

THE
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LODGES IN THE WEST AND SOUTH, CANADA, MALTA,
TRINIDAD.—OUR DUTY.

IN our preceding number we drew attention to the address of our Canadian Brethren to the Grand Lodge of England, embodying the reasons of their severance. We now return to this painful topic, and whilst a host of correspondents has given us ample proof that the spirit of Freemasonry yet lives, and breathes an earnest sympathy with our transatlantic members, we think it our duty to inform the Craft that, from accounts newly received from other quarters, not only the union, but the very liberty and almost the existence of the Order is threatened. It is a melancholy office to receive, now that the evil is done in great measure, promises from active resolvers, *ex post facto* watchmen, who are all pulling at the door of the stable, where the horse *used* to stand. Of course if those who wish to stay the future baneful effects of Grand Lodge's apathy and incompetency be sincere, we shall afford them in this paper ample incentive for their most vigilant and earnest exertion, since it will appear not only that the Canadas are lost to us, but that the grossest persecutions are allowed to occur against our Brethren in Trinidad and Malta, which we fearlessly assert would at once be checked by an energetic action upon the part of the Masons here. We don't hold out much hope of anything being done by the Grand Lodge of England, in its present state, towards any amelioration of our foreign Brethren, or the maintenance of its own respect. That somnolent body has already lost its prerogative over Canada, and, like the electric eel, possesses the power of benumbing every object within its scope, whilst dragging on in its congealed veins a torpid semi-existence. Like Dante's Inferno, "hope comes not" there; and whilst Masons allow such a gross contravention as the present of all recognised constitution to exist in the appointment of their Supreme Body, they deserve no better state

of things. We write now to those good men and true who feel for Masonry, abroad and at home, as for some high delegated trust, some really important responsibility, some conscientious privilege to help the Brethren of all "people and languages;" and we think that, as to the season at which their strenuous exertions are required, when they peruse the following consideration of what our home abuses have led to in Canada, and the statement of persecution endured by the Maltese and West Indian Brethren, they will admit "it is high time."

We find, then, that as to Canada, forty-one Lodges, more than double the number ever associated to erect a new Grand Lodge, have united in the establishment of a Grand Lodge of Canada; and whilst we admit both the reasonableness of their act, and the decorum which characterizes its declaration, we think all must acknowledge, notwithstanding the potent argument of distance operating to produce a necessary severance, that the latter would not have occurred had common courtesy been exhibited towards the primary representations of their condition, by their English parent. It is astonishing how much inconvenience men will readily submit to, if they are only treated with civility, and their requirements candidly and promptly considered; and how soon, on the other hand, evils, hitherto quietly endured, grow intolerable when inattention to their existence is manifested by those who have the means of cure. Granted, therefore, the inconvenience of distance; the diversity of interests, resulting from Lodges hailing from no centre of union; the injustice of distant provinces being mulcted to support a parent Lodge, from which they are substantially alienated; the unreasonableness of nomination of officers being vested in those who were ignorant of peculiar local requirements, which are the grievances set forth in the Canadian manifesto; yet it is evident the head and front of the offence—that which broke down the last remnant of affinity to England—was the discourteous apathy, or unbusiness-like disregard, with which repeated communications from Canada were treated by the Grand Lodge, its Secretary and Registrar. A short method of judging conduct in communities is simply to place them as man and man. Should we wonder at all loss of respect towards that person who, though respectfully addressed and repeatedly invited, could not even recollect the common rules of politeness so far as to answer a letter? And if grievances were the subject to which sympathy was in the mildest terms solicited, who allowed them to exist, whilst he persevered in stolid indifference or lofty inattention? If the offices of Grand Master and other members of Grand Lodge are to become a mere sinecure, and to be perpetually maintained as vehicles of patronage for a few, we may rely upon it that not Canada only, but the West Indies, and every other foreign Lodge hailing from us, will soon mark their proper contempt of our inefficiency and neglect by getting rid of allegiance to what must in that case prove an incubus, not a benefit. It is impossible to read the Canadian address without a feeling of indignation that those who exemplify, in every line of their manifesto, the most true Masonic forbearance, should have been so

treated ; of indignation also at ourselves, whose apathy is the secret cause of the callous impotency of Grand Lodge. Are we so stultified in our toadyism that nothing but rank in our Grand Masters will serve our turn? Do we love the head of gold so much that we ignore altogether the tottering incapacity of the feet of clay? Were the Grand Masters and their officers chosen in the purer days of Masonry for rank, above merit? What position did Desaguliers hold in the peerage? Or if personal influence in society is needed for the benefit of the Craft, is it now so scant of noblemen that we are obliged, for the say-so of the thing, to put up year after year with the present Grand Master, who, these very evils greatly prove, as it is notorious also, never exerts himself for the Craft at all?

Yes! had an energetic, talented Mason held the reins of office, we should have heard nothing of the severance of Canada. The evils our Brethren complain of justly would have been anticipated, and remedied without solicitation, not, as now, wrested from us; but if the heart be inert, it is useless to look for health in the extremities. We have deservedly lost Canada, and under circumstances affixing a lasting stigma on our Masonic discourtesy and non-observance of the first principles of propriety. It is all very well to trumpet forth the virtues of past servants, but a powerful organization like our own cannot sacrifice its wide-world interests to the namby-pamby maudlin of compliment. If the most important officer grow incompetent for business, we are rich enough to pension him; but Masonry cannot afford to lose its self-respect and imperil its dignity by keeping in office the inert and exhausted agent of its operation. Now that the evil is done, active determination is generally announced to us, by influential Masons, to recall the Craft to a sense of its duty in restoring the law of triennial re-election of the Grand Master, and sure we are no healthy tone can be recovered by the Order until this most necessary amelioration of the present state of things occurs. A glance at the affairs now pending and lately occurrent in Malta and Trinidad will show that no delay should be allowed to occur in strengthening our outposts in those quarters; and until a more efficient Grand Master be appointed, we earnestly call upon the Craft to co-operate individually, and by a public meeting give utterance to a manifesto which may stop persecution by engendering a greater knowledge of our anti-political and anti-sectarian principles, and at the same time may reanimate those Brethren who are suffering from the tyranny of priestly bigotry and ignorant superstition.

From Malta, then, we have in the *Morning Post* of March 3rd, 1856, the following description of the successful war waged against our Order by the Romanist priests; and that the *pious* (!) character of our persecutors may be estimated, we shall annex a story from the same paper's correspondent, of an escapade, unfortunately not singular, but, on the contrary, *characteristic* of these wolves in sheep's clothing:—

“A most magnificent ball and entertainment was intended to have been given last evening by the various Orders of Freemasons and the Knights of Malta. The

Union Club had appropriated their splendid rooms for the occasion, and the band of one of the regiments was sent by its officers, in addition to the quadrille band of Valetta, which is certainly of a first-rate character. The arrivals of ladies and gentlemen were numerous, and the various members of the Lodges, and particularly the Knights of St. John of Malta, with their gorgeous apparel and banners, appeared to great advantage; on some of whom the death's-head and cross-bones were most conspicuous. The moment they appeared, the whole of the orchestra, to a man, took up their fiddles and other instruments and rushed out of the room, leaving all in the greatest state of consternation, and the company to dance as well as they could. *It has been ascertained that this affair took place in consequence of the inveterate hatred which the priesthood have to Freemasonry. For the last month, and during the time this annual entertainment has been getting up, they have done everything to prevent it; and they have gone so far as to denounce it and Freemasonry in their cathedrals and places of worship, and threatened all kinds of imprecations and excommunications upon the heads of those who belonged to the Order; and, strange to say, such has been their success, that but one Maltese, and he a nobleman of high rank, had the courage to be present with his English Brethren.*"

And what is the cause of this "holy anger, this pious grief," on the part of these exemplary denunciators of light and knowledge?—simply that cause which has ever been potently operative in stimulating popery,—innate repugnance to the independence of the human mind. The moment you read, think, act for yourself, rely upon having an implacable though often a secret foe in your real popish priest. We say *real*, because half the popish priests do not themselves believe what they teach the people; but in one thing they are sincere, namely, a cordial hatred of every community or individual who or which dares to keep a secret from the confessional, or to let in light and philanthropy upon the human soul, undimmed by the dull and stained panes of the dark lantern of priestcraft. So unacquainted are these sacerdotal Tybalts with our real objects, that though our very principles ignore politics and schismatic controversy, these priests, as ignorant of Masonic and general history as they are of biblical truth, fully believe that we are the aiders and abettors of every political disturbance, and that if ever the pope is blown up in the Vatican, some Prov. Grand Master will assuredly fire the barrel. We have ourselves had converse with a learned *abbé* in Paris upon Masonry, and the ignorance as to it, of the poor man, now more enlightened, was pitiable. He had the merit, however, of being an unimpeachable character, and in this respect was a striking contrast to that of our Maltese assailants. Here is the latter stereotyped in the *Morning Post*, and a very pattern-card is he of the tribe; if our Maltese Brethren allow themselves to be led by the nose by these vituperators, they deserve to have it tweaked severely for their pains. Behold the exemplary Giovanni!—

"The gossiping community have been very busy, during the last day or two, in consequence of an extraordinary elopement of a priest of one of the highest orders with an English lady, the widow of an officer of the E.I.C.S. He was in the habit of visiting her every day for some weeks past, for the alleged purpose of teaching the guitar, and on Friday morning both were missing. Inquiries were made, when it was ascertained they had taken a passage to Alexandria on board the French steamer. He had the precaution to change his dress—that of a Franciscan friar—for a smart livery servant's. The indignation of the priesthood is something remarkable, because the people are beginning to ascertain that, of late,

they have committed some strange improprieties, and excommunication and banishment have been necessary. The lower order of Maltese, who are held in the greatest subjection by them, are beginning to think they are only flesh and blood like themselves."

"Like themselves," quotha! We fervently hope not; yet, if these be the shepherds, no wonder the flock goes all astray. However, it is clear that the sooner these sensual dullards are held in check, the better; and to do this requires—we speak advisedly—only some energy on the part of Grand Lodge. Alas! we are not likely to see it, but in the absence of this, we point out two very efficient modes of remedying this attack. These are also applicable to Trinidad, whence we have received from a correspondent the copy of a letter addressed, through Bro. Farnfield, to the Grand Lodge. The writer says that he forwards us this copy, his motives for doing so being that *communications from Lodges in the West Indies are treated with silence by the Grand Secretary*. "I have adopted this mode," he says, "in order that, should 'silence' be the fate of the present, you may have it in your power to bring the matter forward, and thus give us your fraternal aid in so important a question. Of course I would not wish its being published until brought forward before the Grand Lodge, but, at the same time, leave it entirely in your hands, to act as you deem best for the good of the Craft." As we have no hope of any good result from Grand Lodge,—as we see that the case itself requires instant attention,—as we wish, at all events, to show the foreign Lodges that *we* will not neglect the *slightest* intimation of their suffering, and desire them to have our opinion of the subject in print by the next mail, we deem it right to impart to our readers the subjoined information. The paragraph to which our correspondent alludes has not reached us, and the letter itself, it should be remembered, is addressed to Bro. Farnfield, the copy being sent to us from the writer:—

"TRINIDAD, 2nd February, 1856.

"Very Worshipful Sir and Brother,—As Master of the Philanthropic Lodge, No. 585, holding under the Grand Lodge of England, I deem it my duty to apprise you of persecutions on an extended scale, which are now practised by the Roman Catholic bishop, Vincent Spaccapietre, and certain priests of this once peaceful island, towards those who have the honour of appertaining to Freemasonry. You will learn with dismay and horror, that Freemasons have been from the pulpit excommunicated; and, moreover, the Holy Sacrament denied them except they abjure Freemasonry.

"That such a course is adopted by the priesthood in a hostile and malicious spirit is glaringly displayed in the rancorous manner in which the institution has been openly denounced. The Bishop Spaccapietre, knowing full well the ignorance of the lower orders, and even that of many moving in a comparatively high sphere of society, has taken the advantage to preach against Freemasonry, and to threaten its followers with the horrors of excommunication.

"Unless steps are taken by the Fraternity to prevent these innovations, great danger will accrue to the Craft, inasmuch as they will create in families questions about the Order which must bring about differences and disunion; and even among the Brethren themselves, harmony may be broken and perhaps entirely destroyed. The Craft here, especially those who belong to the Roman Catholic faith, feel that a sting has been given, which, like the scorpion's, is full of virulence, and which will cause reflections of a serious and painful nature: for they

fear there may be, among the large number of Freemasons in this island, some who are weak enough to allow this popish despotism to get the better of their reason. Indeed, the matter has, even now, assumed a form of such importance as to render necessary the immediate aid of the Grand Lodge of the United Kingdom. True it is that we are far distant; nevertheless, Freemasons in the West Indies have, I believe, shown on all occasions due submission to their respective Grand Lodges, and have yielded to no one in supporting the Order, and consequently they hope to receive at the hands of their Grand Lodges, in return, such support as they in their wisdom and power can bestow.

“As a proof of my statements, I herein enclose a paragraph which I have taken from the *Port of Spain Gazette*, and which I hope will be sufficient to prove that this appeal is not without necessity, and that the Masonic body of this island has been assailed by the clergy of the Church of Rome with persecutions of most foul and envenomed nature.

“In conclusion, let me earnestly request that you will lay this communication before the Grand Lodge as speedily as you conveniently can, respectfully soliciting their aid and instruction in the matter, as the Craft here most earnestly desire their decision.—I have the honour to be,

“Very Worshipful Sir and Brother,

“Yours fraternally,

“DAN. HART, W.M., No. 585.”

We forbear long comment upon the sad condition of mind this intolerance manifests in those whose mission—heaven-born—should be of love and mercy. It were well indeed if this scion of a persecuting church knew something of the spirit and principles of Masonry, as well as of the scandalous dogmas of Liguori, or the virulence of Torquemada. When did we ever hear of any of these tonsured Boanerges rescuing a Brother from destruction in the din of battle, or of mastering passions, heated by strife, in a moment, to raise a prostrate foe, binding up wounds with the same hand that inflicted them, and tending with fraternal sympathy him who, a moment before, fell beneath the uplifted sword? If these benighted dogmatists ever read aught beside the sensual productions of Dens, they might study the Masonic virtues of brotherly love, relief, and truth, set forth and exemplified by many at the storming of the Redan, and perceive that whilst they are cultivating their prurient tastes in the confessional, Masonry is extending its boundaries of charity and intelligence daily and hourly, yet so that the wideness of its scope does not diminish the concentration of its interests. If these priests cannot imitate, let them beware how they assail us; it requires but a small exertion on our part to reduce their aggression to its original insignificance.

Meanwhile we trust that our Brethren in foreign lands will soon discover, notwithstanding the incapacity of Grand Lodge, that the true heart of English Masonry is not dead, though somewhat paralysed, and that it is something more than a patron of festive hilarity without a reminiscence of its once lofty character. The Lodges in the South and West, at Malta and in Trinidad, have the means of cure somewhat in their own hands, though not to the supersedure of our active co-operation. The plan we propose may be elaborated from the following:—

1st. A strong memorial from Grand Lodge, and from individual Lodges of the United Kingdom, should be forthwith addressed to

the suffering Brethren abroad, expressive of our sympathy, and repudiating the aspersions of our ignorant assailants by a vindication of Masonry from being the patroness of political or schismatic discussions. We should also express our readiness to co-operate with the transmarine Fraternity in any local plan they may determine upon, and which may require our support.

2nd. As Light is the natural enemy to Popery, and hence the latter is most surely curbed from persecution by the diffusion of knowledge, we should advise our Brethren at home and abroad to urge upon the W.M.'s of the respective foreign Lodges the necessity of giving lectures, not only upon the privileges of Masonry, but also upon topics of universal and philanthropic interest. The best-read Brothers, and those most conversant with the Craft, should be encouraged in this work; and though, of course, the appearance of new sources of enlightenment through Masonry would at first stimulate to greater rancour popish opposition, yet the latter, as it ever has done, would soon give way before the hydra-headed potency of charity and knowledge. We do not in the least advise any withdrawal from our strict rule as an anti-polemical body, by engaging in any warfare of words; we only desire that Masonry may be seen by the public abroad in its true aspect, as the enunciator of the virtues and of intelligence, and that when the weak Brethren are attacked or impugned, they may have their own fidelity confirmed, and witness the aspersions of their slanderers discomfited, by being able to point to many local public instructors, social improvers, and philanthropists, as distinguished Masons. The best answer a man can give to slander, the best sermon a man can preach, is—his life!

FREEMASONRY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

OWING to the laborious researches of enlightened men, much of the obscurity which for many years veiled the commencement of Masonic institutions has been cleared away. But the accounts given by the old chroniclers are so deformed by absurd fables that little reliance can be placed on them, and sufficient mystery therefore remains relative to their first founders to render an inquiry into their rise and progress an interesting study. Many writers affirm that there were Masonic Lodges before the building of Solomon's Temple, while others trace back the Craft to the Creation. But it is certain that the extension of Freemasonry in Britain, as elsewhere, is to be attributed to the difficulty, in the early ages of Christianity, of finding workmen sufficient to build the numerous churches and other religious edifices required by the superstition of the times. Italians, Germans, and Flemings, joined the ranks of the ancient association, which alone patronized art and morals as a system, under the appellations of Freemasons. Under the influence of various causes, those nocturnal assemblies were often held in the deep

recesses of gloomy forests, in grottos, caverns, on the borders of solitary lakes, or in the old castles of Scotland and Sweden, often surrounded with physical wants, which required great courage and enthusiasm to overcome, and possessed a great charm for these zealous men.

Subsequently the papal power, perceiving their value, protected and encouraged them, and granted them many indulgences. They were thus enabled to act more independently, and dividing themselves into parties, travelled into different countries where they thought their services might be required. When they arrived at a spot where a church was wanted, they formed themselves into a regular government, chose a surveyor, and placed a warder over every nine men. In summer the labourers lived in tents formed of the branches and bark of trees, but in winter a camp was constructed of rude huts. The nobles residing in the neighbourhood found materials for the edifices, waggons to convey them, and money to pay the workmen for buildings, which the rich nobles erected often as a commutation of penance. The word Freemason had been adopted by these men because they were at liberty to work in any part of the kingdom they chose.

For a long period these associations were obstructed by the frequent wars, and they did not revive until the time of Carausius, by whom they were patronized. He encouraged learned men, and collected clever artificers, particularly masons, from various countries. He appointed the celebrated St. Alban, his steward, to superintend the Lodges, who was also the first martyr for the Christian faith in England. The chroniclers relate that to encourage them he paid the workmen three shillings a week besides three pence a day for their board, while previously they had only one penny a day and their food.

In 557, the monks sent over by Pope Gregory I. to convert the Anglo-Saxons landed in the Isle of Thanet, and having sent some French interpreters to King Ethelbert with an account of their mission, he gave them liberty to do their master's bidding on as many of his subjects as they found willing to accept the Christian faith. He assigned to them for their place of residence Dorovernum, near Canterbury. They remained here until the conversion of the king. They despatched an envoy to the Pope with an account of their success, and he sent back books, dresses, and ornaments to adorn their churches, at the same time advising them not to pull down the heathen temples, but after sprinkling them with holy water to convert them into Christian places of worship: he wisely calculated that the prejudices of the natives might be less shocked at the new faith if its rites were performed in the buildings they had been accustomed to use.

They chose for their leader Austin, afterwards a celebrated architect, who, finding the people open to instruction, took great trouble to gain a lasting influence over them. To insure this result he formed associations, placed monks at their head, while at the same

time the lay brothers enlisted themselves among the members. This union of Freemasonry with monastic institutions had such results that the Lodges were held exclusively in the convents, and those foreign architects who built for the nobles their magnificent castles, and for the clergy their churches, were treated with great distinction.

The monks made frequent voyages to Rome, partly to bring back pictures and statues, and partly to induce other masons to assist those in England, so that those Masonic institutions were not only formed of architects, but influential men began to co-operate. The Lodges became the more important since none but free persons could become members, and it was necessary before arriving at the dignity of Master that the candidate should have made three voyages to foreign countries, and on his return submit to an examination of his capabilities as an expert architect.

While the heads of the assemblies occupied themselves with home affairs they sent sections of the Brethren in search of architectural models in Scotland. A party travelling in the valley of Glenberg, situated on the north-east side of Scotland, opposite the isle of Skye, came in sight of two old castles, built with large stones without lime or mortar: they appeared to have been places of refuge during troubled times. Being pleased with the wild and romantic aspect of the place, the Freemasons took possession and formed an association under the title of Master of the Valley. It was in the halls of such dreary and desolate buildings that some of those persevering men studied the Scotch models, while others roamed the country in search of different styles.

The Reformation gave a fatal blow to those institutions, and put a stop for a time to the erection of the vast religious piles; but the great fire in London, which destroyed 40,000 houses and eighty-six churches, gave a fresh impulse to Freemasonry. The workmen in England not being found sufficient, foreign aid was called in, and the whole of the Brethren placed themselves under the authority of a central Lodge directed by Sir Christopher Wren.* After his death the Lodge of St. Paul's took a new and important step. Hitherto none but architects and masons were admitted to the order, but in a grand assembly of the Brethren it was decided unanimously that persons of all professions should be admitted, provided they were found eligible. This decision changed entirely the aspect of Freemasonry, and contributed chiefly to bring it to its present flourishing condition.

But the Masons found much difficulty in this plan, partly by disunion among themselves, and partly by political troubles. When James II. came to the throne, in 1685, his leaning towards Catholicism throwing the whole country into disorder, the Freemasons divided themselves into two parties; the Scotch having at their head the Chevaliers de St. André on the side of the hypocritical king, and

* The celebrated Lodge of York was founded in 926, under the patronage of King Athelstan and his brother Edward.

the English Lodges, on the contrary, being decidedly for his dethronement. These last carried the day, and when James took to flight he was accompanied by many of the nobles and Jesuits.

From that time to the present Freemasonry has gradually increased in importance. It has spread its humanizing influence over most parts of the globe. The principles of civilization which it has advanced, and the doctrine of universal brotherhood which it inculcates, have sometimes so alarmed crowned heads and their satellites, that they have done all in their power to stop its progress. In the middle of the eighteenth century edicts were published in Russia, Sardinia, Austria, Rome, Florence, and many other countries, forbidding the holding of Lodges on pain of the terrors of the inquisition, the galleys, death, imprisonment for life, or excommunication, according to the habit of the several governments, and these prohibitions still remain in some places, but ineffectually as ever.

The numbers of Lodges in the four quarters of the globe may, at a moderate computation, be reckoned at 5,000, of which 3,000 flourish in Europe, 1,400 in America, and the remainder spread over less important places. Although, perhaps, there may be some modifications in its forms and ceremonies, its benefit to the human race is undoubted, and a brother is recognised and aided in any part of the world, whether the government be a republic, a monarchy, or an oriental despotism. In illustration of this the two following anecdotes may not be unacceptable.

A French officer, at the battle of Austerlitz, had, with his company, been separated from his regiment at the commencement of the action. After performing prodigies of valour, seeing the devoted band cut to pieces, and the officer dangerously wounded, he still refused to give up his sword, until, exhausted by loss of blood, he fell, making the Masonic sign. The Prussian officer in command, who was one of the initiated, on perceiving this, ran forward and drew off his men, who, in their fury, were preparing to strike the death-blow. Faithful to his Masonic principles, he had his Brother, no longer his enemy, carried to his own tent, where his kindness and attention was so great that his prisoner was in doubt whether he ought not to bless his glorious defeat. When his health was completely restored, he perceived the necessity of complying with the laws of war, and prepared to depart to the place assigned to the prisoners; but he first demanded an interview with his captor. What was his gratitude and astonishment to learn that he was free! The Prussian officer had managed to get his name placed on the first list of those who were to be exchanged.

Again, in the time of the late war, the Prussians infested the frontiers of France, and committed all sorts of outrages. They one day entered a château, and after insulting the inmates and destroying everything they could lay their hands on, seized a box containing a large sum of money. The owner, on trying to prevent their taking his property, would have fared very hardly had he not, on a sudden thought, made the sign. The officer, who was a Mason,

was immediately recalled to the duties which he had unknowingly violated. He dismissed his men, and placed a guard at the château to prevent similar outrages.

*From the Brothers Boisgard and Sauvê, members of the Royal Lodge of Isis at Paris, to I * * Ch * * F * * &c. &c.*

“CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, 26th Nov., 1817.

“Having promised to write to you as soon as the ship arrived at the Isle of France, we have perhaps surprised you by not performing our promise. But a great misfortune prevented us. Three days after passing the line, our ship took fire, on account of the igniting of the great quantity of vitriol and other inflammable matter stowed away in the hold. On discovering this calamity, we were about sixty miles from Trinity Island, and although we heard that this spot was a savage and uncultivated place, we were in hopes it might eventually prove our salvation. We made all sail we could towards it, but the labour was immense, owing to the state of the vessel. But we had the good fortune to arrive there just as the smouldering fire had reduced the sides of the ship to the thickness of three inches, while the interior was completely carbonized. I shall omit for the present to narrate the curious life we led on the island, and inform you that on the 10th of September we were, by the generosity of an American captain who touched there, landed in safety at the Cape of Good Hope. Deprived of all our property, we were obliged to make known our wants to those men whom the world has so much calumniated. Happily for us, we found there were four Freemasons' Lodges there, each of which pressed forward to relieve us, particularly one named the Good Faith. We were quickly supplied with food and lodging, clothes and linen. Our generous hosts urged us to remain with them; but finding we had decided to sail in a few days to the Isle of France, our original destination, they supplied us with wine, brandy, biscuits, and in short every necessary in abundance for our voyage. Will you, my dear friends, explain all this to our Brothers S. M. &c. &c., of the Chapter of Isis, for whose prosperity we most ardently pray, and we hope that the Lodge will communicate with that of the Good Faith, for the important services they have rendered us.”*

NOTES OF A YACHT'S CRUISE TO BALAKLAVA.

(Continued from page 162.)

August 26th.—Winds still rising—clouds lowering—very little canvass showing.

Herr Müller highly philosophic and instructive.

It seems the waters we are now navigating received their name from the Greeks and Romans, in consequence of the frequent thick black fogs, caused by the surrounding mountains intercepting the vapours when they rise from its surface.

Wonderful to relate, the captain and the small German agreed touching the lower level of the Mediterranean being the cause of the strong current that sets south through the Bosphorus. Indeed, Herr Müller, whose reading seems to have been various and deep, entertained us much by his account of theories touching the Black Sea—of a Grecian legend, how Orpheus sailed from the Euxine to

* For an account of the *Jeune Sophia* of Havre, see the journals of the day. [We advise the Maltese and West-Indian Brethren to detail these facts to their Popish persecutors, with an exhortation to “go and do likewise.”—ED. P. M. M.]

the Baltic—and the notice given by Diodorus Siculus, that in his day a tradition existed among the inhabitants of Thrace, of a mighty inundation which reduced the larger half of their country to the condition now seen in the Archipelago, of which we have some proof in the extraordinary conformation of the Thracian mountains at the entrance of the Bosphorus,—the shape of the Grecian islands, which slope gently to the north and have bold headlands to the south, &c. &c.

There is no doubt, considerable changes are taking place each year in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Before this time the Crimea was an island, and ships that only a few years ago sailed to Taganrog and the mouth of the Don, are now unable to approach either.

From all this Herr Müller argues, that in process of time both seas will dry up, and their beds finally become available for cultivation. At which point I left the company.

27th.—Wind chopped round to “norrard,” with a sudden squall, that sent us all below, and Herr Müller to his berth. Captain says we must not think of coast scenery, even if it were worth looking at, as he must keep out to sea; however, he will try and let us have a peep at Eupatoria.

28th.—Still stormy and uncomfortable, wind veering to every point in the compass.

29th.—About 5 p.m. yesterday, the wind at last made up its mind to blow pretty steadily from the west, so we stood away before it for the Crimea, to the infinite joy of the ladies, who are dying to be at Balaklava.

September 1st.—At dawn abreast of Eupatoria—wind N.W. Early as was the hour, we all mustered on deck to behold the scene of the famous landing, little more than this time last year; but, alas! the captain would not stand in near enough to show more than a low, dim, blue line of shore, somewhat obscured by mist, for the day was chilly and overcast.

From this time we were all fixtures on deck, watching with intense eagerness the land, which gradually rose into bold cliffs and advanced on the sea, till by degrees it became huge scarped masses, and every mountain seemed a natural fortress.

Every available glass was in requisition, and the captain, who had once commanded a trading vessel in those seas, was perpetually appealed to.

Miss P—— soon determined a little river she descried north of a bold headland, to be the Alma; which discovery drew a volley of exclamations, resembling a torrent of paving-stones, from the German.

We took a hasty luncheon, and returned to our post of observation. Wind still fresh, sky clear, air somewhat cold. Still the same iron coast, trending in rather, in a semicircular form.

“Stay!” cries Sir Arthur, whose glass was levelled in the direction of our course; “I can make out a building of some kind on

that promontory to the south—more south, Lady C——! Yes! it must be Fort Constantine—it is Sebastopol!”

“Sebastopol!” exclaimed his auditors, with one voice, as, in our anxiety to behold that world-renowned fortress, we all crowded “foward” and mingled with the men, who were equally on the *qui vive*. Scarce a word was spoken for the next hour—it was one of intense excitement. We were going at a spanking rate: the sails distended till the sheets were drawn tight, and the dashing *Imp* heeled over till her lee scuppers were under water.

Gradually the mighty fortifications became visible, then the wide harbour, with its noble arms of blue water running up amid church-spires, domes, lofty buildings, and forts of every size.

“There!” cries one, “I see the line of masts—the sunken vessels across the mouth of the harbour!” And now we could descry jets, and clouds of smoke, some hanging permanently, others shooting up at intervals; the work of destruction was proceeding. A hand was laid on my arm: I turned—it was Lady C——, she was gazing intently on the town, her soft blue eyes suffused with tears.

“Ah!” she exclaimed, “those terrible waves of airy-looking smoke! perhaps at each of them some life ceases, round which the hopes and happiness of many hearts are centred!”

We fancied we could make out the puffs of white smoke on our own side, and on gathering this from our talk, the sailors could not refrain from giving a lusty cheer whenever an unwontedly large cloud rose from the south.

But we now stood somewhat more out to sea, to give Cape Chersonese a sufficiently wide berth. We then came up with two war-steamers, standing closer in shore than ourselves; they, I suppose, saw what and who we were, and made no attempt to stop us. Kamiesch Bay, with some of our leviathan steam-ships, was next passed. We fancied we distinguished the *Albion*.

The wind was now less directly favourable, and the high land to the left, after we had doubled Cape Chersonese, sheltered us considerably. For a couple of hours we coasted a lofty ridge of curved limestone rocks; and before the light failed us, we had steered straight into a narrow opening, more like a fissure, or the estuary of a third-class river, so narrow, indeed, that there would not be sufficient room for two large-sized vessels to pass abreast. Thence the harbour of Balaklava opens gradually into a large lake, or rather a lovely broad river, winding for upwards of a mile through the mountains, the entrance being imperceptible from the interior. Its steep rocky sides rise like walls of limestone from the water, and a few feet from them lie our men-of-war, in perfect security, as though in dock.

To seaward, the projecting promontory is crowned by a picturesque old fort, built by the Genoese. We made our way slowly up the harbour, amid the crowd of steamers, transports, men-of-war, and merchant-vessels, which filled it.

We could do no more than give a glance at the surrounding pro-

spect, as night closed in upon the busy scene; so we sat down to our late supper in a highly excited state of mind, listening every now and then to the distant booming from the camp and town, which the wind, now N.N.W., brought down to us.

We were all too much on the alert to go to bed, and it was useless to think of landing till the morning; so we sat discussing Russian policy—and the “*Times*’ correspondent”—for a while, when our attention was attracted by some person hailing the *Imp*, and the splash of oars. Not three minutes afterwards, the door of the saloon opened, and to our great delight Colonel —— entered, with a beard of portentous size and greatly enlarged moustache.

He received a most cordial welcome, said he had been on the lookout for us, and had been told by an officer of the *Albion* that we were in port; he therefore lost no time in boarding us—of course, he meant to take up his old quarters. A *réchauffé* of supper was ordered, and some mulled claret, for the night was decidedly cold.

We were soon deep in camp gossip. From the colonel’s report, I should say, we had just arrived in time for something tremendous. The French have pushed their sap close to the Malakoff, but we cannot get so near the Redan.

He advises us to try and see the church parade to-morrow—it is a most impressive sight; but it is very difficult to get leave for admission within the lines. However, as Colonel —— has already spoken to the general of the division on our behalf, perhaps there is a chance for us. The ladies, wild to go.

The colonel’s account of the ruin in Sebastopol—visible from the famous picquet-house, which is the rendezvous of all the idlers—is terrible.

After a most exciting day—to bed, and slept profoundly.

(*To be continued.*)

THE WONDERS OF NATURE.

THERE is no study more interesting than that of the Chemistry of Creation. If “the Chemistry of Common Life,” as propounded by Mr. Johnstone, attracts attention, much more attractive, does it stand to reason, should be the Chemistry of Nature. The dreams of the ancient alchemists, their belief in the possibility of converting metals into gold, and discovering a spring whose waters should give to those that drank, eternal life, may be turned to some account in modern times. The scholar and the schoolmaster, all who will, in spite of opposing obstacles, gain knowledge, may become true philosophers; and is not perfect philosophy gold to us?—are not brains now and in every age, whether iron or golden, money? Nor do we use the word gold simply in a figurative sense. Knowledge, like virtue, brings its own reward; but knowledge is itself, we should ever bear in mind, a grand desideratum. At present it is hardly necessary to enforce

this truth by tedious arguments, for all classes are at last aroused to see the benefits of education. Education is preached in our pulpits, the middle classes are talking French behind the counter, and working out equations at the desk; while we, with less wits, are pondering over papers on "self-education," in *Westminster* and other *Reviews*, and wondering how long it will be, should the present mania continue, before our housemaids read Greek plays. Such hothouse education as this we do not advocate, as honesty in housemaids, with common knowledge, and not that common ignorance which they generally possess, is virtue superior to Greek, conic sections, and astronomy. However, none should be deprived of a familiar acquaintance with the wonders of this world in which we live. The kingdoms of creation are many, and the study of our own body, with its veins, arteries, bones, nerves, and muscle, is sufficient to show that the subject is exhaustless, and those most versed in chemical phenomena are still but babes in knowledge.

Dr. Fownes has classified chemical elements in sixty-two parts, and they have been arranged by Ellis, for the sake of convenience, under the following heads:—1, gases; 2, fluids; 3, solids. The last are metallic, the second non-metallic, and the first gaseous. The four primary gases, it may be necessary to observe, are hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and chlorine. Four-fifths of the air we breathe consists of nitrogen, one-fifth is oxygen; and there are other properties, as ammonia, carbonic acid, and carburetted hydrogen, which go to supply the wants of man and vegetation. Carbonic acid gas, required by vegetation, is very heavy, and is the air which is expelled from our lungs, which, when mingled with pure air, we breathe again. Hydrogen is a light gas, and a bladder filled with it would rise up, and float about the ceiling of the room. When unmingled with air, it burns with a pure flame; when mingled with air, it goes off with a report. There is a great deal of hydrogen in water, which is an oxide of hydrogen. Place oxygen and hydrogen in a jar together, and apply to them the flame of a candle, the result will be a loud explosion, and within the jar there will be no longer air, but drops of water,—water being composed of these two gases, in the proportion of eight parts oxygen to one part hydrogen.

We might have chosen to confine ourselves especially to the chemistry of the air, did not several inviting little books bid us turn our attention to the ocean, and the wonders of the sea-shore. What a mighty element is that sea of waters, ever rolling over giant rocks its mighty waves, that die away in the distance, mingled with blue sky, a silver line of light. Looking at that unfathomable mass, thousands of feet deep, who is not led, with feelings of emotion and awe, to remember, "The sea is His, and He made it."

What a contrast is there between that great ocean, and idlers who throng its shores,—both how restless; but one fulfilling the laws of God, the other drawing out existence. Thus, days at the sea-side have become, as Kingsley says, in his *Glaucus*,—"a life-in-death, in which thousands spend the golden weeks of summer." But novels

and club-rooms, telescopes and gossip, billiards and cigars,—ever to be connected, we believe, with the sea-side,—do not form our theme, but the wonders of the shore,—“stranger than ever opium-eater dreamed, and yet to be seen at no greater expense than a very little time and trouble.”

How may we ascertain the colour of the sea? Is it blue, or green, or red, or yellow? At times it seems to possess all these various tints. Pure water is blue, a fine blue as that roadway abounding in *crevasses*, which we have traversed, the *mer de glace*, the blue waters of Lake Lemán, or the grottos of Capri. Then, according as the rays of the sun fall, the sea appears green; while at times the waves, filled with millions of minute phosphorescent creatures, appear scarlet, and flash before the vessel as though the sea were set on fire by the swiftly-rolling wheels of Neptune's chariot. Many of these fiery mariners are in diameter no more than the one-thousandth part of an inch. This light is, like that of the glowworm, provided for some good purpose known to the Creator,—to us it is a wonderful phenomenon. In our seas the *noctiluca miliaris* is the most common; it appears, when magnified, like a globe with a tail proceeding from an oval nucleus, surrounded on all sides with branching vessels. “This creature,” says Mr. Gosse, “which produces the brightest light of all, is a kind of sea-worm (*nereis cirrigera*); it lives in groups or large masses, among the branches of sea-weed; and when portions of this are thrown on shore by the waves, the animals survive and continue to shine very brilliantly for several days.” It is to *medusæ*, a genus of marine animals in the class *Acaleptra*, which nearly all give a luminous appearance, that the Red Sea is supposed to owe the origin of its name. The *medusæ* go generally by the name of jelly-fish; “they present to the eye,” says Maunder, “when floating in their native element, an umbrella-shaped disc, from beneath which a number of tentacula or filaments depend. In the central part of the concave side of this disc is the stomach, in the middle of which is the mouth, opening downwards, and surrounded by four leaf-like tentacula . . . they receive nutriment by means of innumerable minute pores; and in their stomachs are found small crustacea, mollusca, and even fishes. At certain seasons many of them sting and inflame the hand that touches them; and their tentacula seem to possess considerable muscular power, capable of drawing towards the mouth almost anything that comes within their reach. They swim by muscular contraction of the margins of the disc.”

Many persons do not know that cockles are given to tumbling, and may attend, as they doubtless do, the pleasure-fairs in the sea-world. May they not wish, like we do in our wild moments, to be mermen, and say, in the words of our Poet Laureate:—

I would be a merman bold;
I would sit and sing the whole of the day;
I would fill the sea-halls with a voice of power;
But at night I would roam abroad, and play
With the mermaids in and out of the rocks.

* * * * *

And then with a skip and a jump, and a silent laugh, we fancy we see Mr. and Mrs. Cockle tumbling gloriously, and dancing and kissing, and chasing one another merrily. Thus writes Mr. Gosse in his *Aquarium* (p. 222):—

“Many persons are aware that the common cockle can perform gymnastic feats of no mean celebrity, but the evolutions of Signor Tuberculato are worth seeing. Some of the troupe I had put into a pan of sea-water; others I had turned out into a dish, dry, as knowing that an occasional exposure to the air is a contingency that they are not unused to. By-and-by, as we were quietly reading, our attention was attracted to the table, where the dish was placed, by a rattling uproar, as if flint stones were rolling one over the other about the dish. ‘Oh, look at the cockles!’ was the exclamation; and they were indeed displaying their agility, and their beauty too, in fine style. The valves of the largest were gaping to the extent of three-quarters of an inch; but the intermediate space was filled up by the spongy-looking, fleshy mantle, of a semi-pellucid orange hue. At one end protruded the syphons, two thick short tubes, soldered, as it were, into one, and enveloped on all sides in a shaggy fringe of *cirri*, or tentacles. The circular orifices of these tubes—small holes, perfectly round, with a white border—had a curious appearance, as we looked at the heart-shaped end of the valves. The discharging orifices, however, were but rarely visible, being usually closed, while the others remained constantly open. But these things were what we afterwards saw. For some time we could look at nothing but the magnificent foot, and the curious manner in which it was used.

“The two lips of the mantle suddenly separate, and gaping widely all along the front, recede nearly to the valves; while at the same moment a huge organ is thrust out, somewhat like a tongue, nearly cylindrical, but a little flattened, and tapering to a point. Its surface is smooth, and brilliantly glossy, and its colour a fine rich scarlet, approaching to orange; but a better idea of it than can be conveyed by any description, will be obtained by supposing it to be made of polished cornelian.

“This beautiful and versatile foot is suddenly thrust out sideways, to the distance of four inches from the shell; then its point being curved backwards, the animal pushes it strongly against any opposing object, by the resistance of which the whole animal, shell and all, makes a considerable step forwards. If the cockle were on its native sands, the leaps thus made would doubtless be more precise in their direction, and much more effective; but cooped up with its fellows in a deep dish, all these herculean efforts availed only to knock the massive shells against the sides, or roll them irregularly over each other.”

Kirby writes thus in his interesting “Bridgewater Treatise:”—

“The common cockle (*Cardium edule*), Poli says, can not only, by means of its foot, turn round, or to either side, but even take a good leap. The trigons, nearly related to the cockle, are mostly fossils, but there is one recent species, found on the coast of New Holland, called originally, from the pearly lustre of the inside of its shells, the pearl trigon (*Trigania*), a name changed without reason by Lamarek. This, which was originally taken by Lesreur and since by Captain King, was more recently brought from thence by Mr. Setchbury, who told me that they would leap over the gunwale of a boat in which he was, to the height of above four inches. The foot of this animal is bent at an acute angle, so as, upon pressure, to form a very elastic organ, and that of the cockle is nearly the same.

“This common cockle, says the same writer, is also a borer. Mr. Osler, in a very interesting paper in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1826, has described the way in which they bury themselves. The foot of the cockle, he observes, is very strong and stiff, and is the instrument by which they principally perform this operation; but to look at it when unemployed, we cannot readily conceive how it can make a burrow capacious enough for so large a shell. Its point, indeed, is solid, and a viscid secretion from its surface enables it to fix itself more firmly in the sand; but this alone is not sufficient to accomplish this purpose: it is therefore

further gifted with the power of distending it to a size, nearly equalling that of its shell—but how is this effected? It has a tube, opening just within the mouth, which conveys to the foot the water by which the animal is enabled to distend it—thus the size of the boring auger becomes so nearly equal to that of the shells, that the solid point or bit first entering the sand, in time, by rotatory motions oft repeated, works a burrow that receives the shell, and the animal is buried with only the extremity of its syphon emerging. How admirable is this contrivance of Divine wisdom to enable it to bury its shell, which it could scarcely otherwise accomplish.”

Enough of *Cardium edule*. The mysterious sea produces other wonders for the observant eye of the naturalist. Ocean has, as well as land, its gay flowers; and on the shores of Torbay, and the sands of the Isle of Wight, may be picked up wreaths of wrack and oar-weed tangle, the *zostera*, and a thousand other sea-weeds, fern and lichen-like; crimson and yellow, and emerald green, and delicate white; some like the fairy trees of some fairy forest in the heart of Germany, where the eye of mortal has not yet been permitted to wander. Who is not envious of the sea-nymphs, the mermen and mermaids that wander among crystal and coral mansions, for ever listening to the songs of the choir of Amphitrite?

Perhaps the most curious tribe of animals that inhabit the ocean are the polypes, in which are the jelly-fish, whose name we have mentioned before. The most imperfect are the sponges: many seem to possess only the power of motion and respiration. They are constructed so as to attach themselves to objects which float by them, upon which they glue themselves, or, as some suppose, adhere by means of minute suckers. It was observed by Trembley, that when the common polype of fresh water touched any little animal with one of its long tentacular arms, it was immediately arrested, and in spite of the most violent efforts to liberate itself, which he compares to those of a fish that had been hooked, was held fast, and carried to the mouth of the polype, and swallowed. Many of the polypes resemble plants, having as it were long branches with flowers, possessing calyx and petals.

There are other animals, however, of another class, no less wonderful than the polypes, and in some manner resembling them, possessing, for instance, long arms, with which, when sailing about in the ocean, they suck in their prey. This class to which we refer, has been denominated by Cuvier, *Cephalopoda*, and they were thus named because their feelers are attached to their head. The most powerful and singular of this order is the cuttle-fish, whose body yields us pounce. With the description of this wonderful fish, as given by Kirby, in his Treatise, we must conclude this paper:—Its mouth is surrounded by eight long fleshy arms, or rather legs, somewhat conical in shape, and acute at the end, moved by innumerable nerves, furnished from numerous ganglions; these legs can bind in any direction, as with the utmost vigour and activity; their surface is furnished with many suckers, by which they can fix themselves strongly to anything they wish to lay hold of, and by means of which, like the starfish, they can move from place to place. When this

animal walks, in this resembling also the star-fish and sea-urchin, it moves with its head and mouth downwards, and its body elongated. It swims also and seizes its prey by means of these organs: besides these arms or legs—for they perform the functions of both,—there is a pair of long organs, one on each side, having their origin between the first and second pair of legs, which are incrustated at the end, where, also, they are furnished with many suckers. Cuvier supposes they use these as anchors, to maintain them in their station during tempests, and as prehensile instruments, by which they can seize their prey at a distance. In the centre of the legs is the mouth, surrounded by a tubular membraneous lip, including a beak, consisting of two mandibles, like that of a paroquet; these mandibles or jaws are crooked, and the upper one fits into the lower as a sliding lid into a box. With these redoubtable jaws the cuttle-fish devours a further trituration in its muscular crop and gizzard.

E. W. J.

REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

[Publishers are requested to send works for review not later than the 20th of the month, addressed to the Editor of the "Freemasons' Monthly Magazine," 74-5, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields.]

Things not generally Known familiarly Explained. A Book for Old and Young. By JOHN TIMBS, F.S.A. London: D. Bogue, 1856.—Under this title, the indefatigable editor of the "Curiosities of London," the "Year-book of Facts," &c. has brought together a collection of interesting information upon almost every subject. The elements, the senses, the animal and vegetable kingdom, laws and customs, the arts and sciences, language and literature, domestic manners, natural magic, with a mixture of graver matter,—each finds a place in this useful little volume: nor can advanced intelligence peruse a page without finding something to interest, if not to improve; whilst to the child it opens and suggests a field of inquiry at once agreeable and salutary. Even as a short manual of reference, this book ought to find its way into every average library.

The Chess Player's Annual for the Year 1856. Edited by CHAS. TOMLINSON. Hall and Virtue, Paternoster-row.—A great deal of ingenuity is here displayed in finding applicable material, and the result is a very agreeable little annual, every word of which will be found interesting to the lover of the game of chess, and no small portion even to the general reader. There are some good stories illustrative of the "noble game," several essays, dialogues, and sketches, more or less able; a variety of excellent chess aphorisms, by the editor; and no end of games, problems, and studies. We heartily concur with the wish expressed in the preface, that chess were more gene-

rally popular, and agree in the belief, that were it known in the dwellings of the poor, it would go far to supersede many debasing pursuits. At the same time, we are glad to observe the candid spirit in which the editor warns the devoted admirer of the game in which he himself evinces so heartfelt an interest, against that excess in its exercise which can change the most innocent of our recreations to sin, and would, in this case, bring ruin in its train as assuredly as does the career of the spendthrift or the gambler.

Doctor Antonio. A Tale. By the Author of "Lorenzo Benoni." Edinburgh: Constable and Co.—The story opens in the spring of 1840. Sir John Davenne is returning to England with his fair daughter, Lucy, whose delicate health had required the soothing influence of an Italian winter. As they are travelling along the famous Cornice road between Genoa and Nice, the carriage is upset, by which Miss Lucy's ankle is sprained and her leg broken. Doctor Antonio comes by, like a *deus ex machinâ*, and by his care not only is her wounded limb cured, but the interesting invalid is restored to sound health. The progress of her recovery, the varied and novel means adopted to strengthen a weak constitution and to develop a dormant mind, during her lengthened stay at a little wayside *osteria*, are beautifully told; and it is surprising what tender grace the writer throws upon such an apparently tame subject. A love, unacknowledged by both, springs up between the doctor and patient, and it is not until the arrival of a coarse-minded, loud-voiced "heavy dragoon" of a brother from India, who carries her away, that either is aware of the strength of the bond that unites them. Antonio now devotes himself, heart and soul, to his country; while Lucy, returning to England, fulfils her destiny, as every right-minded baronet's daughter should do, by marrying Lord Cleverton. She is not happy with him, and after a six years' union is left a widow. The inexorable year of weeds and mourning being ended, the widow, whose health had become very dilapidated, seeks the spot where in happier and earlier days she had first recovered her strength. But the *osteria* is in ruins, and Antonio has returned to Sicily, which is in arms to recover its liberty. The year is now 1848. She determines to follow him to Palermo; but while at Naples, she meets Antonio at one of the court receptions. They are soon on the old footing, and the doctor has only time to declare his passion, when, on the 15th of May (a day memorable in the bloody annals of liberty), he is nearly killed by a Royalist soldier as he is tending the wounded on the barricades. With Poerio and others, he is tried (nay, condemned untried) by the infamous Navarro, and sentenced to nineteen years of irons. He is removed to the castle of Ischia, whence he might have escaped through Lucy's means; but he will not desert "his five noble fellow-prisoners, the least of them worth ten such as he." A plan is laid for rescuing all, when the police are put on the alert; Antonio is removed to another place, and Lucy dies heartbroken. It is a simple tale, with no striking, stirring events, but as attractive in its natural sim-

plicity as that ever-fresh story of the Vicar of Wakefield. We extract the following *morceaux* as interesting in the topics they treat of, and also as exponent of the writer's style.

ITALIANS AT HOME.

"Facts are stubborn things, Miss Davenne, and observation of facts will show you that amongst us there is scarcely an example of wives and daughters bearing the marks of the brutality of their husbands and fathers! that drunkenness is a very rare thing, and so is crime; that there are whole provinces—that of San Remo is one—in which no murder has been committed within the memory of man. Property is so divided, that the two extremes of great riches and great poverty are almost unknown, and so, fortunately, are most of the evils arising out of them,—beggary for instance. I am not speaking of the great towns of course, but of the country districts, in which nearly every man owns his little bit of land, which he cultivates as well as he can. The small proprietor, who has time to spare, hires his services to the neighbour, who, possessing more land, requires more hands; but both employer and employed deal and converse with each other on a footing of perfect equality. The hired labourer no more considers himself the inferior of his employer because he takes money from him, than the employer thinks himself the labourer's superior for paying it."

"You are describing a real Arcadia," said Lucy.

"I wish it were so," continued Antonio, shaking his head; "but there are deep shades to the picture. The baneful action of despotism makes itself felt here, as everywhere else in Italy. The state of utter ignorance in which the populations I am speaking of are left by a government systematically hostile to all sorts of instruction; the worship of the dead letter in lieu of the spirit that vivifies, in which they are nursed and kept by their priests; the habits of dissembling grievances, for which there is no possible redress, and which it would be dangerous to resent;—all these deleterious influences combine to keep the standard of morality rather low. The man who would not for the world eat a morsel of meat on Friday, or miss hearing a mass on a saint's day, will not scruple to cheat his master of an hour's work, or to say the thing that is not, to obtain an abatement in the rent he pays to his landlord."

HOW TO TREAT PATRIOTS.

"On the names of the prisoners being called over, one of them, Margherita (a custom-house officer), rises to retract his former declaration, extorted, he says, through physical and moral coercion, and suggested by the Judge *Inquisitore* himself. Another, Pitterà (a writing-master), declares, that when taken out of a *criminale* (an underground cell, almost or wholly without light) to be examined in the Castello (dell' Uovo), he was, in consequence of constant privations and repeated menaces, overcome by mental stupor. A third, Antonietti (a custom-house agent), follows, saying that, when interrogated, he was so exhausted in mind and body he would willingly have signed his own sentence of death. If any wish to know more distinctly what kind of pressure it was that could thus unnerve and unman far from sensitive weakly persons, Pironto and many besides him, will tell us the particulars. Pironto, a late deputy and magistrate, relates having been in solitary confinement in a dungeon, where he had to lie on the naked ground, amid every sort of vermin, for forty-two days. His hair and beard, by special orders, were shaved by a galley-slave. He then underwent an insidious examination from the commandant of the castle, who tried first threats, then wheedling, promising him the royal clemency, to induce him to make revelations, *i.e.* turn king's evidence. De Simone, a perfumer, was threatened with two hundred blows of sticks soaked in water. Faucitano (a contract-builder, he of the explosive bottle) was dragged to the Prefecture of Police by twenty Swiss guards, six police-inspectors, and twelve *sbirri*, who beat him, spat on him, tore his clothes, hair, and beard. He was kept for two hours at the police-office bound with wet ropes, then conducted to the castle, thrust down into a dark, damp *criminale*, without even a handful of straw to lie on, and detained there for nine

days with no food but musty bread, no drink but fetid water. His first deposition was forced from him by the alternative of receiving two hundred blows. Muro (a servant) was kept for five days in complete darkness, and when on his way to be examined, a lieutenant in the army, who knew him, told him, as if out of compassion, that unless he put his name to whatever the commissary desired him to sign, he would be ruined for life. On being asked how it happens that he now maintains that he does not know Pironto, after having, when first confronted with that gentleman, at once recognized his person, Muro replies that the commissary had told him beforehand to lay his finger on the one of the four individuals standing in a row who had no mustachios ; and had obeyed. Sersale, a merchant, underwent such prolonged fasting, that his health is incurably undermined. (The voice of the prisoner is faint, and he can scarcely stand.) His wife was kept in prison for five days on bread and water, in order to frighten her into deposing to the truth of the charge against him. Cocozza, a solicitor, signed his interrogatory without reading it over, that being the condition of his release from a horrible *criminale*. The commissary required him to depose to Nisco (one of his co-accused) being the cashier of the sect of the Italian Unity. Caprio, a carpenter, was urged by the commissary, in the presence of the head jailer and of the turnkey, Carmine Bisogni, to denounce Nisco, and to declare on oath that he (Caprio) had received from that gentleman six thousand ducats, for the purpose of bribing the troops, and was promised his liberty if he did so. Errichiello, the master of a café, had been offered an employment worth twelve ducats a month, if he would second the views of the commissary. Dono, a chemist, was not once examined during the ten months of his incarceration."

Passages from the Private and Official Life of the late Alderman Kelly, with Extracts from his Correspondence. By the Rev. C. FELL. Groombridge and Sons.—And pray, who was Alderman Kelly, that, before his remains are hardly cold in his grave (he died on the 7th September last), the Rev. Mr. Fell should rush with express speed to the printer, and add one more to those nauseous biographies in which every goose is made the swan of some narrow-minded pharisaical circle? He was the son of a poor but respectable farmer, who, from being shopman to a stationer in the Row, rose to be alderman and lord mayor. There is not one single incident in his whole life that raises him above the herd of others, who, passing through the same stages, have risen to the same elevation. If every respectable citizen is to be biographized by all the Fells who may happen to have dined at their tables, we should soon labour under a plague worse than any of Egypt. The work itself is pompously written, with a great deal of the "I am more righteous than you" spirit, and the sooner it is handed over to the trunk-maker and cheesemonger the better for all parties. By the way, we see the title-page is dated 1856, in accordance with a silly practice that it would be wiser to discontinue.

The Emigrant's Home ; or, How to Settle. By W. H. G. KINGSTON. Groombridge.—This little book, by the author of "Western Wanderings," may be regarded as a sequel to his "How to Emigrate." It is an interesting story of Australian life ; and as the former little volume was written to encourage emigration, the author confines himself in this to pointing out the class of persons who are unfit to succeed as colonists, and to those who do emigrate, the only sure means of success. Many of the characters are drawn from real life ;

some of the letters are original. All intending emigrants would do well to read its cautions.

Embassies and Foreign Courts. By THE ROVING ENGLISHMAN. Since the subjects for examination of candidates for the diplomatic service have been now officially made known, we feel we are performing a Masonic duty to our younger Brethren in commending to their attentive perusal the work by the Roving Englishman, entitled "Embassies and Foreign Courts," which we reviewed in a former number. It is published by Bro. Routledge in Farringdon-street, and will be found not only to point out the best books for the instruction of the candidates on the points required, but is itself a complete digest of their purport, analyzed with the well-known talent of their gifted writer, which has caused him to be looked upon as England's only author on diplomacy, and whose caustic *exposé* of Home Office abuses has drawn upon him the hatred of the official culprits. We hear that one little man therein located is so savage at the discovery of his peccadilloes as to pass his time chiefly in dropping juice of "slander's cursed henbane" in the ear of Lord Clarendon against the Roving Englishman; and in periodical attacks of the meagrims, whenever he hears of his opponent's rapidly-increasing fame. This virulence strongly reminds us of the passion of a jam-sick schoolboy against his doctor, who forbids his taking more; the Downing-street nursery certainly resembles other establishments of infantine intellect in one particular—its inmates hate to disgorge.

PAMPHLETS.

The Case of Meer Jafur Alee, Khan Bahadoor, of Surat. London: J. R. Taylor, 54, Chancery-lane.—The perusal of this pamphlet suffices to make any one revolt with disgust at the dishonourable behaviour of the East-India Company, in evading and procrastinating the discharge of bounden conditions and just claims. We hear with great pleasure that the injured nobleman is about to move the highest tribunal in the realm; and perhaps the East-India Company, knowing that its charter hangs on a thread, which the repeated disclosures of torture and misgovernment under its rule render daily thinner, will be just from fear, if not from principle. We commend this pamphlet to the perusal of all who wish to learn how chartered monopolies abuse power, and especially we trust members of Parliament will read it, and recollect that their duty is, when Indian malpractices are revealed, not to leave the House for the Opera, so that the wrong-doers escape punishment through the artful dodge of "counting the House out," but to stay, and do right to the claims of the persecuted and wronged.

The Masonic Advertiser. John W. Leonard and Co., New York.—The number of this miscellany amply maintains its character, and is full of interesting and instructive matter to the Craft. Its designs

of jewels and seals are admirable, and how it can furnish so much illustration and literature at so low a price, is a wonder even to us, who appreciate fully the zeal and public spirit of our American Brethren.

The American Freemason. Vol. IV., Nos. 8 and 9. Louisville and New York.—This is a larger publication than the last, and of a more elaborate description. It teems with intelligence, and we shall often be indebted to its columns for valuable extracts. Each number contains an appropriate Masonic song set to music, which we heartily commend to the attention of our Brethren. The plates are also admirable, and the portraits of leading Masons striking and effective.

Sketch of a Paper on a Colchester Sphynx, compared with two others found in Hungary. By W. BELL, Ph. Dr., &c. &c.—This elaborate and highly-interesting treatise is an extract from the Journal of the Essex Archæological Association for 1856. Its learning and research commend it to the notice of every admirer of antiquarian record.

An Inquiry into the Vine Fungus, with Suggestions as to a Remedy. By a twenty-three years' resident (JAMES DOW) in Portugal. London: Saunders and Otley.—This is an endeavour to arouse the Portuguese people to attention in carrying out Liebig's principles of culture, at this crisis of a vital branch of Portuguese domestic industry. It is conceived in the worthy spirit of a reverent and not desponding observer of the laws of nature, and of Masonic principles also, since it evokes fraternal aid to the sufferers, from their traders throughout the world. Its importance to the wine trade may be conceived from the fact that the fungus, called *Oidium Tuckeri*, has appeared with aggravated results for three successive years, and that the last vintage, nominally producing 26,000 pipes, afforded of exportable wine probably no more than 4,000.

A Few Words on a few Wines. Price One Shilling. S. A. Shaw and Co., 33, Mark-lane.—The Craft are and have been proverbially lovers of good wine, than which nothing is better calculated to promote harmony and goodwill both in the Lodge and the fire-side circle. To preserve good wine is almost as difficult a process as to obtain it, and we all of us in the course of our experience have had cause for regret at seeing some of the choicest vintages spoilt by the extremes of either cold or heat. The author of the above little pamphlet, Brother Nathan, has been for years well known among Freemasons for his taste and judgment in first-class wines; and if his suggestions are followed up by our readers, we can promise them that the contents of their cellars will be duly appreciated by themselves and those they have about them.

FACES IN THE FIRE.

" In the hour of sorrow,
 And in darkness drear,
 To God entrust the morrow,—
 The angels then are near!"—WHITTIER.

An aged man sat by his fire, and watched the embers' glow;
 The stars were paling one by one as that fire was burning low;
 The wind without was sighing, sad as a starving outcast's moan,—
 Within, that old man's misery gave answer groan for groan.

Loud tolled the bells as hours flew by, yet he did gazing sit
 By that low fire, while flickering shades along the wall did flit;
 Still, like some sculptured form of stone, he sat, and ne'er did tire,
 Gazing with childlike earnestness on "faces in the fire."

He'd wander'd long upon the earth, and oft would sadly sigh,
 That death, the friend of hopeless men, too oft had passed *him* by:
 "Oh! death," he cried, "come, come at last; why mock'st thou thus a prayer?
 Com'st thou to crush youth's joyous heart, and heed'st thou not despair?"

The dwindling embers threw a light athwart his haggard face,
 On which an age of silent grief had left a searing trace;
 Now, childlike in his helplessness, he mused on days of yore,
 And found joy's outlines in that fire, and was a child once more!

As gazing at his fire he sat, the embers seemed to change
 To faces kind, to long-lost scenes, by memory's magic strange:
This ember was the village-church, where, happy child, he'd knelt;
 And *that* the cottage 'midst the trees, where once a lost love dwelt.

"Oh, blessed fire," that old man cried, "what magic in thee lies,
 That thou can'st limn old memories fair before an old man's eyes?
 I've been a child, a joyous child, a lover and a sire;
 I see the phantoms of such joys in thee, my own loved fire!"

As gazing at his fire, he sat, a change upon him came,
 His trembling lips breathed tenderly an unforgotten name:
 Methinks that thou dost err, who deem'st that old man *then* alone;
 An angel, sure, God sent in love, to cheer that lonely one.

I know not—man may never know—what sounds did greet his ear,
 Which fired his soul;—he started up, as at a footfall near.
 Perchance his love, in angel guise, stood in that darkling room,
 As that old man murmur'd solemnly—"I come to thee, I come!"

* * * * *

When morning dawned, a gentle bird loud warbled forth a strain
 That aged man had often heard, might never hear again.
 Alas! poor feather'd chorister, thou'lt miss thy crumbs of bread;
 Sing thou to God thy matin-song—thine ancient friend is dead!

W. B. B. S.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[THE EDITOR *does not hold himself responsible for any opinions entertained by Correspondents.*]

MASONIC CLIQUES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Some of your correspondents have lately busied themselves in denouncing what are termed “cliques” in Masonic Lodges. If the evil exist, I think they would be much better employed in devising a remedy, than in publishing it to the world. I am persuaded the cure is within themselves. Those who judge of a Masonic Lodge from the refreshment-board, will be led to form a very erroneous estimate of it, as it is here only that unanimity prevails, and individual exertions are co-operative. In every other department, those who *will, may*. The whole management of Lodge affairs is left to a few who duly appreciate their advantages, and thus what are called “cliques” are unavoidably formed, through the supineness of those who are the very first to denounce them. If every member would, as he ought, take an interest in the management of his Lodge, and endeavour to promote its prosperity,—in short, if every Brother would do his duty,—there would be no “cliques.” If those who do act thus are to be stigmatized, the sooner every Masonic Lodge becomes a “clique” the better. The Craft might lose considerably in number,—in every other point the gain would be immense. The “clique” are almost always the only working bees of a Lodge; the others are but drones, who neither appreciate the advantages of Freemasonry nor profit by it.

I am persuaded this is the true view of the matter, and I submit it for the consideration of your correspondents in a truly Masonic spirit.—I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Very truly,
P.Z., No. 344.

OLDHAM, 18th March, 1856.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

SIR AND BROTHER,—I have read with some surprise a letter in your last number signed “Justitia,” on the subject of Masonic cliques. The Brother alluded to as an example, or victim, is well known in the city in which he resides, and the description given of him is too plain to be mistaken as to his identity. I, at once, bear my testimony to the correctness of his memory in getting up the lectures, &c. I also concur in the remark that preferment ought to be the reward of merit; but “Justitia” is particularly unhappy in his selection of an example. I will tell you how that principle is carried out in the Lodge in which the Brother alluded to occupied the chair for two years. At the last appointment of officers, a Brother was placed in the S.W. chair who had only been initiated fifteen months, and raised barely or a little less than one year, *who had served no previous office whatever*, over the heads of other brethren who had worked their way step by step with great zeal, diligence, and perseverance, in the Lodge. Why was this preference shown? Was it that the Brother chosen was more fitted, or that he had displayed a greater amount of knowledge or Masonic merit? No; it was a reward for his having assisted this same Brother to establish a Camp of Knights Templar in direct opposition to, and in utter defiance of, the Supreme Grand Commander, who is also

P.G.M. of his Province. It was notorious that to hold office in that Lodge, you must belong to the party or clique of which this Brother was the head. Merit was a secondary consideration; and in proof of this, I am prepared to give the Masonic antecedents of the Brethren chosen, and of those passed over, if necessary. Several brethren left the Lodge in consequence of this unjust appropriation of office, and it is stated, as "Justitia" says, that *disappointed ambition* caused the retirement. After this, let "Justitia" for ever hold his peace about the prostitution of Masonry.

With respect to the Provincial Grand Lodge, "Justitia" has told only half the truth. The Brother named shut himself out from provincial honours; he was not excluded by the Prov. G.M. Provincial grand honours were offered him in open Lodge, and in open Lodge he refused them, and in such a manner as to preclude the possibility of the offer being repeated; and why, forsooth? because the collar of Grand Reg. was not of sufficient importance for the dignity of his position. And I may here add, that he was only a Mason of two years' standing. In common fairness "Justitia" ought not to have suppressed this fact. He says that the same Brother is shut out from provincial grand honours for having done his duty. I ask you, sir, whether it was his duty in the chair of his Lodge, repeatedly to throw odium and discredit upon the Prov. G.M., and thus attempt to weaken that officer's authority by teaching the Brethren to regard him with disrespect? If it was, I will do him the credit to say, he did it to the letter.

The venerable Prov. G.M. of the province, after a lengthened career in the service of Masonry, is far too much respected, and far too well known for his zeal for the *real* good of the Craft to be in any way affected by the insidious attacks of one who not only is, but ever desires to be, surrounded by a clique; and I would strongly recommend "Justitia" to advise his friend, when he talks of cliques, to remove the beam from his own eye, before he perceives the mote in that of his Brother.

Your readers have no opportunity of knowing the real animus of "Justitia." I would be the last to detract from the Masonic virtues of any Brother; but I will say this much, that it is to be regretted that one, who might have been of great service to the Craft, should have allowed his Masonic ambition to utterly destroy his usefulness.—I am, Sir and Brother,

Yours truly,

A. Z.

BATH, *March*, 1856.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

SIR AND BROTHER,—I have read Justitia's letter in your last number, and request permission to allude to some points mentioned in it. But first let me say, on the general question of "merit" as the ground of promotion in Masonry, that I should much like to have the meaning of the word "merit" well, that is, Masonically, defined. I imagine the brethren will not deny that there is some merit in being able to perform Masonic ceremonies correctly and in a becoming manner. One word, however, *correctly*, which I have used, seems to require itself explanation. What is it to perform a ceremony *correctly*? Is it to adhere *verbatim* to an orally-delivered text, or is it merely to adhere to the Masonic landmarks, rejecting verbal accuracy. The former is a mere effort of technical memory, while the latter requires knowledge, and a power of communicating it, in intelligible and precise terms. Now, Sir, you must, from experience, be well aware that two opinions on this question divide the Masonic Fraternity. The mere technical memory, as I myself know, produces sometimes ridiculous mistakes. Again, as connected with these considerations, is there uniformity in the working of Lodges? I think few brethren will be so bold as to assert there is. To remedy this discrepancy I long ago suggested a method, which received favourable notice from correspondents in the pages of your publication previous to its being issued monthly. I, Sir, have heard from a Brother, whose opinions you have been pleased to notice favourably more than once, when performing the ceremonies, a mixture of matter derived from Claret, Carlisle, the American Trestle Board, and

I believe also from other equally authentic sources. That same Brother possessed a written ritual, which he was well up in, having a tenacious memory, and which he wished to promulgate through a Lodge of Instruction he was mainly instrumental in founding. Certain variations excited the doubts of some of the members of the Lodge of Instruction, and when questioned, he refused to give an authority for the working he sought to introduce; whereupon discussion arose, with the result of which I am not acquainted. But in point of fact every Lodge seems to have a formula of its own. Now, again, Sir, this same Brother attempted to introduce, contrary to the ruling of Grand Chapter, certain obsolete matter into a Royal Arch Chapter, which at the time called forth correction from a Past Grand Superintendent and Past Grand Senior Warden of England. But to return to the question of merit. Is there no merit beyond a capability of performing ceremonies? Is there no merit in a pure Masonic zeal evidenced by activity, sedulous and strict attention to Masonic business? Is there no merit in being in and out of Lodge a good Mason? I may be wrong, but still conceive there is merit in such things, and that they deserve reward. Mere seniority, without any of these recommendations, I admit does not deserve reward; but zeal, integrity, and a love for Masonry, associated with rank, form, in my opinion, a good claim for even exalted Masonic rank.

The case quoted by "Justitia" is transparent in the west. The case of the refusal of a dispensation by the P.G.S. is true. It was applied for through an influential friend of that officer, and unsuccessfully. If "Justitia" were to name the members of the supposed *clique*, he must, I believe, name this Brother as one of it. Still, to gain his object, "Justitia's" friend did not hesitate to use what he would call *clique* influence. It was very creditable and right that the Brother, knowing himself not to be qualified, refused the *alleged* offer of the P.G.J.W. But the appointments which were made on the same day were all unsolicited, and those that were made were not made by the Prov. G.M., but by the D. Prov. G.M. The D. Prov. G.M. had made out a list of P.G. officers to the best of his ability, distributing the offices, I believe, impartially; but at the eleventh hour obstacles arose among them,—the refusal alluded to by "Justitia,"—which prevented the possibility of the appointments which had been intended. It was necessary to make out a new list, and without solicitation on the part of any Brother appointed, the selections were at once made from, as certainly believed at the time, qualified Brethren of the Lodge of which the Prov. G.M. happened to be a member, as mentioned by "Justitia." I deny it was any act of favouritism. I deny that any clique directed or in any way guided the selection of the several Brethren to fill those offices. I also deny that any remonstrance made by the Brother alluded to, "raised against him a clique." If any clique has been raised against him, he has to thank his own unconciliatory spirit for it, and nothing else; inasmuch as his protests are not remarkable, I understand, for mildness or Masonic merit; and his unqualified condemnations in open Lodge of the Prov. G.M., are discreditable to him in every point of view.

"Justitia," if true to his assumed name, should have said that the Brother whose case he details was offered an office at a subsequent Prov. Grand Lodge, and in an unbecoming manner, *not* in unbecoming words, refused it, the general impression was, because he did not think it an office equal to his merits. That unconstitutional things may have been done in the Province "Justitia" alludes to, I neither deny nor assert; if all Lodges were visited by a competent and authorized visitor, such proceedings I imagine would not be found to be rare; but there may be palliating circumstances, cases of necessity, which compel, I might almost say, the infringement of strict rules, otherwise the saying—*summum jus, summa injuria*, must be realized. There is an old adage, "that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones." The Brother whose case "Justitia" so feelingly describes, himself formed one of a number who solicited, *vivâ voce* and by letter, votes to prevent the election of a Brother to the office of P.G. Treasurer, which Brother, from a sense of duty and in the face of difficulties, brought about an investigation into the confused accounts of the Province, and succeeded in having them reduced to form. The Brother, however, was elected, notwithstanding the organized opposition with which he was met on the part of what "Justitia" would

call a *clique*, and this same party are now bestirring themselves, if I am rightly informed, to oust the Treasurer of their Province, for no reason whatever, and this at the risk of sowing discussion and discord in the Province.

Now, Sir, while I admit the merit of performing ceremonies glibly and after *his* text to the Brother alluded to by "Justitia," I deny any other merit. The Lodge over which that Brother has presided, has not been an harmonious one,—secessions of most respectable and intelligent members from it have taken place, and its disputes were at one time a bye-word in the locality. I am *told* that even now the Lodge is ruled more by the physical energy of the hand that wields the gavel, than by Masonic regard for the W.M. or the acting P.M.

I must apologize for so long a letter, but I rarely trespass on your kindness. Others may detect the references in "Justitia's" letter as I have, and believe all to be given in good faith, but examination proves them not to have been so given. To "Justitia," I would say, when next he writes on the matters which have been alluded to, let him be more true to his assumed signature, or make a negative addition to it, and write *Injustitia*.—I am, Sir,

Yours fraternally,

SILE.

March 13th, 1856.

MASONIC CHARITIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The fact of the financial condition of our Benevolent Institution being so depressed as to preclude the possibility of admitting any annuitants on its funds during the present year, demands the immediate and energetic co-operation of all sincere Freemasons.

I request permission, through your columns, in the name and behalf of the forty-two unsuccessful candidates at the last election—heart-sick with hope deferred—and by the Brotherhood by which we are, or ought to be, united, to urge their claims upon the sympathy of every Lodge and every individual Freemason throughout the kingdom, and to implore them to co-operate in raising the funds necessary to rescue them from their present almost hopeless state.

I would fraternally suggest, that every Lodge should suspend one banquet during the present year, and that the saving thus effected be paid to the Benevolent Institution. A handsome sum would be realized—a sum adequate to relieve most, if not all, of the above claimants. As an inducement to other Lodges, I think that I may promise on the part of the St. John's Lodge, No. 196, that the Brethren would cheerfully accede to this proposition, on condition that not less than two hundred Lodges would do the like. Should this suggestion be acted upon, I would recommend that publicity be given to the same, by your kind permission, through the medium of the *Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror*.

The withholding of this *single* banquet would be sufficient to effect this most desirable object. I would also earnestly implore every Lodge to determine on supporting all the Masonic Charities, by subscribing one guinea annually to each—which would be but four guineas in all—and to pass a bye-law to that effect. The St. John's Lodge has recently done this. I am satisfied that there would then be but few, if any, candidates refused for want of funds.

If Lodges will not unite for so laudable a purpose, to relieve those whom they have pledged themselves to succour in the "hour of their affliction"—such assistance not being "detrimental to themselves or their connections"—but *witfully* shut their ears to the cries of distress, then, indeed, there is *nothing in Masonry but a name*.

I would urge individual Brethren to solicit subscriptions in aid of the Annuity Fund. If only one Brother in every Lodge would *exert* himself, and collect two or three pounds *annually*, the aggregate would amount to a large sum,—“Blessing him who gives as well as him who receives.”—I am, Dear Sir and Brother,

Faithfully and fraternally yours,

SAMUEL ALDRICH, W.M.,

St. John's Lodge, No. 196.

HAMPSTEAD, March 26th, 1856.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

The celebrated antiquary and Freemason, Elias Ashmole, the founder of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, which led the way to the foundation of the British Museum, in one of his papers says, speaking of the Rev. Richard Harrison, of Lichfield, "My brother Harrison died in 1676." He is not known to have been related to him by ties of consanguinity. Query, was he a Freemason? Well authenticated testimony of this will be acceptable.—R. J. S., Oxford.

FINE ARTS.

We have recently had the pleasure of visiting the studio of Bro. Howell (of No. 342 and No. 763, and P.M. and Honorary Member of the Lodge of Harmony, No. 317, Richmond, Surrey), and inspecting the life-size portraits of our R.W. Prov. Grand Master, the Earl of Mexborough, and his Deputy, Bro. Charles Lee. The artist has been eminently successful in producing strikingly life-like likenesses, and as works of art they are of great value, and prove that Bro. Howell possesses a claim to a high rank among British artists. Many Brethren having wished to have engravings taken from each portrait, a committee has been formed to make arrangements for that purpose. The engravings will be in *mezzo-tinto*, and no more copies will be struck off than are actually subscribed for; it being the intention of the committee, after furnishing the subscribers with the number of copies placed opposite to their names, to have the plates destroyed.

PORTRAIT OF THE LATE M.W.G.M., HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SUSSEX.—A most splendid picture by Lonsdale is in the possession of a family, the head of which was a Freemason, and celebrated for his conversance with the artists and famous productions of the last generation. The survivors wish to dispose of this magnificent painting to some Lodge, and we have great pleasure in making their wishes known to the Craft, some of whom will, we trust, confer the double benefit of serving a Brother's children, and preserving so fine a memorial of our late Grand Master by purchasing it for the Fraternity.

THE NEW HARMONIUM.

In proof of the growing popularity of this beautiful instrument, and of the great success which has attended the efforts of the manufacturers, we find that in the year 1829, when the establishment of Messrs. Alexandre and Son, of Paris, was founded, their annual expenses amounted only to 50,000 francs, whilst in the year 1855 that sum had increased to 1,500,000 francs. In the former period a very small staff of workmen was sufficient to carry on the operations of the *ateliers*, whereas, at the present time, no less than 400 men are constantly employed therein; and the number of instruments in course of construction is never below 500. These facts, however, need not excite surprise, when it is observed that Harmoniums are supplied from that establishment to all parts of the world, and that a very large proportion are imported by Cramer, Beale, & Co., Regent-street, who are so well convinced of their general adaptability to the purposes of the art, that they have embarked a considerable amount of capital in them, and have opened a *depôt*, which is already a source of great attraction to the musical public. That the instrument is a valuable boon to the composer and the *artiste* will at once be admitted from the fact that it is capable of yielding the sonorous tones of an organ, and the more delicate sounds of a pianoforte—in short, the most lively airs, as well as the most sublime passages, can be played upon it with the greatest skill and effect.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

MASONIC REFORM.

A number of Brethren have constituted themselves into a "Masonic Reform Association," one of the principal objects being to obtain such an alteration in the management at head quarters, as will prevent the recurrence of that neglect which is so generally complained of by the Lodges throughout the Order both in England and the Colonies. One of our colonial correspondents complains of having written nineteen letters to the Grand Secretary, none of which have been answered. We shall be glad to receive communications from Brethren having suggestions to make on the subject of Masonic Reform—a subject deeply important to the interests of the Craft.

THE MARK DEGREE.

It will be seen by our report of Grand Lodge, that this degree is now acknowledged as a component part of Freemasonry, and the regulations under which it will be conferred will be shortly issued. We regret that, under the circumstances, the Bon-Accord of Aberdeen, seeing that the cause of difference will now naturally come to an end, should have returned its charter to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, or that the latter body should have suspended any of the members of the former. A little forbearance on both sides is desirable, and we trust that now the differences may be healed, and the proceedings of Masonry be carried on in Scotland with as much harmony as hitherto.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

At the monthly meeting of this Board on the 26th March, eight Brethren, or their widows, were relieved in various sums, amounting to £93.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The usual Quarterly Communication was held on Wednesday, March 5, when there were present the R.W. Bro. Alexander Dobie, Prov. G.M. for Surrey, and Gr. Reg. as G.M. on the Throne; the R.W. Bro. Samuel Rawson, Prov. G.M. for China, as D.G.M.; the R.W. Bro. Charles Preston Cooper, Prov. G.M. for Kent; the R.W. Bro. Henry Atkins Bowyer, Prov. G.M. for Oxford; the R.W. Bro. Robert John Bagshaw, Prov. G.M. for Essex; the R.W. Bro. Dr. B. A. Kent, Prov. G.M. for South Australia; the R.W. Bro. William Stuart, jun., M.P., S.G.W.; the V.W. Bro. Henry W. Eaton, J.G.W.; the V.W. Bro. Samuel Tomkins, G. Treas.; the Rev. Bros. John Edward Cox and E. Moore, G. Chaplains; Herbert Lloyd, S.G.D.; J. Newton Tomkins, J.G.D.; Charles Elkington, G.S.B.; L. Patteson, P.J.G.W.; J. H. Goldsworthy, P.S.G.D.; J. Hervey, P.S.G.D.; Henry Faudel, P.J.G.D.; J. B. King, P.J.G.D.; H. G. K.

Potter, P.J.G.D. ; S. C. Norris, P.J.G.D. ; George Biggs, P.G.S.B. ; R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B. ; J. Masson, P.G.S.B. ; A. A. Le Veau, P.G.S.B. ; William Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec. ; Thory Chapman, Assist. G.D.C. ; George Elkington, G. Purs. ; H. L. Crohn, Rep. from the Grand Lodge of Hamburgh ; J. J. Blake, W.M., and F. Burges, S.W. of the Grand Stewards' Lodge, the Grand Stewards of the year, the Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of many Lodges.

The Grand Lodge was opened in form, with solemn prayer.

Bro. Dobie, presiding as G.M., read a letter from the M.W.G.M., which stated the continued ill-health of Lady Zetland prevented his lordship's attendance on the Grand Lodge, but that he hoped to be present at the festival for the Boys' School. Bro. Dobie also read a communication from the R.W. the Earl of Yarborough, who expressed his regret that a Brother, without his consent, had nominated him for election as Grand Master, which office he could not accept, as his extreme ill-health would prevent his attendance to the duties.

The minutes of the last Grand Lodge were read, and Bro. John Hervey proposed that that portion of the minutes relating to the motion of the Rev. Bro. G. R. Portal, to the effect, "That a printed paper, stating the business to be transacted at every Quarterly Communication, be placed in the hands of every member on his entrance into Grand Lodge," be not confirmed. Bro. Hervey, in opposition to the measure, said, he considered it unnecessary, as at the Board of Masters on the week preceding the Quarterly Communication the business was made known, and the Grand Secretary's office afforded sufficient information to the Brethren generally.

Bro. Dobie said that, had he been in his usual position, and not in the chair, he should have submitted to Grand Lodge the motion made by Bro. Hervey. The Board of Masters was framed for the purpose of announcing to the Fraternity the business to be discussed, and notice was placed in the Grand Secretary's office for the same purpose, where any Brother might obtain whatever information he desired. (Cries of "No, no.") Well, he (Bro. Dobie) was never refused information. (This excited some laughter.) He also urged, as a lawyer, that a motion might be made to suspend a Brother for some alleged misconduct, upon which an action for libel might be maintained ; he, therefore, deprecated the proposal for printing the formula of business to be transacted as suggested.

Bro. Binckes, W.M., of No. 11, was sorry to find that Bro. Hervey opposed Bro. Portal's motion, which had met with the approval of the Grand Lodge, and that Bro. Dobie should have given his weight to the opposition. A large number of the Brethren considered it highly desirable that all should know the proceedings to be brought forward, so that they might have some short time to deliberate ere they were called upon to vote. As to the risk, so dreaded, of publicity, they all knew that a periodical devoted to Masonry was issued monthly, by which the world at large might be informed of their proceedings. He could not but protest against the presiding officer of such an assemblage as was then present throwing the weight of his influence to check so desirable a measure.

Bro. Cooper, Prov. G.M. for Kent, thought that Bro. Hervey had not advanced one word to counteract what had been urged by Bro. Portal when he brought his motion forward. Bro. Hervey had admitted some kind of publicity to be needed ; and if writing was proper, why not printing ? If the argument was worth anything at all, it aided Bro. Portal's suggestion : there ought to be full and perfect publicity of the proceedings of Grand Lodge given to every Lodge in the country. Their Institution was popular, and every Member ought to be in a position to exercise his judgment fairly on all matters that might come before him. He considered Masonry to be in a state of transition, and he advised those who were at the head of affairs, that if they desired it should maintain its high prestige, they should go with the tide, and bear in mind the resistance that was offered to the publication of the proceedings of the House of Commons, which were now on the breakfast-table of every man the next morning. He should ever be an advocate for the Masonic body assimilating its proceedings as closely as possible with those of the Legislature.

Bro. G. R. Portal, in answer to the objections raised to his motion, was sure that the G. M. *pro tem.* was guided by the sentiments of others, and did not act

upon his own opinions. With respect to the publicity of the notice at the Board of Masters, it was insufficient, as country members could not attend it; therefore, if the scheme at present in practice was found not to work well, they ought to remedy it. As to the objection of danger arising from the framing the papers, of course great discretion must be exercised in the performance of that duty.

Bro. W. W. H. Beach, Prov. G.S.W., Oxon, before the minutes were confirmed, was desirous of knowing why the Report of the Board of General Purposes contained no mention of the secession of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West. He knew that the Board was in possession of information deeply important to the interests of Masonry, and he therefore moved that the minutes be not confirmed.

Bro. Townend, P.M. Nos. 22 and 491, seconded Bro. Beech's motion, and expressed his deep regret that the Board had omitted a matter of such high importance from their Report. The Grand Lodge ought to be made acquainted with everything connected with it. The Board had to take into consideration whether the complaints of our Canadian Brethren were well founded or not, and he asked, why was the Grand Lodge not made acquainted with the result of the investigation of the Board of General Purposes?

Bro. Dobie, as President of the Board of General Purposes, said he was not in town at the time the matter came before the Board, and was therefore unacquainted with the business.

The minutes were eventually confirmed. Bro. Dobie then said, as it was the period for electing the G.M. for the ensuing year, he called upon Bro. Bradford, who had nominated the Earl of Zetland. (Bro. Bradford was not present, and no one rose to move the re-election of the G.M.) He then called on Bro. Westall, P.M. of No. 356, who had nominated the Earl of Yarborough.

Bro. the Rev. W. Westall said, that seeing how little attention the present G.M. gave their affairs, and how sadly the business was neglected, he, as well as many others, thought it high time to make a change; and when, at the preceding Grand Lodge, a member had nominated Lord Yarborough, he took it for granted that Brother had his lordship's permission for the nomination; but as Lord Yarborough declined the honour, he (Bro. Westall) must withdraw the proposal.

Bro. Dobie said, that as there was only the Earl of Zetland nominated, he should declare him to be re-elected.

This, we believe, is the first time that no one has come forward to propose the re-election of Lord Zetland.

Bro. Thory Chapman, Assist. G.D.C., then proclaimed the Earl of Zetland duly elected, and called on the Brethren to salute in the usual manner.

Bro. Barrett proposed, and Bro. Herbert Lloyd seconded, the proposal, that Bro. Samuel Tompkins be re-elected Treasurer, to which there was not a dissentient voice.

Bro. Farnfield, A.G. Sec., then read the Report of the Finance of the Grand Lodge.

The Report of the Board of Benevolence showed that the

	£.	s.	d.
Amount brought forward	521	15	7
Since received	617	11	8
<hr/>			
Making a total of	1,139	7	3
That there had been paid	58	0	0
<hr/>			
Leaving the present balance	1,081	7	3
That of the Fund for General Purposes, there was			
brought forward	986	15	2
Since received	604	4	9
<hr/>			
Making a total of	1,590	19	11
That there had been paid	629	5	0
<hr/>			
Leaving in the hands of the Treasurer	961	14	11

That at the Lodge of Benevolence on the			
December, 5 petitions were relieved with	48	0	0
January, 11 do do	98	0	0
February, 6 do do	70	0	0

The Board of General Purposes reported, that the committee for investigating the subject of the Mark Degree had decided that it formed no part of the Royal Arch Degree, but they were of opinion it was a link between the Second and Third Degrees of Craft Masonry, and as it was not at variance with the constitution, the committee recommend it be added to the F. C. Degree.

The Board of General Purposes also reported that the experiment of lighting the Temple by candles was satisfactory, but that chandeliers were required, and recommended that four large and two small glass chandeliers be provided, at a cost of £150. That there was now funded

On account of the Fund of Benevolence	£16,000
Ditto ditto for General Purposes	7,000

Bro. Herbert Lloyd, S.G.D., after a few remarks on the subject, moved:—“That the Degree of Mark Mason is not at variance with Craft Masonry, and that it be added thereto, under proper regulations;”—which was carried.

Bro. Symonds asked whether there was any suggestion for the better ventilation of the Temple. A general opinion was expressed that the Grand Lodge on that evening ought to have been held in the Hall.

The report of the Board of General Purposes was confirmed.

Bro. Airey, of Jamaica, said, in rising to submit a motion of great importance to the well-being of the Order, he disclaimed all intention in noticing the matter in any way, to reflect on the Grand Master or Grand Secretary; but it was notorious that a great number of communications sent to the United Grand Lodge had been unanswered; the dues of the Lodges in the West Indies were regularly remitted, and that therefore their communications were entitled to be acknowledged with courtesy; and his own Lodge had resolved, in consequence of the non-attention of the Supreme Grand Lodge, to discontinue their payments. Questions had been mooted which had been referred to the Grand Master, and in consequence of no answer being returned, the matters remained in abeyance nearly three years. It was true, the Prov. Grand Master had decided upon them, but still there was great difference of opinion, and much evil would ensue if things remained in this unsettled state any longer; he therefore moved:—“That all matters relating to the colonies be referred to a committee to be appointed for that purpose.”

Bro. Mason, in seconding the motion, said there was evidently a want of attention at head-quarters; and remarked that it might occur that some subjects would be referred to the Grand Secretary that possibly were improper to answer, but even then an acknowledgment ought to be sent.

Bro. Herbert Lloyd urged that there was the Board of General Purposes, to which any Lodge or Brother might send their complaint, and that there was no need of another committee.

Bro. Airey, in reply, said the matters he referred to were not complaints, but questions of doubt, to be decided by the Grand Master.

The question was then put, and carried by a large majority.

The Grand Master *pro tem.* then called on the mover to name the committee; but he, being a stranger to all but a few, was desirous some other person would select the committee; whereupon a member rose to propose one name, upon which Bro. Dobie ruled that no one but the mover could be allowed to do so.

The following Brethren were then named:—G. R. Portal, Rev. W. E. Lyall, Jos. Smith, J. Barrett, G. Bigg, Winn, Shuttleworth, Mason, Lambert, White, Dr. Kent, S. Rawson, Col. Burlton, S. Hervey, H. Lloyd.

Bro. Townend, in pursuance of notice, rose, and disclaimed all design of personality in the observations he should make in reference to the conduct of the Grand Lodge Officers, as those remarks had bearing only in their official capacities. The subject-matter he desired to bring before the Grand Lodge was the

secession of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, caused by the neglect of repeated applications being even acknowledged. He would read the report of the Sub-Committee, and he should be much surprised if the Grand Lodge then assembled did not resolve that very gross neglect and discourtesy had been shown to the Canadian Brethren, to the very serious injury, not only to them, but Masonry in general. It appeared that not only Canada West, but also many Lodges under our Constitution in distant parts of the globe, had reiterated the same complaint. He (Bro. Townend) had made every effort, through the Board of General Purposes, to get a reply from the Grand Master, but in vain; the only notice the Grand Master had given to the subject was that he had written to the Grand Lodge of Canada *East* for information; and he could not but think that the Brethren in Canada had abundant reason for saying they were treated with contempt. He then moved:—"That the report of the Sub-Committee appointed to inquire into the complaint of the Lodges in Canada West be printed, and circulated throughout the Craft."

The following is the report:—

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS IN ENGLAND.

To the Board of General Purposes.

The Report of the Committee appointed by your Board to inquire into the Petition, Allegations, and Statements, made by, or on behalf of, certain Brethren of the Craft in the province of Canada West.

The Committee proceeded upon the said inquiry on Friday, the 7th of September instant, and having deemed it expedient to propound certain questions in writing, to be answered by the Grand Secretary, or the Officers in the Grand Secretary's Office, relating to the matters in question, the Committee adjourned to Friday, the 21st of September instant; when, after giving full consideration to the answers to such questions, and the statements made to the Committee by the Grand Secretary, the Committee find,

That communications had been made to the Grand Secretary from certain Brethren in Canada West, requesting that (with a view to saving expense) the Warrants and Certificates should not be forwarded by post, but that they should be sent through Messrs. Bainbridge and Co., merchants, of London, who would take charge of the documents, and forward them in parcels, with other things, directed to Mr. Hugh Scobie, of Toronto.

That applications were several times made to Messrs. Bainbridge and Co. to ascertain when they would be sending out parcels in which such Warrants and Certificates could be included, and that on the last of such applications the messenger was informed that Mr. Scobie was dead, and that therefore no further parcels could be forwarded addressed to him.

That no communications were received in reference to such Warrants and Certificates, which had been regularly made out ready to be forwarded, and would have been sent had it been known to whom they were to be directed.

That further inquiries were made as to the means of sending out the said documents, and ultimately it was ascertained that they could be forwarded to Mr. William O'Niel Holmes, through Messrs. Foster, Porter, and Co., of Woodstreet, and they were accordingly sent to him on the 14th of August, 1854.

That the remittances referred to in the petition were received in letters severally dated the 5th and 19th of March, 1853, and respectively received on the 22nd of March and 4th of April, 1853; and the Committee regret to add that no proof was adduced to them of such remittances having been acknowledged, and no satisfactory reason suggested for the omission.

That the petition to the Most Worshipful Grand Master from the said Brethren of Canada West, appears to have been received on the 19th of December, 1853, but, in consequence of his absence from town, the same was not laid before him until the latter end of February, 1854.

That no directions have been given on the subject of the said petition, which remains unanswered to this time.

That in regard to the prayer of the same petition, asking that the Constitution

of the United Grand Lodge of England should be altered in the way proposed by the said petition, the Committee humbly submit that the expediency and propriety of complying with or rejecting the prayer rests with the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

The Committee lament that the omissions to acknowledge the remittances should have occurred, although they appear to have been regularly entered in the Books, and earnestly recommend that more attention and vigilance be observed in the office of the Grand Secretary for the future.

September 25, 1855.

(Signed) G. BARRETT.

Bro. Beach immediately rose to second the motion, which he remarked required no eloquence to enforce on their attention. There were manifest signs of an unhealthy state, and if the seeds of decay were allowed to spread, the fabric of Masonry would be speedily destroyed. Other Provincial Lodges would follow the example of Canada West, and many more serious evils result.

The W.M. of No. 214, Canada East, who was honoured by a seat on the dais, made some remarks, to the effect that his Lodge did not coincide with their western Brethren. The eastern Lodges maintained their allegiance.

The motion was put, and carried by a very large majority.

Bro. Barrett then brought forward the motion of which Bro. H. G. Warren had given notice, Bro. Warren being unable to be present owing to his absence from London. He began by reminding those present, who must have had opportunities of seeing the discomfort to which the ladies were subjected on all the occasions of the Festivals of the Charities, for want of space in the Glee-room. The approaching Festival in aid of the Boys' School, it was anticipated, would require more room than ever had been demanded on any previous occasion, and, as the organ of the Board of Stewards, he moved:—"That the use of the Temple be allowed to the Board of Stewards for the ensuing Festival in aid of the Boys' School, for the purposes of a music-room."

The motion was seconded by Bro. Herbert Lloyd, who argued that as the object was to assist a good purpose, although some might object, still the end would justify the means.

Bro. Rev. J. E. Cox, G. Chap., opposed the motion, urging that the room in question was solemnly dedicated to Masonic purposes, and they ought not to adopt this first step towards its being devoted to any other use. He would move that the motion be negatived.

There was some discussion as to whether the Temple had been consecrated by the late G.M., the Duke of Sussex; and

Bro. Barrett said, he and Bro. Farnfield had searched the Minute Book, and there was no mention made of its having been consecrated; he found that at the first meeting of the Grand Lodge in the Temple, it was recorded that the Grand Lodge was opened in the new Masonic Hall in ample form.

Bro. Dobie said, he was informed by Bro. White, the G. Sec., that the Temple was dedicated, and he expressed his disapprobation of the resolution; whereupon the mover and the seconder consented, to the great surprise of many present, to withdraw the motion.

It was now past eleven, and the Grand Lodge was closed.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

CANADA.—Bro. the Rev. Geo. R. Portal, P. Prov. S.G.W. for Oxon., and P.M. No. 10, has written to inform us that as, after due consideration, it appears to him that the only course for Grand Lodge to pursue is to grant all possible freedom and powers of self-government to Canadian Masons, without entirely severing their connection with this country, he will (D.V.) bring forward the following notice at the next Quarterly Communication:—"That, in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, it is expedient that the Prov. G. L. of Canada West should enjoy all the immunities and privileges of an *independent Grand Lodge*, save and except, that it shall once in every three years submit the names of two or more Brethren to the M.W. the G.M. of England, who shall appoint one of them to be Prov.

G.M. ; and the Prov. G.M. so appointed shall exercise the same powers within his Province as are exercised by the M.W. the G.M. in England. That it is further expedient that the *same privileges* be accorded to *other foreign Prov. Grand Lodges on their petition* ; and the M.W. the G.M. is hereby respectfully requested to carry this resolution into effect at as early a period as possible :” and also, “ That the thanks of this G.L. are due, and are hereby given, to those Canadian Lodges which have maintained their allegiance to the M.W. the G.M. and the G.L. of England.”

THE CHARITY JEWEL.—Bro. Henry G. Warren, P.M. No. 202, will move, at the next quarterly communication of Grand Lodge, a resolution as follows:— “ That whereas the present regulation, under which the Charity Jewel can only be worn by Brethren who have served as Stewards at the festivals of the ‘ Royal Freemasons’ Charity for Female Children ’ and the ‘ Royal Masonic Institution for Boys,’ is manifestly unjust towards the ‘ Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows,’ in consequence of the Brethren serving as Stewards at the festivals of that institution not enjoying a corresponding privilege with the Stewards of the other charities ; it is resolved, that henceforth Brethren serving as Stewards at the festivals of any two of the Masonic charities shall be entitled to wear the Charity Jewel, and that on serving the office of Steward to the third charity, they shall be at liberty, in addition thereto, to wear an emblematic clasp on the ribbon by which such jewel is suspended.”

“ THE TEMPLE.”—Bro. Binckes, W.M. No. 11, has given notice of his intention to move, at the next Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the following resolution : “ That, with a view to remedy the urgent want of increased accommodation felt by the proprietors of the Freemasons’ Tavern, this Grand Lodge resolves, that, pending any contemplated arrangements or plans for providing such accommodation, the use of the new Masonic Hall (generally known as the Temple) be granted to the proprietors on all occasions when required by the legitimate exigencies of business, on the same terms as it is now granted when its use is desired for ordinary Masonic purposes.”

THE BOYS’ SCHOOL.

The annual festival in aid of this institution was held at the Freemasons’ Tavern on the 12th March, when, in consequence of the exertions making to raise a fund for the erection or purchase of a suitable school-house, there was an unusually numerous attendance—nearly 300 Brethren sitting down to dinner, and there being about 100 ladies in the gallery. The chair was occupied by the M.W. G.M., the Earl of Zetland, in consequence of the unavoidable absence, through illness, of Lord Londesborough, P.G. Warden, who had promised to preside. His lordship was supported by Bros. Purton Cooper, Q.C., Prov. G.M. for Kent ; Samuel Rawson, Prov. G.M. for China ; Robert John Bagshaw, Prov. G.M. for Essex ; Edward Baldwin, P.J.G.W. ; George W. K. Potter, P.J.G.D. ; Bonamy Dobree, P.S.G.W. ; John Hervey, V.P., P.S.G.D. ; Thomas Bisgood, Dep. Prov. G.M. for Kent, Lord North, &c. &c.

The M.W. G.M., in proposing the first toast, said it was one which all the Brethren would readily anticipate as that which could be given in no society in England without respect and admiration of the many virtues of the illustrious personage whose health it comprehended—a respect and admiration in which none shared more zealously or more loyally than the Freemasons of England. (Hear.) He would, then, without farther comment, give them the “ Health of her Majesty.” The queen, in addition to other claims, was also the patroness of the institution. The toast was drunk with all the honours.

The W.M. said, the toast which he had now the honour to propose was not one of those usually given on the festival days of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, but was one on the present occasion peculiarly appropriate. While Europe was engaged in a sanguinary war, England was cultivating the arts of peace, and her commerce was flourishing to a greater extent than at any former period. They themselves, too, had on that day assembled in unusual numbers in the

cause of charity, to support an institution devoted to the education of the children of Freemasons—a proof that the country was not suffering from the effects of the war. To what, he would ask, were they indebted for that state of things? They were indebted for it to the army and navy of Great Britain. It was to the martial glory of the former that they were indebted for their present flourishing condition, and it was the navy of England by which their commerce was protected and that of the enemy injured. He, therefore, hoped that they would now join with him in drinking “Success to the Army and Navy.” The toast having been received with great applause,

Bro. Cooper, Prov. G.M. of Kent, said that the W.M. had intrusted him with the gavel, and he was quite sure they would agree with him that he was making a very good use of his temporary authority in proposing to them the “Health of the M.W. their Grand Master.” He knew that he was proposing to them the health of a Brother who had the good of Freemasonry at heart, and that he was speaking to an assembly of Brethren who felt grateful to those who, either in their own persons or in the persons of their ancestors, had conferred benefits upon the Order. (Hear.) In the chairman of the evening they had not only the Earl of Zetland, but the representative of a long line of his ancestors who had been distinguished as Masons; for both his father and his grandfather had been Pro-Grand Masters of England, and they all knew that his late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, who had the fullest confidence in the Masonic virtues of the present peer, nominated him to the same high office. He should not detain the Brethren further, but conclude by calling on them to drink the “Health of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, the Chairman of the evening, and Most Worshipful Grand Master of England.” The toast having been most cordially responded to,

The Earl of Zetland, M.W. G.M., begged the Brethren to accept his grateful thanks for the kind manner in which they had received the toast of his health. It was with great satisfaction that he felt himself able to be present on that occasion, as he had very much feared that domestic affliction would have precluded him from that gratification, and he had actually sent his excuses to the Board of Stewards. Happily he found that circumstances had occurred to relieve him from that difficulty, and he could only say that he was presiding most unexpectedly, for he had not been aware previously to his entering the house that his excellent friend and Brother, the Earl of Londesborough, who was to have presided, had been obliged to absent himself on account of severe illness (hear, hear); and he had just received from that excellent Brother a letter, in which he stated that he was labouring under a severe attack of influenza. Under these circumstances, finding that the stewards wished him to undertake the office of chairman, he at once complied with their desire, trusting that the Brethren, in their forbearance and kindness, would make every allowance for his want of preparation, and hoping that the charity might not suffer in any way from the change in the programme. Bro. Cooper had been kind enough to allude to the part which his (Lord Zetland’s) ancestors, both father and grandfather, played in Masonry, and on that point he had to say that he felt it to be a great honour and a great satisfaction that his family should have been so identified with the Craft. It had ever been his object since he first joined the Order to do everything in his power to carry out the noble and blessed principles of Masonry, and he thought he might say that owing to the kindness which he had received from his Brethren in every part of the kingdom, Masonry, but more especially the Masonic charities, had flourished since he had been called upon to fill the high office in the Order which he at present occupied. This increasing prosperity was an earnest that the great objects which they had in view with respect to those charities would be fully carried out, and he had no doubt but that the result of the present festival would materially advance them. He would again thank them for the kindness with which they had received him, and in conclusion begged leave to drink all their very good healths. (Great applause.)

The M.W. G.M. again rose and said, that he had now a toast to propose which could not but be gratifying to the Brethren. They were all well aware of the high Masonic merits of the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl of Yarborough (hear, hear), and those of them who were connected with the management of the Boys’ School knew how important were the services which he had rendered that

institution. (Hear, hear.) He had the great satisfaction—a satisfaction, however, alloyed with regret that his relative and excellent Brother was still suffering from illness—to propose to them the “Health of the Earl of Yarborough,” for he knew that his heart was with them, and that his liberality to the charities of the Craft was as great as ever; and in conjunction with the toast he would couple the names of the worthy Brethren, the Past and Present Grand Officers.

Bro. Bagshaw, Prov. G.M. of Essex, briefly replied to the compliment.

The boys, whose appearance gave general satisfaction, having been introduced into the room,

The M.W. G.M. rose and said, as he considered the toast which he was now about to give a most important one, he would beg of them to lend him their attention for a short time and to be silent. The toast which he had to propose was, “Prosperity to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys;” and, in doing so, he wished to bring as prominently as it was in his power before the Brethren what might be the best manner of benefiting that charity which they had met together to promote. There were now seventy boys, the sons of their deceased or decayed Brethren, on the books of the institution, receiving their education in various parts of England, but it was obvious that in these times, when there were such facilities for travelling and when the cost for doing so in a convenient manner was so trifling, that if they had a large building situated at a convenient distance from the metropolis and formed on the best model, many of those parents who now selected a school in their own immediate neighbourhood for the education of their boys, would gladly embrace the opportunity of sending them to it for their clothing, maintenance, and the best possible education they could obtain. It was in the year 1852 that the idea was first broached of founding an institution such as would answer the purposes he had just mentioned, and there had been since then collected for that object a fund which now amounted to £2,500, besides a farther sum of £500 voted by the Grand Lodge as a sustentation-fund, to be applied to keeping the building, when erected, in suitable repair. Now it was obvious that a large sum of money was still required to enable the committee to carry into effect the object which they had in view, and he might say if they could now double the sum which they had in hand they might fairly commence the work, as he had not the slightest doubt that every year the funds in aid of it would be increased. To give them some idea of the interest taken by the Brethren in the institution, he might mention, that whereas in 1826, just thirty years ago, its funded property had been only £900, it at the present moment amounted to £11,500 (hear, hear)—a pretty good proof that the Masonic charities had received some attention from the members of the Craft. (Great applause.) The object of the present meeting was of a twofold character. The first was to increase the funds of the charity generally, and the other to add to the building fund, and papers would be handed round to enable the Brethren to contribute to one or both of those funds, for both were every way deserving of their patronage. (Hear, hear.) It was evident that when they got their building erected they would require a large increase to the amount of their annual subscriptions, and he doubted not, from what he knew of the Brethren, they would be ready to contribute to it. Here, however, he wished to remark that centralization was not his object, nor was it that of the general body of the subscribers to the building-fund. (Hear, hear.) The sending of boys to the school which they proposed to establish should be perfectly voluntary, and the same opportunities would be given to the parents, as at present, of getting their sons educated in their own immediate neighbourhood, if they preferred it. (Hear, hear.) Of the seventy boys now on the books of the institution there were thirty-five receiving their education in London, so that it was apparent that if the plan which he had sketched were carried into effect all these could be brought together under one roof, and that very soon, instead of having in London only one-half the number of children under their protection, they would have at least three-fourths; for although, as he had already remarked, there would be perfect freedom of action left to the parents, yet as it would soon become known that the boys in their own school received the best education that could possibly be given to them, even those who resided at a distance from the metropolis would feel desirous to see their

children participate to the full in these advantages. The school, when established, would be conducted in the best possible manner; and, as he took it for granted that Masons did not like to do things by halves, he felt sure that after a few years more they would be able to do a great deal extra in the direction of affording education to the sons of their Brethren, because the benefits arising from the system of bringing them together would soon be estimated by the Masons throughout the country, and as the merits of the school became better known there would be a greater demand to obtain the education which it afforded. He had no doubt their efforts would be responded to by the Craft, and he hoped to live to see the day when, instead of seventy, they would be able to maintain and educate 200 or more. (Loud cheers.) But to attain that object it was obvious that their funds must be increased—they should therefore be liberal in subscribing not only to the general fund, but also endeavour to put the building fund on a more satisfactory footing. He had now got through all the topics on which he thought it desirable to dwell, and he trusted that their subscriptions would show that they well cared for the education of the sons of their poorer Brethren. (Great cheering.)

Bro. G. Hervey, P.G.S.D., then presented to his lordship those boys who, at the recent examination, had been selected as the most deserving of reward for their good conduct and proficiency in their studies; when his lordship presented to them the prizes awarded to them by the examiners.

The toast of the Stewards was acknowledged by Bro. S. Hervey, P.G.S.D., after which his lordship called on the Brethren to close the festivities of the evening by drinking a bumper to the health of the ladies who had graced the festival by their appearance in the gallery; a request which was gallantly complied with, and the company retired to the Glee-room.

In the course of the proceedings, Bro. Thisselton, the Secretary, read a list of subscriptions and donations, amounting to nearly £1,500, about two-thirds of which were for the Building Fund. The following is the list, with the Lodges of the Stewards (G. standing for General, and B. for Building Fund):—The Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M., £10. 10s. G., and £52. 10s. B.; No. 1 (two Stewards), £37. 8s. G., £22. 1s. B.; No. 2, £11. 10s. B.; No. 3 (two Stewards), £34. 1s. G., £8. 8s. B.; No. 4, £19. 13s. G., £10. 10s. B.; No. 5, £82. 19s. B.; No. 7 (including five or six Stewards, members of Grand Lodge), £25. 9s. G., £132. 16s. B.; No. 8, £20. 18s. G.; £30. 9s. B.; No. 11, £23. 2s. B.; No. 12, £15. 15s. G.; No. 14, £42. G., £10. 10s. B.; Fo. 29 (two Stewards), £9. 9s. G.; No. 32, £27. 6s. G.; No. 38, £26. 5s. G.; No. 40, £43. 7s. B.; No. 57, £28. 7s. 6d. B.; No. 66, £34. 13s. B.; No. 103, £11. 11s. B.; No. 108, £19. 19s. G.; No. 118, £23 G.; No. 125, £13. 12s. G., £1. 1s. B.; No. 188 (two Stewards), £21 G.; No. 201, £2. 2s. G., £22. 1s. B.; No. 212, £147. 19s. G.; No. 233 (two Stewards), £39. 18s. G., £42. B.; No. 247, £18. 7s. 6d. G.; No. 275, £2. 2s. G., £61. 18s. 6d. B.; No. 318, £48. 6s. G.; No. 324, £33. 12s. G., £21 B.; No. 460, £15. 15s. G., £29. 8s. B.; No. 689, £58. 1s. B.; No. 745, £21. 11s. 6d. G.; No. 778, £22. 1s. B.; No. 805, £36. 15s. B. In addition to the Earl of Yarborough, Lord Londesborough, who was to have been the chairman of the evening, sent a donation of £52. 10s.

[We cannot conclude our notice without protesting against the long speeches, the more especially of Bro. Purton Cooper (who, we are aware, has the interests of Masonry at heart), by which the Brethren were in many instances put out of temper, and scenes occurred which all must deeply deplore—whilst the ladies, who came to hear a musical entertainment, were greatly disappointed, only three songs being sung in addition to the National Anthem. It is true that there was at the conclusion of the festival a little music in that horribly-crowded “black-hole” the Glee-room, which nobody could enjoy. Indeed, the Glee-room would be done away with entirely, or a more convenient room provided, were it not that old prejudices cannot be easily swept away; for we have never yet met a lady who has not declared it to be an intolerable nuisance, and that they only enter it to wait for their husbands and brothers, and are glad to escape from it at the earliest possible moment. The musical arrangements were intrusted to Bro. Donald King, who was assisted by Miss M. Poole, Miss M. Wells, Bros. Francis and Winn, and Messrs. Cumming and Coward, who presided at the pianoforte. Miss

Wells received a deserved encore in "Oh, yes, I love thee," when she substituted "Bonnie Dundee." Bro. Herr Rabich played a solo on the trombone with great taste. And here we have another ground of complaint, viz. the admission of non-Brethren to take part in the musical arrangements on these occasions, it being decidedly unjust towards our professional Brethren. Above all, these gentlemen ought not to be allowed to dine in the hall, as all but Masons should be carefully excluded from the dinner-table. When will the Stewards learn their duty?—Ed. *F. M. & M. M.*]

METROPOLITAN.

GRAND STEWARDS' LODGE.—The first public night of the year was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 19th of March, when Bro. Burgess, the W.M., assisted by Bros. Cotwall, Tomkins, Blake, Hewlett, and Johnson, most ably worked the first Lecture.

LODGE OF ANTIQUITY (No. 2).—This ancient and venerable Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, Wednesday, February 27th. The business of the evening was merely of a formal nature. The visitors were Bros. Veal, No. 229; Crew, No. 1; and Bros. King, George, and Jolley. The latter Brethren sang several pieces of music, the property of the Lodge, to the great satisfaction of the members; and in the course of the evening Bro. Crew rendered his valuable assistance towards the harmony of the meeting.

SOMERSET HOUSE AND INVERNESS LODGE (No. 4).—This Lodge had its usual meeting on the 24th March, under the presidency of Bro. Roxburgh, W.M., when a candidate was initiated, a Brother passed, and another raised to their respective Degrees. Bros. Ransford and Jolley contributed to the enjoyment of the evening.

ROYAL YORK LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE (No. 7).—On Wednesday the 19th of March, the members of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, under the direction of their esteemed W.M., Bro. John Hervey, Prov. G.S.D. The business of the evening consisted of the passing of Bro. Rock Chidley, the ceremony being performed by the W.M. with much care and ability. At the banquet the chair was taken by Bro. Hervey, who having proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, gave "The Army and Navy." Bro. Ford, No. 13, of H.M.'s Royal Artillery, in a neat speech, returned thanks. The W.M.'s health, proposed by Bro. P.M. Hopwood; "The Visitors and Bro. Binckes;" "The Past Masters;" "The members not in office," acknowledged by Bro. Bohn, and many other toasts, were given during the evening, all of which were responded to with right hearty good feeling. The harmony of the evening was much enlivened by the excellent singing of Bros. Bigg, John Gurton, May, &c. The visitors were as usual very numerous, and among them we noticed Bros. Binckes, W.M., No. 11; John Gurton, W.M., No. 211; Graves, P.M., No. 329; Haward, P.M., No. 108; Richard Brown, No. 13; Ford, No. 13; Phillips, No. 113, &c. &c.

BRITISH LODGE (No. 8).—This highly-distinguished Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, Monday, 17th March. The W.M. initiated a gentleman into the Order. The Lodge was then closed, and after the banquet the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk, and with that of the Grand Officers the W.M. coupled the name of Bro. Purton Cooper, Prov. G.M. of Kent, whose eminent services in the cause of Masonry were well known and appreciated. Bro. Cooper returned thanks for the Grand Officers, and said that as he had been anonymously informed that his speeches were too long, he would take care they were not so on the present or any future occasion. Bro. Noke, Treasurer, proposed the health of the W.M., and congratulated the Lodge on having a Brother in the chair who, either in the character of an English gentleman or a Mason, added so much to the

pleasure of the society in which he mixed. The W.M. expressed his regret that his time was too much occupied to give that attention to Masonry he could wish, but pledged himself to discharge his duties to the best of his ability, as far as time and circumstances would permit. He then in due course proposed the health of the Past Masters, and with them the Treasurer and Secretary, and afterwards the officers, thanking them severally and collectively for their great attention to their respective duties. Previously to the latter toast the health of the visitors was drunk, Bros. Mackenzie, No. 7; Hunter, 76; Lyons, 167; Phillipe, 235; and Nabich, of the Bienfaisant, Belgium; the W.M. thanking them for their attendance, and more especially the latter, who had afforded so much amusement and delight to the Brethren by his eminent musical abilities, displayed in solos on the trombone, accompanied by a youthful pianist.

THE ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—The usual monthly meeting of the members of this excellent Lodge was held on the evening of the 4th March, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on which occasion Bro. Woods, the W.M., most impressively raised three Brethren to the Sublime Degree of Master Masons. The business of the Lodge having been concluded, the Brethren, about twenty-two in number, retired to refreshment, and spent a most agreeable evening, heightened by the harmony of Bros. Perryman, Mitchell, Burton, &c. &c. The visitors were Bro. Robinson, of the British Lodge, No. 8, and Bro. Vials.

WESTMINSTER AND KEYSTONE LODGE (No. 10).—A meeting of the above Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, March 5th. Present—Bros. Lyall, W.M.; W. Portal, S.W.; Bowyer, Prov. G.M. Oxon, as J.W.; Spiers, P.G.S.B. as S.D.; Codrington, as J.D.; Beach, Treas.; G. Portal, Sec.; Udall, P.M.; Best, Davies, Lord North, Hon. W. Vernon, Earl of Carnarvon, Tyssen, Hammerton, F. Beaumont, Hon. W. Amherst, Thompson, and Symonds; P.M., No. 275; S.W., No. 21; Singer, W.M., No. 21; and Westall, Prov. G. Chap. for Warwickshire, as visitors. After the Lodge had been opened in due form and with solemn prayer, a ballot was taken for Bros. Viscount Howard, No. 460; Joy, No. 702; Musgrave, No. 460; F. Beaumont, No. 460; Newmarch, No. 862; Kennard, No. 460; as joining members, when they were declared to be duly elected. A ballot was then taken for Samuel Lancaster Lucas, Esq., as a candidate for initiation, and he was declared to be duly elected. Bros. the Earl of Carnarvon and Captain the Hon. W. A. Amherst were passed; and Bros. Tyssen, Hammerton, and F. Beaumont, were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Masons. After the Lodge had been closed in the Third and Second Degrees, it was resolved, on the motion of Bro. the Rev. G. Portal, seconded by Bro. Lyall, W.M., "That this Lodge desires to lend its hearty assistance in supporting the testimonial proposed to be presented to Bro. Beach, at Oxford." Bro. the Rev. G. Portal, expressed his hope that the Brethren would support him as Steward for this Lodge and for the Apollo, No. 460, at the approaching Boys' Festival. He also read the report of the Sub-committee of the Board of General Purposes relative to Canada, and explained the course proposed to be pursued in Grand Lodge on the subject. The Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren adjourned to a banquet; after which those who were members of Grand Lodge attended the Quarterly Communication.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—This excellent and numerous Lodge met at the Freemasons Tavern, Wednesday, 12th March. Bro. Binckes initiated three gentlemen into the Order, in that expressive and energetic manner for which he is so justly admired. He then presented a Past Master's jewel to the late Master, Bro. Spooner, stating the pleasure he felt in investing him with a small mark of the respect of the Brethren, so justly due to him for the able manner in which he had discharged his duties while in the chair. After a feeling reply from Bro. Spooner, the Lodge adjourned to dine at the Festival of the Boys' School.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—The Brethren of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, Thursday, March 20th. The W.M. raised three Brethren to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, and passed one to the Degree of Fellow Craft, in the performance of which the ancient character of the Lodge for working was

ably maintained. He then presented the immediate Past Master, Bro. Humphrey, with a jewel, as a small mark of the esteem of the Brethren for the able manner in which he had at all times discharged his duties, but more especially while Master of the Lodge.

CASTLE LODGE OF HARMONY (No. 27).—This Lodge held its usual meeting at the Thatched House Tavern, St. James's-street, on the 25th February. The W.M. Bro. Robert Wheeler, on this occasion, initiated the celebrated Arctic traveller Dr. Rae, lately returned to England from a long and fruitless search after Sir John Franklin. The new Brother, on returning thanks, complimented the W.M. and the Lodge on the impressive manner in which this interesting ceremony was imparted to him; and as he was about leaving England for a foreign shore, he was confident, from being a free and accepted member of this ancient fraternity, it would very much assist him in his future researches.

ST. ALBAN'S LODGE (No. 32).—The monthly meeting of this Old Red Apron Lodge was held on Monday the 10th March, at the London Coffee-house, Ludgate-hill. The principal business consisted in the payment of a tribute of respect to the memory of the late lamented Bro. H. Emly, P.M., Prov. G.S., Treas. and Sec. of No. 32, and the election of a Treasurer in his stead. The following resolutions were proposed by Bro. R. Dames, P.M. and Prov. G.S., seconded by Bro. Thomas Hutchings, W.M., and carried unanimously, "That the Lodge do go into mourning for Bro. H. Emly, whom, since the last meeting, it has pleased the G.A.O.T.U. to summon to the Grand Lodge above, full of years and full of honours. That, in paying this last tribute to departed worth, the Brethren desire to transmit to their successors the grateful sense they entertain of the eminent services rendered by Bro. Emly to the St. Alban's Lodge, and to record their unfeigned regret for the loss of a P.M., whose matchless skill as a Mason was only equalled by his sterling worth as a man, and his kindness and courtesy as a Brother. That the foregoing resolutions be entered upon the minutes of the Lodge, and a copy be forwarded to our Brother, Ensign Henry Frank Emly, in sympathy and condolence for his heavy bereavement, and with the expression of fraternal regard, and earnest wishes that he may emulate the good qualities of his late father." A ballot took place for Treasurer, when Bro. Richard Dames was duly elected and invested. Bro. Samuel Ebor Nutt, of the Union Lodge, No. 287, was unanimously elected a joining member of the St. Alban's Lodge, and subsequently was appointed Secretary by the W.M., and invested with the badge of his office. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Bro. Hutchings, W.M., for the handsome present of a Grand Steward's Collar and Jewel. All Masonic business having been concluded, the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to the banquet, when the evening was spent in that agreeable manner characteristic of this Lodge. The only visiting Brother was Bro. Winsor, P.M. of St. Mary's Lodge, and P.Z. Prince of Wales' Chapter.

MOUNT MORIAH LODGE (No. 40).—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held on the 12th of March, when the W.M., Bro. Russell, initiated Messrs. McKenzie and Darter into the Order. The Brethren, at the conclusion of business, adjourned to the Freemasons' Hall, to join the festival held that day in aid of the funds of the Boys' School.

STRONG MAN LODGE (No. 53).—The usual monthly assemblage of this Lodge took place on the 6th March, at Bro. Ireland's, Masonic Hall, Fetter-lane, when Bro. Lewis, in the unavoidable absence of the W.M., presided, and initiated two candidates into the mysteries of the Craft. At the conclusion of the ceremony, and the business of the Lodge having been completed, the Brethren adjourned, and passed a very harmonious evening. Amongst the visitors we observed Bro. Henry Carter, W.M., No. 276, and Bro. Bignell.

GIHON LODGE (No. 57).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Bridge House Hotel, on Friday, March 14, Bro. Wilmott, W.M., presiding, Mr. Neile was initiated into the Order, and Bro. Nevitt passed to the Second Degree. A very harmonious evening followed on the conclusion of the Masonic business.

PYTHAGOREAN LODGE (No. 93).—This Lodge met at the Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich, on February 25, for the purpose of installing Bro. James Potter into the chair, which was performed, in his usual able and efficient manner, by Bro. John Killick, P.M., No. 168. After the ceremony, the W.M. proceeded to invest Bros. S. S. Lucas, as S.W.; E. Peck, J.W.; B. Holman, S.D.; T. Tassell, J.D.; P. H. Bromley, I.G.; P. M. Penny, Sec. Bro. P. M. Miller, Treas., was unavoidably absent from illness. After the investiture, Bro. Killick most impressively reminded the Wardens and Officers of their duties and obedience to the Master of the Lodge. The Brethren then retired to partake of a banquet, supplied by the respected host, Bro. P. M. Moore, whose general catering for the creature comforts of his Brethren needs no comment.

VITRUVIAN LODGE (No. 103).—This Lodge met at the White Hart Tavern, Lambeth, on the 9th March, Bro. Cherry, the W.M., presiding; who, in a very impressive manner, initiated Mr. A. Curry, into the privileges of Freemasonry, and passed two Brethren (Selby and Cross) to the Second Degree. At the conclusion of the above ceremonies, after the usual routine business of the Lodge had been completed, the Brethren adjourned to refreshment, and had a most happy evening.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—The members of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, Thursday, 13th March. The W.M., Bro. Albertz, passed a brother to the Degree of a Fellow Craft in a most able and efficient manner, and afterwards explained the tracing-board in the Second Degree. The Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren proceeded to banquet. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, Bro. L. Solomon, P.M., proposed the health of the W.M., expressing the great delight experienced by the Lodge at the truly able manner in which he performed his duties. The W.M., in return, thanked the Brethren for the great friendship always displayed towards him, and proposed the health of the Past Masters, expressing the obligation felt by the Brethren for their able assistance on all occasions. He then proposed the health of the visitors, Bro. Levinson, No. 7; Read, No. 188; and especially Bro. Lowick, whose truly beautiful singing had delighted the Brethren, trusting their reception had been such as would induce them to repeat their visit. Bro. Read returned thanks in behalf of the visitors for the great Masonic treat afforded them. The W.M. then proposed the health of the officers of the Lodge, to which Bro. Grosjean, S.W., humorously and eloquently responded.

LODGE OF FAITH (No. 165).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge on the 26th February, Bro. McManus, W.M., in the chair, two candidates were initiated as Masons, two Brothers raised, and one passed. On the 25th March the business consisted of one initiation, two passings, and a raising.

LODGE OF PRUDENT BROTHERS (No. 169).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge on the 25th March, Bro. Morbey, the W.M., raised Bros. Edward Hart and Erwood to the Third Degree. The W.M. having left early to proceed to Suffolk, the chair was taken by Bro. P.M. Temple, who initiated Mr. J. T. Hooper into the Order. The regular routine business having been gone through, the Brethren adjourned to supper, which, under the able presidency of Bro. P.M. Hewlett, passed off with the greatest *éclat*, the harmony of the evening being much enhanced by the excellent singing of the Bros. Hart and Lowick. Bro. Edward Hart, a most accomplished musician, presided at the pianoforte.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, the 4th March. The W.M. (Bro. Nicholson), initiated Mr. Griffiths into the mysteries of the Order; passed Bros. Saunders, Houghton, Cook, and Cock, to the degree of Fellow Crafts; and raised Bros. Bladon and Swainston to the degree of Master Masons. The whole of these ceremonies were performed by Bro. Nicholson with an ability rarely to be met with. Three gentlemen were proposed for initiation next Lodge meeting; and some other business having been concluded, about forty of the Brethren adjourned to the banquet, and spent the evening in a very happy and pleasant

manner. Bro. Beuler was present, and contributed greatly to the entertainment by his original comic singing.

PHOENIX LODGE (No. 202).—The usual monthly meeting of this now flourishing Lodge was held on the evening of the 8th March, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on which occasion Bro. R. W. Armstrong was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason; Bro. J. Bell McEntire passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft; and Mr. John Graham, surgeon, and Mr. Edward F. Spiller, initiated into the mysteries of the Order. All the ceremonies were most ably worked and the several charges impressively delivered by the W.M., Bro. Charles Russell Harrison. After the Lodge was closed, the Brethren supped together, and enjoyed a most agreeable evening, to the harmony of which P.M. Webber, and Bros. Burton, Evans, and McEntire, greatly contributed.

ST. JAMES' UNION LODGE (No. 211).—The members of this Lodge met at the Westmorland Arms, George-street, Portman-square, Tuesday, March 11th. The W.M. Bro. John Gurton, with the assistance of his officers, raised one brother to the Third Degree, and initiated two gentlemen into the Order in a manner which reflected great credit on himself and honour on the Lodge. It was resolved to present Bro. Kelly with a P.M.'s jewel, for the able manner in which he discharged his duty as W.M. last year. The Brethren then proceeded to partake of an excellent banquet. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, Bro. Kelly proposed the health of the W.M., and expressed the great delight of the Brethren in seeing him again amongst them after his painful illness, and their satisfaction from the manner in which he had so far discharged his duties, that they had placed the right man in the right place, and that under his government the Lodge could not fail to have a prosperous year. The W.M., in returning thanks for the compliments so warmly expressed, said that he would exert himself to the utmost in promoting the interests of the Lodge and Masonry in general, by supporting the charities which he considered the spirit of the Order. He then proposed the health of the Past Masters, thanking them for their valuable services at all times, particularly Bro. Kelly, to whom the Lodge was so much indebted for the great exertions he had made for its welfare. Bro. Kelly returned thanks on behalf of the Past Masters; and Bro. Kennedy proposed prosperity to the Lodge, which was drunk with enthusiasm. The health of the officers was then drunk, with thanks for the able manner in which they performed their duties, the W.M. stating that he hoped to have the pleasure of meeting them at the Lodge of Instruction held at this house every Monday evening, as the best means of perfecting themselves in their duties. Bro. Fiegg, S.W., and the rest of the officers, returned thanks, and expressed their determination to follow the excellent example set by the W.M. The Brethren then separated in the greatest harmony.

LODGE OF TRANQUILLITY (No. 218).—This Lodge, held at the Bridge Hotel in Southwark, had its monthly meeting on Monday, the 17th of March. Bro. Van Gore, W.M., presided for the first time since his installation, and initiated Messrs. Samuel Solomons and John Davis, passed Bros. Pritchard, Moses, Lasher, Cohen, and Benjamin, and raised to the Master Mason's Degree Bros. Lasker and Sewell. The able manner in which the W.M. went through these arduous duties was worthy of all praise, and we were equally gratified by observing the efficient discharge of the Wardens' duties by Bros. Davis and Horris. The activity and attention bestowed on the Lodge business by P.Ms. Abrahams, Solomons, and Levy the excellent Treasurer, greatly assist to the well-being and prosperity of No. 218.

LODGE OF JOPPA (No. 223).—The members of this numerous Lodge met on the 3rd March at the Albion, Aldersgate-street, when one Brother was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, by the W.M., in a manner proving the great attention which he must have paid to the discharge of the duties required of him. Four gentlemen were also initiated in a very impressive manner into the First Degree of the Order. In consequence of the death of one of its members, Bro. Salomo, the Masonic funeral service was read in a very solemn and impressive

manner by Bro. Lyons, P.M. The Brethren then adjourned to the banqueting-hall, where an entertainment was provided, only to be had at the hands of Messrs. Staples, the gentlemen to whom were intrusted the city entertainments given to the Emperor of the French, King of Sardinia, &c. &c. The cloth having been removed, the Master proposed the health of the Queen, Grand Master, and Deputy Grand Master. The next toast proposed was the Benevolent Fund attached to the Lodge, which was drunk with enthusiasm; and donations to the amount of ten guineas added to the fund. Bro. Lyons, P.M., then proposed the health of the W.M. Bro. S. G. Kisch, acknowledging the ability he displayed in conducting the affairs of the Lodge. Bro. Kisch expressed his thanks for the honour conferred, in the warm manner in which his name had been received by the whole of the Brethren, and was determined to spare no exertion to give satisfaction to the members during the remaining period of his year of office. The W.M. then proposed the health of the visitors, Bros. Lewis Solomon, P.M.; Sheen, P.M.; Scambler, P.M.; Thompson, P.M.; Williams, Foote, Bresslau, &c. &c. Bro. L. Solomon, P.M., of the Regularity Lodge, expressed his thanks and satisfaction at the manner in which the Masonic business had been conducted, warmly eulogizing the W.M. for the proficiency displayed by him and all the officers in the discharge of their several duties. During the evening several vocalists were specially engaged, who added in no small degree to the harmony that characterized the whole of the entertainment, at once proving that in "Freemasonry" men of all creeds, grades, and countries, can pass a happy evening.

ST. PAUL'S LODGE (No. 229).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge on the 18th March, Bro. Green, W.M., P. Prov. G.D. for Herts, raised Bro. Brown to the Third Degree. Bros. Morbey and Leslie were amongst the visitors.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge took place at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 11th March, Bro. Henry Carter, the W.M., presiding. Bros. Hudson, Bull, and Foster, having proved themselves competent, were passed to the Second Degree. The other business having been concluded, the Brethren adjourned to the banquet. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the W.M. drew the attention of the Lodge to a circular from Bro. Grimstone, who is exerting himself on behalf of Bro. Coggin. The W.M. kindly headed the list with a liberal subscription, which example was followed by the Brethren present. Bro. Cowdrey, one of the committee, being present, thanked the Lodge for their kindness, and stated the subscription amounted to £5.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge held on the 6th March, the W.M., Bro. Dr. Paul, most ably initiated two gentlemen into Freemasonry, and raised a Brother to the Third Degree.

POLISH LODGE (No. 778).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge held at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 13th March, Bro. Detkins, W.M., presiding, four gentlemen were initiated into the Order, and a duly qualified Brother raised to the Third Degree.

CANONBURY LODGE (No. 955).—The first meeting of this Lodge since its consecration, a report of which will be found in our last number, took place at the Canonbury Tavern, St. Mary's-road, Islington, on Tuesday evening, the 11th of March, Bro. J. A. Duff Filer, W.M. The proceedings were of a formal character, and had reference chiefly to matters of private Lodge business, approval of by-laws, &c. Very many propositions for the good of Freemasonry in general and the Lodge in particular having been made, and the Lodge closed in due form, the Brethren retired to refreshment, which Bro. Todd had supplied in first-rate style. Although only a small party stayed to the banquet, we have rarely, if ever, witnessed more cordiality of feeling and true Masonic kindness than existed at the Canonbury Board.

INSTRUCTION.

ST. LUKE'S LODGE (No. 168).—This Lodge held its anniversary, for the purpose of working the fifteen sections, on Good Friday, under the able presidency of Bro. Collard. There was a large attendance of Brethren, numbering from forty to fifty, many of whom came from a long distance; and we feel gratified in stating that every one was pleased with the manner the W.M. put the questions, and with the clear and distinct way in which the various sections were worked by Bros. Allan, Copus, Levinson, Hubbard, Odell, Tombleson, Till, &c.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—This Lodge of Instruction is now held at Bro. Swainston's, Duke of Wellington, Coleshill-street, Pimlico, every Friday evening at eight o'clock. The opening night took place on the 7th March, when the seven sections of the first Lecture were very ably worked; after which the Brethren partook of a banquet, handsomely supplied by the worthy host.

PERCY LODGE (No. 234).—The members of this flourishing Lodge of Instruction met in considerable numbers on the 4th March, to celebrate the thirty ninth anniversary. Bro. T. A. Adams, P.M., No. 196, presided on the occasion, supported by many Brethren well distinguished in the Craft. The banquet was liberally supplied by Bro. John Wyatt. The usual toasts having been drunk, intermingled with the harmony of the musical members, the Brethren separated highly delighted with the evening's festivities, enlivened as they had been by the very able presidency of Bro. Adams.

PROVINCIAL.

DURHAM.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—*Fawcett Lodge* (No. 959).—The R.W. Prov. G.M., assisted by his Grand Officers, constituted this Lodge on Thursday last, the 27th ult., at the Lord Seaham Hotel, Seaham Harbour, a Warrant having been obtained for its establishment. A preliminary meeting, under a dispensation, was held on the 3rd ult., to propose candidates, and to arrange the necessary ceremonial.

HAMPSHIRE.

SHIRLEY, SOUTHAMPTON.—*The Lodge of Peace and Harmony* (No. 462).—This Lodge, which formerly met at Romsey, after being dormant for several years, has at length been revived, and removed to this suburban neighbourhood of Southampton, where, in a populous district about two miles from the latter town, it is likely to flourish, nay, is already flourishing. Bro. Rankin Stebbing, P.M. and Prov. G. Sec., has been invited to become W.M., and has been duly installed, investing as his Sec. Bro. P.M. Thomas Slade; Bros. P.M. Miles and G.W. Clarke are the Wardens: with such sterling aid the Lodge is likely to prosper. There are now twenty-five good paying members, with a gradual increase in view, and a very regular attendance. The Lodge is held at the Crown Inn, Shirley, on the Wednesday nearest the full moon.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

WATFORD.—*Watford Lodge* (No. 580).—At the February meeting of the members of this Lodge, in the Freemasons' Hall, Watford, Bro. Thomas Rogers was elected W.M. for the year ensuing, and he was duly installed on Friday, the 28th of March, when there was a large muster of the Brethren. A more detailed notice of the proceedings will appear next month.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

NEW DEPUTY GRAND MASTER. — If anything could diminish our regret at learning that the increased indisposition of that excellent Prov.G.M., Sir Fred. Fowke, has prevented the discharge of his Masonic duties in person, it would be the announcement of his having appointed our worthy Brother, William Kelly, Esq., as his D. Prov.G.M. Under such auspices Masonry is sure to flourish in this province.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

BOSTON.—*Lodge of Harmony* (No. 339).—An adjourned Lodge was holden on the 28th February, Bro. Geo. Jackson, W.M., in the chair, and present a large number of the Brethren of that Lodge and visitors from the hundred of Elloe Lodge, Spalding. The Lodge having been adjourned for the special purpose of presenting Bro. W. Greenwood, P.M. and P.G.D.C., with a mahogany box containing a Provincial G.D.C. Badge, as unanimously resolved at the last meeting, the W.M., in highly eulogistic terms, presented the testimonial to Bro. Greenwood, as a mark of the high esteem in which he was held by the Brethren of that Lodge, and concluded by investing him with the Badge. Bro. Greenwood, in acknowledging the compliment, said, “Worshipful Sir and Brethren, I am sure you will believe me when I say that I feel deeply grateful for your great kindness in presenting me with this Badge, as a token of your regard and esteem. I accept it as a testimonial of the brotherly love and affection that I firmly believe alone prompted you in this matter; but when it was first named, I felt I ought to decline the gift, for I, with other Brethren, have been most anxious to increase the funds of the Lodge to enable us more fully to carry out the great principles of Freemasonry, viz. benevolence and charity, and I did not wish to accept that which would diminish those funds. The unanimous resolution of the Lodge, after due notice of the proposition had been given, having decided the question, I cannot longer oppose your wishes, and feel highly honoured. The services I may have rendered in the working of the Lodge have been done with the best intentions and an earnest desire to see the Craft flourish; for I have a sincere affection for the mother who received me into her bosom, and for the Brethren who compose her family. I hold it to be the duty of every person joining a society or order to make himself acquainted with its principles, and I am convinced that Freemasonry is founded upon the purest principles of morality, that it is one of the best systems that could possibly be propounded by man, and that if the principles inculcated were more practised, the uninitiated would respect and reverence our Order, and exclaim, See how the Brethren love each other, and dwell together in unity. In so doing we should be accomplishing the great end for which we were created, viz. being happy ourselves and causing happiness to others, which thus necessarily, in every well-regulated mind, increases one’s own. I envy not the man who lives for himself alone; no good Mason can possibly do so if he respects his obligation, but he will embrace every opportunity to promote the welfare of the Brethren; therefore let us be in earnest to do our duty towards God and the Brotherhood with sincerity. When the right hand of fellowship is grasped by a Mason, may that be the sure pledge of Brotherhood: may we never think it a trouble or an inconvenience to go out of our way to serve a Brother if he requires our assistance; when we bow the knee to the G.A.O.T.U., the G.G., the Most High, to thank Him for mercies already received, may it remind us of the wants of those who may have been reduced to distress by unforeseen misfortune and calamity, and may it incline our hearts to relieve their necessities; may our hearts be the safe and sacred repository of that what which a Mason may think proper to commit to our keeping; and, on every occasion, when we hear his fair name assailed or his character slandered, may we defend him in his absence with all the energy and sincerity that we would wish to be defended ourselves if we were placed under similar circumstances: and then we shall not only be practising the great principles of Freemasonry, but the moral law—and the Great Teacher himself said, the sum and substance of that law was Love. The three grand principles of Freemasonry are—Brotherly Love,

Relief, and Truth. Love is an active principle: it will induce us to promote the interests of a Brother, and to assist him when in trouble, sickness, or distress, and enable him to withstand the vicissitudes of fortune. The relief, or charity, of Freemasonry is not that which emanates from the purse alone, but is that which throws a veil over a Brother's faults—that will bear and forbear, give and forgive; whilst the third great principle, though last, is not least—Truth; let there be truth in all our actions, in all our words, in all our thoughts,—let truth be the beginning and the ending, the first and the last. Such is Masonry, my Brethren, and a good Mason must be a good man. In conclusion, my Brethren, so long as it may please the G.A.O.T.U. to grant me health and strength, and the opportunity of doing so, my services to promote the best interest of the Craft, and of this Lodge in particular, will be gladly rendered, and I trust I shall always have the goodwill and approbation of the Brethren. I again thank you for the great mark of your favour presented to me this evening, which I shall remember to the latest period of my existence." The Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren retired to partake of an excellent banquet provided by the Bros. Jackson, at the Peacock Inn, where the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk, and the Brethren separated with hearty good wishes to all.

Lodge of Harmony (No. 339).—The monthly communication of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, the 11th ult., Bro. George Jackson, W.M., in the chair, at which Bro. Pocklington, the Past S.W. of that Lodge, and W.M. of the Hundred of Elloe Lodge, No. 690, Spalding, initiated Mr. Joshua Marjason into the mysteries of Freemasonry. A gentleman was proposed as a fit and proper person to be admitted into the Order, and if elected, to be initiated at the next regular Lodge night.

LANCASHIRE.

BLACKBURN.—*Lodge of Perseverance* (No. 432).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday evening, the 25th February, the W.M. Bro. Charles Boardman presiding, assisted by Bros. John Yates, as S.W., and W. Harrison, J.W. and Hon. Sec. There was a limited number of the members present, and one visiting Brother. After confirming various minutes, and transacting several matters of routine business, the Lodge was closed with prayer, and the Brethren adjourned, and after passing a most agreeable evening, separated. We regret to announce that the Lodge night above reported was the last on which Bro. Boardman presided,—he died suddenly on the 7th ult., much and deservedly regretted, as noticed in our obituary.

STOCKPORT.—*Lodge of St. John* (No. 121).—This Lodge met on the 10th of March, at the White Lion Hotel, when Mr. James Wolstenholme was duly initiated in the mysteries of the Order, the ceremony being most effectively performed by the W.M. Bro. William M'Cauly. The solemn and impressive manner in which he delivered the charges and explained the working tools, clearly proved that he was a truly zealous and expert workman. Bro. H. Booth, Prov. G. Treas., one of the most efficient Masons in the Province, assisted as S.D. There were several visiting Brethren present, among whom were Bros. James Dakin, Joseph Axon, Bradford Jefferies, George Leah, Joel Sidebotham, Joseph Gleave, &c. After the Lodge had closed, the W.M. gave "The Queen and the Craft," and various other appropriate toasts, which were responded to with Masonic honours. During the evening the W.M. and Bro. Booth sang a number of favourite Masonic songs, and the hours were spent in love and harmony.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

NORTHAMPTON.—*Pomfret Lodge* (No. 463).—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Thursday, the 6th ult., when Bro. Worster, W.M., after opening the Lodge, vacated the chair, which was taken by Bro. Boème, P.M., who then initiated Wm. Wake (of Courteenhall), Esq., and Messrs. Rubbra and Bland (of Wellingborough), into the mysteries of the Order. Legh Richmond, Esq. (of Guisborough Hall), was afterwards proposed as a fitting person to become a member of the Craft.

OXFORDSHIRE.

OXFORD.—*Provincial Grand Lodge*.—The annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of this Province will be held on the 22nd inst., in the Masonic Hall, Oxford, under the auspices of the Alfred Lodge, No. 425. The Provincial Grand Lodge will be opened at 12 o'clock at noon. On the previous day there will be a Royal Arch Chapter in the morning, and an Encampment of Knights Templar in the evening, at which the Prov. G.M. Bro. H. A. Bowyer will be installed E. Commander.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—*Abbey Lodge* (No. 907).—The anniversary of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, January 29th, 1856, at which the installation of the W.M. for the ensuing year took place under pleasing circumstances. The day had been looked forward to by many on account of the zeal which the W.M. elect, Bro. William Smith, had ever evinced towards Masonry, and the above newly-established Lodge in particular. The ceremony of the installation was performed by P.M. Bro. Stone, in a most efficient and impressive manner, after which the W.M. selected his officers for the ensuing year, as follows: P. B. Chadfield, S.W.; William Bowley, J.W.; Edward Mammatt, Treas.; J. T. Stough, Hon. Sec.; William Coxon, S.D.; E. Alcock, J.D.; J. Pike, I.G.; Robert Lane, Tyler.—The Brethren sat down to a most elegant and sumptuous entertainment, supplied by Bro. John Whittingham, which gave the highest satisfaction to all present. After the usual loyal and other Masonic toasts had been given and responded to, P.M. Bloor rose on the part of the Lodge to perform a most pleasing duty, that of presenting, on behalf of the Lodge, a Past Master's jewel to Bro. P.M. Richard Stone:—"He was sure he need not refer to the services Bro. Stone had rendered to the Craft and to that Lodge, he being the founder, and, it might be said, its upholder, too. It had ever been Bro. Stone's desire to carry out the principles of Masonry in their full integrity, and that Lodge had ever had his unwearying energies; indeed, his conduct was a bright example to follow, for he had won the esteem of every Brother. In the year 1851, Bro. Stone was appointed W.M. to the Derbyshire Lodge, No. 143, and served as W.M. during 1852 and 1853: he revived the Lodge, and was the means of many very valuable members joining the Fraternity. He need not again refer to the Abbey Lodge, which was formed in December, 1853, and consecrated in June, 1854; nor to the Portland Lodge, No. 920, which was formed in August, 1854, by Bro. Stone. He hoped the worthy Brother might long be spared to continue his services, half of which had not been enumerated; and now he begged Bro. Stone's acceptance of the jewel; and with it the warmest and best feelings of the Lodge." Several Brethren rose, and bore testimony of a similar nature to the merits of Bro. Stone, to which he briefly replied in a touching and feeling manner.

TIPTON.—*Noah's Ark Lodge* (No. 435).—A Lodge of Emergency was held at the Navigation Inn, on Friday, the 22nd of February, when Bro. Howells, the W.M., initiated the Rev. W. Gibbens, B.D., who was about to leave the neighbourhood. Twenty-three Brethren were present, including the following visitors: Bros. Rev. A. Davies, M.A. and Prov. G.C. for Worcestershire; Masefield, Prov. G. Treas.; Dennison, Prov. G.S.D.; Bristowe, Prov. G. Sec.; Patteson, P.M.; Rev. W. Herbert, S.W., No. 313; Rev. F. Gibbens, No. 730; King, No. 607; F. Sanders, No. 730; and Jeavons, S.W. No. 786. The number of members in this Lodge still increases, and numerous as the Brethren always muster, it is very satisfactory to be able to state that they invariably work together with "that love and harmony which ought always to characterize Freemasons."

WEST BROMWICH.—*Dartmouth Lodge* (No. 960).—A number of Brethren in this populous district, having the prosperity of the Craft at heart, and considering that a wide field for Masonic exertion would be opened by the establishment of a Lodge, took the requisite steps to procure a warrant from the M.W.G.M. The prayer of the petition having been granted by his lordship's authorizing

the formation of a Lodge, to bear the name of the "Dartmouth Lodge" (No. 960), Bro. Thomas James, P.M. (No. 786), the W.M. appointed in the warrant, applied to the R.W. Bro. Col. Vernon, Prov. G.M. for Staffordshire, for a dispensation for himself, Wardens, and Brethren, to meet and act as a Lodge until such time as it would be convenient for him to constitute and consecrate the Lodge in due form. The R.W. Prov. G.M. having been pleased to accede to this request, the first meeting was held on Wednesday, February 27th. The Lodge was opened by Bros. Thomas James, W.M.; E. Jeavons, S.W.; and John Davies, J.W., the principal officers appointed in the warrant. Four candidates were initiated into the order, viz., Messrs. Henry Jackson, C. J. Devey, William Cottrell, and H. Sanderson. Among the visitors present on the occasion were Bros. Rev. E. H. A. Gwynne, P.M., No. 435, P.G. Chaplain; W. Howells, W.M., No. 435; Frank James, W.M., No. 786; Dr. Burton, P.M., No. 786, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Newsam, P.M., No. 786; P.J.G.W. Wood, P.M. No. 786; P. Prov. G.A.D.C. W. Bristow, P.M. No. 313, Prov. G.S.B., Worcestershire; Rev. J. Downes, Chap., No. 786; J. R. Robinson, Totty, Edmonds, Ketley, H. Duignan, &c. At the conclusion of the business, the Brethren adjourned to a banquet; after which the usual Masonic toasts were given, and duly responded to. Bro. Dr. Burton, in proposing the health of the W.M., observed, that it gave him sincere pleasure to find his old friend and worthy Brother again engaged in so good a cause as the bringing into existence another Masonic infant. His first knowledge of Bro. T. James as a Mason was when he was engaged, nine years ago, together with others, in the formation of the Lodge of St. Matthew, at Walsall; and he was glad to find that the tree which then showed prospect of bearing good fruit, was still green and putting forth new buds. He congratulated the Lodge in having so experienced a Mason for their first W.M. Indeed, a proof of his talent has been shown at this, their first meeting; for, he could assure them, after thirty years' experience as a Mason, he had never seen the ceremonies so well performed in a new Lodge, and rarely ever equalled in an old one; it showed great discrimination in the selection of officers, every one of whom seemed to be "the right man in the right place." Bro. Burton concluded a good practical address by advising the members of the Dartmouth Lodge not to be over anxious for numbers—to admit none to the privileges of Masonry but good men and true; and said, if they adhered to that principle, there was no doubt but the establishment of the Lodge would be attended with the best results. The W.M. thanked the Brethren for their cordial reception of the toast, though Bro. Burton had spoken of him in terms which he feared he scarcely merited. He was deeply impressed with the responsibility which he had taken, in consenting to preside over them during the first year of their existence; but doubted not that, with the assistance of such able Brethren as his wardens, he should be able to conduct the affairs of the Lodge in such a manner as would give satisfaction.—The Dartmouth Lodge will meet at the Dartmouth Arms Hotel, West Bromwich, on the second Friday of every month.

SUSSEX.

BRIGHTON.—*Royal Clarence Lodge* (No. 338).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Friday, February 15th, when Bro. H. Smithers, P. Prov. D.C., was installed W.M. by Bro. Wm. Verrall, P.M. and Prov. G. Treas. The W.M. then appointed the following Brethren his officers for the ensuing year, viz.:—Bros. W. A. Stuckey, S.W.; Geo. Lowdell, J.W.; Wm. Batley, Sec.; James McGee, D.C.; John Scott, S.D.; George Folkard, J.D.; Lardelli, Org.; James Dixon, I.G. As we remarked in our February Number, ill health prevented Bro. Smithers attending the January meeting for installation; a *special* banquet was provided on this occasion, and more than thirty of the Brethren dined with the W.M. The W.M. gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. He then proposed the health of Col. McQueen, the Prov. D.G.M. of Sussex, in a very appropriate speech, which was responded to by the Brethren in a manner worthy of the Sussex Masons. The gallant Colonel has indeed paid great attention to the interests of the Craft since his appointment by the Duke of Richmond, the Prov. G.M. The immediate P.M. asked for the particular attention

of the Brethren, because that which he was about to propose to them was emphatically *the toast*, the chief pleasure of the evening. It was, he said, the health of one who had at all times, in season and out of season, proved that he had the welfare of Freemasonry at heart. As a Mason and a citizen the W.M. was worthy of their esteem, and it was to give a demonstration of their regard for him that they were assembled around this festive board. In the name of the P.Ms. he congratulated him and the Lodge on his accession to the chair. They felt assured that under his guidance the Royal Clarence would continue to prosper, and to be the means, through its worthy and faithful members, of still further developing the sound and genuine principles of Freemasonry. He would therefore propose the health of their W.M., sincerely wishing him health, long life, and happiness.

The W.M. returned thanks in a most feeling manner for the enthusiastic way in which the Brethren had responded to the toast proposed by their immediate P.M., and assured them that his best energies should be given to the promotion of Masonry in general, and of the Royal Clarence Lodge in particular. Other toasts followed. The Brethren having passed a most pleasant evening; the Lodge was closed, and the meeting adjourned until Friday, March 21, when Bro. Smithers, the W.M., initiated two gentlemen (a son and a nephew of Bro. Folkard, the Prov. G. Reg. of Sussex) into the mysteries of the Craft.

The P.Ms. and the Brethren present felt highly gratified at the very able and efficient manner in which Bro. Smithers performed the ceremony; it certainly augurs well that the working of the Lodge will be admirably sustained under his rule. Bro. Folkard then addressed his son and nephew on the excellencies of Freemasonry in his accustomed impressive style.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

DUDLEY.—*Harmonic Lodge* (No. 313).—The Brethren of this Lodge assembled at the Freemasons' Tavern, Stone-street, Dudley, on Tuesday the 4th, and Lodge was opened in due form by Bro. Cooper, the W.M., assisted by the officers. Bro. Hervey's letter, advising the raising the donation to the building fund of the Boys' Institution from five pounds to guineas, was read by the Secretary, and, upon the motion of Bro. Shedden, P.M., seconded by Bro. Bristow, P.M., was unanimously agreed to. The Secretary read the proceedings of the Board of General Purposes respecting the arrears due to the Lodge from subscribing and non-subscribing Brethren, when their resolution was agreed to. The Lodge was called off for fifteen minutes, and upon resuming labour, Bro. W. Thomson, of 838, was balloted for, and unanimously elected as joining member. Mr. Joseph Timmins was proposed as a candidate for initiation. The Lodge was closed in due form. The visitors present were the Rev. Bro. E. A. Gwynne, W.M., 435, and Bro. Williams, 730.

Royal Standard Lodge (No. 730).—A portion of the business announced in the circular convening this Lodge was postponed to the second Tuesday in the month of April, the candidate for raising (Bro. Saunders, Solicitor) being absent at Worcester on Assize business. On Tuesday, the 11th, therefore, but one ceremony was gone through, that of initiating Wm. Edward Marcus Warrington, Solicitor, who had been regularly balloted for and elected. Mr. David Johnson, Surgeon, *M.R.C.S.*, &c., of Dudley, and Mr. William Finch, Paper-manufacturer, of Dudley Port, were proposed as candidates by Bro. Wigginton, I.G., and respectively seconded by Bros. E. Dudley, J.W., and M. Dennison, S.W. Bro. Wigginton drew the attention of the Brethren to the letter of Bro. Thearle (which appeared in the March Number of the *Freemasons' Monthly Magazine*), respecting Masonic Charity *v.* Self-Denial, and which elicited some little discussion. Bro. Wigginton suggested a modification, in the shape of a vacation for the summer months, but the Brethren thought the officers would be apt to get rusty; and as for meeting without banquets, the present condition of Lodges, as held at Taverns, presented an insuperable difficulty. The subject then dropped: the Lodge was closed in due form. The chief feature of the banquet was the acknowledgment by the candidate of the toast of the evening, which, considering he thought himself in a state of darkness as yet respecting his knowledge of

the Order, was a very good one. The next evening there is a good probability of the Three Degrees being gone through—a labour which will severely task even the great and acknowledged ability of the Rev. Bro. A. G. Davies, the esteemed W.M. of the Royal Standard. Few Masters have been better supported by their officers, their attendance being remarkably punctual and regular.

YORKSHIRE.

HUDDERSFIELD.—*Lodge of Truth* (No. 763).—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Friday evening, March the 5th. The W.M. not being present, the Brethren had the pleasure of being presided over by P.M. Bro. William Smith, Prov. G.D.C., who, in the able and correct manner for which he is celebrated, passed Bro. W. Roberts to the Degree of F.C.; after which, three gentlemen were proposed for initiation.

Huddersfield Lodge (No. 365).—This Lodge, which has been held for a period of sixty-three years at the White Hart Hotel, finding its accommodation insufficient for its present number of members, and its increasing importance, was removed to the Zetland Hotel on Wednesday, March 12. On this occasion the Lodge-room looked exceeding well: the chairs and pedestals, &c. being new, and very handsome. The whole of the new furniture has been presented by various members of the Lodge. The history of this Lodge is a very interesting one. There is reason to believe that it was formed at a very early date, under the "Antient York Constitution." In 1793 a warrant was granted by the Grand Lodge in London, giving it the title of "The White Hart Lodge." In 1804 its name was changed to "Lodge of St. John the Evangelist." This warrant was by some means lost; and in 1822 a warrant of confirmation was granted by the Grand Lodge, when the title of the Lodge was altered to "The Huddersfield Lodge." This may be considered the parent of both the other Lodges in the town. It is at the present time in an exceedingly prosperous state, and can boast of as great a number of working Masons amongst its members as any Lodge in the Province.

NEW MALTON.—*Camalodunum Lodge* (No. 958).—On Tuesday, March 18th, a new Lodge was consecrated in this town, bearing the above name. The ceremony was performed by the D. Prov. G.M. Bro. George Marwood, of Busby Park, assisted by Prov. G.J.W. Bros. Richardson, W.M. of the Scarborough Lodge; P.M. Cowling; Farrar, W.M. of the York Union Lodge; and several other Brethren of well-known eminence in the Craft from the neighbouring Lodges. Bro. P.M. Cowling, of York, was installed as the first W.M.; Bro. Zebulon Meunele, surgeon, as the S.W.; and Bro. Richardson. Five candidates were initiated by the W.M., assisted by the D. Prov. G.M.; and afterwards the Brethren and visitors, to the number of thirty-two, sat down to a splendid banquet, at the Talbot Hotel (where the Lodge is held), and the usual Masonic toasts were drunk and responded to. The only cause of regret was the absence of the Prov. G.M. the Earl of Zetland, who it was hoped would have honoured the new Lodge with his presence, especially as the distance from his residence was so short. His lack of service, however, was amply supplied by the efficiency of the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Marwood, who has, by his affable manners and kind counsel, materially aided in the arduous task of the formation of this Lodge. We hope there is every prospect of success in this attempt to spread the principles of Freemasonry in this district, which is densely populated by men of science and intelligence; and if we take the five candidates who were initiated as a prelude of that success, we may augur much for its prosperity, for they are all gentlemen of well-known position, talents, and reputation in the neighbourhood; and as they form only the first instalment of upwards of twenty whose names are on the list of candidates, we have no doubt very shortly, with becoming prudence and care in the selection of future candidates, that this Lodge will become one of the most influential in the district.

ROYAL ARCH.

LONDON CHAPTERS.

ROYAL YORK CHAPTER OF PERSEVERANCE (No. 7).—This Chapter held a convocation on Tuesday, February 26th. The business consisted of four exaltations, the ceremonies being most admirably performed—Comps. Le Veau, M.E.Z.; Savage, P.Z. as H.; Symonds, J.; and Tyler, P.S. At the termination of the arduous labours of the evening, the Comps., to the number of forty, partook of a banquet, which gave complete satisfaction. This was the evening for the election of Principals and Officers for the ensuing year. On the several ballots being announced they were found to be unanimously in favour of Comps. Absolon, Z.; Symonds, H.; Jones, J.; Muggeridge, Treas.; Tyler, N.; G. Haward, P.S.; and Rice, Janitor.

BRITISH CHAPTER (No. 8).—This distinguished Chapter met at the Freemasons' Tavern, Friday, March 7th, when Comp. Stohwasser was installed as Z., and Comp. C. P. Cooper as J. The second principal elect was unfortunately absent on the Continent, in consequence of the illness of his lady. The following officers were also inducted—Comp. Vallence, S.E., Cottrell, P.S. A Brother of the British Lodge, was exalted to the Sublime Degree of the Royal Arch. The ceremonies were principally performed by Comp. John Hervey.

ROBERT BURN'S CHAPTER (No. 25).—The thirteenth annual Convocation of this Chapter was holden on the 24th March, at the Freemasons' Tavern, when Comp. E. Robinson was installed as Z. by Comp. Watson, P.Z., assisted by Comps. Blackburn and Tombleson, P.Zs. The second Principal elect, Comp. Kirby, was not present, having recently settled in Yorkshire. Comp. Carpenter, one of the Principals of the Gravesend Chapter, was inducted into the office of J.; Comps. Tombleson, Scribe E.; Allen, H.; Hewlett, P.S.; and Frampton and C. R. Harrison, Assist. S. Comp. Kelly, of the Croydon Chapter, was also installed as 3rd Principal. A P.Z. jewel having been voted to Comp. Newton, the immediate P.Z., who was unable to attend in consequence of ill-health, the business of the Chapter was brought to a close. The Comps. afterwards supped together, and spent an evening which would bear the morning's reflection.

MOUNT SINAI CHAPTER (No. 49).—At the convocation of this Chapter, on Tuesday, March 18, Bro. Anslow, of Lodge No. 165, was exalted to the Supreme Degree of R.A., by Comp. Andrew, P.Z., in his usual able manner. At the conclusion of the ceremony nineteen Companions partook of one of Comp. Rackstraw's excellent banquets, over which the M.E.Z. Comp., Josh. Smith, presided. The evening was passed in a most agreeable manner.

JERUSALEM CHAPTER (No. 218).—This Chapter held its convocation on Tuesday, March 11th, at the Bridge-house Hotel, Southwark, Comp. Scambler, M.E.Z. Neither of the candidates being in attendance, the election of Officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with. Comps. Thomson was elected Z.; Sheen, H.; Levy, J.; Manico, P.Z., Scribe E.; McCulloch, Scribe N.; Hermann, P.S.; Patten, P.Z., Treas. The Comps. then retired to banquet, and the evening was passed in social harmony. Comps. Stuart, P.Z. No. 59, and Beuler, No. 593, were the only visitors present.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS.

HUDDERSFIELD.—*Chapter of Prosperity* (No. 365).—The Companions of this Chapter assembled at the Zetland Hotel, on Wednesday, March 12th, when Bros. J. W. Coates and Benton, both of the Lodge of Truth, No. 763, were exalted to the Supreme Degree of Royal Arch Mason: every Officer in the Chapter performing his own duties.

OLDHAM.—*Tudor Chapter* (No. 344).—A meeting of this Chapter was held at the Angel Hotel on the 3rd March, for the installation of the Principals, and the investiture of other Officers for the year. Comp. John Bamford was installed Z. by Comp. R. Holt, P.Z. ; Comp. Wm. Henry Bridcoake, H. ; and Comp. Abraham Milnes, J., by Comp. J. Gaitskell, P.Z. The other Officers being—John Jackson, P.S. ; H. W. Litler and J. Booth, Scribes E. and N. ; J. Booth, Treas. ; J. H. Hayes, Organist ; Thomas Mattinson, P.Z. ; and Hugh Shaw, Janitor. Bro. W. Hudson, Secretary of the Lodge of Friendship, No. 344, was afterwards exalted ; and the other business of the meeting having been disposed of, the Comps. adjourned, and spent the remainder of the evening in a very agreeable manner.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Royal Kent Encampment* (No. 44).—The annual meeting of this Encampment took place (as it has regularly done since 1812) on Good Friday, when the following were installed Officers for the ensuing year:—Fras. Villiers Charles Villiers Surtees, E. Com. ; Henry Bell, 1st Capt. ; Henry Hotham, 2nd Capt. ; Wm. Punshon, Prior ; Wm. Dalziel, Sub-Prior and Exp. ; Wm. Berkley, Chan. and Reg. ; John Toshach, V. Chan. ; Fred. P. Jonn, Treas. and Alm. ; James Donald, Her. ; George Weatherhead, Capt. of Lines ; Comp. John Shepherd Trotter, Eq. The contents of the charity-box were then distributed to an old Fra. and the widow of a K.T. This ending the business, the Encampment was closed. There being no candidates for the higher Degrees, the Conclave was not opened in the R.C. and N.P.U. Degrees. There being no business, the Grand Com. of the Knights Grand Cross, George Hawks, did not hold a meeting of the Council.

“THE SCIENCE OF MASONRY.—As he prosecutes the business of the Lodge, the studious Mason employs his leisure in studying the liberal arts and sciences—that valuable branch of education which tends so effectually to polish and adorn the mind. Astronomy, with its world of discoveries ; music, with its soothing, fascinating influences ; architecture, with its various orders and their origin, commend themselves to his early attention, and lead the way for the contemplation of his own sentient being—that most fearful and wonderful piece of God’s workmanship, endowed with its amazing faculties and powers of perception. Especially does he delight in the study of Geometry, the original synonyme of Masonry. By the light of this science he may curiously trace nature through her various wanderings to her most concealed recesses, and discern the power, wisdom, and goodness of the Grand Artificer of the Universe. It discovers to him how the planets move in their several orbits and demonstrates their various revolutions. By it he is enabled to account for the return of seasons and assign causes for their various interesting scenes. Being of a divine and moral nature it is enriched with the most useful knowledge ; for while it proves the wonderful properties of nature, it demonstrates the more important truths of morality. It elevates the mind from things mortal and transitory, and conducts it to the contemplation of that *One Supreme Being*, to whose name all created beings, from the highest seraph in heaven to the lowest son of Adam, should bow in reverence. Such are the teachings of Masonry—such the work of the Lodge. In such a school there is ample scope for the most gifted intellect ; and it is plain that in such pursuits there is no place for the profligate, the idle, or the vain.”—*From Bro. W. B. Thrale’s Address in the “American Freemason.”*

SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW.

St. Mark's Lodge (No. 102).—At the meeting on the 26th of January, Bro. Donald Campbell, D.M., occupied the chair, it being an emergency meeting. His Wardens were Bros. James Horne and John Reid. D. Prov. G.M. Bro. G. A. Walker Arnott and several office-bearers and other Brethren were present. Mr. Andrew Stein, jun., C.E., London, was found duly prepared, and initiated; and being about to leave for Madras, was passed and raised to the Sublime Degree: the Instructors appointed to Bro. Stein were Bros. G. A. W. Arnott and C. J. Hughes, London. On the 4th of February, D.M. Bro. Campbell presided as R.W.M., Bros. John Reid and Robert Thomson, jun., the Wardens: other office-bearers and Brethren were in attendance. Messrs. Walter Easton, Jonathan Thomson, John Graham Galbraith, David Boyd, William Alexander, William Bunten, and John David Campbell, merchants, Glasgow, and Isaac Parrington and Dudley Haynes, of the U. S. Merchant Navy, all well recommended, were initiated, and had Instructors appointed. A motion of sympathy and condolence with the Grand Lodge and Mrs. Woodman, on account of the sudden and impressive manner of the death of Bro. James Lenning Woodman, Grand Clerk, was made by Bro. Campbell, seconded by Bro. J. M. Rowan, and unanimously carried. Bro. John Werge read a paper, entitled the "Manufacture of Poetry," which, notwithstanding its unpoetical title, proved very satisfactory. He showed that there was a "method in the madness" of attempting to manufacture poetry that shall live; and in support of the assertion that the late Samuel Rogers was a manufacturer, and not a poet by inspiration, contrasted lines written by Byron and Rogers on "Venice," and read several pieces where the subjects treated by both were of kindred nature. A vote of thanks was returned to Bro. Werge for his essay, and the appointment of Committees on the proposed decoration of the Lodge and the April festival terminated the business proceedings. On the 11th of February, an emergency meeting was held, at which P.M. Bro. James Millar acted as R.W.M., Bros. Robert Thomson, jun., and John Werge, as Wardens. Bros. Isaac Parrington and Dudley Haynes, requiring to sail for the United States in a few days, were passed to the Fellow Craft, and, along with Bro. John Laurie, raised to the Sublime Degree. On the 18th of February, D.M. Bro. D. Campbell as R.W.M., the Wardens, Bro. Thomson and Reid, and many other Brethren being present, *inter alia*, Bro. Campbell read letters from Mrs. Woodman and the Grand Secretary, in answer to the motion of sympathy, which had been extracted from the minute of the 4th current, and sent to them. He intimated, also, that the remains of Bro. Woodman having been removed to England for interment, a Masonic funeral would not occur. Bros. David Boyd, Capt. William Miller, William Bunten, Walter Easton, Francis Younger, William Alexander, J. G. Galbraith, and John Borland, were found qualified, and passed from the Apprentice to the Fellow Craft Degree. On the 3rd of March, Bro. Campbell as R.W.M., assisted by the Wardens Bros. Reid and Thomson, and many other Brethren, initiated Messrs. Patrick Fleming and Ralph S. Boyd, merchants in Glasgow. Bro. Campbell read a paper on the "Lodge Furniture and Tracing-boards," and for the sound and valuable information contained in it the Brethren testified their heartiest applause. A vote of thanks to Bro. Campbell was moved by Bro. James Horne, S.M., seconded by Bro. John Reid, S.W., and unanimously carried. On separate motions regularly carried, Bro. John Laurie was elected and installed as a Steward; Bros. John Reid, Robert Thomson, jun., J. N. Sutherland, William Liddell, William Forrester, and Donald Campbell, were appointed a committee to manage the preliminaries of the annual assembly, to be held on the 28th current; and John Mitchell Maubray, M.M., of the "Thistle and Rose," was affiliated. The labours of the evening were closed by Bro. P.M. Hannay taking the Ob. of a Steward. On the 10th, Fellow Crafts David Haire, David

Boyd, William Buntin, Walter Easton, John Borland, and William Alexander, were raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M., and Francis Murray, Esq., iron-merchant, was found duly prepared, and initiated. On the 12th, an emergency meeting was set to work by Bro. Donald Campbell, who did the duties of R.W.M. in his usual able manner. Bro. Robert Mitchell acted as Senior, and Bro. Robert Thomson, jun., was in his place of Junior Warden: other office-bearers and Brethren were also present. Messrs. James Easton, James Somerville, and William Buntin, were afterwards initiated, and had Instructors appointed to them. On the 17th, D.M. Bro. Campbell, the Wardens, and a numerous attendance of members of Lodges in this Province, and a few Brethren from the sister Lodges of America and England were present at this meeting. Apprentices Ralph S. Boyd and Patrick Fleming were passed; and Messrs. William Whyte, jun., Robert Whyte, and James F. Armour, were initiated.

Lodge St. George (No. 333).—The thirty-third anniversary of this Lodge was held in the City Hall, Glasgow, on the evening of Friday, the 14th. The meeting was graced with a numerous assemblage of the fair sex, who, with the members of the St. George in full-dress costume, presented an extremely gay and animated appearance. The *soirée* was opened by the Divine blessing being asked; and after an excellent supply of tea, coffee, and the usual accompaniments, the Chairman, Dr. Dalveen, W.M., rose, amid the hearty congratulations of the audience, and delivered an appropriate and eloquent address. He traced the history of the society from its commencement, and showed, from its past and present state, that its future prospects were of the most encouraging and gratifying nature. He referred to the happy appearance of the present meeting as a proof that the St. George was in a highly-flourishing condition, and concluded amid reiterated marks of approbation. The musical department was conducted by an instrumental band, to which many thanks are due; and by a select number of amateur performers connected with the Lodge. The ball which followed the *soirée* was kept up till an early hour, and all were delighted that peace, love, order, harmony, and temperance, had pervaded the whole of the proceedings.

DUNDEE.

The general Masonic Assembly, which we announced in our last, took place on the 29th of February in the Thistle Hall, and was, as we anticipated, eminently successful. Towards nine o'clock the hall presented a very animated aspect. The groups of elegantly-dressed ladies, the Brethren in their varied costumes, interspersed with the neat attire of Royal Arch Companions,—the room, tastefully decorated with festoons of evergreens, flags, Masonic emblems, devices, and transparencies,—formed altogether a pleasing and brilliant appearance. In the centre window a large transparency of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, illuminated the approach to the hall externally. These decorations did much credit to the taste and skill of Bro. Fairweather, artist. The excellent music was led by Mr. Menzies, of Edinburgh, and the enlivening strains of Bro. Allan's violin were again pre-eminent in the Scottish dances. The duties of Master of Ceremonies were ably performed by Bro. Gray. About half-past ten, the Brethren conducted their partners to an elegant supper, laid out in two large rooms of the Royal Hotel, which adjoins the hall; and after a few appropriate toasts, proposed in suitable terms by the Masters and other Officers of Lodges, the party returned to the merry dance, which was kept up with great spirit until after four o'clock. Nearly 200 were present on this occasion; and the success of this ball, as well as of that given by the Ancient Lodge, reported in our last number, warrants their repetition next year.

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

A quarterly meeting of this Supreme Body was held at the Star Hotel, Edinburgh, on the 5th of March. E. C. Patrick Denchar, in the absence of the First Grand Principal, Acting Z., Comp. Dr. W. D. MacKitchie, II., and Comp.

Archibald Douglas, J. The minutes of the previous Quarterly Communication were read and confirmed.

Read and sustained Proxy Commission by Chapter Carlton, St. John, New Brunswick, No. 47, in favour of Comp. W. D. MacRitchie, a regular R.A. Companion of the Edinburgh Chapter, No. 1.

A Warrant of Constitution was agreed to be issued in favour of certain Companions of and belonging to the town of Paisley, in the western province of Scotland, empowering them to hold a Chapter there, under the name and title of "The Abbey Royal Arch Chapter of Paisley," and to rank No. 76 on the roll of Supreme Grand Chapter.

A motion, having for its object the conjoining the duties of various Officers of the Chapter, was, on a division, negatived by a majority.

The Scribes reported a communication from Comp. Wm. Ramage, of the Bon-Accord Chapter of Aberdeen, No. 70, accompanied by an extract from the minutes of what was termed an adjourned meeting of that Chapter, held at Aberdeen on the 7th of February last, and in terms thereof transmitting to the Supreme Chapter the charter which had been granted for the constitution of that body in 1850. It was unanimously resolved, "That the charter now tendered be received and accepted, with an expression of regret to find that the resolutions come to by the members of the said Chapter were of a nature wholly unwarrantable, in so far as they were not only based upon a total misunderstanding of the laws of the Supreme Grand Chapter, but contained statements altogether at variance with the facts of the case."

It was further unanimously resolved, "That the Supreme Grand Chapter, taking into consideration the resolutions which had been passed at an adjourned meeting of the members of said suspended Chapter whilst under suspension, do suspend from all Royal Arch privileges the following members of said Chapter of Bon-Accord, Aberdeen, No. 70, viz.—James Rettie, Robert Findlay, R. S. Houston, William Ramage, Robert Beveridge, and William Molleson, movers and seconders of the resolutions passed at said meeting, in respect of their having acted in direct opposition to their engagements as Royal Arch Masons, and contrary to the laws and regulations of Supreme Grand Chapter."

Other business, chiefly of a routine nature, referring to the ensuing election of Office-bearers, and celebration of the Vernal Equinox, having been disposed of, the Chapter was closed with all due solemnity, and the Companions separated.

ABERDEEN.—*Bon Accord Chapter* (No. —).—A meeting of this Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, on Thursday, the 7th March, at 8:30 P.M., to hear a statement of the differences that had arisen between that Chapter and the Supreme Chapter of Scotland. There were present several of the members of the Bon Accord Chapter, and a large number of the Companions of other Royal Arch Chapters in the Province of Aberdeen, and some few strangers, amongst whom it may not be out of place to notice E. Comp. Topp, an old Aberdonian, who, after an absence in various parts of the world for the lengthened period of forty-four years, returned to this his native place, and had the great pleasure and satisfaction of being received with acclamation by a generation that had not known him, but who were actuated by those high and ennobling sentiments which none but the duly initiated can partake of themselves or evince towards others.

The Chapter having been adjourned, not closed, at their last meeting, by reason of the suspension, the chairs were taken by Ex. Comps. James Rettie, Esq., Prov. G.S.W. of this Province, and M.E.Z.; Houston, H.; and Findlay, J.; and the proceedings of the last meeting were continued by adjournment. The M.E.Z., in a clear and lucid statement, brought before the meeting the various facts which had conduced to the pending state of the Chapter, and intimated that the Companions of the Bon Accord Chapter had arrived at certain conclusions amongst themselves which they intended to adopt, but in the interim submitted their position to the Companions assembled.

Ex. Comp. Dr. Fraser was of opinion that no final resolution should be adopted, but that endeavours should be used to induce the Supreme Chapter to enter upon a consideration of the whole matters in question.

Other Companions expressed various opinions—various indeed—and differing *toto cælo*; and Comp. Hugh Fraser; and other Comps., expressed a desire to pass a vote of condolence with the members of the Bon Accord Chapter on their existing position.

Various questions were asked and answered, and, after a long and very interesting discussion, there was moved, by Comp. Beveridge, Scribe N., and seconded by Comp. Findlay, P.H., a long resolution, to the effect:—“That the Companions of the Bon Accord Chapter felt themselves deeply aggrieved by the conduct of the Supreme Chapter in reference to the Mark Master Degree. That the Supreme Chapter had not hesitated to violate not only its own laws, but the plainest principles of justice, by condemning the Bon Accord Chapter unheard, without even condescending to point out the law alleged to have been infringed, and by refusing to listen to anything in vindication. A proceeding more grossly arbitrary and unmasonic it was scarcely possible to conceive, and the Companions, with deep regret, felt themselves compelled to declare that, having lost all confidence in the Supreme Chapter, they could no longer remain in connection with that body, and therefore resolved—that the Charter received from the Supreme Chapter be forthwith returned, along with a statement of the reasons for so doing.”

It was next moved by Comp. Rettie, P.Z., and seconded by Comp. Mollison:—“That the Companions of Bon Accord Chapter, fully convinced of the truth of the great principle so ably enunciated and laid down by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, in the year 1824, that Diplomas from the higher Masonic bodies, were ‘*recognised over the whole civilized world, as an evidence that the bearer had passed through all the inferior Degrees:*’ and, being aware that the Arch, and other subordinate Degrees connected therewith were wrought by the Knights Templar Encampments in Aberdeen many years previous to the formation of the Supreme Chapter, and that the Knights Templar Encampments never gave up their inherent right of working these Degrees, therefore resolve to apply to the St. George Aboyne Knight Templar Encampment for a Warrant or Charter to work the Royal Arch Degree, and other subordinate Degrees connected therewith; and that the Office-bearers be appointed a Committee to carry this resolution into effect.”

This motion was passed; as were also two others, to the effect that the proceedings should be made as public as possible, and communicated to the Supreme Grand Chapter.

After this heavy business was closed, the Companions were entertained by the Bon Accord Chapter, in the usual hospitable manner practised in this happy “land of cakes,” and a treat of truly Masonic harmony was also furnished in this same “land of song;” and a better-conducted meeting, or one in which more truly Masonic behaviour was combined with hilarity and good feeling, was never held in this country or elsewhere.

A meeting of the following Chapters of Aberdeen was held in the Masonic Hall, on Monday, the 17th March:—Old Aberdeen, No. 16; St. George’s, No. 21; St. Peter, No. 30; M. E. Comp. Duncan, P.Z., of St. Peter’s Chapter, in the chair; when resolutions relative to Bon Accord Chapter were unanimously agreed to, to the following effect:—That the meeting had heard with deep concern and regret of certain differences that had arisen between the Bon Accord Chapter and the Supreme Grand Chapter, resulting in the former throwing off its allegiance to the latter, and in the suspension as Royal Arch Masons of six worthy and well-beloved Companions of the Order. That the meeting, without entering into the merits of the cause of dispute, *on which it expressed no opinion whatever*, could not but put on record its strong sense of the arbitrary and unconstitutional nature of said suspensions, carried into effect, as they appeared to have been, by the Supreme Chapter, without a charge being preferred against the suspended Companions, or any opportunity given them either to explain or defend their conduct. That, sympathizing with the six suspended Companions, the meeting begged, with all due deference and submission, but, at the same time, with firmness, to call on the Supreme Chapter to reconsider its resolution, to rescind the suspensions, and to proceed against the Bon Accord Chapter and its Companions for any error it

might be alleged they had committed, in terms of the laws of the Order, and in a calm, conciliatory, and Masonic spirit. And that, should the Supreme Grand Chapter decline to give a favourable consideration to these representations, it would become a subject for their consideration whether they could continue their allegiance to the Supreme Grand Chapter.

A hearty vote of thanks to Comp. Duncan, for his conduct in the chair, closed the proceedings.

DUNDEE.—*Union Chapter* (No. 6).—This Chapter still continues to prosper in a very satisfactory manner; and in order to form an agreeable variety to their numerous meetings for exaltation and other duties, the Companions intended to dine together in the British Hotel on Monday last, the 24th ult., to celebrate the Festival of the Vernal Equinox. On the 10th ult., our worthy and much-respected neighbour, Comp. Sir John Ogilvy, Bart., of Baldovan, affiliated with this Chapter as a full member, which afforded the Brethren much satisfaction.

Glasgow Chapter (No. 50).—Bro. Donald Campbell, the R.W.M., presided in St. Mark's Hall, on Feb. 1, at a meeting of the Mark and Past Lodges, assisted by Bros. Robert Thomson, jun., and J. B. Murdock as Wardens. James Alexander Manning and John Aird, Master Masons, of St. Mark's, and Peter Sweetser and John Eirven, both of the Merchant Navy U.S., were admitted members. These four Brethren were also installed in the Excellent, and exalted to the Sublime Degree in the Royal Arch Chapter, opened on the same evening, where M.E. Comp. D. Campbell, Z., was aided in carrying on and completing the work by Comps. G. A. Walker Arnott (Prov. Grand Z.), H., and John M. Rowan, J. On the 16th, in the same Lodges and Chapter, Bro. D. Campbell as R.W.M. and M.E.Z., and the Wardens and Principals, admitted to the M. and P. Degrees, installed and exalted to the Sublime Degree of R. A. Masonry Bros. John Reid, Dudley Haynes, Isaac Parrington, John Werge, and John Laurie, all M.Ms. of St. Mark's Lodge. On the 22nd of February, in the M. and P. Lodges, Bros. D. Campbell, R.W.M., James Horne and Robert Mitchell, as S. and J. Wardens, initiated Bros. Findlay M'Fadyean, M.M. of Lodge "Renfrew County Kilwinning," and Alfred Smith, M.M. of Lodge No. 171, Dublin; and in the Chapter, M.E. Comps. D. Campbell, James Horne, and John M. Rowan (Z.H. and J.) completed the work by exalting the candidates to the Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Masonry. On the 7th of March, M.E. Comp. Donald Campbell, Z., James Horne H., and Robert Mitchell (E.), J., carried on the work of this meeting of the Chapter, assisted by other Office-bearers and Brethren. Comp. Z. exhibited to the Companions the minute and cash-books which at a former meeting had been voted as a present to the Prov. Grand Chapter for the western district of Scotland; and he intimated also that on Monday, the 25th current, Dr. Walker Arnott would be installed in Edinburgh as Prov. Grand Z. for Scotland, and requested as many of the Companions as could find it convenient to attend the ceremony, seeing that Dr. Arnott had done so much for the good of this Chapter when Principal Z.

COLONIAL.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Brethren of the ancient Craft had a meeting in Lyttleton, on Thursday, the 25th October, to lay the foundation-stone of their new hall. A morning service had been arranged for their accommodation in the church, at 11 o'clock, and as the bell commenced, the Brethren proceeded, from their temporary Lodge-room at Bro. Alport's store, in order of procession to the church.

After the usual morning prayers, the Rev. B. W. Dudley officiating, Bros. Paul and Mathias reading the Communion Service, the Rev. Bro. Paul preached an appropriate sermon on the necessity of Christian brotherhood, and referred to the consistency of the Masonic fraternity with that important duty. The service

finished, the procession re-formed, and proceeded to the site, where, after a similar halt and change of position, the Brethren arranged themselves round the stone. An appropriate prayer was then offered by the Chaplain, while the stone was raised. The Bro. Sec. then read the scroll:—

“In the name of the Great Architect of the Universe, and under the auspices of the United Grand Lodge of the Ancient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of England, this, the first stone of the New Zealand Lodge of Unanimity, No. 879, was laid by William Donald, W.M. of the said Lodge, on the xxv. October, A.D. MDCCCLV. A.L. VDCCLV. A.R. Victoriae XIX.—A. J. Alport, P.M. A. A. Dobbs, S.W. Richard Wormald, J.W. R. Taylor, S.D. Wm. Gee, J.G. Alfred Silk, I.G. B. W. Mountfort, Architect. J. F. M'Cardell, Hon. Sec.”

The scroll, with some coins of the realm, being deposited in a glass-stoppered bottle, were placed in the cavity under the stone. The stone descended, to the chant, “Glory to God,” &c. The J.W., S.W., and P.M., having severally tested the stone by the plumb, rule, level, and square, handed their instruments to the W.M., who, having also tested the stone, declared it just and truly laid. The Cornucopia being handed to the W.M., he sprinkled corn on the stone, saying,—“I sprinkle corn on this stone as an emblem of Plenty: may bounteous Heaven shower its blessings upon us, and may our hearts o'erflow with gratitude.” Wine being then handed, the W.M. poured it on the stone, saying,—“I pour wine on this stone as an emblem of Joy and Gladness: may our hearts be made glad with light from above, and may Virtue flourish as the Vine.” The W.M. then poured on oil, saying,—“I pour this oil as an emblem of Peace: may peace and harmony, brotherly kindness and charity, ever dwell among us, and may the Almighty bless this and all our undertakings.” The Brethren on each occasion answering, “*So mote it be.*”

The plans of the building were then submitted to the W.M., who intimated his approval, and handed them to the builder, Bro. Taylor, with appropriate instructions. The W.M. then addressed the Brethren and spectators, and concluded by hoping the Almighty's blessing might attend their labour. After the blessing was pronounced by the Rev. Bro. Chaplain, refreshments were handed to the ladies, and the procession re-formed, and returned to the Lodge.—*Lyttleton Times.*

AUSTRALIA.

MELBOURNE.—A handsome silver snuff-box was presented to Bro. Robert Levick, at Hocken's Hotel, on Wednesday evening, December 5, by Bro. Llewellyns, in the name of the members of the Australia Felix Lodge of Instruction. Those who are aware of the valuable services rendered by Bro. Levick to those who are desirous of advancing in Masonry, will feel that the compliment was well deserved, and is equally honourable to the donors and to the recipient. The box bore the following inscription:—“Presented to Bro. Robt. Levick, P.M., by the Australia Felix Lodge of Instruction, No. 697, in testimony of the valuable services rendered to his younger Brethren as their Masonic instructor during the years 1854 and 1855. Melbourne, December 5, 1855.”—*Melbourne Age.*

MALTA.

Bro. Muir has proposed to erect a solid block of marble “To the memory of the Brethren who have lost their lives in the Eastern Expedition in 1854 and following years,” to be raised by Freemasons of Malta and the united services. The proposition has been at once responded to with that liberality which always distinguishes the Brethren, more especially those of Malta. The cenotaph is to be placed in the Crimea, and will consist of one solid block of marble, 7 feet long, by 3 high, and 3½ wide, weighing over 4½ tons. Bro. Muir is appointed treasurer, as he formerly was to procure the handsome present made by the brigade of Guards* to the Union Lodge, No. 588, on their passing through Malta in 1854.

* *Vide Freemasons' Monthly Magazine, January, 1855.*

SWITZERLAND.

A rather curious discussion has just taken place in the Grand Council of Geneva. The principal points of it are thus explained:—"The Council of State, on the demand of the members of the Masonic Order of the Temple, presented a bill for granting a gratuitous concession to that Order of a piece of ground for erecting a chapel. The application was founded on the fact that Freemasonry was a creed as well as any other, as Freemasons recognised the existence of God and the immortality of the soul, and were bound to the practice of every virtue. General Dufour opposed the bill, and denied that a secret society could be designated as a creed. M. Camperio proposed that the bill should be referred to a committee, as the question was not to play on the word 'creed,' but to justly appreciate the claims of the petitioners. This proposition was opposed by M. Pictet, who said that the application was not made by the majority of the Freemasons of Geneva, but by a dissentient minority. M. Fazy supported the bill, and the proposition of its being sent to a committee. He maintained that Freemasonry was a creed, and one of the purest kind, as it allowed all opinions to meet as friends on the same ground. As to the dissidents which had been spoken of, it was not worthy of notice, as the same fact also took place among Protestants. He remarked also that Freemasonry is officially recognised in many countries, and that in France a great dignitary of the Crown is at the head of the Order." After some further discussion, the Grand Council decided that the bill should be sent to a committee composed of MM. Autran, Fourte, Dufour, Mermoz, and Duval.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR MARCH.

Though the Terms of Peace are understood to be agreed upon, they have not yet been officially declared. The proclamation of peace is, however, daily expected. On the morning of the 16th the Empress of the French was safely delivered of an heir. The youthful prince has been baptized as "Napoleon Eugene Louis Jean Joseph, *Fils de France*." In honour of the event, the Emperor and Empress are to stand as godfather and godmother to all legitimate children born in France on that day. "Mother and child are doing well."

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords on the 29th February, the Government consented to the production of papers relative to tortures in India. On the 3rd March, after some observations by Lord Brougham on Law Reform, a few bills were advanced a stage. On the 4th, a motion of Earl Stanhope, recommending the formation of a gallery of portraits of British Worthies, in connection with the National Gallery, was agreed to. On the 6th, the standing orders were suspended, and the Exchequer Bills Funding and the Annuities Bill passed through their respective stages. On the 7th, the royal assent was given to these and other bills, and the Mercantile Law Amendment, and the Mercantile Law Amendment (Scotland) Bills read a second time. On the 10th, Leases and Sales of Settled Estates Bill (similar in object to the Irish Encumbered Estates Bill) passed through Committee. On the 11th, Lord Panmure admitted that defective mortars had been received from the contractors, Messrs. Grissell, and condemned. The Agricultural Statistics Bill was read a second time. The Settled Estates Bill passed, and other bills advanced a stage. On the 13th, Lord St. Germain's brought in a Bill to legalize Marriages with the Sisters of Deceased Wives, and several bills were advanced a stage. On the 14th, the royal assent was given to the Mutiny and other bills.

A letter was received from Lady Truro, presenting the law library of her late husband to the House. Adjourned to the 31st.

In the House of Commons on the 29th February, Mr. Roebuck brought forward a motion condemnatory of the Commission to inquire into the report of Sir John McNeill and Col. Tulloch on Crimean affairs, but, after some discussion, it was withdrawn. In Committee of Supply, £6,500,000 was voted on the Army Estimates. On the 3rd of March, Lord Palmerston explained that the Preliminaries of Peace had been signed; he also denied that this country was at war with Russia. In Committee, the Militia and Ordnance Estimates were voted, and £26,000,000 towards supply for the year from the Consolidated Fund. On the 4th, Sir De Lacy Evans brought forward his motion against the system of purchase in the army, but it was withdrawn, Lord Palmerston undertaking to have it inquired into by a mixed commission. On the 5th, Sir Wm. Clay's Bill for the Abolition of Church Rates was read a second time, there being, on a division, 221 for, and 178 against it. On the 6th, after a long discussion, Lord John Russell withdrew his resolutions on Education, and moved that the House go into Committee on the subject on the 10th of April, which was agreed to. On the 7th, Sir Benjamin Hall brought up a report recommending New Roadways through St. James's Park, so as not to interfere with the ornamental inclosure, and the House again went into Committee of Supply. On the 10th, a majority of 259 against 106 decided in favour of the second reading of the Police (Counties and Borough) Bill. On the 12th, Commissioners of Supply (Scotland) and the Reformatory Schools (Scotland), and the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Bills, were read a second time, and leave given to bring in a Bill for the More Effective Punishment of Persons inflicting Aggravated Assaults on Women and Children. On the 13th, Sir Charles Napier's motion against the Lords of the Admiralty was brought forward, but the result only served to damage the reputation of Sir Charles himself. On the 14th, after various explanations relative to affairs in the East, Sir George Grey announced, that shortly after Easter a bill would be brought in for the Reform of the Corporation of London. Several votes having been taken in Committee of Supply, leave was given to bring in various bills, and the House adjourned until the 31st.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

Covent Garden Theatre was totally destroyed by fire on the morning of the 5th, just as a *Bal Masqué*, given by Mr. Anderson, the Wizard of the North, was about to be brought to a close. The value of the building is estimated at £100,000, and the loss of Mr. Gye about £25,000. There is a doubt whether it will be rebuilt, but a subscription has been opened for the purpose, which her Majesty has headed by a donation of £1,000. In the mean time, Mr. Lumley is about to open Her Majesty's Theatre, and the Covent Garden company are to appear at the Lyceum.

On the 6th, Wm. Bousfield was convicted, at the Central Criminal Court, of the wilful murder of his wife and three children, by cutting their throats, in Portland-street, Soho, on 3rd February.

At Leicester, on the 6th, Wm. Fowkes was found guilty of murdering his nephew, by shooting him, on the 25th November last, at Swanston. The deceased had lately come into the receipt of £700, which the uncle was anxious to obtain.

Another fire took place at Messrs. Scott Russell and Co.'s shipbuilding works, at Millwall, on the 12th, but the leviathan vessel now building was uninjured.

On the 14th, a man named Alexander Smart committed suicide by throwing himself from the whispering-gallery into the nave of St. Paul's Cathedral, a distance of nearly 150 feet.

On the 15th, a package of her Majesty's plate, valued at about £500, was stolen from the waggon of Mr. Thungood, the carrier, whilst being conveyed from Buckingham Palace to the Paddington Station, to be conveyed to Windsor. The robbery took place whilst the men in charge of the waggon stopped at a public-house for refreshment. The chest has been found near Victoria-park, but the plate has not been recovered.

Mr. William Dove, a gentleman of Leeds, after a lengthened investigation, was convicted on the coroner's inquisition for poisoning his wife with strychnine.

True bills have been found against William Palmer, of Rugeley, for the murder of his wife and Mr. Cook. That for the murder of Walter Palmer was ignored.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

The Eastern Counties directors have been re-elected on the ballot of the shareholders. On the 20th, the Caledonian Railway Company declared a dividend at the rate of two per cent. per annum. In the Chester and Holyhead the preferential dividends only can be paid. A similar course is pursued by the North British.

PROVIDENT.

At the twelfth annual meeting of the Star Life Office, on the 4th, a report was presented, which showed that in the past year the directors received no less than 1,187 applications for new policies, for the amount of £371,659; of which number 714 resulted in policies for an aggregate amount of £216,685, which yielded a new revenue of £7,825. 10s. 4d. The directors have paid during the year the sum of £12,737: £12,129. 19s. being the net amount insured, under forty-four policies on forty-two lives; £607. 1s. being bonuses declared thereon at the two quinquennial allocations of ascertained profits.

The annual meeting of the Railway Passengers' Assurance Company was held on the 5th. The report said, the amount received and due for premiums of assurance during the past half-year is £4,211. 9s. 7d., being £3,961. 6s. 7d. on account of railway accidents, and £250. 3s. on account of general accidents, which, added to the receipts of the previous six months, makes the total income for the year just closed, £8,782. 0s. 5d. The total amount paid as compensation for accidents since the commencement of the company is £18,873. A dividend at the rate of four per cent. was declared.

On the 17th, the National Live Stock Assurance Company held its annual meeting. It appeared that during the past year the directors had issued 23,669 policies, insuring horses, cattle, sheep, &c., to the value of £425,253. 14s. 2d., the premiums upon which amounted to £13,085. 2s. 8d., showing an increase over the business transacted during the fifteen months ending 31st December, 1854, of sixty-six per cent., and of sixty-three per cent. on the amount of premiums received. During the past year the directors had awarded compensation in 1,337 instances, for 2,186 animals, to the extent of £7,563. 10s. 1d., in addition to £1,961. 5s. 3d. salvage, making the gross amount £9,524. 15s. 4d. Since the establishment of the company, a period little exceeding two years, the sum of £14,720. 14s. 3d., including salvage, had been returned to the insurers in payment of claims arising on their policies. A dividend at the rate of five per cent. was declared.

The Merchant's and Tradesman's Mutual Life Assurance Society held its annual meeting on the 20th. The report, which was adopted, said:—"The number of proposals submitted during the year is 695, for sums amounting to £170,066; the number completed from Feb. 1, 1855, to Jan. 31, 1856, is 537, assuring £134,546, the premiums on which amount to £4,510. 18s. 2d.; the amount assured prior to Feb. 1, 1855, and still in force, is on 1,818 policies, £459,551, the annual premiums on which are £14,573. 11s. 8d.; 113 proposals have since passed the board and been completed, amounting to £30,050, the premiums on which are £964. 6s. 3d., making the amount of current assurances £642,147; the number of policies, 2,468; and the present income of the society, £20,048. 16s. 1d. Claims in respect of deaths, with bonus additions, amounting to £4,925. 4s. 10d., have been duly discharged. Under the advice of Professor De Morgan, who has valued the assets of the Company, the Directors have declared a bonus equivalent on an average to 1½ per cent. per annum on the sum assured, or a cash bonus of very nearly 25 per cent. on the amount of premiums paid."

At the annual meeting of the Professional Life Assurance Company on the 26th, a report was presented, which stated that, during the past year, 574 new policies

had been issued, assuring £183,554, and producing an annual revenue of £5,629. 14s. 2d. In the course of the proceedings, it was explained that valuable agencies had been established in Australia and India, which it was expected would, within a very short time, materially add to the premium income, now amounting to about £30,000 per annum. A dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum was declared on the paid-up capital.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Conservative Land Company was held on the 27th, when the report said, "The following are the gratifying returns for the present quarter:—Cash received from 25th December, 1855, to Lady-day, 1856, £12,746. 5s. 6d. Total cash received to March 25th, 1856, £224,006. 8s. 1d. Total withdrawals from September, 1852, to Lady-day, 1856, £28,064. 1s. 1d. The total shares in progress, or uncompleted, taken up, to March 25th, 1856, were, 10,035; the completed shares to ditto were 1,899. Total shares issued to Lady-day, 1856, 11,934." The Executive Committee stated that the sale of land in detached plots, since their last report, had amounted to £2,321. 10s. 6d. The total amount of land sold to the present time was £135,371. 12s. The chairman (Lord Ranelagh) having congratulated the members on the continued prosperity of the Society, in despite of the war, and the great pressure on the money market, the report was adopted, and a balance for rights of choice proceeded with.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Bro. Ingram, the proprietor of the *Illustrated News*, has been returned to Parliament as Member for Boston.

A grand dinner was given to Mr. Buchanan, the retiring American Minister, at the Mansion House, on the 11th. Mr. Buchanan's speech breathed nothing but the most peaceful sentiments.

A concert in aid of the Nightingale Fund was given by Madame Lind-Goldschmidt on the 12th, when the tickets being £1. 1s. each, £1,800 was obtained in aid of the Fund.

On Easter Monday, various novelties were produced at the various Theatres, and Bro. Simpson opened Cremorne for the season.

A blind Sardinian minstrel, named Picco, has excited a good deal of attraction by his extraordinary playing on a common whistle.

Bro. Beuler's concert and ball took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 26th, and was most numerous and respectably attended;—a large number of the Brethren, and members of their families, being present.

Obituary.

BRO. THE HON. GEORGE O'CALLAGHAN.

On the 13th inst., at 13, Clarges-street, Bro. the Hon. George O'Callaghan.

BRO. EYRE EVANS, OF ASH-HILL TOWERS.

This W.M., P.M. of Union Lodge, No. 13, Limerick, was the representative of the Miltown Castle branch of the noble house of Carberry, being grandson of Thomas Evans, Esq., of Miltown, county Cork, M.P. in 1737 for Castlemartyr, younger brother of George, first Lord Carberry, and one of the heirs in remainder to that peerage. Mr. Eyre Evans was born the 23rd May, 1773, and married, the 20th March, 1805, Anna, eldest daughter of the late Robert Maunsell, Esq., of Limerick, formerly a member of Council at Madras, and by her, who survives him, has

had issue six sons and three daughters; of the latter two have been married, viz. Mrs. Maunsell Eyre, of Galway, and the Dowager Countess of Seafield. Mr. Eyre Evans' eldest son, Eyre, died in 1852, having married, in 1837, the Hon. Sophia Crofton, sister of the present Lord Crofton, by whom he left a son, Elystan Eyre, now successor to his grandfather, and a minor in his eleventh year. Mr. Eyre Evans died at his seat, Ash-hill Towers, county Limerick, on the 29th Jan. The name of Eyre came into this family through the marriage of an ancestor, the Right Hon. George Evans, of Caherass, in 1679, with Mary, daughter and heiress of John Eyre, Esq., M.P., of Eyre-court Castle, county Galway.

BRO. CHARLES BOARDMAN.

This worthy Brother, W.M. 432, and member of 336 and 481, Blackburn, expired awfully suddenly on Friday evening, 7th March. The lamented gentleman was held in universal esteem in Blackburn (his native town), and his unexpected and untimely death cast a deep mental gloom wherever the mournful intelligence was carried. He died in the full vigour of manhood, and in the midst of his usefulness, both public and private, at the early age of thirty-two. He was a member of the Town Council, and had been so since the incorporation of the borough: several beneficial reforms and improvements, and matters of refinement and taste, were furthered by him. The last act of his life was his assisting in the inauguration of a monumental pillar, of enduring granite, to the memory of his preceptor (the late Mr. Atkinson, head master of Queen Elizabeth's Free Grammar School, Blackburn), which he was mainly instrumental in erecting. For some years he had taken great interest in the resuscitation of the Grammar School (of which he was lately elected one of the governors, in token of the appreciation of his efforts in the good cause), and during the last few months he had the happiness to see the accomplishment of his wishes, and the school once more a benefit to the town. The deceased gentleman was possessed of scholarly attainments, and elegant and refined tastes. His amiable disposition won the love of all who knew him, and of him it might truly be said, "he had many friends, and but few (if any) enemies." Hitherto we have spoken of him as a man, but from what we have said, our Masonic readers will know that such a man must have been a "worthy Mason;" and such he indeed was, always ready to work out the principles of the Craft. He excelled in "that most excellent gift of charity;" his ambition was that Masonry and his own Lodges, particularly that of which he was W.M. (432), should prosper, and during the time he governed that Lodge he had the satisfaction to see it rise from adversity to prosperity, especially in its working. Here, too, his lofty and aspiring spirit led on needful reforms, which have secured to him and the Lodge the honour of praise and encomia from influential quarters. To the last he attended to the interests of his Lodge—the Monday preceding his death he presided at a meeting of the officers of the Lodge on important business, with his usual high ability. On the 11th inst. his remains were interred in St. Peter's Churchyard, without pride or pageantry. The corpse was borne to its last earthly home by a number of his workmen, and the funeral *cortège*, in addition to the chief mourners, consisted of the deceased's fellow-pupils and friends, and the master and scholars of the Grammar School. The members of the Masonic Lodges

of the town formed part of the procession, as friends of the deceased. His interment was witnessed by many hundreds of spectators, who were deeply affected. Few have gone to the grave so deeply and deservedly regretted and respected as the late Bro. Charles Boardman, W.M. 432.

BRO. WILLIAM JOHNSON.

This indefatigable and zealous Mason expired in Carliol-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on the 11th March, aged fifty years, after a brief illness of seven days. He was initiated into Masonry April 6th, 1837, and from that time to the date of his death had been constantly employed in some office or other. He was elected two years successively W.M. of the Borough Lodge, No. 614, in Gateshead; and subsequently filled the Master's Chair in the Newcastle-on-Tyne Lodge, No. 24; and St. Peter's Lodge, No. 706. He was appointed to office in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Northumberland, and attained the rank of Prov. G.J.W. As an Arch Mason he was equally active, being Past Z. in both the Chapters De Sussex and De Burghi, and Past H. in the Chapter De Swinburne. But Bro. Johnson's exertions were not confined to the foregoing degrees: he was a P.E.C. of the Royal Kent Encampment of Knights Templar, and had also taken the R.C. and N.P.U. Degrees of Masonic Knighthood, as well as being a member of the Council of Knights Grand Cross. The funeral took place on the 16th March, when, notwithstanding the extreme inclemency of the weather, upwards of one hundred of the Brethren accompanied the remains of our departed Brother to the Westgate Cemetery. As a proof of the high esteem in which Bro. Johnson was held among the Masons of this neighbourhood, it may be stated that the under-mentioned members of the Royal Kent Encampment of Knights Templar, officiated as pall-bearers:—Richard Metcalf, D. Prov. G.M. of Northumberland; William Dalziel, Prov. E.C. of the Enct. and P. Prov. G.S.W.; William Punshon, P.E.C. of the Enct. and P. Prov. G.J.W.; William Berkley, Grand Hospitaller of England and P. Prov. G.S.W.; George Weatherhead, P.M., Nos. 24 and 614, and P. Prov. G.J.W.; Henry Bell, P.M., No. 706, and P. Prov. G.J.D. And among the many Masons of high Provincial rank in the mournful procession we observed Bros. B. J. Thompson, Prov. G.J.W.; T. Fenwick, Prov. G.R.; T. Robinson, P.E.C., and P.M., No. 614; F. P. Jones, P.E.C., and P.M., No. 56 and 614; J. Barker, P. Prov. G.S.D., and P.M., No. 24; J. Kelly, the master of the Trinity House; J. R. Hodge, P.M., No. 24; G. Beldon, P.M., No. 586; J. G. Tulloch, W.M., No. 624; H. L. Monro, and W. Morrow, P.M.s, No. 56; W. E. Franklin, W.M., No. 614; J. L. Donald, W.M., No. 793.

NOTICE.

THE EDITOR requests that ALL COMMUNICATIONS may be sent to him at 74-5, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields, by the 20th of each month AT LATEST, to insure their insertion.

SOME SUBSCRIBERS having experienced a difficulty in obtaining the *Magazine* regularly, we beg to inform them that in future the *Freemasons' Monthly Magazine and Masonic Mirror* will be sent direct, for twelve months, to any address, at the commencement of each month, upon receipt of an Order upon the General Post-Office, Charing-cross, for 10s. 6d., payable to Mr. Henry George Warren, 2, Red Lion-court, Fleet-street, by whom the same will be acknowledged.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"W. B.," Dudley.—A Brother holding office in a Prov. Grand Lodge can wear his apron of that office in Grand Lodge. W. B., in a letter, the length of which alone prevents its publication, urges with great force the necessity of establishing Funds of Benevolence in connection with every private Lodge, in order that the claims upon the charity of the Brethren might be more promptly and liberally met than at present. He concludes thus:—"We will take a Lodge of fifty members, suppose they were each to subscribe £1 a piece,—that would realize £50 to start with; and I would propose that each member of the Lodge afterwards do subscribe five shillings annually, which would be for the whole £12. 10s. per annum; and this money, at compound interest, at 3 per cent., would, in five years (supposing that no claims were made upon it), realize the sum of £124 odd. If the general funds of the Lodge were in such a state as to admit of it, I would suggest that an annual donation be presented therefrom to this private Fund of Benevolence, which of course would make it so much the better. If this or a similar plan was adopted, every Lodge in the kingdom would, in a few years, have such means at hand as, in the event of unforeseen misfortune and calamity overtaking a brother of their number, to enable the Lodge to which he belonged to assist him, either by a donation or loan, as might be deemed advisable, such as would perhaps enable him to retrieve his position, and thus lead him to bless the day he saw the light of Masonry, instead of as now, after having subscribed to a Lodge for a great number of years, being compelled, in his declining years, from circumstances over which he had no control, to withdraw therefrom, with reflections as painful as unavailing, that had he been a subscribing member to some other Order he might have had something to fall back upon in his hour of need."

"SUBSCRIBER," Kidderminster.—Five are sufficient to confirm the minutes, although seven must be present to initiate.

"J. MOTT THEARLE."—The legend is unavoidably postponed.

"ORIM," Glasgow, is thanked. His communication shall be attended to.

"A. V. R.," Georgetown, is thanked.—We are glad to hear of the settlement of the differences between the two Lodges. Certainly, there can be no excuse for the Grand Secretary leaving NINETEEN communications unanswered. We trust a reform will be effected in this ere long. The list of Office-bearers did not come to hand with the kind communication of our Brother.

The communication of our Correspondents at St. Christopher, relative to the Mount Horeb Royal Arch Chapter, which is not in the Kalendar, shall be attended to. We may however remark, that the Lodges here appear to be in abeyance, No. 69 having made no return to Grand Lodge since 1815, nor No. 600 since 1835. Have any candidates been initiated since those dates? If so, they should understand that they would not be acknowledged as Freemasons in other parts of the world, for want of their certificates.

"OLD DUNDEE," next month.