13th with Rossini's *Il Comte Ory,* the principal characters in which were personated by Madame Angiolina Bosio, Madlle. Marai, Madlle. Nantier Didiée, Signor Gardoni, Signor Zelger, and Signor Tagliafico; and the pretty little ballet entitled, *Une Etoile,* in which Mesdames Battalini, Esper, and Leblond, Mr. W. H. Payne, and M. Desplaces appeared. Madame Bosio fully sustained the reputation she has already won. Signor Gardoni, who made his first appearance at this theatre, was warmly welcomed as an old favourite, and the whole of the performance went off with great éclat. On the 19th, on occasion of the visit of the Queen and her Imperial visitors, *Fidelio* was produced and Madlle. Ney made her first appearance before a British audience in the character of Leonora, in which she achieved a complete success, which has been strengthened by subsequent performances. Madlle. Cerito has also appeared in a new ballet called *Eva,* and received fresh proofs of the public favour which she used to enjoy in the Haymarket.

At Drury Lane, notwithstanding former discouragements, a third season of the Royal Opera at moderate prices has been commenced, and if talent will command it, with every prospect of success. The opening opera on the 16th April, was *La Sonnambula,* in which Mdme. Gassier, a soprano of much talent, made a very successful debut as Amina, and was well supported by her husband and Signor Bettini. The same artistes have since appeared in the *Barber of Seville,* and been equally, if not more successful. Both the band, and the chorus are very creditable to the establishment, and a slight ballet divertissement agreeably winds up the evenings amusements. A French drama of *Les Cosaques,* which has run for 200 nights at La Gaite, has been produced on alternate nights with the opera, the whole of the French *troupe* who have been so long engaged in it, having visited England for the purpose. It is an excellent spectacle, and well deserves a visit. The enthusiasm of John Bull has shown no bounds in the applause which has been bestowed on this French "Patriotic drama."

On Easter Monday, a lively extravaganza from the pen of Planche, was produced at the Haymarket Theatre, entitled the *Haymarket Spring Meeting*, which amusingly satirises the want of improvement in the city, and the "go-a-headness" in that respect of Tyburnia and Belgravia, with various other salient topics of the day. The *Spring Meeting* promises to run very deeply into summer. Determined to well keep up the ball, Br. Buckstone has since engaged Miss Cushman, for tragedy, with Mr. and Mrs. Sims Reeves, Mr. and Mrs. Weiss, &c., for opera, so that there can be no complaint on the ground of want of variety in the entertainments offered at this theatre.

At the Princesses, a slight drama, adapted from the French, entitled the *Muleteer of Toledo*, or *King, Queen, and Knave*, was produced at Easter, and though of slight pretensions, was decidedly successful.

The Adelphi produced a new version of the *Fairy Tales of Mother Goose*, which as a spectacle and a vehicle for wit and humour, has not been equalled for many a day.

The Olympic only brought out a new farce, *Law for Ladies*, the Christmas piece of the *Yellow Dwarf* being still sufficiently attractive to prove the staple of the evening's entertainment.

At the Strand, a burlesque on *King Lear*, entitled *King Queer, or his Daughters three*, was the *piece de resistance* for the holidays. It is full of fun, and was perfectly successful. It is the joint production of Mr. Halford and Br. C. J. Collins, the author of the "Heir of Bendersleigh," which lately appeared in our pages.

Cremorne Gardens have opened their portals, and notwithstanding the lateness of the season has hitherto deprived them of a large portion of their natural beauties, there has been no want of entertainment for their patrons. Br. Simpson well knows how to cater for the amusement of all classes of society, and Br. Hayward has become a great favourite as leader of the dance music. The Allegorical Triumphal Arch, in honour of the alliance between England, France, and Turkey, has excited great attention, the more especially during a series of *fêtes* given in honour of the visit to this country of the Emperor and Empress of the French.

Miss P. Horton (or rather, Mrs. T. G. Reed), the popular actress, has come forth at St. Martin's Hall with an entertainment *a la* Matthew's the elder, under the title of "Illustrative gatherings," which promises to be extremely popular, as by the variety of characters she has to represent, these gatherings are admirably fitted for displaying the versatility of the lady's talent.

We paid a visit to the Royal Polytechnic Institution during the Easter Week, and were much gratified to find that Mr. Pepper, the resident director, is pursuing his career of management with unabated vigour and perseverance. He is evidently resolved to surpass his neighbours in his search after novelty, and his exertions have been so far successful that one cannot easily pay a visit to the Institution without seeing some exhibition which has not been witnessed before. It is, moreover, obvious that the blending of the scientific with the amusing has been carried out with the wisest judgement and taste, so much so, that there is something to please all and nothing to displease any one. The last novelty which has been introduced is a Dioramic Entertainment, called "Sam Slick at home and abroad, with sparks and specs of American Humour," comprising a trip across the Atlantic and a visit to some of the principal cities of the United States. The Diorama is accompanied by an interesting and humourous description, in which a variety of anecdotes from our old friend the clockmaker, shine conspicuously, and the attention of the audience is frequently arrested by some interesting historical details respecting the places visited; many well-known incidents which have occurred on the voyage,—such as the burning of the "Ocean Monarch," and the stranding of the "Great Britain," are also depicted with considerable skill, the effects being heightened by mechanical contrivances which impart an unusual degree of reality to the scene. On the whole this entertainment may be pronounced one of the most successful which this Institution has ever produced, and we cordially commend it to all who would enjoy a brief interval of leisure amid the cares and pursuits of life.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

That Editors are like the old man in the fable, who could not please everybody whether he rode or carried his ass, has long been proverbial, and we do not expect to be more fortunate in that respect than others. Whilst, however, we act independently and courteously towards the brethren, we expect some degree of indulgence and courtesy from them—and at all events, low ribaldry will not cause us to pause in performing what we believe to be our duty towards the Craft. We could scarcely have conceived it possible, in answer to our temperate remarks in our last, for any brother to have penned the following, which we print verbatim et literatim :—

King Street, Devonport, Apl.

Sur,

"i see sum fule as a bene a riting to yu abowte our loge i think he had best min h's on business and wele min ours sum peepl his only Enyus of our making six in a night and uther loges not doing nothin. i dont think you can be a 100 *mils from a ——yousself for puting such trash in yuor buk."—John Bite.*

Did the Lodge obtain the necessary dispensation for making six in one night? We hope we shall receive some explanation of the mode of working in the Lodge alluded to, from a brother more worthy of attention than one, who has evidently disguised his real name as well as his style and writing.

J. B. F., Plymouth.—*The Lodge of Prudent Brethren, Freemasons Tavern, or the Domatic Lodge, Br. Ireland's, Falcon Tavern, Fetter Lane. Br. Hewlett is W.M. of the first named Lodge, and Br. T. A. Adams, the second. Let your friend put himself into communication with the Editor of the "* Mirror."

W. C., Exeter.—*We shall have great pleasure in hearing from* W. C. *as often as he can make it convenient.*

Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masons.—*A Mason high in official position in Scotland, thus writes :—"I perceive you are working away at the Mark Mason Degree. It is purely illegal. The Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen, had no power to grant the warrant in any way." The Lodge does not hold its Charter from the Grand Lodge or Chapter of Scotland, as has been stated—and we have long suspected, the Aberdeen Chapter had no more power to grant it, than has any private Lodge in England to delegate its power to others. The above extract of a private letter upon the subject fully confirms our suspicions.*

R. R. N. Dewsbury.—*Our last number was ready for delivery to the trade, at* 11 *o'clock of the morning of Saturday,* March 31. *We have never been so late as the* 2nd *in publishing. If your present bookseller cannot supply you before the* 17*th or* 18*th we should feel obliged by your trying another. The "Mirror" ought to be served in Dewsbury by the* 2nd *at the latest.*

W. H. Blackburn *is thanked. We shall at all times be glad to hear from him.*

Masonic Clothing.—*A correspondent, for whom we have the highest esteem, writes:—"In the Bristol Lodges, the brethren are allowed to wear a very highly ornamented Craft apron entirely at variance with the Constitution. Half an inch from the sides of, and bottom, is a sort of silver lace-work; above the blue ribbon, an inch of the same material; and half an inch of the same round the bib, or fall." We should like to be informed how the introduction of this frippery has been tolerated. It has been hinted to us that it originated with the desire of one or more Tylers to increase their own gains by adding to the expense of the clothing. If so, not only has the constitutional rule for obtaining uniformity in clothing been violated, but a gross injustice inflicted on the brethren, who ought (especially whilst new to the Craft, and they may be supposed not to know what is exactly in accordance with the constitutions of the Order) to be protected from wrong. It is the duty of the Pl. G.M., or his deputy, to see that the rules laid down in the Book of Constitutions are observed in the Lodges within his jurisdiction.*

We have repeated complaints of numbers of the "Masonic Mirror" sent through the Post Office not being delivered, and, sooth to say, it imposes a heavy tax upon us in making them good, as well as causing grievous disappointment to our subscribers. This month, to, we have had more than one complaint of one shilling postage being demanded, on the ground of over weight. The more especially we are informed that the authorities at Liverpool charged one shilling for a number for being more than 2ozs. *in weight, whereas, the weight allowed under the regulations of the General Post Office is* 3ozs. *We should like some explanation of this. Is our Correspondent sure he had not written anything upon the Mirror beyond the direction to which he sent it, because, if he had, that would render it liable to postage. We trust before we next greet our brethren, the New Newspaper Stamp Act will have passed, when there will be no farther difficulty regarding the weight, which we forward through the Post Office, we having from our first number been registered and given the securities required from Newspaper proprietors.*

THE

MASONIC MIRROR:

JUNE, 1855.

THE GIRLS' SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

As we anticipated, this interesting meeting went off with as much *eclat* as could be desired. It does not, however, prevent us from repeating the words of the excellent chairman, the Deputy Grand Master, that "Economy was everything in an establishment of this character, and that of itself gave a support to the Institution it was hoped to gain from the Craft generally." Indeed, from the admirable address of his Lordship as to the future prospects of the Charity it would appear that to ensure success much must be looked forward to from a careful house committee, and above all, from the vigilance of the Secretary. The amount collected at the Dinner was astonishing; indeed, the charity appears each year to recommend itself. What benefits then would result from the indications above alluded, viz., Economy, and a Reserve Fund in case of need or the disappointment of the Festival? We have it before us that two-thirds of the children admitted and educated for the world in this school, are from the Provinces, and yet, on looking over the subscription list, how few of the country Lodges are found as subscribers to this charity. We hold that each Lodge should subscribe towards this School. The first founded, the most interesting, and the one the most called for. What an income would be raised if each Lodge added but twenty shillings annually. Should we then see but eleven pounds in the bankers' hands? This indeed struck us with surprise and regret; the shades of those great men who have been called from us, and who have so strongly advocated this charity, would be alarmed to think that so little had been done in half a century to raise a fund beyond the expectation of annual appeals. It is absurd, also, to suppose that the school can be supported by 400*l.* only, from subscribing members, when the annual income required amounts to 1500*l.* We say, at once appeal to every Provincial Lodge, and the fair conclusion is, that two-thirds would become subscribers. Public charities and benevolent associations for the gratuitous relief of any species of distress, are peculiar to Masonry and Christianity—no other system of civil or religious policy has originated them—they form their highest praise and characteristic feature. Thus far we have only spoken of the

Festival, but we have since heard that a select committee met on Thursday the 24th ult. to inquire relative to the general affairs of the institution, when from the evidence produced an opinion was at once formed that a great reform is required, not only in the food of the children and the general system upon which the school is provisioned, but also in the mode of providing for the clothing and other nesessaries. This we have given merely in outline, but we intend hereafter to refer in the "Mirror" more fully to the subject, and especially to the balance sheet, to which numerous correspondents have called our attention.

AGED MASONS' ASYLUM.

THE special subscription for relieving this Institution from debt has not yet closed, not more than one hundred out of nine hundred Lodges, acting under the warrant of the Grand Lodge of England—600 or 700 of which are held in this country—having as yet responded to the appeal made to them for assistance. Many others, however, we are aware have voted sums of money to the fund, which we earnestly entreat them to forward, as early as possible to the Committee, who, we can assure the brethren, well appreciate the value of the proverb, of a bird in hand being worth two in the bush. To those Lodges which have not yet subscribed, we would observe, that they must not imagine the work is done when the 360*l.* asked for in the special appeal is obtained. No! There will yet remain much for them to accomplish—that of placing the various funds in a proper condition. A reference to our report of the proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the Royal Benevolent Institution, will prove the accuracy of our present assertion—and it certainly was not without feelings of grief, that we read in the Committee's Report, that they were only enabled to recommend the election of two male annuitants this year, notwithstanding four had died since the last annual meeting, owing to the falling off in annual subscriptions and donations—and that too, notwithstanding a very extended list of candidates shows us how much remains to be done before we can refer with pride—as we trust we shall some day be enabled to do—to the fact that no aged Mason, being worthy, ever asks for the annuity in vain. The Widows fund appears in a somewhat better position than the Male, but each want increased assistance, and the subscribers to the Asylum fund should be careful to remember, that any excess beyond the 360*l.* above named, will be applied for the general benefit of the Institution—and that therefore the larger a Lodge or individual brother can make it's or his subscription, the more acceptable it will be to the Committee, and the more advantageous to the Institution. Some brethren have appeared to suppose that because the Grand Secretary, in his letter referred to what 1*l.* from each lodge would do, that that was all that was desired, or it was necessary to subscribe. Not so. The Grand Secretary stated 1*l.* from each Lodge would liquidate the debt on the Asylum, but he also said, "should any surplus arise, it will be appropriated to the Annuity fund for Aged Masons." The brethren appear somewhat apathetic in supporting the Benevolent In-

stitution—but we hope they will throw off their apathy and that a general effort will be made throughout the country to increase its permanent funds and annual subscriptions, which ought to stand at least ten times as high as they do at present.

THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

THE brethren are reminded that the Board of General Purposes for the ensuing year, will have to be elected at the meeting of the Grand Lodge on Wednesday next, the 6th inst. The Board have great and important duties to perform, and the utmost care should therefore be exercised in the selection of its members, that none but those who are able to devote their time to those duties, should become members of it. Indeed, we do not know that the brethren can do better than re-elect the present members—making only such alteration as may become necessary from a known non-attention to the duties, or the wish of a brother to retire from the board.

MASONIC STANZAS.

Brother, let me grasp thy hand,
Let me press thy heart to mine,
Let the *true cement* combine
Our souls in *mystic union grand!*

Let our feet together move
Through this thorny world below,
Let us still, in weal or woe,
Show the world *our creed is love!*

Let our knees together bend—
Ours still be the reverent prayer
Rising to the Great Throne, where
Mercy doth with Justice blend!

Let us still as brothers love,
Let no harsh word e'er be spoken,
Be the tie till death unbroken;
Let us hope to meet above!

While on earth Heaven's blessing given
Shall pour balm upon the soul,
Be to us unroll'd the scroll:—
Mercy is the dew of heaven!

ROBERT FISHER (Lodge 706).

Newcastle-on-Tyne, March 14, 1855.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

Continued from page 310.

In the rebuilding of the city of London, which was carried on with the utmost dilligence, the work of Masonry became more directed towards the convenience of commerce and manufacture than the beauty of design, and in descending from the sublime to matters of more general utility, it appears to have lost a great deal of the poetry with which it had hitherto been invested. The style of classic architecture now in general use, molded by the master mind of Sir Christopher Wren, no doubt produced buildings better calculated for domestic and public convenience than any that had preceded them, but still they are copies from other masters, and want the charm of nationality and peculiarly English design which so strikingly distinguish the works of our more early brethren. It also appears that the uninitiated of this period had greater influence than heretofore in altering the plans laid down by time and experience, and every gentleman who by travel had the opportunity of viewing foreign works of art, had his peculiar taste, and considered that his notions of construction were worthy of consideration. Hence we find that the Deputy Grand Master had greater difficulties to contend with than his predecessors, in preserving anything like order and regularity; and it was only by the greatest exercise of patience and perseverence that he was enabled to gain scope for the exercise of his great genius; and we regret to find that although later ages have recorded their debt of gratitude towards him, his great works did not procure for him an exemption from the annoyances of little minds. And, with shame be it spoken, that in his latter days, he was suffered to sink into obscurity, to escape the malevolence of those who were envious of the superior blessings with which the Great Architect of the Universe had endowed him.

In the great mass of building in this period, the restoration of St. Paul's Cathedral claims our peculiar attention. Dr. Wren produced several designs in order to consult the public taste, and finding an universal desire for something magnificent and worthy of a great metropolis, and to be the principal Cathedral of the Reformed Church, he constructed a model of wood which was submitted for approbation; but the bishops deciding that it was not sufficiently in the Cathedral style, he was ordered to amend it; he then produced the scheme of the present structure, which was honoured with the King's approbation. The surveyor, however, appears to have preferred his first model, which was of the Corinthian order, like St. Peter's, at Rome, and would have executed it with more cheerfulness than the one now erected. This elegant model is still kept in an upper apartment of the Cathedral, and is a real curiosity.

The King, with Grand Master Rivers, his architects and craftsmen, nobility and gentry, lord mayor and aldermen, bishops and clergy, &c., in due form levelled the footstone of the present Cathedral, 1673. The Deputy Grand Master Wren conducted the building, as master of the

work and surveyor, with the assistance of his warden, Mr. Edward Sturg and his son.

The mallet with which the King levelled this foundation stone was delivered by Sir Christopher Wren to the old Lodge of St. Paul, now the Lodge of Antiquity, where it is still preserved as a great curiosity.

In pulling down the walls of the old building, which were about eighty feet high and five feet thick, and clearing away the foundation, the builders met with great difficulties, which were only surmounted by untiring labour and perseverance.

The history of the ancient structure is interesting, and claims peculiar notice. It was generally supposed to have been founded on an ancient temple of Diana, built by the Romans, but with which supposition the son of Sir Christopher Wren differs, and in his Parentalia, observes, that the first Cathedral of the episcopal see of London was built in the area, where had been the Roman Prætorian camp, and in the situation on which all the succeeding fabrics stood, and that this structure was demolished during the great and general persecution under the Emperor Dioclesian. The church is supposed to have been re-erected under Constantine, but it was afterwards destroyed by the pagan Saxons, and restored on the old foundations when they embraced Christianity, in the seventh century, when Sebert, King of Essex, advanced Milletus to the bishopric of London. In 675, Erkenwald, fourth bishop of London, from Milletus, expended great sums of money in repairing and beautifying the ancient edifice, and for that and many other benefactions, he was canonized at his death, and his body placed in a glorious shrine above the high altar in the east part of the church, the admiration of succeeding ages, till the destruction of the whole fabric by fire, in the year 961, but as it was rebuilt in the same year, it is highly probable that those early structures, however magnificent they might then be thought, were only small wooden buildings. During the Saxon heptarchy, under succeeding kings, this church flourished exceedingly, and Ehelred and Canute confirmed the charters which solemnly imprecated curses on all those who dared to violate it. Its next benefactor was Edward the Confessor, but at the Norman invasion which followed, some of its revenues were seized by the Conqueror. He was, however, no sooner seated on the throne than he caused full restitution to be made, with benedictions on those who should augment its possessions, and solemn imprecations upon all who should violate any of the charters made in its favour. In that reign, a dreadful conflagration consumed the church a second time, and by this conflagration, which happened in 1086, the greatest part of the city was also laid in ashes; this destruction served to make way for a more magnificent building than had ever been yet applied to the purposes of devotion in this kingdom. Maurice, then bishop of London, having undertaken this great work, obtained of the King the old stones of a spacious castle in the neighbourhood, called the Palatine Tower, situated near the river Fleet, and employed the Craft in its completion with unremitting industry for twenty years. At the expiration of this period he died, and left the completion of the work to his successor, who

followed his example, and even appropriated the whole revenue of his see towards its advancement; but, like his predecessor, he also left it unfinished, and it is supposed to have been completed by some lay persons, but at what time or in what manner, is nowhere mentioned. William Rufus, who succeeded the Conqueror, is said to have exempted all ships entering the river Fleet with stone or other materials for the new Cathedral from toll and custom. But, notwithstanding the length of time and great expense bestowed on this church, it had not been long completed when it was thought not sufficiently magnificent. The steeple was therefore rebuilt, and finished about the year 1221; and Roger Niger being promoted to the see of London in 1229, proceeding with the choir, completed it in 1240, and solemnly consecrated it afresh the same year, in the presence of the King, the Pope's legate, and many lords, both spiritual and temporal.

This spacious and magnificent edifice being thus finished, a survey was taken of it, by which its dimensions appear to have been as follows:— The length of the body of the church was six hundred and ninety feet, the breadth, one hundred and thirty, the height of the roof in the west part, within one hundred and two feet, that of the east, eighty feet, and that of the body, one hundred and fifty; the height of the tower from the ground was two hundred and sixty feet; from whence arose a wooden spire, covered with lead, two hundred and seventy four feet in height; on the top of which was a ball nine feet one inch in circumference. This was crowned with a cross that was fifteen feet high, and the traverse six feet in length.

The ornaments of this Cathedral exceeded those of any other church in the kingdom. The high altar, which stood between two columns, was adorned with precious stones, surrounded with images most beautifully wrought, and covered with a canopy of wood, curiously painted, with the representation of saints and angels. The new shrine of St. Erkenwald stood on the east side of the wall, above the high altar, and was adorned with gold, silver, and precious stones; but not being thought sufficiently rich, in 1339, three goldsmiths of London were retained by the dean and chapter to work upon it for a whole year, at the end of which, its lustre was so great that princes, nobles, ambassadors, and other foreigners of rank, flocked from all parts to visit it, and to offer their oblations before it. Amongst these embellishments were all the rings and jewels of Walter de Thorp, and the best sapphire stone of Richard de Presten; which last was appplied to the curing of infirmities of the eyes, and proclamation of its virtues were made by express will of the donor.

The picture of St. Paul, finely painted, was placed in a wooden tabernacle on the right side of the high altar, and was esteemed a masterly performance. Against a pillar in the body of the church, stood a beautiful image of the Virgin Mary; and John Burnet, Bishop of Bath and Wells, bequeathed a handsome estate, that a lamp might be kept continually burning before it, and an anthem sung every day. In the centre of the church stood a large cross, and towards the north door a crucifix, at

which offerings were made that greatly increased the revenue of the dean and cannons. The last piece of ornament deserving of mention was the fine dial belonging to the great clock, which being visible to all who passed by, care was taken that it should appear with the utmost splendour; and in particular an angel pointed to the hour.

About the year 1109, St. Paul's Cathedral was encompassed with a wall, which extended from the north corner of Ave Mary lane, eastward along Paternoster-row, to the north end of the Old Change in Cheapside; whence it ran southward to Carter-lane, and passing on the north side of it to Creed-lane, turned up to Ludgate-street. To this wall there were six gates; the principal was situated near the end of Creed-lane, in Ludgate-street; the second was at St. Paul's-alley in Paternoster-row; the third at Cannon-alley; the fourth, called the Little Gate, was situated at the entrance into Cheapside; the fifth, called St. Austin's, led to Watling-street; and the sixth fronted the south gate of the church, near Paul's Chain.

In the middle of the church-yard, within the north side of this enclosure, was situated a pulpit-cross, at which sermons were preached weekly; and here was held the folk mote, or general convention of the citizens. Facing this cross, stood a chapel, called the charnel, in which the bones of the dead were decently piled up together. A thousand cart loads of them were removed to Finsbury-fields in the reign of Edward VI., and there laid in a moorish place, with so much earth to cover them as caused a considerable mound, on which was erected three windmills. At the north-west corner of the church-yard was a cemetery, denominated Pardon Church-haw; where Gilbert Becket erected a chapel in the reign of King Stephen. This chapel was rebuilt in the reign of Henry V., by Thomas Moore, Dean of St. Paul's, who also encompassed it with a cloister, on the walls of which was painted the dance of death. In this chapel, were several sepulchral monuments which, according to Stow, exceeded in curious workmanship those in the neighbouring Cathedral. Over the east side of this cloister was a handsome library, founded by Walter Sheyrington, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. On the east side of the church-yard was a clochier, or bell tower, by St. Paul's school, wherein were four great bells, called Jesus-bells, from their belonging to Jesus Chapel, in St. Faith's Church.

Such is a survey of the ancient and venerable structure of St. Paul's in its flourishing state and greatest magnificence, with its appendages. It appears to have been very unfortunate in having its steeple set on fire by lightning, in 1444. This damage was not fully repaired till the year 1462, when the spire was completed, and a beautiful vane of gilt copper in the form of an eagle was placed upon it. About a hundred years after, it suffered by a similar accident. This calamity was repaired to a certain extent by a general subscription of the clergy, nobility, and great officers of the State, to which Queen Elizabeth herself gave a thousand marks in gold, and a warrant for a thousand loads of timber to be cut in any of her woods; but, owing to a difference of opinion with regard to the design of the spire, and the general structure being found to be more damaged

than was at first supposed, it was left in an unfinished state. In the following reign, attempts were made to save it from general decay, and by the assiduity of Archbishop Laud, in the reign of Charles I., sufficient money was collected, and Inigo Jones, his Majesty's surveyor-general, was ordered to begin the repairs at the south-east end, and to carry them on by the south to the west end.

The Deputy Grand Master, Jones, prosecuted the work with such diligence that in nine years time the whole was finished within and without, except the steeple, which was intended to be entirely taken down. A magnificent portico of the Corinthian Order was also erected at the west end, at the sole expense of King Charles I., ornamented with the statues of his royal father and himself. Everything being in readiness for erecting the steeple and spire, which were to be of stone, an estimate was made of the money contributed and that already expended in repairs, whereby it appeared that one hundred and one thousand three hundred and thirty pounds four shillings and eightpence had been received into the chamber of London, on this account, and but thirty-five thousand five hundred and fifty one pounds two shillings and fourpence paid out; so that there appeared to be sufficient funds in hand to erect it in the most magnificent manner.

The flames of civil war now broke out, and put an end to this great design. The revenues were now seized, the famous pulpit cross in the church-yard was pulled down, the scaffolding of the steeple was assigned by parliament for the payment of arrears due to the army, the body of the church was converted into saw-pits, part of the south cross was suffered to tumble down, the west part of the church was converted into a stable, and the new and stately portico into shops for milliners and others, with lodging-rooms over them, in the erecting of which the magnificent columns were piteously mangled by the ends of beams which penetrated nearly to their centres.

At the Restoration, a new commission was procured for its immediate repair, and great sums of money were raised by voluntary contribution, but before anything worthy of notice could be carried into effect, the dreadful fire of London reduced it to little better than a heap of ruins. After two years of fruitless labour in endeavouring to fit up some part of it for the purpose of divine worship, it was finally determined to raze the whole foundation, and to erect a new building, which should equal if not excel the old in the display of wisdom, strength, and beauty.

Contributions came in so exceedingly fast, that in the first ten years above one hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds were paid into the chamber of London; a new duty was laid upon coals for defraying the expenses of the work, which averaged a produce of five thousand pounds per annum, and the King annually contributed one thousand to the fund.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC REMINISCENCES.

By Φωτοφιλος, P.M., L. 50, Dublin.

(*Continued from* p. 318.)

Chapter III.—Reflections on the Influence of Masonry upon Duelling continued—Dr. Paley's Courts of Honour—Their Failure—The Application of the Masonic Principle Suggested as the True Antidote.

"*Oho! Jam satis*, enough of this, from the sublime to the ridiculous, as somebody has said, is but a step, and I think," said our veteran friend, "I have shewn it to be a very short one if I have not blotted out the step of demarcation altogether, and subjected myself to the penalty of him who removes his neighbour's landmark. Come, Tim, mix your liquor, and pass the steam engine; let us drink courage to this hopeful aspirant. If I am any judge of the human face divine, I should say there are about as convenient materials for a shindy in yonder room, as I ever saw in my life."

"You're quite right, father, the elements are there; and it would not require the nice diplomacy of Sir Lucius, to work them into a little practice for a friendly surgeon. Sir H. Davy, with all his knowledge of chemical affinities, could not produce a homogeneous compound from such atoms, that loud voice and defiant tone, give sure earnest of the coming storm; but *n'importe*, we are quietly ensconced in this snuggery, and can enjoy the fun without interfering; I avoid all quarrels, since I joined the Freemasons,—I wish I had done it long before."

Happy would it have been, if Br. W—e had taken Tim's suggestion; poor Tim! who that visited Dublin some twenty years ago could fail to meet the gay, rollicking, handsome, chivalrous Tim; he too, alas! has been summoned to the Grand Lodge above.

The row by this time had become fast and furious, and despite all entreaties, as if impelled by some mysterious influence, poor W—e would go and see what it was all about.

In the room, his evil stars drove him near the table at which sat a Mr. W—ld—n, with whom he was formerly acquainted, and to whom he made some remark relative to the scene before them; that gentleman had the bad taste to reply, "*Sir, I have not the pleasure to know you*," which drew forth a retort, and thus, these simple words, so easily recalled or explained, swelled into a deadly quarrel; a message was sent, and accepted, and though all the arbiters of the day, upon points of honour, (among others, our old and esteemed friend and Brother, I—s J—h I—ss—n, Esq., then a first-rate authority, and now settled down into a quiet County Magistrate), agreed that there was no *casus belli*, yet through some obstinacy or mismanagement, they were allowed to fight.

The meeting took place on the banks of the Portobello canal, and in accordance with a request from the fallen, we rode to the ground, but only in time to receive a waive of his hand, for the next moment the leaden messenger of death was lodged in his brain; and thus fell in the prime

and pride of his manhood, one whose social qualities and gentlemanlike bearing fitted him to hold a high and dignified position among his fellowmen; thus sunk into an unhonoured grave, the victim of a savage code. An affianced bride, was left to mourn the loss of a betrothed bridegroom, for a day or two would have seen him the happy husband of a blooming wife, peace to his ashes! let us hope he received mercy, at the judgment seat; there was no malice in his light and buoyant heart.

This was one of the last fatal cases of duelling in Ireland, for very soon after, Masonry began to spread among those classes with whom the *duello* was most frequent and fashionable, and we have no hesitation in tracing to the spread of those principles, the abatement of a crime at once disgraceful to christianity and civilization.

The philanthropists, moral philosophers, and religionists who have written, spoken and reasoned against the practice of duelling, all admit the difficulty of establishing any system, or creating any tribunal with sanctions sufficiently powerful to supersede the arbitrary laws of honour which certain classes of society feel constrained (and many no doubt reluctantly) to obey. The law of the land is still so far from perfect, that frequently it is insufficient effectually to reach certain cases of offence, "certain wrongs without a remedy," which are more deeply injurious and more keenly hurtful to sensitive minds than more open and flagrant breaches of the law.

To meet instances of this nature, no doubt, this fashionable code was first instituted, though it savours strongly and would almost seem to be a remnant of that obsolete barbarism which we will not dignify by the name of law, known in the old books as "the trial by Wager of Battle," where the rights of parties was decided in deadly conflict, by which the clearest title to a disputed estate or to the contested hand of some queen of beauty was demonstrated by killing an adversary in single combat, and presenting to the Lords Justices the severed head, by whom it was received as the unerring proof, the unfailing evidence of the survivor's claim both in law and equity.

In the eyes of the present generation these things seem so wicked and absurd, as to be almost incredible, yet in the *enlightened* days of our forefathers, in the vaunted days of chivalry, such hideous deeds have been done under the sanction and authority of British law.

"The trial by Wager of Battle" has disappeared before the common sense and civilization of an improved age, but its prototype still remains; though "scotched not killed."

Dr. Paley in his moral philosophy speaking of duelling says—"public opinion is not easily controlled by civil institutions, for which reason I question whether any regulations can be contrived of sufficient force to suppress or change the rule of honour which stigmatizes all scruples about duelling, with the reproach of cowardice.

"The insufficiency of the redress which the law of the land affords for those injuries which chiefly affect a man in his sensibility and reputation, tempts many to redress themselves."

This learned divine and philosopher, as well as others who have written

on the same subject, recommend the establishment of "COURTS OF HONOUR," with power to award those submissions and acknowledgements which it is generally the purpose of a challenge to obtain.

We can remember that not a great many years since, an attempt was made to establish such tribunals, and the most eminent men of the day both civil and military lent the sanction of their names to carry them into practical operation; but, unfortunately, the highest members of the court were sometimes found to be the first to violate its rules, and thus demonstrate its inefficiency. Even the iron Duke himself, the hero of Waterloo, whose well-won fame could triumphantly laugh to scorn the imputation of cowardice, was unable to resist the fashionable vice, and was weak enough to submit to its despotic influence by going out in his old age, and in the full blaze of his military renown, with the Earl of Winchelsea.

Thus these refined courts of honour, as well as the ordinary courts of law, have been insufficient to remedy this great social evil; indeed, all the efforts of philanthropists have hitherto signally failed, and we are firmly impressed with the conviction that the true and radical cure will be found in the application of the Masonic principle, by the extension of Freemasonry.

Within the small sphere of our own experience we have known several quarrels adjusted, and, in all probability homicide prevented, by the interference of brothers, and an appeal to the fraternal bond. NIL PROSUNT LEGES SINE MORIBUS. Let Masonry become universal, let the mystic tie bind man and man together "from Indus to the Pole," then may the philanthropic anti-duellist exclaim, EUREKA.

Each Lodge would become a true court of honour, an *Areopagus* where justice would be sought with confidence, each Master an *Aristides*, from whose decisions there need be no appeal; the most sensitive would be satisfied, for he should feel his honour was in the guardianship of a brother and a friend, and if Freemasonry effected no greater benefit than abolishing this unsocial, and unchristian practice, it would deserve the support and countenance of the great and good of every land where the divine principles of peace, love, and charity, are cultivated.

The suggestions in this short episode on duelling have been forced upon us by the recollection of many a foolish quarrel, *et quorum pars* PARVA *fuimas*, in which it was frequently our lot to be called upon to act as arbitrator; we generally found little difficulty in arranging differences between Masons, and men who were utterly regardless of the penalties of the law of the land and upon whom an appeal to a higher law had little effect, often yielded a willing and gentle obedience to the laws of Masonry.

It naturally occurred to us that the extension of the fraternal tie would prove to be that *panacea* which benevolent ethical doctors had been so long perplexing their ingenuities to discover, and as it is not our object in these gleanings of memory to dive into the dread obscure of the misty past for the purpose of tracing out and bringing to the light the ancient traditions of our Order (this archaiological inquiry we leave to other and abler hands), but rather in a simple spirit of utilitarianism to point out its aptitude as a remedy to a particular evil, as well as its practical usefulness and social influence generally in the transactions of this work-

day world in which we live, we felt it our duty to place those considerations before our readers, and with their leave shall now pass on to our initiation.

Chapter IV.—The Initiation Scenes continued—The Soldier-Masons in the Crimea—A Short Tribute to the Memory of Fallen Brothers, &c.

With mingled sensations of hope and pride, but with feelings somewhat overcast by the recollection of the sad event of the morning, we approached the scene of our long-sought, long-wished-for ordeal.

On our way we took the precaution of paying a visit to "Fatty Karney," the gentle minister to the wants of gentlemen fond of late suppers and early hours, and the benevolent inventor of an agreeable and then well known compound called a "Doctor," an unfailing cure for aching heads, and delicate stomachs. After fortifying our inner man with one of this lady's renovating prescriptions, we wended our way to the Masonic Hall, where, while awaiting the arrival of our proposer and seconder, we had to endure a shower of jokes from a number of quizzical friends who generally congregated on such occasions in the public room.

Many and wondrous were the tales of horror told of the awful cruelties inflicted on aspirants to the Masonic secret. One old quiz seriously recommended us to make our will, as he had been well acquainted with a young gentleman who had been once traced to a Masonic Lodge for the same purpose as, he presumed, accounted for our presence that evening, and was never heard of afterwards; another joker hoped in consideration of his great regard for us we should leave him a small momento in the shape of our black cob, "Just up to his weight, and which he would take the most tender care of through respect for the memory of the donor;" a third hoped we had the good sense to look in at the medical hall, and provide ourselves with certain lenitive medicaments which, with the gravest face possible, he assured us we should find most useful; after some mysterious operation hinted at, we were also treated to a detail of the sufferings endured by Mr. Phil Simpson, on his initiation and admission into the Hoaxtown Lodge, contrary to the advice and warning of his wife.

This ridiculous tale of Mr. Simpson placed to the credit of Freemasonry which in a future paper we shall give our readers in all its unembellished racings, had its origin in one of those practical jokes which, in Yankee and would have won laurels for the perpetrators, and been hailed as a treasure by "Old Barnum," in whose recently published biography, an attempt is made to perpetuate a greater number of dull jokes than we ever had the evil fortune to see condensed within one small volume.

Our friends having now arrived, and to our great joy rescued us from the arrows of these merciless quizzes, we were soon ushered into another scene, and while dropping a veil over that which "none but Craftsman ever saw," we will only assure our readers, that unscared by the threatened horrors of our joking friends, and unawed even by the terrors of the

"actual cautery," we passed through the sublime ceremony scatheless, and unharmed, and that the lofty grandeur, the moral beauty of that order of peace and love so impressively explained to us on that and subsequent occasions sank deep into our hearts, and proved a guide and a comfort to us through life in many a scene of trial and difficulty.

All by which we were surrounded on that occasion, every object that met the eye, every sound that fell upon the ear, seemed to affect us with an unusual solemnity.

No anthem ever led our senses captive with such touching tenderness as the sweet peals of that organ, which in bursts of swelling melody intoned our inauguration. The voice of the Chaplain seemed more in heavenly accord with the divine words he uttered, the language of prayer, grand in its simplicity, seemed to us a homage more suitable to the GOD OF ALL than any we had ever heard before.

The whole *coup d'œil* was more gorgeous and dazzling than we could have thought it possible to compress within so narrow a compass. It was a living picture of all that was bright and beautiful, and to make it truly perfect but required the presence of those beings, whose countenance sheds a grace, and holiness where 'er they move, and whose brighter eyes would have claimed and won divided empire with the brilliancy of the gold and diamonds which glittered around.

Men eminent in art, science, and literature, in music, poesy, wit, and song, formed the chief constituents of that brilliant assembly. Every branch of the naval and military services was there represented in its varied and brilliant costume, and many a gallant brother whose heart throbbed proud and high at Lodge 50 that night, now lies still and cold in his cheerless but glorious grave in the far off land of the tyrant foe.

The incarnated fields of Alma, Balaklava, and Inkerman, can bear sad and sanguinary testimony how freely the *Soldier-Mason* can pour out his heart's last "ruddy drop," for the honour of the crown, the glory of his country, and the liberty of the world.

May the MANES of the fallen brave be soon appeased by the demolition of the despot's stronghold in the stormy Euxine, may no foot of serf or tyrant desecrate the turf that covers their mouldering forms, and when a column shall arise inscribed with the imperishable record of the glorious deeds of the heroes of two mighty nations who went forth in their might to do battle, and win freedom for the weak, and shall stand forth to the admiring chivalry of future ages.

"Alight a land-mark, on the cliffs of fame!"

Let it also, while perpetuating the martial deeds of the once rival empires, consecrate the peaceful union of the rose of England with the fair lily of France.

And if any turbulent spirit in either land shall hereafter attempt to sever the fraternal tie cemented with the blood of heroes, the *patriot will* need no other *talisman* to wither the miscreant into shame, and silence than the glorious *spell-word Inkerman.*

To this holy alliance we would say, with the good and wise of both empires, ESTO PERPETUA.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The annual meeting of this Institution for aged Freemasons and their widows, was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on the 18th of May, Br. Ed. H. Patten, P.G.S.B. in the Chair.

Br. Wm. Farnfield, the Secretary read the Report, which stated that the Committee regretted it was not in their power to recommend the election of more than two male pensioners, though four had died since the last annual meeting, as a reference to the balance sheet would show, that the amount of annual subscriptions and donations had decreased as compared with those of the two or three previous years. It must, however, be borne in mind, that since the establishment of the Widows' Fund, many persons who approved of the establishment had used their influence in aid of that instead of the male fund, so, that although the subscriptions had not diminished in the aggregate, they had become divided between the two charities. It must also be borne in mind, that since the amalgamation of the Asylum with the Annuity fund, an expense of about £30 per annum has been caused for maintenance and management, equal to the charge of one Annuitant, but the advantage and accomodation to those who could avail themselves of a residence in the Asylum, was greatly enhanced by giving them a comfortable abode. Of the Annuitants at the period of the election in May, 1854, thirty-nine were subscribers to country Lodges, receiving £803, per annum, and thirteen to London Lodges, receiving £270 per annum. The Committee had the greatest pleasure in referring to the fact, that the Grand Lodge of England had increased the grant to the Widows' fund to £200 per annum, thus enabling the Committee to recommend the election of four Annuitants, and increasing the number to seventeen. Since the last annual meeting, the building Committee had delivered the Asylum at Croydon, into the hands of the general Committee in a substantial condition, leaving a debt upon it of £291 12*s.* 6*d.*, which with the cost of improved drainage of about £70, left a debt upon the Asylum of £362, which had to be paid. The kind way in which the Craft had responded to the special appeal for money to complete it, justified the Committee in entertaining the hope, that in a short time they would be able to discharge the amount of debt. In conclusion, the Committee had only to express a hope that the brethren would not relax in their exertions to maintain this valuable Institution in their various branches.

The balance sheet showed on the male Annuity account, that the balance in hand on the 31st March, 1854, was £375 13*s.*, the donation from G. Lodge, was £600, do. G. Chapter £100; donations from Lodges, Chapters, and individuals £99 6*s.*; Annual subscriptions £618 3*s.*; dividends on stock £249 9*s.* 8*d.*, making a total of £1833 11*s.* Of this amount there had been expended (including payments to the Annuitants of £1016, and £460 12*s.* 6*d.*, paid for the purchase of £500 (3 per cent stock), £1721 6*s.* 6*d.*, leaving a balance in hand of £112 5*s.* 2*d.*

On the Widows' fund the balance to the 31st March 1854, was £357 2*s.* 10*d.*; and there had been since received, donation from G. Lodge, £100; do. G. Chapter £35; do. from Lodges, Chapters and individuals, £115 7*s.*; Annual subscriptions £98 3*s.* 6*d*; dividends on stock, £30 18*s.* 3*d.*, making a total of £736 11*s.* 7*d.* Of this amount there had been expended (including £225 paid to annuitants, and £368 10*s.* in the purchase of £400 stock) £648 11*s.* 11*d.*, leaving a balance to the credit of the fund of £87 19*s.* 8*d.*

On the building fund the balance in hand on the 31st March 1854, was £71 12*s.*; and there had been since received £230 17*s.* 6*d.*, together £301 19*s.* 11*d.*; and there had been disbursed £195 13*s.* 5d, leaving the balance in hand £106 6*s.* 6*d.*

Since the Audit, £173 had been received on account of the building fund, and now stood in the names of the trustees.

The amount of stock now standing to the Credit of the Institution, was as follows:—Male Annuity Fund, £8116 1*s.* 9*d.*; Widows' Annuity, £1195 3*s.* 2*d.*; Building Installation Fund £567 7*s.* 9*d.*

The Report having been adopted, the Committee for the ensuing year appointed, and other formal business gone through,

Br. White gave notice that at the next General Meeting he should move, that from and after the election of 1856, Rule 45 of the Male Annuity, and 31 of Widow's Fund, bye-laws should be expunged. The rule alluded to is as follows:—"The total number of votes announced at the last or two last preceding elections, as polled on behalf of an unsuccessful Candidate, shall be carried forward to the credit of such Candidate at the succeeding election."

The election was then proceeded with, and the following were declared the successful Candidates.

John Commins - - - -	5647	Mary Pearson - - - -	882
Jonas Jowett - - - -	5349	Sarah Leamar (London) -	868
Ann Clark (London) - -	1430	Elizabeth Westoby - -	592

Mrs. Elizabeth Bird of London polled 795 votes, but as article 33 of the bye-laws declares that only half the Annuitants elected shall be the widows of Brs. from Lodges in London, she could not be declared elected, notwithstanding the large majority she possessed over Mrs. Westoby.

Votes of thanks to the Chairman and Scrutineers closed the proceedings.

ROYAL FREEMASON'S GIRLS' SCHOOL.

The annual festival of this most excellent charity was celebrated at the Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday last, the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M., presiding, supported by the M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland; Br. B. B. Cabbell, P.G.M. for Norfolk; Br. Giraud, P.G.W.; Br. Tomkins, G.J.D.; Br. John Hervey, P.G.D.; Br. Spiers, P.G.S.B.; and about 300 other members of the Craft, whilst the gallery was filled by ladies.

The cloth having been removed,

The R.W.D.G.M. said he had to propose a toast which he was sure would be received with the greatest enthusiasm, more especially amongst Freemasons. He would therefore give them "The Queen"—God bless her—(Cheers).

The R.W.D.G.M. had now to propose to their acceptance "The health of H.R.H. Prince Albert, Albert, Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal family." He was sure they all highly respected H.R.H. Prince Albert, who from his first arrival in this country had shown himself anxious to promote the welfare and happiness of the people. Nor could they forget H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, who had just returned from the Crimea, where he had distinguished himself by his gallantry and soldierly bearing—(Cheers).

The R.W.D.G.M. said he had now to propose a toast not usually given at Freemason's Assemblies, but he was sure, at a time when the army and navy were engaged in the service of their country, that he should not be considered out of order in giving the toast—(Hear, hear). Neither, he was sure, would they forget their gallant allies. He therefore proposed to them to drink to "The combined Army and Navy of England and France"—(Cheers).

The D.G.M. had next to give them a toast which he was sure they would all most heartily respond to, as he knew how anxious they were at all times to show their feelings of respect to the M.W.G.M—(Cheers). He might be allowed to say that it gave him great satisfaction to be supported by his noble friend and brother that evening; for at the time when the dinner was fixed, the health of the noble Earl was such that his medical attendants advised him not to attend meetings of this festive nature. Therefore it was that he (the Earl of Yarborough), as D.G. Master, had consented to preside; but as the M.W.G.M. was now present, he would request him to give the toast of the evening. He begged to propose to them the health of the M.W.G.M., and might he long be spared to preside over the Order, and receive continued marks of their confidence—(Cheers).

The M.W.G.M. rose amidst loud cheers, which lasted some time, and said he most

cordially thanked them for the handsome manner in which the brethren had drunk his health, which had been so kindly proposed by their worthy D.G.M. On all occasions he had great pleasure in meeting the brethren, from whom he had received so many marks of kindness. As his noble friend had told them at the time when the dinner was fixed, he was interdicted by his medical attendants from attending public meetings, and he had therefore requested the noble D.G.M. to take the chair, which he had kindly consented to do. At the same time, finding his health sufficiently restored, he could not refrain from attending the meeting, and supporting the D.G.M. who he rejoiced to see in the chair—(Cheers). His noble brother had asked him to propose the toast of "Prosperity to the Royal Freemasons' School for Female Children." He had great pleasure in doing so, and in briefly adverting to the history of that School. It was established in 1778, through the exertions of Chevalier Ruspini, a dentist in London of great repute. Such, however, was the uncertainty of events, that although Chevalier Ruspini had a large practice, and was considered "well to do in the world," he failed to make a provision for his family, and two of his granddaughters were educated by the bounty of the brethren in the School which he had been instrumental in establishing. Since the foundation of the School, upwards of 600 girls had received the benefits of education within its walls, and he was proud to say that not one of them had been known to misconduct herself in after life.—(Cheers). He considered that fact reflected great credit on the schoolmistress (whose loss they had lately to lament) who had presided over the School for a period of fifty-four years. There were now sixty-six girls in the School, but that number would shortly be reduced, by two who were about to leave—one of whom would that day receive the medal of the School.—(Cheers). A few days ago he went down to the School, and he was much struck with the difference in the appearance of the children to what it used to be, when they were in the Westminster Road. They were now very healthily located, the children presented a very healthy and robust appearance, and it was worthy of remark that throughout the past severe winter there had not been a cold, a cough, or a chilblain in the School.—(Cheers). He went down to the School perfectly unexpected, but he found everything in the most perfect order—and if any of the brethren or ladies present would do as he had done, visit the School, they could not fail to be struck by the healthy appearance of the children and the order and regularity which prevailed throughout the establishment. The establishment, however, could not be supported without a large expenditure, and though the donations and subscriptions last year were unusually large, they were, he was sorry to say, exhausted—though many of the expenses would not again occur. He had now great pleasure in asking them to drink "Success to the Royal Freemasons' School for Female Children."—(Cheers).

The Children were here introduced into the room, and presented a most healthy and cheerful appearance, but we certainly should like to see the R.F.S. charity badge removed from their arm, as it ought never have been allowed to be worn.

The children having sung an appropriate hymn,

The D.G.M. addressed them in most feeling terms, and begged them to bear in mind that if they continued to walk in the path of rectitude they would never be forgotten by the brethren in after life, and if they needed any assistance or advice, they had only to apply to the Secretary of the School or himself to receive it. He also presented the medal to Matilda Clubb, who is about to leave the School, and a number of prizes for reading, writing, domestic duties, &c., &c.—the prizes, which are the gift of Br. Wm. Smith, of St. Martin's-lane, consisting of elegantly bound books. The noble Earl then, in his own name and that of the brethren, thanked Miss Jarwood, the matron, and Miss Souter, the schoolmistress, for the care and attention which they had paid to the welfare and comfort of the children entrusted to their care.

The children, having sung "Good Night," retired.

Br. R. H. Giraud, P.G.M., said he rose with the greatest of pleasure to propose to them the health of the D.G.M.—(Cheers.) They knew his lordship to be a most earnest supporter of the School—they had seen how well he had discharged the duties of the chair that evening—and heard the kind words of encouragement he had

addressed to the children.—(Cheers.) The toast was "The Health of the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough," and thanks to him for his kindness in presiding that evening.—(Cheers.)

The D.G.M. begged leave to return them his sincere thanks, not only for the cordial reception just given to the toast so handsomely proposed to his health, but also for the support they had given him on that occasion. He trusted they were all highly gratified with the pleasing sight they had just witnessed, and that the ladies present had found no reason for disappointment in the appearance of the children, but that they would be able cordially to recommend it to the support of their relatives and friends. He had had great pleasure in presiding that day, though he believed had they found some other brother to preside for the first time, it might have been more advantageous to the institution.—(Cheers, and cries of "No.") He had presided at the festival before, and he was always anxious to aid the school when in his power. He was anxious to see the school flourish, because he believed it did a great deal of good, not only by the education it afforded, but by encouraging others to support that and similar institutions. Allow him to remark that an error appeared to have got abroad in the country, that the children for the greater part belonged to the metropolis. Now that was not so, as the larger portion of the children came from the provinces—for although nine-tenths of the funds were subscribed by the metropolitan Lodges, nothing like partiality was shown towards them.—(Hear, hear). He hoped they would not think he had been wrong in the earlier part of the evening, in recommending the children, after they had found them situations, if they had anything to complain of, to write to himself or the Secretary, because he felt the importance, after they were educated, they should have some person to whom they could apply for advice, as it was only by that means the high character of the school could be maintained. The M.W.G.M. had alluded to the expenses. Now, he had looked over the balance-sheet, and, seeing some unusual items which would not again occur, he had doubled his usual subscription—(cheers)—and he trusted other brethren might be induced to increase theirs.—(Cheers.) At the same time he felt their funds were well applied, and properly looked after, and the school could not be kept in efficiency without the aid of brethren who gave their time in looking after it. He therefore begged to propose the health of Br. B. B. Cabbell, and the House Committee.—(Cheers.)

Br. CABBELL acknowledged the compliment, and expressed the deep interest he at all times took in the prosperity of the school.—(Cheers.)

The health of the medical officers; Prosperity to the other Masonic charities. The Stewards, The Ladies, &c., was then drunk, and the R.W.D.G.M. left the chair shortly before eleven o'clock, when a portion of the company retired to the glee room.

The subscriptions of the evening amounted to £1,407 13*s.* 6*d.*, including £25. from the R.W.D.G.M.; £10 10*s.* from the G.M.; £10 10*s.* from each of the Stewards; £2 2*s.* from the "Masonic Mirror," &c., &c.

The following were the lists as returned from the Stewards, as nearly as we could collect them:—

Bro. William Pulteney Scott, Grand Steward, 1855, S.W. 2, *President*		£	20	5 0
,, (The W.) Pro. D. Gooch, Prov. G.M Wiltshire, P.M. 463, S.D. 167, *Vice President*			177	8 0
,, Alexander James Duff Filer, P.M. 30, *Treasurer*			40	9 0
,, The Hon. W. E. Vernon, J.W. 460, *Honorary Secretary*			23	2 0
,, Harris, A. S. D	S.W.		1	87 3 0
,, Shackleton, S.C., P.M. 340	S.W.		3	31 7 0
,, Joseph, J. A., Jun.	S.D.		4	30 8 0
,, Smedley, J.	S.W.		5	62 19 0
,, Wood, Western, Jun.			6	42 0 0
,, Baxter, E.	J.D.		8	22 1 0
,, Burton, J.	W.M.		9	18 18 0
,, Spooner, I. W.	W.M.		11	53 11 0
,, Lee, H. J.	S.W.		14	28 7 0
,, Beveridge, J. E.	P.M.		21	39 18 0
,, Adams, J. W.			23	17 17 0
,, England, G., P. Prov. S.G.W. Surrey	W.M.		57	48 6 0

„ Morris, J.	P.M.	66	£39	18	0
„ Vile, G.	W.M.	87	25	4	0
„ Grosjean, E	S.W.	108	23	12	0
„ Slight, F.	J.D.	109	40	10	6
„ De Bruyn, C.	S.W.	116	143	5	0
„ Von der Heyde, I. J.	I.G.	225	25	3	0
„ Watson, J.	J.W.	229	50	8	0
„ Saunders, G. H.	J.W.	233	81	18	0
„ Haggar, D. B., P.P.G.W., Herts, P.M. 578	W.M.	269	28	2	0
„ Warner, A.	W.M.	286	26	5	0
„ Measor, J.	...	318	55	9	0
„ Crotch, Rev. W. R.	W.M.	327	21	0	0
„ Atty, G.	..	324	50	8	0
„ Samuel, Ho. S.	I.G.	778	25	4	0

The dinner was very excellently served, and the approaches to the hall, as well as the hall itself, being carpeted and decorated with flowers and evergreens, it had a very cheerful and handsome appearance.

The musical arrangements were conducted by Br. Geo. Genge, who was assisted by Miss Birch, Miss E. Birch, Miss M. Wells, Miss J. Wells, Brs. Geo. Porren Smythson, Farquharson, &c. The music was very well performed, and the ladies of the party, the more especially Miss M. Wells, received numerous encores.

Br. Crawley officiated as toastmaster.

LONDON LODGES.

Grand Master's Lodge (No. 1).—The closing meeting of the season of this excellent Lodge was held on the 21st May, under the able presidency of the W.M. Br. G.W.K. Potter, but the business was principally of a formal character. The brethren, to the number of 35, afterwards dined together—the visitors being Br. Winsor, P.M., 76; Br. Webber, P.M., 202; Br. Payne and Br. Lea. The evening's amusements were enlivened by the singing of Brs. Donald King, Lawler, and Jolley.

Lodge of Antiquity (No. 2).—This venerable Lodge, a relic of ancient Masonry, held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday, May 23rd. The brethren, who were all Grand Officers, spent the evening in the greatest harmony, assisted by the talented exertions of Brs. Jolley, King, and Lawler.

British Lodge (No. 8).—This distinguished Lodge held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern on Monday, May 21st. The W.M. Br. Massey Dawson delivered a lecture "On the Antiquity of Masonry, as illustrated by recent discoveries amongst ancient works of art." The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to partake of an elegant banquet. After proposing the health of "the Queen," and also of "the M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland," which was heartily responded to, the W.M. proposed the health of "the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers," and in doing so expressed the great satisfaction with which the toast was always received in the British Lodge, but more particularly on the present occasion, when it was honoured by the presence of two brethren so distinguished for learning and ability, and also for their high position in Masonry, as Br. Preston Cooper, P.G.M. of Kent, and Br. Dr. Bowles, P.G.M. of Herefordshire. Br. Bowles, in returning thanks for the Grand Officers, observed that to those who felt that praise was undeserved, the words of praise conveyed rebuke. He trusted that such was not the case in the present instance, though he felt that much must be set down, *cum grano salis*, to the eloquence of such a practised speaker as the W.M. Unfortunately his attendance had not been sufficiently early to hear the whole of the lecture, but he had heard sufficient of Nineveh and Memphis, as connected with ancient Masonry, to make him regret not being in time to hear the former part. In conclusion, he thanked the brethren for the high compliments paid to the Grand Officers, though he felt that much that had been said regarding them was to be attributed to the imagination of the W.M. and his kindness of heart. The W.M. then said that it was always a peculiar pleasure to the British Lodge to propose the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent, it having had the honour of being connected for a number of years with its most distin-

guished members, amongst whom were Br. Bisgood and Br. Gill, and he felt still greater pleasure on the present occasion in coupling it with the Provincial Grand Lodge of Herefordshire, he having the honour of a visit from Br. Bowles, P.G.M., and also Br. Westmacott, D.P.G.M. He trusted that from what they had seen of the Lodge they would be induced to pay it another visit. Br. Westmacott, in acknowledging the toast, expressed his thanks for the kind and hospitable manner in which he had been received, and assured the brethren that he should feel the greatest delight in receiving a visit from them in Herefordshire, and returning the kind welcome he had received. Br. Cooper then proposed the health of the W.M., and expressed himself much amused by the manner in which he had discussed Masonry in its most ancient forms. He (Br. Cooper) had always held in high estimation the present system of Masonry, as he considered it did a vast amount of good in the way of charity, and on the principle laid down by their late G.M. the Duke of Sussex, constituted an universal club, extending liberality and good-fellowship all over the world. In conclusion, he thanked the W.M. for the able manner in which he had discharged his duties during his past and present year of office. The W.M. thanked the brethren for the compliment paid him, and observed that, with regard to his lecture, if he had been able to display either wit or learning to a sufficient extent to afford instruction and amusement, he was sufficiently repaid for his exertions. He then proposed the health of the P.Ms., and thanked them for their numerous attendance, distinguished as they were for their standing in the world, their position in Masonry, and also for their readiness at all times to render their assistance to the Officers of the Lodge when called upon. Br. Bisgood, in acknowledging the toast, admitted that the P.Ms. were ever ready to render their assistance to the Lodge on all occasions when necessary, but he felt great satisfaction in the conviction that, under its present government, their exertions were not required. The W.M. then called upon the brethren to drink the health of the Treasurer, Br. Nokes, and the Secretary, Br. Robinson, and to thank them for the able manner in which they discharged the duties of their respective offices, the more particularly the Treasurer, Br. Nokes, who had held the office for upwards of twenty-seven years. Br. Nokes thanked the Lodge on behalf of himself and Br. Robinson, for drinking their healths, and assured the brethren that he could not picture to himself a greater calamity than feeling he had lost the esteem of his fellows in Masonry. The W.M. then called the attention of the Lodge to that which was always considered in the British, the toast of the evening, "The Visitors," more especially on the present occasion, when honoured with the presence of so many distinguished members of the Order, two of whom from their position had been already noticed, but there was another present whom they were equally happy to see, namely, Br. Cornwall, P.M., 802, and he hoped to have the pleasure of meeting all the visitors for many years to come. Br. Cornwall expressed his regret in not being able to receive the Brethren in his Province with the same Masonic splendour displayed that evening, owing to the want of a P.G.M., that office having been vacant since the death of the late lamented Duke of Beaufort. It had not yet pleased the M.W.G.M. to appoint a successor, and he earnestly solicited the brethren who might have interest with the M.W.G.M. to suggest the propriety of such an appointment being made, as the brethren in his Province were both numerous and influential, and true Masonic hospitality existed amongst them in its fullest sense. After drinking the health of the Officers, for which the J.W., as *locum tenens* for the S.W., returned thanks, the brethren separated in perfect harmony.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 8th May, when three Gentlemen were duly initiated into the Order—a fourth Candidate being prevented attending in consequence of meeting with an accident. The brethren next took into consideration the subject of a summer excursion, and it was resolved that the members of the Lodge should dine at Br. Parry's, Willesden Green, on Tuesday, 17th July. It was also resolved that a Lodge of Emergency should be held at the Freemason's Tavern at half-past 11 on the morning of the same day to pass the newly initiated brethren, and initiate the gentleman who had been prevented attending that night. The brethren afterwards adjourned to refreshment, and spent a pleasant evening. Br. C. R. Harrison, W.M., No. 202, and other visitors, were present.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—An "emergency" meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 16th, for the purpose of receiving and considering a report from the Committee of P.M. and Officers, with reference to the approaching Centenary, and the best mode of celebrating so interesting an occasion. The report recommended that a banquet be held at the Brunswick, Blackwall; and also, proposed that the M.W.G.M. be memorialized for his sanction to a jewel commemorative of the event, which all present members of the Lodge will have the privllege of wearing. The report was unanimously adopted, and a Committe appointed to carry its recommendations into effect.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE AND OLD CUMBERLAND (No. 12).—This Lodge held its last meeting for the season on Monday, May 14, when two brothers were passed, and one raised to their respective degrees, by Br. J. Marriott, P.M. At the conclusion of the business the brethren adjourned to dinner, which was presided over by the W.M. Br. Louis Meunier. The visitors present were, Brs. Rowland (No. 328), and W. R. Inglis (No. 231, *Scottish Constitution*). The brethren spent a very pleasant evening, to the enjoyment of which the S.W., Br. Donald King, materially contributed by his excellent singing.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—The members of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern on Thursday, May 17th. The W.M., with the assistance of his Officers, raised two brethren to the Third Degree, passed one to the Second Degree, and initiated a gentleman into the mysteries of Masonry, in that able manner for which this Lodge is distinguished. The brethren then voted two guineas to the widow of their late Tyler, Br. Dalton, and arranged their summer banquet for the 4th of July.

ROBERT BURNS' LODGE (No. 25).—This Lodge met for the last time this season on Monday last, the brethren mustering to the number of about thirty, an unusually small meet for this numerous Lodge. Br. Goring, P.M. (who filled the chair in the absence of the W.M., Br. Dyte), initiated a gentleman into the Order, and raised two brethren to the Third Degree. At the close of the Masonic business the brethren adjourned to refreshment. The visitors were Brs. J. Burton, W.M. (No. 9), F. Bincks, S.W. (11), C. J. Waterhouse (276), and Kemmish (745). In the course of the evening 10*l.* was voted out of the Lodge Benevolent Fund in aid of an old P.M. of the Lodge, whom the force of circumstances compelled to make the appeal.

OLD KING'S ARMS LODGE (No. 30).—The April meeting of this Lodge was held on the last Monday, when the W.M. Br. Ed. Warwick passed a Br. to the second degree a most able manner. Br. P.M. Filer, Sec. and P.M. of the Lodge, presented to the W.M., in the name of the brethren, a vote of thanks for his liberal feelings and general attention to the interests of the Lodge, most beautifully written, framed, and glazed. The W.M. returned his sincere thanks for the honour conferred upon him, and concluded by saying, that he hoped all the brethren would support Br. Filer in his office of steward of the Girls' School Festival. The brethren at the conclusion of the business adjourned to a very elegant banquet, and after spending a very happy evening, the brethren seperated at an early hour. We omitted to mention in our last notice of the Lodge, that the brethren had voted £5 in aid of the funds of the Royal Freemasons' Asylum.

BRITANNIC LODGE (No. 38).—This Lodge, after lying for some time dormant, only three members continuing to belong to it, and no meeting having been held for nearly four years, has been taken up by the railway interest, and promises to become in a very short time one of the strongest in the Order. The first meeting under the new *regime* was held at the Thatched House Tavern, on the 10th of April, when about 20 joining members having been elected, the Lodge proceeded to elect a Master, Br. Gooch, D.G.M. for Wiltshire, being selected for the office. Br. Lewis Crombie was elected Treasurer, and Br. Hensley, one of the old members, continues as Secretary. The second meeting was held on the 11th May, when Br. J. A. D. Cox, P.M., who has during the past four years held the warrant of the Lodge, proceeded to instal Br. Gooch as W.M. for the ensuing year; but Br. Gooch having been more than once previously installed, the ceremony was very much curtailed of its fair proportions. Br. J. Freeman, 233, C. R. Mansell, 70, and George Furness, 70, having been elected joining members, the new W.M. initiated into the Order the

following five candidates, all of whom are gentlemen well known in the railway world;—Ed. Watkin, R. G. Underdown, Geo. Hawkins, J. Chester Craven, and A. E. Williams. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren, to the number of 30, adjourned to dinner. Amongst the visitors, we observed Brs. Owen, P.G. Chaplain of Surrey; John Hervey, P.S.G.D.; John Ross, P.M., 696; and P.G.O. Warwick; W. Bragge, 857; A. P. French, &c., &c. After spending a very pleasant evening, the brethren adjourned until August.

Gihon Lodge (No. 57).—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the Bridge House Hotel, May 17, the W.M., Br. Geo. England presiding, when there were three raisings and passings, and an initiation—the whole of the ceremonies being extremely well performed. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren partook of a cold collation, and separated at an early hour.

Constitutional Lodge (No. 63).—This Lodge met at the Exeter Hall Hotel, on Thursday, May 24th. One Brother was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and one passed to the degree of Fellowcraft.

Lodge of Prosperity (No. 78)—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at Br. Stanton's, the Earl of Durham, Murray Street, New North Road, Islington, on Friday, 18th ult., when the W.M. Br. Thos. Weeks, who initiated a gentleman into the mysteries of Freemasonry, in a very efficient manner. In the course of the evening Br. Saque, with the assistance of the brethren, worked the lecture in the first degree. The business of the Lodge being concluded, it was closed in due form, and the brethren about 30 in number, adjourned to the banquet, which was well furnished by Br. Stanton, the worthy host. The usual toasts having been duly honoured, Br. Richd. Barnes, P.M., proposed the health of the W.M., adverting in eulogistic terms on the very able and efficient manner, in which the duties of the Lodge, had been worked by so young a member of the Craft. The W.M. in reply assured the brethren that his utmost endeavours would be used to ensure the well working, as well as the unanimity of the Lodge. The W.M. then proposed the health of the newly initiated Br., who replied in suitable terms, in which he expressed his admiration of the principles of the Order, and tendered his sincere acknowledgments for his admission among Masons that evening. The W.M. then proposed the health of the visiting brethren; Brs. Wilson, No. 218; Rev. D. Shaboa, Chaplain, No. 812; Isaacs, S.W. No. 247; W. Edwards, W.M. No. 218; R. E. Barnes, P.M. No. 15; who severally returned thanks. The health of the P.M.'s was next proposed, to which Br. Lehmann, P.M. replied in a very pleasing and energetic manner, expressive of his delight at seeing so many old faces around the board. He thanked the members generally for the liberality of sentiment at all times evinced towards him by the Lodge. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Officers of the Lodge. In reply, Br. Saque, as S.W. pro. tem. in the absence of Br. Goodwin, S.W., adverted to the principles of the Order, and the beneficial results arising from the working of the lectures, and expressed his willingness to render them any assistance in his power. He also alluded to the able manner in which he had been assisted in working that evening, by his worthy Br. Isaacs. Br. Barnes, Senr., in rising to propose the next toast, claimed the attention of the brethren, as he felt assured it would meet with the unanimous and cordial feeling of every member present. He alluded to the health of their highly esteemed, and much respected Treasurer, Br. Day, whose zeal for the Craft, and interest for this Lodge in particular, had been the sole means of raising it from the low ebb to which it had been fallen, to its present proud and high position, not only by the increase in numbers and the respectability of its members, but for the many and valuable services rendered to the various Masonic Charities. Such, observed Br. Barnes, had been the conduct pursued by Br. Day, since his introduction amongst them, that he felt assured such marked conduct merited the entire approbation of the Lodge, and that the feelings of the members would accord with his in tendering to Br. Day, that meed of praise, which his truly Masonic actions so richly deserved. Br. Day, in returning thanks, assured the brethren he felt highly gratified at the manner in which his name had been introduced to their notice, on that occasion, by P.M. Barnes. It was not his intention to dilate on the excellences of that institution, amongst whose members he was happy to be enrolled, but he begged to assure them, that having been appointed to the honourable post of Treasurer to the Lodge, he felt it his bounden

duty to discharge that office with credit to himself, and honour to the Lodge. He should at all times give the Lodge his most cordial support, and was glad to find it was working steadily, and well supported. The W.M. then proposed "the health of Br Richard Barnes, P.M.", whose zeal for Masonry was known to the Craft, his readiness at all times to impart Masonic information to the younger brethren, and his indefatigable exertions in the cause of charity, were such characteristics as called forth the approbation of his brethren. Br. Barnes thanked them sincerely for the kind sentiments entertained by the brethren towards him, and strongly exhorted them to persevere in the cause of that most excellent virtue, charity. The pleasure of the meeting was greatly enhanced by the beautiful singing of Br. P. Corri, (the celebrated Baritone) and Brs. Isaacs and Buckingham.

Lodge of Unity (No. 82).—The following are the Brethren to whom P.M. Jewels were presented at the last meeting of this Lodge: Brs. F. Vickers, Jas. Vickers, Walmsley, Rev. J. E. Cox, G.C., J. Howe, J. W. Thearle, Sturns, Pitman, and Geo. Robins.

Vitruvian Lodge (No. 103).—This flourishing Lodge held its meeting on the 9th ult. In the absence of its highly respected W. M. Br. Maudslay, who was prevented attending from ill health, Br. Crosby very ably initiated Mr. James Smith into the secrets and mysteries of the Order. Brs. Webb, Whiting, and Davies were afterwards impressively raised to the degree of M.M. Other important matters having been disposed of, and the Lodge closed, the members sat down to supper, to which ample justice was done, and the evening terminated in a truly Masonic manner

Lodge of Regularity (No. 108).—The last regular meeting of the season was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 10th May, the W.M. Br. L. Solomon presiding, when Br. Alfred Haward of the Reunion Lodge, Bex, Switzerland, was unanimously elected a joining member. On this occasion the brethren wore for the first time their Centenary Jewel, as approved by the Grand Master. The jewel, which is of very elegant design, reflects great credit on the taste and artistic execution of Br. Charles Robinson, of the Strand, to whom it was entrusted. Arrangements having been made for the celebration of the Centenary festival, at Blackwall, the Lodge was closed, and formally adjourned until October.

Lodge of Faith (No. 165).—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 29th May, when the W.M. initiated a candidate into the Order, and raised Brs. Best and Cragg as M.M.'s.

St. Thomas's Lodge (No. 166).—The members of this Lodge met for the last time this season, on Saturday, May 5th, when P.M. Br. Frampton very ably raised two Brothers as W.M's. All business being ended, the brethren dined together under the presidency of Br. Normandy, W.M., and great gratification was expressed at the return amongst them of P.M. Br. Strutt, who has been absent sometime on account of severe illness.

Prudent Brethren (169).—The members of this Lodge met for the despatch of Masonic business on the 22nd of May, but nothing of importance being before the Lodge, Br. Kirby, P.M,, gave the members a lecture in Masonry with his usual ability. Br. Hewlett, W.M., presided at the banquet, to which he kindly invited the brethren, and after spending a pleasant evening, the members retired at an early hour.

St. John's Lodge, Hampstead (No. 196).—This Lodge met for the first time this season on the 8th of May, when there was a goodly muster of the brethren, but the business was purely formal.

Old Concord Lodge (No. 201).—This Lodge held its last meeting for the season, on Tuesday, May 1st, upon which occasion there was a large assemblage of the Brethren; the business of the evening being the Initiation of two gentlemen into the Order, and the raising to the third degree of Br. Dadswell, which ceremonies were performed by Br. Kennedy, P.M. The visitors present were Brs. Matthew, P.M. (11), W. Bishop (57), G. Sams (752), Keley (211), Le Gassick (25), Haywood (752). Br. Matthews returned thanks for the reception the visitors had met with, and remarked that he had been in the habit of being a frequent visitor of this Lodge some few years since, and although he congratulated the Lodge upon its present

numerical strength he could not but regret the dearth of "old familiar faces;" in fact, but one remained of the many he (Br. Matthews) had been accustomed to meet in the Old Concord, and that was Br. Emmens, the worthy Secretary. In the course of the evening £5 5*s.* were subscribed to assist the Widow of the late Br. Barnstaff, and it was announced that she would become a candidate for the benefits of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at the next vacancy.

Phœnix Lodge, (No. 202).—The members of this very thriving Lodge held its last meeting for the season on Saturday, May 12th, the W.M. Br. Webber presiding. Br. Maslin having been raised to the third degree, the W.M. turning towards Br. Warren, P.M., said that he was about to resign his office to the W.M. elect, but before doing so he had the gratification of presenting him (Br. Warren), a P.M.'s jewel from the members of the Lodge as a testimony of the respect held for him,—the exertions he had made two years since for the resuscitation of the Lodge—his general attention to the duties of Freemasonry—and the courteous and successful manner in which he had conducted the Lodge during his year of office. In presenting him with that jewel he (the W.M.) trusted he would long be spared to wear it, and that they might ever have the pleasure of his company and assistance in the Lodge. Br. Warren, on receiving the jewel, which is very handsome, and does great credit to the manufacturer, Br. Thearle, thanked the W.M. for his kind expressions, and assured the Brethren that he received that mark of their favour with deep gratitude, and though nothing could add to the pleasure and gratification he had at all times felt at being amongst them, it would be an additional incentive to induce him to do the utmost in his power to promote the prosperity of the Lodge. From the very moment he had determined in conjunction with the W.M., Br. Harrison, S.W., and other friends to endeavour to resuscitate the Lodge, he had always felt the deepest interest in its prosperity, and he could assure the brethren it would be his aim to endeavour to secure a continuance of their good opinion, trusting that he might continue a member of the Lodge so long as the G.A.U. gave him strength and means to continue in Freemasonry. The jewel bears the following inscription: "Presented to Br. Henry George Warren, P.M., by the members of the Phœnix Lodge, No. 202, in acknowledgment of his services as W.M., on the resuscitation of the Lodge, A.D. 1853-4." After the presentation of the jewel, the W.M. resigned the chair to Br. Warren, who proceeded to instal the W.M. elect, Br. Charles Russell Harrison into the chair for the ensuing year. This ceremony having been completed, the new W.M. invested the officers of the Lodge as follows: Br. Burton, W.M. No. 9, as S.W.; Br. Barton, J.W., and Sec.; Br. Lewis Houghton, Treas.; Br. Sharman, S.D.; Br. Capt. Creaton, J.D.; Br. Dumpby, J.G., and Br. Williams, D.C. At the conclusion of the masonic business, the Brethren, to the number of thirty, adjourned to a very elegant dinner and passed a most agreeable evening. There were several visitors present, amongst whom we observed Br. Scott, P.M. No. 2; Br. Rackstraw, P.M. No. 9; Br. Adams, P. M., 196, and W.M. 206, &c., &c. The evening presented a musical treat of rare occurrence at a dinner-party, even in connection with Freemasonry; several glees, duets, songs, &c., being rendered in their best style by Br. Genge, Br. Lawler, Br. Donald King, Br. Geo. Perren, Br. Taylor, Br. Holmes, and Br. Ford. The last named Br. is certainly one of, if not the very best comic singer of the day, and his "Joe in the Copper" convulsed the Brethren with laughter.

Domatic Lodge (No. 206).—Two emergency meetings of this Lodge have been held during the past month, at which three candidates have been inducted into Freemasonry, one of whom, Lieut. Munro, left England for the Crimea the day after his initiation.

St. James's Union (No. 211).—A Lodge of emergency was held at the Westmoreland Arms, George Street, Portman Square, on Friday, the 11th May, when the W.M., Br. W. G. Kelly, passed Brs. Woods and Russel, and raised Brs. Durley, Crofton, and Lock, performing the ceremonies with care and ability, assisted by Brs. John Gurton, S.W. and Br. Figg, J.W. who, with the junior officers, discharged the duties of their respective offices, with great credit to themselves Several propositions having been made for new members, the brethren at the conclusion of their Lodge duties, retired to refreshment, which was supplied in Br. Frampton's best style, and a

very pleasant evening was spent. This Lodge under the excellent direction of Br. Kelly, is assuming a distinguished position in the Craft, and the young blood which is being infused into the Lodge, and which has so long been wanting, promises well for the future.

UNIVERSAL LODGE (No. 212).—This Lodge met at the Freemasons Tavern on Friday, May 25th. In the absence of two raisings and one passing that were expected, five sections of the First Lecture were worked in a manner which reflected great credit on the brethren.

ST. PAUL'S LODGE (No. 229).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting according to summons, on Tuesday, the 15th inst. This Lodge numbers amongst its members some of the most distinguished Masons in the Craft, alike known for their Masonic learning as well as for their hospitable and brotherly feelings. The W.M. Br. Randall proceeded, after opening the Lodge in due form, to raise two brethren to the sublime degree of Master Masons. It is needless to say how much instruction and example this excellent Mason displays in the Lodge, and with the admirable charge given by the Treasurer, Br. Foster White (who, by the way, we are happy to see restored to health after a severe illness), nothing more could be desired. We noticed amongst the visitors Br. Dr. Bowles, of the Hereford Lodge, Br. Nicoll, Br. Dr. Lawrance, and others; the Lodge assembled in full numbers, with the exception of that worthy and excellent Mason, Leonard Chandler, whose cordial and happy face all welcome and are glad to see among them. The W.M. announced a meeting of recreation, to be held at Blackwall in June.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—The last regular meeting of this Lodge for the season was held on Friday, the 18th ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern, Br. Spooner, W.M., presiding. One gentleman was proposed for initiation, and it was unanimously carried that the annual summer recreation dinner should take place at Br. Bailey's, Southampton Hotel, adjoining the Kingston Railway Station, on the third Friday in July. There being no other business before the Lodge, the Brethren retired to refreshment, and after partaking of a well spread banquet, the evening passed in the expression of every kindly masonic feeling, with "hearty good wishes" to the "next merrie meeting." The visiting Brethren were Brs. Wylde, W.M. 13, Laird P.M. 13, Fox, P.M., 87, Muggeridge P.M. 227, and Bowman 125, and formerly of this Lodge.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281).—The members of this very excellent Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern on Thursday, the 3rd of May, when Br. James Linton, P.M., acting for the W.M., initiated Mr. John Messent into the mysteries of Freemasonry, passed Br. Newson, and raised Br. Thomas Evans—performing the several ceremonies with great ability. At the conclusion of all Masonic business the Brethren retired to refreshment, Br. Dyke, W.M. presiding. Br. P.M. Thomas Bohn (No. 7), returned thanks for the visitors on their health being drank, and paid a well-timed compliment to the excellent working of Br. P.M. Linton and the officers assisting him, and expressed his appreciation of the kindness and hospitality of the Lodge, in which Br. Phillips (No. 30), the only other visitor, most cordially concurred. "The P.M.'s, (of whom there were eight present), "The W.M.," "The Initiate," and other toasts were then proposed and warmly received. Much gratification was afforded to the Brethren by the very pleasing singing of Br. Messent, the newly initiated Brother, and Br. Crew, calling in during the evening for a few moments, sang one of his delightful melodies. Thus a most pleasant hour or two passed away, and the Brethren separated in perfect harmony and truly masonic feeling.

LODGE OF NINE MUSES (No. 286).—At the last monthly meeting of this Lodge for the season, on Tuesday, May 8th, a duly qualified candidate was initiated into the Order, by the W.M. Br. Warner. About fifteen of the brethren afterwards dined together, and concluded the evening by a fervent hope that they might all re-assemble with the blessing of the G.A.U., in health and prosperity at the commencement of the next season in October.

LODGE OF UNIONS (No. 318).—The closing meeting for the season, was held at the Freemasons Tavern, on Monday, May 7th, when the W.M. Br. Geo. Blair, had a full programme of business before him, consisting of two initiations, two passings, and a raising; the whole of which were most admirably gone through. Nearly thirty

of the brethren afterwards dined together, amongst whom were Br. G. Marriott, P.M. (112), Br. Nead (167), and Br. Capt. A. K. Hunter (No. 183).

PRINCE OF WALES' LODGE (No. 324).—This highly distinguished Lodge held its last meeting for the season, at the Thatched House Tavern, on Tuesday, May 22nd.

LODGE OF UNITED PILGRIMS (No. 745).—The Brethren of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at Br. Wales, the Manor House Tavern, Walworth, on Wednesday, the 23rd of May, under the able presidency of Br. D. R. Farmer, W.M., who raised one brother, (Br. Wales), to the third degree, passed Br. G. L. Collis to the second degree, and initiated a gentleman, Mr. George Martin, into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry, in his usual able manner. The business of the Lodge having been concluded, the Brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was served in Br. Wales' usual excellent style, and the remainder of the evening passed in the enjoyment of every social and Masonic feeling. We may add, that notwithstanding the great Derby event occurring on this day, there was an excellent gathering of the Brethren.

POLISH NATIONAL LODGE (No. 778).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge on the 10th inst., after the other business had been disposed of, Br. Detkins was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year.

LODGE LA TOLERANCE (No. 784).—This Lodge held a meeting at the Freemasons Tavern, on Tuesday, May 1st, when Br. Captain, W.M. initiated Lieut. Mitford, of the 19th Regiment, into the mysteries and secrets of Freemasonry.

INSTRUCTION.

PHŒNIX LODGE (No. 202).—This excellent and well supported Lodge of Instruction held its first annual banquet at the Freemasons Tavern on Saturday, May 19th. Br. Harrison, W.M. of the Parent Lodge presided as W.M.; Adams, W.M. 206, S.W.; Kirby, P.M. 169, J.W. Three sections of the first lecture ably worked. Several brethren from different Lodges were proposed to join and were unanimously admitted. The brethren then adjourned to partake of an excellent banquet. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the health of the W.M. of the Parent Lodge was drank and the united thanks of the brethren rendered to him for his Masonic ability and regular attendance. The W.M. thanked the brethren for their support, and more particularly those who had taken this opportunity of joining the Lodge of Instruction. Amongst them were several brethren distinguished for their Masonic talent, and whose valuable assistance would be gratefully received, whilst those who required instruction might depend on receiving it in the greatest purity whenever they could make it convenient to attend. The health of Br. Burton, W.M. No. 9, Treasurer, was drank, with thanks for his constant attendance to the Lodge and able discharge of the duties of his office. Br. Warren then proposed the health of Br. Crawley, Secretary, thanking him for having accepted the office, and for his regular attendance; he believed that in all branches of the ceremonies and lectures, Br. Crawley was universally admitted to be one of the best authorities in the Craft. Masonry being traditional, little innovations would unavoidably creep in, and it was therefore most essential to have amongst them one on reference to whom they were sure of receiving the original text. The health of the founders was then drank with much enthusiasm coupled with the name of Br. Warren as the W.M. of the Parent Lodge, who granted the first sanction for this Lodge to meet, and to which he had ever since rendered his most valuable support. The W.M. proposed the healths of Br. Adams, S.W., and Br. Kirby, with thanks for their assistance on this and all other occasions. After drinking to the prosperity of the respective Lodges to which more than half the brethren individually responded, the meeting broke up, after spending the evening with the greatest harmony.

PERCY LODGE (No. 234).—The anniversary festival of this excellent Lodge of Instruction was celebrated on the evening of the 1st ult., by an elegantly served supper, at the Marquis of Granby, Down-street, Picadilly. Br. Adams, P.M. of St-

John's Lodge, 196, Hampstead, and W.M. of the Domatic Lodge, 206, presided. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been duly responded to, the presiding Master presented a beautiful silver snuff-box, on behalf of the Lodge, to its able, energetic, and untiring Secretary, Br. Bywater, P.M. of the Jerusalem Lodge, No. 233, as a small mark of the respect, esteem, and affection in which they hold him, on account of his many virtues, both as a man and a Mason. The address of Br. Adams was purely Masonic, and evinced a spirit which we hope may never be effaced from the hearts and memories of those who heard it, and closed with a prayer in which we most heartily join, that our worthy Br. Bywater may long live to appreciate the gift, and that when he shall be removed to the Grand Lodge above, his children and his children's children may proudly point to it as a memorial of the respect in which their ancestor was held, and be by it warned to an imitation of his virtues.

Lodge of United Strength (No. 276.)—We have to acquaint our Masonic brethren that this old established Lodge of Instruction is now held in the large room at Br. Lloyd's, the Enterprise Tavern, Long Acre, on every Wednesday throughout the year. We are pleased to see that this Lodge is well supported by some most learned Masons, such as Brs. Adams, Fisher, Crawley, &c., &c.

Lodge of United Pilgrims (No. 745).—This excellent and well-working Lodge of Instruction met on Friday evening, the 18th May, at the Clayton Arms Tavern, Kennington Oval, for the purpose of going through the 15 sections—Br. Adams in the chair, who, with his usual ability, put the questions, and the following brethren assisted him in a very able manner in working the sections of First Degree: —1. Brs. G. Howard; 2. C. Foulsham; 3. W. T. Pitcher; 4. I. Thomas; 5. D. R. Farmer; 6. H. Garrod; 7. Adams. Second Degree Sec.:—1. Brs. C. Ellis; 2. J. W. Ward; 3. T. Thomas; 4. D. R. Farmer; 5. W. Burden. Third Degree Section:—1. Brs. J. Collins; 2. P. Moss; 3. G. Haward. The brethren afterwards partook of a supper provided by Br. C. Foulsham, in his usual satisfactory manner, and the evening passed off in social harmony. The brethren seperated, expressing the pleasure they had received in hearing the questions so ably put by the W.M., and responded to by the brethren in the like manner. The Masonic ball given by the Lodge on the 7th May, went off with great *eclât*, and a vote of thanks was given to Br. P. Moss for his presiding as the Hon. M.C. on the occasion, as also to Br. T. R. Warren as the Hon. Sec., the Stewards expressing their entire approbation of manner in which each brother discharged his duties. The dancing was kept up with great spirit until a late hour, with the assistance of Br. Adams' celebrated quadrille band, and the company separated, highly delighted with the evening's entertainment. The refreshments met with unanimous approbation.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

CHESHIRE.

Eaton Lodge, Congleton (No. 777).—Br. Ullivero entertained the Brethren of this Lodge at dinner on the 9th of May, to celebrate his becoming the host of the Bull's Head Hotel. A goodly company sat down to table, G. C. Antrobus, Esq, W.M. of the Lodge, presiding, supported by his worship the mayor of the borough, the town clerk, the Rev. W. C. Arnold, &c., &c. The usual loyal and fraternal toasts were given and responded to, together with the health and success of the host and hostess, which was proposed in very complimentary terms. Br. Ullivero has provided a spacious Lodge room, which has been handsomely decorated, and affords every accommodation necessary for the performance of the "mystic rites."

DEVONSHIRE.

Lodge St. John the Baptist, Plymouth (No. 83).—This Lodge met on Tuesday, 1st May. The minutes of the last Lodge were confirmed and some business of

a private nature having been disposed of, the W.M. Br. Gambell, read a memorial from the widow of a Brother formerly belonging to this Lodge (who died about three years since). praying for relief, she being in very reduced circumstances. It was resolved that Br. Ash, P.M., Treasurer, be requested to visit and relieve her according to her necessities and the ability of the Lodge funds. There were two visitors present, (Brs. Woodhouse, of 122, Stonehouse, and Reid of 17, Quebec), who also kindly added a small amount for this object. The Lodge having been closed in form and with solemn prayer, the Brethren retired to refreshment, and passed an hour very pleasantly, with that unanimity and harmony which should always characterize our ancient and honourable fraternity.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE, STONEHOUSE (No. 122).—The members held their usual monthly meeting on Wednesday, 9th of May, at the Prince George Hotel, for the purpose of raising Br. Dyer to the sublime degree of M.M. The worthy Brother not making his appearance, in the absence of other business, the Brethren retired to refreshment at an early hour. From the universal respect in which Br. Dyer is held, it was a source of great regret and disappointment to those present that the magnitude of his engagements prevented his attendance.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, EXETER (No. 129).—This Lodge held its last meeting for the season on Monday, the 23rd ult., when Br. Pope was installed W.M. for the year ensuing. The Brethren afterwards adjourned to the Half-Moon Hotel, and partook of dinner, served by Br. Routley in his usual style.

LODGE OF HARMONY, PLYMOUTH (No. 182).—This Lodge held a meeting on Monday, the 7th of May, when Br. Earle initiated Mr. W. H. Langford into the Order, and Br. Gidley raised Br. Harvey to the degree of M.M.

STAR OF BRUNSWICK LODGE, STONEHOUSE (No. 185).—The members of this Lodge were summoned to meet at seven o'clock on Wednesday, the 2nd of May, at the George Hotel, Plymouth, for the purpose of raising Br. Nemacatt to the sublime degree of M.M. The ceremony was performed by Br. P. E. Rowe, P.P.G.D.C., &c., in his usual style of solemnity. It was proposed and carried that the Lodge be removed to a private room in Union Road, Plymouth, where the meetings will in future be held, as from the amount of inconvenience suffered in their present quarters it was quite out of the question remaining. The same reasons ought to apply to the other Lodge meeting in the same locale.

LODGE OF SINCERITY, STONEHOUSE (No. 224).—This Lodge held its usual monthly communication on Monday, the 14th of May, when Br. W.G. Clare, B.A., &c., &c., was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by Br. Tripe, P.P.G.S.D., in his usual style. The Lodge was closed at 9·30, when notice was given of a R.A. Chapter to be holden on an early day, a great number of Candidates coming forward to partake of the privileges thereby conferred.

LODGE OF UNION, STARCROSS (No. 650).—The Brethren of this Lodge held their first meeting for the season on the 5th inst., when Br. Wilcockson was elected the W.M. for the year ensuing.

ESSEX.

A meeting of the Pl.G.L. of Essex was held at the Shire Hall, Chelmsford, on Thursday, the 17th of May, for the purpose of installing into office the new Pl.G.M., Br. J. R. Bagshaw, of Dovercourt, near Harwich. The Lodge having been opened by the D.P.G.M., Captain Skinner, of the Royal Artillery, Br. Bagshaw was introduced, accompanied by the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M. of England, the Rev. J. E. Cox, G.C. of England, Brs. John Harvey, P.G.S.D., Leveau, P.G.S.B., Dr. Kent, Pl.G.M. of Australia, Bisgood, D.P.G.M. for Kent, and a number of Pl.G. Officers. The chair having been resigned by Captain Skinner to the R.W.D.G.M., the noble Earl proceeded to the installation of the new Pl.G.M., being assisted in the performance of the ceremony by Br. the Rev. J. E. Cox and Br. John Hervey. On the completion of the installation, the Pl.G.M. proceeded to re-appoint Br. Captain Skinner as D.G.M. An election for Treasurer took place, and unanimously fell on Br. Andrew Meggy. The other G.Officers appointed were Brs. S. J. Surridge, S,W.; Peter Matthews, J.W.; Rev. R. Bewick and Rev. F. Gray, Chaps.; A. N. Thistel-

ton, Reg.; Jos. Burton, Sec.; T. H. Devonshire, S.D.; A. Stone, J.D.; Peter Bruff, Sup. of Works; Wm. Wiseman and Lieut. Crow, Dirs. of Ceremonies; Capt. Robert Honywood, S.B.; Jas. Dace, Organist; Geo. Addison, Pursuivant.

At the conclusion of the appointments, the P.G.M. proceeded to address the brethren, and congratulated them on the prosperity of the Craft in the Province, the Lodges being generally more numerous and the working better than for some years past. He was also happy to inform them that the M.W.G.M. of England had been pleased to grant a Charter for a new Lodge, which would shortly be consecrated at Harwich.

Some routine business having been gone through, a vote of thanks was given to the R.W.D.G.M. and the rest of the G. Officers for their attendance, and the Lodge was closed in due form.

A large number of the brethren afterwards re-assembled at a very elegant dinner, the band of the West Essex Militia, in which corps many of the brethren present hold commissions, attending, and playing several favourite marches with great spirit and precision. At the conclusion of the dinner a large number of ladies were introduced into the room amidst loud cheers. Grace having been said,

The P.G.M., in giving "The Queen and the Craft," said, there was never a period in this country's history when the Sovereign was more dear to the people than at the present moment, and he was sure they would in all due loyalty drink her health, and wish the country through this time of severe trial. Her Majesty was educated in their principles, as the daughter of a Mason, and was entitled to their utmost devotion —(Drunk with loud cheers).

The National Anthem was finely executed by the professional party.

The P.G.M. said the next toast was "The health of Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family"—(Applause).

The P.G.M. said he had on this occasion rather to depart from the usual routine of masonic toasts, feeling this was peculiarly an occasion for doing so, and he could not permit any other toast to be given to them till they had done due honour to the army and navy for their distinguished services—(Cheers). He felt deeply for those connected with the brave and gallant men who had to sustain the conflict in which they were engaged, and many had to lament the loss of friends whose memory was treasured in their affections; but if there was anything from which these men could derive consolation amidst their sufferings, it was the knowledge that when their brethren met together on these occasions, with their dear sisters, they could think of those brave spirits that thus gloriously fought their battles. He gave them, "The Army and Navy," and he would connect with it the D.P.G.M., Major Skinner, and the gentleman at his side, equally distinguished, Br. Dr. Rowe, P.Pl.D.G.M., who had served through all the Peninsular campaign—(Cheers).

The D.Pl.G.M., Major Skinner, said he rose under strong feelings of gratitude to their Pl.G.M. for introducing his name in the way he had done, or rather for coupling it with the distinguished service to which for many years he had the honour to belong, for at a time like this, when the army and navy were engaged in conflict with a foreign enemy, they felt deeply and sensibly that this was no common toast—(Cheers). The army and the navy for the last forty years had never been forgotten by Englishmen when assembled round the festive board; and certainly on an occasion like this, a peculiar occasion never before witnessed in this town, and in a society like that, gathered from the Province, from the Metropolis, and other parts of the kingdom, he was quite certain the toast would be given, and when given would be responded to in the way it had been—(Cheers). The army in the Crimea, for the last twelve months, had been in their daily thoughts; it had striven through a winter of great severity, suffering from famine and disease, and exposed to every privation that could visit the soldier, but under their noble commander they were ever ready to do their duty, notwithstanding all these privations and sufferings—(Cheers). He must say he did not feel so much for the friends of those who fell by the bullet and the sword, for they had the sympathy of the whole country with them; but he did feel deeply for the wives, and mothers, and sisters of those husbands and sons, and brothers, who had dropped down at their posts from famine and disease—(Hear). But the courage of

the British army would never be vanquished. The discipline of that army was witnessed in an extraordinary scene that took place four years ago, on board a ship off the Cape of Good Hope, where a band of noble soldiers stood on the deck, and perished nobly in doing their duty for the preservation of the lives of others—(Cheers).

The P.G.M. said, they would now come nearer home, as the next toast he had to propose was the health of their distinguished chief and G. M., "the Right Hon. Br. the Earl of Zetland"—(Cheers). They all as Masons were greatly indebted to him, for he set them a brilliant example of consistency in his whole walk through life; and though unfortunately his health would not permit him to attend their meetings so often as they could wish, they had reason to congratulate themselves that they had such an exalted man at the head of the Craft—(Cheers).

The P.G.M. said he had no doubt that every brother present would be satisfied with the next toast he had to propose, and would receive it in the manner that it deserved. This was the first occasion on which they had had the happiness of seeing the Earl of Yarborough in the county of Essex; and he had come to-day to aid in bringing about those noble and beautiful qualities which they so cherished in Masonry—(Cheers). He was witness to a scene last night at the meeting of the girls' school belonging to the Order, in the metropolis, which he was sure would have melted a heart of stone, and the happy and judicious manner in which the noble Earl honoured and supported their charities, and the way in which he came amongst them to harmonize all matters of the Craft, placed them under a deep debt of gratitude to him. In the noble Earl's presence he would not say more of him, as he might otherwise do with respect to his noble qualities, both as a man and as a Mason; but would at once call on them to drink "the health of the D.G.M. of England."—(Cheers).

The Earl of Yarborough D.G.M. could assure the brethren he felt very sensibly the marked manner in which they had received the toast proposed to them. They had heard from the P.G.M. sentiments relative to him, which he had expressed in consequence of his friendship, though he did not deny that he had been at all times anxious to promote the working out successfully the objects and the benefits of Masonry, but at the same time he felt that the observations made by Mr. Bagshawe had been dictated by friendship, for if he had been absent on this occasion terms more flattering could not have been employed. It was true that last night he presided over the festival of the girls' school, and he alluded to it now because they were graced by the presence of the ladies, and he wished to assure them that if it had been possible for them to have been present last night at Freemasons' Hall, nothing could have interested them more than that scene—(Cheers). They had there sixty-six daughters of Masons who had once been in prosperous circumstances, but from misfortune had not the means of providing for their children. These girls were presented in a state of general health and comfort, and at the same time their manners were such as showed that they had been well cared for and properly educated—(Cheers). He was sure if the ladies present had had an opportunity of seeing that scene, they would have felt it was their interest, as it would be their inclination, to assist in that branch of the Masonic charities—(Cheers). Last night, too, there was collected at the festival upwards of £1,400—(Cheers). He mentioned this because though they as brethren knew it, it was not always known, that they as Masons were not devoted exclusively to their own comforts, but were anxious in every way to benefit their fellow-creatures—(Cheers). And he did not know that they could in any way do more good than in educating the rising generation, and training and teaching those who would be unable to provide for themselves without this benevolent assistance of the brethren—(Cheers). He must observe that though he had been received by them in so marked a manner, it was not more than he expected when he was told there was an anxiety in the Province to see either the G.M. or himself amongst them. If it had been possible for the G.M. to have come nothing would have been more enthusiastic than his reception, for he was sure, from what he had seen to-day, that they would have welcomed him most heartily, and would have been glad not only to see him coming to support their P.G.M., but at the same time to show their devotion to the Craft—(Cheers). They had been in this Province presided over for many

years by one generally beloved, but whose health prevented his coming amongst them so often as they could wish; and there had now been selected one who was most acceptable to them, as he could see from what had passed to-day—(Cheers). Except in passing in the train, this was the first time he had been in the Province, but the cordiality with which they had received him to-day would encourage him to find opportunities of coming again, for from what he here saw he was satisfied there was no part of the united kingdom in which the Lodges wished him better than they did here. He could not sit down without remarking upon the spectacle before him. He was never present before when the same interest was shown by the ladies in the Craft, and, without flattering, he said on the part of the brethren generally, he looked on this as a great compliment—(Cheers). They might be assured that what the ladies were always desirous of promoting, they, as Masons, were anxious to assist them in—namely, the good of others, and however they might set about their plans, they both equally meant well: he believed they did a great deal of good, and though the ladies might be disappointed with the proceedings of the day, they would at least give them credit for the very best intentions—(Cheers). He could only consider this as a passing visit on his part, but he assured them if he could be of any assistance to them, that assistance should be freely given; for though he could not for a moment question that the Worshipful G.M. would be inclined to listen to any reasonable proposition, yet it might happen that they could more readily approach one whom they were acquainted with than an entire stranger; and, therefore, he wished them to consider him as their friend, whom they could freely approach to express their wishes—(Cheers).

Major Skinner D.P.G.M. said the emblem of office had been placed in his hands by the P.G.M., to entitle him to perform a pleasing duty, which was that of giving the next toast—one which he approached with some degree of diffidence, but which at all events his brethren would feel and receive in the same sincere manner as he proposed it. He had on his right side a phalanx of officers distinguished in the Grand Lodge of England, not only for their virtues as Masons, but their honour as men, and as patrons of all their excellent charities. "Ladies," said he, "we have in our societies charities of the most benevolent kind. We have a school, as you have been told, of girls, in which they are taught and educated in the fear of God; and if you could have been present yesterday you would have gone home and persuaded your husbands, brothers, and fathers to have become Masons—(cheers). With this toast I couple the name of a distinguished grand officer, our Rev. Br. John Edmund Cox, the G.C. of our Order—(Cheers)—and I only regret, in common with all my brethren, that he has had no opportunity of explaining in your beautiful church what Masonry is—(Outcries of 'hear, hear'). I have no doubt if he had the ladies here would have been present in the house of God, and they would have heard such a sermon in explanation of true charity that they would have gone home and said, 'Thank God there is such a society' "—(Cheers). The toast is, "The Treasurer and the rest of the Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of England," and with that I couple the name of the Rev. J. E. Cox—(Cheers).

The Rev. J. E. Cox G.C. could assure them the toast just offered to their notice had come upon him with some degree of surprise, for he was not at all prepared for it. He knew that the health of the Grand Officers would be proposed as a matter of course, but he did not think he should be called on to respond to it, but as it had happened that the D.P.G.M. had coupled his name with it, he returned his sincere thanks, not only on his own behalf, but on that of his brethren. The D.P.G.M. had alluded to a matter that had caused him some little pain, for he had looked forward to testifying in the house of God to-day to the character of Masonry; circumstances over which they had no control had, however, prevented that; but he was sure they would take his assurance here, that Masonry was of a character to promote the highest interests of humanity, to excite the best feelings of charity, to strengthen virtue, and to induce brotherly love between man and man—(Cheers). Had he been able to address them in the church, it would have been his happiness to tell them that there could be no animosity, no antagonism between Masonry and Christianity, but that they went hand in hand, and one was the handmaid of the other—(Cheers). But as this

opportunity did not occur, they would pardon him for what he had now said. They had heard from the D.G.M. of the scene of last night. Let him add, that school had been in existence since 1788; they could therefore suppose the number of children that had been educated in it was somewhat large—being nearly 700—and it was with gratitude to the Great Architect of the Universe he was able to tell them that not one child educated there had ever disgraced herself or the charity—(Cheers). As to their boys, they endeavoured to educate them in high and noble principles, and they had been successful; but he looked forward to the time when they would have a building for them also, and house them, and take care of them, as they did of their dear girls, so that the charity might flourish and prosper to the same extent as their girls' school. As to old and decayed Masons they found for them a home if they were disposed to place themselves in it, and if not, they gave them the means whereby the sorrows of age might be mitigated, and their latter days smoothed—(Cheers). They also took care of the widows, and he heartily hoped and trusted they would shortly be able to do more for them than they had done. For his part he wanted to see Masonry what it ought to be, more diffuse in principle and more active in operation. They did a great deal of good, but not so much as they might, and he would rather see some of their festivity laid aside and more done for their decayed brethren. But there was a good time coming. The time demanded now a larger amount of philanthropy and of education for their children; and Masonry he knew would never be behind in the great march of human progress that was going on, and on, and on to civilize and better the world —(Cheers). He would not detain them longer, but he must observe he was sure their new P.G.M. would do honour to the Province, and that Essex would stand in that high and palmy position which it ought to occupy—(Cheers). Once more he thanked them heartily for the kind manner in which they had received the toast, and they would let him add his prayer to the Great Architect of the Universe that they might pass through the trials of this world, and meet again in that Lodge above where the world's Great Architect reigned and ruled for ever and ever—(Cheers).

The Earl of Yarborough gave "The health of the new P.G.M.," who was esteemed by them all, and he was sure they would take the earliest opportunity of testifying their regard to him—(Cheers). He was right, he thought, in saying that the choice had been judicious, so that they would work with him, and they would find him ready to assist them in any way. His Masonic character was such that they could put full confidence in him, and he thought he should find from their reception of this toast that they were anxious to testify their regard for him—(Cheers).

The P.G.M. said there were moments of life when the heart was too full to give utterance to its sentiments, and he confessed that he felt considerable difficulty in replying to this toast. He had been placed in a position of great distinction: in accepting it, it was his desire to do his duty, and he could only hope that power would be given him to carry out these principles of Masonry, which in his heart he valued. He had listened with delight to what had fallen from the Rev. Mr. Cox on the subject of the Masonic charities, and also from the G.M., for these were his own sentiments, as he cared nought for Masonry unless it was what he felt it to be—the means of extensive usefulness—(Cheers). If they found they really could not, as men and as Masons, make themselves useful, the Craft ceased to be of any value. But he felt it was of great use, for he had been a Mason 30 years, and had been much abroad, and there the comforts of it were indescribable. They did not know one half of its comforts in this country, for here they did not know what it was to be without friends; but he was sent at fourteen years old to India, to make his way in life, which, thank God, had been tolerably successful, and he attributed half his success and comforts to the privilege he enjoyed of being early initiated as a Mason—(Cheers). He had as a Christian seen the most blessed effects spring from it, persons being drawn to a knowledge of the truth, and induced to read their Bible because they were Masons—(Cheers). He felt anxious to cultivate their esteem, and when he found he could not do it he would retire. He would only add, he drunk all their healths, and if the ladies would permit him to drink theirs it would add much to the obligation—(Cheers).

The Earl of Yarborough gave "The health of the D.P.G.M., Major Skinner, on whose exertions much depended, and of the P.D.Pr.G.M. Br. Dr. Rowe"—(Cheers).

Major Skinner, D.P.G.M., said this was the third time he had risen to-night, and the other two occasions were easy to him in comparison to this, for it was difficult at all times to speak of himself, and he found himself received by the brethren in the manner he always had been for several years past; but he assured them it was with more than ordinary feelings of gratitude that he returned them his heartfelt thanks. He begged to inform the ladies that their day was divided into three parts—part to prayer to God, part to labour, and part to serve a Brother—(Cheers). They came here to-day especially to honour the head of the Craft in this province; their labours had been discharged in another room, and he only regretted those labours were not commenced with public prayer and thanksgiving to God in their beautiful church, whose bells they had just heard chime—(Cheers). They considered Masonry as the standard of truth and justice, and they endeavoured to regulate their actions by the divine precepts it contained, and the important duties they owed to God, their neighbour, and themselves—(Cheers)—to God by never mentioning his name without that reverence due from the creature to the Creator, and looking up to Him in their emergencies for comfort; to their neighbour by acting with him on the square, by relieving his suffering and soothing his afflictions, and doing to him as they would wish him in similar circumstances should do to them; to themselves by such well-regulated conduct as would conduce to the improvement of their corporeal and mental faculties, thereby to exercise their talents for the good of themselves and their neighbours. "Ladies," continued he, "when you go home this evening you will probably be asked by your fathers, and brothers, and husbands, what is Masonry—what are the secrets of Masonry? Tell them this—it is a great arrangement for benevolent acts; tell them Freemasonry is to be found in the sacred volume, and that its three grand principles are—Charity, Relief, and Truth"—(Cheers). He thanked the P.G.M. for placing him in the situation he held; his predecessor did the same; and if he had gained the esteem of his brethren of the Lodge, it would reward him for any little trouble he had taken in visiting the lodges, since for four years he had taken upon himself this duty in the province, and he trusted he might say he had in some small degree thus tended to confer a little benefit on the Craft—(Cheers).

Dr. Rowe, P.D.P.G.M., also returned thanks, observing he was rude in speech and little acquainted with the ways of oratory, but thus much he would say, that he begged to greet Br. Bagshaw on arriving at the distinguished position which he occupied, and also on the attendance of the D.G.M. of England, who was always received by Masons with that kindness which his merits so fully entitled him to, for he possessed those excellent qualities that most strongly endeared him to them; and in truth he might say to the whole world, "There is a man"—(Cheers). Ladies were not always admitted into their meetings, but they gave a charm to them, and he could tell them in the words of an old song—

> "No mortal no more can the ladies adore
> Than a free and accepted mason."

(Cheers). He (Dr. Rowe) was for many years the D.G.M., and some of the happiest moments of his existence were passed there, and though he was not now in office he hoped he still possessed the esteem of the Masons of Essex. The last time he addressed the Lodge in Essex was on an occasion when their late P.G.M., whose illness he extremely deplored, called them together, and as one fact was worth a thousand theories, he would state the circumstances of the case then submitted to them, as it was calculated to impress on their minds the value of Freemasonry. A few years ago their P.G.C., Br. Hewlett, became in distress; he had a wife and nine or ten children, with little means of providing for such a family. His wife died, leaving him with nine or ten children in pecuniary difficulties; this was succeeded in a few weeks by his own death. He was a man distinguished in the literary world; he was the author of "Peter Priggins," and he charmed and delighted the world at large. When he died, there was an execution in his house, and he need not tell them the accumulation of misery which that produced. But when it came to the ears of the Rochford Lodge, they nobly came forward, paid out the execution, buried their Rev. Brother, started a subscription to relieve the necessities of the family, and at once collected £20. It

was afterwards carried to the Grand Lodge of England, and thence throughout the whole of England. Now, he told the ladies they must not consider Masonry as "an idiot's tale, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing"—but it was a Jacob's ladder, leading to Heaven, and full of faith and hope—(Cheers). That call was nobly responded to by the Grand Lodge; it was responded to nobly by the whole of the provinces in England; and the result was that upwards of £4,000 was raised, and the children of their Br. were provided for by the Masonic body. This was so delightful a topic, that, graced as they were by the presence of ladies, he was glad to have the opportunity to explain to them the duties, and objects, and practical working of Masonry; and moreover, he was happy to say that though the event took place many years since, so prudently had the fund been managed, that not more than £300 of the principal had yet been touched—(Cheers).

The P.G.M. gave the health of Br. Kent, the P.G.M. from Australia—(Cheers).

P.G.M. Kent returned thanks, and said, when he first went to South Australia, many years ago, there were but few inhabitants, and many parts were only trodden by the savage or the Kangaroo; but some were so satisfied that the establishment of a Lodge would be beneficial to it, that one was formed. The Craft had always maintained the position in the province it was anticipated it would, and without claiming to themselves anything more than they were justly entitled to, he could tell them that the most energetic men, the best citizens, the most distinguished brothers, husbands, and fathers had been enrolled amongst the Masons there, and the Order held a prominent place in the esteem of their sisters of South Australia. The Craft, which had only one single Lodge sixteen years since, now numbered eight or nine in Adelaide alone; in other parts there were several others; and his last act was to constitute a new Lodge. In many parts of Australia, particularly in the gold-fields, the state of society was singular, but when he arrived at one of the most distant, where the state of disorganization was the greatest, a number of Masons offered to do anything they could for him, and invited him to an entertainment, though such things were not done there without a great deal of trouble and cost—(Cheers).

"The health of Br. Bisgood, P.G.M. of Kent," was next drunk.

P.G.M. Bisgood returned thanks, observing that many had wondered what the secrets of Masonry were, but they had now been told that the grand secret was to benefit their brethren and all mankind—(Cheers). If the ladies required any other secrets he could heartily wish they could have been in the Grand Lodge to-day, when the ceremony was performed, for if they had the secrets they should have communicated to them would have been nothing but what they had heard on this occasion—(Cheers).

"The healths of Senior G.W. Surridge and other Officers of the Provincial Lodge of Essex" was drunk, and Brs. Surridge and Matthews returned thanks.

The Earl of Yarborough, in proposing the health of the ladies, said, they would allow him to explain to them, they having sons or brothers of their own, that they had a boys' school as well as a girls'. They did all in their power to well educate the sons of Freemasons, but in consequence of not having funds they had not a building, and they educated them in the schools of which they heard the best character in the immediate neighbourhood in which they resided—(Hear). He believed there was an erroneous idea that in the girls' school a marked preference was given to Masons in the metropolis who had their children educated there. That was a mistake. The contributions to that school were derived, nine-tenths of them, from lodges in the metropolis, but they would find in the school that the daughters of Masons in the different lodges in the provinces were more in proportion than the daughters of those who were in the metropolis. He stated it without fear of contradiction, that there was no favouritism shown, and it was an error to suppose that anything like injustice was done to the children of those who resided in the country.

During the evening the band of the West Essex Militia played seveaal favourite marches, airs, &c., and Miss Ransford, Br. Ransford, and Br. Grattan sang several excellent songs, the lady being more than once honoured by an encore. The company separated shortly after ten o'clock, many of the Brethren returning to town by a special train.

HAMPSHIRE.

LODGE OF HENGIST, BOURNEMOUTH (No. 230).—On the 3rd of this month, the Lodge met to instal Br. Bayley in the room of the late Dr. Mainwaring, and thirteen of the brethren were hospitably entertained by the W.M., who is the owner though not the landlord of the Bellevue Hotel. It was there and then determined on the 10th to give at the Bellevue a return dinner to Br. Bayley, and the whole of the thirteen met at the appointed hour, several having come at great personal inconvenience and many miles to do honour to the worthy Master, who has been twenty years an installed Master, and for some years the main support and stay of the Lodge of Hengist, and one who knows the forms, and, above all, respects the spirit of Masonry, and observes it "*Sit Lux*."

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

The anniversary meeting of the Pl.G.L. for the counties of Huntingdon and Northampton was held at Huntingdon, on Wednesday, the 2nd of May, the Marquis of Huntley, P.G.M., presiding. There was a large assembly on the occasion, and after the business of the Lodge had been concluded, the brethren dined together at the Fountain Inn, where the afternoon was spent in good fellowship, and the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were intermingled with those of the Masonic Craft.

LANCASHIRE, EAST.

LODGE OF FIDELITY, BLACKBURN (No. 336).—This Lodge held its regular monthly meeting on Friday, the 4th of May. Br. J. Wells, P.M., in the absence of Br. D. Thwaites (West Bank), W.M., presiding. The Lodge was opened in due form, and the Brethren ably worked the First Degree. There being no business to transact, the Lodge was closed finally and with prayer at half-past nine o'clock, when the Brethren retired for refreshment, and passed a short time in harmony.

LODGE OF FRIENDSHIP, OLDHAM (No. 344).—The Brethren of this Lodge, at their meeting on the 2nd of May, were honoured with the presence of their R.W.D.P.G.M., Stephen Blair, Esq., Br. J. Bell, Esq., P.S.G.W., and others of the P.G.O's. of East Lancashire being present. The ceremonies of Instruction, Passing, and Raising were performed in a very able and impressive manner by the W.M., Br. Daniel Evans, whom the R.W.D.P.G.M. highly complimented on the excellent working of himself and Officers, as deserving of his warmest approval; and could the Brethren persuade themselves that the commendations bestowed were justly merited, they might indeed feel proud of their position. A donation of 1*l.* to the Building Fund was voted, and after the transaction of other ordinary business, the W.M., in a very feeling address, presented Br. W. Hudson, P.M., the Secretary of the Lodge, with a purse of £20 and a P.M.'s Jewel bearing the following inscription, "Presented, with a purse of £20, to Br. W. Hudson by the brethren of the Lodge of Friendship, 344, in acknowledgment of his long and valuable services as Secretary." Br. Hudson, under strong feelings, expressed the deep sense he entertained of the kindness of his brethren, and his determination to merit its continuance. The R.W.D.P.G.M., for the very satisfactory manner in which the books of the Lodge were kept, expressed the great satisfaction which this presentation of such a token to Br. Hudson afforded him, and the pleasure he felt of being present on the occasion. The brethren afterwards adjourned to refreshment, and the remainder of the evening was spent in a very pleasant and instructive interchange of sentiment and ideas, and the Brethren finally separated delighted with their meeting, and highly gratified by the kindness of their R.W.D.P.G.M., who, wherever he is known, whether as a man or a Mason, never fails to steal and carry off with him the fraternal regards and the best wishes of everybody.

The Lodge of Friendship, 344, meets on the *Wednesday* on or *before* each *full moon*, and the Tudor Chapter, 344, meets on the *third Monday* in *February, May, August*, and *November*.

LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE, BLACKBURN (No. 432).—The usual meeting of this

Lodge was held on Monday, the 6th of May, Br. C. Boardman, W.M., and Brs. W. Harrison and J. Yates as Wardens, presiding. After the transaction of business the brethren present, among whom was Br. Hanley, G.S.W., Cumberland, adjourned for refreshment, and spent the evening in harmony, to which Brs. Hanley, H. Backhouse, and Pearson ably contributed.

KEYSTONE LODGE, FACIT (469).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Bay Horse Inn on Wednesday, the 9th instant, under the presidency of the W.M., Br. A. Shackleton. The minutes of the last meeting having been confirmed, Mr. E. Law was duly ballotted for, and initiated into the Order, the ceremony being ably performed by the W.M. and the different Officers. At the close of the Masonic business the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and the remainder of the evening was spent without the usual songs or toasts, owing to the sudden death of the hostess's father.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, LEICESTER (No. 348).—We hear with pleasure that Mr. E. Galer and Mr. H. Corri, the popular vocalists, members of the Kilwinning Lodge, Glasgow, were ballotted for and elected as joining members on Wednesday, May 2nd. A large number of the brethren of the Lodge, as well as many belonging to John of Gaunt's, were present at the reception.

SIR FREDERICK FOWKE, Bart., P.G.M. for Leicestershire, having been suffering from a severe attack of illness during the past four months, from which he is only now slowly recovering, the members of the John of Gaunt Lodge of Freemasons have presented him with an address, expressive of their high estimation of his Masonic services, and of their wishes for his speedy recovery; and in these wishes we are sure all our readers will cordially unite.

The address, which has been beautifully executed upon vellum, with illuminated capitals and appropriate devices, was presented to Sir Frederick on Monday last by the Worshipful Master of the Lodge, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Secretary, and was as follows:—

"To Sir Frederick Gustavus Fowke, Bart., &c., &c., Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Leicestershire.

"Right Worshipful Sir and Brother,—We, the Master, Past Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of the John of Gaunt Lodge of Freemasons, No. 766, Leicester, having learned with great regret the long and severe indisposition with which you have been afflicted, avail ourselves of this, the earliest opportunity, of approaching you with our sincere expressions of condolence, and of deep sympathy for your sufferings.

"Although we, in common with every brother in the province, can never be unmindful of the benefits conferred by you, Right Worshipful Sir, on Masonry in general, and on this province in particular, it is at such a time as this, when sickness has unfortunately deprived us of your presence and assistance for an unusually long period, that those benefits are more peculiarly impressed upon our minds.

"We cannot forget that the record of those services extends over a period of nearly forty years, during which, whether as a private member of the Craft, as the Master of a Lodge, as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, or as holding that high and most important office of Provincial Grand Master (to which, unsolicited, and prompted by your merits alone, it pleased the Most Worshipful Grand Master to appoint you, to the heartfelt gratification of the brethren), your best exertions have ever been used in supporting the cause, and extending the principles of Freemasonry; and that by your urbanity, fraternal kindness, and readiness at all times to impart those instructions in our mysteries which your high attainments therein so pre-eminently qualify you to convey, you have endeared yourself to the fraternity; whilst by the manner in which you have displayed the virtues of Freemasonry in your daily life, you have rendered yourself esteemed and respected by all classes of the community, and thus, by a reflected light, you have conferred an additional honour on the Order in popular estimation.

"We hail with delight, Right Worshipful Sir, the pleasing intelligence of your

partial convalescence, and we pray that the G. A. O. T. U. may be pleased to restore you speedily to perfect health, and preserve you for many, many years to rule over us.

"Given under our hands and the seal of the Lodge, at Leicester, this Seventh day of May, A.L. 5855, A.D. 1855.

(Signed) "Frederick Goodyer, Worshipful Master. (L.S.)
"W. B. Smith, Senior Warden.
"William Millican, Junior Warden."

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Northern Counties Lodge, Newcastle-on-Tyne (No. 586).—The brethren of this Lodge assembled on Wednesday the 25th April, in their Lodge room in the Freemasons' Hall, Newgate Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for the installation of Br. Wm. Dalziel (P.M. 706, and P.G.D.C., for Northumberland), the W.M. elect for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was impressively and admirably performed by Br. E.D. Davis, P.M. 56. At the conclusion of the installation ceremony, the W.M. proceeded to appoint and invest with the various insignia of office, the following brethren as officers for the year, viz:—Brs. H. P. Mörk, P.M.; G. D. Davies, S.W.; John P. M. Harrison, J.W.; Wm. Punshon, Treasurer; G. W. Fenwick, Secretary; John Clay Gibson (P.G.S.D., for Northumberland), D.C.; John Shield, S.D.; George Hardey, J.D.; Henry Bell (P.M. 706), I.G.; Luke Haslam, S.S.; Edwd. Holloway, J.S.; Alex. Dickson, Tyler. After the appointment and investiture of the various officers, Br. E. D. Davies, P.M. 56, and S.W. of this Lodge, presented to the Lodge three beautiful Tracing-boards in gilt frames, for which handsome presentation the brethren feel under the liviest obligation. The brethren then proceeded to the Queen's Head Hotel, Grey Street, where Br. Miller had a sumptuous entertainment provided for them, with dessert comprising every delicacy, and wines of *recherché* quality. Upwards of forty brethren dined on the occasion, and did full justice to the ample spread of the social board. The W.M. presided, supported on his right by Brs. Rd. Medcalf, D.P.G.M. for Northumberland, and Wm. Penshon, P.M. 586, and treasurer of the Lodge; and on his left by Brs. H. P. Mörk, P.M. 586, and Wm. Berkley, P.M. 586, and P.G.S.W. for Northumberland. The vice-chairs were ably filled by the S.W. and J.W. Amongst the company we observed Brs. Geo. Weatherhead, P.P.G.J.W. for Northumberland; J. S. Challoner, P.G.J.W. for Northumberland; Geo. Fenwick, P.G.S.B. for Northumberland; John Hodge, P.M. 24; Wm. Johnson, W.M. 24; F. P. Jonn, P.M. 56; John Hopper, P.M. 614; John Cook, W.M. St. Peter's Lodge, 706; D. W. Spence, J.W., 614; and Neimitz, J.W.; 706. The following Masonic and loyal toasts were ably given and warmly responded to. "The Queen, Prince Albert, and the rest of the Royal family;" "the G.M. of England and the D.G.M. the Earls of Zetland and Yarborough;" "the G.Ms. of Scotland and Ireland, the Dukes of Athol and Leinster." The W.M. again rising, said brethren, I call upon you to fill a bumper. We drank the last toasts most enthusiastically with Masonic honours, I now call upon you to do honour to the toast I am about to give you, I mean the health of "the G.M. of the U.S. America," and I will couple with the toast the health of "Br. Lee," whom I am happy to see present to day. Br. Lee made a neat and truly Masonic reply, thanking the brethren for the high compliment paid to the G.M. of the U.S., and for the honour they had done himself (Br Lee), in drinking his good health. After a short pause, the W.M. rose and said—brethren, the last toast was the health of a distant G.M., we will now with pleasure come nearer home, I give you with extreme satisfaction "the health of Br. John Fawcett, P.G.M. for the province of Durham." Thanks were returned by Brs. E. D. Davis, P.M. 56, and Brignall, of the Granby Lodge. The W.M. next gave "the health of the P.G.M. for Northumberland," whom they all loved, he said, as a Mason, and respected as a man. Drunk with Masonic honours. Again, brethren, said the W.M., I must rise, and in calling for a bumper for the forthcoming toast, I do so with peculiar pleasure. I beg to give you "the health of our much respected, much loved D.P.G.M. Br. Rd. Medcalf," who has honoured us with his presence to day—(cheers). He is always ready to give advice, and available to every one. The health, then, brethren, of

our D.P.G.M., with all the honours. Drunk with enthusiasm, and honours. Br. Medcalf, the D.P.G.M., in reply said—W.M., my much loved brother and highly esteemed friend, also my much beloved and respected Br. Davis, S.W., Br. J.W., and brethren generally, to you all for the kind manner in which you have drunk my health, I am deeply grateful. There are, it is true, amongst you many warm and personal friends, at the same time amongst my brethren I now begin to see many strange faces, but I cannot but dwell on this feature, without viewing in it the increase of Freemasonry. I am delighted to see so large a company assembled to day to do honour to the W.M., who is most deserving of all the honour we can do him. I hope this day will make impressions on his (the W.M.'s) mind, never to be effaced, and may the Great Architect of the Universe long spare our much-loved Br. Dalziel to be with us. Brethren, I love you as men and as Masons. I shall always do all in my power to promote harmony and affection.—(Cheers). Brotherly love is the only solid ground of union and prosperity. May the Great Architect of the Universe bless your families and firesides. May all our future assemblies be as harmonious and peaceful as we have been to day. Br. Wm. Berkley, P.M. 586, and P.G.S.W., next rose and said—Brethren, often have I risen to address my brethren in various Lodges in the province, but never have I risen with feelings of more pleasure and pride than on the present occasion in rising to propose to you the health of our well beloved brother and W.M., Br. Dalziel—(cheers). Ever active— what Lodge has not been indebted to him? Looking back, we see him as the founder of Northern Counties, the father of St. Peter's, the mainstay of 24, and the sheet-anchor of all the Lodges in the province —(loud cheers). I might go on eulogising, but you all know how deeply Br. Dalziel is respected and beloved both in Masonic and in private life. With the warmest feeling of my heart, I beg to propose to you in a bumper, "the health of our W.M., Br. Dalziel"—(cheers). Drunk with enthusiasm, and Masonic honours. The W.M. in reply said—brethren, it is impossible for me to express to you my feelings—Br. Berkley has used much flattering compliments. I will not say flattery, because I believe it proceeds from the inmost recesses of an honest heart; but I cannot but feel, brethren, that I am undeserving of that compliment. I do thank you all most sincerely, for the honour you have conferred on me in drinking my health in so warm and brotherly a manner. I am deeply grateful. The officers I have chosen are, I believe, men with a high sense of their duties, and, with their assistance, I hope this day twelve months to resign the trust reposed in me, if not improved, at any rate not impaired. My highly respected Br. Davis, who has kindly consented to be my S.W., is qualified to do any duty in a Masonic Lodge, and so is Br. Harrison, my much esteemed J.W.; in all my officers I have the fullest confidence. Brethren, I again thank you for the honour you have done me in drinking my health in the very warm manner you have done—(cheers). The W.M., after a short pause, rose and said—Now, brethren, for the next toast do charge a bumper. A more pleasing duty has not devolved on me than to propose the health of Br. Mörk, your much-respected late W.M.—(cheers). And whom now we are proud to have as a P.M. of Northern Counties Lodge. During my whole Masonic career never have I seen a Lodge more harmoniously conducted than this Lodge has been under Br. Mörk, during the past twelve months; I have extreme pleasure, therefore, in proposing "the health in a bumper, of Br. Mörk, now a P.M. of this Lodge"—(cheers). Br. Mörk in reply, said—brethren, I shall not attempt to be eloquent, but shall simply, but gratefully return my sincere thanks for the very flattering manner in which you have drunk my health—I am deeply grateful. I am happy, also, to know that the Lodge is in a very prosperous state on my leaving the chair, much of that prosperity, is, brethren, as you know, owing to the indefatigable exertions of Br. Punshon, our much-respected treasurer—(hear, hear). Again, brethren, I thank you all most sincerely. The W.M. then gave "Prosperity to Lodge 24," coupling "the health of Br. Johnson," the universally respected W.M. of that Lodge. Br. Johnson made a neat and feeling reply. Then followed the health of Br. Wm. Berkley, by Br. E. D. Davies, the S.W., who said Br. Berkely not only was a P.M. of Northern Counties Lodge, but held the high office of P.G.S.W. for the province, and also enjoyed the universal respect of his fellow-citizens, who had conferred on him one of the proudest civic distinctions—(cheers). Br. Berkley in feeling terms acknowledged the com-

pliment paid him in drinking his health. The D.P.G.M., Br. Medcalf then rose and said—W.M., and brethren generally, I esteem the privilege, a high one, in being permitted to propose to you the health of Br. Davis—(cheers), who is respected as a gentleman, and beloved as a Mason, and who is truly worthy of our respect and love. I would scorn to eulogise except in the sincerity of my heart; Br. Davis is worthy of those expressions, for a more finished gentleman I have never met with, or a better hearted brother. Had I the eloquence of Cicero I could not say more. I give you, then, "the health of our much beloved brother, the S.W. of this Lodge and P.M. of Lodge 56, Br. Davis"—(cheers). Br. Davis, in reply, said—For the flattering manner in which you have responded to my health proposed to you by my friend and brother, the D.P.G.M. for this province, I return my most sincere thanks. Though I have no pretence to deserve the very complimentary remarks made upon me, I am grateful for your good opinion, and shall always endeavour to deserve it. I have, brethren, always been willing to give my services, and I trust I shall not see the day when the inclination will be wanting. Before sitting down, I would make one remark; I think young Masons should always be educated in Masonry, to be able to fill the offices, and I trust my younger brethren will exert themselves so as to attain to that position—(hear, and cheers). Next followed "the health of Br. Punshon the much respected treasurer," by Br. Mörk P.M. Br. Punshon rose to reply—brethren, said he, I can scarcely express the pleasure and pride I feel on this occasion, after the handsome manner in which you have drunk my health. I shall always endeavour to discharge the duties of my office faithfully. The Northern Counties Lodge is now, I rejoice to say, in a highly prosperous state, and I trust it may ever continue so; may God's blessing be with us, and may we be happy, is the breathing of the inmost recess of my heart—(cheers). The W.M. then gave "Prosperity to the various Lodges, whose prosperity had not already been drunk," and coupled with the toast "the health of Brs. Wm. Berkely, P.M. 586; John Hopper, P.M. 614; John Cook, W.M. St Peter's Lodge, 706; Henry Bell, P.M. 706; and J. C. Gibson, P.M. 706." Br. John Cook, W.M. St. Peter's, returned thanks and said—I am most happy to see the large muster to day, and it must be most gratifying to the W.M., Br. Dalziel. I rejoice that St. Peter's has mustered so well on this occasion to do honour to one to whom honour is so justly due as to our well-beloved brother, the present W.M. of this Lodge—(cheers). Br. Wynne gave "the other officers of the Lodge," coupling in a graceful manner, "the health of Br. John T. M. Harrison, J.W." Br. Harrison made a neat and appropriate reply, and assured the brethren that he should exert himself to the very utmost to perform his duties to the satisfaction of the W.M., who had honoured him by appointing him J.W., and also to merit the approval of the other brethren of the Lodge. The health was next given of "Br. Hy. Bell, I.G. of the Lodge, and P.M. 706," whom the W.M. said had conferred an honour on the Lodge by taking office—Drunk amid much enthusiasm. Br. Bell made a graceful and happy reply—saying he did so with peculiar pleasure, and adding that to have office under the W.M. he considered an honour. Br. Berkely gave the "Army and Navy," in a warm patriotic speech, coupling "the health of Br. Meade," of H. M. Royal Sappers and Miners. Br. Berkeley said our gallant soldiers and sailors and those of our allies were suffering for us, and that the independence of nations should not be trampled down, and that the progress of civilization should not be stayed. Br. Meade in a sensible speech replied, and said that he felt nothing would be wanting in the energies of the soldiers and sailors to merit the approval and everlasting admiration of posterity. "The health of Br. Miller" as a junior member of the Lodge, was given, and gracefully replied to Br. Hopper, in a warm and beautiful speech, gave "the Ladies." Drunk amid tremendous enthusiasm. "The health of Brs. John Hodge, P.M. 24, and Geo. Fenwick, P.G.S.B. for the province," were then drunk, and replied to in appropriate terms. "The health of Br. Challoner, P.G.J.W.," was given in complimentary language by Br. Davis, S.W. Br. Challoner returned thanks and said it was his great aim to deserve the kind feelings of all with whom he became associated in life. Several beautiful songs from Brs. Davis, Thompson, Hopper, Joel, and Meade, added much to the harmony and enjoyment of the occasion. The W.M. gave "the next merry meeting," and the brethren retired highly pleased with the days proceedings.

OXFORDSHIRE.

THERE was a grand week for Freemasons at Oxford in the early part of the past month, when a very large assemblage of the brethren were brought together. The chief occasion of their gathering was to do honour to Br. Capt. Henry Atkins Bowyer, of Steeple Aston, who had been appointed by the Grand Master of England (the Earl of Zetland) to the high and honourable office of Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire, vacant by the death of the Rev. C. J. Ridley. The high position which Br. Bowyer held in Masonry as Deputy P.G.M. of this province, and his long-established fame as a Mason, drew together an unusually large number of officers and members of the Grand Lodge and of the Provincial Lodges.

On the evening of Monday the 7th, the late Mayor (Br. R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B.) and Mrs. Spiers gave a Masonic evening party, at their residence, to the visitors who had arrived in Oxford, and to many of the resident Brethren. This afforded an agreeable opportunity of introducing them to each other, and enabled them to become better acquainted before entering on their Masonic duties. The evening was spent in that agreeable and intellectual manner which Br. Spiers's resources enable him to accomplish with so much facility. On the following morning the P.G.M. (Br. Bowyer) gave a breakfast in the Council Chamber, which was attended by the Mayor, all the distinguished visiting brethren from various provinces, and the Provincial Grand Officers of Oxfordshire.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.—At twelve o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, the 8th of May, a Provincial Grand Lodge was held for the purpose of installing the Pl.G.M. elect, and there was a more than usually numerous attendance, owing to an anticipation that the ceremony would be performed by the G.M. or D.G.M. of England—an anticipation which could not be realised, owing to the other engagements of those distinguished individuals; the duty, therefore, devolved upon Br. Hall, the P.G.M. of Cambridgeshire.

The brethren being assembled in Lodge, Br. Hall stated that by this meeting they were painfully reminded of the great loss which they had sustained by the death of the late P.G.M., Br. Ridley, a loss that was great to Masons in general, but more especially to the brethren of this province, to whom he had endeared himself by his many amiable qualities, and by his zeal for Masonry. He was gone to his rest, and in obedience to command of Grand Lodge, they were assembled to instal a worthy successor to that office, which he had filled with so much ability and fidelity. The P.G.M. then instructed seven of the Senior Past Masters to induct the P.G.M. elect, who was in attendance in another apartment.

The P.G.M. was then introduced by P.M. Sadler, Mayor of Oxford, who presented him to the presiding P.G.M. in a short address, in which he adverted to his high qualifications for the honourable office conferred on him by the G.M. of England. The P.G.S. read the patent of office, after which the P.G.M. assented to the ancient charges which were read to him.

The presiding P.G.M. next inducted Br. Bowyer to his seat, and congratulated him and the Province on the appointment, and remarked that there was no Province in the kingdom where the proceedings were regarded with so much interest as those of the Province of Oxford. He expressed an earnest hope that he might long be spared to rule over the Province, and to exemplify those great Masonic qualities for which he was so distinguished. The brethren then saluted the P.G.M. in the customary manner.

The P.G.M. said that his first duty was to appoint a Deputy P.G.M. for this Province, and that it afforded him the highest gratification to confer that office on Br. R. J. Spiers, who was not only highly esteemed in the Province, but had enjoyed the confidence of the G.M., who had honoured him a short time since with the office of Grand Sword Bearer of England. He knew that Br. Spiers's services to Masonry would be gratefully acknowledged by the whole Province, and constitutedsufficient grounds for his conferring upon him that important office.

Br. Spiers, having made the usual declaration, was inducted to his seat, and saluted by the brethren.

The P.G.M. said that the Reports from the Lodges in the Province were of a gratifying nature, and showed them to be in a high state of prosperity. During the last year there had been, in the Alfred City Lodge, 12 passings, 13 raisings, and 16 initiations, making a total of 41 ceremonies. The funds of the Lodge were in a most satisfactory state, and, under the rule of the late W.M. and the present W.M., the Lodge continued to prosper. In the Apollo Lodge, which was peculiarly constituted, there had been a much larger number of ceremonies, namely, 55 passings, 42 raisings, and 54 initiations, making a total of 151 ceremonies. The Lodge was well conducted, and its funds were in a very prosperous condition. The Churchill Lodge, a very useful and skilfully worked Lodge, had prospered under its able officers, and had gained 10 additional members, while its funds were in a very satisfactory state. The Cherwell Lodge, the youngest in the Province, was rising rapidly; its initiations in the last year amounted to 6, and the state of its funds was most satisfactory, for it had a good balance, notwithstanding that it had had to incur heavy expenses for furniture, jewels, &c., necessary on the formation of a Lodge. It was now in such a position that it was enabled to do its part towards the maintenance of the masonic charities.

On the motion of Br. Beach, P.M., of the Apollo Lodge, seconded by the P.G.M., Br. T. Randall was unanimously elected P.G. Treasurer.

The P.G.M. then invested the following brethren with their insignia of office, and spoke of each in complimentary terms, which were much applauded:—Prov. Senior Gr. Warden, Br. James Wyatt; Junior Warden, Br. Malcolm, Christ Church; Chaplains, the Rev. J. Sedgwick, of Magdalen College, and Rev. J. S. Sidebotham, of New College; Registrar, Br. W. Martin Atkins, Farleycastle; Secretary, Br. the Earl of Lincoln; Senior Deacon, Br. J. T. Hester; Junior ditto, Br. W. J. Birch, of Pudlicote House; Superintendent of Works, Br. Looker, of Banbury; Directors of Ceremonies, Br. Hon. W. J. Vernon, of Christ Church, and Br. T. Houghton; Sword Bearer, Br. Joseph Plowman; Organist, Br. Dr. S. Elvey; Pursuivant, Br. J. Bossom; Stewards, Brs. the Hon. G. Dillon, the Hon. W. H. North, C. C. Dormer, Rev. T. Russell, Rainsford, E. G. Bruton.

The following subscriptions were voted to the under-mentioned charities:—Masonic Boys' School, 2 guineas; Masonic Girls' School, 2 guineas; Annuity Fund, 2*l.*; Widows' Fund, 2*l.*; Masonic Asylum, 1*l.*; Oxford Baths and Washhouses, 2 guineas; Radcliffe Infirmary, 3 guineas; Medical Dispensary, 2 guineas; Blue Coat School, 1 guinea; Anti-Mendicity Society, 1 guinea.

The P.G.M. then handed to Br. Barter the Charity Jewel, voted by the Grand Lodge to that Brother, for having acted as Steward to the Boys' and Girls' Festivals.

The P.G.M. said he could not look on the many distinguished Masons around him, many of whom had come from a long distance to pay honour to him and to the office which he held, without feeling truly grateful to them for their kindness and assistance. He thanked especially the P.G.M. of Cambridgeshire, who had done him the honour to conduct the installation, and in so masterly a manner, and begged to move that the names of the visiting P.G. Officers present be entered on the records of the Lodge, by way of acknowledgment. The D.P.G.M. seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The Lodge was then closed, after which the brethren separated.

In the evening the Installation Festival took place at the Town Hall, which was decorated in exceedingly good taste with Masonic banners and devices. Elegant vases and other ornaments, filled up with choice flowers, were interspersed on the tables, and a nosegay was placed in every plate. The arrangements were under the superintendence of Br. W. Thompson and twelve stewards. The presence of a large number of ladies at the end of the hall imparted additional brilliancy to the scene.

The P.G.M., attended by his distinguished visitors and his grand officers, entered the hall in procession about six o'clock, Grimmett's band playing the well-known air, "The Roast Beef of Old England."

The P.G.M. presided, and amongst those present were the D.P.G.M. (Br. R. J. Spiers); Br. Sadler, P.S.G.W., Mayor of Oxford; the P.G.M. of Cambridgeshire; the P.G.M. of South Australia; P.P.G.M. of Bengal; P.G.M. of Essex; P.G.M. of Staffordshire; P.G.M. of Worcestershire; D.P.G. Masters of Wiltshire, Kent,

Staffordshire; W.M. 620 of Ireland (Br. K. Clay); Br. Coakley, P.G.S.; Br. Compigne, P.M. 597; Br. J. A. D. Cox, W.M. 317; the P.M. of Gr. Steward's Lodge; Br. H. Chilton, S.W. 317; Br. Dawes, P.P.S.G.W. Lancashire; Br. Dudley, P.P.G.W. Oxon; Br. C. C. Dormer, S.D. 873; Br. Fardel, P.G.C.; Br. Giles, P.M. 772; Br. Hervey, P.G.D.; Br. How, P.G. Dir. Cer. Surrey; Br. Jenkins, P.M. 252; Br. Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; Br. Looker, P.G.S. Works, Oxon; Br. Rev. W. H. Lyall, W.M. 10; Br. Drummond, Christ Church, P.G.St., Oxon; Br. Masson, P.G.S.B.; Br. Martin, P.G.W., Oxon; Br. the Rev. O. F. Owen, P.G.C. for Surrey; Br. Owen, P.P.G.D., Oxon; Br. Patten, P.G.S.B.; Br. Joseph Plowman, P.G.S.B.; Br. Rev. T. Pearce, P.G.C., Dorset; Br. Rev. C. R. Pettat, P.P.G.C., Oxon; Br. Rev. A. Roberts, Prov. Grand Chaplain, Berks; Br. J. Symonds, P.M. 275; Br. Spencer, P.M. 329; Br. the Rev. J. Sedgwick, P.G.C., Oxon; Br. Sydenham, P.G.R., Dorsetshire; Br. Thisetton, P.G.St.; Br. Thorp, W.M. 425, P.P.G.D. Oxon; Br. Wing, P.M. 21; Br. Rev. J. G. Wood, P.P.G.D., Oxon; Br. J. Wyatt, S.G.W. Oxon; Br. F. Symonds, P.P.G.W., Oxon; Br. Watkins, P.G.S.; Br. E. Cripps, W.M. 862; Br. W. S. Portal, S.W. 10; Br. T. Walker, P.P.G.W., Oxon; Br. Rev. G. R. Portal, P.P.G.W., Oxon; Br. Beach, P.P.G.W., Oxon; Br. J. C. Dudley, P.P.G.W., Oxon; Br. T. Randall, P.P.G.W., Oxon; Br. Harrison, S.W., 460, P P.G.S., Oxon; Br. Leslie, P.P.G.S.W., Oxon; Br. Fraser, P.P.G.S.W., Oxon; Br. J. T. Hester, P.S.G.D., Oxon; Br. the Rev. J. Sidebotham, P.G. Chap., Oxon; Br. Dr. Elvey, P.P.G.O., Oxon; Br. Bruton, Steward; Br. Lord Garlies, Steward; Br. the Rev. T. Russell, Steward; Br. the Hon. H. Wodehouse, St.; Br. Houghton, G.D.C., Oxon; Br. Cox, 460, St., &c., &c. The number present exceeded 200, and the costly dresses and jewellery of the brethren had a very imposing appearance.

The P.G.M. gave, as the first toast, "The Queen and the Craft," after which the band played the National Anthem and the French air, "Partant pour la Syrie,"—the latter eliciting much applause.

The P.G.M. next proposed "The health of the G.M. of England, the Earl of Zetland."

The P.G.M. of Bengal (Br. Col. Burlton) proposed "The D.G.M. of England, the Earl of Yarborough, and the Grand Officers of England."

The Rev. E. Moore, of Brasenose College, Grand Chaplain, responded, and stated that it was the anxious endeavour of the G.M. and his Officers to maintain the reputation of the Craft. The present occasion was one of unmixed delight, and it was with great satisfaction that they had witnessed the installation of a brother so eminently qualified as Br. Bowyer to fulfil the duties of his high and honorable office, and they could not but feel grateful to the G.M. for the wisdom he had displayed in making such a selection—(Cheers).

Br. Dr. Kent, P.G.M. of South Australia, proposed "The Grand Masters of Ireland and Scotland, the Duke of Leinster and the Duke of Athol." He alluded to the presence of Br. Clay, W.M. of Lodge 620 of Ireland, and to the interest which that brother took in the Masonic charities. After some remarks on the nationality of Masonry, Br. Kent observed that when he went to Australia, in 1839, there was but one Lodge there, whereas there were, at the present time, no less than eight in Adelaide alone. He was initiated in the Lodge of Harmony at Richmond, over which their present P.G.M. had presided; and out of respect to that Lodge, and its worthy brethren, one of the Lodges in Australia was called the Lodge of Harmony. The Craft was making great progress in that country, and, as a proof of the estimation in which it was held by those who were not Masons, he mentioned that a short time since, when the Masons had the use of the Cathedral granted to them, on which occasion the Grand Chaplain preached, they found the Dean and Senior Canon there, prepared to take their part in the services—(Cheers).

Br. Clay responded to the toast, and expressed the pleasure it afforded him to represent on this occasion the G.M. of Ireland, the Duke of Leinster, who, for Masonic zeal and worth, was not exceeded by the distinguished brother who presided over this meeting. He congratulated the province on the elevation of two such worthy Masons as Br. Bowyer and Br. Spiers, the latter of whom had evinced his

sympathy for Ireland, when visiting that country recently, by becoming a Governor of her Masonic Schools.

Br. Masson, P.G.S.B., acknowledged the toast on behalf of Scotland, and remarked that he had the happiness and delight of first seeing the light of Masonry in 1812, and on every return to his native land he found Masonry on the increase, and its benefits extending—(Cheers).

Br. Sadler, the Mayor, proposed "the Army and Navy," and, after eulogising, in eloquent terms, the bravery of our troops and allies in the present war, adverted to the noble conduct of Miss Nightingale and the other ladies, who had forsaken their homes and country, in the true spirit of Masonry, to succour the distressed and alleviate the sufferings of the wounded—(Much cheering).

Br. Colonel Vernon, of the Coldstream Guards, thanked the brethren for the compliment which they had paid to that profession to which he had the pride and honour to belong; and, after adverting to the wonderful endurance which their armies had evinced, and which had enabled them to overcome difficulties more trying than actual warfare, assured them that their best reward was the approbation and consideration of their countrymen; and it was a common remark with them, and doubtless operated as a stimulus, "what will they think of us in England?"—(Loud cheers).

Br. Spiers, D.P.G.M., proposed the health of the P.G.M. Br. Bowyer, and, after alluding to his high qualifications for the office of P.G.M., said that no appointment could have been more grateful to the feelings of all in the Province, where he was so much esteemed, and that the attendance of so many distinguished Masons from various parts of England, as well as from abroad, afforded the best testimony that his merits were appreciated by the Masonic body generally—(Much cheering).

The P.G.M., in returning thanks, assured the brethren that it would be his earnest desire to promote the interests of the Craft, and to show that he was not unmindful of the responsibility, or insensible of the honour, of that high position which the G.M. had been pleased to confer upon him, an honour which he valued the more, because he had reason to believe, from the kindness which he had always received at their hands, that the appointment was one which was approved of by the whole Province. He was devotedly attached to Masonry, and looked back with pride and pleasure to that hour when he first joined its ranks—(Loud cheers). He then proposed the healths of his distinguished visitors, "the various P.G. Officers, who had done him the honour to attend on this occasion, and more especially the P.G.M. of Cambridgeshire," who had performed the ceremony of Installation with so much zeal, kindness, and ability—(Much cheering).

Br. Hall, P.G.M. of Cambridgeshire, responded to the toast, and adverted to the fact that he presided over a Province in which the Sister University was situated, and that tended to make him feel deeper interest in the Masonic progress in Oxford. He stated that he had enjoyed the friendship of their lamented P.G.M., Br. Ridley, than whom a more estimable man, or better Mason, he had never met. He congratulated them on the appointment of so worthy a successor, and as Masonry was an accomplished fact in Oxford, there was every prospect that, under his auspices, it would long continue to occupy its present proud position. Where could it be expected to flourish more than here and in the Sister University, where they were surrounded by the noblest records of Masonry, and where the pursuits tended to humanize the disposition, and to lighten the understanding?—(Cheers).

The toast was also responded to by the P.G. Masters of Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Australia, and Bengal.

Br. Rev. G. R. Portal proposed "The Mayor, and prosperity to the city of Oxford," and expressed his conviction that the increasing unity between the University and City had been, in a great measure, owing to the fact that for the last four years the civic chair had been filled by Masons—(Cheers).

Br. Sadler returned thanks in an eloquent address, in the course of which he stated, that after forty years' experience, he could truly say that there was no institution more entitled to the esteem and affection of every true Christian and loyal subject than Freemasonry; for it inculcated reverence to the Great Architect of the Universe, loyalty to the Sovereign, obedience to the laws, attachment to the institutions of the

land, and the practice of every moral and social virtue essential to the well-being and good of society; and he desired no better epitaph than this—"Once here lived and now lies an honest Mason"—(Much cheering).

The P.G.M. of Cambridgeshire proposed, in complimentary terms, "The health of the D.P.G.M. of Oxfordshire, Br. R. J. Spiers"—(Loud cheers).

Br. Spiers returned thanks, and stated that in all the positions which he had been called on to fill he had endeavoured to carry out those great principles which had been inculcated in the Lodge-room; and if he had been useful to society, it was only by putting in practice that which Masonry at every step enjoined, viz., to promote the welfare and happiness of their follow-men.

The D.P.G.M. then proposed "Prosperity to the Richmond Lodge of Harmony," in which the P.G.M. was initiated.

Br. Col. Macdonald, as the oldest member of that Lodge, responded, and expressed the gratification which it afforded him to witness the installation of Br. Bowyer, who had endeared himself to every member of that Lodge, in which he first saw the Light of Masonry.

At this state of the proceedings a splendid silver candelabrum, convertible into an epergne, and intended as a testimonial to Br. W. Thompson, was placed on the the table. It is of chaste and elegant design, weighing about 300 oz., and was supplied by Br. Sheard, of this city.

Br. Beach, late W.M. of the Apollo University Lodge, rose and said that there was nothing more gratifying in every phase of life than to reward merit, and that the Masonic body had never been backward in manifesting that spirit. As a proof of it, they had embraced this opportunity of testifying to Br. W. Thompson their sense of his unwearied exertions and long services in the cause of Masonry, and delegated to him the pleasing duty of presenting him with the splendid piece of plate before them, on which was inscribed "Presented, by the Freemasons of the Province of Oxford, to Br. W. Thompson, P.M., P. Prov. S. W. Oxon, and P.Z., in grateful acknowledgment of the valuable secvices rendered by him to the cause of Freemasonry during a long series of years, May 8th, 1855"—(Much cheering).

Br. Thompson said, that if on any ordinary occasion he had felt at a loss to convey his acknowledgments, how much more must he feel on this, when he found himself in the presence of so many distinguished Masons, from various parts of the kingdom, and abroad, assembled to do honour to their newly-appointed P.G.M. There were times when the heart was overcharged and the tongue could not give utterance to its emotions, and he was in that position at the present moment, in having to acknowledge one of the most gratifying testimonials that could have been presented to him. Although it was of great value in itself, it was to him of less value than the kindly feelings which dictated it; and in receiving it he could not conceal from himself that there were many others far more deserving of it, but it had been his good fortune to be more prominently brought before the Masonic body than many others, for on the decease of his father, the brethren of the Apollo Lodge, out of respect to his memory, elected him to fill the same office. For a quarter of a century he had been a Mason, and to it he had been indebted for much happiness and for many valuable friendships which he had formed. He thanked the brethren, and Br. Beach in particular, for their kind expressions; and while he should ever retain a grateful recollection of this occasion, he trusted that he never should do any thing to forfeit their good opinion, or to lose that confidence which they had been pleased to repose in him—(Cheers).

The toasts which followed were, "The P.G. Officers of Oxfordshire," responded to by Br. James Wyatt, P.G.S.W.; "The late Grand Chaplain," acknowledged by Br. Rev. Sir J. W. Hayes.

The P.G.M. then gave "The healths of the W.M. and Officers of the Lodges of the Province of Oxford."

Br. J. Thorpe, W.M., returned thanks for the Alfred; The Rev. J. Sidebotham for the Churchill; Br. Birch for the Cherwell; and Br. Harrison for the Apollo Lodges.

Br. Sir John W. Hayes proposed "The healths of the Stewards," which was acknowledged by the Rev. T. Russell.

Br. Colonel Vernon psoposed "The health of our gallant Allies," and remarked that the Emperor of the French was a Mason. He expressed a hope that they should for a long series of years be bound in bonds of union with that most warlike and gallant nation, and that the recent visit of the Emperor and the Empress would serve to cement that union. After dilating on the indomitable courage of their noble ally, he begged them to pledge a bumper to him, and to express an earnest hope that the Great Architect of the Universe would long preserve a life which might truly be said to be, under every circumstance, one of the most precious lives in Europe—(Loud cheers).

Br. Mons. Baume responded to the toast, and remarked that it must be a proud reflection to both countries to see England and France taking part, side by side, in the war of civilization against barbarism. England was renowned as a commercial nation, but when the great principles of freedom were endangered, there was no nation who threw aside the scabbard more readily, or wielded the sword more nobly. England and France were now united in that common object in protecting the weak against the strong, and to such an union Russia must succumb, for both countries were prepared to shed their best blood, and to spend their treasures, in defence of those principles of liberty upon which they had taken their stand, and were bent in carrying out. It was true that this must be attended by increased taxation, but he knew that neither the people of this country, nor of his own, would grudge what was necessary in order to uphold the liberties and secure the peace of Europe—(Much cheering).

Br. Randall proposed, in eloquent terms, "Success to the Masonic Charities," and strongly urged the brethren to give the best practical illustration of Masonry by affording them all the support in their power.

The brethren then withdrew to tea and coffee, which were served in the Council Chamber, after which the proceedings were brought to a close.

Masonic Ball—The *Oxford Journal* says, we understand that the Freemasons of the Province of Oxford intend to give a grand ball on Tuesday the 19th of June, at the Town Hall. The Earl of Derby is expected to honor it with his presence, and all the arrangements are matured. Sir H. Peyton, Bart., the Earl of Lincoln, Capt. Bowyer, the Mayor of Oxford, J. Morrell, jun., Esq., Viscount Fordwich, Lord Garlies, and about 20 other brethren of rank and influence, have consented to act as stewards.

Churchill Lodge, Nuneham (No. 702).—The Annual Meeting of this Lodge was held at the Harcourt Arms Inn, on Monday, May 7th, when the W.M. elect, Br. the Rev. J. Sidebotham, was installed by Br. J. Thorp, W.M. of the Alfred City Lodge. After this ceremony the W.M. appointed the following to be his officers for the year:—Past-Master, Br. T. Toy; Senior Warden, Br. Fraser; Junior ditto, Br. Rev. T. Russell; Chaplain, Br. Rev. J. G. Wood; Treasurer, Br. W. Gardiner; Secretary, Br. Joseph Plowman; Senior Deacon, Br. G. Druce; Junior ditto, Br. Bigge; Master of the Ceremonies, Br. Cartwright; Inner Guard, Br. Vincent; Organist, Br. Gordon; Stewards, Brs. Faber and Hon. W. J. Vernon; Tylers, Brs. Bull and Tipton. The following brethren were ballotted for, and elected joining members:—Brs. Strother, Robbins, Hutton, and J. Hurst. The following were proposed as joining members:—Brs. Hope, Bliss, Hayward, Dr. Elvy, and Coleridge. The brethren proceeded from labour to refreshment, and, under the auspices of the W. M., a very agreeable afternoon was spent.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

Sutherland Lodge, Burslem (No. 660).—The brethren of this Lodge celebrated the festival of St. John by a sumptuous banquet, at the George Hotel, on Wednesday, May 9. The office of president was ably filled by Br. C. T. Davenport, W.M., supported by Br. W. H. Wright, of Hanley, Provincial Grand Chaplain, and other members of the Provincial Lodge. Br. W. K. Harvey, P.M., occupied the vice-chair. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, the latter eliciting various replies from the brethren, and in some of them pleasing facts were stated as

to the onward progress of the Order of Freemasons in all parts of the world, and the beneficial effects which the system everywhere produced. Brs. G. Simpson, T. Simpson, and others, in the intervals of the addresses, favoured the company with various Masonic songs, and a very social and agreeable evening was spent.

SOUTH WALES.

INDEFATIGABLE LODGE, SWANSEA (No. 288).—The brethren of this Lodge celebrated its jubilee on Tuesday, May 8, by a supper at the Assembly Rooms. There was a full attendance of brethren on the occasion, and we hear that the evening passed off most harmoniously. The Indefatigable Lodge, under the able presidency of the present Worshipful Master, Br. F. J. Lloyd, promises to be, if it is not already the most flourishing Lodge in South Wales. It may be interesting to remark that the warrant for holding this Lodge is dated 8th May, 1805, and was granted by his late Majesty George the Fourth, then Prince of Wales and Grand Master of England

WORCESTERSHIRE.

HARMONIC LODGE, DUDLEY (No. 313).—The brethren of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, Stone Street, on Tuesday, the 1st May, under the presidency of Br. Bristow, W.M., who raised a brother to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge was honored by the presence of several visitors.

YORKSHIRE.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, DONCASTER (No. 298).—The brethren of this Lodge assembled on the afternoon of Friday last, the 25th of May, for the purpose of installing Br. the Rev. J. G. Fardell, P.G.S.W., Master of the Lodge for the year ensuing, a dispensation having been granted by the D.P.G.M. for the worthy Master to govern the Lodge for the third year consecutively. Several brethren from neighbouring Lodges were present at the ceremonial, which was conducted in a very able manner, Br. W. H. Bailes, of Sheffield, acting as Installing Master. The Master then appointed his officers as follows, and they were invested with the respective jewels:—Senior Warden, Br. George Brooke; Junior Warden, Br. Clarke; Deacon, Br. Smith; Secretary, Br. George Brooke. Br. Webb, P.M., retains his office as Treasurer; and Brs. Smith and Hirst, theirs as Inner Guard and Tyler. After the proceedings the brethren partook of an excellent banquet, provided by Br. Clarke, at the Rein Deer hotel, in his usual elegant and profuse style. The usual loyal and masonic toasts were proposed and drank, and the brethren enjoyed an intellectual evening, the predominant feelings being those of friendship, love, and truth.

IRELAND.

GRAND LODGE.

A meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, was held at the Masonic Hall, Dublin, on Thursday, May 4, when the following noblemen and gentlemen were installed into office:—His Grace the Duke of Leinster, G.M.; the Earl of Donoughmore, G.S.W.; Sir J. S. Robinson, Bart., G.J.W.; Sir Joshu Hort, Bart., G. Secretary; Br. Thomas James Quinton, G. Treasurer; and Br. J. Adams, G. Pursivant.

DOWNSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SOUTH DOWN.—The following are the Officers of the P.G.L. for 1855:—P.G.M., W. B. Forde, P.M., Lodge 86; D.P.G.M., Wm. Henry, P.M., Lodge 18; P.G.S.W., P. E. Brabazon, P.M., Lodge 86; P.G.J.W., W. J. Barre, P.M., Lodge 23; P.G.S.D., Jas. Cunningham, P.M., Lodge 197; P.G.J.D., John Ellis, P.M., Lodge 18; P.G.C., Rev. J. C. Quin; P.G.I.G., Wm. Keown, P.M., Lodge 86; P.G.S.T., George F. Echlin, P.M., Lodge 86.

The P.G.L. of South Down held their Half-Yearly Meeting, in Newry, on the 8th instant. The chair was taken by the Right Worshipful the P.G.M., Br. W. B. Forde, assisted by his Deputy Br. Wm. Henry. The following Officers were also present:—Br. P. E. Brabazon, P.G.S.W.; Br. W. J. Barre, P.G.J.W.; Br. W. Madden, Acting P.G.S.D.; Br. John Ellis, P.G.J.D.; Br. the Very Rev. the Dean of Dromore, Officiating P.G.C.; Br. W. Keown, P.G.I.G.; Br. Isaac Parsons, Acting P.G.S. There was a good attendance, the majority of the Lodges of the Province being represented. The business, which was of peculiar interest to the Craft, having been transacted, the brethren retired for refreshment, and having partaken of an excellent dinner at the Victoria Hotel, the usual Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and a handsome collection made for "the distressed brethren;" the Lodge wa closed, and the brethren, many of whom had come from a considerable distance for the occasion, separated at an early hour in "peace, love, and harmony."

County of Down Lodge, Downpatrick (No. 86).—The Officers of this Lodge for the first half year of 1855, are—W.M., Henry Smyth; S.W., Spencer Perceval; S.W., W. Keown, P.M.; S.D., W. N. White, P.M.; J.D., George Hastings, P.M.; I.G., John Craig, P.M.; Sec. and Tr., George F. Echlin, P.M. This Lodge consists of about thirty-two members, many of whom have attained high rank in Masonry. They meet in their room, Downpatrick, on the last Wednesday but one in each month, and on the 24th of June and 27th of December, on which days they dine together.

St. John's Blue Lodge, Donaghadee (no. 675).—Monday the 8th May-being the regular Lodge night, a number of the brethren met to transact the business of the Lodge, the W.M., Br. John Smyth, in the chair, when there was presented to Br. Capt. Nicoolas Delacherois, a splendid Masonic Jewel, with the following suitable inscription (Presented by Masonic Lodge, No. 675, to Br. Captn. N. Delacherois, as a token of respect). Br. Thomas Pentland, P.M. 675, in presenting it to him in the name of the Members of the Lodge, took occasion to thank him for the interest he felt in the prosperity of the Lodge and Masonry in general. Br. Delacherois, in returning thanks for the present, feared that the Lodge had complimented him too much on what he had done, but said he was still willing to go on doing all he could to further the interests of Lodge 675, and Masonry in which he delighted. After some toasts being drunk the brethren separated, well pleased with the proceedings of the evening.

ROYAL ARCH.

GRAND CHAPTER.—QUARTERLY CONVOCATION.

At a meeting of the Supreme Grand Chapter, holden at Freemasons Hall, on Wednesday, 2nd May, 1855. Present, E. Comp. Thos. Henry Hall, as Z.; A. Dobie, as H.; Fredk. Dundas, J.; W. H. White, E.; J. Hervey, as N.; H. L. Crohn, P.S., G. W. K. Potter, T. Tombleson, P. Secs. Comps. E. Moore, J. Goldsworthy, R. J. Spiers, H. Lloyd, F. Patterson, T. Parkinson, C. Baumer, S. Rawson, &c., &c., &c; The Grand Chapter was opened in ancient and solemn form, and the Minutes of the last Quarterly Convocation were read and confirmed. The M. E. Comp. Hall, installed the E. Comp. Fredk. Dundas, to the chairs of H. and Z. The M. E. Z., was then pleased to appoint and invest the following Comps. Grand Officers for the ensuing year, viz:—E. Comps. The Earl of Yarborough, H.; Fredk. Dundas, M.P., J.; William H. White, E.; Fredk. Pattison, N.; H. Lloyd, P. Sec.; W. Stuart, M.P., 1st Asst. Sec.; H. W. Eaton, 2nd Asst. Sec.; Saml. Tomkins, Treas.; A. Dobie, Registrar; J. N. Tomkins, Sword Bearer; C. W. Elkington, Standard Bearer; Peter Matthews, Dir. of Ceremonies. A New Chapter was granted to be attached to the St. Peters Lodge, No. 699, at Carmarthen, South Wales. All business being concluded, the Grand Chapter was closed in ancient form, and adjourned.

British Chapter (No. 8).—This distinguished Chapter held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, May 4th. After voting five guineas to the Widow of their late Janitor Companion Dalton, the Companions adjourned to partake of an elegant banquet. In proposing the health of the Earl of Zetland G.Z., the M.E.Z.

observed that the noble Earl was only to be known to be respected, as he was ever ready to come forward when called upon, to support the principles of charity. Also in proposing the health of the Earl of Yarborough, G.H., and the Hon. F. Dundas, G.I., he adverted to the readiness with which those Grand Officers attended to every Masonic Festival, and supported the Charities not only with their presence, but with their purses. Comp. Robinson, P.Z., than proposed the health of the M.E.Z. Comp. Herbert Lloyd, and expressed the pleasure the Chapter felt in being presided over by a Member of such great experience and high standing in the Order, whose smiling face he was always happy to see; it was with the greatest satisfaction he had witnessed his investment as P.S. of the Grand Chapter; with regard to the two other Principals, Comp. Stohwaster and Comp. Dawson, he should have been glad to have seen them perform the Ceremony of Exaltation, as it was expected they would have to do, as he was sure they would have discharged their duties with credit to themselves and the Chapter. The M.E.Z., in returning thanks, expressed his readiness in conjunction with the other Principals, to do every thing in their power for the advancement of the Chapter. In proposing the health of the Past Principals, the M.E.Z. thanked them for their services, more particularly Comp. Robinson, who had served the Office he now had the honor to hold, during the preceding year; at the same time he felt a great pleasure in presenting to that worthy Comp. a Jewel from the Chapter, as a mark of their esteem, which he would place over his heart, as he believed it was entirely in Masonry. Comp. Robinson thanked the Companions for their kind mark of respect which he should receive with pleasure, wear with pride, and he hoped with credit to the Chapter. Other toasts having been drank, the Companions seperated in the greatest harmony.

Mount Sinai Chapter (No. 49).—A convocation of this Chapter was held at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 15th inst., at which a numerous assemblage of the Order were present. The business of the evening consisted of two exaltations and the installations of Principals. Bros. W. F. Blackburn (169) and J. F. Paul (211), were impressively exalted to the sublime degree, by M.E.Z. Andrews, who afterwards duly installed Comps. J. Smith Z, Cooper H, and Potter J. The M.E.Z. then rose and said, that the first duty he had to discharge was indeed a most pleasing one. At all times it delighted him to be the medium of conveying the esteem of a Lodge or Chapter, to a deserving member, and no occasion could he possibly experience greater pleasure than when presenting a P.P. Jewel, to Companion Andrew, whose great services were too well known to every member of the Chapter, to require any comment on the present occasion. No greater evidence of his ability was needed, than the specimen they had heard that evening of his efficient working of their beautiful ceremonies. In presenting him with the Jewel, he could assure him that it was the sincere and cordial wish of every Comp. that he might live for very many years to wear it. Comp. Andrew, who up to this moment had been kept in ignorance of this intended mark of respect, with great feeling and eloquence, expressed his grateful acknowledgements of the kindness of the Comps. All business being concluded, the Comps., to the number of 40 (of whom 12 were visitors), sat down to an elegant supper, provided in Comp. Rackstraw's best style. Comp. J. Clark (206) returned thanks for the visitors, in a neat and pleasing speech, and the usual toasts having been duly honored, the Companions separated, highly pleased at the true spirit of masonry which prevailed.

KENT.

Hermes Chapter, Gravesend (No. 91).—A convocation of this Chapter was held at the Falcon Hotel, Gravesend, on the 22nd ult., for the despatch of business relating to the sublime degree. Several brethren were proposed for exaltation. The Companions afterwards sat down to an excellent banquet. This Chapter is now in possession of very splendid furniture, in lieu of that destroyed by fire some few years ago, and there can be but little doubt, that were the Gravesend Brethren reminded of the great conveniences which this Chapter offers to them, it would in a very short time, be one of the most flourishing in Kent. Indeed, such is the facility afforded by the two railways, that many of the London Comps. are amongst its members. It remains to be seen whether at the next meeting (in August), these expectations will be realized.

OXFORDSHIRE.

ALFRED CHAPTER, OXFORD (No. 425).—There was a very large convocation of the Companions on Monday, May 8, when the Chapter having been opened and a number of brethren duly examined, they were exalted into the Royal Arch with all becoming solemnity. The business having been brought to a close, the Comps. separated, the majority of them afterwards attending the *soirée* of Comp. Spiers to meet the new P.G.M., whose installation, as we have elsewhere recorded, took place on the following day.

KNIGHT TEMPLARS.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

The Annual Meeting of the Grand Encampment, took place on Friday, May 11th, at 4 o'clock, the most eminent and supreme G.M. Col. Tynti presiding. The business was only of a routine kind, concerning the furniture of the Grand Encampment; the nomination of Grand Officers for the year ensuing, and the election of the Committee of Management. The Banquet was of the most *recherché* description, the noble haunches of venison (the kind and thoughtful gifts of M.E.G.M.), were duly honored by the Sir Knights esurient, and the whole entertainment appeared to give unlimited satisfaction. The health of the Grand Master; success to the Army and Navy combined, with our gallant Allies (responded to by Lieut. Col. Simon and Capt. Maher), and of Sir Knights Emly and Law, were received with the utmost enthusiasm. Some excellent singing, and a most felicitous recitation by an Irish Sir Knight (whose name has escaped us), caused the evening to pass most agreeably to all present.

OXFORDSHIRE.

The Knights of the Cœur de Lion Encampment assembled together at the Masonic Hall on Tuesday, the 8th of May, and several candidates were admitted into the Order in due form. At the conclusion of the business, about forty Sir Knts. dined together and enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

ROYAL KENT ENCAMPMENT, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (No. 44).—On Good Friday the Companions of the Encampment held their anniversary at their field of encampment, Freemasons' Hall, Newgate Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The following Comps. were installed Officers for the ensuing year:—Fra. E. D. Davis, E.C.; Fra. John Barker, 1st Capt.; Fra. H. Bell, 2nd Capt.; Fra. Thos. Pattinson, Registrar; Fra. W. Punshon, Prior; Fra. V. C. V. Surtees, Almoner; Fra. Jas. Donald, Herald; Fra. Wm. Dalziel, Sub-Prior and Expert; Fra. F. P. Joun, Capt. of Lines; Fra. Thos. Hornsby, Equerry. The E. Commander, Fra. E. D. Davis, presented the conclave with a richly ornamented altar. After the conclusion of the ceremonies, the Knts. Comps. sat down to a sumptuous repast at the Queen's Head Hotel, Grey Street, the evening being spent in love and harmony.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SPURIOUS MARK MASONRY.

SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

3, *Duncan-street, Edinburgh, 10th May*, 1855.

SIR.—I use the freedom of subjoining copy correspondence which has passed between the Editor of the "Freemasons' Monthly Magazine" and me, on a subject which I am informed you are already acquainted with, and which arose from my having observed on the cover of their magazine an advertisement in the terms I refer

to. Conceiving that I have been discourteously treated by the Editor of that magazine in refusing the insertion of my letters, and that I have shewn him he is completely in error, I commit the correspondence to your editorial care to make what use of it you think proper, and have the honour to be,

Sir, your most obedient servant,

WM. GAYLOR.

Grand Scribe N. for Scotland.

MR. GAYLOR TO THE EDITOR OF F. M. MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

Edinburgh, 7th April, 1855.

MY attention has been called to an advertisement by Br. Spencer in your magazine for April, wherein he states that he has been appointed to furnish the Badge and Jewel of the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters, *held under the warrant of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland.*

I beg to inform your readers that no Mark Lodge in London holds any warrant from the Supreme Grand R. A. Chapter of Scotland, and that any such self-styled body is illegal. The only Mark Lodge called "Bon Accord" in connection with us is the Mark Lodge attached to the Bon Accord R. A. Chapter of Aberdeen (No. 70), and it has no power to grant a warrant to any London Lodge.

In Scotland there are three degrees given under authority of our warrants before one can obtain the Royal Arch Degree, properly so called. The *first* is Mark; the *second* the Past, which in England has been taken from the Royal Arch Series, and attached to the Chair-master of a Blue Lodge; the *third* is the Excellent Degree of Three Points or Parts, and is given only to those who are about to receive the Royal Arch itself. Separate warrants are not now given, and have not been given for many years to practise the first, or first two degrees only; indeed, none but three such warrants were ever given: two of these have been recalled, and the third has long been dormant.

I shall in the circumstances consider it my duty to institute an inquiry into the cause of this irregularity, with a view alike to the suppression of usurped powers as to the prevention of brethren being thereby misled.

I am, &c.

THE EDITOR OF THE MAGAZINE TO MR. GAYLOR.

London, 21st April, 1855.

A REPLY to your note will be found in the Notices to Correspondents, "Freemason's Monthly Magazine," May number. The Bon Accord Lodge of London is legitimate, and received their warrant from No. 70, Aberdeen, before the law you allude to was abrogated.

I have the honour, &c.

MR. GAYLOR TO THE EDITOR OF THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

Edinburgh, 25th April, 1855.

I AM favoured with yours of 21st, and trouble you at present to correct a mistake into which you seem to have fallen. The Chapter (No. 70.), of Aberdeen, *at no time* had power from the Supreme Chapter to issue warrants for the exercise of the Mark Degree, and those Lodges to whom Mark Warrants were granted by the Supreme Chapter had ceased working under them long prior to the constitution of Bon Accord, Aberdeen (No. 70). The warrants I allude to were issued between June, 1845, and September, 1846, at which latter date they were recalled. The Charter to No. 70, was not granted till December, 1850. I am, &c.

Then appeared the following notice in the F. M. Magazine:—"W. Gaylor.—Had our worthy correspondent instituted inquiry before, instead of after he wrote his letter, he would have discovered that the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters is quite legitimate, and that it is working under the warrant granted from Chapter No. 70, Aberdeen, *before the abrogation of a law to which he alludes.* We have investigated the matter from the records, and find that the brethren of the London Bon Accord are right and he is wrong. His second letter does not alter our opinion.

MR. GAYLOR TO THE EDITOR OF THE F. M. MAGAZINE.

7th May, 1855.

I HAVE seen your reply to my note on the subject of the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masons, and cannot help thinking you have either far misunderstood the nature of my several communications, or are unwilling to believe what I represent. I had hoped different things from a party occupying the position of editor of a public journal, and feel induced once more to trouble you in case that, upon reconsideration, you may have any wish of putting yourself right.

I need not have troubled you, except for explanation, with any notice regarding the Mark warrants which were at one time granted by this supreme body and afterwards recalled. None of these were ever granted to the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen, or to any party in connection with it. They were granted between the years 1845 and 1846, while the Chapter in question did not receive its constitution till December, 1850, a period long subsequent to their recal. It is evident, therefore, that any power which that Chapter possessed could only be exercised subsequent to December, 1850, and is not to be affected by anything done in reference to proceedings enacted long previous to their existence, and to which they were no parties, even had the warrants to which I refer stood unrecalled. The question then comes to be, what powers do they possess under their present Charter? Assuredly none for granting warrants of the nature of that now called in question. Independently of being limited by their charter to the exercise of the Mark Degree *within their own body*, no intelligent Mason will, I think, assent to the principle of Lodges or Chapters, when once constituted, being at liberty to multiply *ad infinitum*, and become totally independent of the authority whence they derive their existence.

I cannot make the matter plainer, and if you shall still fail to see it, I do not ask you to give yourself any further trouble. It is enough for me that I have your authority for fixing the irregularity complained of on Chapter of Aberdeen (No. 70) and the necessary inquiry shall forthwith be instituted.

I am, &c.

BON ACCORD LODGE OF MARK MASONS.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

Sir,—The attention of several Royal Arch Masons in Scotland has been called to an advertisement in the "Freemasons' Magazine," for April last, wherein Br. Spencer advertises the Jewel for the Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters *of London*.

I perceive also by the last number of that publication, that the Grand Scribe N. (Comp. Gaylor) has officially written to the Editor, explaining that there is no such Lodge, but that the Editor declines to publish his communication. I trust you will have more candour, and thus prevent individuals countenancing a surreptitious body of Masons.

Only three Mark Lodge warrants, unconnected with Royal Arch Chapters, were ever granted by the Supreme Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland. The two first numbers, 1 and 2, were to Scotland, and were expired on 21st December, 1842. No. 3, to Manchester, was made out on 21st March, 1845. The last was, a few years after, recalled. The law permitting warrants of that kind has been since rescinded, and the power to grant the degrees of Mark or Past Master refused, unless the parties take out an ordinary Charter for all the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry. There is no Mark Lodge, holding of the Supreme Chapter of Scotland, called "Bon Accord," except the Mark Lodge attached to the Bon Accord Royal Arch Chapter, Aberdeen, and which was instituted *since* 21st March, 1850.

In your Notice to Correspondents, p. 352, you intimate that the Bon Accord Mark Lodge of London does not hold its charter directly from the Supreme Chapter of Scotland, but from the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen. This, if correct, makes matters worse, and would render that Chapter liable to suspension or deprivation of its charter, for it had no right whatever to grant such a warrant; or, as you very properly say, the Aberdeen Masons had no more power to grant it "than has any

private Lodge in England to delegate its powers to others," those others not even being in the same country. Either the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen is humbugging you Masons in the South, or you are very easily satisfied about your title deed.

In conclusion allow me to say, that I am one of those who deeply regret that the Grand Lodge of England ever assumed to itself the Past Master degree. The true and *only* degree characteristic of the *Master* of a Blue Lodge is the degree of *Master* Mason; but when that sublime degree began to be given by brevet to every F. C., although not elected Master of a Lodge, the Blue Lodges looked out for some distinguishing mark for their R.W.M., and for that purpose stole one of the degrees of the Royal Arch series—that for the Master of a Mark Lodge. It would, in my opinion, add much to the value and consistency of the Royal Arch degrees were the Supreme Royal Arch Chapter of England to order that the four direct degrees of Mark, Past, Excellent, and Royal Arch should be granted in the above order, under its charters, as during last century, and as they are now protected in Scotland. When I became a Mason I was led to understand that Masonry divided itself into three classes:—1st. The Gentile or Jewish, consisting of E.A.P., F.C., and M.M. degrees, which alone were under the cognizance of the Grand Lodge. 2nd. All the other Jewish or non-Christian, including Mark, Past, Excellent, Royal Arch, and some collateral degrees, under the authority of the Supreme Royal Arch. And 3rdly. All the Christian degrees came under the Templar charters, except such as had been previously, or even more properly, arranged under some other supreme head. Were the Supreme Arch Chapter of England to assert the supremacy firmly belonging to it, although of late in desuetude, we should hear no more of spurious Mark Lodges in London, or of warrants being asked from Scotland.

Glasgow, 5th May, 1855.

G.A.W.A.
Deputy Gr. Princ. Z. of Scotland.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR MAY.

THE WAR.

Events in the Crimea appear to be advancing towards a close, although the absolute bombardment of Sebastopol has been suspended. A sharp engagement took place on the 1st of May, when a number of rifle-pits, eight mortars, and 200 prisoners were taken. The Russians made sorties on the 10th and 13th, which were repulsed, the English loss being inconsiderable as compared with that of the attacking party. On the 22nd and 23rd the French carried further works of the Russians in front of the Flagstaff battery. On the 24th the French occupied the lines of Tchernaya, and the Russians are stated to have sustained a loss in killed and wounded of from 5000 to 6000. An expedition, under Sir Grorge Brown, had taken Kertsch, where the fortifications and a foundry of shot and shells had been destroyed, and several vessels of war taken. Sir George afterwards proceeded to Yenikale, and the combined fleets were completely in possession of the Sea of Azoff. General Canrobert having resigned the command of the French army, has been succeeded by General Pelissier. Reinforcements continued to arrive in the Crimea, and everything was looked upon as proceeding satisfactorily, though it is much to be deplored that cholera has again appeared in the army.

PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords, on the 30th of April, the Militia Bill was read a third time. On the 1st of May the Stannary Court Amendment Bill passed through Committe, and the Cambridge University Bill was reported. On the 3rd the Loan Bill was read a third time, and a conversation of no importance took place on the subject of the Vienna Conferences. The Loan Bill was read a third time on the 4th. On the 7th the Affirmation (Scotland) Bill and the Income Tax Bill were read a second time. On the 8th papers relative to the Vienna Conference were laid on the table,

and the Income Tax Bill passed through Committee. On the 10th and 11th some Bills of minor importance were advanced a stage. On the 14th Lord Ellenborough moved a series of resolutions against the manner in which the war was conducted, and appointments to situations under government made. The resolutions were negatived by a majority of 115 against 71, irrespective of 66 proxies also received in favour of the government. On the following day the Earl of Albemarle moved a resolution for making the blockade of the Russian trade more vigorous, but as the government said every means would be taken for making it as effective as possible, the motion was negatived by a majority of 47 to 31. On the 18th Lord Panmure brought forward a plan for the consolidation of the civil department of the army, so as to make them more efficient. On the 21st and 22nd several bills went through their respective stages. On the 24th the Newspaper Stamp Bill was read a second time. On the 25th Earl Grey brought forward a motion in favour of concluding a peace on the terms offered by Russia, but the feelings of the House were so against him that he withdrew it without a division. Their Lordships then adjourned for the Whitsun holidays.

The House of Commons on the 3rd April, considered in Committee, the Loan bill, the Income Tax bill, and the Newspaper Stamp bill. The subject of discussion on the 1st May, was the proposed withdrawal of the endowment to Maynooth College, which was resisted by the Ministers, and the debate adjourned. Sir John Pakington's Education bill came under consideration on the 2d, and was also adjourned. On the 3rd the Poor Law (Scotland) bill was withdrawn, and the Sunday Trading (Metropolis) bill read a second time. The Tenants Compensation (Ireland) bill, was read a third time, and the Customs duties bill, passed through Committee on the 4th. On the 7th the House was principally engaged in Committee of Supply, other business being postponed in consequence of the illness of the speaker. On the following day the members did not make a House. On the 9th the Marriage (Scotland) bill intended to place further restrictions on irregular marriages, was negatived by 143 to 40, as not likely to be efficient. The bill for authorising marriages with a deceased wife's sister, was read a second time by a majority of 145 to 157. On the 10th, Sir Erskine Perrys motion for a select Committee, to inquire how the Army of India might be rendered most available for the War in Europe was negatived by a majority of 171 to 62. A debate on the Newspaper bill, took place on the 11th, when the 3rd reading was carried by a majority of 138 to 60. The proposed stamp upon bankers cheques was withdrawn. On the 14th, one or two bills having been considered pro forma, the House went into Committee on the Metropolis Local Management bill, with which considerable progress was made. On the 15th, Mr. Hadfield, brought in a bill to extend the provisions of the 6th and 7th Vic., relative to the manufacture of Metals, &c. to Birmingham, Sheffield and Wolverhampton. A bill was also brought in to make better provision for the formation and endowment of distinct parishes. On the 16th the Church Rate Abolition bill, though opposed by Lord Palmerston, was read a 2nd time by a majority of 217 to 189. The Carlisle Canonries bill was also read a second time, by a majority of 102 to 98. On the 17th the Public Prosecutors bill was postponed, that the questions might be referred to a select Committee—the Parish Constables bill to make it compulsory on parishes to appoint Constables where the rural police act is not in operation, read a second time—and leave given to Lord John Russell to bring in a bill to enable her Majesty to assent to a bill passed by the Colonial Legislature for conferring a constitution on New South Wales. On the 18th, after a division of 149 against 142, the Education Scotland bill went into Committee. On the 21st after some discussion, Mr. Milner Gibson withdrew his notice of motion condemnatory of Ministers for their conduct of the war. On the 22nd a motion of Mr. Wise, expressive of the opinion of the House, that a complete revision of the diplomatic establishment, as recommended in the Report of a Select Committee of the House in 1850 should be carried into effect, was opposed by the Government, but affirmed by the House by a majority of 112 to 57. Mr. H. Berkeley's annual motion in favour of the ballot was negatived by a majority of 218 against 166. On the 24th (the 23rd being Derby day) Mr. Disraeli brought forward a resolution condemnatory of the Government for not using sufficient vigour in the conduct of the war. After a long discussion the debate was adjourned till the 25th, when the motion was nega-

tived by 319 against 219, giving a majority of 100 to Ministers. The House now stands adjourned for the Whitsun holidays.

BENEVOLENT.

A Festival was held at the Albion on the 2nd, to celebrate the opening of the new wing of King's College Hospital. Mr. Sidney Herbert, in the absence of Lord Palmerston presided. It appears that in the year 1854, there were entered on the books 27,694 patients; and since the year 1839, when the hospital was first opened, no less than 282,705 patients have been admitted to the benefits of the charity, of whom 17,943 were in-patients, 259,235 out-patients, and 5,527 poor married women attended at their own homes. The annual subscriptions only amount to about £1500, whilst the expenses exceed £5000. The subscriptions of the evening were nearly £3000.

The Anniversary Festival of St. Mary's Hospital was held the same day, Viscount Ebrington presiding. He stated that the patients attended last year were 9140, and the total number since the opening in 1851, 26,078. The subscriptions of the evening amounted to about £1500.

A Meeting was held at Willis's Rooms on the 8th, to inaugurate a new society, under the title of "The Soldiers' Infant Home," the object of which is to clothe, maintain, and educate the infant daughters of soldiers.

On the 14th, the Anniversary Festival of the Royal Orthopædic Hospital, established for the cure of club foot, lateral curvature of the spine, &c., was held—the most noble the Marquis of Westminster in the chair. The total income for 1854 amounted to £2724 15*s.* 11*d.*, and the expenditure to £2644 11*s.* 7*d.*, leaving in hand a balance of £81 4*s.* 4*d.* The subscriptions announced at the festival amounted to £2100.

The Festival of the Royal Literary Fund was held on the 22nd, and £800 added to the funds.

The Annual Prizes to the Girls, who, having been educated in the St. Ann's Asylum, have conducted themselves well, were delivered at Willis's Rooms on the 25th by the Bishop of Bath and Wells. Amongst those receiving prizes was Miss Fanny Souter, the newly-elected school-mistress of the Royal Freemasons' Girls' School—a situation which she obtained in consequence of the high certificate she holds from the Government Examiners.

The Annual Meeting of the Cambridge Asylum, the only permanent home for soldiers' widows, was held on the 26th. Br. Leeks, the Hon. Sec. read the report, which stated that the number of widows now in the asylum was 21, and that 14 rooms still remained unfurnished; 10 of these would shortly be required for as many widows of soldiers who had fallen in the Russian war; a special election of whom had been advertised. It was also stated that the Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund had undertaken to provide the means of sustaining four other widows, to be nominated by them, in the Asylum, and hopes were expressed that the liberality of the public would soon enable the committee to complete the building.

The Annual Meeting of the Royal Dispensary for Diseases of the Ear, was held at the Board-room in Dean-street, Soho-square; the Rev. T. Davis Lamb in the chair. The Secretary read the report, from which we give the following extracts:—"To provide a source available for the industrious classes, this useful and excellent Institution was established in 1816, under the patronage of their late Majesties George IV. and William IV., and the object of this Institution is the Cure of Deafness, Discharges, Noises in the Head and Ears, and other distressing diseases of a kindred nature, generally incapacitating the poorer classes from pursuing their avocations. This valuable Institution has been in active operation for 40 years. During the past year 1410 patients have been admitted on the books; 371 have been cured; 300 have been relieved, consisting of clerks in offices, needlewomen, domestic servants, artizans, soldiers, sailors, distressed foreigners, and police, who have received advice and assistance from the surgeon, William Harvey, Esq." The report then sets forth the more prominent causes of Deafness which are indeed numerous and such as do not occur to the mere casual observer. The various resolutions were moved, of thanks to the nobility,

clergy, and subscribers, and a vote of thanks being given to the surgeon, Mr. Harvey, and to the reverend chairman, the meeting separated.

PROVIDENT.

The annual meeting of the Kent Mutual Life Assurance Society was held on the 5th, when Br. Cumming, the manager, read a report, which stated that since the last annual meeting new business had been transacted, "yielding new premiums of £6195 19s. 5d. a year, by the issue of 509 new policies; that the assets of the society now amount to £31,398 8s. 1d.; and that, under the division of profits realised at the 24th of March, 1854, a cash bonus of 20 per cent,, or one-fifth of the premiums paid, was declared upon all policies on which two or more annual premiums had been paid, is to be found, in the opinion of the board, the most conclusive evidence that the condition of your society continues to be most satisfactory and prosperous." The report was adopted.

The Metropolitan Life Assurance Society held its 20th annual meeting. It appeared from the report that the number of policies issued has been 3876, of which 849 have ceased, leaving 3036 existing policies, the annual premiums receivable on which amount to £96,887 12s. 5d. The aggregate of the claims on the society by death has been £307,667 15s. 5d., and of that sum £32,397 has arisen during the past year. The total amount of abatement of premiums made to its members has been £254,633 4s. 1d. The accumulated capital to the 5th of April last was £679,417 10s. 1d.

On the 24th the National Provincial Fire Insurance Company held its second annual meeting, when a report was presented which stated that the number of new policies effected during the past year is 2349, insuring £1,300,221, the premium and duty received on which amount to £5898 5s. 4d., whilst the net amount of losses for the same period is £5871 8s. 5d. The following is a statement of the transactions of the last two years:—Number of policies, 4649; sum insured, £2,562,221; premium and duty, £10,240 16s. 3d.; number of claims, 51; net amount of losses, £6911 8s. 11d.; average amount of loss, £117 10s.; average amount of policies, £559. It was explained that the past year has, from the number of fires, produced losses to all offices much above the average—as must occasionally be the case. A dividend of five per cent. per annum was declared.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

There was a great fire in Leadenhall Street, at the house of Mr. Preston, a Stationer, on the 1st; in which property of the value of about £15,000 was destroyed, and the apprentice boy lost his life.

A destructive fire broke out at the ship building yard of Messrs. J. Scott, Russell & Co., Millwall, on the 3rd, when a floating battery, and other property of the estimated value of £120,000 was destroyed.

The Russian prisoners at Lewes rebelled against the authority of the Governor of the prison, on the 4th, but were soon reduced to obedience, and they have since been more closely confined than before.

On the 3rd, the barque John of Plymouth, with emigrants bound for Quebec, struck on the Manacles Rock, and was wrecked. About 195 individuals, chiefly passengers, lost their lives. A Coroner's Jury have brought in a verdict of manslaughter against the captain who appears to have been guilty of neglect of duty.

On the 29th of April, an attempt was made to assassinate the Emperor of the French, in the streets of Paris, by an Italian refugee, named Pianori, who has since been condemned and executed.

Mr. C. A. Dyer, one of the confidential servants of the North London Railway, has lost his life by being knocked down by an engine, whilst walking on the line in a state of mental abstraction. The family of Mr. Dyer will receive £1000 from the Railway Passengers Assurance Company, he having taken out one of the annual policies for that amount, which cost £1 each.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the 1st there was a lunar eclipse, when for a short time nothing but a thin rim of the moon could be observed—the eclipse being very nearly total.

The National Provincial Bank of England have declared a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

On the 15th the Paris Industrial Exhibition was opened by the Emperor. It is not likely to be completed, however, for a month or six weeks to come.

At the Annual Meeting of the National Bank of Ireland, the usual dividend of 4 per cent. was declared, together with a bonus of £1 on every £100 share, and 8s. on each £10 share.

During the month there has been an eruption of Vesuvius, which though it has done great damage to the surrounding property, appears to have been regarded by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood as a grand gala got up for their amusement.

The National Bank of Ireland at their Annual Meeting adopted a report recommending the continuance of the dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and hopes were held out of a speedy increase.

The Crimean Medals were distributed to the officers, soldiers, sailors, and marines, by Her Majesty in St. James's Park on the 17th. There was a large concourse of lookers-on, who appeared deeply interested in the scene.

AMUSEMENTS OF THE MONTH.

At the Royal Italian Opera Verdi's *Il Trovatore* has been produced with complete success, and Mario and Grisi have returned to the scene of their former triumphs, and received a welcome which their popularity could not fail to secure them.

The Managers of the Royal Opera at Drury Lane failing to make it remunerative, Mr. Smith has taken it into his own hands, and by low prices is nightly filling the house.

Henry the Eighth has been produced at the Princesses with immense splendour and historical accuracy, and Mrs. Kean, after an absence of 18 months from illness, having returned to the stage, the house is nightly crowded.

"*Still Waters run deep,*" a new Comedietta, has been produced at the Olympic and promises to hold its place in the bills for some time to come.

Opera supported by Sims Reeves, his *cara sposa*, Mr. and Mrs. Weiss, &c., has proved highly successful at the Haymarket; and on the 28th, Miss Faucit made her first appearance for the season in the *Lady of Lyons*.

The Lyceum opened for a series of farewell performances by Madame Anna Thillon, but the lady was very indifferently supported and the house is now closed,

Cremorne, the Surrey Zoological Gardens, and other places of amusement, put forth attractive bills of fare for Whitsuntide, but the weather was not so propitious as could have been desired.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The season of Freemasonry, at least so far as London is concerned, may be said to have closed with the past month—a circumstance which in some measure accounts for the crowded state of our pages, and compels us to offer our apologies to many of our valued correspondents for the omission of their communications, and to our readers for once more being compelled to postpone the continuation of "Brotherly Love," which we hope to conclude in one or two more numbers. We are sure the importance of the news of the past month will be a sufficient justification for the space we have allotted to it—and to do justice to which, we have enlarged our usual space by 8 pages.

Our Brethren in Ireland and Scotland are earnestly entreated to favour us early with the Masonic doings in their various districts.

A. P. *says, "Will you inform me what step is to be taken in obtaining an admission into the Girls' School of an orphan girl of a Freemason. The Lodge held in the town of Bradford does not subscribe. Is this child ineligible on that account?"—A form of application to the*

Committee should be obtained from the Secretary of the Institution. The child is eligible, notwithstanding the Lodge does not subscribe.

The late Duke of Sussex succeeded his Br. the Prince Regent, afterwards George IV., as the Most Worshipful Grand Master. The Earl of Zetland has held the post of Most Worshipful Grand Master about twelve years.

The accounts of the late Secretary to the Girls' School, William Fletcher Hope, were never satisfactorily cleared up; we believe there was a defalcation to some amount. Write a letter to Br. Lee Stevens, or Br. Lewis—the latter you must direct, Boulonge Sur Mer.

A COLONIAL CORRESPONDENT *asks the following questions:—"When a member is called to order by the W.M., for making use of unbecoming language towards the W.M., or any member of the Lodge, and also behaves in an unruly manner, refuses to obey the mallet of the W.M., and continues in his conduct, what ought the Master to do on such occasion? In case the harmony of a Lodge is disturbed by unbecoming conduct on the part of a member or members, is the Master justified in closing the Lodge himself either for a time or during his pleasure?" [To the first question we reply, the W.M. should interdict the Br. from re-entering the Lodge until he has made a sufficient apology for his conduct. If the Br. feels aggrieved, he can appeal to the Board of General Purposes. To the second, the W.M. has the power and is fully justified in exercising it.]*

F. B. R. Carmarthen, *would do well to change his bookseller or forward a P. O. order to our Office for a stamped edition. The "Masonic Mirror" is, as a rule, issued to the trade on the last day of the month. We have never been later than the 1st,*

A CORRESPONDENT FROM PLYMOUTH *says—I noticed that the W.M. of No. 224, and a visitor to that Lodge, from the Lodge of St. Andrew, Madras, wore medals on their left breast; the former, a silver square and Compass, the latter ditto, within a circle, with the words, "St. Andrews." Both brothers state they are* Master Mason's *jewels. Will you kindly inform me if such is the fact, as I am very incredulous on the subject, believing that only a P. or D.G.M. is entitled to the emblem, and then in gold. [The jewels referred to are not recognized unless indeed they are jewels allowed by the G.M. to be worn by Members of special Lodges. We are ourselves Members of two Lodges having such permission.]*

PLYMOUTH.—*We should be glad if our Correspondent would send us one of the summonses of the Lodge to which he alludes. The returns to the Grand Lodge show everything to be conducted according to the Constitutions. If, therefore, the alleged irregularities exist, the returns, if not the books of the Lodge, must be falsified. We trust, for the honor of the Craft, that if some irregularities have crept in in the conduct of the Lodge, members will be found of sufficient firmness to correct them. Indeed, we are informed by another correspondent,* Ethée, *that new blood has been lately introduced into the Lodge, determined to set everything right and that the majority of the old members are good, zealous, and sincere Masons, who, if they have erred, have done so unintentionally, and only wanted to be reminded of their irregularities to determine to correct them.*

ETHEE.—*The authorities of St. Helena are not justified in giving the three degrees in one night; but under the Book of Constitutions the Colonial Lodges have the power of granting the various degrees at intervals of seven days each. This concession in favour of the Colonial Lodges was made in consequence of many representations to the G.L. of England that they stood in an unfavourable position, under the law applicable to the mother country, in comparison with Lodges under Irish and Scotch Charters, in the same Colonies —in which facilities were given for passing through the various degrees in less time than would be allowed under the English Constitution. It is to be regretted that entire uniformity of action cannot be obtained throughout the three (masonically speaking) kingdoms, which, by a little arrangement, might easily be done, without interfering with the independent power of the G.L. of either. For his observations on other subjects,* Ethée *is thanked.*

The Freemasons' Girls' School was founded by the Chevalier Ruspini. The letter respecting the late matron, Mrs. Crook, shall be attended to, and an answer given in the next number of the "Mirror."

THE BON ACCORD MARK MASONS.—*Dr. Wm. Jones is the Founder of the London Mark Masons Lodge, the illegality of which is so clearly proved by the Correspondence we publish in another page. Dr. Jones is said to have obtained the* Charter, *if it has a right to be designated by such a title, through a Br. Ritchie. The crowded state of our pages has alone prevented us drawing more marked attention to the subject in our present number.*

A BOY'S MOTHER *should apply to the Secretary, Brother Augustus Thisselton, at the Offices, 34, Great Queen Street, opposite the Freemason's Tavern, any Saturday between 10 and 4.*

DR. CRUCIFIX *must certainly bear the credit of being the Founder.*

THE *Letter of S.P.G.M.T., on the Banffshire Lodges, shall appear next month.*

THE

MASONIC MIRROR:

JULY, 1855.

MARK MASONRY.

We had intended to have reviewed the correspondence relative to the position of the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masons, but we are spared the necessity of doing so by the energetic measures of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, calling upon the Aberdeen Chapter at once to withdraw the Charter to the London Lodge, under pain of ulterior proceedings, as will be seen by the official resolution of the Grand Chapter, which we publish in another page of the "Mirror." This is as it should be, and we trust the Grand Lodge and Chapter of England will assist that of Scotland in endeavouring to put down, within their jurisdiction, the illegal practice of Masonry, no matter under what denomination. We cannot help observing, as regards Comp. Rettie, whose letter we also publish, that he has evidently fallen into the strange blunder of confounding two very different things. Unquestionably, the power to confer the Mark Degree is vested in *Chapters* only, as he observes; but that is a totally different thing from a power to *grant warrants* to confer the Mark Degree. Should such an interpretation be allowed to be put upon the law of the Grand Chapter of Scotland, it would lead to endless confusion, for Craft Lodges both in England and Scotland might put a similar construction upon their laws, and take upon themselves to grant subsidiary charters to brethren, to give the first or second Degree and not the third to candidates—a state of things which we have no hesitation in saying would be met by the immediate withdrawal of the Charter of the Lodge so illegally and improperly acting. It is true that the Supreme Chapter of Scotland has the power of granting charters for the Mark Degree apart from the Arch, and did at one time exercise that power, but experience proved its inexpediency, and the system was abandoned; none but regularly constituted Loyal Arch Chapters having now authority to confer the Degree—an authority which, as is shown by the decree of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, cannot be delegated to others.

Comp. Rettie accuses us of partiality in endeavouring to run down the London Mark Masons Lodge. We have shown no feeling on the subject beyond a conscientious desire, as Masons, to do our duty, and prevent

the introduction amongst us of illegal and unauthorised assemblages, through which some of the brethren may be withdrawn from their allegiance to constituted authority.

We have no objection to the introduction of Mark Masonry in England if it can be naturalised in a legal and constitutional manner, and in our next number we shall devote our attention to the consideration of how this object may be best effected.

In the meantime, we trust that the Aberdeen Chapter, and the London Lodge, will cheerfully acquiesce in the decision of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, and no longer persist in the carrying on a Lodge which the highest constituted authority has declared to be illegal, and opposed to the principles upon which the Order is governed.

THE GIRLS' SCHOOL.

We have not been disappointed in our efforts to make known this admirable Institution. Each number of our "Mirror" has brought a correspondence which we hope, ere long, to publish, and to announce the promised aid to which they refer. This article may be seen by many whose signatures are as yet anonymous. They will perceive that it is our intention of acting up to our former promise, viz.: of giving in each number of the "Mirror," a statement of occurences connected with the School, and placing before our readers, the facts as they stand. We have been among the many who have been surprised at the apparent ignorance which has prevailed amongst the Brethren, with reference to this establishment. And we believe none have felt the necessity of appealing to the Craft, on behalf of the Charity more than ourselves. It is by such reiterated notices as the present that we hope to place this useful School beyond a dependence on a precarious income; two-thirds of which is sought for at an Annual Festival; and of doing in the spirit of Brotherly Love, relief, and truth, a lasting benefit to the Craft in general. As we have before stated, this school was founded by the Chevalier Ruspini, in 1777, for the education and succour of a number of orphan children of Freemasons. It then admitted to its benefits but a small number. It, however, gradually progressed, until the number amounted to 65. Here it has remained for a period of nearly a quarter of a century; and although Masonry has been yearly increasing, this useful Institution has remained in *statu quo*. Can it be said that we have no applicants beyond this number, and that we have no need for a increase of room; that Masonry, in point of fact, is all *couleur de rose*, and that no need of aid exists in the Craft? We opine not, and from our knowledge, both in the Metropolis and the Provinces, we are aware that there are many who would anxiously apply for the assistance of this Institution, could they be certain of their children being admitted. Now that we are in possession of the present useful and magnificent building, capable of accommodating 100 or more children, why should steps not be taken to allow the number of those receiving its benefits, to be increased beyond 65, should there be candidates? It must therefore

appear obvious, that we are guided in writing these articles, more by a desire to enlarge our sphere of usefulness as Masons, than to allow the Craft to be considered, as it has to a great extent hitherto been, a mere club. Can we close our eyes or shut our ears to the fact, that members of the founder's family, became recipients of the benefits of such an asylum; and do we not know that each year presents us with the painful circumstane of a child or children being admitted, whose parents had at one time been in the enjoyment of the greatest prosperity. At once, then, let us join with heart and hand, to erase this blot on the escutcheon of the Craft. Make room for the largest number, and show that we have advanced with the age, and in our gratitude to the founder, that we have increased the usefulness of the Institution which owes its existence to his benefaction. Having said thus much, let us set about providing additional funds; this has been observed upon before—let every Lodge be appealed to for a subscription; and when they are so provided, let us be careful that every economy has been observed, as to the expenditure. We are sanguine that much may be done, by such a general appeal to every Lodge in the kingdom. How many of the Brethren are there, who have never heard of the school; and how many are there even in the Metropolis, who if they have heard of it, have never taken the trouble to visit the school-house at Wandsworth? They might there see with how much solicitude, their children are provided, their health cared for, and their mind cultivated.

Whilst on the subject of the School, we may be allowed to congratulate the Brethren that our efforts through the "Mirror," and prior to the establishment of that organ of the Craft, through the columns of a weekly newspaper giving notices of the proceedings of the Craft, in endeavouring to obtain a removal from the arms of the children, the disgraceful badge which pointed them out as the recipients of charity, have not been unattended with success;—the House Committee having determined that the use of the badge and the old fashioned "bib-apron," are no longer to be worn. At least, then, our pen has done something towards producing one reform, and it will be hard, indeed, if it does not yet effect much more for the benefit of the Charities and of Masonry generally.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

Continued from page 360.

The old building of St. Paul's was perhaps an appropriate type of many institutions by which it was surrounded; venerable for the ages they had existed and for their usefulness when society was in a more primitive state, but now rapidly passing away, to make room for others more suited to the general improved intelligence of the times; like them, entirely useless for modern requirements, but, owing to national aversion to change and attachment to old customs, equally difficult to clear away. The closeness with which it was surrounded by inhabitants, some of whom had perhaps been the cause of its previous ruinous condition, rendered it a work of great difficulty and danger. The labourers, after working a

considerable time at the top of the tower, found it at last so dangerous, that they refused to work any longer. Br. Wren had then recourse to the use of gunpowder, which, under his able superintendence, answered every purpose required, with little danger or annoyance to the surrounding inhabitants; but, leaving it to the care of a subordinate, the second explosion had like to have resulted seriously. The charge of powder being too great, a large stone was shot as from a cannon through an open window, into a room where a number of women were at work, causing much consternation amongst them and the surrounding neighbourhood. A petition was in consequence sent to the Council, praying that such dangerous means be no longer adopted. Br. Wren had, therefore, to recur to the ancient contrivance, called the battering ram, namely a huge pole, headed with iron, slung by a long chain and propelled by a large number of men, with ropes. This engine appeared to produce but little effect on the first day, but on the second the tower was observed to shake, and at last fell with a tremendous crash amid clouds of dust. In clearing away the foundation, the north side was found to have been an ancient burying-place, and under the graves of later ages were found, in a row, the graves of the Saxons, who cased their dead in chalk stones, though persons of great eminence were buried in stone coffins. Below these were the graves of the ancient Britons, proved by the great number of ivory and wooden pins found amongst the mouldered dust. It being their custom to pin the corpse in woollen shouds and lay it in the ground, and this covering consuming with the bodies they were intended to protect, the ivory and wooden pins only remained entire.

At a still greater depth were discovered a great number of Roman potsherds, urns, and dishes, sound and of a beautiful red, like our sealing-wax. On the bottom of some of these were inscriptions denoting drinking vessels; others, which resembled our modern salad dishes, beautifully made and curiously wrought, bore different inscriptions, such as DZ. PRIMANI. On others, PATRICI QUINTIMANI. VICTOR, LANUS. RECINIO, &c. The pots and several glass vessels were of a murrey colour; and others, resembling urns, were beautifully embellished on the outside with raised work, representing greyhounds, stags, hares, and rose trees. Others were of a cinnamon colour, in the form of an urn, which appeared to have been gilt, though very much faded. Some resembling jugs, were of an hexagonal form, curiously indented and adorned with a variety of figures in basso relievo.

The red vessels appeared to have been the most honourable, for on them were inscribed the names of their deities, heroes, and judges, and the material was so excellent as to resemble polished metal in beauty. There were also a number of brass coins, very much decayed; some, however, where the soil appeared to be more favourable, were so well preserved as to show in whose reign they were coined. On one of them was Adrian's head, with a galley under oars on the reverse; on the others the heads of Romulus and Remus, Claudius and Constantine.

At a somewhat smaller depth were a number of lapilli or tesselæ of various sorts of marble, Egyptian porphyry, jasper, &c., in the form of

dice, which were used by the Romans in paving the prætorium, or general's tent.

On searching for the natural ground, Br. Wren found that the foundation of the old church stood on a layer of very close and hard pot earth, about six feet deep on the north side, but gradually thinning towards the south side, till on the declivity of the hill it was hardly four feet. This, he concluded, having borne so weighty a building before, might be trusted again. But boring beneath this he found a stratum of loose sand, and lower than this, level with low-water mark, water and sand, mixed with periwinkles and other sea shells; under this a hard beach, and below all a natural bed of clay, which extended far and wide beneath the city, country, and river.

The foundations appeared to have been composed of Kentish rubble stone, well compounded with an exceeding hard cement, after the Roman manner, and much superior to the cement used in the superstructure. He was induced, however, to change the site of the church and raze the foundations, which appeared so secure, from a desire to give the new structure more freedom and elegance; finding himself after all much confined for space and unable to bring the front to lie exactly from Ludgate. In his progress he met with an interruption, which almost made him regret the alteration he had made. He began the foundation from the west to the east, and then extending his line to the north-east, where he expected no interruption, he came upon a pit, where the hard crust of pot earth had been removed and filled up with rubbish. Although he wanted but seven feet to complete his design, he was under the necessity of digging through the sand and building from the solid earth, which was upwards of forty feet deep. He therefore sank a pit, eighteen feet wide, through all the before-mentioned strata, and laid the foundations of a square pier in solid masonry, which was carried up to within fifteen feet of the present surface, and then a short arch was turned underground to the level of the stratum of hard pot earth, upon which arch the north-east corner of the choir now stands.

Having surmounted this difficulty and laid the foundations, the D.G.M., for many reasons, made choice of Portland stone for the superstructure, but chiefly because the largest scantlings were to be procured there; and as these could not be depended upon for columns of more than four feet diameter, he determined on adopting two orders instead of one, and an attic story, as at St. Peter's, at Rome, in order to preserve the just proportions of his cornice, otherwise the edifice must have fallen short of its intended height. Bramante, in building St. Peter's, at Rome, though possessing all the advantages of the quarries at Tivoli at hand, was obliged to curtail the proper proportions of his cornice for want of stones of sufficient size. Against this difficulty the D.G.M. was resolved to guard; and by the aid of his great science and foresight, bestowed upon him by the Great Architect of all good works, erected the present structure, the first stone of which was laid on the 21st of June, 1675.

The general form of St. Paul's Cathedral is a long cross. The walls are wrought in rustic, and strengthened as well as adorned with two rows of

coupled pilasters, one over the other, the lower corinthian and the upper composite. The spaces between the arches of the windows and the architrave of the lower order are filled with a curious variety of enrichments, as are those above.

At the west front is a most magnificent portico, a noble pediment on two stately turrets, and when proceeding towards the church from Ludgate, the elegant construction of this front, the fine turrets over each corner, and the east dome behind, fill the mind with pleasure and astonishment.

At this end is a noble flight of steps of black marble extending the whole length of the portico, which consists of twelve lofty corinthian columns below, and eight composite columns above, these are all coupled and fluted. The upper series supports a noble pediment, crowned with its acroteria. In this pediment is a very elegant representation in bas relief of the conversion of St. Paul, by Br. Bird, who by this work alone, has immortalized his name. The conception and execution are most effective, the irradiation of light is admirably deputed, and the figures excellently executed.

The magnificent figure of St. Paul on the apex of the pediment, with St. Peter on his right, and St. James on his left, have a fine effect. The four Evangelists with their proper emblems on the front of the towers, are well disposed and executed; St. Matthew is distinguished by an angel; St. Mark by a lion; St. Luke by an ox; and St. John by an eagle.

In the north portico is an ascent by twelve steps of black marble, the dome of which is supported by six large corinthian columns, forty-eight inches in diameter. Upon the top of the dome is a large and well proportioned urn ornamented with festoons; over this is a pediment supported by pilasters in the wall, in the face of which is the Royal Arms, with the regalia supported by angels; in addition to which are the statues of the five Apostles, placed on the top at proper distances.

The south portico answers to the north, and is placed directly opposite to it, this resembles that on the other side of the Church, but as the ground is considerably lower on this side, the ascent is by a flight of twenty-five steps. This portico has also a pediment above, in which is a phœnix rising out of the flames, with the motto RESURGAM underneath it, is an emblem of the rebuilding the Church after the fire. This device was adopted by the D.G.W. in consequence of a labourer accidently bringing a stone which was to be placed as a land mark for the masons, which proved to be a grave stone, on which stone only remained the word *Resurgam*, which was considered a favourable omen for the successful termination of the work. On this side of the building are likewise five statues which take their situation from that of St. Andrew, on the apex of the last mentioned pediment.

At the east end of the Church is a circular projection for the altar, finely ornamented with the orders and decorated sculpture.

The dome, which rises in the centre of the whole, is extremely grand. Twenty feet above the roof of the Church is a circular range of thirty-two columns, with niches placed exactly, others within. These are terminated by their entablature supporting a handsome gallery adorned with a

ballustrade. Above these columns is a range of pilasters with windows between, and from the entablature of these, the diameter decreases considerably, and two feet above that it is again contracted. From this part the extreme sweep of the dome begins, and the arches meet at fifty-two feet above. On the summit of the dome is an elegant balcony, and from its centre rises the lantern adorned with Corinthian columns, and the whole is terminated by a ball from which rises a cross, both elegantly gilt.

This noble structure, which is two thousand two hundred and ninety-two feet in circumference, and three hundred and forty-two feet in height to the top of the cross, is surrounded at a proper distance by a dwarf stone wall, on which is placed a magnificent ballustrade of cast iron, about five feet six inches in height, exclusive of the wall. In this inclosure are seven beautiful iron gates, which together with the banisters, in number about two thousand five hundred, weigh two hundred tons and eighty-one pounds. The cost of these gates was 202*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

In the area of the grand west front on a pedestal stands a statue of Queen Anne, formed of white marble. The figures on the base represent Britannia, Gallia, Hibernia, and America. This and the other colossal statues with which the building is adorned, reflect great credit on the skill of Br. Hill, who was chiefly employed in the decorations.

On the summit of the steps at the west end, are three doors ornamented at the top with bas relief; the middle door, which is by far the largest, is cased with white marble, and over it a fine piece of basso relievo, in which St. Paul is represented preaching to the Berenians. On entering this door the mind is struck with the nobleness of the vesta, an arcade supported by lofty and massive pillars on each hand, divide the church into the body and two aisles, and the view is terminated by the altar at the extremity of the choir. The pillars are adorned with columns and pilasters of the corinthian and composite orders, and the arches of the roof are enriched with shields, festoons, chaplets, and other ornaments.

In one aisle is the consistory, and opposite to it in the other is the morning-prayer chapel, each of these has a beautiful screen of carved wainscot, which is adorned with twelve column arched pediments.

Further onward is the large cross aisle, between the north and south porticos, over which is the grand cupola or dome. Here is a fine view of the whispering gallery, and the concave of the dome, which fills the mind with surprise and pleasure. Under its centre is fixed in the floor a brass plate, round which the pavement is beautifully variegated, but the figures into which it is formed, can no where be seen to so much advantage as from the whispering gallery.

From this aisle is a full view of the organ, richly ornamented with carved work, with the entrance to the choir directly under it. The two aisles on the sides of the choir, as well as the choir itself are inclosed by very fine iron rails and gates.

The organ gallery is supported by eight corinthian columns of blue and white marble, and the choir has on each side thirty stalls besides the bishop's throne on the south side, and the lord mayor's on the north. The carving of the stalls as well as the organ, are much admired.

The reader's desk, which is at some distance from the pulpit, is in an enclosure of brass rails, gilt. In this is a gilt brass pillar, supporting an eagle of brass, gilt, which holds the book on his back and expanded wings.

The altar piece is adorned by four noble fluted pilasters, painted and veined with gold in imitation of *lapis lazuli*, and their capitals are double gilt. In the intercolumnations are nine marble pannels. The table is covered with crimson figured velvet, and above are six windows in two series.

The floor of the choir and the whole of the church is paved with marble, except that part within the altar, which is of porphory polished, and laid in several geometrial figures.

And referring to the general geometrical arrangement, we may observe, that as the disposition of the vaultings within is an essential beauty, without which many other ornaments would lose their effect, so our Deputy Grand Master was particularly careful in this respect. "The Romans," says the author of the Parentalia, "used hemisphirical vaultings; and Sir Christopher chose those as being demonstrably lighter than the diagonal cross vaults, so the whole vault of St. Paul's consists of twenty-four cupolas cut semicircular, with segments to join to the great arches one way, and which are cut across the other with cliptical cylinders to let in the upper lights of the nave; but in the aisles the lesser cupolas are both ways cut in semicircular sections, and altogether make a graceful geometrical form distinguished with circular wreaths, which is the horizontal section of the cupola, for the hemisphere may be cut in all manner of ways into circular sections; and the arches and wreaths being of stone carved, and the spandrels between them of sound brick, invested with stucco of cockle-shell lime, which becomes as hard as Portland stone, and which having large planes between the stone ribs, are capable of the further adornments of painting if required.

"Besides these twenty-four cupolas, there is a half cupola at the east, and the great cupola of one hundred and eight feet in diameter at the middle of the crossing of the great aisles. In this the architect imitated the Pantheon at Rome, excepting that the upper order is there only umbratile, and distinguished by different-coloured marbles; in St. Paul's it is extant out of the wall. The Pantheon is no higher within than its diameter; St. Peter's is two diameters; this shows too high, the other too low. St. Paul's is a mean proportion between both, which shews its concave every way, and is very lightsome by the windows of the upper order, which strike down light through the great colonade that encircles the dome without, and serves for the abutment of the dome, which is brick, of two bricks thick; but as it rises every way five feet high, has a course of excellent brick of eighteen inches long banding through the whole thickness; and moreover to make it still more secure, it is surrounded with a vast chain of iron, strongly linked together at every ten feet. This chain is let into a channel cut into the bandage of Portland stone, and defended from the weather by filling the groove with lead.

"The concave was turned upon a centre, which was judged necessary

to keep the work even and true, though a cupola might be built without a centre; but it is observable that the centre was laid without any standards from below to support it; and as it was both centering and scaffolding, it remained for the use of the painters. Every story of this scaffolding being circular, and the ends of all the ledges uniting at so many rings, truly wrought, supported itself. This machine was an original of its kind, and will be an useful project for the like work to an architect hereafter.

"It was necessary to give a greater height outside than the cupola would gracefully allow within, though it is considerably above the roof of the church; yet the old church having before had a very lofty spire of timber and lead, the world expected that the new work would not in this respect fall short of the old. The architect was therefore obliged to comply with the humour of the age, and to raise another structure over the first cupola; and this was a cone of brick, so built as to support a stone lantern of an elegant figure, and ending in ornaments of copper, gilt.

"As the whole church above the vaulting is covered with a substantial oaken roof and lead, the most durable covering in our climate, so he covered and hid out of sight the brick cone with another cupola of timber and lead; and between this and the cone are easy stairs that ascend to the lantern. Here the spectator may have a view of such amazing contrivances as are indeed astonishing: he forebore to make little luthern windows in the leaden cupola, as are done out of St. Peter's, because he had otherwise provided for light enough to the stairs from the lantern above, and round the pedestal of the same, which are now seen below, so that he only ribbed the outer cupola, which he thought less gothic than to stick it full of such little lights in three stories one above another as in the cupola of St. Peter's, which could not without difficulty be mended, and if neglected would soon damage the timbers."

Such is a brief description of the present structure of St. Paul's, though, as it has been before stated, Br. Wren much preferred his original design, which was more compact and simple, and suited to the uses of the reformed Church. The alterations were suggested by the Duke of York, afterwards James II., in order to adapt it to the Roman worship, the revival of which he already contemplated, and Br. Wren was compelled to add oratories and long aisles, which James wished to fill with processions, whilst he occupied the recesses with altars. Although our D.G.M. Wren is said to have remonstrated with tears, yet it may be doubted whether he used a sound discretion in his preference for the old design, as the very circumstance of the building departing from the exact laws of symmetry in the adoption of the two orders and other details increases its apparent size and grandeur of effect, whilst it has hardly been disputed that the exterior architecture of St. Paul's is both better in composition and sounder in style than its more magnificent rival at Rome.

(To be continued.

MASONIC REMINISCENCES.

By Φωτοφιλος, P.M., L. 50, Dublin.

(*Continued from* p. 365.)

CHAPTER IV.—The Banquetting Hall—A Glance at a few of the Eminent Brothers present.

The labour of love having ended, and the Lodge closed in the usual beautiful form, we shall introduce our readers to the banquetting hall, for even Masons are dinner-eating animals.

We will not trouble our readers with a gastronomic description of all the "delicacies of the season," with which the hospitable board was spread, but shall content ourselves with stating that every thing was sufficiently piquant and *recherche* to gratify the palate of *Nasidenus* or Sir P—r L—ie, and that neither the Roman epicure, nor the respected civic functionary could reasonably have any thing to wish for beyond the good things usually supplied on such occasions under the auspices of the Junior Warden.

The duties of chairman were most ably discharged by the W.M.P.M., Br. Colonel B., an old peninsular officer, the leader of several forlorn hopes, and the most energetic singer of the "British Grenadiers," we ever heard. Near him was another gallant Colonel, brother of the highest official personage then in Ireland, and now holding an important office in the court of her most gracious Majesty the Queen, General W. and several other naval and military officers of distinction, took a deep and active interest in the proceedings, the author of the "Hunchback" the accomplished and successful dramatist Mr. S—n K—s, and several other literary celebrities were present, whilst the *elite* of the musical world in that land of song, shed their sweet and thrilling influence over the scene. But conspicuous amongst all shone out Br. B—ld—n glittering all over "like some bright particular star," with the jewels of well-nigh every Order in the Masonic ladder. One would almost suppose him gifted with the power of ubiquity, he seemed to be everywhere at once, ministering to the wants and comforts of all,

"A man severe he was and stern to view."

but beneath that thoughtful countenance and iron frame there throbbed a true Mason's heart.

Many years ago he found Lodge No. 50, a skeleton, and Masonry on the whole at a low ebb in Dublin. However with the assistance of the then D.G.M., Br. W—e and some members of the Victoria Lodge, No. 4, a Lodge numbering among its members most able, learned, and zealous Masons, the Order in general was advanced, whilst he raised his own Lodge to the highest eminence, and made it the starting point of several new Lodges, provincial and metropolitan, all now rivalling the parent Lodge in numbers, respectability, and efficiency.

The grave dignity of his lessons it would be impossible to forget,

whether in the Lodge when impressively delivering the charge to a newly initiated brother or when with gaze of rapt ecstacy piercing the ceiling of *salon*, seeming in the intensity of his abstraction to be in communion with the brotherhood of other worlds, and concluding a manly and sailor-like address *, with his usual and never failing BENISON.

And from our lofty perch in mighty Babylon (lofty enough mayhap for even the son of an Irish king, and in truth somewhat nearer heaven than we ever supposed our merits could have entitled us at this side of the grave), in answering kindness we, even a child of thine who fondly acknowledges his Masonic father, breathe back unto thee, Br. George, o'er land and sea, that fervid BENISON in which we so often shared when poured forth in thy fraternal aspirations.

And we feel no greater pleasure than indulging the hope that when our probationary pilgrimage and wanderings in other lands shall cease, like "the bird that seeketh its mother's nest," we may be once more gathered under thy wing, and again mid old familiar faces receive that paternal blessing ere our wearied spirit wing its flight to that better land where the "heavy-laden" of this world have hope of rest.

But the lion of the night, and one of the chief pictures in the gallery of our Masonic memory was a newly initiated brother whose adventures and "hair breadth scapes" in foreign lands in connection with Freemasonry were so wild and romantic as to induce in all present the wish to hear from himself his "strange eventful history," a gratification which he promised at the next reunion, excusing himself for that evening on the score of want of preparation, and the novelty of the scene around. So whilst awaiting the convenience of our brother, we shall wile away the time by placing before our readers the promised sufferings of poor Phil Simpson when he fancied he was made a Mason.

CHAPTER V.—PHIL SIMPSON—PRELIMINARY PARTICULARS OF THE SIMPSON FAMILY—COL. B. VISITS THE HALL—DOMESTIC CHIT-CHAT—ARRANGEMENTS FOR PHIL'S FUTURE—EVIL EFFECTS OF NEGLECTED EDUCATION.

THE Phil Simpson class would seem to be nearly extinct, though not many years since there were few towns or districts in Ireland which could not produce its specimen; but what with steam and electricity (those vigorous agents of onward progress) in short, the general intermeddling of that great reforming busybody, the *schoolmaster*, who seems slyly creeping into the bosom of families, shedding his slow influence over fond, foolish mothers and doting fathers, the *disjecta membra* of the village *innocent*, (the gentle term applied in certain parts of the sister isle to what ruder people call a fool) will at no very distant future be sought for mid the *debris* of ages past, and perhaps ranked among the wonders of the pre-adamite world, to be restored to their proper place in the human family by the learning and ingenuity of some Owen of the time to come.

* Br. B—ld—n was midshipman under Nelson at Trafalgar.

Phil's father was a good easy man with a large unencumbered estate, and a very satisfactory account with his bankers, who solely occupied himself with watching the variations in the money market, and arresting the gout in its progress towards that citadel of his body, the stomach, by the imbibition of unlimited bottles of dry crusted old port, familiarly termed by him black strap.

He saw that the hope of his house (for he had but him) the young Phil, grow apace and flourished, without the aid of the doctors, and beyond this he troubled not his head, but left the sole management of this and all other mundane matters to his wife, in which lady's opinion, learning was not only useless, but a bore, and reading a great preventive of digestion; she further saw how thin and pale the poor curate of the parish was, who she had heard was a very learned person (the good lady in her unsophisticated innocence never dreamed how difficult it is to grow fat and sleek upon seventy pounds a year) and who always threw her into a state of nervous alarm whenever he spoke to Phil about what he was reading, and when he intended to prepare for College.

Phil was by no means an idiot; there seemed to be no organic want or sensible derangement in the original construction of his mental faculties, indeed the astute people in the neighbourhood attributed his want of sharpness to an over indulgent mother's administering too strong doses of a peculiar species of food termed by them "*Papdoodle*," and which it is supposed has a tendency to counteract the development of the intellectual faculties. The late able and beautiful writer, Mr. Maxwell, defined this food to be what they "feed fools on in Connaught;" but whether it be moral, intellectual or material, that deponent said not, and we must leave the point to be decided by M. Soyer, or the metaphysicians.

Phil had now reached that very interesting period of life in the feminine calendar, his "teens," knowing little of this great world beyond what pertained to ponies, poodles, and plum cake, when Simpson Hall was honored by a visit from his maternal uncle, Col. B—w, an officer on half-pay, who had amassed a considerable fortune in India, and who was looked up to (as it is termed) by the family, and who intended to make Phil his heir, never having had courage to try his own luck in the lottery of wedlock.

Col. B. had not seen his nephew for years and was quite pleased with his stout frame, and florid health, but was thrown into a very paroxysm of amazement when that innocent young gentleman put the interrogatory, "Uncle, do all Colonels travel with priests for servants?"

The Colonel stared first at him, then at his mother, then at the father, and at last sternly asked, "What the d—l does the boy mean?"

Mr. Simpson passively said, "I really don't know, better ask his mother, she understands him, I have something else to think of with this horrid gout."

The uncle appealed to her for an explanation. She confessed her inability, but requested her dearest Phil to explain to his uncle, why he had asked the question, and to beg his pardon, for though she could not at the moment see it, she was sure there must be something wrong in it to

make him look so cross and so much astonished." "Why mother," responded Phil, "don't you know old father Doyle, the parish priest, rides a white horse."

The mother with a look of delighted admiration says, "How clever and shrewd to observe what sort of horse the priest rode, I should never have noticed it, don't you think so, brother?"

"I think, mam," returned the blunt Soldier, "it is d—d silly and absurd to mistake my drunken valet for a priest, because he saw a man ride a white horse." "I tell you what, sister, you have made a common fool of the boy, he should be sent off at once to a public school, and I tell you more, I do not wish my nephew, much less my heir, to be made either an idiot or a milksop."

Incipient hysterical symptoms began to manifest themselves at the mere hint of a public school, "she would never send him to such a place to have his innocence destroyed and his morals corrupted." "Nonsense, my dear sister, his morals stand much more chance of being corrupted by your housemaids, and stablemen."

"I'm quite ashamed of you, brother, he could never see any thing in my establishment but propriety and good example." "Never mind that, Mrs. Simpson, you were never a great witch in the way of knowledge, but perhaps you may be able to make a shadowy guess that there are some things which we can practice with very little instruction, or example."

Some little vague instinctive notions seemed to affect her, she knew not why, and blushing, the little lady swept out of the room with Phil grasped so tightly by the hand, as to make him gape like an unfledged bird on the approach of its parent after a foraging expedition. She was unable to make up her mind whether to laugh or cry, but was fully convinced her brother was a hard-hearted brute, who had no conceptions of nor regard for the feelings of a parent.

When the door closed after her, the Colonel commenced, "Now, brother Simpson, I tell you if that boy be not removed from the tender care of his foolish mother he'll never do a pinsworth of good, he'll be a noodle all his life; he is now almost at an age when he might don the *toga virilis* yet you still keep him in a bib and tucker, he is really as ignorant as an oyster, and not a jot wiser than old Jerry, the fool, in yonder town, who will set up a cry of anger if you offer him a shilling, but will dance with joy for a halfpenny, and I feel assured, my respected brother, that in your opinion this reaches the very culminating point of folly," added the Colonel, with a significant smile by no means pleasant to Mr. Simpson, who in the hope of putting an end to the subject observed, "I tell you, Colonel, his mother will never consent to his being placed at a public school, and I really do not think it is worth vexing her about, besides, if as you have suggested, a tutor at home will answer the purpose of preparing him for College and you insist upon his entering, have one by all means.

"I shall have nothing whatever to do with it, I'm sure you must know how distressing the subject is to me; and you will confer a most particular favor on me, if you will kindly see that a suitable place shall be fitted

up for them at the farthest end of the house, so that I can not hear them, for I feel quite sure the sound of half a dozen Greek or Latin words would inevitably bring on a fit of the gout, the very recollection of College even at this distance of time, and after so many intervening years produces the most disagreeable sensations."

The Colonel smiled, and said, "Yes, I remember your collegiate course was not very brilliant; I don't thinkyou were often taken in for honours."

"Taken in, they did nothing but *take me in* the whole time I was there, I had the honour to get credit for every villainy committed in Botany Bay (one of the squares of T. C. D.) and out of it too, I think, while I had the misery to be immured there. If any spiteful rascal happened to blow some ill odoured compound through his tutor's key hole, and caused that unlucky person to rush from his bed half suffocated in a state of primitive nudity into the open air, shouting 'fire!' and whilst he discovered the practical joke on hearing from several quarters, 'all hands to the pumps, there's a *fellow* on fire,' it was sure to be put down to Phil Simpson, of Botany Bay.

"If a set of scamps in a drunken spree sacrificed the lamps at the shrine of the *muses* (certain offices from their number bore this classic name) no body was suspected but Phil Simpson. "It could scarcely be more uncomfortable to have been chained by the legs in its synonyme at the antipodes than suffer all I endured in that horrible square; and, if my poor dear father had not fortunately for me taken it into his merciful consideration to die about that period and enabled me to cut it, I feel quite certain I should myself have died, or at least have gone stark staring mad."

"Well, I hope my nephew will be more fortunate, though it looks like a forlorn hope. I shall, however, do all I can, and shall myself go up to town and consult my old friend Dr. H—e about a competent tutor."

The Colonel proceeded forthwith on his mission, and having secured the services of a gentleman of first rate qualifications, and having duly installed him at Simpson Hall, with the strictest injunctions not to mind what any body said, but to cram Phil as they do geese at Michaelmas, took his departure to the great relief of the family, promising to return for Phil when his tutor should report him ready for entrance.

(*To be continued.*)

Br. Meyerbeer, the eminent composer, is now in town, being about to superintend the production of his last great work, *L'Etoile du Nord*, at the Royal Italian Opera. Br. Meyerbeer is not only a Craft and Arch Mason, but has taken various degrees, not generally acknowledged in this country, up to No. 30, and we are informed is one of the most enthusiastic followers and admirers of the beautiful principles upon which our Order is founded.

BROTHERLY LOVE.

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

(*Continued from p. 322.*)

CHAPTER XI. DISCLOSURES—A TRAGEDY.

THE conversation which Simon overheard was well calculated to arrest his attention. Our readers remember that, in his interview with the Maniac, he received from him an address to which he was to apply, as Simon believed, for the purpose of ascertaining some information relative to his parentage.

That address was Monsieur Lefebre, at the Château Madelaine, near a hamlet in Burgundy, and minute directions were given for ascertaining the exact locality.

"It is a strange tale," said one of the speakers, "it is something like romance."

"And yet it is quite true," said the other. "It was related circumstantially to me by Lefebre."

"And where is the Count living?"

"That Lefebre did not feel at liberty to reveal, but I could understand that he had secluded himself from society, and was leading a kind of eremite life. Indeed, it appears, that since the death of the Countess, his reason has been partially affected—that he is a sort of lunatic."

"And his son, this Simon le Trouve, has no knowledge of his descent, or anything about the noble Château Madelaine, or the estate of which he is to become the future possessor?"

"Not the slightest. It was a part of the eccentricity of the Count to conceal from him his birth, though he took care to provide him with money. The estate is managed by Lefebre, whose extravagance long since impoverished his means, and made the agency desirable. He is also related to the Count, and perhaps feels a family interest in the matter. Some change has taken place in the mind of his eccentric kinsman, who has desired him to institute inquiries after this Simon, who departed suddenly from the neighbourhood where he had been living, without leaving any trace by which to find him. Indeed, it is rumoured, that he partakes of the insanity of his father. But I must retire to rest, after the fatigue of the day."

The speakers here separated, leaving Simon overwhelmed with astonishment at what he had heard. He reflected that at least he was not isolated in the world, for he had a parent living, though that parent had deserted him, and was, to all appearance, a lunatic. Still, there was one living being bound to him by the closest relationship, and he was suffering. Here a new feeling sprang up in his mind, and that was sympathy for his own flesh and blood. The neglect of his father was not produced by want of natural affection, but by mental disease, which rendered him an object of compassion rather than of resentment. Besides, that parent had not entirely deserted him, but had provided means for his support and educa-

tion, proving that, notwithstanding his mental aberration, natural feeling still existed in his breast. Then he thought of the exalted position he was to occupy in the world, surrounded by all the luxuries that wealth could procure, and meeting that deference which is accorded to rank.

Only one thing was wanting to complete his happiness—the love of Ida. Would she be induced to share his prosperity? She might be dazzled by his position and accept him for a husband, but would her heart accompany her hand? The past answered in the negative, and it is withering to know that there are things which cannot be purchased, that the affection which you prize is not a vendible commodity, and that though you may be surrounded by all that the materialist can desire, there is still a void in the craving of your nature, without which, your happiness is incomplete, namely, a pure unsordid love felt for yourself alone.

But the nature of Simon was in a state of transition. He mourned over the blight which his affections had sustained in their tenderest point, but not with the hopelessness of future happiness, with which it had at first fallen on his spirit. Intercourse with his fellow men, and active life, had shown him that there are various sources of felicity open to the human being, and that existence is a chequered scene, in which joy and sorrow are blended together. The chivalrous act of his unknown benefactor, who had rescued him from death, at the cost, probably, of his own life, awakened a dormant sentiment of gratitude to the whole human race, which was perishing from his nature by the want of development, not supplied by the incidents of his antecedent life.

It gave him an insight into human nature which he had not previously and he perceived that there was struggling through much that was possessed, selfish and base, an element in the breast of man that was noble and God-like. Had his feelings been consulted at that time, he would have freely given up his newly acquired wealth, to ascertain the name of the party to whom he was indebted for the preservation of a life, which a short time previously, he had deemed a worthless possession.

He was roused from his reverie by the groans of a man, at a short distance from where he stood. He proceeded in the direction from which the voice proceeded, and he heard the sufferer exclaim in a tone that was familiar to him,

"For the love of God, for the sake of your soul, give me a drink o. water, and don't let me perish here."

"What! Andrê Buffon!" said Simon.

"The same—and you?"

"A friend that will not allow you to die without assistance, undeserving as you are."

"I think I know your voice, and if ever I wronged you—but I can scarcely speak, nor can I raise myself. Oh, that I was with my poor mother," and the imbecile creature sobbed like a child.

"Rouse yourself, man," said Simon, in a stern tone, for disgust was overcoming his feelings of humanity, while he held a flask to Andrê's lips. The wounded man drained the contents, and said, in a whining voice,

"Are you Simon le Trouve?"

"Yes, Yes," replied the latter hurriedly. "This is no time for talking. See if you cannot with my assistance reach the baggage train in the rear, where you will be attended to."

"May all the saints in the calender protect you," exclaimed Andre, who was a Roman Catholic, as Simon helped him to rise, and supported him in the direction named. They soon reached the place were the wounded were temporarily placed, for Andrê had only received a flesh wound, and was more frightened than hurt. Having seen Andre safely into the custody of those to whom the wounded were entrusted, Simon returned to his post, feeling grateful that he had been able to assist a fellow creature, worthless as he was.

Day now broke, and revealed many manly forms stark and mangled, with the morning dew glistening on their rigid and distorted features. It was a sickening sight, and in his present mood of mind Simon turned from it with loathing. He lost no time in seeking out the commanding-officer of his division, to whom he related the conversation he had heard the preceding evening, together with its reference to him, and the latter promised to make inquiries after the speakers. It was ascertained that they were officers of rank, and, on Simon making himself known to them, and expressing a wish to visit Mons. Lefebre, they succeeded in procuring him leave of absence for a few days.

He was ready to depart the next morning, but before leaving he made some inquiries relative to Andre, whom he ascertained was recovering fast, though he was bemoaning his fate, and asserted that his wound was mortal. He learned, also, that amongst the wounded who had been removed the evening previous, was a young assistant-surgeon named Beaufrere, who was generally regretted. He subsequently discovered that it was Alfred, and that he was mortally wounded. This intelligence grieved him, for all traces of animosity to his early friend had been effaced, and he sighed to think of the untimely fate of one so gifted in person and disposition.

A few days brought Simon in sight of the dwelling of his forefathers, and the broad lands which surrounded it, his future inheritance. The mansion was castellated, and was evidently erected at a remote date. The grey battlements gleamed through the vestment of ivy that was mantling the hoary edifice; and a feeling of pride swelled up in Simon's bosom, when he reflected that he was gazing on the abode of his ancestors, some of whom perhaps had been amongst the heroes of Crecy, or Agincourt, or had shed their blood on the burning plains of Palestine. As he approached, a breeze sprang up, waving the drooping flag on the battlement, and, sweeping through the trees, played on his cheek. It seemed as if the spirit of the place floated forth to welcome him to the ancient home of his forefathers.

After a protracted interview with Mons. Lefebre, Simon was introduced to the guests who were remaining at the château, as the son of an old friend and relative of his, and in Madame Lefebre he recognised the early acquaintance of Ida. She treated him with great cordiality, and told him that Ida had not long left the château, adding, that she had made a

serious impression on the heart of a puritanical relative of her husband's, a Lutheran minister in the neighbourhood. This latter was told with an air of levity, but she sighed heavily, and remained silent for some time afterwards. Simon did not notice the alteration, for he appeared buried in thought, and his countenance wore a melancholy expression.

Mons. Lefebre was also unusually grave, and he appeared to be labouring under some heavy depression of spirit, which he vainly endeavoured to conceal by his customary manner.

In the course of the day he requested Simon to accompany him to his study, and informed him he would require his assistance as a relative and friend, the next morning. He stated that a duel was to take place between him and a former friend, and that he felt a presentiment the result would be fatal to him. To Simon's suggestion that the affair might be arranged, he replied it was impossible, for his opponent had received through him a dishonour to his family, which, were he in his place, he would feel bound to take vengeance for. It was the seduction of a sister. Though Simon would have preferred declining to act as a second in the sanguinary scene, he could not refuse the request of his relative, and agreed to meet him at an early hour the following morning.

The remainder of the day was spent by Mons. Lefebre in his study, arranging his affairs and giving a detailed account of his stewardship of the Madelaine estate, which he addressed to Simon. He also wrote a brief but affectionate letter to his wife, and another to Jeunegrace. When these were completed, he flung himself back in his chair, and involuntarily entered into a retrospect of his past life, the incidents of which rose up vividly before him. He remembered distinctly the period when he had been the pride and hope of fond parents, and the rapture with which they watched his mental and physical faculties unfolding, and his grief when he saw them consigned in his boyhood to an early grave. How, for months afterwards, he would wander desolate about the old mansion, where every object reminded him of the vanished looks of love and tenderness, so different to the cold and formal aspect of the guardian to whose care he was entrusted. He was still in the prime of manhood, but a life of dissipation had impaired his constitution, and he felt the curse of the Sybarite, a disgust and weariness at almost everything he felt or saw, and the want of capacity for permanent enjoyment. But he recollected clearly with what ardour and trustfulness in the future he entered in early youth on the path of pleasure, scarcely thinking that decay is an element in the physical genesis, and that all fruition produces only satiety.

How fresh was once each object in existence. What a bloom was on creation; and what dreamy and luxurious feelings sprang up in his mind, as he wandered through the woodland, or by the winding stream, inhaling the pure atmosphere of the country, and surrounded by the beauty of floral and vegetable life. And then, how glorious that golden romance that pervaded his imagination, how far superior to the grossness of reality. This was the period when he had revelled in his day-dream of love, when love is an incense of the young untainted soul, pining for purity and excellence, and unsullied by any gross emanations of sense.

And she to whom he had sworn fidelity, and whom his fancy had etherealised, how vividly her image rose up before him on the morning when they separated, only to meet again on terms of indifference and to laugh over the days of their romance.

How many generous sentiments he had once felt, which had been extinguished by sensual indulgence; and how gradually a callousness to all that did not conduce to his own gratification crept over his nature. And his early sentiments of purity, where were they? All vanished; and in their place a hollow scepticism and a materialist theory. The circumstances connected with the death strife in which he was about to be engaged, next intruded on his mind. The man who would seek his life in a few hours, had once been his most intimate friend, and during absence had entrusted his only sister to his care, as to that of a brother, and how had he discharged that sacred trust. Finally his thoughts turned to his wife, whom he had wooed in a moment of caprice, when sickened with what are called the follies of the fashionable world. Did he fulfil the vow he had made to love and cherish her?—Had he not frozen her once fervid heart by his indifference and neglect?

The thoughts of Lefebre were too painful to be endured, and he sought relief in the wine before him. He drank glass after glass, until his senses were stupified, and he sank into a deep sleep.

As day was breaking, Simon rose and knocked at Lefebre's door. He found him already dressed, and rather pale and nervous from his solitary debauch the preceding evening. But Lefebre soon recovered himself, and suppressed any indication that could induce a supposition that he shrunk from the result of the recontre. He was a man of courage and of pride, and resolved that his last act should be in conformity with his reputation. He told Simon that he would follow him to the ground, and when the latter left the house, stole softly to the bedchamber of his wife. She was asleep and he thought she never looked so lovely. Something like a tear gathered in his eye, but he repressed it, and bending down he pressed his lips to her, and retired.

Simon had reached the ground. It was a lovely morning, with all the attributes of beauty of reviving and blossoming flowers, fragrance and stray notes of melody from the boughs, with a purple shade resting on almost every object visible. What a contrast the aspect of that still life to the sanguinary scene that was about to be enacted.

He was soon joined by Lefebre, and after a short time the other parties made their appearance.

The seconds having arranged the preliminaries, the combatants were placed sword in hand, and face to face.

Both were powerful in body, and expert swordsmen, but a contest of some minutes terminated in Lefebre's receiving the sword of his opponent in his side. He fell with a groan, and Simon supported his head. The dying man gave him one look of gratitude, it was his last, for he rolled from his grasp a corpse.

Thus perished a man who might, under other circumstances, have been an ornament to society and a benefit to his fellow beings.

Simon lost no time in having him conveyed to the castle, which he reached just as the last of the revellers had retired from the banquet room, which still smelt strongly of the fumes of wine.

CHAPTER XII.—The Maniac's Narrative.

Though Ida expected to hear little more than the outpourings of remorse, or the incoherencies of a disordered imagination, still she kept her promise with the Maniac, and repaired to the Mount early the next day. She found him seated on the fragment of a rock, with a roll of paper in his hand. He accosted her with more than usual sadness, but he appeared perfectly collected and rational. When she had seated herself by his side he said,

"I have invited you, Ida, to hear my tale, which I have committed to paper in calmer moments. I know that long before it is concluded, I shall have inspired you with horror, and that you will recoil from me with loathing. I intended to have deferred my narrative until my dying hour, for then I would have no necessity for your sympathy, or for your society, which has been the only thing in existence that has afforded me pleasure since my abode here. But something impels me to make my disclosures now, for something tells me I am on the threshold of eternity, that perhaps only a few hours are alloted to me, for this temple of madness has long been crumbling to decay. Look, Ida," he said, baring his arm, which was worn to a skeleton, "look, and see if this wretched frame can long survive. Weep not, my child, for death will be a release; and can the Infinite doom to eternal torment, one who has known no peace for years, and whose waking and sleeping moments have been haunted by a phantom of horror, that has frequently tempted me to fling myself over this precipice? Ida, I have loved you like my own child. Your kindness has caused to flow the first tear my seared brain could shed for years, and that afforded me a temporary relief. I do not ask you not to loathe me, but before I commence, will you promise that you will not retain resentment to my son, who, though morose and wayward, is guiltless of his father's faults? Will you promise this as though you were speaking to a dying man?"

"Yes," said Ida, earnestly, "yes, I promise it most solemnly."

"Then I shall proceed," he said, and unfolding the manuscript, he read the following, which was frequently interrupted by bursts of anguish, which we have omitted, for, by this time, the reader must have a clear insight into the mental tortures he was enduring.

"Would you have ever thought that the wretched being who now addresses you, was once an object of the world's worship, the possessor of rank and wealth, to whom the incense of adulation was daily offered, by the venal parisites of prosperity? Can you believe that I, whose latter associations have been only the rugged rock, the wild brambles and the mouldering oak, and whose only animated visitants are the snail, or the worm that crawls by my abode, that I have mixed with the noblelest and

most refined in the land? But such is the case. I have heard in a lucid moment my common designation here, and yet the Maniac of the Mount is one of the noblest and wealthiest peers of France.

"I was not once so. I was poor, parentless, and had to work at an humble trade for my living, at an early age, in Paris. My toil was ill-remunerated, I was surrounded by squalor, and hunger frequently visited my sordid dwelling. Life had one solace, that of a friend. He was in better circumstances, and was intended for a minister of the Lutheran church. We early formed acquaintance. I was a catholic, but he had no sectarian prejudices and knew no distinctions in his benevolence. He would say that all Christian creeds were like rays flashing from the diamond, that all taught precepts of morality, and all inculcated Brotherly Love.

"We grew into manhood together, and I loved him as my life. I looked up to him as a superior being, but he was all humility. He entered on his ministry, and I continued at my trade, till our intercourse was interrupted. What pure and happy moments we spent together, wandering by the banks of the Seine. But our friendship was destined to terminate. At our then period of life, it was natural that we should fall in love. Men when they advance in years deride the passion, but love is a necessity of youth. We loved, but, unfortunately, it was the same young maiden. I thought she preferred my friend, but I strove to banish the idea, for it drove me almost to frenzy. Every look directed to your father, every word she addressed to him drove me to distraction, and I took deadly hatred towards him.

"Circumstance soon made me a successful rival, for I became possessed of a title and an estate through the death of an uncle who was childless, but who was eccentric, and would never contribute to the support of my parents, or myself, though he knew my father or I must succeed him. I now resolved to gratify my resentment against my former friend, and to obtain possession of the girl whom I still loved, notwithstanding her preference of another. I pleaded my passion, and pointed out the advantages in a worldly point from being the wife of a man of wealth. She declined my offer, but I was not deterred, and applied to her parents. They were limited in means, and persuaded her into a compliance with my wishes.

"I felt an indescribable transport, I thought of the triumph I had acheived, and I pictured the torture I had inflicted on my rival. But I little thought with what strength religion arms its possessor, for he appeared tranquil and resigned, and when we met he saluted me with the deference due to my position, but without any indication of resentment. I saw, however, that his cheek was thinner and paler than usual, and I knew that he must be suffering in mind.

"I could not complain of my wife. She was brought up in a school of piety and obedience, and no murmur, no word, no look of regret ever escaped her, and at the same time she endeavoured to render me as happy as possible. There was only one circumstance in her conduct that occasioned me pain. She refused to comply with my wishes to become a member of

the national faith, but remained a member of the Lutheran faith, and was constant in her attendance at the chapel where my rival officiated, in the environs of the metropolis. This opposition to my will, excited not only anger, but jealousy, and from that hour I vowed to persecute my former friend even to death, should he cross my path. I knew that his sole dependence was on his flock, but still I determined to drive him from Paris. I soon found that I had sufficient influence to effect this, and to dry up his present source of income. Religious intolerance is not peculiar to any form of faith—it is common to all, at least to the unreasoning and bigoted of every denomination, and it has been frequently found an efficient agent in gratifying other desires than that of establishing any peculiar religious dogmas. This chapel was ordered to be closed, and he was interdicted from practising his ministry in Paris under severe penalties. If all forms of the Christian creed are tainted with intolerance, so have all of them members, whose sincerity cannot be denied, and as the one will tempt to persecute, so will the other nerve them to suffer for the faith that is in them. My rival was one of the latter. He did not openly infringe the law, but he did so secretly, by celebrating the simple rites of his religion in the private dwellings of some members of his little congregation. In this he was detected and thrown into prison, where he languished for some months.

"However, through the persuasion of his flock he was induced to promise that he would depart immediately, and on this condition he was liberated.

"I saw my wife was getting into bad health, and I fancied it was from sympathy with the sufferings of her former lover. This incensed me more than ever against him, but I rested satisfied with having accomplished my immediate object. She was ordered change of air, and a new source of affection for her was disclosed—she was about becoming a mother. I had no doubt of her fidelity, she was too pure for such suspicion. It was for that warmth of affection, which I thought she at one time had for my rival that I panted, and which no proofs of my attachment could elicit.

"We left Paris, and went to reside in the country. The change had a beneficial effect on both of us, and I began to feel a serenity that I had never experienced since our marriage. Even some of my resentment to my persecuted friend abated, and I felt greived at the length to which I had carried my resentment. But my former feelings were soon revived in all their former force. Riding out in the direction of a small town in the neighbourhood, we encountered the object of my aversion. He was clad in the attire of a peasant. He recognised me, and raised his hat deferentially, and I perceived that he had grown quite grey. I looked at my wife, she coloured deeply and sighed. I immediately instituted inquiries, and ascertained that he was officiating in the neighbouring town, and earned a scanty subsistence. I felt I could not rest until I had driven him from the spot, and I again succeeded.

"My wife shortly afterwards became very ill, and died in giving birth prematurely to a child. In her last moments she besought me to be reconciled to my early friend, and desired me to read a letter in her escritoire. It was addressed to her by him a short time previous to our

marriage. He besought her for the sake of her parents to accept my offer, and not to bestow a thought on him, for the knowledge that she was placed in a position of affluence, would console him for the loss of her society, and that happiness which he had looked forward to in being united to her. He dwelt upon the transitory nature of human felicity, and the duty of the Christian to bow with submission to the decrees of an overruling Providence. And then he spoke of me, and with the affection of a brother whose estrangement from him he deeply regretted. The letter concluded by an earnest prayer for our happiness.

"The letter dropped from my hand, and I rushed to my wife's bed-side. I wept on her pillow, and I promised her solemnly that I would never desist until I had discovered my friend, asked his forgiveness, and atoned to him for my persecution. She was too faint to reply, but a gentle pressure and a look of gratitude convinced me that she understood my meaning. A few days afterwards I followed her to the grave. I could not bear the sight of my child, regarding its birth as the cause of my wife's death. I removed it to where I knew he would be properly tended, and I supplied ample means for his provision and education.

"From that moment I devoted myself to searching after my friend, but it was vain. I traced him to various places, and perhaps my inquiries reached his ears, and not knowing my motives in pursuing him, he took steps to baffle my discovery.

(*To be continued.*)

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Communication was held in Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, June 6th, the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M. presiding, supported by Br. Stuart, S.W.; Eaton, J.W.; Rev. J. E. Cox, G.Chap.; Rev. Ed. Moore, G. Ch.; W. H. White, G. Sec.; A. Dobie, G. Reg.; H. L. Crohn, G.S G.C.; R. W. Jennings, G.D. Cers.; J. Chapman, Assist. do.; Bagshaw, P.G.M. for Essex; Bowyer, P.G.M. for Oxfordshire; Rawson, P.G.M. for China; Lord Leigh, P.G.M. for Warwickshire; John Hervey, P.G.D.; Potter, P.G.D.; Goldsworthy, P.G.P.; Havers, P. G. D.; Patten, P.G.S.B.; Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; Leech, P.G.S.B.; Spiers, P.G.S.B., &c. &c.

The G. Sec. read the minutes of the last G. Lodge, the Board of Masters, and the Board of General Purposes, all of which were confirmed, although we do not believe that one Brother in ten could make head or tail of what they were about, in consequence of the tone in which they were read.

An election was taken for fourteen Members of the Lodge of Benevolence, when the ballot was declared to have fallen on Brs. Gooch, Hopwood, Morris, Moxon, Roberts, Webb, and Wilkinson, as acting Masters; and Brs. Attwood, Barrett, Bisgood, Filer, Johnson, Palmer, and Young, as P. Masters.

The M.W.G.M. then appointed eleven brethren to the Board: they were, as far as we could understand—but we do not vouch for the accuracy of the list, in consequence of the inaudible tone in which the names were read—Brs. Bigg, Crohn, Dobie, L. Evans, Faudell, John Hervey, Jennings, King, Herbert Lloyd, Parkinson, and Tomkins. We applied at the grand Secretary's office for a list of the names, in order to avoid mistakes, but it was refused us, by order of Br. White, the G. Sec., who has a great horror of seeing anything published relative to Masonry—a horror which

appears even to extend to the publication of the minutes and accounts of the Quarterly Communications, FIVE of which are now over due.

Br. Symonds moved that it be referred to the Board of General Purposes to make inquiry into the circumstances attendant upon the Freemasons' Tavern changing hands, and especially as regarded its being let to the late proprietors.

Br. Barrett seconded the motion. This gave rise to some discussion, which, for obvious reasons, we do not publish; and the resolution, which cannot by possibility lead to any beneficial result, was carried.

Br. Savage moved that, inasmuch as the annual grant from Grand Lodge to the Widows' Fund of the Royal Benevolent Institution had been increased from 100*l.* to 200*l.* an additional vote should be given to the Masters of the various Lodges. He brought forward the resolution on principle, and he believed that the only reason why it was not made part of the original resolution, was a feeling that it followed as a matter of course. For the Male Annuity Fund, 400*l.* per annum was granted, and four votes were allowed to the Lodges for it; it was, therefore, but reasonable, that when the vote to the Widows' Fund was increased from 100*l.* to 200*l.*, the votes should be increased from one to two. Indeed, it ought to be understood that every 100*l.* so voted should carry with it a vote to the Masters of the various Lodges.

Br. Dr. Jones seconded the motion.

Brs. Havers, Dobie, and White (the G. Sec.), opposed the motion, on the ground that it would give too great a preponderance to the votes of the Lodges against those of individual subscribers; and that the motion ought to have been submitted to the subscribers at a General Meeting, prior to coming before Grand Lodge.

Br. Savage replied, and the question, being put, was negatived.

Br. Dobie complained of lists of candidates to become members of the Board of Benevolence having been sent round with a request for support. He thought such canvassing illegal, and ought to be suppressed, as the brethren were supposed to come to Grand Lodge to give their votes free and unfettered.

Br. Savage thought the evil might be put an end to, by the brethren being elected by a show of hands instead of ballot.

After a few further observations, the subject dropped.

A Brother who, some years since, was suspended from the enjoyment of Masonic privileges—[illegible]e being a defaulter as Treasurer of a Lodge, and in other ways—applied to be re-admitted to those privileges.

The application was refused.

Br. Portal, P.G.W. of Oxfordshire, gave notice, that at the next Quarterly Communication he should move that a programme of the business to be brought forward at each meeting should be printed, for the information of the brethren attending Grand Lodge.

All business being ended, the Lodge was closed in due form.

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

THIS Board met for the first time since its reconstruction, on Tuesday last, when Dr. Dobre having been appointed President, Br. George Barrett was elected Vice-President. No other business was transacted. The Board consists of 14 brothers (being Masters or P.M's), elected by Grand Lodge, and 11 appointed by the Grand Master in addition to the G.M., the G.D.M., and the two G.W's, who are members ex-officio.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

AT the meeting of this Board on Wednesday, the 30th May, 132*l.* was voted in various sums, for the relief of distressed Brethren or their Widows. And at the meeting of the 17th June, 85*l.*

ROYAL FREEMASONS' GIRLS' SCHOOL.

At the request of some country brethren, we print the balance-sheet of this Institution for the past year, in order that it may gain more general currency amongst the Craft than it is otherwise likely to do :—

Dr.

1854.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Produce of Children's Work				30	14	0
Donation per United Grand Lodge of England				350	0	0
United Grand Lodge Subscriptions				150	0	0
Amount of Donations and Subscriptions, as per List				1180	13	6
Ditto per Provincial Grand Lodges	15	15	0			
Ditto Lodges as per List	280	7	0			
Ditto Lodges of Instruction	11	11	0			
Supreme Grand Chapter £10 10 0						
Chapters as per List.... 8 8 0						
	18	18	0			
Encampments	3	3	0			
				329	14	0
Six Months' Dividend on Stock 3 per cent. *Consolidated Annuities*, due Jan. £4200	63	0	0			
Ditto on Stock 3 per cent. Reduced Annuities, due April. £4000	60	0	0			
Ditto ditto 3 per cent. Consols, due July, £4200	63	0	0			
Ditto ditto 3 per cent. Reduced, due October, £4000	60	0	0			
				246	0	0

Audited and found Correct, Tuesday, 3rd April, 1855, *by*

GEORGE BIGGS.
FREDERICK ADLARD.
JOHN BARNES.

£2287 1 6

Cr.

1854	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Balance paid Treasurer				89	12	8
Provisions for Matron, Assistants, Servants, and Children	755	12	9			
Rates, taxes, and insurance	54	3	8			
Furniture, Matting, &c.	9	15	4			
Linen, Clothing, &c....	213	12	4			
Coals, Coke, Firewood, Oil, Soap, and Candles	158	8	0			
House Utensils, Oilmen, Turnery, &c..	34	10	11			
Sundry Repairs	51	5	3			
Books, Stationery, Printing, Postage, Porterage, Advertisements, including Secretarial Disbursements	99	11	0			
Presentation Medals, *for two years*	2	10	0			
Omnibuses for conveying Children to and from the Festival	5	4	0			
Medicines and Expenses	19	1	0			
Com. to Collector	60	11	3			
Garden Charges	29	2	10			
Writing on Vellum Three Testimonials—one for presentation to the Chairman, one to the Deputy-Chairman, and one to the Members of the Building Committee of the School, &c.	19	19	0			
Gratuity to Brother Crew, for additional Services and Expenses during the Erection of the New Building	126	0	0			
Salaries and Wages to Secretary, Matron, Schoolmistress, &c...	330	9	6			
Board-room Clock, Winding Turret Clock One Year, and Repairing Dial	5	2	6			
				1974	19	4
Piper, Messrs., balance of their Account for Building, &c.				135	17	11
Funeral Expenses of the late Mrs. Crook, who was upwards of Fifty-four Years Matron of the Institution, Mourning for the Household, Children, and Servants, &c.				74	11	10
Balance in Banker's hands				11	19	9
				£2287	1	6

LONDON LODGES.

LODGE OF FIDELITY (No. 3).—The last meeting of the brethren of this Lodge for the season, took place on the 13th ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern, when Br. Law, the W.M., ably initiated one candidate into the Order.

ROYAL YORK LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE (No. 7).—The last meeting, for the season, of this Lodge was held on the evening of the 30th of May, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on which occasion the W.M., Br. Hopwood, ably raised one brother and passed another to their respective degrees. Among the visitors were Brs. Bohn, Crohn, Hempden, Honey, Palmer, Stone, &c. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the brethren dined together to the number of 30.

WESTMINSTER AND KEYSTONE LODGE (No. 10).—This Lodge which has been recently resusitated through the exertions of Br. Spiers, D.P.G.M., of Oxfordshire, as a Lodge of reunion for the brethren of that Province, met on the 6th ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern, when the W.M., the Rev. Br. Lyall, ably initiated two gentlemen into the Order.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—The members of this distinguished Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, June 6th, to take into consideration the celebration of the centenary, when it was decided, that as the Lodge had been established for considerably more than a century, it was not expedient to do more than adopt the distinctive Jewel, to be allowed to wear which, application has been made to the G.M.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—The members of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, June 12th, when it was arranged that the summer banquet take place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, July 4th. Several initiations are expected, prior to the banquet.

MOUNT MORIAH LODGE (No. 40).—The brethren of this Lodge held a meeting, on the 30th of May, when the W.M., Br. Artus, raised two, and passed two brothers to their respective degrees. The Lodge in recognition of the services of the late Br. J. Dalton, many years its Tyler, voted £2 2s. as a donation to his widow.

The last meeting of the Lodge for the year was held on the 28th of June, when a Br. was duly raised to the Third Degree. After a slight refection, the brethren adjourned. They will, however, hold a banquet at the Star and Garter, Richmond, on the 10th inst. It is with sincere regret—a regret that we are sure will be felt by every Brother who has the honour of his acquaintance—that we have heard of the serious illness of Br. Orme, the immediate P.M. of the Lodge, and we trust that, ere long, we may be enabled to announce his restoration to health.

STRONG MAN LODGE (No. 53).—This Lodge met, for the last time this season, on Thursday, 7th June, at Br. Ireland's, Falcon Chambers, Fetter Lane. The candidates for several ceremonies not being in attendance, as expected, Br. Crawley, S.M. (103) Vis., with the assistance of the brethren, worked the first and second sections of the first lecture. The brethren then adjourned to partake of an excellent supper, provided in Br. Ireland's usual liberal style. After the usual Masonic toasts, the W.M., in proposing the healths of Brs. Heywood (23), and Crawley (103), expressed the pleasure felt at all times in receiving those welcome visitors, and more particularly the thanks of the Lodge for the valuable assistance rendered on all occasions by Br. Crawley, in giving instruction to the members. Br. Crawley, in return, stated that during the several years he had been acquainted with the Lodge, he had always felt the greatest pleasure in visiting it, and, perhaps, never more so than on the present occasion, when he saw many brethren around him whom he held in great respect. And with regard to instruction, he believed it was well known that he was always most happy to give it, whenever called upon. Br. Wilkingson, P.M., then proposed the health of the W.M., Br. Turner, and trusted that he would have a successful and happy year of office. He felt certain that if the W.M. succeeded in performing the duties to his own satisfaction, he would not fail of gaining the approbation of the brethren. After drinking the healths of the P.M's, coupled with the names of Br. Moss, Treasurer, and Br. Connelly Secretary, and other past and present Officers, the brethren closed a most harmonious evening, which was enlivened by some excellent singing.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—The brethren of this excellent and highly respectable Lodge, celebrated the centenary of their Charter, on the 31st May, by a very elegant dinner, at the Brunswick Hotel, Blackwall, the W.M., Br. Lewis Solomon, presiding. A variety of toasts having been drunk, Br. Wm. Johnson, P.M., rose to propose, "*Prosperity and perpetuity to the Lodge of Regularity.*" It gave him sincere pleasure to be able to propose that toast, as the records of the Lodge showed how prosperous it had been during the 100 years it had been in existence, and how steadily it had supported the Charter, there being scarcely an instance, if any, of any festival taking place for a Masonic charity to which that Lodge did not send a Steward. It was most gratifying to see the offices so well filled with rising and enthusiastic Masons as they now were, and whilst they continued to be so filled, there was no fear but the Lodge must contininue to prosper. The toast was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm. The evenings entertainment was enlivened by the vocal exertions of the W.M., Br Albertz, Br. Crew, Br. George Genge, and other brethren, and the excellent performances on the piano of Br. Charles Solomon, who also favoured the company with several songs *a la* Parry.

POLISH NATIONAL (No. 778).—The usual monthly meeting of the members of this Lodge was held, on the 14th ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern, when Br. Looinger was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and Mr. W. Murray initiated into the Order. Br. Lemanski, P.M., on the same occasion, installed Br. Detkins as W.M. for the ensuing year, who appointed Br. Johnson, S.W.; Br. Samuel, J.W.; Br. Murray, S.D.; Br. Bonporath, J.D.; and Br. Matta, I.G. At the banquet table, a very handsome jewel was presented to P.M., Br. Ritterbandt, for the ability with which he discharged the duties of his year of office. The health of the visitors was acknowledged by Brs. Dawson and Yoell, of the Adelphi Lodge (No. 23, New York Register). There were also present Brs. Mather, Martin, Shaboe, Gurton, and Ward.

MOIRA LODGE (No. 109).—This old and celebrated Lodge marks with a white stone its entertainment of the 26th, for not only was there a large and influential body of the brethren and visitors present, but after the close of Masonic business the Lodge was honoured on this occasion by the attendance of a great many ladies.

The Lodge was opened in the usual form by Br. C. Hogg, who assisted by Br. R. G. Ledger, S.W., and Br. J. W. Mellish, I.W. After the usual ceremonies, Mr. Sargood and the Rev. R. Roberts were initiated most efficiently. The Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to the banquet; and here we beheld the most effective *coup d'œil* we ever witnessed. In the centre of the tables, and running down their whole length were innumerable silver gilt vases filled with the choicest flowers. Groups of wax lights dotted about, giving a beautiful effect. In front of the W.M. was a large looking-glass plateau, illustrated with groups of growing flowers, and surrounded by gilt winged figures supporting branches for lights; but, beyond all, the rows of fair ladies was by far the most attractive sight. Such an assemblage of beauty and fashion ever to be remembered by the brethren of the Lodge.

Among the Brs. we observed, Br. Hogg, W.M., Br. White, G.S., Br. Potter, P.G.I.W., Br. Ledger, Br. Mellish, John Mott Thearle, G. W. Bell, R. C. Bell, F. Slight, Straight, Palmer, Austin, Aspall, Lewis, Law, Webster, Smith, O. Law, Sargood, Roberts, and a number of other distinguished brethren.

The dinner was of the most *recherche* description, every delicacy in and out of season; and the whole arrangement of the banquet reflects the highest credit upon Br. Bathe, who on this occasion had devoted the whole of the London Tavern to the accommodation of the brethren of the Moira and their friends. Apropos of the the dinner, and in parenthesis (we would remark upon the absurdity of having the bills of fare in French,—many of the visitors do not understand it, and not one of the waiters. We had the hardihood to request a waiter to bring us a plate of the "*Compote de Pigeon à la Financier*," the request evidently much disturbed his mind; but with that ability in meeting exigencies so peculiar to waiters, he departed and returned with lamb chops and cucumber, evidently not the dish with the long name we so desired to have).

The usual Masonic toasts were given by the W.M. with his usual eloquence. Those requiring it were responded to by Brs. White, G.S., Potter, Sargood, Roberts, Smith, &c.

The musical arrangements under the direction of Br. H. R. Allen were most perfect. The vocalists were, Miss St. Vincent, Miss Stage, Br. E. Day, H. Percy, Mr Ruddock, Mr. Harper and the veteran vocalist, Mr. Jolly. Conductor, Br. W. Aspull, P.W., of No. 76 and P.G.O. presided at the pianoforte with that judicious care and taste which has so distinguished this accomplished musician. Br. H. R. Allen, the celebrated tenor singer, then sung most delightfully Mozart's beautiful song, "O Cara Imagine." Br. Day sang several beautiful songs with great feeling. Miss St. Vincent has one of the sweetest voices we ever heard, and we augur a very high professional future fortune. The festivities were prolonged until a late hour, and with the last carriage, as it rolled away, closed one of the old Moira's happy days.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281.)—This Lodge held its last meeting for the season on the 7th June, when one Brother was passed and another raised to their respective degrees. The brethren then adjourned to refreshment, and, after passing a happy evening, separated well delighted with the results of the season.

ZETLAND LODGE (No. 752).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on the 12th ult., at the Adam and Eve, Kensington, for the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, and also for the election of a Treasurer, when Br. Haywood, S.W., was elected to preside over the Lodge, and Br. Daly to guard its funds. We congratulate the Lodge upon its selection of these brethren, who, we are sure, will ably and faithfully fulfil the duties imposed on them.

BEADON LODGE (No. 902).—On the 20th ult., this Lodge held its first meting of the season, at Br. Adams', Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, under the able presidency of the W.M., Br. Wm. Watson, who raised Brs. Woodley, Charles, and Search (23), and passed Br. Kingshot. The banquet which followed the Masonic business of the evening, was served in the host's usual liberal and elegant style. The visitors present were, Brs. Kirby, P.M. (169), Banks, S.W. (11), Gurton, S.W. (211), Learch (23), and Beans (25). The W.M., in responding to the toast of his own health, took occasion to observe, that having been instrumental in founding the Lodge, he should ever take a lively interest in its prosperity; and although circumstances might arise which would have the effect of taking him from the neighbourhood, he would pledge himself to them, that if he was within two days' journey of Kew Bridge, he should make it a point of attending, at least, their installation meetings. He had made it a rule, when retiring from the chair of a Lodge, to instal his successor; and he would assure them that he should adhere to it in the case of their Lodge; and begged, in conclusion, to drink the health of all the brethren.

INSTRUCTION.

JOPPA LODGE (No. 223).—The members of the above Lodge of Instruction met at the Crooked Billet, Tower Hill, on Thursday evening, the 17th of May, to celebrate the closing of the Session, Br. H. Lyons, W.M., Lodge of Joppa, presiding, assisted by Br. H. A. Isaacs, S.W., Lodge of Israel, as S.W., and Br. Alexander Levy, P.M., Lodge of Tranquility, as J. W.

After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the W.M., in a very able speech, proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Joppa Lodge of Instruction," coupling with it the health of the Lecture Master, Br. Saqui, to which that Br. responded in a very neat speech, alluding to the great progress the Lodge had made during the Session.

The W.M. then proposed the health of Br. Risch, Hon. Sec., to which Br. Risch responded, expressing his desire at all times to promote the interests of the Order. The W.M. then proposed in very eulogistic terms the Senior and Junior Wardens, as representatives of the Lodges of Israel and Tranquility, which was responded to by Br. H. A. Isaacs and Br. Alexander Levy. Among other toasts came the P.Ms. of the Lodge of Joppa, to which Br. P. M. Lazarus replied. The evening was passed in the most agreeable manner, and its hilarity greatly enhanced by the very excellent singing of Br. Alexander Levy, Br. C. Van Goor, Br. S. Solomon, and Br. Henry Isaacs, Br. Saqui presiding at the pianoforte.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

DEVONSHIRE.

St. John, Exeter (No. 46).—The W.M. called a lodge of emergency at the Masonic Hall, on Tuesday, the 26th inst. The first lodge of instruction for the season, is fixed for Thursday, 5th July inst.

Lodge St. John the Baptist, Plymouth (No. 83).—The Brethren assembled on Tuesday, the 19th of June, at a Lodge of Emergency, to initiate Capt. Warre, who had been ballotted for some months previously. The ceremony was most ably and impressively performed by Br. Pollard, P.M., P.P.G.T., well seconded by the various officers. Lodge being closed in form, and with solemn prayer, the brethren retired to refreshment at an early hour. The healths of the Queen, the M.W.G.M., Earl of Zetland, the M.W.P.G.M. Earl Fortescue, the W.D.P.G.M. Br. Huish, were drank with enthusiasm. "Speedy relief to all distressing brethren around the globe" was drunk with much feeling and in silence. Br. Foulds, S.W., proposed the health of the W.M., in doing so, he alluded to the urbanity, kindness, and gentlemanly feelings of Br. Gambell, which had entitled him to, and won for him the respect and esteem of the Lodge. Br. Gambell, in returning thanks, said that the kindly expressions which had been evinced by the Brethren, would prompt him to further efforts for their comfort and encourage him in the duties of his office. The health of the S.W., Br. Foulds, the J.W., Br. Julian, the Treasurer, Secretary, and Assistant Officers were duly honoured. Br. Marshall, P.M., in a very eloquent speech, proposed the health and happiness of the newly initiated Brother, and expatiated upon the many beauties of our glorious Order, concluding by presenting him with a Masonic glass, that when Br. Warre should plough the trackless deep, to distant climes, he might have wherewith to recall to his mind his parent Lodge. Br. Warre replied that being but newly initiated, he could scarcely express his feelings on that occasion; from the proceedings of the evening, he congratulated himself on having become a Mason, and thanked the brethren for having admitted him, and for the handsome manner in which his name had been received. A very pleasant evening was spent, and the brethren retired early. Some of the Members proposed on St. John's day, presenting Br. Pollard with a mark of esteem.

Lodge of Fortitude, Stonehouse (No. 122).—The Lodge met at 7 p.m., on the 13th inst., when Br. Phillips most ably raised Br. C. Dyer to the sublime degree of W.M. The Lodge being closed, the brethren retired to refreshment. After the usual toasts had been duly honoured, Br. P. M. Cale rose, and in a very neat speech, proposed the health of the W.M., and congratulated the brethren on having, at last, after six years, got "the right man in the right place." The toast was received most cordially, and when the cheers had subsided, the W.M. said, that having been placed by their kindness in his present position, he had endeavoured to do his duty to the best of his ability, and was happy to think he had succeeded to the satisfaction of the brethren, and that, when he vacated that chair, he should not consider his labour finished, but strive if possible to increase the prosperity of 122, returning most sincerely their kind wishes, he sat down amidst loud plaudits from all parts of the room.

Lodge of Charity, Plymouth (No. 270).—The brethren held their usual monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 19th, owing probably to the distance at which many of the members reside, the attendance was not so good as is desirable. The business of the evening consisted of passing Br. Dernu to the second degree, and was performed by Br. Pollard, P.M., of 83 and, P.P.G.T. of Devon, in his usual style of excellence and correctness. Br. Pollard, from his constant readiness to assist where his assistance is

required has richly earned the respect and esteem of the Brethren in this neighbourhood, and, it is gratifying to add, that it is generally accorded to him. Lodge was closed (after some other routine business had been disposed of) at a very seasonable hour.

LODGE OF UNION, STARCROSS (No. 650).—This lodge held its usual monthly meeting, on Saturday, the 2nd inst.—In announcing the election of the W.M. of the above lodge, the name was accidentally spelt Wilcocks*on* instead of Wilcocks.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

CEREMONY OF LAYING THE FIRST STONE OF THE NEW CORN EXCHANGE, AT WATFORD.

(*From the Special Reporter of the Masonic Mirror.*)

On Monday, the 18th of June, the brethren of the Hertfordshire Lodges met in Grand Lodge, at the Freemasons' Hall, Watford, to celebrate the laying of the first stone of the New Corn Exchange. The weather was not very propitious. The brethren assembled at the Hall shortly after 1 o'clock, and proceeded to clothe, and after the usual preliminaries the Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in ample form by the R.W., Br. Wm. Stuart, Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire, assisted by the Present and Past Provincial Grand Officers of the province, the R.W. Br. White, Grand Secretary of England, several Provincial Grand Officers, Past Masters, and Masters and Brethren of the London Lodges. The Provincial Grand Master stated from the chair, the reason of the goodly assemblage of the brethren of the Mystic Tie being called together, and dilated upon the forthcoming ceremony, &c., &c. Grand Lodge having been closed, a procession was formed, and the various working tools, ashlers, the golden cornucopia and ewers (kindly lent for the occasion by the United Grand Lodge of England), the volume of the Sacred Law, Book of Constitutions, silver trowel, &c., being placed on handsome velvet cushions were given to the proper officers by the Provincial Grand Director of the Ceremonies, Br. Howe, assisted by Br. George Lambert, P.M. and D.C. of the Percy Lodge, No. 234, according to the directions laid down in the Book of Constitution. All being ready, the procession moved from the Hall, through the town in the following order to Watford Old Church:—

Provincial Grand Tyler, bearing the Grand Banner of the Province.
Shareholders in the Watford Corn Exchange Company.
Directors.
Chairman of Committee.
Visiting brethren of Country Lodges.
Visiting brethren of London Lodges.
Rough Ashler, carried on a white velvet cushion, by a Br. Master Mason.
Working tools carried on a blue and white velvet cushion, by Br. M. Dennison, No. 19.
Smooth Ashler, carried on a blue velvet cushion, by a Br. of the Watford Lodge.
Master and Wardens of the Watford Lodge.
Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works.
The Architect (Mr. Murray).
Past Provincial Grand Officer, bearing the Ewer of Oil.
Past Provincial Grand Officer, bearing the Cornucopia.
Past Provincial Grand Officer, bearing the Ewer of Wine.
Provincial Grand Secretary, Br. John Sedgwick, bearing the Book of Constitutions, on purple velvet cushion.
Provincial Grand Treasurer.
Two Master Masons, bearing the columns of the Prov. G.S.W., and P.G.I.W.
Volume of the Sacred Law, carried by a past Provincial Grand Officer, on crimson velvet cushion.
The Rev. R.W. Br. Owen, Prov. Grand Chaplain, for Leicestershire and Surrey.
The Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

Provincial Grand Sword Bearer.
The Rt. W. Prov. Grand Master, Br. Wm. Stuart.
Prov. Grand Stewards, and Stewards of the day, &c., &c.

On arriving at the Church, the brethren were told off into pairs on the left side of the Church, which were specially for the use of the Grand Lodge, and were each supplied with a printed copy of the Anthems to be sung on the occasion.

Among the company present at the Church, we noticed the new Vicar, who has lately succeeded to the parish (on the demise of the late Hon. and Rev. Wm. Capel), Br. White, Grand Secretary of England; Wm. Stuart, Esq., P.G.M. Herts; his son, Br. Capt. Stuart, M.P., S.G.W. of England; C. W. Moore, Esq.; T. Rogers, Esq., Mr. Alderman Copeland, Br. Bywater, P.M., No. 19; Br. Dr. Kent, the highly respected P.G.M. for South Australia; Br. Wm. Pullen, D.P.G.M. for Hants; — Francis, Esq.; Br. Burchill Herne, P.G.D., Herts; Br John Mott Thearle P.G.S.B. for Herts; Br. A. L. Bellinger, W.M., No. 82; Br. Dr. Prith, of Calcutta; Br. Byranson, No. 19; Br. Francis Lambert, P.M., No. 234, whom we gladly hail again with the distinguishing badge of a Mason; Br. Barfield, Brs., Tootal, Edgemore, and Johnston, from the Lodge at King's Langley, &c., &c.

Here we may perhaps be permitted to state the extreme gratification we felt at seeing the Sacred Edifice filled by so many of the ladies and gentlemen of the county, and the inhabitants of the town, and at the same time we deeply regret the confusion which took place at the entrance of the Church, by some noisy spectators anxious to be present, and the doors were obliged to be forcibly closed by the police constables in attendance, to whom too much praise cannot be offered for their assistance and great forbearance. Order having been restored, the doors of the Church were thrown wide open, and the more respectable portion gladly availed themselves of this opportunity to hear the impressive service. Evening prayers were admirably read by his Reverence, the Curate of Watford, and an excellent sermon was preached by the R.W. the Prov. Grand Chaplain for Surrey, Br. Owen. The Rev. gentleman, who is an excellent orator, and preached extemporaneously, took his text from the 124th Psalm, verses 1, 2, and 3, Bible version. The discourse was admirable, and was listened to with the greatest attention. The Anthems, "Comfort ye my people," Handel—and "Surely I will build Him an house,"—Boyce—were beautifully sung by Brs. Donald, King, and Lawler, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Dawson. Service being over, the public left the Church, and the procession reformed and proceeded, despite a pelting shower, through the town to the area in which the stone was placed. The Masonic Body were accommodated on a platform, and a temporary gallery was erected for the use of the ladies, gentry and others, who were provided with tickets.

The rain now descended in torrents, and detracted much from the ceremony. The Architect, Mr. Murray, whose design was chosen out of 23 which were sent in to the Building Committee, presented the working drawings and plan to the Rt.W. Provincial Grand Master, who inspected them, and complimented Mr. Murray on his success. The Contractor then presented the silver trowel, and the foreman of the works held a handsome silver dish, on which the cement was ready guaged. The Provincial Grand Master, in a most workmanlike and Masonic style, which showed that he was no novice at his duty, proceeded to cement the edges of the stone. The Prov. Grand Director of Ceremonies, then read by the P.G.M's. desire, a parchment scroll, which was then put into the bottle together with the various coins of the realm, a programme of the proceedings of the day, and a copy of the anthems sung in the Church; the bottle was then hermetically sealed, deposited in the cavity of the stone, imbedded in pitch, and the upper part of the stone placed upon it. The mass was then deposited in the foundation of the building in its proper place, the Prov. Grand Wardens tested its accuracy with the Level, Plumb and Square, and the Prov. Grand Master struck it with his *gavel secundum artem Latomorum*, declaring that it was properly laid. Corn oil and wine were then scattered on the stone, and the Prov. Grand Chaplain, the R.W. Br. Owen, pronounced a most impressive short address. All the proceedings were admirably carried out and witnessed by numerous spectators who thronged the unfinished sides of the buildings adjacent, and every available vacant space where a

view of the ceremony could be obtained. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the procession returned to the Hall, and the brethren, shareholders and visitors sat down to an elegantly prepared cold collation, consisting of every delicacy of the season.

The R.W.P.G.M., Wm. Stuart, E q., in the chair.

After dinner "Benedictus" (reading) was sung by Brs. Donald King, Lawler, and Messrs. Montem Smith and Dawson.

The R.W.P.G.M then rose, and proposed the first toast, "The Queen."

"The National Anthem."

Toast, "Prince Albert, Albert, Prince of Wales," &c., &c.

Ode, "Hail to thee, Albert," (J. W. Hobbs).

Toast, "The Allied Armies and Navies." Acknowledged Capt. Kelly.

Song, "The Queen's Letter." (Hobbs).

The R.W.P.G.D. then proposed "The health of the Grand Officers," coupling with the toast, the name of Br. White, G.S.

Br. White briefly returned thanks for the honour. He, and his brother officers, had come down solely because they considered it to be their duty to render all the assistance in their power, in the cause of Freemasonry; especially in promoting so laudable an undertaking as the present. He had the pleasure of looking back through a long term of years, during which he had always had the welfare of Masonry at heart.

Glee, "*If to morrow may dawn.*"

F. Fellowes, Esq., then rose to propose a toast which he considered to be of the greatest importance. They had met that day to perform an important and impressive ceremony. He could well recollect the public celebration of the Battle of Waterloo, and the excitement consequent thereon. Forty years had since rolled on, and he felt it to be not only his own wish, but the wish of all whom he had the pleasure to address, that the New Corn Exchange might be as productive of happiness and prosperity to the district of Watford, as the long peace had been to the nation at large. He had had the pleasure of being connected for thirty years with a family of the neighbourhood, whose sire (now no more), had always endeavoured, through a long life, to do good to the town. He was, therefore, well able to appreciate the labours of those gentlemen whose exertions had so far been attended with success—a success which, he hoped, would continue to the end. Without further preface, he would ask them to be upstanding, to drink to "The health of the Directors of the Watford Corn Exchange, and the Promoters of the Town Improvement Company."

Mr. Escourt, as Chairman of the Directors, felt that they were deeply indebted to the visitors for their kind attendance, more especially to the Freemasons, for the assiduity they had displayed in carrying out their impressive ceremonies, although the weather had, unfortunately, been so unpropitious. It was when he witnessed so much unanimity and good feeling in the brotherhood, that he wished he had been a Mason himself. The importance of a Corn Exchange could not be too highly rated, not only for the advantages it would offer as a place of resort for all the leading men of the county, but also on account of the publicity of its transactions, showing to the poor of their neighbourhood, that there were no combinations between millers and growers to keep up high prices, but that all their transactions were fair and open. Nothing more seriously affected the real interests of the nation at large than the price of corn—(hear). It influenced their tithes, their rent charges, their wages, and everything which they consumed; and he had no hesitation in saying that, the future importance of the town of Watford would, in a great measure, depend upon the success of their New Exchange. On behalf of the Directors he begged to thank them for their good wishes for the future success of their undertaking. The skill of their chairman in placing the stone in its present position must have been admired by all who, perhaps, had a better opportunity of witnessing it than he had; for his own part, unhappily, the umbrellas prevented him seeing much, but what he did see, was certainly most gratifying. However much Mr. Stuart might be admired bv his brother Masons as their P.G.M., he could assure those who were visitors on the present occasion, that as a good and kind neighbour he stood second to no one, for no man more truly deserved the admiration of his townsmen. He therefore begged to propose "The health of the Chairman"—(applause).

Song, "I am a roamer bold and gay."

The R.W.P.G.M., in returning thanks, said that without alluding to the circumstances which first brought him into their neighbourhood, he felt bound to state that having resided there for upwards of 34 years, he had always received the greatest kindness from his townsmen. He regretted that the weather had been so unfavourable, as had it been finer, probably the last speaker, having less cause to complain of umbrellas, might have had even a greater inducement to become a Freemason. He could only assure him that he should have very great pleasure to admit him into the Order, and he hoped he would afford him that pleasure very soon.

Glee, "Maying."

Mr. Ward rose to propose the next toast. It seldom fell to his lot to propose a toast in the presence of such a very brilliant assembly, especially of ladies; however, he would not shrink from the pleasing task which the committee had set him. He had great pleasure in proposing "The health of the Clergy of the Province." He felt sure they must all have been not only gratified, but delighted, with the feeling and appropriate discourse delivered by Mr Owen, Prov.G. Chaplain for Surrey, in their old church. The eloquent manner in which he had treated on the various topics in his sermon, but more particularly his allusions to the miseries of war, and the blessings of peace, were such as could not have failed to reach the hearts of all who were so fortunate as to hear him. The people of Watford had the greatest respect for their Clergy, and a very large proportion of them felt, that so long as a religious feeling actuated them in their business, they were in a sure way to prosper. He concluded by proposing, "The Clergy of the Province," coupling with it the name of "The Rev. Mr. Owen."

Mr. Owen returned thanks for the compliment by observing that, no one could imagine how unfortunate it was to have what was commonly called "the gift of the gab." He was always expected to make a speech, although the subject might be a very meagre one indeed. He had a very great admiration for Freemasonry, for as much as he had seen of the world, and as much as he was acquainted with human nature, and its prejudices, yet he was bound to say that Freemasonry was the only real antidote he had been able to find for selfishness—(applause). That, however men craved after gold and silver, and in proportion as the country increased in wealth, so Masonry kept pace with it, and as one advanced, so did the other. For wealth was not always a sign of success. Suddenly acquired wealth too often led to sudden ruin. When unforeseen misfortunes came upon a Mason, wherever he might be, there was the hand of the Brotherhood ever ready to afford him succour. It was this centralisation of system that rendered Freemasonry so worthy of its professions. Of what use would be fifty of the best fire engines ever made, if they were at *Exeter* when a fire broke out in the Seven Dials? Masonry on the contrary, was *centralisation*, both in theory and in practice; in a word, it was the perfect union of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. In Masonry all might meet who acknowledged the existence of that mysterious and all-powerful Deity, who is the Creator and Governor of all. The more he was acquainted with Freemasonry, the more certainly he could affirm that he never knew a bad Mason who was a good man.

The Rev. Mr. James, Vicar of Watford, briefly expressed his thanks. He confessed he was not a Mason, but he was glad to find, that on these occasions he could mix with Masons, who devoted their first acts, as Christians, to God, and on that alone he must ever hold Freemasonry in the highest respect.

Song, "Annie Laurie."

Mr. Wm. Sedgwick proposed as the next toast, "The Trustees of the Corn Exchange." He assured the Company that it was from no wish to make a profit of the undertaking, but solely for the good of the town and district that they had in the first instance promoted it. He fully agreed with a former speaker, that success would best be attained by carrying religion into the business of every day life; not to cram a Bible-text constantly into the ear of one's customer, but to practise charity to one's neighbour, and to leaven our whole daily affairs of life with the spirit of religion. In asking them to do honour to the toast, he could assure them that, but for the untiring energies of the trustees, but particularly the Messrs. Clutterbuck, they

would never have met as they had done that day to lay the first stone of their new Corn Exchange.

The toast was acknowledged by Mr. Robert Clutterbuck.

Song, "The Flaxen-headed Ploughboy."

Br. Burchell Herne then proposed, "The health of Br. John Sedgwick, P.G.S., and Secretary of the new Corn Exchange," highly eulogising his indefatigable services.

Br. John Sedgwick, in acknowledging the compliment, expressed his conviction that he was utterly undeserving the flattering enconiums, which had been passed upon him. In fact, their kind remarks would have been far more appropriate, had they been applied to those gentlemen who had helped him. When he looked round him in the world, and perceived the many schisms which divided its communities in every direction, he turned to Masonry with delight, for like an oasis in the desert, it was delightful to look upon, and united all who assembled under its banners in one common Brotherhood. He begged again to thank them for all their good wishes, and would endeavour to do his duty—although *very unprofessionally—without charge.*

Fourth part song, "I know a maiden fair to see."

The R.W.P.G.M. gave the next toast, "The Brothers who assisted at the ceremony."

Br. Howe, Dir. of Ceremonies, in acknowledging the toast, said that the Freemasons of London had come down simply to do that which was their bounden duty—to assist their brothers in performingthe important ceremony of the day. Perceiving that there were many present who were not members of the Fraternity, he would take the opportunity of briefly explaining to them what in fact the principles of Freemasonry really were. Much had been said of their charity. He could tell them that Freemasons carried out their charity on three great principles—viz., to render assistance in infancy, poverty, and old age. For the children of Masons, they had two most excellent schools. For poverty, they monthly dispensed their bounty with a liberal hand to distressed Masons, without calling their creed or country into question. For old age, they had annuities and asylums for male and female. All these were accessible without difficulty to worthy applicants. As regarded their religious observances, he could assure them, that they transacted no business without the Sacred Volume unfolded, being before them. The first act in Lodge was to open it, the last was to close it. They had sometimes been censured for feasting, but he felt he might appeal with confidence to the people of England on that point, whether they ever met to transact any business of more than usual importance, without having refreshment of some kind suitable to the station and feelings of the company; whether it be the fashionable *dejeuner à la fourchette,* the more substantial dinner, or the sober meal of the beverage which

'Cheers, but not inebriates,"

usually denominated a "tea-meeting." Surely, then, that which was accepted as a salutary custom around, ought not to be denied to the Freemasons, who were accustomed temperately to use, but not abuse, the bounties of Providence.

Ballad, "An honest heart to guide us."

Br. J. Sedgwick proposed as the next toast, "The health of Mr. Murray, the architect."

Mr. Murray very briefly returned thanks.

Mr. Alderman Copeland, who was received with considerable applause, begged to be pardoned for venturing to propose the next toast, for although he was not a Mason, yet having two sons who were Masons—one in India and the other in England—he almost felt himself to be one of them. He was well aware that the Order was established in the most distant lands, but it was not at all surprising, seeing that the object they had in view was that which all must admire—Brotherly Love and Christian Charity—(Hear, hear). It was these sentiments which made him frequently wish he was a Mason. He trusted that the new undertaking, so successfully commenced, might be as successfully brought to completion, and always prosper. They all knew that joint stock companies were one day at a discount, and another day at a premium, but in these matters they could only look for honesty of purpose in those who had come forward to carry out the wishes of the shareholders. But, as

honest directors were useless without shareholders, and as he was sure the surrounding gentry would do all in their power for the lasting prosperity of the town, he had peculiar pleasure in proposing as the next toast, "The Shareholders."

Catch, "Would you know my Celia's charms."

T. W. Blagg, Esq., responded to the toast.

After some other toasts had been proposed, and duly honoured,

The Chairman proposed "The Ladies," and called upon Br. John Sedgwick, who acquitted himself of the task in a truly Masonic manner.

The Rev. Lee James proposed, "The workmen," in a most feeling speech —(cheers.)

The Chairman now vacated his post of honour, and the London brethren returned to town, highly pleased with the ceremonies and festivities of the day, enhanced as they had been by the efficient exertions of the vocalists.

KENT.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

(From the Special Reporter of the Masonic Mirror.)

A Provincial Grand Lodge was summoned to meet at Dover, on the 18th inst., by the Provincial Grand Master, Br. Purton Cooper, Q.C. The meeting was fixed to take place in the Town Hall, which was elegantly decorated for the occasion. The gothic form, and geometric tracery of the windows, combined with the lofty roof and wide proportions of the hall, matched most harmoniously with the traditions and symbols of Freemasonry, to say nothing of the rich clothing and characteristic badges of the Worshipful Master and the brethren. It was a scene which might have suggested to the fanciful spectator a council of some of the religious orders of chivalry, habited in the robes of peace, but exhibiting the valour-won marks of distinction conferred by kings and princes.

The proceedings were commenced by the opening of the Dover Lodge of Peace and Harmony,(No. 235), the W.M., Br. Gardiner, presiding. The M.W.P.G.M. was then introduced, and the G. Lodge duly opened.

The P.G.M. assured the brethren that it gave him great pleasure to meet them in that noble hall. He trusted that the meeting of G. L. in Dover, would tend to the extension of the Craft in the province, in which he was happy to say it was highly flourishing; and he trusted this might not be the last time he should have the honour of presiding over the brethren in that hall.

The minutes of the last G. Lodge having been read and confirmed, Br. W. Saunders, of Lodge No. 20, was unanimously elected Treasurer for the ensuing year.

On the application of Br. Boys, P.P.G.S.W., a dispensation was granted to the Chatham Lodge to enable it to initiate a youth of 19, who is about to proceed to the East in the service of his country; the P.G.M. observing that, as a general rule, he objected to such dispensations, but, as the young man might probably not otherwise have the opportunity of being initiated for many years, if ever, he had great pleasure in acceding to the request on the present occasion.

The W.M. next proceeded to appoint and invest the General Officers for the ensuing year as follows:—Br. F.L. Southgate W.M., 91; S.G. Warden, Saul Isaacs, P.M., 20; J.G.W. Rev. David Jones, G. Chap.; William Saunders, P.M., 20; G. Treas., H.A. Clarke, W.M., 34; G. Regis., Chas. Isaacs, P.M., 20; G. Sec., S. L. Townsend, P.M., 184; S.G. Dean, Robert Pearson, P.M., 741; J.G.D. M'Carthy Stephenson, P.M., 216; G.S. of Wks., J. Poussett, P.M., 149; G.D. of Cers., O. G. Phipps, P.M., 149; G. Organst., J. Green, P.M., 376; G. Sword Bearer, Thos. Hardiman, P.M., 184; G. Pursuivants, J. Marrable, G. Tylor. Stewards:—R. Duke, 235; Wm. Prescott, 235; T. Brivean, 709; Jos. Whithall, W.M, 184; H. Sawyer, 621; R. Watson, J.D., 91.

The Brethren were then marshalled into procession to proceed to church in the following order:—

Police Officers.
Band of Music.
Two Tylers.
Visiting Brethren—Two and Two.
Sandgate—Banner of the St. John and St. Paul Lodge, No. 898.
Tyler of 898.
Members of the St. John and St. Paul Lodge—Two and Two.

Senior Deacon.	Junior Deacon.
Treasurer.	Secretary.
Senior Warden.	Junior Warden.

Past Masters.
Worshipful Master.
Folkestone—Banner and Brethren of the Temple Lodge, No. 816.
Maidstone—Banner and Brethren of the Belvidere Lodge, No. 741.
Gravesend—Banner and Brethren of the Lodge of Sympathy, No. 709.
Ramsgate—Banner and Brethren of the Royal Navy Lodge, No. 621.
Dartford—Banner and Brethren of the Lodge of Emulation, No. 376.
Chatham—Banner and Brethren of the United Chatham Lodge of Benevolence, No. 216.
Sheerness—Banner and Brethren of Adam's Lodge, No. 184.
Faversham—Banner and Brethren of the Lodge of Harmony, No. 155.
Margate—Banner and Brethren of the Union Lodge, No. 149.
Hythe—Banner and Brethren of the Prince Edwin's Lodge, No. 147.
Gravesend—Banner and Brethren of the Lodge of Freedom, No. 91.
Canterbury—Banner and Brethren of the United Industrious Lodge, No. 31.
Chatham—Banner and Brethren of the Royal Kent Lodge of Antiquity, No. 20.
Dover—Banner and Brethren of the Lodge of Peace and Harmony, No. 235

VISITORS.

Provincial Grand Steward.	The Banner of the Provincial Grand Lodge, carried by a Master Mason.	Provincial Grand Steward.

The Provincial Grand Pursuivant.
The Provincial Grand Organist.
Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearers.
Past Provincial Grand Superintendents of Works.
The Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works.
Past Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.
Past Provincial Grand Deacons.
The Provincial Grand Secretary with Book of Constitutions.
Past Provincial Grand Registrars.
The Provincial Grand Registrar.
The Provincial Grand Treasurer.
The Past Provincial Grand Wardens.
The Corinthian Light, borne by a Master Mason.
The Column of Junior Provincial Grand Warden, borne by a Master Mason.
The Provincial Junior Grand Warden with Plumb Rule.
The Doric Light, borne by a Master Mason.
The Column of the Senior Provincial Grand Warden, borne by a Master Mason.
The Senior Provincial Grand Warden with the Level.
The Junior Provincial Grand Deacon.

Provincial Grand Steward.	The Provincial Grand Chaplain with the Volume of the Sacred Law.	Provincial Grand Steward.

Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master.
The Ionic Light, borne by a Master Mason.
The Deputy Provincial Grand Master with the Square.
A Past Master, bearing the Mallet of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master.
The Provincial Grand Sword Bearer.

The R.W. Provincial Grand Master.
The Senior Provincial Grand Deacon.
Two Provincial Grand Stewards.
Provincial Grand Tyler.

The procession having been formed, it was marched through all the principal streets of Dover, to Trinity Church—the band playing the "Entered Apprentice's Song,"—and the bells of the town ringing merry peals. On arriving at the sacred edifice, the brethren occupied the seats on the floor, while the galleries above were densely crowded by well-dressed ladies. Evening prayer was read by the Rev. J. Smith, incumbent, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. D. Jones (who has for many years held the office of P.G.C.) from Gen. i. 31, "God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was very good."

At the conclusion of an eloquent and impressive sermon a collection was made in aid of the local and Masonic Charities.

The brethren, on leaving church, returned again in procession, amidst crowds of curious spectators, to the Town Hall, when the Grand Lodge was again duly formed. After the usual business, votes of thanks were unanimously given to the Mayor for the use of the hall; to the incumbent of Trinity Church, for his kindness in placing his church at their service and reading the prayers; and to the Rev. D. Jones, G.C., for the able and interesting discourse he had delivered.

Br. Hervey Boys, P.G.S.W., then proposed, in an eloquent and eulogistic speech, a vote of thanks to the P.G.M., which was passed with great enthusiasm.

The R.W.G.M., in acknowledging the compliment, said, he little imagined when he was appointed G.M. for Kent that we were on the eve of a war, and that thereby so many important duties would be thrown upon the Freemasons of the province. He had just granted a dispensation for the initiation of a young soldier, 19 years of age, proceeding to the seat of war, the rules of the Order prescribing the age of 21 as a condition for admission into the Order; but it would have been cruel to deprive this gallant young fellow of those benefits which so many members of both professions had received from Freemasonry during the present sanguinary struggle in the Crimea. There were, he rejoiced to see, many Russians who were Freemasons, and who, the moment the sword was sheathed, had exhibited the most praiseworthy zeal to exercise that noblest of all virtues, the gift of charity; and to acknowledge and succour Brother Freemasons, although Englishmen and enemies, when wounded and captured, needing the solace of sympathy and the more material aids of medical and physical assistance. Initiation into Freemasonry gave, as it were, to the recipient, a letter of introduction into every part of the world—(hear). But Freemasonry had other advantages, and amongst these he recollected once hearing Lord Londesborough, a distinguished Freemason, say that it gave him an opportunity of mixing with the classes which were below him as a peer of the realm in the scale of society, without being branded with the stigma of a popularity hunter. Freemasonry was an institution which tended to bring all ranks of Her Majesty's subjects together, and to make them acquainted with the good qualities of each other, and it ought, therefore, to be fostered by every government. It achieved a degree of equality which the Saturnalia of the Romans, instituted for that purpose, failed to accomplish; for, excepting the higher honours of the Craft, awarded to the most meritorious, all were brethren and all were equal.

The Grand Lodge was then closed in due form.

At 4 o'clock the brethren re-assembled at the Royal Oak Hotel, where a very excellent dinner had been provided for their refection by Br. S. Philpott. The chair was taken by the P.G.M., who was supported by the various G. Officers already enumerated.

Br. Ashley, P.P.D.G.M.; Br. G. P. de Rhe Philipe, P.G.S.B. of England; Br. Watson, P.G. St. of England; Br. Else, P.G. St. of England; Br. H. G. Warren, G. St. of England, and P.M. 202; Br. Henry Shelton, P.M. 349, and P.P.G.O. of Worcestershire; Br. Col. Cator, of Phœnix Lodge, Portsmouth; Br. Lieut. Malcolm, W.M. 460, and P.G.S.D. of Oxon; Br. H. Boys, P.P.G.S.W.; Br. E. A. Quait, P.P.G.P.; Br. Keddle, P.P.G.S.W.; Br. Campbell, P.P.G.S.W.; Br. Fielder,

P.P.G.R.; Br. Jones, P.P.G.J.W.; Br. Cruttenden, P.P.G.R.; Br. C. Philpott, P.P.G.J.D.; Br. Sargeant, P.P.G.S.D.; Br. Cruttenden, jun., P.P.G.S.B.; Br. Gardner, W.M. 34; Br. Day, W.M. 741; Br. Munn, W.M. 376; and above 150 other brethren.

Grace was said before and after dinner by the Rev. Chaplain of the Order, and the cloth being withdrawn,

The R.W.P.G.M. remarked, in proposing the first toast, that loyalty was the particular characteristic of Freemasonry. To whatever country they belonged, whether it was governed by a despotism, a republic, or a constitutional monarchy, such as that it was their happiness to live under, attachment to that government, and unwillingness to interfere with anything constituted by the laws of the land, would be found to mark the conduct of all true Freemasons—(cheers.) In this country, they had the good fortune, from an early period to find the sovereign friendly to their institution. Without going back to any very remote antiquity, he might mention that Frederick, Prince of Wales, in the reign of Geo. II., the great grandfather of our Queen, was an excellent Freemason, and all his brothers, her great uncles, the Dukes of Cambridge, York, and Gloucester of that day. Coming down to later periods, her Majesty's uncles (with one exception), Geo. IV., Wm. IV., the King of Hanover, and her own royal father, the Duke of Kent, were all distinguished Freemasons—(cheers.) Her Majesty, he knew, was most favourable to the Craft, and nothing but her sex prevented her from being a Mason—(cheers.) They knew quite well that it was by a mere accident that Prince Albert was not a Freemason; the death of another of the Queen's uncles, the late Duke of Sussex, one of the greatest benefactors of Freemasonry the Craft had ever had in this country, having occurred just at the time the Prince was to have been initiated. He thought then that he might venture to affirm that the Prince of Wales and all his royal brothers would become Freemasons in due time—(cheers.) They would, therefore, drink with enthusiasm the health of her Majesty, who was the daughter, the granddaughter, the niece, and the grandniece of so many distinguished Masons—(cheers.)

"The Queen and the Craft" was then drunk with Masonic honours, and "The National Anthem" played by the band.

The R.W.P.G.M, said that he had now to propose a toast which was somewhat unusual at a Masonic Meeting, but he trusted he should not meet with censure upon that account, but, should he do so, he was prepared to take all the responsibility upon himself, although the toast had been suggested to him by his friends. The men of Kent had always been distinguished for their courage, and had always been ready, as from the position of the country they would have been the first in case of invasion to meet those who, until latterly, had been accustomed to look upon them as natural enemies; but he knew no men who rejoiced more at the close and intimate alliance which now existed between this country and France—(loud cheers.) It was because the men of Kent had won for themselves the reputation of bravery and courage, that they could thus rejoice; and feeling himself in the proud position of presiding over the Freemasons of that province which was nearest to the shores of France, and celebrating the festival of that day in the town nearest to the coast of France; and which, therefore, in a state of warfare with France, would be the first to meet and defy her legions, he could not avoid, under the more auspicious circumstances (and, indeed, he did it with the greatest of pleasure) proposing the health of the Emperor of the French—(cheers), and he supposed he might add to that the Empress—(cheers, and cries of Oh, yes—she's the wife of a Mason!) Yes, the Emperor was a member of the Craft, and he would, therefore, give them was "The health of the Emperor and Empress of the French."—(cheers.)

The toast was drunk with the Kentish fire, the band playing *"Partant pour la Syrie."*

The R.W.P.G.M. said the next toast he had to propose was, "The health of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W., P.G.M. of England." Without enlarging on the merits of the Earl of Zetland, as a man and a Mason, as he knew they all felt towards him the deepest respect, he would mention as a proof of the success which had attended the Craft during the ten years his lordship had held his present high office, that when

he first became G.M. of England, there were but 720 Lodges, and now they numbered upwards of 1,000. There had also been a corresponding increase in the number of members, who now could be counted by thousands where formerly there were only hundreds—(cheers.)

The toast was drunk with Masonic honours.

The P.G.M. said that, having already had the hardihood to depart from the usual routine of toasts, he felt inclined to stray a little farther—(cheers, and laughter.) Freemasonry was a pacific institution, but when they saw a friend in danger from the attack of an unmuzzled bear, it was their duty to protect him if possible. England was now in this position, and the present war had made them all feel how much we were indebted to the bravery of our army and navy abroad for our present unmolested and peaceful enjoyments at home—(cheers). He had near and dear relations in both services. His son-in-law, who usually lived with him, was now in the Sea of Azoff, on board the Hannibal, and his grandson, a French viconte, was serving with the French army before Sebastopol, and he had family traditions too of the last war; for, a first cousin of his, the only son of General Comte de Duhésne, was killed 37 years ago that day, at the battle of Waterloo. He might therefore be excused if he gave "The Army and Navy," even if the presence, on that occasion of two officers of her Majesty's Service, one of whom, at least, was a distinguished Mason, had not suggested the toast—(cheers.) He concluded by coupling with the toast the name of Colonel Cator—(loud cheers.)

The toast was drunk with Masonic honours.

Colonel Cator, *in responding to the toast, said it was 20 years that day since he had* the honour of receiving her Majesty's commission, and he supposed it must be a good augury that on the anniversary of that day, and in such a company, he should now, for the first time, be called on to return thanks for "The Army." Although the army had been called into active service after a forty years' peace, every one knew that it had never distinguished itself more than in the Crimea—(cheers) It was due to the gallantry and devotion of both services, and their sufferings in the arduous campaign they had gone through, that no terms of peace should be accepted but such as fully satisfied the honour of England, and secured the objects of the war—(cheers.)

The P.G.M. has now to propose a truly Masonic toast, and one which would require from him very few words to recommend it to their notice—it being "The health of the R.W.D.G.M., the Earl of Yarborough, and the Past and Present G. Officers." He was glad to see that one of the most distinguished members of the Dover Lodge had been honoured by the G.M., with office in the G. Lodge, and he should therefore have great pleasure in coupling the name of Br. Philipe, P.G.S.B., with the toast.

The toast having been drunk with Masonic honours,

Br. G. P. De Rhe Philipe responded to the compliment. Although he acknowledged with gratitude the high honour of having been entrusted with an office in the Grand Lodge of England, he felt considerable pride also at his connection with the Dover Lodge, which he had been instrumental a great many years ago in resuscitating. Its numbers then were very limited indeed, but by a little exertion and the friendly co-operation of the brethren, he was enabled once more to raise its members to something like a respectable muster; and it gave him the greatest satisfaction now to see so magnificent a meeting of Freemasons in Dover as that festival had brought together —(cheers). He had also the very high gratification of saying that his son was also a P.M. of the Dover Lodge—(great cheering). He concluded by some excellent remarks upon the Masonic Charities, and took that opportunity, when there were representatives present from all the Lodges in Kent, to inculcate the policy and duty of all assisting to obtain admissions to those charities for Kentish applicants.

Br. Ashley, P.D.Prov.G.M., having been honoured by the Prov.G.M.'s permission to propose a toast, would ask them to fill a bumper. In proposing "The health of the Prov. G.M.," he was fully aware that he had an easy task, for though that distinguished brother had been but a comparatively short time amongst them, he had won the esteem and regard of all with whom he was brought into connection—(cheers). He was a gentlemen of great legal attainments, of literary and antiquarian research, and

of a kind and benevolent disposition—(cheers). And he believed that no brother took a deeper interest in the prosperity of Masonry, and the more particularly as regarded its prosperity in the province of Kent—(cheers).

The toast having been drunk with Masonic honours, the P.G.M. acknowledged the compliment, and said that he did so with the greater pleasure, from the circumstance that it had been prefaced in such kindly terms by his excellent Br. Ashley—(loud cheers.) The next toast he had to propose was one always received with applause, because it included a class of most meretorious brethren, without whose able assistance the working of the Grand Lodge could not attain any degree of perfection; he meant the newly-appointed Grand Officers—(cheers). They were all favourably known to the brethren and were, indeed, the selection of the brethren themselves—(cheers). Believing they were most worthy of the distinction conferred upon them, and that they were not to be surpassed as good practical Masons by any other province, he had had great pleasure in confirming these appointments; he could never himself have made a better choice—(cheers). He proposed their healths, and coupled with the toast the S.G.W., Br. Southgate—(cheers).

Br. Southgate, P.G.S.W., in acknowledging the toast, mentioned as an encouraging fact that the Gravesend Lodge, to which he belonged, had gone on steadily increasing ever since the Grand Lodge was held in that town, and he earnestly hoped that this meeting would tend to further the cause of Masonry in Dover and generally all over the province, and make it, if it were not so already, the strongest province in the kingdom—(cheers). At Gravesend they would have no difficulty in doubling their members; but they did not choose to open their doors indiscriminately to all comers without reference to their qualifications to be admitted as members of the Order—(hear). They rather sought to make brothers of men who would devote themselves to the study of Masonry, and who did not seek admission to its secrets from an idle curiosity which bore no good fruits—(cheers).

The Prov.G.M. had now to propose a toast which he knew would be received with the utmost favour by every member of the Craft, be he a man of Kent, or a Kentish man—(cheers), as neither of them would ever forget services rendered to them. He begged to propose to them "The P.G. Officers of the province," coupled with the name of their excellent friend, Br. Ashley—(loud and protracted cheers).

Br. Ashley begged to thank the R.W.G.M. for the very flattering manner in which he had proposed the toast, and the brethren for the equally flattering manner in which they had responded to it. He was sure the P.G. officers would highly esteem the compliment paid to them, and for himself the brethren had so recently shown their respect for him by the publication of his portrait (a copy of which hung over the chair of the G.M.), he knew not how adequately to express his feelings. He had always endeavoured to do his duty, and would ever continue to the utmost of his power to promote the interests of the Craft.

The R.W. the P.G.M. having apologised to the Brethren for having to leave the meeting, in consequence of having a long distance to go in returning to his home, the chair was taken by the P.D.G.M., Br. Ashley.

The P.D. Grand Master then gave, "The health of the Worshipful Master and Brethren of the Dover Lodge (No. 235)," and thanks to them for the handsome manner in which they had entertained the Grand Lodge and visiting brethren that day—(cheers). Everything that could conduce to the convenience and comfort of the brethren had been provided, and he was delighted that all the arrangements had been successful—(cheers). He concluded with good wishes for the success of the Dover Lodge—(cheers).

Br. Gardiner, W.M., returned thanks, and expressed the pleasure he felt at hearing the Grand Lodge and visiting brethren were satisfied with the arrangements made for their entertainment. Freemasonry was now prospering in Dover to a degree quite unknown in past times, and he trusted that its healthful principles would spread with equal luxuriance throughout the province—(cheers).

The P.D. Grand Master then gave, "The health of the Mayor, and success to the town and trade of Dover"—(cheers).

Br. Nazer, one of the deputation which had waited on the Mayor to request the

use of the Town Hall, returned thanks, and mentioned the readiness with which his request had been granted, as a proof that his Worship was well disposed towards Freemasonry—(cheers).

The health of Br. Moses, who had been 51 years a Mason, was drunk, and responded to by the aged veteran. "Br. Philpot, and thanks for his excellent entertainment," acknowledged by Br. Philpot; "The Ladies;" and "To all poor distressed Masons throughout the world," were amongst the other toasts drunk before the conclusion of this interesting festival.

The proceedings of the evening were enlivened by the excellent singing of Brs. Genge and Farquharson.

It would be doing an injustice to our own feelings, as well as to the brethren, were we to omit the opportunity of expressing our acknowledgments—and we are sure we may add, of the other visitors—for the courtesy and attention displayed towards us and them, by Br. Chas. Isaacs, the P.G S., and Br. Poussett, the P.D. of ceremonies, than whom no Brother could be found better qualified for the office.

UNITED INDUSTRIOUS LODGE, CANTERBURY (No. 34).—The brethren of this Lodge met together on Thursday, June 14th, for the purpose of initiating five gentlemen into the order, and installing their Worshipful Master, Br. H. A.Clarke, manager of the London and County Bank. The ceremonies were most ably performed under the direction of Br. C. Isaacs, of Chatham, P.G.S., to whom the province is very deeply indebted for the exertions he has made to extend a knowledge of the beautiful principles and ceremonies of the Order amongst the brethren. Among the gentlemen initiated, who were all of the leading families, was Mr. Alderman Cooper. This Lodge, which has been in abeyance for many years, now bids fair to be the first Lodge in the Province, and musters nearly thirty members. After the ceremony, the brethren sat down to an elegant supper provided for the occasion. After the usual Masonic toasts, the health of the newly initiated brethren was proposed, and responded to by Brother Alderman Cooper, who stated he was much pleased in being admitted a member of this ancient and honourable society, and regretted he had not become one many years before: he hoped, however, to prove a worthy member of the Craft. The health of Brother Isaacs was proposed by the W.M., thanking him, in the name of the Lodge, for the many services he had rendered them; as a proof of his desire to promote the interest of the Lodge, he had become a subscribing member for the purpose of assisting them. Br. Isaacs returned thanks, and assured them he felt great pleasure in assisting to carry out the principles of the Order. It was with great pleasure he saw the Lodge making such progress, and installing the Worshipful Master, Br. Clarke, whom he had known for many years. Among the visitors, was Br. Hartopp, of the 1st Royal Dragoons, who had lately returned severely wounded, from the Crimea, having been in the charge of cavalry at Balaklava. He returned thanks on behalf of the army and navy. The Brethren did not separate until a late hour, highly pleased with the proceedings of the day.

LANCASHIRE, WEST.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

(From the Special Reporter of the Masonic Mirror.)

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, for the transaction of the usual business of the province, was held at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, on Tuesday, June 10th. The brethren assembled at ten o'clock in the forenoon, and, shortly afterwards, the Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form by Br. the Rev. Gilmore Robinson, R.W.D.P.G.M., in the absence of the P.G.M. Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie, Esq., of Huntroyd, who was prevented from attending by indisposition. After the usual business of the province had been gone through in the harmony and brotherly feeling which invariably characterises Freemason's Lodges, a Court of Governors of the W.L. Masonic Institution for the education and advancement in life of children of distressed Masons was held. The funds of this truly benevolent charity have increased during the year, and the institution itself bids fair to be one of

the most prosperous connected with the Craft. We were glad to learn from what passed, that there is every prospect of a Masonic Hall being, at no distant day, erected in Liverpool, wherein the various Lodges can hold their meetings, rather than at hotels, as at present, and that a disposition seems to be making progress in the minds of the brethren that it is much more consonant with the principles of the Craft to devote the funds of the Lodges to charitable and benevolent purposes rather than to the gratification of the mere animal appetite.

At four o'clock, the brethren sat down to an excellent dinner, provided in the usual sumptuous manner, for which Br. Radley is so highly distinguished.

Br. the Rev. G. Robinson, D.P.G.M., occupied the throne, Br. J. Perrin, P.S.G.W., and Br. J. J. Banning, P.J.G.W.

The R.W.D.P.G.M. was supported on his right by Br. J. Walmsley, P.G.T., Br. A. Henderson, P.G.R., Br. F. J. Kilpin, P.G.D.W., Br. J. Eckersley, P.G.S.B., Br. Moss, P.P.G.J.W. for Gloucestershire, Br. H. C. Jeffrey, P.G.S.B., Br. J. B. Lambert, P.P.G.J.D. for East Lancashire; and on his left by Br. the Rev. W. A. Mocatta, P.G.C., Br. Wylie, P.G.S., Br. J. Billinge, P.G.D. of C., Br. W. Davies, P.G.S.D., Br. J. Troughton, P.G.J.D., Br. H. Gambell, P.G.P., and Brs. Allpats, Hamer, Ireland, and Lucas, P.G. Stewards.

On the removal of the cloth, the R.W.D.P.G.M. rose and said, the first toast on the list was not only of necessary consequence, but of personal gratification—the health of our beloved Sovereign—(applause); and he hoped that the blessing of the Grand Architect of the Universe would preside over all her proceedings for many years to come, because most unquestionably no sovereign was more deservedly or better beloved than our gracious Queen—(loud cheers). Since they last assembled portentous events had occurred. The country was now engaged in a bloody war, during which our brave troops had suffered distresses—distresses such as none but British troops would have endured—(hear, hear). They were opposed to a country which was endeavouring to establish a most undue authority and tyranny in the world. The war was, therefore, a most just one; and he had no doubt of the ultimate results of it—(applause). But in connection with the Queen heretofore, in that room she had been praised as a model of a wife, a mother, and a Queen. All those stations in life she had filled most admirably; and he believed, if they looked at history, it would unquestionably be found that no other sovereign had acted the same part she had taken in personally visiting the sick and wounded—(continued cheers). This she had done, and the love and affection which she had shown towards the sick and wounded was worthy of the commendation of all her subjects. He therefore gave "Her gracious Majesty the Queen, and may she long live to reign over us." The toast was drunk with the usual loyal demonstrations, and followed by "God Save the Queen."

The R.W.P.G.M. next gave "The health of his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family"—(cheers).

Glee—"Queen of the Valley."

The Chairman next gave the toast of the M.W., the G.M. of England, and in doing so said, the able manner in which the noble Earl filled the duties of his high office not only endeared him to the G.L., but also to the members of every Lodge in England—(applause). He was a most amiable nobleman, an excellent landlord, and had on all occasions shown himself to be a devoted member of the Craft—(Masonic honours).

Glee—"Hail Happy Meeting."

The Chairman said if the next toast he was about to give had been the Army and Navy he should have joined with it the name of the Earl of Yarborough, seeing that his lordship was a very celebrated commodore of a yacht club, which he believed was now very useful as forming a neuclus of some of the best seamen in the country—(hear, hear). His lordship, however, was known to them as a very good Mason, one who had rendered essential service to the Craft, and no nobleman has Freemasonry so much at heart as the Earl of Yarborough. He had very great pleasure therefore in proposing his health as D.G.M. of England—(Masonic honours).

Glee—"Hail to the Craft."

The Chairman said he approached the next toast with very great difficulty, because he

did not actually know how to express his opinions connected therewith. It was the health of the respected and esteemed G.M., of the province—(great applause). He had fondly hoped to have seen him in the G.L. that day, but he was suffering very severely from deafness; and this fact, together with the fact of his own health and that of some members of his family, no doubt, prevented his attendance—(hear). Any one at all acquainted with Br. Starkie could not fail to love him, because a more amiable or more charitable man did not exist; and besides that, he was one of the most perfect good-natured men upon earth—(applause). His urbanity and hospitality had rendered Huntroyd proverbial; and he always appeared delighted to see a Freemason, and to render him all the assistance in his power. The health of the M.W.P.G.M. was drank with great enthusiasim.

Part Song—"The happiest land."

The Chairman, after having passed a high and deserved eulogy on the two Noblemen, one for his attainments as a warrior, and the other in literature, proposed the healths of Lord Combermere and the Earl of Ellesmere, the P.G.M's. of Cheshire and East Lancashire.

Song by Br. Armstrong.

Br. S. Moss, P.P.J.G.W. of Gloucestershire and Cheshire, responded to the toast, and in the course of his observations said, he considered that the prosperity of Masonry in Cheshire was mainly owing to the exertions of Lord Combermere, and the patronage bestowed on the Craft by his noble lady—(applause).

Br. Eckersley, as the oldest P.G. officer present, in complimentary terms proposed the health of the R.W.D.P.G.M., observing that Masonry had prospered more under his auspices in the province than during the past 20 years—(musical honours).

Glee—"Prosper the Art."

The Chairman responded, and concluded with proposing the health of the P.G. Chaplain.

Song by Br. George.

Br. Mocatta, P.G.C., responded. He could truly say that from his acquaintance with Masonry, which was now about 12 months, he conceived it to be identical with the religion he professed. He thanked the P.G.M. for the honour conferred upon him in the appointment, an honour which he should highly estimate to the last day of his life. As had been already stated, he was the son of a Mason, and though he perhaps ought not to make the assertion, yet he would take the liberty of asserting, that a better man never lived than the man from whom he had the honour to spring—(cheers). In thanking them for the honour conferred upon him, he trusted he should be able to perform his duties to the well being of the Craft and the satisfaction of his brethren—(applause).

The Chairman said, the toasts hitherto had been chiefly of a complimentary description. The next, however, was of a more practical utility, inasmuch as it was "The West Lancashire Masonic Institution for the Education and Advancement in Life of Children of Distressed Masons." The work which they had been engaged in for several years had been of a very arduous description, and if a number of the brethren had not put their shoulders to the wheel it would not have got to the advanced state in which they now found it—(applause). Among those brethren there had been one most prominently useful, and if not irregular, he wished to couple the name of that brother with the toast—the name of Br. Banning—(loud cheers). In framing the bye-laws, and other matters connected with the institution, Br. Banning had brought his great legal knowledge to bear, and had been of very valuable assistance—(cheers). The toast was drunk with Masonic honours.

Quintette—"Blessed be the Hour."

Br. Banning, on rising to respond, was received with loud cheers. He felt great hesitation in responding to the toast, inasmuch as he thought there were other brethren whose names were as deserving of being coupled with the toast as his own. Without the aid of Br. Collins and Br. Gamble, they would have been unable to do as much as they had done—(cheers). With respect to the Institution itself, it would, he had no doubt, be found the means of bringing Masonry into better repute out of doors, than it had been for some time past. He was sure all Masons must have felt that there had been a want of exertion in the cause of charity, and he

trusted that Institution had been the means by which it could be extended—(Applause).

The following toasts were then given:—

"Brs. Stephen Blair, and Finchett Maddock, R.W.D.P.G., Masters for East Lancashire and Cheshire.

Glee—"O! Bold Robin Hood."

"The Provincial Wardens."

Duet—"Albion."

"The Provincial Grand Treasurer and Secretary, and the other Grand Officers."

Glee—'Awake, Æolian Lyre."

"The Ladies"

Part-Song—"I knew a Maiden."

"The Grand Stewards of the Province."

Glee—"Fill the shining goblet."

"The Musical Brethren," responded to by Br. Molyneux, P.G.O.

"The Masters and Wardens of Lodges," responded to by Brs. Atherton, of 101, and Alpass, P.G.S., of 181.

The last toast of the evening was then given, and the Lodge was closed about ten o'clock.

(From the Special Reporter of the Masonic Mirror.)

SOUTHPORT.—DEDICATION OF THE LODGE OF UNITY (No. 889).—On Friday, June 15th, the interesting ceremony of dedicating this Lodge took place at the Assembly Room, Scarisbrick Arms, where the brethren and Provincial Grand Officers assembled at eleven o'clock in the forenoon. The Craft Lodge was opened by the officers of 889, after which the Grand Lodge entered, and the solemn rite of dedication was at once proceeded with. In the absence of the D.P.G.M., the Rev. Gilmore Robinson, who was confined to home by indisposition, Br. Perrin, P.S.G.W. occupied the position of G.M.; Br. Bell, S.G.W., of East Lancashire, as S.G.W.; Br, J. Billinge, as J.G.W.; Br. Henry Greenbulgh, P.G., Pursuivant of E.L.; Br. Wylie, P.G. Secretary, &c. After the grand procession had taken their seats, the following anthem was sung by the choir, Br. Molinuex presiding at the organ, assisted by Brs. Armstrong, George, Jones, and Haswell:—

To Heaven's high Architect all praise,
All praise, all gratitude be given,
Who deigned the human soul to raise,
By mystic secrets sprung from Heaven.
Sound aloud the great Jehovah's praise,
To him the dome, the temple raise.

The dedication service then proceeded, in the course of which the Chaplain of the Lodge, Br. the Rev. W. A. Moratta, read 1st Kings viii., from verse 5 to 30, after which he offered up a solemn invocation to the G. A. of the U., and then the following anthem was sung:—

Praise the Lord! ye Heavens adore Him;
Praise Him, angels in the height;
Sun and moon, rejoice before him;
Praise him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord, for he hath spoken;
Worlds, his mighty voice obeyed;
Laws, which never can be broken,
For their guidance He hath made.

The Chaplain then delivered a most eloquent, appropriate, and truly Masonic oration, and the service was concluded. The oration was received with such approbation, that the P.G. Secretary, after thanks had been voted to the Chaplain, proposed that the oration should be published, to which Br. Moratta consented, stating, however, that as he was only a young Mason, the oration had not the merit of being strictly original, but was a compilation from works already published. At two

o'clock, the brethren proceeded to church, when a most excellent sermon was preached by Br. Moratta, from Hebrews xiii., 1st and part of 2nd verse, "Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers." After the service, a collection was made in behalf of the Strangers' Charity, which amounted to within a few pence of £20.

The brethren afterwards dined together in the Lodge-room, which was elegantly decorated with banners, &c. Br. Lambert, P.M. of 889, presided, and amongst the company we observed Brs. Ridgway Brideson, P.G.M., East Lancashire; Wylie, P.G.S.; Peers, and Allander, P.G. Stewards; Billinge, P.G.; M. C. Wetherall, W.M. 889; the Chaplin of 889: Pitt, P.P.G.M.C., East Lancashire, Bell, P.S.G.W.; Greenbulgh, P.G.P.; Jeffrey, W.M., 368; Shand, W.M., 711; Goss, W.M., 845; Griffith, P.M., 701; Wingfield, J.W., 701; Clark, S.D. 701; Ramsden, J.D., 701; Hornby, I.G., 701; Hiskey, Brattan, Salisbury, and Jones, also of 701; Greene, P.M.; and Marshall, J.D. of 782, &c, &c.

On the removal of the cloth the Chairman proposed "The health of her Majesty the Queen," which was drunk with the usual loyal demonstration, and followed by "God save the Queen." This was followed by "Prince Albert, and the rest of the Royal family." Glee, "Hail Albert."

The Chairman next proposed "The health of the M.W., the G.M. of England, the Earl of Zetland," eulogising his lordship for the eminent services he had conferred upon Masonry, and including in the toast "The Earl of Yarborough, the R.W.D.G.M. and the Grand Lodge of England." The toast was drunk with musical honours.

Br. Withnall, W.M. of 889, proposed the health of Le Gendre M. Starkie, Esq., R.W.P.G.M. of West Lancashire.

The Chairman next proposed the health of a nobleman who was as highly estimated for his private virtues as his public worth, the Earl of Ellesmere, R.W.P.G.M. of East Lancashire.

Br. Bell, S.G.W. of E. L., responded to the toast.

The chairman next proposed "The health of Lord Viscount Combermere, R.W.P.G.M. of Cheshire," and Br. Stephens of 889, formerly of Chester, being called upon responded to the toast.

The Chairman rose and proposed "The health of the Rev. Gilmore Robinson, R.W.D.P.G.M. of West Lancashire," whose absence he deeply regretted from the cause of it, indisposition, a gentlemen who was beloved and esteemed by all, more especially in his own neighbourhood, where he was not only the pastor of his flock, but also afforded assistance with his advice as a medical man. The toast was drunk with Masonic honours. Br. Wylie, P.G.S., responded to the toast and concluded by proposing "The health of the W.M. and prosperity to Lodge 889." Br. Withnall responded, and said that although the Lodge had only been in existence for twelve months, yet they could now boast of two P.M's., a Chaplain, an organist, and 35 members, and although the Lodge, as would be perceived, must have spent a large sum in fittings, furniture, &c., yet he was happy to say they were out of debt, and had funds in hand—(hear, and cheers).

The chairman next proposed "The health of Br. Stephen Blair, R.W.D.P.G.M. of East Lancashire," which was responded to by Br. Bell.

The chairman next proposed "The health of Br. Moratta, the Chaplain of the Lodge," a gentleman, a scholar, and a minister of the Gospel, whose conduct in the performance of the ceremonies of that day could not be excelled.

Br. Moratta responded. He believed the Lodge would really prove an ornament to West Lancashire, and if the respected G.M. had been present that day he would have been delighted with the proceedings—(cheers).

The Chairman next proposed the healths of the P.G. Officers of West Lancashire, which was responded to by Br. Billinge, G.M.C., who expressed the pleasure he felt at the proceedings of that day. The Lodge had been got up in a manner not to be excelled by any Lodge in the province, and he had no doubt it would prove an example to the whole province.

The Chairman next proposed the healths of the visiting brethren, which was responded to by Br. Hamer, P.G.S.

Br. Ridgeway Brideson proposed the next toast, it was that of the N.M. of 889 upon the present occasion. The toast having been responded to, the Chairman next proposed the health of the Stewards, which was responded to by Br. Hunt.

The Chairman next proposed the health of Br. Pitt, who as M.C. of East Lancashire had for many years acted as Instructing Master of several Lodges, and that day, although old in years and in Masonry, they found him present giving the honours in a way which no other Mason in England could give. "May he long" (said the Chairman) "be spared to us, and when this transitory life is over may he rise to the G.L. above, where the World's G.A. lives and reigns for evermore."

Br. Pitt, in responding, earnestly exhorted, as an old Mason who had laboured in the Masonic vineyard for 50 years, all present to follow the excellent advice which had fallen from the Chaplain. In the whole course of his experience he did not think he had ever seen proceedings conducted so quietly and so orderly, nor did he think he ever heard an oration so appropriate to the occasion—(hear, hear). After some other remarks, the veneral speaker urged upon the brethren present to husband their funds so that they might be able to maintain a fund for the use of aged and decayed Masons —(hear, hear).

After one or two other toasts, the last toast was given "To all poor," &c., and the proceedings of the day terminated shortly after 9 o'clock.

We cannot close our Report without expressing our thanks to Br. Stephens for the very excellent arrangements made by him, as manager of the Liverpool and South Port Railway, for the comfort and accommodation of the brethren from a distance.

LANCASHIRE, EASTERN DIVISION.

Lodge of Fidelity, Blackburn (No. 336).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on the evening of Friday, the 1st of June, the W.M., Br. D. Thwaites (West Bank) presiding in his usual able manner. After the transaction of business, Br. J. N. Haworth was passed to the Second Degree, Br. Eaves, P.M. and S., officiating, after which the brethren present worked that Degree and adjourned for refreshment at an early hour. Among the visiting brethren was Br. C. Boardman, W.M., Lodge of Perseverance, 432.

Lodge of Harmony, Rochdale (375).—On the 24th of May, the members of this Lodge assembled at Tweedale's Hotel (Lodge of Emergency), for the purpose of holding a banquet in honour of the worthy and respected host, Br. A. Tweedale, P.M., and P.P.G.S.D. for East Lancashire, and P.P.Z., retiring from business. About 50 brethren dined, amongst them were several Past Provincial Grand Officers, also Br. Pitt, P.G.D. of C., for East Lancashire. The W.M., Br. P.P. Baker presided, and, in proposing the chief toast of the evening, he particularly alluded to the great length of time Br. P.M. Tweedale had been a subscribing member of this Lodge (38 years), and hoped that the G.A.O.T.U. would be pleased to spare the life of the worthy Br. (A. Tweedale) for many years to come, that the Lodge might be graced by his presence. The toast was received with great enthusiasm, many of the brethren having known him for half a century. In responding to such heartfelt wishes, Br. Tweedale said, he found the greatest difficulty to express his feelings, to convey his gratitude and his brotherly love towards those kind friends who were honouring him that evening; from a long experience he had discovered that nothing tended to raise the morality and good fellowship amongst men, than that of being a true and faithful, free and accepted Mason; and he believed that the beautiful science of Free Masonry, being based on such firm and sublime principles, assisted in carrying out the great work of redemption: he further said that, although he was retiring from business, he he was not retiring from his Lodge, but would, as long as he was able, render every assistance in his power to promote the welfare and prosperity of Free Masons and Free Masonry. Order and good feeling, with appropriate songs, &c., was kept up till a late hour.

Lodge of Perseverance, Blackburn (No. 432).—The usual meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, the 4th of June, when Br. C. Boardman, W.M., occupied the chair. The business of the evening was the election of W.M., to which office

Br. Boardman was again elected, and Br. Pilkington to the office of Treasurer. After the discussion of other minor matters, the Lodge was closed with prayer, and the brethren partook of an excellent supper provided by Br. Sansom.

KEYSTONE LODGE (No. 469), FACIT.—The brethren of this Lodge held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 6th inst., at the Bay Horse Inn, under the able presidency of Br. A. Shackleton, the W.M., who passed Br. E. Law to the second degree in a very efficient manner. At the conclusion of the Masonic business the Lodge was closed in due form and with prayer, at half-past 9 o'clock. The brethren afterwards adjourned to refreshment, and spent a very pleasant evening.

AFFABILITY, LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, MANCHESTER (No. 399).—On Saturday evening, June 16th, several of the members of this flourishing Lodge of Instruction met at the Spread Eagle hotel, to bid a formal adieu to one of their Members, Br. J. B. Hide, Quarter-Master Serjeant, 51st King's Own Light Infantry, now under orders for the Crimea.

Br. Lyons Wright, W.M. of the Lodge of Affability, No. 399, in the chair. After the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts, the chairman, in proposing the health of Br. Hide, took occasion to refer to his regular attendance to his Masonic duties, and to the rapid progress he had made in the science; and assured him that, however far he might be removed by the exigencies of the service, he would always be remembered by those amongst whom he had studied Masonry, with feelings of the warmest friendship, in token of which the Brethren present had placed in his hands a ring engraven with the sacred emblems of the Craft, which he now placed upon Br. Hide's finger, wishing that he might wear it through many happy years, and that it might serve hereafter to recall to his memory the few sincere friends who then sat around him.

Br. Hide, who was very much overcome, having returned thanks, said that the short period which he had spent in Manchester, during which he had regularly attended to Freemasonry, since his visit, had been the happiest period of his existence: that the only regret with which he departed to the field of battle was caused by his being obliged to leave such sincere friends as he had obtained through his connection with the Craft; and assured them that, wherever his lot might be cast, he could never forget the happiness of the present moment, and when he returned (for he never contemplated the chance of falling in battle, after the numerous engagements through which he had, by the mercy of the Architect of the Universe, already passed in safety), he should lose no time in making his way to Manchester, to spend another hour amongst them.

The remainder of the evening was spent in hilarity and harmony, to which Brs. Hide, Bold, and Hammond mainly contributed, and the meeting separated in excellent humour shortly before midnight.

The ring is of massive gold, elegantly chased, and bears on a Sardonyx the square and compasses, and on the interior is engraved the following inscription:—"To Br. J. B. Hide, as a mark of the fraternal regards of a few Masonic friends on his departure for the seat of war."

LINCOLNSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.—On Thursday, June 1, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Lincolnshire, held the annual meeting in the Old Hall at Gainsbro'. The Yarborough Lodge was opened at twelve o'clock, and the Provincial Grand Lodge at half-past twelve. Amongst the brethren present from the various parts of the province were the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M. of England, and P.G.M. for Lincolnshire; the Rev. Chas. Nairne, D.P.G.M.; the Rev. W. N. Jepson, P.G.C.; the Rev. Edmund R. Larken, P.P.G.C.; E. F. Broadbent, P.G.T.; R. C. Moore, P.G.R.; the Rev. B. J. Wood, P.P.G.S.; J. W. Pashley, P.P.P.J.W.; Joseph Guy, P.P.S.G.W.; T. Wood, P.G.J.D.; E. R. Cousans, P.G.S.; J. Moxon, W.M.; J. F. W. Bowden, J. Laughton, B. Box, R. L. Furley, C. R. Worsley. The ordinary business was then transacted, after which the P.G.M. made the various appointments for the ensuing year. The Lodge being closed, about forty of the brethren partook of a sumptuous banquet prepared at the White Hart Hotel. The

Earl of Yarborough presided, Br. J. Moxon, the W.M. of the Yarborough Lodge, Gainsbro', officiating as vice-chairman. Several loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and ably responded to, the P.G.M. intimating, in the course of his remarks, that in future the Provincial Grand Lodges would be held in Lincoln, as the convenience, of the brethren would thus be more generally consulted, though occasionally circumstances might arise which would induce him to recommend other towns in the province, as Grantham or Boston; but such recommendations would not be made without full consideration. At half-past seven o'clock, the noble chairman, being obliged to depart, deputed Br. the Rev. B. J. Wood, P.G.C., to succeed him. At nine o'clock the brethren from Lincoln, Spilsby, Boston, &c. departed by special train; and the remainder of the evening was spent in a manner so much appreciated by the Masonic brethren, and in that good fellowship and harmony so peculiarly characteristic of the Order.

YARBOROUGH LODGE, GAINSBRO' (No. 611).—The brethren of this Lodge held an emergency meeting on the 30th May, and initiated, passed, and raised several members, Br. Guy officiating *pro. tem.* as W.M. In the evening a supper was provided at the White Hart Hotel, in Mr. and Mrs. Parker's usual good style, and which was specially given as a compliment to Br. Guy, who is highly esteemed among Masons, and by all who know him. He was for many years a resident of Gainsbro'; but having some since received the appointment of Solicitor to the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway, he now resides at Manchester. The evening was spent in a truly Masonic and brotherly manner, and afforded great pleasure to all present.

We understand that the Earl of Yarborough P.G.M., is about to inaugurate a new Lodge for the "Hundred of Eloe."

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NORTHERN COUNTIES LODGE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (No. 586).—Since the installation of Br. W. Dalziel as W. M. of this Lodge, a Lodge of Instruction has been commenced in connection with the Lodge, which it is expected will prove of great service, by making many of the younger brethren capable of filling the various offices. Much is due to Br. Dalziel in thus giving his time and attention for the benefit of those young in the Craft.

OXFORDSHIRE.

The Apollo Masonic Ball, which followed the meeting at the Radcliffe Library, at Oxford, on June 19th, proved, as was anticipated, one of the most brilliant events of the year, nor could it well be otherwise, considering that no expense had been spared to render it worthy of the ancient and honourable fraternity who gave it. There was a vast amount of taste and elegance displayed in every thing connected with it, and there was evidently a determination on the part of the Stewards, that those who participated in the enjoyments of the night should have reason to revert to it with feelings of pleasure and satisfaction. The Town Hall itself was most tastefully decorated, by covering a portion of the walls to the floor with a pannelling of pink and white drapery in stripes, and placing above, the armorial bearings of the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Heads of Colleges, Civic Authorities, and Stewards, and introducing at each end of the Hall some Turkish tents, imparted an elegant and pleasing aspect to the room. Weippert's band was stationed in an orchestra erected in the corridor, and the platforms at each end of the Hall were fitted up with great taste for the accomodation of the company who desired a little relaxation after the fatigues of the dance. A collection of choice plants and flowers in front of these platforms, diffused their fragrance around, and heightened the general effect. The Council Chamber was converted into a refreshment room, and in the Town Hall Yard a spacious saloon was erected capable of accomodating upwards of 300 persons. This was used as the supper room, and was laid out in exquisite taste, the city grace cups, the plate presented to the late Mayor (Ald. Spiers), and the candelabra and epergne presented

to Mr. W. Thompson, forming very prominent features on the tables, and imparting an additional degree of elegance to the scene. Banners and flags were placed in various parts of the saloon, which, when lighted up, had a most brilliant and effective appearance.

The following brethren acted as Stewards on the occasion:—Br. W. W. B. Beach, P.M., P.Prov.S.G.W., President; Br. the Earl of Lincoln, Prov.G.Sec., Vice-President; Br. J. H. Arkwright, Christ Church; Br. G. D. Atkinson, University; Br. C. S. Bigge, Christ Church; Br. J. T. Du Boulay, Exeter; Br. A. Coleridge, Magdalen; Br. F. Cox, Christ Church; Br. V. C. Cave, Exeter; Br. J. E. Codrington, S.D., Brasenose; Br. Clement Cottrell Dormer, S D. Rousham; Br. G. Drummond, Christ Church; Br. C. Dalison, Merton; Br. Hon. C. H. Ellis, Balliol; Br. F. W. Elers, Trinity; Br. Viscount Fordwich, Christ Church; Br. J. C. Farnborough, I.G. Magdalen Hall; Br. A. Faber, New College; Br. F. J. Hayward, Magdalen; Br. W. W. Harrison, P.Prov.G.Sec., Brasenose; Br. C. S. Glyn, University; Br. Lord Garlies, Christ Church; Br. the Mayor of Oxford; Br. J. Morrell, junr., Saint Giles's; Br. J. W. Malcolm, W.M. 460, Dover Castle; Br. Hon. W. H. North, Christ Church; Br. Sir H. Peyton, Bart., Swift's House; Br. H. Pottinger, Merton; Br. W. S. Portal, Malshanger House; Br. H. A. Pickard, P.Prov.D.C. Christ Church; Br. J. Stratton, Farthinghoe; Br. Hon. H. Wodehouse, Balliol; Br. M. S. Walrond, Balliol; Br. W. H. Welby, Corpus Christi. The Stewards were distinguished by a badge, from the design of Mr. Dalison, of Merton College: it was most chaste and elegant, consisting of a Maltese Cross in blue and gold, with a red centre, with the points of fellowship worked therein in gold. The brethren of the Order appeared in full Masonic costume.

The company, in number about 600, consisted of the *élite* of the County, University, and City, with a large proportion of visitors. There was a numerous attendance of the Members of the Masonic fraternity in full Masonic costume, and in many instances their clothing, jewels, decorations, &c., were of a very superb character, especially those worn by the Prov. G.M. (Br. Captain Bowyer), and his deputy (Br. R. J. Spiers). Many of the visitors from London appeared to hold high position in the Craft, judging from the number and beauty of their decorations, and nothing could surpass the brilliancy of the scene as the jewels and orders glistened and sparkled in the mazes of the dance. Weippert's band was engaged for the occasion, and the festilities were kept up with great spirit until a late hour. The complete success of this ball, the hopes and anticipations which it gave rise to, and which were so fully realized, will, we doubt not, cause it to become a staple feature in future commemorations, and serve as a practical illustration that one of the chief characteristics of those bound together by the mystic tie is to diffuse pleasure and happiness among all within their reach.

YORKSHIRE (NORTH AND EAST RIDINGS.)

A Special Grand Lodge of the province of these Ridings was held at Foley, on the 1st ult., to dedicate the Royal Lodge, No. 926, in the Register of the United Grand Lodge. After the conclusion of the ceremony, the new Lodge commenced its working, when several gentlemen were initiated into the Order.

YORKSHIRE (WEST RIDING.)

Provincial Grand Lodge.—A Provincial Grand Lodge was holden in the Masonic Hall, South Parade, Huddersfield, on Wednesday, the 11th of April, when there were present—R.W., the Right Hon. the Earl of Mexborough, D.G.M., W. Charles Lee, D.P.G.M., and a large number of the brethren.

The officers of the Lodge of Harmony, No. 342 (in whose hall this Provincial Grand Lodge was holden), having opened in the Three Degrees, the Provincial Grand Officers entered in due form.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was then opened in form and with solemn prayer, and a portion of Holy Scripture was read.

The minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge holden at Halifax, on the third of January last was read and confirmed.

The D.P.G.M. informed the Brethren that, as several applications had been made for the Provincial Grand Lodge bye-laws, a number of copies had been placed in the hands of Br. Wm. Smith, P.G.D.C., and might be obtained from him at his establishment in Westgate, Huddersfield, at each; and turning to the second page of the Provincial Grand Lodge, bye-laws, he read as follows:—"The county of York, being wide in extent and large populated, was divided into two Masonic provinces, the north and east riding forming one, and the west riding forming the other province, and the Provincial Grand Lodge of the West Riding of the County of York was constituted at Wakefield, April 23rd, 1823, when the Right Hon. the Earl of Mexborough (then Viscount Pollington) was installed the First Provincial Grand Master;" and pointing to a splendid portrait recently executed with great artistic talent, by Br. Samuel Howell, of the Lodge of Harmony, No. 342, and which was suspended on the wall of the Lodge Room, he said, "Behold the portrait of your First Provincial Grand Master, who has presided over you for the space of thirty-two years."

Br. J. T. Armitage, P.P.J.G.W., immediately rose, and said that he wished to call the attention of the brethren to the subject of that portrait, for he had been in communication with Br. Howell in reference thereto, and he should now propose that every subscriber of one guinea for the portrait should be entitled to a lithograph copy thereof.

Br, Dr. Fearnley, P.P.S.G.W., stated that the original design ought to be carried out, for at the outset it was understood that the portraits of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master and his Deputy should severally be taken and become the property of the Provincial Lodge of West Yorkshire.

The D.P.G.M. begged the brethren not to take any note of him, but to confine their attention exclusively to the portrait of their R.W. Provincial Grand Master.

Br. C. S. Floyd, P.P.S.G.W., supported Br. Dr. Fearnly's proposition, and said that he thought the D.P.G.M. manifested an unkind feeling in not complying with the wishes of his brethren.

The D.P.G.M. exclaimed, "I am honoured beyond measure, and I must bow to your will!"

Br. C. S. Floyd said he should propose that, after the subscribers to the portraits had been severally supplied with lithographic copies thereof, the lithograph on the stones should be effaced, so that the lithographs should be rendered rare.

A Committee was then formed for carrying out the resolutions relative to the portrait.

Br. J. Batley, W.M., No. 342, withdrew his proposition for the suspension of our Provincial Grand Lodge bye-law 17, of which he had given notice the last Provincial Grand Lodge.

Br. Richard Carter, P.P.S.G.W., proposed, Br. Thomas Dewhurst, P.S.G.D., seconded, and it was carried:—

"That the Ritual Committee be known by the title of the West Yorkshire Lodge of Instruction and Reference; and that its first meeting be held this day month at the Harmony Lodge, No. 342, at four o'clock in the afternoon, circulars in the meantime being sent to each member by Provincial Grand Secretary."

Returns were then read from the various Lodges in the Province, amounting to 30, showing that they possess 1150 contributing members, and 273 P.M.'s. They also have 1814 votes for the R.M.B. Institution; 22 for the girl's school, and 21 for the boys'. The sum subscribed towards liquidating the asylum debts by the lodge of this division of Yorkshire, was 14*l.* 11*s.*

The P.G.T. produced his cash account with the vouchers, and the cheque book of Messrs. Beckett & Co., and the D.P.G.M. announced to the brethren that, in addition to 500*l.* invested on mortgage, there remains in the bank a handsome sum—which sum, as will be shown by the Treasurer's account hereto annexed, now reaches the amount of 241*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, making with the mortgage, 741*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*

Br. Wm. Dixon was again unanimously re-elected Provincial Grand Treasurer.

It was proposed by Br. T. Dewhurst, P.S.G.D., seconded by Br. John Sykes, P.J.G.D., and carried unanimously, "That the thanks of this Provincial Grand Lodge are due to Br. Wm. Dixon for his faithful and valuable services."

Other business having been disposed of, the meeting separated. The next G. Lodge will be held at Leeds on the 4th inst.

THEATRICALS AT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Tuesday evening, May 1st, Br. John T. M. Harrison, musical composer to this theatre, took his first benefit. The play was *Henry* VIII, after which a Grand Concert took place. The orchestra was conducted by Br. Harrison, with his superior tact and ability. A beautiful operatic selection was given with much effect. M. Rolfe sung a very effective song with considerable ability. A charming little song, in manuscript—"Sweet Summer Flowers"—composed by Br. Harrison, was most delightfully sung by Miss Watson, a young lady of considerable promise. We hope this beautiful melody will be published; as it cannot fail to become a universal favourite. The concert terminated with a Local Quadrille, by Br. Harrison, in which many old melodies of the Tyne-side were most effectively introduced. They were much admired, and deserved a most unanimous *encore*. The theatre was well and most respectably attended, many of the Craft being present. On Monday evening, May 7th, being the last of the season, Br. E. D. Davis, the spirited lessee of the theatre, had his benefit, on which occasion the elegant and favourite drama "Victorine" was performed, to the delight of a large and highly respectable audience, amongst which were many of the Craft. Br. Davis, in the course of the evening, delivered a highly talented and beautiful poetical address. The entertainments concluded with the "Midnight Watch."

ROYAL ARCH.

LONDON CHAPTERS.

JOPPA CHAPTER (No. 223).—A convocation of the members of this Chapter was holden at the Masonic Hall, Mansell Street, Goodman's Fields, on Monday the 11th, when Comp. J. Somers, of the Oak Lodge, was installed into the first Principal's chair, —and Comp. Jones as I.,—the Companion elected to the second chair not being present, the ceremonies were ably performed by Comp. Goring, assisted by the immediate P.Z., Comp. Ellis. Comp. Alexander, J.W., of the Joppa Lodge, is the P.S. The Comps. afterwards supped together, and spent a very pleasant evening.

MOIRA CHAPTER (No. 109).—A meeting of this Chapter was held at the London Tavern, on Friday the 15th of June, when Comp. Francis Edgington, of London Bridge, was duly exalted. Comp. Palmer was then installed for the second time as Z.; Comp. Law as H., and Gale, I. Amongst the visitors were the following G. Officers, Comps. Potter, John Hervey and Fanfield.

DEVONSHIRE.

CHAPTER OF SINCERITY STONEHOUSE (No. 224.)—The Companions of this Chapter met on Thursday at St. George's Hall, 21st June, to exalt the following duly qualified Brethren:—Brs. Rodd, Hunt, Gilbard, Hancock, and Mann. A large muster of Comps. were present, including Comps. Triscott, Tripe, Pollard, Damant, Killingly, Gambell, and several others, whose names escaped us. Some considerable detention was caused from the want of suitable paraphernalia, but this obstacle was happily overcome by Comp. Gambell kindly offering to proceed to Plymouth and procure the loan of that belonging to Chapter 83 (St. John), which, being done, the Brethren were exalted by Comp. Pollard, P.Z., of 83, in the most impressive manner, giving to this beautiful ceremony its full effect. Labour being over, the Comps. retired to

refreshment, and due justice was done to the elegant repast provided. Owing to the length of the ceremony, and the lateness of the hour at which it commenced, there was barely time to give the usual toasts. The healths of the usual members of 83 being drunk and they having been thanked for their kind assistance, towards the small hours the companions wended their way home, having spent a very pleasant evening. We anticipate, when next we have the pleasure of visiting this rising Chapter, they will have procured suitable paraphernalia of their own, as from their increased numbers they can now accomplish this desideratum, and make themselves equal to the other Chapters in the neighbourhood.

LANCASHIRE.

CHAPTER OF HOPE, ROCHDALE (No. 62).—This flourishing Chapter held a convocation on the 3rd inst., at the Spread Eagle Inn, at 6 o'clock. The Chapter was opened in due form. The Principal Comps. I. Lord, Z., W. Roberts, H. and P.L. Holland, P.P.Z. as I. presiding. The minutes of the last meeting having been confirmed, the bye-laws were duly signed by the Officers and Comps. present. Comp. J. Lord, P.Z., gave a lecture on the R. A. Jewel, which was highly instructive, and received by the Comps. with applause. At the conclusion of the business, the Chapter was closed and adjourned. The Comps. partook of refreshments and separated at 9 o'clock in the greatest harmony.

THE COLONIES.

AUSTRALIA.

AUSTRALASIAN MASONIC HOTEL, SYDNEY.—According to arrangement previously announced, the formal opening of this important hotel was commemorated on Dec. 14, by a grand dinner given by the lessee, Mr. R. Swete, to the members of the Masonic Order, and such other friends or patrons of the Society as chose to attend. The premises occupied are those lately known as the Town Hall. They have been fitted up, carpeted, and decorated in such a style as to combine considerable artistic beauty with the utmost amount of personal convenience and general house accommodation: thus providing a capacious and tastefully-ornamented Hall, in which all the Lodges of the Masonic Order may, and will, meet from time to time, for the transaction of business, whether of a festive or an ordinary character. The room was brilliantly lighted up, and the tables were set off with bouquets of choice flowers, all of which harmonised exquisitely with the gay and enthusiastic feeling expressed by the company in approval of the object of the entertainment. The chair was occupied by the Grand Master, Captain Innes, who was supported by Mr. Parkes, M.L.C., and several other gentlemen of note. The gallant Chairman, in proposing the first toast, "The Queen," paid a graceful and eloquent compliment to the soldiers and sailors engaged in the present war. He said that, although there were others besides Masons present, and although they were forbidden by their laws from discussing political or party questions, yet he was happy to say that there was one green spot on which they could all meet, whatever were the religious or political feelings entertained, and that was loyalty to the Sovereign (loud cheers)—a sentiment dear to every British heart (renewed cheers). The toast was received with the usual honours, as was also that of Prince Albert and the Royal Family. Several other toasts were drank, and responded to with great enthusiasm; amongst which were, "Success to the combined forces of England and France;" "Prosperity to the Hotel, combining as it did the Masonic Hall of all the Lodges;" the health of Mr. Parkes, one of the Members for the City; and the health of Her Majesty's Ministers, to whom in a great measure the success of the present war was attributable.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MARK MASONRY.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

Edinburgh, June 21st, 1855.

SIR.—I beg to send you a copy of the deliverance of the Supreme Chapter, regarding the spurious Mark Lodge in London, and am,

Sir, your most obedient servant,

WM. GAYLOR.

Grand Scribe N. for Scotland.

[Copy referred to.]

June 20th, 1855.

THE Grand Scribe N. brought under the notice of the Supreme Chapter the allegation that the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen (No. 70) had granted a warrant to some Masons in London, to practise Mark Masonry; as also a letter to the Grand Scribe N., from Companion Rettie, Principal Z. of that Chapter, referring to a letter from himself, which he had published in the "Freemasons' Magazine" for the present month, wherein he had acknowledged the Chapter had done so, and given the reasons for its so doing. And this letter in the "Freemasons' Magazine" having been read and considered, the Supreme Chapter is unanimously of opinion that Companion Rettie, while quoting correctly from the Laws of the Supreme Chapter, has applied to them a meaning they are quite incapable of sustaining. The Supreme Chapter further declares, that a Supreme Chapter of Royal Arch Masons alone has power, in this country, to grant legal warrants for the Mark, Past, Excellent, and Royal Arch degrees, or such of these degrees as are acknowledged by it: That on 21st December, 1842, the Supreme Chapter of Scotland resolved to grant separate warrants for practising the two degrees of Mark and Past Master, and no others, reserving, however, to R. A. Chapters their privilege to confer these also, as formerly: That this law continued only in operation for a few years, after which the right to confer (or initiate in) these two degrees was restricted to those only who took out R. A. Charters: That the Aberdeen Bon Accord Chapter can only confer these degrees under the Charter granted to it on 18th December, 1850, and which was after the repeal of the Law of 1842, and cannot grant warrants to any other body of Masons to confer the said degrees, or depute its own powers in any way whatever: That the Chapter of Bon Accord, Aberdeen, has thus assumed to itself powers which can be exercised by the Supreme Chapter alone, and are not conferred on any Daughter Chapter, either by its Charter, or by the Laws of the Supreme Chapter. The Supreme Chapter, therefore, directs that intimation be made to Companion Rettie to withdraw the warrant immediately, and to report at next Quarterly Communication that the same has been so done, in order to avoid the necessity of ulterior measures.

We reprint the following, in order that the whole of the correspondence may be laid before our readers:—

To the Editor of the Freemasons' Monthly Magazine.

SIR AND BROTHER.—Observing amongst the Notices to Correspondents in your last number that you have had a correspondence with "W. Gaylor," I presume G.S.N. of the Sup. Chapter of Scotland, in reference to the "London Bon-accord Mark Lodge," as first Principal of Chapter No. 70, I would beg shortly to state the facts connected with the origin and history of that Lodge.

Upon the 11th September, 1851, a petition from six members (all residing in London), of the Bon-accord M.M. Lodge, holding of the Chapter No. 70, was presented to that Chapter, praying for a warrant to enable them to establish a Mark M. Lodge in London, under the title of the "London Bon-accord Mark Master Lodge;" as they were anxious "to promote and diffuse the genuine principle of Mark Masonry." The Chapter granted a Warrant to those Brethren, in consequence of the Sup. G.R.A. Chapter of Scotland having, on March 12th, 1848, denuded themselves of the right of granting Mark Lodge Warrants, and as the resolution bears, "that

the power of granting these degrees" (Mark and *Past Master*) "shall be *vested in chapters only*, as formerly declared by a resolution of the Supreme Chapter, dated 16th September, 1846." Also because the granting of the Warrant did not interfere with any of those degrees which flourish under the guardianship of the G. L. or the Sup. G. Chapter of England. Had either of the two last bodies taken cognizance of the Mark Degree, most assuredly the members of Chapter No. 70 would never have granted such a Warrant. It was solely for the extension and promotion of a knowledge of one of the most beautiful and perfect of the Masonic Degrees. How it has succeeded in effecting that object, may be judged from the Mark Roll of the Bon-accord Chapter, on which are recorded the names of some of the most accomplished Masons that England can boast of.

I will copy the different regulations of the Supreme Chapter, to show that the Bon-accord Chapter has acted in accordance with the spirit of their obligations, in order to promote and advance a knowledge of Masonry. The members would not have granted the Warrant, had it been contrary to the laws, or spirit of the laws, of the Supreme Chapter, and I for one would never have sanctioned such a step, as I never have countenanced, either in my private or public capacity in the Craft, a departure from the rules or regulations of any Order to which I belong.

In the laws of the Supreme G.R.A of Scotland, published 1845, chap. iv. par 35, will be found:—

"As the G.L. of Scotland does not at present permit its daughter Lodges to confer the degrees of Mark and P.M., and as therefore these degrees cannot be legally obtained in a Lodge of St. John's Masonry in Scotland, the Supreme Chapter issues Warrants constituting Lodges *for these degrees only.*" This was the law in 1845. In the year 1848 the above law was abrogated by the Supreme Chapter. Upon March 12th, *inter alia*, it was resolved to abrogate the law, chapter iv. par. 35, by which the Supreme Chapter agrees to issue Warrants constituting Lodges to confer the degree of Mark and P.M., and to enact and declare "that the power of these decrees shall be vested in Chapters only, as formerly declared by a resolution of the Supreme Chapter, dated 16th September, 1846."

This is shortly the history of the London Bon-accord Mark Master Lodge.—I remain, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

JAMES RETTIE,

Aberdeen, May 4 1855. First Principal, Bon-accord Chapter, No. 70.

LONDON BON ACCORD MARK MASTER LODGE.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

Aberdeen, June 18th, 1855.

SIR.—The above Lodge, and the Chapter to whom it owes obedience, is likely to get "scrimp justice," at the hands of the Supreme Chapter of Scotland, if we may judge from the correspondence which appeared in your last number. In that correspondence we find that, not only does one of the Grand Scribes, but also the Depute P.Z. for Scotland condemn the above Lodge, and the conduct of Chapter No. 70, as illegal, without a hearing. Against such un-Masonic conduct I most emphatically protest; as it is contrary to the Rules, and the spirit of the Rules of Craft or Arch Masonry. The Rule is, so far as I have been able to make out—that any Brother or Lodge, any Companion or Chapter, against whom a charge is brought, ought to be informed what that charge is by the superior body. Up to the present moment, *there is no charge made against Chapter No. 70, by the Supreme Chapter.* It is quite possible that Chapter No. 70 may be wrong—it is equally so that it may be right; and it would be very foolish to give the line of defence, until we know what charge is laid against us. And I have to regret that any Englishman should have so far forgotten that manly national characteristic, fair-play, as to have joined in the cry against the London Bon Accord Mark Master Lodge, of "illegal," "spurious," before hearing both sides of the question.

I remain, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

JAMES RETTIE,

P.Z. Chapter No. 70, Scotland.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR JUNE.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Both houses of parliament resumed their sittings after the Whitsuntide recess on the 4th June. In the House of Lords on that day the principal business transacted was the passing of the Newspaper Stamp Bill through committee. On the following day the bill was read a third time and passed;—and Lord Clarendon announced that the negotiations at Vienna had come to a close, a similar announcement being also made in the House of Commons. On the 7th, the Cambridge University Bill, after a good deal of discussion, passed through committee. On the 11th, a question of privileges arose relative to the creation of the barony of Fermoy, which was referred to a committee. On the 12th, a motion of the Bishop of Oxford for postponing the Religious Worship Bill for six months was lost by a majority of one—the numbers voting being 31 against 30. On the 14th, a motion of Earl Shaftesbury to refer a bill introduced by himself to limit the hours of work of needle-women was referred to a committee, and the Cambridge University Bill passed. On the 15th, the Religious Worship Bill was referred to a select committee. On the 18th, Lord Brougham brought forward the subject of the excessive fees in the County Courts—and several bills were advanced a stage. Similar business was transacted on the following day—on the 22nd—25th. On the 27th, a discussion took place relative to the conduct of Austria, which the government contended showed a leaning in favour of the allies.

In the House of Commons on the 4th, the debate was resumed on the various motions relative to the prosecution of the war, which was continued on the 5th, 7th, and 8th, when Mr. Baring's motion assuring her Majesty of the continued support of the House of Commons in the prosecution of the war was unanimously carried. On the 6th, the adjourned debate on Mr. Spooner's anti-Maynooth motion was resumed, and adjourned to the 27th. On the 11th, the Metropolis Local Management Bill went into committee, and the adjourned debate on Sir. John Pakington's Education Bill was resumed, and further adjourned. On the 12th, the Metropolis Local Management Bill was further considered, and a motion in favour of decimal coinage carried by a majority of 135 to 36. On the 13th, the Sunday Trading (metropolis) Bill went through committee, and was ordered to be recommitted on the 4th July. On the 14th, the Education Scotland Bill was considered in committee; and the Victoria Government Bill and the Waste Lands (Australian) Repeal Bill read a second time. On the 15th, Mr. Layard brought forward a motion upon Administrative Reform, which was met with a milder motion of Sir E. L. Bulwer. The debate was adjourned until the 17th, when Mr. Layard's motion was defeated by a majority of 359 to 46. The debate on the amendment of Sir E. L. Bulwer was adjourned to the 21st, when it was agreed to unanimousiy. On the 20th, the Marriage Law Amendment Bill, having been under consideration in committee, was adjourned to 20th July. On the 21st, the Metropolis Local Management Bill and the Tenants' Improvements (Ireland) Bill was further considered in committee. After a variety of personal explanations, the Education Scotland Bill was further advanced a stage on the 22nd. On the 25th, Lord Palmerston having made a statement relative to the bills to be proceeded with this session, the most important of which are the Limited Liability in Partnership Bill, the Victoria Government Bill, and the Australian Waste Lands Repeal Bill passed through committee. On the 27th, the Metropolis Improvement Bill passed through committee. A committee was appointed to consider whether Baron Rothschild in accepting the contract for the Government loan had not forfeited his seat in parliament. A committee was also appointed to consider the effect of the bill for closing public-houses;—and a resolution agreed to in favour of the revision or reduction of duty on stage coaches, &c. Leave was given to bring in a bill extending the parliamentary suffrage to all parties paying income-tax. On the 27th, the Maynooth question was once more considered and adjourned.

THE WAR.

The proceedings since our last have been of a somewhat chequered character, successes and checks, but the latter have not been of a nature to lead to any fear that there need be any doubt as to the ultimate fate of Sebastopol, and the wresting of the

Crimea from the Russians. The successes in the Sea of Azoff have been completely uninterrupted—Genitchi, Berdiansk, Tagaurog, Marionople, and other places have fallen into the hands of the allies, and considerable quantities of ammunition and supplies destroyed. On the 6th, the bombardment of Sebastopol was reopened, and on the 7th, the French carried the Mamelon, and the English the quarries, in front of the redan. On the 18th, a combined attack was made on the Malakoff tower, and the Redan, and though they obtained temporary possession of them, and did considerable damage, they were obliged to retire, the losses of the English being about 1200 in killed and wounded, and the French 4000; the losses of the Russians are supposed to have been much larger. The French have occupied the Tchernaya.

In the Baltic on the 7th, a boat of the "Cossack" was landing some prisoners at Hango under a flag of truce, when they were attacked by the Russians; when six men were killed, and three officers and the majority of the crew taken prisoners, the majority being wounded. Only one man escaped. Several vessels have come into contact with infernal machines sunk in the sea near Constradt, but without receiving any material damage.

COMMERCIAL.

Great consternation has been excited by the stoppage of the eminent bankers, Messrs. Strahan & Co., they having been long held in the highest estimation at the west end of the town, and holding some of the longest accounts of the nobility. The assets it is supposed will not realise more than about four shillings in the pound. The three partners are in custody for having feloniously disposed of securities entrusted to their care.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Mexican and South American Company on the 12th, a dividend of 7*s.* 6*d.* per share, free of income tax was declared. The net profits of the working, amounted to £29,438 1*s.* 3*d.*

The Bank of Australia held its annual meeting on the 16th, and declared a dividend and bonus at the rate of 20 per cent on the paid up capital.

The South Australian Banking Company met, on the following day, and declared a dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum.

At the third half-yearly meeting of the London Chartered Bank of Australia on the 22nd, a dividend of 2 per cent. free of income tax, was declared for the half-year.

The British Sperm Candle Company are about to issue the unallotted shares at par, with a guaranteed interest of 5 per cent. per annum.

The preliminary prospectus of a company, provisionally registered, under the title of the Australian General Investment Association, has just been issued. The principal object of the company is to develope the agricultural resources of the colony, by the purchase of lands and establishment of sheep-runs, it being notorious that the largest fortunes have been made in Australia from these runs, in the production of tallow and wool. The most valuable testimonials in favour of the principles upon which the company is to be founded, have been received from persons of authority in Australia, who think that, with adequate capital and careful management, very large profits—too large for us to mention until the principles of the company are more fully developed—cannot fail to be made. The capital of the company is at present fixed at £50,000, with power to increase to £500,000 in as many shares of £1 each, of which 5*s.* is to be paid upon complete registration, and a call of 5*s.* six months afterwards.

BENEVOLENT.

The annual sermon on behalf of the Society of Patrons, was preached on the 6th ult., in St. Paul's Cathedral, by the Bishop of Llandaff, from the 6th verse of the 33rd chapter of Isaiah. The children of the several parish and ward schools were, as usual, present. The collection was not a large one.

The annual meeting of the supporters of the Mesmeric Infirmary was held on the 10th, with Lord Dunraven in the chair. The several speakers spoke of wonderful cures effected by mesmeric treatment. Dr. Elliotson read the report, which, after congratulating the friends of mesmerism on the advance which it was making in public estimation, proceeded to mention that, during the course of the past year, 247 patients had been attended to at the infirmary, of whom 43 had been on the books at the commencement of the year, and the other 204 had been since

admitted. Of these, 69 had been cured, 9 nearly cured, 49 improved, 71 had discontinued attendance, and 41 were still under treatment.

The anniversary festival of the United Land Clerks' Society was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 12th ult. Lord Justice Turner presided. The report said—The number of members who, in the past year, claimed relief on account of sickness, has been 25; £121 7*s.* 6*d.* has been expended in meeting these claims—considerably less than was required in the two preceding years. Each applicant receives one guinea weekly so long as his illness disables him from following his employment, but not exceeding one year. Should it extend over that period, the member is entitled to half the amount during a second year; and if his affliction assume a permanent character, then he is entitled to relief for life out of the Superannuation Fund. Two of these cases of sickness terminated in the members being placed on that fund, and three others ended in death. The total relief afforded to the members on account of sickness alone amounts to the sum of £3,349 16*s.* 6*d.* The claims on the Superannuation Fund are increasing. Last year there were five; there are now seven, requiring a yearly expenditure of £239 4*s.* In three of these cases the members receive yearly £31 4*s.* each, and the remaining four £36 8*s.* The Committee were able to announce at the last anniversary that in the year preceding not one case of death had occurred amongst 524 members. On this occasion they have to report the death, since the last festival, of six members. The family of each received the sum of £50. The Committee have also to report the death of the wives of five members; to each of these members the sum of £25 has been paid. The total expenditure on account of death has reached the sum of £4,927 10*s.*

On the 26th, Prince Albert inaugurated the R.C. Medical Benevolent College at Epsom as an asylum for decayed members of the Profession and their widows, and as a school for the education of their children. The arrangements were of the worst possible character.

PROVIDENT.

The Times Life Insurance Company held its annual meeting on the 7th ult. During the year the company completed and issued 1612 policies, covering 393,515*l.*, and yielding in premiums 7012*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* A bonus of one per cent. per annum, was declared on the life policies entitled to a division of profits, and a bonus of 2*s.* 6*d.* per share on the capital stock of the Company.

On the 21st ult., the proprietors of the Royal Exchange declared a dividend, equivalent to 11 per cent. per annum.

The Achilles Insurance Company held its annual meeting on the 6th ult., when it was stated, that during the past year the Company completed 225 policies, assuring 101,230*l.*, and producing a new income of 3,128,134*l.* The average amount of each policy was 450*l.*

A special meeting of the Law Life Assurance Company was held on the 8th ult., for the declaration of the surplus profits of the 4th septennial period of the Company's career, when it appeared that they amounted to 793,147*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, one-fifth of which belonged to the proprietors, and the remaining four-fifths to the assured. The Guarantee Fund on the 31st December, was 615,858*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* The interest accruing from this sum of 615,858*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, as at present invested, will enable the directors to pay to the proprietors an annual dividend of 2*l.* 10*s.* per share, clear of income tax; being an increase of dividend of 14*s.* per share; the entire dividend being after the rate of 25 per cent, per annum on the amount paid up on each share. The sum of 634,517*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* falling to the share of the assured, has been allotted among them in proportion to their respective interests, a reserve being made for those policies which are not yet entitled to participate, by reason of their not being of three full years' standing.

During the month, the Waterloo Life Assurance Company held meetings at Liverpool and Kendal. The Company, although established only $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, has now a premium income of upwards of 14,000*l.* per annum, and has invested 30,000*l.* The claims which have as yet fallen in, amount to only 1500*l.*

On the 16th ult., Lord Torrington presided at the annual meeting of the Indisputable Insurance Company, when a report was read, which stated that there was a con-

tinuous yearly increase in the Company's business, which at present amounted to 20,000*l.* per annum.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Conservative Land Society was held at Exeter Hall, on Wednesday, Lord Ranelagh presiding, when Br. Guireisren read a report, from which it appears the amount of land sold during the past quarter has been 6,427*l.* 10*s.*; the total amount of land sold since the commencement of the society is 109,111*l.* 10*s.*; the gross cash receipts up to Lady-day, 1855, are 165,613*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*; ditto, from Lady-day to Midsummer, 1855, 12,377*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.*; total receipts 177,991*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*; whilst the total amount of withdrawals unto Midsummer, 1855, have only amounted to 16,723*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*; the total shares in progress, or uncompleted, taken up to Midsummer, 1855, were 9,458*l.*; shares completed to the same date 1,584*l.*; total number of shares issued on the 24th June, 1855, 11,042*l.* The returns up to Midsummer, of the register of order of rights are as follows:—completed, 1,584; drawn, 1,886; seniority, 953; total, 4,423; deduct rights exercised on estates, 2,128; unexercised rights, 2,295. A most favourable account of the prospects of the Society was given, and an announcement made, that the Hounslow estate would be allotted on the 19th inst. The quarterly drawing for choice of allotment was then proceeded with—the result of which will be found in our advertising columns.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Sir Joseph Paxton has submitted a plan to the city authorities for a proposed arcade covered with glass, and railway round London, at an estimated cost of £34,000,000.

On the 13th, the New Metropolitan Cattle Market, in Copenhagen Fields, was opened by H.R.H. Prince Albert, assisted by the Corporation of the City of London.

An Irish labourer, named Jeremiah Foley, has been committed for the murder of a woman, named Hannah Bell, at Limehouse.

There was an out-door demonstration in Hyde Park on Sunday the 24th, against the Sunday Suppression Bill.

An order in Council was issued on the 28th, doubling the pay of the British Army whenever engaged in the field.

AMUSEMENTS OF THE MONTH.

At the Haymarket Theatre, a new Opera, entitled, "Berta, or the Gnome of Hartzberg" was produced on the 2nd of June. As the name bespeaks, the opera is founded on a German story,—the *libretto* being by Fitzball, and of that the less that is said the better. The music by Henry Smart is light, graceful and spirited, and owing to that and the excellence with which Br. Buckstone put it upon the stage it met with a complete success.

A new play by Mr. Saunders, entitled, "Love's Martyrdom," was produced with a fair success; the principal characters being sustained by Miss Helen Faucitt and Mr. Barry Sullivan.

A new play by Tom Taylor, entitled, "Helping Hands," has been produced at the Adelphi, with complete success.

The Crystal Palace Company have opened the nine upper fountains, which now play daily, and add considerably to the beauty of the Gardens which, at this season of the year form, irrespective of the Palace, a most attractive exhibition. The lower fountains are expected to be opened towards the close of August.

The season at Cremorne is now at its height, and the excellent performances in the *Cirque National* nightly attracts crowded audiences.

OBITUARY.

Br. Charles Fox.—This brother, who has been long well known in the Craft, expired on the 11th June, at the Stafford Arms, Pimlico—of which he had been the landlord for some years past—at the age of 60. Br. Fox was initiated by Br. Hardy at Sunderland, about the year 1825, and continued a subscribing member whilst remaining in that portion of the country. Br. Fox subsequently went abroad, and on

his return to England, having become steward of the Junior United Service Club, he became a joining member of the Robert Burns Lodge, in Nov., 1839, at the time when great efforts were making to secure it from destruction, which at one time threatened it from the falling off of its members. In the following January, Br. Fox was appointed J.D., and attained the chair in the year 1843, by which time the Lodge had, through the exertions of Br. Watson, arrived at the highest pinnacle of prosperity. Br. Fox was exalted in the Robert Burns Chapter on the day of its consecration, in February, 1845, and having passed through the various offices, filled the chair of Z. in the year 1852. Br. Fox having left the United Service Club, became steward of the Wyndham, which situation he resigned in 1842, to become landlord of the Red Lion, in Jermyn-street. Having sold the lease of this house to advantage, he removed to the Stafford Arms, Pimlico, and it is supposed that the falling off of the business, owing to the pulling down of the houses around him for the Pimlico improvements, preyed upon his spirits and hastened his death. The Robert Burns Chapter has lost three of its past principals within the last twelve months—viz., Comp. Moore, who was murdered a short time since, Comp. Charker, and Comp. Fox.

Br. Anslow.—We have to announce, with sincere regret, the death of Br. Thomas Anslow, Jun., the immediate P.M. of the Lodge of Faith, which took place at his residence, Webber-street, Lambeth, on the 11th June. Br. Anslow, who was about 33 years of age, was initiated in the Lodge of Faith on the 25th of October 1849, and installed W.M. in October 1853. The deceased Br. was highly respected by the brethren, and his loss will be much felt in the Lodge.

Br. Roby.—On the 9th of this month died Br. John Henry Roby, R. A., Knight Templar, Member of the 30th Degree, &c., aged 29. This announcement will be read with deep regret by all who knew this estimable Brother; who possessed all those noble qualities that constitute the true Mason amongst his brethren, the kind and fast friend, the loving husband and excellent parent in private, and the thorough English gentleman in public life.

Br. Moore.—It is our painful duty to record the sudden death of Br. Dr. Joseph Moore, which took place at his residence, Rosherville, Kent. By the death of Dr. Moore the Masonic body have lost an active and zealous brother; he was for many years a member of the Lodge of Antiquity, and was made a Grand Officer by the late M. W. G. M., His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex. Brother Dr. Moore held the office of Physician for many years to the girls' school, and took a lively interest in all the proceedings and arrangements. His death will cause a vacancy, and we trust the appointment may be filled up by a brother as much respected and beloved.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To Our Readers.—Our country friends will continue to receive their copies of the "Masonic Mirror," through the post, for *7d.* as heretofore, though we have ceased to stamp any portion of our impression—the new law requiring us to make such alterations in our appearance, if we avail ourselves of the power of stamping, which we deem to be inexpedient. The number will, however, pass freely through the post by the affixing of a penny stamp, and the alteration of the law will, when deemed expedient, enable us materially to enlarge our size without additional cost to our readers. Indeed we this day so far avail ourselves of the privilege as to give 60 pages of matter instead of the 48 to which we are pledged. This has been rendered necessary by an unexpected pressure of interesting matter, and a desire not again to disappoint our readers by the adjournment of the publication of a portion of our continuous articles, notwithstanding the High Degrees at Bristol, and several valuable letters, are again postponed. In presenting this mass of matter to our readers we may fairly claim that it exceeds, in extent, any publication ever offered to the Masonic body, even at double the price. We are aware that we shall, by the new arrangement, be placed in some little difficulty with our Colonial Readers, inasmuch as the new tariff of book postage does not apply to places beyond the seas. For the present, however, we shall continue to supply those friends whose subscriptions we have received in the usual manner, we bearing the loss that the extra postage will inflict upon us; and for the future we shall, for the accommodation of the colonies, also issue our "Mirror" in quarterly parts, by which three numbers will pass through the colonial book post for one postage.

A MEMBER OF No. 122 *is quite at liberty to decline taking in the* "Masonic Mirror," *if he thinks fit. We are not personally present at every meeting of the Stonehouse Lodge, but we have every reason to believe that our notices are correct.*

The W.M. of No. 224 *is thanked for the kind notice he has been pleased to take of our labours. We deem his having a portion of the contents of the* "Mirror" *read in open Lodge as a high compliment—even though he did so for the purposes of abuse. The W.M. of* 224 *may rest assured that no threats of the withdrawal of patronage from the* "Mirror" *will deter us from expressing our opinions honestly and fearlessly. We shall be much pleased if a few more W.M.'s will do us the honour of bringing the* "Mirror" *under the notice of the members of their respective Lodges.*

R. D., MADRAS.—*The paper alluded to never came to hand.*

J. C., WANDSWORTH.—*Communicate with the editor of the* "Masonic Mirror," *giving your name and address, that he may write to you on the subject privately.*

T. S., OPENSHAW.—*The* "Masonic Mirrors" *are so packed as to be impossible to come undone in the Post Office, excepting by gross negligence.*

We agree with Ethée that it would be very desirable that a copy of every summons to a Lodge meeting should be forwarded to the G. Sec. in London, or the G.S. of the Province in which the Lodge meets, as thereby many irregularities would be checked, whilst the expense (merely the postage) would be too trivial to be worth notice.

B.L.—*The letter shall be published in full in the next number of the* "Mirror"; *the Lodge never had a better W.M. The time will come when every officer must be examined before he is duly appointed by the W.M.*

NORWICH.—*The Grand Chaplain may be asked, but we doubt his authority.*

SCOTLAND.—*The Lodge meets on a Tuesday. See our observations and the correspondene relative to the Mark Masons in the present number of the* "Mirror."

General Cooke was introduced formally to the Grand Lodge, but we believe there was a sad misunderstanding with reference to the transaction. We shall give the information more fully in our next "Mirror." *Our American letter did not arrive in time for the investigation.*

Br. Adlard is employed to clothe the children in the Boys' School—we believe, by contract.

The present Lord Mayor is a Mason. He has not yet invited the Grand Lodge to any entertainment.

The Deputy Grand Master, Lord Yarborough, offered to preside at a special festival in aid of the Building Fund for the Boys' School, which he said reflected much on the Craft, as having been delayed so long. We refer our correspondent to the account we gave in the "Mirror," *of the festival; where he will find the information he asks for.*

IPSWICH.—*The inquirers of the Companion should be referred to the Grand Secretary's office; address the letter to Br. W. White or Br. William Farnfield, but such information, like that from the star-chambers of yore, will, we fear, not be obtained.*

T.C., NIL DESPERANDUM.—*All will be right; the auditors are responsible, and their excellent brethren are beyond the reach of such observation.*

P. M., DURHAM, *will see that we have alluded to the circumstance in another page. It is no use asking the G. Sec. when the minutes of quarterly communications will be published, they being now only five quarters behind-hand. Ask some London brother to put the question in G. Lodge.*

AN ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMER.—*We do not wonder at the delays in obtaining answers from the Grand Secretary's office. What can be expected from an office where the principal—the G. Sec. of England—rarely appears before four o'clock in the afternoon, and sometimes not at all.*

Br. Crawley, who is well known for the kind assistance he affords at Lodges of Instruction, will take a benefit at the Soho Theatre, on the 16th.

The so-called Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masons held a meeting on Wednesday last, when Lord Leigh was installed into the chair, and eight companions initiated. We have received a report of the proceedings, but the Lodge having been proved to be illegal, we must decline to publish it.

We do not approve of booksellers becoming chapmen for badges and jewels. Every "cobbler *should stick to his own last," and let others enjoy their fair share of business.*

Freemason's Hall, adjoining the Queen's Hotel, Liverpool, has been converted into a Casino. How is this?

ERRATA.—*In Br. Gaylor's letter, printed in last month's* "Mirror," *in line* 12, 1845 *ought to be* 1841. *In line* 14 *from the bottom of page* 402, *the word expired should be* "expeded." *At page* 403, *line* 14, *for protected, read* "practised," *and at line* 22, *for firmly, read* "formerly." *At line* 14 *from the bottom, in page* 370, *the name of Br. Purton Cooper is printed Preston Cooper. Luckily, Br. Cooper is too well known to make this error of any material consequence.*

THE

MASONIC MIRROR:

AUGUST, 1855.

THE MARK DEGREE.

We promised in our last to show how the Mark degree might be legalised in England under the authority of the G. Chapter of Scotland, though we would much prefer, if it could be so arranged, that it should be connected with that of England. As, however, the degree is not officially recognised in England, we have now only to deal with it as connected with the Scotch Lodges. The Scottish G. Chapter would not grant a warrant for making R.A. Masons in England, inasmuch as they will not, and very properly so, interfere with the functions of the G. Chapter of this country. It would, however, doubtless, grant a Charter for the practice of the Mark to those who were already R.A. Masons.

In order to obtain such a Charter, it would be necessary for nine Royal Arch Masons to become affiliated with some established Scotch Lodge, and afterwards, to apply for a warrant to the G. Chapter—at least three of these nine having taken the Scottish Obligation. Indeed, we believe that there would be no difficulty in the members of the existing London Bon. Accord Lodge of Mark Masons becoming at once affiliated to a Scotch Chapter, and obtaining a legal Charter, they of course undertaking to withdraw themselves from the surreptitious Lodge into which there can be no doubt they have been inadvertently drawn, and to obey laws and regulations of the G. Chapter of Scotland for the future.

We feel the greater confidence in the expression of this opinion, because, as in England, we do not grant the degrees of Mark, Past, and Excellent, previous to the Royal Arch,—as in Scotland, the Supreme G. Chapter of that country forbids any Chapter to admit, as visitors, Royal Arch Masons from England or abroad, unless they take an obligation that they will not illegally reveal any degrees they may see practised—and consider themselves to be as much members of them as though they had gone through the regular ceremonies as performed in Scotland. Indeed, if an English Arch Mason applies for affiliation with, or to use the English term, to become a joining member of a Scottish Chapter, he is never (unless he himself desires it) asked to go through the ceremonial of the omitted degrees, but all are conferred under one general obligation. The

same plan has been also adopted with regard to irregular Arch Masons, a large number of whom existed in Scotland (made under old worn-out Irish Charters) until within the last twelve years, but the whole of whom, it is believed, have now become affiliated with the regular Arch Chapters, four of which are at the present time flourishing in Glasgow alone.

That the S.G. Chapter of Scotland are anxious to do every thing in their power to bring the Mark under some regular authority, we have a strong proof, in a case which occurred not long since, and relative to which, we speak on the authority of a Br. and Comp. of high standing in that country. An application was lately made from, we believe, Callao, in Peru, for a warrant enabling the Mark and Past degrees to be granted to the Comps.—the applicants being all Arch Masons under the "ancient and accepted Scottish rite," as it is called. And though there is a wide difference between the ceremony of that degree and that now in practice in Scotland, yet as both evidently have their derivation from one source, and in North America the members of the one are allowed to visit the Chapters of the other, the G. Arch Chapter held the petitioners to be Royal Arch Masons,—had them affiliated with a Glasgow Chapter (the nine petitioners being all American Mark Masons), and registered them on the Grand Role of Scotland. This done, a warrant was forwarded to them as a Royal Arch Chapter, and they were thus enabled to grant the Mark degree as desired.

Though bringing this instance forward to show the anxiety of the S.R. Arch Chapter of Scotland to do everything in its power to give fair facilities for the practice of the Mark, and because we desire to see the Bon Accord Lodge of London working under legal authority—we feel, at the same time, bound to admit, that we would rather see the whole of Masonry practised in England, brought under the undivided control of our own G. Lodge and Chapter.

Caution in the Election of Candidates.—An ancient tradition inform us, that our brethren at the Temple were so circumspect in the choice of the materials intended for that stupendous edifice, that no stone was permitted to be received until it had passed the rigid examination of at least three overseers. The consequence of such a scrutiny was seen in the beauty and perfection of the building, which, when completed, seemed, as our lectures inform us, to be the handiwork of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, rather than of mere human hands. Borrowing, as we do, all the symbolism of our speculative science from the operative art of our ancient brethren, it were well if we should remember that as the material stone, which could not pass the scrutiny of the overseers' square at Jerusalem, was rejected and thrown aside as unworthy to form a component part of the House of the Lord, so should the candidate, whose moral qualifications are defective, be rejected by our Lodges because unfitted to occupy, as a living stone, any portion of that symbolic Temple, "that house not made with hands," which it is the constant labor of every Mason to erect.—*New York Mirror and Key Stone.*

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

(*Continued from page* 417.)

DURING the building of Saint Paul's Cathedral as a national undertaking, Masonry was also greatly employed in restoring other public and domestic buildings. The vast number of workmen employed and the thorough freedom of all classes of labourers at this period, serfdom having entirely disappeared during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, rendered the protection afforded by a society whose object was to secure the perfect freedom of its members against the attacks of the higher classes—who were but too prone to compel the lower orders to labour for their aggrandisement almost unnecessary. Although the great call for skilled craftsmen during the rebuilding of London and its public edifices in a great measure kept the Lodges together, still the necessity for combination did not exist as in bygone days, when the greatest potentates in the world found it necessary to protect them—and an extraordinary skill in architectural design was often a means of promotion from comparatively humble origin to the highest offices in church and state.

Amidst the general restoration of halls, gates, and other buildings, the hospital for the reception of lunatics claims our first attention. The foundation of that called the Bethlehem hospital, was laid in April, 1675. It was a building of considerable magnificence, 540 feet long, and 40 feet broad, beside the wings, which were not added till several years after. The middle and ends which projected, were adorned with pilasters, entablatures, foliages, and other ornaments; and rising above the other parts of the building had each a flat roof, with a handsome balustrade of stone, adorned with a clock and a gilt ball and vane. The wings, which were set apart for incurables, were not inferior to the rest of the building. The whole was of brick and stone, and inclosed by a handsome wall 680 feet long of the same materials. In the centre of the wall, which receded with a circular sweep, were a large pair of iron gates—and on the piers by which they were supported, were two images in a reclining posture, the one representing raving, and the other melancholy madness. The expression of these figures, the work of Br. Cibber, who also carved the emblematical figures on the Monument, are spoken of in terms of great praise.

Where the fire stopped at Temple Bar, the citizens erected the Roman gate now standing, with the statues of Queen Elizabeth and King James I. on the east side, and Charles I. and Charles II. on the west. This, instead of being as in the present time considered a nuisance, as an impediment to thoroughfare, was much admired as a work of art.

The College of Physicians at the north-east part of Warwick Lane, though from its local disadvantages, but little known, has been esteemed by good judges as a building of great merit. The entrance is through an octangular porch or theatre, crowned with a dome which finishes with a cone, very capacious for admitting carriages, and well lighted. This was built by Br. Wren, but being in a narrow lane it is almost hid from

the passenger. The gate leads into a square court, and the building opposite, which contains the library and other rooms of state and convenience, was the design of Inigo Jones. The ascent to the door is by a flight of steps, and in the under part is a basement story. The whole of the front is decorated with pilasters of the Ionic and Corinthian orders. In a niche over the door is a statue of King Charles II., and directly opposite in the inner front of the octangular porch, stands that of Sir John Custer. The whole of this building is both beautiful and commodious.

The following parish churches, which had been consumed by the great fire, were in a very few years restored by the Craft under the direction of the Deputy Grand Master Br. Wren.

Allhallows, Bread Street, in the ward of Bread Street, in 1684, and the steeple, 1697. This is in the Tuscan order, in length, 73 feet, in breadth 35, and in height 30 feet. The steeple, which, as well as the church, is of stone, is of the Doric order, well adorned, and about 86 feet high.

Allhallows the Great, on the south side of Thames Street, was finished in 1683. This is also in the Tuscan order, plain and massive, and the ornaments few and simple. In length, about 87 feet, breadth, 52, and in height, about 30; the altitude of the tower, which is square, is about 86 feet.

Allhallows, on the north side of Lombard Street, was finished 1694. In this church is only one pillar, which, with the pilasters, is in the Tuscan order. Its length is 84 feet, breadth 52, and height about 30; the altitude of the tower is about 85 feet, built square.

St. Alban's, on the east side of Great Wood Street, was rebuilt, and finished in 1685. This building is Gothic, as it was before the fire, and is in length, about 66 feet, breadth 59, and height 33; the tower is built of stone, square, with Gothic pinnacles, its altitude is about 85 feet, and to the top of the pinnacles 92 feet.

The church of St. Anne and Agnes, situated on the north side of St. Anne's Lane, was finished in 1680, and beautified in 1703. It is 53 feet square, about 35 feet high, and the tower to the top of turret, about 84 feet. The roof is supported by four handsome Corinthian columns which are placed in a geometrical square from each other.

St. Andrew's Wardrobe, on the east side of Puddle Dock Hill, was finished in 1692. It is built of brick, cased over in imitation of stone. The roof is supported by twelve Tuscan pillars, and is ornamented with fret work. Its length is 75 feet, breadth 59, and height 38 feet; and that of the tower about 86 feet.

St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the south side of Holborn Hill, was finished 1687. This church is both beautiful and spacious, the columns that support the roof, which is adorned with fret work, are of the Corinthian order, the walls are of stone. Its length is 105 feet, breadth, 63, and height, 43 feet; the tower or square steeple is 110 feet, it is externally in the Doric order, and was finished in 1704.

St. Anthony, also called St. Antholius, at the west end of Watling

Street, was finished in 1682,—of stone. The outside is of the Tuscan order, and the roof which is an elliptican cupola with four porthole windows, is supported by eight columns of the Composite order. Its length is about 66 feet, breadth 54, and height 44 feet, the neat spire steeple is about 154 feet.

St. Augustin's, situated north side of Watling Street, was finished in 1683, and the steeple in 1695.

St. Benedict, or St. Bennet's Grass church, situated on the east side of Gracechurch Street, was finished, 1685.

St. Bennet's, Paul Wharf church, on the north side of Thames Street, was rebuilt, 1683.

St. Benedict, or St. Bennet's Fink church, on the north side of Threadneedle Street, was built in 1673 and is a fine piece of architecture.

St. Bartholomew's, behind the Royal Exchange, situated on the east side of Bartholomew Lane, was rebuilt, 1679.

St. Bridge, or St. Bride's church, on the south side of Fleet Street, was rebuilt with great beauty and strength in 1680, and further adorned, 1699. The steeple is 234 feet high, it is therefore 32 feet higher than the Monument. It is a most excellent piece of workmanship, combining solidity with an appearance of lightness.

Christ church, on the north side of Newgate Street, was rebuilt, 1687.

St. Christopher's church, at the north-west corner of Threadneedle Street, was not totally destroyed by the great fire, the walls partly escaping the flames, and had it not been filled with paper would probably not have been so much damaged. It was repaired soon after the fire, but has since been taken down to make room for building a west wing to the Bank of England.

St. Clement's Danes church, so named from having formerly been a burying place of the Danes before the Norman Conquest, situated in the Strand, a little to the east of Temple Bar; being greatly decayed, was taken down 1680, and rebuilt in 1682, under the superintendence of the D.G.M. Wren.

St. Clement's, East Cheap, on the east side of St. Clement's Lane, was rebuilt, 1686.

St. Dionis back church, on the west side of Lime Street, was rebuilt in 1674, and the steeple in 1684.

St. Dunstan's-in-the-east, situated in the middle way between Tower Street north and Thames Street—was only repaired, and the steeple was afterwards erected in 1698.

St. Edmund's-the-King, on the north side of Lombard Street, was built in 1690.

St. George, Botolph Lane church, on the west side of Botolph lane, was rebuilt, 1674.

St. James, Garlick Hill church, on the east side of that hill, was rebuilt in 1683.

St. James', Westminster, situated between the north side of Jermyn Street and the south side of Piccadilly, was erected at the charge of Henry Jermyn, Earl of St. Albans, and of the inhabitants, owners, and

occupiers of the houses and lands in this precinct, by an act of parliament, 3rd Jas., 2nd constituting it parochial.

St. Laurence, Jewry church, on the north side of Cateaton Street, was rebuilt in 1677.

St. Margaret's church, at the north-east end of old London Bridge, was rebuilt in 1676, and the steeple in 1705. When the bridge was relieved from its unnatural load of houses, the west end of this church was found to interfere with the footway. A foot passage was made under it, this was considered a hazardous undertaking, but on inspection it was found that Sir Christopher, having foreseen the necessity, had prepared for the alteration.

St. Margaret's, Lothbury, on the north side of Lothbury, was re-built, and finished in 1690.

St. Margaret Pattens church, on the north side of Little Tower Street, at the south-east angle of Rood Lane, formerly occupied by patten makers, whence the name of the church, was rebuilt in 1687.

St. Margaret's Ludgate, on the north side of Ludgate Street, was rebuilt in 1684.

St. Mary's church, on the west side of Abchurch Lane, was rebuilt in 1686.

St. Mary's-at-Hill church, on the west side of St. Mary Hill, was rebuilt, 1672.

St. Mary's Aldermary church, on the east side of Bow Lane, was rebuilt by private benefaction—before the public fund was settled by parliament on coals, for rebuilding the churches destroyed by fire.

St. Mary Magdalen's, Old Fish Street church, on the north side of Little Knightrider Street, was rebuilt in 1685.

St. Mary, Somerset church, on the north side of Thames Street, was rebuilt in 1695.

St. Mary-le-bow, situated on the south side of Cheapside, was rebuilt, and finished in 1683, upon the wall of a very ancient church in the early time of the Roman colony, which, by the rising of the ground in succeeding ages, was entirely buried under the present level of the street. The principal ornament of this church is the steeple, erected at a little distance from the north-west angle. It is founded on an old Roman causeway lying about eighteen feet below the level of the street, and is accounted an admirable piece of architecture.

St. Mary's, Woolnoth church, on the north side of Lombard Street, was repaired in 1677—the sides, the roof, and part of the end having been damaged by the great fire; it was, however, afterwards substantially rebuilt by Br. Hawksmoor, who was for many years fellow Craft to D.G.M. Wren, and was afterwards employed under him in many public works.

St. Mary, Aldermanbury church, near the middle of Aldermanbury, was rebuilt in 1677.

St. Matthew, Friday Street church, on the next side of Friday Street, near Cheapside, was rebuilt in 1685.

St. Michael, Basinghall or Bassishaw church, on the west side of Basinghall Street, was rebuilt, and finished in 1679.

St. Michael, Royal church, on the east side of College Hill, was rebuilt in 1694.

St. Michael, Queenhithe church, in Little Trinity Lane, Thames Street, was rebuilt in 1677.

St. Michael, Wood Street church, on the west side of Great Wood Street, was rebuilt in 1675.

St. Michael, Crooked Lane church, on the east side of St. Michael's Lane, was rebuilt in 1688.

St. Michael, Cornhill church, on the south side of Cornhill, was rebuilt in 1672.

St. Mildred, Bread Street church, on the east side of Bread Street, was rebuilt in 1683.

St. Mildred, Poultry church, on the north side of the Poultry, was rebuilt in 1676.

St. Nicholas, Cole Abbey church, on the south side of Old Fish Street, was rebuilt in 1677.

St. Olaves, Jewry church, on the west side of the Old Jewry, was rebuilt in 1673.

St. Peter's church, in Cornhill, was rebuilt in 1681.

St. Sepulchre's church, on the north side of Snow Hill, being partly demolished by the great fire, was rebuilt, 1670.

St. Stephen's, Coleman Street, was rebuilt, in 1676.

St. Stephen's, Walbrook church, behind the Mansion House, was rebuilt in 1676, it is greatly admired for its interior beauties. Walbrook church though little known among us, is famous all over Europe, and is justly reputed the masterpiece of Sir Christopher Wren. Every beauty that the plan can admit of is here to be found in the greatest perfection. And foreigners may justly censure our bad taste in allowing such a masterpiece of art to be buried among the surrounding houses.

St. Swithin's church, on the north side of Cannon Street, enclosing in its south wall the ancient London stone, was rebuilt in 1679.

St. Vedast, Foster Lane church, on the east side of Foster Lane, was rebuilt in 1679.

During the carrying on of these works, King Charles II. founded the Chelsea Hospital as a retreat for disabled and aged soldiers; and Sir William Bruce, bart., Grand Master of Scotland, was ordered by the king to rebuild his palace at Holyrood House, at Edinburgh, in the best Augustan style—and the Scottish secretary's office at Whitehall. The Grand Master Bruce also built a pretty seat at Kinross, so that fellow Crafts were never better employed than in this reign.

Many fine structures were built in different parts of the country, the most worthy of notice are, Wing House, Bedfordshire; Chevening in Kent; Ambusbury in Wiltshire; Hotham House and Stainburgh, Yorkshire; palace of Hamilton in Clydesdale; Stirling House, near the Castle; Drumlanrig in Nithisdale, and many more. Many Lodges were constituted throughout the Kingdom under the authority of several Grand Masters.

George Villars, Duke of Buckingham, an old mason, succeeded Rivers,

but all business was left to the able superintendence of the D.G.M. Wren, and his Wardens.

By an inscription in the old church of St Dunstan's, Fleet Street, it appears, that Matthew Marshal, Esq., was Master Mason of England: probably under the protectorate, and that King Charles II. also appointed his son, Joshua Marshal, Esq., Master Mason, at the time when the rebuilding of the City of London required increased numbers of Master Masons as well as Fellow Crafts.

Henry Bennet, Earl of Arlington, succeeded Villars as Grand Master, and during his Mastership the fraternity was considerable, and numbers of gentlemen were admitted among the brethren; but unfortunately, owing to the destruction of the Society at the revolution, and many valuable manuscripts from a fear of making improper discoveries, which took place at a more recent date, a great part of the records of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge in this and the preceding reign were lost.

James II. ascended to the throne on the death of his brother, on the 6th of February, 1685, and not being a brother Mason, and also greatly opposed to the liberal principles which the Order tends to inculcate, the art was much neglected during this reign. The only record we have, is, that after the death of the Earl of Arlington, the Lodges elected Sir Christopher Wren, Grand Master, who appointed Br. Gabriel Cibber and Br. Edward Strong, Grand Wardens. These, with the leading members of the order regularly met to maintain the ancient usages and promulgate the genuine principles of the Fraternity.

(*To be continued.*)

THE CHANCES OF LIFE,

By Bro. Lloyd, P.M., (No. 8,) Limerick.

Air,—"Balance a Straw."

Should the changes of life e'er compel me to roam,
In a Lodge of Freemasons I'll sure find a home;
There the kind smile of Friendship shall welcome each guest,
And brotherly love give that welcome a zest.

There that soul-binding union only is known,
That links the poor peasant to the King on his throne,
There the rich and the poor on a level will meet,
And, as brothers, each other most cordially greet.

When I'm absent from Lodge, pleasure courts me in vain,
As I sigh for the moments of meeting again;
For Friendship and harmony only are there,
Where we meet on the Level, and part on the Square.

On the quicksands of Life should a Brother be thrown,
'Tis then that the kindness of Masons is shown.
As the heart prompts the hand his distress to remove,
For our motto is Friendship and Brotherly Love.

When the Master of All from his star-studded Throne,
His Great Mandate shall issue to summon us home,
May each Brother be found to be duly prepared,
In the Grand Lodge Above to receive his reward.

MASONIC REMINISCENCES.

By Φωτοφιλος, P.M., L. 50, Dublin.

(*Continued from* p. 422.)

Chapter VI.—Phil is sent to College—His Failure—Sufferings of a spoiled Pet—College Jokes—Hints to over-indulgent Parents.

We shall pass over the heart-wearing trials of the unfortunate tutor, conscientiously endeavouring to hammer a little knowledge into Phil's impenetrable skull, despite the perpetual interruptions of parental protests against her darling's being over worked; a most unnecessary request, as that young gentleman seemed incurably afflicted with *bibliophobia:* the sight of a glass of water could not produce more nervous excitement in one afflicted with canine madness, than a glance at Horace or Homer would in Phil.

We often felt and feel still, deep sympathy with that most useful and important class, private tutors, (called *grinders* at T. C. D., and known under the title of *coaches*, at Cambridge) gentlemen frequently of great moral worth, and high literary attainments) whose honest endeavours, not only to infuse useful knowledge into their pupils, but to fit them for the duties and high purposes of life, are so often thwarted by the interference of weak and over weening parents.

If those parents could but foresee, and reflect upon the mischiefs and hindrances through life, they thus inflict upon the victims of their misplaced, and mistaken indulgence, they would restrain this feeling, of perhaps what we should be justified in calling, selfish fondness, more within the limits of reason, and common sense. We should then have fewer instances of fine natural abilities run to waste, or perverted, and the Phil Simpson class would become extinct indeed.

Phils' tutor did all he could under his difficult circumstances, and wrote to the Colonel to say his nephew was as fit, as he thought he ever would be, for his entrance examination. The Colonel lost no time in posting to Simpson Hall, luxuriating in the hope of finding his nephew ground to a point, and in short, *factus ad unguem* for the intellectual ordeal he was about to undergo; but alas! poor Phil was never destined to be "a tree in the grove of the Academy."

After settling a few necessary preliminaries, Phil took his departure, receiving a maudlin tear from his father, and a caution against Botany Bay, and leaving his poor mother nearly broken hearted, and almost suffocated with wild convulsive sobs; and with his uncle for *cicerone* was soon making rapid way towards the metropolis.

Phil had no buoyant feeling that "the world was all before him," he was very little affected by the aspirations of hope, or the tremblings of fear, beyond the wish for a speedy return, and the horror of books and tutors; he had no yearnings of that youthful ambition which generally absorbs the bitterness of a first parting from the home of our childhood,

and can enable us to allow even a mother's tears to fall lightly, in the sunny visions, and rainbow hues in which our young fancy clothes the glorious world upon which we are about to enter.

He was consigned in due form to the protection of a College tutor by his uncle, who promised to call after the examinations, and encouragingly told him if he made a creditable entrance that he should have a first rate hunter for the next season.

On examination day, Phil breakfasted, as is usual on such occasions, at his tutor's rooms, where he met a number of others, of the most varied size, age, and colour, who with merry faces and throbbing hearts were prepared for the same trial as himself. They thence proceeded to the great hall, and having taken their places, the great inquisition commenced.

Up to this, our hero maintained a degree of dreamy self-possession, but the sight of the books brought a sudden change o'er the spirit of his dream, the pictures of the illustrious *litterateurs* along the walls became at once rather indistinctly visible, they appeared to assume very hideous forms, and to look upon him with the most malignant scowls, cold perspiration bedewed him all over, and when the book was passed into his hands, it might as well have been Sanscrit for all poor Phil knew, he gazed at it with a strange and vacant look, "*vox faucibus hesit,*" he stuck fast, and could not utter a word; it passed on to the next without the smallest recognition from Phil, nor the acknowledgment of the most distant acquaintanceship, each successive book passed away in the same manner, and Phil never felt a "joy so sweet" as when the doors were thrown open, and he found himself borne along with the noisy crowd into the open *square.*

It would be an interesting speculation to watch the expression of those young faces as they emerged from that old hall, to mark the different phases of grief and gladness, of joy, and hope, and disappointment which lighted up, or clouded the countenance of each, as he rushed towards some friend, or father to announce the glad tidings of his success, or passing moodily away, and wishing for the moment to be like one "the world forgetting, and by the world forgot;" poor Phil in the bitterness of shame and despair wended his way slowly and sadly to the rooms of a distant relative whose acquaintance he had made through a note from his uncle.

This cousin (known as Jolly Jack) was rather a fast young gentleman, now in his senior freshman's year, and pretty well up to every thing; he laughed at our poor hero's grief, and told him he ought to rejoice at another year's freedom from the trammels of College rules, "but" he added archly, "as you seem to take it to heart so dolefully, and if you think you won't *stick* to-morrow again, you can get over the misfortunes of to-day by shaming sudden illness." "But I wasn't ill, only dreadfully confused" said Phil. "Oh! I know, a sort of book fever, but it must have a name, so if you're determined, to go in, you can tell Dr.—when you go to breakfast in the morning, that on such occasions you frequently become '*flummoxed in the guzman*' and he'll set it all right."

Phil never heard of such a disease, "No I dare say not, you'll hear and see many things here you never dreamed of before, I would'nt swear myself that there is such a disease, but having heard that Pat Scmers's mare died

of it, the thought struck me that if horses can be afflicted with it, *asses* might." "Certainly" said the innocent and unsuspecting Phil, but won't Dr.—know." "No, he never allows an idea of common sense, or of common subjects to enter his head, he knows nothing but mathematics, and his head is so stuffed with triangles, and curves, and polygons, and powers, that there is scarcely room for any useful idea to enter there, and if an *acute* notion should happen to stray into that lumber room, his scull, it would be sure to come out so *obtuse* as to be unintelligible."

"But, cousin, you're a fine stout fellow just eighteen, and have seen nothing of the town as yet, what say you to a peep at it this evening; it will brighten you up a bit, and as you don't seem to relish musty old books, we'll see what you can do in the fighting and drinking line." Phil looked shocked and alarmed. "O, my dear fellow, I only joke, I mean a mere lark, I hope that old curmudgeon, your uncle, is not in the way, by the by, how are you off in the way of tin?"—Phil stared,—"I mean have you got any money?" "Oh! yes, my uncle gave me a ten pound note for pocket money, and mamma gave me a purse which she hoped I should not require, and which I am not to open till all my other money shall be spent."

"All right, there is a strong probability that we'll investigate its contents in the course of the evening; as for me the *governor* and I are not on the best terms in the world, and he keeps me so tight-reined in the cash department, that you might generally dance a *fandango* through my pockets without running the risk of tripping against the minutest of Her Majesty's pictures.

"Now then go and doff your cap and gown, and with it that lachrymose face, polish yourself up a little, and be back as soon as you can, I shall be ready, we shall dine in town, and see what's to be done in the evening. You can leave that ten pound note on the table, we shall want small change, *and it is not considerate to put persons, to whom you should happen to owe a small balance, to the trouble of making returns of surplusses.* I shall therefore go to the great chemical establishment over the way, (once the proud senate house* of the nation whose echoes were so often awakened by the immortal genius of Grattan) and have it put through the analytic process, they are powerful alchemists there—they can change dirty paper into gold."

Phil placed the note on the table, merely remarking that mamma requested he should be able to give a precise account of the manner in which he disposed of his money, and added, "Shall I inform her that you kindly consented to be my banker." Jack's face of puzzled comicality was a beautiful illustration of the absurdity of his becoming any body's banker, "No, no, you must not say that; let me see, you can tell her that you expended your extra money on lessons in *gastronomy*, and *gymnastics*, two branches of polite learning not included in the *curriculum*, but without some knowledge of which a young gentleman's education would be rather imperfect."

Phil, though somewhat perplexed, thought it must be all quite right, and

* The Bank of Ireland.

proceeded to make his toilet, and cousin Jack to invite a few kindred spirits to dine with him at Hayes's, whence, after doing ample justice to the good things provided for them, they emerged about ten o'clock to take the rounds of the town, for the edification of cousin Phil.

Chapter VII.—Phil's first Night on Town—Is lodged in the Watchhouse—Returns to Simpson Hall.

It may not, however, be very edifying to our readers to accompany those young gentlemen in their evening's rambles, to the experienced it would be unnecessary, and though the inexperienced may not in this case, consider ignorance bliss, yet as it may tend to folly, "to be wise," we shall pass over the scenes at the various haunts of vice, or amusement, which it was deemed necessary to visit for the breaking in, and instruction of the tyro, and follow that young gentleman to the watchhouse, where we find him with considerably damaged habiliments, and a full-grown unmistakeable black eye.

Phil awoke with an aching head, and penitential stomach, perturbed visions of mutton kidneys, whiskey punch, egg flip, and watchmen's rattles, flashing indistinctly and painfully through his foggy, and bewildered brain.

The night constables, in those places, were at that time generally wags in their way, and the experienced eye of the one on duty saw at a glance the *verdant* state of the prisoner, and saluted him, "Well, young gentleman, not being acquainted with yer phismahogany, I suspect this is the first night you spent in this hotel, I hope you found the feathers soft, and pleasant."

Phil looked dolefully at the hard boards, and felt his sore hip, and shoulder with a shudder, then timidly inquired where he was, how he came there, and why?

"O, my honey, this is a sort of chapel-of-ease to Old Trinity, and when Hawkins, the porter, is hard of hearing, or any other small circumstance occurs to keep young gentlemen at the wrong side of the gates, we accommodate them with a lodging here, free gratis for nothing, and as to the little accident that gave me the pleasure of your acquaintance, it was just trying your hand a little in the surgical line before you're qualified, blood letting, and tooth drawing don't agree, at three o'clock in the morning with unwilling people that ain't sick.

"There's another chap caged, I suppose one of your friends, for insisting on *sawthering* a queue to the Lord Mayor's wig, a very unnecessary offer of his services, as his lordship himself is extensive in the tin-ware line.

"There's one of our men, poor Dooley, who preserved his only two front tusks (to say the truth they were by no means ornamental) through all the scrimmages these thirty years, had them both knocked down his throat, and he swears he can distinctly feel one of 'em sticking between two of his ribs, I think altogether if ye get off with transportation to *Botany Bay*, ye may bless yer stars, and thank the mercy of the alderman."

Phil, recollecting his father's caution against Botany Bay, burst into

tears, entreating to be sent any where rather than there, as it was near killing his respected parent.

"Am I to understand, my young '*covey*,' that your father was n Botany Bay?"

"O yes," blubbered Phil, "for several years."

"Tunther and turf," shouted the constable, have I been all this time palavering with the son of a returned convict: Hollo, there, Dooley, where did you pick up this chap? we must see how he came by this watch, chain, and purse—judging from them thought he could be nothing less than a *fellow-commoner*."

After some explanation and a long cross-examination of Phil, the constable added to his stock of local knowledge by discovering, much to his amusement, that there was "Abotany Bay" nearer than the antipodes, and after dividing the contents of the purse between himself and Dooley, poor Phil was ushered into court before the sitting magistrate, Alder—n F———g, who discharged him in consideration of its being his first offence, with a little wholesome advice.

How vividly does our mind's eye, through the long vista of years, rest upon the form of that portly and dignified functionary, with his paragon of a wig, whose colour,—

> "To shame might bring
> The blackness of the raven's wing."

And whose spotless neckcloth might in whiteness vie with Alpine snows, he felt a conscientious sympathy with the foibles of hot blood, and boyhood; in the wisdom of his ripened years he forgot not the weaknesses of youth, he was the pink of Justices, blessings on him, many a time *he let us down easy!*

No antiquated gentleman of the feline kind ever made his way more cautiously, or stealthily to the "trysting place" on the tiles, than did our hero as he stole slyly through unfrequented places to "cousin Jack's" rooms in college, where he found several of his companions of the previous evening imbibing brandy, and soda water, as merry, and as mischevious as ever. Phil's eye attracted universal notice and attention, and they at once decided to make it the instrument of a practical joke, despite the protests of one or two good natured dissentients.

At this period there dwelt in the neighbourhood of Grafton Street, a grim looking ogress, "bearded like the pard," whose temper was as ferocious as her rude masculine appearance indicated; in her shop window was exhibited a placard intimating that "Bofonging and Goofering were done there." This placard became an intense puzzle to the young idlers who strolled about that locality, and who never passed without stopping to have a laugh at it, to the great chagrin and mortification of the tigress within. Etymologists were looked into, and divers consultations held as to what it could mean, or what was the lady's calling. Some supposed her to be an illegitimate medical practitioner, and that it had reference to mystic nostrums; others contended that it was meant to convey the notion that she told fortunes, and sold abracadabras,—while mesmeric

and galvanic operations, occurred to the minds of others. None, however, thought of consulting his washerwoman, who perhaps could have enlightened his bewildered understanding on the point.

Hitherto, the scowls of the ever watchful she-dragon at any of the male kind that happened for a moment to loiter at her window front, deterred from a personal investigation of the secret: at last, one bolder and more curious than the rest, resolved, at any cost, to unravel the mystery. And having plucked up his courage, and assuming as serious a face as he could, entered the shop, and in the mildest terms possible asked, "Whether the operation of 'Bofonging and Goofreeing' would *hurt much*, as if not, he should like to try it, not feeling very well, and requesting to be informed what time it would take, and how much it would cost?"

The hirsute amazon, recognizing in the person of the applicant one of her chief tormentors, immediately seized a bonnet block which happened to be near, and discharging it with might and main at his head, sent him stunned and staggering into the middle of the street, where he left a full length impression of his figure in the mud, and had the narrowest possible escape from the drag of Br. Rd. P———m who happened to be driving by at the moment, and whose well known adroitness as a whip, alone preserved the unfortunate victim of curiosity from being crushed beneath the wheels.

To this gentle being was poor Phil recommended to apply for her infallible cure for a black eye, and after full instructions, and due drilling as to what he was to say, and do, he proceeded full of hopeful gladness at the thought of being at once freed from the disgraceful mark which gave him so much uneasiness.

The "whereabouts" having been pointed out by a few of the cruel wags, who remained at a little distance to watch the issue, Phil entered the shop, and with "broad grin simplicity," addressed the bearded dame:—"Mam, I'd feel obliged if you'd be so good as to Bofong or Goofer my eye, whichever will cure it quickest, as I am anxious to get rid of the mark before I meet my uncle; and please let me know how much it will cost?" Bursting with rage, she shouted with stentorian voice, "Ask the d——l, yer grandfather, ye young robber!" and at the same time dashed in his face, and all over his clothes, the contents of a vessel filled with the filthy *residuum* of several dyeing operations.

Agonized with terror and amazement, he rushed into the street, nearly suffocated, and as black as a nigger, sputtering forth the poisonous fluid, and pursued by the ogress who belaboured him with his own hat, which he had laid down, that she might the more carefully examine his eye; fear is a capital spur, it gave such additional fleetness to Phil's heels, as to place him very soon out of her reach, and as you sometimes see a rabid dog vent his rage on some harmless inanimate object, the moment she found Phil out of her clutches, she commenced a sort of war dance on the hat, until it was reduced to such a shapeless mass, as would defy the recognition of the maker.

The by-standers were in ecstacy. Phil's companions now rushed from

their hiding places, and began to symbolize all sorts of impertinences,—one red-headed fellow thrust his thumb into his ear, as if winding up some machinery in his head which caused an unseemly protrusion of the tongue, another affected to turn his leg into a mock rifle, and was deliberately covering her with the point of his toe, others played the most grotesque antics with the tips of the thumbs to their noses—and some, we blush to add, invited her attention to parts where there were no noses; all sorts of grinders, and hurdy-gurdies were imitated, until it became a scene of general roaring, screaming, fun. There, however, stood the fierce tigress at bay, with distended nostril, and fiery eye, ready for a spring upon any unfortunate, who should unwarily venture near enough, but taught wisdom by experience, they kept a safe, if not a civil distance.

The crowd now increasing, she deemed it time to retreat, but was first resolved to convey to all around, some strong expression of her supreme and indignant contempt, and lifting her dress, so as to give her huge leg full scope and freedom, she let fly a sweeping kick at all creation, more particularly meant, however, for the ruffians of T.C., which she charitably hoped to see one day in ruins, and all its inmates hanged. In performing this feat, she made *a pirouette* on her left pedestal, which brought her "right about face" to her shop, into which she darted, slamming the door with such a bang, as to send several panes of glass to shivers.

The measure of unfortunate Phil's misery seemed now full to overflowing, for he had not proceeded many yards before he met the Colonel, who found some difficulty in recognising his nephew, in the hatless, forlorn, and ridiculous object before him. All was soon explained, Phil entreated, with gushing tears, to be sent home, and his uncle, seeing that he was likely to follow in the footsteps of his father, and become the victim of reckless wags, and a standing butt for practical jokes, made up his mind to gratify him: so, Phil returned to Simpson Hall, a melancholy instance of *home spun* simplicity, and of the evil effects of parental indulgence.

And Phil was as welcome to his home, and to that "home of homes," a fond mother's heart, as if he had returned laden down with the fairest fruits of the tree of knowledge, filled with all the wisdom of the past, and crowned with the bays of a world-wide fame.

Strange, mysterious, inscrutable, yet how surpassingly beautiful, is that providence of maternal love, which concentrates her strongest and most abiding affections on the feeble, the deformed, perhaps the most worthless of her offspring; loving for its very helplessness the little delicate tendril which "cannot flourish alone," but which is fondly, closely, turned round every chord of her affections, nestles in her heart of hearts—and often, as the climbing parasite, round some fair tree, will absorb its health, and nourishment, and in its fond, but fatal embrace, sow the seed of that canker, that will one day leave it a leafless and withered trunk—even so, the unrepining mother, doting, as it were, upon ruin, bestows all the tenderest feelings, stirred from the very depths of her heart, upon that little puling, pale, and sickly thing, imperceptibly planting within her

weary, and delicate frame, the seeds of that disease, soon alas! to consign her to an early grave, the victim of that truthful fondness, and self-sacrificing devotion, which sometimes marks woman's love for man, but always a mother's for her child.

(To be continued.

A MASONIC SONG.

(FROM THE LIMERICK CHRONICLE).

Air,—"Bannockburn."

Peace and love illumined earth,
Which became one hous ehold hearth,
When from Wisdom thouhad'st birth,
Glorious Masonry!

Harmonies of Heavenly things,
Stars that gleam like thrones of kings,
Skies in hue like angels' wings,
Are but types of thee.

All that's wondrous, fair, and bright,
Seen by raptured fancy's light,
Round thy templed-arch unite
With dazzling brilliancy.

Mystic word, that makes us one—
Mystic breath our souls upon—
Mystic sign of Solomon,
Have their birth in thee.

All thy noble brotherhood
Must be brave, as well as good,
Pure in heart and rich in blood,
Gallant, frank, and free!

Fearless, tho' the thunder-cloud
Gather round them like a shroud;
Only of their virtues proud,
And Masonry's degree!

Hiram's sons in name and deed,
Secret as the golden seed
Ere from earth and darkness freed,
Or Eden's living tree.

In my soul the secret lies,
Veiled from all but Mason's eyes,
Like a spirit in the skies,
Or jewel in the sea.

Shakespeare's glory like a flame,
Blent with Burns' undying fame,
Pours a splendour on the name
So dear to Heaven and me!

When the shroud of Death is cast
O'er the world and us at last,
Still thy truth no shock shall blast—
Not even Eternity!

W. B. K., (a Mason's son).

BROTHERLY LOVE.

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

(*Continued from p.* 431.)

"I heard that he was married, but that he was steeped in poverty. I recollected his grey hairs when I saw him last, that told me what he had then endured, and I fancied his features pinched with privation. Then I remembered the kindness I had experienced from him when his position was superior in the social scale. I recollected the christian sentiments he uttered, the mildness and benevolence of his character and the endeavours he had made, without any proselytising spirit, to make me endure the hardships of my lot by pointing my soul upwards, and raising my thoughts from the contemplations of the beauty of nature, to the hand which had created that nature. With him I never gazed upon a flower, or inhaled its perfume, without his directing my thoughts to Him who had created it, and stored this earth with such gems to delight its inhabitants.

"I grew almost frenzied as I dwelt on the past. At last I discovered his final retreat, but only a few days subsequent to his decease, and I ascertained that he had been hurried to his grave by the privations he had endured. But you are weeping, Ida."

"I cannot restrain my tears, for what you relate is so similar to the circumstances of my poor father that it calls him before me vividly." "I can understand the sympathy you have felt in his fate."

"And do you not already hate me? Can you look on me without horror? said the maniac, crumbling the manuscript in his hands.

"My father would not," she replied, "he would have taught me to pray for you, and to rejoice in the change in your feelings."

"And if he knew that since the hour of my friend's death I am the thing I am, with no hope of peace on earth and not daring to raise my thoughts to heaven, what would he have counselled you?"

"To pray for you more earnestly, to tell you that he whom you injured as a christian minister, would forgive you and to desire you to invoke the intercession of your Saviour."

"And if he, the wretch I have described myself, was the murderer of your father, and besought you, his daughter, as I now do, on my knees, to pardon him, not to turn from him with loathing, to forget his crime and only regard his sufferings and his penitence, would you act thus?"

"Even so, for thus he taught me, thus he enjoined me."

"Then behold him at your feet, for I am the murderer of your father."

Ida rose pale and trembling, and in a low but firm voice said,

"The words I have uttered I will not, I cannot recall, though I shudder in your presence. Rise, sir, and I shall tell you what my martyred father desired me to say should I ever meet you. 'Tell him,' he said, 'that in all the persecutions I endured at his hands, I remembered I was a Christian, and a minister of the living God, and that I never ceased to

pray to that God for his conversion and forgiveness. That I endeavoured to remember him without bitterness, and only as in our earlier relation, young friends, with brotherly love throbbing in our hearts. That I sought to associate him with those moments when he came to me hungry and toil-worn, and I relieved him to the extent of my ability, endeavoured to make him endure his privations by pointing to the example of his Saviour. That I told him there was a world above where pure and enduring happiness was secured. That I prayed for him during life, and that in my dying hour, if reason remained, I would pray for him then. And he did so, for your name and your wife's, mingled with his last appeal to heaven."

The maniac rose slowly to his feet, and said: "I thank you, Ida. You have restored the hope that had been almost quenched. If human lips could utter these sentiments, then I may look forward to forgiveness from above. Leave me now, child, my burning brain and bursting heart must unburthen themselves unseen." He took her hand and pressed it to his lips. She then descended from the mount with mingled feelings of abhorrence and pity for the wretched maniac.

When Ida reached home, she would have gladly sought the privacy of her own chamber in order to compose her thoughts, which were confused by the narrative she had just heard. This she was prevented doing by her mother who informed her that a gentleman was waiting in the parlour to see her. Though in no mood of mirth to receive visitors, she went immediately to the parlour, and there found the young clergyman, Jeune-grace; she received him with as much cordiality as she could.

He told her of the death of Monsieur Lefebre and the melancholy circumstances under which it took place. He subsequently related what he had heard relative to Simon Le Trouve with which he was acquainted through the letter of Lefebre.

Ida was rejoiced to hear the latter intelligence, and prayed inwardly that Simon's altered circumstances might effect a change in his character. He told her also that Lefebre had bequeathed him a legacy out of his property, and at this point he became rather embarrassed.

This last piece of information greatly pleased Mrs. St. Clair, who, from a conversation that had taken place between her and her visitor previous to Ida's return, strongly suspected that he had a penchant for her daughter. She was ready to offer up a prayer to heaven for the unexpected event, for she was one of those characters who are particularly devout in prosperity, she also possessed a sanguine temperament and was fond of that dialectical amusements which is called "jumping at conclusions," she thought that something must have occurred between the young clergyman and her daughter, which gave him encouragement to travel so far after her with no ostensible object but to resume their acquaintance and probably to offer her marriage. She felt rather vexed that she had not given some encouragement to Simon, but she could not accuse herself on the whole of any grave error in that matter, for though she perceived that Ida was really attached to him, there was sufficient in what had taken place at her last interview with him to induce her to believe that he was only actuated by mercenary

motives on paying his addresses to Ida. Indeed, she congratulated herself on her fancied sagacity in the matter for now that Simon was elevated to a position far superior to that of her daughter, it was most unlikely that he would renew his suit, assuming that he was not disinterestedly attached to her.

And Mrs. St. Claire was a type of the world in its general constitution composed of selfish and grovelling considerations, and looking through only its own narrow lense into human nature, she succeeded in prevailing on her guest to remain for the evening trusting that an opportunity would offer of forwarding her views with reference to a marriage between him and Ida, which in her imagination would be a *fait accompli.*

Ida was exhausted by what had taken place during the day and retired early to rest, so that Mrs. St. Claire was left alone with her visitor, and resolved to prosecute according to her own tactics, the matrimonial alliance between the young clergyman and her daughter.

She soon elicited sufficient from his remarks to satisfy her that he was really enamoured of her daughter. Having paid mentally a meed of praise to her sagacity in having detected this at first, she proceeded to express her maternal anxiety respecting Ida, with a view of extracting something explicit from the young clergyman. Her remarks up to this point were similar to those which she expressed in her interview with Simon, and need not be repeated. However, she had profited by experience, and abstained from alluding to her precarious source of support. Her guest listened to her with evident interest and she grew more communicative. She was, however, puzzled how to act with reference to one point, that was as regarded Simon. She thought that Jeunegrace might have heard something about Ida's attachment to Simon and might be deterred from seeking in marriage one whose affections were previously engaged. Then she calculated the probabilities of his knowng anything about the matter, and the indiscretion of alluding to what might arouse his suspicions. However, she was determined as to what course she should adopt, by her guest's saying that, he believed Simon Le Trouve was a native of the town.

He wants to extract it from me, she said to herself. I had better be candid.

In pursuance of this resolution she rushed in *medias res* and expressed her regret that he had ever been an inmate of her house. She then entered into a circumstantial narrative of Simon's first introduction through the amiable weakness of her husband, who pittied him for his deformity; she stated that Ida, who participated in her father's feelings and who was associated with him from childhood, took compassion on him, when she found that he was deserted by his playmates, not only from his unprepossessing exterior, but from his violent and uncontrollable temper which rendered him an unfit associate for any human being.

She thought she might as well stop at this point, to see if her guest would make any observation that would suggest a clue to his feelings, or indicate how far it would be prudent for her to continue; but as he remained silent she thought she might as well proceed in vilifying the object of her conversation, for she considered that by representing Simon

in the worst light, that she might induce the young clergyman to regard Ida's attachment in the manner in which she viewed it, an infatuation, and as a *sequitur*, that he might be induced to hope that he might overcome it, and supplant in its place a rational and laudable affection. She related many incidents to shew that Simon's revelations of character were most unamiable, and stated from her own personal knowledge that he was a monster.

In this strong designation the good lady was borne away by her feelings, arising from what had occurred at her last interview with Simon. The young clergyman, who was accustomed to speak of his fellow-beings in Christian and gentlemanly terms, was rather startled, but he made no observation, and she proceeded to state that Simon had grossly insulted Ida, and that he had some months back attempted the murder of an inoffensive and weak witted townsman, without receiving the slightest provocation. Her volubility being now in full operation she exceeded the limits she originally assigned to herself, and related incidents that clearly revealed to the young clergyman that her aversion to Simon Le Trouve arose from her conviction that he had won her daughter's affections.

How bitter is the knowledge that we have a rival to contend with in the object of our affections and that he is the favoured one! We leave our youthful readers of both sexes to imagine what poor Jeunegrace suffered at this discovery. It is sufficient to state that he retired to bed very soon and that his sleep was troubled with very disagreeable dreams.

The next day he took an opportunity which the good lady judiciously afforded of speaking to Ida alone. He told her that he loved her before she had left the Chateau Madelaine but that not being in a pecuniary position to enable him to support a wife in respectability, that he had abstained from declaring his passion. Now, however, he was placed in a state of comparative affluence and the first use he made of the knowledge of his altered circumstances, was to determine to offer her his hand and heart. He stated that he considered there was a congeniality of sentiments between them, that they were both more religious than worldly, and that there were rational grounds for presuming their union would be one of happiness.

Some of our readers may suppose that Ida returned a very peculiar reply to this offer, considering that she was what the world would designate a puritan, though free from all moroseness. But she did nothing of the sort. Her answer was the same that any other young lady would have given under her circumstances. It was to the effect that she felt grateful for his offer, but that she could never regard him in any other light than a friend.

Into what a gulf of temporary misery has this traditional and stereotyped reply precipitated many a poor fellow of almost every age and grade in society. It has laid many a young heart low, and strewn its brightest hopes to the winds. But let not our young readers, should it be their lot to suffer in this way, abandon themselves to despair. We think we lavish all the treasures of our affections at the shrine where we first kneel, but love has many an altar were its votaries may renew their worship.

The young clergyman clearly perceived that the affections of Ida were

engaged, and from what had taken place the previous evening between him and Mrs. St. Claire, he had little doubt as to who was the object.

Ida gave the conversation a different direction, and reminded him of the desire he had formerly expressed of visiting the maniac. Anxious for solitude, he told her he would see him, and having received directions that would enable him to reach his abode, he departed.

The door had scarcely closed after him than Mrs. St. Claire entered the room, and by her manner and remark clearly indicated that she wished to be made acquainted with the nature and result of the interview between her and the clergyman. But she was doomed to disappointment. Ida knew the character of her mother, with all its original weakness and the worldliness that was engrafted on it by circumstances, and was always reserved towards her in matters where her duty was not concerned. This induced her to conceal the revelation of the maniac, for she was satisfied that if Mrs. St. Claire knew that he was the persecutor of her husband, she would do all in her power to prevent Ida's future interviews with him. To desert the unfortunate being who had unfolded his history to her was repugnant to her Christian sentiments and her natural feelings, though the latter tempted her to recoil from him with horror. But she regarded him not in his sin but in his sorrow, and the past offence was forgotten in the present suffering. She determined not to relax in her usual attentions and endeavours to console him.

In the mean time, Jeunegrace proceeded towards the Mount, and when he came in sight of the hut, he perceived the figure of a man on his knees and his head resting on the fragment of a rock beside the door. Considering that the attitude was that of prayer, he stopped, and continued for some minutes regarding him in silence. As the figure uttered no sound and made no gesture he approached nearer, apprehending that the man might be seized with a fit. He took his hand, it was cold and rigid. He raised his head, and discovered that the features were those of a corpse. From his attire Jeunegrace knew at once that it was the maniac of the Mount.

Having laid the corpse on the ground, he was about to retire, when he perceived a young man rushing up the pathway. He accosted the stranger, who heeded him not, but stood gazing wildly on the corpse. At last he knelt by its side, and taking the lifeless hand, he burst into a flood of tears. "And is it thus we meet," he at length exclaimed. "Is this the happiness I promised myself at our re-union. Am I to forego the pleasure of consoling you in your affliction, ministering to your wants, assisting your return to reason, hearing from your lips a blessing? Oh, God, how inscrutable are Thy ways! To think that for years, I, who deemed myself an outcast from the world with not a human being of my kindred to love, should have this poor afflicted parent respiring the same atmosphere. My suffering father, what tortures of mind you must have endured, and not a human being to care for you, to comfort you, to visit your abode. And in your madness you still remembered and provided for your child."

Here he pressed his lips to the stony brow of the deceased.

"I beg your pardon, sir," he said, perceiving Jeunegrace, "but you have heard sufficient to account for this burst of feeling."

"Which does you honour, sir," said the young clergyman, "and believe me, I can sympathise in your affliction."

"You know not what I have lost, in this poor parent. The world has trampled on me, and throughout life I had not a solitary being to care for me. It was only a few days since that I discovered all the circumstances of my parentage, and that this suffering father, whose reason was returning, wished to fling himself in my arms, and beseech me not to desert him. Here, then, was what I yearned for through my bleak existence, some of my own flesh and blood to love, I hastened here to clasp his hand, to ask his blessing, and —"

"I am a clergyman," said Jeunegrace, "and my profession makes me acquainted with misery in its many forms, but I never knew yet an instance where the Divine Being was appealed to in a contrite spirit, and with resignation to His will, that He did not send consolation. In this instance I can see His wisdom and mercy, for though your father might have been restored to reason, still his wasted form proves that his life would have been one of physical suffering. Then, say with me, my friend, God's will be done."

"God's will be done," repeated the young man fervently. "I know of nothing in life besides this event that could cause me a pang, but I will not murmur. And perhaps it is all for the better. I knew not my fellow man till recently, except in his worst attributes, and my past life has been one of hatred towards my species at large. Honor and wealth have come suddenly upon me and I will devote myself to ministering to the comforts of my fellow beings without being fettered by closer ties of relationship than those of common brotherhood. I have recently joined that ancient fraternity, the Masonic body, and my own experience confirms the value of those principles which they wish to extend. I have found that Brotherly Love is its own reward."

"I, too, am a Freemason, and consider the system on which Freemasonry is established admirably calculated to promote those sentiments of universal fraternity which religion inculcates. I have found it in many instances an efficient handmaid in preparing the mind for the reception and conservation of a practical spirit of charity. And it stands with reason that it must be so, considering the constitution of humanity which requires some bond of union to give effect to, and strengthen its better nature. But can I render you any assistance? I have friends in the neighbourhood." "No," said the young man, "I have brought my servants here. They are remaining at an inn in the town, but on second consideration I will avail myself of your offer, so far as requesting you to send some of them here, and to make the neccessary arrangements for the performance of the last sad rites."

Jeunegrace promised compliance, and the two young men whose acquaintance commenced under such sad circumstances, shook hands feeling mutually interested in each other.

Great was the suprise of Mrs. St. Claire and Ida when they heard what had occurred, and both were grieved, for they were indebted to him for his benevolence in the trying moment of sickness. Ida easily conjectured that

the immediate cause of the maniac's death was produced by the agitation resulting from the interview of the preceding day, and she was gratified to think that the last words she addressed were those of consolation and forgiveness. Mrs. St. Claire, whose curiosity respecting the young man was roused, wearied her brain and her hearers with her suppositions as to who he could be, or what could be the history of him and the deceased, as she had too little in the account of Jeunegrace to satisfy her. That the unfortunate deceased had been a man of wealth and rank was evident from what the young man had stated, as well as that the latter had only heard recently of his parentage. It was a mysterious and romantic affair. Having exhausted her own conjectures she resolved to avail herself of those of her neighbours, and accordingly left Ida and Jeunegrace alone in order to carry out her intention.

When her mother had departed, Ida told the young clergyman all that the deceased had related the preceding day, and her reasons for concealing it from Mrs. St. Claire. He approved highly of her descretion and was enthusiastic in his praises of her humane and Christian conduct towards the unfortunate man whose sufferings had expiated his offence, and to whom no benevolent mind could entertain resentment.

CHAPTER XIII.—Varieties.

Mrs. St. Claire was not the only person with whom the new-comer and the death of the maniac were subjects of speculation. On the contary, the whole town was on the *qui vive* relative to the stranger, who, from his retinue was evidently a person of wealth, and the most absurd rumours prevailed as to what had taken place on the Mount, a knowledge of which had filtered out by some unknown process. The most popular version of the affair was, that the maniac was really a homicide and had been traced out by the son of the man whom he had killed, who murdered him.

Amongst those who seemed fully satisfied with this narrative was André Buffon, with whom indeed it originated. This worthy had been permitted to retire from the army, as he stated, in consequence of his wounds, but in reality from his cowardice, and the general incapacity for military service which he displayed. However, he had been engaged in a *bonâ fide* battle and had received wounds, so that he returned to his native-place with some éclat which he did not fail to improve by marvellous accounts of the prodigies of valour which he performed and of the sanguinary scenes in which he had been an actor. Indeed André possessed the faculty of prolificacy of fiction in a considerable degree. If there is truth in what has been asserted, namely, that one of the first requisites of genius is invention, André was a person of no small intellect. He resolved to turn what had taken place on the Mount to his own purposes of vanity, and on the evening when Mrs. St. Claire left her house for the purpose we have stated, he was relating an incident to a number of his townsmen, who had assembled in the market-place. This was, in effect, that, having resolved to visit the scene of the recent tragedy, he had armed himself, and went in the direction of the Mount, which he had

almost ascended, when he encountered the figure of a man answering the description of the supposed murderer, with a most ferocious aspect, who, seeing that he was armed immediately fled. He added, that he followed him for some time, but, that from the effect of his wounds he was unable to continue the pursuit, or he would have captured him dead or alive.

This statement elicited expressions of approbation from the auditory, and tended to confirm the report current. Another person joined the crowd, and contributed an additional piece of information, for he had ascertained that the stranger who had arrived in the town the preceding evening, and who appeared very desirous of concealing his features, was the very person on whom the suspicion of murder rested. Just at the junction that André was counselling the assembly to go *en masse* to the Mount and search in every direction for the murderer, Mrs. St. Clair made her appearance.

As it was understood that the narrative had emanated from her house, she was immediately surrounded by the eager and anxious crowd, and importuned to give a full account of the whole affair. This she did, and rather to the disappointment of her hearers, who did not relish the tale so well stripped of its extravagance and horror, and André slunk away rather crest-fallen.

When it was known that Mrs. St. Claire was in the Market-place, a number of persons flocked thither to gather from her lips a detailed account of what had taken place. She was good natured and garrulous, and therefore she complied until she was completely exhausted, and returned home without having accomplished her object. Though shorn of its most attractive features, there was much in the narrative to invest it with great interest, which was heightened by its being ascertained that the party who had been labouring under the imputation of murder was a man of rank, or a member of a noble family, from the crest on his carriage and on the livery of his servants. Unfortunately, however, no information could be extracted from the latter as to the name or title of their master.

Jeunegrace frequently visited the stranger, who had taken up his abode at the hut on the Mount, and they conversed together freely, though the latter never made any allusion to his personal affairs. He appeared to take an interest in Mrs. St. Claire and Ida, and from what the young clergyman said, he clearly perceived the state of his affections.

The day appointed for the funeral arrived, and several of the good people of the town assembled in the church which had been the scene of Simon's humiliation. They were attracted by curiosity to witness the ceremony, and if possible to catch a view of the stranger. There were some amongst them who were drawn to the place by different feelings, for they had been recipients of the deceased's charity, and when they were attacked by a contagious disease and were deserted by their kindred and friends, were attended by him. There was many a fervent "Amen" uttered during the service, and some genuine tears were shed as the remains of the eccentric but benevolent being were lowered to their final earthly resting-place.

The spot where the Maniac was interred gave rise to strange surmises for it was in a vault under the mural monument already mentioned, and in which poor St. Claire and a lady of rank were buried. The tablet bore the following inscription :—"Sacred to the memory of these who loved in life and rest together in death." It appeared that the vault had been placed at the disposal of Mrs. St. Claire shortly after the death of her husband, under certain conditions relative to the interment of the unknown donor in the same tomb. The widow, who had only buried her husband a few days previously in an humble cemetery assigned to paupers, actuated by an amiable weakness had his remains removed to the vault which contained one coffin, with the remains of Agnes on the plate, and having rich armorial bearings, indicating that the deceased was a lady of rank. The circumstance of the Maniac being buried in the tomb with her husband created no small surprise in Mrs. St. Claire's mind, but she was compelled to admit that it was above her comprehension. If some of those writers who have given the world tomes on misty metaphysical and religious points had arrived at the same conclusion, what a vast saving of baseless theory, perverted ingenuity, and futile controversy, would have been effected.

If Mrs. St. Claire had felt any ordinary desire to speculate on this or any other subject at the time, she would not have been able to have done so, for sorrow and threatened penury had visited her abode. She had received an account, that her nephew, Alfred Beaufrere had been severely wounded, and that his life was in imminent danger. He was the only child of a deceased sister to whom she was much attached, and had brought him up until his twelfth year, so that she loved him with almost as much affection as if he had been her own son. She was also proud of his beauty, amiability and talents. Ida regarded him as a brother, and was deeply distressed at the intelligence, which was confirmed by a letter from him, the contents of which placed his character in a stronger light than ever. He said that he knew he could not recover, and that he would endeavour to gratify his only wish, and that was to breathe his last in her arms. He told her, that he was in love with her, but that aware of the feelings of mutual affection subsisting between her and Simon, he had abstained from giving any indication of his passion, which only the conviction of approaching dissolution induced him to disclose. He added that he had endeavoured to atone for any annoyance he had occasioned Simon, for that it was in saving him he had received his death wound.

A month had elapsed beyond the time that Mrs. St. Claire should have received her quarterly allowance, and the gloomiest apprehensions seized her mind. She imagined that her secret benefactor had either discontinued his remittances, or was dead, and had made no provision for a continuation of his pension. All the horrors of destitution stared her in the face, and it was only from the religious counsel and consolation of Jeunegrace and Ida that she could view with resignation the calamity with which she was threatened. The former having ascertained the cause of her anxiety took an early opportunity, and in the most delicate manner, of offering to secure her and her daughter a provision out of his own means in the event

of her fears being realised. Mrs. St. Claire communicated the offer of Jeunegrace to Ida. From that moment there was a visible alteration in the manner of the latter. She was never vivacious, but her expression became unusually serious and pensive. It was evident that she was enduring mental anxiety, and Jeunegrace detected her frequently in tears.

The time for his departure arrived, and when he announced this to Ida, she requested him to favour her with a few minutes' conversation the next morning. He of course complied. She thanked him for his generous offer, and stated, that if he still retained the sentiments he had expressed to her a few days previously, she would accept his offer of marriage, though she candidly confessed that she could not give him that love which she considered was requisite between man and wife. He was as astonished as delighted at this declaration. He expressed his gratitude in strong terms; and said that notwithstanding the absence of that affection on her part, which he deplored, he should think himself blessed in being united to one whom he loved and respected, and whose religious sentiments were so strictly in unison with his own. He drew a glowing picture of the serene and happy life he should pass in her society. He next stated that he was desirous of communicating, for her own sake, what he had heard relative to Simon, to whom he was aware she was attached, but who still retained his malevolent disposition. He then related some anecdotes respecting Simon's conduct in the profession which he had adopted, to show that his unamiable trait of character had undergone no alteration.

(*To be concluded in our next.*)

THE LIGHT DIVINE.

Let there be light! Th' Almighty spoke!
Refulgent streams from chaos broke,
T' illume the rising earth!
Well pleas'd the great Jehovah stood,
The Pow'r supreme pronounced it good,
And gave the Planets birth!
In choral numbers Masons join,
To bless and praise the Light divine!

Parent of Light! accept our praise!
Who shed'st on us thy brightest rays,
The light that fills our mind!
By choice selected, lo! we stand,
By friendship join'd, a social band!
That love that aids mankind!
In choral numbers, &c.

The widow's tear, the orphan's cry,
All wants our ready hands supply,
As far as pow'r is given!
The naked clothe, the pris'ner free,
These are thy works, sweet charity!
Reveal'd to us from heaven!
In chorus numbers, &c. [*Chorus twice.*

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

THE GIRLS' SCHOOL.

THE usual quarterly court of the Governors of the Girls' School, was held on the 12th ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern, under the presidency of Br. Patten, P.G.S.B. There were also present Brs. Benjamin Bond Cabbell, M.P., Barratt, Barnes, Symonds, Bohn, Adlard, etc., etc., etc.

It appeared from the minutes of the several sittings of the House Committee, that the dress of the children had been in some measure modified, by the substitution of boots for shoes; that the directors of the Panoptican, Leicester Square, had invited the pupils to pay a visit to that scientific institution, but that they had been unable to avail themselves of the kindness; that the sum of 162*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* had been set apart as the nucleus of a Sustentation Fund for keeping the building in repairs; that one week, it was resolved to remove the badge from the sleeves of the children's dresses, —and that, on the next meeting, at the instance of Br. Barratt, seconded by Br. Barnes, it was continued. These minutes were unanimously confirmed.

It appeared from the statement of the accounts, that there was in hands a balance of 1138*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, and that the quarter's bills amounted to 478*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.*, and the committee recommended that the treasurer should invest 300*l.* in the three per cent. consols, thereby making the funded property of the institution amount to 4500*l.* The treasurer reported that he had received 162*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, being the aggregate of five half-years' dividends on three per cent. stock, and that he lodged it at Williams and Deacon's, as a building fund. This report was unanimously adopted.

The Secretary, Br. Crew, stated, that at the election, to be held in October next, there would be five vacancies, and that as there were only five candidates, the expense of sending out polling papers would be saved to the institution. Such of the children as were in waiting, were then introduced, and received from the chairman the notification, that their election would be unopposed.

Br. Symonds gave notice that, at the next quarterly court, he should move, that the badge be removed from the arms of the children, and that their dress be generally modernised.

Br. Nichols, the collector to the school, was granted two months' leave of absence to proceed to the south of France for the benefit of his health, and the proceedings were closed, with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.

AT the time of the death of our late lamented M.W.G.M. H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex, whose services to the cause of Freemasonry can never be forgotten, about £1400 was subscribed in order to raise a memorial of the estimation in which it was held. This sum it was agreed to present to the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Lane, to raise a new wing, to be called the "Sussex Wing," so soon as the friends of the Institution should make up a sufficient sum to enable them to carry out the design. This has just been accomplished, and accordingly, on Monday last, July 30, the foundation stone of the new wing of the Hospital was laid with Masonic honors by Br. Dobie, G.R., who acted as G.M. in the absence of the Earl of Zetland, in consequence of the serious illness of the Countess.

Grand Lodge was opened in the Welsh School Room, Gray's Inn Lane, at two o'clock, after which a procession was formed in the following order:—

Police Officers.
Military Band of Music.

Two Tylers.
Grand Pursuivant.
Grand Steward. The Banner of the Grand Lodge. Grand Steward.
The Wardens, Past Masters, and Masters of the several Lodges, according to Rank, Juniors walking first.
Officers of Grand Steward's Lodge.
The Architect with the Plans.
A Cornucopia, with Corn, borne by the Master of a Lodge.
Grand Steward. { Two Ewers, with Wine and Oil, borne by Masters of Lodges. } Grand Steward.
Grand Organist.
G. Director of Ceremonies. Assistant G. Director of Ceremonies.
Past Grand Sword Bearers.
Past Grand Deacons.
Grand Secretaay, bearing the Plate with the Inscription for the Foundation Stone.
Grand Treasurer, bearing a Phial, containing the Coin to be deposited in the Stone.
Past Grand Chaplains.
Grand Steward. { Grand Chaplain, bearing the Sacred Law on a Cushion. } Grand Steward.
Past Grand Wardens.
Past Provincial Grand Masters.
Provincial Grand Masters.
Past Deputy-Grand Masters.
The Corinthian Light, borne by the Master of a Lodge.
The Column of J.G.W., borne by the Master of a Lodge.
Br. H. W. Eaton, Junior Grand Warden, with Plumb Rule.
The Doric Light, borne by the Master of a Lodge.
The Column of S.G.W., borne by the Master of a Lodge.
Br. F. Dundas, Senior Grand Warden, with Level.
Br. Tonkins, Junior Grand Deacon.
Br. Rev. Dr. Bowles, as Deputy Grand-Master, with the Square.
A Past Grand Warden, with the Mall used by Grand Master Sir Christopher Wren, in laying the Foundation Stone of St. Paul's Cathedral.
The Ionic Light, borne by the Master of a Lodge.
Br. C. W. Elkington, Grand Sword Bearer.
Grand Steward. { Br. DOBIE, G. Reg., acting for the Most Worshipful Grand Master. } Grand Steward.
Br. H. Lloyd, Senior Grand Deacon.
Two Grand Stewards.
Grand Tyler.
The Committee of the Hospital, with wands, by ranks of four.
The President and Vice-Presidents of the Institution.
The Building Committee.
Officers of the Hospital.
Subscribers of the Institution, by ranks of four.
Police Officers.

The procession then proceeded to the spot at which the foundation stone was to be laid; on arriving at which the brethren divided to the right and left, and faced inwards, forming an avenue for the M.W.G.M., Br. Dobie to pass through, preceded by the Grand Sword Bearer, and followed by the Ionic Light, the Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Officers. The Vice-Presidents of the Hospital, the Committee, and the Members of the Building Committee, who were provided with places on the Platform.

The upper Stone being raised, and the lower one adjusted, the Grand Secretary read the following inscription engraven on the Brass Plate:—

As

A Memorial

In most strict conformity with the
whole tenor of the Life of His late
Royal Highness

PRINCE AUGUSTUS FREDERICK, DUKE OF SUSSEX,

and therefore the most fitting to secure and
perpetuate the memory of his many
virtues, this Foundation Stone of the

"SUSSEX WING,"

to the ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, was laid in
ample Masonic form on the 30th day of July, 1855,
and in the Eighteenth year of the Reign of
Her Most Gracious Majesty QUEEN VICTORIA, by
The Right Hon. the EARL OF ZETLAND,
Grand Master of the Fraternity of Freemasons of England,
Assisted by
The Sussex Memorial Committee and
The Governors of the Royal Free Hospital.

Architect: Mr. CHARLES INNES.

Builders: Messrs. CARTER & ELLIS.

The Grand Treasurer then deposited a Phial containing the Coins; and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Hospital deposited a History of the Hospital and a Copy of the Laws of the Institution beneath the Stone. After which the Grand Secretary placed the plate on the Lower Stone. The Cement was next placed on the upper face of the Bottom Stone, and the Grand Master adjusted the same with a very elegant Trowel, and the Upper Stone was lowered slowly, whilst the Band played "*Rule Britannia.*"

The Grand Master next proved the just position and form of the Stone by the Plumb, Level, and Square, delivered to him by the Deputy-Grand Master. Being satisfied in these particulars, he gave the Stone three knocks with the Mall, belonging to the Lodge of Antiquity, and which it will be recollected, were recently explained to have been presented to that Lodge by Br. Christopher Wren, it having been used by His Majesty Charles II. in laying the foundation-stone of St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Cornucopia, belonging to the Grand Lodge, and which are very magnificent, containing the corn, and the ewers, with the wine and oil, as emblems of plenty, joy and rejoicing, were next handed to the Grand Master, who strewed the corn and poured the wine and oil over the stone, with the accustomed ceremonies.

The Grand Chaplain having offered up an appropriate prayer to the Great Architect of the Universe, the acting G.M. inspected the plan of the intended building, and delivered it to the architect, together with the several tools used in proving the position of the stone, desiring him to proceed, without loss of time, to the completion of the work.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the band performed the national anthem of "God save the Queen," and the brethren returned in procession to the Welsh School, when Grand Lodge was finally closed.

There were a large number of ladies present during the ceremony.

In the evening a large party of the brethren and friends of the institution sat down to a very elegant dinner which was served with a degree of taste and liberality which reflects the highest credit on the new proprietors, Messrs. Elkington & Co.—but the late period of the month at which it took place, necessarily compels us to postpone our report of the speeches until our next number.

LONDON LODGES.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—An emergency lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 17th July, under the able presidency of Mr. Burton, W.M., when three brethren were passed to the second degree. The brethren, to the number of about 20, afterwards repaired to Br. Parry's, Willesden-green, where a very elegant dinner was served, and an afternoon spent of most unalloyed enjoyment.

WESTMINSTER AND KEYSTONE LODGE (No. 10).—A meeting of the brethren of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 4th July, when Brs. Chapman, Lord, North, and Elers, were severally passed to the second degree.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—This distinguished Lodge held its summer meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, July 4th. The W.M., Br. Humphreys, in his usual excellent style, passed two brethren to the second degree, and initiated one gentleman into the mysteries of Masonry. The Lodge was then called off, and the brethren sat down to partake of a sumptuous banquet, which did great credit to the present proprietors. The W.M., in proposing the health of the Queen, said that it was a toast at all times dear to Englishmen, but more especially at the present; that she possessed public and domestic virtues, and more especially that truly Masonic virtue—charity, in a prominent degree, every Mason was aware. He then, after the usual Masonic toasts, proposed the health of Br. Haines, the newly initiated brother, coupling it with that of Br. Millar, assuring them that the Lodge felt the greatest pleasure in adding to the number of those who partook in the beauties of the Order; and that, apart from the knowledge of the several degrees which they might go through, they would find a constant accession of pleasure the longer they belonged to it. Br. Haines, in return, said that though his experience of the Order, of necessity, was but small, he had yet seen enough to create a high opinion of the Craft, and lead him to do all in his power to become a worthy member. Br. Miller one of the brethren passed on this occasion, and it being the first opportunity he had had of attending one of their banquets, also returned thanks, and expressed his conviction that from what he had experienced, a good Mason must, of necessity, be a good man, and assured the brethren that he would endeavour, by every means in his power, to carry out the principles he had heard so beautifully inculcated. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Visitors, Brs. Thistleton, Lodge of Antiquity, Winsdale, Lodge of Unity, and Warrington, Polish Lodge, expressed the great pleasure he felt in being honoured by the visit of a member of such a highly distinguished Lodge, and more particularly one so well known and respected in the Order as Br. Thistleton With regard to the two other brethren, although he had not the pleasure of their acquaintance, their being introduced by Br. Berringer was alone sufficient to cause a desire for closer friendship. Br. Thistleton expressed, in return, that he felt it an honour for any brother to visit the Globe Lodge, which he had known for nearly thirty-three years, and in which he had spent many happy hours; and he more particularly felt great pleasure in again meeting Br. Fenn, on whom he was glad to find time had laid his hand but very lightly; and, in conclusion, thanked the Lodge for the hospitality shewn at all times to its visitors, and trusted that he should, for many years, meet the brethren in Masonry. Br. Watson, during the temporary absence of Br. Hewlett, proposed the health of the W.M. Br. Humphreys, thanking him for the great ability he displayed in the management of the Lodge, not only in the performance of the ceremonies but throughout all its details. The W.M., after a suitable reply, proposed the health of the Past Masters, thanking them severally for the great services they had rendered the Lodge: and more particularly expressed the great pleasure he felt in investing Br. Hewlett with a Past Master's jewel, as a small mark of the respect in which he was held by the Lodge. The health of the absent members was then proposed, one of which had lately gone to the Crimea, and two to Australia, and also several residing in Persia and the East Indies, wishing them a happy return to this country should they desire it. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Officers, and thanked them for their able support and the clever manner in which they discharged their respective duties. The Lodge was then closed, after spending the evening in the greatest harmony, which was enlivened by some excellent singing.

PHŒNIX LODGE (No. 202).—The brethren held a Lodge of Emergency at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Saturday, the 14th, when Br. Harrison, the W.M., ably raised Br. Morris to the third degree. The other business, owing to the non-attendance of the brethren, was merely formal.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held on the 3rd of July, at Br. Ireland's, Fetter-lane, the W.M., Br. Thos. Alex. Adams, presiding, when Messrs. Davis and Hunt were initiated into Freemasonry; Clark passed, and Br. Haydon raised to their respective degrees. At the conclusion of the business the brethren proceeded to the Roebuck Inn, Lewisham, where they partook of a very elegant banquet, and passed the evening in the greatest harmony.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—The annual summer recreation dinner of this Lodge, was held on Friday, July 20th, at Br. Bailey's, Railway Hotel, Kingston. Br. Spooner, W.M. presiding. The visiting brethren were Br. J. Levinson, 7; and Br. W. H. Young, 399. The dinner was of the most recherché description, and the evening was spent in the interchange of those kindly feelings so peculiarly belonging to the brotherhood of the mystic art.

ZETLAND LODGE (No. 752.)—The annual meeting of this excellent Lodge was held at Br. Cooper's, the Adam and Eve Tavern, Kensington, on Wednesday, the 11th, when Br. Heywood was installed into the chair, as W.M. for the ensuing twelve months, by Br. Schofield, the immediate P.M., in the presence of a board of thirteen installed Masters. The ceremony, which was performed in a very excellent manner, having concluded, Br. Heywood, as W.M., proceeded as follows:—Br. Hurst, S.W.; Br. Cooper, J.W.; Br. Wise, S.D.; Br. Simpson, J.D.; Br. Walter, I.G. At the close of the business, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant collation, most elegantly served by Br. Cooper. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been drunk, Br. Schofield proposed the health of the W.M., and congratulated the brethren upon the choice they had made in selecting such a Master. He had no hesitation in saying that every Lodge to which Br. Heywood belonged, had found in him an anxious supporter of the various charities appertaining to Freemasonry; therefore, did he say, it was a matter of congratalation in having Br. Heywood to preside over them. The toast having been most cordially responded to, the W.M. acknowledged the compliment, and assured the brethren that when he entered Freemasonry he did not do so merely for the opportunity of wearing the badge of the Order—honourable as that badge was to any man—but with the full determination of endeavouring to do his best to promote those great principles on which the Order was founded, and the general interests of the Craft. He felt that at the present time he was far behind many of his predecessors in the chair, in Masonic knowledge; but what man had done, man might do again; and he hoped, at the end of the year, to deserve the compliment which the brethren had been pleased to pay him. In conclusion, he begged to thank the numerous visitors for the honour they had conferred upon him by their presence, and to assure them that he should always be flattered and honoured by their attendance whenever convenient. Br. Wm. Watson very neatly returned thanks for the visitors, and a variety of appropriate toasts having been drunk, the brethren separated at a somewhat advanced hour. Amongst the visitors we observed Brs. Rackstraw, Wm. Watson, Warren, Hewlett, Odell, Gurton, Adams, Temple, Kennedy, Crawley, Tiley, &c. The harmony of the evening was much enhanced by the beautiful playing of Br. Julian Adams on the concertina and pianoforte, and the vocal exertions of Br. Taylor, and his sister, Miss Marian Taylor.

LODGE OF UNITED PILGRIMS (No. 745).—At the last meeting of this lodge, Br. Farmer, the W.M., very ably raised two brothers, and passed one. At the conclusion of business, the brethren supped together to the number of 15

LA TOLERANCE LODGE (No. 784).—A meeting of this excellent lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 3rd of July, when Br. Boura, in the absence of the W.M. Br. Caplin, who was unavoidably absent, passed a Br. to the second degree.

BEADON LODGE (No. 902.)—At the last meeting of this Lodge, on June 18, at the Star and Garter, Kew, Br. Watson, W.M., presiding, a brother was raised to the third degree, Br. Tylee elected W. M. for the ensuing year, and Br. Cooper Treasurer.

INSTRUCTION.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—On the 26th instant, the anniversary of this flourishing Lodge of Instruction was celebrated at the Talbot, Little Chester-street, Belgravia, by a strong muster of its numbers, and a numerous attendance of visitors. The business of the evening consisted in working the first lecture, which was most efficiently done by Brs. Simpson, Farmer, Adams, Allen, Collard, Levinson, and Thomas: the lodge being ably presided over by Br. Blackburn. Many joining members having been elected, and other business of a formal nature transacted, the lodge was closed, and the brethren sat down to a repast, which, for its style and profusion, we have seldom seen surpassed on similar occasions. Br. Heywood, W.M. (752), and member of the Parent Lodge, presided at the banquet, in his usual excellent manner, and we noticed among the brethren, who supported him on this occasion (and who exceeded 40 in number), Brs. Adams (196), Allan (276), Bywater (19), Orelli, Aznavour, &c. &c. The customary loyal toasts having been proposed and responded to, the W.M. proposed the P.M.'s, Br. Rackstraw returning thanks; next the W.M.'s, which was responded to by Brs. Adams, Queely, and Farmer. The W.M., in proposing the toast of the evening, "Success to the Globe Lodge of Instruction," eloquently alluded to the success which had finally crowned the strenuous efforts of some of its members, particularly Brs. Collard and Levinson, who never seemed to be tired of doing all they could for the prosperity of the Lodge. Br. Levinson, secretary, replied, thanking the brethren for their kind support. The evident increase of members since he had the honour of joining the Lodge, the urbanity and good fellowship which generally prevailed in the Lodge, led him to hope that the celebration of each successive anniversary would continue to progress, establish and cement such brotherly feeling, as to carry out real Masonic principles. Other toasts followed, and the brethren finally departed, highly delighted with the festivities of the evening, and the excellent arrangements of Br. Goodyer, the worthy host. We must not omit to mind the craft that this Lodge of Instruction meets all the year round, and thus affords an excellent opportunity of obtaining instruction when other Lodges are closed for the summer vacation.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, HAMPSTEAD (No. 196).—On the evening of the 18th ult., the brethren of this Lodge celebrated the anniversary festival at the Holly Bush, Hampstead; on which occasion, the three lectures were worked in sections, unnder the able rule of the Founder of the Lodge, Br. Thomas A. Adams, W.M. (No. 206). The banquet, which followed the dispatch of Masonic business, was of the choicest description, and reflected the highest credit on the caterer, Br. Thomas. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been disposed of, Br. H.G. Warren, P.M., (202) in an appropriate speech, proposed the health of Br. Adams,—as one loved and valued by every member of the Craft who had the happiness of being acquainted with him, not only on account of his great Masonic knowledge and his willingness to sacrifice his time and convenience in order to impart that knowledge to others, but also for his promptitude in listening to the necessities of his brethren,—and his indefatigability in promoting their welfare, not only by his purse, but by every other means in his power. The truth of these observations was so apparent, that they were loudly seconded by the acclamation company. Br. Adams in responding to the toast, after thanking the company for the honour which they had conferred on him, paid a high compliment to the Masonic qualities of Br. Warren. At a later period of the evening, the W.M. proposed the prosperity of the Masonic press, and in doing so, strongly urged the brethren to give every support in their power to the *Masonic Mirror*, which presented them with a record of the proceedings of the various Lodges and Chapters—and the position of their charities such as had never before been placed in the power of Freemasons to obtain. Br. Warren returned thanks, and pledged himself that so long as he had the honor to conduct the *Mirror*, and he received the support of the brethren, without whose co-operation it was impossible to render it at all perfect, he would do all in his power, avoiding all party feeling, to give a faithful abstract of the proceedings of Masonic Lodges, by which their growth and progress might be marked—and to so watch over the proceedings of their cha-

rities, that pointing out all abuses where they might be found to exist, and calling attention to their merits and requirements, they might become, what he regretted to say he did not yet consider the whole of them to be, an honor to the craft of which it was his greatest pride to be a member. The harmony of the evening was greatly enhanced by the masterly performance of Br. Julian Adams on the concertina, and by the vocal exertions of Br. Captain Dillon (641) (Ireland), Br. Crawley, Br. Hazard, and several other brethren.

LODGE OF UNITED PILGRIMS (No. 745).—This Lodge met on Friday, July 6th, 1855, for the purpose of working the Ceremony of Installation, which was very ably performed by Br. J. Thomas, P.M., of the Lodge (No. 745), in the presence of upwards of twenty brethren, Br. C. Ireland as the candidate. The Lodge was then closed in due form, and with solemn prayer—after which, the brethren partook of a banquet, provided by the worthy landlord, Br. C. Foulsham, in his usual hospitable and satisfactory style. After supper, Br. W. H. Luckins, deputed by the brethren, presented Br. J. Thomas with a silver cigar case, as a slight token of gratitude and respect the brethren felt for him, for his readiness and willingness to impart that Masonic knowledge he was so capable of doing, accompanied by the following address, which the secretary, (Br. P. Moss), by the request of the brethren read.

To Br. J. Thomas, P.M., of Lodge No. 745.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—We, the undersigned brethren, members of this, and other Lodges of Instruction, who have so frequently benefited by your kindness and readiness at all times to afford us that instruction which your Masonic knowledge gives you the power of imparting, beg, most fraternally, to return you our sincere thanks, and as a small token of our gratitude, solicit you to accept this silver cigar case, as an earnest of our esteem and respect. We trust you will consider it as such, and we earnestly hope that you may long be spared to render us that Masonic instruction we stand in need of, and when it shall please T.G.A.O.T.U. to call you from this world, may you ascend to those blest mansions from whence all goodness emanates. So mote it be.

(Signed) Brs. T. A. Adams; F. Binckes; W. Berrett; W. Burden; F. Bishop; C. Ellis; — Thornhill; D. R. Farmer; C. Foulsham; H. Garrod; G. Harding; F. Geider; G. Haward; J. Batley; A. Haward; — Jacobs; — Martin; P. Moss; W. Neats; J. Smith; J. T. Warren; J. R. Warren; J. W. Ward; W. H. Luckins; A. M'Intosh; F. Sheriff; — M'Donald; C. Ireland; — Morris.

The evening was spent most harmoniously, and after the usual Masonic Toasts had been drunk, the W. Master proposed the health of the treasurer, (Br. G. Haward), who responded in a neat and appropriate speech. The W.M. then proposed the health of the secretary, commenting upon the efficient manner in which he discharged his duties, and the regularity of his attendance at the Lodge, to which the secretary replied, stating, that if the brethren were satisfied with the way in which he kept the minutes of the Lodge, he was amply repaid by obtaining their good wishes. Some excellent singing enlivened the evening, and the brethren separated at an early hour, highly pleased with the able manner in which the duties of this Lodge of Instruction, are carried out.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

DEVONSHIRE.

LODGE SINCERITY (No. 224).—Met on the first Monday in July, at St. George's Hall, Stonehouse. After the routine business of the evening was disposed of, a letter was read from a member of No. 122, who therein declined giving any reply to their question as to whether he were the author of a communication to the Editor of the *Masonic Mirror*, seeking information concerning the legality of certain jewels worn the 14th May in former Lodge. It was resolved that the whole of the correspond-

ence should be sent to the W.M. of No. 122, hoping thereby to force explanation they so much desire to have (but which, par parenthesis, they did not get). Lodge having been closed in form, the members retired at a reasonable hour.

KENT.

Lodge of Freedom, Gravesend (No. 91).—This flourishing Lodge held its monthly meeting on Monday, July 16th, at Br. Wates's Hotel, when four gentlemen were duly initiated into the Order. After this, the installing of their Worshipful Master, Br. R. Spencer, for the ensuing year, was very ably performed by Br. Moore, who was pleased to appoint his officers as follows:—Br. R. Watson, S.W.; Br. Hills, I.W.; Br. Dobson, Trea.; Br. Brivean, Sec.; Br. Lardner, S.D.; Br. Tulk, I.D.; and Br. Stafford, I.G. There were three gentlemen proposed for initiation on next Lodge evening. All business being ended, the Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren, to the number of thirty-eight, adjourned to a most elegant banquet provided by Br. Wates. In the course of the evening two very handsome P.M.'s jewels were presented to Br. Southgate P.G.S.W. of Kent, and Br. Brivean. After the usual Masonic toasts had been drunk and responded to, the brethren separated at a late hour, very much gratified with the proceedings of the day. The Lodge was honoured by the presence of a number of visiting brethren, among whom were the following Provincial Grand Officers of Kent: Br. Joseph Ashley, P.P.D.G.M.; Br. Charles Isaacs, P.G. Sec., Br. Wm. Saunders, P.G., Trea.; Br. Fielder, P.P.G.R.; and Br. S. Isaacs, P.G.I.W.; also, Br. Windier, W.M., No. 20; Br. Frampton, P.M., No. 166; Br. Merrick, P.M., No. 252; and Br. Garrod, No. 206.

LANCASHIRE—(Eastern Division).

Lodge of Fidelity, Blackburn (No. 336).—Held its ordinary monthly meeting on Friday evening, 29th of June. The usual routine of business having been gone through after due opening of the Lodge, it was considered expedient to postpone the raising of Br. J. Neville Haworth to the sublime degree of M.M. until the following Friday, as a Lodge of Emergency. (This was accordingly done on that evening by Br. E. Collinson, P.M., assisted by Br. G. Whewell, S.W., and Br. J. Yates, I.W.) After which the Lodge was closed with solemn prayer, and the brethren adjourned.

Lodge of Perseverance, Blackburn (No. 432).—This Lodge celebrated its usual monthly gathering on the evening of the 2nd of July, but as very few P.M.'s were present, the intended installation of the W.M. elect, Br. C. Brandman was deferred till next Lodge night, and after the confirmation of the minutes of previous meeting, the brethren adjourned. Br. Rd. Eaves of 336, Sec. and P.M. were present.

Keystone Lodge, Facit (No. 469).—The brethren held their usual monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 4th, at 7 o'clock. The W.M. Br. Shackleton presiding. The Lodge was opened in due form and solemn prayer, on the first degree, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, the Lodge was then opened on the second degree. Br. E. Law was examined previous to being raised, being found duly qualified, he was admitted to the sublime degree of a M.M. The ceremony was performed by the W.M. in first rate style. At the conclusion of the Masonic business, the Lodge was closed in due form and solemn prayer at 10 o'clock. The Brethren adjourned to refreshment, spent a pleasant evening, and retired early.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge took place in the Town Hall, Bury, on Wednesday, the 25th July. The proceedings of the day were highly interesting. After the transaction of business connected with the order, a procession was formed, and wended its way through the leading thoroughfares, and resting at the Parish Church, where, after full cathedral service, an impressive sermon was delivered to the assembled brethren by the Rev. Mr. Nicholson, of St. Philips' Salford, the Provincial Grand Chaplain. A collection was made on behalf of the Bury Dispensary, and the Ladies' Charity.

The procession was re-formed, and about 250 brethren, decorated in their various insignia, made their way to the Bury Athenæum, where a Grand Lodge banquet was prepared, Stephen Blair, Esq., V.W.D.P.G.M.E.L. presiding, in the absence of the Earl of Ellesmere, R.W.P.G.M.E.L. Loyal, patriotic, and Masonic toasts and some excellent glee singing, combined to make the evening a most agreeable one.

WEST LANCASHIRE.

MARINER'S LODGE, LIVERPOOL.—On Thursday, the 27th June last, this Lodge held its annual installation of officers in the Lodge Room, Haseck's Buildings, Duke-street. The attendance was both numerous and highly respectable Br. Walmesley, P.M. and P.G. Treasurer, officiated as installing Master, when the following officers were duly invested and took their proper stations in the Lodge. Brs. Peter Maddox, W.M.; Geo. Wilson, S.W.; John Pepper, J.N.; Hugh Williams, S.D., John Dingle, J.D.; Rd. Spuring, Secretary, and Woodward, Treasurer. The brethren afterwards sat down to a sumptuous banquet, when, besides those already mentioned, amongst others we noticed the following brethren:—Caffé, P.M.; Hamer, P.G. Steward, and P.M; H. Edwards, P.M. of 310; and Berry, P.M of the Devonshire Lodge; J. Griffith, P.M. of 701, &c. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and a very pleasant evening was passed. During the proceedings Br. Edwards, P.M., in a complimentary speech, in the name of the Lodge, presented Br. Berry with a purse containing ten sovereigns, to which he announced his intention of adding an additional £10 for the services he had rendered to the Lodge. Br. Berry returned thanks in a very feeling address, assuring the brethren that he should at all times feel great pleasure in affording any assistance in his power to the Lodge, or any of his Masonic brethren. A very efficient choir attended, composed of Brs. Molineux P.G., organist, (who presided at the pianoforte) Holden, Armstrong, and Jones, who, in the course of the evening, sang in most excellent style a variety of glees, &c.

SOUTH WALES.

LOYAL WELSH LODGE, PEMBROKE (No. 525).—The anniversary of St. John, was commemorated on Monday, the 25th ult., by the brethren of the Loyal Welsh Lodge, Victoria Hotel, Pembroke Dock, by their accustomed manner. The Lodge was opened by Br. M'Lean, W.M., at half-past six, and a procession having been marshalled by the P.G.D.C., Br. Thomas, they proceeded to the banquet room at seven, where a truly sumptuous repast awaited them. The W.M. was ably supported by Br. Pratt as S.W., and Br. Bennett as (acting) J.W. The attendance of the brethren was numerous, scarcely one of the members being absent. The zeal and regularity with which this Lodge has been worked since its establishment in A.D. 1824, A.L. 5124, has ensured it such a degree of success that it ranks second to none in the province. The present was one of the most satisfactory gatherings that could have been imagined. Between twenty and thirty of the members sat down to dinner, and with the determination to make each other happy. Nor were they disappointed in this their good intention, for what with toast, song, and speech,—in that harmony, order, and regularity for which Freemasonry is ever conspicuous,—the evening passed, as such meetings ever should, in a manner that the morning's reflections had nothing to regret in the evening's amusements. Of the funds of this Lodge, it is pleasing to learn that there is always "strength to support" a distressed or afflicted brother.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

HARMONIC LODGE, DUDLEY (No. 313).—The brethren of the Mother Lodge of Worcestershire met on Tuesday, the 3rd July; Br. Bristow, W.M., in the chair, who initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry, Mr. Joseph Hartill, Miller, Oldbury. The visitors were Br. Gwynne, W.M., No. 435, Tipton; Br. Bristow, and Br. Hassall, No. 824, Stourbridge, and Br. Wood.

LODGE OF STABILITY, STOURBRIDGE (No. 824).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting at the Talbot Hotel, on Tuesday, the 26th June. Br. Bristow,

W.M. of the Harmonic Lodge, No. 313, Dudley, took the chair, in the absence of Br. Wheeler the W.M., and raised Br. Little to the sublime degree of M.M. There was a goodly assemblage of visitors both at Lodge and banquet. The Masonic kindness of Br. Brooks, the worthy and respected host, and his great solicitude at all times for the comfort and convenience of visitors is proverbial. The visitors on this occasion included Br. Bristow, W.M., No. 313, Dudley; Br. Renaud, W.M., No. 730, Dudley; Rev. Br. Gwynne, W.M., No. 435, Tipton; Masefield, P.M., No 313; Dennison, P.M., No. 313; Howells, S.W., No. 435; Waring, S.D., No. 435; Davies, J. D., No. 435; Rev. Br. Herbert, No. 313.

YORKSHIRE.

SHEFFIELD.—On Tuesday, the 10th July, the first or foundation stone of a new chapel, to be called the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, was laid in Hanover-street, Sheffield, by Dr. Wood, of that town, the W.M. of the Britannia Lodge, No. 162, a dispensation for that purpose having been had from the D.P.G. of the province. The brethren assembled in a room in the Music-Hall soon after ten, and a little before twelve, preceded by a band of music, and by the clergyman and members of the congregation, walked in procession to the site of the intended building, where several hundreds of persons were in waiting to witness the imposing ceremony. The various insignia and the cups, containing corn, wine, and oil, were carried by the various officers and Past Masters, and on the stone being laid in due form, the corn, wine, and oil were poured upon it by the W.M. who then briefly addressed the company assembled. He was followed by the Rev. J. Brealy, pastor of the congregation, who spoke at length, and expressed the thanks of himself and friends to the members of the Masonic body for coming forward and laying the stone "according to ancient Masonic usage." After singing a hymn, the procession was re-formed as before, under the guidance of Br. Bailes, who acted as director of the ceremonies, and returned in the same order. During the proceedings a glass bottle containing several documents was placed under the stone; and a handsome silver trowel was presented to the W.M. as a gift from the members of the church. The brethren of the Lodge dined together in the afternoon, at the Angel Hotel, where a very excellent dinner was provided by Br. Wilkinson, the W.M. presiding, and Br. Flint, S.W. occupying the vice-chair. Some brethren from Doncaster and other towns were present, and took part in the interesting proceedings.

LODGE OF THREE GRAND PRINCIPLES, DEWSBURY (No. 251).—This flourishing Lodge held its regular meeting on Thursday, the 28th June, when three gentlemen having been found worthy, were initiated into the mysteries of the Order by the W.M. Br. Richard R. Nelson, after which the brethren, to the number of 60, celebrated the Festival of St. John the Evangelist.

LION LODGE, WHITBY (No. 391).—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Monday, July 16th, on which it occasion, Messrs. Marwood and Burn were regularly initiated into Freemasonry. Br. Goring, P.M., of the Robert Burns Lodge, who had been specially engaged by the Lodge for a fortnight to instruct the members in working the fifteen sections in the first, second, and third degrees of Freemasonry, was particularly requested by the W.M. Br. Clarkson to take the chair on the occasion and perform the office of Initiation, to which he kindly consented, to the great satisfaction of all present, and delivered the charge to the candidates in a most impressive manner. It was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously, that a vote of thanks be entered on the minutes to Br. Goring for the great Masonic knowledge he imparted to all the members, and which will never be forgotton by the Lodge; and they most earnestly recommend him to the notice of all Provincial Lodges, whose members wish to make themselves acquainted with those sublime and comprehensive precepts of moral and religious duty, so amply and beautifully illustrated in the Masonic Lectures.

On the following day, Tuesday, 17th, a Chapter of Emergency was held, Companion Goring presiding as M.E.Z., when Br. Falconbridge, who had been previously proposed and balloted for, was duly exalted into the order and the mystical knowledge of the degree, together with the whole of the Pedestal fully explained. Companion

Goring was highly complimented by the companions present for his Masonic knowledge, and a vote of thanks was unanimously voted to him, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

HOLME LODGE, HOLMFIRTH (No. 937).—A warrant of constitution under the seal of the Grand Lodge of England, has just been issued, empowering the brethren to hold a new Masonic Lodge (No. 937), at Holmfirth, to be called "the Holme Valley Lodge." Br. C. S. Floyd is appointed the first W.M.; Br. Joseph Mellor the first S.W.; Br. John Burton the first J.W.

LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF THE COLLEGE OF ST. MARY AND ST. NICHOLAS, LANCING, SHOREHAM.—The ceremony of laying the corner stone of this building was performed on Wednesday, 4th of July, by Sir John Patteson. The town of Shoreham during the morning presented quite a festive appearance. The proceedings commenced with service in St. Mary's Church, New Shoreham, at nine o'clock. After this a large party proceeded to meet the bishop at the station. Another service was performed at half-past eleven, an appropriate sermon being preached by the Rev. Arthur Stanley, Canon of Canterbury, and a collection was made in aid of the funds of the new building. The party then proceeded to the new building. The work is sufficiently advanced to enable the spectator to trace the general outline of the body of the building. It will consist of two extensive quadrangles, east and west, the eastern one open in the centre and communicating with a third quadrangle by a flight of broad steps, flanked by the house of the head master and the hall. Abutting from the hall, and forming the northern side of the third quadrangle, there is to be a chapel. Opposite to it, and in the south east corner of the building, is to be the house of the Provost. The plan is very handsome, particularly that of the chapel. The style is middle pointed. The materials are flint dressed with Caen stone. Sir John Patteson and the bishop were met at the entrance to the front quadrangle by the Provost and Fellows of the College, and the members of the foundation and the choir, in surplices, and conducted in procession along the cloisters of the second quadrangle to the spot where the stone was to be laid, singing the 68th Psalm. The procession was accompanied by several very handsome banners, of a peculiar make, having emblazoned on them the arms of the diocesan, and we presume, the devices of St. John's and St. Nicholas College. The ceremony was of the usual description; and the corner stone was laid by Sir John Patteson in the ordinary manner. At the conclusion of the ceremony, about 400 of the company proceeded to a marquée erected on the grounds, where a luncheon was provided. Amongst the company were the Lord Bishop of Chichester and Mrs. Gilbert, Earl and Countess Delawarr, Lady Mildred Hope, Sir John Patteson, Miss Patteson, Mr. Baron and Lady Alderson, Hon. and Rev. R. Liddell, N. Porter, Esq., M.P., Rev. Canon Pilkington, Rev. Canon Hutchinson, Rev. H. Campion, Mrs. Campion, Hon. Miss West, Rev. U. Richards, Rev. A. Wagner, Rev. W. Wheeler, Rev. E. Tower, Rev. T. W. Perry, Rev. J. Rich, Rev. Mr. Swainson, Rev. Mr. Wratislan, G. H. Byrne, Esq., R. W. Blencowe, Esq., J. D. Chambers, Esq., — Crispin, Esq., H. Verrall, Esq., G. Rawlison, Esq., Rev. A. C. Wilson, Shoreham, Rev. Mr. Mertens, Shoreham, Rev. E. C. Lowe, head master of St. John's, the Rev. Mr. Lomax and the Rev. Mr. Pennell, also of St. John's, Hurst.

ROYAL ARCH.

THE METROPOLIS.

ENOCH CHAPTER (No. 11).—This excellent Chapter met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, July 17th. The M.E.Z. Comp. R. Williams, assisted by his Principals, Officers, and Comp. Friend, who is so much distinguished for his excellent working in Arch Masonry, exalted Br. Spooner, W.M.; German, J.G.; and Br. Hopkins, of the Enoch Lodge, in that able and impressive manner for which

this Chapter is so much distinguished. The Companions then proceeded to elect Officers for the ensuing year, when the following were unanimously chosen:—Comps. Simpson, Z.; Young, H.; Bird, J.; Matthews, E.; Temple, N.; Kennedy, P.S.; R. Williams, Treasurer; Crawley, J. The M.E.Z. congratulated the Companions on the unanimity displayed in the elections; and, in informing the Janitor of his re-election expressed the satisfaction of the Chapter at the able manner in which he had hitherto discharged his duties, and their confidence that he would still continue to support the dignity of the office. The Chapter was then closed, and Companions proceeded to partake of a most sumptuous banquet. In proposing the health of the Queen, coupled with that of the Emperor of the French, the M.E.Z. congratulated himself in presiding over those who were equally loyal with himself, and more especially at the present time, when the nation was engaged in a war, the future effects of which on mankind generally were hardly to be foreseen. And, in proposing the health of the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., and the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M., he expressed his conviction that those noble Brothers were ever ready to render every assistance in the cause of Masonry, and more particularly in the support of its charities. And, as a special toast, proposed the health of Comp. Matthews, P.G.W., of Essex, an old and distinguished member of the Enoch Lodge, wishing him health to enjoy, for many years, the high honour which his eminent services in Masonry so highly deserved. Comp. Matthews, in reply said, that although he had on all occasions done everything in his power in promoting the cause of Masonry, he took no credit to himself, but rather thought that it was his connection with a Lodge so highly distinguished for its reputability and the liberal manner in which it supported the charities that had procured him the high honour of his appointment. The M.E. then proposed the health of the newly exalted Companions; and, in doing so, said that as seeds of the prosperity had been sown in this Chapter, he felt assured that they could not fail of fructifying and growing to their greatest height, while such distinguisbed members of the Lodge came forward to support it. The health of the three Principals was then drunk, with thanks to them for the very able manner in which they discharged the duties of their several offices. The M.E.Z., in proposing the health of the visitors, Comps. Elkington, Shrewsbury and Jones, especially thanked Comps. Elkington and Shrewsbury for their attention and liberality in providing so excellent a banquet—a better than which he could never wish to sit down to. Comp. Shrewsbury, in returning thanks, assured the Companions that it should ever be their study to give them satisfaction; and if at any time there should be any complaint, they would receive it with courtesy, and endeavour to remove the cause. The health of the Past Principals, Comps. Friend and Matthews, was then drunk with considerable warmth, with thanks for their eminent services to the Chapter on all occasions; to which Comp. Friend responded by saying, although he thought that the Past Principals had in all cases endeavoured to do their duty, they had only done that which their position demanded. And, after drinking the health of the Officers, the business of the evening was closed in perfect harmony.

YORKSHIRE.

Chapter of Three Grand Principles, Dewsbury (No. 251).—This Chapter held its regular meeting on Thursday, the 19th July, in the Masonic Hall, under the able presidency of M. E. C. Fearnley, M.D., P.Z.Z., when he installed E. C. Audsley (who had been unavoidably absent on the regular installation night) as second principal, assisted by P.Z.'s Thomas Hemingway and S. Norcliffe. The officers of this admirably worked Chapter for the present year are:—M. E. Comp. G. Fearnley, P.Z.Z.; E. Comps., Wm. Midsley, H.; Thomas Hemingway, P.Z.I. Charles Oldroyd, P.Z.E.; Richard R. Nelson, N.; J. Ohill, P.S.

THE COLONIES.

CANADA WEST.

A Lodge, named after the late Duke of Wellington, has been just instituted at Stratford. Col. W. M. Wilson, of Simcoe, acted as master of the ceremonies, and was assisted by G. W. Powell, a Past Master; also Br. Patterson, W.M. of Ingersoll Lodge, with other brethren, members of the Lodge, were present and assisted in the ceremonies. The stated meetings of the Lodge are to be held on Thursday preceding full moon. The names of the officers installed are as follows:—R. H. Lee, W.M.; J. Woodbury, S.W.; A. B. Orr, J.W.; Peter Woods, Tr.; Edgerton Rierson, Sec.; W. Oliver, S.D.; James Orr, J.D.; J. Brabazon, Tyler.

AMERICA.

CALIFORNIA.

The rapid growth of Masonry in California appears to have been commensurate with the precocious growth of everything else in that El Dorado of our times. Though the birth of the Grand Lodge was as it were but yesterday, it now numbers fifty-seven Lodges under its jurisdiction, one of which is at Chilli, in Valparaiso, and the other at Honolulu, in the Sandwich Islands.—*Mirror and Key Stone.*

COLUMBIA.

At the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, the clothing and jewel of a Past Grand Master were presented to M.W. Br. B. B. French, on his retiring from the Oriental Chair. This, with an appropriate address by the Deputy Grand Master, was a fitting and well-earned tribute to the zeal, ability, and fidelity of one who, for a long series of years, had presided over the Craft of that jurisdiction.—*Mirror and Key Stone.*

MAINE.

The Grand Lodge of this State has just closed its annual communication at Portland, under the presidency of M.W. Br. T. Chase, Grand Master, and appointed the following brethren as Grand Officers for the ensuing year:—Br. John Miller, M.W.G.M.; Jabez True, R.W.D.G.M.; Ezra B. French, R.W.S.G.W.; Wm. Kimball, R.W.J.G.W.; Moses Dodge, R.W.G.T.; Charles B. Smith, R.W.G. Sec. At the close of the Grand Lodge proceedings, the Grand Chapter was opened. The following are its officers for the ensuing year: M. E. C. Abner B. Thompson, G.H.P.; Joseph C. Stevens, D.G.H.P.; Stephen Webber, G. King; Daniel B. Emerson, G. Scribe; Oliver Gerrish, G. Treas; Ira Berry, G. Sec.; S. S. Wing, G.C. Host; Revs. Eaton Shaw, B. C. Manson, Cyrus Cummings, Elihu B. Averill, Urial Balkam, Cyriel Pearl, Gr. Chaplains; Moses Dodge, J. D. Warren, J. J. Bell, and Hiram Chase, G. Stewards; Isaac Davis, G. Sentinel. The Grand Encampment ol Knights Templars followed, and the following Sir Knights were elected for the year ensuing:—J. C. Stevens, G.M.; Freeman Bradford, D.G.M.; John Williams, G.G.; E. A. Chadwick, G.C.G.; Timothy Chase, G.S.W.; Jabez True, G.J,W.; Moses Dodge, G. Sec.; Charles Forbes, G. Treas.; B. F. Mudgett, G. St. Bearer; J. D. Warren, G. Sw. Bearer; J. J. Bell, G. Warden. Appointed—John Burrell, G. Marshal; Isaac Davis, G. Sent. Called off to meet on the fourth Monday in May for installation of officers.

MISSISSIPPI.

The M.W. Grand Master of the State of Mississippi, Br. Carnot Posey, stated at the last annual communication of the Grand Lodge lately held at Vicksburg, that he had during the preceding year granted dispensations for the holding of six new Lodges within his jurisdiction.

NEW YORK.

The Grand Lodge of New York has closed its annual communication. The sessions commenced on Tuesday evening, the 5th ult., and were continued until Saturday noon following. The meeting was largely attended; the representatives of two hundred and sixty Lodges being present. The business transacted was of the most important character, and will, no doubt, conduce to the benefit of the Craft in the jurisdiction. The most perfect harmony and good feeling prevailed among the representatives of the Grand Lodge, which granted warrants for thirty-four new Lodges. The officers are as last year, viz.: M.W.G.M., Joseph D. Evans; R.W.D.G.M., John L. Lewis, Jun.; R.W.S.G.W., Finlay M. King; R.W.J.G.W., James Hyde; R.W.G. Treas., Charles L. Church; R.W.G. Sec., James M. Austin. The Grand Lodge, at this communication, adopted a resolution appointing ten District Deputy Grand Masters throughout the State, and the M.W. Grand Master was pleased to appoint the following brethren:—First District, Samuel C. Nichols; second, John S. Perry; third, Lysander H. Brown; fourth, Ezra S. Barnum; fifth, William Hall; sixth, Charles G. Judd; seventh, Jarvis M. Hatch; eighth, Elicott Evans; ninth, John J. Aiken; tenth, John A. Vanderlipp.

THE HIGH DEGREES.

BRISTOL.

The Annual Festival of the Five Orders of Masonic Knighthood of the "Encampment of Baldwyn," from time immemorial established at Bristol, was held at the Montague Tavern, in this city, on Friday the 11th of May, being the birth-day of the M.E. the Grand Superintendent of the Orders, Sir Knight Henry Shute, P.G.M. There were present, amongst many others, Sir Knights Henry Shute, M.E.G.S.; D. W. Nash, M.E.D.S.; S. E. Taylor, M.E., Comm. of Knight Templars; S. Bryant, M.E., Comm. of Rosacrucians; and W. Powell, M.E., Comm. of Knt. of Kilwinning. On the removal of the cloth, the M.E.G.S. rose and said—"To be loyal to the Sovereign was always the characteristic of the members of the Masonic Knighthoods. We will, therefore, drink to the health of our beloved Queen." The M.E.G.S. then proposed "The Allied Forces of England and France," and remarked, that he was glad to hear the cheer with which the toast was received, especially when he recollected the time, as a child, when the greatest pleasure was derived from any success, which we may have obtained over the French, then our enemies, but now happily, our gallant and trusted allies. The D.G.S., Sir Knt. D. W. Nash, proposed the health of the M.E.G.S., and congratulated the Encampment on having so eminent and faithful a supporter of the Order to rule over them. The M.E.G.S. had long been connected with the Order, and had formerly held the important post of E.C. of the Knts. Grand Architects of Kilwinning in this Encampment. He was well assured, that all present would heartily join with him, in wishing "Health and happiness to their M.E.G.S., and many happy returns to him of this auspicious day." The E.G.S. in returning thanks, remarked, "That it hath been said, 'that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh,' but the heart may be too full to utter the sentiments which the mouth should speak. He felt that he did not deserve the compliments which had been paid him, but it should be his earnest endeavour to do so in the few opportunities which his advanced age, 66 this day, would afford him." The M.E.G.S. concluded by proposing that the Sir Knts. should drink one glass of wine in solemn silence to the

memory of his late lamented predecessor, the late Sir Knt. W. Powell, under whose able guidance the Encampment had so long flourished. The E.G.S. proposed what, in his opinion, he considered the toast of the evening, viz., "That of the E.G.D.S., Sir Knt. D. W. Nash," who, from his indefatigable zeal and activity, had done so much for the higher Orders of Masonry in this Province, and in whose judgment and ability he reposed the most entire confidence. The M.E.G.D.S. returned thanks, and the healths of the respective E. Commanders of the Five Orders of Masonic Knighthood in this Encampment, the E. Past Commanders, Officers and Visitors having been proposed and responded to, the M.E.G.S. expressed the great gratification which he had received from his visit there that evening, and the Sir Knts. separated.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MASONIC CHARITIES

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR AND BROTHER,—The desire to promote the object, which, as you state in the May number of your valuable journal, is "charity," prompts me to write this letter, the more so, as I find others are in the same ignorance as myself as regards our asylums. I for one, always contemplated they were endowed, and required but little aid from subscribers. But how altered is my dream, when I find from investigation and your able articles that they are dragging a slow length along, some in debt, and others dependant upon an appeal to a festive meeting to keep them in existence. We have required for years some an exponent like yourself to tell us our duty, and to give the information required, that we provincial Masons may take advantage of the recess, and examine ourselves, whether we have followed out the grand landmarks of our noble order—have we subscribed, or have we assisted at our Lodge meetings any of these charities, for the asylum, for the widow, or for the unfortunate and infirm? and if not, can we not at once set about some plan that will aid one or all of them; let us have at each Lodge meeting a timely refresher of these noble institutions. For so just a cause, the smallest donations have their full weight and value; individual efforts, though weak in themselves, produce collective strength, and as the union of labour speedily raises a stately edifice, so the combination of several small sums soon amasses a mighty capital.—I am, Mr. Editor,

A PROVINCIAL MASON.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR DECAYED FREEMASONS.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—Feeling a lively interest in the success of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Decayed Freemasons and their Widows, and having endeavoured to advance the cause of the latter, I am induced to solicit the serious attention of the Committee of Management, the Craft generally, and individual subscribers, to a notice of motion given at a General Meeting of the Charity, held on the 18th ultimo, having for its object the abrogation of the Bye Laws relating to the Male and Female Annuity Funds, by which the votes recorded for unsuccessful candidates are carried over to the next Election.

I believe I am justified in stating, that a large majority of the brethren present at the Meeting entirely dissented from the proposition, because Candidates being allowed, as at present, to carry their votes forward, is the only means open to many of ever receiving the benefit of the Institution; there being a few brethren, who, from having taken an active and praiseworthy part in the Elections, are well known

to the Craft, and are thereby capable of securing a proportionate number of votes, and thus ensuring success to such Candidates as have the good fortune to obtain their support; whilst others, whose claims are equally pressing, but who have notithe same influence, may "Live in hope," it is true, yet will, assuredly, "die in despar." It was to afford persons so situated a fair chance of competing with such influence, that this excellent provision was made.

Since the above observations were written, a motion, having the same tendency, made at the Grand Lodge, on the 6th instant, has been rejected, on grounds similar to the above. The object of the motion was to increase the number of votes of each Lodge, in consequence of the grant of an additional hundred pounds per annum to the Widows' Fund.

Let any brother examine the state of the poll at the last Election for Female Annuitants, and it will be seen that one Candidate polled 1387 votes; whilst the collective number of five others were only 161. One Candidate did not register a single vote! Surely these facts demonstrate the necessity of retaining the present provisions. To abrogate them would lead to monopoly, and the withdrawal of many subscriptions, and would thereby militate against the interests of the Charity.

It is hoped, therefore, that the Committee will not entertain the motion; but if it should, it will, I presume, be carried to the Grand Lodge for confirmation, who, doubtless, will give notice to Lodges and Subscribers qualified to attend, in order that they may have an opportunity of recording their vote for or against the proposed measure.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Faithfully and fraternally yours,

Hampstead, June 11th, 1855. SAMUEL ALDRICH.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—Having read the letter of an "Old Past Master," with your remarks thereon, I am induced to trouble you with a few words. I think every Mason must agree with the "Old Past Master," that it is much to be deplored that the state of the funds of the "Masonic Benevolent Institution" should be in such a state as not to allow more than *two* candidates to be admitted out of *thirty-five*. It is too true, and "pity 'tis 'tis true," but where lies the fault? why, with ourselves—why don't we all subscribe *constantly* instead of only *occasionally*, when we have a particular candidate to serve? The subscription for a single vote is but (as you say), five shillings (little more than a penny a week), and were *every* brother to give this *very* little help what an altered condition the Funds of the Society would be in, why they would amount to a sum sufficient to admit, if not *every* candidate, at least many more than at present. We boast that charity is the foundation of our Order, and how can it be better exercised than in relieving the aged and distressed? many of whom have seen better days, and are only reduced to their present condition by the unforeseen accidents of life, to which, let us not forget, we are all liable. Then pray, Mr. Editor, continue your endeavours to increase the efficiency of the Institution; explain clearly the nature of its constitution, let it be generally understood, and urge upon the brotherhood the necessity, nay, the *duty* of supporting it, and let the burden of your song be, "*Subscribe*, then, brethren, *subscribe* then *One* and *All* to the "Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows."

ONE OF THE CRAFT AND A SUBSCRIBER.

Dorset, June.

MASONRY IN SCOTLAND.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR—At p. 341 of your last number, you request some explanation regarding the Banff Lodge, and Royal Arch Chapter. By the laws of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, out of the dues paid by a Candidate for admission, 5*s.* 6*d.* is to be laid aside for, and paid over to the Grand Lodge for enrolling the name of the Candidate. If the Treasurer of the Lodge retains this, or pays it into the funds of the Lodge, instead of to where it is due, he is guilty of a fraud. The Candidate is not required to contribute any more to the Grand Lodge during his life. The Lodge to which he belongs has, however, to pay 5*s.* annually; and even were there only 10 members, this is merely 6*d.* each; but according to your correspondent's letter there were 50 "paying members," to that in the Banff Lodge;—1¼*d.* was all that was required annually from each to prevent the Lodge getting into arrears with the Grand Lodge. Now, by our Grand Lodge Laws (cap. XXI § 21), if any Lodge shall be four years in arrear of such dues, it shall be considered dormant and struck off the Roll, but may be re-opened upon such terms and conditions as the Grand Lodge may appoint. Your Correspondent then does not make out a good case, the 5*s.* 6*d.* dues paid by every Candidate for behooff of the Grand Lodge, could not be devoted to any other purpose except fraudulently, and as there is no suspicion as to that, such sums were, it is presumed, still available; even if in the hands of private parties, they could be easily obtained. The only difficulty there is as to the 5*s.* 6*d.* annual payments for the whole Lodge, and that is so trifling, that it would almost seem that there must be reasons not stated for the Banff Lodge not making the proper returns. At the several quarterly communications of the Grand Lodge, those Lodges which are in arrears are mentioned and struck off, but this is not done till their names are printed in the annual circular as liable to be struck off, if all the dues be not paid immediately; and by that circular it appears that Lodges are allowed more frequently seven than five years, so unwilling is the Grand Lodge to do anything harshly. Once struck off, a Lodge must be re-opened in the usual way. According to your Correspondent's letter, the Banff Lodge did not proceed in the proper way, but seemed to claim as a right, what could be only granted by courtesy. Let it send to Edinburgh its charter, and a petition to be re-opened, with the arrears due, list of Candidates admitted since the last return, and the 5*s.* 6*d.* paid by each Candidate for the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Lodge, there can be no doubt, will place the Lodge on its former footing. Until such re-openment be effected, the Banff Lodge is an illegal one. No candidates admitted since the Lodge ceased to make returns, can be registered in the Grand Lodge Roll: but all who were registered previously although only now applying, are entitled to Grand Lodge Diploma.

As to the Royal Arch: this is a degree not recognized as Masonry by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and the consequence is twofold; that our Royal Arch Chapter has no necessary connection, as in England and Ireland, with St. John's Lodge in the same place: and 2nd that the Superior Arch has no law to the effect that the members of a Royal Arch Chapter, must be also members of a Lodge on the Grand Roll, and previously registered there. Hence, in Banff, when there are two Royal Arch Chapters, and one Lodge, it may be that all the Royal Arch Masons there are also members of the rebellious Lodge, nor does there seem to be any check to this, unless when such Royal Arch Masons visit other Chapters at a distance, or Royal Arch Masons from as distance visit these Chapters; in which case a person who had been initiated by the Banff Lodge, during its rebellion, could not be regarded as either a Master Mason, or a Royal Arch Mason, by others, at least if such was known; but when he presents the regular Royal Arch Diploma, it is rarely that he is asked for the name of his Mother Lodge. If, however, such an individual were to apply for exaltation to a Royal Arch Chapter at a distance from Banff, he would require to state what was his Mother Lodge, and on its being known that he had been admitted after it was cut off the Grand Lodge Roll, no regular St. John's Mason could acknowledge him or exalt him. The whole confusion arises from the Grand Lodge not recognising their other degrees of

Masonry, and entering into a league with the Royal Arch, so that all initiated by Lodges never on the Roll of the Grand Lodge, or once on but now cut off, shall be refused exaltation in any Royal Arch Chapter.

May, 1855. S.P.G.M.G.

FREEMASONRY IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR AND BROTHER,—As your journal contains notices of Masonic doings in the Colonies, I would state to you that in the Province of New Brunswick there are fourteen Masonic Lodges, three Chapters, and one Encampment, in regular working order. The Provincial Grand Master is the Right Worshipful the Hon. Alex. Keith, of Halifax, N.S., who has jurisdiction over the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward's Island, and Newfoundland.

The want of a Grand Lodge for this Province alone is much felt, and preparatory steps are about to be taken for the formation of one, and the appointment of a Grand Master.

Under the banners of Albion Lodge, No. 570, a gay ball was given this winter, numerously attended by the fair sisterhood.

The contributions towards the Patriotic Fund by the various Lodges has been no small item; Albion sending, through the Governor, £50, and the other Lodges handsome sums, in proportion to their number of members.—Yours,

St. John. R. S.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR JULY.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

RESUMING our summary of Parliament we find, that on the 28th June, Lord Panmure announced in the House of Lords, the intention of the Government to double the pay of the Army whilst in active service. The Militia Bill was read a third time, and passed. On the 29th, in reply to a question, Lord Panmure denied that Lord Raglan had resigned the command of the Army in the East. The National Gallery (Dublin) Bill was read a third time and passed. On the 2nd of July, Lord Panmure announced to the House the tidings of the death of Lord Raglan, and laid before it a Message from the Crown relating to a provision being made for the family of the deceased hero. On the same evening, Lord St. Leonards complained of the evil effects of the late system pursued in the granting of tickets of leave to convicts. On the 3rd, on the motion of Lord Panmure, the House of Lords replied to the Message of the Queen, assuring her of their willingness to co-operate with her in providing for Lord Raglan's family. On the 5th, Lord Ellenborough animadverted on the mode in which Government proposed to increase the pay of the soldier while on active service, when Lord Panmure announced that it should be so far modified as to allow him an extra sixpence a day for camp expenses, and that the other sixpence would be put to his credit. On the same evening, Lord Hardwicke inquired if it were the intention of Government to re-establish the Naval College, and was informed that it was not, but the corps of Naval instructors was to be considerably increased. On the 6th, Lord Shaftesbury withdrew his Religious Worship Bill, the select committee to which it had been referred, on the motion of Lord Derby, having so altered its provisions as to give it a new complexion, at variance with objects for which it had been introduced. The Friendly Societies Bill was read a third time and passed. On the 9th, the Earl of Winchelsea complained that in the report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into Maynooth College, the Roman Catholic prelates of Ireland were designated by titles prohibited by the Ecclesiastical Titles Act. The Accidents on Railways Bill was read a third time and passed. On the 10th, Lord Malmesbury inquired what steps the government were going to adopt in reference to the Massacre at Hango, and the Earl of Clarendon stated in reply, that Admiral Dundas had been instructed to demand the immediate release of the prisoners. His

lordship also intimated that the regulations laid down by the Russian Admiral, confining intercourse by flags of truce to three places on the Russian seaboard of the Baltic were not reconcilable to the law of nations. The Marquis of Clanricarde defended the noblemen and gentlemen in the diplomatic and consular services of the country from the charge of incompetency. He denied that promotion in those services went otherwise than according to merit and ability. On the 12th, Lord Lyndhurst withdrew his bill for the abolition of the oath of abjuration. On the 13th, Earl Granville announced to the House, that the repayment of the proposed new Turkish loan would be guaranteed by the governments of England and France. On the 16th, the Earl of Albermarle presented an important petition from the inhabitants of the presidency of Madras, praying, that the government would take the rule of India from the East India Company, into its own hands. On the 17th, the same nobleman gave notice of a motion respecting the trade in Russian products at present carried on, pursuant to an order in council. On the 19th, the Duke of Argyle moved the second reading of the Scotch Education Bill, which was lost by a majority of eighty-four to one. The same evening, the Crimea Outrage (Ireland) Bill was read a second time and ordered to be committed. On the 20th, Lord Lyndhurst complained that the government was laggard in the cause of Law Reform; and Lord Brougham called the attention of the house to the horrors of the Cuban Slave Trade. On the 23d, the Royal Assent was given, by commission, to a large group of bills, including the bill providing for the family of the late Lord Raglan. The Religious Worship Bill, having been re-introduced by the Earl of Shaftesbury, was read a third time and passed. On the 24th, the Metropolis Local Management Bill, and the Dissenters' Marriages Bill were read a second time; and the Dissenters' Relief Bill was withdrawn by Lord Brougham. On the 25th, the Sale of Spirits (Ireland) Bill passed through committee,—and the Merchant Shipping Acts' Amendment Bill,—and the Lunatics' Asylums (Ireland) Bill were read a third time and passed. On the 26th the Sale of Beer (Ireland Bill) passed through Committee, and other bills advanced a stage. On the 27th Lord Brougham brought in a Bill for the abolition of religious disabilities, and various other bills were advanced.

In the House of Commons, on the 28th June, the Tenants' Compensation (Ireland) Bill, the Excise Duties Bill, and the Indemnity Bill were advanced a stage. On the 29th, Lord John Russell, in reply to Sir J. Walsh, admitted that the statements in Count Buol's published letter stating that himself and M. Drouyn de Lhuys had shown themselves favourable to the Austrian propositions for peace, which were afterwards rejected by the French and English Governments. The Partnership Amendment and Limited Liability Bills were both read a second time. On the 2nd July, at the suggestion of Lord Goderich, Lord Robert Grosvenor withdrew his Sunday Trading Bill on account of the excitement out of doors to which it had given rise. A message was received from the Queen inviting the House to co-operate with Her Majesty in making a provision for the family of Lord Raglan. The Scotch Education Bill passed through Committee with some amendments. Sir John Packington withdrew his Education Bill. The Select Committee appointed to investigate the circumstances attending Captain M'Clure's discovery of the North-West Passage sat for the first time this day, sat again on the next, and on the 6th met to consider its report. They recommended that £10,000 should be divided in rewards to the explorers: £5,000 to Captain M'Clure, and £5,000 among the other officers and crew of his ship,—and that medals should be struck to commemorate their discovery, and distributed among them as among the survivors of a brilliant engagement. On the 3rd, the Metropolis Local Management Bill passed through Committee, and Lord Palmerston brought in a bill for granting a pension of £1000 per annum to the widow of the late Lord Raglan, and £2000 per annum to the present Lord and to his immediate successor. On the 4th, the Mortmain Bill, the Endowed Schools (Ireland) Bill, the Dissenters' Marriage Bill, and the Coal Mines' Inspection Bill passed through Committee. The Stock in Trade Bill and the Copyhold and Commission Bills were read a third time and passed. On the 5th, Mr. Roebuck and Mr. Duncombe called the attention of the House to the conduct of the police towards the people assembled in the Hyde Park on the 10th inst. as a demonstration against Lord Robert Grosvenor's Sunday Trading Bill. In Committee on the Tenants' Im-

provement Compensation Bill (Ireland) an angry altercation took place between Serjeant Shee and Lord Palmerston with respect to the 14th clause making the bill retrospective. Mr. Berkeley's Committee to inquire into the working of the Sunday Beer Act sat for the first time. The Committee sat on the 10th, 12th, 17th, 19th, and 23rd, examined several of the Metropolitan and City Magistrates, some railway officials, on which day, they considered their report, which they presented to the House on the 26th. They recommended that public houses should be allowed to remain open from one o'clock to three o'clock in the afternoon, and from five o'clock to eleven o'clock in the evening, on Sundays. On the 6th, the conduct of the police in Hyde Park on the 1st was again brought before the House, when Mr. J. Dundas gave great offence by stating that in case of another popular demonstration taking place on the 8th, the trial of a few six-pounders would efficiently dispel the *canaille*. Lord John Russell, in reply to Mr. Milner Gibson, stated that he had at the Vienna Conference approved of a proposal from Austria for a counterpoise of the power of Russia in the Black Sea, and that he had urged its acceptance upon the Government at home. This gave rise to a long debate, in which the conduct of the noble lord was severely canvassed for remaining in the Cabinet, in the war policy of which he did not concur. On the 9th, mobs having on the previous day broken the windows of several houses in Belgrave-square, in Camden-town, and other places, to show their dislike to the Sunday Trading Bill, Sir George Grey stated that Government would, in the event of such exhibitions being continued, take every means to preserve the public peace. Mr. Walter called the attention of the House to the fetid state of the River Thames. On the 10th, Sir Ed. L. Bulwer Lytton gave notice of a motion of want of confidence in the Government, on account of the conduct of Lord John Russell at the Vienna Conference. Mr. Vincent Scully moved an Address to the Queen, thanking her for the Order in Council of the 21st of May, by which civil appointments were thrown open to competition, and praying that the necessary examinations should be public. The motion was lost by a majority of 15. Mr. Roebuck moved for a call of the House for his motion of censure on the Aberdeen Cabinet for the expedition to the Crimea, but was defeated by a majority of 25. Mr. Stafford brought the state of the Military Hospitals in the East before the House, and complained that Drs. Hall and Smith continued in office. On the 11th, the time of the House was taken up in the discussion on the Bill for the Abolition of Church Rates until the hour when, by the standing orders relating to Wednesdays' sittings, it formally stood adjourned. On the 12th Mr. Holland took his seat for Evesham. The Nuisances' Removal Bill passed through Committee. Lord Palmerston laid on the table the papers relating to the Vienna Conference. The noble Lord also stated that he now approved of the retrospective clause of the Tenants' Improvements (Ireland) Compensation Bill. The Scotch Education Bill was opposed on its third reading, and a division having taken place, there were for it 105, against it 102, majority 3. The opponents of the measure learning that two members of their body had, by mistake, gone into the wrong lobby, again divided the House, on the motion that the Bill do pass, but were defeated by a majority of 15. On the 13th, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that it would be necessary to submit supplemental estimates for several branches of the war expenditure. The Tenants' Compensation Bill was proceeded with in Committee. Sir George Grey mentioned that he had appointed the Recorders of London, Liverpool, and Manchester, Royal Commissioners, to inquire into the conduct of the Police in Hyde Park, on the 1st of July. On the 16th, Lord John Russell explained his conduct at the Vienna conference, and announced his retirement from the Cabinet, in consequence of a cabal against him. On this, Sir E. Lytton Bulwer withdrew his motion of want of confidence, and severely criticized the conduct of Lord Palmerston and his colleagues, in not going out of office with Lord John. The Mortmain Bill was read a third time, and passed. The Committee to investigate the City of London writ, heard counsel on behalf of Baron Rothschild; and the next day reported to the House that that gentleman was not, in strict terms, a Government contractor, and therefore that he had not vacated his seat. On the 17th, Mr. Roebuck moved his vote of censure upon the Aberdeen administration, in reference to the Crimean expedition. This motion gave

rise to a long and warm debate, which was adjourned to the 19th, when it was defeated by 107 majority; the numbers being, for the motion, 289; against, 182. On the motion for resuming the Maynooth debate, Mr. Kirk carried, by a majority of three, an amendment adjourning it to that day three months. On the 18th, the Marquis of Blandford withdrew the Episcopal and Capitular Estates Bill. Mr. Stracey took his seat for East Norfolk. On the 19th, the adjourned debate exclusively engaged the attention of the House. On the 28th, the Metropolis Local Management Bill was read a third time and passed. In a Committee of the whole House, the resolution approving of the terms of the Turkish Loan was agreed to by a majority of three. Mr. Spooner, by a majority of 21, obtained a Committee to inquire into the circumstance of the Irish Roman Catholic Prelates being designated in the report of the Royal Commission on Maynooth, by illegal titles. On he 23d, Mr. Hayter announced that Sir William Molesworth had accepted the office of Chief Secretary for the Colonies, and that Sir Benjamin Hall was to succeed him as Chief Commissioner of Works. The report of the committee on the Turkish Loan was agreed to, and leave granted to bring in a bill founded on that resolution. At the morning sitting of the 24th, the Tenant's Compensation Bill was withdrawn. In the evening there was a count out. On the 25th, Mr. Heywood withdrew the Marriage Law Amendment Bill, but announced his intention of re-introducing it next session. The second reading of the Bleaching Works Bill was lost by a majority of five, the numbers being, ayes, 67, noes, 72. On the 26th, the morning sitting was taken up with the discussion of the Limited Liability Bill, and on the motion that it be committed, Mr. Muntz moved to insert the words, "on this day three months," but his amendment was lost by a majority of 121 to 40. Sir George Grey announced that it was the intention of government to appoint a Minister of Education before the next session of parliament. The ensuing sitting was principally occupied in Committee of Supply. On the 27th the Turkish Loan Bill passed through Committee.

THE WAR.

The most noticeable feature of the war since our last have been the death of the Commander of the English Forces in the Crimea, Lord Raglan, which took place on the 28th of June, from cholera, at the Camp before Sebastopol, and the forced retirement of Lord John Russell from the Cabinet, in consequence of his having lent too favourable an ear to the pacific propositions of Austria. Various grades of the Order of the Bath were on the 7th conferred by Her Majesty upon several heroes of the war. Sir Charles Napier declined the honour of the G.C.B., and on the 9th, the Duke of Cambridge distributed the Crimean medals to the wounded soldiers in the Military Hospital, Vauxhall Road. On the 14th, the Russians were repulsed in an attempt to take the French rifle pits in front of the Mamelon. Several other sorties took place between the 14th and 24th, but all met with a similar result, the allies still advancing their works.

COMMERCIAL.

On the 28th of June, the General Mining Association declared a dividend of 10*s.* per share for the half year. On the 29th, the Chartered Bank of Australia held a meeting at which it was stated that £100,000 of the capital necessary to start the business was in hand, and that £222,000 was yet required for that purpose. On the 2nd of July, the Waller Gold Mining Company, out of £2,915, the net profits of six months, working, declared a dividend of 9*d.* per share. The Committee of Portugese Bond Holders legally protested against the reduction of 40 per cent. of their interest. The London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Company determined to raise £52,000 in shares of £10 each, to purchase the Thames Haven Company's line and docks. On the 3rd of July, the London Dock Company declared a dividend of 2*l.* 10*s.* per share, for the half year. The next day the South Lancashire Company divided 1½ per cent. on the amount of their stock. On the 5th, the European Gas Company gave to the shareholders a bonus of 2*s.* per share, in addition to a dividend of 10*s.* per share, being equivalent to 5½ per cent. per annum. The Union Bank of London met on the 11th, and out of the net profits for the year, £139,967, made a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, leaving a surplus of £20,456. The reserved fund now amounts to £120,000. The Colonial

Bank met the same day, and declared a dividend of 2½ per cent., for the half year, out of their net profits, 19,656*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a surplus of 7156*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* On the 13th of July, the East and West India Dock Company declared a dividend of 3 per cent., for the half year, free of income tax. On the same day, the Norfolk Railway Company and the Eastern Counties Company approved of continuing the East Suffolk line, and of extending the Norfolk line proper from Fakenham to Wells. The South Western Company also met to consider the Bill calling on them to keep faith with the Legislature. A poll was taken upon the question, which was kept open the following day and on the 16th, and resulted in a determination to sanction the measure. On the 17th, the Commercial Bank divided 7 per cent., for the half year, with a bonus of 3 per cent. The same day, the St. Katharine's Dock Company divided 2 per cent., and a bonus of 10*s.* per 100 stock. The net profits of the half year amounted to 61,910*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* On the 18th, the London and Westminster Bank divided 6 per cent., with a bonus of 4 per cent. on the paid up capital, out of the net earnings of the year, £81,089. The same day, the Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford Company agreed to raise the necessary capital, £20,000, to complete the line from Crumlin to Quaker's-yard. On the 19th, the London Reversionary Interest divided 3 per cent. per annum, among the shareholders. At the meeting of Stock Companies held the same day, a sum of £375,000 was appropriated out of £72,624 9*s.* 2*d.*, the net earnings of the last six months' pay, a dividend of 12½ per cent. per annum, leaving £35,124 9*s.* 2*d.* to the credit of the next half year. On the 20th, the Mount Carbon Mining Company authorised the issue of £15,000 debenture bonds at 50 per cent. discount, bearing interest at 7½ per cent., giving the shareholders the option of converting them into stock at par., for which, 15,000 shares are to be reserved. The Peel River Company met on the 23rd, and declared a dividend of 1½ per cent. out of the profits of the last wool clip; the mining operations having been abortive. At the annual meeting of the Union Bank of Australia, held the same day, the profits of the year were reported at £238,459 8*s.* 2*d.* A dividend at the rate of 30 per cent. per annum was declared out of the capital stock of the company, towards which, a sum of £7000 was taken from the reserved fund to meet the additional income tax. On the 24th, the Melbourne Bank, in a report of a tissue of disappointments, confessed that its liabilities, at present, exceeded its assets by £3,070. On the same day, the Cobré Copper Mining Company, declared a dividend for the half-year, at the rate of £4 per share. And the Grand Trunk of Canada Bank Company reported an increase of their traffic on the last six months' of 1854, from £72,831 to £97,907. On the 25th, the Mexican Mining Association held its half-yearly meeting, but the report was unfavorable, nor was the temper of those present improved, by ascertaining that a knowledge of the progress of the working of the mines was obtainable on the Stock Exchange before the Shareholders received it officially. On the 26th, there was a stormy meeting of the Mons and Manage Company, which refused to adopt the report of the directors. The original shareholders complained that the back interest was detained from them. At the meeting of the Brighton Company, held the same day, a dividend of £2 2*s.* per cent., was declared on the ordinary shares of the company.

BENEVOLENT.

On the 3rd of July, H.R.H. Prince Albert opened the new building erected at Red Hill, Reigate, as an Asylum for Idiots. On the 8th, a public meeting was held at Willis's Room, in aid of the Schools for the Education and Maintenance of the Orphan Children of Seamen and Mariners. On the 9th, the Lord Mayor distributed the medals and other rewards granted by the Society for the Preservation of Life from Fire, to those who, during the past year, heroically rescued their fellow-creatures from death by that element. The Society, it was stated, at present maintained 43 fire escape stations, and could with an increase of £900 per annum to its income maintain 12 more, when there would be over the whole metropolitan area, a station at each half-mile distance. During the past month the members of the aristocracy have been engaged in a benevolent rivalry in the cause of charity and following the example some few years past set by the Duke of Devonshire, on the part of the Guild of Literature and Art, have thrown open their mansions as theatres, and concert rooms for the

benefit of various institutions. Thus, on the 9th the Marquis of Westminster generously gave the use of the Picture Gallery of Grosvenor House, for the performance of a new play by Mr. Tom Taylor, in aid of the Funds of the Hospital for Women, *Soho Square. The sum of £800 was collected on the occasion* On the 10th, there were private theatricals in which the most efficient amateurs of the day took part at Campden House, for the benefit of the Sanitorium, at Bournemouth, for consumptive patients. On the 17th, at Breadalbane House, Park Lane, the Princess Czartoryski assisted by some of the most distinguished artistes of the day, gave a grand musical entertainment on behalf of the Literary Association of the Friends of Poland; and on the 19th there was a concert at Ellesmere House, the proceeds of which went to the fund of the Convalescent Institution, Walton-on-Thames. The quarterly court of the Naval Benevolent Institution, was held on the 16th, at which it was stated that during the previous three months a sum of £457 was granted to relieve distressed members and their families.

PROVIDENT.

On the 2nd of July, the London Mutual Life Association Society, held its sixth annual meeting, at which it was stated that during the first quinquennial period they issued 3020 policies, assuring £541,504 and yielding a premium income of £17,320 per annum. In the division of profits 27 per cent, was allowed in reduction of premiums, or 29½ per cent. reversionary bonus, at the option of the members. At the meeting of the United Kingdom Assurance Association it was reported that the assets amounted to £511,254 18*s.* 3*d.*, and the liabilities to £344,116 1*s.* 1*d.* A reversionary bonus of 30 per cent, equivalent to £1 18*s.* 4*d.* per cent., per annum., was granted on all policies 3 years in existence. *On the 18th, the Alfred Asssrance* Company met, and reported that the new business of the year amounted to £3352 7*s.* 3*d.*, and that their annual income from all sources was £33,058 1*s.* 6*d.*, and that they had as a surplus fund the sum of £85,805 1*s.* 5*d.* During the year they paid £11,019 14*s.* 9*d.* in claims on ten policies, which had fallen in and had been benefitted by the death of four annuitants to the extent of £886 per annum. The Mutual Assurance Society met the same day, when a statement of the proceedings of the office for the last six months was presented to the members, from which it appeared that within that period they had issued 84 policies, yielding to the Society an income of £15,015 13*s.* 8*d.*, per annum, and had paid £1990 in reversionary bonuses, to addition to £6800, the amount of the policies which had become claims since the last meeting of the Society.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Sir William Maule, after 15 years' service, has retired from the bench, and Mr. J. S. Willes, of the Common Law Bar, has been appointed to succeed him. The ex-judge has been made a privy-councillor. Sir John Dean Paul, Strahan, & Co., have presented in the Court of Bankruptcy a balance sheet of their affairs for the last five years, shewing liabilities to the extent of £237,183 15*s.* 4*d.*, to meet which there was only the sum of £6285 8*s.* 10*d.*, available assets. A former Secretary of the Deposit Life Assurance Company, named C. W. W. Bevan, having been found guilty of stealing orders for various sums of money, the property of his employers, has been sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. Jeremiah Foley who was mentioned in our last as having been committed for the murder of Hannah Bell, at Limehouse, has been sentenced to 14 years' transportation. A fiendish case of child murder, lately tried at the Old Bailey has resulted, in a sentence of twelve months' imprisonment on the unnatural mother, Sarah Sturgess, who starved the infant, although she had an abundant supply of its natural food. A gang of burglars, for some months past the terror of the county of Essex, has been effectually broken up by the conviction of several of its ring leaders, at the Chelmsford assizes. At Phillipstown depôt, there has been a dangerous *emeute* of the convicts. A monster nugget, weighing 85lbs., was landed at Liverpool on the 28th of June, from the *Lightning*, one of the Black Ball line of clipper ships, trading to Australia. The quarterly return of the revenue shows an increase of £1,005, 575 on the quarter as compared with the corresponding quarter of last year, and an increase of £7,741,588,

on the year. The principal increase was on the items of property tax, customs, excise, stamps, and post office. Several people have been lately killed by lightning, and a poor man named John Hurd, on the second of July, lost his life by a boiler explosion on the South Yorkshire line, near Barnsley. On the 12th, a Mr. Wilson put an end to his existence at Eastey's Hotel, and on the 14th, an officer of the Dublin Militia, at present encamped on the Curragh of Kildare, on being rebuked by his superior officer, for some breach of discipline, was guilty of the same rash act. Several public meetings were held in the course of the month, the most important of which were the educational conference held on the 2nd, under the auspices of the Society of Arts; and a meeting of the friends of the Freedom of Religious Worship, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 12th. The Administrative Reformers met at the same place on the 11th, and again upon the 25th, the annual meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society, took place at Carlisle, on the 23rd. The statue raised by the city to the memory of the late Sir Robert Peel, has been placed upon its pedestal, at the end of Cheapside, nearest to St. Paul's. The commission appointed to inquire into the conduct of the police, on the 1st of July, sat, for the first time, on the 17th, and was employed in hearing the complaints against them on the 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st and 23rd. On the 24th, Mr. Ellis commenced their defence, which has been continued, each succeeding day, to the hour of our going to press. On the 18th, two married couples claimed the Dunmow flitch, and for the first time in the annals of the place, there was a double cavalcade, in honour of nuptial happiness. News too arrived from the coast of Africa respecting the destruction of Malaghea, and the death of 150 officers and men, of her Majesty's ship *Teazer*, in the Malakolo river. In connection with this loss to the Naval service, may be mentioned the death of Rear-Admiral Sir Edwd. Parry, this distinguished Artic voyager, at Ums, on the 8th June, three other flag officers died in the course of the month, and on the 10th of the month, died Mr. Philip Pusey, the great patron of improved farming. On the 26th, the remains of Lord Raglan arrived at Bristol, and were honoured with a public funeral, by the corporation of that city.

AMUSEMENTS OF THE MONTH.

On the 10th of July, Open Sesame was revived at the Adelphi, Mr. and Mrs. Keeley and Miss Woolgar sustaining their original parts. On the 16th, Mr. Wm. Farren took leave of the public in the character of Lord Ogleby, in the "Clandestine Marriage." The performances were patronised by royalty. A new farce was, on the same evening, brought out at the Princess's entitled "How stout you 're getting," the weight of which falls on Mr. D. Fisher, who plays the character of Mr. Plummer, the gentleman thus reminded of his growing corpulence. On the 20th, "*L'Etoile du Nord,*" was brought out with a powerful cast, at the Italian Opera House. The rehearsals were superintended by the composer himself, Br. Meyerbeer. An English Operatic company at present occupies the stage at Drury Lane. The entertainments at the Royal Polytechnic Institution have lately received an additional attraction in the exhibition of an interesting variety of Arctic curiosities, kindly furnished by J. Barrow, of the Admiralty, to whom it appears many of them have been handed down from his ancestors. The collection embraces various relics of the Franklin expedition, together with costumes of the Esquimaux, and specimens of the domestic utensils in use amongst them. All these, as may be imagined, are of the most primitive description, and their undoubted genuineness constitutes their principal attraction. There are knives which, so far as their apparent utility is concerned, might as well be without blades, for they do not seem made to cut; tobacco pipes, which are constructed upon a principle presenting many difficulties to the smoker, that the Esquimaux, in using them, must exercise an amount of patience almost unknown amongst the more civilised people; dresses which one could think were intended to be sewn to the bodies of the wearers, and not made to be put on and taken off, and numerous other Polar curiosities, which clearly indicate that the races who dwell in those parts are as backward in the works of practical civilization as we are in our knowledge of their habits and characteristics. Striking and peculiar as these relics are, they are only subservient to the general purpose for which they are exhibited, viz., as illustrations of what our enterprising navigators saw and did in

their Arctic explorations. The "collection" has been made the subject of a lecture in which the various expeditions to the Polar regions are most vividly described and the hardships and sufferings of the gallant voyagers descanted upon in a manner which wins the sympathy and applause of the audience. A passing tribute is paid to the memory of Lieutenant Bellot, and a hope is expressed that notwithstanding the strong presumptive evidence as to the loss of Sir John Franklin and his companions, proofs may yet come to light that some of the party are still in existence. The various topics touched upon in the course of the lecture are necessarily of great public interest, and on the whole the entertainment is one of the most attractive with which the energetic manager of the Institution has yet favoured the sight-seeing world.

OBITUARY.

Br. John Eyles White.—A Somersetshire paper thus speaks of this lamented Br., who died on the 3rd May:—We sit down with a sad heart to pen a tribute, brief and feeble, but affectionate and sincere, to the memory of John Eyles White, a man whom Taunton loved, and can ill spare. After many years of useful, upright, and honourable life, possessed of universal esteem, confidence and regard, having recently filled the highest municipal offices in his native town, in the prime of life, in the full vigour of his intellect, he has been removed from among his fellow-townsmen; and every one of them feels, especially the poor man, that he has lost a friend. Twenty-five years ago, a frightful accident had disabled him, and its consequences affected him during all the remainder of his life with lameness, and with severe and almost unceasing suffering, and ultimately caused his death, in the 60th year of his age. On public occasions, whether of business, or politics, or festivity, this was the character in which he delighted to claim the attention of his hearers; and his hearty, manly tone, his genial spirit, and his straight-forward, honest style, were well seconded by the fine old-English face and figure which we shall see no more. Even in the hottest fire of election strife, who does not recollect the eager call for him, the pleased cheer which welcomed his rising, the tact and spirit of his address, the kindly attention which not only his friends but his political opponents (enemies he had not) yielded him? His party lament him, his friends deplore him; but, we repeat what we deem to be his highest eulogy, to the poor, especially of his own street and neighbourhood, his loss is irreparable. We understand that the Masonic body, of which Mr. White was for many years an active and much-valued member, and in which he filled very high offices, were on the point of presenting to him some testimonial of the estimation in which throughout England "Br. Eyles White, Provincial Grand Treasurer, &c., &c.," was held by the Craft, when, as in another recent case, the purpose was frustrated by the unexpected decease of its object. We trust, however, that the intention may yet be carried out in some other form, which, by permanently testifying of his character and of the regrets which follow him, may help to minister in future years to the consolation of those who now deplore his loss.

Br. Samuel Oram.—It is with sincere regret that we have to announce the death of this worthy Br., which took place at his house, in Castle-street, Holborn, on the 30th June last. Br. Oram, who was in the 42nd year of his age, was initiated in the Mount Moria Lodge (No. 40), on the 25th April, 1854. He subsequently passed through the various offices, and served the office of Master in the year 1854. Br. Oram was also a Master of the Royal Arch.

Br. Laurence Thompson.—On the 9th of June last, died Br. Laurence Thompson, in the 82nd year of his age, P.I.G.D. By his death the Craft has lost an active and zealous member. He joined the Lodge of Antiquity (acting by immemorial constitution) about the year 1811, and was, at the period of his death, the oldest subscribing member. He had served the office of Grand Steward as a member of the Lodge of Felicity, and also the Stewardship of the Girls' and Boys' Institutions. He was a member of the Lodge of Reconciliation, and, by order of the Grand Master, delivered annually the Prestonian Lecture, in the Lodge of Antiquity. Br. Thompson held office for many years in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire. He was also a member, at the time of his death, of the Somerset House Lodge and the Shakespear Lodge, and other Lodges.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To Our Readers. Our country friends will continue to receive their copies of the "Masonic Mirror," through the post, for *7d.* as heretofore, though we have ceased to stamp any portion of our impression—the new law requiring us to make such alterations in our appearance, if we avail ourselves of the power of stamping, which we deem to be inexpedient. The number will, however, pass freely through the post by the affixing of a penny stamp, and the alteration of the law will, when deemed expedient, enable us materially to enlarge our size without additional cost to our readers. We are aware that we shall, by the new arrangement, be placed in some little difficulty with our Colonial Readers, inasmuch as the new tariff of book postage does not apply to places beyond the seas. For the present, however, we shall continue to supply those friends whose subscriptions we have received in the usual manner, we bearing the loss that the extra postage will inflict upon us; and for the future we shall, for the accommodation of the colonies, also issue our "Mirror" in quarterly parts, by which three numbers will pass through the colonial book post for one postage.

P. M., Birkenhead.—*We are not aware of any prohibition to the practice of passing more than one candidate at a time through the various degrees, though we think it very improper, and ought to be authoritatively put an end to.*

A Colonist *has great cause of complaint. Write to the D.G.M., the Earl of Yarborough, Arlington-street, Piccadilly, and we have no doubt that your remonstrances will meet with an attention which they have failed to receive from the G. Secretary.*

B***.—*We cannot recommend the work in question. The author was expelled from Freemasonry by the G. Lodge.*

J. B. *is thanked for his suggestion. We will endeavour to attend to it in a month or two.*

The Quarterly communications from the 1st of March, 1854, *have at length made their appearance. As the work in the G. Secs. office is never conducted in a hurry, they may be expected to be generally circulated in the provinces by the end of* 1857, *and to reach the colonies about* 1860.

The Br. you allude to dare not put the question. He is a candidate for the purple, and would consequently be afraid of offending the G. Secretary, knowing that if he did so he would never receive the wished-for honours of the Order. Try Br. Savage, his chance of becoming a grand officer has long since passed, and he can, therefore, afford to be independent.

J. J. L.—*There would not be sufficient time to get up a Calendar, such as you desire to see published, in time for* 1856. *We will, however, turn our attention to the subject, and consider what we can do without clashing with the Grand Lodge. Certainly it is disgraceful to the G. Secs. office where the Calendar is* supposed *to be corrected, that a Lodge should be published as meeting in a place from whence it has been removed for sixteen years.*

Ethée's *last communication has been unfortunately mislaid.*

J. C., Oxford.—*Yes.*

A Dissatisfied Brother *had better withdraw from the Lodge; he is evidently wrong.*

The communication from Admaston alluded to never came to hand.

The Foundation Stone of a new Masonic Hall at Newport, Monmouthshire, is to take place in the course of the ensuing month. We wish other towns would follow the example, and obtain similar buildings.

The Earl of Zetland was Prov. Grand Master of England when the Duke of Bedford died. He was elected M.W.G.M. in 1844.

The information can be obtained in Br. Oliver's last work on Freemasonry; the subject is too long for our pages. In fact, the object of the "Mirror" *is to be practical, and to avoid anything desultory, or which can lead only to a useless correspondence.*

The late Br. Gilkes died in poor circumstances. He often remarked on the importance of an aged Freemasons' Asylum; and would gladly have aided with his voice the charity. No Mason was more respected than Br. Gilkes.

We refer you to the first number of the "Mirror," *where you will find the statement to which you refer.*

The letter of our New Brunswick Correspondent came to hand only on the 30th, too late for the present number.

Births.—On the 26th July, at Heath Street, Hampstead, the wife of Br. Henry Cornick, of three daughters, all of whom, with their mother, are doing well.

THE

MASONIC MIRROR:

SEPTEMBER, 1855.

THE "SUSSEX WING" OF THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.

It is something like twelve years since our late highly respected G.M., H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, was called from this sublunary world to the Grand Lodge above, where we fervently hope, his spirit is at rest; and yet it is only within the last month that the foundation stone of a memorial, which from its nature we trust will exist to the end of time, has been laid. The memorial fund was originally raised with the view of erecting a statue of H.R.H., in some prominent position of the metropolis, or a mausoleum in Kensal Green, the resting place of the mortal remains of our illustrious and lamented brother. When the funds, however, had been got together, and found to amount to something like 1400*l.* or 1500*l.*, the committee, as we think, wisely determined to apply them to an object more worthy of the man it was designed to honour, and aid in the extension of some great public charity, and after due consideration, the "Sussex Wing," (designed to receive one hundred patients), of the Royal Free Hospital, was determined upon. We could have wished, perhaps, that the fund had been employed for the purpose of endowing one of our own charities or assisting in building a school-house for our boys, which yet remains unprovided for; but next to these we know of no charity more worthy of support than the Royal Free Hospital, where patients are at all times received, and their cases promptly attended to; they requiring no other recommendation than this—they are in poverty, and in want of medical assistance. A more Samaritan Institution cannot be imagined. It says to the afflicted, no matter from what cause they may have contracted disease, "Fear not, come unto us, and we will receive you, your wants shall be readily administered to, and if human skill can preserve life, or alleviate your miseries, here will you find it." Nor are the spiritual wants of the patients neglected, and many a poor erring mortal has found his or her dying pillow smoothed by the reflection that through the exertions of the excellent Chaplain of the Institution, they have been blessed with the opportunity of making their peace with their offended God, and have felt the inspiration that through the mercy of the Saviour, who died for all, they were about to pass from this to a better world. Those who have had an

opportunity of attending our public Hospitals, know how much of good, how much of holy feeling frequently lies at the bottom of the heart of many an afflicted fellow creature, apparently sunk in the lowest depths of vice and misery, and those who have listened to their dying tale, have not failed deeply to sympathise in their miseries, and to feel that they have indeed been "more sinned against than sinning." For the succour of such as these no better Institution than the Royal Free Hospital could have been devised, and sure we are that could H.R.H. have been consulted as to what would be most gratifying to his own feelings as a memorial, he would have said, "Let me not live in bronze or marble, but in the grateful hearts of our poor fellow-creatures, all of whom I regard as my brothers, through the means of some charity, which adopting my name may relieve their wants and alleviate their miseries." Such as we have stated, we are convinced, would have been the sentiment of H.R.H., and glad we are that they are now being so well carried out, the fund having been held in the hands of trustees until the Hospital Committee could raise sufficient funds to complete the intended wing.

We will not say anything here relative to the rise and progress of this Hospital, because that will be found so fully and eloquently described in the speech of its benevolent founder, Dr. Marsden, in another page of the "Masonic Mirror," that we feel any words of our own, could only tend to weaken its effect. We may, however, be allowed to express our regret that more advantage was not taken by the Joint Committee of the Hospital and the Committee of the Fund—rare opportunity of seeing a foundation stone laid with Masonic honours (especially in the metropolis), to benefit the funds of the Institution. Had more publicity of the intended ceremony been given; had greater preparations been made for the accommodation of visitors; had the procession been allowed to extend over a greater space of ground than about the thirty yards leading from the Welsh School to the spot where the stone was laid; had the ladies of the brethren and other friends of the charity been invited to lay their purses upon the foundation stone; had tickets been sold for the dinner in the evening, aided by the excellent appeals of Br. Dobie, Br. Pritchard, the Rev. Br. Dr. Bowles, Dr. Marsden, and others, at least 1000*l.* might have been added to the funds.

The opportunity, however, has been allowed to pass, but we trust that those brethren who can afford to aid the Institution, will therefore feel themselves the more called upon to forward their subscriptions to the able Secretary of the Institution, our excellent and respected Br. Fenn. We vouch for it they will be thankfully received, and faithfully applied.

We much regret that our beloved G.M. was prevented from being present at the ceremony, in consequence of the severe illness of his excellent countess—whom we pray the G.A. of the U. speedily to restore to health—and that regret was further enhanced by the knowledge that our highly estimable D.G.M. was only slowly recovering from a very serious attack of indisposition, which rendered it impossible for him to be present. In their absence, however, we are convinced there could not have been found a better representative than our Br. Dobie, Pl.G.M. for Surrey,

and G. Registrar of England, and we are glad to find that his valuable services have been properly appreciated and suitably acknowledged by the Committee of the Hospital, as is evinced by the following extract from the minutes of their proceedings, with which we have been favoured.

"At a meeting of the Committee of Management of the Royal Free Hospital, held on the 2nd August, It was resolved unanimously:—

"That the warm and sincere thanks of this Committee are pre-eminently due, and are hereby given to Alexander Dobie, Esq., Provincial Grand Master for Surrey, and Grand Registrar of the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, for the able manner in which he (acting for the Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master) conducted the ceremony of laying the Foundation Stone of the "Sussex Wing" of this Hospital, to be erected in memory of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, Grand Master. Also for the lively interest he manifested for this Institution, when presiding at the dinner held on that occasion in Freemasons' Hall.

"That this resolution be fairly transcribed, framed and glazed, and presented to Mr. Dobie."

We have reason to believe that this acknowledgment has ere this been presented to Br. Dobie, and from a knowledge of the character of our worthy brother, we are sure that no compliment could have been paid to him which he would more highly value. The trowel with which the stone was laid has been forwarded to the G.M., Br. Dobie, only acting as his *locum tenems* at the ceremony. It bears the following inscription:—

"With this Trowel the first stone of the "Sussex Wing" of the Royal Free Hospital, to be erected in memory of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, was laid by Alexander Dobie, Esq., Provincial Grand Master for Surrey, and Grand Registrar of the Fraternity of Free and accepted Masons of England (acting for the Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland, the Most Worshipful Grand Master), on the 30th day of July, 1855."

THE MARK DEGREE.

We have to direct the attention of our readers, to a communication which appears in another page, from Comp. Gaylor, the G. Scibe, N. of Scotland, relative to the spurious Mark Lodge meeting in London. We certainly regret, after the evidence recently published of the illegality of that body, that so highly esteemed a brother as Lord Leigh, who holds the distinguished position of P.G.M. for Warwickshire, should have allowed himself to be installed as its master—and it now behoves him, after the statements made by Comp. Gaylor, to ascertain whether those Comps. with whom he is associated, have ever been legally initiated into the Order in Scotland, as asserted—Comp. Gaylor, distinctly averring, that Dr. Jones, the founder of the London Mark Lodge, has never been registered in the books of the G. Chapter of Scotland. It is clear that the matter cannot be allowed to stop as it at present stands, but that the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen, must be called strictly to account for its proceedings—and with regard to the London Lodge, if it continues to meet in spite of legal prohibition, the G. Chapter of Scotland must call upon the G. Lodge of England to use its power to put a stop to the practice of illegal Masonry by members of its body.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

(*Continued from p. 476.*)

In following up our history of Freemasonry in England, and feeling with regret that we are about to leave the chronicles of times replete with sublime conception, and most extraordinary ability in adapting magnificence with utility; for those of speculative masonry as it now is, it cannot but strike our readers as extraordinary, that a church which had done so much to foster it in its infancy, and support it in its youth and maturity, should in later days, not only withdraw that support, but as far as possible, prevent any of the body from entering into its bonds of universal friendship and benevolence. That Gothic Masonry, (according to the accepted term) so replete with fine geometrical imagination, and by the harmonius imitation of nature's works, seeming to lift our ideas to that Great Architect from whom all goodness springs, and without whose divine assistance, all our works are of no avail, was introduced with Christianity into this country, and that it increased in splendour till the reigns of the Tudors, when the excess of ornament became so great, that its sublimity was destroyed, and it seemed to lose that appearance of vigour, which is capable of withstanding the destroying hand of time—will be found in our early numbers.

In the fifteenth century, great advances were made in classical knowledge, scholars were not content with the studies handed down to them by the ancient Latin authors, but made great researches in Greek and Oriental learning, which led to the correction of the volume of the Sacred Law, as in its present state, and finally consummated the Reformation. The church as then established, watched those innovations with a jealous eye; and although, perhaps willing to allow every liberality to a society, when considering it under her own peculiar protection, like a jealous mistress was unwilling to share her favours with universal countenance and support. We find that the re-introduction of the Augustan style into England, was contemporaneous with the Reformation, and as Freemasonry progressed under the new system, its former supporters not only withdrew their countenance, but have since enforced the most cruel laws to destroy it by persecuting its members. This will no doubt fully account for the want of support from the crown during the interval between the death of Charles II., and accession of William III., when the mistaken zeal of James cost him his throne, and in no doubt shortened his life, for a court that could excuse its venality and profligacy by endeavouring to force the lower classes to become religious (according to its own peculiar notions of what religion should be) could, from its entire want of that homely, and too little esteemed faculty of the mind, namely, common sense, hardly be expected to comprehend an institution, whose government is only enforced by moral principle and example.

Upon the abdication of James, and the entailment of the crown on Mary, Princess of Orange, and Anne, Princess of Denmark, and their issue; and these failing, on William, Prince of Orange, in 1689, which

settlement was soon after followed in the kingdoms of Scotland and Ireland, and the constitution we now enjoy was established; but the close of the seventeenth century being very turbulent, and the public mind very much disturbed, Masonry had many difficulties to contend with. In such an unsettled state of politics, particular Lodges could not be attended in the southern part of England, which was the principle seat of action, but were occasionally held where circumstances allowed, and in or near places where great works were carried on.

Sir Robert Clayton, Lord Mayor of London, held an occasional Lodge of his brother Masters, at St. Thomas' Hospital, Southwark, to advise with the governors about the best design of rebuilding the hospital in its present style, near which a stated Lodge remained for a long time after. Beside that and the old Lodge of St. Paul, (now the Lodge of Antiquity), there was another in Piccadilly, near St. James's church, one near Westminster Abbey, one near Covent Garden, one in Holborn, one on Tower Hill, and some others which met at stated times.

King William having been made a Freemason, confirmed the choice of Br. Wren, as Grand Master, and under his patronage St. Paul's Cathedral was carried on, and the new part of the palace at Hampton Court completed after an old design by Inigo Jones, and an industrious Lodge was held there during the building. This is considered one of the finest royal houses in England, the site was selected by its original founder, Cardinal Wolsey; for the beauty of its views, the house and parks being surrounded on three sides by the river Thames, and is indeed a work of great beauty and magnificence. The facade, or king's apartment, fronting the privy garden, and Thames, extends 328 feet, the facade, or queen's apartment, fronting the house park, extends 330 feet, the approach to the principal staircase leading to the king's side, is through a beautiful portico about 90 feet long, consisting of a colonade of sixteen duplicated pillars of the Ionic Order.

The king at this time built the little palace at Kensington, and the Military Hospital at Chelsea was completed, the industry and care displayed by Sir Christopher and Sir Stephen Fox conjointly, in the erection and settlement of this excellent public institution, are worthy of the gratitude of the nation; Sir Stephen, a lord of the treasury, attended to the due payment of the works, and the surveyor vigorously forwarded the buildings, and prescribed the statutes, and whole economy of the house, which for its cleanliness, health, and convenience, is considered one of the best in Europe, with regard to adaption to the purpose for which it is intended.

The king also converted the splendid new palace at Greenwich, into an hospital for aged and disabled seamen, and ordered it to be finished after Inigo Jones' original design. Sir Christopher, G.M., was among the first who addressed their majesties to apply those buildings to this pious and charitable purpose, and was most admirably supported by Lord Somers, Mr. Evelyn, Mr. Bridgman, secretary of the admiralty, and Mr. Lowndes, secretary of the treasury. It was originally not only intended for the relief and support of veteran and disabled seamen, but for the maintenance of such widows and orphans, whose parents had lost their lives in the

public service.—Which with its sister at Chelsea, are only acts of justice towards those who have shed their blood, or expended the energy of their early days in the defence of the nation, and those comforts which all classes enjoy. After the grant had passed the great seal, and a commission appointed with full powers to conduct all affairs relating to the building, and the surveyor, (Sir Christopher) nominated a director, and chief architect, this public spirited brother cheerfully undertook the work, gratis. The new fabric was contrived extensive, durable, and magnificent, in conformity with the graceful pavilion which had been erected there by King Charles II., originally for his own residence. The surveyor contributed his time, labour, and experience for several years, with all the expedition the circumstances would permit, preferring in this, as in all other cases, the public service to any private advantage, ever showing the greatest contempt for the acquirement of wealth.

This year, 1698, the noble Br. Charles Lenox, Duke of Richmond and Lenox, attending the usual assembly and feast at London, was chosen Grand Master, and approved by the king, Sir Christopher Wren was appointed Deputy Grand Master, and Br. Edward Strong, and his son, Grand Wardens. Sir Christopher was in the following year again chosen Grand Master.

On the death of King William, March 8th, 1702, the Queen Mary being also dead, he was succeeded by Anne, the other daughter of James II. This Queen enlarged St. James's Palace; and after the famous battle of Blenheim, demolished the Royal Castle of Woodstock, in Oxfordshire, and built on its site the noble castle of Blenheim, a residence for the famous British general, John Churchill, Duke of Malborough.

In this reign, the two nations of England and Scotland, after having been subject to the same Sovereign during one hundred and four years, were by the wisdom of both their supreme councils, indissolubly united into one empire, under the name of Great Britain.

At this time, the Queen and Parliament enacted that fifty additional parish churches should be built to meet the increased requirement for religious instruction, caused by the great extension of the cities of London and Westminster. The Grand Master being appointed surveyor, and also one of the commissioners for carrying on the work, gave all the attention that his other public services would permit; and preparatory to commencing, took occasion to convey his views on the subject to a friend appointed on the same commission, in a letter, which is distinguished as much for the ability and experience displayed in recommendations set forth, as for the vigor and plainness of its language.

It consists of eight separate recommendations, of which subsequent is a short extract: First, "that the sites should not be chosen with regard to cheapness, but for the convenience of their congregations."

Second, "that all burials in churches should be disallowed, both as regards the permanence of the building, as the health of the congregation."

Third. That cemeteries be constructed outside the walls, where the dead need not be disturbed at the pleasure of the sexton, or piled four or five upon one and other, or bones thrown out to gain room, and shewing that such receptacles for the dead would form a graceful border to the excessive

growth of the city, which was there encircled with scavengers' dung stalls.

Fourth. That the situation of churches should be as much as possible in the open streets, not in obscure lanes, nor where they would obstruct the passage of coaches; and that the mother church of the parish where it is divided, have a tower large enough for a good ring of bells, and the other churches smaller towers, for two or three bells.

Fifth. The selection of building materials and manufacture of cement.

Sixth. The capacity and dimensions of churches.

Seventh. The situation of the pulpit, so that the preacher may be heard perfectly in all parts of the church.

Eighth. The size of the new churches to be at least 60 feet broad, and 90 feet long; and the pews so arranged that the poor may have equal opportunity of hearing Gospel preached with the rich.

About this time, Buckingham and Marlborough Houses, in St. James's Park; Powis House, in Ormond Street; the Opera House, in the Haymarket; and many others about the Metropolis were built by the Craft, under the direction of the Grand Master; and in the country the Duke of Devonshire's fine seat at Chatsworth, in Derbyshire; Stourton, in Wiltshire; the Earl of Carlisle's seat, called Castle Howard, near York; Hemsley House, or Duncomb Park; Mereworth House, in Kent; Wilbury House, in Wiltshire. And after the peace of Utrecht, many rich officers returning to England, displayed the taste they had acquired during their residence on the Continent, by raising many stately mansions. The Augustan style was most magnificently displayed in the chapel of Trinity College, at Oxford, by Dr. Bathust, in Christ's Church College, in Peckwater Square, by Dr. Aldridge; in Queen's College, which was elegantly rebuilt by Dr. Lancaster, Allhallow's church, and the new printing house.

The Grand Master, Sir Christopher Wren, the designer of St. Paul's, London, and as master of the work, conducted it from the first stone, had also the satisfaction of seeing the completion of that noble edifice. The first stone was laid in the year 1675, and the works carried on with such care and expedition, that the walls of the choir and side aisles were finished, and the circular north and south porticos, and the great pillars of the dome brought to the same height, in the year 1685. The last stone on the top of the lanthorn was laid 1710, by the Grand Master's son, Christopher Wren, Esq., deputed by his father, in the presence of Br. Strong and his son, Grand Wardens, and other free and accepted Masons, and fellow crafts that had been employed in the execution of the work.

At this period, Masonry made hardly any progress. The advanced age and increasing infirmities of Sir Christopher preventing his attention to the duties of Grand Master, the Lodges decreased, and the annual festivals were no longer held. The old Lodge of St. Paul's, and a few others, still met regularly, but consisted of few members. In order to increase their numbers, it was proposed, and afterwards finally agreed, *That the privileges of Masonry should no longer be restricted to operative Masons, but extend to men of various professions, provided they were regularly approved and initiated into the Order.*

Queen Anne died at Kensington, without leaving any issue, August

1st, 1714. She was the last descendant of Charles I. upon the throne of Britain. The others being Catholics, were excluded by statute from the crown, in consequence of which George, elector of Hanover, descended from Elizabeth, sister of Charles I., and Queen of Bohemia, became King of Great Britain.

King George arrived in London, September 20th, 1714, and not being a Freemason, and entirely unacquainted with the language, the few Lodges in the south of England were greatly in want of an active patron by reason of the inability of Sir Christopher to attend. Therefore, in order to cement under a new Grand Master the centre of union and harmony, the following Lodges, namely, No. 1, at the Goose and Gridiron, in St. Paul's Church-yard; No. 2, at the Crown, in Parker's-lane, near Drury-lane; No. 3, at the Apple-Tree Tavern, in Charles-street, Covent-garden; No. 4, at the Rumner and Grapes Tavern, in Channel-row, Westminster, with some old brothers, met at the Apple Tree, and having placed in the chair the oldest Master Mason, being the master of a Lodge, they constituted themselves a Grand Lodge, *pro tempore*, in due form. At this meeting, it was resolved to revive the Quarterly Communications of the Fraternity, and in compliment to the oldest Lodge, to hold the next annual assembly and feast, at the Goose and Gridiron, in St. Paul's Church-yard, at which meeting to elect a Grand Master among themselves, till they should have the honour of a noble brother at their head. Accordingly, on St. John the Baptist's day, 1717, in the third year of the reign of George I., the assembly and feast was holden at the above-named house, when the oldest Master Mason, and the Master of a Lodge, having taken the chair, a list of candidates duly qualified for the office of Grand Master was read to the brethren; and the names having been separately proposed, the brethren, by a great majority of hands, elected Br. Anthony Sayer, Grand Master of Masons for the ensuing year, who was forthwith invested by the oldest Master, installed by the Master of the oldest Lodge, and duly congratulated by the assembly, who paid him homage. The Grand Master then entered on the duties of his office, and appointed his Wardens, Br. Jacob Lamball, G.S.W., Br. Capt. Joseph Elliott, G.J.W., and commanded the brethren of Lodges to meet the grand officers every quarter in communication at the place appointed in his summons; enjoining them also to recommend to all the Fraternity a punctual attendance on the next annual assembly and feast.

A variety of regulations were proposed and agreed to at this meeting; the principal of which was the following:—"That the privilege of assembling as Masons, which had been hitherto unlimited, should be vested in certain Lodges or assemblies of Masons, convened in certain places; and that every Lodge to be hereafter convened, except the four old Lodges at this time existing should be legally authorised to act by a warrant from the Grand Master for the time being, granted to certain individuals by petition, with the consent and approbation of the Grand Lodge in communication; and that without such warrant, no Lodge should be hereafter deemed regular or constitutional." Previous to which, it had

been the immemorial custom, whenever a sufficient number of Masons met together within a certain district, with the consent of the sheriff, or chief magistrate of the place, they were empowered to make Masons, and practise the rites of Masonry, without warrant of Constitution. The privilege was inherent in themselves as individuals, and this privilege is still enjoyed by two old Lodges now extant, which act by immemorial constitution.

In consequence of this regulation, several new Lodges were soon after founded in different parts of London and its environs, and the Masters and Wardens of these Lodges were commanded to attend the meetings of the Grand Lodge, make a regular report of their proceedings, and forward to the Grand Master, from time to time, a copy of any bye-laws they might form for their own government; in order that no laws established among them should be contrary to or subversive of the general regulations by which the Fraternity had been so long governed, and which had been so long governed, and which had been sanctioned by the four Lodges convened as Grand Lodge, in 1717.

In order to shew due consideration and respect to four old Lodges by which the Grand Lodge was originated, it was resolved, "That every privilege which they collectively enjoyed, by virtue of their immemorial rights, they should still continue to enjoy; and that no law, rule, or regulation, to be hereafter made or passed in Grand Lodge, should ever deprive them of such privilege, or encroach on any landmark which was at that time established as the standard of Masonic government." This motion having been confirmed, the old Masons in the metropolis, agreeably to the resolutions of the brethren at large, vested all their inherent privileges, as individuals, in the four old Lodges in trust, that they would never suffer the old charges and ancient landmarks to be infringed. The four old Lodges then agreed to extend their patronage to every Lodge which the Grand Lodge should hereafter constitute according to the new regulations, and while such Lodges conformed to the ancient constitutions of the Order, to admit their Masters and Wardens to share with them all the privileges of Grand Lodge, excepting precedence of rank.

Thus we arrive at a most interesting and important period in the history of Masonry, and from henceforth it assumes a still greater importance. The method of carrying on the work and the tools employed in imitating the beautiful harmony of the Great Architect of the Universe, from this time became the emblems of working the eternal salvation of mankind. The truly speculative Mason sees in every line a communication with Divine wisdom; from every working tool he derives a moral lesson. By the beautiful harmony of the creation, he is taught to regard all mankind as one family, however distinguished by country or religious opinion, all worshipping the same Almighty Parent from whom all good works do proceed, and to whom all look up with reverence and gratitude, whatever their sect or peculiar forms of worship may be. That this feeling of universal love is approved by the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, is amply evinced by the peace and happiness, which, with his assistance,

Freemasonry has been enabled to extend to the remotest part of the habitable globe, by softening the hearts of men, when their vital fluids are condensed by rancour or revenge. Whether engaged in national or private strife, it has been the means of recalling the mind of man to a recollection of him, to whom all hearts are open, and whose attributes are peace and love to all. Still in bidding adieu to Freemasonry as it formerly existed, let us never forget what we owe to those worthies who have left monuments of the inspiration of the Spiritual Great Architect, and whose bodily, as well as mental exertions should be regarded, but as the blessings bestowed on mankind by him who can strengthen the weak, and bless the work of the strong, for little could have been produced without the strong hands, and willing hearts of those who filled the subordinate positions. In those days a perfect unanimity and equality existed between Master Masons and Craftsmen, and from this is derived the perfect harmony of the work. Every encouragement was shewn to native talent, and instead of inducing the Craftsmen to emigrate, every possible means was resorted to to prevent it, and although every encouragement and brotherly love were shown to foreign brethren, the free and independent spirit of the native craftsman was held of the greatest value as a safeguard against the inroads of oppression, in whatever quarter they might occur. The history of mankind proves, that when too great distinction is made between the interests of the governor, and those under his direction, the same results cannot be produced. The decline of all large or small communities, have been from the excess of those members who have done nothing to increase the common stock, and who, from their position have considered it derogatory to work for the common benefit. Labour is the lot of man, and nature punishes all those who are disobedient to its laws, and however excellent the plans or precepts of an institution may be, they are as nothing unless carried out by perseverance and industry. Ancient Masonry did not carry out its wondrous works by the hands of slaves, but by those of willing workmen who felt an equal pride with their director of the work, and it was only by that unanimity of feeling that they achieved those wonderful productions, which even the great attainments of modern science can only imitate. For as a due consideration of the subordinate members of the building alone gives permanent support to the superstructure, so must every institution hold in proper respect its inferior members. For although it is only the surface that meets the eye, and gains the greatest admiration, it must be only the superficial minded who do not remember the amount of ability and industry required to construct those portions which compress and cement the whole structure together, and like the unpublished act of doing good, should be held in greater estimation.

(*To be continued.*)

BROTHERLY LOVE.

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

(*Continued from p.* 494.)

In some human hearts there is a species of baseness that almost exceeds belief—a foul rankling venom, that would induce a suspicion that there is some fiendish element in the constitution of man—it has many forms, and one name, ingratitude. Of this the imbecile André Buffon was an illustration. The chastisement he had received from Simon, had left a hatred towards his previous benefactor, that exhibited itself whenever the occasion was presented. He had circulated certain stories relative to him, notwithstanding the kindness with which he had been treated on the battle-field, calculated to blacken his character still further. These reached the ears of Jeunegrace in the town; and as detraction and falsehood were strangers to his disposition, he did not suspect that they could originate from calumny. He was a Christian, and the reluctance with which he made his statement to Ida, and his assertion that he was prevented from mentioning what he had learned before, from a fear that he might be supposed to depreciate his rival for his own purposes, convinced her that he was not gratifying any personal feeling.

She heard him with sorrow, but without any other sentiment. She knew that with all his defects there was a better nature struggling in Simon's breast, and she had for some time considered that she had renounced him too hastily, and in an unchristian manner. He loved her, purely, devotedly loved her; and she was the only living thing that he felt had ever cared for him, or brightened the darkness of his early life. And now that she was about to place an inseparable barrier between them, to snap for ever that link of love which bound them together, she could only think of him with tenderness and compassion, and clothed with a thousand endearing and sanctifying associations and memories. When Jeunegrace had concluded his recital, she said:

"He is more an object of pity than censure; for there were none to love him, but many to turn his feelings to bitterness. I know that he has a generous and a tender heart, a better, purer nature than the world that crushed it could imagine."

Jeunegrace respected the feeling that dictated these words; and though it gave him a transient pang to think that another should possess so much of Ida's affection, he made no further observation, and the subject dropped. Here we must request our readers attention to a circumstance that will, in some degree, explain an apparent inconsistency in the act of Jeunegrace's intended marriage with one who he knew was attached to another. He had loved Madame Lefebre before her marriage, and he knew that she reciprocated his affection. But he was poor, and his kinsman was rich. He was aware that in her marriage she was trampling her own feelings for the sake of her parents, the same motive that he was satisfied was actuating Ida in her acceptance of him. He saw, notwithstanding, that she made an amiable and affectionate wife until her husband relapsed into his former

habits. He saw enough of her wedded life to be assured that even then she would have striven to love her husband, if there was the slightest glimpse of reviving affection on his part; and that it was not until indifference and neglect had estranged her feelings, that she became what she appeared, a thing of heartlessness and levity. But he fancied that her manner was a mere mask to conceal the tortured feelings within. He saw that under circumstances similar to those of Ida, she could still discharge her duties: and he knew, from his own feelings, that time will wear away the deepest impressions. These were the circumstances that made Jeunegrace resolve to unite himself to Ida.

Mrs. St. Clair was delighted when she heard from Ida her acceptance of Jeunegrace. She knew that their was no chance of her and her child being thrown beggars on the world. In her exultation she did not notice that Ida's cheek was unusually pale, nor did she imagine that her child was prompted by one pure unselfish motive—namely, to secure a provision for her parent—that she was sacrificing herself—laying her young heart on the altar of filial affection.

It was agreed that the marriage should take place shortly, unless it wa delayed by Alfred Beaufrere's wound terminating fatally, and Jeunegrace departed a happy man. He felt his heart throb with delight as he drew near the scene of his ministry, and thought of the lovely and amiable being who would assist him in his works of love and charity, and cheer his peaceful but solitary abode. He paused for a moment as he came in sight of the castle—from whose turret floated a black flag—for he thought of her within its time-worn walls, smitten with sorrow, and around whom he had once deemed that his affections were entwined for life. A strange feeling sprang in his mind. The present faded away, leaving one period of the past vivid and boldly defined. It was when, under the shadow of those mouldering battlements, and by the banks of that stream, rosy with the tints of the setting sun, he had uttered his vows of love—love that was to know no change. He gazed around. There was no visible mutation on anything which he beheld. Time had revealed on that hoary edifice no trace of its crumbling hand; the water was still, as bright, and musical; the grass, as green; the oak, as stately and colossal, even the frail shrubs seemed as unaltered, as when he made those vows—the most perishable object that met his eye had survived his sworn fidelity. There was nothing to call forth remorse or the slightest reproach, but still he felt sad, and he, more than once asked himself, did he love her still.

On reaching his home he found a letter waiting for him. It was from the Marquis de Madelaine, who stated that his father was recently deceased, and that there were some matters in connection with the estate, for information on which, he had been referred by his unfortunate relation, Monsieur Lefebre, who had the management of the Madelaine estates, to him. He requested an interview with him at his earliest convenience. Though Jeunegrace had heard the story relative to Simon Le Trouve's unexpected good fortune, he was not aware that the estate of which he had become the heir, was that of the Marquis of Madelaine, and that, in fact, he was related to him. He went to the castle the next morning, and was

shown into the study, where he found the young Marquis engaged in inspecting some documents. The latter raised his head when he entered, and to his surprise he perceived him to be no other than the stranger whom he had met on the Mount, and still more was he surprised when he heard that he was also Simon Le Trouve, his rival in the affections of Ida.

CHAPTER XIII.—The Conclusion.

Though the same passions enter into the constitution of all human beings, the difference in their degrees in individual cases is as numerous as the circumstances of the cases themselves. Some young ladies, situated as Ida was, after the departure of Jeunegrace, would have endeavoured to have banished all remembrance of the unfortunate Simon, and by dwelling only on the future, have forgotten the past. Some young ladies who bear the character of being sentimental, would have acted in this way; but not so, Ida. She made no pretensions to sentiment—her love was not of that fanciful description which is engendered by romance, or was it of that character described by an eminent moralist, as arising from temporary association, and fed by the want of any other object to diversify thought. It was a passion as deep as it was pure and unselfish. It was the growth of childhood, and in proportion to its duration, so was its strength. She could scarcely behold anything which surrounded her without being reminded of Simon, so inseparably was such linked with the uninterrupted intercourse of years. She felt that, however, she might strive with her feelings, it was impossible for anything but years of absence to erase his image, invested with tender thoughts from her mind.

She had made the sacrifice of her inclinations, she had thrown an impassable gulf between herself and Simon, she had given her consent to become the wife of another, and were she free from her promises, she would act in the same way again without repining. But as the time was approaching when she was to pledge love and fidelity at the altar, to utter the words that would bind her irrevocably to another, all her womanly feelings for the object she loved grew more intensified, and she felt she would be violating no law of God or man by devoting the period, intervening between her nuptials to the memory of the past, and to one whom she considered, notwithstanding his defects, she had not treated with the consideration due to the imperfections of human nature, and the deep love he cherished for her.

She performed the household duties that devolved on her with her usual attention and punctuality, but whatever vacant time she passed, was spent in wandering around those places in the neighbourhood where she and Simon had spent so many hours of happiness together. She sought the hut of the poor maniac, and she recalled the pleasure she experienced in visiting that abode of misery, for there, at least, she knew that no unkind word would be spoken of one, whom the world beside only derided or reviled. Then she would stray amid the vine-clad hills, which contrasted so strongly with the barrenness of the maniac's dwelling-place, and as she gazed on the different objects of soft and refined scenery,

where only the beautiful was visible, and which looked alike lovely in the spring, summer, or autumn, budding into vegetable life, or growing sear in the dying summer, she would almost fancy that Simon was by her side, and gazing with her in mute communion on the landscape. She was almost tempted to turn aside to look in his countenance; she expected to feel the pressure of his hand, that told of his presence without disturbing her contemplation. Then she would fancy that his form emerged from the trees, wearing that look of love and sensibility which divested his features of all repulsive expression. But most of her time was spent in a little cemetery, situated in a secluded dell near a Protestant chapel in the suburbs. This had been a favourite resort with them both in the heat of summer, for it afforded a shelter, and here they were accustomed to muse with pensiveness, but not sadly, on the newly-raised turf or some little touching inscription on the sculpture, where the hand of affection or piety had sought to record some amiable characteristic of the departed. And as fancy grew vivid she would almost imagine that she beheld the features of her lover in the mute effigies that mourned in marble over the mouldering remains of mortality. In a mind of less strength than Ida's, or with less piety than she possessed, these valedictory visits might have produced a morbid state of mind, but it had a contrary effect with her, for it rendered her more sedulous in the discharge of her duties, as if to make atonement for the temporary estrangement of her thoughts from the present.

An event occurred that, for the time, effectually banished all thoughts relative to herself. This was the arrival of Alfred Beaufrere in a state that left no doubt as to his approaching dissolution. His wounds were fatal, and the fatigue he had undergone in gratifying his desire of dying under the same roof with Ida, hastened the advent of his last moments. The avowal he had made could scarcely have failed to render this a trying moment for Ida; but the tenderness and affection with which she had always regarded him required no additional stimulus to her sorrow.

Mrs. St. Claire had little strength of mind either for joy or grief, and as the one elated her unduly so the other depressed her to an extent that prostrated all her energies. She was so affected by the state of her nephew that she could render Ida no active assistance, so that all the duty of attending him devolved on the latter; and to discharge this effectually she devoted all her thought and time. She listened to every word that escaped his lips, and watched his every look as if to discover any wish that he might form, which, when it was ascertained, was promptly gratified. His draughts were administered by her hand, she would allow none but herself to smooth or raise his pillow, or perform those attentions which the sick require, and which are doubly grateful when proceeding from those who are dear. She never left him during the day, and it was only when exhausted nature demanded repose that she could be induced to quit his side. And even during the time allotted to sleep, she would frequently awake and visit his chamber to see if the nurse, to whose care he was temporarily intrusted, attended to him properly. The look of gratitude, the faint pressure of his hand, told how sensible and thankful Alfred was for her unremitting assiduity.

During the periods when the patient was asleep, Ida used to avail herself of the opportunity of writing to Jeunegrace, for Mrs. St. Claire could do nothing but weep the whole day through, and so little control had she over the exhibition of her feelings that her presence in the sick chamber was strictly prohibited by the medical attendant. Ida acquainted the young clergyman of the arrival of her cousin and his condition. His letters were frequent, but she fancied that a less fervent tone pervaded them than what she might have expected from the attachment he had so earnestly expressed towards her. He stated that in the Marquis de Madelaine he had found a relative and a previous acquaintance, whose character was most amiable, and whom he was prevented introducing to her, by the melancholy event which had occurred since his departure. But there was one feature in his letters which surprised Ida, and that was his frequent mention of Simon Le Trouve, and his statements that the latter had been most grievously misrepresented, his character having undergone a complete change. He said that his latter life fully proved the existence of that better nature of which she spoke, and which had now fully developed itself, and this he ascertained from an unquestionable source. This commendation of Simon in some degree prepared Ida for what Jeunegrace subsequently stated, which in effect was, that under the circumstances, and being aware that Simon's love for her was undiminished, he would release her from the contract into which she entered, from a sense of duty. In all this, Ida perceived only a generous and self-sacrificing disposition, but not so Mrs. St. Claire.

When that good lady was made acquainted with the contents of this last epistle, not even the affliction of her mind could prevent her giving vent to her resentment against what she regarded as the venality of Jeunegrace, in whose feelings she had little doubt an alteration had been effected, and that when he began to reflect calmly on the pecuniary position of Ida, his worldly feelings predominated, and he repented the offer he had made. She was resolved to write to him, and reproach him with his perfidy. This determination was, however, altered, and a new direction given to her feelings in this affair. This was the arrival of a letter containing her usual quarterly allowance, with an intimation that in future she might expect double the amount, which the donor had secured to her and her daughter, even in the event of his death. The good lady, anxious to escape from her melancholy reflections, began forthwith to indulge in speculation as to the probable effect of this accession to her means in the future prospects of Ida, and she was inwardly pleased that the latter was not to become the wife of a clergyman, whose means were limited, and who, under altered circumstances, she no longer regarded as not entitled to her hand. She also thought of Jeunegrace's statement respecting Simon, towards whom her sentiments had undergone a considerable change since she had heard of his unexpected accession to rank and wealth. Under the influence of these feelings, she addressed the young clergyman in rather a stately tone, assuring him that she had no desire to urge a marriage between him and her daughter, especially as she felt more satisfied than ever of the deep attachment of the latter to Simon, whose

character she was delighted to learn had undergone so great an alteration, and of whose prosperity, though she considered it was of no importance to them, she was truly happy to hear, indeed, she went so far as to allude to her husband's affection for him, and recounted many instances which she had given of the interest she had felt in him when he was uncared for by any one besides. Mrs. St. Claire read over the epistle several times before it was despatched, and each perusal satisfied her that it was a masterpiece. In the first, she had given a proof of what would be regarded as magnanimity in not seeking her daughter's alliance with him, though seemingly so desirable; and then the allusion to Simon, which she expected would reach his ears, not only made a revelation of Ida's unaltered feelings, but was calculated to awaken a sentiment of gratitude towards her father for early kindness and attention. Indeed, we must do Mrs. St. Claire the justice to say that she was entitled to some praise for her letter.

In his next letter to Ida, Jeunegrace said, that contrary to what he had previously stated, he and the young Marquis would visit her in a few days. Ida could not help thinking it was singular that a stranger should select such a time as the present for his visit to a family to whom he was unknown. Another letter followed, in which Jeunegrace stated that he was about to commence his journey, and informed her that the Marquis was no other than the son of the Maniac, and that it was to the latter Mrs. St. Clair was indebted for the pension she had received. As usual, Ida showed her mother the letter, and that lady's surprise exceeded all conception. The intelligence, however, had the effect of making her desirous of seeing and thanking the young nobleman, to whom, of course, she attributed the continuance and increase of his father's bounty.

In the meantime, there was little alteration in Alfred's state, except that he was growing weaker, though suffering seemed in a great measure to have departed. Within the last few hours there appeared to be one wish uppermost in his mind, and that was to see Simon Le Trouve. That name mingled with the broken utterances of his dreams, and was frequently on his lips in his waking moments. The medical attendant said that it was desirable that his wish should be gratified, for that his speedy death was certain, and that the presence of one whom he so anxiously desired to see would cheer him in his last moments. But Ida saw no possibility of communicating with Jeunegrace, through whom perhaps Simon might be made acquainted with the desire of his friend. It was possible, however, that he might arrive in time for that purpose, and she counted the hours with agitation. She had assured Alfred that she would endeavour to acquaint Simon with his wishes, and she knew by the frequent anxious glances he directed to the door that he was expecting his arrival. As the hours wore on, she began to despair, and was obliged to turn her face away from Alfred's inquiring glances, for she saw that he was sinking fast and that his last wish would not be gratified.

We must for the present leave the sick chamber, and turn to a still, sombre scene, where death had been a recent visitant, but under what different circumstances to those which attended the last moments of Alfred. In the one case, there had been a violent death by the hand that

had once been clasped in friendship, and the soul of the dying man was darkened by the last look of him, upon whose family honor he had inflicted an indelible disgrace; while in the other, a young spirit was pining to clasp the hand of the friend who turned from him with aversion, but whom he had lost his life in endeavouring to rescue from destruction. The dead man was rushing before his Maker, without hope or belief—the dying, in the full confidence that he was to exchange a perishable and imperfect state, for one of enduring and unvarying felicity, with feelings purified from human affections, and looking forward with hope that he would shortly be in the presence of a benignant and merciful Saviour.

The reader has already been made acquainted with the feelings of Jeunegrace as he returned to his home, when he came in sight of the Castle Madelaine decked in the sable emblem of death. All his former sentiments towards Madame Lefebre revived, and on analysing his feelings, he became convinced that he still loved her—that his passion was only slumbering, not extinct. The inseparable barrier between them, while it existed had taught him to repress that passion, and aided by religion, he had acquired tranquility, which he mistook for an entire conquest over his attachment. But now that she was once more free, that he might regard her with the feeling of former years, the tenderness of that period re-awakened, and he felt that he still loved her, with a passion as intense as ever, but with more purity, for he had been chastened by the hand of affliction, and his thoughts had grown more holy from the blight which had fallen on his early hopes. Something whispered him that she reciprocated his feelings, and that the seeming heartlessness and levity of her manner were merely a veil assumed to cover the sorrow of a heart still mourning over the ruin of its early hopes, without that kindness from her husband which would wear out the past. But he found himself once more called upon to wrestle with his feelings. However, the conflict in this instance was in some degree brief, for in an interview with Simon, an explanation ensued, and he felt that he could now retract with advantage to Ida, the proposed union between them. Still he had to contend with his incertitude as to Madame Lefebre's sentiments towards him, and hope and fear alternately predominated in his breast.

In two days after Jeunegrace's last letter to Ida, a coach and four dashed through the town in the direction of Mrs. St. Claire's and stopped opposite her residence. Two young men attired in deep mourning alighted and announced themselves to the servant, who opened the door, as the Marquis de Madelaine and the Reverend Monsier Junegrace. The domestic, who was a simple rustic girl, and had been at Mrs. St. Claire's only since the arrival of Alfred Beaufrére, was awe-struck at the title, and never having seen a nobleman before, stood gazing at him with astonishment. At last she asked them to walk into the parlor, and rushing up to Mrs. St. Claire's room informed her that the Marquis, *Mad-a-gain*, and the reverend *Janegrease* were below. That good lady had not expected her visitors so early, for it was little more than 11 o'clock in the morning, and her toilet was not finished. Ida was therefore desired to receive them, and she descended to the parlour. She had scarcely opened the door, than a faint

expression of surprise burst from her lips, and in another instant she was locked in the embrace of Simon. The circumstances under which they met checked their transports, but during a few minutes that Jeunegrace had purposely absented himself from the room, he found time to tell her that he had returned with a love as warm as ever, to lay his rank and wealth at her feet. A look of early days proclaimed her gratitude, but her countenance suddenly changed and the tears burst from her eyes as she pointed upwards to the chamber of Alfred. Simon understood her, and once more clasping her to his heart, he permitted her to leave the room.

We shall not attempt to describe the astonishment of Mrs. St. Clair, when she discovered, in the person of the Marquis, the former object of her aversion, nor the generous manner with which he greeted her, shewing that all traces of unkindly feeling towards her had vanished. It is sufficient to state that she felt quite reassured by his manner that all was forgiven if not forgotten.

The medical attendant had arrived, and announced that the patient had only a few hours to live, and that any desire he expressed might be gratified. It was therefore arranged that he should see Simon as soon as possible. He had just awoke from a protracted sleep, and with that restlessness that so frequently precedes death, said in a faint tone that he wished to be removed down stairs. His wish was immediately complied with, and he was placed in an arm-chair before the window, which was opened at his request. For an instant the fresh fragrance of the shrubs in the garden in front of the house seemed to revive him. He looked enquiringly at Ida, and then towards the door, which on a signal from her was opened, and Simon entered the room. Stealing softly to Alfred's side, he took his hand and enquired in a low tone if he knew him? "Simon," he replied, faintly. He made a gesture to Ida to take his other hand, and then, having looked languidly at both, he muttered, in a voice scarcely audible, "Brotherly Love." He then sank on Ida's shoulder a corpse. * * * * * *

Months rolled away, and one bright sunny morning in spring, two carriages were drawn up before the little Protestant chapel in the neighbourhood, and a crowd of persons were assembled outside the door. In a short time, two bridal parties issued forth, consisting of Simon and Ida, and Jeunegrace and Madame Lefebre, or more properly Madame Jeunegrace. They were greeted with many hearty well wishes for their happiness, and, perhaps, the most vociferous, if not the most sincere among the crowd, was André Buffon, who, ever ready to worship the rising star, had of late been in the habit of extolling Simon to the seventh heaven, and recounting instances of his chivalry and benevolence on the battle-field, which he stated he had witnessed, not one of which was true, except that in which Simon had assisted him, when he lay wounded and was about, according to his own shewing, to perish amid a number of the enemy whom he had slain.

All the spots of interest, including the grave of the Maniac and that of Alfred Beaufrére had been visited, so that nothing remained but to par-

take of breakfast at Mrs. St. Claire's, and in a short time they were borne away from the scene of former associations. But every year, at a certain anniversary, the same parties visited the town, with some adititional faces in the shape of rosy cherub-like children, and spent some time in the little cemetery. Nor were they the only visitors there, for it was a favourite haunt for the youths and maidens of the district who would assemble at a tomb around which the flowers of the year, planted and attended by some friendly hand, grew in profusion. And eyes grew moistened with tears as the history of its tenant was related. It was a simple inornate tomb, surmounted by an urn, on which was inscribed, "Alfred Beaufrere, aged 23 years," and underneath "BROTHERLY LOVE."

FORGET-ME-NOT.

(A PASTORAL.—ORIGINAL.)

When Winter rages,
And the winds are pitiless and cold,
And past years seems as ages,
To the infirm and old.
When round the hearth,
The inmates of the humble cot,
Far happier than the great ones of the earth.
Though lowly be their humble lot,
With plaintive tale, and sportive song,—
Pass the night long—
Forget me not!

And when sweet Spring,
Comes like the morning's break,
And all of nature is awake
Lo beauty, and her handmaids bring,
The first-born offering of the vale,
The simple daisy, and the primrose pale,
And the lark upon the wing,
Soars to the sky,
Wafting his song of praise to the most High—
Forget me not!

And when comes Summer gay,
With robes of green,
And garland of fresh flowers,
Sporting the live long day
I' th' forest shade, or by the screen,
Of honey-suckle bowers,
Shedding her precious dews upon those
Children of her pride—the lilly and the rose—
Forget me not!

And when comes Autumn mild
And pale, with "sear and yellow leaf,"
Sighing in all the winds her grief,
As o'er the wild,
The rude and reckless breeze,
Scatters the dying foliage of the trees—
Forget me not!

ROBERT MCMURRAY.

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.

We last month gave a somewhat ample notice of the proceedings at the laying the foundation stone of the "Sussex Wing" of this valuable institution, although from the late period of the month at which it took place, we were necessarily compelled to defer our report of the speeches at the dinner in the evening, and we now publish them with the greater pleasure because the general newspapers have not been able to find space for them.

The dinner took place in the Freemasons' Tavern, the large hall and the approaches thereto, being most elegantly decorated with flowering plants and evergreens. There was also in the hall a good display of plate in salvers, epergnes, &c., which added much to the general effect, whilst the dinner was of the most *recherché* description, reflecting the greatest credit on the liberality and taste of the caterers, Brs. Elkington & Co. The chair was taken, at the request of the committee of the Hospital, by Br. Alex. Dobie, G. Registrar who had officiated at the ceremony of laying the foundation stone, and who was supported by Br. the Rev. Dr. Bowles, P.G.M. for Herefordshire, and formerly Chaplain to the late M.W.G.M, H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex; Br. the Hon. F. Dundas, G.S.W.; Br, Eaton, G.J.W.; Br. H. Lloyd, G.S.D.; Br. C. Elkington, G S.B.; Br. Ransford, G. Organist; Br. Jno. Hervey, P.G.D.; Br. Spiers, P.G.S.B.; Br. Leech, P.G.S.B.; Br. Jennings, G.D.C.; and many other brothers of distinction.

Upon the removal of the cloth, grace having been first said, the chairman rose to propose "*The health of her Majesty, the Queen.*" He said that the toast was one that required no eulogium from him to recommend it to the company, as they were all aware how eminently distinguished their sovereign was for her public and domestic virtues. They found her ever anxious and ready to help the needy, and they had lately seen her in a manner that could not be sufficiently eulogised, visiting the sick and wounded soldiers, thus setting an example of benevolence worthy of the patrons of the Royal Free Hospital. It was impossible for him to add more in her praise, and he should, therefore, call upon them upstanding, and with three times three, to drink the health of her Majesty. The National Anthem having been sung. The Chairman said, he had great pleasure in proposing the next toast, which was "The health of H.R.H. Prince Albert, and the rest of the royal family." Prince Albert had come as a stranger among them, but he had since his arrival in the country, given the people of England every satisfaction by the manner in which he performed his domestic and public duties—(laughter), and there was little chance of the royal race becoming extinct—(loud laughter). He had, too, evinced a strong interest in the success of the scientific institutions of the country, and had done everything that a person of his circumscribed means could do to improve those institutions, and he hoped that he would go on as he had begun. He would, without farther comment call on them to drink "The health of H.R.H. Prince Albert, and the rest of the Royal Family." The toast having been duly responded to. Br. the Rev. Dr. Bowles said that as he was one who had for many years been honoured with the friendship of the prince, whose name they had that day given to the new wing of the Royal Free Hospital, the governors had requested him to propose to the company the next toast, "The memory of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex." If he were to suppose that his compliance with their request could be looked upon as a common place tribute, he would feel little satisfaction in discharging the duties which they imposed upon him, but when he reflected that they had that day, under the able auspices of his friend in the chair, taken means for the enlargement of an institution which he trusted would be an enduring memorial of departed worth, he did feel great satisfaction in responding to the call they had made upon him, and he ventured to express his sincere conviction that in consecrating the

Sussex Memorial Fund to the cause of charity, they had taken the best possible method of linking it with fraternity and investing the name of the Duke of Sussex with a monument of enduring gratitude compared to which the greatest efforts of statuary or the most beautiful statue which the chisel of his friend Bailey, who had a few moments before been sitting before him, could fashion, must sink into insignificance—(cheers). The one hundred beds which would be placed in the new wards would, under Divine Providence, be the means of affording timely succour to many who might otherwise be numbered with the thousands who, from want of it, yearly sunk into premature graves—(hear and cheers). To those of the company who were Masons he would say that, although charity was eternal, it was on them more than on other men, especially incumbent to make it their constant practice, ever regarding the mysteries and symbols of that Order to which they belonged—(great cheering), and therefore it was, he considered, that the Grand Lodge of England had that day paid a most worthy tribute to the memory of a prince, who, during the greater part of a long existence, had been universally distinguished for his benevolence, and for his virtues. From his (Dr. Bowles) own knowledge of that prince, he could say that, he was strongly impressed with the eternal spirit of truth and justice, looking upon all mankind as his brethren sprung from a common father, and tending to one and the same destiny. As regarded the application of the Memorial Fund, he hoped they did not think that they had done all that was required of them, for he could tell them that they would not complete the good work unless they also attempted to endow the Hospital, and endeavour to give to it the advantage of perpetuity, and he hoped that with the assistance of the members of the committee, and of his learned friend Br. Dobie, their respected chairman, such conditions would be attached to the endowment as would render it incumbent on the authorities of the Hospital to make provision for the salvation of the souls of the patients as they at present did for that of their bodies. They should, he thought, maintain a chaplain, to place the staff of good promise in the hands of the convalescent, to help them on their after way through life and to hold before the dying the lamp of truth, to light them through the dark valley leading to eternity. Should this appeal be responded to, he himself should be most happy to contribute his mite to an endowment fund, and though he had not as yet spoken to Sir John Lubbock, the treasurer of the memorial fund, upon the subject, he had no doubt that he would warmly approve of the project. In conclusion, he should be most happy to receive the contributions of his brethren towards so excellent an object as the endowment of the wing of the Free Hospital, bearing the name of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, whose memory he should now call upon them to drink in solemn silence.

The Chairman in proposing the next toast, "The Army and Navy" said, that when they looked around them in times of war like the present, and saw the security which they enjoyed, they could but attribute it to the protection which they derived from the devotion of both branches of the service. The army had perfectly satisfied the hopes and wishes of the country, and deserved at their hands (hear, hear) the most grateful thanks (great cheering)—and he was convinced that they were all satisfied that the navy was not wanting in prowess or in spirit, but that its action had been delayed by its being circumscribed, the hostile fleets not daring to meet it in deep waters. The army had been more fortunate, and with it the army of France now went hand in hand, and he prayed that they might long continue to do so. He should therefore ask them to drink with him success to the Army and Navy of Great Britain, united with the Armies and Navies of France and the other Allies, and he would join with the toast the health of two gentlemen, then in the room—namely, Col. Wilson, C.B. for the army, and Commodore Lynch, who lately commanded the flotilla in its successful attack upon Rangoon, for the navy. (Cheers.)

The toast having been drunk with all the honours.

Col. Wilson, C.B., in returning thanks on behalf of the army, said that it was now as it had been in the days of Abercrombie, that the army rarely got a good opportunity of distinguishing itself. Great things were expected from it, but it had long been kept lingering in suspense, and, in the delay, losing its energies. (Hear, hear.)

He hoped they would soon have an opportunity of doing that which they were all most anxious to do, of meeting the enemy in the field. The sooner a battle—and that a good one—was fought the better (loud cheers), as they might then the sooner look forward to peace.

Br. Commodore Lynch in replying on behalf of the navy, said that it had long been the pet service of the country, and he was quite sure that it was deserving of the kindest sympathies and attention of the nation; but he was sorry to see that as far as the war had as yet gone, there had not been a more entire union between the two branches of the service. The navy had been kept in a state of inaction, and yet the war was more a naval war than otherwise. He had for thirty years been watching the course of events in the East, and it was with peculiar gratification that he hailed the declaration of war, for it was both just and necessary, and he was perfectly satisfied that the result of it was still in their own hands.

Br. Pritchard, High Bailiff of Southwark, rose to propose the next toast. They had met he said for a solemn ceremonial, and had laid the foundation stone of an addition to an hospital which claimed public support, because of the large amount of misery which it relieved, and because of the philanthropic spirit on which it was founded, and with which they had now for ever associated the name of the Duke of Sussex. If that prince were present in person amongst them as he had often been, nothing would give him greater gratification than to have his name linked with the carrying out of those principles on which the hospital was founded, and which had been during life ever dear to him. They were, he trusted, all united in a common object—the alleviation of human misery, and although they had in the ceremony of the day attained what they had calculated on, they had, nevertheless, been deprived of the presence of a nobleman on whom had fallen the mantle of His late Royal Highness, and who justified that distinction by carrying out the same benevolent sentiments to their utmost extent. They had, he was grieved to say, been deprived of the pressence of their Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, and at that absence they all felt a cloud of gloom which they could not shake off, and they felt it the more deeply as it was in consequence of domestic affliction, which he hoped would be only temporary and be soon removed, so that they might again have their Grand Master amongst them. In the name of the Hospital he had to thank his brethren present for the display which they had that day made of true Masonic philanthrophy. Having mentioned the loss which they had sustained in the absence of the Grand Master, he could not conclude without adverting to the compensation also. They had felt the deprivation to which he had referred, but they had been blessed in finding in the man ready to take his lordship's place, one for whom they felt no less respect from his qualities as a Br., than on account of the dignified manner in which he had that day gone through the duties of their G.M. With these observations he would call on them to drink to the health of the Earl of Zetland, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons, and to that of the other grand officers.

Br. Dobie briefly returned thanks.

Br. F. Dundas, M.P., next said that, when they considered the origin of the ceremonial which they had that day witnessed, they could not but feel exceedingly indebted to those who had suggested the erection of the "Sussex Wing" as a memorial of the virtues of His late Royal Highness. In fact, no committee he considered could have acted better than had the committee of the fund, and he should therefore call on the company to drink to the health of that Committee, coupled with the name of the Rev. Dr. Bowles.

The Rev. Dr. Bowles in replying to the compliment said that when first he originated the memorial fund, a great many of the subscribers were anxious to raise a monument to the memory of H.R.H. in some part of the metropolis, and others thought of placing a splendid mausoleum over his last resting-place in Kensall Green Cemetery; but he (Rev. Dr. Bowles) represented to them that as the two most splendid monuments in that burial-place were those of Ducrow and of St. John Long, the quack doctor, they could hardly regard a similar erection as an honour to the deceased prince, and urged on them the propriety of applying the money subscribed to the cause of charity. In that cause he had been aided by the Earl of

Zetland, and the result of their united efforts was the laying of the corner-stone of the Sussex Wing of the Royal Free Hospital. In the course of the observations which he had already addressed to the company, he had alluded to the propriety of their endowing the hospital, and he had now to announce that he had already received £32 towards a fund for that purpose.

The Chairman then said, that the next toast on his list was one which needed no words of his to recommend it to them. It was all very well to toast an individual or an institution when either of them were at the top of the tree; but the merits by which they obtained that position should never be overlooked. The Royal Free Hospital had commenced with small beginnings, and had indefatigably battled for the high position which it at present enjoyed, and what noble charitable institution, he would ask, had not similarly originated and succeeded? When, however, they looked upon them and the good they did, they were too apt to forget those who had commenced them, whose hand had plied the labouring oar, and who had stood the brunt of opposition, determined to overcome all difficulties. On the present occasion such should not be the case, for they would recollect that it was owing to the untiring exertions of his friend, Dr. Marsden, and no profession had done more than the medical for the benefit of mankind—that, despite of all opposition, the institution he had referred to had been firmly established. He should, therefore, ask them to pay him that mark of respect which he deserved at their hands, and drink his health, in conjunction with that of the Hospital Committee.—(Cheers.)

Dr. Marsden—who, on rising, was loudly applauded—in replying to the compliment said that, it was due to those gentleman who knew little or nothing of the Royal Free Hospital that he should give them a short history of that institution. The condition of the Medical charities of London 27 years since, had been totally different from what it was at the present time. At that time, and he spoke especially of the three richest endowed of those institutions, no patient could secure medical or surgical treatment without a letter of a governor, and in the wealthiest of them—St. Bartholomew's—until very recently such had been the case. If the wretched patient was suffering from a loathsome disease, the letter was not accounted sufficient without an undertaking from a householder, that in case the unfortunate sufferer died, he would receive the corpse for interment. There was also for such a case exacted from the patient or from the patient's friends, a fee of £2 2s. per month, so long as the case remained in the hospital. These regulations were a practical denial of relief to that particular class of patients, and the consequence had been that those thus excluded from the hospitals, contaminated others, and so propagated disease. Rules of a similar character regulated the relief afforded at the Bloomsbury Dispensary, and nowhere was the principle of free admission recognised. About that period, he being then a young man, was returning home late one evening from Bartholomew fair, when he found a poor sick girl on the steps of St. Andrew's Church, Holborn, in a dying state. Not having been able to get her into St. Bartholomew's Hospital at once, he had her taken care of for the night, and in the morning procured her a letter of admission into that institution, where she died two days afterwards, without her name ever becoming known. That was the circumstance which had led him to endeavour to found the Royal Free Hospital, as it convinced him of the necessity which existed for such an institution, that those sunk in depravity might not be permitted, un-cared for, to spread the seeds of disease, and that those who were destitute and in want of assistance might obtain it for the mere asking. The establishment of that institution had completely broken down the old exclusive system, for the other hospitals had gradually relaxed their rules. That was in itself a great public advantage, and was sufficient if the establishment of the Royal Free Hospital had led to no other good, to satisfy the aspirations of its promoters; but he found that it gave in the year relief to a larger number of patients than any similar institution in the metropolis, as they had only to walk in, state their complaint, and ask for medical or surgical treatment. At the time that the Hospital was opened, the College of Surgeons issued a circular, refusing to recognise any institution as a Medical School, which had not a certain volume of atmosphere for each patient, and as its wards were not large enough to afford the number of cubic feet of atmosphere required by the College, the founders had been

prevented engrafting on it a Medical School. He had to confess that he was not sorry that such had been the case, for the existence of a Medical School in connection with an Hospital was oftentimes the means of preventing patients going into it.—(Cries of no, no.)—He thought that such was the case, and that operations were in such hospitals too much indulged in.—(Strong expressions of dissent.)—Well, however, that might be, there could be no question that the Royal Free Hospital had been productive of the greatest advantage to the poor and afflicted of the populous district in which it was situated. Some opinion might be formed of the extent of the relief which it administered when he informed the company that the bill for the supply of drugs for the last year amounted to £1,200, and that that sum was insignificant taken in comparison with the number of sick to whom they had been administered, for he found that last year they numbered 36,900. With regard to what the Rev. Dr. Bowles had stated, he might be allowed to say, that he doubted whether they could yet obtain an endowment fund, as it would require a capital of £100,000 to yield, at 3 per cent., a sufficient income for the maintenance of the 100 beds which this wing was destined to accommodate, and they must, therefore, mainly depend on the public for annual subscriptions and donations for its support. At the same time, some £500 or £1,000 was required for the completion of the sum necessary to finish the building, which he urged them to endeavour to raise before thinking of an endowment fund.—(Cheers.)—With regard to what had been stated by the Rev. Doctor relative to the spiritual wants of the patients, he might observe that, the hospital had a salaried chaplain attached to it, and that free ingress was given to clergymen of all other denominations to visit patients who wished to see them. In conclusion, Dr. Marsden made an eloquent appeal to the company for support, which was loudly cheered.

Br. Jennings, G.D.C. then said, that as alliances were the order of the day, the banner of the Grand Lodge had that day waved in the cause of charity, in union with that of the friends of the Royal Free Hospital, to support which, there was a strong desire among all classes of the community, even the poorest, as was demonstrated by the large sums, annually deposited in pence and half-pence in the poor-box in front of the building. These in 1854, amounted to £347, and this year to more than £100. These facts showed that the poor were grateful for the benefits conferred on them, and satisfied with the good management of the institution, for which they were indebted to the President, the Vice-President, and the other officers of the Charity; and he therefore begged to propose the health of those gentlemen.

Br. Fenn, Secretary to the Hospital, returned thanks, and read an extract from the will of the late Wm. Bennett, Esq., of Newport, just proved, leaving a legacy of £1,000 to the hospital; and several gentlemen present handed in their names as subscribers for various amounts, making an aggregate, as far as we could understand, of about £300.

Br. Alderman Spiers, D.P.G.M. in proposing the thanks of the company to Br. Tomkins, W.M., of the Lodge of Antiquity, for the loan of the Mall of Sir Christopher Wren, to be used in the ceremony of the day, after referring to the satisfaction which he felt in seeing the corner-stone of the Sussex Wing laid with masonic honours, proceeded to say, that of all the uses to which that instrument could be applied, there was none which could prove more gratifying to the spirit of Sir Christopher Wren than that the relic of one Grand Master was used to raise a memorial to the memory of the Grand Master of their order, and he could well imagine that those whom he saw around him would never forget that they had taken a part in the ceremonial, the recollection of which was calculated to bring to their minds the cause of charity, which they, as Freemasons, were bound to support, and he hoped that the subscriptions of the evening would show that they acted up to their principles. For his own part, it afforded him the greatest possible pleasure to put down his name for ten guineas.

Br. Tomkins briefly expressed his thanks, and said that the officers of the Lodge as costodians of the Mall, never saw it better employed than in laying the foundation stone of a memorial to the late Duke of Sussex, which they hoped would be productive of a large amount of good to the poor.

The Chairman then gave as the finishing toast, "The Press."

Br. H. G. Warren acknowledged the compliment, and stated that of the eight gentlemen who attended that banquet as representatives of the Press, no fewer than five were Freemasons—a fact which could not be otherwise than most gratifying to the Craft—as evincing the interest the Members of the Press took in its prosperity. He had been the means of resuscitating a Lodge, which, three years ago, was almost in a dying condition, but which now numbered upwards of thirty members, nearly half of whom were gentlemen connected with the Press. For those gentlemen, he would say that they were ever anxious to promote the cause of charity, whether Masonic or otherwise, and actuated by the same motive, he had himself taken part in establishing a Masonic journal (The Masonic Mirror) which should ever maintain the welfare of the order, and advocate the cause of all useful charities which were felt to be honestly conducted.—(Cheers.)

Dr. Marsden then took the chair, and under his rule, the festivities of the evening were kept up until a late hour, when the company separated, delighted with all they had witnessed and partaken of.

The musical arrangements were conducted by Br. Donald King, who was assisted by Br. Francis, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Weiss. Mr. Benjamin Banks, jun., was an efficient toastmaster.

The following is the prayer delivered by Br. Cox, the G. Chaplain, on the occasion of the opening:—"Great Architect of the University, at whose creative fiat all things sprung into existence, and without whose mercy and loving kindness, the wants and distresses of Thy Servants can meet with no alleviation, deign to bestow a blessing upon the work of our hands, and grant that when the superstructure is raised, of which we have made this beginning, it may be the means greatly to relieve the sorrows, and to assauge the sicknesses of those inmates, who shall seek for medical treatment within its walls. We desire to lay this foundation-stone, upon which a house, perfect in all its parts, and honourable to the builders, may be reared to carry forward, in obedience to Thy command, that most excellent of all virtues—charity, upon which our laws are based, and our actions regulated. We likewise perform this work in memory of one, honoured as a ruler of our Craft, who in his day and generation was foremost in good deeds, based upon the precepts of the Volume of Thy Sacred Law; and humbly do we supplicate that Thy choicest blessings may be with us, not only in the work itself of this day, but in its completion, and that, so long as this hospital shall stand as the means of doing good and distributing to the necessities of our poorer fellow-creatures, it may have the favour of Thy presence, and the light of Thy countenance. Hear us, O Most High, in these our humble supplications, and grant an answer in accordance with these our petitions, and after the counsel of Thine own Will, that we may have the assurance of Thy presence, both now, henceforth, and evermore."

LONDON LODGES.

Britannic Lodge (No. 38).—At the usual monthly meeting of this Lodge held on the 10th of August, Brs. Watkin, Hawkins, and Craven, were passed to the second degree, and Mr. John Massey and Mr. George Foster were initiated into the mysteries of the Order.

The Beadon Lodge (No. 902).—This Lodge held the usual monthly meeting on the 15th ult., at the Star and Garter (Br. Adams), Ke Bridge, on which occasion the W.M. Br. William Watson with his well known ability, installed Br. Mathew Tiley as his successor, for the ensuing year, whereupon that worthy brother made the following disposition of the subordinate offices, Br. Goodman, S.W., Br. T. Scott, J.W.; Br. Haywood, Sec.; Br. Murray, S.D.; Br. Supp, J.D.; and Br. W. Adams, J.S. The newly appointed officers having taken their proper positions in the

Lodge, Br. Head, W.M., No. 5, said that he attended as a member of the Caviac Lodge, No. 205, at present meeting at the King's Arms, Kensington, to ask the sanction of the Beadon, the district Lodge, to change the place of their meeting from the establishment to which he had referred, to the house in which they were then assembled. Br. Watson, P.M., said that there was no rivalry in Masonry except the rivalry of seeing who could best act up to the grand principles of the Order, and he had therefore great pleasure in moving that the Beadon Lodge would sanction the removal of the Caviac Lodge from the King's Arms, Kensington, to the Star and Garter, Kew Bridge. Br. Potter briefly seconded the motion, which was duly put from the chair, and unanimously agreed to. Br. Head having returned thanks for the gracious favour accorded to his Lodge, the Masonic business of the day terminated, after which the brethren, about forty in number, sat down to an elegant banquet, plentifully and sumptuously provided for their entertainment by the worthy host, Br. T. W. Adams, over which the newly installed Master ably presided. In the course of the evening, the W.M. proposed the health of the P.M., Br. Watson, and in doing so said that, it was a fortunate thing for the Beadon Lodge that it had had so early in its career the advantage of being presided over by one of the best Masons in the Craft, and who deserved from them the highest meed of thanks and praise for the able manner in which he had discharged the duties of his year of office. The toast was drunk with all the Masonic honours. Br. Watson, in returning thanks for the compliment, observed that he scarcely merited the praise bestowed upon him by the W. M., as he had merely done his duty. It was, however, true, that he regarded the Lodge as a child of his own, and so regarding it he felt an affectionate attachment to its members, and should ever take a warm interest in its welfare. It might so happen that for the future he might not be able to attend their meetings as frequently as heretofore; but the brethren he hoped, would not on that account, for a moment, suppose that his absence in any way indicated an abatement of his affectionate regards to them, or of his interest in the prosperity of the Lodge. He should, however, endeavour to make it a point to show himself among them on the occasion of each installation. Again returning them thanks for the manner in which they had responded to the toast, he should for a moment borrow the gavil of his worthy successor, and call upon them to drink the health of their excellent Master. Br. Tiley briefly expressed his acknowledgments. Several other toasts followed, and the brethren concluded the festivities of the evening at an early hour. Amongst the visitors present were Br. Head, W. M. No, 5, and 205; Br. Mahomed, W. M. 183; Br. Williams, No. 11; Br. Dr. Parkes, Br. Archer, Br. Nicholson, Br. Ward, &c.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

DEVONSHIRE.

Lodge of St. John the Baptist, Plymouth (No. 83).—This Lodge assembled on St. John's day for the especial purpose of presenting to Brother Pollard a testimonial, as a mark of the respect and esteem in which he is universally held. Brother Gambell, in a neat speech, expatiated on the many excellencies of character, which had endeared Br. Pollard to the members of 83 in particular, and to the craft in general, concluding by presenting him with a very handsome silver tea-pot, on which the following, with Masonic emblems, were engraved—"Presented to Brother Thomas Pollard, P.M. of 83, and P.P.G.T. of Devon, on St. John's day, 1855, by members of Lodge St. John the Baptist and other members of the Craft."

The meeting was also addressed by Brothers Julian, J. W. and Gover, acting S. W., both of whom bore witness to the high moral and social attainments of the worthy brother, and to his readiness to afford that assistance and instruction which he is so competent to give.

Brother Pollard in a very feeling reply, returned thanks for the great favour conferred upon him—he observed, that in his masonic experience of nearly thirty years, he could find no parallel to the present happy occasion, he was only too glad to be of assistance to the craft at any time, and the thought that he endeavoured to do his duty had always been a sufficient reward.

Lodge having been closed, the brethren retired and partook of a collation, served in Mr. Chubbs best style; and the evening, which will long be remembered with pleasurable feelings by those who were so fortunate as to be present, was passed in social comfort.

The Lodge held their usual monthly communication on the first Tuesday in August, and a master mariner, a native of Holland, was most ably initiated into the first degree, some routine business was also disposed of—the brethren separating after spending another pleasant evening.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE, PLYMOUTH (No. 122).—The members of this Lodge held one of emergency on the 18th July, when Br. Phillips the W.M. most ably initiated Dr. Andrews, surgeon, of H.M.S. Alarm, into the first degree of the science. Labour finished, refreshment, in shape of Br. Killingby's *recherché* supper followed, to which we need scarcely say prompt justice was done.

On the 8th of August, the Lodge again met, and balloted for Br. Lieut. Edmund Joseph Squire, who was unanimously received with much pleasure by the brethren. An emergency meeting also took place on August 20th, when Br. John Andrews, surgeon of H.M.S. Alarm, was passed to the degree of a fellow craft by the W.M., in a manner that should make many of our purple friends look to their laurels. Lodge closed in peace and harmony at 8.45, the brethren retiring to refreshment, thence to their homes at a seasonable hour. [Our account of the annual pic nic of the members of this Lodge is unavoidably postponed until our next.]

DORSETSHIRE.

It is very gratifying to the brethren of the province of Dorset to find that the R.W. G.M. has appointed as his Deputy, Richard Hare, Esq. of All Souls Lodge, Weymouth, a more zealous or a more worthy Brother could not have been chosen for the office. This is the right man in the right place, one who will with his gentlemanly deportment and integrity of purpose, promote Masonry throughout the province by superintending the various Lodges with fervency and zeal.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the Freemasons of the province of Dorset, was held at Poole on Wednesday August 15. The brethren assembled at the Town Hall, at about 10 o'clock, which was fitted up as a Lodge Room, and under the presidency of the Right Worshipful Grand Master, Henry Ralph Willett, Esq., of Merely House, transacted the business of the province.

Shortly after 11 o'clock the brethren proceeded to attend Divine Service at St. James's Church, the officers being severally adorned with their splendid insignia, and all the brethren habited in their proper costume.

The following is the Order of Procession:—

Eyer's Brass Band,
Tyler with drawn sword.
Visiting Brethren not Members of any Lodge.
Visiting Lodges.
Lodges of the province preceded by their banners.
Tyler with drawn sword
Lodges of the province:—

No. 905, Lodge of Cuthberga, Wimborne; No. 802, Rural Lodge, Chardstock; No. 694, Lodge of Friendship and Sincerity, Shaftesbury; No. 640, Lodge of Science, Bourton; No. 605, Lodge of Faith and Unanimity, Dorchester; No. 542, Lodge of Unity, Wareham; No. 459, Lodge of Benevolence, Sherborne; No. 199, All Souls' Lodge, Weymouth; No. 160, Lodge of Amity, Poole.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF DORSET.

Grand Tyler.
Grand Pursuivant.
Grand Organist.
Grand Architect.
Grand Director of Ceremonies.
Grand Deacon. Grand Deacon.
Grand Secretary, with the Book of Constitutions on a Velvet Cushion.
Grand Treasurer. Grand Registrar.
Past Provincial Grand Officers.
Senior Grand Warden. Junior Grand Warden.
Visitors of Distinction.
Steward. Banner of Provincial Grand Lodge. Steward.
Steward. Volume of the Sacred Law on a Velvet Cushion. Steward.
Grand Chaplain.
Grand Sword Bearer.
Steward. R.W.P.G.M., Henry Ralph Willett, Esq. Steward.
The Provincial Grand Tyler.

On arriving at the church door, the procession filed off right and left, the P.G.M., Provincial Grand Lodge, and the whole procession passing up the middle and entering the church, the band playing the National Anthem, and the noble organ sounding an admirable voluntary till the whole of the assemblage was seated—every part of the sacred building being densely crowded.

The service for the day was read by the Rev. T. Pearce of Morden, P.G.C., and a most excellent Sermon preached by the Rev. B. Maturin, of Ringwood, from the 4th c. 1 Epis. of St. John, 11th v.,—"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." On leaving the church the procession, with its provincial banners, and those of the several Lodges in the province, was re-formed, and returned to the Hall, where the usual business of the Lodge was transacted. The following Brethren were then appointed Provincial Grand Officers for the year ensuing:—

Br. R. Hare, No. 199, Weymouth, Deputy Provincial Grand Master; Br. C. J. Stone, No. 160, Poole, Senior Warden; Br. S. Harvey, No. 694, Shaftesbury, Junior Warden; Br. C. Scott, No. 905, Wimborne, Chaplain; Br. R. Brounker, No. 905, Wimborne, Registrar; Br. W. Hannon, No. 694, Shaftesbury, Treasurer; Br. J. Maunders, No. 199, Weymouth, Secretary; Br. T. Patch, No. 605, Dorchester, Organist; Br. J. Saunders, No. 160, Poole, Standard Bearer, Br. W. Phippard, No. 542, Wareham, Pursuivant; Br. J. J. Drew, No. 542, Wareham, Br. C. Yearsley, No. 542, Wareham, Br J. Blandfield, No. 160, Poole, Br. G. Meaden, No. 160, Poole, Stewards; Br. O. Maggs, No. 640 ,Bourton, Senior Deacon; Br. Wm. Bryant, No. 199, Weymouth, Junior Deacon; Br. G. Evans, No. 805, Wimborn, Superintendent of Works; Br. W. Maskell, No. 694, Shaftesbury, Director of Ceremonies; Br. T. W. Dominy, No. 199, Weymouth, Assistant-Director of Ceremonies; Br. J. B. Brown, No. 160, Poole, Sword Bearer.

After these appointments, donations of 2 guineas each were granted to the Institutions for Aged and Decayed Brethren; to the Widow and Orphan Fund; to the Boys' School, and to the Girls' School.

The respective officers were each invested with his jewel of office, and Br. Hare, the newly-appointed Deputy P.G.M., took the opportunity of stating that the office of P.G. Secretary had given him the means of becoming acquainted with the working and wishes of the Lodges of the province, and he hoped in the exercise of the duties with which he had been honoured, to be enabled at an early period to visit each and every Lodge. All communications on Masonic business transmitted to him should have his best attention, and where necessary, be immediately laid before the right Br. Worshipful Provincial Grand Master.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Mayor and Corporation of Poole for the use of

the Hall, to the churchwardens of St. James's for the use of the church and to the organist and choir for their efficient services. The Lodge was then closed in due form.

The brethren to the number of nearly eighty, shortly after re-assembled at the Antelope Inn, where a most excellent dinner was laid before them by Br. Knight.

The Right Worshipful P.G.M. presided, supported by the D.P.G.M. and principal past and present Grand Officers of the province. The Vice-chair was ably occupied by Br. Stone, Grand S.W. and W.M. of the Poole Lodge.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been disposed of, the D.P.G.M. Br. Hare, rose, and having the permission of Right Worshipful P.G.M., begged to propose a toast; it was one he was sure the brethren would hail with pleasure—the respect they entertained for the individual being heightened by the office which he held—that of Provincial Grand Master of the county of Dorset (cheers); and he would here remark, that it had pleased Providence to afflict him with severe illness during the past year, and that that affliction had prevented his carrying out his intention of visiting the Lodges in the province in his official capacity. He was past G.W. of the Grand Lodge of England, which appointment showed the respect he was held in by the Earl of Zetland, and was a proof of his high Masonic attainments. As Grand Secretary of the province, he (Br. Hare) had had the honour of being in constant communication with him, and he could say that upon all occasions his correspondence had received from him the most prompt attention. In his present state of his health, therefore, he deserved the thanks of the province for his attendance in the Grand Lodge that day.

Brother Willett thanked the brethren for the kind way in which his name had been received, and said he could assure them, that notwithstanding he had lately suffered much from a severe rheumatic affliction, yet he had looked forward to that day with the highest expectation, and by the blessing of the G.A.U. he had been enabled to attend —indeed every mile that he journeyed seemed to increase his animal spirits and infuse new vigour into him, and it was truly one of the happiest days of his life. If his health was still spared, he would use his best efforts and do everything on his part to advance the interests of Masonry in the province.

The Chairman then called upon the brethren to charge, as he was about to propose the health of a most excellent, worthy, and experienced Mason, who had done him the honour to accept the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and from whose extensive Masonic knowledge, as well as zeal, and earnest and effective efforts for the welfare of the Craft in general, he anticipated the greatest benefit. He called upon them to drink the health of the D.P.G.M. Br. Hare.

Br. Hare returned thanks for the honour done him, and he begged most sincerely to thank the officers of the P.G. Lodge and the brethren collectively and individually for the kind way in which he had been received by them that day. He would repeat what he had said in an earlier part of the day's proceedings, that he had served an apprenticeship, as it were, by the office he had held of P.G. Secretary, and during the period he had so held office he could not but become acquainted with the wants and requirements, and workings of the various Lodges in the province better than most others. He did not undertake the office, however, till after due consideration, and his humble abilities would be used untiringly for the benefit of Masonry, and of this province of Dorset in particular. He would beg to remark that, as the Rev. W. P. G. Master was not so well able to attend to written communications as himself, he would request that all matters connected with the province should be communicated to him, and he would submit them to the proper authority. He respectfully invited the co-operation of the W.M.'s of the various Lodges, and their assistance in performing the duties connected with his office; and would further address himself to the Masters, and say, that he intended to visit each and every of the Lodges in the Province, and trusted to be received in these visits in the same kind and friendly and fraternal manner he had been received in, and for which he again thanked them.

The Chairman next proposed the health of the P.G. Chaplain, the Rev. Br. Maturin.

The Rev. gentleman, in responding to the toast, thanked the brethren for the warm, and he would say, enthusiastic manner in which they had received his name. It gave him very great pleasure on receiving the summons of their Secretary to respond at once to their wishes, and to afford them the assistance of his services. He felt great pleasure in meeting the brethren; their reception of him was so kind, their attention so marked during the solemn services of the sanctuary, that he trusted that pleasure to himself would be accompanied with profit to them. It was indeed a happy day to him thus to meet with an assembly of kindred spirits; it refreshed his soul amid the toils and labours necessarily connected with the charge of a large and important parish; it was refreshing to his spirit to be permitted the free and friendly interchange of feeling amid a company of brethren, knit together in unity, and who had greeted his presence with such a warm and fraternal reception.

"The thread of our life would be dark, heaven knows,
If it were not for friendship and love intertwined;
And I care not how soon I may sink to repose,
When these blessings shall cease to be dear to my mind."

But it was not because he loved and valued their society that he was present among them, but because he admired the principles of that venerated Order of which they had the honour and happiness to be free and accepted members. Masonry was indeed a venerable Order—to be honoured for her antiquity—"Her hoary head was a crown of righteousness." The student who loved to explore amid the arcana of the past, or to follow up the stream of time till it conducted him far beyond those ages that were wrapt in darkness;—the antiquarian that loved to turn over the dusty and time-worn tomes of the mighty dead—would each find in Masonry a theme and a subject of surpassing interest. Existing in the dark ages of antiquity, frowned upon at one time, caressed at another, still unscathed, unchanged by time, her secrets preserved inviolate, she still lived and flourished in her virgin pride and purity; and of her it might be said, "Thou goest forth dread, fathomless, alone!" Masonry was a soul-exalting science; the subjects of her contemplation were the works of nature's God; amid these she loved to conduct her students, and to impress their mind with feelings of deepest veneration for the Great Architect of the Universe. From nature's works, she ascended to the contemplation of nature's first great cause. The vaulted roof of heaven, the sun, the moon, the stars, the laws of gravity and of order that regulated the system of creation—each and all subjects of kindred interest, engaged the enlightened attention of her members; while, at the same time, by the peculiar laws of the Order, they impressed the heart with significent lessons of moral worth. Masonry was a benevolent institution. Her design was noble; to bind together the sons of men in one happy fraternity of unity, and harmony, and love; to assuage the sorrows of humanity; to do good and to communicate; "to pity the distressed inclined, as well as just to all mankind"—this was the noble design of Masonry, and as such she acted as a graceful handmaid to Christianity. In the prosecution of this noble object, Masonry was a fine traveller—mountains, seas, or continents obstructed not her progress. On the burning plains of Africa, the frozen regions of the north, or favoured and sunny spots of the south; with the unlettered Indian and the untutored Laplander, the savage or sage, this unwearried traveller was found prosecuting her noble designs of benenolence and love. Masonry was a fine linguist, she spoke in all languages, the interpretation of tongues was hers. She called no man a "Barbarian," but understanding the hidden language of the heart, grasped him with the hand of friendship, and embraced him as a brother. Masonry was a good neighbour as well as a kind inmate. In the home circle she presided as a queen, shedding her benign influence around, inculcating lessons of unity and love, teaching mankind to be forbearing and forgiving, and bringing the neighbourhood in a family circle of happiness and harmony. The good Mason must be a good father, a good husband; hence they would find that although the ladies were not privileged to be members, they were for the most part ardent admirers of the Order.

The health of Mrs. Maturin having been drank and responded to by her husband, The Chairman proposed the health of Rev. Br. Pearce, and that gentleman having suitably replied to the compliment, the P.G.W. Br. Stowe, and the other P.G. officers were toasted with all the honours.

The Chairman then proposed the Mayor (Br. Adey) and the corporation of Poole, and thanked them for the use of the town-hall.

Br. Adey on behalf of himself and in the name of the Corporation, begged to say that the hall had never been granted far a more noble purpose than it had been that day. As an old Mason, he could, if time permitted, enter largely upon the benefits derivable from a connection with the Order. Among other incidents in his own experience was one where he had received the greatest kindness from the captain of a French privateer, because his father had been equally well treated by a captain who had also sailed from Poole, and to whom the right hand of fellowship had been held out at a moment the least expected.

The R.W.M. said there was another worthy magistrate in the borough whose health he would propose, Br. Ledgard, who had been Mayor when the last Provincial meeting was held in Poole, and on that occasion he showed great kindness to the Craft, and therefore deserved their thanks.

Br. Ledgard thanked the R.W.M. and brethren for their kindness. He always felt great interest in the principles and progress of Masonry. It should never be forgotten that the province of Dorset was ever noted for its zeal and Masonic proficiency. Many of their Provincial Grand Masters were of great celebrity in the Craft, and held in the highest estimation by the late Duke of Sussex, and by his successor, the Earl of Zetland. He need scarcely revert to names so well known as those of Br. W. Williams, or his worthy successor, Br. Eliot, or of their late Br. Tucker, and he was sure that under the guidance of their present worthy Grand Master, the science of Masonry would lack nothing of its wonted energy. He could not but regret that among the Lodges that had been enumerated that day, he did not find the names either of Bridport or Blandford, as having Lodges at present. He could remember when both these places had excellent Lodges, and persevering and skilful hands to carry out the principles of Masonry. He hoped yet to see both revived, and if Br. Pearce would but take the matter up, as he was so near a neighbour and so good a Mason, Blandford at least would not long be without a working Lodge. He again thanked them for their kindness, and hoped the hints he had taken the liberty to throw out would have the desired effect.

The Chairman then proposed, as the last toast of the evening, "To all poor and distressed Masons throughout the world."

The brethren then separated, delighted with the proceedings of the day, having spent their time in a mutual interchange of kindly feeling and brotherly love.

KENT.

LODGE OF FREEDOM, GRAVESEND (No. 91).—The usual monthly meeting of the brethren of this Lodge was held at Watt's Hotel, under the presidency of their W.M., Br. R. Spenser, who in a masterly style initiated three gentlemen into the Order, passed four to the fellow-craft degree, and raised one to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. An agreeably spent evening concluded the proceedings.

EAST LANCASHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

We last month gave a brief notice of the proceedings of this meeting on the 25th July, which came to hand too late for a more extended report, which we now proceed to lay before our readers.

Early in the morning, the pealing of the Bury Parish Church bells announced to the inhabitants the gathering together of the brethren. The "Union Jack" floated on the top of the principal buildings, and from the windows of the principal hotels. The bells continued at intervals their merry peals, and altogether the streets soon assumed a very animated and cheerful appearance.

The business of the Lodge was transacted in the Town Hall during the forenoon.

An immense concourse of people thronged the streets at two o'clock, eager to watch the procession of the brethren, which would have paraded the streets had the weather permitted, previous to going to church. Rain continued to fall, but the crowd, eager to satisfy their curiosity, did not leave the streets. At twenty minutes to three the procession of the brethren was formed, they wearing their full Masonic costume, according to their respective offices and rank, and headed by the Bury Borough Brass Band, went along Market-street, up Broad-street, Silver-street, and then into the church. The Rev. P. C. Nicholson, P. G. Chaplain, delivered an excellent discourse to the brethren from the words contained in the third and fourth verses of the third chapter of Proverbs.

After divine service the procession was again formed, and, headed by the band, proceeded direct to the banquet-room—the lecture-hall of the Athenæum—where a dinner had been prepared under the auspices of the landlord of the White Horse, Br. L. Park.

At the head of the room was suspended a large flag bearing the inscription, "The Queen and the Craft." In other parts of the room were hung the emblems of the order; and the platform, with its vases, tables of flowers, &c., presented a pleasing picture.

The banquet commenced by the Rev. P. G. Chaplain saying grace. A little before seven o'clock, the repast being ended, "Non Nobis" was beautifully sung by the choir. Br. John Fawcett, Mus. Bac., P.G.O., of Bolton, presided at the pianoforte. The band was also in attendance. The doors were then opened to admit the ladies—the wives and daughters of the brethren—the admittance being by ticket. The ladies occupied the gallery, and a platform which had been purposely raised at the entrance to the hall. The presence of the ladies added greatly to the beauty of the scene. At the table on the platform were seated the following persons:—Br. Stephen Blair, P.D.G.M., chairman; Br. John Bell, P.S.G.W.; Rev. P. C. Nicholson, P.G. Chaplain; Br. W. Barlow, P.G.T.; Br. John Tunnah, P.G.S.; Br. J. F. Wolfenden, P.P.G.S.; Br. J. Lambert, P.P.G.D.; Br. J. W. Pitt, P.G.D.C.; Br. J. Wilting, P.G.S.B.; Br. W. Hutchinson, P.P.G.P.B.; Br. James Parkinson, P.S.G.B.; Br. J. Redfern, E.P.P.G.P.; and Br. H. Greenhalgh, P.G.P.

After an air had been played by the band,

The chairman rose to propose the first toast, "The Queen." Brethren, said he, a day scarcely passes over our heads but we are forcibly reminded of the goodness and virtue which is exhibited in the life and character of our beloved sovereign who sits upon the throne of this country. In almost every copy of a newspaper, we read of some good action having been performed by her kind and beneficent hand. He referred to the act of our Queen in providing apartments in Hampton Court for the comfort and happiness of some of her soldiers who had been wounded in the Crimea. He had no doubt every Mason loved the Queen, and that all present would rise as one man to drink the health of their sovereign, loyally.

The toast was drunk with loud cheers.

The National Anthem was then sung in solo and chorus, the audience joining in the chorus.

The Chairman then proposed "Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family." He had great pleasure in proposing this toast, because he was one of those who believed that the Queen made a good choice in selecting Prince Albert to be her Royal Consort. He spoke of the interest which had ever been manifested by him in the arts and sciences, also in agriculture, and the army of the country. He expressed a hope that the Prince of Wales would imitate the goodness which shone in the lives of his illustrious parents. He concluded by proposing the toast, which was drunk with great enthusiasm. The glee, "Hail, Star of Brunswick," was sung by the choir.

The Chairman again rose, and said that he had another toast to propose, which he had no doubt they would respond to heartily, as it was the health of one of the brethren, "The Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M. of England." He spoke highly of the character of the noble Earl, eulogised him as a Mason, and concluded again by moving the proposition, which was heartily and cheerfully responded to by the brethren. The glee "Prosper the Art" was then sung by the choir, and encored by the audience.

Br. Thos. L. Crompton, of Bury, rose to propose the next toast, "The Earl of Yarborough, R.W.D.G.M." He had great pleasure in proposing this toast, and spoke of his character in civil life, and highly eulogised him, not only as a man, but also as a Mason. He spoke of him as a commercial man, he being the chairman of an extensive line of railway. Every Mason ought to feel proud of the association of the Earl of Yarborough, and honour the name. He had the greatest pleasure in proposing the toast—(Cheers). An air was here played by the band. Br. J. W. Pitt sung a song entitled "Worthy Masons all," the brethren joining in chorus; and Br. Fawcett entertained the company with a piano performance. After which

Br. John Bell rose and proposed "The Earl of Ellesmere, R.W.P.G.M.E.L." He regretted the absence of the noble Earl through sickness, for he was sure it would have delighted his heart to have seen such an assembly of Masons as were then present. The best province of Free Masons was that of East Lancashire, over which the noble Earl was P.G. Master. He proposed his health, which was drunk with loud cheers and applause as usual. "Honour to Masonry," a glee, was then given in good style by the choir.

Br. B. Hollinshead rose to propose a very different toast from any that had yet been brought before their notice, "The Memory of the Fallen Heroes in the Crimea," which was drunk in deep and solemn silence. Calcott's beautiful glee, "Peace to the souls of the heroes," was sung in a most impressive manner.

Br. J. W. Pitt then proposed "Lord Viscount Combermere, R.W.P.G.M.C.," and spoke of the earnestness in the good cause shown by the noble Viscount. He had been for more than twenty years grand master of Cheshire, and during the whole of that time he had never once absented himself from a single meeting. The Masons as a body ought to be proud of such a brother, and he had great pleasure indeed in proposing his health—(Great applause). The band then played "The Alma March."

Br. Blakeley then rose to propose "The Ladies," which was drunk with vociferated cheers. Br. Walton then sung the song "The Maids of Merry England," which was demanded by the company a second time, and given accordingly.

The Rev. Br. P. C. Nicholson then rose to propose the health of the Chairman, "Br. Stephen Blair, V.W.D.P.G.M.E.L." He spoke in very high terms of the character of this gentleman. He was known in Bury; he was known in Bolton, Manchester, London, and all over the country. Everybody who knew him was attached to him for the good deeds he had performed during his lifetime; and as a Mason no one could be more zealous in the good cause, always ready to attend to business in connection with the Order, always ready to answer any communications on the subject dear to his heart, viz., MASONRY. He could not find words to do him justice; he, however, with the greatest pleasure proposed the toast, which was received and drunk amid deafening and repeated applause. Br. Wrigley then sung the Masonic version of "The Old English Gentleman," the brethren joining in full chorus.

Br. Stephen Blair then rose to propose "The P.G. Chaplain," which he did by first acknowledging and responding to the last toast, which had been received so warmly. He then paid in very suitable terms a high tribute to the character of the Rev. Chaplain. Referring to the sermon which they had heard from his lips, he was quite sure that all who listened to it must have been highly edified. He thought he was just the man for his office; and that he was a good Mason they all knew: he had therefore the greatest possible pleasure in proposing his health, which was drunk with the usual applause.

The Rev. Chaplain rose and acknowledged the honour they had done him. The fine glee, by Muller, called "Spring's delights," was sung and encored.

Br. F. Broughton, Goods' Manager, E.L.R. of Bury, then rose to propose "The Visiting Brethren," which was done in a very able and pleasing manner, and drunk with applause.

Br. W. P. Woodcock, of Bury, proposed "The Masters and Wardens of Lodges," which was responded to in an enthusiastic manner. Shore's arrangement of "O, Willie brew'd," was then sung by the choir.

The Chairman then proposed "The P.G. Stewards," which was responded to by Br. A. H. McDonald, of Bury.

Br. Ramsbottom then rose to propose the last toast; "To all poor and distressed brethren, and a speedy relief to all their misfortunes." He referred to his experience in the capacity in which he was employed in a feeling and interesting manner, and recommended charity as a virtue worthy of the notice and practice of every good and true Freemason. The toast was drunk in the usual manner. "Cheer boys, cheer," was then played by the band, and the company separated about ten o'clock.

LODGE OF FIDELITY, BLACKBURN (No. 336.)—The celebration of the monthly meeting of this Lodge took place at the Angel Inn, on 3rd of August. There were very few brethren present, and Br. Stocks, P. M. officiated in the chair (in the absence of the W. M.) with the assistance of Brs. Whewell, S. W., and Wm. Harrison as J. W. (in the absence of the J. W. of the lodge.) The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and the Secretary reported as to returns, &c. After which the brethren worked in the first degree and adjourned for refreshment, and afterwards they broke up a most pleasant meeting at an early hour.

LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE, BLACKBURN, (No. 432.)—The regular Lodge night was held on Monday evening, the 30th July, at 8 o'clock. The Lodge having been duly opened with solemn prayer, and the minutes of the previous meeting confirmed, several important matters connected with the Lodge were discussed and arranged, and measures were taken for the formation of a Masonic library for the use of the members. The installation of the W.M. was postponed till next Lodge-night, owing to the business of the evening having occupied a long time. The brethren present (among whom were several visiting brethren) then adjourned for refreshment, and spent a very pleasant evening. We are happy to say that this Lodge gives signs of animated exertion to rank high in the province, for all that should distinguish a Masonic Lodge. A Lodge of Instruction in connection with No. 432, Lodge of Perseverance, Blackburn, is now held every month, on the Monday evening next to the regular Lodge-night at 8 o'clock, at the Lodge-rooms, at the Old Bull Hotel.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

The town of Newport was on Wednesday last the scene of a most interesting event in the annals of Monmouthshire, when the foundation stone of the New Masonic Hall was laid with all the *eclat* which the presence of the Grand Lodge of the Province, and the attendance of a large number of the brethren from Bristol and South Wales could impart to the ceremony. At an early hour the brethren of the Siberian Lodge met at their rooms in High-street, when, having opened the Lodge, they formed a procession to St. Paul's Church, where an excellent sermon was preached for their edification and instruction by the P.G. Chaplain, after which a collection was made in aid of the Masonic Charities. The procession then re-formed in the usual order, and proceeded to the site of the intended structure, when those in front, halted and dividing to either side, formed an avenue through which the Grand Officers, and the brethren carrying the lights, columns, cruses, and the Lodge jewels, entered upon the grounds. The P.G. Chaplain having invoked the blessing of the G.A.O.T.U. upon the structure, the stone, under which had been placed a bottle hermetically sealed, containing the current coins of the realm, and a record of the proceedings of the day, was lowered into its place, when the R.W. the P.G.M. Br. Col. W. Tynte, M.P., proved its position, and, with the usual formalities, poured upon it the oil, wine, and corn. The R.W. brother then addressed the assembled brethren, and having alluded to the great interest which he felt in the welfare of the Craft, expressed an ardent hope that the proceedings of that day would contribute to its advancement. In the evening the brethren again met, when they partook of a banquet not only rich in all the delicacies of the season, but rendered still more pleasing by the harmony and good fellowship which prevailed at the table. [A more detailed report will be published in our next.]

NORTHUMBERLAND.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

On Wednesday, the 15th August, the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand

Lodge of the Province of Northumberland and Berwick-on-Tweed, was holden in the Lodge-room of St. George's Lodge (No. 624) the George Tavern, North Shields. The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in form by the Rev. Edwd. Challoner Ogle, the P.G.M., assisted by the P. G. Officers. The minutes of the last meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, holden at Morpeth last year, were read and confirmed. Some alterations in the bye-laws of the Provincial Grand Lodge were agreed to. The P.G.M. then proceeding to appoint and invest the following brethren as Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year:—Brs. J. W. Mayson, P.G.S.W.; B. J. Thompson, P.G.J.W.; the Rev. John Bigge, Prov. G. Chaplain; the Rev. Clement Moody, Vicar of Newcastle, P. G. Treasurer; Thos. Fenwick, P.G. Registrar; G. P. Birkinshaw, P.G. Sec.,; Wm. Dalziel, P.G.D.C.; D. W. Spence, Asst. G.D.C.; John Cook, P.G.S.D.; Robt. Shute, P.G.J.D.; Wm. Richardson, P.G. Pursuivant; Alex. Dixon, P.G. Tyler; Stephen Owen, P.G. Sword-bearer; Wm. Preston, P.G. Standard-bearer. Provincial Grand Stewards.—Brs. Fred. Shaw, Newcastle-on-Tyne Lodge, 24; James Wilson, St. David's, 554; Robt. Fisher, Northern Counties', 586; — Henzell, St. George's, 624; Hy. Sewell, St. Peter's 706; and Octavius Bell, De Loraine, 793. The Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed.

The brethren afterwards dined together, the Rev. Ed. Challoner Ogle, P.G.M. presiding, supported on his right by J. W. Mayson, P.G.S.W.; J. S. Challoner, P.P.G.J.W.; G. P. Birkinshaw, P.G. Sec.; and J. Barker, P.P.G.J.W; and on his left by the Rev. Richd. Buckeridge, P.P.G. Chaplain; and the Rev. C. Moody, P.G. Treasurer. The vice-chairs were ably and agreeably filled by Brs. Wm. Berkley, P.P.G.S.W.; and B. J. Thompson, P.G.J.W. Amongst the brethren we observed Brs. Wm. Dalziel, P.G.D.C. for the province; Thos. Fenwick, W.M. St. George's Lodge, 624, and P.G. Registrar; John Cook, P.G.S.D; Geo. Weatherhead, P.P.G.J.W.; Wm. Johnson, P.P.G.S.W.; John Tossoch, Mayor of South Shields; Richard Atkinson, W.M. St. David's Lodge, 554, Berwick-on-Tweed; J. Winlow, P.P.G.J.D.; John Hopper, P.M. 614; Wm. Blackwood, P.M. 624; Wm. Richardson, P.G. Pursuivant; Alex. Dickson, P.G. Tyler; J. G. Pulloch, S.W. 624; S. Owen, J.W. 624, and P.G Sword-bearer; W. E. Franklyn, J.W. 56; Wm. Preston, S.D., 614, and P.G. Standard-bearer; P. Haswell, P.G Organist; Robt. Fisher, S.D. 706; and Octavius Bell, De Loraine, 793. The P.G.M., rising, said the first toast he should give them needed no words, it was the health of one who lived in the hearts of her people—"the Queen."—(Cheers). Anthem—"National."—"Prince Albert, and the rest of the Royal Family." "Rule Britannia."—"The Earl of Zetland, G.M. of England"—(Cheers). Masonic honors.—"The Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M. of England." "The Dukes of Athol and Leinster, G.M's. of England and Ireland." Tunes—"Blue Bells of Scotland," and "Garry Owen," followed in succession.

Br. J. W. Mayson, P.G.S.W. then rising said—it gave him peculiar pleasure to have the honor on that occasion to propose a toast which would meet a warm response from the hearts of all the brethren present—he meant the health of their much respected and beloved P.G.M., the Rev. Ed. Challoner Ogle—(Cheers). He (Br. Mayson) had put himself to some little inconvenience in order to be present on this very interesting occasion, and he was amply rewarded in having the honor to propose the P G.M's. good health—(Hear, hear). He (Br. Mayson) rejoiced to know that the province never was in a more prosperous state than at the present moment. No society could long prosper unless supported by the good and the great. How happy they all felt on this occasion in being presided over by a minister of the Christian Church—a brother whose name was enshrined in the inmost recesses of their hearts! He begged to give them the health of the P.G.M. (drunk with enthusiasm and Masonic honors).

The P.G.M. on rising, was received with the deepest marks of respect; he said, he returned to all, his most grateful thanks. He was not able to respond to the toast as it deserved, more particularly after the very many flatttering remarks of the P.G.S.W. Br. Mayson. Since the honor of the P.G. Mastership had been conferred on him, he had on each occasion been received by his brethren with the warmest marks of affection. Nothing could be more pleasing to dwell upon, than that day's proceedings, when such brotherly feelings prevailed. He (the P.G.M.) must tell them that he too

a warm interest in Masonry in general, but in each Lodge in particular—(Cheers). Masonry must progress. How could Masonry fail, seeing that it was having continually infused into it, young warm blood? He knew not how much our countrymen might require the blessings of Masonry in foreign lands, to save them from death, if but by "a cup of cold water." This was a time when all true hearts must hope for an increase in the ranks. At this momentous period when nation waged war against nation, how inestimable were the blessings of Masonry! The shipwrecked on a foreign strand, and the wounded on the battle field alike found its blessings, for their benevolent Order had saved many, many lives. He (the P.G.M.) might add before concluding, tdat nothing had occurred in the province during the year to call forth any strong marks of disapprobation. On all occasions he found some brother at hand ready "to pour oil on troubled waters," and none more so than their worthy D.P.G.M. Br. Medcalf—(Hear and cheers). He (the P.G.M.) again begged they would accept his sincere thanks—(Cheers). Song by Br. J. G. Pullock—"The fine Old English Gentleman."

The P.G.M. again rising, said they had such an opportunity now as might perhaps never occur again in drinking the toast he was about to propose. England and Fracne forgetting their old rivalries, were now joined hand in hand for the good of humanity, the freedom of the world, the salvation of the oppressed—(Cheers). He (the P.G.M.) begged to give—"the Grand Lodge of France," and they would also drink the health of the Emperor of the French—(British cheers). Tune—"Partant pour la Syria."

Then followed "the health of the P.G.M. of Durham, Br. Fenwick," replied to by Br. Hopper.

The P.G. Treasurer, *rising, said he had had given him permission to propose a toast* which they would all warmlywelcome, the health of a brother who used his best endeavours for the promotion of Masonry, he meant Br. Mayson, the newly appointed P.G.S.W.—(Cheers). Br. Mayson was "Mayson" by name, and "Mason" by Masonry—(Hear and laughter). (Br. Challoner here remarked that Br. Mayson enjoyed the extraordinary privilege of making his wife a Ma(y)son, upon which Br. Dalziel with equal wit, remarked "No, the parson did it.")—(Much laughter).

The P.G. Treasurer then gave "the health of Br. Mayson, P.G.S.W.—Drunk with enthusiasm. Song—"The Englishman," by Br. Spark.

Br. Mayson, on rising to return thanks, was most warmly received, he had the same kindly feeling towards Masonry that he had ever had, and hoped they would accept his sincere thanks for the great honor done him in proposing his health, and drinking it in the very hearty and brotherly manner they had done.

The P.G.M. then rose, and said he thought they would really be ungrateful did they not return their grateful acknowledgments to the Grand Officers who had so zealously and faithfully performed their duties during the past year. He (the P.G.M) would give "the Provincial Grand Officers of the past year, and couple with the toast the health of Br. Wm. Berkley, P.P.G.S.W.—(Cheers).

Br. Berkley, on rising to reply, was received with that cordial and hearty reception. given to him on all occasions, he said he rose to convey to them the grateful thanks of the P.P.G. Officers, and could assure the brethren, that whatever little services he could render to Masonry were always at their command.

Br. J. S. Challoner, P.P.G.J.W. then rose, he said, with peculiar pleasure to propose the health of Br. Medcalf, the D.P.G.M., who was universally beloved, who was one of the kindest hearted of men, and the most brotherly of Masons. Drunk with en-thusiasm and Masonic honors.

The P.G.M. then gave the several Lodges in the province:—"Newcastle-on-Tyne Lodge, 24, with the health of Br. W. Johnson, W.M." In the absence of Br. Johnson, Br. Hopper, S.W. 24, replied. "St. David's Lodge, 554, with the health of Br. R. Atkinson, W.W." Br. Atkinson, made a neat reply, and said he had been desired by the brethren of St. David's Lodge to invite the P.G.M., the D.P.G.M., the Grand Officers and other brethren to a "*pic-nic*" on the Banks of the Tweed on an early day. This announcement was received with a round of applause. "Northern Counties Lodge, 586, with the health of Br. W. Dalziel, W.M." Br. Dalziel, in reply, said he returned his most grateful thanks, and could assure the R.W.P.G.M. that the brethren of Northern Counties Lodge had as warm

a feeling towards Masonry, as those of any Lodge in the province. "St. George's Lodge, 624, with the health of Br. Thos. Fenwick," who was now W.M. of the Lodge for the third year. Br. Fenwick returned grateful thanks, and assured the P.G.M., that although the Lodge had applied for a dispensation to allow him (Br. Fenwick), to occupy the chair for the third year, yet there were now in the Lodge numerous young and aspiring Masons who, he doubted not, would fill the chair of St. George's Lodge with much credit.—(Hear, hear). Br. Fenwick, in conclusion, said he hoped the R.W.P.G.M. would long be spared to preside over them. "St. Peter's Lodge, 706, with the health of Br. John Cook, W.M." Br. Cook, made a neat and appropriate reply. "Lodge De Loraine, 793, with the health of Br. J. L. Donald, W.M." In the absence of the W.M., who was prevented attending by domestic affliction, Br. G. P. Birkinshaw, P.M., 793, replied. "Lodge De Ogle, 919, with the health of Br. Robt. Shute, W.M." In the absence of Br. Shute, Br. Geo. Weatherhead, J.W. of the Lodge, replied.

Thus ended one of the most pleasant of meetings, but we cannot conclude without a meed of praise to Br. Coxon, the worthy host, for the very sumptuous entertainment, splendid dessert and *recherché* wines, provided on the occasion.

ST. PETERS'S LODGE, BYKER, near NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (No. 706).—On Monday the 9th July, the brethren of this Lodge, assembled in their Lodge-room, at Br. Allinson's, the Hope and Anchor Inn, Catterick's Buildings, Byker, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, it being the day fixed upon for the installation of Br. John Cook, as W.M. of the Lodge, and for the appointment and investiture of the other officers for the ensuing year. The brethren had shown their high estimation of Br. Cook by re-electing him their W.M. The ceremony of installation was ably and impressively performed by Br. W. Dalziel, P.G.D.C., for the province of Northumberland, and W.M. of Northern Counties Lodge, No. 586. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following brethren as officers for the year, viz. :—Brs. H. Bell, P.M.; W. J. Neimitz, S.W.; E. French, J.W.; J. Clay Gibson, Treasurer; J. Ranson Lanther, Secretary; R. Fisher, S.D.; J. Sewell Cook, J.D.; W. Short, S.S.; John Horn, J.S.; Alex. Dickson, J.G.; John Miller, Tyler. The Brethren afterwards dined together in the Lodge-room, the W.M. presiding, supported on his right by Brs. W. Berkley, P.G.S.W. for Northumberland, and Wm. Punshon, P.M. 586, and on his left by Brs. Hy. Bell, P.P.G.J.D. for Northumberland, and Wm. Dalziell, P.P.G.S.W., and P.G.D.C. for Northumberland. The vice-chairs were ably filled by the S.W. and J.W. Amongst the brethren present we observed Brs. W. Johnson, P.P.G.J.W. for Northumberland, and W.M. 24; J. Clay Gibson, P.G.S.D. for Northumberland, and P.M. 706; F. P. Jonn, P.M. 56; H. L. Monro, P.M. 56; Wm. Preston, S.D. 614, and J. G. Tullock, S.W., St. George's Lodge, 624, North Shields; Geo. Weatherhead, P.P.G.J.W. for Northumberland, and P.M. 24. The toasts, "The Queen;" the "Earl of Zetland, G.M. of England;" the "Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M. of England;" the "Dukes of Athol and Leinster, G.Ms. of Scotland and Ireland;" the "Rev. Ed. Challoner Ogle, G.M. of the Province," and "Richd. Medcalf, D.P.G.M.," were given in rapid succession, and drunk with appropriate honours. The W.M. then rose and said,—he trusted for the next toast they would all charge a bumper. It was with great difficulty that he could find words appropriate to express his high admiration of the character of the brother whose health he was about to propose, he meant Br. Berkley, P.G.S.W. for Northumberland and Berwick-on-Tweed; Br. Berkley and he were schoolfellows, and since those happy days when their breasts were warm as the breasts of youth, he said since those happy days, that friendship which subsisted between them had been cemented by Masonry, and rendered doubly dear. Br. Berkley had attained the highest honours in Masonry, and had always performed his duties well. He begged then to give them "the health of Br. Berkley, P.S.W. of St. Peter's Lodge,"—drunk with Masonic honours. Br. Berkley, in reply, said, he should be guilty of affectation did he not tell them that he did indeed feel proud of the honour done him on this occasion. If any services of his could conduce to the well-being of Masonry, he should be happy to render them. If each and all would put the shoulder to the wheel, the bright star of Masonry would shine with a still brighter refulgence than it had ever done hitherto in the northern provinces. He

must again express his gratitude for the great honour done him, and particularly to the W.M. for the many warm expressions of his regard (cheers). Br. Punshon then rose and said, last year the wet weather prevented his paying a visit to St. Peter's on the occasion of the installation, for he (Br. Punshon) was an old man, and not so strong as he once was. He was proud to tell them he was a Mason of forty years' standing. He thanked God he was still able to pay his respects to the W.M. of St. Peter's Lodge, the more so as the W.M.'s father and he were schoolfellows, and he hoped good fellows, he believed, happy fellows. That warm feeling which he had towards the father of the W.M. he now entertained to the W.M. himself. He was proud and happy to propose the health of the W.M. who had had the honour of being re-elected, and who, he felt, would continue to perform his duties well (cheers). Drunk with Masonic honours. The W.M. on rising to reply, said he could not find words to express to them his gratitude. To Br. Punshon his warmest thanks were especially due. Br. Punshon had gone far back into the past with his warm-hearted expressions, he had also dwelt very kindly on the present. It was true his brethren had honoured him by re-electing him their W.M. During the past year, he (the W.M.) had done all he could for St. Peter's Lodge, and he trusted during the present year he would equally, or better perform his duties. (Hear, hear, and cheers). St. Peter's had long been the pet lodge in the province, and he trusted St. Peter's would still be blest with prosperity and true brotherly feeling. In conclusion, he warmly thanked Br. Punshon, and his other brethren for the honour done him, and could assure all who were not members of St. Peter's Lodge that they would still have at St. Peter's a real hearty welcome. (Cheers).

The health of Br. Dove was then proposed in flattering terms by the W.M., who said that Br. Dove was once secretary of St. Peter's Lodge, and had also been one of its best treasurers; in fact, Br. Dove was treasurer of St. Peter's at its birth, and to his good and wise management St. Peter's owed much of its present prosperity. (Hear, and cheers). Br. Dove made a neat reply. The health of the W.M. of Lodge 24 was proposed in appropriate terms by the W.M., and Br. Johnson, W.M. 24, replied in a neat and happy speech, in which he said the brethren had only done their duty in conferring the honour of re-election on Br. Cook. The health of Br. Dalziel, P.P.G.S.W., and D.C., for the province was then given in eulogistic terms by the W.M., who characterized Br. Dalziel as "the father of St. Peter's," a man who had done more for Masonry than perhaps any other man in the north. (Drunk with Masonic honours.) Br. Dalziel, in reply, said never had he risen with warmer feelings of gratitude than on that occasion. The W.M. had spoken of him (Br. Dalziel) in very flattering terms; he feared the W.M. had spoken of him very, very far above his deserts (No, no). He was proud to see St. Peter's grow more prosperous year after year—never had it had such a tide of prosperity as under the now re-installed W.M., Br. Cook. (Hear, hear). He (Br. Dalziel) in conclusion, returned his warmest thanks for the very flattering marks of their regard—(Cheers). "The S.M., and J.W., and other officers of St. Peter's Lodge" was given, and neatly replied to by Br. Neimeitty, S.W. "The health of Br. Pulock, S.W., St. George's Lodge, 624;" "The health of Br. Henry Bell, P.M., 706;" "The health of Br. J. Hopper, P.M., 614;" "The health of Br. H. L. Monro, P.M., 56;" and several other toasts were given and replied to. Several beautiful songs by Brs. Dalziel, Pullock, and Hopper were given at intervals with hearty good will, and with happy effect. We cannot conclude this report without a meed of praise to Br. Allinson for the very sumptuous entertainment and etceteras on this very happy occasion.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somersetshire was held on the 7th ult. at the Highbridge Inn, Hunstspill, under the presidency of the R.W. the P.G.M. Br. Colonel Tynte, who stands second to none in the admiration and affectionate regards of the Craft. The Lodge having been opened in ample form, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and the returns from the subor-

dinate Lodges of the Province received and registered. These showed that the spread of Masonry was on the increase in the Province, and that the brethren therein resident were fully alive to the beauties and excellencies of the science, and carefully acted up to the injunction given to them upon entering the Craft.

The R.W. the P.G.M. having expressed the satisfaction which he felt in presiding over a Province in which Masonry was so well understood and so faithfully practised, nominated as his deputy for the ensuing year Br. J. Randolph. He also appointed Br. the Rev. W. R. Crotch, W.M. of the Lodge of Unanimity and Sincerity (No. 327), his P.G.S.W; Br. Broadley, P.G.J.W.; Br. A. P. Browne, P.G. Secretary; Br. Dr. Falconer, P.G. Treasurer; Br. Rev. W. Codrington, P.G. Chaplain; Br. Williams, P.G.S.D.; Br. Dix, P.G.J.D.; Br. Hollard, P.G. Registrar; and Br. Mitchell, P.G. Pursuivant. The newly appointed officers, after their investure, repaired to their proper places in the Lodge, when the brethren voted several sums of money out of their funds for the relief of the distressed; after which they attended divine service in the parish church, where an admirable sermon, inculcating charity and the other Masonic virtues, was preached for their edification by Br. Codrington. In the evening they again assembled at the Highbridge Inn, where an excellent banquet was served up for their refreshment by Br. Butson in a style highly creditable to his establishment.

RURAL PHILANTHROPIC LODGE, HUNTSPILL (No. 367).—This lodge met on the 27th of July, at Br. Butson, Highbridge Inn, for the installation of Br. W. Harwood as W.M. for the ensuing year, and he having invested his subordinate officers, the brethren were called off for refreshment, and spent a very happy evening around the provision board of their worthy host.

TAUNTON.—The foundation stone of the new Shire Halls was laid on the 14th of August, and never was Taunton much more gaily decorated. Flags of all colours were displayed from the houses of almost every tradesman, who appeared to vie with each other in their efforts to show off to the best advantage. The public buildings were profusely decorated; and the influx of visitors was, as large as on any previous public occasion. A procession of the inhabitants and local authorities having paraded the principal streets of the town, entered the grounds, and Lord Portman having arrived opposite the foundation-stone, desired his Chaplain, the Rev. F. B. Portman, to implore the Divine blessing. A bottle, containing a written account of the ceremony, was then deposited, together with a brass plate, on which was the following inscription: "This stone was laid on the 14th day of August, in the year of our Lord, 185 , as a foundation for the administration of the laws of this country, by Edward Berkeley Lord Portman, CustosRotolorum of the county; Richard King Meade King, chairman of the committee of magistrates, W. B. Moffat, architect; Richard Carver, county surveyor; and George Pollard, builder." The stone having been laid, Lord Portman said—I have much pleasure in telling you that this stone is perfectly laid. We have all done our work rightly, and I trust that this will be the foundation of great good to this county. We all know that among the many vicissitudes of life, one thing remains eternal as the sun, and that is the love of justice throughout the civilised world; and if there is one thing to which an Englishman is attached more than another, I believe it is to the maintenance of justice. In the building we have this day assisted in erecting, by laying this corner stone some of us may hope to see the judges of the land administering justice, and I trust, as in the old assize courts of this county strange things have happened in the olden time, which in our days are mere matters of history, such scenes may never again be enacted in this county; but that there will be a pure and independent administration of justice, according to the laws of the land which are the great pride as they are the boast of every Englishman. I am glad that the town of Taunton has thought fit to meet the authorities on the occasion of laying the first stone in the erection of this building; and I trust that the youngest among us may ever remember the events of the day when this foundation stone was laid, which will probably be counted as one of the greatest days in the annals of this county, by the thousands assembled on this occasion. I am proud of the invitation of the inhabitants to attend here to-day; and although I am more mixed up with military matters in this time of war than with civil duties, yet the High Sheriff has permitted me to take part in these proceedings; I am proud to belong to the county of Somerset, and re-

joice that I have been allowed to participate in the interesting event of this day. I will add one word more: I hope and trust that God will bless and prosper the county of Somerset, and enable you successfully to finish the work which is this day begun. Cheers were then given for Lord Portman, the High Sheriff, the County and Borough Members, the Archdeacon of Taunton, and the Chairman of the Building Committee, Mr. King, and the ceremony terminated. [It is to be regretted that in Somersetshire, where Masonry is duly appreciated, that the ceremony above mentioned was not confided to the hands of the P.G.M., Brother Col. Tynte, M.P.]

STAFFORDSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the Freemasons of Staffordshire took place on Tuesday, July 31, in the Town Hall, Stoke-upon-Trent. Additional importance was attached to the meeting in consequence of its being understood that the interesting ceremony of consecrating the Portland Lodge, No. 920, would be performed. The brethren mustered strongly from all parts of the province, and during the working of the lodge about 140 were present. The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened about half-past twelve o'clock, by the Right Worshipful Brother Lieut.-Col. George Augustus Vernon, Prov. G. M.

The circular convening the meeting, and the minutes of the Provincial Grand Lodge, held at Walsall last year, having been read by the Prov. G. Secretary, as well as several letters from distinguished brethren who had been invited, expressive of their regret at being unable to attend, the business of the meeting was at once proceeded with.

The brethren of the Portland Lodge (who had retired) were admitted in due form, headed by their W.M. Br. Stone, who being an old and expert mason, contributed materially to the correct performance of the rite. The Prov. G. Secretary having read the warrant from the Grand Lodge of England, authorising the formation of the Portland Lodge, the beautiful and impressive ceremony of consecration was most ably gone through by the Rt. W. Prov. G. M. and his officers.

The next business was the appointment of officers, when the following brethren were appointed for the ensuing year, viz.:—Br. Lloyd re-elected Prov. G. Treasurer; Br. Col. Hogg, Prov. G. S. W.; Br. Newsome, Prov. G. J. W.; Br. the Rev. W. H. Wright, Prov. G. Chaplain; Br. the Rev. E. Gwynne, Assistant Prov. G. Chaplain; Br. W. James, Prov. G. Registrar; Br. Dee (re-elected) Prov. G. Secretary; Br. Warner, Prov. G. S. D.; Br. T. Mason, jun., Prov. G. J. D.; Br. Davenport, Prov. G. Super. of Works; Br. J. James, Prov. G. D. C.; Br. E. Clark, Assistant Prov. G. D. C.; Br. John Good, Prov. G. S. B.; Br. Mammott, Prov. G. Organist; Br. D. Dilworth, Prov. G Purs.; Br. Carlo Bregazzi, Prov. G. Standard Bearer; and Br. Henry Bagguley (re-elected), Prov. G. Tyler.

The brethren then formed in procession, headed by the Longton Brass Band, each Lodge being represented by its respective banner, and after walking through the principal streets of the town, proceeded to the parish church, where a most excellent sermon was preached by the Prov. G. Chaplain, his text being the 17th verse of the 17th chapter of Proverbs: "A friend loveth at all times, but a brother is born for adversity." The Rev. H. Duck kindly officiated in the reading desk, assisted by Br. the Rev. E. Gwynne, Assistant Prov. G. Chaplain. A collection was made after the sermon, amounting to the very handsome sum of £14 7*s*.

From the church the brethren returned to the lodge room for the conclusion of business. On the motion of the Prov. G. M., the amount collected in church was made up to fifteen guineas from the Grand Lodge fund, and ordered to be distributed as follows:—Ten guineas to the Royal Benevolent Institution for aged and distressed Masons, and five guineas to the Stoke National Schools. A vote of thanks was given to Br. Wright for his excellent sermon, with a request that he would allow it to be printed, which was at once given.

The business being concluded, the lodge was duly closed, and the brethren adjourned

to the Covered Market to partake of the banquet. The banquet was provided by Brother Rogers, of Hanley, and partaken of by about 120 of the brethren. The Chairman, the Prov. G. M., was supported on the right by the Rt. W. Br. Capt. Bowyer, the Prov. G. M. of Oxfordshire, the Rt. W. Br. Thomas Ward, D. Prov. G. M. of Staffordshire, &c.; and on the left by the Prov. G. Chaplain, and W. Br. C. J. Vigne, past P. G. S. W. for Dorsetshire. The vice-chairs were occupied by Rr. Col. Hogg, Prov. G. S. W., and Br. Griffin, of the Portland Lodge. The room was nicely decorated with flags, evergreens, and flowers.

The cloth having been withdrawn, the Chairman, with a few suitable remarks, gave "The Queen," which was most loyally received, all the brethren joining in the National Anthem.

The Chairman next gave "The Consort of Her Majesty and the rest of the Royal Family."

The Chairman, in proposing "The Army and Navy," alluded to the important events now transpiring, and eulogised the gallant services of those brave men by whom the honour and dignity of our glorious country was upheld, and doubted not but that they would continue to deserve well of their country. The toast was received with great applause, the band playing "Rule Britannia."

The Chairman said he was convinced the toast he was about to propose would be well received by the brethren present, not only because the subject of it was the faithful ally of our Quean, but also because he was a Freemason. After passing a suitable encomium on the gallant French army and navy, the Chairman gave the health of his Majesty the Emperor of the French and our gallant allies. (Loud cheers).—The band played the French National Air.

In proposing the first Masonic toast, the Chairman said he need offer but few remarks on, as the ruler of the craft in England was so well known to them all, if not personally, at least by name. They knew how their Rt. W. Grand Master loved the brotherhood to which they had the honour to belong, and how he laboured to promote the art of Masonry. He was not less esteemed as a mason by the body than he was by all who had the pleasure personally to know him by his many private virtues. He gave them health, long life, and happiness to the Earl of Zetland.

The health of the Deputy Grand Master of England, the Earl of Yarborough, and the other officers of the Grand Lodge of England, was next proposed by the Chairman and duly honoured.

The Rt. W. Br. the Prov. G. M. of Oxfordshire returned thanks as one of the officers of the Grand Lodge.

Rt. W. B. Ward then gave the health of their worthy Chairman, feeling assured that one so worthy and so well known to all of them did not require many remarks from him. He had much pleasure in asking them to do honour to the toast, and trusted he might live many years to preside over them. (Loud cheers.)

The Prov. G.M., in returning thanks, said he was proud to stand in the position he did. He had felt an additional pleasure in coming amongst them that day, which might be accounted for by the anticipations of the interesting ceremony connected with the business of the Lodge. He had never presided over a more numerous body of his brethren than he had that day seen before him, and he trusted that the remembrance of the rite they had witnessed would long be remembered by them, and not only be remembered by them, but that much good might spring out of it. He hoped the brethren of the Portland Lodge would strive to become proficient in the art of Masonry, and be an honour to the fraternity. He begged to thank them for the honour they had done him.

The Chairman called on the brethren to fill a bumper to the next toast, for he had to propose the health of one who was endeared to them all as a most worthy brother, well versed in the art of the Order. His R. T. W. Deputy was, he believed, upwards of half a century old as a Mason, and he could assure the brethren that he placed the greatest confidence in him, and he knew that if at any time he (the chairman) was prevented from attending their meetings the duties would be most efficiently performed in his absence. He knew this from experience. The talents of his worthy friend and deputy had been tested. He trusted their Rt. W. Brother Ward would

long be spared to occupy the position he now so ably filled. The toast was received with great applause, the band playing "The fine old English gentleman."

Brother Ward returned thanks, and said if he did not deserve all that their worthy Chairman had said about him, he endeavoured to do so. It was true he felt the greatest zeal for the craft, and he was desirous at all times to deserve well of his brethren. So long as he continued to hold the office he had the honour to do, it would be his study to promote the interests of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and nothing could give him greater pleasure than to see the increased prosperity of Masonry in the province. He was desirous that the brethren should always feel as kindly towards him as he did towards them.—(Cheers.)

Brother Mammott, Prov. G. Organist, gave, in a most excellent speech, and at some length, the health of the Rt. W. Prov. G. M. of Oxfordshire; which was duly and eloquently responded to by that brother, who said he was highly gratified with what he had that day seen. It could not be otherwise, considering what an able president they had got. He hoped that would not be the last time he should attend a provincial meeting in that province.

Several other toasts followed and were duly responded to, and the brethren separated at an early hour. Several excellent songs were sung during the evening.

The bells of the parish church rang merrily during the day, and had the weather permitted, the procession of the brethren would, no doubt, have been extended.

NOAH'S ARK LODGE, TIPTON (No. 435.)—At the meeting of the brethren of this Lodge, held on the 20th of July, Br. James Whitehouse, son of Mr. Henry Whitehouse, the well-known iron-master, to the skill and enterprise of whose establishment the bridge over the Virginia Water forms a lasting memorial, was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, by the W.M. Br. the Rev. E. H. A. Gwynne, in a manner at once impressive and correct. Amongst the visitors present were Br. Deneson, P.M. No. 313, and Br. Rev. A Davies, W.M. of the Rl. Standard Lodge, Dudley, No. 370.

SOUTH WALES, EASTERN DIVISION.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

A Provincial Grand Meeting of this ancient and loyal body was held on Thursday, August 9, in Swansea, under the Provincial Grand Master of the eastern division of South Wales, Edward John Hutchins, Esq., M.P. In addition to the members of the Swansea Lodge, a considerable number of brethren from the Neath, Merthyr, and other neighbouring Lodges, were present, and took part in the proceedings of the day.

The brethren met at the Lodge room, at the Assembly Rooms, on the Burrows, when a Grand Lodge was held, and whence, preceded by a band, under the direction of Mr. Jullien Edwards, and escorted by the police, they proceeded to the Parish Church, duly marshalled in the following

ORDER OF PROCESSION.

Tyler, with drawn sword.
Music.
Neath Lodge (472).
Swansea Lodge (288).
Merthyr Lodge (127).
Cardiff Lodge (43).
(each with its respective standard and Sword Bearers).
Past Provincial Officers, according to their ranks.
Visiting Brethren of Distinction.
Present Prov. Grand Tyler, with drawn sword.
Prov. Grand Organist.
Prov. Grand Deacons.
Prov. Grand Superintendent of Works.
Prov. Grand Secretary,

Prov. Grand Director of Ceremonies
A Steward, with blue and gold wand on each side.
Prov. Grand Registrar.
Prov. Grand Treasurer.
Bible, Square and Compasses on a crimson velvet and gold cushion, borne by a Master Mason.
Steward, with blue and gold wand on each side,
Prov. Grand Junior and Senior Wardens.
Deputy Prov. Grand Master.
Banner of the Prov. Grand Master.
Steward, with blue and gold wand on each side.
Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master.
Edward John Hutchins, Esq., M.P.
Prov. Grand Stewards, with blue and gold wands.
Prov. Grand Pursuivant, with sword of state.

On its arrival at St. Mary's Church, the procession halted, and opened right and left, so as to allow space for the Provincial Grand Master and his officers, preceded by the Provincial Grand Pursuivant, to enter the sacred edifice according to the established usage of the craft.

Divine service commenced by the choir singing the 100th Psalm; after which prayers were read by the Vicar, the Rev. E. B. Squire. At the special request of the Brethren, Brother Geo. Allen presided at the organ, and in the course of the service, the united choirs of St. Mary's and Trinity Church sang very effectively the "Venite," Dr. Aylward's chant in F; "Te Deum," Jackson's service in F; "Jubilate," Mornington in B, and Calah's fine anthem (composed expressly for Masonic festivals) taken from the 133rd Psalm, "Behold how good and joyful a thing it is for brethren." &c. The concerted parts in this beautiful classic composition were very effectively rendered by Messrs. Snarey, of Bristol Cathedral, W. Bowen, St. Mary's and Jones, Trinity. The solo by Snarey elicited merited and universal praise. The sermon was preached by the Rev. M. E. Welby, Incumbent of St. Paul's, Sketty, from Gen. 13 c. 8 v.

In treating this very appropriate text, the reverend gentleman referred preliminarily to the common heritage of man, and to the decree of change and vicissitude which the Creator had impressed upon all things. One generation cometh and another passeth away—nothing abideth—there is one universal law of change. It is with a reflection partaking of the melancholy that we contemplate those convulsions of our planet in past eras in which races of lower animal life have perished, but the thought is far more solemn that successive generations of our fellow men are swept away—re-converted to the parent dust from which they were formed. The contemplation of this mortality of the race of man is an overwhelming thought, and strongly suggests the question in this large waste of human life, what am I, the individual worth? The reverend gentleman then proceeded to connect these and similar reflections with the exhortation embodied in the text, observing that the words inculcate a duty which is, in fact, a commission to exercise a mission of benevolence over the wide-spread family of man. There are two portions in every generation—the good and the bad, the passive or useless, and the active or useful. The former have no love of man—their aim in life is nothing great, but self-seeking. They embark in nothing grand—they coast along this world's shore, leaving no blessing behind them. What a contrast does the career of the other class present—he leaves a track of light behind, and of him it is recorded that he served his generation. The preacher then went on to observe that the brotherly feeling referred to in the text implied the higher feeling of love to God. After an elaborate enumeration of the duties which flowed respectively from these two principles, the rev. gentleman commented, with more immediate reference to the present occasion, on the modes in which our duty to our brethren could be carried out, in doing good. The way of doing good individually is giving, but this should not be estimated solely by its cost in money; kind words and offices, gentle attentions, and little services, go further than the mere dole of money, for they go straight to the

heart—they are laid up in it, and bless him that gives and him that receiveth. Another way of doing good, of serving our generation, is by combination. The reverend gentleman then proceeded to illustrate the force which combination for wise and philanthropic ends confers, and concluded a discourse characterised by comprehensive and benevolent views and power of illustration, by reference to the great characteristics of Masonry—fear of God, loyalty to the Sovereign, and love to the brotherhood, as valuable principles which, it were to be wished, were more widely-pervading influences. In particular, the recollection of our common brotherhood would lead us to do unto others as we would they should do unto us. To take, said the rev. preacher, the highest results, "Are men of one race?" Then in the Bible you have a provision for all. Go, and tell them, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. Go and assure them whosoever doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother," &c. Go and proclaim these great duties of love to God and to our brethren of the human race, and by its power, bring them out of the bondage of sin to the glorious liberty of children of God.

On leaving the church, the procession was re-formed as above, and on its arrival at the Assembly Rooms, again opened, the Grand Master, his officers and brethren proceeding to the Lodge Room, where they took their respective places in the Grand Lodge.

The collection usual on these occasions was made for the relief of the poor. It amounted to about £5, and was ordered to be handed to the Vicar of Swansea for distribution.

The following votes of thanks were then unanimously passed:—

To the Rev. M. E. Welby, for his very excellent and appropriate sermon. This vote was accompanied by a request that he would permit the same to be printed at the expense of the Grand Lodge.

To the Rev. E. B. Squire, Vicar of Swansea, for kindly and readily affording the brethren the use of the Parish Church on the present occasion.

The Lodge business having now being brought to a close, a number of ladies were admitted to view the decorations and paraphernalia of the Lodge Room. Brother George Allen contributing, during this inspection, a rich musical treat on the harmonium, in his accustomed masterly style of performance.

All the arrangements of the day were under the able direction of Brother F. D. Michael, the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, which honourable and responsible office he has filled for now nearly a quarter of a century.

The Banquet was given at the Mackworth Arms Hotel, and at half past three p.m., a goodly company of the brethren, numbering about 70, sat down to an entertainment which, it is only justice to say, was pronounced by connoisseurs to have been served up in excellent style by the landlord, Brother Viner. So marked and general was the satisfaction, that a vote of thanks was unanimously given to Mrs. Viner for the superior and judicious arrangements made for the occasion.

At the termination of the repast, as is ever customary with this ancient and loyal body, the usual toasts of the Queen, Royal Family, the Army, and Navy, &c., were proposed and retrieved with enthusiastic welcome by the brethren assembled. Then followed, in response, several excellent speeches, by the Worshipful the Grand Master, and by Brothers G. G. Bird, M. Moggridge, O. G. Williams, and Aubrey.

A rich feature in the proceedings of the evening was contributed by the singing of several admirable pieces by Brothers Snarey and Bowen. The party broke up at an early hour, as several of the gentleman had to leave by the evening train.

We understand that the Provincial Grand Lodge will be held next year at Brecon, where a new Lodge has recently been opened, and it may be expected that it will be on a scale unusual both as to extent and magnificence.

SUSSEX.

Rl. Clarence Lodge, Brighton (No. 338).—This Lodge was recently visited by the R.W. the D.P.G.M., who expressed himself highly gratified with the manner in which the ceremonies were performed, and the lectures worked.

SURREY.

CROYDON. FREDERICK LODGE OF UNITY (No. 661). At the usual Monthly Meeting of the brethren of this Lodge, held on the 6th of August, one brother was passed and another raised to their respective degrees; after which Br. Edward Vickers was presented to a Board of Past Masters, and installed W.M. for the ensuing year.

LODGE OF HARMONY (No. 317).—At the meeting of this Lodge, held on the 16th of July at the Greyhound Inn, Richmond, the Rev. Dr. Mazzuchelli was initiated into the Order; and a valuable silver salver was, in the name of the Lodge—his mother Lodge—presented to the R.W. the P.G.M. of Oxfordshire, Br. Bowyer, as a token of their esteem and regard. A similar memorial, in the shape of a silver-gilt snuff-box, was presented to Br. Col. Macdonald.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE, DUDLEY (No. 838.)—The usual Monthly Meeting of the brethren of this Lodge was held on the evening of Wednesday, the 29th ult. at the Saracen's Head in this town. As this was the evening fixed for the installation of Br. Harrison, the W.M. elect, there was a strong muster of the brethren present. Br. Jno. Williscroft, the outgoing Master, having disposed of the raisings, mentioned in the notice of meeting, Br. Harrison was presented to a full board of Past Masters and ably installed by his predecessor as W.M. for the ensuing year. The brethren, then repaired to refreshment, and spent a most agreeable evening in harmony and good fellowship.

ROYAL STANDARD, DUDLEY (No. 130.)—This Lodge held its usual Monthly Meeting on the evening of Tuesday, the 13th of August, when the W.M. the Rev. A. G. Davies presided for the first time since his installation, and performed the duties of the Chair in a highly creditable manner.

YORKSHIRE.

ALFRED LODGE, LEEDS, (No. 384.)—This Lodge held its monthly meeting, at the Lodge-Room, Griffin Hotel, on Friday, the 3rd of August, when Mr. Samuel Addyman, and Mr. George Dixon were initiated into the order by the W. M. Bros. Thomas Dixon. The ceremony was ably performed, and the charge given in a most impressive manner. The officers and brethren of this Lodge are wishful to carry out the principals of Masonry to the fullest extent of their means, and have, during the year, given out of their funds £10 10*s.* to the Patriotic Fund, and at the Lodge Meeting in May, they granted £10 10*s.* to the Royal Masonic institution, for clothing and educating the sons of indigent and decayed Freemasons; £10 10*s.* to the Royal Freemasons' school for female children; £1 1*s.* to the building fund, with other munificent sums to charitable purposes. And they do not intend relaxing in their, labours until their names are inserted on the list of subscribers of all the Masonic charities.

INSTRUCTION.

ASHFORD, KENT.—The brethren held a Lodge of Instruction in the Assembly Room on Monday, the 6th of August. The Hythe Lodge lent its Masonic furniture and decorations for the occasion, and what is technically called "the Working" was performed by members of that Lodge, Brother Wilson, P.M., taking the principal parts. Among the brethren present were Brothers S. Wilson (W.M.), Moneypenny, T. B. Wilson, Bragne, Key, Reynolds, Buss, Foord, of the Hythe Lodge; Brother Hallowes, of Tonbridge; Brothers Chinnery, Tolputt, and Warrington, of Folkestone; Brother Epps, of the Belvidere Lodge, Maidstone; and Brothers Mansell, Thorpe, Sheppard, and Loud, of Ashford. In the evening the brethren partook of

an excellent dinner, which was provided for them at the Saracen's Head Hotel, Charles P. Cooper, Esq., Q.C., the Provincial Grand Master, presiding. Several members of the Craft residing in Ashford and the neighbourhood having expressed a wish to see a Lodge established in the town, the Provincial Grand Master said nothing would give him greater satisfaction than to be called upon to consecrate a Lodge there. It is understood that immediate steps will be taken to procure a warrant from the Grand Lodge of England.

WHITBY, YORKSHIRE.—The brethren of the Lion Lodge (No. 391), have, as we mentioned in our last number, been favoured with a visit by Br. W. Goring, M.P., of Lodge (25), and P.Z. of Chapter (No. 25.), London, whose specific object was to introduce the lectures in Freemasonry as practised in the various Lodges of Instruction in the metropolis and the knowledge of which, in Whitby, as in most of the provincial Lodges, was exceedingly limited; in fact, for any practical purposes might be considered quite unknown. Br. Goring, however, by his unremitting attention during a fortnight spent here, has succeeded so far as to place the whole of those beautiful lectures at the command of the different officers and several members of the Lodge, so that, by following up those impressions by a regular weekly meeting of mutual instruction now held every Tuesday evening, there is every probability of their being retained, and this lodge as effectually worked as any out of London. Whilst the brethren here feel particularly grateful for the very able services of Br. Goring, they would especially recommend a similar step to be taken by many other country Lodges. The great ability displayed by Br. Goring in his method of instruction far exceeds everything that has been witnessed here previously, and surpasses the most sanguine expectations. During his visit, a Masonic picnic was held in Mulgrave Woods, at which he was also present, and contributed much to the enjoyment of the party. The Britannia Chapter here likewise reaped great benefit from his services, and, as in the case of the Craft, so also in Royal Arch Masonry, did our worthy Br. display that admirable ability and wonderful talent which he possesses in such an extraordinary degree to the delight and satisfaction of every companion present. The fortnight thus spent will ever be considered as most important in a Masonic point of view, and will doubtless contribute largely to the future prosperity of both Craft and Royal Arch Masonry in Whitby.

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.—QUARTERLY CONVOCATION.

The usual quarterly convocation was holden in the Temple, connected with Freemasons Hall, Great Queen-street, on Wednesday, August 1st. There were present, Comp. Pattison, G. M., acting as Z.; Comp, Lloyd, P.S., acting as H.; Comp. Chron, P. P. S., acting as J.; Comp. Tombleson, P. G. S. B., acting as P. S.; and the following Comps. Tomkins, S. B.; C. W. Elkinton, Standard B.; P. Mathews, D. C.; W. H. White, S. E.; T. Parkinson; G. Biggs; C. Baumer; Farnfield; J. W. R. Potter, G. G. S. B.; J. Howe, P. Z., 593; J. Smith, P. Z., 49; Signet, P. Z., 206; C. Rolinson, P. Z., 8; J. Clark, Z., 206; J. H. Pratchell, Z., 248; H. Gibbin, H., 248; W. Young, J., 11; and H. G. Warren, J., 778. The Chapter having been duly opened, Comp. White reported that he had received a letter from the M.E.Z., expressing his regret at being unable to attend the meeting, owing to the severe indisposition of the Countess of Zetland. He might also state, though not having been requested to do so that the D.G.Z., the Earl of Yarborough, was also prevented attending, he having had a very severe attack of illness, from which, however, he was happy to say, his lordship was now recovering. The Minutes of the last Meeting having been read and confirmed, a report was brought up from the Committee of General Purposes, from the 18th April to 18th July. At the former date, there was a balance in the hands of the Bankers of £311 8*s.* 1*d.*, there had since been received £101 15*s.*, making £413 3*s.* 1*d.* The expenditure in the same period was £73 19*s.*, leaving a balance in the hands of the Bankers of

£339 4s. 1d. Two petitions had been received for New Chapters—one from the St. John's Lodge, No. 875, Admaston Spa, Wellington, Shropshire, to meet on the first Wednesday in October, January, April, and July; and the other, from the Kybur Lodge, No. 852, meeting at Peshawur, in the province of Bengal, to meet on the first Wednesday in each month. The report was received, and the issue of new Charters asked for, unanimously approved. The acting Z., stated that a young friend of his lately returned from India, where he had been initiated into Freemasonry, informed him that the Craft was making great and steady progress throughout the Indian provinces. The Convocation was then closed in due form.

ESSEX.

CHAPTER OF HOPE AND UNITY, ROMFORD (No. 259.)—A convocation of this Chapter was holden at the White Hart Hotel, on Friday the 3rd August, when Comp. Wm. Watson acted as Z.; Comp. Pattison, H.; Comp. Raphael Costa, J., and Comp. H. G. Warren, as P. S. Br. Carl Formes, of the Amsterdam Lodge, having been duly introduced into the Chapter, was exalted as an Archmason with the accustomed ceremonies. The Comps. afterwards dined together, the chair being most ably filled by Comp. Pattison, M.E.Z. The evening passed off very harmoniously, Comp. Formes, (the well known basso of the Royal Italian Opera House) mainly contributing to the general enjoyment by his rich fund of anecdote and vocal abilities.

KENT.

ROYAL CHAPTER OF ANTIQUITY, CHATHAM (No. 20).—This chapter held a meeting at the Sun Inn, in the above town on Wednesday, the 8th the occasion being that of installing Principals for the next session. Companion William Watson, of the Globe (23), attended, and, with his proverbially kindly feeling, as well as great Masonic ability, performed the ceremonies of installation. Companion Ashley, P.D. P.G.M. for Kent, Companion Fielder, and Companion Isaacs, P.G.S., were placed in the three chairs, and, from the well-known talents of the companions alluded to, a prosperous year is anticipated. It appears that, just ten years since, this excellent chapter was consecrated by Companion W. Watson, who installed upon that occasion Companion Ashley as First Principle. Companion Ashley was re-elected the two following years to fill that important office—thus holding the high position for three consecutive years; and now, for the fourth time, by the unanimous vote of the Chapter, we find him again presiding in the first chair. The business of the evening being ended, thanks were voted to Companion Watson for his able assistance, and the companions separated at an early hour, after spending a delightful evening, which was greatly enhanced by the excellence of the banquet provided by the worthy host of the Sun.

HERMES CHAPTER, GRAVESEND (No. 91.)—At the communication of this Chapter held on the 13th ult., Br. Queely, W.M. of the Lodge of Industry (219) was exalted to the Royal Arch Degree.

THE HIGH DEGREES.

We are happy to inform our Frs. Knights Templar, that the M.E. and S.G.M. Col. C. K. Kemeys, Tynte, has lately granted a warrant for an encampment to be held at Quebec, in Canada, over which that eminent and accomplished Mason, Fr. Thomas Douglas Harrington, is appointed to preside. As E.C. Masonry generally, is very flourishing in Canada, many new warrants for Lodges to be held in Canada have been lately granted. The Order of Knts. Temp. has excited particular interest there. At Toronto, a hall has been fitted up with very great taste, and at a considerable expense.

The M.E. and S.G.M. has lately appointed Fr. James Randolph, the Prov. Grand Commander for Somersetshire, and Fr. Henry Charles Vernon, the Prov. Grand Commander for Worcestershire.

It may be interesting to all S. P. Rose Croix to know, that a chapter of Rose Croix will be held at Weymouth, Dorsetshire, on September the 25th.

On September the 26th, the Inauguration of Fr. C. J. Vigue, as V.S. P.G.C. for Dorsetshire, will also take place at Weymouth, at which it is expected that there will be a large assembly of the most influential Knights Templar in England.

THE COLONIES.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

GRAND MASONIC CELEBRATION IN THE TOWN OF ST. ANDREW'S, N.B.

On Tuesday, the 26th June, the town of St. Andrew's, New Brunswick, was enlivened to a degree never witnessed before, by the assemblage from all quarters of members of the most ancient and honourable Masonic Body to celebrate the festival of Saint John the Baptist.

A great number of brethren attended from adjacent parts of the Province and Nova Scotia, as well as from the State of Maine, U.S. The steamer "Creole" brought more than 150 passengers from St. John's, N.B.; the "Queen" conveyed 400 from Calais, Maine: a great number came in the steamer "Nequasset," from Eastport, besides many who came in carriages from the surrounding country.

It is estimated that there could not have been less than 1,000 visitors that day; besides many ladies, who added much to the enjoyment of the scene. At ten o'clock, A.M., a Lodge was opened in the Town Hall, by the W.M. of St. Mark's Lodge (No. 759) the Rev. Jerome Alley, D.D.; and shortly after, the Pro. Grand Master, the Hon. Alexander Keith, was escorted to the Lodge by the P.M. of St. Mark's and two of the oldest Masons, preceded by Companion James Boyd, as Grand Standard Bearer, and supported by the banners of St. Mark's.

On entering the Lodge, the R. Worshipful was received with the honours, and, having taken the Chair, a Grand Lodge was opened: Br. Gowan, Grand Pursuivant; Br. P.M. Thomas of St. John's Lodge, G.I.W.; Br. W.M. Joel Reading of Albion Lodge, G.S.W.

The following is a sketch of the procession, each Lodge having its Marshal Tyler and banners:—

BAND.

Union Lodge (No. 886), Milltown, N.B., G.L. England.
Albion Lodge (No. 570), St. John, N.B., G.L. England.
Sussex Lodge (No. 327), St. Stephen, N.B. G.L. Ireland.
Hibernian Lodge (—), St. Andrew's, N.B., G.L. Ireland.

BAND.

St. Croix Lodge, Calais, Maine, G.L. U. States.
Lubec Lodge, Lubec, Maine, G.L. U. States.
Eastern Lodge, Eastport, Maine, G.L. United States.
St. Mark's Lodge (No. 759), St. Andrew's, N.B., G.L.England.
Provincial G.M. Hon. Alex. Keith, supported by his officers.

The procession moved off with banners waving, bands playing, and the insignia of the Order displayed. The decorations worn were exceedingly tasteful. After a progress through some of the principal streets, it stopped at All Saint's Church, to attend Divine Service, at which the Rev. Bro. Durel, Rector of Calias, Maine, and Rev. Bro. Street, Church Missionnry, from Woodstock, officiated, an appropriate sermon being preached by W.M. the Rev. Jerome Alley, D.D., from that truly Masonic text, "Behold how good and how pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Prayers having been said, the following Anthem was chanted:—

"Oh! praise God in His holiness, praise Him in the firmament of His power;
Praise Him in His noble acts, praise Him according to His excellent greatness;
Praise Him in the sound of the trumpet, praise Him upon the lute and harp;
Praise Him in the cymbals and dances, praise Him in strings and pipes;"
Let every thing that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

An excellent sermon having been preached, and the services concluded, the procession re-formed, and marched to the Town Hall, where the Grand Lodge was closed.

The procession, which at this stage was joined by a number of ladies, then marched down to the Dinner Hall, which was elegantly and tastefully fitted up for the occasion. A large number then partoook of the repast, which was excellent. The Rev. Br. Alley presided at the dinner-table, and the following toasts were given and drunk:—1. The Queen; 2. Prince Albert and the Royal Family; 3. The President of the United States; 4. The Army and Navy; 5. The Grand Masters of England, Ireland, and Scotland; 6. The Pro. G.M. Right Worshipful A. Keith.

The R.W. returned thanks, and called for a bumper to the health of the Rev. Dr. Alley, W.M., and the brethren of St. Mark's Lodge, to which the Rev. Br. responded.

7. The Pro. Grand Master of Maine, U. States, The Hon. Br. Talbot. The above toast was responded to by Br. Talbot, of Washington Lodge, Dep. Grand Master, in absence of his father.

8. Our Visiting Lodges and Brethren; 9. Our Absent Brethren all over the world; 10. Masons' Wives, and Masons' Bairns.

Between four and five o'clock, P.M., the party broke up, well pleased with the day's proceedings.

The day was uncommonly favourable not only for carrying out the celebration, but for viewing the scenery of the town and surrounding country. The salubrity of the air caused by the refreshing sea-breeze, and the general healthiness of the locality, render the town of St. Andrew's peculiarly attractive.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MARK DEGREE.

SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.

We have received the following letter from Br. Gaylor, G. Scribe N. of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, in reference to the illegality of the Mark Degree as conferred by the so-called Bon Accord Lodge in London.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

Edinburgh, 17th August, 1855.

SIR AND BROTHER,—You will pardon me for offering a few remarks on a notice which I find contained in the August number of the Freemason's Monthly Magazine, of the installation of a W. M. to the self-styled "London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters," leading me greatly to wonder how, looking at what has lately transpired, and the glaring amount of ignorance displayed on the occasion by its members, it should so readily have found a place in the pages of any respectable journal.

It were contemptible to refer to the matter perhaps, had I nothing else to notice than the ignorance which is manifested on the part of the W.M. in giving as a toast at the banquet which took place after the proceedings referred to, "His Grace the Duke of Athol, the Grand Z. of the Order for Scotland;" a nobleman and companion who, so far as that office is concerned, is defunct some six or eight years ago. How would the worthy Editor of the Magazine have received notice from Scotland that a similar compliment had been bestowed upon England by the health being given of "Lord Fred. Fitzclarence, the Grand Z. for England?" The difference would only have consisted in this: the one was naturally dead—the other officially.

But I have a more weighty charge of ignorance to prefer; and one on which, by this time. I feel assured the Editor of the Magazine is fully versant, if not also sufficiently convinced.

The toast referred to, it would appear, was given as a prelude to something else of more importance to them, which was committed to the charge of one of their number, Dr. Jones.

Your readers are aware of the circumstances under which the so-called London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters was constituted. I do not again trouble you with details already sufficiently elucidated and proved. Suffice it to say that they are satisfied to work under some pretended warrant granted to them by a Scotch Chapter, holding under the Supreme Chapter of Scotland; much in the same way that, were it attainable, a Lodge of Apprentices or Fellow Crafts might be content to work under warrant from a Lodge of M.M., holding under Supreme authority of England, Scotland, or Ireland. The Chapter whence such warrant emanated was the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen, No. 70 on the Roll of Scotland, Comp. Rettie being at the time, and at present, First Principal. This R.A. Chapter, in consequence of so palpable an infringement of the Rules of the Order, and of the regulations of the Supreme Chapter of which it holds, has already been certiorated of the delict committed by it, and commanded to recal the warrant in virtue of which the London Bon Accord pretend to work, under pain of ulterior measures, by which it is contemplated deprivation of Charter may follow if acquiescence is not given. This has caused the so-called London Bon Accord Lodge, who regard Comp. Rettie as their founder and patron, to render him their sympathy, and they offer him, through Dr. Jones, at the foresaid banquet, their united testimony to his Masonic worth and private virtues. Comp. Rettie may be an excellent man and deserving of all that is said of him; he may also be an excellent Mason. But with all these qualities it is yet possible that his zeal may have outran his prudence; or he may have been cajoled or misled into an act of impropriety of which, in the present case, there cannot, on the slightest consideration be the smallest doubt.

The Supreme Chapter of Scotland in the exercise of her functions, and as conservator of the rights and privileges of the Order within her dominion, has thus been called on to perform what was felt to be a painful duty, and have characterised this irregularly-constituted body as *spurious* and *illegal*; epithets which it seems to have been assigned the work of Dr. Jones to oppugn, in passing the eulogium which he did on Comp. Rettie. He proceeds in the methodical, but not very consistent or Masonic manner of attempting to annihilate first the one and then the other of these charges, forgetting all the while that it was its illegality alone which constituted its spuriousness. He asserts in proof of its purity that its mode of working is identical with that practised in the parent Chapter of Aberdeen. Be it so: this will not constitute its legality. It is well known that some clandestine Masons have the ceremonial of the Order to which they belong most correctly; and their knowledge, too (with shame it is admitted), is found in some instances to excel that possessed by legitimate brethren; but this will not by any means stamp them with the qualities of genuineness or purity. The end and object of the Order is entirely subverted when all recognition of supreme authority fails—the tyro in any art is entitled to assume the position which belongs to the man of science—and the quack or pettifogger is put upon an equal footing with the duly qualified and lawfully ordained practitioner.

Dr. Jones next states that he and certain others forming the London Bon Accord, received their degree in Aberdeen, and none therefore can be more assured than they of its identity with that which must be admitted to be genuine. It had been desirable that Dr. Jones had given the names of the parties who were conjoined with him in this illegitimate fraternity, as it might then have been tested whether they, any more than himself, were entitled to claim legitimacy; for if the Aberdeen Chapter is correct, and has been fulfilling its obligations to the mother Chapter, Dr. Jones is not a member of it, and never received any degree whatever from that source, his name not appearing to be recorded in the books of the Supreme Chapter, which is the only criterion of acknowledged legitimacy. It is to be doubted, therefore, whether the others stand in any different position. They may, as already said, be in possession of all

that is necessary to distinguish them as Mark Masters, and able also to practise it; but they have not that standing in Masonry fitted to place them in any category other than that vulgarly denominated hedge-masons.

Lastly, in proof of the alleged legality of the so-called London Bon Accord Lodge, it is said that one of their number, Br. Brassv Dawson, had not only in consequence of the degree obtained by him in that Lodge, been recognised as a Mork Master in Edinburgh, but had also had conferred on him the 32nd degree there. Had it been stated which Lodge or Chapter had so recognised him, means might and would have *bren taken to ascertain whether such had at any time been the case, and who was the* party responsible for such an act; but this being withheld, the presumption rather is that no such recognition ever took place. With regard to his admission to the 32nd degree, the Supreme Chapter cannot say what qualifications or pre-requisites are necessary there on the part of candidates. Probably the degree of Mark Master in the surruptitious way it was proposed by him was reckoned sufficient. But this they know, that it would not have procured him admittance to any regular Lodge of Mark Masters in Scotland, nor would the degree of 32nd, though lawfully obtained, any more than a connextion with a Lodge of Odd Fellows or Free Gardne, hvebs contributed to a differnt result.

I have thought it right, though at greater length thah I intended, to give you these remarks, lest any cursory glance at the article in the Magazine to which I refer might tend to mislead.

I have the honour to be, Sir and Brother,
Yours fraternally,
WM. GAYLOR,
Scribe N. for Scotland.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR AUGUST.

THE COURT.

Upon the 6th of the month, the Court was again honoured by a visit from the young King of Portugal, and his brother the Duke of Oporto, on their return home, but the great event which characterized the proceedings of Royalty during the month, was the visit of Her Majesty, attended by Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the Princess Royal, to the Imperial Court of France, and the meeting of Victoria, and of Napoleon the 3rd, on the quay of Boulogne, is henceforth to be chronicled as equalling in splendour, the interview between Henry the 8th, and Francis the 1st, on the field of the Cloth of Gold, and as surpassing it in cordiality and sincerity—the main ingredients in the preservation of all friendship, whether of individuals or of nations. Her Majesty sailed from Portsmouth, on the evening of the 17th, and landed on the French coast early the next day, and immediately started for the capital, her reception at all the places in her route being of the warmest and most enthusiastic character. On her arrival in Paris, she was met by both the Officers of the Court, the Corps Diplomatique, and the Municipality, and conducted to the Palace of St. Cloud, where she remained in retirement during the next day (Sunday). The whole of the week was devoted to royal visits and receptions, and Her Majesty left for Osborne on the 27th, carrying with her a grateful remembrance of the hospitality with which she had been received, and an assurance that her presence in France had given to the present happy alliance of the two countries, the strength of an enduring existence.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Resuming the summary of the proceedings of the Legislature at the point where we left off in our last number, we find that on the 30th of July, the Royal assent was given by commission to several bills of minor importance. On the same evening, in the House of

Lords, the Earl of Shaftesbury presented an important petition from Reading, praying that the condition of Poland should be a subject of consideration in all future negotiations for peace; and Lord Brougham enquired into the causes which delayed the progress of the Summary Jurisdiction Bill, and other measures of Law Reform. On the 31st, Lord Brougham complained of the withdrawal of the government grant to the Royal Society, a body which had made the most important addition to literature and science; and the Metropolitan Local Management Bill passed through Committee. On the 2nd of August, the Downing-street Public Offices Extension Bill, having for its object the collocation of the public offices, was read a second time. The Earl of Harrington complained of the power vested in the Government, of fixing the salaries of the County Court Judges. The Turkish Loan Bill, and the Sale of Beer Bill were severally introduced, and read a first time. On the 3rd, Lord Panmure in reply to the Earl of Ellenborough, admitted that there had been mutinous disturbances among the troops under the command of General Beatson, but denied the truth of his reported assassination by them. He also stated, in reply to the same nobleman, that the foreign troops at present at Heligoland numbered 10,000 infantry, and 2000 cavalry. The Turkish Loan Bill, after a strong opposition from Lord Ellenborough, who preferred a direct subsidy to a guarantee, and from Lord Hardwicke, who complained of want of activity in the Black Sea, and Sea of Azoff, was read a second time. On the 6th, on the motion of the Marquis of Clanricarde, and by a majority of 25 to 16, the standing order, prohibiting the consideration of any new business in their lordships' House after a certain date, was suspended in favour of the Sale of Beer Bill. The Metropolitan Local Management Bill was read a third time and passed, and the Turkish Loan Bill went through Committee. On the 7th, the Limited Liability Bill was read a second time, its opponents having attempted to defeat it, not on its merits, but maintaining the standing order already referred to, as a bar to its consideration. The division was for the suspension of the order 14, against it 38. The Sale of Beer Bill went through Committee, and the Turkish Loan Bill was read a third time. On the 9th, the motion of Lord Campbell for referring the Limited Liability Bill to a Select Committee, was defeated by a majority of 28 to 11, after which the bill was taken into consideration by a committee of the whole house, and ordered to be reported. On the 10th, the Lord Chancellor stated that it was the intention of Government next session to re-introduce the Leases and Sales of Settled Estates Bill, withdrawn from the House of Commons by the Solicitor General, as he found it impossible to carry it with clause which he had introduced, prohibiting the enclosure of Hampstead Heath. Lord St. Leonards thinking it hard that the owner of that property should be prevented from using it as he wished—His father's will prevents his building on it—suggested that Government should purchase it for the enjoyment of the people. Lord Malmesbury called attention to the severities suffered by the English prisoners of war, in the Russian Military Prisons. The Exchequer Bills (£7000,000) Bill, was passed through Committee. On the 11th, the Limited Liability Bill was read a third time and passed, and the amendments introduced into the Charitable Trusts Bill, were agreed to. On the 13th, Lord St. Leonards, and the other Law Lords vindicated the character of the House of Lords, as a Court of Appeal from the aspersions cast upon it by the Solicitor General in the House of Commons, and Lord Monteagle presented a petition from Sir Culling Eardley, complaining that the regulations of the University of Oxford, with regard to the granting of degrees, ignored the intention of the legislature in passing the Oxford University Reform Bill of last session. Sir Culling had been a student of Oriel, and had completed his undergraduate course, but was refused his degree, because he declined to subscribe to the 39 articles. This refusal took place many years past. On the passing of the bill referred to, by the provisions of which subscription to the articles is no longer *sine quâ non* to a degree, Sir Culling applied for his, but was again refused unless he declared himself *extra ecclesiam*, or out of the pale of the Church of England, which he declined to do, as he did not consider the fact of his disagreeing with some of the articles, placed him in the category of Non-conformists. The Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Harrowby, and Lord Campbell coincided in thinking the conduct of the University at variance with the spirit of the act and *ultra vires*. On the 14th, a Royal Commission gave the assent of the Crown to a large number of Bills,

the more important of which were the Turkish Loan Bill, the Limited Liability Bill, the Sale of Beer Bill, the Exchequer Bills (£7,000,000) Bill, and the Metropolitan Local Management Bill, after which, the Lord Chancellor read Her Majesty's Speech, proroguing parliament to the 23rd of October next.

In the House of Commons, on the 30th of July, Sir Wm. Molesworth and Sir Benjamin Hall severally took their seats, on their re-election, for their respective boroughs, Southwark and Marylebone. The Limited Liability Bill was considered in committee; and Admiral Walcot complained that officers like himself, who had distinguished themselves against pirates had been passed over in the distribution of the honours of the Bath. On the 31st, the House resolved itself into a committee of supply, when on the consideration of the supplementary estimate for the navy transport and packet service, the First Lord of the Admiralty mentioned that, since the commencement of hostilities the Government had conveyed 246,000 soldiers (French and English) and 32,000 horses to the seat of war. A sum of 800*l.* was voted for the erection of a monument to the memory of Sir John Franklin and of his crew. The sale of Beer Bill passed through committee, and the Turkish Loan Bill was read a third time and passed. On the 1st of August, the Carlisle Cannonries Bill was considered in committee, and the Union of Contiguous Benefices Bill passed through that ordeal. A message was received from the Crown calling for additional supplies for the prosecution of the war. On the 2nd, Mr. Frederick Peel justified the conduct of the authorities of the Horse Guards in granting a good service pension to Lord George Paget. Mr. Milner Gibson enquired if it were true that the Foreign Legion was being enlisted for in a manner contrary to the law of nations, and was informed that such was not the case. It was illegal for a Government to enlist the subjects of any foreign state within the territories of that state, without the permission of its Government, but there was no bar to its affording them means of emigration to any place under its own rule, where their enlistment would be perfectly legal. The sale of Beer Bill was the same evening read a third time and passed. On the 3rd, in reply to Mr. Milner Gibson, Sir Chas. Wood stated that Admiral Dundas was armed with a discretionary power as regarded the destruction of Russian shipping. Colonel North mentioned that soldiers in uniform had been refused admittance into the strangers' gallery, whereupon the Speaker stated that there was no rule for this exclusion, provided they were not armed. In reply to Mr. Bright, Lord Palmerston stated that until the papers relative to the Mallayhea expedition were printed, Government could not decide on what steps it should take in the matter. On the same evening, a most extraordinary debate took place relative to the Vienna negociations. Mr. Laing having brought the subject again before the house for the purpose of defending the conduct of Austria from the charge of tergiversation, and of expressing his approval of the course pursued by Lord John Russell; when Mr. Gladstone openly signified his adhesion to the peace party, and made a speech depreciating the resources of this country and giving a highly favourable view of those of Russia, for which he was complimented by Mr. Cobden, who called upon Sir William Molesworth to retract an expression he had made use of on the Southwark hustings, on the occasion of his re-election for that borough. On the 4th, the Exchequer Bills, (7,000,000*l.*) Bill, was read a second time, and several other Bills were advanced a stage. On the 6th, the Criminal Justice Bill providing for summary punishment in the case of petty theft was read a third time and passed, and the Charitable Trusts Bill was committed. During a discussion upon a suggestion for limiting the action of the Crime and Outrage—Ireland—Continuous Bill to an early period of the ensuing year, the proceedings were interrupted by a count out. On the 7th, Lord John Russell brought the present political aspect of Italy before the attention of the House, after which the consideration of the Charitable Trusts Bill was resumed in committe. Mr. Stafford, on the same evening, called the attention of the House to the condition of the Military Hospitals in the East, and Mr. Vernon Smith, as President of the Board of Control, laid before Parliament the financial position of the territories of the East India Company, from which it appeared that the treasury of that country had suffered in the course of the year a deterioration

to the extent—as estimated—of 3,094,770*l.*; first, by a decrease of revenue amounting to 226,245*l.*, and secondly, by an increase of expenditure to the amount of 2,868,535*l.* In the course of his statement, he promised that means should be taken to prevent a recurrence to the system of torture adopted in the Madras Presidency for the exaction of tribute. On the 8th, the Criminal Justice Bill was read a third time and passed, and the Crime and Outrage (Ireland) Bill went through committee. On the 9th, new writs were ordered for Kidderminster, Hertford, and Kilmarnock, in the room of Mr. Lowe, Hon. Mr. Cowper, and Rt. Hon. Mr. Bouverie, who had respectively accepted the offices of Vice-President of the Board of Trade, President of the Board of Health, and President of the Poor Law Board. Captain Scobell brought the system of naval promotion under the attention of the House, when the First Lord of the Admiralty stated that great difficulties would attend a departure from the principle of seniority. The discussion on the subject was terminated by a count out, there being only 34 members present. On the 18th, the Solicitor-General, on the occasion of the third reading of the Despatch of Business (Chancery) Bill, severely criticised the constitution of the House of Lords as a court of appeal. On the 11th, the Lords' amendments in the Limited Liability Bill were agreed to. The House did not assemble on the 13th. On the 14th, Sir De Lacy Evans called on the Government to pledge itself to a vigorous prosecution of the war during the recess, and as Lord Palmerston was replying to the gallant general's observations, the Usher of the Black Rod made his appearance, summoning the House to the bar of the House of Lords to hear the Royal assent given to several bills, and the speech of her Majesty proroguing parliament. On their return, the Speaker read Her Majesty's speech, and so terminated the session of 1854—55.

THE WAR.

THE most interesting events in connection with the war during the past month have been the bombardment of Sweaborg on the 9th, by the Allied fleets, when they succeeded in completely destroying the town, arsenal, and stores almost with impunity, and the defeat of the Russians in the field with the loss of 4,000 on the banks of the Tchernaya, by the French and Sardinian troops. These victories completely restored the public confidence in the success of the war, and must have had a dispiriting effect on the Russians. On the night of the 23rd, the French carried an ambuscade on the glacis of the Malakoff, and turned the Russian works upon Sebastopol. General Torrens, who had been wounded at Inkerman, died on the 24th, at Paris.

COMMERCIAL.

At the meeting of the Mariquita and New Ganada Company held on the 27th of July a report was presented which stated that on the profit and loss account of the year there was in hand a balance of £18,849, which would have been applicable to a dividend, were it not that the directors had not been able to issue the full number of debentures for the payment of the sum by which the fixed outlay exceeded the capital of the company. At a meeting of the Anglo-Californian Gold Mining Company, held on the 30th of July, it was stated that 320 tons of ore, realising £1,700, had been crushed, and there was at surface £8,000 worth of quartz, but that the company would be unable to go on unless the directors succeeded in issuing the preference shares. The Berlin Waterworks Company held their half-yearly meeting on the same day, when their engineer reported that the works were fast approaching completion. At the meeting of the Australian Mining Company held also on the 30th, a report was presented which shewed that the income for the past year, £11,616 9*s.* 5*d.*, exceeded the outlay by £1,297 8*s.* 5d. On the 31st, the South Australian Mining Company authorised the issue of 20,000 new shares of £1 each, of which 10,000 shares are to be preference shares of 10 per cent. On the same day, the Electric Telegraph Company reported that they now had 5,409⅛ miles of telegraph in operation, and declared a dividend of 4 per cent. per annum. The Llanelly shareholders met the same day, and divided £3 10*s.* per share for the half year. There had been

it was stated, an increase of £750 1*s.* 11*d.* in the earnings of the line on the half year. On the 1st of August, the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincoln Company declared a dividend of 2*s.* 6*d.* per share for the half year on their ordinary stock. At the meeting of the company of the Copper Miners of England, held the same day, it was stated that they had lost £1,017 2*s.* 4*d.* by the failure of Strahan, Paul and Co. Sir John Dean Paul had been the chairman of the company. The proprietors of the Royal British Bank met on the 3rd, and declared a dividend of 6 per cent. per annum. On the 7th, the Screw Collier Ship Company divided 10 per cent. per annum out of the earnings of the year, leaving a surplus of 17,000*l.* to be carried to the next account. On the 9th, the North of Europe Steam Packet Company declared a dividend of 8 per cent. On the same day the Crystal Palace Company met but made no dividend. On the 10th, the South Western Railway Company met and divided 4*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per cent. On the 13th, the Glo'ster and Dean Forest Railway Company divided 4 per cent. On the 14th, the Blackwall Railway Company divided 2*s.* 9*d.* per share for the half year; and the North and South Western Junction Company 1½ per cent. for the same period. On the same day, the Ulster Company declared a dividend of 14*s.* per share out of the profits of four months' working. On the same date, the Stockton and Darlington Company declared a dividend of 9 per cent. per annum. On the 15th, the London and North Western Company held their half-yearly meeting, when it appeared that in consequence of the competition of the Great Western Company in the conveyance of passengers to the north, there had been a falling off in that traffic to the extent of 29,394*l.* There had, however, been an increase of 36,413*l.* on the goods traffic, shewing a net increase to the extent of 7,019*l.* on the half year. There had also been a saving of 1421*l.* in the working expenses. The net receipts amounted to 495,104*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, which, with 71,270*l.*, the balance from the last audit, gave the sum of 566,374*l.* 14*s.*, chargeable, however, with 23,559*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* for the renewal of rails, as available for a dividend. A dividend of 2*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per cent. for the half year, equivalent to 535,865*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*, leaving 6950*l.* to be carried to the next half year's account. At the meeting of the North London, held the same day, a dividend of 2*l.* per cent. for the half year was declared, and power was given to the directors to borrow 25,000*l.* on debenture. The East Lancashire met the same day, and divided 3½ per cent. on the ordinary stock. On the 16th, Mr. Robt. W. Crawford, chairman of the East India Railway Company, announced to the proprietors that the line would be completed in 1860. The Great Western Company met the same day, and declared a dividend of 1 per cent. on the half year. Notwithstanding an increase of 26,880*l.* in the receipts of the company, there was, owing to the increase of working expenses and other causes on the year, a deficiency of 31,953*l.* On the 22nd, the Midland Company met at Derby, and after paying the guaranteed dividends, consolidated the paid up shares with stock. On the same day, the Dublin and Belfast Junction Company divided at the rate of 5 per cent. On the 23rd, the North Eastern Company declared dividends as follows:—On the Berwick stock, 3½ per cent. per annum; on the York stock, 2 per cent.; and on the Leeds preference, 6 per cent. The Bristol and Exeter Company the same day divided 2*l.* 5*s.* per share for the half-year. At the meeting of the General Screw Steam Company, held on the 24th, the directors reported that, after paying 22,312*l.* to the reserve fund, there was on the half year a nett profit of 96,585, which they agreed to apply to the payment of the outstanding liabilities, thereby reducing them to 53,457*l.* The Great Northern Company met on the 25th, and after the payment of the guaranteed dividends, declared one of 2*l.* 5*s.* per cent. per annum on the original undivided stock of the company.

BENEVOLENT.

The Job and Post Masters' Benevolent Association met at Tattersall's, on the 27th of July, when a very favourable report was presented by the committee of management, in which it was stated that the society now numbered 240 members, and had £14,033 7*s.* 11*d.* funded capital. In the course of the past year, annuities of £13 per annum each were granted to three ladies, the widows of members, and the sum of £7 was voted to

another for the payment of funeral expenses. The sum of £129 8s. was paid in annuities, in addition to the amount expended in temporary relief to distressed members themselves.

On the 9th ult. a meeting of the subscribers to the fund for raising a memorial to the memory of the late Lord Dudley Stuart, M.P. and P.G.W., decided on handing over £1,200, the sum collected for that purpose, to the managers of the Nightly Refuge, Paddington, an institution in which our lamented brother took a deep interest, and one which, indeed, he had been mainly instrumental in founding.

PROVIDENT.

The United Mutual Life Assurance Association met on the 28th of July, when the directors reported to the members that the new business of last year had been larger than that of any previous year since the formation of the Association; and that the premium income at present amounted to about £10,000 per annum.

The shareholders of the St. George Life Assurance Company held their fourth annual meeting on the 31st of July, on which occasion a report was presented and adopted, which stated that the directors had received 548 proposals for assurance, of which they had accepted and completed 339, covering assurances to the amount of £67,535, and yielding a premium income to the extent of £2,095 14s. 4d. per annum.

On the 10th ult., the Eagle Insurance Company held their annual meeting, to which the directors presented a very able report, drawn up by their actuary, Mr. Jellicoe, from which it appeared that their total income for the past year, including new business to the extent of £9,284 12s. 8d. amounted to £139,713 19s. 3d., and that their expenditure, of which the sum of £57,311 had been paid in the liquidation of claims, and that of £3,943 11s. 11d., in reversionary bonuses thereon, had been £90,551 14s. 5d., leaving a balance of £49,162 4s. 10d. to be carried to the surplus fund, making it £265,661 4s. 4d.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the 27th of July, Sir William Molesworth was re-elected for Southwark, after a hustings opposition on the part of Sir Charles Napier, who complained of the manner in which he had been treated by the Admiralty in reference to the Baltic fleet. On his re-election, Sir William, in returning his thanks to the elector for the honour they had done him, stated that the proposition of the Turkish Loan had been jeopardised by a "nefarious combination."

On the same day, Sir George Brown, in replying to an address presented to him by the inhabitants of Leamington on his return from the Crimea, stated that he was unfavourable to any alteration in the present system of officering the troops, alleging that it was his opinion that the rank and file followed any young gentleman who might be an officer, with greater alacrity than they would any one in commission who had formerly been in the ranks with themselves.

A succession of hurricanes, accompanied by heavy thunder and lightning, commencing on this day and lasting during the week, visited Cheltenham and the surrounding districts.

On the 28th, Sir Benjamin Hall was re-elected for Marylebone, without opposition.

On the 30th, Captain Disney, on the grounds belonging to the mansion of Lord Ranelagh, at Fulham Bridge, displayed with success the power and efficiency of his new projectile.

On the same day, a most extraordinary inquiry commenced at Darlington, relative to the death of a Mr. sWodler, who, it was alleged, had fallen a victim to slow poison, administered by her husband.

On the 31st, a new Leviathan steam-ship, 800 feet in the keel, being twenty feet more in length than the Duke of Wellington, was launched at Portsmouth in the presence of Her Majesty, and of a large concourse of people, but with indifferent success, and attended by an accident which threatened the safety of the noble vessel.

On the 1st ult., being the anniversary of the advent of the House of Hanover to the throne of England, there was a sharp contest on the river between the watermen running for the Coat and Badge, annually given by the Fishmonger's Company, in compliance with the Will of the Irish actor, Doggett, in perpetual honour of that event.

On the same day, the East India Company entertained Lord Canning, the newly-appointed Governor-General of India at a magnificent banquet, over which Mr. Elliott Macnaghten as Chairman of the Board of Directors presided.

In the evening, great excitement prevailed at the west end, in consequence of the sudden postponement of a meeting convened to consider the propriety of enrolling a Polish Legion.

An aeronaut fell from a balloon and smashed his head against one of the tombstones in the burial-ground of St. Giles's Parish, Old Pancras Road.

On the 2nd, Sir Peter Laurie, presiding as magistrate in the Guildhall police court, warned the public against having anything to do with the circulars of a person signing himself William Mark, an American Joseph Ady.

On the 3rd, the Bishop of London laid the corner-stone of a new parish church, in Church-street, Stoke Newington.

On the 4th, a police inspector was killed in a riot at Haslemere, Surrey.

On the 6th, the police magistrate of the Southwark police, benefitted society by breaking up a low penny theatre within his jurisdiction, which had then for some time past been a hot bed of crime.

On the 7th, the Duke of Richmond presided at a meeting of the subscribers to the Lord Raglan Testimonial, by whom it was resolved that the purchase of an estate to be entailed on his heirs would be the most appropriate mode of testifying their regards for the deceased peer.

A dangerous mutiny the same day broke out on board an American ship in the Mersey.

On the 8th, Her Majesty, attended by the Court, reviewed the Foreign troops encamped at Shorncliffe, near Dover.

The same day the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland, held their annual meeting in Carlow, which was honoured by the attendance of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

In the evening, two important meetings were held in the metropolis. One was a meeting of the Administrative Reform Association for the purpose of reporting progress. Several of the speakers complained that the Association was rather watching events to take advantage of them, than actually engaged in the objects of its mission. The second assembly alluded to was the adjourned meeting, held at St. Martin's Hall, with reference to the enrolment of a Polish Legion. At this assembly Lord Harrington presided, but finding that the meeting, as he thought, was being wrested from its legitimate objects by the friends of the Peace party, he relinquished the chair, and left the meeting in the hands of those who had disturbed it; they passed a series of resolutions condemnatory of the policy of Lord Palmerston and of the manner in which the war with Russia was being conducted. His lordship and his colleagues, were, in the mean time, enjoying their White Bait dinner at Greenwich.

On the 9th, a private of the 11th Hussars was killed by injuries which he received while in a fit of sonambulism in New Bridge barracks.

On the 10th, the Chipping Norton Branch of the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway was opened for traffic.

The 11th was rife with fatal accidents. Three persons lost their lives at sea off the coast of Kent, in consequence of a collission between one of the Royal Dover, Calais, and Ostend, Steam Packet Company's vessels and a merchant-ship. Three persons were also killed by the fall of a portion of the Railway bridge at Rochester. There was also a boiler explosion at Sheffield, attended with great loss, both of life and property. A similar accident took place at Bilston, on the 3rd.

The statue of Sir Robert Walpole was this day placed on its pedestal in Westminster Hall.

On the morning of the 13th, there was a destructive fire at Bermondsey, in which four unfortunate beings lost their lives. In the evening several soldiers were severely injured by breaking through a stage in Cremorne gardens, while taking part in a sham fight.

The case of the Rev. M. Boyle, v. Cardinal Wiseman for libel, was compromised at the Surrey Assizes held at Croydon, and the record withdrawn.

On the same day, a woman committed suicide by placing her neck upon the rails of the Ballymena railway just as a train was passing.

On the 14th, Mr. Robert Lowe was re-elected for Kidderminster, and the Hon. Mr. Cowper for Hertford.

On the 15th, there was a large public meeting at the Guildhall, London, in favour of the movement for making Saturday a half-holiday.

On the same day, some of the machinery employed in the erection of a new bridge, Westminster, broke down, and such was the violence of a portion of the windlass, which broke off, as to kill a gentleman, whom it struck in the chest as he was passing.

Great excitement was created in the neighbourhood of Brompton on the 17th, by the discovery of the murder of an old lady, who was supposed to have met her death at the hand of her own daughter.

On the 18th, a public meeting was held in Dublin, in reference to the postal communication between the two kingdoms. On that day too, Sheffield was the scene of another boiler explosion, attended by great loss of property.

A scene of a more pleasing character was at the same time taking place in Knowesly Park, near Liverpool, the seat of the Earl of Derby, where the members of the Mechanic and Literary Institution of Lancashire and Cheshire assembled at a *fete champetre*, when they were addressed by Lord Stanley, M.P., in a speech of great power, replete with philosophy, political wisdom, and the most liberal views, upon the subject of adult education. This address added greatly to the pleasurable enjoyments of the Company, and has, in the public mind of England, greatly promoted the growing popularity of Lord Stanley.

On the evening of the 19th, a child was found murdered at Bristol. No cause can be assigned for the outrage, and justice has as yet failed to overtake the perpetrator of the foul deed.

On the 20th, Mr. T. Puckle, the Chairman of the Surrey Bench, was presented by his brother magistrates, with a valuable testimonial of their respect end esteem.

The Crumlin extension of the Taffe Vale railway was this day opened for traffic.

On the 21st, the annual festival of the three choirs of Gloucester, Worcester, and Hereford, commenced in the cathedral of the last-named city, and continued during the week. The collection was the smallest on record.

On the same day, the British Archaeological society commenced their annual session at Newport, Isle of Wight. Several very instructive papers were read to the members upon the antiquities of the island.

On the 22nd, H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge presented the Foreign Legion at Shorncliffe with colours. The ceremony took place in Sandling Park, the seat of Mr. Raikes Currie, M.P., who gave a grand entertainment on the occasion to a large concourse of guests.

On the 23rd, Cosmo William Gordon, was at the Central Criminal Court convicted of felony for not surrendering in bankruptcy, in obedience to the fiat of the court. Gordon and his partners succeeded in defrauding by means of forged warrants, the bankers and merchants of the city of London to the extent of half a million of money; their transaction well deserving the epithet Gigantic Swindle.

On the same day, Mr. Samuel Gurney, who suffered severely in the swindle referred to, gave a fete at Forest gate, to about 500 children belonging to the Spitalfields Ragged schools. In the evening and during the night a violent thunderstorm raged over the country.

On the 24th, a letter from Sir Charles Napier appeared in the Morning Papers, showing that he had planned the destruction of Sweaborg, by the agency of gunboats, but had been denied the facilities for carrying it out, which had been accorded to his successor.

On the same day, an Essex magistrate called public attention to the circumstance of two brothers in his neighbourhood who had been committed for fourteen days imprisonment to Chelmsford gaol, for leaving hay-making to go and see a military review, and for a remission of whose sentence he had vainly applied for to the Secretary of State, Sir George Grey.

On the 25th, Lord Stanley, in a letter to the morning papers, proposed that the parliamentary session should commence in November and end in June each year, so that the members might enjoy the country during the summer months.

The 26th, being Prince Albert's birthday, was ushered in by the ringing of bells and firing of cannon leading the sanguine, to imagine that Sebastopol had at last fallen into the hands of the besiegers.

Lord Dundonald on the 27th, again called public attention to the neglect of his plans of attack by Government, and quoted Sir Charles Fox as an authority as to their efficiency.

AMUSEMENTS OF THE MONTH.

On the 30th of July, Mr. Wright rejoined his old colleagues at the Adelphi, on which occasion he played the part of Paul Pry, with his usual drollery.

The amateurs at Campden House, on the 2nd ult., performed the Loan of a Lover, with considerable *eclat*. The great star of the company seems to be the Hon. Mrs. Wrothesley, a daughter of that distinguished officer, Sir John Burgoyne.

On the 6th, the comic piece "The Writing on the Wall," was reproduced at the Adelphi, to give Mr. Wright an opportunity of playing the part of Mr. Ferguson Tootles.

On the 13th, Miss Blanche Fane made a very auspicious debut at the Haymarket as Lucy Morton in Mr. Planche's comedy, The Covert Favour.

A new comic piece, entitled "Olympus in a Muddle," has been produced at the Haymarket.

The military spectacle of the Storming of Sebastopol, at Cremorne Gardens, has been the most popular object for the last three weeks with the sight-seeing public.

On the evening of the 27th, a new comic piece, bearing the title "Who is your Uncle?" was brought out at the Adelphi, Mr. Wright and Mr. Paul Bedford sustaining the principal parts. The burlesque is spoken of as full of incident and double *entendre*, but poor in dialogue and void of wit.

NOTICES

TO OUR READERS.

Our country friends will continue to receive their copies of the "Masonic Mirror," through the post for Seven-pence as heretofore, though we have ceased to stamp any portion of our impression—the new law requiring us to make such alterations in our appearance, if we avail ourselves of the power of stamping, which we deem to be inexpedient. The number will, however, pass freely through the post by the affixing of a penny stamp, and the alteration of the law will, when deemed expedient, enable us materially to enlarge our size without additional cost to our readers. We are aware that we shall, by the new arrangement, be placed in some little difficulty with our Colonial Readers, inasmuch as the new tariff of book postage does not apply to places beyond the seas. For the present, however, we shall continue to supply those friends whose subscriptions we have received in the usual manner, we bearing the loss that the extra postage will inflict upon us; and for the future we shall, for the accommodation of the colonies, also issue our "Mirror" in quarterly parts, by which three numbers will pass through the colonial book post for one postage.

TO THE TRADE.

The trade are requested to notice that in future the "Masonic Mirror" will be published at No. 2, Red Lion-court, Fleet-street.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our correspondents are earnestly requested to address their future communications to the editor, to No. 2, Red Lion-court, Fleet-street. Br. Barton will continue to receive advertisements at his office, 2, Upper Wellington-street, Strand, as usual.

The pressure of Masonic intelligence from the provinces has compelled us to postpone the continuation of Masonic Reminiscenses and many valuable communications until our next, notwithstanding we have again increased our promised 48 pages to 60—without additional charge to our subscribers.

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567 *is thanked.—All letters should be addressed to the Editor at the Office.*

We do not enjoy the confidence of the Grand Secretary, and therefore decline to ask the question, being well assured that we should not even receive a courteous reply.

P.M. GLASGOW.—*We hope to be amongst you next month, and shall not fail to note how your business is transacted. We consider uniformity of working most essential.*

AN INQUIRER.—*A memoir of the late M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, is in course of preparation, and will shortly appear, most probably in the last number of our present volume.*

We are convinced, from the question, that the gentleman signing himself "an inquisitive brother," is not a Freemason at all, and therefore decline to give him an answer.

A FOREIGN MASON.—*The "Mark" jewel is not allowed to be worn in the G. Lodge of England, nor ought it to be displayed in the private Lodges acting under the English constitution. We presume it is allowed to be worn in Lodges in Ireland, it being regularly acknowledged in that country.*

J.S.S.—*No.—Study your obligation.*

A COUNTRY BROTHER WHO WANTS INSTRUCTION.—*Br. Goring would doubtless be glad to give you the instruction you require. We believe his terms are £5 a week, and all expenses consequent upon being away from his home. Br. Crawley, Br. Beckett, Br. Longstaff, and others we believe are equally ready to afford instruction. A letter for either of the brothers named, under cover, and directed to the Editor of the "Masonic Mirror" will be sure to meet with attention.*

X.Y.Z.—*Your having been initiated twelve years ago will be no bar to your passing the subsequent degrees and advancement in the order if you can give a satisfactory explanation why you did not proceed at the time, and can get proposed by some well-known brother who can vouch for your respectability, and moral character.*

THE ROYAL ARCH.—*It is certainly matter of regret that all attempts to keep together a Chapter of Instruction for any length of time have hitherto failed. Another attempt will be made in about six weeks, under auspices which, we trust, will insure success. Regular Chapters generally meet too seldom to enable a companion properly to learn the duties of any given office.*

Ethée is thanked for his continued kindness and well wishes.

W. P. POOLE.—*With regard to the P.M. jewel, Yes! As regards the cross pens, such a course is not usual, it would be a different thing if the jewel was a present from the Lodge.*

The regulation allowing Masons in the colonies to be passed and raised at less intervals than one month, will be found in the last edition of the Book of Constitutions. The dispute between the Freemasons and the Roman Catholic Church in the Mauritius is still in statu quo.

At a meeting of the Mariners' Lodge, No. 310, held in the early part of the month, Br. Berry, P.M., was presented with a testimonial and a purse of £20, in acknowledgment of his valuable services to the Lodge. The testimonial was beautifully written on vellum, and presented by P.M. Edwards. The notice reached us too late to be inserted in its regular place.

We regret that pressure of matter compels us to hold over the excellent letter of our esteemed Br. Samuel Aldridge on the Masonic charities, with other letters on the same subject, until our next.

The notice of the Lodge of Industry, Gateshead, arrived too late for our present number. It shall appear in our next.

A. B. BELFAST.—*It is no fault of ours that we do not pay greater attention to the proceedings of Irish Lodges. How can we know what takes place, if none of the brethren will take the trouble to keep us informed with regard to the business? Why does not our correspondent set the example by giving in the proceedings of his own Lodge.*

Br. Farnfield is the secretary of the Annuity Fund. A letter addressed to him at the Grand Secretary Office, Great Queen-street, will be sure to find him.

THE

MASONIC MIRROR:

OCTOBER, 1855.

UNIFORMITY OF RITUAL.

ONE would think, that nothing need be said, with respect to the advantages necessarily resulting from uniformity, in the ritual used in Masonic Lodges. The benefits perfect uniformity would confer upon the Order, are so numerous, and so obvious, that we really have to apologize for attempting to argue the point in the pages of this periodical. We do so, however, for two especial reasons: first, because, absurd though it may appear, there are actually worthy and accomplished brethren amongst us, who think and speak lightly of that uniformity which others are labouring so hard to establish and sustain; and secondly, because there are very many Lodges—vastly more than is generally imagined—in which the brethren not only *do* not, but absolutely *cannot* work, according to the ritual and ceremonial, now sanctioned by the United Grand Lodge of England. A ritual or ceremonial, accepted by the Craft with cheerfulness and cordiality, and authorized by the Grand Lodge, ought thenceforth to be rigidly adhered to, and guarded even against verbal deviations. The Craft would do well, in this regard, to imitate that jealousy of innovation or alteration, by means of which our ancient brethren, the Israelites, so long and so wondrously preserved the integrity of the text of the Volume of the Sacred Law. Success in all those matters depends upon individual exertion. Every Brother should not only do his duty, but he should do it just as if the success of the whole affair depended entirely upon him. This is the spirit which we should like to see infused into the Craft generally, not in this matter alone, but in everything which is done, or can be done, to promote the extension and solidification of the Order.

It is easy for the experienced and observant brother, to see the thousands of modes by which words and phrases, creep into and corrupt our exquisitely chaste and beautiful ceremonial. We might give many illustrations of this, which it is not expedient to print. They will suggest themselves, in multitudes, to the experienced reader's mind. It is advisable, however; to indicate one or two of them, if only for the purpose of showing the evil, and pointing out a remedy.

First and foremost, then, amongst the causes of diversity, is the appointment of brethren to offices, who are not duly qualified for the positions to which they are elevated, by being minutely familiar with the rites, and ceremonies, in use amongst us. It is of no use concealing the fact; "sharp ordinances," as they used to say in Queen Elizabeth's time, ought to be speedily and sharply applied to this evil, in order at least to mitigate

its pernicious tendencies, if it cannot be entirely removed. When an excellent brother has regularly passed through the various offices—done his duty, as well as we are happy to say, very many of them do it—attended with tolerable regularity—become familiar with the principles and practices of the Order, and conversant with the duties of, and belonging to the I.G., J.D., S.D., J.W., and S.W.—served these offices with satisfaction, and is esteemed by the brethren—it becomes a delicate and difficult task to reject him when a candidate for the W.M.'s chair, because he does not know the part he will have to perform in that office, even though it should also be probable; that he will not even learn it when elected. Personal regard often sways the minds of the brethren, and this leads—as every experienced Mason must be aware—to the election of Masters, some of whom could not initiate, pass, and properly raise a candidate, let the consequences be what they might. Consequently, the Past Master, or some one else, either performs or dictates the part the chair should take; and thus the beauty of the ritual is marred, if not destroyed; and the sublime teachings and hallowed influences of the ceremonial are nullified, if not stultified.

Another fertile source of errors and discrepancies is the use, which it is to be feared some brethren make, in spite of the O.B., of the printed productions of pretenders, who profess to reveal the signs and ceremonies of the Order.

The weaker brethren may think, that the works of those "fellows of the baser sort," though they do not expect them to contain any very accurate accounts of the proceedings within the sacred precincts of the Lodge, may yet serve as an aid to the memory; whereas, in the nature of things, the result is otherwise; for, for one correct sentence which may thus be committed to memory, half-a-dozen inaccuracies must be taken along with it; so that when the Brother who has thus surreptitiously attempted what he was deluded enough to think a royal road to Masonic lore, gets hold of one paragraph correctly, he imbibes with it a mass of mistakes and a host of absurdities, which more than counterbalance any advantage which by possibility could be derived from such a process. There is another reason to be urged against this plan, which ought to weigh somewhat, even with those, whom solemn engagements would not deter from the practice; and that is, the shame and confusion of face, which invariably attends the discovery of the source of such a brother's Masonic instruction, either in open Lodge, or in the company of Masons without the Lodge.

Another reason why this desiderated uniformity does not prevail to the extent, which we could wish, is the comparative infrequency with which a large majority of the brethren visit other Lodges. We know, and rejoice in the fact; that there are numerous and splendid exceptions to this; there are brethren who devote a considerable amount both of time and money to such visitations; they are, unfortunately, however, but as the dust of the balance as compared with those who do otherwise. Perhaps, if the bye-laws regulating the admission of visitors into Lodges, and the fees to be paid by those who introduce them, were remodelled, much good might be done in this direction. In Jersey, the fees are so low, and the reci-

procal invitations so general, that the brethren go round and round. You meet a certain number of them at almost every Lodge and Chapter, which cements the fraternal feeling, promotes conviviality, secures a good attendance, uniformity of working, and a general efficiency in the Lodges, which could hardly be expected without something of the kind. The only objection which could possibly be raised to this is, that in one case out of ten thousand, perhaps, a man who is *in* Masonry, but not *of* it, may abuse the privilege, and, for the payment of an insignificant annual subscription, consider himself entitled to go the round of the Lodges, and so actually live, at an expense to his brethren, three or four times the value of the sum he pays annually into the funds of the Order. This is an abuse which is possible, but we do trust for the honour of the Craft, that there is little danger, of such a shameful practice, becoming so prevalent as to constitute any valid objection to that reciprocity, which is shown to be attended with so many advantages. A more general visitation of other Lodges than those you belong to, is therefore one of the modes, by which, amongst other benefits, we would seek to secure that accuracy and uniformity of working to which we allude.

Lodges of Instruction are another means by which to bring about an end so desirable as that we have indicated. Lodges of Instruction confer many benefits, but they are not attended with that regularity, or supported with that vigour which ought to be manifested, and in many parts of the country there is no such Lodge in existence.

We cannot enlarge here, but we would suggest to any one who knows the position of Masonry, in London for instance, to consider calmly for a few moments, what would be the effect of a vigorously supported Chapter of Instruction, for Royal Arch Masons, upon that portion of the Order? The Royal Arch, in a very little time, would become like one risen from the dead.

One more suggestion, and for the present we have done. A good means of promoting and perpetuating uniformity and accuracy, would be the appointment by the Grand Lodge and the Supreme Grand Chapter, of skilled Craft and R.A. brethren, to visit the Lodges and Chapters, to report officially upon their condition, to instruct where needful, to correct mistakes, suggest improvements, and to encourage, advise, or remonstrate, as the case might be. This has been lately tried in Scotland, with the prospect of the happiest results. We do not wish to take a desponding view of the state of the Craft in this country; but we feel fully convinced, that if this were tried in England, it would reveal a state of things with regard to the style of working for which the Grand Lodge is by no means prepared—a state of things which would surprise, grieve, and mortify all those who have the best interests of the Craft at heart; but, at the same time, we are perfectly assured, that such a plan would bring about a degree of efficiency, and otherwise effect an amount of good to the Order, which at the first blush might appear impossible, for the more efficiently it is worked, the more highly honoured and respected will Freemasonry be.

We leave these brief and imperfect hints in the hands of those, whom they concern, in the hope that they will reflect, and act accordingly.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

(*Continued from p. 530.*)

THE laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge as now constituted (A.D. 1717), meeting with the entire concurrence of the brethren of the four old Lodges, they considered their personal attendance at the future quarterly communications as unnecessary, and like the newly constituted Lodges, considered themselves sufficiently represented by their Master and Wardens, feeling assured that no measure of importance would be adopted without their concurrence. But those officers in their attendance on Grand Lodge found that the other Lodges being equally represented with the four original, would, as they increased in number, have the power of gaining an immense majority of votes, and thereby be enabled to encroach on, or even subvert, the privileges of the original Masons of England, which had been vested in the four old Lodges. They, therefore, with the assistance of the brethren, formed a code of laws for the future government of the Society, to which was annexed a conditional clause, which runs thus: "Every *annual* Grand Lodge has an *inherent* power and authority to make *new* regulations or to alter *these*, for the *real* benefit of this *Ancient* Fraternity; *provided always*, THAT THE OLD LAND-MARKS BE CAREFULLY PRESERVED; and that such alterations and new regulations be proposed and agreed to at the third quarterly communication preceding the annual grand feast; and that they be offered also to the perusal of *all* the brethren before dinner, in writing, *even of the youngest apprentice;* the approbation and the consent of the *majority* of *all* the brethren present, being absolutely necessary to make the same binding and obligatory." This remarkable clause, and thirty-eight regulations preceding it, all of which are printed in the first edition of the Book of Constitutions, were approved, and confirmed by one hundred and fifty brethren, at an annual assembly and feast, held at Stationers' Hall, on St. John the Baptist's day, 1721, and in their presence subscribed by the Masters and Wardens of the four old Lodges on the one part; and by Philip, Duke of Wharton, then Grand Master; Theophilus Desaguliers, M.D., and F.R.S., Deputy Grand Master; Joshua Timson, and William Hawkins, Grand Wardens; and the Masters and Wardens of sixteen Lodges which had been constituted between 1717 and 1721, on the other part. And the Grand Master for the time being, his successors, and the Master of every Lodge to be hereafter constituted, were thereby bound to preserve those laws inviolate for all time coming. In commemoration of this, it has been an established custom since that time for the Master of the oldest Lodge to attend the installation of Grand Master, and taking precedence of every other brother present, the Grand Master only excepted, to deliver the Book of the Original Constitutions to him on his engaging to support and abide by the ancient charges and regulations.

By these wise precautions, the Constitutions of our ancient brethren were established as a basis on which the future Masonic jurisdiction of England was to be founded, and the ancient regulations and landmarks

of the Order, as they are emphatically termed, preserved inviolable from future innovations. The four old Lodges, in consequence of this compact in which they considered themselves as a distinct party, continued to act by their original authority; and so far from surrendering any of their rights, had them frequently ratified and confirmed by the whole Fraternity in Grand Lodge assembled, and by whom their immemorial power to practise the rites of Masonry are always acknowledged. No future regulations of the Society could therefore operate with respect to those Lodges if such regulations were contrary to, or subversive of the original Constitutions, by which only they were governed; and while they act in conformity with those constitutions, no Masonic power can legally deprive them of any right or privilege which they have ever enjoyed.

The necessity of adhering to the ancient landmarks and thereby preserving the universality of Masonry was so clearly understood and defined by the Fraternity, that it was established as an unerring rule at every installation, public and private, for the Master and Wardens to pledge themselves to submit to and abide by those charges and regulations as Masons have done in all ages. And the brethren at their initiation were and still are equally bound to act in accordance.

Of these Lodges it will be seen that two are entirely defunct and two have assumed new names.

1. The old Lodge of St. Paul, now named the Lodge of Antiquity, formerly held at the Goose and Gridiron, St. Paul's Churchyard, is still extant, and regularly meets at the Freemasons' Tavern, in Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields on the fourth Wednesday in January, February, March, May, June, October, and November, in every year. This Lodge is principally composed of Grand Officers, and possesses many valuable ancient relics and records of Masonry.

2. The old Lodge, No. 2, formerly held at the Crown, Parkers Lane, Drury Lane, has been extinct sixty-five years, by the death of its members.

3. The old Lodge No. 3, formerly held at the Apple Tree Tavern in Charles Street, Covent Garden, has been dissolved many years. By the list of Lodges inserted in the Book of Constitutions printed 1738, it appears that, in February, 1722-23, this Lodge was removed to the Queen's Head, Knave's Acre, on account of some difference among its members, and the members who met there came under a *new* constitution: though says the Book of Constitutions *they wanted it not,* and ranked as No. 10 in the list. Thus they inconsiderately renounced their former rank under an immemorial constitution.

4.—The Lodge No. 4, formerly held at the Rammer and Grapes Tavern, in Channel Row, Westminster, was thence removed to the Horn Tavern, in New Palace Yard, where it continued to meet regularly, till the members, finding it in a declining state, agreed to incorporate with a new and flourishing Lodge, under the constitution of the Grand Lodge, entitled *The Somerset House Lodge,* which immediately assumed their rank.

It may be questioned if any of the old Lodges while existing as Lodges have the power of surrendering their rights which were granted to them by the old Masons of the Metropolis in trust, and any individual member of

those Lodges might object to the surrender, in which case they could never be legally given up. The four old Lodges always preserved their power of *making, passing, and raising* Masons, being termed Master's Lodges, while the other Lodges, for many years afterwards, had no such power; it having been the custom to *pass* and *raise* the Masons made by them at the Grand Lodge only.

The Society appears to have progressed but slowly during the year 1717. Several brethren joined the old Lodges, but no new Lodges were constituted.

The assembly and feast were held at the Goose and Gridiron, Saint Paul's Church-yard, June 24th, 1718, when Br. Sayer, having gathered the votes, proclaimed aloud, Br. George Payne, Grand Master of Masons. He, being duly invested, installed, congratulated, and homaged, recommended the strict observance of the quarterly communication; and desired the brethren to bring to the Grand Lodge any old writings and records concerning Masons and Masonry or containing the usages of ancient times; and in consequence, many old copies of the gothic constitutions were produced and collated. The Grand Master appointed Br. John Cordwell, carpenter, G.S.W., and Br. Thomas Morris, stone-cutter, G.J.W., and to their activity and zeal the society is much indebted for introducing many brethren of noble rank, who by their distinguished virtues and abilities reflected honour on the Fraternity, which now began to gather strength, and the collection of old manuscripts seems to have prepared the way for compiling and publishing a body of Masonic Constitutions, though such an intention is not mentioned till three years afterwards.

At the assembly and feast held at the above named place, 24th June, 1719, the reverend Brother John Theophilus Desaguliers, LL.D. and F.R.S., was elected Grand Master of Masons. On this occasion, the old, regular and peculiar toasts or healths of the Freemasons were introduced, and from this time may be dated the rise of Freemasony on its present plan in the south of England. The Lodges were considerably increased in number and visited by many old Masons, who had long neglected to attend, whilst several noblemen were initiated. Br. Anthony Sayer and Br. Thomas Morrice were appointed Grand Wardens.

At the assembly and feast held at the Goose and Gridiron, 24th July, 1720, Br. George Payne was re-elected Grand Master, and duly proclaimed and installed with every demonstration of love and harmony. He appointed Br. Thomas Hoby, stone cutter, and Br. Richard Ware, mathematician, Grand Wardens. This year, at some private Lodge, several valuable manuscripts (for nothing then existed in print) concerning the Fraternity, their Lodges, charges, secrets, and usages, particularly one written by Br. Nicholas Stone, the Warden under Inigo Jones, were burnt by some scrupulous brethren, that they might not fall into improper hands.

At the Grand Lodge or quarterly communication, opened in ample form on St. John the Evangelist's day, at the above named place, it was agreed, that in order to avoid disputes, the new Grand Master for the future, should be proposed at a Grand Lodge some time before the annual feast, by the old Grand Master, and if approved, saluted; or if absent,

his health be toasted as Grand Master elect. Also, that the new Grand Master, as soon as installed, have the sole power of appointing his Deputy Grand Master and Wardens according to ancient custom, when a noble brother was Grand Master.

At a Grand Lodge opened in ample form on Lady-day, 1721, at the same place, the Grand Master proposed for his successor the Noble Br. John Duke of Montague; who being present, was saluted as Grand Master elect, with every demonstration of joy. The G.M. Payne finding from the great increase in the number of Lodges there would be a want of room, at the next feast proposed that the coming assembly be held at the Stationers' Hall, near Ludgate-street, which was agreed to. The Grand Wardens were then ordered, as usual, to prepare the feast, and to appoint some brothers of ability to assist them as stewards, and other brethren as waiters to attend the tables, as no strangers must be present. Br. Josiah Villineau, upholder in the Borough of Southwark, however, generously undertook the whole management, and received the thanks of the society for his attention.

The assembly and feast being held at Stationers' Hall, June 24th, 1721, the Grand Master, with his Wardens, the former Grand Officers, and the Masters and Wardens of twelve Lodges, met the Grand Master elect, at the Queen's Arms Tavern, in St. Paul's Church Yard, in the morning, and having confirmed the election of Br. Montague, they made several new brothers, particularly, Philip Lord Stanhope, afterwards Earl of Chesterfield, and walked on foot from thence to the Hall (in proper clothing and in due form); where they were joyfully received by about one hundred and fifty brethren, all clothed. They then sat down to a very elegant feast after the ancient manner of Masons. After dinner, the Past Grand Master made the first procession round the Hall, and when returned, he proclaimed aloud, the most noble Brother John Montague, Duke of Montague, Grand Master of Masons; and the Past Grand Master, Br. Payne, having invested him with the ensigns and badges of his office, installed him in the chair of King Solomon, and sat down on his right hand, while the whole assembly owned the Duke's authority with due homage and joyful congratulations. The Grand Master then appointed Br. John Beale, M.D., his Deputy Grand Master, whom Br. Payne invested and installed in the chair of H. A., on the Grand Master's left hand. Br. Josiah Villeneau and Br. Thomas Morrice were appointed Grand Wardens and were invested by the late Grand Wardens. The Grand Master having made his second procession round the hall, Br. Desaguliers delivered an eloquent oration on Masonry. The Grand Master, after expressing his thanks to Br. Villeneau for his care of the feast, desired him, as Senior Grand Warden, to close the Lodge.

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form 29th September, 1721, at the King's Arms Tavern. The old Gothic Constitutions not meeting with the approbation of the members of the Grand Lodge, Br. James Anderson, A.M., was ordered to digest them in a new and better method.

The Grand Lodge met in due form at the King's Arms Tavern, on St.

John's day, 27th December, when the Grand Master by the desire of the members of the Grand Lodge, appointed fourteen learned brothers to examine and report on Br. Anderson's manuscript of the Book of Constitutions. This communication was made very entertaining by the interesting lectures of several old Masons.

The Grand Lodge assembled at the Fountain Tavern, Strand, March 25th, 1722, and was opened in ample form, with the former Grand Officers, and the representatives of twenty-four Lodges. The before-mentioned committee reported that they had perused the manuscript prepared by Br. Anderson, namely, the *History, Charges, Regulations and Master's Songs;* and after some amendments, had approved of the same. Upon which the Grand Master was requested by the Grand Lodge to order it to be printed. At this time very many ingenious men of all stations and professions, conceiving that the Order was cemented by brotherly love and friendship, became desirous of being made Freemasons, and enter that sacred retreat, where the busy world with all its cares and perplexities is shut out, and every discussion avoided which might tend to cause dissension, and destroy the unanimity of the brethren.

The excellent government of the Grand Master, inclined a number of the brethren to re-elect him for the ensuing year, the annual feast was therefore delayed. But the Duke of Montague resigned the office in favour of Br. Philip, Duke of Wharton, who was very ambitious to attain the appointment. His resignation proceeded from a desire to reconcile the brethren to that nobleman, who had incurred their disapprobation by having convened an irregular meeting of Masons in opposition to the resolutions of Grand Lodge, on March 25th, at Stationer's Hall, on the Festival of St. John the Baptist, in order to become elected Grand Master. The Duke of Wharton having became sensible of his error, publicly acknowledged the impropriety of his conduct, and promising a future strict conformity and obedience to the resolutions of the Society, was elected Grand Master for the ensuing year, and regularly invested and installed on the 17th January, 1723, by the Duke of Montague, and congratulated by twenty-five Lodges which were present on that occasion. The Grand Master then appointed Brs. Desaguliers, Deputy Grand Master; Joshua Timson and James Anderson, A.M., Grand Wardens. Br. Anderson, G.W. produced the new Book of Constitutions in print, which was again approved, with the addition of the ancient manner of constituting a Lodge. The ability and diligence displayed by the Grand Master in the discharge of the duties of his office, established his reputation among the brethren, and under his government Masonry made considerable progress. The office of Grand Secretary was also first established, and Br. William Cowper appointed, who performed the duties for a number of years.

At a Grand Lodge opened in ample form, April 25th, 1723, at the White Lion, on Cornhill, composed of former Grand Officers, and those of thirty Lodges, the Grand Master proposed for his successor, the Earl of Dalkeith, afterwards Duke of Buccleugh, Master of a Lodge, who was unanimously approved and saluted as Grand Master elect.

At the assembly and feast, held June 24th, at Merchant Tailors' Hall, some brethren observing that Br. Dalkeith was in Scotland, proposed that another Grand Master be named; but on the declaration of his Grand Warden, that he would soon return, Br. Wharton, after the usual procession, proclaimed the noble Brother Francis Scott, Earl of Dalkeith, Grand Master of Masons. Br. Desaguliers, was apppointed Deputy Grand Master, Br. Francis Sorrel and Br. John Senex, Grand Wardens.

At a Grand Lodge opened in ample form at the Crown, Threadneedle-street, April 28th, 1724, composed of former Grand Officers and those of thirty-one Lodges, the Grand Master proposed as his successor, the most noble Brother Charles Duke of Richmond, Lennox, and Aubigney, who was saluted as Grand Master elect, with every demonstration of satisfaction.

The assembly and feast held at Merchant Tailors' Hall, June 24th, the Grand Master duly installed Br. Richmond into the chair of King Solomon. He appointed Br. Martin Folkes, Deputy Grand Master; George Payne and Francis Sorrel, Grand Wardens; Br. William Cowper was re-appointed Grand Secretary. During the administration of this Grand Master the Committee of Charity was first instituted. The former Grand Master (afterwards Duke of Buccleugh) first proposed raising a general fund for decayed Freemasons. Lord Paisley, Dr. Desaguliers, Colonel Houghton, and a few brethren supported the Duke's proposition, and the Grand Lodge appointed a committee to take into consideration the best means of carrying out the scheme. The report of the committee was transmitted to the Lodges and afterwards to the Grand Lodge. The disposal of the charity was first vested in seven brethren; but this number being found too small, nine more were added. It was afterwards resolved that twelve Masters of contributing Lodges, in rotation, with the Grand Officers, should form the committee, and by another regulation since made, it was determined that all Past and Present Grand Officers, with the Masters of all regular Lodges, which shall have contributed within twelve months to the charity, should be members of the committee.

The committee met four times in the year (now on the last Tuesday in every month) by virtue of a summons from the Grand Master or his Deputy. The petitions of the brethren who applied for charity were considered at those meetings, and if the petitioner was found a deserving object, he was immediately relieved with five pounds; if the circumstances of his case were of a peculiar nature, his petition was referred to the next communication when he was relieved with any sum the committee specified, not exceeding twenty guineas at one time.

All complaints and informations were considered at the Committee of Charity; from which a report was made to the next Grand Lodge, which appears to have performed the duties of the Board of General Purposes. Lord Paisley, afterwards Earl of Abercorn, an active promoter of this establishment, was elected Grand Master and the Duke of Richmond installed as his proxy on St. John's Day, December 27th, 1725.

He appointed his desire, Br. Desaguliers Deputy Grand Master, Br. Colonel Daniel Houghton, and Sir Thomas Prendergast, Grand Wardens. The Grand Secretary, Br. Cowper, was re-appointed.

On the return of the Grand Master, the Earl of Inchiquin was proposed as his successor, and was elected February 28th, 1726, and installed at an assembly and feast held at Mercers' Hall, 27th February 1727, when he appointed Br. William Cowper, Deputy Grand Master, Brs. Alexander, Choke, and William Burden, Grand Wardens; Br. Edward Wilson was appointed Grand Secretary. Under the administration of this noble Brother the Society flourished exceedingly in town and country, and this is rendered remarkable by the brethren of Wales uniting under the banner of the Grand Lodge in London. In Wales are many venerable remains of ancient Masonry, many stately ruins of castles, executed in the Gothic style, which prove that in ancient times the Fraternity must have met with considerable encouragement in that part of the island. Soon after this union, the office of Provincial Grand Master was instituted, and the Earl of Inchiquin granted the first deputation to Br. Hugh Warburton, for North Wales, 10th May, 1727, and to Br. Sir Edward Mansel, Bart., for South Wales, on the 24th June, following. These Grand Officers were intended to represent the Grand Master in the province over which they were appointed to preside, and being each invested with the power and honour of a Deputy Grand Master in their district, could constitute Lodges with the consent of the Grand Lodge in London. The office of Provincial Grand Master was also conferred on several other distinguished brethren for different parts of England, and several places abroad. This Grand Master granted a warrant for holding a Lodge at Gibraltar.

Among the noble edifices completed during the presidency of this nobleman, was the Church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the foundation of which, it being a royal parish church, was laid in the King's name, on the 29th of March, 1721, by Br. Gibbs, the architect, in the presence of the Lord Almoner, the Surveyor General, and a large company of the brethren.

Thus Freemasonry, by the beautiful harmony of its constitution, which became evident to the outward world, greatly increased in numbers and reputation; many noblemen, gentlemen, clergymen, men of learning and others were induced to enter the Order as a retreat from the troubles and perplexities of the world, and to become members of an institution wherein their only care would be for the welfare of their brethren, and the peace, harmony, and unity of mankind in general.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC REMINISCENCES.

By Φωτοφιλος, P.M., L. 50, Dublin.

(*Continued from* p. 484.)

Chapter VIII.—The diplomacy of the Johnsons—Phil's Courtship—Miss Johnson discovers a rival—A Love Scene—A contre-temps.

Phil vegetated into manhood, stout, stalworth, and well-featured, but without one beam of that intellectual light which gives grace, and character to beauty; his father grew every day more helpless, and his mother more feeble: while the politic fathers, and managing mothers of the neighbourhood, threw many an anxious glance at the *green* heir, and the green acres of Simpson Hall.

Deep and various were the plans, and speculations of the several manœuvring parents, who happened to have a sweet Mary, a gentle Jane, or a gifted Rosa to be disposed of, as to the best mode of winning the good opinion and confidence of the old people at the Hall, and securing its future proprietor for one of their rival beauties.

Amongst them was a hale old gentleman of polished manners, and imperturbable temperament (whom we shall call Mr. Johnson, though generally addressed as captain, but his most intimate acquaintance could never discover to which branch of her Majesty's service he belonged), who rented a handsome residence within a few miles of the Hall, and who contrived to keep up, at least, the outward appearance of wealth. He was a crack shot (and a *knowing* one as the sequel will prove, for he managed to *bag* Phil, hall, acres, and all), as well as a scientific fisherman, and having discovered Mr. Simpson's weakness for trout, and wild fowl, he allowed scarcely a day to elapse during the season that he did not send a welcome present of either, to his respected friend, Mr. Simpson, of Simpson Hall.

Mr. Johnson was blest with one fair daughter, now, according to the neighbouring gossips, in dangerous proximity to the dreadful epoch of old maidenhood; she was looked upon by the young (perhaps a little spice of envy adding somewhat of piquancy to their feelings) as a waning coquette who had flirted in vain, through each successive regiment of a garrisoned town, for nearly a dozen years, having previously jilted, or been jilted by, half the squires of the county.

The proprietor of Simpson Hall, having but a very flitting, and shadowy recollection of his grandfather's "local habitation, and name," was most anxious that Phil should form an aristocratic connection, and Mr. Johnson took care to put prominently forth his own claims to high pedigree, and continually boasted of his close relationship with several branches of extinct peerages; in fact, he exulted so much in the antiquity of his family, one became impressed with the notion, that he laboured under the delusion of being descended from Adam's eldest brother, and by

right of primogeniture, was entitled to look down with supercilious pride, upon all the younger branches of the family.

It will not surprize that Mr. Johnson and his accomplished daughter were frequent guests at the Hall, indeed an invitation was almost unnecessary, as they generally had some little matter of business to make a short call necessary, he, to enquire if the last dish of trout reached in time for yesterday's dinner, and she to exhibit to Mrs. Simpson the last "duck of a bonnet" sent to her direct from Paris, by her cousin, the Hon. Mrs. Outis. This identical bonnet had been manufactured by her own nimble fingers, in the peaceful shades of "Elysium," the classic name of her father's residence.

Mr. Johnson dwelt upon the rare and eminent virtues of Miss Johnson, and her affectionate tenderness for Mrs. Simpson, while Miss Johnson dilated upon the devoted friendship of her father, for the whole family of the Simpsons.

The independent and unsophisticated hosts of Simpson Hall, had but little chance with such able diplomatists as Mr. and Miss Johnson; indeed so much were they now in the ascendant, that Mr. and Mrs. Simpson were firmly impressed with the conviction, that Miss Lavinia Johnson was the only being in the world capable of making their Phil happy, while that young gentleman himself, never thought at all upon the matter.

It was now, however, considered time to urge him on the point, and impress him with the necessity of taking unto himself a wife. His father told him of his own increasing infirmities, and his mother's strong wishes to see her son settled in life, by the choice of an amiable partner, who should be unto her as a daughter, and who would relieve her from a portion of those domestic duties, which now pressed heavily on her in her advancing years; he pointed out Miss Lavinia Johnson, as the object of their choice, in whom was centred all the cardinal virtues; he ran over the names of all the honourables, and some right honourables, she had refused, and begged of Phil to look on her as his "ladye love," to be attentive to her, and to speak seriously to her on the first opportunity.

Phil promised to do as he was told, but added, that if it would not make so great a difference to his parents, and as he did not care about a wife, he should much prefer their allowing him to purchase an additional hunter, and he had seen a great beauty, if the price was not too high. Phil was a forward horseman and devoted to the chase, it was, in reality, the only thing he thought of, or cared about. The father promised if he managed matters satisfactorily with Miss Lavinia, he should have the hunter.

The young people were now left as much as possible together, Mr. Johnson having instructed his daughter in all the little delicate tactics calculated to draw Phil into a declaration. A few evenings after the paternal lectures, they happened to be seated in a lovely arbour, and unimpassioned must be that heart, which could not be stirred into feelings of tender emotion, by the surrounding scene: the music of flowing water, which always impresses us with sensations of sweet sadness, and sounds as if the gentle spirit of the stream poured forth in melancholy murmurs,

its sorrow at a separation from scenes so fair, and seems to mourn in low accents of rippling querulousness the harsh necessity which urges it on, from sunny hills, and green vallies, to the far off, and insatiable ocean; the sweet song of birds, the varied and ever beauteous flowers, the atmosphere loaded with perfume, the soft cadence of the distant waterfall, the bright blue sky above, all these sweet influences seemed to steal over Lavinia's heart, and pointing to an alcove, at the entrance of which stood two beautiful statuettes of Cupid and Psyche, she asked, with a look of the most bewitching languishment, "Phil, have you ever loved? Is it possible that as yet, you have found no object worthy of your affection?"

"Oh! dear, yes, said Phil, and if you knew how much I have set my heart upon her, I never ceased thinking of her since I first saw her, such an eye, such a head, such limbs, such symmetry, she is the most perfectly shaped creature in the world, and I shall never rest till she is mine."

Lavinia looked puzzled, and said to herself, can he mean me, though she thought to speak of a lady's limbs, and shapes, did not bespeak the highest respect for the object, nor much refinement in the lover, however, she in the most good natured manner possible, made due allowance for Phil's inexperience, and ventured, while blushing deeply, in expectation of the delicious *denouement*, to ask "the name of this most perfect creature."

"Oh! said Phil, her name is, *Madame Vestris*, but he added in excitement, "You should see her movements. If you were to see her bounding along, taking the ugliest *yawners* at a stride, with Captain Thompson of the 74th, on her back, you'd swear she had wings; I myself heard the Lord Lieutenant ask, Who is he that jockeys Vestris to-day? He handled her beautifully, never saw anything finer than the finish. How I envied Thompson at that instant."

Lavinia for the last few moments was moving as far from Phil as she could, believing that he had become dangerously demented. But when in his ecstacy he jumped up, like one possessed, and commenced roaring, and belabouring the skirts of his coat with his whip, she screamed in an agony of terror, and went off into strong hysterics.

Phil having seen cold water applied in such cases, took her by the arms, and carried her towards a well in the far end of the garden, in which he most certainly would have immersed her, if her father had not fortunately come to the rescue, having been attracted by her screams. Phil was asked for an explanation of the cause of her terror, but was unable to give any clue whatever.

Miss Lavinia, by the application of a gentle stimulant, and her father's tender care, was soon restored to consciousness, and self-possession, and entreated that she should not again be left alone with Phil, that all notion of the matrimonial alliance, upon which Mr. Johnson had set his heart, should be abandoned, that she thought her intended lover's general *gaucherie*, was merely the result of defective education, but that she was now convinced he was downright raving mad; that he told her he was in love with Madame Vestris, and saw her flying through the air, with a captain of dragoons spurred, and booted on her back, and several other

wild absurdities, till he worked himself into such a paroxysm of insanity, as completely frightened her senses, and very nearly her life away.

Mr. Johnson, though somewhat angry with his daughter, was unable to restrain his laughter at the *contre temps*, and said, "After all my instruction, I am really astonished at your stupidity, your vanity must have led you astray, my dear girl, *The Madame Vestris of Phil's adoration, is a celebrated steeple chase horse*, to which he has taken a fancy, and which he is anxious to purchase. Your rival is, therefore, not a very dangerous one, nor is your lover quite as mad as you suppose." "Lover, indeed, papa, how can you? The hideous muff," she muttered, in affected disgust, but still innately resolved not to give up the heir of Simpson Hall, without another vigorous effort.

There was still one little drawback to their sanguine hopes, they dreaded the opposition of the Colonel, who was a shrewd man of the world, and who, to their great consternation, was daily expected, and with whom of course there must be an *eclaircissement* on the important step contemplated for the happiness of his nephew. Mr. and Miss Johnson had a faint notion, that on the few occasions they had met him, they had not impressed him with the most favourable opinion, and feeling that it was a pretty matter as it stood, they feared, like Sir Lucius O' Trigger, that an explanation might spoil it.

Thus matters stood on the arrival of the old soldier, who, having been duly informed of the wishes and plans of Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, pooh, poohed the whole scheme, and threw out such interjectional phrases of disapproval, as "broken down black leg, faded flirt, &c.," he, however, made up his mind to pay a visit to Elysium, a disagreeable ceremonial, which he went through in due time.

Chapter IX.—The Colonel's Visit—His Reception—His description of Elysium, &c.

The usual tranquility of Elysium was considerably disturbed by the expectation of the Colonel's meditated visit. The furniture was furbished up, the pictures cleaned, the varied articles of *vertu* were unpacked, and set out for display,—Mr. Johnson had travelled a good deal, and affected somewhat of the *vertuoso*—there were stuffed birds of the most dazzling plumage, from the "gorgeous Indian land," preserved butterflies from Brazil, mottled skins of wild beasts from Africa, with which were associated many tales of wondrous adventure; and to astonish the natives, *a la* Barnum, there was a real mermaid from Japan, with a variety of other nondescript curiosities; but the great puzzle which brought into play the nicest diplomatic tact of Mr. Johnson was, how to evade any discussion on the main object of the visitor.

This gentleman's quick observation made him acquainted with the Colonel's horror of barking dogs, and particularly, if they manifested any disposition to go beyond the harmless exhibition of their teeth, and having in his *menage*, two of the most cross-grained little mongrels that

malignity itself could propagate, set to work to add as much acerbity as possible to their natural infirmity of temper, by encouraging and urging them to bark at all strangers, and at the slightest noise, so that when the Colonel arrived, they were in a state of perfect training for any contemplated purpose of wickedness.

The Colonel approached Elysium as he would a fortress in an enemy's country, looking out for ambuscades, and guarding against surprises.

On reaching his destination, the door was opened by an ill-visaged, and sinister-looking janitor, who answered the Colonel's enquiries by informing him that his master had just gone on a fishing excursion with Lord B——, who had unexpectedly arrived that morning, and that he thought it might be late before he returned, but if he would walk up to the drawing-room, he would announce his arrival to Miss Lavinia, who was in the music-room.

The invitation to the drawing-room was much more easily made than complied with; the Colonel, however, thinking it a good opportunity for a *tête-a-tête* with that young lady, most carefully, and adroitly managed to wind his cautious way through spreading evergreens, and plaister of Paris busts, his head now and again receiving a stronger hint than was pleasant, of the very close proximity of the huge antlers of a stag, or the long bill of a pelican, while the red glassy eyes of lions and tigers glared hideously upon him, from every nook and corner where one could possibly be placed or mis-placed. After some difficulty, he gained the grand entrance, the door of which was pompously thrown open by the nimble janitor, who found some more facile and speedy mode of approach than the grand staircase afforded the Colonel.

On looking in, he hesitated to enter the apartment, which seemed in the darkness, (produced by all the blinds being close drawn), to be fifty per cent. more crowded and complicated than the hall and staircase he had just laboured through. He remained for some time viewing and reviewing, in the "dim obscure," the strange and motley objects around, as they slowly broke upon his perplexed vision; the sombre stillness of the scene, being only broken by the rancous sounds of the crazy piano, which Miss Lavinia was excruciating with such torture in a contiguous apartment as to draw forth tones of agony so natural, that one might, without any great stretch of fancy, believe it imbued with animal sensibility, and, calculated as the Colonel said, to produce responsive sensations of pain in any doomed listener, as it did in him.

He attempted to steer his body through, in the hope of finding some corner of refuge, but after a few efforts, and displacing, if not damaging, several of the curiosities, he gave up the task in despair, and espying a chair, he drew it forth, determined to await the appearance of Miss Johnson, who might, he hoped, extricate him from the disagreeable fix in which he found himself involved.

Weary and vexed, he allowed himself to drop rather heavily upon the chair, but in his descent, his head diverged a little too much from the centre of gravity, and he merely came in contact with the front of it,

which sent it like a shot, against a small table of curious marquetry just behind, upon which was placed an antique vase, which fell to the ground with a fearful crash, while his own person came tilt upon some hard, smooth, substance, by no means conducive to his comfort.

The noise brought to the scene the two before-mentioned yelping curs, in full cry, who attacked him, front and rear, with the utmost fury and ferocity, he standing, or rather sitting, on the defensive with his cane. In the midst of the fray, he found, to his intense horror, the hard, smooth substance he had fallen upon, in motion, and himself involuntarily moved along, he rolled away from it in an agony of fear and frenzy, shouting fire, murder, robbery, anything that came into his head, leaving a large land tortoise free to crawl along, after its own lazy fashion. In his excited fancy, he believed himself in the den of a sorcerer, and shouted loudly for help, but no help came, while the curs continued their attack without intermission, biting any part, they saw for a moment, unguarded.

The Colonel was one of the heroes of Waterloo, but the roar of the enemy's cannon upon that gory and well-fought field, had less effect upon his nervous system, than these two curs, and the harmless tortoise. In the recklessness of rage and despair, he made a rush for the door, and down the grand staircase, cutting right and left, as if at the head of a troop of cavalry in full charge, demolishing all impediments, and in his sacrilegious onslaught, leaving the battle field bespread with the mutilated remains of a whole regiment of gods and goddesses.

Miss Lavinia now made her appearance with a face of well feigned alarm, though a close observer could see under her affected amazement, an expression of malicious archness. Approaching the Colonel, she poured forth a thousand apologies, and chastised with her parasol her precious pets—Sappho and Tasso. The Colonel on his part paid little attention to her apologies, but was pouring forth all sorts of execrations on her infernal curs, and regretting the want of his pistols, most unceremoniously entered the carriage, and ordered the coachman to drive home as rapidly as he could.

No sooner had the sound of the wheels died away in the distance, than the household of the amiable Mr. Johnson was convulsed with laughter, and no laugh rang louder than that of the gentleman himself, who of course had never left the house. Lavinia was afraid things had gone too far, but her father assured her it was managed to a nicety; that the rage of the Colonel, would he had no doubt, bring on a fit of the gout, which would banish him at once from Simpson Hall, and it would go hard if, before his recovery, Phil and his fair daughter were not bound in the rosy bonds of Hymen. He had, he said, a little plan in his head, which, he was sure would more quickly win her lover's affections than all her shining attractions, and which he should put into operation that day, so he requested she should have ready some of her choicest pastry and best wine, as he intended to bring Phil home to luncheon.

The Colonel after having his wounds examined and attended to, reached the Hall with his rage still unabated, rushed into his brother's room in a state

of high excitement, and when asked by that gentleman "if he had been at *Elysium?* shouted No, sir, I've been at *pandemonium,* and have been suffering the tortures of the ———."

Mr. Simpson said he had heard a great deal about all the fine things which ornamented Mr. Johnson's chief rooms.

"I tell you what, sir," said the Colonel, "the whole house is the most outrageous heterogeneous jumble I ever saw in my life—a small museum in a state of insurrection, nothing in its right place, here you try to steer between and Indian Pagoda and a Chinese Mandarin, and stumble over something like an Egyptian mummy, knocking over the model of a three decker in glass, fully rigged, or getting all at once immersed in the depths of Entomology, by tumbling into a case of preserved spiders, or some other abomination of the sort, lucky if you escape with a few flesh wounds, I'm sure the fellow is an infernal conjuror or wizard of some kind, for the whole carpet seemed crawling with what seemed to me, in the comparative darkness, to be young crocodiles. Fancy two malignant curs all the time I was there kept piercing my ears with the most sharp and discordant yells, and my body with their teeth wherever they could reach it. Altogether, the place looked for all the world like what you might fancy to be a sort of hospital for sick and wounded upholstery.

The sofa looked in a state of *Anascarca,* portions of its tumid figure peeping out here and there through a sort of white reticulated covering, the easy chairs looked like obese nurses, holding within their arms two fat babies in a state of repose, covered over with the same eternal white veil, the piano (not the screamer) had its legs bandaged up like a broken kneed hunter, the pier and chimney glasses seemed all afflicted with the jaundice, closely enveloped in a vile gauze covering of gaudy yellow, stirring up unpleasant memories of bile, and burning suns.

"I feel so ill, and such strong symptoms of an attack of gout, that I must leave this evening, I shall return as soon as possible, and, somewhat better prepared, pay another visit to your friends, when I hope to save gentle Sappho the trouble of ending her days in a 'lover's leap,' unless my hand shake more than usual."

(To be continued.)

THE NEW CONSTITUTIONS OF THE FRENCH MASONS.

THE relation between England and France at the present moment are such as should foster sentiments of the sincerest fraternity between us. The two countries are linked together by every tie which can unite nations to each other; they have common dangers, common difficulties, common losses, and common aspirations in the present; and, we do trust, that a common triumph and a common glory awaits them in a not far distant future. There is happily, however, not the slightest need for such ad-

ventitious aids to promote fraternity and good feeling which now exists between the Craft in England, and their brethren in France. Masonry is far above, and vastly beyond the necessity of such a stimulus to duty; and we shall endeavour to extend and strengthen that fraternal feeling, in the existence of which we rejoice, by publishing, as often as circumstances permit, any intelligence which may come to hand affecting the welfare of the Lodges holding under the Grand Orient of France. If in most cases, it is the demand which creates the supply; we trust that in this instance the supply will increase the demand; and that from month to month the interest felt by our readers, in the progress made by the brethren in France, will gradually deepen and extend.

A convention, or species of constituent assembly was held in Paris a short time since, which revised the constitutions, investigated the finances of the Order, and discussed various propositions affecting the welfare of the Craft. This convention has changed materially in some points the aspect of French Masonry, altering the constitutions regulating the administrations of Lodge funds, assessment of the Lodges, and the placing the general government of the Order, including the high grades, under the Grand Master, a council of 21, and a Legislative Assembly of delagates from the Lodges, meeting yearly to form the States General of the Order in France.

Knowing the interest taken by the brethren in every thing affecting the good of the Order we make no apology for translating the official version of the Revised Constitutions agreed to by the convention, and sanctioned and signed by the M.W. Prince Lucien Murat, the G.M. Although it occupies considerable space, its intrinsic excellencies and importance are such that it amply deserves the space devoted to it. The following is a translation of that document:—

OF MASONRY AND MASONS.

The Order of Freemasons has for its object benevolence, the study of universal morality, and the practice of every virtue. It has for its basis: the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the love of the human family. It is composed of free men, who, submissive to the laws, unite with each other in a Society regulated by statutes, general and particular. Freemasonry does not occupy itself either with the diversity of religions which are scattered throughout the world, or with the various constitutions of the States. It nevertheless respects the religious creed of the political sympathies of each of its members. Moreover, in its *réunions*, all discussion on these subjects is expressly interdicted. Masonry ever conserves its ancient motto, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity; but it reminds its members, working as they do with moral, and not with material implements, that one of their primary duties, as Masons and as citizens, is to respect and observe the laws of the countries which they inhabit. Masonry considers the obligation to labour as one of the most imperious laws of humanity; it imposes duties on each of its members, and consequently proscribes voluntary inaction. The number of Masons is illimitable; they congregate in assemblies which are designated by the generic term *Ateliérs*. The number of Ateliers is proportioned to the population of the localities in which they are established. The Masonic Lodge of France, and of the French possessions, are united to each other by a central authority, the composition and prerogatives of which are defined in the present constitution. No one can be admitted to participate in the labours of Masonry, who cannot justify his claims to be a Mason conformably to the regulations hereinafter stated. Masonic Lodges and assemblies shall be held in accordance with those ancient mysteries, and emblematical forms, the description and meaning of

which can only be imparted through the medium of initiation. Initiation has several degrees, and no one shall pass through those several degrees without the graduated tests prescribed by the ritual of Masonry. No man can be admitted to the rights and privileges of Masonry if (1) he is not of the full age of 21 years; (2) if his reputation and manners are not irreproachable; (3) if he has not a free and honourable profession or occupation, or some visible and honest source of sufficient means of support; (4) if he has not resided a year in the department in which the Lodge is situated, or within a circle of 20 kilometres therefrom, (exceptions may be made where he inhabits a department which has not a Lodge); and (5) if he do not possess a sufficient amount of intelligence to comprehend and to appreciate the Masonic virtues. The rule with respect to the age of a candidate is relaxed in the case of a Mason's son, who may be initiated at 18, with the consent of his father and tutor. The conditions of domicile are dispensed with in the case of soldiers and sailors, provided they prove six months' service. In the bosom of the Lodge, every man is placed on a level of perfect equality; there exist no distinctions save those of virtue, and of official position. All offices are elective and temporary: the election takes place at certain fixed periodical intervals. A Mason is expected at all times to aid, protect, and save a brother. Every Mason has the right to publish his opinions on Masonry, subject to the general statutes. A man may forfeit his rights and privileges as Mason: (1) by an action of a dishonourable nature, proved Masonically or before a civil tribunal; (2) by the exercise of a disreputable calling; (3) by the violation of the Oath of Fidelity to the engagements contracted at his initiation; (4) and in certain other cases as may be determined. Ordinary honesty is not sufficient to entitle a man to be made a Mason. It is particularly requested of the Venerable [*i. e.* the W.M.], that he will exercise the greatest care and strictness relative to the morality of candidates who aspire to the honor of being initiated into Masonry, and enquire narrowly whether the parties so offering themselves have ever been refused by any other Lodge, for the Masonic Order cannot extend its beneficent influence upon society except by the respect and consideration attached to its individual members.

ON MASONIC SOCIETIES.

The aim of Masonic labours is the same, however different may be the ceremonies of the respective *Ateliers*. Masonry comprises *Ateliers* of different degrees sufficiently distinguished from one another, under the denomination of Lodges, Chapters, Councils, Tribunals, and Consistories. There exists, moreover, at the central seat of power, a higher *Atelier*, under the name of "*The Grand College of Rites, Supreme Council for France and French Possessions,*" who possesses the exclusive right of initiating into the higher degrees of Freemasonry. The constitution and prerogatives of this *Atelier* are determined by ten General Statutes. Any rite, whatever may be the number of its degrees, cannot be considered as *superior* to any other rite. Any *Atelier*, whatever the number or elevation of the degrees which it confers, can exercise no supremacy over any other *Atelier*. The *Lodge* is the fundamental *Atelier*; it is the Lodge which initiates the Mason into his new life; on the Lodge all other *Atelier* are founded. A *Chapter* cannot exist without the consent of a Lodge, which serves as its basis, and even an *Atelier* of Perfection cannot exist except by supporting itself upon those which precede it. These *Ateliers* cannot bear any other title than that of the Lodge on which they are founded. The organization, the rights, and the duties of each Lodge; and the conditions of admission to the superior degrees, are determined by the Statutes General. If a Lodge ceases to labour, it may be suppressed, and with it all the Ateliers of which it is the basis; but the high grades may, if applying within a certain period, be permitted to select another Lodge as their basis, if they gain its sanction; they must at once take the name of the Lodge to which they thus unite themselves. The high grades shall not be conferred except upon Masons who have made themselves conspicuous by their zeal and ability, or who have rendered services to the Order, so that these grades may be henceforth regarded as a reward of merit. To preserve intact Masonic uniformity in operation, the *Ateliers* cannot deliberate collectively, nor in a delegated assembly. Nevertheless,

the central power may authorize these re-unions under the name of *Congrès* or *Convent Maçonnique.* The *Ateliers* are to indulge in no correspondence which is not of a fraternal character.

MASONIC ORGANIZATION.

The central Masonic authority is the *Grand Orient de France,* Supreme Council for France and the possessions of France, under the direction of the G.M. The seat of power is at Paris. The expenses of the Administration of the Order are supported by the Ateliers under the jurisdiction of the G.O., by means of subscriptions, and stated fees, fixed by the Statutes General, or by the special decisions of the G.O. The G.O. is composed of the G.M.; the G.M's Council of 21; and all the President's of the *Ateliers* under the jurisdiction of the G.O. Upon entering office, the G.M. and the members of the G.O. take the following oath:—

"I swear *to obey the Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations of the Order—to* remain inviolably attached to the G.O., the Supreme Council for France and dependencies, sole legislator and regulator of the Masonic Order in France."

The G.M. is elected for seven years, and is always re-eligible. He is nominated at first by the *Convent Maçonnique,* and subsequently by the General Assembly of the G.O. convoked for that purpose. The G.M. is the Chief Superintendent of the Order, and its representative with foreign Masonic bodies, and its official organ with the Government; he is the executive, administrative, and directing power. He presides at all Masonic re-unions, whatever they may be; he promulgates the decrees and decisions of the G.O., and convokes its assemblies ordinary and extraordinary. The G.M. has a right to suspend, provisionally, any *Atelier* or Mason, who breaks the laws of the country, or disregards the principles and statutes of the Order. He has the power to remit all penalties incurred by Masons, or by *Ateliers.* He may delegate his powers to a member of his Council, or to any member of the G.O., for special occasions. He nominates during his pleasure two Deputy Grand Masters, who take his place when necessary, in the Council. He has also the right of creating three Grand Dignitaries of the Order, and of naming seven Grand Officers of Honor. The three Grand Dignitaries may take part in the Council with the *voix deliberative;* but the seven Officers of Honor will only have the *voix consultative.*

THE GRAND MASTERS' COUNCIL.

The C. of the G.M. is confined to the two Deputy G.M.'s and twenty-one members, elected by the *Convention.* They are elected for three years, by a majority of the suffrages, removable yearly in rotation, but are eligible for re-election. The G.M. and Council *nominate the steps of the G.O. with* foreign Masonic bodies. The G.M. and Council do not constitute Lodges in foreign countries, where a supreme Masonic Body has already jurisdiction; nor do they recognize Lodges in France or French possessions, holding under a foreign G.L., except such as were so recognized previous to the promulgation of this Constitution. The G.M. and Council have the right to create new Lodges in any degree. The G.M. and Council have the custody of the properties moveable and immoveable of the Order, and power to name Inspectors to visit the Lodges under the jurisdiction of the G.O. every two or three years. An account of the annual *proceedings of the G.O.* is sent to every Lodge. The Council cannot act without its proceedings and decisions being confirmed by the G. M.

THE G.O. AND GENERAL ASSEMBLIES.

The Masonic legislative assembly is the G.O., composed of all W.M.'s (or delegates in their behalf), to be chosen from amongst the active members of the Lodges, possessing the highest degree it is in the power of his Lodge to confer, and having their expenses paid by the Lodge. The G.O. assembles annually but may be convoked in case of emergency by the G.M. Its duty is to receive the report of the G.M. and his Council, and the financial statement; as well as to take cognizance of all that affects the welfare of the Craft generally.

LODGES AND THEIR DISCIPLINE.

Lodges, at stated periods, determined by the Statutes General, proceed to elect their officers by ballot, to be decided by the majority of actual voters. The S.G. also fixes the number of officers, their functions, and prerogatives. Officers are always re-eligible. No members whose subscriptions are in arrear can take part in elections. Candidates for the Chair should be active, as well as subscribing members, in possession, for at least a year, of the highest degree the Lodge confers. The W.M. should always be selected from amongst the most capable and the most worthy. He ought to possess the following qualifications:—He should be a born or naturalized Frenchman—actually or civilly domiciled within a circle of twenty kilom. of the Lodge—and should have belonged to the Lodge for at least a year. One man cannot hold two offices in the same Lodge, nor can he be President of more than one Lodge in the same degree at the same time. The Lodges have re-unions, the duties of which are fixed by the Council. They may call Lodges of Emergency in certain contingencies specified in the Statutes General. In populous centres of Masonry, the Lodges should, where possible, be held in the same place to save expense, and to bring the brethren together so that they may learn to know and love each other. No bye-law is valid without the sanction of the G.M. and Council. Each Lodge has an absolute right of discipline over all its members, and over all Masons who participate in its proceedings. *In case of ballotting for initiation, all regular Masons present may vote.*

FEES GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Fees for initiations and collations to divers grades are abolished, but they are still required for charters of constitution and certificates of membership. Henceforth the Lodges will make to the G.O. two annual payments, the one permanent and the other temporary. The permanent contribution will be the same for all the Lodges; but the temporary contribution will be proportioned to the number of members in each Lodge. The permanent annual fee to the G.O. is fixed at 100 francs (4*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*), for each Lodge, whatever the degree may be. The temporary fee to which the Lodges are subject is thus regulated:—under 40 members 75 francs, under 70 members 120 francs, under 100 members 150 francs, and above 100 members 200 francs per ann. These fees are called temporary, because they will cease to be enforced when the debts of the G.O. are paid. When this is done, the entire buildings and other property of the G.O. will be vested in the Lodges, under its jurisdiction. These transitory fees came into operation March 1, 1855, and all Lodges not complying with the regulations will be suspended. All previous constitutions, so far as they are not in harmony with the above, are hereby abrogated. Copies of this document have been sent to the Lodges. It was considered, approved, and unanimously adopted in the general assembly of the *Convent Constituent*, Oct 28, 1854, and is signed by the "President of Constitution Commission," G. E. Gout des Martres, Rapporteur; and it was declared in force by Prince Lucien Murat, the G.M., stamped and registered by the Chief Secretary, P. Claude.

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

THE regular quarterly communication was held in Freemasons' Hall, on the 5th of September, there being an unusually small attendance of G. Officers. Amongst those present, we noticed Br. John Fawcett, P.G.M. for Durham, who officiated as G.M.; Br. H. R. Willett, P.G.M. for Dorsetshire, as D.G.M.; Chev. Heber, as S.W.; Br. H. Lloyd, as J.W.; Br. Tomkins, S.G.D.; Br. J. B. King, as J.G.D.; Brs. J. E. Cox, and Ed. Moore, G. Chaplains; Br. G. Elkington, G.P.; Br. Rawson, Pl.G.M. for China; Br. Dr. Rowe, P.G.W.; Br. John Hervey, P.G.D.; Br. Potter, P.G.D.;

Br. Parkinson, P.G.D.; Br. Goldsworthy, P.G.D.; Br. Norris, P.G.D.; Br. T. R. White, P.G.D.; Br. Patten, P.G.S.B.; Br. Biggs, P.G.S.B., &c., &c.

The minutes of the last Lodge having been confirmed, Br. White, the G.S. read an account of the sums disbursed by the Board of Benevolence during the past three months, viz., in June, 60*l.* to four recipients, July, 48*l.* to five recipients, August, 75*l.* to six recipients.

The report of the Board of General Purposes, to whom it had been remitted to inquire into the causes of the failure of the late tenants for the Freemasons' Tavern was brought up. The Board attributed the event, principally to the want of capital, and the rent being too high. The lease had been assigned to most respectable tenants, Messrs. Shrewsbury & Co., who were desirous of holding the Tavern. The surveyor had reported, that the Tavern required about £760 being laid out upon it, to put it in repair—some portion of which ought to be defrayed by Grand Lodge, and the rest by tenants. Inquiry had been made relative to the means and character of the new tenants, which was in every way satisfactory. They therefore recommended, that the Tavern should be let to Messrs. Shrewsbury & Co., at £800 per annum, and £1 1*s.* per night for the Hall, when used—and that £600 be allowed them out of the first year's rent, for the repair and decoration of the Tavern.

The balance sheet showed the balance in favour of the Fund of Benevolence, to be £1222 13*s.*, and of the Fund for General Purposes, after deducting £1000 paid to the Patriotic Fund, £1942 8*s.*, out of which, £500 had been invested in the funds, making the investments £7500.

Br. John Hervey, P.G.D. moved the adoption of the report of the Board of General Purposes. They had given the subject remitted to them by Grand Lodge, relative to the rent of the Tavern, the utmost consideration—and looking at the fact, that the Tavern business of London had of late years been much depreciated by the establishment of clubs, and comparing the rent of the Freemasons, with that of other first rate taverns, so far as the information could be obtained, they had come to the conclusion, that the rent of £1100 a year was too high, and that it ought to be reduced to £800. It was not now necesssary to go into bye-gones, but he was happy to state, that from the strictest inquiry, the Board were satisfied that they had secured respectable and responsible tenants, and he should therefore move that the report be adopted; Messrs. Shrewsbury & Co. accepted as tenants, and the trustees be instructed to grant the necessary lease.

Br. Tomkins, G.D. seconded the motion.

Br. Dr. Rowe, did not wish in any way to oppose the resolution, but he hoped he might be allowed to express his regret that success had not attended the efforts of the worthy brothers who lately held the tavern. Seeing that, according to the report of the Board of General Purposes, they had paid £300 a year too much for the Tavern during the three years they had held it, and £480 for repairs, he did trust that at some future time, a brother might be found to move that £500 or £600 be returned to them, to assist them in their future career in life. (Hear, hear).

After some conversation, the resolution was adopted—the subject broached by Br. Dr. Rowe being left in abeyance for a future meeting.

Br. John Savage rose to bring forward a resolution, of which he had given notice at the last meeting of Grand Lodge, to the effect, that it was the opinion of Grand Lodge, that the present mode of electing members of the Board of Benevolence, and Board of General Purposes, had been found to be objectionable, and that therefore, in future, such elections should take place by show of hands. He did not think it was necessary to detain them at any length, because it was he believed admitted by a large portion, if not the whole of the members of Grand Lodge, that it was desirable to make some alteration in the mode of election, so as to prevent one or two brothers marking the lists of a large number of the brethren, and thereby virtually putting the election into their hands. He remembered, that when he originally became a member of Grand Lodge, the election used to take place by show of hands, and he could not now recollect what was the reason for altering it. The ballot, though no doubt in many respects the best mode of election, had given rise to the preparation of lists of candidates. He did not condemn that, but he did condemn the practice of one or two of the brethren marking lists and

putting them into the hands of the brothers as they entered the room, thereby preventing their exercising a free choice in the election. He considered that a great evil, and he did not see how they were to get rid of it, except by adopting his resolution, and taking the votes in future by show of hands.

Br. the Rev. Dr. Carver seconded the motion, considering that the list system ought to be put an end to.

Br. John Hervey agreed with the previous speakers, that it was quite time some better mode of election of the two boards was devised—but he did not consider that the proposal of taking the election by a show of hands would effect the object they had in view. The number of candidates put in nomination for the Board of General Purposes each election, on an average of 8 years, had been 27, and the number had on one occasion, reached as high as 32. Now he would put it to the meeting, whether they could take thirty-two divisions in one night, and at the same time transact their other business. He thought not—and therefore he must vote against the resolution. It appeared to be thought by some persons, that a benefit was to be obtained by sitting at the Boards (Cries of No, no). He had been a member for 8 years, and with the exception of a great deal of labour, he had never received from his connection with them, more than a glass of water. As he had said, if any better scheme than that now in existence for conducting the elections could be devised, he should be happy to support it—but he could not support a change which he did not think would effect an improvement. (Hear, hear).

Br. Joseph Smith said it appeared to be the opinion of all, that some change should take place, and the only difficulty was how to make it. He held that it was not fair that half the brethren should be placed in the position of receiving lists already marked, and being called upon to vote in accordance with the views of one or two brothers, without knowing why or wherefore. He complained of Grand Officers interfering with the elections as he had seen done, and he should therefore support the motion of Br. Savage.

Br. Tomkins saw the evils attending the list system, and called on Grand Lodge not to throw out the proposition now before them.

Br. Geo. Barrett trusted Grand Lodge would not carry the motion. He admitted that it would be better if they could do without the lists—but some men traded in Masonry—and canvassed for votes because they had assisted others to get a warrant for a Chapter, or some thing of that sort. Open voting would give those brothers an undue power over others, and he must therefore oppose the motion.

Br. Herbert Lloyd thought, that if a system was a corrupt one, they ought to endeavour to amend it—but he could not well support the proposition then before them, feeling that it would take up the whole time of Grand Lodge in elections, and prevent their proceeding with other business.

Br. Henry George Warren rose to propose an amendment upon the motion of Br. Savage. He admitted that the present mode of election was not what it ought to be—but at the same time he felt they could not prevent the brethren preparing lists of candidates for election to the boards, nor did he wish to do so. He thought that they ought, if they saw fit, be allowed to prepare such lists—but what he complained of was, the system of one brother standing at the door, intercepting the entrance of the brethren, and putting prepared balloting papers into their hands, and calling upon them to support the list, the whole list, and nothing but the list. By this practice, brethren frequently never saw who were candidates until they entered Lodge, and then they found the name of one or more of their friends scratched out, and as a second balloting paper was never issued, they were constrained either to vote in opposition to their friends, or not to vote at all. (Hear, hear). His plan he thought both simple and fair. It would be, to prevent the marking of lists as at present in practice, and this he felt could be easily effected. He proposed to take the first part of Br. Savage's resolution, denouncing the present practice—and in lieu of those words, providing for taking the election by show of hands, to substitute, "it is therefore resolved, that in future no balloting papers shall be issued until after the opening of Grand Lodge—and that during

the time of election, no brother be allowed to quit his place." This would put an end to the evil of which all complained. Each brother would have to mark his own balloting paper. If in doing so, he chose to adopt any particular list, he would do it of his own free will, and no brother could then feel, as he now often did, that he lost his election unfairly, and because he was not a thick and thin supporter of the views of one particular brother.

Br. Rawson, Pl. G.M. for China, thought the proposition of the last speaker both fair and reasonable, and he had therefore great pleasure in seconding it.

Br. the Rev. J. E. Cox, had risen with the same view. He felt that the system complained of, and with *justice too*, was a *great evil*, and believing that the resolution of Br. Warren would have the effect of checking it, he should support it, and he trusted it would be unanimously adopted.

Br. Savage candidly admitted that the amendment of Br. Warren was an improvement on the present system, and would to some extent meet the evil, still, however, feeling his own resolution to be the best, he must adhere to it.

The M.W.G.M. in putting the question, explained that the brethren had not only a choice between the resolution and the amendment, but they might negative both if they thought fit.

The amendment was then put and carried with three dissentients. Upon being put a second time as an original motion, it was carried with one dissentient.

Grand Lodge then separated.

LONDON LODGES.

Brittannic Lodge (No. 38).—An emergency meeting of the brethren of this Lodge was held on the evening of Wednesday, the 12th ult., at the Thatched House Tavern, St. James' Street, when the W.M., Br. Gooch, with his usual ability, raised Brs. Mc Connell and Watkin to the sublime degree of Master Masons, and conferred the fellow craft upon Brs. Underwood, Foster, and Massie.

Gihon Lodge (No. 57).—On the evening of the 3rd of August, the brethren of this Lodge met at the Bridge House Hotel, on an emergency summons, when Br. Varden, acting for the Worshipful Master, ably passed Brs. Leman and Simms, and initiated M. A. Huffell.

St. Mary's Lodge (No. 76).—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, August 17. The W.M., Br. George Kelly presided, and most ably initiated Lieut. John Archibald Cumming, of the 1st Royals, in the ancient Order of Freemasons. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the W.M. passed Br. H. F. Emly to the second degree. In consequence of Br. Lieut. Cumming being under Orders to proceed abroad in discharge of his military duties, he was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Lodge.

Lodge of Faith (No. 165).—The first meeting of this Lodge, for the present season, was held at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the evening of Tuesday last. The business consisted of the passing of a brother to the fellow craft degree, and the election of the Worshipful Master, which fell unanimously upon Br. Mc Manus. The brethren afterwards partook of an elegant and sumptuous banquet, provided for them by the worthy host, Br. Rackstraw.

Wellington Lodge (No. 805).—On the evening of the 11th ult., an emergency meeting of this Lodge was held at its usual place of rendezvous, Lewisham, when the W.M., Br. Charles Ireland, with his usual ability, conferred the sublime degree of a Master Mason upon Brs. Gooch, Moore, and Flight; passed Br. Welsford to the degree of a fellow craft, and initiated Mr. Dudlam, into the mysteries of the Order.

Beadon Lodge (No. 902).—The brethren of this Lodge held their last meeting for the season, on the evening of Wednesday, the 19th ult., at the Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, when the newly installed Master, Br. Tiley, by his able conduct in the chair, fully justified the choice of the brethren in his election to that high office. All Masonic business being ended, the brethren partook of a banquet, liberally supplied by Br. Adams.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

CORNWALL.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the brethren of the Province of Cornwall, was held at St. Austell, on Tuesday, the 28th of August. The weather was delightful, and a large concourse of people early assembled in the town to witness the procession; so many thousands have not been congregated in St. Austell on any public occasion for a long period. Soon after ten o'clock the brethren assembled in the lodge room of the "Peace and Harmony" Lodge, and at about half-past ten the Lodge was "close tyled," the D.P.G.M. Brother Ellis occupying the chair, who worked the Lodge in the usual manner, to relieve Sir Charles Lemon, the Provincial Grand Master of Cornwall, of some of the duties. Every Lodge in the county was represented, except the Lodge at Helston. Soon afterwards, the P.G. Director of Ceremonies marshalled the procession, which, accompanied by two bands, marched to Charlestown district church, the use of which was promptly granted by the Incumbent, the Rev. C. S. Woolcock, the Vicar of St. Austell having refused the use of the parish church. The line of procession, on the road from St. Austell to Charlestown, was crowded with dense masses of people. The number of brethren in the procession was about eighty; they appeared in full Masonic costume, wearing white gloves; and the P.G. officers, past and present, wore the full dress, insignia, and clothing appertaining to their degrees and respective offices. The following was the order of the procession,

Two Tylers with drawn swords.
Banner.
Band.
P.G. Stewards with wands.
Visiting Brethren.
Rough Ashlar borne by an E.A.
Tyler with drawn sword.
Tracing Board of Deg. 1 borne by two E.A's.
Working Tools of Deg. 1 borne by an E.A.
Brethren of Lodges in the Province in the following order, junior Brethren first:
Druids, Love and Liberality, Redruth, No. 859.
Loyal Victoria, Callington, No. 815.
St. Martin's, Liskeard, No. 750.
Peace and Harmony, St. Austell, No. 728.
Cornubian, Hayle, No. 659.
Phœnix, Honour and Prudence, Truro, No. 415.
One and All, Bodmin, No. 413.
Fortitude, Truro, No. 153.
Mount Sinai, Penzance, No. 142.
Love and Honor, Falmouth, No. 89.
Tracing Board of Deg. 2 borne by two F.C's.
Perfect Ashlar borne by a M.M.
Tracing Board of Deg. 3 borne by two M.M's.
P.G. Inner Guard with drawn sword.
P. G. Deacons with the Warden's columns.
P.G. Pursuivant.
P.G. Organist.
P.G. Sup. of Works.
Book of Constitutions borne by a W.M.
P. G. Secretary.
P. G. Registrar.
P. G. Treasurer.

P. G. Director of Ceremonies.

Bible, Square, and Compasses borne by a P.M.
P.G. Chaplain.
P. P. G. Officers.
The Corinthian Light,
The Doric Light, The Ionic Light,
borne by M. M's.
The Plumb Line borne by a M.M.
The P. G. Junior Warden with Gavel.
The Level borne by a M. M.
The P. G. Senior Warden with gavel.
The Banner of the P. D. P. G. M.
P. D. P. G. Master.
The Banner of the D. P. G. Master.
The Square borne by a P.M.
The V. W. D. P. G. Master.
P. G. Sword Bearer.
The R. W. P. G. M., Sir Charles Lemon.
P. P. G. Stewards.
P. G. Tyler.

At the church there was a numerous congregation, *independently of the brethren*. The prayers were read by the incumbent, Rev. C. S. Woolcock, and an able and appropriate sermon was preached by Brother the Rev. Cuthbert Edgcumbe Hosken, in the absence of the P.G. Chaplain, Brother the Rev. Henry Grylls, whose absence, to the regret of all the brethren, was occasioned by illness. After the service the brethren returned in the same order of procession as before. The Provincial Grand Lodge was then constituted, and the P. G. Officers for the ensuing year were installed, and invested with their respective jewels of office; and the annual ceremonies were performed according to ancient custom. The following are the Provincial Officers for the ensuing year:—

P. G. M., Sir Charles Lemon, Bart, M.P., &c., &c., of Carclew.
D. P. G. M. and Secretary, Br. *John Ellis, of Falmouth.*
P. D. P. G. M. and Treasurer, Br. Richard Pearce, of Penzance.
P. G. S. W., Br. Augustus Smith, of Tresco, Abbey, Scilly.
P. G. J. W., Br. *Reginald Rogers, of Truro.*
P. G. Chaplain, for Br. the Rev. H. Grylls, Br. the Rev. Cuthbert Edgcumbe Hosken, of Luxulyan.
P. G. Registrar, Br. Edmund Carlyon, of St. Austell.
P. G. Secretary, acting, Br. W. R. Ellis, of Falmouth.
P. G. Sup. of Works, Br. John Hodge, of St. Austell.
P. G. D. C. Br. *John M'Farlane, Heard, of Truro.*
P. G. S. D., Br. John Borlase, of Castle Horneck, Penzance, and the Royal Cornwall Rangers *Militia.*
P. G. J. D., Br. J. Mason, of Callington.
P. G. Sword Bearer, Br. Captain Peard, of the Royal Cornwall Rangers Militia, Bodmin.
P. G. Pursuivant, Br. Samuel Harvey, *of Truro.*
P. G. Stewards, Brs. J. M'Manas and W. Michell, of St. Austell.
P. P. G. Stewards, acting, Brs. Mills and Dabb, of Redruth.
P. G. Inner Guard, Br. Serjeant-Major Wing, of the Royal Cornwall and Devon Miners Artillery Militia.

After these investments and ceremonies, the V. W. D. B. G. M. Bro. Ellis read a report sent to the Grand Lodge, of his visits during the past year, and addressed the brethren on the state of the Lodges in the Province. He said—I have to congratulate the brethren upon the healthy state of the Craft in this Province, there being between two hundred and three hundred contributing members of Lodges and but one Lodge here unrepresented, but which is an old and formerly "True and Faithful" limb of the body. I have reason to hope that at our next meeting we shall not only have "No. 400," but probably a further addition to the registry of

the county. And, my brethren, if I can induce you to survey the ample pages of Masonic History, in all the depths of its mysterious emblems,—if I can kindle in your breasts that fervour and sincerity which animated the ancient Masons,—if I can do this, as a Mason, I shall not have to regret the lengthened period I have devoted to the Order; but in the sentiments, if not in the strict language, of an eloquent Brother, permit me to say, that like the sun when feebly yet gently declining, I hope to close my career in this respect in "Peace and Harmony," the title of the Lodge of this place. And when around the banquet of brotherly love, some of you think *of days long vanished, memory may treasure with all a brother's rhapsody, the rich,* the glowing, the elegant picture of a true Mason's life.

The Lodge having been duly closed, the procession was re-formed in the same order as previously, and proceeded to the Town Hall, which was tastefully decorated with evergreens, &c., and the different emblems of Freemasonry, and the tracing boards, were exhibited in their respective situations. The banquet provided by Bro. Robert Dunn, of the White Hart Hotel, was a sumptuous repast, and the dessert and wines were truly excellent. The P. G. M. Sir Charles Lemon, had a fine buck killed for the occasion, and he also contributed largely to the dessert. Grace was said by the P. G. Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. Cuthbert Edgcumbe Hosken; and the P. G. M. Sir Charles Lemon occupying the chair, proposed after dinner, "The health of her Majesty the *Queen,*" "*The Duke of Cornwall, Prince Albert, and the rest of the Royal Family,*" which toasts were drunk with due honours; as was also that of "The Earl of Zetland," the Grand Master of the Freemasons of England; his deputy, "The Earl of Yarborough;" and "The health of the Right Hon. Sir William Molesworth, and the P. P. G. Officers."

After this the P.G. Stewards introduced into the room a large number of ladies, who were admitted by tickets, and the brethren having given place to them at the table, they partook of the dessert. "The health of the Ladies" was then proposed by the P. G. M. Sir Charles Lemon, in the usual complimentary terms; and the toast, which was drunk with much enthusiasm, was acknowledged by Brother Borlase, Lieutenant of the Royal Cornwall Rangers.

Brother Augustus Smith then proposed "The health of Sir Charles Lemon," and said, I feel all the difficulty of the task, the more so as I find I have not only to address myself to the wisdom of Solomon, but am called on to bespeak the admiration of the Queens of Sheba, by whose presence we are honoured. I feel the more embarrassed, lest I should not do justice to the individual whose health I have to propose, through not expressing myself in such terms as his merits so justly deserve; while on the other hand, I fear lest in expressing myself too warmly, as speaking in his presence, I should lay myself open to the charge of flattery. Whatever terms I may use, however, in reference to our Right Worshipful Grand Master, be assured they will be given with all the truth and sincerity of a genuine Mason. We, as Cornishmen and practical Masons, all know the merits of the granite of Penryn, which for all structures we prefer for its strength, the closeness of its grain, and its various other admirable qualities. But there is another kind of social granite also known to us as Speculative Masons, which crops out in that same vicinity, at a place called Carclew. This particular formation is greatly prized by us as Cornishmen; we admire it not less for its soundness and fine grain, than for the high polish it exhibits, and the facility with which it is worked and works. If in the Penryn granite its fine blue colour is a recommendation, in that found at Carclew we admire its beautiful Lemon tint. Now it is well known to us all that in our various social institutions in this part of the world, we always endeavour to obtain the free use of this material, whether it is as the foundation stone, or wherewith to adorn the facade of the superstructure. To us Freemasons it is still more a matter of pride and satisfaction that this material constitutes the keystone of the arch of the fraternity. We are much gratified by your presence here to-day, and I trust, Right Worshipful sir, you are none the worse for the fatigues of the day, and especially in having been *toddled* off on so long a march this morning. How that came about I am quite at a loss to understand, but perhaps it was in compliment to your christian name, that the brethren were obliged to seek a church at Charlestown. That you may long continue the keystone of our arch and

main ornament of our Craft is, I am sure, the sincere prayer of every Mason in Cornwall, and we most heartily drink your very good health.

"The health of the Deputy P. G. M. Brother Ellis," and of the "P.D.P. G.M. and Treasurer, Brother Pearce," were also proposed and drunk, and suitably acknowledged.

The Ladies then retired, and the Lodge was close tyled, when the P.D.P.G.M. proposed, in highly eulogistic terms, "The health of the two Wardens, Brother Augustus Smith, of Scilly, and Brother Reginald Rogers, of Truro," and in doing so, he referred particularly to the great improvement which Brother Smith had effected in the Scilly Islands, converting the inhabitants from almost a state of pauperism, to the condition of an industrious and intelligent community. The P. G. Senior Warden, Brother Augustus Smith, returned thanks and said, whatever his measures had been at Scilly, the groundwork had been education, with a view to teaching others to assist themselves; that all his plans had been regulated by true Masonic principles, and results having now proved their soundness, and given confidence, had he to do the work over again he should in almost every particular, follow out the same course. The P.G. Junior Warden, Brother Reginald Rogers, also acknowledged the toast in suitable terms. "The health of the P.G. Chaplain" was next given, with thanks for the very excellent discourse he had that day delivered, conveying as it did many moral lessons, and inculcating to the brethren their duties as Christians as well as Masons. Brother the Rev. Cuthbert E. Hosken acknowledged the toast, and gave "The better health of Brother Grylls;" and the next proposed was, "The Masters of the different Lodges in the County," which was responded to by Brother Hogge, P.M., of the St. Austell Lodge. The D. P. G. M. next proposed "The health of Brother Heard, the P. G. Director of Ceremonies," and bore testimony to the efficient assistance he had rendered to the Craft, and the able manner in which he had fulfilled the onerous duties devolving upon him. Brother Heard responded, and said he should always be happy to perform the duties incumbent upon him, as a Mason. Several other Masonic toasts were then given, amongst them "The health of the host, Brother Dunn," with thanks to him for the elegant repast he had provided. The Brethren spent the remainder of the evening in "Peace and Harmony," and separated with every feeling of fraternal regard and esteem.

CHESTER.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

This Lodge held its annual meeting on the 26th ult, at Congleton. The full report of the proceedings, which reached us as we were going to press, and consequently too late for insertion in our present number, shall appear in our next. We may, however, state, that there was a procession of the brethren from the Lodge-room, at the Lion and Swan Inn, to St. Peter's church, where an appropriate sermon was preached, in aid of the Provincial Masonic Funds of Benevolence, by Rev. T. W. Newell Tanner, V. W. P. G. C.

DEVONSHIRE.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE (No. 122).—The members of this Lodge held one of emergency on the 18th of July, when Br. Phillips, the W.M., most ably initiated Dr. Andrews, Surgeon of H. M. S. Alarm, into the first degree of the science. Labour finished, refreshment, in shape of Br. Killingley's *recherché* supper followed, to which, we need scarcely say, prompt justice was done. The members of this Lodge having made arrangements for the annual trip up the beautiful river Tamar, on the 31st ult., all were anxious for weather suitable; but as the course of excursion and picnic parties is, as Shakespeare tells us, the course of love is, "Destined never to run smooth," so was the path of the brother who catered for the pleasure seekers beset with thorns of sundry kinds. First, the weather was anything but such as would have been chosen on the day previous—rain and mist, mist and rain, being the only variation—so that doubt and consternation overspread the countenances of those superintending the culinary department; indeed, we are not sure that a messenger was not despatched to the front to give notice of the first glimpse of sunshine, or even

blue sky, to enable them to decide whether it be a case of *heartburn* with the ducks and chickens or not. Secondly, it was discovered at the eleventh hour that the "Earl of Mount Edgecumbe," was with his family at their ancient seat of "Catebell." What was to be done? the noble Lord's steward had kindly given permission for the party to dine in the hall—(the great treat of the day)—but as his Lordship and family were there, an intrusion on their privacy was not to be thought of, without special permission from his Lordship himself. Brother P. M. Call immediately volunteered to wait on his Lordship, and present a memorial from the Lodge, praying that the same kindness might be accorded on this, as had been on previous years. We need not say, P. M. Call was received with all the kindness and urbanity which characterise his Lordship, and intercourse with his tenantry. His Lordship expressed in the most pleasing terms his happiness at being enabled to conduce to that of others. This trouble being over, there remained only the weather, but with *that* P. M. Call was powerless, and nothing could be done better than hope it would clear in time. The morning came, and with it clouds and rain, till eight o'clock, after which time it gradually lightened, and by the period appointed—("The sun always shines on Freemasonry)"—old Sol burst forth, and gave prospect of a beautiful day. The party, a small one of about ninety, landed at "Catebell," where they did ample justice to Br. Killingley's good things. After the cloth was drawn, the W.M., Br. W. R. Phillips, gave the Queen and the Craft, which was responded to with the loyalty which marks the noble Order. The "Earl and Countess of Mount Edgcumbe," having been given, was received with loud cheers, and a speech was made expressive of the gratitude felt by the members of 122, and their friends, for the treat afforded by the noble lord and lady. The ladies were represented by that pink of politeness and ladies' man, the Senior Warden, who, in a speech of wit and humour, did ample justice to the fair ones who graced the hall with their presence; finally expressing a wish that at the next annual excursion he should only be called on to answer for *one* lady, and not "*The Ladies*." The afternoon was spent in dancing. Tea was served about five o'clock, and at seven, the steamer started for the "Weir Head," returning to Mill Bay Pier about nine o'clock, after one of the most delightful days it has been our lot to enjoy.

On the 8th of August, the Lodge again met, and balloted for Br. Lieut. Edmund Joseph Squire, who was unanimously received with much pleasure by the brethren. An emergency meeting also took place on August 20, when Br. John Andrews, Surgeon of H.M.S. Alarm, was passed to the degree of a fellow craft, by the W. M., in a manner that should make many of our purple friends look to their laurels. Lodge closed in peace and harmony at 8.45, the brethren retiring to refreshment, thence to their homes at a seasonable hour.

Lodge Harmony, Plymouth (182).—This flourishing Lodge held its monthly meeting on the first Monday in September, when two brethren were raised to the sublime degree of M.M., and two gentlemen initiated. The ceremonies were performed by the W. M., (Br. Earl) with good effect. Business over, the brethren adjourned to partake of an excellent supper, supplied by Br. Watts, (in his usual good style). A very pleasant evening was spent, and the brethren retired early.

DURHAM.

Lodge of Industry, Gateshead (No. 56).—At a meeting of this Lodge, held on Monday, 27th of August, it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Br. E. D. Davis, P. M., seconded by Br. Octavius Bell, to make a further donation of £10 10*s.* to the Royal Freemasons' Charity for Female Children—this being the second donation from the Lodge to that institution.

LANCASHIRE.

Lodge of Fidelity, Blackburn (No. 336.)—This Lodge held its regular Lodge-night, on Friday, the 31st of August, at the Angel Inn, King-street, the W. M., Br. W. Thwaites (West Bank) presiding, assisted by Brs. Whewell, S. W., and Yates, J. W. Several matters of business being transacted, the brethren present ably worked the first degree, and afterwards adjourned, and separated at an early hour, after passing a very pleasant evening.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

NEW MASONIC HALL.—Wednesday, August 29, was a gay and bustling day in Newport, the occasion being a grand ceremonial by the Freemasons of this town. Having taken steps to secure a handsome and commodious building in Dock-street, at the corner of Ruperra-street, they fixed upon that day for laying the foundation stone of their temple, and invited a large body of their brethren, from Bristol, Bath, Monmouth, and other places, headed by Col. Tynte, M.P., the P.G.M. of the province of Monmouthshire; and from the preparations which were made, it was quite evident that, weather permitting, an effective demonstration would be secured. Although recent weather was changeable, Wednesday, in that respect, was a "Queen's day," and everything else pertaining to an out-door show was as gratifying, we should think, as the Craft could desire.

As a brief description of the intended building may be acceptable, we appended the following:—

The style of the building is an adaptation of Italian, which is now universally admitted, by its general use throughout Europe, as that which is the best adapted for street architecture. In this case the architect has obtained, a grand and striking effect at comparatively little expense and without any sacrifice of interior accommodation. The angle formed at the junction of the streets is in this case very obtuse, and makes the plan more than ordinarily difficult to arrange; it is, therefore, rounded off and treated in a slightly different manner to the other fronts of the building, and forms a conspicuous feature in the elevation—very properly marking thereby the principal entrance to the Masonic Hall. This entrance is approached by four wide circular steps, and is flanked on either side by a column of the Ionic order and of peculiar and characteristic design. From the porch, a geometrical staircase, proposed to be formed of the beautiful Forest of Dean stone, and having a handsome iron balustrade, will lead to the Lodge Room, a beautiful room, 45 feet long by 24 feet wide, and 22 feet high, and enriched with noble cornices and plaster work. The other rooms appropriated to Masonic purposes will consist of an inner porch, a large committee-room, treasury, and Tyler's-room, which seem very conveniently arranged. A balcony over the entrance-door is likewise approached from the landing of the staircase, and the large window is also flanked by columns, but which are in this case, of highly enriched design, and of the Corinthian order. The whole of the building is crowned by a boldly projecting cornice, over which is a parapet and ornamental ballustrade, which we think will have a good effect in so commanding a situation. There are two other entrances to the building. These lead to seven sets of chambers, which are proposed to be let as offices for professional men, &c. The whole of the basement is arranged for warehousing purposes, and is approached by a gateway from Ruperra-street. The new Masonic Hall and Chambers are from the designs of Mr. R. G. Thomas, of this town, to whom Newport is certainly being indebted for several fine buildings of classic design; and the works are being proceeded with with all due despatch by Mr. Henry P. Bolt, the builder, and the masonry by Mr. Williams, of Park-place. The contract price is 1770*l.*, and another 100*l.* will probably be spent in decorations, before final completion.

Around the place where the stone was to be laid were placed five "pillars," one of which was higher than the rest, and topped by a handsome crown, of large dimensions, formed of evergreens, flowers, and gilded bays. The pillar itself was also entwined with flowers. The banners of England, France, Turkey, and Sardinia were suspended from that pillar. The four less pretentious pillars were situated at the corners of the ground, and were similarly covered with evergreens, flowers, and banners. The triangle by which the stone was to be lowered into its destined place, was decorated with flowers, &c. This, however, was not the only spot where there were decorations, Dock-street, Commercial-street, and High-street, were literally covered with flags, most of which were upon cords stretched from one side to the other. Adjunctive to the decorations, we report that the bands of the North Devon Militia and the Royal Glamorgan Militia, occupied an important position during the day, their strains lending an indispensable attraction to the scene.

At an early hour the bustle of the day commenced, railways and steamers bringing large numbers of the brethren and their friends to enjoy the holiday. Not less than 400 brethren were in the procession, and represented the following Lodges :—Bristol: Clarence, Sussex, Beaufort, Moira, and Colson. Bath: Cumberland and Sussex, Monmouth: the Monmouthshire. Hereford: the Palladium. Ross: the Vetruvian, Cardiff: the Morgan. Newport: the Silurian.

The Town Council assembled in the Committee-room, preparatory to joining the procession, and there partook of luncheon. Those who belonged to the Order, of course, wore their several badges.

Some delay was experienced in arranging the procession, and thus the expectant multitude, both in the streets and seated at windows, were kept a considerable time before they beheld the whole body marshalled. It was a lovely day, however, and as they had turned out for a holiday—with that patience for which our countrymen are proverbial—they stayed their stay until the hour came for gratification; and when it did arrive, the sight of so large a body of gentlemen, with their peculiar emblems, did not fail of imparting the anticipated pleasure.

The P.G.L. of Monmouthshire was opened at the King's Head, at Ten a.m.

The Silurian Lodge, No. 693, opened at the Town Hall, at Ten a.m., when the P.G.M., accompanied by the D.P.G.M., and the P.G. officers were marshalled from the King's Head, to the Town Hall (accompanied by a band), and having duly obtained admission, the P.G.M. addressed himself to the W.M., saying,—

"W.M. of the Silurian Lodge, I hereby, in the presence of these Worshipful Masters and worthy Masons, diligent workmen of our secret craft, do ask of you and your Company, if you know yourself at this time to have done anything contrary to the laws of Masonry, which has not been communicated to the P.G.L., and whereby you should be suspended from your work?"

W.M.: "We are good Masons at this very time."

P.G.M.: "Have you amongst your Company any brother guilty of strife or disobedience in open Lodge, or who after open Lodge, brings scandal and disgrace upon the craft?"

W.M.: "We have none, Right Worshipful Master."

D.P.G.M.: "*Have you permission to do this day's work?*"

W.M.: "We have, Right Worshipful Master, and, with your permission, it shall be read."

The dispensation was then read; after which, the D.P.G.M. said:—"Masters, Wardens, Deacons, and Working Masons,—all here is right as it should be. I give you all joy of this day's work: it has begun in zeal, may it continue in peace, and end in charity. May all good Masons help us in this day's work; and let us praise the master, officers, and brethren of the Silurian Lodge, for wishing to raise a temple to Masonry. The blessings of Heaven be with us all; and may the new Lodge increase the craft, harbour the poor brethren, and console the rich."

All: "So mote it be."

The Procession was then arranged by Brothers Chilcott and West, P.G. Directors of Ceremonies, in the following order:—

A number of boys, sons of Masons, bearing flags.
Union Flag,
(Borne by the Son of a M.M.)
Band of Music.
Tyler, with a Sword.
Visiting Brethren, according to their seniority.
Officers, wearing their collars and jewels, with their respective Banners, &c.
Rough Ashler.
Entered Apprentices.
Tracing Board of the first degree.
Ionic Column. Doric Column.
Perfect Ashler.
Trowel; Inscription Plate; Mallet.

Junior Deacon. Senior Deacon.
Director of Ceremonies.
Tracing Board of the third degree.
Salver (with corn, wine, oil, and salt), born by a M.M., (or a Son of a M.M.)
Secretary, with Book of Constitution. Treasurer, with coins to be deposited.
Junior Warden, with the Plumb-rule. Senior Warden with the Level.
Banner of Silurian Lodge.
P.G. Tyler.
P.G. Pursuivant.
Banner of P.G. Lodge.
P.G. Organist.
P.G. Superintendent of Works.
P.G. Director of Ceremonies. P. Asst. G. Director of Ceremonies.
Past P.G. Deacons.
P.G. Deacons.
P.G. Secretary.
P.G. Registrar.
P.G. Treasurer.
P.G. Steward. P.G. Chaplains. P.G. Steward.
Past P.G. Wardens.
P.G. Wardens (with Level and Plumb-rule).
Past P.G. Masters.
P.G. Steward, with Wand. } Deputy P.G. Masters. { P.G. Steward, with Wand.
Flag of Deputy P.G. Master.
Master of Silurian Lodge, with the Square.
P.G. Sword Bearer.
P.G. Steward, with Wand. } P.G. Master. { P.G. Steward, with Wand
Flag of the P.G. Lodge.
The Mayor and Corporation.
Operative Masons, one of whom carried a small portion of mortar.

The procession being thus formed at the Town-hall, proceeded down Commercial-street to St. Paul's Church; on reaching which, the brethren fell back to the right and left, forming an avenue, through which the P.G.M., preceded by his Sword Bearer, and followed by the W.M. of the Silurian Lodge, the D.P.G.M., attended by two Stewards, the P.G. Officers and the rest of the brethren, according to seniority and rank, passed to the church in inverted order, the band playing the "National Anthem."

About a quarter to two o'clock the procession arrived at the church, where a large congregation was assembled, and the service was at once proceeded with, the Rev. J. S. Sidebotham, of Oxford, chaplain of the Silurian Lodge, reading the prayers and lessons. A most excellent choral selection, well executed, formed part of the service.

The Rev. G. ROBERTS, the Grand Chaplain, delivered a very eloquent address, from Prov. x. 25, "The righteous is of everlasting foundation." He said they had that day met together to lay the foundation-stone of a Masonic Lodge, where the peculiar duties of their Order were to be performed, where they were to pursue the investigations of science, where they were to engage themselves in cultivating knowledge the most sublime—the knowledge of the Most High God and the knowledge of themselves—the knowlege of the relation in which they stood one towards another, and especially towards the brethren with whom they were united by a secret and singular bond of sympathy. And then the Lodge itself was an object of interest to the contemplative mind; for, though based upon the earth, and formed of perishable materials, and circumscribed in its proportions, it had the elements which invested it with a character infinitely beyond that which its mere substantive form imparted, for

its head reached to the heavens, and its foundations were deeper than the roots of the everlasting hills, and its length and breadth embraced the whole world, and its centre was the pillar of eternal truth. Such was really the Masonic Lodge. It had symbols which possessed significance to the initiated, but to the uninitiated they were like unintelligible language; and many objections had been raised on account of those symbols and the secrets which belonged to the Order. It was objected by some that because of the universality of Freemasonry, they were seeking to supercede and dishonour Christianity, by disseminating a mongrel sort of religion, apart and distinct from the revelations of the Almighty. Again; it had been said if they had some great secret locked up in their own bosoms, and it was for the benefit of mankind, why encumber it with symbols, and why not admit all men into their society? Such excuses, sneers, and objections had been levelled by the wise, the philosophic, and the religious, as well as by men of shallow understandings—men who were "wise in their own conceit;" and yet through all ages the most illustrious men, those with the most enlightened intellect, and pure philanthropists, had not scrupled to knock at the door of the Lodge, enter in, and abide under the shadow of its roof. He thought they ought not, on an occasion like the present, to flinch from examining those strictures which had been advanced against them, nor from vindicating, so far as they might, the construction of their society, which was upon the ancient principle of legitimate pursuits, and the gentle works of charity and love. He then went on to show that in olden time symbols were used to express ideas; that it had long been the custom for bodies of men to unite for the purpose of carrying out great objects; and that in all their proceedings they sought to advance the welfare of men by charity and love. The investigation of the Christian faith formed an interesting part of their work; and although their Hebrew brethren could not go thus far, they still united with them in the worship of the true God, and did not relax their hold upon Masonry because the majority recognised the Christian faith. The genius of Masonry demanded belief in the fundamental doctrines of revelation, and from that book they derived their principles. They sought to live on earth in harmony and love, and hoped hereafter to praise God in the Great Lodge above! After some eloquent allusions to the symbols of God in the lightning and the storm, and in all those grand and sublime works which the Architect of the Universe brought into existence, the preacher adverted to the symbols contained in the investiture of the order of the Garter, the Ribbon, and the George, respecting none of which had there been raised any of those objections which were raised respecting the Masonic Order. In conclusion, he said their work of laying the foundation stone would be incomplete unless they felt for the poor among the Craft, whose prospects had been blighted, and therefore needed help. Let them, therefore, bestow their gifts, and distribute to those who were in need from those excellent charities which their fathers established.

The congregation then withdrew, during which, a collection was taken at the doors.

In the same order the procession moved to the site of the new building, taking the following route:—Commercial-street, Commercial-road, and Ruperra-street, to the site of the intended building, the band playing "Entered Apprentice."

On arriving at the spot, we observed that an immense gathering had already taken place, the reserved seats for the ladies, which would accommodate 250, being quite full. The sun shone in all his effulgence, and expectation was on tip-toe for the completion of

THE CEREMONY.

A confined space, an immense rush within the enclosure, and the absence of some kind of a fence round the immediate spot, caused an uncomfortable kind of confusion; but in the midst of it the ceremony went on in the following order:—

On arriving at the site, the W.M. took his place in the east, the P.G.M. sitting on his right, and the D.P.G.M. sitting on his left. The Senior Warden in the west, and the Junior Warden in the south (standing); the rest of the brethren taking places as most convenient, when the W.M. of the Silurian Lodge (Mr. R. G. Thomas) delivered the following charge:—

Men, women, and children, here assembled to-day to behold this ceremony, know all of you, that we be lawful Masons, true to the laws of our country, and established of old, with peace and honour in most countries, to do good to our brethren, to build great buildings, and to fear God, who is the great Architect of all things. We have among us, concealed from the eyes of all men, secrets which may not be revealed, and which no man has discovered; but these secrets are lawful and honourable to know, by Masons, who only have the keeping of them to the end of time. Unless our Craft were good and our calling most honourable, we should not have lasted so many centuries, nor should we have had so many illustrious brothers in our Order ready to promote our laws and further our interests. To-day we are here assembled, in the presence of you all, to build a house for Masonry, which we pray God may prosper, if it seem good to Him, that it may become a building for good men and good deeds, and promote harmony and brotherly love, till the world itself shall end.

Response—"So mote it be."

A bottle was produced, containing a scroll, and it was deposited in a cavity of the stone. A copy of the scroll was read by the Secretary (Brother Williams) of the Silurian Lodge, which gave a short history of the Lodge and its foundation, a list of the present officers, the board of governors of the new Masonic Hall, a list of the subscribers, and a full programme of the day's proceedings.

The Treasurer (Brother Edward Wells) then produced the coins, which were from a farthing to a five-shilling piece of the present reign, and they were also deposited in a cavity in the stone.

After that, the inscription-plate was read by the Worshipful Master of the Silurian Lodge, as follows:—

ALL GLORY TO THE MOST HIGH!

THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THIS MASONIC HALL, ERECTED BY THE MEMBERS OF

THE SILURIAN LODGE,

No. 693, OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS,
Was laid by

COLONEL KEMEYS TYNTE, M.P.,

P.G.M. FOR MONMOUTHSHIRE,

Assisted by JOHN E. W. ROLLS, Esq., of the Hendre, D.P.G.M. for the same Province, and the OFFICERS OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND AND THE SILURIAN LODGES,

On WEDNESDAY, the 29th Day of AUGUST, 1855.

A.D., MDCCCLV. : A.L., 5855,

According to the Ancient Usages of Masonry, and in the presence of a numerous and brilliant Assemblage of the Craft.

R. G. THOMAS, of Newport, Architect.
HENRY P. BOLT, of Newport, Builder.

Mr. Williams, the Mason, having produced the mortar and the trowel, having been presented to the Right Worshipful Master (Colonel Tynte), he spread it on the lower stone, and the upper stone then descended, the band playing "Rule Britannia," and afterwards, the National Anthem.

The P. Grand Chaplain then offered up the

PRAYER OF BENEDICTION.

"May the Almighty Architect of the Universe, who has disposed all things in order, according to the excellency of His will, who made the heavens for His Majesty, the sun and stars for His glory and our comfort, and the earth as a place for our obedience to His laws, look down upon us Master Masons, now endeavouring to build a house according to the rules of charity, by the bond of love. May this house, of which we have placed the first stone in the earth, be a habitation for good men, meeting to-

gether to do good: may their secret assemblies be convened in law, proceed in honour, and end in charity. May all Masons that enter under the shadow of its roof, remember that "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him." May the work done here prosper; may the heart of all the workmen be comforted—may no strife, brawling, or unseemly words be heard within its walls—may the Master love the brethren, and the brethren honour and obey the Master—may our going out and our coming in be blessed for evermore—may our baskets be filled with plentiousness, and the voice of joy and thanksgiving abound—may there be no mourning nor sorrow of heart; and may the wayfaring Mason find a comfortable journey to his home, when he passeth by the gates of this house. O Lord! prosper Thou our work; yea, prosper Thou our handy work, and teach us in all times, and in all places, to build up in beauty that temple of our souls which Thou hast given us to adorn with all good works, till we arrive at the Grand Lodge above, where all things are perfect, and there is no more labour; but peace and happiness for evermore."

Response—"So mote it be."

D.P.G.M.: Worshipful Master of the Silurian Lodge, what is the jewel of your office?

W.M.: The square.

D.P.G.M.: Have you applied the square to those parts of the stone that should be square?

W.M.: I have, Right Worshipful Master, and the Craftsmen have done their duty.

D.P.G.M.: Brother Senior Warden, what is the proper jewel of your Office?

S.W.: The level.

D.P.G.M.: Have you applied the level to the stone?

S.W.: I have, Right Worshipful Master, and the Craftsmen have done their duty.

D.P.G.M.: Brother Junior Warden, what is the proper jewel of your office.

J.W.: The Plumb-rule.

D.P.G.M.: Have you applied the plumb-rule to the external edges of the stone?

J.W.: I have, Right Worshipful Master, and the Craftsmen have done their duty.

P.G.M.: Having full confidence in your skill in the royal art, it remains for me to finish the work.—He then took the mallet, gave the stone three knocks, and said,—

"May this undertaking be conducted and completed by the Craftsmen, according to the good plan, in peace, harmony, and brotherly love."

The W.M. then advanced again to the stone, and strewed upon it some grains of wheat, and afterwards sprinkled it with wine.

The P.G.M. scattered salt upon it.

The W.M. poured a quantity of oil upon it, and pronounced the following benediction:—

"As Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, fleeing from the face of his brother Esau, and going out from Beersheba towards Haram, lighted on a certain place and tarried there all night, making to himself a pillar of stone, on which sleeping, he dreamt he saw the gates of Heaven; and when he awoke, he annointed the stones with fresh oil, calling the place Bethel, or the house of God; so do I anoint this stone with pure oil, praying that in the building which may arise from it none but good men may be admitted, and men that fear God and love the Brotherhood.

After three cheers for the Queen the assembly dispersed.

The procession reformed, and returned up Dock-road, Llanarth-street, and Commercial-street, to the Town-hall, and resumed the Lodge. The thanks of the meeting were voted to the P.G.M. for his attendance; to the Deputy P.G.M. for his assistance on the present occasion; and to the P.G. Chaplain, Br. George Roberts, for his sermon, accompanied with a request that he would print it; to the Rev. J. T. Wrenford for the use of his church; and to the Rev. J. S. Sidebotham for reading the services; to the Mayor and Corporation for the use of the Town-hall; and to the choir for their kind assistance.

The trowel with which the stone was laid, was presented to the P.G.M., with a suitable address, by the W.M. of the Silurian Lodge; and after an acknowledgment of the same by the P.G.M.. a few observations relating to the discipline of the province were made by the D.P.G.M., and the Lodge was closed in solemn form. After which, the procession proceeded to the King's Head, where the P.G.L. was closed, and the brethren joined the banquet.

THE DINNER.

Owing to the protracted character of the proceedings, the company was not able to sit down to dinner at four o'clock, the hour appointed; and it was not till after five that an attempt was made to commence that important meal. The room in which dinner was served, was the new large room in course of erection at the King's Head. The walls were very elaborately decorated by the gentlemen above named, flowers and evergreens being profusely used. The square and compass were represented in flowers; a large number of the flags of the allied nations were beautifully blended; a number of pendants were hung in various parts; and the gas chandelier was covered with evergreens. The tables were arranged thus: three were placed nearly the entire length, and one across the top, raised in the form of a dais, and the chair for the Right Worshipful the P.G.M. was decorated; and immediately behind the chair was suspended a tinted drawing of the edifice about to be erected.

Col. Tynte, M.P., the Prov. G.M. of Monmouthshire, was in the chair; and the W.M. of the Silurian Lodge, Brother Thomas, was in the vice-chair. On the right and left of the chairman were Captain Bowyer; J. E. W. Rolls, Esq., Deputy Prov. G.M.; Rev. G. Roberts, P.G.C.; Dr. Bowles; Col. Burlton; Captain Tynte; — Kent, Esq.; — Davis, Esq.; C. Lyne, Esq.; S. Campbell, Esq.; J. J. Nicholas, Esq.; and S. Coombs, Esq.

The Prov. G. Chaplain said grace at the commencement of dinner, and at the close "*Non nobis Domine*" was sung.

The Chairman commenced the toast list by saying that, the first toast was one which required but few words to make it appreciable by the brethren. It was, "The Queen and the Craft." (Loud cheers.)

Mr. D. W. Nash, the D.G.P.M. of Bristol, said, that he and his friends were obliged to leave, as time and tide waited for no man; but, before they left, they wished to give utterance to the great gratification which they had experienced in being permitted to assist in the ceremony of the day, and to hope that the Order in the province of Monmouthshire would be prosperous. They felt satisfied that there would be a continuance of the interchange of Masonic courtesies which had distinguished those of Monmouthshire towards the Bristol brethren in times passed, and which they of Bristol were always wishful to reciprocate. He wished to express their best wishes for the prosperity of the Lodge whose foundation stone had been laid; and might Masonry attain that high position in the United Kingdom which it was deserving of. (Cheers.)

The Rev. G. Roberts said he would propose, out of its order, the toast of "The P.G.M. of Bristol." (Cheers.) He assured the gentlemen from Bristol that the Monmouth brethren entertained the highest respect for them. Bristol was the great mart for commerce on the Severn, and she was always ready to pour out her treasures for other towns. She was the pioneer of commerce on the waves, and she had been the pioneer to the towns on the banks of the Severn, and had added to the prosperity and intellect of the country. Bristol lent its aid when Masonry was weak in Monmouthshire, and they had learned to follow the bright example which Bristol had set them. He most cordially gave them the toast, and it was drunk most rapturously.

The Chairman also acknowleged the good services of Bristol in times past, and and then gave, "Prince Albert and the rest of the Royal Family."

Captain Bowyer said, the manner in which the Queen of England had been entertained in France was the admiration of all Englishmen. He trusted that now the jealousies of the two nations had passed away, and that the great union would exist for many generations, to give protection to the just rights of mankind, and to promote the real liberty of the world. "The health of his Majesty the Emperor of the French." (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Rolls paid a brief tribute to both arms of the service in proposing the "Army and Navy," which was duly honoured.

Major Maclurcan responded on behalf of the army, and Mr. Lyne for the navy, observing that the navy had not had so great a share in actual warfare, because Russia had not dared to attack us at sea. The navy, however, had effectually protected our homes and our commerce, both of which were among its great duties. (Cheers.)

Capt. Tynte gave the health of "The Bishop and Clergy of the diocese of Llandaff." (Cheers.)

The Rev. G. Roberts rose to respond, as he was sorry that there was not one clergyman of the diocese present.

The Rev. Mr. Williams, curate of St. Paul's, said there was one present, and therefore Mr. Roberts gladly gave way. Mr. Williams said he was very happy to find himself in the position he did that day, and hoped that before many months had elapsed they would have many clergymen of the diocese enrolled as Masons (Applause.)

Mr. Roberts said he hoped there never would be an occasion of a Masonic gathering in the diocese, but that the clergy of the diocese would be represented. (Applause.)

The Chairman then gave "The Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland.' (Cheers.)

The Chairman followed that by "The Deputy Grand Master of England, the Earl of Yarborough." (Cheers.)

Col. Burlton spoke of the great cordiality with which he had been greeted by Masons at all times and in all places, and more especially by the Scotch and Irish. He had occupied the post of P.G.M. at Bengal, and had had forty years' experience in Lodge, cantonment and camp, during which time he had been associated with their Scotch and Irish brethren. He therefore gave them the "G.M.'s of Ireland and Scotland, the Dukes of Leinster and Athol." (Cheers.)

Br. Bowles then rose, and said, he thought that his first duty was, as he believed, that with the exception of the Right Worshipful the G.M. of this Province, he was the senior member of the Grand Lodge of England, to return thanks for the toast of his noble friends, Lord Zetland and Lord Yarborough. His next duty was one which he discharged with very great pleasure. Both gratitude and inclination prompted him so to do—it was to return his best thanks to the brethren of the Monmouthshire, and more especially the brethren of the Silurian Lodge, for the very cordial reception with which they had been pleased to honour him. His flights of eloquence were, he thought, very much like those of the goose—no sooner was he upon the wing than he was down again. (Laughter.) But there was something in the very interesting proceedings of that day which seemed to generate an influence like the magnetic power imparted to iron, giving to the tongue faculties of utterance, and the mind properties and powers which they possessed not before. Their social Masonic reunions, where their banquets were crowned with sparkling wine, and fragrant with the delicacies of other climes, tended to smooth the rough path of existence, inasmuch as they afforded them many opportunities of cultivating those fraternal attachments which were so delightful in themselves, and often so pure and lasting as to afford comfort and support in the hour of death. (Hear, hear.) But they had met for a far nobler purpose—they had met to assist in laying the foundation tone of a building to be dedicated to the cultivation of moral, religious, and intellectual Masonry. His honourable friend, the Right Worshipful the P.G.M., had laid the chief corner stone of a temple which was to be erected, and which would be set apart for the cultivation of the intellect and for the promotion of charity: a temple where they would meet to breathe the spirit of liberality; where they would learn to reverence the rights of conscience; where they would, he hoped, attend to promote human progress, and where they would also seek, and, he trusted, receive "the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace;" and where also they would have filial communion with the "High and Holy One that inhabiteth eternity." While others sought to shut up God in creeds and denominations; while they sought to fetter man in the chains of uncharitableness, and intolerance, and persecution, they would in that new Lodge be bound together, not by a bond of creeds, but by the bond

of brotherly love and charity. That was the noblest of all bonds. He trusted it would long continue to be the distinguishing bond, and keep the brethren of the Silurian Lodge and the members of the province together. He found he was entrusted with the toast of the evening. He was exceedingly sorry it did not fall into abler hands. Very much might be said about it, but it would be a wasteful excess of words to do more than mention the name of the gentleman who had presided over that province for thirty years, and who was loved and honoured as few men were by those who knew him best. (Cheers.) Turning to the chairman he said, Colonel Tyne, I have only to propose your good health. May the staff of God's promises help you on your way, so that when that time comes which comes to all of us, the lamp of God's love may light you through the dark valley and guide you in safety to the golden land. And I am sure with one heart and voice all present will say, "So mote it be." (Loud cheers.)

The Chairman said if he had some difficulty, when assembled in Lodge, in thanking them, he felt more difficulty, now, after so eloquent, so feeling, and so kind a speech from his excellent friend, Dr. Bowles. He modestly likened his speaking to the flight of a very humble bird; but he (the chairman) thought it was more like the flight of the eagle, soaring with his eye on the Sun of Masonry; and in a flight which they all looked upon with admiration, he described, in eloquent, glowing and Masonic terms, the uses of the Lodge, which, he trusted, under the blessing of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, would speedily rise in that town, the corner stone of which, to-day, he had the high honour and gratification of laying—he trusted that the blessing of the Most High might attend that Lodge, and that it might, on its completion, bear those fruits wished for, and, he might say, foretold. It was now indeed a long time since he first had the honour of presiding over that province. Many of those present were not then born. In fact a new birth in Masonry had taken place, for then it was almost a dead letter. He felt at the time young and inexperienced in Masonry. Still he was the son of a Mason of merit and distinction; and feeling himself unequal to the task, he consulted his royal master, the late Duke of Sussex, who appointed him, and he should never forget the words which he uttered, "Let Masonry take its course. Attempt not to force it, and the time will come when Masonry will be a profession you will have pride in. Masonry never dies, and it will resuscitate again in the province of Monmouth." These were the words of the then Grand Master, and days like the one they had just had, showed that Masonry was not dead here, and that they stood as high in the Masonic world as any province in the kingdom. He felt it was a proud day to preside on such an occasion; and in conclusion made some graceful remarks on the able manner in which the D.P.G.M. discharged the duties of his office, and those other officers of the province whom he had appointed, all of whom were recommended by the D.P.G.M. The silver trowel, with which they had presented him would be to him more valuable than any silver plate from the jeweller's shop, and he should hand it down to his son, whom he was proud to see present on this occasion, with the hope that it would be an heir loom in a family of Masons. (Loud cheers.)

Br. Rolls said it gave him the greatest pleasure to propose to them the health of one of the oldest and best Masons in England, and who was looked up to with the greatest reverence. It was the health of Col. Tynte, the father of their chairman, and grandfather of Capt. Tynte, another of their officers, and who, amongst other good things which might be said of him, had contributed two whole bucks for their banquet. "The health of Col. Tynte, the P.G.M. for Somerset." (Loud cheers.)

The Chairman responded.

Br. Kent, P.G.M. for South Australia, said he was a stranger to nearly all in the room, except Brother Thomas, who, he was proud to say, was a fellow-colonist, and who was received into Masonry in the Lodge which he (Mr. Kent) presided over for two years. How Mr. Thomas had improved that circumstance his position that day was an evidence. In South Australia Masonry had great difficulties to contend with for a long time, but it was now overcoming them; and there was one singular fact in its history—the ladies were in its favour, because it made the members better husbands and better fathers than they were before. At the present time there were

six Lodges in Adelaide, and three in its neighbourhood. He gave the toast of "The Right Worshipful D.P.G.M., Br. Rolls, and the P.G. officers." (Cheers.)

Br. Rolls returned thanks.

The Chairman said want of time forbade him giving the gentlemen he was about to name separately. He gave them the "Grand Masters of the provinces of Hereford, Oxford, Australia, and Bengal." (Cheers.)

Dr. Bowles briefly responded.

Br. Lyne said, amongst the numerous toasts of the evening, none were more interesting than that of "The P.G.C. Brother Roberts." (Cheers.) He knew he had only to mention the name to elicit their approbation, and to show how dearly Brother Roberts was beloved by his brethren. They were under the deepest obligation to him for being present on the occasion; and those who had the opportunity of hearing his admirable sermon, would agree with him (Mr. Lyne) that no other man in this province had done more to induce worthy good men to become Masons than he had. With all earnestness he gave the toast. (Loud cheers.)

The Rev. Chaplain said, the kindness with which they had received the toast connected with his name showed that the old feeling of Monmouthshire still remained, verdant as ever, flourishing as ever, and that nothing in the world could possibly separate that feeling of good fellowship which had been established; and though time and space might have separated them, still the good old feeling remained, and he could not forsake old friends. Reminiscences and associations of those bonds which bound them together in the bond of charity and by the tie of love prompted him to make an effort to be present on that occasion; and he felt it would be well to visit his brethren, especially when he heard what preparations were being made. He resolved to give himself up to them that day, whatever inconvenience he might experience, and again receive those smiles and shakes of the hand which were an index to what was felt by the heart. The Right Worshipful the G.M. had told them that time and tide waited for no man; neither would railways nor telegraphs, or one of their excellent friends would have been present, but he was summoned to a distant place by the telegraph that morning; and because time was on the wing he would not detain them, or he might talk at great length were he to yield to those feelings which were suggested by a visit to Monmouthshire. There was something in Monmouthshire which always entwined itself around his heart. It was in Monmouthshire that he first associated himself with Masonry. He was glad to say that the sun of Masonry had risen at Newport, the intellectual powers of which town were developing themselves every day, and in nothing more so than in Masonry, taking this day as an exponent of the intellect of Newport. He could recollect when the Newport Lodge was not recognised as it was now, but a change had taken place, and now it had become the centre and focus of the Masonic genius and mind. As they passed along in the procession, he said to his friend that that beat what they undertook when the Newport docks were opened. There was no such gathering on that occasion, when the Masonic body quietly gave in their adhesion at the nuptials of the Usk and the Severn. On this occasion, by the manner in which Newport had come out, it was in effect saying, "These are the men in whom we can trust." He was sure that none but Masons could have produced such a mark of admiration as had been afforded, and have passed through such living walls and received such acclamations in voice and heart as they had done. (Cheers.) He often looked back to the period when he became a Mason. A friend of his said, "You had better become a Mason." "What is Masonry?" "Well, I don't know what it is; try it." (Laughter.) His worthy Brother, Alec. Rolls, and he did try it, and he was sure it was very nice indeed. (Loud cheers.) Having noticed, in approving terms, the manner in which Brother Chilcott worked for the Provincial Lodge, he concluded his remarks by drawing attention to the charities of the Order, and said he was sure it would be gratifying to their chairman if something were done by the brethren towards carrying out the Sussex Memorial, which was proposed to be effected by the addition of a wing to one of the London hospitals. (Cheers.)

Dr. Bowles thanked Mr. Roberts for introducing the subject of the Sussex Memorial. He had been domestic chaplain to the late Duke, and knowing His Royal

Highness's wishes respecting the hospital, felt it to be his duty to forward the object as much as possible. The governors of the hospital had given £1,600, £2,000, had been subscribed, and there was still a deficiency of £500 in the sum requisite for building the wing and giving accommodation for one hundred beds. They could not pay a more proper tribute to the late G.M. of England than by contributing to the memorial. (Applause.)

The Chairman gave "The Mayor and Corporation, and success to the trade of Newport." (Cheers.)

Mr. Alderman Mullock returned thanks, and hoped the Mayor would be a Mason before the next meeting. (Cheers.)

Mr. Wells proposed "The Loyal Monmouth Lodge." (Applause.)

Mr. King responded.

The Vice-Chairman said they were much indebted to the Visiting Brothers for their help in carrying out the ceremonial. "The Visiting Brothers." (Cheers.)

Br. F. Langley, of Cardiff, responded.

The Chairman said that they were under great obligations to the Vice-Chairman in the three-fold capacity as W.M. of the Silurian Lodge, as architect of the new building, and as vice-chairman, for his able duties, in respect of all of which they returned him their thanks. He concluded by giving them "The W.M. of the Silurian Lodge." (Cheers.)

Br. Thomas returned thanks.

The Chairman again thanked the brethren for the polite attention he had received at their hands, and bade them good night; and as he left the room he was greeted with a round of cheering.

Br. Rolls, the D.P.G.M. then took the chair, and some other toasts were proposed, and songs sung.

This closed the interesting day's proceedings.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

On Thursday, the 30th August, a number of the Newcastle and Gateshead brethren proceeded to Berwick-on-Tweed, to join a picnic, and to partake of a "Kettle," to which St. David's Lodge had invited them. The weather was fine, and at 2 o'clock, (with a goodly number of sisters) they embarked on board the *Mary Ann Jane* (paddle-steamer), Capt. Thomas Elliot, of Spittal, accompanied by the band of the Third Lancashire Militia, all under the able superintendence of Brother Montgomery. On arriving at Heugh Shield, the party landed, and partook of refreshment. Again embarking, they steamed up to the Union Chain Bridge. Returning to Heugh Shield, the "kettle" was ready, and they partook of "pot luck" in the ancient Border style. The merry dance followed, on the smooth green turf, and was kept up till the sun set behind the Cheviots, which brought the outdoor proceedings to a close, after spending one of "the happiest days of their lives." The brethren had much to do to get away from their kind entertainers, and be in time for the south train at eleven o'clock; when the good town of Berwick, and the Tweedside lassies, were left behind. "Though out of sight," our correspondent sighs, "to memory dear."

SHROPSHIRE.

ADMASTON.—On Tuesday, the 4th ult., the usual annual dinner among the members of the Local Lodge of the North Wales and Shropshire Masonic Order was held at the Admaston Spa Hotel. Extensive preparations had been made by Mr. Purcell, the proprietor, and a sumptuous dinner was provided. The dinner was under the presidentship of Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart, M.P. About seventy sat down; this number comprising the principal brethren from the neighbouring provinces. The entertainment, which was varied by some most excellent glee singing, went off exceedingly well, and gave general satisfaction. On Wednesday, a party of the members of the Lodge, accompanied by ladies, paid a visit to the Wrekin, where a most pleasant afternoon was spent. "Dancing on the green turf" was well kept up, to the music of Mr. Lewis's band, from Shrewsbury.

YORKSHIRE.

GRAND LODGE.

By the appointment of the Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland, Most Worshipful Grand Master of England, the Provincial Grand Lodge for the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, was held in the room of the Old George Lodge, at Scarborough, on Monday, the 10th of September. In the absence of the Earl of Zetland, his Lordship's Deputy, George Marwood, Esq., of Busby Hall, officiated. The Lodge was much gratified by the presence of Lord Londesborough, Senior Grand Warden of England, who, at some personal inconvenience, attended in his place as Senior Grand Warden for this Province. All the provinces were represented by deputations; and about 200 brethren were present. We understand that the extent of the Order, and the satisfactory progress of Masonry generally, and in this province in particular, formed a subject of much congratulation amongst the brethren then assembled. The proceedings in the Lodge occupied about one hour. The banquet took place at six o'clock in the evening, in the Town Hall. The room was beautifully decorated with evergeens, banners, and appropriate Masonic devices. The dinner was served up punctually, and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master accompanied by the Provincial Grand Officers, heralded by a flourish of trumpets, entered the room in procession. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master before taking his seat, briefly announced the gratifying intelligence (just received by telegraph, and kindly communicated by Brother Theakston,) that the south side of Sebastopol had been won by the allied armies. This was received with vociferous cheering. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master then took the chair, and we observed he was supported on his right hand by Sir J. V. B. Johnstone, Bart., M.P.; John Harland, Esq., of Marrick, P.P.G.W.; W. E. Richardson, Esq., Worshipful Master of the Old Globe Lodge; C. Bradley, Esq., Past Provincial Officer; and J. C. Smith, Esq., P.G.R. On his left by the Rev. W. Hutchinson, M.A., G.P. Chaplain; the Rev. C. Eckersall, E. H. Hebden, Esq., Past Provincial Officer; R. W. Hollen, Esq., P. G. Treasurer; Brother Richardson, of the Middlesbro' Lodge; and F. Peel, Esq., a visiting brother. The dinner was supplied by brother Millhouse, of the George Hotel; the profusion and quality of the dishes, (including every delicacy of the season,) the way in which it was served up, and the arrangements generally, were such as to elicit the approbation of all present, particularly of those accustomed to attend public dinners. The dessert and wines were equally unexceptionable.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire was held on Thursday, 13th ult., at one o'clock, at the Music Hall in this city, the Right Worshipful H. C. Vernon, Esq., P.G.M., presiding. The handsome building was elegantly decorated with banners and insignia of the Order. About 80 of the brethren assembled. The usual Lodge business having been disposed of, the party dined at the Guildhall, where a first-rate banquet was prepared under the superintendence of Br. Webb, of the Bell Inn. The chair was taken at five o'clock by the P.G.M. The usual patriotic and other toasts were proposed and well received, the evening being spent in the manner observed among Masons; the party separating about 9 o'clock. The evening was much enlivened by a party of glee singers (Messrs. Cooper, Berkley, Perkes, and Brooks), under the leadership of Br. Jabez Jones. The following were the brethren appointed as officers for 1855-6:—D.P.G.M., Br. E. A. H. Lechmere, 772; P.S.G.W., Br. H. M. Wainwright, 730; P.J.G.W., Edward Giles, 772; P.G.C., Rev. A. G. Davies, 730; P.G.T., Masefield, 730, 313; P.G.R., Renaud, 730; P.G.S., R. P. Hill, 349; P.S.G.D., M. Dennison, 730, 313; P.J.G.D. John Williscroft, 838; P.G.S.W., Barber, 349; P.G.D.C., B. Brooks, 824; P.G.A.D.C., E. Hopkins, 772; P.G.S., W. Bristow, jun., 313; P.G.O., W. Done, 349; P.G.P., J. Wheeler, 824; Stewards, W. D. Lingham, W. Wood, H. Isaacs, J. Hughes, R. Smith, and Jabez Jones, 349.

INSTRUCTION.

THE ROYAL JUBILEE (No. 85).—The brethren of this distinguished Lodge of Instruction held their anniversary festival on the evening of Tuesday, the 18th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Falcon Tavern, (Br. C. Ireland) Fetter Lane. Br. Thos. Alex. Adams, W.M. of the Domatic Lodge, No. 206, and P.M. of St. John's Lodge, No. 196, ably presided. Those excellent working Masons Br. Hill, P.M. of the Universal, No. 212, and Br. Farmer, W.M. of the Lodge of United Pilgrims, No. 745, severally filled the Wardens' chairs. The Lodge having been regularly opened, the minutes of the proceedings of the last Lodge were read and confirmed, after which it was proposed, seconded, and agreed to that as the Lodge was deeply indebted for its present flourishing and efficient condition to the zealous services of their Secretary and Treasurer, Br. Charles Ireland, the members should be invited to co-operate in presenting him with some testimonial of their fraternal regards and esteem. A committee was then appointed to carry out the intention of the Lodge. After these proceedings the Lodge proceeded to work the seven sections of the first degree which were most correctly rendered by Brs. Thomas, Brett, Tyrrell, Wadeson, Farmer, Hill, and Isaacs. The lecture having been completed, the brethren were called off, and about 40 in number sat down to a banquet served with that elegance and liberality which invariably characterizes the catering of their worthy host. After an evening spent in harmony and good fellowship, the business of Masonry was resumed, when several of the visitors, including Brs. Gravel, Plummer, and Steward, were admitted as joining members of the Lodge, subject to the usual provision, after which the proceedings were closed in harmony.

ROYAL ARCH.

DEVONSHIRE.

CHAPTER OF FORTITUDE, STONEHOUSE (No. 122).—Held at the Prince George Hotel. The members of this Chapter, after two failures, succeeded in getting the requisite number together, on the 18th inst. The minutes of the last meeting (in November last), were read and confirmed, after which the annual election and installation of officers took place, but as this was done in a style prevalent in the Chapters of these towns, we think it unnecessary to make further comment. We are led, however, to notice the fact, that two young companions (never in a Chapter since their exaltation, last November), were given office, one as Scribe E., the other as P. Soj., over the head of one Companion who has held the office of assistant for three years past (certainly a long time to sojourn in one position). We are sorry to say that, since the lamented decease of Comp. Dr. Carwithen, there has not been any P.G.C. for Devon, which accounts, in some measure, for the state of the private Chapters of these towns.

DURHAM.

CHAPTER-DE-LAMBTON (No. 111).—The companions of this Lodge held a convocation in the Phœnix Hall, on Friday, 31st August, for the appointment of officers for the ensuing year, when the following companions were duly elected :— Comps. Wm. Baglee, Z.; J. Spark, H.; L. Chatt, J.; Wm. Kyle, Scribe E.; John Glen, N.; T. Robson, P. Sojourner; W. Burdes and W. Atty, Assistant-Sojourners; C. Rodgers, Treasurer; P. J. Baglee, Janitor.

SCOTLAND.

ST. MARK'S LODGE, GLASGOW (No. 102.)—The brethren of this Lodge met in their splendid hall, Buchanan, Street, Glasgow, on September, 17, when the W.M., Br. Donald Campbell, initiated a gentleman into the secrets and mysterics of our ancient and honourable Order, in very excellent style. The brethren were then called off from labour to refreshment, when

The W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft," and "The Grand Lodge of Scotland," both of which were duly honoured.

The W.M. next proposed "The Grand Lodge of England," with which he associated the name of Br. Warren, a member of that body, and one of the Grand Stewards of England.

Br. Warren replied, and explained to the brethren the advantages they would derive from a Fund of Benevolence, such as existed in England, to which they could refer applicants, and have their cases investigated, and thus prevent the impositions frequently attending indiscriminate almsgiving.

The W.M. next proposed "The Grand Lodge of Ireland, and the health of Br. Sharman."

Br. Sharman returned thanks for the kindness with which they had referred to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and the honour they had done him in coupling his health with their wishes for the prosperity of that important Masonic body.

The W.M. then proposed the health of the newly initiated brother, whose name was the 1650 on the roll of St. Mark's Lodge.

This toast was duly honoured, and responded to by the newly made brother.

Br. Warren proposed the health of the W.M., Br. Donald Campbell, whose mode of working he spoke of in very complimentary terms.

The W.M. returned thanks, expressed his high respect for Br. Warren, and his determination to do all that lay in his power to promote the circulation of the *Masonic Mirror* (with which he knew that brother to be connected), because he had seen that that periodical was characterized by an honesty and straitforwardness which had pleased him very much indeed. (Cheers).

The W.M. then proposed the health of Br. Hamilton, who was about to leave this country for Australia, and who had been very zealous in his efforts to make himself familiar with Masonry, and very diligent and regular in his attendance at the meetings of the Lodges.

Br. Hamilton returned thanks. After some other toasts, the proceedings were enlivened by a little harmony; and the brethren separated in strict accordance with Forbes Mackenzie's ideas of the time to betake themselves to their own firesides.

AN emergency of the brethren of the Lodge was also held on September 21, for the purpose of initiating a young gentleman who was suddenly called upon to proceed abroad. The ceremony was ably and imposingly performed by Br. Donald Campbell, W.M. of the Lodge. Amongst the visiting brethren present were Br. H. G. Warren, P.M., of 202, London; Br. H. R. Sharman, S.D. of the same Lodge, and Br. John Preston, W.M. 175, Greenock.

The W.M., Br. Donald Campbell, in proposing the health of the newly initiated brother, congratulated the brethren on the fact that St. Mark's Lodge had now attained a very high position in the Craft. More members had been initiated during the past ten years than during the whole period of its previous history. In the chair which he had that moment the honour to fill, had sat the late Marquis of Anglesea, (cheers), Mr. Sheridan Knowles (cheers), Mr. Henry Monteith, of Carstairs, and many other very distinguished men. (Hear, hear).

After the usual toasts the brethren separated.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

GRAND CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.

A meeting of the Grand Chapter of Scotland was held at Edinburgh, on Wednesday, September 19, when the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and

Comp. Gaylor, G.N., reported, that no communication had been received from the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen relative to the charter granted to the spurious Mark Lodge in London.

A report of a committee appointed to visit various Chapters to inspect their working, and give them any information they might require, was then read. It represented Royal Arch Masonry to be generally flourishing, but that several Chapters required considerable instruction as to the proper ceremonies to be observed in exalting a candidate, which the Committee had, as far as possible, imparted to them.

Comp. Gaylor then brought forward a motion to the effect, that as there appeared to be a growing desire in England to obtain the secrets of the Mark Degree in Freemasonry in a legal manner, a committee be appointed to inquire how far the Grand Lodge of Scotland could assist them by the issue of Charters for that degree only.

A short conversation ensued, in which the utmost caution was recommended, in order not to trench on the prerogatives of the Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter of England, and the Committee was appointed.

The Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen was ordered to be struck off the roll of Grand Chapter, and its Charter withdrawn, if immediate measures were not taken to withdraw the Charter granted by the Companions to the London Lodge.

Other business being disposed of, the Chapter was closed and Companions separated.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF SCOTLAND. — On Friday Evening, Sept. 21, the worthy Comps. Dr. Walker Arnott, Regius Professor of Botany in the University of Glasgow; Donald Campbell, M.E.Z., of Chapter No. 50; and other members of the various R.A. Chapters in Glasgow, assembled at the St. Mark's Masonic Hall, for the purpose of formally inaugurating a Provincial Grand Chapter for the Western District of Scotland. The visiting brethren were Comps. H. G. Warren, I. Simmonds, and H. R. Sharman, from London. Comp. Dr. Arnott produced and read his warrant from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, authorising him to open and hold a Provincial Grand Chapter, and appointing him M.E.Z. thereof. He then assumed the 1st Principal's Chair, appointed his P.G. Officers, of whom the following is a correct list:—G. A. Walker Arnott, LL.D., Grand Superintendent or Prov. Grand First Principal, Z.; Donald Campbell, Prov. Grand Second Principal, H.; John Preston, Prov. Grand Third Principal, J.; Roderick M'Kenzie, Prov. Grand Scribe, E.; James Muir, Prov. Grand Scribe, N.; George Jasper Lyon, Prov. Grand Treasurer; James Horne, Prov. Grand First Sojourner; James Campbell, Prov. Grand Second Sojourner; John Ferguson, Prov. Grand Third Sojourner; James Pollock, Prov. Grand Janitor.

The P.G. Chapter was ordered to meet in that hall on the last Fridays in January, April, July, and September, except in cases of emergency, of which the M.E.Z. promised to give the Companions due notice.

The next meeting is fixed for the last Friday in October, when some of the officers appointed, but who were absent on this occasion, will be obligated and invested.

The M.E.Z., Dr. Arnott, then informed the brethren that it would be the duty of this Prov. G. Chapter to look after the various Chapters within the district, and to infuse into them renewed energy, as well as to caution, advise, inform, and correct them with regard to their working. Some of these Chapters were nearly dormant, so that there would be plenty of work for them to do. (Hear.) It would be his object to visit as many of these Chapters as he could, and see if he could not rouse them up to do something. (Hear, hear.) Those which were actually dormant he had no power to resuscitate without leave from the S. G. Chapter; but that body would not withhold its sanction to revive any Chapter for which there was a good case made out. (Hear, hear.) He should visit the different Chapters personally, and converse with the individuals belonging to them, in order to see what could be done to bring them into a more efficient condition. He trusted that he should have health and leisure for these duties, as well as for those of the Provincial Grand Lodge, as he was P.G.M. for the same district.

The Provincial Grand Chapter was then closed.

GLASGOW CHAPTER (No. 50).—On the 14th of September, at the usual meeting of this Chapter, a Brother was duly exalted by the M.E.G. Companion Donald Campbell. There were three English visiting companions present viz. Comp. H. G. Warren, of No. 91, 259 and 778; Comp. Simmonds, No. 812, Comp. R. Sharman of No. 778. Companions Warren and Simmonds were duly exalted to the degrees of Excellent Master, and Mark Master Masons; Companion Sharman, who was previously a Mark Master Mason, (Irish Lodge of Justice No. 37, Jersey) was also obligated in that degree, and passed through the ceremonies with the other companions. The three companions were next obligated as Royal Arch (Scotch) Masons having taken that degree in England, and they were then affiliated as members of this Chapter. The Companions having been called off from labour to refreshment,

The M.E.Z. Comp. Campbell, gave the health of the newly initiated Companion, which was duly responded to.

The M.E.Z. said, that he had now to ask them to drink to the newly affiliated Comps, of Chapter No. 50, and prosperity to the Grand Chapter of England. One of those Comps. he had to introduce to them as the Editor of the *Masonic Mirror*, a work which he believed was known to nearly every Companion of that Chapter. He was delighted to welcome Comp. Warren to Scotland, and at having the pleasure of affiliating him with Chapter No. 50, by which he had been enabled perfectly to observe the differences of the working in the two countries—and he should be much pleased whenever his avocations would allow him to visit Scotland, at seeing him in their Lodge and Chapter-room—as he evidently, from the tone of the *Masonic Mirror*, took the deepest interest in the welfare of Freemasonry. (Cheers.)

The toast having been drunk,—

Comp. Warren returned thanks, and begged to express his great obligation for the high honor they had conferred upon him in having elected him an honorary member, and affiliated him with their Chapter. He knew of no higher honor that could have been paid to him, and through him to the *Masonic Mirror*, which it should always be his endeavour to make worthy of the support of the brethren. He was sure, that the members of the Grand Chapter of England were at all times anxious to do everything in their power to promote the welfare of Royal Arch Masonry, and that the members of the various private Chapters would ever be glad to welcome their Scottish Companions amongst them. He had been much pleased with the way in which the ceremony of that evening had been performed, and the intimate knowlege which the M.E.Z. evidently possessed, not only of the Scotch, but the English ritual. Before he resumed his seat, they would probably permit him to propose the health of that worthy Companion. (Cheers.) He should deem it presumption to do so had his acquaintance with Comp. Campbell commenced that night—it had not done so, though it was true, only a few days had passed since he first met Comp. Campbell; but from the day the *Masonic Mirror* was first started he had been in constant communication with him, and had received from their worthy M.E.Z. most valuable advice and assistance—which, he had great pleasure in thus being enabled to acknowledge in Chapter No. 50, where he appeared to be so well known, and so highly esteemed. (Cheers.) He would ask them to join him in drinking the health of Comp. Campbell, and prosperity to St. Mark's Lodge and Chapter No. 50.

Comp. Campbell thanked Comp. Warren for the kind terms in which he had proposed the toast, and the other Comps. for the equally kind manner in which they had responded to it. He then said, as Br. Warren has coupled with his toast the name of St. Mark's Lodge, I wish to inform the English brethren, that in Scotland the R.A. is as distinct from the Craft, as the Craft is from Knight Templarism in England. (Hear, hear.) We have no annual subscriptions here, and therefore we have no funds for charitable purposes as the English brethren have. We have only the small fees which we take from candidates at their initiation, but yet the St. Mark's are enabled to spend £50 a-year in charity. (Cheers.) I have, however, long looked forward to the time—and I trust that now it is not far distant—when we shall have these annual subscriptions from the members of the Lodge, and then we shall have funds for charity at our disposal, as the English Masons have. We have 400 or 500 members now on our books, and what would five shillings a-year from each be?

A mere bagatelle! Many English Lodges pay five pounds a-year in the shape of subscription. Were we to make a regulation that five shillings a-year should be subscribed by each member, we should raise 100*l.* instantly; and this, together with our initiation fees, would give us a fund of 200*l.* or 250*l.* at once, and would furnish the nucleus of a Fund of Benevolence such as those which are possessed by England and Ireland. I do hope that we shall soon have some such fund as this, and support the poor sons and daughters of deceased or distressed Freemasons. (Cheers.) So much for St. Mark's Lodge. As members of Chapter 50, we are but the tenants of St. Mark's Lodge; and in this chapter we have members of other Lodges: for we have in Glasgow sixteen Lodges, but only four Chapters. We have as companions in this chapter brethren from five or six different Lodges. When I first joined this Chapter, a few years ago, we had a fund of only 6*l.* Since that time we have spent 70*l.* in regalia—(hear, hear)—and we have money in hand yet. (Hear, and cheers.)

After a brief interval, which was occupied by a song,

The M.E.Z. Campbell said, companions, while in Scotland the Grand Lodge recognizes no degree beyond that of a Master Mason, in England they recognize also the Royal Arch; but if you step across the water to Ireland, the Grand Lodge there recognizes all the degrees, including Templarism, up to the 33rd degree. (Hear.) I have now to ask you to join with me in drinking to the prosperity of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, with which I shall ask you to couple the name of a Companion now present, who is now a member with us, but who is also a member of a Chapter holding of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Ireland. I mean Companion Sharman, whom we are happy to receive here in the same spirit in which we ourselves hope to be received under similar circumstances. Our working in Scotland is a little different from the Mark Master Masonry which he may have seen in the Irish Mark Master Masons Lodge to which he belongs; our working of the Royal Arch degree, also differs from that with which he may be familiar in England. But the landmarks are the same: (hear) and I should greatly rejoice to see the day when our workings in England, Ireland, Scotland, France, and throughout the world, become as nearly alike as they can possibly be made. (Hear, hear.) We have the same deplorable differences in the profession to which I belong; there is one pharmacopœia for England, another for Ireland, and a third for Scotland; so that if an Apothecary here should make up the prescription of an English Physician as it is written, what in England would effect the cure of the patient, would here become a dangerous dose. (Hear, and laughter.) I hope, however, that the day is not far distant when we shall not only have uniformity of Masonic ritual, but also a National Pharmacopœia. (Hear, hear.) I shall now ask you to drink "Prosperity to the Grand Chapter of Ireland, and the health of Companion Sharman, member of a Chapter holding of the same."

The toast having been drunk with great cordiality,—

Comp. Sharman said, M.E.Z. and Comps., he felt exceedingly grateful for the honor conferred upon him in coupling his name with the Grand Chapter of Ireland, to the prosperity of which they had drunk so cordially. His connexion with Irish Masonry was but slight, though his attachment to it was great. One Saturday evening at the banquet table of his mother Lodge (Phœnix, 202, London), there sat next to him a brother wearing the exquisitely chaste little jewel which belonged to the M.M.M. degree. It attracted his attention, and he began to make enquiries of the Brother respecting the degree. The result of the conversation was that he promised to propose him (Br. Sharman) a member of a M.M.M. Lodge with which he was connected. He was greatly pleased at the time, but he had since learned that the Lodge in question had no legitimate authority for acting; only a warrant from a daughter Chapter, whereas in England they recognized no warrants from anybody but Supreme Grand Lodges or Chapters. He then looked forward to his introduction to that Lodge (known as the Bon Accord M.M.M. Lodge, meeting in London), with great pleasure; but, alas for the uncertainty of sublunary affairs, the brother who was to introduce him went home apparently in full health, and the next day—which was the Sabbath—he suddenly expired! Some time after this, still desiring to take the M.M.M. degree, he discovered, whilst on a visit to Jersey, that there was a M.M.M. Lodge held there. He asked to be allowed to take the degree, and the

Jersey brethren, with a kindness and cordiality which he should never forget, called a Lodge for that especial purpose. In return, he exerted himself to secure other candidates for the same honor from amongst the Jersey Masons who were qualified to take it; and here again meeting with the same kindness from the Brethren, he presented himself at the door of the Lodge, not a solitary candidate, but with 16 Comps. (Cheers.) They took the degree, which was substantially the same as that which he had seen worked that evening by their excellent M.E.Z.; but the ceremonial was more elaborate, and he thought in some respects preferable, although the charges were not so lucid and comprehensive as those in the Scottish Ceremony. Such was his connexion with the G. Chapter of Ireland—for this was in the Irish Lodge of Justice, No. 37—and as there appeared to be no other Irish Mason present, he begged most respectfully and cordially to thank them for their good wishes in respect of the G. Chapter of Ireland, as well as for the kind manner in which the M.E.Z. had been pleased to couple his name with so important and interesting a toast. (Cheers.)

After several other toasts, the brethren separated at an early hour.

THE ANNUAL BANQUET.

The annual meeting of this very flourishing Chapter was held Sept. 24, at the St. Mark's Hall, Glasgow. The Chapter having been duly opened, the following Companions were appointed, obligated, and invested as officers of the Chapter for the ensuing year:—Donald Campbell, Z; James Horne, H; John M. Rowand, J; Robert Mitchell, E; Robert Thomson, jun., N; Alexander Mc Donald, Treasurer; James Noble Sutherland, 1st Sojourner; James B. Murdoch, 2nd Sojourner; James P. Stewart, 3rd Sojourner; Henry Johnstone, Sup. of Works; James Pollock, Janitor; Proxy Principal, Edward Main.

At the conclusion of the business, the company adjourned to a very elegant dinner.

The M.E.Z. Comp. Donald Campbell presided, and gave "The Queen and the Craft." The Masons, he said, were a loyal body; they always drank this toast with enthusiasm, and never more so, in that Chapter, than when as now, Her Most Gracious Majesty was spending her time amongst her Scottish subjects.

The toast was drank with great applause.

The M.E.Z. then proposed "The Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland," with which he coupled the name of Companion Dr. Arnott, the D.G.Z. of Scotland."

This toast having been duly honored, Comp. Dr. Arnott, returned thanks. The Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland had not been many years in existence. Previous to that period, Arch Masonry in Scotland, was mixed up very much with the Knight Templars. Somewhere about 1811, under the auspices of the Duke of Kent, separate charters were issued for the Knight Templars' Encampments, and the consequence was, that for some years Royal Arch Masonry in Scotland was without any head. About 1818, they got the Chapters to agree to submit to a head in the shape of the Supreme Grand Chapter as it now existed, and since that time Royal Arch Masonry had made very great progress. There were many Chapters at first which would not yield obedience, till lately, when he (Dr. Arnott) came to Glasgow, and then, partly by the Companions leaving the irregular Chapters, and applying to the Supreme Chapter for proper charters, and partly from other causes, the irregular Chapters gradually disappeared, and at this moment he believed there was not in Scotland a Royal Arch Chapter at all in a working state which did not hold regularly under the Supreme Grand Chapter. (*Hear and cheers.*) He had held his position as D.G.Z. for a number of years consecutively, except during one year, when it was desired to place in his chair a gentleman who had rendered some service to the Edinburgh Masons; but that gentleman found the duties of the office too onerous for him, and resigned at the expiration of the first 12 months. On being applied to again to allow himself to be put in nomination for the office, he (Dr. Arnott) consented on this condition, viz., if he should be elected without a dissensient voice he would serve, if not, he would not. This condition having being strictly fulfilled, he consented to serve the office, and had served accordingly ever since. His post was by no means a sinecure. There were a great many duties connected with it which did not meet the public eye, and which would not do exactly even to

come before the General Committee. Numbers of letters came to him privately, and he attended to them, so that his post, though unpaid, was by no means a merely nominal office. Great confusion had existed with respect to the laws; there were additions and alterations being perpetually made, till at length the Chapters did not know what was law, and what was not. Under these circumstances, at the request, and with the assistance of the Supreme Grand Chapter, he undertook the preparation of the code of laws which now existed in a printed form, and by which Royal Arch Masonry throughout Scotland was governed. This was a step which had been attended with good results. (Hear, hear.) The Supreme Chapter and himself were naturally very much linked together by these joint exertions; he therefore returned thanks on his own account, and on behalf of the Supreme Grand Chapter with which he had the honor to be so closely connected. (Cheers.)

"The Army and Navy" was next given, and responded to by Comp. Taylor.

The M.E Z., Donald Campbell, then gave "the Grand Chapter of England," with which he associated the name of Comp. Warren.

Comp. Warren returned thanks. As an humble representative of the Grand Chapter of England, he felt gratified at the manner in which they had referred to that body, and at the same time he had personally to return thanks for the great kindness and hospitality which he had experienced at their hands since he had been in Scotland. Their excellent Principal Z. and Companion Arnott, he had long known by correspondence, and he was delighted with the opportunity which this visit to Scotland had afforded him of personal intercourse with them. He had observed that though there was a diversity between the English and Scotch working, the Scotch Chapters had preserved all the ancient landmarks and every essential portion of the ceremony; but in England, the Mark Masters degree had been struck out of the Arch and dispensed with in English Chapters, though it was said there were still charters in England under which that degree might be worked. There was a strong feeling, however, in favour of the legitimate re-introduction of the Mark Degree in England, and the subject had quietly, if not openly, been brought before members of the Grand Lodge; and in fact, two or three of the Grand Officers had actually gone so far as to have themselves initiated in the so-called Bon Accord M.M.M. Lodge, the authority of which was denied, simply to see what the degree was. Their opinions not having become publicly expressed, he could not reveal them, but he believed they were by no means of an unfavourable kind. (Hear, hear.) There was a growing feeling in favour of Freemasonry throughout England. He would very much like the workings of Masonry so to harmonize, that a brother might feel equally at home on entering a Lodge whether in England, Scotland, Ireland, France, or any other part of the globe. They had some differences, no doubt, in Scotland, which appeared novel and strange to the English Mason; they had also a custom of advancing candidates much more rapidly than was thought proper in England. But, as he had had no opportunity of fairly watching the influence of this practice, he should not venture to pronounce any decided opinion on the subject. He would only state the English practice was thought best for England, and he agreed in that opinion. There was, however, one point, on which there was no difference, either of opinion or of practice, and that was as to the manner in which they ought to receive strangers. (Cheers.) He had been delighted with the cordiality with which they had received him, and he could only say, that if any of them came to London, and asked for him at the Freemasons' Tavern, he should be glad to welcome them, and he gave them this invitation in the name of the five or six Lodges and several Chapters to which he belonged (Cheers.)

The M.E.Z. then gave "The Grand Chapter of Ireland, and the Health of Companion Sharman."

Companion Sharman returned thanks. In the absence of any one more intimately connected with Irish Masonry, it afforded him great pleasure to thank them for their good wishes to that portion of the Craft, as well as for the honour they had done him in associating his name with that excellent and respected body of men the Grand Chapter of Ireland; and for the general cordiality with which he had been received by

the members of the Glasgow Lodges, both when "tyled in," and when wandering about their beautiful country. As to the Mark Lodge, it appeared to be now admitted that the Bon Accord London M.M.M. Lodge was irregular, and must be discontinued. He hoped, however, that a legitimate Lodge in that Degree might soon be opened in London. Authority was the keystone upon which the safety of the Masonic Order depended, and it must be respected if that Order was to be long preserved. From the cordial manner in which Comp. Warren had taken up the subject in the *Masonic Mirror*—even before he was himself a Mark Master, and from the general tone of Masonic authorities in Scotland, he thought there was reason to hope, that soon there would be a Mark Lodge in London, legitimately constituted, respectably conducted, numerously attended, and powerful both in the numbers and the character of its members. (Hear, hear.)

The M.E.Z. then gave the Principal Grand Chapter for the West of Scotland, and Dr. Arnott, the P.G.Z. thereof.

Dr. Arnott returned thanks.—He had been proposed to the Office of P.G.Z. without his knowledge or consent; but he had yielded to the wishes of the Supreme Grand Chapter, and would do his best to fulfil the duties assigned to him. (Cheers.) He eulogised Chapter, No. 50, which he thought was one of the best in his district. He next referred to the great difficulty experienced in times, which he could well remember, in getting up meetings in this degree; and said he could recollect with regret a period when a candidate was often admitted for the sake of the fees, but this was, happily, no longer the case. (Hear.) Nor was there any need for such a state of things, as their funds were ample. (Cheers.) There was no excuse now for their regarding anything but the personal character of the candidates. (Applause.) He concluded by proposing "the health of their M.E.Z., Donald Campbell, and prosperity to the Glasgow Chapter No. 50," to which although they were in some sense toasting themselves (Loud laughter), he trusted they would all stand up. The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm.

The M.E.Z., Donald Campbell, returned thanks. He could well recollect the period referred to by Comp. Dr. Arnott, when, instead of the goodly gathering of tha evening, there were two or three of them waiting from eight till ten without correct or a sufficient number to open the Chapter. The date of that state of things was not very distant. Happily, now, they were in a different position, and so long as he had health and leisure he would devote it to the promotion of their prosperity. During the past year they had exalted 27 brethren, (cheers), during the previous year, only 17, and during the year before that, but 13 (hear, hear); for the three years before that period only 7 or 8. (Hear, hear). The Order was now beginning to take a vigorous stand, not through the labours of any particular individuals, but in consequence of the vigorous and united exertions of all the companions. (Cheers).

Comp. Murdock proposed "The health of the retiring officers," who he said had worked with great zeal and ability.

Comp. Lyon returned thanks, but denied he was of a "retiring" disposition, inasmuch as he had just been appointed to office in the Provincial Grand Chapter. (Laughter). He was in fact, Treasurer of the Provincial Grand Chapter, and would have for the present charge of about enough to purchase pens, ink, and paper for summonses, (cheers), which he would direct his clerks to address and send round, with a great deal of pleasure. (Applause).

Comp. White, in a brief speech, proposed the new office bearers, to which Comp. Mitchell responded, and expressed a hope that they would leave the Chapter to their successors, at least in as good a position as they found it on taking office.

"The Trustees of St. Mark's Hall," was the next toast, to which Comp. Notman responded in an appropriate speech.

Comp. McDonald proposed the health of the Second Principal.

Comp. Horne returned thanks. He expressed his gratitude for the attention and instruction for which he had in the past been indebted to Comps. Dr. Arnott and Donald Campbell; and hoped, with their and other assistance, to fulfil the duties of his new office with satisfaction to all concerned. (Hear, hear.)

"The Sister Chapters of the West of Scotland," was the next toast; followed by, "The Treasurer and Stewards of the Banquet," which was given by Comp. Lyon, in a very humourous speech.

Comp. Warren then proposed, "The Ladies, and Comp. Lyon," to which the worthy Companion replied, in a speech which elicited roars of laughter, from the assembled Companions.

Comp. Notman gave, "Prosperity to Chapter No. 50, and the health of the last exalted Companion, Forester," to which Comp. Forester returned thanks.

Comp. McDonald then sang a very beautiful Masonic song, entitled, "The Changes of Life."

Several Other Companions also favoured the Chapter with a little harmony.

Comp. Notman proposed, "All Poor and Distressed Masons," &c.

The M. E. Z. then closed the meeting in the usual way.

ROYAL ORDER.

A meeting of the members of this order (of which the King of Scotland—or Great Britain, when there is one, is always the Supreme head,) was held in St. Mark's Hall, Glasgow, on Tuesday last, the 25th Sept., when Br. H.G. Warren and Br. Wm. Forester were duly initiated into its mysteries and became knights of the Rosy Cross —a distinct Order from the Rose Croix, to which, however, its members by a recent arrangement, are entitled to be advanced at reduced fees. The ceremonies were ably performed by Br. Dr. Arnott, and Br. Donald Campbell.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MARK DEGREE.

SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

Edinburgh, 21st Sept., 1855.

SIR AND BROTHER,—I annex, for your information, copy deliverance of this body in reference to the charge made against the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen, in having improperly and illegally issued to certain parties in London a warrant for exercising the Mark Degree there, and remain,

Sir and Brother,

Your very obedient Servant,

WM. GAYLOR, G.S.N.

(Copy referred to.)

Edinburgh, 19th Sept., 1855.

It having been reported to the Supreme Chapter that no communication had been received from Companion Rettie, First Principal of the Bon Accord Chapter, Aberdeen, in answer to their former deliverance calling upon that Chapter to report that they had withdrawn the Mark warrant which had been improperly and illegally issued by them for constituting a Mark Master's Lodge in London, are unanimously of opinion that such conduct infers a want of respect towards the Supreme Body, and a refusal to comply with its decisions. They, therefore, as well on account of the irregularity which has been committed, as of this act of disobedience, suspend the said Chapter of Bon Accord, Aberdeen, from their privileges as a body of R.A. Masons, and until such time as effect shall have been given to the Order made upon them, and the warrant in question delivered up, in order to its being cancelled.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

Aberdeen, Sept. 21st, 1855.

SIR,—Having seen a letter in your last number, from Scribe N., of the Supreme Chapter of Scotland, Wm. Gaylor, will you permit me to reply to some statements which that letter contains, as they are not consistent with fact.

Scribe N. states, "if the Aberdeen Chapter is correct, and has been fulfilling its

obligations to the Mother Chapter, *Dr. Jones is not a member of it, and never received any degree whatever from that source, his name not appearing recorded in the books of the Supreme Chapter, which is the only criterion of acknowledged legitimacy.* It is to be doubted, therefore, whether the others stand in any different position."

When I read this, I immediately wrote to Scribe N., requesting a list of members affiliated into the Bon Accord Chapter; also the list of office-bearers elected in 1854 (it should have been 1853). Upon the 13th, I received from Scribe N. a list of the Companions who had been exalted in the Chapter, along with a list of original members. Dr. Jones's name was not in either list, the office-bearers for 1854 were correctly given, but the answer for the list of 1853 was, that the return had not been filled up. I will transpose the extract from the letter above quoted, and without hesitation say, that the Supreme Chapter is not correct, that it has not been fulfilling its obligations to the daughter Chapters, that Dr. Jones is a member of the Bon Accord Chapter, that he received three degrees (Mark, Past, and Excellent), and must have done so before being affiliated into it, that his name does appear to be recorded in the books of the Supreme Chapter, the only criterion of acknowledged legitimacy. What are the facts of the case? Companion Jones was affiliated into the Chapter, Sept. 23rd, 1851; his name, along with the recording dues, was sent to the Supreme Chapter, January 23rd, 1852, for which *monies* we have a receipt signed by the Grand Treasurer, who at length sets forth that "Wm. Jones, of the Royal York Chapter, No. 7, of England," is recorded in the books of the Supreme Chapter, as a member of the Bon Accord Chapter, No. 70, Aberdeen; this, in my opinion, and I think Scribe N. will coincide with me, is *the only criterion of acknowledged legitimacy.* And still further (to guard the character of my friend, the late Daniel Robertson, then Grand Treasurer), if Scribe N. will look at the accounts of the Supreme Chapter for the year 1851-52, he will find it published that a sum of money was paid by the Bon Accord Chapter, for recording the name of a Companion; the name of that Companion was Dr. Jones; how comes the name to be omitted from the record;—perhaps the "recording angel," having some slight prophetic compunction, "dropped a tear upon the word, and blotted it out for ever." Companion Jones was elected one of the office-bearers of the Chapter in 1853; how it happened that the annual return made by Chapter No. 70 that year was not filled up, I cannot say, but this I know, that it was the Grand Scribe's duty to see that it was filled up. As to the other members "forming the London Bon Accord," if you permit me in your next number, I will show you "*the glaring amount of ignorance displayed*" (his own words) by Scribe N., with reference to them, and of his knowledge of the laws and regulations of the Supreme Chapter. I think that I have already pointed out some facts which I hope will be of use to him in future, so that he may not be so very confident in his assertions, let him bear in mind that assertions are not facts, even when made by a Grand Scribe; such individuals are not infallible, as can be proved by the many errors which his letter contains, errors not entirely the fault of the printer.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES RETTIE,

First Principal, Chapter No. 70.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR AND BROTHER,—You will probably receive many comments on the very extraordinary letter of Comp. Gaylor, Scribe N. for Scotland, which appeared in your number for September, on the subject of the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters.

It must be admitted that the Bon Accord Chapter of Aberdeen has no power to grant warrants to hold Chapters or Lodges either in Scotland or elsewhere, and that the warrant granted by it to hold the London Bon Accord Lodge is a nullity. But the London Bon Accord Lodge is not on that account either a spurious or an illegal body. The Supreme Chapter of Scotland may, as long as it pleases, thunder forth its anathemas against the London Bon Accord Lodge. That Lodge is composed of a very large

body of men, occupying, many of them, the highest station in society, men of the greatest intelligence, capable of judging between right and wrong, and are, therefore, not likely to be swayed by the *ipse dixit* of any one. The majority are good working Masons, and very many of them of superior Masonic talent. They, on mature consideration, are of opinion, and insist that being, as they are, according to the constitutions, regular Mark Masters, meeting and working in strict conformity to the ancient landmarks, they are a perfectly legal and regular body, and need not, for their meeting in England, any warrant whatever. Indeed, there is not at present in existence any body authorized to grant them a warrant. The Supreme Chapter of Ireland or Scotland have no power to grant a warrant to hold a Chapter in England. They grant warrants to hold Chapters in the colonies, but they have no power to do so, and there is quite as much ground (perhaps more) for saying that Chapters meeting in the colonies under warrants granted by the Supreme Grand Chapters of Ireland and Scotland are spurious and illegal, as that the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters is so. But Companion Gaylor, from the tenor of his letter, would not have us think so. He evidently wishes us to believe, that if the London Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters had taken a warrant from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, and paid the fees for it, all would have been correct, but the London Bon Accord Lodge unfortunately did not pay any fees to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, and "*Hinc illæ lachrymæ.*"

I think, however, that the London Bon Accord Lodge ought, without delay, to return the warrant to Companion Rettie, in order that it may be destroyed, and he be relieved from his present difficulty.

I am, Sir, and Brother,
Yours fraternally,
M. M.

20th Sept., 1855.

THE WIDOW'S FUND.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—There are many brethren who, like your correspondents of last month, deplore the limited means at the disposal of our Annuity Funds. I know many who would gladly exert themselves to promote the REAL OBJECT of the Charity—*the relief of existing cases of distress*—but their ardour is damped by the reflection that no such object could be gained; that nearly the whole of the results of their exertions, instead of being available for the pressing exigencies of the present, would be engulphed by the "Permanent Fund."

It is much to be regretted that there should be any obstacle to active co-operation in support of this excellent Institution, whilst so many brethren are crying for help. The Widows' Annuity Fund is limited to £4,000 (and that is a large sum), which is a practical recognition by the Grand Lodge itself of the *principle* of limitation; which appears to be as applicable to the one Charity as to the other. It is the general opinion of those conversant with such subjects, that the Fund should not be allowed to accumulate beyond £10,000; and by many that £8,000 would be amply sufficient for the purposes for which it is intended. I think, therefore, that it should be limited to one of these amounts, or increased only by Bequests, so that all Donations and Subscriptions may be afterwards applied to meet the claims as they arise.

I have no doubt that the rejection of so many candidates has deeply excited the sympathies of the Craft, and trust that it will lead to earnest endeavours on their part to prevent the recurrence of such painful results. Knowing by personal experience what may be done by individual exertion, I would strongly urge the more energetic amongst the Fraternity to do their utmost to stimulate less active brethren to subscribe to these charities, and to solicit donations and subscriptions from others. I am convinced that if the subject were to be properly agitated, and the principle of limitation adopted, such a sum would be annually raised as would render the Fund adequate to the relief of the necessities of all proper applicants, and thus entirely sweep away the

system of elections, which I cannot but regard as antagonistic to the principles of our Order. In aid of which, and as an humble example to brethren generally, I pledge myself, to continue to collect not less than £10 per annum in favour of one or both of these Funds; and if only one member of each of the 125 London Lodges would do the like, the sum of £1,250 would be raised (independent of the subscription of each Lodge itself); and if the same course were adopted in the 429 country Lodges, at only £5 each, the large sum of £2,295 would be added, being a total of £3,545 per annum.

I am, dear Sir, and Brother,
Faithfully and Fraternally yours,
SAMUEL ALDRICH.

Hampstead, 20th August, 1855.

THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

Clerkenwell, 20th August, 1855.

SIR AND BROTHER,—I observe that in your latter numbers of the above work, are inserted communications on this important subject, complaining of the present difficulties under which our institutions are labouring, but not pointing out a removal or a remedy.

I therefore submit, that as we register about 900 Lodges, under the English constitution, and averaging ten members only to each, that the Lodges as a body contribute two guineas, and individual members averaging five shillings per head (say by 1st December next), would realise over £5,000. This I consider a minimum. Let it be done for the next ten years, would = £50,000: divided between the charities, would give each £12,500. This subscription not to interfere with the annual festivals.

The method of collection to be as follows:—On appeal from the M.W.G.M. to the several Provincial G. Masters, and from thence to the Masters of Lodges in the Provinces, who shall make the collections, and return the same to the Provincial Grand Masters or their Deputies, and by them transmitted to Br. White, Grand Secretary, Freemasons' Hall, London.

I humbly conceive by this very moderate claim on the Fraternity, the charities will be placed on a respectable footing.

Fraternally yours,
AN OLD P.M. AND SUBSCRIBER.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER.

THE COURT.

Her Majesty, after her return from her auspicious visit to the Emperor of the French, remained with the other members of the royal family and Court at Osborne, until the 5th inst., when they left that marine residence for the Highlands of Scotland. They stopped that evening in Buckingham Palace, and started the next morning for the North *viâ* the Great Northern Railway from King's Cross. By some neglectful oversight on the part of the officials of that line, the wheels of the royal carriage were inadequately oiled, in consequence of which the axle got hot, and so heated the saloon, that when the train approached Darlington, it became necessary for her Majesty's comfort, if not for her personal safety, to remove her to an ordinary first-class carriage. The royal party lunched at York, and proceeded at once from that city to Edinburgh, where they spent the night in the ancient palace of Holyrood. In the morning Prince Albert inspected the progress of the building, of which he a few years since laid the corner stone, and which is intended as a National Gallery for the Modern Athens. In the afternoon the Court left Holyrood for Balmoral, where her

Majesty has since been enjoying the fresh air of her northern dominions, and Prince Albert amusing himself with deer stalking, and other field-sports, in which the Prince of Prussia, who has been Her Majesty's guest since the 14th, has participated.

THE WAR.

Last month we had to record the successful attack of the fleets, upon the fortification, of Sweaborg, but now we have with pride and exultation, to record the storming and capture of Sebastopol, together with the seizure of the immense stores of cannon, gunpowder, and projectiles left behind them, by the enemy. We have also to state that a squadron, consisting of ships from the fleets of the Allies, paid a visit to Petropaulorski, which they found deserted by the inhabitants and garrison. They completely destroyed it. These glorious events have not, however, been unattended by heavy losses on the part of the Allies, both in officers, and non-commissioned officers, and privates. On the part of the English, no general officer was slain, but the same pall, which England sorrowing, throws over the slain before Sebastopol, covers the body of a veteran of the last war, the gallant Lieutenant-General Sir George Napier, one of the three brave sons of the "Lass of Richmond Hill," and brother to our revered brother in Masonry, the *late* Sir Charles Napier, the conqueror of Scinde, and to General Sir Wm. Napier, the historian of the Peninsular War.

COMMERCIAL.

On the 28th of August, the proprietors of the Sambre and Meuse Railway met, and allowed 9169*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, the profits of the line, (now open throughout), for the last half year, to remain in the hands of the Directors, to enable them to meet some of the liabilities of the Company.

On the same day, the proprietors of the Newry and Enniskillen line, by a large majority, rejected the report of the Directors. The receipts of the line for the six months, ending the 30th of June, amounted to 1344*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*, and the expenditure to 701*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*, leaving in hand a balance of 643*l.* 15*s.*, out of which the Directors recommended a dividend of one shilling per share.

The General Steam Navigation Company, also met on this day, and divided 14*s.* per share, a dividend equivalent to 10 per cent.

The British Telegraph Company also met on this day, and empowered to raise additional capital to the extent of £66,000 on preferential stock, to bear 7 per cent. if terminable in 5 years, or 5 per cent in perpetuity.

This day too, the proprietors of the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton line held their half yearly meeting, and after dividing 2 per cent. on their preferential stock, authorized the Directors to enter into arrangements with the London and North Western and Midland Counties for the working of the line. They also empowered them to raise the sum of £49,000 by mortgage on the Stourbridge Canals, and agreed to consolidate into the Company's Stock, the shares of the Chipping Norton Branch.

On the 29th, the English, Scotch and Australian Bank declared a dividend of 4 per cent., and carried £240 to the Reserve Fund.

On the same day, the Southampton Dock Company divided 17*s.* 6*d.* per share, out of the profits of the last half year, being equivalent to 3½ per cent. per annum. The accounts showed an increase of 4173*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, on the receipts of the half year, over those of the corresponding six months of 1854.

The North Devon Railway Company met the same day, and divided 3*s.* 9*d.* per share of £20, and 3*s.* on each £16 share, carrying 172*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* to the revenue account of the current six months.

At the Ambergate and Boston Railway Company's meeting, also held on this day, a dividend of 2*s.* 2*d.* per share, was declared.

The Vale of Neath Company, the same day, declared a dividend of 3*l.* 15*s.* per cent.

On the 30th, the Australian Investment Company, at a special meeting, increased the amount of their capital from £50,000 to £100,000, and raised the amount of

their shares from £1 to £10 each, in order to come within the scope of the Limited Liability Act.

At the meeting of the South Eastern Company, held the same day, the Directors reported an increase of £10,066 in the receipts of the half year, and recommended a dividend of 8*s*. 6*d*. per share. A resolution condemnatory of the Parliamentary treatment of railway property was agreed to, and power given to the Directors to convert £1,000,000 out of the bonded debt of the Company, into Debenture Stock.

On the same day, the South Devon Directors reported to their constituents an increase of 2540*l*. 5*s*. 0¾*d*. in their receipts for the last half year, chiefly occasioned by the conveyance of troops and military stores. They declared a dividend at the rate of 5*s*. 6*d*. per share.

The Dublin and Drogheda Company met the same day, and 30*s*. per old share of £75, and 10*s*. per £25 share was declared.

On the 31st, the Eastern Counties' Company held their half yearly meeting on which occasion a committee of the shareholders was appointed to inquire into the management of the company. A dividend at the rate of 4*s*. 6*d*. per share was declared out of the profits, leaving £1745 13*s*. 2*d*. to be carried to the account of the next six months.

The allied companies, namely, the Eastern Union and the Norfolk, met the same day, the former divided six per cent. on each £100, A. share, and four per cent on each £100, B. share. The latter declared a dividend of £1 5*s*. per cent. for the half year, on the ordinary stock of the Company.

Mr. Talbot, M.P., as chairman of the South Wales Company, explained at the meeting of the shareholders held this day, that by the award of Sir William Cubitt, the Company paid fully thirty per cent. too much for locomotive power to the Great Western Company, so that they were in that position, that any increase of traffic, so long as the award was in force, would be a loss to them. A dividend of three per cent. per annum, was declared.

The same day, the shareholders of the Somerset (Central Line) divided four per cent., and those of the South Yorkshire and River Dun four per cent. on their guaranteed, and £1 10*s*. per share on their ordinary capital.

The Llynvey Valley Company also met this day, and divided four per cent.

At the meeting of the Dundalk and Enniskillen shareholders, also held this day, a dividend at the rate of 6*s*. per share was declared.

On the 5th of September, the Submarine Telegraph Company met, and reported that the receipts for the half year had been 8382*l*. 16*s*. 11*d*., the disbursements had been 2937*l*. 19*s*., so that there remained a balance of 5444*l*. 17*s*. 11*d*., available for a dividend; one of 6 per cent., was declared, being a reduction of one per cent. on the last one.

At an adjourned meeting of the Thames Haven Railway and Dock Company, for the purpose of declaring the state of a poll taken on the proposition for selling the Company's surplus land at Thames Haven, a great majority was opposed to the proposition and in favor of the Company proceeding at once with the construction of the docks, for which purpose, a call of 5*s*. per share was agreed to.

The Lancaster and Yorkshire proprietors also met to-day and divided four per cent. There had been on the line an increase of the traffic to the extent of about 2¾ per cent. over that of the corresponding six months of last year, and a decrease in the working expenses from 44 per cent. to 42 per cent.

On the 6th, the Bank of England raised the interest from 3½ to 4 per cent.

On the 7th, the Midland Great Western of Ireland Railway Company divided their profits at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, carrying £3,682 9*s*. 7*d*. to the Reserve Fund, which now amounts to £30,000, and leaving a surplus of £5,165 8*s*. 11*d*.

On the 13th, the Shropshire Union Company reported their net profits for the half year to amount to £18,712, out of which they divided £2 7*s*. 6*d*. per cent.

PROVIDENT.

The Norwich Life Assurance Society lately published a report of the progress of their business for the last eighteen months, from which it appeared, that in 1854, they paid policies to the amount of £162,144 13*s.* 7*d.*, which had become claimed by reason of the deaths of the assured, together with £33,372 5*s.* 9*d.*, the aggregate amount of the bonuses upon them. They also paid £5,288 3*s.* 10*d.* for the surrender of policies assuring £28,995. Within the same period some of the assured allowed policies insuring £44,179 9*s.* to lapse. The number of policies in force thus became to be decreased to the aggregate value of £235,319 2*s.* 7*d.* The new business for the year consisted of 609 policies insuring £313,569 7*s.* 3*d.*, and yielding a premium income of £10,187 5*s.* 7*d.* per annum, being an increase of the insurances in force of no less than £78,250 4*s.* 8*d.* For the first six months of the present year the new policies numbered 587, insuring £275,183 10*s.* 2*d.*, at the annual premium of 9,335*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.* The policies in force on the 30th of June, were in number 8,510, and they insured the sum of £5,402,075.

On the 4th of September, the Railway Passengers' Assurance Company declared a dividend of 4 per cent., and resolved to assure against accidents of every description.

On the 7th, the Conservative Land Society held its annual meeting. The Society has already sold land to the value of 114,336*l.* 10*s.* The rights of choice have invariably been sold at a considerable premium.

BENEVOLENT.

Connected with the benevolent institutions of the Metropolis, the most remarkable circumstances of the month, have been the rural fete, given to the children of the St. Ann's Asylum, and the magnificent bequest of the late Mrs. Harriet Richardson, of 12,000*l.* to the Institution for Aged and Distressed Governesses.

On the 4th, at the quarterly court of the Philanthropic Society, the Secretary stated, that during the last three months, 40 boys had been admitted into the Society's Reformatory, and 52 discharged from it, of whom 35 emigrated, 12 were provided with employment, and 5 either deserted or were discharged as incorrigible.

On the 13th, at the 4th annual meeting of the friends of the Sailors' Home at Portsmouth, it was stated that the deposits of the sailors, which, during the first year the institution was open, amounted only to 649*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, last year reached the sum of 3411*l.* 19*s.* 9½*d.* The first year there had been 418 boarders, and last year 919. The same proportion appeared in the number of casual meals served, and in the other statistical items, shewing the growing usefulness of the establishment.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the 23th of August, a frightful murder was discovered at Cudham, near Bromley. The assassin, supposed to be a ticket-of-leave convict, entered a cottage with the object of robbing it, but being opposed by the wife of its owner, he brutally murdered her, and savagely beat an old woman, the husband's mother.

The Overland Mail, received the same day, brought the intelligence of a shocking scene of bloodshed, perpetrated in a road near Canton, where some hundreds of the Chinese rebels were put to death by decapitation, as a punishment for their disaffection. The same mail also brought tidings of a dangerous insurrection of the Santals, a people inhabiting the Razmahal territory, in the Bengal Presidency. The outbreak has been attributed to tyrannical rule on the part of the servants of the East India Company.

The Birmingham Musical Festival in aid of the funds for the support of the General Hospital, commenced this day, and closed upon the 31st. The total receipts amounted to 11,537*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, being an increase of 898*l.* 16*s.*, on those of last year.

On the 29th, a coroner's jury at Dover, returned a verdict of Manslaughter against the officers in charge of the "Vivid," a steam vessel belonging to the Dover, Calais, and Ostend Company, which had, as mentioned in our summary last month, run down

a collier outside Dover Harbour, on the night of the 11th of August, whereby the captain and some others were drowned.

On the same day, a train ran over the body of a child, who had strayed upon the South Western line, near Guildford.

On the 30th, the Lords of the Admiralty, accompanied by the Home Secretary, paid an official visit to Cork Harbour, and inspected the works at Haulbowline, and the convict establishment at Spike Island.

The South London Floricultural Society closed the season with a magnificent flower show at Cremorne Gardens.

There was also on this day a formal meeting of the Convocation of the province of Canterbury. The Chambers only met for the purpose of adjournment.

An accident of a very distressing character, occurred this day in Haversham Bay, resulting in the death of three young men, pupils of the scientific school there, who, while bathing, were carried by a ground swell, into deep waters, and drowned.

On the 31st, Isabella Mary Jolly, was committed from the Westminster Police Court, charged with the murder of her mother at Brompton, of which mention was made in our summary of last month.

The same day died Feargus O'Connor, late Member for Nottingham, and for a long time previously to his being afflicted with lunacy, a distinguished popular leader. The unfortunate man died in circumstances of great distress. The working classes in large numbers attended his remains to Kensal Green Cemetery, on the 10th ult., and by subscription among themselves, defrayed the expenses of his funeral.

On the 1st of September, the Rt. Hon. Sir J. Graham, Bart., cut the first sod of a branch of the Port Carlisle line to Silloth Bay.

On the same day, Sir Charles Napier made public the correspondence which passed between himself while in command of the Baltic fleet, and the Rt. Hon. Baronet, Sir James Graham, as First Lord of the Admiralty.

Several accidents took place on this day. By one, a gas explosion in his house, Chapel Street, Park Lane, Mr. Temple lost upwards of £40,000 worth of paintings and articles of *vertu*.

A fire the same evening, burnt down the extensive premises of Mr. Thacker, in Dame Street, Dublin.

A gentleman was drowned by the upsetting of a boat in the Thames, near Putney. A search was immediately made for the body, but without avail. Eight days afterwards it was found entangled in the piles for the erection of the new bridge, Westminster. Two brothers, named Lester, were also drowned this day, at Broad Pill, in Somersetshire.

On the 2nd, a painful discovery was made at Bath, and a spendthrift of the name of Thomas Lutton, was happily detected in the parricidal attempt of slowly poisoning Mr. Charles Lutton, a respectable citizen of that city.

On the 3rd, the Mayor of Worcester presided at a public meeting of the inhabitants of that city, at which resolutions condemnatory of capital punishment were agreed to.

On the same day, a meeting of the inhabitants of Derby, expressed themselves anxious to have the restoration of Poland, a condition of any treaty of peace with Russia.

The return of the humane and benevolent Mrs. Bracebridge from the Military Hospitals in the East, was celebrated with great rejoicings at Atherston.

There was a boiler explosion at Preston, whereby one man lost his life. A verdict of Manslaughter was returned by the Coroner's jury against the Engineer.

On the 4th, there appeared in the morning papers an account of the investiture of Omer Pacha, at Constantinople, by the English Ambassador, with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath.

A coroner's jury, the same day, returned a verdict of Manslaughter, against a soldier named John Neal, who, in a quarrel, killed a fellow soldier, named Adriad Williams, in Cambridge Barracks, Portsmouth.

On the 5th, the Canterbury Transport was lost off the Rock of Lisbon. The crew and passengers all escaped.

The Early Closing Association commenced its winter campaign, with a public meeting at Exeter Hall.

On the 6th, the assessors appointed by the Crown, commenced their labours in laying out the wards of the Metropolis agreeably with the provisions of the Metropolitan Local Management Bill.

The ticket-of-leave man, supposed to be the miscreant who committed the frightful murder at Cudham, near Bromley, was this day apprehended near the Forest of Dean.

At the Cutlers' feast at Sheffield, it was resolved to get up a testimonial of the public services of Mr. Roebuck, M. P.

A young man, named Payne, committed suicide by suspending himself by a cord, from the ventilator in one of the first class carriages, on the line between Nottingham and Derby.

On the 8th, a passenger on board a steamer from Jersey to Southampton, fell down the hold while in a state of intoxication, and was killed.

An attempt was made by a man named Bellemare to assassinate the Emperor Napoleon, but happily failed.

News was also this day received of the re-commencement of the bombarding of Sebastopol, and the retreat of the enemy from Petropaulorski.

On the 9th, it was telegraphed from the Crimea that the French had bravely stormed the Malakoff, and that the English had been repelled from the Redan.

On the 10th, a library, for the use of Compositors, was opened in Racquet Court, Fleet Street.

On the 11th, Prince Napoleon visited the dockyards at Portsmouth.

The same day, Sir George Brown was entertained at a public dinner by the inhabitants of Elgin, on his return from the Crimea.

The extensive building premises of Mr. Baker, Bishop's Walk, Lambeth, were entirely consumed.

On the 12th, Sir John Dean Paul, Strahan, and Co., were fully committed for embezzlement. Bail was however taken for their appearance at the Old Bailey.

The Duke of Argyle, in an eloquent speech, opened, at Glasgow, the session of the British Association for the advancement of Science.

In the evening of the same day, there occurred a fearful collision on the Reading branch of the South Eastern Railway, resulting in the death of 5 persons, and in the serious injury of a great many others. A pilot engine travelling on the wrong rails, ran into a passenger train. One of the killed was the engine driver of the pilot engine, against whom the coroner's jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter.

On the 13th, Lord Palmerston in reply to an address presented to him by the inhabitants of Melbourne, Derbyshire, triumphantly pointed to the success of his ministry in the vigorous conduct of the war.

The same day, Pulling, the man accused of the Bromley murder, was committed to Maidstone gaol, on the charge. And a brewer, of the name of Payne, resident at Chelsea, and their clerk, John Waller, were also committed to prison, charged with gross conspiracy and fraud.

On the 14th, the Lord Mayor was entertained at a banquet, by the corporation and inhabitants of Congleton.

Great disgust was excited in Camden-town, by the closing of St. Martin's Cemetery, Pratt-street, for building purposes.

On the 15th, the Lord Lieutenant visited the camp at the Curragh of Kildare.

On the 16th, the Rev. Dr. Vaughan, nephew of the late Cardinal Weld, was consecrated bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Clifton, by His Eminence Cardinal Wiseman.

On the 17th, the coroner's inquest, to inquire into the death of the little girl, whose murder, at Bristol, was mentioned in our last number, closed without having come to any satisfactory solution of the mystery in which the affair is enveloped.

On the 18th, Mr. H. Coe Coape was acquitted, at the Old Bailey, of the charge of obtaining 4,000*l.* on false pretences.

On the 19th, Sir John Dean Paul, and Messrs. Strahan and Bates, surrendered to their bail. Their trial was, on the application of counsel, postponed until next sessions.

Lord Carlisle turned the first sod of the Killarney Railway.

The 20th, the anniversary of the battle of Alma was kept with great rejoicing.

The only other event of the month worthy of record, was the visit of Lord Stanley to his father's estates in Tipperary, where he adopted the principle so tersely enunciated by the late Mr. Drummond, when Under Secretary of that country, "Property has its duties as well as its rights."

AMUSEMENTS OF THE MONTH.

The English Opera at Drury Lane, the Legerdemain of Professor Anderson, the Wizard of the North, at the Lyceum, and the magnificent spectable of the Storming of Sebastopol at Cremorne Gardens, maintained their popularity during the whole of the past month.

On the 30th of August, "*Victorine or I'll Sleep on it,*" was, after lying by for some years past, re-produced at the Adelphi; and on the 18th, there was brought out at the Haymarket, a new piece of great humour entitled *The Man of Many Friends.* It is from the pen of that indefatigable writer for the stage Mr. Stirling Coyne.

Mr. Phelps has re-opened Sadler's Wells for the performance of the legitimate drama, and has revived the play of the *Tempest,* himself supporting the character of the banished Duke, and a young *debutanté* of great promise, that of Miranda.

There has been another revival in the way of amusements, but one of somewhat less histrionic interest. Mr. T. Smith, the spirited and enterprising lessee of Drury Lane Theatre, has, for two weeks, given a galvanized existence to Vauxhall Gardens.

Mr. Albert Smith, on his 1155th appearance, closed for the season, his Ascent of Mont Blanc; and Mr. Love has discontinued his entertainments. Mr. Charles Kean, too, closed the season at the Princesses, with the performance of *Henry the Eighth.*

NOTICES.

TO OUR READERS.

Our country friends will continue to receive their copies of the "Masonic Mirror," through the post for Seven-pence as heretofore, though we have ceased to stamp any portion of our impression—the new law requiring us to make such alterations in our appearance, if we avail ourselves of the power of stamping, which we deem to be inexpedient. The number will, however, pass freely through the post by the affixing of a penny stamp, and the alteration of the law will, when deemed expedient, enable us materially to enlarge our size, without additional cost to our readers. We are aware that we shall, by the new arrangement, be placed in some little difficulty with our Colonial Readers, inasmuch as the new tariff of book postage does not apply to places beyond the seas. For the present, however, we shall continue to supply those friends whose subscriptions we have received, in the usual manner, we bearing the loss that the extra postage will inflict upon us; and for the future we shall, for the accommodation of the colonies, also issue our "Mirror" in quarterly parts, by which three numbers will pass through the colonial book post for one postage.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Annual Subscribers are respectfully informed, that their subscriptions close with the present number. The first volume will be completed with the 14th number, in order that our second volume may commence with the new year—when many important improvements are contemplated. Brethren wishing to complete their volumes, are requested to make early applications for back numbers, some of which, are nearly out of print.

TO THE TRADE.

The trade are requested to notice, that in future the "Masonic Mirror" will be published at No. 2, Red Lion-court, Fleet-street.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our correspondents are earnestly requested to address their future communications to the editor, to No. 2, Red Lion-court, Fleet-street. Br. Barton will continue to receive advertisements at his office, 2, Upper Wellington-street, Strand, as usual.

We are requested to state that Br. the Rev. J. E. Cox, the G. Chaplain, has no connection with the " Freemason's Monthly Magazine," *and that he has not had any connection with it since March last.*

O. P.—*Edmund Kean, the tragedian, was a Freemason, and was initiated in St. Mark's Lodge, Glasgow, in* 1817.

B.J.S.—*We should say not.*

R. T.—*Let us see the paper.*

A.B.C., York.—*You are eligible to sit in G. Lodge.*

Br. F., No. 389, Carlisle.—*A Provincial G. Lodge is held in the first degree. The Provincial Grand Officers hold their offices until their successors are appointed, and the P.G.M. or his Deputy, does not do his duty if he does not hold a G. Lodge, and appoint new officers annually. We should think that the P.G.L. of Cumberland must be on the eve of being held. The G.M. of the Province, Sir James Graham, has not done his duty for years; and, were strict justice done, he would have been long since removed. One Br., whom we believe to be a sincere Mason, was deprived of his office of P.G.M. for being too zealous, and we could wish that the principle was carried a little further, and those P.G.M's. dismissed who do not attend to their duties; Cumberland and Sussex would then, ere long, have new G.M's. So soon as we see this system put in operation, we will readily assist the G.M. by pointing out a few more who never attend to the duties they have undertaken.*

B. B., Dorsetshire, *asks whether equal justice is meted out to all the brethren, and whether, if Br. Tucker was properly deprived of his office of P.G.M. for advocating Knight Templarism, Lord Leigh can be permitted to hold the office of G.M. for Warwickshire, he being the Master of an illegal Lodge of Mark Masons not even holding a Charter from the body they profess to work under—the G. Chapter of Scotland.*

Adolphus.—*You are too young. No person is admitted into the Order in England until he is twenty-one years of age, excepting by special dispensation, which we do not see any reason for being granted in your case. Were you about to proceed abroad in the service of your country, and wished to be made a Mason before leaving, there would be good ground for a dispensation being applied for, and it would, no doubt, be readily granted.*

R.S.S. *should explain himself at greater length. We do not understand the question.*

A Young Mason.—*The book to which you allude is a vile imposture.*

Edward L——, Manchester.—*Preston's Illustrations of Freemasonry may be obtained of Br. Spencer, High Holborn. In our opinion, it would be a great improvement if every Lodge had a Masonic Library attached to it.*

An Old P.M. *will have no reason to complain in the coming season. The Freemasons' Tavern is undergoing repairs, and being most elegantly decorated throughout the whole of the rooms.*

James R.—*Where and when were you initiated?*

Through accident the last portion of the letter of Comp. Gaylor in last month's " Mirror," *was put to press without being corrected. Amongst other errors apparent to the reader, the name of Brother Massey Dawson was rendered Br. Brassey Dawson. Absence from England prevented our exercising our usual supervision on the occasion.*

Blackburn.—*In consequence of the change in our Publishing Office, from Wellington St. to No. 2, Red Lion Court, Fleet St., the communication of our Blackburn Correspondent, and perhaps those of others also, has gone astray.*

R. S. *is too personal. We cannot publish Libels for the gratification of private spleen.*

We do not know where you can get a list of Knight Templar Encampments, but will make inquiry on the subject.

THE

MASONIC MIRROR:

NOVEMBER, 1855.

OUR CHARITIES.

It is with pleasure we observe that a reform in the dress of the children of the Girls' School, which we have been advocating—in the pages of this publication, and before its establishment through the columns of the *Era* newspaper—for the last three years, is at length to be carried into effect. The children are no longer to be decorated with a pauper's badge upon the arm, and their dress is to be so modernised, that no one will be enabled to look upon the children of our brethren and consider them as the mere inmates of a charity school, which, we maintain, the Freemasons' Girls' School has no right to be designated—it being merely and truly the result of the provident habits of the brethren, who in their days of prosperity thus provide for the children of themselves or their less fortunate brethren, should circumstances in after-life require it. We regret, however, that the reform is not carried to the extent we should wish, inasmuch as the children are still to have a distinctive badge in the form of a medal to be worn by a ribbon round their neck: and our regret here is not so much founded on our objection to a medal, which can at any time be thrown aside when the children are away from the school, as to the fact that we believe it will have the effect of lowering in the eyes of the children the value of that medal which is now annually presented to one of them for good conduct and proficiency in her studies. Any such lowering of its value must be detrimental to the efficiency of the school, and we trust the committee will reconsider that portion of the arrangement, with the view of rather increasing than depreciating the value of a decoration which should be regarded as one of honour, and not one to be worn as a matter of course to distinguish the children of our school from those of others.

We are glad to hear that various economical arrangements are being made in the conduct of the household department of the school, where it would appear, notwithstanding all that has been said of its matrons, the superintendence of a Soyer is required; great waste having been allowed to prevail, both through the nature of the joints purchased, and the want

of a proper system of cooking. These and various other reforms are in progress, and we shall watch their effect with considerable interest, but what can be thought of the management of a school where it is boasted that the children are taught household duties to fit them for service in our families, or the wives of men who, in all probability, will have to earn their living by the sweat of their brow, when it is compelled to be admitted that great waste has been allowed to prevail in that department in which it is the most essential that such children should be properly educated in the advantages of thrift and economy?

A committee has been appointed to endeavour to find out a suitable site or premises for the Boys' School, which we trust we are now shortly to have established, as the education of our boys cannot fail of being thereby considerably improved. We hope the committee will be guided in their selection by a due regard to economy, and that we shall never again hear of such a wasteful expenditure as that incurred for the Girls' School, that upon which something like 12,000*l.* was expended, thereby denuding the establishment of a proper reserve fund, and rendering the school dependent for the larger part of its annual income on the produce of the festival. And for what was that expenditure incurred? Nothing that we can see except to enable brother Hardwick to erect a beautiful monument of his genius as an architect, in a conspicuous position, where it might be seen by every traveller on the South Western Railway. We can admire its splendid tower, and the beauty of its proportions, but we would ask, has not internal convenience been sacrificed to carry out these objects? We will venture to answer in the affirmative: for though the children have not yet been there three years, we have reason to believe that alterations are about to be made in order to provide greater accommodation in the laundry, and that too, notwithstanding the school does not contain more than two-thirds of the number of children it was erected to accommodate. Who will have to bear this expense? The school or the architect? We pause for a reply, but we have our opinion regarding who should do so.

We are gratified to hear that a number of the brethren are about to interest themselves to endeavour to adopt some means for increasing the funds of the Aged Masons' and Widows' Benevolent Institution, and at the same time obtaining a remodelling of the laws, so as to make them more consistent with the dignity and position of the Craft. We have no hesitation in stating that the laws, as they now exist, are only fitted for a society consisting of the humblest class of mechanics, and we should wonder how anything so limited could have been devised for a body of men, like the Freemasons, were we not aware how difficult it is, in the first instance, to carry out any benevolent institution. We are grateful to the founders for what they have done, be ours the duty to extend, improve, and amend their design!

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

(*Continued from p.* 590.)

On the death of George I., his son, George II., ascended to the throne, June 11th, 1727, and on the 24th of the same month a Grand Lodge was held at the Devil's Tavern, Temple Bar, at which were present, the Earl of Inchiquin, G.M., his officers, and the Masters and Wardens of forty Lodges. At this Lodge, it was resolved to extend the privilege of voting in Grand Lodge to Past Grand Wardens, that privilege having been previously restricted to Past Grand Masters, by a resolution, 21st November, 1724, and to Past Deputies, 28th February, 1726. This was a peculiar favour; for the Grand Lodge, according to the old constitutions, could consist only of the Masters and Wardens of Regular Lodges, with the Grand Master and his Wardens at their head; and it was the custom, even for these officers, at their annual election, and on other particular occasions to withdraw, that they might not appear to use any undue influence.

A Grand Lodge was convened by Br. Cowper, D.G.M., on the 19th December, 1727, when Lord Coleraine was nominated Grand Master for the ensuing year, and unanimously approved. On the 27th of the same month, he was regularly installed in his high office; after which he appointed Br. Choke, D.G.M., Blackerby and Highmore, Grand Wardens, Br. Reed, Secretary. During his administration, several new Lodges were constituted, and a dispensation was granted to hold a Lodge in St. Bernard Street, Madrid. At the last Grand Lodge convened by his Lordship, Dr. Desaguliers moved—that the ancient office of Stewards should be revived, for the purpose of assisting the Grand Wardens in providing the Feast. This was agreed to, their number restricted to twelve, and their appointment made annual.

Lord Kingston succeeded as G.M., and was invested and installed on the 27th December, 1728, at a grand feast held at Mercers' Hall, when he appointed Brs. Blackerby, D.G.M., Thornhill and O'Conner, Grand Wardens. His Lordship distinguished himself by his zeal in attending the Quarterly Communications, as well as by several costly presents to the Grand Lodge, consisting of a curious pedestal, a rich cushion, a velvet bag, and a new jewel set in gold, for the use of the Grand Secretary. During his administration the Society flourished exceedingly. Many Lodges were constituted, and a deputation was granted to George Pomfret, Esq., authorizing him to open a new Lodge in Bengal. This may be deemed the first introduction of Masonry into our Indian Settlements. It has been attended with the most prosperous results, and, by its rapid progress, the annual remittances to the Grand Lodge from this and other parts of India, have amounted to a considerable sum.

At a Grand Lodge, held at the Devil's Tavern, 27th December, 1729, Br. Blackerby, D.G.M., by authority of Lord Kingston, proposed the Duke of Norfolk as Grand Master for the ensuing year, which nomination

meeting with general consent, his Grace being present, was saluted as Grand Master elect, and on the 29th January following, he was duly invested and installed. He appointed Br. Blackerby, D.G.M., Carpenter (afterwards Lord Carpenter) and Batson, Grand Wardens. The Grand Master's absence in Italy prevented his regular attendance to the Grand Lodge, but he evinced his attachment to the Society by his transmission from Venice of a number of most curious and valuable articles, presented for the use of the Grand Lodge, and twenty pounds to the Charity, for which he was voted the public thanks of the Society. During his administration, a Provincial Grand Master was appointed over the Lodges in the circle of Lower Saxony, and a Provincial Grand Lodge at New Jersey, in America. A Provincial Patent was also granted for Bengal.

Lord Lovel succeeded the Duke of Norfolk, and was installed at Mercers' Hall, on the 29th March, 1731. In consequence of great suffering from ague, his Lordship was obliged to withdraw, leaving Lord Coleraine to act as his proxy. The last-named nobleman, appointed Br. Batson, D.G.M., Douglas and Chambers, Grand Wardens, Br. Reid was re-appointed Grand Secretary, and Br. Moody, Grand Sword Bearer. On the 14th May following, at a Grand Lodge held at the Rose Tavern, Marylebone, it was resolved, that for the future, all Past Grand Masters and their Deputies should be admitted Members of the Quarterly Committees of Charity, and that every Committee should have power to vote five pounds for the relief of any distressed brother, but no larger sum, without the consent of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge at this period was honoured by the presence of many noble brothers, and although the subscriptions to the Benevolent Fund were inconsiderable, the Society was enabled to relieve several worthy Masons with small sums. During the administration of Lord Lovel, His Royal Highness Francis Duke of Loraine, afterwards Grand Duke of Tuscany and Emperor of Germany, was initiated at the Hague, by virtue of a deputation from his Lordship, and deputations were also granted from England for establishing Lodges in Russia and Spain.

Lord Viscount Montacute was installed Grand Master at a Grand Lodge and Feast at Merchant Tailors' Hall, on the 19th April, 1732, in the presence of a number of noble and distinguished brethren, and about four hundred of the Craft. At this meeting it was agreed that the brethren should dine together at Hampstead, on the 24th of June; Br. Batson was appointed D.G.M., Brs. Rook and Smyth, Grand Wardens. The Grand Master granted a deputation for constituting a Lodge at Valenciennes, in French Flanders, and also for constituting a new Lodge at the Hotel de Bussy, in Paris. Several other Lodges were also constituted, and from this period may almost be deemed the origin of American Lodges. The Deputy Grand Master, Br. Batson, rendered great service by his zealous and able attention to the government of the Society during the latter part of the year, when his Lordship was unable to attend.

Lord Montacute was succeeded as Grand Master by the Earl of Strathmore, and being in Scotland, was installed by proxy at an assembly at Mercers' Hall, on the 17th June, 1733. At a Grand Lodge subse-

quently held at the Devil's Tavern, at which the Grand Master and his Deputy, Br. Batson, and Grand Wardens, Brs. Smyth and Ward, presided, several regulations were confirmed with reference to the Committee of Charity; and it was resolved, that for the future, all complaints to be brought before the Grand Lodge, should be previously examined before the Committee, and thence referred to the next Quarterly Communication. This Grand Master displayed a most praiseworthy attention to the duties of his office, and under his authority several Lodges were constituted in Germany and Holland.

The Earl of Crawford succeeded as Grand Master, and was installed at Mercers' Hall, on the 30th March, 1734. Sir Cecil Wray, Bart. was appointed D.G.M.; Brs. Ward and Sir Edward Mansel, Grand Wardens, Br. Rives, G.S. In consequence of being engaged in public business, his Lordship was unable to attend to the communications of Grand Lodge for eleven months, after which period his Lordship called two communications in little more than six weeks, and apologised for his unavoidable absence. The most important proceedings of the society at this time related to the revision of the Book of Constitutions which Br. Anderson was ordered to prepare for the press. Among the new regulations were;—that if any Lodge within the bills of mortality should cease to meet during twelve calendar months, it should be erased from the list, and if re-instated should lose its former rank. Several additional privileges were granted to the Grand Stewards, and it was agreed that in future all Grand Officers, the Grand Master excepted, should be elected out of that body. The Grand Master made some further encroachments on the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of York, by constituting two Lodges within their district, and by granting without their consent three deputations, one for Lancashire, a second for Durham, and a third for Northumberland. This the Grand Lodge of York highly resented, and from hence all friendly intercourse ceased, the brethren of York from that moment considering their interests *distinct from the Masons under the Grand Lodge of London.*

Lord Weymouth succeeded the Earl of Crawford, and was installed as Grand Master at Mercers' Hall, on the 17th April, 1735, when he appointed Br. Ward, D.G.M., Sir Edward Mansell, Bart., and Martin Clare, A.M. and F.R.S., Grand Wardens. The Grand Stewards and several other Lodges were constituted under this administration, and the Grand Master granted a deputation to hold a Lodge at the seat of the Duke of Richmond, at Aubigny, in France. He also issued warrants to open a new Lodge at Lisborn, another at Savannah, in addition to several for South America, and Gambay, in West Africa. The Society was much indebted during this Presidency to the zeal and attention of the D.G.M., Br. Ward, afterwards Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward, who applied himself with the utmost diligence to promote its interests. At a Grand Lodge held at the Devil's Tavern, on the 11th December, 1735, the twelve Stewards with Sir Robert Lawley, the Master of the Stewards' Lodge, at their head, appeared for the first time in their new badges. On this occasion they were not permitted to vote as individuals, but a proposition was made that the Stewards' Lodge should be for the future represented by twelve of its

members. On the motion being put, a vast majority of the brethren considered it an encroachment on their privileges, and the Grand Lodge was closed before the sentiments of the whole of the brethren could be collected. And it was not till the year 1770, that this privilege was strictly warranted. A privilege has also since been granted to the Stewards' Lodge of taking precedence of all other Lodges, *the two oldest not excepted.*

The Earl of Loudon was installed Grand Master, at Fishmongers' Hall, on the 13th April, 1736, and oppointed Br. Ward D.G.M., Sir Robert Lawley, Bart. and William Græme, M.D. and F.R.S., Grand Wardens. His Lordship constituted several Lodges, and granted three provincial deputations, one for New England, a second for South Carolina, and a third for Cape Coast Castle, in South Africa.

The Earl of Darnley was elected and duly installed as Grand Master, at Fishmongers' Hall, on the 28th April, 1757. His lordship appointed Br. Ward, D.G.M., and Brs. Lawley, and Græme, Grand Wardens. During his lordship's administration, Frederick Prince of Wales, father of George III., was initiated into Masonry at an occasional Lodge convened for the purpose at Kew, over which Dr. Desaguliers presided as Master. The Grand Master was most attentive in the discharge of the duties of his office, and granted deputations for Lodges at Montserrat, Geneva, the circle of Upper Saxony, the coast of Africa, New York, and the islands of America.

The Earl of Darnley was succeeded by the Marquis of Carnarvon, afterwards Duke of Chandos, who was installed at an assembly and feast, held at Fishmongers' Hall, 27th April, 1738. He appointed Br. Ward, D.G.M., and Brs. Graham and Robinson, Grand Wardens. In the year 1738, a formidable bull was thundered from the Roman conclave, not only against Freemasons themselves, but against all those who promoted or favoured their cause—who gave them the smallest countenance or advice—or who were in any respect connected with a set of men, who, in the opinion of his Holiness, were enemies to the tranquility of the State, and hostile to the spiritual interest of souls. Notwithstanding the severity of this bull, which threatened excommunication to every offender, no particular charge, either of a moral or political nature, was brought against a single individual of the Order. It was merely stated that the Fraternity had spread far and wide, and were daily increasing, that they admitted men of every religion into their society, and that they bound their members by an oath, to observe with inviolable secrecy, the mysteries of their Order. These circumstances indeed, were sufficient grounds for exciting the Church of Rome to oppose a system so contrary to their contracted views in religion and government. This bull was followed by an edict, dated 14th January, 1739, containing sentiments equally bigotted, and enactments equally severe. The servitude of the galleys, the tortures of the rack, and a fine of 1000 crowns in gold, were threatened to persons of every description, who were daring enough to breathe the infectious air of a Masonic assembly. The Grand Master during his year of office, paid every attention to its duties, and, in testimony of his esteem, presented to the Grand Lodge a gold jewel, for the use of the Secretary. Two deputations

for the office of Provincial Grand Master, were granted by his lordship, one for the Carribee Islands, and the other for the West Riding of Yorkshire. This latter appointment was considered a further encroachment on the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge at York, and widened still more the breach between the Grand Lodges in the North and South of England.

A proposition was made during this administration, to appropriate a part of the Charitable Fund to apprentice the sons of Masons, which, after a lengthened debate in Grand Lodge, was rejected. Some unpleasant altercations arose about this period, owing to a bad understanding between the Grand Lodges of London and York; several dissatisfied brethren met in an irregular manner, and in consequence of some means being taken to distinguish them from those belonging to regular Lodges, they raised an outcry, that innovations were being introduced into Masonry, and placed themselves under the constitution of the Grand Lodge at York, styling themselves *Ancient Masons*. By the exertions of the Deputy Grand Master these differences were for a time reconciled, but soon after broke out with greater violence, and caused great commotions in the Order.

Lord Raymond was invested and installed Grand Master, at Fishmongers' Hall, on the 3rd of May, 1739. He appointed Br. Græme, D.G.M., Brs. Thursby and Foy, Grand Wardens, and Br. Revis, Grand Secretary. The Society at this period, though in some respects most flourishing, was greatly disturbed by the secession of a number of brethren who held Lodges without proper authority; and complaints were constantly made of persons being initiated into the Order for unworthy considerations. For the purpose of excluding these deluded brethren, the Grand Lodge in too hasty a manner, adopted the practice of altering the ceremonies of a number of Lodges, whereby they were detected. This gave the refractory Lodges a new pretext for maintaining, that innovations were being introduced into the body of Masonry. They then announced themselves independent, and assumed the name of *Ancient Masons*, under which title they established a Grand Lodge, and held annual feasts. For these irregular proceedings, they pretended to have the sanction of the ancient York constitution, and set forth that they only practised Masonry in its purity; whilst the other Lodges, in consequence of their innovations, they styled *Modern Masons*. Under these false representations, they gained the countenance of the Scotch and Irish Masons, and several noblemen and gentlemen unacquainted with the origin of the separation, gave them their patronage and support, and some Lodges were added to their list. During this presidency, few additions were made in the number of Lodges. One deputation was granted for a Provincial Grand Master for Savoy and Piedmont.

Lord Raymond was succeeded by the Earl of Kintore, who was invested and installed at Haberdashers' Hall, on the 22nd April, 1740, and appointed Br. Græme, D.G.M., and Brs. Ruck and Vaughan, Grand Wardens. Several deputations for Provincial Grand Lodges were granted by his Lordship,—one for Russia, one for Hamburgh, and the circle of Lower Saxony, one for the West Riding of York, in the room of Br. Horton, deceased, and one for the Island of Barbadoes.

The Earl of Morton succeeded Lord Raymond, and was invested and installed at the above-named Hall, on the 19th of March, 1741. He appointed Br. Martin Clare, A.M. F.R.S., Deputy Grand Master, Brs. Vaughan and Gascoyne, Grand Wardens. Several excellent laws and regulations were introduced during this presidency. The Grand Master presented a staff of office to the Grand Treasurer, and it was resolved by the Grand Lodge that this officer should henceforth be annually elected, and with the Secretary and Sword Bearer rank as members of the Grand Lodge. A large cornelian seal, with the arms of the Society engraven thereon, was also presented to the Grand Lodge by Br. Vaughan, S.G.W., who was appointed by the Grand Master as Provincial G.M. for North Wales.

Lord Ward succeeded the Earl of Morton, and was invested and installed on the 27th April, 1742, and appointed Br. Robert Lawley, Bart., D.G.M., and Brs. Hody and Berrington, Grand Wardens. His Lordship having worked in all the offices of the Order, from Secretary of a private Lodge to that of Grand Master, was perfectly acquainted with every detail, and took the most effectual means of healing the differences and checking the irregularities which had lately occurred, and by a wise administration of justice and mercy, and setting a good example in his own conduct, had the satisfaction of seeing a greater degree of unanimity produced amongst the brethren than had subsisted for some time past. Many Lodges in a declining state were induced by his advice to join others in more prosperous circumstances, and many who had been contumacious were reclaimed, whilst others still proving obstinate were erased. By these wise measures, the harmony of the Lodges appeared perfectly restored. At this period the Freemasons at Antigua built a large hall for their meetings, and applied to the Grand Lodge for permission to call it the Great Lodge of St. John's in Antigua, which favour was granted in April, 1744. Lord Ward remained Grand Master two years, during which he constituted many Lodges and appointed several Provincial Grand Masters,—one for Lancaster, one for North America, and three for the Island of Jamaica.

The Earl of Strathmore was invested and installed Grand Master on the 2nd May, 1744, at Haberdashers' Hall, and appointed Br. Vaughan D.G.M., Brs. Græme and Baker, Grand Wardens. Br. Jesse was re-elected by the Grand Lodge, as Grand Treasurer, September 24th. During his Lordship's year of office, the government devolved on the Grand Officers in consequence of his non-attendance. His Lordship, however, appointed a Provincial Grand Master for the Island of Bermuda.

Lord Cranstoun was invested and installed Grand Master at Drapers' Hall, on the 18th April, 1745, and appointed Br. Hody, D.G.M., Brs. Baker and Smith, Grand Wardens, Br. Revis, Grand Secretary, and Br. Slaughter, Grand Sword Bearer. His Lordship presided over the Fraternity with great reputation for two years, during which several Lodges were constituted, and a Provincial Grand Master appointed for Cape Briton and Lewisbourg. By a resolution in Grand Lodge, it was ordered that public processions on feast days should be discontinued.

Lord Cranstoun was succeeded by Lord Byron, who was invested and installed at Drapers' Hall, on the 30th April, 1747, and appointed Br. Baker, D.G.M., Brs. Shirley and Jeffreys, Grand Wardens, Br. Revis, G.S., and Br. Carne, Grand Sword Bearer. By his Lordship's direction, the laws of the Committee of Charity were revised and reprinted, and distributed among the different Lodges. A considerable present to the General Charity was received from the Lodge at Gibraltar. The five years during which his Lordship presided as Grand Master, were distinguished by the greatest attention and redress of all grievances and ready relief to every case of distress. This Grand Master granted Provincial Patents for Denmark and Norway, Pensylvania, Minorca, and New York.

Lord Carysfoot was invested and installed Grand Master on the 20th March, 1752, and appointed Br. Manningham, M.D., Deputy Grand Master, Brs. Carmichael and Sir Richard Wrottesley, Bart., Grand Wardens. This administration was greatly distinguished by the excellent government, and also the great zeal and ability displayed by the Grand Master and his officers. These were so obvious to the brethren that his Lordship was re-elected on the 3rd of April, 1753, with every testimony of respect and gratitude. Provincial Patents were issued for Gibraltar, the Bahama Islands, New York, Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, Sark and Mann; also for Cornwall and the Counties of Worcester, Gloucester, Salop, Monmouth, and Hereford.

The Marquis of Carnarvon, afterwards Duke of Chandos, was invested and installed Grand Master in March, 1754. The first proceeding of importance during his lordship's administration, was the revising and reprinting the Book of Constitutions, under the supervision of a committee of Grand Officers, and other brethren selected for their zeal and ability. The Grand Master presented a jewel to the Grand Lodge, a pair of silver pins, gilt, for the use of the Grand Treasurer, and also gave many other proofs of his attachment to the Craft. During his lordship's administration, the Grand Lodge received numerous complaints regarding the irregular meetings of several Lodges, and resolutions were passed condemnatory of such proceedings, and various brethren erased. During his lordship's administration, which continued three years, he granted the following deputations for Provincial Grand Masters, namely, for South Carolina; South Wales; Antigua; North America, where no former provincial lodge was appointed; Barbadoes; and all his Majesty's islands to the windward of Guadaloupe; St. Eustatius, Cuba, and St. Martin's Dutch Carribee islands in America; Scilly and the adjacent islands; all his Majesty's dominions in Germany, and for the county Palatine of Chester, and the city and county of Chester.

The Marquis of Carnarvon was succeeded by Lord Aberdour, who was invested and installed on the 18th May, 1753. During the administration of this nobleman, the Grand Lodge voted the sum of fifty pounds to be remitted to General Kingsley, for the purpose of distributing it among such of the soldiers of Prince Ferdinand's army in Germany as were Masons, whether English, Hanovarians, or Hessians. Lord Aberdour continued

Grand Master for five years, during which period the following deputations for appointment of Provincial Grand Masters were granted!—Antigua and the leeward Carribee islands; the town of Norwich, and the county of Norfolk; for the Bahama islands, in room of the governor deceased; Hamburgh, and Lower Saxony; Guadaloupe; Lancaster; the province of Georgia; Canada; Andalucia, and places adjacent; Bermuda; Carolina; Musquito shore: and East India.

The Earl of Ferrers succeeded Lord Aberdour, 3rd May, 1762; during his term of office nothing material occurred in Masonry, but by the diligence of the Deputy Grand Master, General Salter, the business of the Society was regularly conducted, and the Fund of Charity considerably increased. The Grand Master granted the following provincial patents, namely, for Jamaica, East India, Cornwall, Armenia, Westphalia, for Bombay, the Dukedom of Brunswick, the Grenadas, St. Vincent, Dominica, Tobago, &c., and for Canada.

On the 8th of May, 1764, Lord Blaney was elected Grand Master, and Lord Ferrers invested Br. John Revis, late Deputy Grand Master, as proxy for his lordship, who continued in office for two years, during which period, being principally in Ireland, his duties were faithfully performed by the Deputy Grand Master, General Salter. A scheme for the opening of a subscription for the purpose of purchasing furniture for the Grand Lodge was proposed at this time, but failed for the want of encouragement.

During Lord Blaney's administration, the dukes of Gloucester and Cumberland were initiated into the Order; the former at an occasional Lodge, held at the Horns Tavern, Westminster, on the 16th of February, 1766, at which the Grand Master presided in person; and the latter at an occasional Lodge held at the Thatched House Tavern, in St. James's Street, presided over by General Salter. His lordship granted several deputations for the office of Provincial Grand Master; namely, for Barbadoes; Upper Saxony; Stockholm; Virginia; Bengal; Italy; Upper and Lower Rhine, and the circle of Franconia; Antigua; the Electorate of Saxony; Madras, and its independencies; Hampshire; and Montserrat. Among the various resolutions passed by the Grand Lodge during this Grand Master's term of office, was one to the following effect:—That as the Grand Lodge entertained the highest sense of the honour conferred on them by the initiation of the Dukes of Gloucester and Cumberland, it was resolved that each of their royal highnesses should be presented with an apron lined with blue silk; and that in all future processions they should rank as Past Grand Masters, next to the Grand Officers for the time being. The same compliment was also paid to their royal brother, the Duke of York, who was initiated into Masonry abroad, whilst on his travels.

This brings this history of Freemasonry in England down to the beginning of the reign of George 3rd, who succeeded to the throne on the 6th October, 1760. During the former reign it was the opinion of some persons that Masonry enjoyed a golden era, and it can hardly be doubted that a foundation was then firmly laid for the construction of the present stately edifice. The Committee of Charity had been established and several improvements made in its working, and various excellent institutions and

maxims shadowed forth which have been since adopted and carried out. It must be obvious that the slight check to its prosperity during its transitory state from operative to speculative in the last days of Sir Christopher Wren, was thus amply compensated by the spirited manner in which it was supported by numbers of persons of all classes of society, who were attracted to it by the beauty of those principles whose beneficial tendency to mankind have stood the test of ages, and proved its happy and beneficial effects in affording a safe and sacred retreat where the differences of country, sect, and opinion, are not allowed to interfere with the friendship and brotherly love of its members; thus proving that here at least every brother may escape from those differences of opinion both political and domestic which are constantly occurring in this world of strife.

(*To be continued.*)

MASONIC REMINISCENCES.

By Φωτοφιλος, P.M., L. 50, Dublin.

(*Continued from* p. 597.)

Chapter X.—Phil is Married—Mr. Johnstone proves too Clever—Highway Robbery—Influence of Freemasonry on the Highwayman, &c., &c., &c.

While the Colonel was describing Elysium, and his sufferings there, as detailed in the last chapter, Mr. Johnson was regaling Phil with roast chicken and the delicious wine *Xeres de la Frontera*, (vulgarly called sherry, of course specially imported by himself), and during luncheon informed him, that at the particular and pressing request of Lavinia, he was about to make him a present in a day or two, that would, he had no doubt, make him very happy.

Phil's curiosity was excited, but he was told "Livy had enjoined secrecy, as she wished to surprize her lover, indeed her thoughts were now so entirely engrossed by a certain young gentleman (giving Phil a tickle in the ribs) that he, Mr. Johnson, felt quite jealous." Phil blushed with new and pleasurable emotions, and said he would be most happy to receive her present. "Well then, my young gentleman, as our sex sometimes change their minds, as well as the other and gentler one, I must, before I go to any further trouble, have that promise under your hand, so just write, accepted, on this slip of paper, place your name underneath, and I shall see all about it to-morrow." Phil did as he was told, and Mr. Johnson carefully folded up an acceptance, on a stamp sufficient to cover a considerable sum more than the price of the intended present.

Phil had been then of full age for many months, but knew as little of monetary transactions as in his days of infancy. The care of such matters devolved upon his father, and his agent; he never examined an account, or a book; and it is most probable if poor Phil had been asked to *balance* his account books, the only mode by which he would be likely to accomplish

the operation, would have been as Ramo Samee balanced the donkey, on his nose.

Early next morning, Mr. Johnson was on his way to the owner of Madame Vestris, paid the stipulated price with the produce of Phil's bill, and in the course of the next day, had her conveyed to Simpson Hall, with a polite note, requesting Phil's acceptance of her as a small token of his affectionate regard, &c., &c.

The old people were delighted, and amazed at the valuable gift, and took it as an unerring proof of the great wealth of the Johnsons. Phil himself was almost insane with joy; he rushed to Elysium, folded father and daughter alternately in his brawny arms, and even ventured to imprint a kiss on the lips of the more than half-willing Lavinia, believing that to her he was indebted for the much desired treasure.

The Colonel's cautions were now looked upon as prejudices. Phil, in his frantic joy, was ready to marry, or do any other dreadful act; the kind, and good Livy's disinterested generosity had overpowered him, and had overcome any little doubt or objection that lingered in Mr. Simpson's mind from the hints of his brother.

"The auld folk soon gied their consent."

The necessary settlements were prepared by Mr. Johnson's solicitor, the marriage ceremony was quietly performed in the little parish church, and before the Colonel's fit of gout had fully ripened to its climax, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Simpson, and suite, were enjoying the beautiful scenery at a *château*, close by the lovely lake of Geneva.

Mr. Johnson contrived to make himself trustee to the settlement on his daughter, and obtained a general power of attorney to act as agent, ousting a gentleman of long, and well-tried integrity, who had acted in that capacity for years, to the satisfaction of all parties. Old Simpson was a rigid economist, or what is commonly called a miser, and gladly consented to transfer the agency to his new kinsman, who most generously consented to discharge all the duties, without fee or reward.

Some persons are too clever; Mr. Johnson turned out to be one of those who occasionally overshoot the mark; a long term of successful rascality often tends to make men forget the caution, and prudence, by which they have so long succeeded, and tempts them to acts of such recklessness that they become entangled in their own snares.

He attempted too much, and suddenly became so bold and unscrupulous in his new stewardship, as to alarm Mr. Simpson, and disgust the tenantry. The fee simple of Elysium was to be purchased, as a graceful addition to the Simpson estates; new wings to both mansions were projected, and operations on a grand scale commenced to carry them out; the old servants were displaced by new ones, to the great annoyance of Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, who began to feel their situation most uncomfortable.

On the return of Phil, and his wife, from their honeymoon tour, balls, routs, and fêtes, followed in quick succession; the old friends of the Simpsons met with such cold receptions from the bride, that they dropped off one by one, until none were to be seen at the banquets but bearded red-

coats, or gallants of very questionable appearance, from Dublin, or London, of which latter place, Mr. Johnson was a native, being a younger son of the head of a most eminent and respectable trading house, who settled upon him an annuity, on the condition that he should live out of the kingdom.

Mr. Johnson and his daughter entertained a fierce antipathy against Freemasons, and fox-hunters, and to belong to the district hunt, or the district Masonic Lodge, was sufficient grounds for the exclusion from the hospitalities of Elysium.

Phil still continued to enjoy the sports of the field to the great amusement of his fellow sportsmen, who generally saluted him when they met, with the question, "Phil, my boy, how is the *grey mare?*"—to which, the usual reply—"Oh, I don't intend to hunt her any more, she is so hard in the mouth, I can't manage her in a scuffle, so I purpose making her a brood mare"—was sure to produce shouts of laughter, quite unintelligible to Phil, who had no notion that there were any *grey mares* who moved upon fewer legs than four.

Some days after the Colonel's departure, the following letter was received at the Hall—

"K——ld——l Street Club.

DEAR PHILIP,—I'm just alive, very glad though, to tell you the symptoms of the anticipated fit of gout have passed off more suddenly than I could have hoped for, and I should not wonder if I shall never have another fit, for between our dogs, and crocodiles, lame horses, and highwaymen, I feel that my whole system has undergone quite a revulsion within the last few days.

"The evening I left you we reached the little road-side Inn of ——, long before dark. I thought they were much longer than usual, changing the horses, and knowing all the servants about the stable yard, I limped out to stir them up a little. Lounging about and chatting with the hostlers, was a very suspicious, brigand-looking fellow, whose appearance I did not at all relish. All they affected to know about him was, that he was a traveller, whose horse was having a *feed*; I kept a sharp look out, and before starting, saw myself that the linch pins were all right.

"We had got on about a mile and a half, and had just entered upon that wild and barren hill, where so many daring robberies have so recently been committed, when to my horror, I found one of the horses had fallen dead lame. I got out to see him examined, and discovered that a sharp nail had been driven into the quick. I immediately remembered the villain at the Inn, and guessed that we were marked as victims. After consultation, we decided on being guided by the better part of valour, discretion, and on at once retracing our steps to the Inn, which we had some faint hopes of reaching before the highwayman (for such I now felt convinced he was) should have started.

"We had not proceeded many yards on our return, before we heard a loud, shrill whistle, which reverberated along the hills, and sent anything but a thrill of pleasure through our frames, and in a moment three ruffians, with blackened faces, rushed from a thicket by the way-side, and with pistols presented at our heads, demanded our money, or our lives. My man Peter, as is his usual habit, having considerably refreshed himself be-

fore starting, was disposed to show fight, but as I had not much money about me, and no fire arms, I thought it best to yield, and handed them my purse. They demanded my watch, which I hesitated to give, as I prized it beyond its mere intrinsic value, being the gift of a brother Mason, a French officer whom I had an opportunity of serving during the Peninsular war.

"While we were *parleying*, and just as they were about to use more persuasive arguments than words, we were joined by the hero we had noticed at the Inn, who told me civilly to give up the watch, and I should receive no rude treatment, and if I wished to redeem it, by sending fifty pounds to the Inn at which we met, I should have it back perfectly safe, as he himself would take charge of it; and any little parcel sealed and directed "to be called for," would be sure to reach him. He put the watch which I handed him, in his pocket, examined the purse, and threw it to his fellows, than bidding us good night, and safe home, he and his band made off across the hills, and were lost to view in an instant.

"The sharp ears of the robbers had evidently, from their hurried retreat, caught the sounds of approaching travellers, which in our confusion were unheeded, and only struck upon our senses as two carriages advancing at a rapid pace, came within view; they pulled up as they neared us, and to my infinite joy I recognised several brother Masons, returning as they told me, after assisting at the opening of a new Lodge in the county town. After hearing a detail of our disaster, and expressing regret at not being up in time, they did not offer much consolation at the loss we suffered, saying we richly deserved it, for travelling without arms, it served as an encouragement to robbery. They gave us, however, all necessary assistance to reach the nearest posting house, where we procured fresh horses, and all set off together for the metropolis.

"On our way, a brother informed me that your friend Johnson was blackballed in his Lodge in consequence of having been one of a party who had *pigeoned* a young gentleman—the son of a brother, who had more money than brains. This fully accounts for his abuse of Freemasonry. He hates your neighbouring fox-hunters because young B—— declined to invite him to hunt with his hounds, for the very proper reason, that he settled down amongst ye, a mere stranger without a single introduction, though he talked largely of his acquaintance and connexions with persons of distinction. I firmly believe, his knowledge of such personages extends no farther than having seen them on the grand stand, or in the betting ring at Epsom, or may hap, some of them in a hell near St. James's.

"On reaching home I lost no time in sending off the money to redeem my watch, with I confess, but faint hopes of ever seeing either watch or money again, but judge of my agreeable surprize, at receiving both this morning, with the accompanying note, which I enclose, and should be glad you would show to the Rector, as he may be able to give some clue to the writer, who manifestly is not all evil, and I would be disposed to make an effort to save him, by inducing him to quit this country and try an honest mode of life in some other. He sits his horse well, and would make a capital soldier.

"I hope you'll cut this Johnson altogether, I can clearly see he wants to

inveigle Phil into a marriage with his daughter, which must by all means be prevented; as soon as I get a little stronger and arrange a few matters here, I shall pay you, I hope, a longer and more agreeable visit than the last. I am most anxious to make further enquiries about this unfortunate young highwayman, and endeavour, if possible, to turn him from his present life of crime, for his letter leads me to hope he is not quite irreclaimable. With kind remembrances to my sister and Phil,

To Philip Simpson, Esq., Simpson Hall, — Believe me very sincerely yours, H. B.

P.S. The following is the highwayman's letter above alluded to.

" 'COLONEL, — Mountain Retreat.

I never rob Freemasons, when I know it; my father was one, and how often in the pure, and happy days of my boyhood, have heard him say, that he made the Masonic principle his rule of life, and express a hope of seeing his sons one day members of that ancient Order. His life was blameless, useful, and honourable, and though circumstances have made me a proscribed outcast, and I fear have "warped to wrong" all that was good in my nature, yet do I revere his memory, and respect the Order which he loved. I return your money, and your watch, which, I see by the inscription, is a token of gratitude, for services rendered by one brother to another, under peculiar and trying circumstances. And am yours,

To Col. B. &c., &c. — STARLIGHT.'"

CHAPTER XI.—MR. JOHNSON IS SUPERSEDED, AND RETIRES TO BOULOGNE—REFLECTIONS ON DEFECTIVE EDUCATION—A FEW PASSING HINTS TO THE TARTUFFES OF THE DAY.

AN inflated announcement relating to the heir of Simpson Hall and the amiable, accomplished, and lovely Lavinia, &c., &c., in the list of marriages of the Saunders' News-Letter of the day, startled the Colonel into the knowledge of Phil having committed, in his uncle's estimation at least, the high misdemeanour of matrimony. In his first burst of anger he half resolved to cut the whole connection, and in particular to burn his Will, and cut off Phil with an angry shilling, but in calmer moments his love for his sister, whose weaknesses were all of a venial, and amiable kind, prevailed, and he made up his mind to make the best of a bad business, and if he could do nothing more, at least endeavour to frustrate Mr. Johnson's designs on the Simpson estates.

With this intent he proceeded to his brother Simpson's solicitor, and made enquiries as to any settlements. That gentleman informed him, that a draft of a marriage deed had been submitted to him, of which he refused to approve, without certain clauses and amendments which he suggested; and he heard nothing further on the subject. They then proceeded to examine the public registry* where, to the colonel's great comfort, they found no memorial of any such document.

He then instructed the solicitor to prepare a deed of trust, with all possible speed, and be ready, on its completion, to accompany him to his

* In Ireland all deeds and judgments must be registered within a certain limited time, and take precedence according to their priority of registration.

client's residence, as he was determined, if possible, "to curb the cunning devils of their will." The deed was soon prepared, and the man of war, and the man of peace, the man of civil, and the man of uncivil process, two dangerous opponents for any private gentleman to encounter, posted off to Simpson Hall, where they found Mr. and Mrs. Simpson in the most fitting temper possible, for their purpose, and in a mood to believe anything evil of Mr. Johnson.

They admitted their precipitancy, their want of judgment, their ingratitude, in short everything that could be urged against them by their indignant brother, and by degrees, they even voluntered a detail of all the grievances, and discomforts they endured, since the establishment of the Johnson *régime*.

The colonel thought the opportune moment had now arrived to inform them of the occasion of their solicitor's presence, and that he had brought with him, ready for signature, a deed conveying all the disposable property of Mr. Simpson, to certain trustees, in trust, to the use of Phil, and his issue, giving that young gentleman a life estate, without power of alienation, and as soon as that was properly signed, and sealed, he promised that the angels should no longer have cause to weep, at the "fantastic tricks" of Mr. Johnson, as he intended forthwith, to strip him of his "little brief authority," and reinstate his brother, once again, in the uncontrouled lordship of Simpson Hall.

Joyously were these tidings received, and anxiously, and urgently was he entreated, that the happy project should be at once carried out: a request to which he was not slow to accede. The Rector of the parish, and the discarded agent—the trustees named in the deed—were summoned to the Hall on business of importance, and solicited to act, which, after an explanation, they consented to, and in a few hours, the faithful solicitor of Mr. Simpson, was on his way to the registry office, with a deed fully perfected, where it was duly registered, and the machinations of the wily Johnson were defeated.

Notices were served on the tenants, and bankers, Mr. Johnson received a communication that his services, as agent, were no longer required, that his authority was superseded, his power of attorney withdrawn, and calling on him to produce certain documents illegally and fraudulently obtained, in order that they may be immediately cancelled.

The old servants were recalled, things went on after the old fashion, familiar faces of old neighbours, were again smiling round the hospitable board, and joy reigned once more in the halls, and hearts of the Simpsons.

Mr. Johnson, though somewhat alarmed at the threatening aspect of the hitherto unclouded sky, still laboured under the impression that the deeds in his possession were valid; as he had himself some little notion of law, having, in his youth, spent a short time in a lawyer's office. Pope says, "a little learning is a dangerous thing," but in no branch of human knowledge is it so dangerous as in legal matters, particularly if it lead the unfortunate possessor to become his own lawyer. Mr. Johnson knew nothing of that most salutary law, the Irish Registration Act; and he did not even think it necessary fully to explain the nature of the deed to the parties interested, previous to its perfection, deeming their signatures all

sufficient, and binding. He was, however, on consultation with competent persons, soon undeceived, and returned to Elysium, a broken-down, disheartened, and disappointed man.

He now found himself involved in personal liabilities, from which he could not possibly extricate himself, the money deposited to secure the purchase of Elysium must be forfeited, and what was most alarming of all, Phil's bill, of which, as yet nothing was known, was fast approaching maturity, and must lead to an *exposé* fatal to his honour, and character. On consideration he found he had no alternative but to quit without the ceremony of leave-taking, as a *levanter*, or to throw himself on the mercy of the Colonel, who, he knew, was the chief mover in the counter-plot, and whom he knew to be capable of acts of generosity and goodness. His daughter urged him to pursue the latter course, which he finally adopted, and wrote a very plausible letter, announcing his intention to sell Elysium, museum, menagerie and all, and travel for some time, in order to recruit his finances, attributing his inability to meet his present engagements to heavy losses on the turf; and stating that he could now view the destruction of his household gods with less poignancy, as the sole object of his life was sure of a happy home, and tender protection.

The Colonel wrote to say, he was happy to hear Mr. Johnson was about to seek a more genial clime, and a wider field for the display of his talents; that he hoped his daughter would at once take up her residence at the hall, a wing of which would be placed at her disposal, where she could have her own separate establishment; and her happiness would therefore considerably depend upon herself.

Mr. Johnson understood, and felt the Colonel's sarcasm, but yielding to that stern and inexorable master, which no human law can control, necessity, he passed it over in silence, and bid farewell to his Elysian fields, and beloved daughter with a sigh, like our great and unfortunate ancestor on quitting *his* Eden, " a few natural tears he shed, but dried them soon, for the world was all before him, where to choose, and providence his guide;" and the wandering steps of Mr. Johnson were led by *providence* to that *refugium peccatorum*, Boulogne, where for many years after he might have been seen, ready to initiate any young gentleman, disposed to expend a little money in the acquisition of such knowledge, into the interesting mysteries of *Ecarté*.

Mrs. Phil Simpson felt the separation from her father as acutely as one so artificially educated could, but short and fleeting are the sorrows of those, from whose young hearts are pressed out, as vulgar and ill-bred, all indications of those soft, loving, and delicate sensations, which suffuse the cheek of innocence with the tint of the rose, or make the eye sparkle with the tear of sensibility, that dew of gentle hearts.

The joys of such are as superficial, and as hollow, as their affection of sorrow is evanescent, discontented and unblessed with any feeling of substantial happiness. They pass through life, light, frivolous, unreal things, tickled into laughter by the smallest straw, or feiguing the deepest anguish at the crumpling of a rose leaf. Incapable of appreciating the stern virtues of worthy men, they are either induced by heartless parents, to marry a

fool for convenience, for whom they entertain neither esteem nor affection, or are caught by the showy exterior of some fashionable *roué*, who soon tires of their tinsel attractions. Neglect will naturally engender disgust, and render them an easy prey to the seducer; to end, perhaps, a life of of hypocrisy, in crime, or madness.

This is no doubt a dark picture, yet we believe it a true one, we will not say true to nature, but rather to life, to nature turned astray, by imperfect or improper education; for we confess ourselves of the class who think there is a much larger proportion of the elements of good, than of evil, in the constitution of human nature, and would earnestly impress upon those, on whom rests the awful responsibility of instruction, rather to endeavour to give a right direction to the passions and propensities, than to make vain attempts, by artistic training, or too rigid coercion, to eradicate them—to be the gentle guides of nature, not her feeble, and unavailing adversaries. Nature's laws are impressions of the hand of that mighty Architect, whose works are ineffaceable, and by whom nothing was made in vain. The imprints of the great first cause are too deeply graven to be obliterated by the pigmy efforts of man, and his attempts, in the unequal struggle, must ever end in defeat and discomfiture.

We wish the modern *Tartuffes* of the day, would look at this subject with an eye of calm philosophy, and turn the power, which their talent or their station confers, into efforts of practical good. We wish we could impress these hints upon those pharisaical precisians, who would prepare their fellow men for heaven, by making earth a hell, who think the true way to improve the moral condition of toiling man, is to spread his pathway through life with thorns, and to curtail the few material enjoyments within his reach, thus marring the great end of God's providence—the happiness of his creatures—who, in a spirit of profane fanaticism, would shut up from the people, for whose improvement and instruction they were presumed to be chiefly intended, all sources of moral and mental culture, at those times, when consistently with the requirements and necessities of life, they could alone take advantage of, and enjoy them; and thus force the toil-worn and weary mechanic into the beer shop, or gin palace, for want of those wholesome fountains of recreation, whence he would be glad to imbibe, at once, health, pleasure, and knowledge.

This digression may, to some, seem out of place here, as touching upon topics not strictly within our province, or not very aptly incidental to our tale. But we write as Masons, for instruction, and amendment, as well as amusement, and would use the privilege of all writers—an occasional digression to add our petty streamlet, to the tributaries of our cotemporaries, who wield their more powerful pens for the refinement and elevation of their fellow men, and by whose united exertions, we hope to see formed, ere long, one wide river of truth and knowledge, which, in its glorious, and God-like course, shall overwhelm all the retarding influences of ignorance, bigotry, and corruption, until the whole earth shall be refreshed, in the true spirit of Freemasonry, with the pure waters of wisdom, charity, and love! With these few words to our readers, we return to our tale.

(*To be continued.*)

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

ROYAL FREEMASONS' GIRLS' SCHOOL.

The usual Quarterly Court of the Governors of this School was held on the 4th ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern, under the presidency of Br. Patten, P.L.G.B. There were also present Br. Crewe; Br. Adlard; Br. Young; Br. Robinson; Br. H. G. Warren; Br. Bohn; Br. Symmonds; the Rev. Br. Portal; the Rev. Br. Lyall; Br. Barrett; Br. Biggs, &c., &c.

The minutes of the last Quarterly Court, and of the proceedings of the General and House Committees, having been read and confirmed,

Br. Symmonds brought up the report of the special committee appointed to inquire into the expenditure of the Institution, with a view to the more economical management thereof. This document stated that, within the last few years, the outlay for the maintenance of the establishment had been greatly increased, by reason of the high prices to which provisions had risen during the same period. There had been also lately, a larger consumption of coals than usual, in order, thoroughly to air the new building. It was the hope of the committee that, the first-mentioned cause of increased outlay would not long continue to operate, and they recommended a system of contracts for large quantities, and an alteration in the mode of cooking—suggestions on which the House Committee were already acting with very favourable results. As regarded the cost of fuel they were of opinion, that for the future, it would not be so heavy as it had hitherto been. In pursuing their enquiries into the accounts of the establishment, they found that a sum of money had been each year allowed to the gardener for extra labour, and they recommended that, for the future, such a charge should be disallowed, and that the House Committee should annually nominate one of its members to act as chairman for the year. It was a subject of regret that since 1847, the income of the institution derived from dividends, had, in consequence of the sale of stock to meet the additional outlay incurred by the building of the new school house, been reduced from £547 15*s.* 6*d.* to £246. They hoped, however, that with larger donations from the brethren, the General Committee might be enabled to recover ground in that respect, and extend the accommodation of the Institution to a larger number of children than 65, which was the present limit.

On the motion of Br. Portal, seconded by Br. Lyall, the report was adopted, and it was recommended to the House Committee to carry out the suggestions contained in it.

The candidates in waiting were then called in, and informed that they were elected to the benefits of the Institution, without the necessity of a poll.

On the motion that the Treasurer be authorized to sign checks for the sum o £363 12*s.* 8*d.* to pay the ordinary expenses of the establishment for the last three months,

Br. Barrett moved, as an amendment, that the gardener's charge for extra labour should not be allowed, which was, after some discussion, negatived, it being the opinion of the majority of the Court, that their servant had not wilfully misconceived his instructions. The original motion was then agreed to.

On the motion of Br. Symmonds, it was ordered, that the stock of the Institution exceeding £2000, should be sold, and that the amount realized should be placed to the credit of the Sustentation Fund.

A young lady, a former pupil of the School, was next elected as Assistant Schoolmistress; after which,

Br. Symmonds brought forward his motion that the badge worn on the children's arm should be discontinued, and that their dress should be modernized. He grounded his objection to the badge, upon the ground that it was a degradation to the children, as it branded them with the stigma of being recipients of charity; children of Freemasons, he maintained, ought to be exempted from any such slur, especially as even in the lowest class of charity schools there was growing up an inclination to free the children from every mark that had a tendency to lower them in their own esteem. He had first contemplated the discontinuance of a badge altogether, but to meet the

views of those who were of opinion that one ought to be retained, he was willing to substitute for that at present worn by the children on their arms, another in the shape of a Masonic jewel, which had been designed by Br. Robinson, to be worn on a collar, of blue ribband. At present, however, he would move that the badge hitherto worn by the children, be altogether discontinued.

Br. Young seconded the motion.

Br. Barrett strenuously opposed the motion.

Br. Portal took the same view of the case. Masons themselves did not consider the wearing of the jewels of office a degradation, and therefore he could not see how a Masonic badge could be a degradation to their children.

Br. Lyall stated that his experience as a clergyman superintending parochial schools, led him to the opinion that the poor disliked everything like a badge.

Br. Biggs knew that the brethren in general looked on the badge as a degradation.

The motion was then put to a show of hands, and declared to be carried.

It was next resolved that a badge designed by Mr. Robinson should be worn by the children in the manner specified by Br. Symmonds, and a direction was given to the House Committee to select the materials and fix upon the colour of the children's summer and winter clothing.

Br. Lyall having placed his pulpit, St. Denis Backchurch, at the service of the Institution for a charity sermon, received the thanks of the Court for his kindness.

Some other routine business having been disposed of, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

The Quarterly Court of Governors of this School was held at the offices, in Great Queen Street, on the 1st October, Br. John Hervey presiding. The minutes of the last Court, and the various committee meetings having been read, it was resolved that in future, the Quarterly Courts should be held on the third Monday in the month, instead of the first.

A building committee was appointed to endeavour to find a suitable site or building for the new school-house. During the past quarter an additional £150 has been funded for the purposes of the school, making the total amount so funded £2150.

Amongst the candidates for the benefits of the institution, is the son of a deceased brother in India—to which place his mother is about to return.

THE FREEMASONS' TAVERN.

It is with great pleasure that we are enabled to direct the attention of the brethren to the great improvements which have lately been made in the appearance of the head quarters of Freemasonry, under the able direction of the new proprietors. Both inside and out it has been entirely renovated and re-decorated, so as to make it now one of the handsomest and most complete establishments of the kind in the metropolis. Whether we regard the "Clarence," now gorgeously decorated in the Alhambra style, showing in every view a profusion of crimson and gold—the "Star," with its rich warmth of an old English parlour—the "Sussex," with its noble proportions displayed by an effulgence of light playing upon the green and gold with which it is embellished—the dining room with its large patterned gorgeous velvet piled paper, which gained the medal at the Paris Exhibition—the "Glee Room," with the beauteous paintings decorating its walls, renovated, so as to look "better than new"—or the "Crown," with its light blue pannels thrown up by borders of scarlet and gold, each appears perfect and in good taste—whilst a profusion of beautiful mirrors and looking-glasses, and elegant light chandeliers and lustres in the various rooms, add much to the general effect. Nor have the ante-rooms and passages been neglected; every thing has been renovated with equal taste, and the Grand Lodge cannot say that the proprietors have not fairly expended not only the £600 to be allowed them out of the rent, but something considerably more, in making the Freemasons' Tavern what it ought to be, an establishment equal in comfort to a club, and one in which the brethren may justly take pride. Now that the house has been put into order, we

hope it will meet with that patronage which its position and accommodation so well deserves, and which we are assured Messrs. Elkington and Co. intend to endeavour to merit, by the most careful attention to the comfort of their guests, and providing every article of provision and every wine of the best quality.

Wishing the new proprietors a prosperous season, we cannot conclude without expressing a hope that the Grand Lodge, now that their tenants have done so much for the house, will pay a little attention to the condition of the Grand Hall. They charge enough for its use and ought to keep it so as to be a credit to the body to which it belongs. The effect of the noble statue of the Duke of Sussex is entirely destroyed by the miserable, dingy, worn out drapery by which it is surrounded, the shabbiness of which has been made more painfully apparent by the recent improvements in the lighting. We hope, ere long, to be able to report that the hall presents as brilliant an appearance as the rest of the establishment.

LONDON LODGES.

Fidelity Lodge (No. 3).—The first meeting for the season, of this Lodge, took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 10th ult., when Br. Lowe, the W.M.. most ably assisted by his officers, initiated Mr. C. W. Alderton, into the Order, and raised Br. Wendon to the third degree. The brethren afterwards dined together, and spent a very pleasent evening.

Royal York Lodge of Perseverance (No. 7).—On Wednesday, the 17th Oct., the members of this Lodge met for the dispatch of Masonic business. In the course of the evening, Br. John Hervey, P.M., initiated a gentleman into the mysteries of the Order, and Br. Dr. Wm. Jones, P.M., passed Br. C. Warr, to the second degree, both ceremonies being performed with great credit to the officiating Masters. At the conclusion of the Lodge business, the brethren with their visitors, retired to partake of an elegant banquet, provided by the worthy hosts of the Freemasons' Tavern, and presided over by Br. Dr. W. Jones, P.M. The evening was marked for that unanimity of feeling and fraternal kindness for which this Lodge has for many years been distinguished. Among the numerous visitors, we noticed, Brs. G. Whidbourne, No. 166; Thos. Ritchie, No. 5; J. R. Fenwick, No. 5; John Symonds, No. 275; J. B. Hyde, Acacia Lodge, New York; Br. Paul, No. 211, &c., &c. The W.M. Br. Hopwood, was prevented attending, in consequence of his absence from England.

Albion Lodge (No. 9).—This Lodge held its first meeting for the season, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the evening of the 2nd ult., when the M.W., Br. J. Buxton, initiated a gentleman into the mysteries of Freemasonry, passed one brother, and raised three. All Masonic business having been concluded, the brethren retired to refreshment. The visitors on the occasion, were Br. Beuler, who delighted the company by his comic singing, and Br. Williams, of the Phœnix Lodge, No. 202.

Egyptian Lodge (No. 29).—The members of this Lodge met for the first time this season, at the George and Blue Boar, High Holborn, on Thursday evening, the 4th October, Br. Fernandez, W.M., assisted by Br. Dudden, S.W., and Br. Malloy, P.M. as J.W. The business was of a formal character, and on the Lodge being closed, the members retired to refreshment, which was served in Br. Haynes usual good style, Br. B. P. Todd, P.M. presiding, the W.M. being called away on important business. Br. Thos. Bohn, P.M., 201, returned thanks for the health of the visitors, which was proposed by Br. Todd, and responded to by the members of the Lodge with fraternal kindness. The harmony of the evening was much enhanced by the excellent singing of Brs. Todd, Haynes and Eves, and a very pleasant hour or two was spent, under the able presidency of the worthy and kind hearted Br. Todd, who is Treasurer of the Lodge, as well as being one of its oldest Past Masters.

Old Kings Arms' Lodge (No. 30).—The first meeting for the season, of this Lodge, took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 22nd, Br. Edward Warwick, W.M. presiding. At the conclusion of the business, the brethren adjourned to dinner, and spent a very pleasant evening, enlivened by the very excellent singing of Br. Geo. Genge, who is a member of the Lodge.

GIHON LODGE (No. 57).—This Lodge met for the first time this season, at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, under the able presidency of Br. Geo. England, W.M. In the course of the evening, Captain Coote, of the Amazon, was duly initiated into the Order, Br. Huffeld passed as a Fellow-craft, and Captain Longden, of the Turkish Contingent, raised to the third degree. The labours of the evening were succeeded by a very elegant banquet—harmony reigning supreme throughout the whole of the proceedings.

ROYAL NAVAL LODGE (No. 70).—The members of this Lodge met for the first time since the recess, on the 10th inst. The W.M., Br. Burden, presided, but the business was merely formal, and the attendance of the brethren very limited.

LODGE OF UNITY (No. 82).—If a good beginning is an earnest of success, then the first meeting of this Lodge at the London Tavern, on the 1st October, promises a brilliant season for this ancient and respectable Lodge. We observed among the many brethren present, Brs. J. E. Cox, Grand Chaplain, J. Mott Thearle, Sleigh, Stearns, Pitman, Dunsford, Vickers, Anderson, Webb, J. Robins, from Rotterdam, F. Robins and Porter. In the absence of the W.M. Br. A. L. Bellinger, two raisings were most ably performed by Br. Stearns, P.M., and the Lodge duties were conducted with the correctness for which this Lodge is celebrated. Our wonderment to a certain extent ceases, when we find so excellent a Mason as the Grand Chaplain acting as Secretary, and "all things by turns," taking the offices of Master Warden, or Inner Guard should occasion require it. At 6 p. m. the brethren adjourned from labour to refreshment, and proceeded to a banquet furnished in the most *recherche* style by Br. Bathe. The appearance the table presented when the brethren were seated, was most effective—a massive candelabra with clusters of wax lights—vases filled with choice flowers dotting the whole length of the table, and last not least, the appearance of the brethren, who from being many of them Provincial Grand Officers, presented an effect in purple and gold most pleasing to the eye. To paraphrase some part of Byron's Sennacherib, we may say or sing of the W.M. and his Officers, that they were

> "Gleaming in purple and gold,
> And their Jewels shone bright as the Stars o'er the Sea
> When the Blue waves roll nightly o'er deep Galilee."

The wines were excellent, and the viands varied and choice—illustrating by their plenty, Sidney Smith's shrewd reading of

> "Man wants but little here below,
> As Beef, Pork, Venison, Lamb and Mutton shew."

The banquet was presided over by Br. John Mott Thearle, P.M. On the removal of the cloth, the W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft,"—and eloquently enumerated the varied virtues, public and domestic, which endeared Her Majesty to the people. He coupled with it, "The Craft,"—a Craft in which there was as little guile as would be found in any human institution. The usual toasts of the evening; to that of the Earl of Yarborough, Br. J. E. Cox replied, and expressed his deep regret at the illness of the D.G.M., prayed that it might please the G. A. of the Universe to return our valued D.G.M. to the health so necessary to his own enjoyment of life, and to the large circle of loving friends and brethren, who, sympathising in the cause, so regret his absence from Masonry. The enjoyment of the evening was much enhanced by the excellent signing of many of the brethren—viz., Brs. Porter, Winsdale, Watts and Thearle. The glee of "All's well," by the two latter, deserves "honourable mention." As the small hours came along, the brethren departed, carrying with them another pleasing recollection of the pleasures of Old Unity.

VITRUVIAN LODGE (No. 103).—At the meeting of this Lodge, held at the White Hart Tavern, College Street, Lambeth, on the 10th October, Messrs. Thos. Oakley, Thos. W. Morris, and Wm. Friend, were duly initiated into the secrets and mysteries of Freemasonry. The W.M. Br. N. Maudsley, presided, and it is therefore needless to say, the whole of the ceremonies were most ably performed.

TEMPLE LODGE (No. 118).—This Lodge met for the first time this season, at

the Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall Street, on the 2nd ult., under the able presidency of Br. Wm. Weeden, who initiated two candidates into the mysteries of the Order, passed one brother, and raised another to their respective degrees. At the close of the business, upwards of thirty brethren dined together.

St. Luke's Lodge (No. 168,.—The annual meeting of this Lodge, for the installation of the W.M., was held at the Builders' Arms, Chelsea, on Monday, the 1st October, Br. Henderson, W.M. presiding. Two brethren having been raised to the third degree, and three candidates, Messrs. Hubbard, Wm. Birch and Abel Birch, initiated into the Order, the W.M. resigned the chair to P.M. Br. Killick, who most ably installed our esteemed Br. Tyrrell into the chair. At the conclusion of this ceremony, the W.M. proceeded to appoint and invest his officers, as follows:—Brs. Taylor, S.W.; Collard, J.W.; Gray, Treasurer; Savoy, Sec.; Kirk, S.D.; Levy, J.D.; Patt, I.G.; and John Todd, Steward. A sum of money having been voted for the relief of a worthy brother now suffering under sickness, Br. Collard gave notice of a motion for the next meeting, for the revision of the bye laws. All business being ended, the Lodge was closed with due form, and the brethren adjourned to supper—after which an hour or two were wiled away in the enjoyment of brotherly converse, and responding to Masonic toasts.

Lodge of Prudent Brethren (No. 169).—The brethren of this Lodge met for the first time after the vacation, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 23rd ult., under the able management of Br. Hewlett, the W.M. The business of the evening which was entirely of a private character having being disposed of, the brethren supped together, and passed an hour in social harmony.

St. John's Lodge, Hampstead (No. 196).—The annual meeting of this excellent Lodge, was held at the Holly Bush Tavern, Hampstead, on Tuesday, the 9th ult., when our worthy brother, and highly valued correspondent, Br. Samuel Aldrich, was installed into the chair as W.M. for the year 1855—56, by P.M. Br. T. A. Adams—the ceremony, it is needless to say, being most excellently performed. The new W.M. was pleased to invest his officers as follows:—Br. R. Hazard, S.W. and Treasurer; W. Johnson, J.W. and Secretary; A. D. Wesson, S.D.; A. Whittet, J.D.; Cornick, I.G. Br. J. R. Thompson, was also invested with the insignia of immediate P.M. Five candidates were ballotted for, and elected for initiation, but only three being present, viz.—Mr. F. W. Collins, Mr. Joseph Smith, and Mr. Geo. Pritchard, all of Hampstead, they were respectively introduced, and the W.M. initiated them into the Order in a very impressive and able manner. Br. P.M. Shury, proposed a new candidate for initiation, and the W.M. five—so that our Br. Aldrich's office appears likely to materially add to the strength of the Lodge—and it is peculiarly gratifying to observe, that a large number of the new brethren are coming from the immediate neighbourhood, evincing how highly the W.M. is respected amongst those with whom he is in the closest communion in the every day business of life. A Committee of General Purposes was also appointed, consisting of Brs. Hamilton, P.M.; Shury, P.M.; Adams, P.M.; Thompson, P.M.; H. Paxon, P.M.; Hazard, S.W. and Treasurer; Johnson, J.W. and Secretary; Rippon, Wesson, Cornick, and Whittet. At the conclusion of the business, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant banquet served in Br. Thomas's best style. Amongst those present were a large number of visitors, including Brs. Geo. Barrett, Barton, Farmer, Holloway, Howe, Kardel, Paxon, Spencer, Warren, Wells, &c. "The health of the Queen and the Craft," with the other usual and Masonic toasts having been drunk, the health of the newly initiated brethren was proposed in most appropriate terms by the W.M., and duly acknowledged. Br. Geo. Barrett, returned thanks for the toast of the visitors, and expressed the gratification they had all felt at the very excellent working of the W.M., P.M. Adams, and the officers. The W.M.'s health was given at the request of Br. Thompson, P.M., who expressed himself highly gratified at having had the opportunity of installing into the chair as W.M., so highly respected, and worthy a man and a Mason as Br. Aldrich, for whose exertions and excellent working, he augered a large amount of prosperity for the Lodge. The W.M. responded in feeling terms, and proposed the health of the P.M.'s, particularly thanking Br. Adams for the valuable services he had rendered the Lodge that day, as well as on previous occasions. Br. Adams having replied, the health of the officers, and other toasts drunk and responded

to, the W.M. proposed, "Prosperity to the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows," and in doing so lamented the limited support the Institution had received—and called attention to some defects in the laws, which he considered prevented the proper development of the Institution. Br. Warren, at the request of the W.M. responded, and pledged himself to call together at an early period, some of the brethren who wished to see the Institution put into a proper position, with the view of endeavouring to make arrangements for amending the bye laws, and increasing the funds. At a later period of the evening, Br. Warren returned thanks for the toast of "The Masonic Press"—and the brethren separated highly delighted with the entertainment of the evening.

Lodge of Joppa (No. 223).—This very numerous and excellent working Lodge re-assembled for the season, at the Albion, Aldersgate Street, on Monday, the 1st of October, when an unusual amount of business was in the circular, viz:—seven candidates for initiation, for which, the Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G. Master, had granted a dispensation, but only five of them were in attendance, and they were duly admitted into the Order. There were four brethren raised to the third degree, and Br. Lewis Lyons, son of the W.M., passed to the second. Amongst the candidates for initiation, was the Chevalier J. D. Benhouliel, from Algiers, a gentleman of high literary attainments, whose visit to England is to make himself more intimately acquainted with some of our Arts and Sciences. His appearance in the Lodge was peculiarly interesting, inasmuch as he wore a rich Eastern costume, turban, &c., thus showing, that neither colour, creed or clime is excluded the privileges of the Order. The W.M. Br. Henry Lyons, after going through the various ceremonies, delivered the charge in a most impressive manner. The brethren having been at labour from three o'clock until seven, it was natural to suppose they required some refreshment, for which purpose they proceeded to the banquetting room, which was bountifully supplied with all the necessary requisites to satisfy the appetites of the most fastidious. The Brs. Staples, the proprietors of the Albion, the Purveyors, gave general satisfaction. Grace was said before and after dinner, by the Rev. D. A. De Sola, Minister of the Lodge. The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to with the customary cordiality. The Benevolent Fund was not forgotten by the newly initiated and other brethren, six guineas being announced as the evening's donations thereto. The musical arrangements were under the management of Br. Taylor, who was assisted by his sister, daughter, &c. The infant daughter of Br. L. M. Anerhaan, 7 years of age, performed several difficult pieces of music on the Piano, much to the satisfaction of the brethren. We will not say much respecting the W.M. at present, as his year of office is coming to a close, when we shall be enabled to allude to his labours at greater length. We will only add at present, that the Lodge of Joppa never had a better Master than the present. The greatest harmony prevailed throughout the evening, and the brethren departed highly gratified with the proceedings of the day. There were 85 brethren present at the dinner.

An emergency meeting was convened for the 10th inst., for the purpose of initiating Messrs. Charles Davies and Israel S. Moses, Merchants, who are proceeding forthwith to Melbourne. The candidates were grandsons of Br. D. Moses, the Treasurer, and as was anticipated, unanimously accepted, and initiated. There was no banquet on this occasion, but after the Lodge was closed, the brethren exchanged a cup of good fellowship with each other. The usual routine of business having been gone through, the W.M. proposed the healths of the candidates, and adverted to the gratifying circumstance of the Treasurer introducing two of his grandsons into the Lodge. Br. D. Moses had held that office for 44 consecutive years, having joined this Lodge in 1811. He was elected Treasurer the same year, and year after year has the ballot been unanimously in his favour. The W.M. called particular attention of the newly made brethren to these facts, and hoped they would (of which he had no doubt) endeavour to carry out those honourable principles which had always actuated their grandfather, and which had caused him to be, not only respected, but revered by every member of the Lodge, whilst in private life, he was respected by all who has the pleasure of his acquaintance, and as a Merchant—the head of that highly wealthy firm, Moses, Son, and Davis, second to none in the City for honour and integrity. He (the W.M.) was quite sure, that the brethren could see in the newly initiated brethren, all the materials

which would enable them to follow in their grandfather's footsteps, and he wished them a safe voyage to the far distant land, for which they were now on the eve of departing, assuring them, that they carried with them, the hearty and sincere wishes of their Lodge, for their health, happiness and prosperity.

PERCY LODGE (No. 234).—The brethren of this Lodge met for the first time this season, at the Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall Street, on Tuesday, 9th of October, for the despatch of Masonic business, and to present to Br. Seelie, P.M., a jewel, which had been voted to him at the last meeting in April last. The jewel is extremely plain and handsome, and has been made during the recess by Br. P.M. Lambert. Br. John Sheridan, W.M., addressing Br. P.M. Seelie in a neat and pointed speech, fastened the jewel on his breast in the name of the Lodge. All business ended, the brethren partook of an elegant dinner supplied by Br. Painter, who did not fail to provide a good supply of Turtle, and every delicacy of the season. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk, and the brethren highly delighted. Among the visitors we noticed Br. P.M. Moriarty, and Br. P.M. T. Skidmore, &c., &c. Br. Moriarty, in his return speech to the proposal of his health from the chair, told the brethren, that it was upwards of 30 years since he was made a Mason in this Lodge, and stated the great benefits he had received from Lodges and Masons throughout his long life of travel all over the globe. He dilated upon the "Percy" of that day, when the late Br. Gilkes. Br. Johnson, and other Masonic stars and authorities were members of the Lodge, and compared it with the "Percy" of the present day.—We must add, that this is one of the most improving Lodges in the Metropolis. In former years it was a supper Lodge, but by the exertions of the present Pastmasters, it has for the last six years been converted into a dinner Lodge. The working of the brethren is in strict accordance with the Ancient Landmarks of the Order. There were present, Brs. Sheridan, W.M.; Seelie, P.M.; — Key, P.G.S.W., Kent; — King, P.M.; G. Lambert, P.M.D.C.; Burrell, P.M.; Robinson, Cathie, Thompson, Painter, &c., &c.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—This Lodge held its first meeting for the transaction of business since the long vacation, at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 9th October, Br. Cooper, the much respected W.M. presiding. The W.M. initiated Mr. John Norris Frost into the mysteries of Freemasonry, and passed Br. Nunn to the second degree, in his usual learned manner. The other business being only routine, the brethren adjourned to a banquet, served in Br. Rackstraw's usual liberal manner. Amongst the visitors we observed Br. Long, of the Mount Hiram Lodge, of Irish Constitution. After spending a very pleasant and convivial evening, the brethren adjourned until the second Tuesday in November, when we believe the Lodge will have to meet at an earlier hour than customary, there being an unusual quantity of business to be transacted.

PILGRIM LODGE (No. 289).—The brethren of this Lodge held their monthly meeting, at the Manor House Tavern, Walworth, on the 24th October, when the W.M. Br. Farmer, most ably initiated a candidate into the Order.

LA TOLERANCE LODGE (No. 784).—The brethren of the French Lodge, met on the 24th September, when a brother was duly passed to the second degree. The attendance of the brethren was very limited.

INSTRUCTION.

The Lodge of United Pilgrim's Lodge of Instruction held its meeting on Friday evening, the 26th ult., for the purpose of working the 15 sections, Br. J. Thomas (P.M. of Lodge No. 745) putting the questions, and the following brethren answered them in a very efficient manner, viz.: 1. Br. H. Garrod; 2. Br. F. Geider; 3. Br. Z. Ansell; 4. Br. H. Garrod; 5. Br. D. R. Farmer; 6. Br. H. Garrod; 7. Br. J. Collins. 1. Br. C. Ollis; 2. Br. J. W. Ward; 3. Br F. Geider; 4. Br. G. Haward; 5. Br. C. Ireland. 1. Br. J. R. Warren; 2. Br. P. Moss; 3. Br. D. R. Farmer. The Brethren separated highly gratified with the very able manner in which the questions were put by the W. Master, and answered by the above-named brethren.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

CHESHIRE.

(FROM OUR OWN REPORTER.)

On Wednesday, September 26th, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cheshire assembled at Congleton, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Combermere, R.W.P.G.M., for the transaction of the annual business of the province. The Craft Lodge was opened at the Lion and Swan Inn, and at twelve o'clock the Grand Lodge entered the room, which was much too small for the brethren present, and was consequently most inconveniently crowded. The V.W.P.G.M. of course occupied the throne. Brs. Cruthenden, as V.W.P.S.G.W.; Smith, as V.W.P.J.G.W.; Br. Gibbs Crawford Antrobus, acting as R.W.D.P.G.M., in the absence of Br. J. Fincheff Maddocks, who was prevented attending from indisposition. All the Grand Officers were re-elected, and the business being over, the Grand Lodge was closed, after which the brethren formed in procession, and, preceded by a band of music, marched to St. Peter's Church, where full cathedral service was performed, and a sermon preached by the Rev. J. W. Newell Tanner, V.N.P.G. Chaplain, and a collection made, amounting to upwards of £22, in aid of the Provincial Masonic Fund of Benevolence. The choir consisted of Br. Twiss, N.P.G., organist; Brs. Edmondson, of Stockport; Scarisbrick, of the Philharmonic Concerts, Liverpool; Gee and Hayter, of Macclesfield; S. Pearsall, Vicar Choral, of Lichfield Cathedral; and Miss Shand, of the Manchester Concerts—a choir which for musical talent would hardly be surpassed, and whose performances, both in the church and during the banquet, gave the greatest amount of satisfaction.

After service, the brethren again formed in procession, and proceeded to the Town Hall, which had been kindly lent for the purpose by Br. J. Dakin, Esq., Mayor of the borough, where a substantial banquet was provided by Br. Ullivero, of the Bull Hotel. The R.W.P.G.M. occupied the throne, supported on his right by Brs. G. C. Antrobus, as D.P.G.M.; Cruthenden, P.S.G.W.; Moss, P.P.J.G.W.; Samuelson, P.S.G.D.; Bland, P.G. Treasurer; Smith, P.J.G.D.; and, on his left, by Brs. Tanner, P.G.C.; Folliott, P.P.G.C.; Dutton, P.P.J.G.D.; Billinge, P.G.M.C. of West Lancashire; Butterworth, P.G.S.W.; Abel Hyde, P.G. Pursuivant; Griffiths, P.G. Sec. And amongst the company, we noticed Brs. Edwards, 403; H. Lloyd, W.M., 615; Wedgewood, W.M.; Griffith, P.M.; Hornly, as S.W.; Herdman, as J.W., 701; Howard, W.M., 782; Bully, S.W., Plat, J.W., Marshall, I.G., also of 782; Cooper, Sec., 782; Pickering, W.M., 880, &c., &c. Nearly 200 of the brethren joined the banquet. On the removal of the cloth, *Non Nobis* was sung by the choir.

The noble lord, R.W.P.G.M., then rose, and said, he had the honour to propose "The health of her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria." (Cheers). He need not ask his brother Masons, especially Cheshiremen, to fill a bumper to that toast. He knew they would do it, and therefore he would simply propose the health of Her Majesty. The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm, and followed by the Masonic version of "God Save the Queen."

His lordship next gave the toast of "Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, Earl of Chester, and the rest of the Royal family," which was drunk with the like enthusiasm.

Glee, "When Winds Breathe Soft."

The noble lord next gave "the Army and Navy," which was drunk with three times three, and long-continued cheers.

Song, "The Queen's Letter."

The next toast was "The Town and Trade of Congleton"—drunk with three times three.

Glee, "The Breath of the Briar."

The Worshipful the Mayor, Br. Dakin, P.M., responded, and trusted the Craft would for many years to come enjoy the advantage of having Lord Combermere amongst them. (Loud cheers).

Song, "The Chough and Crow," so well sung as to elicit an enthusiastic *encore*.

Br. Antrobus rose, and having called for bumpers, said he had the unfortunate privilege, in consequence of the absence of the D.P.G.M., of proposing the next toast. It was one he gave with considerable regret, because it was a prelude to requesting the absence of the ladies, before entering upon their own more secret proceedings. (Cheers and laughter). The brethren seemed to laugh, as if they thought there was any anxiety anywhere to discover what were the secrets of Freemasonry. If any such desire should be manifested, the brethren would take care to hide them within the deep recesses of their own breasts. (Cheers). However, whether they had secrets or not, he begged to give "The health of the Ladies," and to add to that toast the name of the Viscountess Combermere—(tremendous cheering)—a lady who honoured them that morning by being present at the church—an exceedingly good Mason, and who ought to be made one, if any lady could be admitted into the Order. (Applause). He had had the honour of having her ladyship on a visit at his house during the last few days, and it was only the day previous that he heard her speak in the highest terms of commendation of the Craft as a bond which linked people of all sorts together in amity and good fellowship. The toast was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm.

Song, "I'm a Merry, Laughing Girl," by Miss Shand—*encored*.

Lord Combermere returned his warmest thanks for the honour conferred upon his lady. He could assure the brethren that Lady Combermere wished well to Masonry, and if it were possible for ladies to become Masons, she would be one, but as it was, she had done all in her power to promote the good of Masonry in general, and of that province in particular.

The uninitiated having retired, the following Masonic toasts were drunk with Masonic honours:—

"The Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M."

Glee and chorus, "Hail to the Craft."

The P.G.C., Br. Tanner, gave "The health of the P.G.M., whom he justly described as one of the best of Masons, and best of men. Masonry ought to think itself highly favoured in having one so excellent to preside over its proceedings—a nobleman whom to know was to love. The toast was drunk with a warmth and enthusiasm which showed how much the noble lord lives in the hearts of his brethren.

His lordship, in responding, said, as long as it pleased the G.A. of the U. to give him health and strength, he should always feel it a pleasure to attend the P.G.L. He expressed his satisfaction at the proceedings of the day, and trusted to have the honour of meeting all of them next year at Egremont. (Loud cheers).

SONG—By Br. Pearsall.

Here's a health unto Lord Combermere.
With a fal, la, la,
Who never knew the name of fear,
With a fal, la, la,
And he that will not drink this health,
I'll wish him neither joy nor wealth;
But a good strong rope, to hang himself,
With a fal, la, la.

To his Lady fill the glass again,
With a fal, la, la,
And let us all the goblet drain,
With a fal, la, la,
And he that will not drink this toast,
With right good will—why clear the coast;
And bear him to the whipping post,
With a fal, la, la.

Here's a health to this good company,
With a fal, la, la,
And may they like our minstrelsy,
With a fal, la, la,
And he that will not pledge us now,
For him may nought but water flow;
So to the horse pond let him go,
With a fal, la, la.

"The Earl of Ellesmere, R.W.P.G.M., East Lancashire," "Le Gendre N. Starkie, R.W.P.G.M., West Lancashire," "Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., M.P., R.W.P.G.M., North Wales and Salop," "J. F. Maddock, R.W.D.P.G.M., Cheshire," "Provincial Grand Wardens, Cheshire," "P.G. Chaplain, Cheshire," "P.G. Treasurer and Officers, past and present, of Cheshire," "The Visiting Brethren," "P.G. Stewards," "W. Masters and Wardens of Lodges in the Province," having been duly toasted, the company separated, having spent the day in true Masonic harmony.

The R.W.P.G.M. announced his intention of holding the next P.G.L. at the Egremont Hotel, near Birkenhead, in Lodge Room where the Combermere Lodge, 880, meets, and from the prosperous state in which that Lodge and Lodges 701 (Mersey) and 782 (Zetland) are in, no doubt every effort will be made to give *eclât* to the proceedings, and a splendid affair may be anticipated.

CUMBERLAND.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The Annual Provincial Grand Lodge of Cumberland was held at Br. Gray's, the Crown and Mitre Hotel, Carlisle, on the 5th of September.

The Lodge was opened at high twelve, when the business of the province was disposed of; after which, the Prov. Grand Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to the assembly-room of the Crown and Mitre to an excellent dinner. The D.P.G.M. Br. Greaves, presided.

The cloth having been cleared, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts duly honoured, the V.W.D.P.G.M. rose to propose "The health of their Prov. G.M., Sir James Graham," whose absence, he said, was owing to his indifferent state of health.

Br. Robinson called on the brethren to join him in a bumper, "To the health of our Dep. Prov. G.M. Br. Greaves." From his knowledge of Br. Greaves, and from what the brethren had witnessed of his conduct in the chair, his gentlemanly feeling, conciliatory manner, his zeal for Masonry, and his knowledge of the duties of the post he held, he (Br. Robinson), trusted that his appointment as D.P.G.M. had given satisfaction to the brethren, and would give a stimulus to Masonry in the Province.

Br. Greaves, in returning thanks, said that he never felt himself less prepared with language to express himself as he could wish for the compliment he had just received; nevertheless, he felt it as he ought, most gratefully. It occurred to him, however, that their excellent Br. Robinson had introduced the toast and himself to their notice rather as he ought to be, than as he was, and under that impression he would endeavour to keep before his mental vision the character he had described for imitation, that he might feel more worthy of the encomiums which Br. Robinson had been so good as to pay him. Their last year's meeting was an unusually large one, but this was a larger, and gave the best assurance that Masonry in the county was being better appreciated and on the increase; and sure he was, that had their P.G.M. been there to-day, he would have been proud to have found himself so well supported.

The D.P.G.M., in due course, proposed "The Lodges of the Province," naming them according to seniority, commencing with the Whitehaven Lodge, No. 138, and he was sure the brethren would support him.

Br. Fletcher, W.M., responded on behalf of the Lodge.

"The Union Lodge, Carlisle," was acknowledged by the W.M. Br. Sherrington.

"The Wigton Lodge, No. 409," though not the first Lodge in the Province as regarded numbers, was certainly the first in the province in respect of Masonic lore. It also set the other Lodges of the province an example, inasmuch as the members subscribed to the whole of the Masonic charities.

Br. Roper, W.M. of the Wigton Lodge, was proud to meet such a body of men on the present occasion. It was the best Prov. Lodge that had ever been held. Although the Wigton Lodge was small in numbers, they subscribed to all the Masonic charities, and he hoped the example set by them would be followed by all the other Lodges in the province.

The D.P.G.M. said, that in his present capacity, he might be allowed to divest himself for a moment of his connection as a member with the Lodge he was about to propose. It was "The Master and Brethren of the Lodge of Unanimity, No. 424." He could assure the brethren that a more honourable and worthy body of Masons could not be met with, and he had no doubt but the brethren would assist him in doing honour to them.

Br Walker, W.M., of No. 424, begged to return thanks on behalf of himself and the brethren of his Lodge, for the very flattering terms in which No. 424 had just been introduced, and for the kind manner in which the toast had been received by so large an assemblage of Cumbrian Masons. He saw around him many distinguished brethren, who would have been much more able than himself to respond to the toast. He had only known the Lodge of Unanimity since 1848, in which year he became a Mason, but this he would say, that the affairs of the Lodge were now in a much more flourishing condition than when he became a member; they had improved not only in numbers, but in funds, and everything else likely to conduce to their permanent well-being; and for this prosperity, which he believed was unparalleled in the annals of the Lodge of Unanimity, they were chiefly indebted to the indefatigable exertions of a worthy member of that Lodge, whose zeal in promoting the welfare of Freemasonry was beyond all praise, and that brother was none other than the D.P.G.M., Br. Greaves. It had been remarked, and very properly, that the Wigton Lodge was the only one in the province which subscribed to all the Masonic charities, and it was his duty to inform the brethren that the subject had been discussed in the Lodge of Unanimity, and he believed it was the intention of that Lodge to imitate the noble example of their brethren at Wigton. (Hear, hear).

Next followed "The Master and Brethren of the Longtown Lodge, No. 595." The Longtown Lodge, and especially Br. Foster, had never failed to put in an appearance at their Prov. G.L. meeting.

Br. Foster responded. He had great pleasure in forming a part of so numerous an assemblage; many brethren from Longtown would have been present on that occasion, had they not been particularly engaged.

The D.P.G.M., in proposing "The Victoria Lodge, Carlisle," said, though not numerous, he hoped they would ere long become so, so that each year might add to their prosperity.

Br. Bell, W.M. of the Victoria, hoped that next year they would be able to muster in larger numbers; for his part—and he was sure he might say the same on behalf of the brethren of the Victoria—he should always be happy to do all in his power for the benefit of the Craft, calculated as it was to confer great benefits on all who ranged themselves under its banners.

The parting toast having been given, the meeting broke up.

DEVONSHIRE.

St. John the Baptist Lodge, Plymouth (No. 83).—The brethren assembled at their usual monthly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 4. There was a large show of business on the summons, but none of the candidates for the various degrees were in attendance, consequently nothing but the routine business of the Lodge was accomplished. We regret, that when brethren are prevented from attending punctually, they do not apprize the W.M. of the fact. Were they to use this courtesy, which is certainly due from gentlemen, much unnecessary delay and disappointment would be obviated. On Tuesday, October 2nd, the Lodge again met, and as in the last

instance, the candidates did not make their appearance, the previous minutes were confirmed. A gentleman was proposed for initiation on next Lodge night, and in the absence of other business, the W.M. (Br. Gambell), ably assisted by his officers, worked the three degrees in a manner not often witnessed out of the metropolis. Having regard to the want of Lodges of Instruction, this must be regarded as a step in the right direction, calculated, if persevered in, to bring the Lodge into an efficient working state. Lodge was closed in harmony, the members separating at a very early hour.

LODGE OF FORTITUDE, STONEHOUSE (No. 122).—This Lodge met at Br. Killingley's, Prince George Hotel, on Wednesday, October 10. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, a lengthened discussion was carried on relative to the conduct of a member towards one, whose resignation was sent to the Secretary in consequence thereof. The offending brother having declared his innocence of any intention to wilfully disoblige, a committee was appointed to wait on the seceder, and endeavour to restore harmony between the brothers. Lodge closed, and the brethren retired.

STAR OF BRUNSWICK LODGE, PLYMOUTH (No. 185).—The members of this thriving Lodge met on Wednesday, the 3rd October, in the New Masonic Hall, Union Road. The Lodge was close tyled at 7.15, Br. P. E. Rowe, P.M., and P.P.G.D.C., &c., &c., presiding, who most ably raised Brs. Dennaford and Chapel to the sublime degree of M.M. After the transaction of some further business, Lodge was closed in harmony at 9 o'clock, the brethren retiring to refreshment in their most *convenient* banquetting-room (this is not a mere *figure* of *speech*, but the Lodge and its appurtenances are the most complete, comfortable, and *constitutional* of any in this province, and does the members great credit for the spirit displayed in leaving St. George's Hall, and its anti-Masonic accommodation, or rather want of accommodation, the furniture having to be moved up and down stairs on each night of meeting, besides objections of a much graver character). The W.M., Br. S. Pearse, after the Masonic toasts had been duly honoured, gave "The healths of the visiting brethren," stating that 185 was always pleased to see their table well filled with visitors, whether local or strangers. The kind wishes expressed by the W.M. were most eloquently responded to by Br. Thomas Fallard, P.M. of 83 (senior Lodge of these towns), P.P.G.T., &c., as also by Brs. R. Pomeroy, 122, Woodhouse, 122, Rodd, 122 and 224, and W. G. Emmett, 238, who cordially reciprocated the kind wishes of the W.M., and gave pressing invitations to the members of 185 to visit their respective Lodges, promising, that although their Lodges might not be as handsomely furnished, their hearts would be found all a Mason could wish. The W.M. then gave the healths of two brothers to whom the Lodge were under great obligations, one (Br. H. J. Waring, P.M. and P.G.T., &c.) for his indefatigable exertions in getting the Lodge removed, and superintending the alterations and decorations of the Hall for their use; the other (Br. P. E. Rowe) for his kindness in working the several degrees in the unavoidable absence of the W.M. We need hardly say, the names were received most enthusiastically, the brethren responding in speeches of great modesty and merit. After some excellent singing from our worthy Br. James Clase, S.W., P.G.S., the brethren wended their way homewards at an early hour. An Emergency Lodge was held on Thursday, Oct. 11th, at the Masonic Hall. The Lodge was close tyled at 7.30. Br. P. E. Rowe, in the chair, initiated a gentleman into the Order. The Lodge closed in peace and harmony at 8.15, when the brethren retired to refreshment. After the routine toasts had been disposed of, the worthy B. James Clase, S.W., P.G.S., having obtained permission of the W.M., proposed the health of his friend and brother, John McKay, J.W., and in a speech of great excellence, expatiated on the beauties of Freemasonry, not alone in the sacred precincts of the Lodge, when an admirable series of Lectures were ably worked, and the secrets and mysteries of the Order so lucidly explained, but in the every-day business of life. He was led to consider the day on which he first saw the light as a Mason, as a *Red letter* one, and not only had he received good will at all times from the body generally, but more particularly was he under great obligations to his Br. McKay for innumerable instances of kindness at his hands, and what enhanced their value, was the fact that

some time since there was a probability of estrangement, arising from a difference of opinion on a matter of etiquette; but this, he was happy to say, had, from the great kindness of heart and real Masonic feeling possessed by Br. McKay, passed away like a summer's cloud. It was from his appreciation of the sterling worth of that brother as a *man and the Mason*, that induced him to propose long life and happiness to him here, and a blissful entrance hereafter to the Grand Lodge above, where the Great Architect lives and reigns for ever. The toast was received most cordially, the brother responding in suitable terms, regretting he had not the same gift of oratory displayed by the worthy S.W. The brethren retired to their homes at a very early hour, shewing the advantage of a private place of meeting.

Loyal Lodge of Industry, Southwalton (No. 610).—On the first Tuesday in the past month, the members of this Lodge held their usual monthly meeting, Br. Galliford, W.M., in the chair. Mr. Robt. S. Spicer, of Northwalton, surgeon, was duly ballotted for and elected, but in consequence of his being unable to attend, the Lodge was adjourned to the Thursday following, when the ceremony of initiation was beautifully performed by Br. Galliford, after which the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and spent an hour in great harmony, and having joined "hand in hand" around the festive board in the entered apprentice's song, separated in peace with each other and all mankind. Br. Ley, of the Bideford Lodge, attended as a visiting brother.

DERBYSHIRE.

Tyrian Lodge, Derby (No. 315).—The brethren of this Lodge held their anniversary at the Royal Hotel, on the 7th October. The Lodge was opened at two o'clock, under the able guidance of Br. John Gadsby, W.M., when Br. J. Johnson, M.D., was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. At three o'clock, a Prov. Grand Lodge was opened by the R.W.A.G.M., C. R. Colvile, M.P., who proceeded to appoint the following as the officers of the Grand Lodge of Derbyshire for the ensuing year:—Brs. J. Gadsby, P.D.G.M.; S. Henchley, jun., S.W.; Rev. F. W. Russell, J.W.; Rev. G. Wright, Chaplain; S. Collinson, Reg.; W. Allen, Sec.; S. Wilder, T.; W. Prince, S.D.; W. Brodhurst, J.D.; W. Giles, Dir. of Works; G. Mason, Dir. of Cer.; J. Swain, Assist. Dir. of Cer.; J. Redfern, Pursuvt.; S. W. Ready, Sw. B.; Henry Turner, St. B.; W. Faulkner, Tyler. The report of the state of the progress of Freemasonry in the province was satisfactory. A Lodge has been recently established at New Mills, called the "Peveril of the Peak Lodge," having the Rev. F. W. Russell W.M., and Br. W. Brodhurst, and S. J. Ready, Wardens. An excellent banquet, comprising every delicacy in season, was provided. The wines, &c., were excellent, and gave the greatest satisfaction to about 40 of the brethren.

DURHAM.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of this County was held in the Phœnix Lodge-room, Sunderland, on Wednesday, October 3rd, and passed off in a manner most satisfactory to all who had the pleasure of participating in the proceedings as brethren of the renowned Craft.

The Fund Committee met at the Hall, at 12 o'clock, for the despatch of matters of a strictly business character, and we learn that the financial prosperity of the body in these districts was sufficiently indicated by the fact that the funds showed a disposable surplus of some 600*l.* or 700*l.*

The Lodge was next duly constituted. Br. John Fawcett, R.W.P.G.M., officiated on the occasion, and the following officers were appointed and installed for the ensuing year:—Br. Henry Fenwick, M.P., P.D.G.M.; Br. the Rev. Robert James Simpson, P.S.G.W.; Br. Joseph Dodds, Esq., P.J.G.W.; Br. the Rev. John Cundell, P.G.C.; Br. Robert Reynolds, P.G.T.; Br. Robert Thomas Wilkinson, P.G.R.; Br. John Crossby, P.G.S.; Br. George Watson, P.G.S.D.; Br. William Tiplady, P.G.J.D.; Br. Edward Dr. Davis, P.G.D. of C—; Br. George A. Middlemiss, P.G.

Superintendent of Works; Br. John Smith, P.G., Organist; Br. Mark Douglas, P.G.B.; Br. Geo. Brown, P.G.S.B.; Br. Wm. Martin Laws, P.G. Tyler. A Steward each was also appointed from six of the Lodges, named by the R.W.P.G.M. There was a large attendance from all parts of the county, and Stockton and Hartlepool were, as we are informed, especially well represented.

The brethren, to the number of upwards of 100, afterwards dined together at the Palatine Lodge-room, Bridge Hotel, the R.W.P.G.M. John Fawcett in the chair, supported by Br. Henry Fenwick, M.P., Br. R. T. Wilkinson, Dr. Saville, and others of the staunchest and most honoured members of the Fraternity from different Lodges in the province. It need scarcely be stated that the evening was spent in the most agreeable manner, the proceedings being marked by that loyalty, warmth of feeling, and mutual respect, which are recognised as the inviolable characteristics of the Craft. The annual ball, which was held at the Lodge-room in the evening, was well attended, and afforded the members of the Craft, and a few others who joined the party, an agreeable opportunity of gratifying their relatives or friends of the fairer sex with an evening's amusement of a very choice and well-regulated character.

HAMPSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The Grand Lodge of Hampshire held its annual meeting this year at Southampton, and assembled at the Masonic Hall, Bugle-street, on Tuesday, August 25. The R.W.G.M. of the Province, Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart., presided, supported on the right by Br. Thomas Willis Fleming, of Stoneham, P.G.M. of the Isle of Wight, and his Deputy Br. Hyde Pullen, and Grand Lodge; and on his left by Br. Charles Ewens Deacon, D.P.G.M., and the Grand Lodge of Hampshire. The body of the hall was filled with the W.M's., officers, and brethren of the twelve private Lodges of Hants. The usual Masonic business was transacted after an admirable opening address from the G.M., the petitions for relief heard, and sums varying from £1 to £5 voted. The town of Portsea was selected for the assembling of the Grand Lodge next year. The Treasurer's accounts passed, having a balance in hand of £197, and the following officers were duly invested for the ensuing year:—Brs. H. M. Emanuel, P.M., 428, S.G.W.; Edwin Low, P.M., 319, J.G.W.; Rev. T. T. Haverfield, P.M., 555, G.C.; Alfred Heather, W.M., 319 and 387, G. Treas.; Jarvis Tibbets, G. Registrar.; J. Ranking Stebbing, P.M., 152 and 555, and Thomas Norcross Firmin, P.M., 152, G. Secs.; J. J. Galt, W.M., 717, S.G.D.; Geo. Martin, W.M., 555, J.G.D.; H. Abraham, S.W., 152, Supt. of Works; Thomas Slade, W.M., 428, Dir. of Cer.; Batchelor, 717, Assist. ditto; Stening, 387, G. Pursuivant; Webb, 152, Standard Bearer; S. R. Everitt, S.W., 90, Sword Bearer; Hiles, G. Organist; Pearce, 152, Woolven, 319, Swayne, 387, Geo. Drysdale, 555, Rake, 717, Totterdell, 428, Stewards; Bannister, P.M., 428; George Lockyer, 152, G. Tylers.

The P.G.L. having been closed in due form, the brethren adjourned to dinner, which was laid in the audit-room of the corporation, the use of which had been granted by his Worship the Mayor; about sixty brethren were present.

The cloth having been removed, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts duly honoured, the R.W.P.G.M. gave "The health of their honoured guest, Br. Fleming, R.W.P.G.M. of the Isle of Wight," who, as the representative of an ancient family so long seated in the county, was well known to them all. He included also in the toast, the Deputy of the Isle, Br. Pullen.

Br. Fleming, in acknowledgment, said it afforded him the greatest pleasure to attend the annual meeting of the province; besides, that the many years' friendship between himself and Sir Lucius Curtis afforded him additional gratification in being present on this occasion in Southampton. The vast advances in prosperity the town had made were unexampled; and from its port were transmitted the enormous supplies of men and materiel for the great contest in the Crimea. He concluded by giving, by desire of the P.G.M., "The Allied Forces in the East."

Br. Pullen said, the kindness with which he had been received, and the intellectual

entertainment of their Lodge meeting, made him proud of being a member of the Order, in which the best of feelings of man towards his fellows were brought into action, and men of all creeds were assembled in brotherly union.

The health of the P.G.M. was given by Br. Dr. Clarke, and was greeted most enthusiastically.

The P.G.M., in reply, assured them his heart was devoted to Masonry; it afforded him much pleasure to be among them, as the more he saw of Freemasonry and its members, the more satisfied and gratified he was. He then called on the brethren to give a hearty reception to Br. Deacon, his invaluable Deputy, who for so many years had filled that office, to the perfect satisfaction of every member in the province.

Br. Deacon tendered his most grateful thanks for the warm greeting his name had received; the brethren were always so pleased with his services, that the fifteen years he had held the appointment seemed but a day. The only return he could make for the confidence reposed in him was, by being ever ready to aid the cause, and to urge among its members the great point of Masonry—charity, in its broadest sense; not that of taking from our surplus wealth, but that tenderness, good-will, and brotherly love, which united all in bonds of brotherhood. Br. Deacon's address was embodied in eloquent language, to which our space is insufficient to do justice. He concluded by saying, "The encouragement you have given to my past services cheers me at this moment, and the memory of it will gild the future."

The P.G.M. called on the brethren to give a hearty welcome to their visitor, Br. How; and from his connection with a publication devoted to the Order, to unite with his name "The Press."

Br. How having replied, the healths of the several brethren who had received their appointments were drunk, and the brethren separated.

KENT.

Lodge of Freedom, Gravesend (No. 91).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at Br. Wate's hotel, on Monday, October 15, when a numerous attendance of the brethren took place. After the Lodge was opened with solemn prayer by the W.M., Br. Spencer, he initiated Mr. Everest into the mysteries of the Order, and passed Brs. Davis, Denton, Martin, and Williams to the Fellow Craft degree, in his usual masterly manner. In both degrees he was ably assisted by his Wardens, Brs. Watson and Hills. Four gentlemen were proposed as candidates for the ensuing month. This Lodge not only bids fair to be the largest, but from the admirable way in which the work is done, to rank among the first in the province. After the business was concluded, the brethren sat down to a very excellent supper, provided for them by the worthy host, and separated highly satisfied with the whole of the proceedings.

LANCASHIRE EAST.

Lodge of Fidelity, Blackburn (No. 336).—This Lodge held its usual convention on Friday evening, the 28th Sept., Br. Daniel Thwaites, jun., W.M., presided, most ably assisted by Brs. Whewell and Gates, S.W. and J.W. The attendance of members was about the average, and included Br. Pearson, 432, who is a very worthy and esteemed old member of the Craft. The usual business was duly attended to, and a candidate proposed; and the W.M. announced that the Lodge of Benevolence had relieved Br. Thomas Forrest, the late Tyler (who has been afflicted with paralysis, and still is suffering from it), with £5. The brethren then adjourned, and the harmony of the evening was much heightened by the excellent singing of Brs. Whewell, Stocks, Eaves, and others.

Lodge of Perseverance, Blackburn (432).—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, the 1st of October, the W.M., Br. C. Boardman, assisted by Brs. H. Backhouse and W. Harrison (S. and J.W.) presided. The regular business was duly transacted, when the brethren were called off and partook of a supper served up in that excellent style which characterises such efforts of the worthy host, Br. Sausom; after which the brethren resumed labour, but we regret to say the installation of the W.M. was not proceeded with, in consequence of the indisposition of the P.M.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

POMFRET LODGE, NORTHAMPTON (No. 463.)—The brethren of this flourishing Lodge, held at the George Hotel, re-assembled after the summer recess, on Thursday, the 4th ult., Br. John Whiteman, W.M., presiding, when Mr. F. W. Bowman, of the Northamptonshire Militia, and Mr. W. Lenaan, of Weedon, were nominated as fit and proper persons to become members of this ancient Order, and their names will be submitted to the ballot at the next meeting of the Lodge, to be held on the second Thursday in the present month, and not on the first Thursday, as usual.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE CAPTAIN FENWICK.—On Monday, the 17th September, were interred in Jesmond Cemetery, Newcastle-on-Tyne, the last mortal remains of Br. Geo. Fenwick, P.P.G., Sword Bearer for Northumberland. A large number of the Masonic body, including the D.P.G.M., paid a last mournful tribute to the memory of their departed and beloved brother by walking in procession to the grave.

LODGE, DE OGLE, MORPETH (No. 919).—On Thursday, the 13th September, the brethren of this Lodge assembled in their Lodge-room at Mr. Pringles, the Black Bull Hotel, for the installation of Br. V. C. V. Surtees, the W.M. elect for the ensuing year. The interesting and impressive ceremony of installation was performed by Br. Wm. Dalziel, P.G.D.C. for Northumberland, with his usual ability. The installation ceremony concluded, the W.M. proceeded to appoint and invest the following brethren as officers, viz. :—Brs. Robert Shute, P.M.; I. M. Henderson, S.W.; Edward Stamford, J.W.; R. Shute, Treasurer; Robert King, Secretary; John Hutchinson, S.D.; W. E. Franklin, J.D.; Robert Vardy, S.S.; Andrew Rutherford, J.S.; John Ord, I.G.; John Harrison, Tyler. Afterwards Br. Lieut. Henry Mitford, of Mitford Hall, who had been initiated in the Lodge Tolerance (784) received his second or Fellow-craft degree. The Lodge was then closed, when the brethren sat down to a sumptuous dinner, prepared for them by Mr. Pringle. The dessert comprised every delicacy, and the wines were of *recherché* quality. The W.M. presided on the occasion, supported on his right by Brs. Rich. Metcalf, D.P.G.M. for the province; Wm. Dalziel, P.P.G.S.W. and P.G.D.C.; and Geo. Weatherhead, P.P.G.J.W.; and on his left by Brs. Robert Shute, P.G.J.D., and P.M. De Ogle, 919; Wm. Berkley, P.P.G.S.W.; J. S. Challoner, P.P.G.J.W., and Wm. Johnson, P.P.G.J.W. The vice-chairs were ably filled by the S.W. and the J.W. Amongst the brethren present were observed, Brs. John L. Donald, W.M., 793; Lieut. Henry Mitford, H.M. 19th Light Infantry; W. E. Franklin, J.W. 56; Thos. Andrews, J.D. 56; Robert King, Secretary, 919; Robert Vardy, S.S. 919; and Robert Fisher, S.D. 706. The brethren did full justice to the ample spread, and, thanks having been returned, the cloth was removed, when the W.M. rising, said, he felt they were all loyal subjects. He begged to give "The health of Her most gracious Majesty The Queen." (Cheers). The health of the Emperor of the French was then given by the W.M., and warmly responded to. The W.M. again rose and said, it gave him great pleasure to propose "The Army and Navy." It was with peculiarly sympathetic feelings that he gave the toast on this occasion, for they had that day the honour of having among them a young officer, Br. Lieut. Henry Mitford, who had taken part in the adventurous campaign in the Crimea—(cheers)—who was just now recovering from wounds received at the battle of Inkermann, and whose intention it was shortly to join again his brave comrades in the field—(cheers)—where they all, he was sure, wished that Providence might shield him from all dangers. He would give them the Army and Navy, coupling with the toast the health of Br. Lieut. Henry Mitford. (Prolonged cheers.)

Br. Lieut. Mitford, on rising to reply, was greeted with enthusiastic cheers. He said he wished the task of returning thanks on behalf of the army and navy had devolved on one better qualified than he was. No doubt the army and navy had many claims on the country's gratitude, but that gratitude was freely given, and only those who had experienced it, knew how much the gratitude of those at home encouraged the soldier amid the cold and cheerless labor of the trenches. (Hear, hear.) He begged most

warmly to thank the W.M. and brethen for the way in which the toast of the army and navy had been proposed and received, and for the honor done to himself in having had his health coupled with the toast. Should he live to return to the Crimea, that day would be a green and hallowed spot on the tablet of memory to cheer him in his duties. (Cheers.)

"The Earl of Zetland. G.M. of England," by the W.M. (Drunk with Masonic honors.) "The Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M. of England." (Honors.) "The Dukes of Athol and Leinster." (Honors,)

The W.M. then proposed in appropriate terms "The health of the R.W.P.G.M. of the Province, the Rev. Edward Challoner Ogle," who had been prevented being present by very urgent business. (Drunk with Masonic honors).

The W.M. again rose, and said it gave him peculiar pleasure to propose "The health of the D.P.G.M. for Northumberland," who had, to their great pleasure, honored them with his presence that day. (Cheers.) The D.P.G.M. had ever been known to them as a straightforward and zealous Mason, with one of the warmest of hearts. He would give them the health of Br. Richard Metcalf. (Cheers.) Drunk with Masonic honors.

The D.P.G.M., on rising, was received with enthusiastic cheers. He said he begged to return his sincere thanks to the W.M. for the honor done him in proposing his health, and to the brethren for so warmly responding to the toast. Morpeth, many years ago, had a flourishing and highly respectable Lodge, and he thought it would be discreditable to the ancient borough if the new Lodge could not be sustained with equal efficiency. (Hear, hear.) Happily there were those amongst the brethren who would hear nothing of impossibilities. He (the D.P.G.M.) trusted at the end of the year to be able to congratulate the W.M. of De Ogle Lodge, on numbers, prosperity, and position. (Cheers.)

Br. Wm. Berkley, P.P.G.S.W., rising, said the W.M. had kindly given him leave to propose the next toast. It was particularly pleasing to him that it had fallen to his part to propose "The health of their much respected and beloved W.M., Br. V. C. V. Surtees." (Applause.) In electing Br. Surtees to fill the chair of De Ogle Lodge, the brethren had merely done a duty and a pleasure to themselves. (Hear, hear.) Having filled the highest offices many years ago, Br. Surtees is once more appearing and taking an active part in Masonic life, was to them as one "long lost to battle, now to arms again." (Immense cheering.) Dear was the name of Surtees to the Masons of Northumbria, more especially in connection with Northern Counties Lodge. Drink then, in a bumper, said Br. Berkley, the health of Br. V. C. V. Surtees, W.M., of De Ogle Lodge. (Cheers.) Drunk with enthusiasm, and Masonic honors.

Br. V. C. V. Surtees, the W.M., rose to reply, and, when the applause had subsided, said for the kind expressions of Br. Berkley, he felt indebted, and also for the very warm and flattering manner in which the brethren had responded to the toast. He (Br. Surtees) had always endeavoured to do his duty as a Mason, and, whilst he should remain W.M. of De Ogle Lodge, nothing should be wanting on his part to prosecute its interests and to render it worthy the high hopes of their much respected D.P.G.M. (Cheers.) He (Br. Surtees) again begged they would accept his sincere thanks.

The W.M. next rose to propose "The health of Br. Shute, P.M.," and paid him many graceful compliments.

Br. Shute said he felt deeply grateful for the many kind and flattering expressions of the W.M., and for the very hearty response given to the toast.

Br. Shute, again rising, begged to propose "The healths of Brs. Johnson and Weatherhead, the Past S. and J. Wardens," to whom the Lodge, but yet in its infancy, was much indebted.

Br. Johnson replied, he was grateful for the honor done him, and proud to see De Ogle flourish.

Br. Weatherhead also returned his sincere thanks, and felt happy if any little services of his had been conducive to the prosperity of the Lodge.

Br. J. S. Challoner rose, and said he considered it a privilege, and felt it a pleasure to have leave to propose "The Officers of De Ogle Lodge." To the extreme pleasure of

Br. Shute, its first W.M., the Lodge had surmounted almost insurmountable difficulties, but much remained to call for all the energies of the newly-appointed officers. He begged to give the health of the Officers of De Ogle Lodge. (Cheers.)

Br. Henderson, S.W., in responding to the toast, said the Officers of the Lodge were fully sensible of their responsibilities and duties, and trusted they would do more than answer all the expectations of the brethren.

Br. Stamford, J.W. and Br. W. E. Franklin, J.D., also made appropriate replies.

The W.M. proposed "Prosperity to the Newcastle-on-Tyne Lodge, 24," with the health of Br. Johnson, W.M.

Br. Johnson made a neat reply.

Next followed, "Prosperity to Northern Counties Lodge, 586," with the health of Br. Wm. Dalziel, W.M. (Cheers.)

Br. Dalziel, responding, said the Lodge De Ogle had paid Northern Counties Lodge a compliment in electing Br. Surtees W.M., for the name of Surtees was revered in Northern Counties Lodge. He (Br. Dalziel) thanked the brethren most cordially for their hearty response to the toast. He also felt grateful for the many undeserved compliments which had been showered upon him.

Then was given, "Prosperity to St. Peter's Lodge, 706," coupling with it the health of Br. Fisher, S.D., of that Lodge.

Br. Robert Fisher returned thanks. He said he had very great pleasure in attending the meeting, but he little thought so high an honour would have been paid him. He felt it indeed a proud distinction for his health to be proposed as the representative of St. Peter's Lodge, which every one allowed was the pet Lodge of the province. The more he saw of Masonry the more he appreciated its excellence, and he would, whenever he could, render every assistance to the W.M. of the Lodge De Ogle.

The W.M. then said it afforded him peculiar pleasure to propose the health of a very young Brother, who had been honored with a very high position. He begged to give "Prosperity to Lodge De Leraine, 793," and to couple with the toast the health of Br. John L. Donald, W.M., of that Lodge.—(Cheers.)

Br. Donald made a graceful reply.

The W.M., again rising, said they had drunk the health of Br. Mitford in the earlier part of the evening, in connection with the toast of "The Army and Navy," he (the W.M.) now begged they would drink his (Br. Mitford's) health, *as a Freemason.* (Drunk with honors).

Br. Mitford made a neat reply, thanking the Lodge for conferring on him the second degree. He said he knew that in the Crimean campaign many had been largely benefitted by Freemasonry.

The toast "Our next merry meeting," brought to a close one of the most pleasant festivals we ever remember to have attended.

NORTH WALES AND SHROPSHIRE.

Br. Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., M.P., the Grand Master of the Province, held his annual Grand Lodge at Admaston, Shropshire, on Tuesday, August 28th, when there was a very numerous attendance. The hotel is almost the only building of importance in the village, and is a neat, commodious, and comfortable edifice, exceedingly well conducted, and surrounded by park-like grounds, and with neatly arranged garden and other conveniences, and the terms of accommodation are moderate. About three years ago, there being many Masons in the neighbourhood, a warrant was obtained, and a Lodge opened at the hotel; and, at this time, No. 328, with the assistance of Br. Eyton, an opulent Mason, dwelling near, is one of the most flourishing and well managed within the Provincial Grand Master's jurisdiction. The furniture is splendid and valuable; and a charter for a Royal Arch Chapter has been recently applied for and obtained.

The Lodge was opened at twelve o'clock, in the three degrees, by the W.M. Br. Evett, and an improving brother having been raised to the higher degree, by P.M. Br. Marriott, R.W.P.G. Registrar, the R.W.P.G. Master entered in procession with his officers, being saluted with the customary honours, and a solemn tune played on the harmonium by Br. Bloxham, W.P.G. Organist. The P.G. Lodge was then

opened in due form, and the business of the Province disposed of. The following brethren were the P.G. officers appointed for the ensning year:—Brs. Eyton, V.W.P.G.S. Warden; Wood, V.W.P.G.J. Warden; Rev. — Bently, V.W.P.G. Chaplain; Rev. — Guise, V.W.P.G. Chaplain; White, V.W.P.G. Treasurer; Bloxham, V.W.P.G. Registrar; Wigan, V.W.P.G. Secretary; Burr, W.P.G.S. Deacon; Emerson, W.P.G.J. Deacon; Patchett, W.P.G. Superintendent of Works; Evett, W.P.G. Director of Cer.; Randall, W.A.P. Director of Cer.; Anslow, W.P.G. Standard Bearer; Hayden, W.P.G. Organist; Beeche, W.P.G. Pursuivant; H. H. Bayley, John Francis, R. Maddock Williams, Aronson, W. Thomas, R. Pritchard, Holyhead, P.G. Stewards; W. Mallard, P.G. Tyler; J. Cureton, P.G. Assist.-Tyler.

The R.W.P.G. Master intimated his intention to hold the next P.G. Lodge, about this time twelvemonth, at Holyhead.

The Lodge having been closed, the brethren, in number about seventy, sat down to an excellent banquet, furnished by Br. Purcell, and consisting of turtle, venison, and all the delicacies of the season, pines, melons, grapes, and other fruits, in abundance, and wines of the choicest vintage.

Grace was said by the Rev. Br. Jellicorse.

The musical department, which was most efficient, was under the direction of Br. George Hay, of Shrewsbury. The vocalists were Brs. Roberts and party, from Liverpool.

The cloth being drawn, and "*Non Nobis Domine*" sung,

The R.W.P.G.Master said, as all Masons were loyal, true, and religious, he need only mention the first toast, "The Queen," whose rule was most glorious, and whose domestic character was an example for all to follow. "The Queen," drank with great enthusiasm, followed by the National Anthem.

The R.W.P.G. Master then gave "Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," observing that he had little doubt that when the Prince of Wales came of age he would join the Royal Craft, as his grandfather and all his family had done, to their own infinite satisfaction. (Cheers).

"The Earl of Zetland, M.W.G. Master of England." (Masonic honours).

Br. Marriot, R.W.P.G. Registrar of England, proposed "The Earl of Yarborough, M.W.D.G. Master of England" (Masonic honours).

The R.W.D.P.G. Master proposed, "The health of the R.W.P.G. Master," as a worthy, indefatigable, and liberal promoter of Masonry—a good landlord, an admirable sportsman, an honourable descendant of one of the most ancient families in the Principality, and closely allied with the best of those in Shropshire. (Masonic honours).

Br. Sir Watkin replied, expressing his great admiration for the principles of the Order, urging the brethren to carry them out to the utmost extent, and to perfect their practice, and avowing the pleasure which it would always give him to meet and assist them. (Cheers).

The R.W.P.G. Master then proposed "Br. the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Combermere, R.W.P.G.M. for Cheshire, and the neighbouring P.G. Masters."

This toast was responded to by Br. Masefield, V.W.G. Treasurer for Staffordshire, and Br. Martin, V.W.P.P.J.G. Warden for West Lancashire.

Br. Marriott, R.W.P.G. Registrar of England, gave "The health of Br. the Rev. C. Dymock, R.W.D.G. Master for North Wales and Shropshire." (Masonic honours).

Br. Dymock returned thanks.

"The Provincial Grand Wardens, and other Grand officers." (Masonic honours).

Responded to by Br. Rowlands, R.W.P.P.G.S. Warden.

Br. Martin, at the request of the R.W.P.G. Master, proposed "The Army and Navy," observing that the toast had been familiar to them from their earliest years, but especially under existing circumstances would it give them great pleasure to drink it. The glorious deeds of the army and navy in other wars were brobably within the recollection of all present, and they had fully maintained their character in the war now carrying on in the Crimea. Masons were men of peace, but one of their leading principles was loyalty and love of country. They never mixed themselves up in plots or conspiracies against Government, but were obedient to the laws of the country in which they resided, or which afforded them protection—never forgetting,

however, their allegiance to the sovereign of their native land. They recognised fully the sentiment of one of England's ancient heroes, which had been immortalised by England's greatest poet—

"*In peace there's nothing so becomes a man,*
As modest stillness and humanity.
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,
Let us be tigers in our fierce deportment." (Cheers.)

Through the aggressions of the Emperor of Russia, this war had been forced upon them, and right glad would they be when an honourable peace should be secured. They had not yet taken Sebastopol, but they had done something at Sweaborg which was indicative of their ultimate success, and there was that in the English character which would never let them give up, but they would persevere under all discouragements until it be destroyed. The best blood of Cambria had been shed in the course of the operations, and there was scarcely a high family in the country that had not sustained severe losses. It was to be hoped that the sufferings of the last winter would not have to be repeated, but whether or not, the army and navy would stand firm, and do their duty. Let all present then—remembering not only that they had many brethren in the Crimea, and in the Baltic and Black Seas, but that all men were brethren—join heartily in acknowledging their services by drinking the toast which he had been commanded to propose. (Cheers). The toast was drank with three times three.

Br. Marriott proposed "Lady Wynn, of Wynnstay, Lady Combermere, Lady Corbett, and the other patronesses of the Order." (Cheers).

Responded to by the Rev. Br. Elliott.

The R.W.P.G. Master gave "The health of the Chaplains, Brs. Guise and Bentley." (Masonic honours).

Responded to by the Rev. Br. Jellicorse.

"The visiting Brethren," "The R.W.G. Masters of Ireland and Scotland," "The Masters and Wardens of Lodges," responded to by the Rev. Br. James, of Ludlow; "The Treasurer and Secretary," responded to by Brs. White and Wigan; "The Musical Brethren, and thanks to them for their services," responded to by Br. Bloxham, V.W.P.G. Registrar; and "To all poor and distressed Masons throughout the world, and speedy relief to them;" having been drunk,

The R.W.P.G. Master expressed the great pleasure he had in attending their meetings, and promised to be present at the consecration of their new Chapter.

On the following day, for the satisfaction and enjoyment of the ladies, the brethren gave a pic-nic on the Wrekin, which was fashionably and numerously attended by the gentler sex. A sumptuous repast was provided, and "the ladies" and "all friends round the Wrekin" were enthusiastically toasted. There was a band of music also provided, and the merry dance was kept up on the green sward with great spirit till the shades of evening warned the party that it was time to retire. The gallantry of the Masonic body was the theme of universal praise amongst the female portion of the community, and the brethren avowed their deep regret that it was not in their power or that of any body of Masons to make such an innovation upon the ancient constitution of the Order as would admit females to a participation in their mysteries and privileges. The weather was delightful throughout the day.

SUFFOLK.

Wednesday, 20th Sept., was a day long to be remembered in the history of Beccles, as being the occasion of the P.G.M. for Suffolk of free and accepted Masons (Sir E. S. Gooch, Bart., M.P.) having held a Lodge in that town. About 7, a.m., the day was ushered in by a merry peal from the musical bells of St. Michael's tower, which was repeated at intervals. At one, p.m., the brethren of the several Lodges in the province went in procession, accompanied by a band, to the Corn Exchange, where the Lodge was held. At three o'clock, the Lodge was closed, and the public were admitted by tickets to hear an address in aid of the funds of the Lying-in-Charity of the town; when the Rev. G. Mingaye, of Wilby, P.G.C., delivered a most suitable,

impressive, and eloquent oration; in which he expressed to the audience his regret at the necessity of addressing them in the present building, instead of the church, which had been refused for that purpose—a circumstance unknown in the annals of Freemasonry. A collection was made amongst the brethren in Lodge, which amounted to £13 11*s.* 6*d.*, and a further one at the doors of £6 12*s.* 3*d.*, making a total of £20 3*s.* 9*d.*

WORCESTERSHIRE.

DUDLEY.—The following excellent institutions have recently received the benefit of the proceeds arising from the Annual Masonic Ball, held at the hotel, in January last. The Dispensary, £15; the Sick and Indigent Society, £5; the Lying-in-Society, £5; and the Blanket Club, £2.—Total, £27.

YORKSHIRE.

AMBITIOUS LODGE, LEEDS (No. 322).—On Wednesday, 17th ult., the brethren of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Hall, Hickmondwicke, for the purpose of presenting a portrait of the value of 30 guineas, and a purse of £7, the surplus of the subscription, to Br. Thomas Allatt, P.M., as a testimonial of their esteem and respect for his zealous and unwearied exertions in promoting the welfare of the Lodge. The brethren, to the number of nearly 80, sat down to an excellent dinner. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, Br. James Royle, P.M., the President on the occasion, in an excellent and appropriate address, presented the portrait and the purse. Br. Allatt accepted the testimonial, and expressed his high gratification in a feeling reply. He then presented the portrait to the brethren, to be hung in the Lodge-room. The portrait was painted by Br. Samuel Howell, of London and Huddersfield, and is an excellent picture both as a likeness and a work of art.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLIS.

ROYAL YORK CHAPTER (No. 7).—This Chapter met for the first time this Season on Tuesday evening, the 23rd of Oct., at the Freemasons' Tavern, the meeting was very numerously attended the M.E. and R.W., companion Le Veaux in the chair. There was no particularly Masonic business before the Chapter and various resolutions were agreed to with respect to purchasing new decorations and renovating the present furniture which was referred to a committee of seven companions. All business being ended the companions sat down to a most elegant dinner supplied by Messrs. Elkington. We remarked a decided improvement in the cuisine and arrangements under the new adminstration of the house. After dinner the usual loyal toasts were given, and the evening enlivened by some capital singing. The company retired about10 o'clock.

ENOCH CHAPTER (No. 11).—This distinguished Chapter held its meeting for Installation of Principals, at Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, October 14th, on which occasion Comp. Jas. Simpson was installed Z.; Comp. Young, H., and Comp. Bird, I., by Comp. George Biggs, P.Z., and P.G.D.C., in that efficient and impressive manner for which he has long been distinguished. The following officers were also inducted: Comp. P. Matthews, S.E., R. Temple, S.N., and Kennedey, P.S., who appointed Comp. Solomons, 1st Assistant. After which Br. Pain, of the Enoch Lodge, was exalted to the sublime degree of a Royal Arch Mason. The Chapter was then closed, and the companions proceeded to partake of an elegant banquet. After the usual loyal Masonic toasts the M.E.Z. proposed the health of the Grand Officers on whose merits he dilated, and expressed himself particularly happy in being honoured with the company of two such valuable members of that body as Comps. George Biggs P.G.D.C. who had on the present occasion rendered such valuable service by per-

forming the installations and who was ever ready to render his assistance when called upon, and Comp. Matthews, P.G. and S.E., of this Chapter whose many services to it, and the Lodge, were too well known to need comment. Comp. Matthews in return expressed his surprise at being called upon to return thanks for the Grand Officers when so do distinguished a member of that body as Comp. Biggs was present and whose many virtues as a man and a Mason were acknowledged. For himself he must say that he felt very much the honour of the appointment he had received, and trusted that he should long be spared to enjoy the pleasure of coming amongst them. The M.E.Z. then proposed the health of the visitors, Comp. Biggs, of the Supreme G.C.; Dearsley, and Thackleton, No. 3; Jones, 9; Potter, 13; Binckes, 49, and Kain, 51; thanking them for their attendance and hoping that the hospitality afforded was to their satisfaction, and also that he should again have the pleasure of seeing them. After several suitable speeches from the visitors, Comp. Binckes in returning thanks expressed the happiness he felt at meeting so many old and respected faces of friends with whom he was and had been connected in the Mother Lodge by the strongest ties of brotherhood and affection, and trusted that he should some day have the pleasure of joining them as a member instead of a visitor. Comp. R. Williams, P.Z. then proposed the health of the M.E.Z. and said that on the present occasion the government of the Chapter had been intrusted to efficient hands, and he made no doubt that at the end of his year of office the M.E.Z. would resign his trust as pure and unsullied as he had received it. The M.E.Z. expressed his thanks and at the same time his determination to do all in his power to further the interests of the Chapter, in the working of which he counted much on the assistance of Comp Williams and other Past Principals and Companions. He then proposed the health of the Past Principals and thanked them for the zeal and ability they had ever displayed in furthering the interests of the Chapter; and in proposing the health of his officers the M.E.Z. said that as a ship could not be expected to make a prosperous voyage unless it was well commanded, neither could any other undertaking, but he felt certain that the course of the Enoch Chapter could not be otherwise than prosperous under the guidance of such able and experienced members of the Order.

Robert Burns Chapter (No. 25).—At the quarterly convocation of this Chapter held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 22nd inst., three brothers viz. Todd, Goodyear, and W. Harrison were most ably exalted in the sublime degree of the Royal Arch—Comp. Newton M.E.Z., presiding. The Companies to the number of upwards of 30, afterwards supped together and spent a very pleasant evening.

Old King's Arms Chapter (No. 30).—The 1st meeting of the season was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, the 1st inst. Comp. James Linton, M.E.Z. presiding, but the business was purely formal. The election of officers will take place at the next meeting, in January.

Mount Sinai Chapter (No. 49).—A convocation of this Chapter was holden at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 16th ult. Br. Anderson P.Z. in the absence of the M.W.Z. presiding. Br. Blackburn was introduced and most ably exalted into the Royal Arch. The other business having been properly disposed of, the Comps. adjourned from labour to refreshment.

Domatic Chapter (No. 206).—The Companions of this Chapter met on Thursday evening, the 25th Oct., at Comp. Ireland's Masonic Hall, Fetter-lane, Comp. Clark Z., Comp. Buss H., Comp. T. A. Adams J. The business of the evening consisted of a very long discussion upon the private affairs of the Chapter, after which the Companions retired to a banquet prepared for their enjoyment in Comp. Ireland's excellent style, the usual toasts having been disposed of, and some excellent songs sung, the Companions, retired shortly before 12 o'clock, much pleased with their evening.

Jerusalem Chapter (No. 218).—This Chapter commenced its meetings for the season on Tuesday evening, the 9th ult., at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, under the able presidency of Comp. Scambler, Z. There being no proposition before the meeting, the business was merely of a formal nature; but several members were proposed for exaltation at the next meeting of this flourishing Chapter.

Polish National Chapter (No. 778)—The seventh annual convocation of this

Chapter, was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, Oct. 25, for the purpose of exalting two candidates into the Royal Arch, and installing the Principals for the year 1855-6. The Chapter having been opened in due form, Br. John Gurtor, and Brs. C. D. de Nerode were introduced and duly exalted, the Principals' chairs being filled by Comp. Watson P.Z. as M.E Z.; Comp. Goring P.Z. as H., and Comp. Warren J. At the conclusion of these ceremonies, the installations were proceeded with, Comp J. W. Adams, being initiated into the chair of Z. and Comp. H. G. Warren that of H., by Comp. Wm. Watson who most ably went through his duties. Comp. Warren next installed his successor Comp. J. Michals, Sen., as J. The other officers of the Chapter, also took their appointed places; Comp. Limanski P.Z. as Treasurer, to which office he was unanimously re-elected; Comp. Blackburn as E.; Comp. Dettius M; Comp. E. Johnson as P.S.; and Comps. Hayward and Webber Asst. S.; Comps. Limanski P.Z., and Boyde were also appointed Stewards. On the motion of Comp. Szulczevski P.Z. it was resolved that a minute be placed on the records of the Chapter expressive of the regret of the Companions at the deep loss sustained by the Chapter by the death of Comp. Lord Dudley Stuart, who having been elected as Z. of the Chapter, did not live to be installed into the chair. The other business having been brought to a close, and one or two brethren put in nomination as candidates for exaltation at the next meeting in January, the Companions adjourned to a very elegant banquet, served under the personal superintendence of the new proprietors of the house. The chair was of course taken by Comp. Adams M.E.Z., supported by upwards of 20 Companions, amongst whom were Comp. Rd. Spencer, No. 3; Comp. W. J. Newton, M.E.Z. No. 25; Comp Goring, P.Z. 25; Comp. A. H. Hewlett, 25. The evening was spent in great harmony and in the course of the proceedings an official toast was dedicated to the memory of the late lamented Comp. Lord Dudley Stuart, which was drunk in solemn silence. The speeches of the evening were alternated by some excellent singing by Comp. G. F. Taylor, Miss Marian Taylor, and several of the Comps. belonging to the Chapter.

DEVONSHIRE.

CHAPTER OF FORTITUDE, STONEHOUSE (No. 122).—A correspondent writes to complain that in our notice of the proceedings at this Chapter in our last number there was no allusion to the principal business of the evening, and supplies the following—The Chapter met on the 18th September, for the purpose of electing and installing the Principals, and appointing the respective officers for the ensuing year; on which occasion M. E. Companion Rowe was elected and installed into the Chair of L., and M. E. Companion Gidley into the Chair of J. By the previous and special invitation of the Past Principals and Companions of the Chapter, Doctor Dowse, Deputy Inspector-General of the Army Medical Department, M. E. Past Z. of the ancient Frontenac Chapter, No. 491, of Kingston, Canada West, assumed (for the evening), the Chair of the 1st Principal, and performed the ceremony of Installation, which together with the opening and closing of the Chapter was gone through in a most solemn and impressive manner, so much so, as to call forth a vote of thanks from the Companions, and the unanimous election of Companion Dowse an honorary member of the Chapter.

DURHAM.

CHAPTER DE BURGHI (No. 614.)—This Chapter held its annual meeting and festival on Thursday, the 18th instant, at the Black Bull Inn, Gateshead, when the following Companions were installed officers for the ensuing year: Edward Dean Davis, Z.; F. P. Ionn, H.; H. L. Monro, J.; W. E. Franklin, E.; A. Stewart, N.; F. H. Woolley, P.S.; A. Dickson, Janitor. After the business of the day, the Companions sat down to an excellent dinner, and the evening was spent in the most agreeable way.

SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

☞ This Lodge held its Quarterly Convocation on Wednesday, the 24th October, 1855, in the Masonic Hall, 87, Union-street. Present: Br. Dr. Walker Arnott, LL.D., R.W. Substitute, Prov. G.S. Warden; Br. James Thomson, W.M. of 362, as Prov. Gr.Sr. Warden; Br. James York, S.W. of 3½, as Prov. Gr. Jr. Warden; Br. James Miller, P.M. of 102, Prov. Gr. Treas.; Br. Donald Campbell, D.M. of 102, Prov. Gr. Sec., and a large attendance of the members.

The minutes of the meeting of July 26, as well as minute of Committee of date 13 September, were read and approved of; and from the great interest exhibited by the leading Lodges in the province, in having agreed to enter into the arrangements of the proposed Benevolent Fund, the former Committee were re-appointed to complete the arrangements. The W.M. of 219 tabled the following motion: "That every Lodge in the Province shall subscribe to the proposed Benevolent Fund the sum of one guinea, in addition to the ordinary subscriptions; and that, in the event of any Lodge or Lodges failing such payments, their members will not be entitled to relief from the said Charity Fund.

On the motion of Br. Donald Campbell, it was unanimously and enthusiastically agreed to, that the Prov. Gr. Lodge should hold a Masonic Festival on St. John's day, 27th December, when the following brethren were appointed a Committee to carry out the arrangements:—Br. Donald Campbell; Br. James York, Br. John Eisten, Br. David Sutherland, Br. Robert Thomson, jun., after which the Lodge was duly closed.

St. Mark's Lodge (No. 102).—The members of this Lodge met in their Hall, Buchanan-street, on 1st October, being convened for the first of the regular monthly meetings for the year 1855-56. D.M. Br. Donald Campbell occupied the chair, Br. G. J. Lyon acted as Sen., and Br. Reid as Jun. W., present also other office bearers, and a full attendance of members and brethren of sister Lodges. The minutes as usual were read and approved of. Applications for initiation into the order from Messrs J. H. S. Jekyll, York Terrace, London; Charles Hamilton, Merchant, Glasgow; John Ellison Cowan, Merchant, Glasgow; David Benzensohn, Chiropedist, Dublin; James Mc L. Henderson, Shipbuilder, Renfrew; and David Haire, House Painter, Glasgow; were read by the R.W.M. These applicants were all found eligible and were initiated; Br. Jekyll, on account of his requiring to leave Scotland the following day, as was certified by his recommenders, and on a motion, to that effect regularly made, and carried, was, along with Brs. G. R. Dalgleish Gibson, and P.M. Hannah, passed to the Fellow-craft degree; and thereafter Fellow-crafts Jekyll, I. K. Donald and Robert Dunlop were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. In consequence of the lamented death of the able and worthy Jun. W., Br. John Elder, the acting R.W. M., nominated Br. Robert Thomson jun., as a fit and proper person to fill the vacant office; and also nominated Br. J. N. Sutherland to the office of S.D.; Br. Alen Macdonald nominated Brs. W. F. Buckie as a Br. qualified in all respects to discharge the duties of J.D.; and Brs. D. Campbell proposed Brs. Henry Johnstone for Steward, and Richard Brunsdon, for Jun. Guard. These several nominations were duly seconded, and it was intimated that at the next meeting the Brs. so nominated, would if approved be elected, and if present, be installed. The Treasurer stated that his books had this day been audited, and that a considerable balance remained in his hands. During refreshment and after the usual toasts from the chair, Br. James Miller, P.M. responded to the toast of the Prov. G.L. of which he is Treasurer; and the toast to the memory of the late J.W., was received with much feeling by the assembled brethren.

On the 9th October, there was an Emergency meeting, Br. D. Campbell in the chair, assisted by the Wardens, &c., at which Br. David Benzensohn, having to return

instanter for Ireland, was (on the law of the G.L., applicable to such occurrences being complied with,) passed to the Fellow craft, and afterwards raised to the sublime degree of M.M.

At a further meeting held on 15th October, Br. D. Campbell, D.M., officiating R.W.M., the S.W., Br. James Horne, and acting Jun. W., Br. Robert Thomson, Jun., other officers and brethren, Br. John M. Rowan, who at a former meeting had been nominated to the office of Treasurer, and Brs. Robert Thomson Jun., J. N. Sutherland, W. F. Buckie and Henry Johnston were called forward and took the O.B. of the respective offices to which they were nominated at the meeting, held on 1st October current, and were installed, John M. Rowan, Treasurer, R. Thomson, Jun., J.W., J. N. Sutherland, S.D., W. F. Buckie, J.D., and Henry Johnston, Steward. By a vote of the Lodge, 20 copies of a book, entitled the "History, Nature, and Objects of Masonry," of which, P.M. Br. James Miller is the author, were at his own request, presented to Br. Miller. The copyright of this work Br. Miller had some time ago gratuitously and generously assigned to the Lodge St. Mark. A brother who for some time past had been making a practice of calling upon various Lodges in the province, and also on individual members for charity, and who had previously on more than one occasion been assisted by the Lodge, was, after some remarks had been made on his case by brethren conversant therewith, refused assistance on this occasion.

The Lodge was after a short and harmonious refreshment, duly closed.

Another meeting was held on the 17th October, Br. D. Campbell presiding, assisted by Br. J. N. Sutherland, as S., and Br. Robert Thomson, Jun., as J.W., and other brethren. Brs. W. A. G. Mc Leod, P.M., Hannay, and J. R. Dalgleish Gibson, proved themselves skilful Fellow-crafts, and were accordingly raised to the sublime degree as Master Masons.

RENFREWSHIRE.

INAUGURATION OF A NEW LODGE.

The inauguration of a new Lodge, named the "Renfrew County Kilwinning," took place in Paisley, on the evening of the 25th October current.

Br. Donald Campbell read a commission from Br. Sir John Maxwell, of Polloc, Prov.G.M., empowering him as a M.M. of St. Mark's, No. 102, to act on the occasion as Dep. P.G.M., and accordingly Br. Campbell took the chair. The charter from the G.L. constituting this Lodge by the style of the "Renfrew County Kilwinning, No. 370," was produced by the R.W. Prov. G.M., and handed to the Prov. G. Secretary, Br. Robt. Mitchell, and by him read. The O. B. of fealty to the G.L. was administered to the Master and Wardens *in pro-pria forma*, and the P.G.M. appointed Br. James Horne, of St. Mark's, P.G.S.W., and Br. J. W. Flemington, G.K.L., No. 4, P.G.J.W., and other office-bearers, and the Lodge was opened. Br. Campbell read the ancient laws and regulations of the Order, and to these the Masters assented, and the other office-bearers present, took the O.B., and all were invested with the insignia, and installed in their respective offices. The Prov. G.M. in a lecture, enlightened the brethren on the beautiful precepts of Masonry. This *resume* of the Prov. G.M. was most eloquent and redolent of the noble principles of Masonry, and was illustrated by selections from poets, some of whom had been "wiser than they knew." On the Prov. G.L. being closed, the "Renfrew County Kilwinning" was opened by the R.W.M. Br. James A. M'Kean, who then occupied the chair. Applications for initiation of five gentleman were read by the Secretary, Br. Wm. Murray, who informed the brethren, that this number was much less than had requested to be admitted, but he had delayed getting their petitions brought forward, as, at one meeting, more could not conveniently be admitted. The Secretary's statement was hailed with much pleasure as indisputable evidence of a career of success.

During refreshment, the R.W.M. Br. M'Kean, proposed the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," alluding to the noble and honoured lady, to whose rule the brethren would acknowledge, that the tender words of the ballad were peculiarly applicable, "The sway of our Monarch was mild as the May."

Br. Ronald responded to the toast, and assisted by the brethren, sang, "God save the Queen."

"The rest of the Royal Family, and the Baron of Renfrew," a most appropriate toast, was received with great enthusiasm. And the R.W.M. said, that to all true Scotsmen, Renfrew should be a revered county, as it was the birth-place of Wallace, and that, therefore, the title of the "Baron of Renfrew," was the brightest ornament in the diadem of the Prince of Wales.

"The Grand Lodge of Scotland, and the Duke of Athol," of "England and the Earl of Zetland," of "Ireland and its only Duke," were severally responded to.

Br. Wm. Taylor, sung "Burns' Farewell to the Tarbolton Lodge," and in compliance with the poet's request, craved the brethren to give "Ae round for him that's far awa."

"The Provincial Grand Lodge," was given by Br. J. A. M'Kean, who said, that the success of Masonry depended more upon the Prov. G.L., than upon the Grand Lodge itself, and coupled with the toast, the name of Br. Donald Campbell.

Br. Campbell, for himself and the office-bearers *pro. tem.*, returned thanks.

"The Army and Navy," given by the R.W.M. was received with cheers. He alluded to the gallant actions fought in the Crimea, where our braves had done their duty up to, aye, past England's expectations; and to the sailors who had warred well even on land. Ships could not sail as yet at the bottom of the seas, nor through stone walls, and it was want of opportunity, and not inability, which forced the renowned British Navy to remain comparatively inactive.

Br. Capt. Letham, in returning thanks, said, that being a Militia Officer, he responded for the Army, somewhat in the like manner as he once heard an officer of Marines respond for the Navy, and trusted that the pluck of the Allies would yet conquer all opposition in the Crimea.

Br. Swan favoured the meeting with the "Red, White, and Blue."

Br. D. Campbell, toasted "Prosperity to Renfrew County Kilwinning Lodge, and the Officers who had that night been installed." He shortly enumerated some of the eminent Brothers who had in former times been members of this Lodge—Lord Blantyre, Earl of Glasgow, &c., and stated that in former years mostly all the principal proprietors of the county were members of this Lodge, for though now called a new Lodge it was in reality an old Lodge revived.

To this toast Br. M'Kean replied in neat terms.

From the chair, "The Mother Kilwinning and Brother Russell, Glasgow," who returned thanks.

Some of the sentiments in the "Soldier's Funeral," as sung by Br. Ronald, S.W., being singularly applicable to the "present aspect of affairs," was feelingly welcomed by the assembly.

"Glasgow Kilwinning Lodge, No. 4, and their services in getting up the Lodge R.C.K., and particularly those of Br. Alexander," was responded to by Br. Easton, who said he was glad to observe that the R.C.K. Lodge had got such a chaste and handsomely fitted up room in which to meet, and remarked on the pleasure it at all times afforded the G.K.L. to attend and countenance Lodges on occurrences similar to the present.

Br. Robert Thomson, jun., who represented the St. Mark's Lodge, Glasgow (No. 102), as R.W.M., and headed a large deputation of that Lodge, at the request of Br. Swan, sung very ably and humorously.

Br. Thomson proposed "The Greenock Kilwinning Lodge, and Br. Captain Stuart."

Br. Stuart replied, saying that he was rejoiced to be at the inauguration, as it was a ceremony not often witnessed, and had been well performed. His Mother Lodge Greenock Kilwinning was instituted a few years after the R. C. Kilwinning, as it was No. 15, and the R. C. K. No. 11 in former days on the G. L. Roll. He trusted the R. C. K. would yet get back their former number, and take their place among the venerables.

Br. Japp responded to the "Paisley St. Mirrans," a deputation from which body he headed.

"The Lodge St. Mark" was answered by Br. Robert Thomson, jun., who, in an

able and eloquent reply, thanked the brethren for the eulogiums passed upon the Lodge of which he was office bearer, and which he had the honour that evening to head.

Br. Patterson, at the request of the Master, raised the hilarity of the meeting by singing a humorous ballad.

The health of Br. Sir John Maxwell, as proposed by Br. John Irvine, was honoured with much applause; and to the toast of "The Wardens of the Renfrew County Kilwinning," as proposed by Br. Donald Campbell, S.W. Br. Stuart returned thanks.

Brs. D. Campbell and William Alexander were, on motions regularly made and carried, affiliated members, and thereafter the Lodge was closed.

In November, 1750, the Renfrew County Kilwinning Lodge was instituted, and then stood No. 11 upon the roll of the G.L. of Kilwinning, who alone at this period had power to grant charters in Scotland. It continued for many years to be a most flourishing Lodge, probably the most aristocratic in Scotland. The meetings were held oftentimes at the residence of one or other of the members, and, in this respect, we understand that some sort of rotation was observed. The Lodge was made by this means pretty exclusive.

William, Earl of Dundonald, became, in the year 1752, a member of the R.C.K. He was an ancestor of the present Lord Dundonald, whose proposed scheme for the destruction of Russian power has of late brought him conspicuously before the population of these islands. William Lord Blantyre, in 1778, was made a member, and he, as the quaint words of the roll-book bear, "made a present of all ye jewels to ye Lodge." The Earl of Glasgow likewise became a member in 1778.

In a minute dated 30th November, 1798, the initiation of Lieutenant John Moore of the 15th Regiment, is recorded. That brother died as Sir John Moore, little more than ten years afterwards, on the field of Corunna.

The minute-book of the Lodge is somewhat curious, as from it can be observed that the state of the country, from 1790 up to 1805, was somelike what at present prevails, as the names of many officers of the "Fencibles" are during that period noted in the minutes. Indeed, from the great quantity of names of military brethren, it might almost be denominated a military Lodge. The ancestors of the Pl.G.M., Br. Sir John Maxwell, of Polloc, of Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, Colonel M'Dowall, of Gartland, Boyd Alexander, Esq., of Southbar, Colonel Mure of Caldwell, and of most of the distinguished families of the county, are enrolled in the books. After 1805, up to which time the Lodge had worked, it became dormant; and now, although it has been virtually resuscitated, still the former office-bearers, by not coming under the G.L. laws, and refusing to acknowledge her supremacy, lost to the succeeding generation of brethren their honourable number 11 in the G.L. Roll. It is to be hoped, however, that at some future day the Lodge may receive its old distinctive mark.

ROYAL ARCH.

Glasgow Chapter (No. 50).—On the 5th Oct., the monthly meeting of this Chapter was held in St. Marks Hall. Br. Donald was admitted a member of the "Mark" and "Past" Lodges in connection therewith, preparatory to his exaltation to the Royal Arch. M.E. Comp. Donald Campbell Z. presided as R.W.M. After the Lodges were closed, the companions present, with the newly made *Mark* and *Past* Master, retired to partake of a light repast, in the "adjacent," where the evening was happily spent.

FREEMASONRY IN INDIA.

The following interesting letter from a gallant officer who was some years since initiated in the John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 766, Leicester, has recently been received by the Senior Past Master of the Lodge :—

Thayetmyo (Burmah), 1st June, 1855.

Dear Brother * * *—Even at this, to you, unheard-of place, the head quarters of the Frontier Brigade, in our new territories acquired in Burmah, I cannot forget

the merry days when we were younger than we are now, and the era in my life when, at your hands, I "received the light;" the more so from the interesting fact, that having revived our very old Regimental Lodge at this station, on the 4th April last, working under the warrant of the venerable age of 96 years (3rd May, 1759), we are now revising the old bye-laws, and have adopted some of the articles in the bye-laws of 766—my mother lodge; thus my Masonic parent has been present in my thoughts to some purpose. Our 29th Lodge is an Irish one, No. 322. I was, I rejoice to say, the means of reviving it after a dormant state of many years' standing; and although nominated W.M. by the voice of the brethren applying, still the M.W.G.M. appointed our Lieutenant-Colonel (a Companion of the Bath and a distinguished officer, and through whose aid, freely granting his sanction to the revival—a M.M. himself—we obtained the permission) as Master, my humble self S.W., and another captain, J.W. However, the W.M. being absent on staff employ, I have been ruling in his absence, making the third Lodge I have sat as Master of since 1852. It is not in the spirit of boasting that I thus write; but to mark my feelings of gratitude to the W. Master, Wardens, and Brethren of 766, "Old time-honoured Lancaster's" namesake, in the good old town of Leicester, through whose instruction and example I have thus been sustained in my Masonic career. I was fortunate enough to obtain the approbation of the brethren of No. 609, "True Brothers," at Dinapore, who unanimously voted me a very handsome gold P.M. jewel on leaving the E. Chair. The brethren of 794 "Philanthropy," at Maulmains, in the same way, passed a minute appointing me an honorary member for life, and voted me a tea-service of plate; and, to crown all, the R.W., the Provincial Grand Master of Bengal was pleased to appoint me, for the little service I was able to render during my occupancy of the E. chair, Past Provincial Senr. Grand Deacon of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal; for each and all of which, W.M., I return sincere and heartfelt thanks to you, and the Wardens, and brethren of my mother Lodge. And I trust that, some of these days, I may have the pleasure of visiting the Lodge, and, in person, say what I now write. Rumours are afloat that the 29th are for Europe this year; if so, and I can get a spare moment, I will, of a certainty, if the G.A. permit it, visit your town; although, perhaps, few of my acquaintances are now left. Should any of them think of me, pray give them my sincere and warmest regards. The recruiting subaltern, although now a captain, never forgets the kindness experienced by him there. Your reply to my former letter was duly received, but since then I have travelled over much space and never had the opportunity of giving you the information sought regarding the Masonic emblems on the Allahabad Fort. It is perfectly true that our emblems appear in many places in India; and, although not a Mason at the time, I remember seeing carved on the face of the marble rocks in the Run Nerbuddah in Central Hindoostan, figures which I was at the time informed were Masonic, and now know to be so. I have also heard, from undoubted authority, that a R.A. brother can enter the holy places of the Brahmins, while the unauthorized brother would be driven away with insults and abuse, perhaps death, if he attempted to enter. . . . . Believe me to be, my dear brother, . . .

Yours, fraternally and sincerely.

CORRESPONDENCE.

UNIFORMITY OF RITUAL.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR AND BROTHER,—I have perused with great interest, the very well timed Article, entitled "Uniformity of Ritual," which appears in your number for this month, and I venture to offer a few remarks upon one point, which seems to me to be particularly deserving of consideration and discussion. I allude to your suggestion, that the Grand Lodge should depute some properly qualified brethren to visit the

different Provinces, for the purpose of instructing the various Lodges, and of reporting to Grand Lodge, at certain intervals, upon their state and condition. I fear you are only too correct in your opinion, that a step of this kind would disclose a state of things which the Grand Lodge is by no means prepared to expect, and if your valuable suggestion should be acted upon, you will have rendered essential service to the Craft at large, inasmuch as a laxity of discipline exists in many Lodges which is very detrimental to the progress of Masonry, and which ought to be speedily reproved and corrected.

Without entering upon the discussion, as to the possibility of obtaining positive "Uniformity of Ritual," one thing is certain to be admitted by all who have the success of Masonry at heart, and that is, that our Masonic Ceremonies ought at any rate to be decourously and efficiently conducted by the respective officers of the various Lodges. The appointment by the Grand Lodge of Instructors, whose duty it would be to visit the various Lodges, and to report from time to time upon their working, &c., would induce a spirit of emulation amongst them, and would be the means of preventing the introduction or continuance of all improper practices. In this province, there are many differences in the working of the various Lodges, and also many shortcomings in the officers, both private and provincial, which the appointment of a competent Inspector would lessen, if not altogether remove, and I trust, Sir, that you will keep the subject before the Masonic world, for I feel assured, that the appointment of properly qualified Instructors in the Ceremonies, and Inspectors of Lodges, would be an important and a valuable addition to our present list of Grand Officers.

Should you deem this letter worthy of insertion in your columns, I may at a future time recur to the subject, and endeavour to prove the urgent necessity of some more efficient supervision than is at present exercised, by describing more minutely the state of Masonic affairs in this province.

I am, Sir, and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

A PAST MASTER OF A YORKSHIRE LODGE.

24th Oct., 1855.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR OCTOBER.

The month of October is generally most barren of news; and notwithstanding the war, and the consequent occasional startling announcements which we see at the newspaper offices, the past month has been scarcely an exception to the general rule, though it cannot be denied that a few events of more than usual importance have taken place, as we have recorded in this summary.

THE COURT.

After an absence of about five weeks in her Highland home, Her Majesty and the Royal family returned to Windsor on the 17th October, where they have been since sojourning, nothing worthy of record having taken place beyond the fact that the whole of the Royal Family remain in the best of health.

THE WAR.

If the war is not attended with such a succession of dashing enterprises as the impatience of the public would desire, and which it is vain to expect, when we consider the difficulties to be overcome, everything at least appears to be steadily progressing in favour of the allies. The allies having made preparations for pressing on the Russian army in the Crimea, as much as possible, a brilliant cavalry affair took place on the 29th September, at Koughil, five miles north-east of Eupatoria, in which General d'Allonville defeated the Russians, and took 160 prisoners. The Russians also left 50 men dead on the field, whilst the loss of the French did not exceed

30. At the latest accounts the allies were pressing closely on the Russian army, and threatening to cut off its communications with Perekop; whilst Prince Gortschakoff was expected to risk a battle, in order to relieve himself, if possible, from his embarrassing position.

On the 17th, the allied fleets, having landed a detachment to the south of the forts at Kinburn, at the mouth of the Dnieper, so as to prevent their receiving reinforcements, commenced a bombardment of, which resulted in the garrison, between 1,400 and 1,500 strong, capitulating, and delivering themselves up as prisoners of war, having first lost 45 men killed and 130 wounded. The loss of the allies was inconsiderable. On the 18th, the Russians blew up the fort of Otchakoff, thus opening the Dneiper and the Bug to the vessels of the allies, which now threaten Cherson and other important points.

In Asia, the Russians have also received a considerable check. On the 29th, the Russians made a desperate attack on Kars; and after a contest, which lasted eight hours, were completely worsted by the gallant little band of Turks, which have been holding it for some time, almost starved in consequence of the siege. The Russians had 3,500 killed, besides nearly three times that number wounded; and though the Russians are again threatening it, it is hoped the Turks, who are led by General Kmetz (an Hungarian, who stood true to his colours when Georgey betrayed the cause), Major-General Williams, and other British officers, have had time to provision the garrison, and will be enabled to hold their ground until the arrival of Omar Pasha, or the setting in of the winter shall compel a raising of the siege.

The Baltic fleet has done nothing of importance, and may be shortly expected home for the winter, leaving the Russian fleet to be blockaded by Admiral Ice.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

On the 4th, there was a severe thunder storm at Liverpool, and an explosion at a firework makers, caused it is believed, by the electric fluid striking some of the combustibles used in the business, by which several persons were much injured.

On the 8th, a large boiler used for driving the nail mill at the iron works of Messrs. Losh & Co., at Walker, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, exploded with great violence, causing the death of seven workmen, and severely wounding many others.

On the 10th, a singular accident took place on the London and Brighton Railway. An empty train of 15 carriages, on being moved from one line to another, was in consequence of the points being turned the wrong way, propelled in an opposite direction to that which it was intended to take. It consequently broke through the boundary wall, and fell over into College Street, Bermondsey. Fortunately, it being early in the morning, no persons were injured.

On the 14th, a young woman, a servant in the family of the Rev. Wm. Ponders, at Southampton, was brutally murdered, by having her throat cut by a fellow-servant named Baker, in consequence of her declining to receive him as a lover.

On the 12th, Miss Charlotte Hinds was most brutally murdered by two men on her own property, near Ballyconnell, in the county of Cavan, it is presumed because she endeavoured to obtain her rent from some refractory tenants. Miss Hinds was dragged from her car in open day, and beaten with loaded whips or bludgeons. The lady lingered in great suffering previous to her death. The tenants of Miss Hinds, are stated to have shown themselves in Ballyconnell market very auspiciously on the day of the murder, as if with a view of preventing suspicion falling upon them, but thereby evincing that they were aware of what was about to take place.

On the 17th, a disastrous fire occurred at the Green Man Tavern, Green Street, Blackfriars-road, which resulted in the death of the proprietor, who, after hanging from the window-sill for a few minutes, fell heavily to the ground, and received injuries from which there was no chance of recovery. Two other inmates were also dreadfully injured, but fortunately Mrs. Hollwell and the rest of the family were in Cheltenham.

Some French Refugees have been expelled from Jersey for publishing in a paper, entitled *d'Homme*, principally intended for circulation in France, the report of a

meeting, purporting to have been held in London, in which a number of refugees, of various countries, are stated to have made speeches, insulting to Her Majesty, and inciting to the murder of the Emperor of the French, and indeed, of all royal personages.

On the 27th, Sir J. D. Paul, and Messrs. Strahan and Bates, the bankers, were convicted of having illegally disposed of the property of their customers, and sentenced to fourteen years' transportation. The Governor of the House of Detention has been suspended for treating these parties with undue partiality whilst under his care.

PROVIDENT.

The Unity General Life Assurance Company held its first annual meeting at Willis's Rooms, King Street, St. James's, on the 10th, when a report was presented, which shows that in addition to the previous income of £24,000 a year, handed over to it from the Trafalgar, which this Company supersedes, a further income of £10,303 had been obtained from the same source in the ten months ending on the 30th September. The Life losses during the year amounted only to £1,450. Mr. Thos. H. Baylis entered into a long explanation relative to the position of this Company, and particularly called attention to the Unity Joint Stock Mutual Banking Company about being established in conjunction with the Unity General and Unity Fire Associations. The report was adopted, and a dividend at the rate of five per cent. per annum was declared. The offices have been removed to Cannon Street, City.

The Merchants and Tradesmens' Mutual Life Assurance Society held a meeting on the 16th, to receive a report on a recent valuation of their business. The report said that the contingencies, or the present value of the claims, valued by the Carlisle rate of mortality, on the supposition that money made three per cent., amounted to £234,918 1*s*., and that the premiums were worth £256,746 1*s*.—leaving a balance of £21,828 in favour of the office, which, with the realised assets, made the balance applicable for present and future profits, and for future expenses on existing policies, £40,978 6*s*. 3*d*. The report was adopted, and a resolution passed for paying off the guarantee fund, with a bonus thereon, thus making the society entirely mutual. A bonus was also declared of 25 per cent. on the premiums paid during the last triennial period, being equal to one-and-a-half per cent. on the sum assured.

The Saxon Life Assurance Company held its first annual meeting on the 25th. It appears from the report, that although the Society has only been in active operation eight months, it has issued 254 policies, assuring £64,238, and producing £2,010 18*s*. 3*d*. per annum in premiums. It has also organised about 250 agencies, many of which have not as yet come into operation, but are expected to lead to important results in the future. A dividend at the rate of five per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital was declared.

At the fourth annual meeting of the National Provincial Life Assurance Society a report was presented, which said: During the past year the directors have received 884 proposals for assuring the sum of £215,210, out of which 652 have been accepted and completed, and policies issued assuring the sum of £143,377, producing a new revenue of £4,931 0*s*. 1*d*. per annum. Since the establishment of the society, the total amount of assurances effected is £667,896, and the annual income arising therefrom, £23,252 4*s*. The mortality experienced by the society continues to be extremely small. The claims during the past year are only 38, and, after deducting the amount re-assured, the net loss sustained by the society is £3,930 0*s*. 9*d*., making the net losses since the establishment of the society, £7,181 3*s*. 8*d*. After payment of all losses and current expenses for the past year, and reserving the sum of £1,802 11*s*. 7*d*. received for the purchase of annuities, there remains a surplus upon the year's income alone of £6,995 5*s*. 11*d*. to be carried to the reserve fund, making that amount now, £18,876 15*s*. 8*d*. The report was adopted, and a dividend at the rate of six per cent. per annum declared. Mr. Clench, the manager, has been elected into the direction.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the 1st inst., Br. Alderman Kennedy, and Alderman Rose, were duly installed into their office as Sheriffs of London and Middlesex. There was a grand breakfast at Br. Staples, Albion Tavern, in the morning, and a dinner at Brs. Bathe, Funge & Co., London Tavern, in the evening. The London Tavern had been newly decorated to do honor to the occasion.

On the 9th, the Duke of Cambridge visited Liverpool, and was received with the highest honors—the authorities and the people vieing with each other in their endeavours to show the high estimation in which H.R.H. is held by his fellow countrymen.

On the 16th, a very important case was decided at the Mansion House. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals prosecuted a butcher, of the Jewish persuasion, for cruelty in the mode adopted of slaughtering bullocks. It being well known the Jews slaughter their beasts in a peculiar manner, in order to drain the body of blood, in accordance with the ordinances of their religion, considerable interest was attached to the case, which was decided against the Society, on the ground that it was not made out that any unnecessary suffering was inflicted on the animals; and that it was not desirable to interfere with the religious customs of any portion of the community, so long as they were consistent with morality and good order.

Sir Wm. Molesworth, M.P., the Colonial Secretary, died on the 22nd, after a short illness.

Ald. Salomons has been elected Lord Mayor for the ensuing year. His Lordship is the first member of the Jewish profession who has held that distinguished office. Knowing from our intercourse in Freemasonry how many honourable and estimable men are to be found amongst the Jews, we have great pleasure in congratulating them upon the honor which the citizens of London have bestowed, not only upon their body, but the corporation itself by the election.

In consequence of the drain of gold from this country, the Bank of England have raised their discount, on short bills, to 6 per cent., and on those having more than 60 days to run, 7 per cent.

AMUSEMENTS.

Mr. Smith opened his third season at Drury Lane Theatre by the production of a grand Egyptian drama, entitled *Nitocris*, founded on the history of an Egyptian queen of that name, on the 8th. The drama was most gorgeously painted, and as a spectacle, has rarely, if ever, been exceeded; but the weight of the dialogue almost destroyed it. Miss Glyn, Mr. Barry Sullivan, and other artistes, too good for such an affair, did all they could to ensure success—and now that the greater part of the dialogue has been expunged, it bids fair to have a prosperous run until Christmas. On the 10th, *Married for Money*, a favorite comedy by Poole, which has lain dormant some years, was revived for the purpose of introducing Mr. Charles Matthews and the *élite* of the Lyceum company, to the audience. Its success was complete, and the reception of Mr. Matthews and the other public favorites, all they could desire.

The Adelphi re-opened on the 8th, when Mr. Hudson made his re-appearance in *Rory O'More*, after an absence of five years. Miss Kate Kelly made a successful debut in *Kathleen*, and the performance throughout gave great satisfaction. Br. Webster and Madame Celeste have been starring in the provinces, and as yet no novelties have been produced.

The Olympic opened for the season on the 20th, with the *School for Scandal*, admirably cast, and a light farce, called *Catching a Mermaid*, which was a mere vehicle for displaying the peculiar powers of Mr. Robson, in the character of a country showman, which he filled to the life.

On the following evening, the Princess's opened with *Henry the Eighth*, which bids fair to run through a second season, and a new farce, entitled *Don't Judge by Appearances*, which was quite successful.

On the 27th, a new drama, entitled *The Beginning to the End,* was produced at the Haymarket. It is of the dreadfully dismal school of Victoria domestic drama, and though admirably written, and well supported by the powerful acting of Miss Cushman and Mr. Howe, is not likely to hold the stage for any length of time.

At the Lyceum, Mr. Anderson, the Wizard of the North, has been drawing crowded houses to view not only his wonderful feats of magic, but listen to his exposure of table-rapping, and whether he produces the result by the same means as the regular mediums or not, it is perfectly clear that he shows some most startling results, and has been eminently successful in rapping the coin out of the pockets of Her Majesty's liege subjects.

To those who are not addicted to theatres, we would recommend the Polytechnic Institution, and Woodin's Olio of Oddities, as well deserving attention.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of James William McKenzie, Esq., late of Pittrichie, Banffshire, which took place very suddenly on the 5th day of October. Br. McKenzie was Secretary to St. John's Lodge, in which he was initiated in December, 1813, continuing a member until the time of his decease. He was also Scribe N. to the Banff Operative Royal Arch Chapter. His memory will not soon be forgotten in any of the Lodges of the brethren in this quarter. He was a worthy Mason—seldom absent from any of the meetings; and nothing afforded him greater pleasure than to supply instruction to those who were young in the Craft. He was often heard to say that, although the sun of Masonry, for a time, had suffered an occultation, yet he rejoiced to see it again dispelling the clouds of darkness—arising above the horizon, shedding its benign influences all around, and reflecting its pure light in the pages of the "Mirror;" and, he was confident, that ere long, it would again shine forth in all its meridian splendour and pristine glory.

NOTICES.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Annual Subscribers are respectfully informed, that their subscriptions closed with the last number. The first volume will be completed with the 14th number, in order that our second volume may commence with the new year—when many important improvements are contemplated. Brethren wishing to complete their volumes, are requested to make early applications for back numbers, some of which, are nearly out of print.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our correspondents are earnestly requested to address their future communications to the editor, to No. 2, Red Lion-court, Fleet-street. Br. Barton will continue to receive advertisements at his office, 2, Upper Wellington-street, Strand, as usual.

Robert Burns Lodge of Instruction.—*We are requested to state that the* 15 *sections will be arched by the members of this Lodge at Br. Teslar, Union Tavern, Air Street, Piccadilly, on Friday, the* 16*th inst. The Lodge will be opened at* 7 *o'Clock.*

J.S.K., Sheerness, *will hear from us in a few days. Br. Goring did not attempt to teach the whole of the Ceremonies to one brother in* 14 *days—but the brethren of Whitby selected*

a number of brethren who undertook to learn different Sections, and then form themselves into a Lodge of Mutual Instruction.

W.O., Southmolton.—*We hope to make many improvements acceptable to the brethren on the commencement of our second volume in January next.*

Ethée—*Your friend is mistaken. We wrote, making an appointment, but received the letter back marked "gone away." We have again written to the new address, and as yet received no reply.*

Br. Fisher, Newcastle-on-Tyne.—*We regret that our esteemed Correspondent's communication came too late to be attended to in our last number.*

Δ—*There is a distinct ceremony and word for each of the Principals' chairs. If a Comp. has once filled the Z. chair, it would not be necessary that he should go through the whole of the ceremony a second time, in order to qualify him again to fill that distinguished position.*

A Senior W.—*If you have not been installed you should not have taken the Master's chair; but performed the duties in a chair to its right. We will endeavour shortly to obtain a list of the French Lodges.*

J. F., Carlisle.—*Certainly not.*

Br. Julian Adams *is thanked, but his communication arrived too late for our present Number.*

Mark Masonry.—*Comp. Rettie's Letter, and some observations thereon, are unavoidably postponed.*

P. P.—*The Arch Jewel alluded to is of an Ancient form, and if you know the Ceremonies, you will perceive that it does not answer the description given of it in the address from the Chair. If you do not know, then apply to some Companion more learned than yourself to recite the description to you.*

Several valuable communications are delayed from the late hour at which they were received.

A Brother with Little Time to Spare.—*We would advise you to join the Phœnix Lodge of Instruction, which meets at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 1st, 3rd, and when they occur, 5th Saturdays in each month. It is one of the most comfortable and economical Lodges of Instruction in London.*

W.S.—*The Duke of Sussex, whilst G.M., laid the foundation stone of Hammersmith Bridge, in 1825; Caledonian Asylum, 1827; London University, 1827; Licensed Victualler's Asylum, 1828; and Charing Cross Hospital, 1831.*

Freemasons' Hall was dedicated in 1776. A notice of the event will most probably appear in our next month's portion of Freemasonry in England.

S.C.—*We have not the honor of the acquaintance of the brother alluded to, though we have every reason to believe him to be a most worthy and honorable man.*

Anxiety.—*We have great pleasure in being enabled to inform you that our respected R.W.D.G.M., the Earl of Yarborough, is making such progress, that his medical attendants have every confidence in his complete recovery. He is at present, however, compelled to abstain, as much as possible, from business, and is living quietly at his country seat. We have every confidence in seeing him again amongst us at an early date—the more especially, as we know his Lordship takes the greatest interest in the success of the next Festival of the Boys' School. Indeed, a second Festival in aid of the Building Fund would, we believe, have been held last year, in accordance with the expressed wish of the D.G.M., had it not been for his Lordship's unfortunate illness.*

A Young Mason.—*Adhere to your obligation, and you cannot do wrong. You will find plenty of brethren able and willing to give you instruction. If you do not know any such in your Lodge, you have only to visit one or two Lodges of Instruction two or three times, and you will be sure to find them.*

An Initiate.—*You will know in due time—do not be too curious.*

Public processions of Freemasons, on Feast Days, were discontinued in London in 1747. We do not approve of Masonic processions in public—considering such displays beneath the dignity of the Craft.

Viscount Combermere, who has lately had the distinguished rank of Field Marshal conferred upon him, is Pl. G.M. for Cheshire—and a truer hearted Mason, or a Pl. G.M. more conscientiously determined to do his duty to the Order, is not to be found. We wish other Pl. G.M.'s would imitate his Lordship's example—Br. Benjamin Bond Cabbell for instance. If we mistake not, it is three years since he was nominated Pl. G.M. for Norfolk—and during the whole of that time he has neither held a G.L., or presented himself for installation. The M.W.G.M. should look to this. If a brother, no matter what his rank, will not perform the duties assigned to him, he should be, without favour or affection, at once deprived of his office.

MASONIC MIRROR:

DECEMBER, 1855.

THE EDITOR TO THE CRAFT.

FOURTEEN months since, we laid before the Craft our first number, with the determination of providing—what we then believed to be its great want—a journal published at reasonable intervals, which should be the reflex of the proceedings of the various Lodges, and the position of our Charities. Prior to that time, the Craft had possessed no organ excepting the "Freemason's Quarterly Magazine," the dates of which publication were felt to be too distant for a journal professing to give a record of passing events, and the management of which for some time appeared to want that vigour essential to secure the interest and co-operation of the great body of the class to whom it was especially addressed. Since that period matters have essentially changed—the "Quarterly Magazine" has been converted into a Monthly, and its management has passed into other hands; and the question came to be considered, whether the Craft could support two publications—or whether it would not be for the best interests of the Order that, bearing in mind the motto of "Unity is strength," we should combine our forces, and merge our power in one journal. We think that a body so strong, so wealthy, and so influential as the Freemasons, ought to be able to support two publications—aye, and many more—devoted to their interests; but experience has proved that they will not. From the first we have received most flattering testimonials to our exertions, but we are compelled to add, that they have not been accompanied by that solid support which would justify us in any longer continuing the contest with the "Monthly Magazine," it being evident to the Managers of both journals, that the continued existence of either must be dependent on the circumstance of which has the longest purse at its command. How far we have kept the promises which we made at starting we are content to leave to the judgment of those who have honored us with their support. When we put forward our prospectus, we promised that we would give to our readers each month forty-eight pages of printed matter for sixpence. The pressure of intelli-

gence, however, soon proved to us that we could not adequately do justice to it in our limited space, and we have consequently been obliged to give from fifty-two to sixty pages a month. The result of this, combined with the apathy of the general body of the Craft, has been, that we have suffered a very considerable pecuniary loss, which it is clear to us we should only be increasing were we longer to continue our exertions at the price with which we started. It is true we could raise our price, and we doubt not that the majority of our patrons would continue their support; but should we do so, we should be only carrying on a contest which now appears to us, from the improved management of the Magazine, to be altogether unnecessary. In thus taking leave of our friends, however, we are not about to lay down our pen, or discontinue our exertions; we are merely about to amalgamate our interests, and the means at our command, with those of the "Monthly Magazine," which will henceforth be published as the "Freemason's Magazine and Masonic Mirror," and enlarged so as to meet the requirements of the Order. In thus blending our interests, so great is the congeniality of feeling between the Managers of the two publications, that we shall sacrifice none of the independence which has marked the pages of the "Masonic Mirror"—we shall not hesitate to speak, as we have hitherto spoken, boldly of what we believe to be abuses, whether in our charities, or in the carrying out of the principles of the Craft; neither shall we refrain from calling attention to those brethren who, placed in high positions by the Grand Master, do not perform the duties of the offices they have been selected to fulfil. In the "Freemason's Magazine and Masonic Mirror," the Craft will have the advantage of the combined energies, the combined interests, and the combined means of the Managers of the two publications at present existing, which will be unsparingly used to give to the Order a Journal which, if it do not command support, will at least endeavour to deserve it.

To those members of the Order who have favoured us with their patronage, and who have contributed to our pages, we return our most grateful thanks, and trust they will continue to honor us with their confidence in the extended sphere of action which will, in January next, be opened up to our exertions, and by which we hope to be enabled to bring together a more diversified and complete reflex of the sayings and doings in Freemasonry than has ever yet been presented to the Craft.

To our advertising friends, by whom we admit we have been most liberally supported, we also tender our sincere thanks for past favours, and we trust, if they continue to honor us with their patronage, we shall henceforth be enabled to bring those favours under the notice of a more extended body of the Craft than it has hitherto been our good fortune to effect.

THE EDITOR OF THE "MONTHLY MAGAZINE" TO THE CRAFT.

THE Proprietors of the hitherto distinct publications, the FREEMASONS' MONTHLY MAGAZINE and MASONIC MIRROR, are gratified by being able to announce, that the truly Masonic virtue of Unity will henceforth characterize them. Indeed, dissonance of sentiment has been so generally ignored by them, that identification of interest became a natural necessity. The public, however, will reap the benefit of this amalgamation, not only from a consistency of opinion, guaranteed by the past, but from a double energy in diffusing intelligence for the future.

Since the month of April, THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE may date a slow but steady increase in public favour; and the admission to its columns of other than merely Masonic topics has received universal approbation. But it cannot be denied that the supineness of the Fraternity is so great, that, *cæteris paribus*, almost greater zeal is evinced abroad for the support of this, the longest-established record of Masonry, than even at home; and whilst Lodges seem anxious to have reports of their proceedings, they individually appear heedless of the channel which alone effectuates their wishes. The Church, the Law, the Hospital, Arts, Commerce, Manufactures, each community, however small, encourages its own class paper; yet Masonry, the most extensive Association known, bound by the closest ties to mutual aid, as well as to public knowledge, forgets its great duties, by not placing its appropriate organ of intelligence upon the very apex and pinnacle of public estimation.

Hence the union of the two periodicals, from which the greatest benefit will result to the Fraternity; and, whilst every feature of the Magazines will be preserved, additional responsibility will attach to the Masonic body to enlarge the sphere of operation; for abuses have crept into the very heart of the system, which call loudly for exposure, and which it is the duty of every true lover of the Order to aid us in remedying.* The determination to do so fearlessly, has already been evinced by both Magazines; and they now conjointly appeal for encouragement to the Craft, whose uprightness they desire to maintain. The Editor of THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE refers with pleasure to the numerous proofs of appreciation given to his efforts by the un-Masonic public and the press; especially, also, he thanks those Brethren who have co-operated with him in establishing channels of regular continental information; and he would be, indeed, pained to find the Fraternity inert when additional means of usefulness are placed at his disposal.

It may be added, that THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE will be enlarged; and that arrangements for advertising at reduced charges have been made, with a view to the interest of proprietors of hotels. Communications to be addressed to the Editor of THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR, 74-5, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields; or at the Publishing Office, 2, Red Lion-court, Fleet-street.

* See the "Freemasons' Magazine" for December, opening article, upon the "Severances of the Canadian Lodges, and the apathy of Grand Lodge."

BON ACCORD MARK MASONS.

The subjoined is the last letter we shall publish on the subject of the Bon Accord, thinking that more than enough has been said with regard to it. The Book of Constitutions clearly defines, that "Chair Masters" Lodges shall only be held by Charter from the Grand Chapter of Scotland —and the only three unattached to Chapters ever granted, were No. 1, Kinross, 21st December, 1842; 2,—Defensive Board of Edinburgh, 21st December, 1842; and 3,—St. John's of Manchester, 21st March, 1845. This last led to some difficulty, owing to a brother taking the P.M. degree in it, having claimed to sit as a P.M. in an English Lodge which of course could not be allowed, he having never been regularly installed into the chair. The result of this was, that on March 12, 1848—we are quoting from Minutes of G. Chapter published in the Book of Constitutions—it was resolved, "To abrogate the law chap. IV., par. 35, by which the Supreme Chapter agrees to issue warrants constituting Lodges to confer the degree of Mark and Past Master, and to enact and declare, that the power of granting these degrees shall be vested in *Chapters only*, as formerly declared by a resolution of the Supreme Chapter, dated 16th September, 1846." Now as the Aberdeen Bon Accord Chapter did not obtain its own Charter until two years after the above resolution was passed, abrogating the power even of Grand Chapter, to grant "Chair Master" Charters; it is clear it could have no right to issue any such charter, and it cannot be asserted that the Bon Accord of London has a charter for a Chapter, in which only the above resolution declares shall the degrees of Past or Mark Masons be given. That Comp. Gaylor was perfectly right with regard to the necessity of Comp. Jones being registered on the books of the G. Chapter of Scotland—notwithstanding anything Comp. Rettie may say to the contrary,—is shown by the following extract, from resolutions also passed on March 12, 1848. "That no companion whose name is not registered in the books of the Supreme Chapter, shall be eligible to be a member thereof or to be *an office bearer in any subordinate* Lodge." "Affiliated Comps. from Chapters not under S.G.C. of Scotland, must be recorded and have their diploma from the Chapter in which affiliated, and all fees paid before they can hold any office in any Chapter under the Rule of S.G.C. of Scotland." We think that the question of legalising the "Mark Degree" in England, is now about to be satisfactorily settled, and we shall, therefore, decline to go any further into the quarrel in which the Aberdeen Chapter has brought itself with the Grand Chapter of Scotland.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

Aberdeen, 18th October, 1855.

SIR,—In the last number of the *Mirror*, I promised to show "the glaring amount of ignorance displayed" by W. Gaylor, Scribe N. in reference to the other members "forming the London Bon Accord" Mark Master Lodge. As I wish to be correct,

I will quote Scribe N.'s own words from his letter in the 11th number of the *Mirror*, dated August 17th, in it he says, "Dr. Jones next states, that he and certain others forming the London Bon Accord, received their degree in Aberdeen, and none therefore can be more assured than they of its identity with that which must be admitted to be genuine. It had been desirable that Dr. Jones had given the names of the parties who were conjoined with him in this illegitimate fraternity, as it might then have been tested whether they, any more than himself, were entitled to claim legitimacy; for if the Aberdeen Chapter is correct, and has been fulfilling its obligations to the mother Chapter, Dr. Jones is not a member of it, and never received any degree whatever from that source, his name not appearing to be recorded in the books of the Supreme Chapter, which is the only criterion of acknowledged legitimacy. It is to be doubted whether the others stand in any different position." This extract like more of Scribe N.'s lucubrations, is very much involved, and I do not consider that I am doing him injustice, if, taking the common sense interpretation of it, I hold that he means to say, the "others forming the London Bon Accord," should have been registered in the Books of the Supreme Chapter; and because they are not registered, that they, like Dr. Jones, "never received any degree whatever from that source." Let us examine what the rules and regulations of the Supreme Chapter say about registration, and who are to be registered or recorded in the books of the Supreme Chapter. As I do not hold Scribe N.'s statement of what Dr. Jones said to be correct, any more than his deductions, which he innocently thinks people will believe because they are given out by a Scribe; I consider it will be more correct to give the exact words attributed to Dr. Jones, as reported in the *Freemason's Magazine*, the Craft can then judge of the value of Scribe N.'s version.—In the *Magazine*, Dr. Jones is reported to have said that "he, Dr. Jones, and several other members of this Lodge, (the London Bon Accord) had been made MARK MASTERS in the Aberdeen Mark Masters Lodge."

Scribe N. ought to know who are to be registered in the books of the Supreme Chapter. But this brings me to the Laws, Chap. II. Rule 5, "The Recorder shall enter into a book to be kept for that purpose, the name of all Entrants *exalted or affiliated* in the subordinate Chapters." Not a single word appears in this rule about Mark Masters being recorded. Again in Chap. IV., Rule 33, we have, "a Chapter forming itself into a Lodge of Mark Masters, of Ark Mariners, or into a Council of Knights of the Sword, Knights of the East, and Knights of the East and West, *shall keep a separate Minute book and Roll of Members for Each*," and still further we find in the same Chapter, Rule 35, "These Chair Master Lodges (Mark and Past Master) *do not require to register Members on the Roll of the Supreme Chapter*, but shall keep a Minute book for their own use." Scribe N. ought to have known this perfectly well; *if he did not know them*, I think I have proved "the glaring amount of ignorance, displayed on the occasion" by him,—*If he did know* these rules, and cooly and deliberately sat down seventeen days after the report was made public, and give such a version as he has done of Dr. Jones's speech, and draw such conclusions as he has done from it, I think I may still make use of his own phrase, but instead of "*ignorance*" put in the word *dishonesty*; he may make his choice—one or other of the terms belongs to him.

Any Master Mason may receive the degree of Mark Master, Past Master, and the Excellent; still his name does not require to be recorded in the Books of the Supreme Chapter; and any Royal Arch Mason, belonging, say to an English Chapter, can receive them, and if he wish it, may obtain the degrees of Ark Mariners, Knights of the Sword, Knights of the East, and Knights of the East and West, in any Chapter in Scotland, *that may be able to work those degrees*; but even then, his name *has not to be recorded in the books of the Supreme Chapter*; Comp. Gaylor *cannot have been ignorant of all this*. I think the extracts I have made from the Rules will satisfy the most sceptical.—Should Scribe Gaylor require any more information upon the subject, I will be glad to enlighten him.

I have to thank M. M. in your last number for the great anxiety which he expresses,

that I may be relieved *from my present difficulty*. I have no doubt that the brethren to whom he has tendered advice, will, in consequence of there being "very many of them of Superior Masonic talent," act according to *Masonic principle*;—and decide, not upon *exparte statements*, but only when they obtain the merits of the case, after they have heard *both sides of the question*.

I remain, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
JAMES RETTIE,
First Principal, Chapter No. 70.

"THE WINK OF INVITATION."

Masonic Song, by

BR. JOHN MOTT THEARLE.

Pass round the wine, with jovial heart,
Pledge me a bumper, sparkling as wit,
And a lively song or a jest impart
With a hearty laugh to season it.
See! as bright as the noonday sun,
Bubbles, flashing bright, are rising,
And each new evolving one
Has a thousand laughing eyes in.
Pledge me every joy on earth,
Banish all vexation—
Every bursting bubble tips
The wink of invitation.

Pass round the wine—with merry word
And joyous smile we greet each brother,
While charity adorns the board,
And proves how we can help each other.
And thus we mellow ev'ry grief
That erst fond hearts have cloven,
And bid gems sparkle o'er each wreath,
By saddest memory woven.
Pledge me every joy on earth,
Banish all vexation—
Every bursting bubble tips
The wink of invitation.

Pass round the wine—The bright sunbeams,
From which the grape first caught its hue,
Flows cherish'd in this ruddy stream
In all its warmth a kindred glow.
No wonder that the heart grows light
When sunbeams lend their aid divine,
Or in each bumper's grateful flight
We feel such joys in drinking wine.
Pledge me every joy on earth,
Banish all vexation—
Every bursting bubble tips
The wink of invitation.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

(*Continued from p.* 651.)

THE Duke of Beaufort was invested and installed as Grand Master, April 27, 1767; and the great talent and solicitude for the welfare of the Order displayed by him during his term of office, produced the happiest effects. In the beginning of 1768, two letters were received from the Grand Lodge of France, expressing a desire to open a regular correspondence with the Grand Lodge of England, which was agreed to with great pleasure, and a deputation appointed to express the fraternal regard of the brethren of England, and present to the Grand Lodge of France a Book of Constitutions, and a list of the Lodges, elegantly bound. Several regulations for the government of the Society were introduced at this time, and amongst them one regarding the office of Provincial Grand Master, in which it was resolved that ten guineas be paid to the fund of Charity at the appointment of every Provincial Grand Master who had not served the office of Grand Steward. The most remarkable proceeding of the Duke of Beaufort was, his notice to the brethren, through the Committee of Charity, at a Grand Lodge held at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, October, 1768, for the incorporation of the Society, if it met with their consent. The advantages of this measure, and the necessary means for carrying it into effect fully explained—the plan having been approved by the Grand Lodge—its thanks were voted to the Grand Master for his attention to the welfare of the Society. The Hon. Charles Dillon, D.G.M., informed the brethren that he had submitted to the Committee a plan for the furtherance of the design, should the majority of the brethren resolve to obtain a charter. This plan was maturely investigated. Its most prominent object was to raise a fund independent of the General Fund of Charity for the purchase of jewels, furniture, &c., for the use of the Grand Lodge, and building a Masonic Hall. Several amendments were proposed, and the whole referred to the next Grand Lodge for confirmation. It was also resolved, that in the mean time a copy of the plan be printed and sent to all the Lodges. The Grand Master, finding that a great majority of the brethren were in favour of incorporation, contributed his best endeavours to forward the measure. He therefore ordered a copy of the proposed charter to be also printed and sent to the different Lodges; and from the return it appeared, that one hundred and sixty-eight had voted for the incorporation, and forty-three against it; and on a motion made at a Grand Lodge, in April, 1769, that the Society be incorporated, it was carried in the affirmative by a large majority. At a Grand Lodge, held October, 1769, it was also resolved that the sum of £1,300, then standing in the names of Rowland Berkley, Esquire, the Grand Treasurer, and Mr. Arthur Beardmore and Mr. Richard Nevison, his sureties, in the three per cent. bank consolidated annuities in trust for the Society, be transferred into the names of the then Grand Officers; but a difficulty arose in consequence of the refusal of Mr. Beardmore to join in the transfer. This difficulty was shortly afterwards removed by his

death, and the compliance of his executor, Mr. Revison. The transfer was in consequence legally made; the Grand Master constituted several new Lodges, and granted the following provincial deputations, namely—for South Carolina, Jamaica, Barbadoes, Naples, and Sicily, the empire of Russia, and the Austrian Netherlands. The increase of foreign Lodges induced the Grand Master to appoint a Provisional Grand Master for foreign Lodges in general. Another new appointment also took place, namely, a General Inspector of Lodges within the bills of mortality; the appointment—which being disapproved by the majority of the London Lodges—was withdrawn. At a Grand Lodge, held in April, 1770, the Provincial Grand Master for foreign Lodge reported to the brethren that he had received a communication from Charles Baron de Boetzelaer, Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of the United Provinces of Holland and their dependencies, requesting to be acknowledged as such by the Grand Lodge of England, whose superiority he admitted; and promising that if the Grand Lodge would agree for the future not to constitute any new Lodge within his jurisdiction, that the Grand Lodge of Holland would observe the same restriction with respect to all parts of the world where Lodges were already established under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England. Upon these terms, he requested that an alliance might be established between the two Grand Lodges, and an annual correspondence kept up, in which each Grand Lodge was to be made regularly acquainted with the most material proceedings of the other. On the Report being made, it was resolved that an alliance should be entered into agreeably to the request of the Grand Master of Holland. In 1771, the Hon. Charles Dillon, D.G.M., introduced a bill into parliament for the incorporation of the Society; but being opposed on the second reading by Mr. Onslow, on the behalf of a number of brethren who had petitioned the House against it, Mr. Dillon moved to postpone the consideration of it *sine die*, and the design of Incorporation consequently fell to the ground.

The Duke of Beaufort was succeeded by Lord Petre, who was invested and installed Grand Master on the 4th of May, 1772. At this period several regulations were made for the better security of the property belonging to the Society. A Committee was appointed to manage the application of the funds subscribed for building the hall, by whom every exertion was made to enforce the laws for carrying the designs of the Society into execution. By their report to the Grand Lodge, on the 27th April, 1774, it was shown that they had contracted for the purchase of a plot of ground and premises, consisting of two large commodious dwelling-houses, and a large garden, situated in Great Queen Street, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, late in the possession of Phillip Cartaret Webb, Esq., deceased, the particulars of which were specified in a plan then delivered. The real value appeared to be £3,205, but £3,180 was the sum contracted to be paid for the premises. It was stated the front house might be let for £90 per annum, and the back house would afford commodious committee rooms, offices, kitchens, &c., while the garden was sufficiently large to allow of the building of a com-

plete hall for the use of the Society, the expense of which was calculated not to exceed £3,000. This report, meeting with general approbation, Lord Petre, the Dukes of Beaufort and Chandos, Earl Ferrers, and Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward, were appointed trustees for the Society, and the conveyance of the premises, which had been purchased, was made out in their names.

At a Grand Lodge, held at the Freemasons' Tavern, February 22, 1775, the Hall committee reported that a plan had been proposed and approved for raising the sum of £5,000 to complete the designs of the Society, by granting annuities for lives, with benefit of survivorship, a plan now known under the name of *Tontine*. It was accordingly resolved that there should be one hundred lives at £50 each; that the whole property belonging to the Society in Great Queen Street, with the hall to be built thereon, should be vested in trustees, as a security to the subscribers, who should be paid £5 per cent. for their money advanced, the whole interest amounting to £250 per annum; that this interest should be divided among the subscribers and the survivors, or survivor of them; and upon the death of the last survivor, the whole charge should determine for the benefit of the Society. This plan being approved by the Grand Lodge, the subscription commenced immediately, and in less than three months was completed, when the trustees of the Society conveyed the estate to the trustees of the Tontine, in concordance with a resolution of the Grand Lodge. In the building of the new hall, and necessary alterations and repairs to the other premises, instead of the expenses not exceeding £3,000, according to the first estimate, the Grand Treasurer's accounts show that, in 1792 above £20,000 had been expended, and that, exclusive of the annuity of £250 on account of the Tontine, there then remained due from the hall fund to sundry tradesmen a considerable debt, which has since been paid off. The tavern has been since rebuilt and enlarged, by which the cost has been increased to £30,000.

The foundation stone of the new hall was laid in solemn form on the 1st May, 1775, in the presence of a numerous assemblage of brethren, and within the stone was deposited a plate bearing the following inscription:—

Anno Regni Georgii Tertii Quindecimo
Salutis Humanæ, MDCCLXXV. Mensis Maii
Die Primo
Hunc Primum Lapidum
Aulœ Latomorum
Anglice, Free And Accepted Masons
Posuerit
Henoratissimus Rob, Edv. Dom. Petre, Baro
Petre De Mittle
Summus Latomorum Angelæ Magister
Assidentibus
Viro Ornatissimo Rowlando Holt, Armigero,
Summi Magistri Deputato
Viris Ornatissimis
Joh. Hatch Et Hen Dagge

Summis Gubernatoribus
Plenoque Coram Fratrum Concursu,
Quo Etiam Tempore Requm, Principium que
Virorum Favore
Studioque Sustentatum—Maximos Per
Europam
Honores Occupaverat
Nomen Latomorum,
Cui In Super Nomini Summum Angliæ Con-
Veritum Præesse Fecerat
Universa Fratrum Per Orbem Multitudo
E Coelo Decendit

ΡΝΩΘΙ ΣΕΑΥΤΟΝ.

After the ceremony of laying the stone, the brethren proceeded in carriages to partake of an elegant entertainment at Leathersellers' hall; and on this occasion the office of Grand Chaplain was first instituted. The construction of the building proceeded so rapidly, that it was completed in little more than 12 months, and on the 23rd of May, 1776, was opened and dedicated in solemn form to MASONRY, VIRTUE, and UNIVERSAL CHARITY and BENEVOLENCE, in the presence of a brilliant assembly of brethren. A new ode, written and set to music for the occasion, was performed before a number of ladies, who honoured the Society with their company on that occasion. An exordium on Masonry, no less elegant than instructive, was delivered by the Grand Secretary, and an excellent oration by the Grand Chaplain.

The hall is as elegant and highly finished as any in the metropolis. Above the entrance is a gallery capable of containing about one hundred persons, supported by pillars and pilasters of the Composite Order. The length of the building is 92 feet, 43 feet broad, and upwards of 60 feet high. At the upper end of the room is a dais, allotted for the Grand Officers when the Grand Lodge meets, which takes up about one-fourth of the whole length. At the extremity is a beautiful alcove, of a semicircular form, in which was originally fixed a fine organ, but has since been appropriated to the reception of an elegant statue, in white marble, of our late much revered and greatly lamented Grand Master, His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex. The remaining part of the hall is for the Grand Stewards and the brethren in general when the Grand Lodge assembles. The pilasters on each side of the hall are fluted, and otherwise most beautifully decorated. Between these pilasters are panels appropriated for the reception of full-length portraits of the Grand Masters. Above them are smaller panels, for paintings having reference to the royal art or expressive of its virtues. All the other intermediate spaces are elegantly decorated with emblematical, symbolical, and hieroglyphical figures and representations of the mysteries of Freemasonry. Round the top of the side wall a number of semi-circular windows are placed, so contrived as to open and shut with the greatest facility, for the purposes of ventilation. The object of placing the windows so high is, that no spectators from the surrounding houses may view the Masonic ceremonies. In the centre of the roof a splendid sun is repre-

sented in burnished gold, surrounded by the twelve signs of the zodiac, with their respective characters. The hall is further ornamented with elegant cut glass chandeliers, the most magnificent of which hang over that part allotted to the Grand Officers.

The brethren of St. John's Lodge, Newcastle, imitated the example set them in the metropolis, and opened a subscription among themselves for the purpose of building a new hall in that town for their meetings, and on the 23rd of September, 1775, the foundation stone was laid by Br. Francis Peacock, then Master of the Lodge. This edifice was speedily finished, furnished, and dedicated.

The Masons of Germany, attracted by the flourishing state of the Society in England, solicited our friendship and alliance. The Grand Lodge at Berlin, under the patronage of the Prince of Hesse Darmstadt, requested a friendly union and correspondence with their brethren in England, which was agreed to, on the Grand Lodge of Germany engaging to remit an annual donation to the Fund of Charity.

In consequence of the great increase in the business of the Society, it was resolved that the Grand Secretary should be permitted in future to employ a deputy or assistant, at an annual salary proportioned to his labour.

At a Grand Lodge, held on the 14th of February, 1776, it was resolved, that in future all Past Grand Officers should be permitted to wear a particular gold jewel; each officer to be distinguished by the jewel which he wore while in office, with this difference, that such honorary jewel should be fixed within a circle or oval, on the borders of which were to be inscribed his name, and the year in which he served the office. This jewel was to be worn in Grand Lodge, pendant to a broad blue riband, and on other occasions to be fixed to the breast by a narrow blue riband.

Many laws for the government of the Fraternity were established during the administration of Lord Petre. The meetings of irregular Masons having again attracted attention, several severe laws were passed by the Grand Lodge for their suppression; and an appendix to the Book of Constitutions, containing all the principal proceedings of the Society, was ordered to be printed. A new annual publication, entitled "THE FREEMASON'S CALENDER," was also established; the profits arising from the sale of both were to be regularly brought to account in the Charity Fund. To preserve the consequence of the Society, the following law was also enacted, "That the fees for Constitutions, Initiations, &c., be advanced, and that no person be initiated in any Lodge, under the Constitution of England, for a less sum than two guineas, and that the name, age, condition or profession, and place of residence, of every person so initiated, and of every admitted member of a regular Lodge, since the 9th of November, 1768, be registered."

In consequence of the great increase of Masons in Sunderland, an elegant hall was built in that town for their meetings. On the 16th of July, 1778, this hall was dedicated in solemn form; on which occasion, an animated oration on Masonry, was delivered to a numerous company of

brethren, honored by the presence of above 120 ladies. This hall was destroyed by fire, on the 19th of November, 1782, and many valuable books and papers were burnt. Such, however, was the zeal of the brethren, that in the following year, they commenced another hall, named Phœnix Hall, the foundation of which was laid, with great pomp, on the 5th of April, 1784, and in the following year finished and dedicated in solemn form.

Lord Petre granted deputations for Provincial Grand Lodges at Madras and Virginia; also for Hants, Sussex and Surrey. During this administration, several Lodges were erased for nonconformity, but many new ones were added to the register, and under the Grand Master's fostering care, many improvements in the government of the Society were introduced.

Lord Petre, was succeeded by the Duke of Manchester, as Grand Master, 1st May, 1777; during his term of office the tranquility of the Society was somewhat disturbed. An unfortunate dispute occurred between the Grand Lodge and the Lodge of Antiquity, which first arose in consequence of a complaint that the members of that Lodge had attended divine service at St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet-street, in the clothing of the Order, and walked back to the Mitre Tavern, in their Regalia, without having previously obtained a dispensation for that purpose. This, after long and repeated consideration, the Grand Lodge considered to be a violation of the general regulations respecting public processions, upon which several opinions were formed. The misunderstanding was still more increased by the interference of the Grand Lodge in the case of three brethren who were expelled from the Lodge of Antiquity by its members, and whom the Grand Lodge (it was thought by some, without due consideration,) ordered to be re-instated. With this the Lodge refused to comply, and contended that acting upon their privileges according to immemorial constitution, the Grand Lodge had no control over their proceedings, so long as they kept within the landmarks of the Order. This unfortunate dispute continued over a space of ten years, during which, the Lodge of Antiquity separated itself from the Grand Lodge in London, and united with the Old Lodge at York. To understand the principle on which they objected to the authority of the Grand Lodge as constituted by themselves in 1714, we must refer our readers to a former number of the "Masonic Mirror," where it explains that, according to ancient usage, the Fraternity met by the permission of the Master of the work at convenient places during its progress, and initiated brothers and fellows, and practised the rites of Masonry without any other control than that of their ancient charges. To the award of the Fraternity, when in general meeting assembled, all the brethren were subject, and the authority of the Grand Master never extended beyond those bounds. This unfortunate misunderstanding, which appears to have arisen by inadvertence in the first place, and to have existed only in consequence of the precipitancy of one party, and the unyielding conduct of the other, was happily brought to an end by the kind exertions of Br. Birch, P.M. of the Lodge of Antiquity; the Master and Wardens of that truly ancient Lodge, took their seats in Grand Lodge as formerly, and perfect unanimity was restored.

During this period, Masonry made rapid progress in India, and many new Lodges were constituted, and supported by the most leading characters in the East. Omdit-ul-Omrah Bahauder, eldest son of the nabob of the Carnatic, was initiated into Freemasonry at the Lodge at Trichinopoly, near Madras, and expressed the highest veneration for the Institution. On the Grand Lodge receiving this report, it determined on sending a congratulatory letter to his Highness, and also a blue apron, elegantly decorated, with a copy of the Book of Constitutions, superbly bound. The execution of this commission was entrusted to Br. Sir John Day, Advocate-general of Bengal, and in the beginning of 1780, an answer was received from his Highness, acknowledging the receipt of the present, and expressing his warmest attachment to his brethren in England. This letter, which is written in the Persian language, replete with genuine good sense and benevolence, was enclosed in an elegant cloth of gold, and addressed "*To the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England.*" With this peculiar mark of attention the Grand Lodge was highly gratified, and led to a further correspondence, expressing the high opinion the brethren of England entertained of the merits of his Highness, and soliciting his continued friendship and protection to the Masonic Institutions in the East. The most appropriate reply to which was made by his initiation of his brother Omur-ul-Omrah, who was afterwards equally active in promoting the interests of the society.

An event took place at this time, which was very satisfactory to the society, namely, the uniting this interest of Masonry at Madras. The divisions and secessions which occurred in England in 1738, having unfortunately reached India, were happily adjusted by the intervention of Brigadier General Horne, who had been appointed by patent from the Duke of Cumberland, Provincial Grand Master on the coast of Coromandel. A Lodge No. 152, styling themselves Ancient York Masons, joined a regular Lodge under his government, and voluntarily surrendered the irregular warrant under which they had acted. This desirable object having been effected; the General called upon the brethren to assist him in forming a Grand Lodge, which was carried into effect with great solemnity, and the affairs appointed to the entire satisfaction of all parties. The Grand Lodge having been regularly established, it was unanimously agreed that a new Lodge should be formed at Madras under the name of Perfect Unanimity No. 1. The consecration of this Lodge was performed on Saturday, 7th of October, 1787, in commemoration of the happy union which had been adjusted on that day.

During the administration of the Duke of Manchester, several Lodges were constituted in different parts of the country, and considerable additions made to the general funds of the Society. The sums voted to distressed brethren, far exceeded those of any former period, and amongst other sums voted, was 100*l.* towards the relief of our brethren in America, who had suffered great losses in consequence of the unhappy war in that country.

At a Grand Lodge, held April, 1778, a singular proposition was made, namely, that the Grand Master and his officers should for the future be

distinguished at all public meetings by robes, to be provided at their own expense. This proposition was at first favourably received, but, ultimately the good sense of the brethren prevailed, and the measure, so diametrically opposed to the original spirit of the Institution, was very properly laid aside. In regulating the finances of the Society at this period, it appeared that the debts due on the account of the hall were very considerable. It was, therefore, resolved to make an application to the Lodges to raise 2000*l.* for their liquidation, and at a Grand Lodge in June, 1779, it was further resolved that a subscription be opened to raise money without interest, the amount of individual subscription being limited to 25*l.*, and the number of subscribers to one hundred, such monies to be repaid in equal proportions at such periods as the hall-fund would permit. It was also resolved that an honorary medal be presented to each subscriber in acknowledgment of the service rendered to the Society, and that the owner of this medal, if a Master Mason, should have the privilege of attending and voting in all future proceedings of the Grand Lodge. This induced several Lodges as well as individual brethren to contribute to the fund, and the greater part of the money was speedily raised and applied to the purpose intended. At this period the Grand Stewards' Lodge applied to the Grand Lodge for assistance, in consequence of the withdrawal of a number of their members, by which their finances were considerably reduced; upon which it was resolved that in future no Grand Officer should be appointed, who was not a subscribing member of the Grand Stewards, Lodge.

In consequence of a Committee of Charity being seldom held during the interim from the beginning of April to the end of October, and a number of worthy brethren in distress thereby subjected to great inconvenience, it was resolved unanimously that, an extraordinary committee should meet annually in the last week of July, or first week of August, to administer temporary relief to those who might regularly apply, not exceeding five pounds to one person. The business of the society having considerably increased, it was also resolved to appoint, *pro tempore*, an assistant to the Grand Secretary, to hold equal rank and power with himself in Grand Lodge. It was also determined that in future no person should hold two offices at the same time in Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of Germany having applied for permission to send a representative in order to cement the kind feeling existing between the brethren of the two countries, Br. John Leonardi was appointed to that office; and the Grand Lodge of England, in complying with the request, passed a resolution that Br. Leonardi should wear the clothing of a Grand Officer, and rank next to Past Grand Officers in all the public meetings of the Society.

At the Grand Lodge and annual feast, held on the 1st of May, 1782, the Duke of Cumberland was unanimously elected Grand Master, and his Royal Highness expressed his intention of appointing the Earl of Effingham, Acting Grand Master, the appointment was confirmed, and his lordship presided as proxy during the feast. On the 8th of January, 1783, it was resolved in Grand Lodge, that the interest of five per cent. on 1000*l.*,

which had been advanced from the Charity Fund, should cease to be paid, and the principal annihilated, and sunk in the hall fund. Many other regulations were made at this meeting to render the hall fund more productive, and to enforce the laws respecting it. At a Grand Lodge, held on the 23rd of November, 1783, an addition was made to the number of Grand Officers, by the appointment of the Rev. William Peters, as Grand Portrait Painter. On the 19th of November, information was given to Grand Lodge that two brethren, under the sanction of the Royal Military Lodge at Woolwich, which claimed the privilege of an itinerant Lodge, had held meetings in the King's Bench prison, and there initiated several persons into Masonry. This being considered an infringement on the privileges of every regularly constituted Lodge, it was determined to be inconsistent with the principles of Masonry, to hold any Lodge for the purpose of Making, Passing, or Raising Masons in any prison or place of confinement, and that the Lodge which had sanctioned such proceedings should be erased from the list. On the 20th of March, 1788, an additional regulation was made to the effect "That ten shillings and sixpence be paid to the Grand Lodge for registering the name of every Mason initiated in any Lodge under the Constitution, after the 5th of May, 1788," and at this meeting it was also resolved, "That no Lodge should be permitted to attend or vote in Grand Lodge, which did not comply with this regulation."

On the 9th of March, 1786, His Royal Highness Prince William Henry, afterwards Duke of Clarence, was initiated into Masonry, at Lodge No. 86, held at the George Inn, at Plymouth.

On the 4th of January, 1787, the Grand Chapter of Harodim was opened in London. Though of ancient date and patronised in different parts of Europe, there appears no record of its regular establishment previous to this period. For some years it was but little supported, until its merits became better known, when it gained the patronage of several distinguished Masons.

On the 6th of February, 1787, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, was initiated into Masonry, at an occasional Lodge held for that purpose, at the Star and Garter Tavern, Pall Mall, over which the Duke of Cumberland presided in person. On the 21st of November following, His Royal Highness the Duke of York was initiated into Masonry at a special Lodge convened for that purpose, at the same place, over which the Grand Master also presided in person; His Royal Highness was introduced by his brother the Prince of Wales, who assisted at his initiation.

On the 25th of March, 1788, was instituted the Royal Freemasons' Charity for female children, for maintaining, clothing and educating the female children and orphans of indigent brethren. To the exertions of Chevalier Ruspine the brethren are indebted for this excellent establishment. It was originally founded under the patronage of the Duchess of Cumberland, and to her fostering care its success may be greatly attributed. On the 1st of January, 1789, fifteen children were admitted to a house provided for them at Somers Town, St. Pancras, and by the liberal support of the Craft, in India as well as England, the Governors were enabled to increase the number of children from time to time to sixty-five.

In 1793, a piece of ground belonging to the city of London, situated in St. George's Fields was hired on lease, on which was erected a commodious school house, at the expense of £2,500; this lease expiring in 1854, an elegant building has been erected at Wandsworth which reflects great credit to the Craft, and more particularly, on those brethren whose benevolent exertions and enlightened management its prosperity may be attributed, under whose watchful care no doubt its usefulness will be further extended.

The Duke of Cumberland continued Grand Master till his death in 1790, an event much regretted, as his administration conferred many permanent benefits on the Society.

On the 10th of February, 1790, regular intimation was given to the Grand Lodge that His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, while on his travels had been regularly initiated into Masonry in the Union Lodge at Geneva, and also that His Royal Highness, Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex had been initiated into the Order at a Lodge at Berlin.

The Grand Lodge in testimony of their sensibility of the honour conferred by the initiation of these royal personages unanimously resolved that each of them should be presented with an apron lined with blue silk, and rank as Past Grand Masters.

Thus Freemasonry in England again became supported by royalty, and although much altered in its local system of government since it last sought that protection, enough is left of the ancient forms to prove its genuine antiquity, whilst the government is sufficiently progressive to render it of great utility in the present age. Its conclaves no longer requiring the protection of some magnate to defend it against the *unprovoked* attacks of ignorance and fanaticism, seeks only to court the patronage of the virtuous and influential for the support of its charities, and by giving as much publicity as possible to its proceedings, to prove to the world the happy and beneficial effect it produces wherever it is established, and the genuine principles inculcated. For many ages may this usefulness be extended, and although pre-eminently conservative, sufficiently progressive to keep pace with modern institutions. The divine origin it claims is sufficiently proved by the benefits it has conferred on mankind from the remotest periods when the minds of men were steeped in the greatest darkness down to the present age of enlightenment, and the worst its enimies can say, is that, it still takes the lead in moral, and social improvements.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC REMINISCENCES.

By Φωτοφιλος, P.M., L. 50, Dublin.

(*Continued from* p. 658.)

Chapter XII.—Mrs. Phil is Domiciled in her Future Home.—The early History of Maurice De Courcy, the Highwayman.—Mary Butler, &c., &c.

In the last chapter we somewhat ungallantly flew off at a tangent, and left a young bride to suffer, in lonely silence the pangs of a first parting from one, who, whatever he might have been to the rest of the world, was to her a most indulgent father.

The bridegroom had but little tendency to the "melting mood," and was by no means suited to the gentle office of ministering, in the soothing accents of sympathetic tenderness, to beauty in tears; he was quite unskilled in the intellectual operation of "plucking from the memory a rooted sorrow," no matter how little beneath the surface, the root of woe might have penetrated, and as far as Phil was concerned, she might have met the fate of the grief stricken *Niobe*, and be carved into a monumental ornament for the family *Mausoleum* of the Simpsons.

Fortunately, however, other cares and duties required her attention, and her grief gradually evaporated in the bustle of preparation for her journey to her future home. The distance was but short, yet it took nearly as much time to get her under-weigh as if she were about to make a voyage to Canton, or become a settler in the far west, beyond the broad Atlantic.

Her *paraphernalia*, if not very valuable, were very varied; all sorts and sizes of boxes, bandboxes, and *bijouterie* cases—the presents of many a slighted or faithless beau, seemed interminable; the live stock, too, was considerable; dogs, cats, birds of many lands, claimed her protecting care; among the first were, of course, our old friends, Sappho and Tasso, and among the latter a pair of ear-piercing paroquets, which seemed in a state of perpetual exasperation, with every thing and every body, and from morn to night, sent forth the most execrable sounds.

The Colonel had a strong presentiment that she would be accompanied by a very heterogeneous, and by no means agreeable retinue, and accordingly laid his plans to get rid of the most troublesome and mischievous part of the live stock, as summarily, and as quietly as possible. This deed of generalship he entrusted to an old pensioner, rejoicing in the euphonious name of Phelim, who had accompanied his Colonel from the wars, in which he had lost an arm and a leg, and had now become a sort of *Major-domo* at the Hall; he was a most faithful and trustworthy servant, and exercised a sort of good-natured supervision over every department but the wine cellar, a becoming consciousness of his own weakness on this point, induced him to decline the responsibility of the duty.

When the long expected train arrived, Phelim was in attendance, to see

every thing marshalled to its proper place; the bride retired to change her travelling dress, but the instant she left her dressing room, she proceeded to look after her motley group, when, to her intense vexation, she found her pets, Sappho and Tasso, missing, the cage door of the paroquets open, and the birds flown; all was uproar in a moment; messengers were dispatched in various directions, but no trace of the truant members of the happy family could be found; Phelim was examined very closely, but stoutly insisted that every thing that reached the Hall, had been safely deposited in its *proper place.*

The Colonel contemplated the scene with arch composure, and took an occasion jokingly to reprove Phelim for so boldly maintaining a falsehood; the *Major-domo* explained, "That in his opinion the most proper place for malicious curs was the cesspool, or the horse pond, and surely, there could be no more proper place in the world for poor feathered prisoners, than the wild wood among the trees, and flowers; to be sure the natives may not receive the gaudy strangers in the most friendly spirit, but what's to prevent them winging their way to their own land when they are at liberty." The Colonel attempted to "explain that they were not migratory, and but ill adapted to so long a flight." Phelim, however, would have it that "they could not be worse off any where than shut up in a cage, suffering all the whims and oddities of"—

"Hush," said the Colonel, "that will do," and proceeded to console the bride, whom he found lamenting the loss of her favourites with a vehemence of grief quite unreasonable; she deplored them as her dearest companions, that she had now nothing left to amuse her, and indulged in a variety of other querulous puerilities; the contempt which might have been naturally excited in his strong mind by such trifling, was absorbed by a stronger feeling of good-natured pity; he kindly attempted to impress upon her the necessity, "now that she had assumed the grave responsibility of a wife, of elevating her mind from cur dogs, and screaming birds, to a higher companionship; that there was a good selection of books in the library, in which she would find an ever springing source of entertainment, and instruction."

She pettishly replied, "that the only sentiment she had in common with Phil was a hatred of books; that she never read any thing, her papa never asked her to read, it gave her a headache; that he had better advise Phil to read, he required it more than she did, and perchance it may tend to keep him from the rude foxhunters with whom he associated; but, she added, after all it would be only a choice of evils, for if he were much in your company, I feel assured, "you'd persuade him to become a Freemason, and of the two, I should much sooner see him devoted to foxhunting than Freemasonry."

"And now," said the Colonel, with a smile, "what possible objection can you have to Freemasonry?" She did not exactly know; she heard her papa say, it was something wicked, and she was sure it must be so, otherwise why exclude ladies? "Well, my dear," said the Colonel, calmly, "suppose some person who had never seen, or known anything about you, should hazard the assertion that you were foolish or ill-tempered, what should you think of the reckless assertion?"

"I should think it absurd, and unreasonable, and wicked, and"—

"Don't get into a passion, it is a mere supposition, but just as unreasonable are they who abuse Freemasonry without knowing anything whatever about it—I need scarcely tell you, that none but Freemasons can know any thing of it; from them alone can be learned what it is, or what it is not; your father is not a Freemason, and with all possible respect, he cannot be received as good authority on the point. Your friend the Rector, you will admit, is a good man, and not likely to belong to, or sanction anything wicked, yet he is a most zealous Freemason: you have heard me profess myself one, and I should feel but too happy, if I thought my nephew had intellect sufficient to understand and appreciate its social usefulness, and moral beauty—to see him also a member of an Order, which comprehends within its sacred circle a large portion of the good and wise of every civilized land; it is true that in these Islands ladies have hitherto been excluded, but I may mention to you one extraordinary exception (the interesting particulars of which we shall place before our readers in a future paper) of a highly respectable lady in a southern city, who was found concealed in a Masonic Lodge (fact), and who afterwards during a long life, energetically devoted herself to the dissemination of our principles and the support of our charities, and whose portrait (we believe) to this day forms a graceful ornament in the Masonic orphan school of her native city of Cork."*

The Colonel ceased: Mrs. Phil vouchsafed no reply, she was silenced, but not convinced; in truth she now seemed truly miserable, and lost no opportunity of endeavouring to make all within the reach of her influence as wretched as herself, by those numberless little pevish absurdities resulting from an uninformed, and ill-regulated mind; she would first order the close carriage, when that was announced, it was sent back, and she should have the open phaeton; when that was ready, she changed her mind, and fancied horse exercise; the horses were dismissed to the stable; she now preferred a walk, from which she speedily returned, to abuse her unoffending maid for not having foretold the light shower in which she had just been caught.

While at Elysium, the necessity of economizing gave her employments, which, in her home hours, preserved her from that lassitude, often of laziness, known as *ennui*, there she generally dispensed with the services of milliners and dress makers, but since she became the wife of a man of fortune, she endured the self-inflicted torture of idleness; she gave up, as quite beneath her dignity, all that nervous activity and exercise of harmless ingenuity, which in ladies of peculiar temperaments degenerates into a troublesome malady, unpleasantly known to many a suffering Benedict, under the title of "fidgets." The presence of this disease may be sometimes detected by a restless disposition to turn things inside out, or upside down without any very definite object, or when it assumes its milder form, in strenuous efforts to adapt the dress or bonnet of a bye-gone date, to some *outré* fashion of the day.

* In order to learn the exact particulars of this strange episode in Freemasonry, we have written to the proper source for the true history of this lady Mason, and shall make it the subject of a future paper.

Mrs. Phil would not read, could not paint, cared little for music, and the *crochet* stitch was not as generally known in her day, as at present. Like the lily of the field, pale and interesting, "she toiled not, neither did she spin," but passed the chief portion of her time, in quarrelling with and being reconciled to her maid, to whose tender care we shall now leave her, and turn to our brother the Rector, who has just arrived, to communicate to the Colonel all he knew of the generous highwayman who had been so strangely influenced by Freemasonry.

An interchange of the usual greetings had scarcely passed, ere the anxiety of the Colonel impelled him to enquire if the Rector knew anything of Mr. Starlight. He had the gratification to hear in reply, "Yes, peculiar circumstances have made me acquainted with his mournful history; the main points of which I shall sketch for you as briefly as I can."

"Maurice de Courcy is the son of one of my oldest friends, his father and I were class fellows at school, chums in College, initiated as brother Masons, in the same lodge, on the same night, and remained firm friends, and brothers to the close of his stainless and honorable life; he was descended from an ancient and illustrious family, but being a younger son was rather limited as to fortune. Maurice, the subject of our present conference, was handsome, talented, accomplished and daring; his father entertained high hopes that his career would be a brilliant one, and had sufficient influence to have him appointed, while yet very young, *attaché* to an important embassy, the duties of which he most creditably discharged, but unfortunately, the noble ambassador, under whom he served, got into a bad state of health, and resigned, and Maurice joyfully returned to the home he loved, and the attractive sports and friends of his boyhood, but there was *one* for whom Maurice's true heart throbbed more fondly still, than for friends, or home, or all the world beside.

"In a modest and secluded villa, not far from the old mansion of De Courcy, resided Mrs. Butler, the widow of as distinguished a soldier as ever won glory on the red field of war. With her pension and small patrimony, she contrived to educate two lovely daughters, the treasured idols of her heart, and the admiration of all who knew them. The Butlers, like the de Courcys, could also look back to ancestors high in the roll of fame as warriors and statesmen; both families were proud, and of high bearing; they had none, however, of that mushroom pride which looks with disdain upon all of humbler birth, but rather that higher pride of true nobility, which disdains to disgrace their high lineage by any act of meanness or dishonour, and who think the best tribute they can offer to the illustrious dead, is to imitate their virtues, and when their ashes shall mingle with their fathers, to leave behind a pure and stainless name.

"Mary, the elder daughter, was now budding into the lovely and luxuriant roundness of incipient womanhood, like some lovely flower opening its glittering petals to the sun, and sending forth in sweet perfume, its noiseless hymn of grateful incense to its Maker, so the rich treasures of Mary's mind shone out, as her beauteous form expanded; mind and body in her seemed meetly wedded, and both approached as close to perfection as aught of earth can. Maurice de Courcy and Mary Butler were playmates from childhood, together in the buoyancy of youthful innocence they

roamed o'er hill and dale, every feeling of their young hearts seemed intertwined, as if born to love and bless each other; their sympathies and antipathies were as one; they tended the same flowers; they read the same tales of romantic love, or glorious chivalry. Can we wonder, 'that their green affections grew apace,' and strengthened into a tender and abiding love. Each saw centred in the other, every attribute the utmost stretch of fancy could conceive necessary, to produce perfect happiness; their hearts were satisfied, and they had no earthly wish beyond. On Maurice's departure they exchanged vows of unalterable love; they met on his return, with hearts unchanged by time, or distance, and vowed to part no more!"

CHAPTER XIII.—THE EARLY HISTORY OF DE COURCY CONTINUED.—AN ARISTOCRATIC ROUE.—AN ABDUCTION.—A RESCUE.—SUFFERINGS OF INNOCENCE.—PHIL'S MISHAPS AND MISERIES THE NIGHT HE THOUGHT HE WAS MADE A MASON.

"THE lord of the soil in that locality was an accomplished and profligate nobleman, whose occasional visits to his estates were generally marked by the disappearance of some rustic beauty, seduced by his lordship's presents and promises. His evil eye fell on the beautiful Mary, and he formed the resolve to add her to his list of victims; he knew he must use more than his usual caution and delicacy, as Mary was of gentle blood, and as highly connected as himself; she was poor, however, and his experiences led him to believe, that what his attractive and dashing person failed to accomplish, could be done by the power of his purse.

"His visits to his paternal estates became now more frequent and prolonged than usual; even in the height of the London season, he seemed to prefer the bracing breezes, and romantic scenes of his native hills, to Almack's, the parks, and the opera; he made himself acquainted with Mary's usual hours and places of recreation, and never lost an opportunity of throwing himself in her way, and making himself as agreeable as possible. He found the conquest of Mary a more difficult task than he anticipated; his pride was piqued, to think that he, who had been hitherto almost irresistible in his gallantries, who had fought under the banners of Venus in many lands, and triumphantly borne off some of her richest spoils, should now be at fault in trying to win the heart of a simple village maiden in his own.

"He redoubled his attentions, he plied her with flattery, he pressed her acceptance of the richest presents, but Mary was too well schooled in virtue and truth to be affected by flattery, or dazzled by wealth. She laughed at his honied phrases with the sparkling haughtiness of youth and beauty; she declined his gorgeous gifts with dignified pride; she was armed in a panoply, against which he shot his arrows in vain; she felt the purifying influence of true and changeless love.

"The noble gallant was not to be easily diverted from his purpose; each time he saw Mary, the impression of her grace and beauty sunk deeper still, and what at first was but a feeling of ordinary gallantry, swelled into a passion so deep and intense, that if he had not been engaged to a rich

citizen's daughter, through whose wealth he hoped to clear his deeply encumbered estates, he felt strongly disposed to offer his hand, fortune, and title, to Mary, little dreaming, that for Maurice De Courcy's love, her true heart would not only have given up a coronet, but a crown. Money and a wife, however, he must have, but Mary, at all hazards, he resolves to have too.

"Mary now seldom ventured abroad without De Courcy, who knew his lordship's character, and seldom gave him an opportunity of addressing her. Foiled in this, he tried the effects of a letter, avowing his love in the language of deep passion, yet so cautiously and delicately, as to leave an impression that his intentions were strictly honourable. Mary placed the letter before her mother, with a request that she would at once return it with a suitable reply, that her heart and hand were engaged to one, in comparison with whose love and worth, wealth and titles were as nothing, and proudly throbbed Mary's pure heart, as in her innocence she believed she was giving a proof of her constancy to De Courcy.

"The return of his lordship's love-letter, and the coolness with which his suit was dismissed, pierced his bad heart, and stirred up all the evil passions within him; insulted pride, jealousy and revenge prompted the fiendish notion of getting possession of Mary, even by force.

"Shortly after this, on a calm and balmy evening, as the mellow rays of an autumnal sun were shedding their sweet influence over the profusely beautiful landscape in that favoured spot, and was blessing with genial beams the rich promise of many a golden field, Mary, with her younger sister, was enjoying the inspiring scene not far from her dwelling, in all the freedom of purity and innocence, when she was suddenly seized by two ruffians, who with rude force hurried her off to a bye road close by, where a vehicle awaited them, in which they placed her, and drove off rapidly towards a solitary house among the distant hills, a sort of shooting lodge, but occasionally used for less innocent purposes by the roué lord.

"Mary's nervous system, though strong and healthy, was unable to withstand so sudden and unexpected a shock; she swooned into utter unconsciousness, and was thus saved from feeling the insult to her maiden pride and purity, from the contact of such degraded ruffians. Her sister, almost frantic with fright, rushed home to give the alarm. De Courcy had arrived a few moments before. Few and incoherent were the exclamations of the bewildered girl, but quite sufficient to convey to him a full explanation of the horrid plot.

"He took a pair of pistols, which he carefully loaded, with the calm and stern purpose of desperation he bounded on his horse, and was soon in hot pursuit, and high should be the fence, and broad and deep the river that could make Maurice De Courcy turn aside in that moment of maddening agony. Pale and rigid as marble, he uttered not a word, he scarcely breathed, but the lightning flash of his dark eye, told of the fierce and fiery conflict within; who could paint the torture of his frenzied brain, when he thought of his first, his only love, in the rude hands of ruffians, on her way to the spoiler; his own betrothed Mary, with whom from childhood, hand in hand, he roamed to cull the wild flowers in the green wood,

or from the sunny hill count the white sails on the smooth blue ocean. Mary, who was soon to be his own, his treasured wife, torn from him; all his hopes of earthly bliss now depending on the fleetness of his steed, and the strength of his arm, but he neither fears nor falters, God and the right are with him. Speed and guard him on his holy way, ye gentle spirits of love, and truth, and purity.

"He gallops towards a neighbouring hill which commanded a view of the country round, and from its summit distinctly saw the vehicle, and a man on horseback beside it, whom he had no difficulty in recognizing. Now for the struggle of life and death, and what was to him of more value than either, the salvation of the honour of his chosen bride; he must overtake them ere they reach the hideous den, where many an innocent victim had been sacrificed before. His gallant steed answers his urgent efforts as if conscious of the glorious chase; he gains on them at every stride; they now see him, and redouble their exertions, but Maurice's foaming steed is closing on them fast, they are within a hundred yards of the lodge, when he calls on them, pistol in hand, to stand; he is now within shot; his lordship turns round, glaring the most deadly vengeance, draws a pistol and fires. *Maurice is hit, but feels it not; he fires in turn; his lordship's hand* falls by his side, and before he could draw a second pistol, is prostrate on the ground from a blow of Maurice's discharged pistol. The two miscreants fled for their lives, and the gallant De Courcy folded in his arms the insensible form of his lovely Mary.

"For many days she scarce shewed signs of life, and when returning life and health again reanimated her peerless form, alas! the soul was gone, 'the delicate web of thought was tangled,' she recognized no beloved face. To De Courcy she would cling as if attracted by some irresistible and innate sympathy, but still she knew him not, and long ere the intellectual light shone out again from Mary's eyes, Maurice De Courcy, her deliverer, was a convicted felon.

"The malevolence of the disappointed profligate, adopted a demoniac form of revenge; he had poor De Courcy arrested on a charge of robbery, and attempt to murder. On the testimony of suborned and perjured witnesses, an over credulous jury brought in a verdict of guilty. Maurice had no evidence to produce but Mary, and the sad darkness of mental night still spread its melancholy shadow o'er the once bright intelligence of that gentle being. Sentence of death was recorded against him. Maurice spoke for several hours, and at the conclusion of his address there was not a shadow of doubt in the mind of any present as to his innocence. The forms of law must, however, be gone through, and Maurice was committed to prison to await the issue of the strong recommendation to mercy which the judge promised to urge on the government.

"But life or death was now of little consequence to Maurice; he felt himself a disgraced and ruined man; he became reckless and formed the desperate resolve of escaping from prison; the officials were suspected of conniving at his escape, and it was supposed that he and his faithful Mary fled to America, but the consciousness of his innocence, the sense of his grievous wrongs working on his wounded pride, and acute sensibilities,

overclouded his reason, and prevented his seeing that he was the victim of bad men, not of bad laws, and thus as noble and gallant a spirit as ever animated human bosom, now leads a life of wild and lawless crime, defying and trampling on those laws, which, in his eyes, condemned the protector and avenger of innocence and purity, to the degrading doom of a guilty felon.

"Such is the sad history of this poor highwayman's early life, and if the erring child of a worthy brother can be won back to virtue, it will be a truly Masonic work, honourable to our Order, and grateful to heaven."

It was near midnight when the reverend brother concluded his narrative, and as he was about to say farewell, they were startled by the cries of murder from the back of the mansion. On reaching the spot whence the cries seemed to proceed, they found Phil prostrate, presenting a most grotesque and ludicrous appearance, in a state of stupid bewilderment, from terror and intoxication; his coat turned inside out, half his face and head closely shaven, the other half as black as a negro's, and altogether reeking with mud, and the fumes of whiskey. As intelligibly as he could, he gave his astonished uncle to understand "that he had that night been made a Mason by the members of the Hoaxtown Lodge; that he bore it all very well till old sawney himself, with glaring eyes, as large as saucers, and horns blazing forth like a fiery furnace, with hollow voice, and a wave of his huge hand, bid me advance; I could stand it no longer, I bolted from the room, rushed to the stable, mounted without hat or boots, and galloped home at the top of the horse's speed; he chased me the whole way, and there he stands this moment, as big as a mountain, pouring fire and brimstone from his distended jaws exactly in the spot where the old pump used to be."

The Colonel at once guessed that a very unbecoming practical joke had been played off on his silly nephew. It would seem that on that day the members of the hunt had a long and splendid run, and killed their game close to a well known hostelry, in a beautiful and picturesque part of a most romantic country; all being in good humour and high spirits, those who were in at the death agreed to dine at the hotel, which was, at that time, famous for a good cellar and larder. After dinner, the conversation turned on a splendid Masonic ball, which had lately taken place in the metropolis, at which were assembled all the rank and beauty of the island. Phil said he would never rest until he was a Mason. The wink was passed round, and as most of them detested Phil's wife, a practical joke was resolved on; the chairman said, "Well Phil, my boy, you 're in the very zenith of good luck; order in a dozen of claret, and you shall be gratified this very night, as all here are Freemasons, with the exception of yourself."

As soon as the claret was nearly discussed, and Phil exhibited manifest symptoms of its influence, a consultation was held as to the *modus operandi*. A question arose as to who should represent his satanic majesty; deeming the presence of that personage essential on the occasion, it was suggested that as "mine host" was considered the greatest rascal in the parish, and dearly loved a joke, that he should be requested to take the part. On being consulted, he entered into it with a *gusto*, and said, leave that to me, I'll

manage it, Robin is the very lad for your game." Robin was a huge old he goat, up to all sorts of tricks—indeed, it was a question among the visitors, which was the greater rogue, Robin, or his master.

Things being thus far arranged, Phil was ushered into a small room at the end of the dining room, which opened by a glass door on a *plateau* leading by steps to the back of the house; they turned his coat inside out, took off his top boots, shaved one side of his head and face, and blackened the other; they put him through a variety of absurd postures, which he was to go through before the Grand Master to whom he would be introduced in a few minutes.

While these operations were going on, the landlord planted himself at the far end of the dinner table, with a large table cloth, concealing all his person but his naked arms, which surrounded Robin as if they belonged to him, who stood before him on his hind legs, his fore legs resting on the table, and also concealed by the white cloth, nothing of him appearing to view, but his head, ornamented with immense horns, and a most venerable beard.

The door was now thrown open, and Phil was told to advance, and go through his lesson. Phil stood in the doorway petrified with horror; he believed to a certainty he stood in the veritable presence of the "evil one," and when he saw his arm wave, and heard a hollow unearthly voice order him to advance, his knees trembled, and he could not stir. In a moment all was darkness, and nothing could be seen but the glaring eyes, and the horns of the goat, which had been rubbed over with phosphorus; thunder and lightning were now imitated after the best theatrical fashion. Phil could stand it no longer, he rushed through the glass door, down to the stable, mounted his horse without hat or boots, and never slacked rein till he reached home. Entering the stables the curve was rather sharp, the horse stumbled, and pitched Phil into a cess-pool; half suffocated but not hurt, he made his way in the dark to the pump to try and get rid of a portion of the mud and filth before he entered the house.

He seized what he believed to be the pump handle, and after working it a little, and ducking under the spout to receive the stream, became suddenly impressed with the notion, that the old pump had become animated. Looking up he distinctly saw the head of a man, with distended and straining jaws, which his fears magnified into the most gigantic proportions, pouring forth what he vowed was fire and brimstone; in the very frenzy of frantic terror he rushed towards the house, shouting murder, and fell exhausted at the entrance, where his uncle found him.

The Colonel, having procured a light, proceeded to unravel the mystery of the pump; he there discovered Phelim, pale, sick, and almost paralyzed with terror, hugging the old pump with his only arm, in an embrace closer than he ever bestowed in war, friendship, or love. As a substitute for his lost arm, he had contrived an ingenious piece of mechanism of wood and iron, which Phil grasped in mistake for the pump handle. It appeared that on that day, Phelim had received his pension, and, as was his invariable custom, got most gloriously drunk; he had but arrived a few moments before Phil, and went to the pump to cool his parched and burning throat;

at the moment a winged horse, he said, rushed by him like a whirlwind, and an enormous spectre approached, seized his wooden arm and nearly shook his life out; his eyes lost the power of vision, and he could remember no more. Such was a portion of mishaps and sufferings of poor simple Phil the night he fancied he was made a Mason. It is scarcely necessary to add, that there was no member of the Masonic Order among the perpetrators of this cruel practical joke.

(To be concluded in the next.)

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

LONDON LODGES.

Lodge of Fidelity (No. 3).—This Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 14th November, when Br. Lowe, W.M. initiated a duly qualified candidate into the Order, and passed one, and raised another brother to their respective degrees.

Royal York Lodge of Perseverance, (No. 7).—On Wednesday, November 21st, a meeting of the members of this Lodge, took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, Br. J. S. S. Hopwood, W.M. During the evening, Br. Wilkinson was passed, and Br. Warr, raised, both ceremonies being performed in a manner reflecting the highest credit on all the officiating parties. Among the visitors present, we noticed Br. Crombie, P.G.S. and P.M., 223; Br. Artuis, W.M., 40; Br. Samuel Smart, of the Lodge Good Intent, Sierra Leone, No. 721; Br. Shaboe, Chaplain of the Yarborough Lodge, 812, &c., &c. The banquet was presided over by the W.M., assisted by the Wardens, Br. John Hervey, P.G.D. and P.M. of the Lodge, and Br. J. Levinson, and the harmony of the evening was much enhanced by some excellent singing. The brethren separated at an early hour in perfect harmony.

British Lodge, (No. 8.)—This highly distinguished Lodge held its first meeting for the session, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, November 19th. In the absence of Br. Massey Dawson, Br. Bisgood, P.M., presided. A gentleman was initiated into Masonry in a most able and efficient manner by Br. Gillman, P.M. The charge was also most impressively delivered by Br. Bisgood. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to partake of a most elegant banquet. In proposing the health of the Queen, Br. Bisgood, W.M., *pro tem.*, expressed the hope of all Englishmen, and Masons in particular, that she might live long to exercise the many virtues which so much endeared her to all classes. After proposing the health of the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., in which he dilated on the excellent qualities of that nobleman, he proposed the health of the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M., and all Past and Present Grand Officers. And, after adverting to the great attention and valuable assistance given by his Lordship to Masonry in general, but more particularly to the Masonic Charities, congratulated the Lodge in the presence of Br. Dr. Rowe, Past Grand Officer, Br. Ransford, G.O., visitors, and more particularly on the honour of having as a member of the Lodge, Br. Purton Cooper, D.G.M., of Kent; on the many excellent qualities of which brethren he severally dilated, and trusted that they were gratified with the hospitality of the Lodge, and that they might often have the pleasure of meeting them, especially his old and esteemed friend Br. Cooper. In returning thanks for the Grand Officers, Br. Cooper expressed his high opinion of the antiquity and excellent tendencies of Masonry, and bore testimony to the readiness of the Earl of Yarborough and the Grand Officers to discharge the arduous duties incumbent on them. The health of the W.M. in the chair (Br. Bisgood) was then proposed, with the thanks of the Lodge, for his readiness to afford his valuable assistance, in whatever office he might be required, from the W.M. to the J.G. The W.M. in returning thanks, expressed the pleasure he felt, in rendering the Lodge any service in his power, and, in proposing the health of the Past Masters, descanted on their several good qualities, and the valuable assistance they had rendered; more particu-

larly Br. Noke, P.M., Treasurer and father of the Lodge, who always seemed to experience the greatest delight in witnessing the happiness of his children. Br. Noke in return, expressed the readiness of the Past Masters to do all in their power to further the interests of the Lodge; and, on his own part as an anxious father, the satisfaction he felt in seeing it in so happy and prosperous a state. Br. Guitton, of the Lodge de l'Amitie, at Paris, having requested admission, and being duly tested and approved by Br. Purton Cooper, and Br. Gillman, was duly introduced by Br. Cooper; who, in doing so, expressed the pleasure he felt, inasmuch, that the nation to which the brother belonged was as much allied to them, and he trusted ever would continue to be, as the brother himself, as a member of their ancient Fraternity. On the visitor being conducted to his seat, the W.M. proposed the health of the Emperor and Empress of the French, which was received with the greatest enthusiasm. The healths of the visitors, Brs. Guitton, Rowe, Ransford, C. Locock Webb, W.M., No. 4, Paravashine, No. 5, Somers, No. 225, and Sutten, 324, were then proposed, and the W.M. expressed to them severally the great pleasure felt by the Lodge, in having such distinguished visitors amongst them; and trusted that the hospitality had been such as to induce them to repeat their visits. The visitors in return, individually expressed the great pleasure they had experienced; and Br. Somers thanked the W.M. for his readiness at all times to render assistance to the distressed, but more particularly for that rendered to the widow of Br. Pryor, late a member of his Lodge. The healths of the officers was then proposed, with thanks for the able discharge of their various duties. After a suitable reply by the Senior Warden, the health of W.M. Br. Massey Dawson, who is unfortunately absent in Italy, in consequence of the indisposition of his amiable wife, was then drunk, and a hearty wish expressed that her health might soon be perfectly reinstated, and he be thereby enabled to resume his public duties. After spending the evening with the most extreme hilarity, to which the excellent singing of Br. Ransford greatly added, and also the excellent and liberal catering of the hosts of the tavern, to which the W.M. and brethren repeatedly expressed their satisfaction, the brethren separated.

Albion Lodge (No. 9).—The brethren of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, Nov. 6. When the W.M., Br. J. Burton in his usual efficient manner, raised two brethren to the third degree, one of them being a member of the Polish National Lodge. He also passed one brother to the second degree, and initiated two gentlemen into the mysteries of Masonry. At the close of the business twenty-eight brethren sat down to a banquet, and spent the evening in a most harmonious manner. Amongst several visitors was our old friend Br. Beaulah who much amused the brethren by his comic songs.

Enoch Lodge (No. 11).—This numerous and distinguished Lodge held its first meeting for the season at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, Nov. 14. The W.M. Br. Spooner, in his usual lucid and expressive manner, raised one brother to the degree of a Master Mason, and initiated two gentlemen into the mysteries of Masonry, in which he was most ably supported by his officers. After taking into consideration the best means of relieving a necessitous brother, the brethren adjourned to partake of an elegant banquet. The W.M. in proposing the health of the Queen, said that all Englishmen, and Masons in particular, were ever most desirous of shewing their loyalty to their sovereign, but it was never more necessary than at the present time, when unfortunately the country was engaged in war. He then proposed the health of the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., and also the Earl of Yarborough, and the rest of the Grand Officers, and trusted that the latter nobleman whose many virtues had endeared him to the Craft, would soon be restored to health, that they might again have the pleasure of seeing him amongst them. Br. Kingsbury, visitor, 227, returned thanks for the Grand Officers. The W.M. then proposed the health of the visitors, Br. Mallahue, No. 22, Br. Helsham, 113, Roxbey, 114, Barry Sullivan, Kingsbury, 227, and Augustus Braham, and expressed the thanks of Lodge for the pleasure of their visit, and more especially to Brs. Braham and Kingsbury, for the great musical treat they had afforded the brethren. Br. Barry Sullivan, in a concise and appropriate manner, returned thanks for the visitors. The W.M. next proposed the health of the newly initiated brethren, and expressed his confidence that

they would not only reflect honour on this Lodge, which felt great happiness in being the means of introducing them into Masonry, but also on the Craft, by acting according to its principles. Brs. Bell and Rymer returned thanks for the kind manner in which they had been received, and expressed a determination to do all in their power to carry out the beautiful precepts they had heard inculcated that evening. Br. R. Williams, P.M., then proposed the health of the W.M., and thanked him on behalf of the brethren for the able manner with which he presided over the business of the Lodge, and also at the banquet, and congratulated them in having the right man in the right place. The W.M. in return, thanked the brethren for the kind and able support he had received during his term of office, and in proposing the health of the Past Masters, expressed the gratitude of the Lodge for the great support they now, and in times gone by afforded it, and which has been the means of placing it in its present high position. Br. Potter in return expressed the satisfaction felt by the Past Masters in seeing the Lodge in its present happy and flourishing condition. He had been for many years a member of it, when numbering but eleven members, and he felt happy in bearing witness, that the adding to its numbers had not detracted from its comforts, and the high name it had ever borne in the Craft. The W.M. in proposing the health of the officers, thanked them individually and collectively for the talent they displayed, and efficient service they rendered him in the discharge of his arduous duties. Br. Bincks, S.W., at some length, returned thanks for the officers, and eloquently dilated on what he considered to be their duties. He at the same time expressed their determination to discharge those duties to the utmost of their power. This was received with much applause, and a general wish expressed that the speech should be reported in the "Masonic Mirror."

Lodge of Fortitude and Old Cumberland (No. 12).—This Lodge met on the 12th November, Br. Louis Meunier, W.M. presiding, when Br. Donald King, the eminent vocalist, was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. We regret that Br. King was unable to attend, in consequence of the death of his mother, which took place somewhat suddenly on the previous Thursday night. Amongst the candidates for initiation, are Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Coward.

Kent Lodge (No. 15).—This increasing and flourishing Lodge met on Wednesday, the 14th ult., at Br. Harris', the Three Tuns, High Street, Boro'. The duties of the evening consisted of three initiations, which were well performed by Br. Whitehouse, P.M., assisted by Br. Anslow, P.M. as S.W., *pro tem.*, and Br. Trebeck, J.W. The Lodge being closed, the brethren, about thirty in number, adjourned to the banquet, which was served in Br. Harris's usual exquisite style. On the cloth being cleared the usual loyal toasts were given and responded to with good spirit. The W.M. then proposed the health of the newly initiated members, viz., Brs. Burns, Randall, and Shorter. Br. Burns in rising to reply in behalf of himself and colleagues, begged to tender the W.M., officers, and brethren, their grateful acknowledgments for the honor conferred in their admission into a Society so ancient and honourable, and concluded by assuring the brethren, their best efforts would be used to carry out the sublime principles to which they had listened that evening—more especially to the charge so ably delivered by Br. Barnes, P.M., and Father of the Lodge. The W.M. then proposed the health of the visiting brethren, Brs. Arnold and Stuart, of the Lodge of Faith, (No. 165.) Br. Arnold in reply assured the brethren he felt much gratification in visiting the Lodge, and observed with pleasure the unanimity and brotherly kindness which prevailed among the members. Br. Smith, P.M., proposed the health of Br. Whitehouse, as W.M., *pro tem.* Br. Whitehouse replied in terms of willingness at all times to render any assistance the lodge might require at his hands. The W.M. then proposed the health of the P.M.'s of the Lodge, Br. Barnes, Prince, Anslow, Hawkins, Manse, Smith, and R. E. Barnes. To which Br. Smith, P.M., replied, assuring the members of their continued desire to promote the best interests of the Lodge, which they were happy to see was making rapid strides in numbers and respectability. The W.M. then proposed the health of Brs. Richd. Barnes, P.M. and Treasurer, also Br. R. E. Barnes, P.M., and Hony. Secy., who severally responded to the eulogiums passed on them. The officers of the Lodge, was the next toast given—to which Br. Trebeck, J.W. responded, and tendered his

best thanks to the brethren, not only for the honor conferred, but likewise the position he held as Junior Warden of the Lodge, and assured them his utmost endeavours would be used to discharge the duties of his office as efficiently as possible—that he felt great pleasure at all times in attending their meetings, and spoke forcibly of the principles of Masonry, which he not only admired, but would ever be his study to maintain, and concluded with observations expressive of the information afforded the brethren by the *Masonic Mirror*. The harmony of the evening was much enhanced by the excellent singing of Brs. Harris, Plummer, Mariner, and Arnold.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—The members of this distinguished Lodge met on Thursday, Nov. 15, for the purpose of raising a brother to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and passing one to the degree of a Fellow Craft, which ceremonies were performed in a very efficient manner by the W.M. Br. Humphreys.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—This numerous Lodge held its meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday Nov. 5, when five brethren were passed to the second degree by the W.M. Br. Dyte, in his usual efficient manner. After the banquet, to which about forty sat down, the brethren were much delighted by a solo on the violin, by Br. John Bradley, who was passed on this occasion.

UNITED MARINER'S LODGE (No. 33).—The Brethren of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at Br. Jagel's, the Chequers Tavern, Providence Row, Finsbury, on Tuesday, the 6th Nov. Br. Hookey, W.M., presiding. The absence of Br. Taylor, S.W., was much regretted—being unable to attend the duties of the Lodge. The Masonic duties being concluded, the brethren retired to refreshment. The visitors on the occasion were Brs. the Rev. Dr. Shaboe, Chaplain of the Yarborough Lodge, (No. 812); Br. T. B. Deplock (No. 4); Br. Purday, P.M., (53 and 212); Br. *Fitch, P.M. (212); and Br. Thomson (No. 812). The brethren spent a pleasant* evening, harmony reigning throughout.

BRITANNIC LODGE (No. 38).—The members of this Lodge met on the 9th Nov., at the Thatched House, St. James's Street, Br. Gooch, W.M., presiding. Mr. Jonathan Mellor was duly initiated into the Order, and Brs. Hawkins, Craven, and Underdown raised to the third degree. The Lodge stands adjourned until February.

GIHON LODGE (No. 57).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Bridge House Hotel, on the 15th Nov., when Br. England, W.M., passed two, and raised two brethren in their respective degrees. Br. Wilmot, the S.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing year.

ST. MARY'S LODGE (No. 76).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 15th November, when Br. Geo. Kelly, W.M. most ably initiated two gentlemen into the Order. Upwards of 20 of the brethren afterwards dined together.

LODGE OF PROSPERITY (No. 78).—This fast rising Lodge held its first meeting on the 16th November, at Br. Morris's, White Hart Tavern, Bishopsgate Street, it having been recently removed there for the accommodation this first rate house affords. The W.M. Br. Thomas Weeks, having raised two brothers to the degree of M.M's. in an efficient manner, and transacted the remaining business of the evening, the Lodge was duly closed. After which about 20 of the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet, and having duly honored the usual loyal and complimentary toasts, the brethren departed highly pleased with their evening's entertainment and the present position, and future prospects of the Lodge. Among the visitors were Br. Rule, P.M. and P.G.P.; Br. Edwards, P.M., Temple Lodge, and Br. H. A. Isaacs, S.W., 247, and Honorary Lecture Master of the Prosperity Lodge of Instruction, which meets at the White Hart Tavern, every Friday evening, at 8 o'clock (third Friday in each month excepted), and we can assure the brethren, they would do well to visit or join this excellent Lodge.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—This old and distinguished Lodge held its first meeting for the season at the Freemasons' Tavern, Nov. 8th. After the business of the Lodge, which was merely formal, the brethren adjourned to partake of their usual splendid banquet. The W.M. Br. Solomon, proposed the health of the Queen,

accompanied with remarks on her many virtues, which was received with acclamations by the brethren, and after giving the health of the W.M. Grand Master, and dilating on his excellencies as a nobleman and a Mason, he proposed the health of the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M. Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, and congratulated the Lodge on being honoured by the presence of Br. Crohn, a member of that excellent and honourable body. Indeed, they might almost consider Br. Crohn as one of themselves, as he was ever ready to attend the Lodge of Regularity whenever his assistance might be required. Br. Crohn returned thanks for the Grand Officers, and in a feeling manner expressed the pleasure he felt at all times in visiting this Lodge, and his happiness in being considered serviceable in any way. Br. Johnson then proposed the health of the W.M. Br. Lewis Solomon, and expressed the thanks of the Lodge for the kind solicitude with which he had promoted its interests during his term of office. The W.M. after a suitable reply, proposed the health of the visitors, Br. Crohn, Br. Lowick of the Kent Lodge, and Br. Solomons, of the Joppa Lodge, thanking them for their attendance, but more particularly for the great musical delight the two last named brethren had afforded the Lodge by the exercise and display of their musical talents. Br. Lowick in reply stated the happiness he felt in attending this Lodge, and affording any amusement in his power to the members. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Past Masters, two of whom, Br. McCallan and Br. W. Johnson were only present, and thanked them for the able manner in which they had discharged their duties while in the chair. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Treasurer and Secretary, eulogising the able and correct manner in which they disharged their arduous duties. Br. McCallan in return, hoped that he should long have the pleasure of rendering whatever service laid in his power to promote the harmony and prosperity of the Lodge. The Secretary (Br. Augero) also returned thanks, and expressed his readiness to render every service in his power to promote the interests of the Lodge. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Officers, and, after a suitable reply from them, this most harmonious meeting was closed.

Temple Lodge (No. 118).—The members of this Lodge met at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall Street, on the 6th November, under the presidency of Br. Weeden, W.M., when the business consisting of three raisings and two passings, was most impressively performed.

London Lodge (No. 125).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 3rd November, Br. Mackenzie, W.M., presiding, a brother was raised to the third degree. It is gratifying to observe some of the old members of the Lodge again rallying under its standard. Amongst those present on this occasion, were Br. Willett, P.M., of No. 2, and D.P.G.M. for Dorset; and Mac Mahon, P.M.

Lodge of Faith (No. 165).—The annual meeting of this Lodge was held at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 30th of October, when Br. Mc Manus was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year by Br. P.M. Rackstraw, assisted by Br. P.M. Adams. The other business of the evening consisted of one raising and four initiations.

St. Thomas's Lodge (No. 166).—At the first meeting of this Lodge for the season, held on the 3rd November, Br. Dr. A. Normandy, W.M. presiding, a brother was raised to the third degree. The attendance of the brethren was very limited.

Saint John's Lodge (No. 196).—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held at the Holly Bush Tavern, Hampstead, on the 13th of November, when Br. Samuel Aldrich, the W.M., initiated Mr. Joseph Barnes, Mr. George Hart, Mr. Charles Hale, and Mr. Jonathan Ware. Brs. Collins, Smith, and Pritchard were passed to the second degree. At the conclusion of the business, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant banquet, and passed an evening of unalloyed enjoyment.

Old Concord Lodge (No. 201).—The members of this Lodge held their second meeting, since the recess, on Tuesday last, at the Freemasons' Tavern. It was fully attended, and the business (as is always the case at this Lodge,) was very ably performed, Br. Kennedy, P.M., presiding, in the unavoidable absence of the W.M. During the evening, Mr. Jabez Hogg was duly initiated into the noble Order. Br. Emmens, P.M. and Secretary, announced, that during the recess, a brother, formerly a member, had departed this life, soon after which the widow also died, leaving a poor orphan girl totally destitute. He trusted the brethren would use their influence in assisting this poor child to obtain admission into the Royal Freemasons' School,

which was unanimously agreed to. Business being concluded, about forty of the brethren adjourned to the banquet, after which the usual Masonic toasts were given, and duly responded to. The W.M. then took the opportunity of reminding the brethren, that at their last meeting he had to regret the absence of their "chaplain" through illness; that worthy and respected brother was now present, and he most sincerely congratulated him on his recovery, and begged to propose his health. In responding to the toast, the Rev. Br. Laughlin begged to thank the W.M., and his brethren most sincerely for the feeling and affectionate manner in which his health was proposed and received. He could not, however, say that he was surprised at this kindness, for he knew that such brotherly affection was the essence of Masonic Laws and Constitutions. He saw with great satisfaction the continued increase of the brethren of this Lodge, and begged to congratulate the W.M. and brethren upon it. It could easily be accounted for, from the fact, that in the Old Concord Lodge, there was to be seen working surpassed by no other, and he hoped also that it might be attributed to the increasing sense entertained of the necessity for the spread of the principles of the Order. He did not consider himself touching upon the forbidden ground of politics, when he remarked that there never was a time when these principles were more necessary to actuate men than the present. As a minister of peace, he felt it, and he believed that to bring back and secure in perpetuity the blessings of peace, those principles of harmony and brotherhood, of good order and love, which are the very foundations of our constitutions, ought to be more and more widely spread abroad: and the Masons could do both consistently with their Laws, and effectually, by exhibiting the working of those principles within them, and by their conduct towards each other. In this age of wide-spreading unbelief, Masonry would afford a valuable corrective, based on the belief of the one great Creator whom all adored. However they might believe as to the extent to which He has as yet developed His plans for the regeneration of mankind, and founding all their ideas of morality upon the same volume of the sacred Law, Masons do right to form a strong barrier against the tides of infidelity and licentiousness, which seem like an overrunning flood, likely to involve all things in its mighty and destructive course. After again thanking the W.M. and brethren, the worthy and Rev. Brother resumed his seat. Several other appropriate toasts being given, the brethren retired, after having spent a very happy and harmonious evening.

Domatic Lodge (No. 206).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held on the 12th of November, the W.M. Br. T. A. Adams passed three, and raised two brothers to their respective degrees. Br. Marshall, the respected J.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and a P.M.'s jewel voted to Br. Adams, in testimony of the respect of the Lodge, and the great success which has attended it during his year of office.

Lion and Lamb Lodge (No. 227).—On Thursday, the 1st November, the members of this excellent Lodge met at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, under the presidency of Br. Muggeridge, P.M., acting for the W.M., who was unavoidably absent. Br. Muggeridge performed the ceremony of raising Br. Symon to the sublime degree of a M.M. in his usual impressive style, and was ably assisted by the Wardens of the Lodge. At the conclusion of the Lodge business, the brethren retired to an elegant repast, served in excellent taste by the worthy host of the house. Br. Muggeridge in the chair supported by P.M's. Sotheron, (the Treasurer and father of the Lodge) Thompson, (son of the lamented Peter Thompson), Butler, Goodyer, White and Bohn, 201. A very pleasant evening was spent and the brethren separated at 11 o'clock in perfect friendship and harmony.

Jerusalem Lodge (No. 233).—The first meeting of this season was held on the 7th November, under the presidency of Br. Lewis Crombie, W.M., who raised a brother to the third degree.

Jordan Lodge (No. 237).—This Lodge commenced its meetings for the season at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, the 16th ult., Br. Spooner, W.M. presiding; when Mr. Mapp, Dr. Willshire, and Mr. Laughton were initiated into Masonry by the W.M., in his usual able and impresive manner. The other business being merely routine, the brethren adjourned to banquet, which by the excellent style it was served up, evinced the determination of Messrs. Elkington and Co. to maintain the high character of their establishment; and the evening was spent in the enjoyment of every

Masonic feeling. Among the visitors were Brs. Stuart, Past P.G.T. Kent; Burton, W.M., 9; Thorp, W.M., 425; Knight, 9; Joy, 425.

LODGE OF UNIONS (No. 318).—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 5th November, Br. Blair, W.M. presiding, when the business which consisted of two raisings was gone through to the great satisfaction of every brother present. About 20 of the brethren afterwards dined together.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Gun Tavern, Br. Cross was passed to the second degree, and Br. Nunn raised to the third.

PHŒNIX LODGE, (No. 202).—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 10th of November, Br. Harrison, W.M., presiding, when Br. Herbert Ingram was passed to the second degree. Br. Houghton, the respected Treasurer of the Lodge, having resigned, from the pressure of other engagements, he was unanimously elected an honorary member. Br. Warren, P.M., was elected Treasurer. At the conclusion of the business, this being the first meeting of the season, the brethren adjourned to a very elegant banquet, and the harmony of the evening was much enhanced by the exertions of a more than usually strong muster of professional brethren, including Brs. Genge, Leffler, Lawler, Smythson, Holmes, Taylor, Ford, and Beular. In the course of the evening some admirable five-part glees were sung, and a rich musical treat was afforded to the brethren.

PROVINCIAL LODGES.

DEVONSHIRE.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, EXETER (No. 46).—The brethren of this Lodge met for the first time after the summer vacation, at the Masonic Hall, on Thursday, the 18th October, when Br. Wm. Langworthy Channon, of Heavitree, was initiated, and another brother proposed. A brother from the Lodge of Union, Starcross, was also raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

LODGE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PLYMOUTH (No. 83).—An emergency meeting was held on Tuesday, Nov. 6th, at six o'clock, for the purpose of initiating Mr. Nicholas Clark, a stranger to this town, but bringing with him the tongue of good report from several well-known brothers. The ceremony was, as usual, most ably performed by Br. P. M. Pollard, P.P.G.T. The Lodge having been closed, was again opened in form for the dispatch of the usual monthly business, when Mr. Edward Joseph Mullins, publisher, of this town, was also initiated into the Order, the ceremony, as in the former instance, being conducted by Br. Pollard. The previous minutes were unanimously confirmed, and the meeting closed with solemn prayer, the brethren retiring to refreshment. After the public and Masonic toasts, Br. Foulds, S.W., proposed in highly flattering terms the health of the W.M., Br. Gambell, to which the worthy brother suitably replied. The healths of the other officers followed, and were warmly responded to. Br. Pollard proposed the healths of the newly initiated brethren, strangers till then, henceforth strangers no more, and presented each with a Masonic glass, having thereon the number of their parent Lodge. Br. Mullins thanked the brethren for receiving him, and observed that as he had always been an ornament to the society in which he had previously moved, so would he endeavour to be an ornament to the Masonic Order. Br. Clark returned his sincere thanks in a very modest speech, saying how glad he was to be admitted amongst the brethren. The health of Br. P. M. Pollard was drunk with enthusiasm. Lodge 83, and indeed some others, are much indebted to this zealous brother for his constant exertions in behalf of the cause—for several years he has conducted the whole of the ceremonies, but it is hoped that the W.M. for the next year will relieve him of some part at least of the arduous duties, which must encroach so much on his time. Br. Pollard warmly reciprocated the kindly feelings evinced by the brethren; he always felt a pleasure when he could be of service to any brother or any Lodge,

and prayed the G.A.O.T.U. that he might always meet the brotherhood in peace and harmony below, and be at last united with them in the G.L. above, where the world's Great Architect rules and reigns for ever. The health of the W.M.'s bride was drunk, and neatly responded to by Br. Gambell, when the brethren retired to their several homes.

St. George's Lodge, Exeter (No. 129).—The second Lodge for the season was held on Thursday, the 8th inst., but as there was nothing particular to be done, the Lodge was closed at an early hour.

Lodge of Harmony, Plymouth (No. 182).—A meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, Oct. 1, when two brethren were raised to the sublime degree of M.M., and two gentlemen initiated into the Order. On Monday, Nov. 5, another meeting was held, when the two new brethren were passed to the second degree. The ceremonies on both occasions were performed by the W.M. (Br. Earl) in a very impressive manner. At the conclusion of business the brethren adjourned to refreshment, when a very pleasant evening was spent. It may not be out of the way to state, that during the year, twelve gentlemen have been initiated into the mysteries of the Craft by Br. Earl—a fact which not only proves the prosperity of the Lodge, but reflects great credit on the W.M., who is a Mason of less than three years' standing. It would be as well if young Masons generally would endeavour to emulate him in making themselves acquainted with the ceremonies—as it would save many Masters in this and other towns the mortification of being dependent on others for the performance of their duties.

Lodge of Sincerity, St. George's Hall, Stonehouse (No. 224).—The members of this aristocrate Lodge met on Monday, 12th inst., when Br. W. H. Evens, jun., W.M., proceeded to pass Br. E. Sale, solicitor, of Devonport, to the degree of Fellow-craft, and would no doubt have reached a satisfactory conclusion, had it not happened that "Thioden's" Theatre of Arts is located *pro tem.* in the same building, and both being in action at one and the same time, the blast from the instrument of sixteen trumpet power, sent the W.M.'s ideas nowhere, totally upsetting the propriety of the Lodge, and leaving the W.M. nothing for it but to cut short this beautiful and interesting ceremony. No sooner was it thus prematurely brought to a close, than it was proposed and carried unanimously that the Lodge be removed to a private place of meeting, where the public have not access. We should mention that, in addition, and as an accompaniment to Mons. Thioden's music, there was a second addition, in the shape of a dancing academy, whose meeting was held at the same time and place, of course in a separate room, but still so favourably situated as to enliven and annoy both front and flank. The propriety of removing has been heretofore debated, but the interests of the proprietors of the hall (two at least of whom are members of the Sincerity) was paramount for the time; however, the danger of Mr. Thioden's cavalry band (as he terms his instrument) bore before it every argument, not excepting even that most potent one, the breeches pocket. This question decided, there came a very serious one for Masons of the fourth degree. We allude to the annual banquet. It was debated at great length as to whether they should dine on St. John the Evangelist's day, with the Stars of Brunswick, but on the principle that two dinners are better than one, it was ultimately carried that they should dine on St. John the Evangelist's day, inviting the aforesaid Stars of Brunswick to partake of their hospitality, in return for the same kind action at Christmas, 1854. We regret that there was a very limited attendance, thereby showing but small courtesy to their most talented W.M. Amongst those present, we noticed Brs. J. C. Hancock, S.W.; J. P. Mann, J.W.; R. R. Rodd, J.D.; — Gilbard, S.D.; W. G. Clase, J.G. Great regret was expressed at the absence of their sheet anchor, Br. Tripe, P.M., P.P.G.S.D. Br. Lidstone, P.J.W., was most cordially received, and heartily congratulated on being once again amongst them. There being danger of the intrusion of Cowans, the Tyler was not only without the entrance, but without the outer-court, viz., on the stairs. The Lodge being closed in form, the brethren, unable longer to stand the powerful nature of the musical entertainments, so unexpectedly prepared for them, the potency of which we have so often referred to, retired unrefreshed to their respective homes, there to sup at their own proper costs and charges.

KENT.

LODGE OF FREEDOM, GRAVESEND (No. 91).—The monthly meeting of the brethren of this Lodge took place at Br. Wates' Hotel, on Monday, Nov. 19. After the Lodge was opened by the W.M., Br. R. Spencer, with solemn prayer, the business, being very heavy, was done in the following manner:—Mr. E. Wates, Mr. E. Hills, and Mr. Olive were initiated into the mysteries of the Craft by the W.M. and P.M., Br. Sharland, P.P.G.S.W., and from the excellent manner they both went through the ceremony, we can assign the palm to neither. P.M. Br. Gore performed the ceremony of passing Br. Everist to the Fellow-Craft degree, also exceedingly well done. Brs. Brown, Davis, Denton, Fletcher, Martin, and Williams, were raised to the third degree by the W.M., and we have seldom or ever heard that sublime degree of raising done (as it had to be repeatedly by the W.M.) with such feeling and pathos, so as to delight and rivet the most minute attention of the very numerous assemblage of the brethren, as also the W.M. (Br. Munns), and several of the brethren of the Dartford Lodge. Business concluded, the brethren proceeded to banquet, and after the usual toasts were given and responded to, separated at rather a late hour.

MAIDSTONE.—The Installation of the W.M. of the Belvidere Lodge will take place on Tuesday next, at the Star Hotel, when visitors are expected from Sheerness, Chatham, Gravesend, and other parts of Kent.

LANCASHIRE.

LODGE OF FIDELITY, BLACKFRIARS (No. 336).—The meeting of this Lodge took place on Friday evening, 26th October, at the Angel Inn, Br. Stocks, P.M., presiding, assisted by Brs. Sawes and Sheppard, P.M.'s. The W.M. and Wardens being absent, and the attendance of other members very meagre, the brethren present agreed to postpone several business matters, and an initiation, &c., to next Lodge night.

OXFORDSHIRE.

ALFRED CITY LODGE, OXFORD (No. 425).—The brethren of the Alfred Lodge met on Tuesday, Nov. 20th, when they unanimously elected Br. J. T. Hester, surgeon, of this city, W.M. for the ensuing year. Br. Thomas Randall was unanimously elected Treasurer, and Brs. Frazer and Thurland, Stewards. Br. Bull was re-appointed Tyler.

APOLLO UNIVERSITY LODGE, OXFORD (No. 460).—The first meeting this term was held on the 7th of Nov., when Viscount Howard, of Christ Church, eldest son of the Earl of Effingham, Viscount Vaughan, of Christ Church, eldest son of the Earl of Lisburne, the Hon. Augustus Bamfylde, eldest son of Lord Poltimore, and Messrs. Brassey and Hitchings, were initiated. Several brethren were passed and raised, the ceremonies being performed in admirable manner by Br. W. B. Beach, of Christ Church, P.M., who officiated, in the absence of Br. J. W. Malcolm, P.J.G., W.M. On the motion of Br. Lord Lincoln, seconded by Br. Cox, the P.G.M. for Oxfordshire, Br. Captain Henry Bowyer was unanimously elected a joining member. The banquet which followed, and was attended by the P.G.M., passed off with great *eclât*.

WARWICKSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The P.G. Lodge was held at Alcester, on Friday, Nov. 23, at the Lodge-room of the Abbey Lodge, Angel Hotel, at 1 o'clock. Amongst the brethren we noticed the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, P.G.M.; Bro. Boughton Leigh, D.P.G.M.; Bro. Chas. W. Elkington, G.S.B., and P.G.D.C.; Bro. Lane, Chaplain; Bros. Empson, P.S.W.; J. W. Lloyd, P.J.W.; Newton, P.G.R.; Dee, P.P.S.W.; Machin, P.P.S.W.; James, P.P.S.W. Staffordshire, Robins, Hopkins, Bingham, Lingard, Blenkinsop, Clarke, W. Lloyd, J. P. Motteram, Overell, Freer, Ross, &c. &c. After the usual business of the Grand Lodge the Brethren proceeded to the parish church, were a most appropriate Masonic sermon was preached by the Rev. Chaplain.

After service the brethren returned to the Lodge, and business was closed.

In the evening about 50 sat down to banquet, provided in the Town-hall, which was most gaily decorated for the occasion.

The Most W. the P. G. Master presided, and in proposing the first toast, of "The Queen and the Craft," spoke very highly of the domestic and other virtues of our beloved Queen. The toast was received with due honors.

"Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the other Members of the Royal Family," was then given; the P.G.M., speaking of the visit of the Prince at Birmingham the previous day, and the very hearty welcome he met with.

The Chairman next proposed, "The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, G. Master," alluding, in appropriate terms, to the high qualifications of our distinguished Grand Master. The toast was received with Masonic honors.

The Chairman next proposed "The Deputy Grand Master, Lord Yarborough, and the Grand Lodge of England," coupling witht his toast the name of the Grand Sword-bearer, Bro. C. W. Elkington. The Noble Lord said he had had a promise from the D.G. Master to visit that meeting previously to his severe attack of indisposition, and that the Brethren were prevented having that distinguished visitor, solely from the ill state of Lord Yarborough's health. The toast was received with Masonic honors.

Bro. Elkington acknowledged the compliment in an appropriate speech. The P.D.G. Master then proposed the health of Lord Leigh, as a truly Christian man and Mason; alluding to the munificent offer of land which the Noble Lord had made to the Reformatory Committee, of 30 acres, an act abounding with the Masonic virtue of charity. The toast was received, as Lord Leigh's health always is amongst the Craft; a more popular man, or Mason, does not exist.

The P. G. Master responded to the toast in a Masonic spirit, alluding to the great pleasure he had always derived from these meetings, and stated that one of the happiest days of his life was the day he was received a member of the Craft.

The P. Deputy Grand Master's health was then proposed by the Senior Warden, J. W. Lloyd, and responded to in an eloquent speech; the Right Worshipful Brother entering into some most interesting Masonic statistics. "The Wardens and Officers of the Lodge" was proposed from the Chair, and the following toasts were afterwards given: "The Visiting Brethren," proposed by Br. Dee; "The Past Officers of the Lodge," proposed by Br. Lane, Chaplain; "Br. Lane, Chaplain," with thanks for his excellent sermon, by Lord Leigh; "The Lodges of the Province;" "All poor and distressed Masons," and "The Ladies," by Br. Newton; Br. Maclin responding in a most humorous speech. During the evening several good songs were sung, and a most pleasant day was spent.

WILTSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

A Provincial Grand Lodge was held on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at Calne, at which about forty members of the Order attended. After the preliminary business had been disposed of, the Deputy Grand Master (Br. D. Gooch) re-appointed some of the Provincial Grand Officers, and appointed other brethren to fill the remaining offices. The following is a list of the Grand Officers, as now appointed:—Brs. M. C. Rea, S.G.W.; E. Roberts, J.G.W.; J. H. Sheppard, G. Treas.; Rev. G. Campbell, G.C.; Major Goddard, G.R.; H. Weaver, G. Sec.; — Hodgkinson, S.G.D.; W. F. Gooch, J.G.D.; C. W. Hind, G. Super. of Works; T. L. Henley, G. Dir. of Cer.; J. N. Ladd, G. Sword Bearer; T. E. M. Marsh, G. Pursuivant; C. G. Owen, W. Rogers, Josh. Burt, and J. Spencer, G. Stewards.

The D.P.G.M. congratulated the brothers on the prospects and steady increase of Masonry in the province; the number of Lodges having been increased from three to six in the last two years, during which period many brethren had been initiated, especially in the Calne Lodge, which had attained a very prosperous state under the auspices of its Worshipful Master, our zealous Grand Secretary. At three o'clock, the brethren formed in procession, and proceeded to church in the following order, viz.:—

Tyler.

Grand Steward Grand Steward.

Visiting Brethren not Members of Lodges in this Province.

Lodge of Concord, No. 915.
Methuen Lodge, No. 914.
Banner of the Lansdowne Lodge.
Lansdowne Lodge of Unity, No. 909.
Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation, No. 453.
Provincial Grand Pursuivant.
Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.
Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works.
Provincial Grand Secretary.
Provincial Grand Registrar and Provincial Grand Treasurer.
Corinthian Light.
Provincial Grand Junior Warden with Plumb Rule.
Doric Light.
Provincial Grand Senior Warden with Level.
Provincial Grand Junior Deacon.
The Volume of the Sacred Law,
(With square and compass borne on a crimson velvet cushion.)
Grand Steward. Provincial Grand Chaplain. Grand Steward.
Ionic Light.
Provincial Grand Sword Bearer.
Deputy Provincial Grand Master.
Provincial Grand Senior Deacon.
Provincial Grand Tyler with Banner.

Amongst the brethren who attended we observed, in addition to the provincial officers above-named, Br. S. H. Smith, P.P.G. Pursuivant, and Brs. Wm. H. Poynder, Wm. Homfray, S. Wittey, George Osbaldistone Budd, J. Cartwright, F. R. Parsons (of Reading Lodge), and numerous other brethren. After the usual service of the day—portions of which were beautifully chanted by some of the brethren—had been performed, the Rev. A. Roberts, of Barkham Parsonage, near Wokingham (a member of the Order), ascended the pulpit, and preached one of the most eloquent sermons upon Masonry we have ever heard. The rev. gentleman selected his text from the 7th of Matthew, and the 20th verse—"By their fruits ye shall know them;" and in a clear and forcible manner he showed that it was by a man's deeds alone that we could form a just and fair estimate of his character. It was not by the bright green leaves, nor yet by the fragrant blossom which it bore, that the tree was known and valued; nor was it by a fair outside and a decent exterior, that the good man was appreciated; by his fruit shall ye know him. At the conclusion of the service, the Masons again formed in procession, and returned to the Town-hall, where they remained in Lodge for a short time, and then adjourned to the Lansdowne Arms to dinner. Deputy Provincial Grand Master Gooch was in the chair, a brother to whom the province owes more than to any other member of the Order, for the interest he takes in Masonry, and everything connected with it. The proceedings were much enlivened throughout the evening by some excellent songs and glees, to a piano-forte accompaniment, in fact, nothing was omitted which could add to the enjoyment of the meeting.

YORKSHIRE.

St. George's Lodge, Doncaster (No. 298).—The brethren of this Lodge held their regular Lodge meeting in the Town-hall, at the usual period, viz., the last Friday in October. The brethren were honoured on this occasion by the attendance of several visitors from a distance, amongst whom were Br. Hearn, P.D.P.G.M., from the Isle of Wight; Br. Chas. Bailes, and Sherwin, Sheffield; Br. C. Wand, Bradford; Br. T. Dixon, Leeds; Br. Liddle, &c. After the first-named brother had been received with the usual honours, the business of the Lodge was proceeded with, and closed in the three degrees. The brethren then adjourned to the Rein Deer Hotel, where a sumptuous banquet had been prepared, and was done full justice to, the Worshipful Master, the Rev. J. G. Fardell, P.G.S.W., occupying the chair, and Br. Sherwin the vice. A most delightful evening was spent by the

brethren, who were highly gratified with the kindness and urbanity of their highly-respected W.M. During the proceedings, a very interesting and instructive conversation took place on various subjects connected with Masonry, such as the difference of ritual as observed by various Lodges, and also as to the true meaning and pronunciation of certain words well-known to Masons. The brethren departed at an early hour, well pleased with the evening's proceedings.

INSTRUCTION.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—On Wednesday, the last day of October, the members of this flourishing Lodge of Instruction assembled at Br. Ireland's, the "Queen Elizabeth," King's-row, Walworth, for the purpose of working the 15 sections, Br. Garrod, as W.M., putting the questions, and the following brethren answering them:—1st Lecture—1. Br. Wm. Stuart; 2. Br. D. R. Farmer; 3. Br. Wm. Plummer; 4. Br. Chas. Ellis; 5. Br. T. A. Adams; 6. Br. J. R. Warren; 7. Br. John Thomas. 2nd Lecture—1.—Br. Robert Wadeson; 2. Br. T. Warren; 3. Br. J. W. Ward; 4. Br. J. R. Warren; 5. Br. John Thomas. 3rd Lecture—1. Br. Thomas Anslow; 2. Br. Chas. Ireland; 3. Br. D. R. Farmer. We may truly say we never heard the sections worked in a more efficient manner, and we recommend any brother in search of Masonic Instruction to pay this Lodge a visit. The brethren meet every Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock.

ROYAL ARCH.

GRAND CHAPTER.

The quarterly convocation of Grand Chapter was holden in the Temple attached to Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, Nov. 3, when Comp. Hall, acted as Z.; Comps. Crohn as H.; Comp. Rawson as J.; Comp. Patterson, N.; Comps. H. Lloyd. Eaton, and Tombleson, Sojourners. There were also present on the dais, Comps. Tomkins, Le Veau, J. Hervey, Havers, Chas. Elkington, P. Matthews, and several others.

The minutes of the previous Chapter having been read and confirmed, it was resolved, on the recommendation of the General Committee to grant a charter for a Chapter to be attached to the Glamorgan Lodge, No. 43, to be held at Cardiff, on the 1st Monday in each month. The parties named as principals were Comp. R. F. Langley, Z.; Comp. Thomas Hogg, H.; and Comp. Samuel Laing, J. A charter was also granted for a Chapter to be attached to the Dalhousie Lodge, of Mussoorie and Deyrah, East Indies, No. 992, to be called the Chapter of St. John the Baptist, and to meet on the third Tuesday in the months of June, July, August, and September. The principals named were Comps. T. Cartwright Smith, Z.; W. R. Ford, H.; J. Abercrombie, J.

A petition was then presented from the members of the Thanet Chapter, of Margate, stating that on the 2nd August, 1854, a charter had been granted to them to hold a Chapter at Margate, but owing to the removal from the district of two of the companions, named as principals, they had been unable to open, and they therefore prayed to have the names of two other companions inserted as principals, the requisite fees having been paid at the time of taking up the charter. It was resolved that the charter previously granted should be cancelled, and a new charter issued, on the payment of a fee of £1 1s.

A resolution was then brought up from the Board of General Purposes, stating that various complaints having been received of the difficulties which the Lodges in the colonies experienced by not being enabled to confer the "Mark" degree on brethren, as was done by the Scotch and Irish Lodges in the same district; they had appointed a committee of six to consider whether the "Mark" was a part of ancient

Masonry, and if so, to report to the G. Master whether it ought to be attached to the Craft or the Arch ceremonies.

Comp. White, G.E., stated that he had recently taken the "Mark" in an Irish Lodge, in the Isle of Wight, in order to make himself practically acquainted with its nature, and it was his opinion that it was a part of Craft Masonry, though in Scotland he understood it was considered a portion of Archmasonry.

Br. H. G. Warren begged to be allowed to correct Br. White on that point, having himself taken the Mark degree in Scotland. The Masons of Scotland did not consider the Mark as a part of Archmasonry, but inasmuch as the Grand Lodge of Scotland acknowledged no other Masonry than the "blue" or Craft—not even the Arch as in England—the G. Chapter, which was a perfectly independent body from the Grand Lodge, issued Craft warrants enabling Lodges to be formed for granting to regular Masons the degree of Mark and Past Master *only*, as without being members of those degrees, no brother could be exalted into the Royal Arch, to which they naturally led.

After some further conversation, seven companions, four being Mark Masters and three not, were appointed to assist the Committee of the Lodge of General Purposes in their deliberations.

The meeting then separated.

LONDON CHAPTERS.

Domatic Chapter, No. 206).—The Companions of this Chapter met at the Masonic Hall, Fetter-lane, on Thursday, the 22nd November. Comp. Selig, P.Z., acting as Z.; Comp. Buss, H.; and Comp. T. A. Adams, J. Brs. Tyrrell (168), and R. Wadeson (805), were ballotted for; and the ballot being unanimous in their favour, they will be exalted at the next Convocation, to be holden in January. Comp. Lowenstark, formerly of this Chapter, was re-elected a member. The resignation of Comp. W. Nicholson, (Lodge 201), having been read, the companions accepted it with regret. Several matters of a private nature connected with the Lodge having been satisfactorily disposed of, the companions retired to refreshment, which was provided in Comp. Ireland's usual liberal manner, and the companions separated with feelings of much gratification at the proceedings of the evening.

Jerusalem Chapter, (No. 218).—A convocation of this Chapter was held at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, on Tuesday, the 13th ult., Comp. Scambler, M.E.Z., presiding. Brs. Tappolet, 198, Lippman 218, Aznavour, 237, and Watts, 237, were exalted to the sublime degree of R.A. Masons. The ceremony was most ably and impressively given by the M.E.Z. In this respect, we think No. 218 may be ranked as one of the best worked Chapters in the Order; for each officer performed his portion of the duty in the most perfect and efficient manner. The business being concluded, the companions, to the number of twenty-four, sat down to banquet; among whom were Comps. Elgee, formerly of this Chapter, Beuler, 593, and Hart, 697.

Polish Chapter, (No. 778).—In consequence of some inaccuracies in the printing, last month, we republish the names of the officers of this Chapter: J. W. Adams, Z.; H. G. Warren, H.; Michalski, J.; Limanski, Treas.; Blackburn, E.; Detkins, N.; Johnson, P.S.; Haywood, Webber, Ass. S.; Limanski, P.Z., Boyd, Stewards.

SHROPSHIRE.

Eyton Chapter, Wellington.—It will be in the recollection of our readers that last month we gave an account of the Provincial Grand Master of North Wales and Shropshire having held the Provincial Grand Festival at St. John's Lodge, 875, Spa Hotel, Admaston, when it was stated, that a charter for the Royal Arch Chapter in connection with that Lodge had been applied for and obtained, to be called the Eyton Chapter of St. John. The three first principals named in the petition being Comp. George Marriott, Z., P.Z. of Chapter No. 12; Comp. William Brightwell, H., Z. of Chapter No. 328; Comp. P. C. Eyton, J. Chapter No. 12.

The M.E.Z. summoned the first Convocation of the said Chapter for Friday, November the 9th, when the first Principals were duly installed in their respective chairs, after which, with the kind assistance of Comp. Goring, P.Z., Chapter No. 25, and other companions of the Salossian Chapter, fourteen duly qualified brethren were exalted to the sublime degree of Royal Arch Masons. Eight other brethren for whom the ballot was unanimous, will be exalted at the next Convocation, the first Monday in January, 1856. The M.E.Z. then appointed his officers, and invested them for the ensuing year. The Convocation of the said Chapter was postponed in consequence of the unavoidable absence of the Right Worshipful Grand Master. A sumptuous banquet was provided by Br. Purcell (the squire of Eyton presenting the venison). After dinner, ample proof was given of their loyalty to the Queen of England, and her allies. The first Principal then gave the health of the Earl of Zetland, the Grand G.Z. of the Order, and the Deputy Grand Master of England, the Earl of Yarborough, whose zeal in serving the best interest of the Masonic charities was ably descanted upon in very energetic language, and both toasts were received and given with due honours.

The M.E.Z. then proposed the health of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Sir Watkyn Williams Wynn, Bart., wishing him a safe return to Winstay, blessed with good health and long life. The toast was drunk with great enthusiasm.

Comp. White, the P.G. Treasurer, returned thanks, expressing the delight he experienced, and the great pleasure he felt in having been proposed a joining member, and congratulated the Chapter on the prospect of future excellence.

Comp. Brightwell, the second Principal, rose, and before introducing the toast which he was called upon to propose, from the position he had the honour of occupying in the Eyton Chapter of St. John's, hailed with much satisfaction and pleasure the visible prosperity Masonry had acquired and was acquiring in this province, but more particularly the extraordinary success which had favoured the St. John's Lodge, No. 875, which, comparatively speaking, was a very young one, having been a little more than three years in existence, and in that short period, (owing to the indefatigability of its numerous members) to have a Chapter attached to it, therefore it may justly be said the refulgent star of Freemasonry has shone with full meridian splendour on this Lodge, untarnished and undimned. In alluding more particularly to the toast which I have the honour to propose, in approaching it, believe me, I feel my utter incapability adequately to do that justice which it so amply merits and deserves, in announcing our distinguished brother and talented companion Marriott. (Cheers.) Companions, those cheers strongly and powerfully ratify the high opinion I have entertained of him, both as a man and a Mason—in the former, for his uniform uprightness of character and integrity, in the latter for those truly and unsophisticated sentiments of Masonic sympathy which in him appears so peculiarly characteristic. In conclusion, companions, permit me to express my strong feeling of satisfaction in which I myself feel persuaded, and I feel persuaded I have your coincidence in witnessing this day the solemn, impressive, and imposing manner in which Comp. Marriott performed the ceremonies of exaltation to the fourteen candidates. You, companions, and I, have great reason to congratulate ourselves in being so very fortunate in having such an excellent companion to preside over us in this our first convocation under the warrant from the Grand Chapter of England; and may the G.A.O.T.U. long spare him to continue an ornament to the Craft of which he is so distinguished a member, and when it shall please the Almighty to remove him from this sublunary and transitory abode, may he be translated to that celestial Lodge above, where peace, order, and harmony reign. The toast having been Masonically responded to,

The M.E.Z. said, Comp. Brightwell, your fulness of heart and great flow of language has placed me in great embarrassment; and, companions, in acknowledging the kind sentiments of your second Principal, I feel my inadequacy to do justice in language suitable to the high enconiums passed upon me by him; it is a source of great pleasure I feel to find my services are considered of so much importance to the welfare of Masonry in this Province, and I have great satisfaction also in knowing that the seed I have sown has not fallen on barren ground, and I have equal pleasure

in looking forward to the time of reaping, for, rest assured, no man ever planted a tree that he did not wish to see it grow to perfection. Therefore, companions, no sustenance I can furnish shall be wanting to enable your Lodge and this Chapter to arrive at that great climax. I thank you most kindly for your kind expressions and good wishes, and, believe me, I am proud in having gained your good opinion, for there is no gratification to me so great as that of living in the high estimation of those I have the honour and pleasure to associate with. I congratulate you in having chosen companions of such untiring zeal to assist me in conducting this Chapter, and from the ability your second and third Principals have this day displayed in their respective duties, augurs well for its future prosperity, and I call upon you to drink with all sincerity to the health of the second and third Principals, who have so efficiently discharged their duties, and I cannot allow the present opportunity to pass without giving Comp. Eyton (whose name the Chapter bore) that meed of praise so justly due to him, as one of its principal promoters, and for the valuable assistance he has given to the Lodge and Chapter by becoming one of their greatest supporters, and I hope that he may be spared for many years to see them flourish. (Great cheering.)

Companion Brightwell returned thanks, stating that it was a pleasure for him and his colleague in office to work in conjunction with the first Principal, and they should strenuously endeavour to assist him in the office they had been appointed to.

Comp. Eyton, in giving the health of the visitors who had that day honoured them with their presence, one, a comparative stranger, said he was sure from the very able way in which Comps. Goring and White assisted in the ceremonies, their names would be long remembered in the Eyton Chapter.

Comp. Goring returned thanks, and said he had much pleasure in coming amongst them, and should at all times be glad to render any aid in his power in forwarding their interest.

The M.E.Z., in proposing the officers, said, Companions, it must have been pleasing to you all to have heard the principal Sojourner discharge his duties, as it was satisfactory to me to find a member so young in Masonry so very proficient in his duty; therefore I will thank you to charge your glasses, and join me in drinking to the health of the principal Sojourner and the rest of the officers.

In proposing the health of the newly exalted companions, Br. Rowlands, Past P.G.S. Warden (being the only member not belonging to the St. John's Lodge), was thanked for giving the Eyton Chapter the preference, and the members generally expressed their delight and satisfaction at his coming amongst them.

Br. Rowlands returned thanks, expressing the pleasure he experienced in doing so. Several other toasts followed, and good fellowship prevailed, and the companions separated, deeply impressed with the solemnity of the ceremony, and with a determination under the able guidance of their esteemed M.E.Z., to work with zeal and fidelity.

THE COLONIES.

ADELAIDE.—(AUSTRALIA.)

A Chapter of the Supreme Degree of Royal Arch Masonry was held at the Masonic Hall, on North-terrace, on Monday evening, April 23. The Hall as it was decorated and arranged for exaltation—brilliantly lighted with three very splendid chandeliers and countless wax tapers—presented, together with the mystic embellishments of the Craft, a most gorgeous appearance. At the eastern end of the Hall is a canopy of crimson silk velvet surmounted by a very splendid cornice exquisitely painted with Masonic heraldry. On an elevated platform covered with crimson cloth, were placed three thrones of elaborately carved oak and covered with blue silk plush, whilst above it waved the four banners of the cohorts of Judah, Reuben, Ephraim, and Dan, and a fifth being the mystic banner of the Chapter. The floor of the Hall was covered with mosaic, upon which were painted appropriate devices of the Order.

The Brethren of the Lodge of Unity, No. 872, and the Adelaide Lodge, No. 341, met at the Britannia Hotel, Port Adelaide, on Wednesday evening, April 18, to celebrate the Festival of St. John the Baptist. A sumptuous and elegant entertainment was prepared by Host Smith; and the cellar was of the choicest description. D.P. G.M. Lazar took the chair at 7 o'clock, supported on the right by W. M. Chambers, Adelaide Lodge; and on the left by P.M. French, Lodge of Unity. On the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk, when the D P.G.M. Lazar in an appropriate address presented to P.M. French a handsome silver goblet of colonial manufacture, as a token of respect and esteem, from the Port Adelaide Brothers of the Lodge of Unity, for his zeal in the cause of the Craft. In the course of the evening the chairman also presented, on behalf of Brother T. F. Smith, a very large and handsome cut-glass goblet, lately brought out by Mr. Smith from England, beautifully engraved with various Masonic emblems, &c., and the following inscription: "Presented to Lodge of Unity, No. 872, by Brother T. F. Smith, 1855." The utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed, and the health of the chairman and the host concluded a most agreeable evening.

The D.P.G. Master, with several of his officers, in the early part of June, consecrated a new Lodge at the Masonic Hall, under the name of the Lodge of Concord. R. W. Moore was installed as first Master; E. A. Phillips and J. Daniels, Senior and Junior Wardens; Alfred Cleve, Senior Deacon; and William Gosse, Treasurer. The evening passed off with the greatest hilarity, which at all times marks the character of Freemasons. Previously to the conclusion, the announcement was made that his Excellency and family had arrived safely in the Burra Burra. This gratifying intelligence was immediately communicated to the brethren by the D.P G.M., who at once proposed their healths, which toast was hailed with three hearty cheers, the Freemasons reserving to themselves the pleasing honour of first welcoming his Excellency and family with hearty and cordial welcome.

HOBART TOWN.

Two Masonic festivals were celebrated on Monday, June 25, in accordance with annual custom, and in celebration of the anniversary of St. John the Baptist, namely, that of the Tasmanian Union Lodge, No. 781, at the Lodge Room in Collins-street, and that of the Tasmanian Operative Lodge, No. 3. 4. 5., at the Lodge Room in Argyle-street, both on Monday. The attendance of the brethren of both Lodges was numerous, and the Festival was celebrated with all the usual forms and ceremonies. At the latter Lodge some 40 of the initiated congregated at the mystic hour of High Twelve, and after the transaction of the business of the day, assembled at the festive board at half-past six, and partook of a banquet, consisting of all that was really good, and put upon the table in a most *recherche* style, which with the enlightening music of the Chamber Band of the 99th regiment, kindly placed at the disposal of the Lodge, by the Colonel commanding the troops, enabled the brethren to enjoy an evening of uninterrupted harmony.

JAMAICA.

The following vote of thanks of the Metcalfe Lodge, Westmoreland, to James Silk Buckingham, Esq., Past Master of the Lodge, is highly complimentary to that gentleman by the "brethren of the mystic tie," and we give it place with much pleasure.

Metcalfe Lodge, No. 746. Sav.-la-Mar, 14th June, 1855.

To the Worshipful James Silk Buckingham, Past Master.

WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER,—At an ordinary Lodge held last evening, and after the usual vote of thanks to yourself, Worshipful Sir, and the Officers of this Lodge for the past year, it was unanimously resolved—

"That a letter be addressed to the Worshipful J. S. Buckingham, expressing the cordial thanks of the brethren to him for the unwearying zeal, and the ability he has

ever displayed, in governing the Lodge for the past two years as its Master; and to which is attributed the prosperity which has attended the Society from its commencement."

I feel much pleasure in being the medium of communicating these sentiments of the brethren to you, in which I cordially concur, and I am, Worshipful Sir and Brother, faithfully, and paternally yours,

(Signed) D. F. THOMAS, *Master*.

On behalf of the brethren of the Metcalfe Lodge, No. 746.

Montego Bay, 18th June, 1855.

To the Worshipful D. F. Thomas, Master of the Metcalfe Lodge, No. 746, Savanna-la-Mar.

WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER.—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication covering copy of a Resolution, unanimously adopted by the Members of the Metcalfe Lodge, conveying me their thanks on my retirement from the high position of its Master, which I have held for the last two years.

I beg to assure you that, although I consider myself totally unworthy of so very flattering a mark of their approbation, yet I cannot but feel highly gratified by the the kind and friendly disposition which it manifests for me; and for the favourable sentiments they have been pleased to express on the occasion, of my past services, I beg them to accept my best acknowledgments and gratitude.

If any credit is due for the manner in which I performed the duties of Master, it is, I am confident, mainly to be attributed to the uniform courtesy, kind assistance, and cordial co-operation, which I have invariably received at the hands of all.

Although I am now removed from your parish, the Metcalfe Lodge will always be attended by my best wishes for its prosperity; and I sincerely hope that all its members will long enjoy the happiness which ever results from the performance of charitable actions whilst they live here; and that, hereafter, in another world, they will be rewarded by being raised to the all perfect Lodge above, be seated on the right hand of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, and receive the refreshment their labours have merited.

I have to request your intervention to convey to the Brethren of the Metcalfe Lodge these sentiments; and, with paternal regard,—I have the honour to be, Worshipful Sir and Brother, faithfully and paternally yours,

J. S. BUCKINGHAM, *Past Master*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

INSPECTORS OF LODGES.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR AND BROTHER,—The necessity which exists for some more efficient supervision of the working of Lodges has been exemplified in a very striking manner in this district since I last addressed you, and as past experience has convinced me of the utter hopelessness of ensuring improvement by the means at present in existence, I do not hesitate to draw public attention to the following circumstances, in the hope that the Masonic authorities may be thereby induced seriously to entertain the suggestion thrown out by you for securing the better working in our Lodges of the beautiful ceremonies of our Order.

At the last meeting of a Lodge in this province, a candidate for Freemasonry was initiated into the mysteries of the first degree, and to the disgrace of the Lodge (aye, and of the province, too) be it told, that, with the exception of the Secretary, no

officer of the Lodge was in his proper place in the Lodge during the ceremony. The W.M.—who by the way does not reside in the town where the Lodge is held, but who lives in another town several miles distant, and is irregular in his attendance even at the monthly meetings of the Lodge—was, however, present on the occasion of which I speak, but being incapable of conducting the initiation efficiently, he was obliged, during the ceremony, to resign his chair to his immediate predecessor in office, whose *protegé* he is, and who was chiefly instrumental in securing his election. The Senior Warden was prevented by circumstances from being present, and the W.M. took his place during the initiation. Such a public and unmistakeable exhibition of incompetency must infallibly diminish the respect felt by the members of this Lodge for their W.M., who thus acknowledged himself unfit for the office which he had aspired to and obtained, nor can it add to the consideration in which the office itself is held in this Lodge, when the members see that incompetency to fulfil its duties forms no bar to the possession of its honors and privileges. Neither J.W., S.D., J.D., or J.G., were present at all during the evening.

Surely, Sir, these are proceedings which call loudly for interference on the part of the superior authorities, and the more so as it is not long since that a fully equal amount of incompetency was as publicly exhibited by the then W.M. of another Lodge in this Province, and it will hardly be believed that this W.M. was shortly afterwards selected by the W.D.P.G.M. for high office in our P. G. Lodge.

I have long been of opinion that it may be taken to be an axiom in Masonry that, the decline of the moral and material prosperity of a Lodge bears an exact proportion to the indifference of its members to the conduct of its business and efficient working of the ceremonies, and estimating the present position of some of the Lodges in this province by this standard, the truth of the axiom is sufficiently evident.

I would, therefore, earnestly urge upon all true Masons to lose no time in uniting to devise some acceptable means whereby proceedings so injurious to the best interests of the Craft may be arrested and prevented, and in a future letter I will venture to suggest to my brethren of this province a course of action which, in my opinion, would tend greatly to mitigate the evil, and which could be easily adopted until some better means could be devised, or until Grand Lodge could be moved to act in the matter.

I am, Sir, and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

A PAST MASTER OF A YORKSHIRE LODGE.

20th Nov., 1855.

LODGE OFFICERS.

To the Editor of the Masonic Mirror.

SIR,—I am a London Mason, and the affairs of the Lodge in which I was initiated are conducted in every way most proper—there are Secretary and Treasurer, and payments of the dues are acknowledged by a printed receipt, and the accounts audited annually.

I was last year induced to join a Lodge in a province adjacent to the metropolis, and for my entrance fee and subscription got no acknowledgment. In paying my subscription this year, I asked the Secretary, who is also Treasurer, for a receipt, and judge my surprize on being told "he never gave receipts." I thought this very unusual, and mentioned it to two other members, and they informed me they got no receipts, and that no receipt book was kept in the Lodge; and one of them, a P.M., said, "The entries in the cash book are all lumped together, so that we don't know who pays and who does not." He also said the same brother has other Lodges which he manages in the same way; that when any enquiry is made as to the finances of the Lodge, the answer is, "I am your only creditor," and always a balance against the Lodge deters further enquiry.

The system of uniting the offices of Secretary and Treasurer is very pernicious, and

never ought to be allowed; it, although not forbidden, is evidently not contemplated by the Book of Constitutions.

As a new member, I do not like to be the one to create any unpleasant feeling, but as I know your publication is read by some of the members, the appearance of this letter may perhaps draw their attention to the matter.

I am, yours, &c.,

SURREY.

October 12.

LITERATURE.

THE LIFE OF HENRY FIELDING; *with notices of his writings, his times, and his contemporaries.* By FREDERICK LAWRENCE, of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-law. HALL, VIRTUE, & Co., 25, Paternoster Row, London.

A life of Henry Fielding—the greatest of English novelists—in a compact and readable form has been long much required; and the author of this volume has rendered good service to Literature by supplying the desideratum. Amongst the books of the season it will hold a high rank, both as a gossipping, chatty, and pleasant narrative, and as a carefully digested record of entertaining facts. The subject of Mr. Lawrence's biography was a most interesting personage. In early life a dramatist and man of pleasure; then a barrister, periodical critic, and author-of-all work, and finally a paid justice of the peace for Middlesex and Westminster, in which equivocal position (for so it was considered at that time,) he distinguished himself by his energy, intelligence, and public spirit. The following passage selected at random from the volume before us, conveys a good notion of the state of the metropolis in Fielding's days;—

"The times are strangely altered since Henry Fielding presided in the justice-room at Bow Street, committing rogues and vagabonds to Bridewell, and highwaymen to Newgate. Every facility was then offered to the proceedings of the lawless depredator and bold-faced villain. The streets of the metropolis were dangerous after nightfall. When a peaceful tradesman had to take a journey of fifty or sixty miles, he made his will before he took his place in the Mail. Notorious highwaymen and swindlers swaggered about in public places, winking at the officers of justice, and enjoying the admiration of the rabble. To prevent the commission of crime, and to detect and secure offenders, the very feeblest means were employed. The nocturnal guardians of the ill-lighted, narrow streets of London were infirm old men, who would have been chargeable to a parish, and shut up in a workhouse, if they had not been employed in *protecting* the lives and property of the devoted inhabitants of the metropolis. Fielding himself has admirably described the London watchmen of these days, and has not, in all probability, exaggerated their impotence and incapacity:—'To begin,' he says, 'I think as low as I well can, with the watchmen in our metropolis, who, being to guard our streets by night from thieves and robbers—an office which at least requires strength of body—are chosen out of those poor old decrepid people who are, from their want of bodily strength, rendered incapable of getting a livelihood by work. These men, armed only with a pole, *which some of them are scarce able to lift,* are to secure the persons and houses of his Majesty's subjects from the attack of gangs of young, bold, stout, desperate, and well-armed villains.'"

In conclusion, we may remark, that in a work frequently quoted by Mr. Lawrence, written by a clergyman of Bath, (Some Account of the English Stage) there is evidence that the genial and high-minded author of *Tom Jones* and *Amelia* belonged to the Craft to which our pages are specially addressed. On more than one occasion his plays were performed for the benefit of different Lodges,—a fact, perhaps slight in itself, but furnishing a proof, with which most Masons will be gratified, that one who had so glorious a sympathy with humanity, was connected with the most humanizing institution on earth.

MUSIC.

We have the pleasure of recommending to the favourable notice of our musical brethren a very graceful song by Br. Bathurst, the tenor singer, entitled "Whence those Thrilling Accents." The melody to which it is wedded is easy and flowing in its cadence, and illustrates very happily the words of the song. At this indoor time of the year, any contribution of merit is a general benefit to the community, and Br. Bathurst's little gem will add to many a musical gathering.

We are happy to announce to our readers the publication of a beautiful little song, "My Cottage Home," by Mrs. Octavius Freire Owen, the talented composer of that exquisite ballad which made much noise a few years back, and is entitled "How Fondly yet." This lady is more known to the world by her literary than by her musical productions, but we earnestly hope that she will not allow so long an interval to elapse as heretofore between the publications of music so calculated to please all, as those she has already composed. "My Cottage Home" is published by Messrs. Cocks, New Burlington-street.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR NOVEMBER.

MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Mr. Labouchere has been appointed Secretary for the Colonies, in lieu of Sir Wm. Molesworth, deceased; the Duke of Argyll, Post Master General, as successor to Lord Canning, who goes to India; Lord Harrowby, Lord Privy Seal, in lieu of the Duke of Argyll; and Mr. Baines, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, as successor to Lord Harrowby. Mr. Baines and Lord Stanley of Alderley, the President of the Board of Trade, are to have seats in the Cabinet.

THE WAR.

Although the season has arrived when very little can be expected to be undertaken in the way of active operations in the field, and the best that can be done is to prepare for the next campaign in the coming spring, still the past month has not been without its successes for the Allies. On the 5th, Omar Pacha attacked the Russians, who had 16,000 troops strongly entrenched on the banks of the Ingour, in Mingrelia, and having forced a passage at four points, completely defeated them with great loss. Omar Pacha then pushed on to Kutais, a considerable distance on the road to Kars. The loss of the Russians is estimated at about 500, and that of the Turks 300. Omar Pacha is said to have since effected a junction with the Circassians. General Mouravieffe is stated to have become insane, is consequence of the failure of the attack upon Kars (which by the bye has been revictualled) and to have been succeeded in the command of the Russian Army in Asia, by Prince Bebutoff. On the 15th, an explosion of a French Park of Artillery, at Inkermann, it is supposed by accident, caused considerable loss, both in the French and English Camps. A detachment of General d'Allonville's Army under the command of Ali Pasha, has executed a *coup de main*, eight leagues to the north of Eupatoria, and captured from the Russians 270 oxen, 3540 sheep, and 50 horses and waggons.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

On the 2nd, Dr. Nerman France, a German gentleman, about 50 years of age, with his son, a lad of about 17 or 18, arrived at the Albion Hotel, Brighton, and passed the

evening in the company of a friend. On the following morning, the unfortunate gentleman precipitated himself from his bed-room window, and was immediately killed. The son was afterwards found apparently strangled in his bed, having a handkerchief round his neck; but it is generally supposed that he died from natural causes, and that on the father waking and finding his son dead, he, in a moment of temporary insanity, threw himself from the window.

The Rev. Dr. John Vaughan, incumbent of St. Matthew, Brixton, has been committed for trial, on a charge of having defrauded the parish of burial fees.

On the 3rd, Robert Phillips, ex-provost of Leith, a man upwards of 60 years of age, was sentenced to 15 years' transportation, for indecent assaults on female children.

A woman calling herself Alice Gray, who is supposed to have many aliases, was committed for trial at Wolverhampton, on the 7th, for perjury, it being stated that she has secured the conviction of many persons in different parts of the country, on false charges of robbery, in order to excite sympathy in favor of herself.

On the 10th, Robert Martinson, cashier in the Newcastle District Bank, was committed for trial, on a charge of having absconded with between £4000 and £5000, belonging to the Bank. He was arrested at Southampton, just as he was about to sail for America.

A terrific explosion of a boiler of a steam engine, took place at Messrs. Hall and Boyd's, Sugar refiners, St. George Street, St. George's-in-the-East, on the 12th, by which three persons lost their lives, and several others were severely wounded.

On the 18th, the Military Bakehouses on the Quai de Billy, at Paris, in which were large stores of corn, flour, &c., for the Army in the Crimea, caught fire, and fears were entertained that the whole would be destroyed. Luckily, however, only one storehouse of corn was destroyed, though the total value of the stores and buildings destroyed are valued at 4,000,000*fr.*

PROVIDENT.

A meeting of the Gresham Life Assurance Society was held on the 8th, when a report was read and adopted, which said that the proposals for assurance submitted during the past year have been 807 in number, of which 616 have been completed, representing policies for 428,249*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*, upon which 9,118*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* has been received as new premiums for the year. The total claims paid during the year in respect of deaths amounted to 5,998*l.* 8*s.*, and was only about half the sum to be expected. The total number of policies in existence at the close of the year was 2,607, assuring 1,155,538*l.*, and yielding an income of 40,523*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* The total funds amounted to 119,376*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*

The Solvency Mutual Guarantee Society held its second annual meeting on the same day. The progress of the business of the Society will be seen from the following statement:

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS UP TO 31 DECEMBER, 1854.

	Guarantees.
Six months ending Christmas, 1852.....	£42,528 13 11
Six months ending June, 1853	2,874,384 9 8
Six months ending Christmas, 1853.....	1,040,197 13 7
Six months ending June 1854	3,720,406 8 10
Six months ending Christmas, 1854.....	2,069,926 1 7
Total.....	£9,687,533 7 7

Period.	No.	Claims Admitted.
Six months ending June, 1853	6	£151 3 5
Six months ending Christmas, 1853	64	3,314 18 10
Six months ending June, 1854	143	11,775 18 2
Six months ending Christmas 1854	397	19,297 15 10
Total.....	610	£34,539 16 3

A bonus, varying from 20 to 70 per cent. on the premiums paid, was declared; the bonuses varying according as the assurers have had to make claims for losses sustained. The applicability of the principle is now considered fully established.

The Waterloo Life Assurance Company held its fourth annual meeting on the 15th, when a very favourable report was presented, from which the following is an extract:

"Your directors would now draw attention to the proceedings of the past year, and in order that the amount of business may at once become apparent, they annex the following tabular statement, viz.:

	No.	Sum Assured.	Annual Income.
Proposals made to the Company during the year	618	£151,050	£5,136
Policies issued	405	104,750	3,458
Proposals accepted, but not yet completed	114	20,800	891
Proposals declined	34	14,750	497
Proposals under consideration	65	10,750	290
Total	618	£151,050	£5,136

From this it appears that 405 policies have been issued since the last meeting, producing an annual income of 3,458*l*; and that the average amount assured under each policy is 258*l*. By the report last submitted it was shown that the amount of business done by the company up to that date was as follows, viz.:

	No.	Annual Income.
Number of policies issued	1,091	producing £11,400
To which add the business of the present year	405	" 3,458
	1,496	£14,858

And the result is that, notwithstanding the agencies have been limited to this country, in less than four years there have been issued 1,496 policies, producing in the aggregate 14,858*l*. per annum. Six policies have lapsed by death in the course of the year, assuring 1,200*l*., which is very far below the number and amount calculated upon. The following table exhibits the total claims, as they have arisen in each year, up to the 30th September last:

Date.	Number of Live Assured.	Number of Deaths.	Amount Paid.
First year	203	—	—
Second year	603	2	£600
Third year	1,091	—	—
Fourth year	1,496	6	1,200
		8	£1,800"

The report was adopted, and a dividend of 6 per cent. declared. It was stated that the excellent manager of the institution is making arrangements for extending its business to many parts of Germany and the colonies.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A clerk at Messrs. Twinings, having left a bag containing 300 half sovereigns, in a cab, the number of which he did not know, had it returned to him by the cabman, in the course of the afternoon. The cabman was presented with £20. as a reward for his honesty.

On the 5th instant, a meeting was held under the auspices of the Lord Mayor, to

found a free library in the city of London, but the proposition was rejected by a large majority.

On the 6th, two Russian Prisoners made their escape from Lewes, and are stated to have arrived safe at Hamburgh, *en route* for their native land.

The Arctic discovery ship "Resolute," which was abandoned in the ice, in August, 1854, by direction of Sir H. Belcher, in opposition to the protest of Captain Kellett, her commander, has drifted out safe by Cape Mercy, Davis's Straits, and has been taken possession of by the crew of the whale ship "John Henry."

The Paris Exhibition was closed on the 15th, by the Emperor in person.

On the 20th, Sir Charles Napier, was returned to Parliament as member for Southwark, in the room of the late Sir William Molesworth.

The cotton spinners of Manchester, have turned out, in consequence of an attempt of the masters to reduce their wages. As yet, however, they have not committed any acts of violence.

On the 22nd, Prince Albert laid the foundation stone of the Birmingham and Midland Institute, a new Literary and Art Society, for the benefit of the working classes. The day was observed as a holiday throughout Birmingham, and the Prince was most enthusiastically received.

The King of Sardinia arrived at Paris, on the 23rd, on a state visit to the Emperor His Majesty is expected to arrive in England, on Monday next.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

D. S., Torbay.—*There is not, at present, a Distinct Provincial Grand Lodge in each of the English counties. In some counties, however, there are as many Grand Lodges as there are divisions.*

Hiram, Lowestoft.—*The Book of Constitutions is to the full explicit upon the point which you raise, and no bye-law can be allowed to contravene it.*

P——k., Neuagh.—*Surely our Irish brother must be better acquainted with the history of the Order in his own country, and, indeed, of the nature of Masonry itself, when he asks us to confirm for him his assertion that, the Duke of Leinster is hereditary Grand Master of Freemasons in Ireland, and that the Duke of Athol holds a similar honour in Scotland. The idea of an hereditary office in Masonry is preposterous. Besides, if he will look to the list of Irish Grand Masters, as given in Br. Furnell's Irish Masonic Calendar, he will find that the Earl of Mornington, the Duke of Wellington's father, surely* not *a member of the Fitzgerald family, was, at one time, Grand Master of Freemasons in that country. It is true that several of the Dukes of Athol have presided over our Scotch brethren.*

3***.—*We will make inquiry, and write in a few days. Our correspondent is thanked for his favours, which have duly come to hand.*

P. M., Bristol.—*The Lodges in the British colonies are not self-constituted bodies, but sit, some under warrants from the grand Lodge of England; some under warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland; some under warrants from the Grand Lodge of Scotland; and some, as in the Mauritius, under warrants from the Grand Orient of France. The Provincial Grand Lodges in the Colonies are all, however, subordinate to the Grand Lodge of England, with the exception of that of Canada, which has lately become independent. The Grand Lodge of Portugal is a Provincial Lodge, subordinate to the Grand Lodge of Ireland.*

Ethee.—*We cannot see what necessity there was to hold the Lodge of Emergency at all. If the regular eight days' notice had been given by the fiat of the W.M. to the brethren that the candidate was to be balloted for, and (if approved) initiated, the Lodge of Emergency was unnecessary, and if not, the whole proceeding would be clearly illegal. This, however, we do not anticipate, knowing how well the Lodge conducts its business.*

The illegal Lodge of Mark Masons continues to meet. Four brethren joined it at its last meeting.

P. S.—*The brother was perfectly right.*

A Country Subscriber *had better apply to Br. Crew for the information.*

S. T. Durham.—*We have repeatedly announced that we will never apply to the Grand Secretary's Office for any information whilst it remains under the present management, as Br. Farnfield will be sure to tell us that he has Br. White's orders not to give it to us.*