

THE
FREEMASONS'
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TOADYISM.

IN the social, as in the individual, constitution, maladies have certain epochs, at which either themselves arrive at a crisis or throw off other shoots which eliminate subsequent species of evil. The increase of wealth, therefore, and the aids to luxury afforded by artistic improvement having given a fillip to national selfishness, this last has grown more exorbitant in its demands for power, rank, and pleasure, and now worships the idol in others which it desires itself to possess, condescending to perpetually augmented baseness and servility whereby to compass its ends. In all ages of the world the aphorism of Shakspeare has been proved true :—

“ Plate sin with gold, and the strong staff of justice
Hurtless breaks ; clothe it in rags, a pigmy's spear
Will pierce it ! ”

But this universal truth does not prevent our abasement before the image of gold or power becoming lower and lower ; and when the last bone in the back of our dignity is broken, and we ignore folly, pay our addresses to incompetency, offer ourselves to be kicked by tyranny, swear fealty to falsehood, if only a coronet covers the assailant, or a title dignify the insult,—when we reach even the point of preferring stultified indifference and fatuity in peers to honourable efficiency and manly straightforwardness in commoners, we then become in every sense of the word “ toadies.”

It is a word which owes its birth to the prevalence of the disorder it denotes ; hence its usage is so common at present. It is associated with, and indeed springs from, unprincipled ignorance of the true nobility of virtue, or from mistaken notions as to the good being the expedient. A man either imagines there can be nothing higher than to know a prince, or that his acquaintance is sure to bring such inevitable benefits as will well compensate for the insult of being

frequently snubbed by him. Now, as Masonry asserts the dignity of virtue, and wishes to encourage the moral elevation of man, a recognition of social evils, with their cure, appropriately belongs to her, more especially when such evils threaten imminently, as at present, her own expansion for the benefit of mankind. We shall, therefore, remark upon the too prevalent spirit abroad of toadyism, with a view of showing the mistake, not to enlarge upon the disgrace, of those who practise it. Our observations, be it also understood, are in no case to be considered personal, but as educed from the social state at present painfully apparent, and directed to Masonic and national good.

Now there may be several much better things and more elevating to the human character than a close acquaintance with the princes and potentates of the earth, who generally give a promissory note, not unfrequently dishonoured, for an uncertain amount of temporal dignity, receiving in exchange a certain payment of our moral independence. Thus, in the anecdote recited of the parasite who asked George the Fourth to dine with him, and upon the Regent's acceptance of the courtesy, was induced to make himself scarce on the occasion, and submitted to be banished from his own table, at which he was deemed unworthy to sit, whilst his tittering guests enjoyed the good things and sycophancy of the vulgar *parvenu*. It would surely have afforded the latter more subsequent satisfaction, mentally and morally, had he received the attentions of friends of his own grade, with whom he might have exchanged ideas without restriction, and tendered hospitality without the loss of self-respect. So that if we come to sum up the expense of the wine, viands, and attendance on this occasion, and throw in the utter prostitution of dignity of character, to make up "the tottle of the whole," as poor Hume used to call it, we must confess that toadyism proved here anything but a profitable transaction.

And though not so individually palpable, yet our social state at present evinces a general toadyism just as flagrant. What man does not put his virtue in his pocket, and run for miles to dine with a titled rascal, who might figure as a right honourable adulterer, seducer, spendthrift, Knight Grand Cross of the Ancient Order of Gamblers, Custos Rotulorum et Vitiorum? Nay more, we hear even of clergymen complaisantly associating with lords in the very presence of the Sapphos, whose frailty is unimpugned from the fear the spiritual Gallios entertain of losing a bishoprick. We, indeed, know of a few instances to the contrary, but they are very few; in fact, more than one example occurs, in not very remote history, of prelates owing their rise to an astute toadyism of the flagitious vices of a notorious Lais; so true is it that the stairs by which men mount to eminence are very dirty, and that more than one personage may challenge Bacon's title of "the meanest" as well as "greatest" of mankind. Every one, of course, compliments virtue orally, in set phrases of commendation, but to show practically that he considers her to be the "true and only nobility"

is quite another affair; and we verily believe that if, by some extraordinary revulsion of mundane politics, Satan should rise to direct as overtly as he now does secretly the administration of honours and wealth, thousands of us would run the risk of being trampled to death in the race for being first to pay our homage to him, to become his chaplain or prime minister, and be ready to swallow himself, hoofs, horns, and all. Yet we call ourselves a very noble, straightforward, and independent people—what a farce!

Now Masonry ignores this pitiable spectacle, as a falsehood and hypocritical delusion. She contemns the flimsy dress of pretended honour with which man conceals the skeleton of his infamy; she spurns the magniloquent rhapsodies which the pseudo-hero of a thousand virtues spouts upon the public stage, who, behind the scenes, in private life, indulges in saturnalia which Silenus would repudiate. Rank has its duties as well as its privileges. It has no right to receive the honours of the one the moment it discards the obligation of the other. If a being, therefore, called man, disowning the glorious prerogative of his creation in the image of his Maker, casts himself down in the dust before a fellow-mortal, in order to acquire title, wealth, or power, he deserves to receive the dirt the mean door-mat he has made himself is fitted for; his titles, acquired by evil means, do but set forth and illustrate his turpitude, and present as ludicrous a contrast between the grandeur of his dignities and his own dishonour, as any long-eared Balaam who ever roared beneath a lion's skin. Those who have made him great, ridicule their own work; his superiors laugh at, while they consort with him; and the ranks he has just quitted, of his previous equals, now his inferiors, hate while they flatter, and long for the fall of the successful humbug whose meanness they abjure, and yet, for half his fortune, would—copy.

The clown's part in the play is the most amusing to others, the most tiresome to himself. To think what pains in the back so much bowing and bowing on the "toady's" part must cause! What revoltings of the moral stomach must be produced by the perpetual demand on its powers to act in direct opposition to their purport, to gorge vice, tyranny, and oppression, and to be compelled to hiccup forth falsehood, servility, adulation! Rely upon it, the prevalence of sciatica and indigestion arises from this moral abasement, and not altogether from those infirmities which come strictly within the province of Parr's pills, or Holloway's ointment!

As far as rank conduces to the elevation of Masonry in a state, the question is capable of a modified estimation. We do not deny that the position of many Brethren as peers tends to impress the minds of the vulgar with a sort of respect for our Fraternity, and that in some cases this rank may act beneficially in securing protection in states where popular liberty is insecure. But here, in England, we have no need of such protection; hence rank, in this respect, is comparatively valueless, and more than valueless, becomes even detrimental if it checks the expansion of Masonic excellence in the

Craft. The instant equality is abandoned, and title worshipped, by the Brethren, they degenerate from their proud prerogative as Masons, to whom all men stand as equal. Our principles, while they pay honour to merit, teach us to repudiate sycophantic adulation of mere title, and to value a man on his deserts, not on his name. We regard with veneration an old stock, but in England, where hardly any man can boast a titled grandfather, and the lawyer's clerk frequently becomes a lord, the nobility of great names would be the idlest substitute for energy and virtue. Moreover, it is not in Masonry as in some universities; we do not need a chancellor who spells "ninny" with one "n," so profound in scholarship is he, to fight our battles upon the ground of laws and grants cementing us with the policy of the state. We have nothing to do with politics; the greatest lord cannot afford any shadow to us, who need not his protection; we rest in ourselves, and like a light placed in the beacon-tower, send forth, or *should do so*, the rays of moral intelligence over nations, without junction or attachment, as of necessity, with this or that particular spot.

We recall with pleasure the words which ring in our ears as uttered last night in the British Lodge by that truly energetic Freemason, C. Purton Cooper, Prov. G.M. for Kent, in which he pointed to the signs of change in the times wherein we live, and the necessity of Masonry arousing itself to the demand for increased activity in promoting social improvement in science, literature, and morals. Our worthy Brother is one of that hitherto small, but now rapidly increasing number of thoughtful men, who, seeing what Masonry has formerly done, and what it is capable of doing, as a vast association of harmonizing intellect, are resolved to leave no stone unturned to raise it to its proper dignity and usefulness. This can only be done by opening the doors of high state in the Craft to all alike; let merit carry the day; let emulation and honourable endeavour thrive; let "Palnam qui meruit ferat," be the practice as it is the principle of the Craft. We should then hear no more of large Lodges of scientific men, who meet to eat and drink, yet never devote an extra day to give in public the lucubrations of their studious hours, as if hospitality were the only Masonic virtue; of Prov. Grand Masters never visiting their Lodges; of cliques in the latter; of colonies alienating themselves from our banner on account of Grand Sec.'s discourtesy, or Grand Master's inattention; of the latter's fondness for quadrupeds absorbing his interest in Masonic bipeds; in a word, of all those anomalous disorders which render the Craft, at present, a by-word to the world for convivial antiquarianism, instead of the synonyme for intellect and honour. A better feeling is abroad, and toadyism *must* fall:—"Delenda est Carthago," is the resolution of all those true hearts in Masonry which would open up the channels of distinction and influence to the earnest aspirations of the most lowly Brother. The spirit of our Order is not dead, though dormant; men have worshipped the dais long enough, they now perceive that our Fraternity does not exist merely to save physical life in dis-

tress and danger, but to ameliorate moral suffering, to irradiate mental darkness, to promote social good. We are bound not only to give bread, but to bestow truth, intelligence, and improvement on our Brethren—from them to the world; and to effect this main aim of Masonry, requires only the recognition of the principle “*Detur pulchriori*,” and an utter abjuration of the monstrous and absurd spirit of “toadyism,” which reversing the attributes of charity in every sense, “curses both him that gives and him that takes.”

MASONIC SONGS.—No. 6.

SILVER HAIR & GOLDEN STRINGS—AN OLD MAN'S PHILOSOPHY.

BY BRO. G. DOUGLAS THOMPSON.

[*This Song is Copyright.*]

SILVER hair and golden strings,
Hath yon minstrel grey,
Ever to his harp he sings,
Let the month be May,
Or brisk March, or dull November,
Still he'll sing and play,
For it joys him to remember,
Youth's fresh holiday.

Thus sings he: “Though age is creeping
O'er me now I know,
Why should I sit sad and weeping,
While young roses blow;
Can I not from young hearts gather
Bloom to call my own,
In their joy I'd bask me rather
Than lie down and moan.”

Silver hair, &c.

Thus sings he: “Each child that's sporting
O'er the village green,
Every youth and maiden courting,
Joy me still I ween;
For so sweet the recollection,
That I once could toy,
That I ne'er can feel dejection,
At another's joy.”

Silver hair, &c.

Thus sings he: “I too had pleasure
In my youthful time,
Sweet and brimming was the measure,
Of my manhood's prime;
No reflection bringeth sadness,
Naught doth sorrow give,
Beat, old heart of mine, with gladness,
Ever while I live.”

Silver hair, &c.

NOTES OF A YACHT'S CRUISE TO BALAKLAVA.

(Continued from page 246.)

September 2nd.—Was called at an unheard-of hour this morning, in order to reach the camp in time for prayers. We assembled in pretty good order to an early breakfast. The ladies, as usual, giving us the go-by, in all matters of enterprise.

The quay, as we landed, showed, to our inexperienced eye, a fearful confusion—dromedaries, ammunition-carts, ambulances, bearing sick and wounded from the trenches; store-sheds, rows of barrels and heavy-looking sacks; commissaries, military fatigue-parties, men of the naval brigade, tourists in wide-awake hats; staff officers and araba drivers. But I am told the order now existing is perfect and irreproachable; nevertheless, we were glad to pick our way clear of it.

The town appears to be a terribly tattered concern, with a couple of tumble-down churches.

Having procured some mules, and two arabas, which are simply baskets on wheels, without springs, and drawn by a brace of bullocks, we commenced our long-anticipated journey to "The camp before Sebastopol." The way led up a beautiful ravine, behind the town; here we beheld mountains of rock, rent by some volcanic convulsion, and in their fissures are seen growing innumerable rare and beautiful trees, in all their luxuriant and variously-coloured foliage.

The ladies were laughing gaily as they reclined on some straw at the bottom of their basket, jolting unmercifully over the rough ascent. The little German, his keen grey optics hidden under a pair of blue goggles, bestrode a wretched mule; Sir Arthur and I shared another araba; while the colonel flourished about on a troop-horse, lent him by some staff friend; and Charles Fitzurse had a mule, of which he could make nothing: such was our cavalcade.

We soon mounted to higher ground, and were able to glance at the country.

It presented an undulating appearance, rising into bold hills behind us; but in front, broken into dells and ravines, clothed with a kind of scrub, and otherwise not unlike the face of a highland landscape.

Our progress was slow, and, to our eager fancy, unnecessarily tedious, when we found ourselves more than an hour and a half doing six miles. At last we reached the outposts, and there remained, while the colonel rode on to obtain the desired order of admission.

Nothing more barren and dreary than the country in which the camp is pitched can be imagined. Though really a high table-land, it is so extensive that it gives the idea of an undulating plain. The

sea is hidden by rising ground to the westward; the highest is to the north, a little below the summit of which the camp is placed: this summit is intersected by several gorges, and from these the ground slopes about a mile and a half down to Sebastopol. The general colouring of the scene is a light drab, without any foliage, the patches of oak scrub looking merely like dark spots.

Across this desert, from east to west, is the British camp; it is three or four miles long; and the effect of the lines of bell-shaped tents, tipped with red, was peculiar, and to us of thrilling interest. At first the camp was quiet enough, the morning sun sparkling here and there on the bayonet of a sentry, or catching a line of tripods formed by the piles of muskets and rifles opposite each tent.

While we looked, however, the bugles sounded, and in an instant the whole place was alive; the tripods vanished, and the whole of the division, which was before us, stood to arms.

Just then the colonel galloped back with the desired order. We accordingly left our mules and arabas at the outpost, and walked to where the soldiers were drawn up in a hollow square, on a space of ground just beyond the tents. In the centre stood the chaplain—his Prayer-book and Bible resting on a big drum,—the officers were grouped around him. His surplice, which looked so strangely familiar and out of place in that wild martial scene, blown about in the wind. He happened to be a tall, handsome young man, with as fine a beard and moustache as the boldest grenadier among them.

He had commenced the service before we reached our places, on higher ground, in front of the square; of course, no one could move from his position to kneel down, and as the entire service would be too long, both for time and a standing congregation, the Litany and Communion were omitted. But as the wind blew towards us, the chaplain's voice was distinctly audible, as he raised it in prayer to the "Lord God of Hosts!"—amid the solemn accompaniment of thundering artillery from the town, and the rushing, panting sound of the Lancaster guns on our side.

I shall never forget that service! The feeling that to many of the congregation it was indeed a funeral service was sublimely impressive. I could hear Miss P——'s sobs come thick and fast from beneath her veil; and as she held my arm, I felt hers tremble. Soon, however, it was all over.

Our group was a strong attraction: it was long since a female form had been seen by any of the thousands of eyes around us—though, I believe, there are one or two rare cases of officers' wives having accompanied their husbands to the seat of war.

General —— approached to pay his respects to his friend's friends, and soon he was followed by a tall, soldierly, knightly-looking young fellow, in a soiled uniform and foraging-cap—for head-gear is variable out here. I thought Miss P——'s arm trembled again as this personage drew near. The next moment Sir Arthur gave a shout of recognition, and darting forward, shook his hand with a

forty-horse power of cordiality. "Kate!" he exclaimed, "here is our friend H."

Kate threw back her veil, and gave her hand to Captain H. with a smile that made me think of thirty years' back, and—No matter!—of course, she had relinquished my arm to shake hands with the captain, and, somehow or other, they were soon chatting together apart from the rest.

"Can't you come back with us to dinner?" exclaimed Sir Arthur; "we've the yacht down there, and, Achille, we'll have a pleasant evening, and can give you a bed."

"Thank you," returned the young captain, a gay smile brightening his embrowned cheek; "I'm engaged, unfortunately, to the trenches this evening; but if nothing happens, I'll see you to-morrow."

The ladies shuddered: that "if," implied life or death.

We now accompanied General ——— to the famous picquet-house, in order to have a peep at Sebastopol, as the general informed us no strangers could be permitted past the lines after to-day.

Our first glimpse of the famous town disappointed us; these earthworks are not imposing in appearance, at least at a distance; moreover, they have been much knocked about, and have the look of rugged natural ridges, through which, in some unaccountable manner, innumerable great black guns poke their muzzles.

The ground between us and them is thickly encumbered with every species of impromptu cover basket-work, filled with earth, &c. &c. The ladies were soon satisfied, and retreated to the rear under escort of the German and the captain.

We, however, passed on to the picquet-house. It is a small ruin, on the brow of a hill. Its walls afford shelter, and its position a view into the town. It has, therefore, from the commencement of the siege, been a rendezvous for idlers of all sorts.

By the aid of a good glass, I saw plainly enough into the town. The suburbs were a mass of ruins; but some fine solid buildings—one of them I was told was the club-house—appeared intact, as well as a long line of white walls by the docks.

It seems a noble city, and I could not but regret the work of devastation. The Malakoff is a circular tower, faced with massive earthworks to the left, towards the sea opposite the position of our gallant allies, and crowned by a flagstaff: I took but a cursory glance at it.

In the first place, I fancied General ———, with all his politeness, wanted to get rid of us; and, secondly, the constant banging and rushing of all kinds of explosive missiles, do not tend to improve a peaceable old Londoner's taste for sight-seeing.

In short, I was glad enough to be back with my fair friends, who by this time had discovered various acquaintances amid the combatants, and were the centre of an admiring group.

Some French *militaires*, in their smart, full, red trowsers, tight waist-belts, and fierce little peaky caps, were being introduced as we

came up; and amid the whole party Sir Arthur scattered invitations thick and pressing.

Our drive back was less exhilarating than that in the morning. I think we were somewhat done up with over excitement.

3rd.—Paid a visit of inspection to several of the men-of-war here—certainly, their order and cleanliness are quite wonderful; but they have been too often described to be anything new.

In the evening, Captain H. and Colonel ———, with two or three French officers of their acquaintance, joined us at dinner: the latter most agreeable and accomplished gentlemen; we sung all kinds of duets, trios, quintets, &c. There was an indescribable charm about this social evening, snatched from the horrors of war. It showed how pleasant human nature is, when stripped of the thick coating of conventional assumption, affectation, and falsity, where-with man disguises it. These young men, in a common-place drawing-room, might have, most probably would have, ruined themselves by some attempt to create effect; here, they were simply desirous to enjoy an unexpected pleasure, and show their consciousness of it to their entertainers. Our French friends were most anxious that we should visit their camp, and promised to let us know when they could procure permission for us; for theirs is even more jealously guarded than the British.

4th.—There was some talk last night of standing out to sea, towards Kertch and Yenikale, but the weather this morning is too unfavourable.

We went ashore about twelve, and succeeded in procuring cavalry for a ride towards the camp; but, except a few wounded on their way to hospital, met with nothing worthy of notice, and so returned, almost blinded with dust and blown to pieces with the wind. There seems to be some indescribable expectation in every face.

Neither the Colonel nor any of our fighting friends joined us at dinner. The only addition to our party, a couple of bright-eyed, curly-headed middies, who are cousins of some sort to Sir Arthur—delightful youngsters, who told us all sorts of anecdotes about the siege. They left us early, and we all retired in a curious state of anticipation and watchfulness.

5th.—Awoke this morning with a vague idea of a thunder-storm, and a continuous dull roar as of a distant peal, puzzled me for one moment of confused waking, and then made me spring up and commence dressing with railroad speed.

I found every one equally on the alert, and shoals of boats were speeding from every ship in harbour to the shore.

We took a hasty breakfast—the ladies were pale and nervous, every now and then arresting the progress of a slice of hot cake, or a cup of coffee to their lips, to listen to the sullen booming so incessantly borne to us on the wind.

They hesitated a good deal about accompanying us ashore, but we persuaded them not to lose so fine a sight as such a cannonade doubtless would present at a distance.

Finally, we all started for the shore, and with some difficulty succeeded in hiring arabas; for the crowd of amateurs and tourists, in all kinds of eccentric costume, was more like the gathering at some English sea-side regatta, than that remote spot in the Czar's dominions.

We therefore jogged hastily off towards the highest ground we could find near the camp, along with the rest of the mob. We found, however, that the order for the exclusion of stragglers was most strictly enforced, and in spite of the bold manœuvres of travelling gentlemen to turn the flanks of sentinels, few could get past the outposts. We stopped within a couple of miles of them, where a rising ground afforded a tolerable view of the scene; but we might as well have stayed in the yacht for all we could make out. Clouds of smoke shrouded the whole, and seemed to wrap the whole in an impenetrable gloom; occasionally the fell swoop of some mighty shell raised it above this curtain, a faint cheer reached us at intervals, while the awful monotony of thunder, laid a stern stillness on the heart itself. Soon the ladies begged, with pale cheeks and trembling voices to be taken back; and at this moment, we, to our delight, descried the colonel making his way towards us.

He told us, what we knew, that it was the French who were cannonading the Bastion Centrale and Bastion du Mât, and advised us not to waste our time now in looking at the smoke, but to return after dark, when all the allied batteries were to join in a terrible bombardment.

He also said, that before many days were over, something very decisive would have been accomplished.

Sir Arthur was burning to penetrate as far as Cathcart's Hill, and the colonel promised to do his best to get us passes,—while the ladies implored us not to venture so far. Miss P—— veiling her dark eyes beneath their long lashes, asked if he had heard anything of Captain H. ?—"I saw him yesterday in high preservation," returned the colonel, smiling: "and I suppose he is so still, as nothing particular has happened since. Now I would advise you all to go back, and return again after dark."

We took his advice. The ladies went on board the yacht, Sir Arthur and the Hon. C. A. Fitzurse preferred wandering about the outposts, and Herr Müller and myself went rambling about Balaklava too excited to stay quiet.

6/h.—Having despatched a late dinner, for Sir Arthur and his friend did not return till seven o'clock yesterday, and then with all sorts of rumours, we prepared for the shore.

It was past nine o'clock considerably when we took up our position, under Colonel ——'s guidance, on a ridge to the right of that we had occupied in the morning.

From this nothing could surpass the awful magnificence of the sight. A black pall of dense smoke hung over the devoted town, as a curtain descends upon the stage when the drama is acted out; and this solemn pall was perpetually torn with fiery streams, and

illuminated by the sweep of bursting shells, while the flashing of exploding magazines varied the horrors of the scene. To this were added the hush of the spectators, the gloom of night, the intense conviction that a year's struggle, with its heroism and endurance, its daring courage and inflexible determination, was approaching its culminating point; and it may be imagined that these hours of silent watching, this deadly display of fireworks, were such as a lifetime could not efface from the memory.

Still we stood and gazed: at last there was a lull in the iron storm, it broke the spell, and we turned to pursue our homeward route.

Day had fully dawned when we reached the yacht. We were all much exhausted, but determined to renew our watch to-night.

7th.—A repetition of yesterday: at night the ladies ventured to the same ground we had occupied the night before, and were deeply affected by the awful magnificence of the scene.

The colonel has got us passes for Cathcart's Hill, whence we shall have a tolerable view. We are determined to remain there till after the assault, which they say is to take place at noon to-morrow.

Miss P. implored her brother, even with tears, not to venture: he pacified her by saying he would only go to the old ground; but begged she would not be frightened if he did not return till evening next day,—thus leaving himself free to go as he liked.

The town is almost deserted to-day: the tourists and stragglers pressing to the front. At night we hastened to Cathcart's Hill. Here a crowd of military were collected, sprinkled with a few distinguished civilians: the cannonade continued in salvoes, and various fires appeared.

8th.—Had breakfast early this morning in H.'s tent. He is attached to the light division, poor fellow, and, as he pressed whatever his camp-fare offered of greatest delicacy upon us, I could not keep myself from conjecturing how soon this brilliant young creature might be lying amid a heap of dead or wounded.

I made no attempt to join the jocular tone which was assumed by the party generally. They soon however dispersed, and Sir Arthur and I lay down to snatch a moment's repose, as the assault was not to take place before noon.

The memorable events of the 8th have been so lately and so graphically laid before you in the public journals that I suppress attempts to record my own impressions of that terrible day.

The approach of the French to the Malakoff was superb. I can compare it to nothing but the burst of an eager pack reckless of every difficulty, and intent only on the game before them.

But it was an awful sight to see our fine fellows, our brother Englishmen, march down so proudly to the harvest of death, on the fatal space that intervened between our trenches and the Redan!

I could not, if I would, describe what followed: it is a fearful confusion of smoke and musketry, and a distant din of battle borne

back to us on the wind—an age of breathless watching—and then, through the clouds of dust and smoke, to our horrified vision was dimly perceptible a sudden struggling fighting torrent of red coats, pouring over the wall, down the abattis, till it was lost in the ditch.

As for me I had seen enough. I put away my glass: I could not endure to look at that suffering mass, for which I could do nothing.

(To be continued.)

THREE STEPS IN FREEMASONRY.

AN ADDRESS, BY W. P. M. BRO. SCHOLEFIELD, GIVEN AT HIS FIFTIETH JUBILEE.

DURING the Mosaic dispensation, Freemasonry was the sole religion, and is one which gives a distinct refutation to the infidel, and this without a reference to any peculiar forms or modes of faith. Yes; to the properly initiated and well-informed Freemason, it furnishes a series of direct evidences which silently operates to establish the great and general principle of religion, and points to that triumphant system which has been the object of all preceding dispensations, as being the only one in which the all-absorbing point is most clearly developed.

A person of any religious denomination may attend our Lodges, without a fear of hearing his peculiar doctrine or mode of faith called in question by a comparison with others, which might be repugnant to his own creed, because the permanent and unalterable landmarks of Freemasonry are total abstinence and positive exclusion of all religious or political controversy, each Mason practising that system of morality best suited to the sanction of his own religion; which, emanating from the primitive system of Divine worship, and bearing a resemblance thereto, can therefore hear moral precepts inculcated such as are or ought to be frequently brought under our notice, and this without imputing a designed reference to any peculiar mode of faith. All our charges, all our regulations, assume as a foundation, which cannot be moved, a belief in the being of a God, and a future state of rewards and punishments, and inculcate the necessity of moral purity as a qualification for future happiness. This, in my opinion, forms the ground-plan of all religion in its universal acceptance.

I hold that real Freemasonry is the excellency of the fear of God, and that the Freemasons' Lodge, if properly conducted, is the School of Truth, to all who wish to learn its precepts; and every Mason must, according to his sincerity in the mystic art, fear and obey the God who made him, who redeemed him, and every moment provideth for him. The true Freemason is not only instructed in all those principles which lead him to fear and obey his God, but to manifest

in all his conduct a substantial proof of them, by the love which he is regularly called upon to exercise to all his fellow-creatures, of whatever country, station, or creed they may happen to be.

If you refer to the volume of the Sacred Law (Bible), you will find that the Jewish system was made up chiefly of ceremonies, types, and symbols, denoting intellectual and moral duties, which mode of teaching, Freemasonry adopts, and by which it is distinguished from all other institutions of the present day.

1st. For instance: in the first step we take we are taught how, under the patriarchal dispensation, they worshipped God in a few simple rites of devotion, and we are taught to do unto all men as we would they should do unto us.

The corporeal preparations which we have to submit to at our initiation, serve allegorically to remind the Brethren then present, that it is the man divested of all outward recommendations, of rank, state, and riches, which we accept, and that it is his moral worth alone which does or *ought* to open to him the door of the Masonic temple.

2nd. In the second step, we either are or ought to be made acquainted with the elements of geometry, one of the noblest sciences, practically and morally, by which we may be taught many useful lessons, and passed on to a view of the Mosaic dispensation shadowing forth a Church triumphant when the time should come. And now, as theocracy has ceased and regal government begun, we either are or ought to be given to understand in detail the erection of the temple, the middle chamber, being as Fellow Craft Masons not entitled to penetrate further.—See 1 Kings, vi. 8.

3rd. The third step or degree of a M.M. In this Degree we are taught to support with becoming dignity our new character, and so conduct ourselves that any instructions we may have to give to the Craft shall have its due weight by our own example. This Degree gives us a higher and more comprehensive view of the system by some display of the resurrection of the dead, which is a type of a new dispensation established by that Sublime Being of whom the Jewish Shekinah was the glory and radiant appearance, and therefore it is, with manifest propriety, that the resurrection is shadowed forth in this Degree. Brethren, the scientific philosophy of Freemasonry forms a rational employment of the mind in acquiring wisdom and experience resulting from human knowledge. But it is the theocratic or divine philosophy of the Order which must elevate the industrious Freemason above the things of this life, and prepare him for another and better; also must teach him to place his affections on things above, and instruct him so to pass through things temporal as finally not to lose the things eternal.

NOTES ON ANTIQUARIAN RESEARCH.

(Continued from page 674, Vol. i.)

CHAPTER X.

ON RINGS.

A good man in the city [an alderman], &c., wears nothing rich about him but the gout or a thumb-ring.—*Northern Lays*, 1632.

FINGER-RINGS are interesting as being the most ancient of all the ornaments we find mentioned in history, whether profane or sacred. So various were the uses of these little circles, that to describe them all minutely we should very soon weary our readers, adding at the same time chapter to chapter, until a folio resulted from our laborious task.

The origin of the ring is unknown; the first mention of it is made in Gen. xxxviii. 18, where the words of Judah, Jacob's son, to Tamar are thus recorded: "And he said, What pledge shall I give thee? And she said, Thy *signet*, and thy bracelets, and thy staff that is in thine hand." The ring is shortly after mentioned as having been in use among the Egyptians, for in the 41st chapter of Genesis, ver. 42, it is said,—“Pharaoh took off his *ring* from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck.” In the First Book of Kings, chapter xxi., we read that Jezebel wrote letters for the apprehension of Naboth, and sealed them with Ahab's seal; and we are told that Haman's proclamation for the destruction of the Jews was not only written in the name of King Ahasuerus (Esther iii. 12), but sealed with the king's ring. These passages show that in the earliest times the ring was used as the pledge of a covenant, as the reward of distinguished services, like those of Joseph, and as a seal to prove a royal proclamation to be true, and no forged document. A seal was not only affixed, however, to the royal proclamation, but was used in other royal acts. Thus (Daniel vi. 17) a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.” In this way the sepulchre of our Lord was supposed to be sure, when a watch was set, and the stone was sealed. From this use of the seal the expression is often used figuratively in Holy Writ. It will be sufficient to quote in proof three passages:—“Ye were *sealed* with that holy spirit of promise.” (Ephes. i. 13.) “He that hath received his testimony hath set to his *seal* that God is true.” “The foundation of God standeth sure, having this *seal*, the Lord knoweth them that are his.” (2 Tim. ii. 19.)

The Jews, however, were not the only nation who made use of the ring, for it was worn by the Chaldeans, the Babylonians, Persians, and Greeks, while, from Quintus Curtius, we learn that Alexander

sealed the letters he wrote in Europe with his own ring, and those in Asia with the ring of Darius. The Persians attribute the introduction of the ring into their country to King Guiamschild. The Greeks, Pliny says, cannot have used rings before the Trojan war. It is easy enough to imagine that when the Greeks adopted the practice, it would not be long ere their neighbours the Sabines, on the other side the Mare Hadriaticum, would welcome it too. No ornament we know was more generally worn by the Romans than rings; and this custom, we learn from Livy, was borrowed from the Sabines. Thus, in the earliest ages, the ring was worn in the East; and as each nation rose gradually into civilization and power, it passed from East to West.

Rings were made in ancient times according to the will or wealth of the person who wore them. The Romans, before the year of Rome 650, when effeminacy was unknown, were content with iron rings, which were sometimes gilt. Marius, we are told by Pliny, was the first person who wore a gold one. Frequently rings were made of two metals, sometimes single or combined, sometimes hollow and sometimes solid. Rings were set with various precious stones, as jasper or sardonyx; but a person who wore a very costly ring was not always to be envied. We are told that a senator Nonius, for instance, was proscribed by Antony, on account of the gem in a ring which he wore, which was valued at 20,000 sesterces. A plebeian, who was brave in war, often obtained the right of wearing a gold ring; under the Emperors many more wore it; and from the days of Justinian all citizens who chose to have a gold ring might wear it, without any particular desert. Some now multiplied their rings or annuli, and changed them as their dress; wearing heavy rings in the winter, and lighter ones in the summer. The stones in the rings were not always plain, frequently they were engraved in creux (*gemmae ectypæ*), or in rilievo (*sculptura prominente*), the engraving being the head of some old ancestor, or great prince, or a secret hieroglyphical sign or symbol, answering very much to "Tom Styles + his mark" in parish registers. With the symbolical seals, letters, and all legal documents, were sealed.

The Romans, the Greeks, and indeed all the ancients, we may believe, wore the ring upon the fourth finger of the left hand, placing them at last on each joint, and changing them every week. The reason that the ring was placed upon the fourth finger was, because they thought that there was a nerve or vein which came directly from the heart; from this the fourth finger was called "*digitus annularis*."

As regards the thumb-ring, it seems to have been worn in bygone days by aldermen especially, to distinguish them from other mortals. In the "Wits' Constable," 1640, we read,—“No more wit than the rest of the bench; what lies in his *thumb-ring* ;” and it is mentioned by Brome, in the "Antipodes," 1641,—“Item, a distich, graven in his thumb-ring.” In the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1813, p. 17, there is an engraving of a massive thumb-ring, strongly

gilt. It bears in the interior the following inscription,—“*Candu plera meleor cera*,” intended, probably, says the contributor, for the Norman French, “*quant Dieux plevra, meleour serra* ;” or, preserving the jingle of the original,—

“ When God does send,
The times shall mend.”

In the same magazine we have a sketch of the travels of a valuable diamond-ring, which belonged to Mary Queen of Scots. As the arms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, *quartered*, were engraved upon it, this was considered at the trial good proof of her pretension to the crown of England. “The history of this fatal ring is curious. It descended from Mary to her grandson Charles I., who gave it, on the scaffold, to Archbishop Juxon, for his son Charles II., who in his troubles pawned it in Holland for £300, where it was bought by Governor Yale, and sold at his sale for £320, supposed for the Pretender. Afterwards it came into possession of the Earl of Mar, Duke of Argyle, and probably from him to the family of Mr. Blackford, at the sale of whose effects it was said to have been purchased for the Prince Regent.”

Sometimes rings were made in two parts, and termed joint-rings, their exact nature is explained by the following passage in Dryden’s “Don Sebastian :”—

“ A curious artist wrought them,
With joints so close as not to be perceived ;
Yet are they both each other’s counterpart :
Her part had Juan inscribed, and his had Zayda
(You know those names are theirs), and in the midst,
A heart divided in two halves was placed.
Now if the rivets of those rings inclosed,
Fit not each other, I have forged this lye :
But if they join, you must for ever part.”

Who it was that wore the first wedding-ring we know not, and would like an antiquary more learned than we have any right to pretend to be, to give us information upon this point. Certainly, the marriage contract, or rather the rites of espousal, were sealed with the ring in very early times : this was an important part of the ceremony among the Romans before the days of Christianity. The ring was no part of the marriage service itself ; and this is made very plain by Pope Nicolas : “Among us,” he says, “after the rites of espousal, which are the promise of future nuptials, the marriage ties are celebrated with the consent of those who have contracted them, and of those in whose power they are ; and after the bridegroom has presented his bride with espousal gifts [*arris*], among which he places a ring on his finger as a pledge, and then he delivers the dowry settled by both parties, this covenant being preserved in writing, openly before witnesses invited on both sides.” The writer thus continues : “*Aut mox, aut apto tempore (ne videlicet ante tempus lege definitum tale quid facere præsumatur), ambo ad nuptialia federa perducuntur.*”

Among the offerings brought for the work of the Tabernacle, "bracelets and ear-rings and rings" (Exod. xxxv. 22) are mentioned. Upon the very doubtful authority of this text, the origin of wearing wedding-rings has been derived, some say, from the Jews. This idea is controverted by Leo of Modena; and though Selden allows that the Hebrews gave a ring in their marriage ceremony, he asserts that it was only as equivalent to a piece of money of the same value, which it was the custom to give before. The same author cites Clemens Alexandrinus as a proof of the antiquity of the use of the ring in Christian marriages. "The ring," he says, "is given her, not as an ornament, but as a seal, to signify the woman's duty in preserving the goods of her husband, because the care of the house belongs to her."

In certain marriages in France, we learn from the antiquary De Breveil that it was anciently the custom for the bride to wear a rush ring. The same custom must have been prevalent in London in the days when one could not pass along Fleet-street or Ludgate-hill without seeing notices in windows of "Weddings performed here," and hearing "touters" inquire, "Would you like to be married, sir?" or, "Madam, do you want a parson? I am the clerk, and also the registrar of the Fleet." Richard, Bishop of Salisbury, forbade, in his "Constitutions," 1217, putting rush rings upon women's fingers, alleging that some persons were foolish enough to believe that this mock ceremonial was a real marriage.

Investiture with the ring and staff was formerly claimed by the Church. Upon the consecration of a bishop, as a token of the bridegroom's espousal of the Church, a gold ring was placed upon the middle finger of his right hand, with the following words:—"Accipe annulum discretionis et honoris, fidei signum; ut quæ signanda, signes; et quæ aperienda sunt, aperias; quæ liganda sunt, liges; quæ solvenda sunt, solvas;" or, rendered into English, "Receive the ring of discretion and honour, a sign of faith; that thou shouldest seal those things, which should be sealed; and those things which are to be revealed, thou mayest disclose; those things which are to be bound, thou mayest bind; which are to be loosed, thou mayest loose." This ceremony was introduced into England, A.D. 1050, when Spearfoc, abbot of Abingdon, was elected to the vacant see of London, and upon his rejection by King Edward the Confessor, William, a Norman, was consecrated. The following passage, which we extract from Collier's "Ecclesiastical History of Great Britain," vol. i. p. 518, bears upon this point.

"Upon this occasion [to which we have just referred], it may not be improper to relate the complaint of Ingulphus. This historian, mentioning the death of Brictmer, abbot of Croyland, takes notice that the pastoral staff was immediately carried to London by the prior and two other monks, and delivered into the king's hands. From the time of this prince's father, as he continues, the abbots began to be known at court, where those that were ambitious used to bribe the favourites to get themselves preferred. For the freedom of elec-

tions had been overruled for many years, and all bishopricks and abbacies were now disposed of at the pleasure of the court; and possession was given by the delivery of *ring* and crosier. However, that this custom was not very ancient, besides the hint of this author, appears from Malmesbury, who tells us, that the clergy and monks used to choose their bishops and abbots under the Saxon government."

The gift of a ring from a dying man in ancient times often signified that the person to whom it was left became the other's heir. Alexander, when dying, gave his ring to Perdiccas as a token that he should rule over the empire. "Nec male," says a great antiquary, "erat enim annulus signatorius vel sigillum, plerumque dominii et potestatis symbolum."

Robinson, in his "Researches," says, "Most of the Arabs of the towns have each his signet-ring, either worn on the finger or suspended from the neck, the impression of which serves as his signature;" and Lane writes thus, in his "Modern Egyptians" (vol. i. pp. 35, 36), "On the little finger of the right hand is worn a seal-ring, which is generally of silver, with a cornelian, or other stone, upon which is engraved the wearer's name: the name is accompanied by the words, 'his servant' (signifying, the servant or worshipper of God), and often by other words expressive of the person's trust in God, &c. The seal-ring is used for signing letters and other writings, and its impression is considered more valid than the sign-manual. (Therefore, giving the ring to another person is the utmost mark of confidence.) A little ink is dabbed upon it with one of the fingers, and it is pressed upon the paper; the person who uses it having first touched his tongue with another finger, and moistened the place in the paper which is to be stamped. Almost every person who can afford it has a seal-ring, even though he be a servant."

Perkins, in his "Residence in Persia," remarks, that "the authenticity of a merchant's letters, as of his bills, depends entirely upon the *seal*. It is not usual to sign either; and they are not often written in the hand of the person who sends them; so that it is the seal which is of importance. Engraven upon it is the name and title of the person it belongs to, and the date when it was cut. The occupation of seal-cutter is one of much trust and some danger; he keeps a register of every seal he makes, and if one is stolen or lost by the party to whom he sold it, his life would answer for the crime of making another exactly the same. The person to whom it belongs, if in business, is obliged to take the two most respectable witnesses of the occurrence, and to write to his correspondents, declaring all accounts and business with his former seal null from the day upon which it was lost." This care, which was and is taken in regard to Persian seals or signet-rings, reminds us of Solon's law, that no seller of rings should keep by him the signature of a ring when sold.

THE SALT-MINES OF HALEIN.

"Do the gentlemen intend to visit the salt-mines to-day? It has already struck nine o'clock, and the distance is four good miles—hard work, too, for the animals—up-hill all the way, and not as much flat ground as the palm of my hand for a resting—really——"

"Quite ready, Kutcher," we interrupted, as our good driver, about to allege further reasons for expedition, seemed likely to expend more precious moments in his exhortation than we should probably employ in dressing. "Quite ready, Kutcher; bring your horses round, and depend upon my punctuality."

"The ladies, then," he replied, thrusting his head anew through the half-open door: "will accompany us a stunde or so, and return on foot—they are right; the way is good and the return not fatiguing;" then, advancing a step, "I remember——"

"Yes, yes, friend, you remember that it has struck nine."

Profiting by this reminder, Kutcher made his exit with a grimace, soon again re-appearing with the announcement that the animals were ready.

So the ladies were to return on foot—*nous verrons*.

"Foot?" inquired our driver, ere we had time to close the unwilling door of our cumbersome vehicle.

"Aye, foot," we replied, and our way was cheery enough through that primitive, oddly-fashioned little Halein, where many a pretty maiden—I am not picture-making, indeed; the girls *are* pretty here—peeped half-shyly, half-inquisitively, at us from cottage door and window as we passed. It was pleasant to see their neat heads so coquettishly decorated with the oleander or pomegranite blossom, and cheering to hear their merry laughter—perchance at our own expense—for our London costume was, I believe, as strange to them as an American Indian's would appear to us in the streets of our city. Yes, all was very lively and pleasant in Halein that morning. *A propos* of London costume, last evening two of my pretty attendants at supper-time performed a somewhat entertaining interlude in our presence. Aroused from the contemplation of a roasted pheasant by a sudden burst of merriment on their part, we beheld them before a small cracked mirror, decorated with the bonnets, mantles, &c., which, upon our entrance we had thrown upon the sofa!

With the greatest *naïveté*, they asked us to pass judgment on their appearance—"Do the English ladies think we look well?" they inquired. "Charmingly!" we replied; and, in truth, many a London belle might have envied them: such beaming eyes—such glowing complexions! But to our expedition.

Kutcher was right; it was a long wearisome journey, and the half-stunde found the ladies as far removed from alighting as they were at the outset. Vainly did this good man from time to time venture a hint as to the distance we had gone—vainly delivering

himself of an occasional soliloquy upon the increasing heat of the day; the ladies heeded not, and Kutcher, giving up all responsibility on their account, resigned himself at length to silence.

We had ascended 900 feet, and now alighted at an edifice of such questionable architecture that it was difficult to decide as to whether man or beast owned it for a habitation.

"Surely the ladies are not going to venture into the salt-mines!" exclaimed Kutcher, in a remonstrative tone.

"And wherefore not, good friend?"

But Kutcher deigned no reply beyond a groan and shake of the head.

We had waited a few minutes in an empty whitewashed room, where, beckoned into an adjoining apartment by a hard, half-pickled-looking creature of our own sex, we soon found ourselves—*bon gré malgré*—under process of disrobement; being supplied, in lieu of our own habiliments, with a costume unique as startling; Turkish trowsers, a leather jacket and helmet, and shoes or rather *brogues*, whose similitude probably exists not between this and the bog of Allan. Perchance Mrs. Lot the Second perceived among us an expression of hesitation as to the propriety of appearing in public, thus transmogrified; for taking warning, it may be, from a celebrated family example of the evil of turning back, she hurried us, heedless of all remonstrance, into the presence of our lords and masters, whose alarm at this usurpation of costume was somewhat modified by the extreme comicality of our appearance.

We were not, however, without our share of merriment, for the gentlemen of our party had undergone a change of dress hardly less remarkable than our own, the posterior portion of their respective jackets being furnished with a leathern flap or *queue*, whereof, as directed by our guides, we each possessed ourselves, with strict injunctions not for a moment to relax our grasp under pain of dangers manifold. Thus, two by two, each couple preceded by a torch-bearer, we entered the first shaft of the mine. There is no beauty in these long catacomb-like tunnels. Their grimy red walls and low roofs glisten not with the light of crystals, break into no fantastic forms, and but for an occasional chink, where the pure white salt betrays itself, might pass for red sandstone or clay.

We had waded a hundred yards or so through briny mud when our onward course seemed suddenly to be arrested. A dead wall rose before us, and no diverging pathway gave promise of further variety in our expedition. A halt was sounded when our leading miner, like one of another—not a better—world, began slowly to descend into the earth before us! A few seconds, and, Zamiel-like, his head and shoulders alone visible in the concentrated torch-glare, which rose red and lurid from the pit into which he was sinking, he beckoned to the foremost of our party to follow. Alas, I had lost my steersman! With a whizz he had descended into Erebus, while the fiery element which surrounded him gradually diminished upon our sight to the magnitude of a mere spark, and was finally quenched

in the blackness beneath. The second guide began now to take the downward course; and, arriving at the same state of progression therein as his forerunner, called upon me to advance.

"The lady," he said, "must clasp her arms firmly around my neck."

Were there no means of compromise? Yes—I would grasp his shoulders—I would sit behind him.

About to adopt this middle course, I felt my arms forcibly drawn into a close embrace of the grimy being before me! A whirling of the brain—a rapid descending motion—and for one little moment followed blissful unconsciousness. But such a boon was to pass well nigh with the coming—down, down we went, deeper and deeper still.

"The lady must keep her head strait, and sit close, or she will be killed."

With such a powerful incentive to presence of mind, I held myself up, resigning all delicacy on the point of the embrace, until a sudden jar announced our arrival upon *terra firma*.

The remainder of our party having joined us after the same manner, we proceeded on our way, and soon found ourselves in a huge dark cavern. No visible walls marked its extent, and by the light alone of a dull lamp or two, suspended, it seemed, in mid air, we perceived before us a Stygian pool, a

"Sluggish water, black as ink,"

upon whose murky unruffled surface lay a raft, our means of transit to the opposite shore. Neither pike nor oar was used to forward our course. Noiselessly, sluggishly, we glided onward: above, the rocky ceiling, red with the light from our torches; below, the Styx-like water picturing, as mingling with the lurid fire it reflected, our strange, unearthly figures. Had the time of retribution arrived—were we indeed among the condemned? Alas for the mystic!—we were simply crossing a brine reservoir, and to us, as yet, *l'inferno* remained "to be or not to be."

Having gained our landing-place, we proceeded as heretofore, twice again repeating the sliding process, whereby we penetrated six hundred feet deeper into earth's hidden chambers. Awaiting us at the terminus of our last descent was a machine, resembling somewhat one of those long frames wherein one occasionally sees, arranged in single file, a number of street lamps *en route* to final establishment, with the exception, that the vehicle in question was furnished with wheels and set upon a narrow tramway. Upon this each person had to seat himself as on horseback, the ladies, by the bye, *not* assuming their usual attitude in the saddle. Feminine grace, however, having been laid aside by us for some little time past as inconvenient under existing circumstances, we resigned ourselves to our present position with perhaps less repugnance than was quite becoming.

Under directions neither to bend to the right or left, we

started, at railway-speed, down a sewer-like passage, in momentary expectation, indeed, of becoming as helpless victims to the grinding process as the salt by which we were surrounded. In the distance, at length appeared a star-like glimmering, which enlarged upon our view until we found ourselves wrapped in its dazzling brightness. It was but the fair sky which thus peered with its blue eye into the dark cavern from which we had now emerged. There was Kutcher—it was droll to see how sarcastically he eyed us in our eccentric dress, now so besmeared with party-coloured dirt that, truly, his worst predictions for us seemed to have been amply fulfilled.

Having reassumed our ordinary costume, which we found awaiting us, we started for Halein, now but a short distance, as we emerged from the base of the mountain at whose summit we had entered the salt mines.

WHAT IS FREE?

CHAINS are on earth's old form, some fetter clingeth
 Around the treasured, loveliest, and best;
 The busy bee while still his course he wingeth,
 Murm'reth of busy slav'ry, not of rest:
 Summer, his blushing but imperious sovereign,
 Calleth her slave from empty hive to come,
 And yet while over fading blossom hovering,
 Bids him in haste reseek his winter home.
 Such are not free!

I watched the flowrets in the sunbeams bending,
 Each silver leaf seemed kissed by purest light,
 I heard the monarch Wind his mandate sending,
 That all should bow their head beneath his might:
 They slept, for eve had laid her dusky finger
 On each fair brow and tear-bedewed eye,
 Wept not the flowers because they might not linger,
 To bid good night to stars in midnight sky.
 These are not free!

I watched the grey eve go forth on her wandering,
 With God's own seal to close all nature's store,
 Her fevered lips moved in their mystic pondering,
 While pausing on old hoary ocean's shore;
 Fain would her weary heated footsteps falter,
 Amid the cool hush which around is spread,
 But night has come to raise her ruined altar,
 And sacrifice ere daylight rears her head.
 These are not free!

Free! naught is free but that old deep affection,
 Which makes on well-fixed Memory her roost,
 Bidding sometimes each treasured recollection,
 From the strong chain which binds it be unloosed;
 The clinging love which in life's wintry weather,
 Goes forth to search for mem'ry's gems of yore,
 With trembling but unfettered hands to gather
 The relics of what was, but is no more.
 This, this is free!

EMILIE M.

AN OLD MASONIC LEGEND.

BY BRO. JOHN MOTT THEARLE, P.M., No. 82.

It is recorded, that in olden time
 To a Masonic Lodge an Angel came,
 And hailed the Brethren, teaching that defined
 Masonic duty (clear as the known flame
 Which in the East to gladden'd eyes doth shine),
 While like soft music sounds Truth's thrilling tone,
 And harmony the spheréd orbs outshone.

"Love God! obey His laws! enforce His will!"
 Instructed she: "for His will 'tis to raise
 Kindness and love 'mongst men; and where'er ill
 Smites thy poor Brother, there thy duty lays,
 In kindly act and good discourse, until,
 Aided by thee, he leaves the bitter ways.
 From good grows good in plenty by degrees,
 So from one seed spring thousand banyan-trees:

"And as they rise and blossom high in air,
 Shalt thou, too, rise triumphant over sin;
 Or, as toward earth their utmost twigs repair,
 Seeking the dust from whence they first did spring,
 So shall this world of thee demand a care
 That others may it cover blossoming,
 Continuing taking root, continued rise,
 Adorning earth, rejoicing in the skies.

"He who in figures bade those columns soar,
 Of wisdom, strength, and beauty in the land,
 Most visible unto Masonic lore,
 Thus has laid out for you the work He planned:
 Raise up the widow, who in sorrow lies;
 Cherish the orphan with a father's hand:
 These are foundation-stones—from which erect
 A temple to the One Great Architect.

"Like to the glorious dream to Jacob given,
 Like to the glowing forms that met his scan,
 So shall such deeds form steps for thee to Heaven,
 And angels down its slope come greeting man—
 Greeting as to a Brother who had striven
 To banish ill, most faithfully and true;
 For Heaven comes nearest Earth in those alone,
 Who to their fellow man the utmost love have shown."

Truth spoke and fled, but left a growing spring
 Of pure instruction, which like water going
 Forth from its source all Nature gladdening,
 Becomes a river, deep and broader growing,
 O'er whose glad waters every wind doth bring
 The wealth of every land round which 'tis flowing,—
 Such treasures best by Masons understood,
 Of universal love, and Brotherhood.

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.

SIR AND BROTHER,—I regret that your correspondent "Sile" should have dragged me into print, by stooping to calumny, in his futile efforts to make the best of a bad cause. I do not claim to myself *infallibility*, but consider it a duty which I owe to my present position, and to the Brethren of the Lodge over which I have the honour to preside, to state, that with the exception of the office of S.W., the three highest appointments in the Lodge were intended for, and (if my memory serves me) indeed offered to, three out of the four Brethren who left the Lodge; the fourth could not reasonably expect any office, as he only honoured us about once a year by his presence. In accordance with the admirable plan laid down by my predecessor in the chair (who has been so calumniated by "A.Z." and "Sile"), I submitted to the board of P.Ms. a list of all Brethren I intended for office, previously to my appointment as W.M.; and I am happy to say, that although, with one exception, none of the members of that P.Ms'. Lodge belonged to the order of Knights Templar, they justified my selection of the Brother who is now my S.W., and who furthermore was not at that time either a Royal Arch Companion or a Knight Templar. Your correspondents "A.Z." and "Sile," in endeavouring to make out a case against my acting P.M. and myself, have lost sight of veracity in consequence of their over zeal, and as is usual when influenced by such motives, have signally failed. I would beg of "Sile" (whose speech "*bewrayeth him*"), with all Masonic charity, never again to say that he is *told* anything, or promulgate what is incorrect upon mere hearsay, but to remember the proverb which doubtless he, in his school days, has so often "*glibly*," and, "*as a mere effort of technical memory*" repeated, "*Qui alterum accusat culpæ, eum ipsum se intueri oportet.*" Trusting that the principles of Masonry, which they loudly vaunt but scantily practise,—at least in their letters,—may for the future produce better fruit, I remain, Sir and Brother, fraternally yours,

THE W.M., WHO IS SAID TO RULE HIS LODGE MORE BY PHYSICAL ENERGY,
THAN THE REGARD IN WHICH HE IS HELD BY THE BRETHREN.

April 14th, 1856.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—It will be generally admitted, I am sure, that in any society charges implying unworthy conduct, wherever or by whomsoever made, should be susceptible of the clearest proof; more especially is this principle applicable to Masonry. The converse of this maxim would be subversive of those distinctive principles which, in Masonic intercourse, are the bond of union and mutual confidence. I am a P.M. of my Lodge, and feel deeply interested in its welfare; I was therefore much startled at meeting with the following clause in a communication which appeared in your last number signed "A. Z.:"—

"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 Prov. G.M. of his Province."

"A. Z." is doubtless an experienced and able Mason, and must be fully aware that the Brother whose conduct is impugned in the above paragraph is amenable to, and may be severely punished by, the Board of General Purposes for such a heinous offence against his Lodge. I think, Sir, "A. Z." should, in vindication of his obligation, and by virtue of the duty he owes to the Craft, not allow the matter to rest where it is. I am aware that the difficulties, expense, and loss of time, are sufficient to repel the most resolute from taking judicial proceedings against an unworthy and offending Brother. But feeling as I do the importance of repressing the prevalence of such conduct as that denounced by your indignant correspondent, I beg, through your columns, to request that he will proceed to offer, either in your columns, or through you privately, to me, such proofs as may sustain his allegations, and I will undertake to proceed before the Board of General Purposes, and to defray every expense attending such proceedings out of my own pocket.—I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours very fraternally,

J. W.

BATH, April, 1856.

INDIAN LODGES.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I believe it is seldom you are troubled with correspondence on Masonic matters from this part of the world: this probably has been owing, hitherto, to the dearth of interesting matter; for, from what I have been able to learn, the "Sons of Light" of past days troubled themselves very little about the spirit and principles of Freemasonry, but, like good easy folk, contented themselves with stereotyped routine, and cared even for that only so long as they were enabled to participate freely and largely in the mysteries and privileges of the Knife-and-fork Degree; in which Degree it is well known that they expelled a Brother, and the W.M. ordered the same to be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting—summary jurisdiction—drumhead court-martial.

Now, however, a change has come upon the spirit of their dreams; but not over the Knife-and-fork Degree, which remains immutable, and will remain so *secula seculorum*.

You are doubtless aware that the Lodges of this Province (Western India) were originally established under Warrant from the Grand Lodge of England; and that subsequently they were, by some means or other, under the *masterly* management of Dr. Burns, transferred to the maternal care of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Under these Constitutions they have been working for some years, the Lodge Perseverance, of Bombay, taking the lead. This Lodge has had several good Masters, and has thrived very successfully. The chair is now filled by an English Mason, a very able, zealous, energetic man, despite a few odd crotchets he introduces into the ceremonies, or his having, when installed W.M. of one of the Calcutta Lodges, vowed allegiance and fidelity to the laws and constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England. I say, he works well, has the interests of the Lodge and the Craft at heart, and is generally liked by the Brethren,—which his immediate predecessor, I regret to say, was not, because he did not hold the balances *blindfolded*. A system of *snobocracy* also crept into the Lodge during his short tenure of office, for he was suddenly promoted to the exalted position of Provincial Grand Master; how he merited this high distinction no one knows, unless his extreme unpopularity as a Mason gave him the title. But to return; a system of *snobocracy*, as I have said, crept into the Lodge—the small end of the wedge had been fairly insinuated, the sledge hammer was uplifted, and ready to

descend and split the Lodge into a thousand atoms, when the plot was seen through, and an indignant majority of honest and independent hearts banished the foul fiend from their presence—

“ ————— He frowning fled,
And with him fled the shades of night.”

Determined, however, to have a kingdom of his own, even among Freemasons, Diabolus effected his object by more subtle and characteristic means. He put it into the hearts of certain would-be aristocrats—bankers’ and merchants’ clerks, small attorneys, and such like,—that they were contaminating themselves by intercourse on the level with those who would acknowledge no superiority in the Lodge save that of moral worth and virtue.

There happened to be, with other antiquities, in Lodge Perseverance, a musty document, said to be the Warrant of a Lodge, “St. George,” one of the old Lodges under the former English dispensation; this document they straightway laid their hands on, assembled the clique, and declared themselves a Lodge of *English* Freemasons! Heaven defend us! And then these *English* Masons—save the mark!—composed chiefly of discontented Scotchmen, were determined to be exclusive—no *canaille*, not even *their own* Tyler, should mix with them; so they erected a formidable barrier, by fixing the fees for the Degrees and the monthly subscriptions at a scale that effectually kept out all but the *affluent*!—virtue, chastity, decency, being all secondary, unimportant considerations: they were all “honourable men!”

Now, this Lodge thus irregularly opened, without previous application to, or authority from, the Grand Lodge of England, is not only recognized by the Prov. Grand Master of this Province, whose chums compose the major part of it, but he has gone so far, in the teeth of all that is fair and just, constitutional and regular, as to appoint the greater number of the Prov. Grand Officers from this Lodge!

Now, Mr. Editor, what shall we—what do *you* say to such a state of things?

As I have no more time this day, I will conclude for the present; promising you further interesting intelligence after the next Quarterly “Convention” of the Prov. Grand Lodge. I have made some curious notes, and think they should be printed.

How admirable are the Scotch Constitutions! A Master Mason of one day’s standing is as eligible for the Oriental Chair as any Office-bearer who has borne the heat and burden of Office for twelve months! Glorious!

Yours fraternally,

BOMBAY, 5th March, 1856.

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THE LATE PROCEEDINGS IN GRAND LODGE.

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

SIR,—The report of the late Quarterly Meeting of Grand Lodge, as it appeared in your last number, suggests matter for serious consideration. The more important subject I defer to the last, in order to make some preliminary remarks upon certain lesser points, not without interest to the Craft. In the first place Bro. Dobie, as G.M. *pro tem.*, acted contrary to rule and custom by speaking on any motion before the Lodge; by so doing he relinquished the supposed impartiality which is ever regarded as attending the individuals selected to preside over similar, and indeed all other assemblages, and exposed himself to the just remarks of Bro. Binckes, W.M., No. 11. As regards Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal’s motion, it would have been useful to the Craft had it gone further, and insisted on the business to be submitted to Grand Lodge being made known to the Provincial Lodges. Another point deserving of attention is the very remarkable omission from the Report of the Board of General Purposes of the secession of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, which was very properly commented on by Bro. Beach, Prov. G.S.W., Oxon. Some notice of so great a move on the part of our Canadian Brethren was imperatively called for, and the more so, as it appears not to have been participated

in by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada East. Whether the president of the Board of General Purposes was present or absent, that has no bearing on the matter; it was the manifest duty of the Board, as a body, to have introduced the subject into their report: their not having done so is indicative of discreditable neglect. The important question, however, to which I have referred, is the so-called re-election of the late G.M. As far as I am enabled from the report to understand this singular proceeding, it seems to have taken place as follows:—The late G.M. was nominated to the office of G.M. for the ensuing year by a Brother, who, on the occasion when the nomination was to be formally submitted for the approval of the Brethren, *was absent*, and no Brother appeared to undertake the proposal for him; on this ground alone the nomination was not regularly before Grand Lodge, and therefore could not be considered. Again, if the simple nomination held good, without the presence of the Brother who made it, still as it found no seconder, the proposition could not be regarded as regularly before the Lodge. In a word, the whole proceeding connected with the re-election of the late G.M. was irregular, and quite opposed to all rules by which motions submitted to meetings are usually supposed to be governed. It does not appear that the G.M. *pro tem.*, ever put the question to the Lodge, but simply declared the late G.M. to be re-elected, “as there was only the Earl of Zetland nominated.” By this proceeding the Grand Lodge expressed no opinion on the subject, and the re-election, so called, was passed, not unanimously, but “*nemine contradicente.*” As I regard the whole proceeding to have been irregular and contrary to all acknowledged rules, I have no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that the Earl of Zetland is not a legitimate G.M. of England, and his authority *nil*. Considering these circumstances, will the Earl of Zetland accept an office so conferred? I apprehend that no man, wishing to stand well with the Craft, would accept any office, much less that of G.M. of England, conferred under such doubtful circumstances.—I remain, Sir and Brother,

Yours, &c.,

ELIS.

April 3rd, 1856.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—It seems to me, a humble member of the noble Craft, which teaches man all that tends to make temporal life pleasant and happy, and does some little to prepare the truthful adherent to its precepts for another and a better life, that there is something radically wrong in the upper story or garret life of Freemasonry, when we find such results chronicled in your pages as arose from the last meeting of the Grand Lodge of England. Methinks that Provincial Grand Lodges and those private Lodges which go to make up the total of the whole should look up to the Grand Lodge for a key to Masonic working, and that to the Grand Lodge should they look for the very essence of that brotherly love which is in every Brother's mouth, no matter what his vernacular tongue may be, and which is indeed one of the three grand points upon which Masonry is based—the pile, if we may so term it, that supports the superstructure and keeps it clear of the muddy sub—yet upper—stratum, that separates us from that upon which all that is good, temporally and eternally, most surely rests.

The world, the uninitiated world, should derive a favourable impression from a perusal of the doings of the Grand Lodge of England—that which is thought to be the keystone of the Craft; any unfavourable notions of Masonry arising to them from hearing petty disturbances in private Lodges would be more than counteracted by the knowledge, that in the Grand Lodge such things are not only discountenanced, but condemned as un-Masonic—therefore uncharitable and un-Christian. But to my infinite regret, and to the grief of all the deep-thinking members of the still honourable Fraternity with whom I have met, such a course seems totally departed from—such an example totally lost sight of; and, for all good, useful, and practical purposes, the Grand Lodge seems—not a mere nonentity, for that would be harmless, but the fountain or source from whence wells up neither brotherly love, relief, nor truth.

This should not be so. I think that my Brother in Canada should be treated as we do a valued correspondent from whom we are continually deriving much benefit—much gain; that my Brother in England should be treated likewise as one who is near of kin, and whose welfare is dear to our heart, and whose success can but add lustre to our name. It seems to me that all the social amenities of life should be centered in the ruling member of that body, whose very existence depends upon the fidelity with which such are manifested and carried out, and that discourtesy to a Brother should be a crime of such heinous magnitude that nothing less than a severance from the Craft should be deemed a fitting punishment for its perpetration!

Yet, what do we see? Nineteen out of twenty letters lying upon a table unanswered! Brethren treated with the contempt due only to those who servilely cringe for mercy after favours have been basely perverted! Receipts (certificates) denied for years after moneys have been paid, and to the injury of those who have parted with their silver—for that which must appear to them base coin; and a variety of other offences, “*quæ nunc scribere longum est!*”

Where is the heart that does not burn to avenge such stains upon the Masonic shield?—a shield that has always been dazzling to the eye of the uninitiated as polished steel in the sun to the optics of poor weak mortal. Where is the cheek that does not blush for the indignities perpetrated in the name of all that is most upright and honourable? To their credit be it said, the Masons of England have responded to the appeals of their injured Canadian Brethren, have exonerated them from all blame in the extreme step they have taken, and have put shoulder to shoulder to support them in the righteous opposition they have made to the aggressions and inroads of cliquism and misuse of power in high places.

The future progress of the Grand Lodge is watched, and lynx-eyed numbers are scanning every move and reform set on foot, which, I trust, having honours and fearlessly worked its way, will render unnecessary any more disquietings, heavings in the bosom of the Craft, or convulsive twitchings of any of the more remote members. That such a desideratum may be accomplished as is now wished for, every Mason in the Grand Lodge dominions will heartily and fervently say, “So mote it be.”—I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours most fraternally,

Dudley, April 21, 1856.

LIBERTAS.

REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

[Press of matter compels our omission of Reviews for the present month.]

MUSIC.

“*I heard thy Fate without a Tear,*” ballad, and “*I saw thee Weep,*” ballad, the words by LORD BYRON, the music by MARIA B. MEREST. London: Hawes, 7, Adelphi Terrace.—The name of Miss Maria B. Hawes has attained too wide a celebrity, both as a musical composer and as one of our most attractive vocalists, to need further observation upon these recent productions of her genius, than to remark that they fully maintain her claims upon the admiration of the musical world. The style is effective, and the music and words strikingly and happily blended, so as to charm the ear and judgment equally.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

ROYAL FREEMASONS' GIRLS' SCHOOL.

THE Anniversary Festival of this the pet charity of the Order will take place on Wednesday, the 14th inst., when there will be no doubt a numerous attendance of the Brethren. Bro. Young, we hear, is intrusted with the music, and amongst the vocalists engaged are Mr. Wilbye Cooper and Mr. Montem Smith. Both gentlemen are excellent singers, but we would ask if none of the Brethren could be obtained?—for certainly on such occasions they ought to have a preference shown them. If the Stewards do their duty, they will prevent these gentlemen entering the hall until such time as the ladies are introduced, as it is not fitting that any but Masons should be allowed to sit down to the dinner.

At the Quarterly Court holden at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, the 10th April, the following were the candidates for admission, with the number of votes polled for each:—Eliza Chase, 1463; Eliza Kate Dyer, 1327; Sarah Holloway, 1304; P. Sophia Crichton, 1153; Eliza Foster, 1072; S. M. M. Grant, 1050; Rachel C. Manghi, 812; L. M. Anslow, 728; Susanna Bilton, 468. The first six were accordingly elected, of whom two are London cases, and four from the country.

ROYAL FREEMASONS' BOYS' SCHOOL.

A Quarterly Court of the Governors was holden on Monday, the 21st April, when votes of thanks were passed to the M.W.G.M., the Earl of Zetland, for his kindness in taking the chair at the late festival, and to the R.W.D.G.M., the Earl of Yarborough, and Lord Londesborough, P.G.W., for their very liberal donations.

GRAND LODGE.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

At the next quarterly communication of Grand Lodge, Bro. W. W. Beech, P.M., No. 10, will move "That this Grand Lodge do express its sympathy with the persecuted Freemasons in Malta and Trinidad, and that the Grand Secretary be instructed to communicate the same."

METROPOLITAN.

GRAND MASTERS' LODGE (No. 1).—This Lodge held its usual meeting on Monday, April 21, under the presidency of Bro. A. J. D. Harris, W.M., who passed Bro. Bennick to the 2nd Degree. This being the whole of the business before the Lodge, at its conclusion, the brethren to the number of thirty-two adjourned to refreshment. It was an excellent meeting in every respect. The visitors were

numerous, and amongst them we recognised Bros. J. Hervey, P.G.S.D. and W.M., No. 7; Rev. — Crotch, P. Prov. G.S.W. Somerset, and P.M., No. 327; F. Binckes, W.M., No. 11; H. Chilton, W.M., No. 317; Hopwood, P.M., No. 7; Reynell, P.M., No. 317; Stone, No. 5; Morris, No. 9; Dr. Boyd, No. 40, I.C.; Driver, No. 109, &c. The evening was much enlivened by the admirable singing of Bros. Donald King and Jolly, and the ever-fresh melodies of Bro. F. Crew, the respected Secretary.

LODGE OF FIDELITY (No. 3).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 9th April, Bro. Shackelton, W.M., presiding, when two gentlemen were initiated into the Order, and three Brethren passed, in a very able manner.

ROYAL YORK LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE (No. 7).—On Wednesday, the 16th of April, the members of this Lodge held their last meeting for the season at the Freemasons' Tavern. The W.M. Bro. John Hervey, P.G.D., in the chair. Bro. Rock Chidley having been raised to the Sublime Degree, and the remaining business appointed for the evening having been disposed of, the Brethren retired to refreshment, and the evening was spent in perfect harmony. The visitors included Bros. Potter, P.G.D.; W. Pultney Scott, W.M., No. 2; W. H. Greene, W.M., No. 318; Stronghill, P.M., No. 329; S. Walton, P.M., No. 72; Jas. Ellwood, P.M., No. 72; J. Hogg, No. 201; G. E. Sewell, No. 11, &c.

BRITISH LODGE (No. 8).—A powerful muster of this excellent Lodge took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on April 21, when Bro. Rahles was passed to the 2nd Degree. The Brethren after business adjourned to refreshment, when a superb banquet was provided, and "the feast of reason and the flow of soul" proceeded harmoniously to the satisfaction of all present, in number about thirty. The W.M. is Bro. Cottrell, who was ably supported by his J. and S.W. Bros. Pigott and Baxter, and by no less than five P.Ms.—Bros. Bisgood, Gillman, Shohwasser, Walsh, and Smith—besides having the honour of Bro. Cooper's company, the Prov. G.M. for Kent. Amongst the visitors present were Bros. the Rev. O. F. Owen, M.A., F.S.A., Prov. G.C. for Surrey; Ingham, P.M., No. 298; Cox, P.M., No. 18; Rev. C. H. Heilbronn, of Cambridge; Roxburgh, W.M., No. 4; Jarchow, No. 108; Rowe and Harris, No. 275. The usual toasts were enlivened by admirable songs from Bros. Maxwell and Jarchow, and a most effective speech was given by Bro. Purton Cooper, who took occasion to draw attention to the necessity now existent for a thorough reform in the administration of Masonic business, and for increased vitality in the Order, as to energizing its capabilities for science and philanthropy, to meet the requirements of the present day. The worthy Brother knows well how to pass from gay to grave, and might indeed pass as the disciple of Garrick, in his power over wit and humour, or earnest development of serious truth. His speech was followed up by one from Bro. O. F. Owen, who endeavoured to clinch the nail which Bro. Cooper drove, and who, drawing a painful picture of what laxity and indifference had done in the case of Canada, concluded by urging the W.Ms. of Lodges to encourage open and free lectures by the scientific Brethren of each Lodge under them, upon subjects of science, history, and art, with a view of rebutting the scoff now passed by the vulgar upon the Craft, as being merely a convivial association, and securing for it the respect of all men, as the parent of intelligence and the promoter of social improvement. Bro. Owen took occasion to allude to the success achieved by the *Freemasons' Monthly Magazine and Masonic Mirror*, under his control, and attributed it to the spirit which the Fraternity had recognised in it, to promote on all occasions the revival of intelligence and active knowledge upon subjects of general as well as Masonic interest, while the lowest workman in the Order could always rely upon the Magazine to protect his claims, if well founded, and promote his progress in intelligence and morals, without fear or favour, in its character of an impartial "Upholder of the Craft."

WESTMINSTER AND KEYSTONE LODGE (No. 10).—A meeting of the above Lodge was held on Wednesday, the 2nd of April, Bro. W. Beach presiding in the place

of the W.M., who was unavoidably absent on urgent private affairs. Among the members present were Bros. W. Portal, S.W.; Bowyer, Prov. G.M. Oxon, as J.W.; Spiers, Prov. G.S.B.; J. Udall, Prov. J.G.D.; Rev. G. R. Portal, Sec.; Earl of Carnarvon; Lord North; Rev. W. H. Decies; Hammerton; and as visitors, Bros. White, G.S.; Herbert Lloyd, S.G.D.; Hervey, P.S.G.D.; Farnfield, Assist. G.Sec.; Spencer, P.M., No. 329; Powell, &c. The Earl of Carnarvon was raised to the 3rd Degree, and W. L. Lucas, Esq., initiated. A ballot next took place for W.M. and Treas. for the ensuing year; when Bro. Wyndham Portal, S.W., was elected W.M., and Bro. Rev. W. H. Lyall, Treas. The Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren then adjourned to dinner.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—The last regular meeting for the season of this numerous and distinguished Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, April 9, when Bro. F. Binckes, W.M., passed three brethren to the 2nd Degree. This comprised the whole of the business before the Lodge, and at its conclusion the Brethren, to the number of thirty-eight, adjourned to one of the most elegant banquets ever served. A more delightful evening has rarely been spent in Masonry, and we are very pleased to have it in our power to state that under the present rule the high character which the "Enoch" has always borne is in every respect thoroughly maintained. All present seemed to vie with each other in the endeavour to promote the general happiness and enjoyment, in which they were most materially assisted by Bros. Donald King, Holmes, Jolly, and W. G. Ross, the latter of whom convulsed the Brethren, at times almost dangerously, by the rich display of his unrivalled comic powers. The visitors present were Bros. Paas, W.M., No. 30; Levison, S.W., No. 7; Jolly, No. 1; for whom, on their healths being drunk, the former returned thanks.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—This distinguished Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, Thursday, 17th April. The W.M., in a most efficient and impressive manner, raised a Brother to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, and initiated a gentleman into the Order; the W.M. consented to serve the office of Grand Steward for the present year, and Bro. Morris was elected for the ensuing year. The Brethren then proceeded to banquet. After the loyal and Masonic toasts, the W.M. proposed the health of the newly initiated Brother, and said, that from his deportment when at the bottom of the Masonic ladder, he felt well assured that his conduct would reflect credit on the Order in future days, when he trusted he would arrive at the highest step. He then proposed the health of the visitors, Bro. Rogers, of No. 228, and Bro. Almieda, of Grand Lodge, Brazil; thanking Bro. Rogers, whose Masonic ability is so well known, for his presence during the working of the Lodge as well as at the banquet, and expressed the pleasure felt by the Brethren, in seeing him and Bro. Almieda amongst them; the latter Brother, though made in a far distant clime, was an equal participator in their paternal regards.

ST. ALBAN'S LODGE (No. 32).—The monthly meeting of this Old Red-apron Lodge was held at the London Coffee-house, Ludgate-hill, on Monday, the 14th April, when Messrs. George Dames and Montagu Cleugh Wilkinson were initiated into Ancient Freemasonry. After the Masonic business was concluded, the Brethren adjourned to the banquet, and spent a pleasant and harmonious evening.

BRITANNIC LODGE (No. 38).—There was an emergency meeting of this Lodge at the Thatched House Tavern, on the 9th of April, when Bro. Ackroyd was duly raised to the 3rd Degree, and Bros. Mellor, G. W. Eborall, and John Brown (Sheffield), passed to the 2nd. Messrs. Harding, Woodhouse, and John Brown (Darlington) were then initiated into the Order. The following Brethren were elected joining members:—Glover, No. 14; James, No. 25; Dunn, No. 246; and Gossett, No. 715 (Calcutta). We hear that the Lodge is rapidly outgrowing the accommodation of the place of meeting.

MOUNT MORIAH LODGE (No. 40).—This Lodge met on the 23rd April, under the presidency of Bro. Russell, W.M., when Mr. Groves was initiated into the

Order. Bro. W. H. Absolon, P.M., passed Bro. Mackenzie to the 2nd Degree. At the conclusion of the business about forty of the Brethren dined together.

GIHON LODGE (No. 57.)—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, at the Bridge House Hotel, on the 17th April, Bro. England, P.M., raised Bros. Allen and Knevett, and passed Bro. Neal to their respective Degrees. The Chair was then taken by the W.M., Bro. Willmott, who initiated Messrs. Roderick and Downes into the Order. Bro. Underwood, of No. 229, was elected a joining member.

CONSTITUTIONAL LODGE (No. 63).—This Lodge held its usual meeting on Thursday, the 17th April, at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, when the W.M., Bro. P. Moss very ably raised a Brother to the Degree of a M.M.; it also held a Lodge of Emergency on Tuesday, April 1st, for the purpose of initiating two gentlemen previous to their going to sea.

LODGE OF FELICITY (No. 66).—A Lodge of Emergency was held at the London Tavern, on Tuesday, the 16th of April, for the purpose of initiating into Masonry M. Gustave Arles, a native of Paris. The ceremony was performed by Bro. James Morris, the W.M., in the most impressive manner and with his accustomed correctness; the forcible enunciation of the charge conveyed to the newly-initiated Brother a highly favourable opinion of our Institution, and, at a slight refection, Bro. Arles stated that his ancestors, through four generations, were members of the Order, and some held high rank in the Grand Lodge of France. The Brother is the son of M. Arles-Dufour, who was the secretary to the imperial commission of the Great Exposition in Paris. Bro. Frederick Leaf, of Lodge No. 113, in proposing the health of the W.M., was eloquent in commendation of Bro. Morris's attainments, and of his gratification in seeing the ceremonial of the admission of his friend, Bro. Arles, so efficiently discharged. The regular monthly meeting of the Lodge was held on Monday, April 21, Bro. James Morris, W.M., in the chair, when Bro. Bauman was raised to the 3rd Degree, and Bro. Alfred Crosse was passed to the 2nd. The Brethren then proceeded to the election of W.M., and Bro. William Kynaston was unanimously elected, and Bro. Staples re-elected to the office of Treasurer. Bro. Graham submitted a notice of motion at the next general meeting:—"That a testimonial be presented to Bro. Staples, in acknowledgment of his services as Treasurer of the Lodge for twenty-five years." The Lodge being closed, the Brethren adjourned to a choice banquet, and in the course of the evening, at the expressed wish of the Lodge, the W.M. placed on the table the silver claret-jug and salver, which was presented to him by the Board of Grand Stewards for his efficient discharge of the duties of Secretary at the Grand Festival in 1853.

ST. MARY'S LODGE (No. 76).—There was a meeting of this Lodge at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 24th April, Bro. Morris Wilson, W.M., in the Chair. Three Brothers were raised to the 3rd Degree. At the close of the business the Brethren adjourned to a very elegant dinner. Amongst the visitors were Bros. Jos. Dodd, P. Prov. G.W. for Durham; Geo. Atty, W.M., No. 324; and J. G. Peacock, No. 876.

GRENADIERS' LODGE (No. 79).—About twenty members of this Lodge met together at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 27th of March, when Bro. Johnson, W.M. was in the Chair. Four Brethren were ably passed to the 2nd Degree. The Brethren afterwards adjourned to dinner, and the evening was much enlivened by the excellent singing of Bro. W. T. Bellingham, J.G., who presided at the pianoforte, Bro. Spratt, and others.

LODGE OF UNITY (No. 82).—On Monday, April 14, a special meeting of the Brethren of the above Lodge took place at the London Tavern, for the purpose of presenting Bro. A. Lyons Bellinger with a testimonial expressive of the esteem and approbation of the Lodge for the manner in which he had conducted the Lodge during his year as W.M. Bro. John Edmund Cox presented the Jewel, and with it, in his usually quiet, impressive, and gentlemanly style, an appropriate address. Bro. A. L. Bellinger having replied at some length, in appropriate terms, the meeting separated. We take occasion here to remark upon

the extreme elegance of the Unity Jewel—"L'Etoile des Etoiles,"—the P.M. emblem sparkling in brilliants from out the centre of the five points: it is deservedly considered one of the happiest designs of Bro. John Mott Thearle, the Masonic jeweller of Fleet-street.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—The Brethren of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, Thursday April 10th. Bro. Judkins was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. The visitors were Bro. Crohn, Royal Grand Lodge, Hamburgh, and Bro. Dubois.

TEMPLE LODGE (No. 118).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, April 17, when the W.M. proceeded to initiate Messrs. C. Bush Hitchcox and Harry Boleno, the celebrated clown of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. The W.M. then resigned his chair to P.M. Bro. Weedon, who passed Bros. Woodford, Braham, Nelson, and Wickens, to the 2nd Degree; and Bro. Wynne, P.M., afterwards, in a very able and efficient manner, raised Bros. Cutt, Abbott, Walker, and Drew, to the Sublime Degree of M.M. At the conclusion of business the Brethren adjourned to banquet. The healths of the initiates, together with that of the visitors were duly given; the former being responded to by Bro. Boleno, and the latter by Bro. Jones, P.M., of No. 25. The other usual toasts were then given, and after an evening most pleasantly spent, the Brethren then separated.

LODGE OF GOOD REPORT (No. 158).—The annual meeting for the Installation of the W.M. was held at Radley's Hotel on Thursday, the 3rd of April. In the absence of the W.M., Bro. How, P.M., No. 82, was requested to undertake the duties of the chair, when he raised Bros. Emanuel and Henry Aguilar to the 3rd Degree, and afterwards installed Bro. W. V. J. Simons as W.M. of the Lodge. The W.M. then appointed and invested as his Officers, Bros. Newman Ward, S.W.; J. Newington, J.W.; E. Smale, Sec. and S.D.; Emanuel Aguilar, J.D.; Henry Aguilar, I.G. Bros. Frank Southgate, Prov. J.G.W. of Kent, and Comines, P.M., were visitors.

PHŒNIX LODGE (No. 202).—The monthly meeting of the members of this Lodge was held on the evening of the 12th April, on which occasion the W.M. Bro. C. R. Harrison, with his usual ability, conferred the Sublime Degree of M.M. on two Brothers—namely, H. Ingram, *M.P.*, and James Bell McEntire, and passed Bros. John Graham and Edward F. Spiller to the Degree of Fellow-Crafts. The ceremonies having been concluded, Bro. James Burton, the S.W. of the Lodge, was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Bros. H. G. Warren, P.M., was re-elected Treas., and Rice, Tyler. A P.M.'s jewel was then, on the motion of Bro. Warren, voted to Bro. C. R. Harrison, as a recognition by the Lodge of the able manner in which he has for the last twelve months fulfilled the duties of the chair. The business of the Lodge having been concluded, the Brethren retired to refreshment. Among the visitors were Bros. Dr. Kent, Prov. G.M. of South Australia; Hughes, of the Albion, No. 9; and Hughes, of the Domatic, No. 206.

MANCHESTER LODGE (No. 209).—This flourishing Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on Thursday, the 17th April. The business was solely Masonic, consisting of a raising, two passings, and one initiation, which was conducted in that perfect manner for which this Lodge is now so justly proverbial. The unanimity prevailing in this Lodge is worthy of imitation, and the hospitality of the evening was supplied on the usual broad and liberal scale by the worthy host, Bro. Rackstraw. At the entertainment, we noticed visitors of very high standing in the Craft: Bros. Crew, P.M., of No. 1, whose cheerful face it was a treat to see; Barrett, P.M., No. 188; Levinson, S.W., of the Royal York, No. 7; Young and Potter, P.Ms., of No. 11; Cowdrey, Platt, and others. On the health of the visitors being proposed in a neat speech by the W.M., Bro. Crew, in returning thanks, alluded to the very excellent manner in which the Masonic duties were conducted by the W.M., Bro. Collard, and his officers, and gave an interesting and elaborate dissertation respecting the usefulness of Masonry all over the globe. He also explained to the newly-initiated

Brother and the young members wherein its real happiness consists, and the duty of every member in the Craft to support the charities, the excellence of which cannot be too highly lauded, as individuals and in Lodges. The harmony of the evening was much enhanced by Bro. Crew's original and feeling songs. The gratulation of the members was general in having passed such useful and pleasant hours. The Brethren parted highly gratified with the evening's entertainment, at an early hour.

SAINT JAMES UNION LODGE (No. 211).—This Lodge met at the Westmorland Arms, Great George Street, Manchester Square, Tuesday April 8th. The W.M. Bro. John Gurton, with the assistance of his Officers, ably initiated four gentlemen into the Order, and passed two to the 2nd Degree; it was resolved that the Lodge should meet for the future at the Freemasons' Tavern. In the course of the evening the W.M. invested the immediate P.M. Bro. Kelly with a handsome jewel, as a small token of the respect of the Brethren, and in acknowledgment of his exertions and zeal during his year of office.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—In consequence of the regular meeting-night falling on Good-Friday, this Lodge met on the following Friday, March 28th. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. Spooner (the immediate P.M.) officiated, by initiating Mr. H. W. Goff into Masonry, passing Bros. Mahey, Goldsbrough, and Dyer, to the 2nd Degree, and raising Brother Pratt to the Degree of M.M.; which ceremonies, we need scarcely say, were performed with his accustomed ability. The business being concluded, the Brethren retired to an excellent banquet, presided over by Bro. Sheen, P.M.; and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been given, the evening was spent most pleasantly. Bros. Tyrrell, P.M., No. 168, and Brett, No. 206, were the only visitors present.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—This Lodge met at Bro. Rackstraw's, Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on the 8th April, when Bros. Hudson, Foster, and Ball, were raised to the 3rd Degree.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281).—At the monthly meeting of this Lodge, on the 3rd April, the W.M., Bro. Dr. Paul, passed Bros. Warr and Jones to the 2nd Degree.

LA TOLERANCE LODGE (No. 784).—This Lodge held a meeting, on Tuesday, 1st April, under the presidency of Bro. Caplin, W.M., who most impressively initiated a candidate into the Order, and passed a Brother to the 2nd Degree.

FITZROY LODGE (No. 830).—This Lodge met at the Armory House of the Honourable Artillery Company, on Friday, 25th April.—A gentleman, member of the company, was initiated into the Order by the W.M., Bro. Peter Matthews, with the assistance of his Officers, in his usual able manner; the ceremony being concluded by an explanation of the Tracing-board. The Lodge was visited by one of its former members, now hailing from the Bedford Lodge.

CANONBURY LODGE (No. 955).—On Tuesday, the 8th of April, Bro. A. J. Duff Filer presided over a meeting of the members of this Lodge, at the Canonbury Tavern, Islington. The business of the evening consisted of the passing of Bro. Henry Salt, and the initiation of Mr. J. Cutts, jun., of Chesterfield, and Mr. Halton, of Islington; the ceremonies being performed in a manner which reflected credit upon all parties concerned. The Lodge on this occasion was fitted with some new and very elegant furniture, and great taste has been exhibited in its design. At the banquet table, which Bro. Todd actually makes totter under its weight of good things, all was pleasure and happiness, and the evening passed away so quickly that it was somewhat late ere the Brethren parted. The next meeting of the Lodge takes place on the 13th May.

INSTRUCTION.

VITRUVIAN LODGE (No. 103).—On Tuesday evening, April 15, the members of this excellent working Lodge celebrated the close of their season of instruction by a banquet, at the house of Bro. Heppel, White Hart Hotel, College-street,

Lambeth. The attendance was very numerous, and the meeting replete with harmony. Bro. Davidson, P.M., presided, and laid before the meeting a statement of the receipts of the Lodge from its commencement, which amounted in round numbers to about £100. This sum had been nearly equally divided amongst the Masonic charities.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE (No. 196).—The anniversary festival of this Lodge will take place at the Holly Bush, Hampstead, on the 18th June.

LODGE OF STABILITY (No. 264).—The anniversary meeting was held at Radley's Hotel, in Bridge-street, Blackfriars, on the evening of Friday, the 25th of April. Brother Henry Muggeridge, P.M., No. 227, the Preceptor of the Lodge, presided; and the Lecture of the 1st Degree was worked in sections by the following Brethren:—1st section, Bros. John Cohaley, No. 21; 2nd ditto, Samuel G. Myers, No. 125; 3rd ditto, James Morris, W.M., No. 66; 4th ditto, Robert Farran, J.D., No. 22; 5th and 6th ditto, Edward Bowman, S.W., No. 125; 7th ditto, Edward Spooner, P.M., No. 237.

Too much praise cannot be awarded to each and every Brother who took part in the ceremonies; but, not to be invidious, although each was commended for the discharge of his particular duty, the clear enunciation and admirable explanation of the Lodge Board, by Bro. Bowman, was the theme of universal admiration. At the close of the business, Bro. John Havers, P.S.G.D., the President of this Lodge of Instruction, took the chair, and announced that the surplus funds of the Lodge allowed the disposal, according to custom, of the sum of twelve guineas to the charities of the Order, which was accordingly voted thus:—£5. 5s. to the Girls' School; £3. 3s. to the Boys' School; £2. 2s. to the Male, and £2. 2s. to the Female Annuitants. A vote of thanks to Bro. Muggeridge and other Brethren, who had worked the Lecture, was carried unanimously. The Brethren then adjourned to the Supper-room, about 130 being present. Bro. John Havers, the President, in the chair, supported by Bros. T. R. White, P.S.G.D.; U. Thiselton, P.M., No. 2; G. Barrett, P.M., No. 212; Cox and Brouse, P.M., No. 18; How, P.M., and Masterman, No. 82; Sotheran, P.M., No. 227, &c. &c. Bro. Bowman, S.W., J. Morris, J.W., and many red-aprons were also present. After the health of her Majesty and the G.M. had been duly honoured, Bro. Havers, in proposing the D.G.M. said, that although still incapacitated from public and Masonic duties, hopes were confidently entertained of the Earl of Yarborough's recovery. He (Bro. Havers) had seen his lordship lately, and the noble lord expressed his wish to be again among his Brother Masons. With the D.G.M. was also associated the past and present Grand Officers. He regretted that of that numerous body there were but himself and Bro. T. R. White present to represent it on this important occasion. Bro. White, in acknowledgment, said he considered it a duty incumbent on the Grand Officers to encourage Lodges of Instruction, to which the correct practice of Masonry was so much indebted; indeed they were the ornaments of the Institution. Bro. Havers said he had then to propose "Success to the Stability Lodge of Instruction, and Bro. Muggeridge, its Preceptor." He was sure that from every one present it would meet with a hearty response, contributing, as the Lodge did, to the preservation of the genuine tenets of the Craft. For more than half a century it had been in active work, and their lamented Bro. Peter Thompson brought into the city, to witness his working, men who went there at no other time, for no other purpose. Although other Lodges differed somewhat in the working, yet intrinsically the ritual was uniform, and the great object to be attained was planting in the mind the principles of Masonry, and no matter what particular form of ritual was adopted, he who did most to effect that object did the greatest good. He now approached the most important part of the evening's business, and would address himself to the worthy Brother upon whom the mantle of Peter Thompson had fallen. "Bro. Muggeridge," he proceeded, "nothing can be more agreeable to me, or to the assembly of Brethren around me, than to present you with this purse, which is given, not as a reward in payment for your long and arduous services, but as an acknowledgment of our gratitude. In saying this I am sure I am but conveying the sentiments of every Mason present, and in delivering it,

containing, I believe, sixty guineas, I tender you our warmest wishes that you may enjoy many years of health as well as happiness, and that you may still continue to be the preceptor of the Lodge, and here to receive our annual acknowledgment of your usefulness."

Bro. Muggeridge could assure his Brethren that he felt in a much more difficult position than when he took his seat at the commencement of the business to work the lecture. Although not gifted with the powers of eloquence, he would endeavour to convey his gratitude in the heart's language. His gratitude was of three kinds: first, it was due to those Brethren who, united with him, had so excellently discharged their duties in the working; secondly, to the goodly assembly of estimable Masons who were present to encourage his efforts; and, lastly, to the contributors to the very munificent testimonial which had been placed in his hands. It was seventeen years since he entered the Lodge, and during that time he had received many proofs of the satisfaction of the Brethren, and could assure them that as long as life would allow him, his efforts should be continued. Bro. Muggeridge was most warmly greeted.

Bro. Thiselton called on the Brethren to rise to the "Health of their President, Bro. Havers," that Brother being one of the most energetic patrons of the Masonic charities.

Bro. Havers said, when Bro. Muggeridge applied to him to again preside, he suggested the obtaining a new man, as by that means they might get a new idea, for having presided over this anniversary festival for ten years, he could not but consider so trite a subject as his own health must necessarily become wearisome.

The president next proposed "Bros. Bowman and Morris, the Wardens, and the rest of the Brethren who had taken part in the business of the day." He never before saw those duties so admirably performed, and he particularly mentioned, although all were entitled to praise, Bro. Bowman, who had so correctly and so elegantly delivered the explanation of the Lodge Board; his clear enunciation was worthy of observation. He also referred to one, absent on the present occasion, Bro. John Francis White, the Secretary, who had taken upon himself the discharging of all extra expenses of the present meeting. He was a Brother who was known not only in Masonry, but wherever distress was to be found; and to the poor Mason his hand was ever open to succour and relieve.

Bro. Bowman, in returning thanks for himself and those associated with him, said they considered there was a double debt of gratitude to discharge, not only for the way in which their services had been acknowledged, but for the patient attention of their auditors; but, after all, it was to their preceptor the praise was due, for throughout the preparations for the lecture, Bro. Muggeridge was ever at their side.

After some further toasts, the President called the attention of those present to the last toast—"The Charities of the Order"—and with it "Bro. Thiselton, the oldest Secretary of the Charitable Institutions."

Bro. Thiselton said he was highly honoured by the union of his name with "The Charities," and he mentioned that when he entered on his office as Secretary of the Boys' School the funded property of that institution was £600, it now amounted to £1,400. He urged the Brethren to unite in some effort to relieve the many aged who were now seeking relief: there were forty males and nine females, to afford relief to whom the present funds were altogether insufficient.

The Brethren then separated.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, GRAY'S INN LANE.—The Sussex Wing of this hospital will be opened, and the statue of our late lamented G.M. inaugurated, on the 18th June. In the evening there will be a grand dinner at the Freemasons' Tavern, in aid of the funds of this noble institution, over which the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, Prov. G.M. for Warwickshire, will preside.

PROVINCIAL.

CESHIRE.

CHESTER.—*Cestrian Lodge* (No. 615).—This Lodge held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, at their rooms, Royal Hotel, March 26, which on this occasion was numerously attended. The W.M. of the Cestrian Lodge, No. 615, Bro. Truss, granted a dispensation for the Lodge to be held on the first Wednesday in April, at the Royal Hotel, so as to enable the learned Brethren of the bar to attend. Besides the regular members, several of the members of the bar were present, including our worthy Recorder, who was initiated in the Lodge, and has remained a member of the same ever since (now fourteen years ago). During the Masonic business an initiation took place, a degree was conferred, and a most impressive charge delivered by Bro. P. M. Willoughby. The Lodge being called from labour, the Brethren retired to the banquet-room, where nearly forty of the Craft partook of dinner, served up in Bro. McGregor's usual style of excellence. Bro. Horatio Lloyd (barrister-at-law) occupied the chair, supported by the W.M. Bro. Truss, Bro. Welsby, and other learned brethren of this circuit.

Monday, March 31, on the news of peace having been signed, Bro. McGregor, of the Royal Hotel, in this city, hoisted the great Masonic banner (which was presented by Lady Combermere to the Cestrian Lodge) from the window of the banquet-room. Bro. Brown also displayed a very beautiful flag at his residence, Bold-square, with Masonic devices appropriate for the occasion. We are informed that the next Provincial Lodge for this county will take place at Egremont, some time in the month of September, when Field Marshal the Viscount Combermere will preside.

MACCLESFIELD.—On April 17, 1856, the Fraternity of this town was much pleased by a lecture delivered to them by Bro. Baron de Camin, on the history and principles of Freemasonry. The two Lodges, No. 372 and No. 334, were specially summoned for the occasion; both W.Ms. and P.Ms. and a goodly assembly of the Brethren were present. The Address was listened to with marked attention, and its spirited manner and Masonic matter were well calculated to stir up the Fraternity to a proper sense of their position and duties. It would benefit the welfare and respectability of our Order, if other Lodges were to invite the lecturer to deliver to them similar Masonic lessons. Our Bro. the Baron's address was to the following effect: Masonry is not an order or society founded for common benefit or for a brief period—for the question is repeatedly asked by persons not in the Order, What is the benefit of being a Mason? There is a benefit and a great privilege in being a Mason, both for present and future happiness, because Masonry is founded on the whole of human wisdom and happiness, consisting in the knowledge of God and ourselves. The wisdom of God is acknowledged by all human beings, and students of divinity who have deeply reflected admit the use of their Order to be diverse and manifold, not only to learn but to teach. Masonry, as we learn, was divided into three Degrees before Lodges were even established: in the first Degree was taught architecture; in the second Degree, geometry; and, in the third, all arts, sciences, and letters connected with human progress. All histories indicate that Masonry taught the art of medicine, and the first Greek historian intimates as much; Zoroaster also proves the same, as well as Confucius of China; Brahma, the Hindoo; and, lastly, Hermes Trimegistus, the Egyptian: these all declare the same as dovetailed with our Order. We certainly do not find the word Freemason in any of the writings; even Marcellus, the last of the great writers, at the time when Christianity appeared, does not allude to the term Freemasons, but he called them philosophers, artists, and workmen. Pythagoras, about 800 years before Christ, was the first to take the title of the lover of truth and wisdom. Thales and Homer do not use the term Freemason, but priests. We find, moreover, that the priests

of Apollo conducted our ceremonies, and taught all science and literature, going about effecting cures, doing all kind of good, and teaching their fellowmen to love God and man. Moses received his best education in Egypt; in Memphis he was the first to organise the Jews, under science, letters, moral virtue, and justice. Now arose those grand structures the Pyramids—as a beacon for the traveller in the desert and the navigator on the Nile, to observe the rise and setting of the sun, and other astronomical observations, to be diffused for the benefit of all travellers, as well as to intimate to the Egyptians the approach of an enemy. The Jews having become demoralised, and the sign, the misgovernment of their priests, lost their Masonic organisation; hence Solomon, Hiram King of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff, re-organised the three Degrees: Hiram Abiff taught architecture in the first Degree; Hiram, King of Tyre, geometry, in the second; and Solomon inculcated the highest points of wisdom, justice, and spiritual things in the third. The Jews still continued to be wise in these three points: first, with reference to the laymen, called “Israelites;” second, “Levites;” and, third, the “priests;” and no doubt the high priest was at the head of the Lodge, as they were engaged in everything relating to the teaching of the people, arranging, and conducting the government. Solomon divided the workmen at the Temple into *day* and *night* watchers; hence the Knight Templars derive their origin from a corruption of the word, and not from the Saxon word, meaning servant. The destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians was the first time when the Knight-Templars appeared under that title, being organised as a military body; which was preserved until the great persecution of King Denis the First, and Jacques de Molay the Martyr, who, fearing for their order from this persecution, assumed the name of workmen or masons, and still later Freemasons. Masonry was thus proved to be an ancient and holy Order, instituted for hearing, teaching, and doing good, to instruct us to love God and man. I fear that the principles of Masonry are not fully carried out, that the order is often degraded by men creeping in for the sake of the Society’s use to them, and not for theirs to the Society. They thus trample under foot the solemn vow that has escaped their lips, and, with their hand on the Holy Bible, dishonour God and insult man; in number they increase the Society, perhaps, on the principle that many hands make lighter work, but experience shows that many hands do not work at all.

DEVONSHIRE.

EXETER.—A large assembly of Freemasons was held on Saturday, March 8, at the Half-Moon Inn, Exeter, to receive and compliment Commander Huber Campion, R.N., on his return from distinguished services in the Black Sea and Sea of Azoff. A large Masonic room was adorned with laurels and other evergreens, interspersed with flowers, and further decorated with Provincial Grand Banners and the respective flags of England and her allies.

The chair was taken by Brother William Denis Moore, Prov. G.J.W. and P.G.S., Captain and Adjutant of the South Devon and Exeter Volunteer Rifle Corps; Bro. William Cann, P. Prov. G.T., acted as Senior Warden, and upwards of forty Brethren, in Masonic clothing, sat down to a superb banquet, provided by Bro. Routley in a style not to be surpassed.

After the cloth was removed, and grace said, the usual loyal, grand, and provincial grand toasts were given with their proper acknowledgments. The “Army” having been drunk and responded to by Bro. J. Tanner Davy, Captain First Devon Militia.

Bro. W. D. Moore said it was now his pleasing task to refer to the other distinguished branch of the service, namely, “The Navy.” This was a toast dear to the hearts of Englishmen, for if ever there was a nation of sailors, England was that nation. In the great roll of human fame the brightest names on record were those of British seamen. In the late war England had found her navy in a high state of discipline. It assisted at Alma in shelling those heights and also at Sebastopol. The Russian navy, which had formerly rode triumphant over the waters of the Black Sea, refused to meet the ships of the allies. Our admirals on approaching the harbour, instead of being met with a blaze of fire and the crash of iron missiles, found the Russian vessels retired behind the protection of stone forts; and

subsequently, rather than meet the wooden walls of Old England, they were quietly submerged to form a subaqueous breakwater. Thanks to the navy, the entrance of the Danube had been unclosed, and that great highway of nations was now opened to commerce. The people of all countries could now cross the Black Sea in defiance of Russian war vessels. In the gallant band of brave men in our navy was to be found the name of our friend and Brother, Commander Hubert Campion. In the *Vesuvius* he had assisted under the cliffs of the Crimea in protecting the flank of the British army. He had not only endured the perils of shot and shell, but he had encountered that tremendous hurricane which caused such fearful damage off Balaklava to the forces, both sea and land. After a brief interval he had joined the squadron in the Sea of Azoff, where he had distinguished himself in all the encounters which took place with the enemy in the destruction of their immense stores. This important service ended, he had returned to his native city, promoted for his services, thanked by his superiors, gladly welcomed by his Brethren, and esteemed by all who knew him. It had been the commander's fortune to have been in the Sea of Azoff under that distinguished man, Capt. Lyons. He had assisted in not only annihilating the remainder of the Russian force in those seas, but he had destroyed millions of rations imported for the sustenance of the Russian army. The name of the gallant Brother was to be found honourably mentioned in five several *Gazettes*, five times in one despatch, for the success of his proceedings, his name standing as high as any man of his rank and station. The respectable body of Masons then present had done themselves the honour of assembling to welcome him back unscathed to Exeter. They had prepared a tribute of respect, which was as follows:—"To Brother Hubert Campion, Commander Royal Navy.—To convey to you their sincere joy on your return to your native city from the perils of war; to give utterance to their warm congratulations on the distinguished honour you have achieved by your gallant bearing and the skilful management of the force intrusted to your command in the Sea of Azoff, and your conduct generally, which has gained for you the approval of the chief authorities of your country; and to add their earnest hope that a long and honourable life may be crowned by your attainment to the highest rewards of your noble profession—this expression of deep-felt fraternal regard is presented to you on behalf of the Brethren of our respective Lodges, in the assurance that they are the sentiments of the brotherhood at large. Exeter, 5th April." The Brethren would see the tribute was elegantly engrossed on vellum and decorated with appropriate drawings. Bro. Moore said the task of presiding this evening was to him one of a most gratifying nature; and he felt honoured in proposing in connection with the toast of "The Navy," long life, health, prosperity, and a continuance of professional success to Bro. Hubert Campion.—Vehement cheering for many minutes greeted this toast.

Bro. Commander Hubert Campion, in rising to return thanks, said that he did so with mingled feelings of gratitude and pride; of gratitude—the deepest gratitude, to the great Architect of the Universe—through whose Almighty protection he had been permitted to return to his home in safety; and of pride at being welcomed by his Brethren in so kind a manner. That inward monitor, conscience, which never failed to remind them of their failings, told also when their utmost had been done faithfully to discharge their duty, and when, in addition to its approval, they found that the attempt, be it crowned with success or not, recognised and appreciated by their countrymen, then they might feel elated. Such was his position, and the honours given him that evening affected him more than he could express. Since last he had the pleasure of meeting the Brethren of his Lodge he had witnessed the commencement of the war, and he might add, its termination also, as no active operations had taken place since he quitted the seat of war. He had not only shared the dangers of a battle-field, but those of many a tempestuous sea. On one occasion, when his captain was ashore, he had the command of his vessel during one of the most fearful gales ever witnessed, and during which he feared all he could do to save his ship and the lives on board would be of no avail. The neighbouring ships were on shore, and although the excitement of war often carried off much of its miseries, yet the horror of that hour, when he saw hundreds of his fellow men swept away and their lives lost,

without being able to render the slightest assistance, was beyond description. After referring to his various duties in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azoff, the gallant commander said he had been actuated by a sincere desire to assist in promoting the glory of his country, and he hoped he had attained success. Although he had returned to receive the kind sympathy of his friends, he could not forget that others had shared his dangers. The dangers of many now dead had been equal to his own, and even now in this moment of happiness he could not cease to mourn for them. War was at an end for the present, and he hoped, as doubtless they all did, that the peace would be lasting. But should such not be the case, and the army and navy be again called upon to defend their country, he prayed, as he felt quite sure everyone who had witnessed the horrors of a battle-field would, that its scenes might be removed far from this happy island. The gallant Brother concluded a forcible and modest speech with hoping he might be long spared to prove himself a deserving servant to his sovereign, and a true Brother of the Craft.—Our gallant Brother resumed his seat amidst loud cheering.

A number of other toasts were proposed and many other speeches made, until the Brethren separated, having spent a pleasant evening in brotherly love and harmony.

Bro. Charles J. Laidman gave his services to the committee as its honorary secretary.

TAVISTOCK.—*Bedford Lodge* (No. 351).—This Lodge held their usual monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, April 2, when Bro. Thomas Chapman (who presided in the unavoidable absence of Bro. J. H. Snell, the W.M.), initiated Mr. E. W. Nettle into the mysteries of the Order. We are glad to state that this Lodge is flourishing, there being this year twenty-six contributing members, with a gradual increase. The Lodge is held at a private room, on the first Wednesday in the month.

DURHAM.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—*Fawcett Lodge* (No. 959).—On Thursday, March 27, there was a muster of the Masons of the surrounding neighbourhood, to the number of at least one hundred, to witness the consecration of the new Lodge, and among them were nearly all the celebrities of the province. Present,—the R.W. Bro. John Fawcett, Prov. G.M.; Bros. A. Wilkinson, acting D. Prov. G.M.; Rev. J. Simpson, Prov. G.S.W.; Rev. J. Milner, P. Prov. G.S.W.; E. D. Dodds, Prov. G.J.W.; R. Saville, P. Prov. G.J.W.; Rev. J. Cundell, Prov. G. Chaplain; R. Renoulds, P.G. Treasurer; G. S. Ranson, P. Prov. G.J.W., acting G. Prov. Secretary; E. D. Davis, Prov. G.D.C.; J. Husdell, P. Prov. G.R.; G. Watson, Prov. G.S.D.; W. Tiplady, Prov. G.J.D.; J. Spark, Prov. G. Organist; R. A. Johnson, acting Prov. G.P.; W. M. Laws, Tyler. Among the visitors were Bros. H. Williamson, jun.; T. Simpson; the W.Ms. of St. John's, Phoenix, and Palatine Lodges of Sunderland, and numerous officers and Brothers from almost all the Lodges in the provinces.

The principal P.G. officers on entering were received with grand honours. They appeared in the investiture of the Prov. Grand Lodge, which was opened with special ceremonies.

The acting P.G. secretary announced the specific purpose of the meeting, and read the correspondence in pursuance of which the new Lodge was founded. He also read the Warrant of Constitution, which was granted by the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of England, which was also signed by the Earl of Yarborough, R.W.D.G.M. The Lodge is named the "Fawcett," in compliment to the R.W. Prov. G.M.

The Rev. Prov. G. chaplain read the lessons, and the principal P.G. officers proceeded with the ancient ceremonies, during which was the symbolic applications of corn, wine, and oil.

The Prov. G. Organist presided over the musical department of the proceedings at the organ, and led the chants, in which he was very ably assisted by several musical Brothers from Durham.

The Prov. G. Chaplain delivered a very able and impressive address, in which he clearly defined the principles of the Masonic Order, with its fraternal and bene-

volent objects and moralizing tendency. He ardently recommended the practice of its prudential, orderly, and sympathetic precepts to all the Brothers present.

A similar address was delivered by the R.W. Prov. G.M., who strenuously recommended the brothers present to cultivate the benevolent principles of the Order towards all who were overtaken by unavoidable misfortunes, but to discourage the mistaken idea, which some persons appeared to entertain, to the effect that Masonry was an institution desirable to be a member of on account of beneficial interests.

The W. M., Wardens, and other of the Fawcett Lodge were installed into their respective offices, viz. ;—Bros. John Crossby, W.M. ; John Wright Tate, S.W. ; Edward Evans, J.W. ; James Patterson, Treasurer ; St. John Crooks, Secretary ; Robert Naylor, J.D. ; James Hamilton, J.D. ; Martin Lonié, jun., D.C. ; Thomas Hanson, I.G. ; W. L. Gordon, George Elwin, Stewards ; W. M. Laws, Tyler.

The officers respectively took their places. After a few befitting remarks from the Master, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the R.W. Prov. G.M., J. Fawcett, for the kindness he had manifested and the facility he had afforded to the promoters of the Fawcett Lodge, to which the Prov. G. M. made a suitable reply.

The Lodge was closed in due form, and the company retired to allow the room to be prepared for dinner, to which about fifty members afterwards sat down. Dinner being over, and the cloth withdrawn, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and mutually acknowledged, and the evening was spent with that conviviality that has ever distinguished the Craft.

ESSEX.

CHELMSFORD.—*Lodge of Good Fellowship* (No. 343).—At a numerous meeting of this Lodge held in March, Bro. James Wilson was raised to the 3rd Degree in a very impressive manner by Bro. Burton, P.M. and Prov. G. Sec., during the temporary absence of Bro. Savel, the W.M., in the presence of the V.W. Bro. Skinner, D. Prov. G.M. Bro. Thomas Vesper, P.M., of Nos. 112 and 812, was duly elected a member of the Lodge.

At the meeting of the Lodge on the 17th of April, the Rev. Bro. C. M. Arnold, M.A., head master of the grammar school, was proposed by the D. Prov. G.M. as a joining member. The lectures of the 1st Degree were ably worked under the presidency of Bro. Wilson, P.M. and P. Prov. G.D.C. ; and after an elegant repast the Brethren separated, highly gratified with the proceedings of the evening, and with the truly Masonic bearing of the V.W. D. Prov. G.M. and his officers who were present.

A very effective Lodge of Instruction is held on the Monday preceding each regular Lodge meeting at Bro. Durrant's, the White Hart Hotel, at which many Brethren of the surrounding neighbourhood attend, with much benefit to themselves and the Craft.

BOCKING.—*North Essex Lodge* (No. 817).—At a numerous meeting of the members of this influential Lodge, held at the White Hart Hotel on Monday, 21st April, for the installation of Bro. E. Haidon, by the W. Bro. P. Matthews, P.M. No. 11, and Prov. G.J.W., the R.W. Bro. R. J. Bagshaw, Prov. G.M. of Essex, and the V.W. Bro. Major Skinner, V.W.D. Prov. G.M., favoured the Lodge with their presence, attended by many of the Prov. Grand Officers. The W. Bro. Hustler, P.M., opened the Lodge. The ceremony of installation was most ably performed ; and the newly-installed Master appointed and invested his Officers, Bros. Augustus Cunnington, S.W. ; the Rev. Wm. Spencer Hemming, M.A., J.W. ; the Rev. Robert Chapman Webb, M.A., S.D. ; Wm. Philip Honeywood, Treas. ; Wm. Holmes, Sec. ; James Cardinall (an old and efficient member), I.G. ; and James Randall, Tyler.

After a very impressive address, on the advantages and religious value of Freemasonry, by the R.W. Prov. G.M., the Lodge was adjourned, and the Brethren retired to the handsome banquet-room, and partook of a most liberal entertainment, provided for them by Bro. Thomas Durrant, P.M., No. 343, the host

of the White Hart. Amongst the visitors we noticed Bros. Sarel, W.M., No. 343; Webb, P.M., No. 343; Wakeling, P.M., No. 343; Thos. Vesper, No. 343, P.M., No. 812. Bros. Sarel and Vesper were called upon to return thanks for the visitors, and did so in appropriate addresses; after a toast to the Durrant family, who have been Masons good and true for generations, the Brethren retired highly gratified with the business of the day.—We must not lay down our pen without affording our sincere thanks to the W. Bro. Surridge, Prov. S.G.W., for his excellent arrangement, both with regard to the reception of the R.W. Prov. D.G.M. and the management of the affairs of the day.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

BERKHAMPSTEAD.—*Berkhampstead Lodge* (No. 742).—Agreeable to the summons of the W.M. of the above Lodge, whose wishes constitute a law to his Brethren, we left those labours which we love, in town, in order to fulfil those obligations which so elevate our considerations, that home with all its beloved associations becomes forgotten in the presence of those glorious Masonic duties we engage in at Berkhamstead. As this Lodge is not known as it should be—not only from the ability and hearty good feeling of the Brethren, but from the pretty little town in which it is held, we will describe the latter, about which there is a quiet, listless style most agreeable to one accustomed to ever active London life—a repose about houses and inhabitants, and the nature that surrounds them, which puts one in mind of those quiet places we see in dreams. Even the sounds come lazily on the ear, and the echoes linger ere they reply; indeed, an old storyteller informs us that in some of the back streets the state of things in general is so prostrate that the echoes never wake at all, and the whole town appears to be much in the condition of Dibdin's waterman when thinking of nothing. The drowsy repose about the place is a solace to a Londoner; it brings to mind those quiet Dutch paintings of Teniers, and you feel that you are with a simple, kind-hearted people, who pursue the even tenor of their way free from all excitements so prejudicial to livers in large towns. In yon streak of sunshine, falling like a golden haze between those odd-shaped houses, a Berkhamsteadite has been idling about for the last two hours; he has nothing to do and is taking his own time to do it in; he was alone when we first saw him, but two others joined him about an hour ago and are still with him—one a lad going for some beer, the other the doctor's boy. The subject does not appear to be exciting, for when idle no one makes an observation; the boy on his way for the beer stares vacantly for five minutes before he replies, in order, we suppose, to get full possession of the idea before he decides upon it, whilst the doctor's lad speaks not, being solely occupied in performing as a solo, with gratuitous variations, the post-horn gallop on his own whistle, in the same leisurely time that St. Clement Danes' chimes play the Old Hundredth. In the centre of this quiet home of so many quiet people, with the picturesque church rising high up over the dwellings, whose spire points not more surely toward heaven than doth the teachings and example of the beloved pastors; here, with the far-off undulating country lying like a lovely green carpet, sits the honest Berkhamsteadite on the bench before his door, like a patriarch of old, smoking a quiet pipe on sultry days, listening with silent happiness to the clucking of his hens, an effort on the part of the fowls which may be truly said to have a silver sound, inasmuch as it conveys a certain assurance of profitable marketing. The native dogs sleep undisturbed on the threshold—the pigeons, with their heads beneath their wings, repose on the house-tops—the Italian boy on the bridge, who has been looking at his own images in the water, like another Narcissus, has dropped off, not of the bridge, but into a gentle slumber; the soft spring air plays too gently round the leaves of the tall churchyard trees even to cause a rustle over the quiet graves, scarcely more still homes for their occupants than are the homes of the living; indeed, we may sum up this effort, on our part, to describe the place, by saying that the profoundest tranquillity reigns throughout the town. The Lodge of the town is held at Bro. Softlands, and on the 7th of April assembled there Bros. John Mott Thearle, Bellinger, Harvey Lane, H. G. Lane, Webber, Thomas Adams, and other dis-

tinguished Brethren. The business of the Lodge was most efficiently performed by the W.M., and Bro. H. G. Lane raised with great ability by Bro. Thomas Adams. On the resignation of Bro. Richard Lea Wilson being read to the Lodge, Bro. John Mott Thearle rose, and after dilating upon the benefits conferred upon the Lodge by Bro. R. L. Wilson, concluded by proposing the following resolution :—" That it is with great regret this Lodge receives the resignation of the Secretary and Treasurer, Bro. Richard Lea Wilson ; and in order to testify not only that regret, but also the very great esteem in which they hold him, it is hereby resolved that a testimonial expressive of this feeling be presented to him ; that the sum of ten guineas be devoted from the Lodge funds for that purpose, and that three of the Brethren be appointed a committee to communicate with Bro. R. L. Wilson as to what form that testimonial should take." This, being seconded by Bro. Bellinger, was carried unanimously. The further business of the Lodge consisted in the election of Bro. Bellinger as Treasurer ; and the proposing, by Bro. John Mott Thearle, of Bro. Henry George Warren, of the *Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror*, as a joining member ; Bro. Bellinger proposing also Bros. Anderson and Winsdale as joining members. The banquet was served with Bro. Softland's usual good taste and attention to the creature comforts of the Brethren. After the cloth had been removed and the usual toasts given, Bro. Lane rose, and, in the name of the Lodge, presented Bro. F. G. Harvey with a very handsome silver mug, expressing at the same time the pleasure it gave him to be the medium of expressing the high sense in which the Lodge held Bro. Harvey, and wished him health and long life to use it. Bro. Harvey, in a very eloquent speech, returned thanks for the honour paid to him. The feeling thus expressed would be remembered and appreciated by him through life, and in every way that he could return the kindness he would. Bros. Bellinger, Lane, Adams, and Webber sustained the harmony of the evening until seven o'clock, when our merry party broke up and we progressed toward the rail. As the evening closed in, the golden sunlight that had streamed between the houses had turned to grey twilight : the idler was making strong efforts to move off—the boy had gone for the beer—young Esculapius home with the medicine—and the man at the bridge woke up as we passed him—and so we left. Much benefited by the repose of soul consequent upon one day's remove from the bustling world, we speeded down the line,—there, amid the puff, puff, and grunt, grunt of the engine, gladdened our last hours by listening to Bro. Bellinger's exquisite singing, Bro. Thomas Adam's jovial ditties, not forgetting Bro. Webber, who came out very strong in the choruses.

WATFORD.—*Watford Lodge* (No. 580).—On Friday, the 28th of March, the members of this excellent Lodge assembled in their hall, in the town of Watford. In the absence of the W.M., Bros. H. C. Ward, T. Abel Ward, D. Prov. G.M. of the province, presided and initiated into Masonry Mr. Charles Davy. Bro. Francis, an old member of the Lodge, and D. Prov. G.M. of Surrey, took the chair, and installed the W.M. elect, Bro. Thomas Rogers, the highly-esteemed Prov. G. Treas. of Herts, who was proclaimed and saluted in the several Degrees. The W.M. then appointed and invested as his officers :—Bros. Goepel, S.W. ; T. A. Ward, J.W. ; John Sedgwick, Sec. ; W. Rogers, S.D. ; Tootel, J.D. ; Carpenter, I.G. ; Burchell-Herne, P.M., who had been re-elected, Treas. ; and Thomas, who had been elected Tyler, were also invested. The business of the evening being closed, the Brethren adjourned to banquet. After the disposal of the customary loyal and Masonic toasts, the health of their excellent Prov. G.M., Bro. William Stuart, met with a warm reception. Bro. Francis, in proposing the "Health of the W.M." alluded to the fact that his excellent friend, who that day presided over them, was the first Mason initiated in No. 580, at its consecration, twenty-seven years since ; that he had throughout that long period undertaken many duties and rendered important services to the Lodge, but that his humility and modesty had allowed many others to pass to the distinguished office he had that day consented to fill. The W.M. hoped that his efforts would ever be deemed worthy the kindly return his services had hitherto met, and that the G.A.O.T.U. would spare him to be among them for many years to come.

He then asked the Brethren assembled to give a warm and hearty greeting to the health of his excellent friend, Bro. T. A. Ward, the D.G.M. of the province, whose services to Masonry in general and the Watford Lodge in particular were so widely known, and who was always ready to fill any office in which he could be useful. The D.G.M., in acknowledgment, said he was much gratified, in seeing his old friend that day presiding over the Lodge, and hoped that the high prestige of No. 580 would ever be maintained. The year had begun well; for himself he could say, that nothing but unavoidable duties would prevent his attendance and services. The healths of Bros. Francis, D. Prov. G.M. of Surrey; their excellent Treasurer, Burchell-Herne; the indefatigable Secretary, Sedgwick; the newly-initiated Brother, &c., were duly honoured, and the Brethren separated at the close of a most pleasant day. Bro. How, Prov. G.D.C., was the only visitor.

ISLE OF WIGHT.

The Prov. G.M. has been making a tour of his province, and visiting the various Lodges. He was at Ryde on the 11th, Ventnor on the 12th, Newport the 13th, and Cowes the 14th of March. At Ryde the first lecture was worked in sections, and the R.W.G.M. highly complimented the Brethren on the excellence of their Masonic information and admirable working. Ceremonies and lectures were also ably worked at the other places. It would be well for the interests of Freemasonry if other Prov. G.Ms. would follow the excellent example of Bro. Fleming, as we should then get a little nearer to uniformity in the working than at present exists. As a province this island stands A 1.

KENT.

GRAVESEND.—*Lodge of Freedom* (No. 91).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge took place at Bro. Wates's Hotel on Monday, April 21st, when a large number of the Brethren attended. After the Lodge was opened by the W.M. Bro. Spencer, with solemn prayer, he initiated into the mysteries of the Craft Mr. Everest and Mr. Evans, in his usual excellent style, and afterwards passed to the Fellow Craft's Degree Bro. J. J. Everest. The Lodge being resumed to the 1st Degree, the Brethren were much delighted by the W.M. delivering the Charge (too seldom done in Lodges) to the newly initiated, which he did in a most impressive manner. The Lodge being closed, the Brethren proceeded to the banquet provided for them by the worthy host; and after the usual toasts had been responded to, the Brethren separated at rather a late hour.

SHEERNESS.—*Adam's Lodge and Chapter* (No. 184).—We hear this Lodge and Chapter are in a most prosperous state, through the indefatigable exertions of Bro. Dr. Keddell, and other great lights of that town. At the meeting of the Chapter on the 14th ult., Bro. Captain Bradshaw, Royal Artillery, and another Brother, were exalted into this Sublime Degree in a most able and efficient manner.

LANCASHIRE.

BLACKBURN.—*Lodge of Fidelity* (No. 336).—The regular monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Friday evening, March 28th. There was a good attendance of members and visitors, including, amongst the latter, the Rev. Bros. Nicholson, B.D., Prov. G. Chap., Grand Lodge, and Brock Hollinshead, Prov. G. Reg., Grand Lodge, P.M., No. 336 (as a deputation on the subject of the appointment of Prov. G.M.); and the Rev. Bros. Hartley, M.A., P.M., No. 434; Radcliffe, S.W., No. 434; and Backhouse, S.W., No. 432, &c. After the Lodge had been opened in due form in the 3rd Degree, Bro. Chatburn was raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M. by Bro. Collinson, P.M., in a most impressive manner, assisted by Bros. Whewell and Wm. Harrison, as Ws., and Sheppard as S.D. The Lodge afterwards proceeded to transact several matters of business, the principal items of which were the voting of a weekly allowance to the Tyler (who is in indigent circumstances through bad health); and ten guineas as a donation to one of the Masonic charities. Two gentlemen were proposed and seconded as candidates for admission to the Craft. The members then considered a communication

from the Prov. G. Officers of the Province as to the choice of Prov. G.M., to succeed the Earl of Ellesmere, should his resignation be accepted, and the unanimous resolution of the Lodge was in favour of the appointment of the present D. Prov. G.M. (Stephen Blair, Esq.) to the Office. The Lodge having been closed, the Brethren adjourned to a banquet, served up in excellent style, presided over by the W.M. Bro. Whewell. During the proceedings, the Prov. G. Chap.'s health was proposed; and, in returning thanks, the Rev. Bro. expatiated on the benefits of Freemasonry, and said he should always endeavour to discharge the duties of his high and holy office with fidelity and zeal, earnestly endeavouring to keep before the Craft the Scriptures with Masonry, and Masonry with the Scriptures, both being consonant with each other. He alluded to the pleasure with which he had long anticipated meeting the Brethren of No. 336, of whom he had often heard mention, and he complimented the Lodge on its working: this was his first visit, but he trusted it was not his last. Several other toasts were proposed during the evening, which were characterized by the usual fraternal sentiments.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

BOSTON.—*Provincial Grand Lodge.*—The Prov. G.M. of Lincolnshire (the Earl of Yarborough) has honoured Boston by selecting it as the place for holding the Provincial Grand Lodge for 1856. The meeting will be held on Thursday, the 8th of May, and as it is the first that has been convened by the noble earl since his severe illness, we do not doubt the opportunity will be eagerly embraced by the Lodges of the province to offer to their esteemed G.M. their congratulations on his restored health.

BOSTON.—*Lodge of Harmony* (No. 339).—The monthly communication was held on Tuesday, the 8th of April, when Bros. Little and Marjason were passed, and Mr. W. C. Bland initiated into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry. A gentleman was also proposed as a proper person for initiation, and will be balloted for on the 13th instant (May). After the Lodge was closed the Brethren continued together and partook of their usual frugal refreshment, and harmony, as usual, prevailed until the time of separation.

NORTH WALES.

CARMARTHEN.—*Testimonial to Brother Ribbans.*—On Thursday, the 20th March, one of those especial gatherings took place, at the Ivy Bush Hotel, which are so peculiar to the Fraternity of Freemasons. On this occasion the meeting was convened expressly to afford an opportunity of presenting to Bro. F. Bolingbroke Ribbans a very handsome testimonial in the shape of some beautiful and useful domestic plate, selected by Bro. James W. Bowen, at the establishment of Bros. Lambert and Rawlings, London; and certainly nothing was wanting to render the proceedings exceedingly gratifying to those who managed them, and particularly pleasing to him who was the principal subject of the meeting. In presenting the testimonial, the Chairman, Bro. T. D. Lloyd, of Bronwydd, took occasion to state that during the time he had been honoured with the confidence of the Institution, he had ample means of noticing the quiet and accurate bearing of him for whom that meeting had been assembled. He had watched the anxiety of the esteemed Brother whenever an opportunity offered of displaying the characteristic of the Freemason's profession, and he felt proud to have the privilege of naming to that meeting some of the deeds for which their friend and Brother was distinguished:—It would appear that, in the year 1832, Bro. Ribbans was highly complimented by the Committee of the Royal Freemasons' School for Female Children in London, for his endeavours and success in benefiting that noble Institution. In 1834, he was honoured with a Life Governorship of the Girls' School at Cork, and was one of the first advocates and supporters of the Poor Old Masons' Asylum; and in 1838, a very high mark of Masonic esteem was presented to him by the Prov. Grand Master and Brethren at Limerick. In 1840, after a residence of some years in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, he was presented with a very elegant gold watch, and a silver casket, from the Brethren of that Province, as a mark of *their* esteem. After a residence at Carmarthen, performing,

to the entire satisfaction of those who appointed him, the arduous duties of educator of youth, as the head master of one of their Endowed Grammar Schools, and during the whole of that time as the faithful supporter of the usefulness and excellency of Masonry, the Brethren wished to show how they appreciated his endeavours to keep inviolate the land-marks of one of the best societies ever formed—an Institution so excellent, and so much in accordance with the two grand pillars of fiducial existence, that he who conscientiously carries out the principles of the Order into active life, would be found foremost in the ranks of those who feared God, and love mankind. The Society had been graced with the names of the great, the good, and the wise of the earth in all ages, who had expressed themselves privileged to lay aside their titles and dignities to join in Masonic lectures and festivals; men who worshiped the true God of Israel, and united in perfect allegiance to any sovereign under whose form of government they live—these were the grand and sublime truths of a Freemason. Princes, potentates, barons, clergy, judges, magistrates, philosophers, lawyers, merchants, bankers, and tradesmen—professional characters of every kind—had ever been, and were now numbered amongst Masons; and whilst these grand pillars support and adorn the Order, the banner of *Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth*, floats over the temple dedicated to that Almighty Being “to whom all hearts are open, and from whom no secrets are hid”—to whom all nations of the world shall bow, and by whom all nations of the world shall finally be judged! This tribute of respect and regard for Bro. Ribbans, was offered with sincere desire that happiness, prosperity, and health, might long be preserved to him and to his family. “Brother Masons,” said the Chairman, “let us accompany this token of our esteem with those honours in which none but Masons can participate, founded upon the principles which Masonic tradition and the works of Pythagoras and Socrates assure us were practised by a great majority of our ancient Brethren, and which, I rejoice to say, many of our modern members make a point to exercise—I mean *virtue, honour, and mercy*—and should those be banished from all other societies, may they ever be found in the Freemason’s breast.”

Brother Lloyd then presented the plate—an elegant salver and a bread-basket—to Bro. Ribbans, whose reply, replete with every expression of feeling, was frequently interrupted by evident emotion.

The evening was spent in all that harmony which cordiality inspires and temperance restrains.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

GATESHEAD.—*Lodge of Industry* (No. 56).—This Lodge met specially on Monday, the 31st March, at their Lodge Room, Grey Horse, Gateshead, for the purpose of installing Bro. A. Clapham into the chair, which duty was ably performed by Bro. E. D. Davis, P.M. of this Lodge and Y.D.C. of this province, assisted by Wm. Morrow, P.M., No. 56; F. P. Jonn, P.M., No. 56; W. Dalzeel, W.M., No. 586, and P. Prov. S.G.W., Northumberland; John Barker, P.M., No. 24, and P. Prov. G.S.D., Northumberland; and W. E. Franklin, W.M., No. 614; H. Monroe, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.D., No. 56. After the ceremony the W.M. invested the Bros. Alfred Davis as S.W.; Jos. Potts, J.W.; F. P. Jonn, Treas.; John Wyatt, Sec.; H. L. Monro, M.C.; Thomas Andrews, S.D.; Daniel Robson, J.D.; Thomas Richardson, S.S.; Dickson, I.G.; Alexander Dickson, Tyler. After the work the Brethren adjourned to the banquet, prepared for them by their host and S.S. Bro. Richardson, at which, besides the above visitors, we noticed also the P.G. Sec. of Northumberland, Bros. W. Berkley; W. Punshem, P. Prov. J.G.W.; H. Bell, P.M., No. 706, and P. Prov. J.G.D.; the W.M. elect of the Blagdon Lodge, No. 957; J. M. Winn, and other Brethren, to the number of fifty. After the loyal and Masonic toast, P.M. Davis, proposed the “Health of the W.M. Bro. Clapham,” which was received with great applause, and very feelingly responded to by the W.M. The health of the P.G.M. of Northumberland being coupled with that of Bro. W. Punshum, P.M., No. 586, was responded to by him. Then the following Lodges were proposed and responded to as follows: Lodge No. 24, by P.M. Barker; Lodge No. 586, by P.M. Berkley; Lodge No. 614, by the W.M. Franklin; Lodge

No. 706, by P.M. Henry Bell; Lodge No. 793, by P.M. Davis; Lodge No. 57, by W.M. elect, Bro. J. M. Winn, who was highly applauded for his pithy speech. After some more complimentary toasts, "the present Officers" was proposed by P.M., J. B. Barker, with great applause, and responded to in a very humorous speech by Bro. A. Davis, S.W., and by all the officers.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—*Newcastle-upon-Tyne Lodge* (No. 24).—At a meeting of this Lodge, on 3rd of April, Bro. Wm. Johnston, P.M., in the chair, Bros. John Barker, P.M., as S.W., George Weatherhead, P.M., as J.W., and other Officers and Brethren of the Lodge. After the Lodge was opened, the W.M. stated that the pleasure he felt in taking the chair after such a lapse of time since he had had the honour of so doing, was mingled with sorrow at the occasion which had induced him to accede to the solicitations of some of the other P.Ms., and come among them. The pain he felt was owing to the immediate P.M., Bro. Wm. Johnson, having been called to the Lodge above; the regret he felt for such a loss to Masonry in this district, and this Lodge in particular, was great, as from the earliest days of Bro. P.M. Johnson's admission into the mysteries, his zeal and attention to all the branches and degrees of our art were unbounded, and his labours for the benefit of the Lodges with which he was connected untiring, and, therefore, the Brethren who must equally feel his loss, could account easily for the pain he felt. Bro. P.M. Barker then rose, and, in a most feeling speech, paid a grateful compliment to the memory of his friend and Bro. P.M. Johnson, who gave him, during the time they were connected together as members of this Lodge, every assistance and support towards the resuscitation of Lodge No. 24. The P.M. added, that had it not been for such hearty co-operation on the part of his departed Brother, the Lodge would not now hold its present proud position. Bro. P.M. Barker, after adding a few more words, proposed the following resolutions, viz.—"That since our last meeting, it having pleased the G.A.O.T.U. to summon to the Grand Lodge above our dearly-beloved Bro. P.M. Wm. Johnson, though in the prime of life, full of honours, the Brethren of this Lodge desire to express their mark of respect to their departed Brother for his general Masonic attainments and his particular services to this Lodge, which at this present moment owes more to him than to any other of its members, for his untiring attention to all its interests: that this Lodge go into mourning for P.M. Wm. Johnson to the end of the present year. The Brethren thus express this their last tribute of sympathy to the departed worth of their beloved P.M., and as a memento to their successors of the grateful sense entertained by them of his services to this Lodge.—That these resolutions be entered on the minutes of the Lodge, and a copy be forwarded to Mrs. Johnson and her children, in sympathy and condolence for their heavy bereavement, hoping that the children will emulate the good qualities of their late father."—Bro. P.M. John Hopper very heartily seconded the motion, and testified to the obligations he owed to Bro. P.M. William Johnson, not least among them that of receiving the Masonic light from him. The resolutions having been put from the chair, were unanimously adopted. Bro. P.M. Barker, in reply to a Brother, stated, that at the first meeting of the Finance Committee he intended to propose a sum of money from the Lodge funds for the widow and children of P.M. Johnson, who by his untimely death had been left unprovided for. The other business of the evening was an initiation and a passing, after which the Lodge was closed in harmony.

NEWCASTLE.—*Northern Counties Lodge* (No. 586).—On Wednesday, April 23, the Brethren of this Lodge assembled in the Freemasons' Hall, for the installation of Bro. William Berkley, Prov. G. Sec. of Northumberland, the W.M. elect. The ceremony of installation was ably and impressively performed by Bro. William Dalziel, Prov. G.D.C. of the Province, the immediate P.M. Seldom has an installation been witnessed with more pleasurable sensations; as this was the second time the Brethren had evinced their respect for Bro. Berkley, for eight years before he had been their W.M. The installation ceremony having been concluded, the W.M. proceeded to appoint, and invest with their insignia of office, the following Brethren, viz:—Bros. J. T. M. Harrison, S.W.; J. W. Fenwick, J.W.; William Punshon, Treas.; George Hardey, Sec.; William Plues, S.D.;

— Wilson, J.D. ; George Joicey, S.S. ; Thomas Jenkins, J.S. ; William Richardson, I.G. ; John Trotter, Tyler. The Brethren then proceeded to the Royal Exchange Hotel, Grey Street, where Bro. Tomlinson had prepared for them a most sumptuous banquet. Nearly fifty Brethren dined on the occasion. Bro. Berkley, W.M., presided ; the vice-chairs were ably filled by Bros. Harrison and Fenwick, the S. and J. Wardens.

OXFORDSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.—The Prov. Grand Lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, Oxford, on Tuesday, 22nd April. The business was commenced about half-past eleven o'clock by the opening of the Alfred Lodge, No. 425, by the W.M., Bro. Hester. Shortly afterwards the R.W. Prov. G.M. and his Officers entered the room, and the Grand Lodge was opened in due form, there being present the Bros. R.W. H. A. Bowyer, Prov. G.M. ; R.W. R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B., D. Prov. G.M. ; J. Wyatt, No. 25, Prov. S.G.W. ; T. Joy, P.M. No. 702, as Prov. J.G.W. ; Rev. J. Sedgwick, *B.D.*, No. 460 ; Rev. J. S. Sidebotham, *M.A.*, W.M., No. 702, Prov. G. Chaps. ; J. T. Hester, W.M., No. 425, Prov. S.G.D. ; and a large number of other Brethren. The W.M. expressed the great gratification he felt that he was enabled to hold the Prov. Grand Lodge under the auspices of the oldest Lodge in the Province ; and expressed his gratification at the flourishing state of Freemasonry in the Province. The greatest amount of business during the year had been transacted in the University Lodge, the Apollo, No. 460, as might naturally be supposed would be the case. In that Lodge, during the past year, there had been forty-one initiations, forty passings, and twenty-four raisings. The next in importance was the Alfred, in which there had been eleven initiations, nine passings, and eight raisings. In the Churchill Lodge, No. 702, there had been an addition of seventeen members by joining ; and in the youngest Lodge, the Cherwell, No. 783, there had been two initiations, three passings, and four raisings. The R.W. Prov. G.M. then proceeded to invest his Officers for the ensuing year, as follows :—Bros. J. T. Hester, W.M., No. 425, Prov. S.G.W. ; T. Joy, P.M., No. 702, Prov. J.G.W. ; Rev. J. G. Wood, *M.A.*, and Rev. T. Russell, *M.A.*, No. 425, Prov. G. Chaps. ; Codrington, S.W., No. 460, Reg. ; T. Randall, P.M., No. 425, Treas. ; H. Barter, No. 460, Sec. ; Hayward, W.M., No. 873, S.G.D. ; Cooke, No. 873, J.G.D. ; Rainsford, No. 425, Cox, No. 460, G. Dirs. of Cer. ; Dr. Elvey, No. 460, Org. ; Bossom, Pursv. ; C. Park, W. A. Bryden, W. Vincent, J. C. Farmborough, W. H. Hutton, and Walrond, as Prov. G. Stewds. ; and Tipton, Prov. G. Treas.

The Prov. G. Treas. read a balance-sheet, showing the funds to be in a very satisfactory position, and it was resolved to present the following sums to the Masonic Charities :—The Boys' School, £5. 5s. to the Building, and £2. 2s. to the General Fund ; Girls' School, £2. 2s. ; Old Man's Annuity Fund, £2 ; Widow's Fund, £2 ; and Asylum, £1. The following sums were also voted to the Local Charities, showing that the Oxfordshire Brethren do not forget the distinguishing characteristic of the Craft :—The Radcliffe Infirmary, £3. 3s. ; Medical Dispensary, £2. 2s. ; Blue Coat School, £1. 1s. ; Anti-Mendicity Society, £1. 1s. ; and Oxford Lying-in Charity, £2. 2s. ; the total amount voted away being £23. 12s.

Bros. Tyssen Amherst, of Diddington Hall, Brandon, Norfolk ; Wyndham Portal, of Malshanger House, Basingstoke, Hants ; and P.M. Beach, of Oakley Hall, Basingstoke, Hants, all of the Apollo University Lodge, expressed their desire to become Stewards at the Festivals of the Girls' and Boys' School, and also of the Benevolent Fund for decayed Freemasons and their widows, and the Grand Lodge was pleased to accept the offer, viz., one Steward for each Charity, in the following order :—Bro. Amherst for the Girls' and Bro. Portal for the Boys' School, whilst Bro. Beach, who has had the honour of acting as Steward for each of these Charities, undertook the Benevolent Fund. From the known liberality and earnest zeal of these Brethren we predict a considerable advantage to the Charities. The Grand Lodge was then closed in due form with solemn prayer.

After a short adjournment, the Alfred Lodge reassembled, when the W.M. Bro. Hester passed two Brethren to the 2nd Degree, thus making the initiations and the passings for the year equal in number. At the conclusion of the business

the Brethren adjourned to a very elegant dinner, to which the Prov. G. Officers were invited by the W.M. and Brethren of the Alfred Lodge; and the entertainment of the evening was not a little added to by a supply of very excellent champagne and claret, presented to the Lodge by the R.W. Prov. G.M. and Bros. Amherst and Jubbers.

The W.M. of the Alfred Lodge (Bro. J. T. Hester), presided with considerable tact and judgment, and was supported by the Prov. G.M., the Dep. Prov. G.M., the Prov. G.M. for Worcestershire (Bro. Vernon); the P. Prov. G.M. for Bengal (Bro. Col. Burlton); Bro. H. G. Warren, Grand Steward; the Mayor of Abingdon (Bro. Belcher); the W.M. of the Apollo Lodge (Bro. Pickard); P.Ms. Beach, Warren, Havers, Walker, Thompson, Dudley, Wyatt, Symonds, Sidebotham, Venn, Randall, Tagart; the S. and J. Ws. of the Apollo Lodge; all the officers of the Alfred Lodge; Bros. Sir Michael Beach, Dr. Elvey, Amherst, Tyssen, Kennard, Rev. Sedgwick; Ransford, G. Org.; Hutton, Strother, Finch, Martyn, Clayton, Bond, Blacker, Rev. Wood, Rev. Russell, Holmes, Round, John Hester, Park, Cartwright, Rev. Pearse, Cottrell, Dormer, Druce, Rev. Walsh, Rev. Bowyer, &c. &c.

After the cloth had been removed, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been drunk, Bro. Spiers, P.G.S.B., replying on behalf of R.W.D.G.M. and the rest of the Grand Officers of England,

Bro. Hester, W.M., stated he had now to propose what he considered the toast of the evening,—“The health of the R.W. Brother who ruled over them so well, and whom they all loved and revered.” He was sure that had the sense of the Brethren of the Province been taken, the choice would have fallen on the very Brother selected for so important an appointment as that of Prov. G.M. of Oxfordshire by M.W.G.M. of England. He knew that he need not detain them at any length in proposing the toast, as they all fully appreciated the talents and kindness of R.W.G.M., whose health he now begged to propose, wishing him long life and happiness. The toast having been most heartily drunk,

The R.W. Prov. G.M., who was loudly cheered, thanked the Brethren for the very kind and cordial manner in which they had responded to the last toast proposed, as it had been in much too flattering terms. He knew that great responsibilities devolved upon him, and he would endeavour to make up by zeal and energy for his deficiencies in Masonic knowledge. He felt great pride in presiding over so important a Province, and in observing the zeal and ability which was brought to bear in supporting their noble institution; and he could assure them that he never felt any labour for the promotion of Freemasonry too heavy, it being always to him a labour of love. He had observed with pleasure the true Masonic feeling and brotherly love existing in the Province, for since he had presided over it he had known of no difference existing amongst them. He again thanked them for their kindness, and begged to assure them that in whatever position he might be placed, it would be always his most earnest endeavour to promote the best interests of the Order and the Province.

The W.M. next gave the health of two distinguished visitors, the Prov. G.M. for Worcestershire, and the P. Prov. G.M. for Bengal, who mutually returned thanks, and expressed the great satisfaction they felt at being present on so interesting an occasion.

The Prov. G.M. proposed the next toast,—“The health of the W.M. of the Alfred Lodge, Bro. Hester,” who so ably and efficiently presided over them. It gave him the greatest pleasure to give that toast, having had the gratification of seeing with what talent and zeal he managed the affairs of the Lodge; and he congratulated himself on having had the opportunity of investing so excellent a man and a Mason as Prov. G.S.W.

The W.M. acknowledged the compliment, and returned thanks to the R.W.G.M. and the Brethren for the uniform kindness and support which had been accorded him since he had had the honour to preside over the Lodge.

The “Visitors” (not included in previous toasts) having been drunk and responded to, the W.M. gave the “Sister Lodges of the Province,” which was responded to by Bros. Codrington, J.W. of the Apollo; Sidebottom, W.M., of the Churchill, and Havers, Treas., of the Cherwell. No. 10 (though a London Lodge), having

from its associations been included in the toast, Bro. W. Beach, P.M., returned thanks, and expressed a hope that when many of those he saw present had completed their academical studies and left Oxford, they would enrol themselves in No. 10, where they would meet with old friends, and continue those associations so happily commenced in the Alfred and Apollo Lodges.

Several other toasts having been drunk, the proceedings were brought to a close; the harmony of the evening having been much enhanced by the exertions of Bros. Ransford, Elvey, and others.

NUNEHAM.—*Churchill Lodge* (No. 702).—At the last meeting of this Lodge, the excellent Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Lincoln was elected W.M. for the ensuing year. He will be installed on the 4th instant.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

BATH.—*Royal Sussex Lodge* (No. 61).—This Lodge held its concluding meeting for the winter season, on Monday, April 7, at Bro. Amery's Hotel. The W.M., Bro. Dr. Tunstall, presided, and presented his report as Treasurer; he congratulated the Brethren on the flourishing state of the Lodge, which now consists of twenty members, with all dues paid, and no arrears from Brethren. Upon the W.M. reading the Quarterly Communication for December, several Brethren complained of its not having been received until after the March Grand Lodge had been held, and the W.M. was directed to address a letter to the Grand Secretary to complain of a delay which virtually excluded the provinces from a knowledge of the business before Grand Lodge. After some routine business, and propositions of joining members, the Lodge adjourned to November next. [The Somersetshire Brethren need not be surprised at the delay. A short time since the communications were five quarters in arrear.]

HUNTSPILL.—*Rural Philanthropic Lodge* (No. 367).—The W.M., Bro. W. Harwood, of this Lodge, at its monthly meeting on Friday, in his usual eloquent manner, initiated two gentlemen into the mysteries of Freemasonry, and passed one Brother to the 2nd Degree. This Lodge bids fair to be one of the very first (both in numbers and in the manner in which the work is conducted), in the province of Somerset. There are three candidates for initiation at the next Lodge meeting.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

TIPTON.—*Noah's Ark Lodge* (No. 435).—Thirty members and visitors attended the usual meeting of this Lodge, which was held at the Navigation Inn, on Friday, March 18, when Bro. Howells, W.M., passed Bro. Groucutt, ironmaster, Bilston, to the 2nd Degree, and gave the usual explanation of the Tracing-board. Amongst the visitors present were the Rev. Bro. Downes, D. Prov. G. Chap.; Bros. James, P.M., No. 786, and Prov. G.D.C.; Dennison, P.M., No. 730, and Prov. G.S.D., Worcestershire; Patterson, P.M., No. 313; Robinson, W.M., No. 786; Jeavons, S.W., No. 960; Corke, S.W., No. 607; King, I.G., No. 607; Jackson and Cotterell, No. 960. During the course of the evening, Rev. Bro. Downes was congratulated by the Brethren on his recent appointment as D. Prov. G. Chap., and made a suitable acknowledgment.

WALSALL.—*Lodge of St. Matthew* (No. 786).—The installation of the W.M. of this Lodge took place on Wednesday, April 2, when Bro. Frank James, the retiring W.M., completed a prosperous year of office by raising two Brethren and passing three, and afterwards installed his successor, Bro. John R. Robinson. The R.W. Bro. Col. Vernon, Prov. G.M. for Staffordshire, was present, and expressed his approval of the manner in which the affairs of the Lodge continue to be conducted, and complimented Bro. Frank James on the efficiency he had manifested in discharging the duties of his office. He informed the Brethren, that in consequence of the retirement of the Rev. Bro. Wright from the province, he had appointed the Rev. Bro. Gwynne, Prov. S.G. Chap.; and the Rev. Bro. Downes, a member of this Lodge, Prov. J.G. Chap.; which announcement was received with great satisfaction. A P.M.'s jewel was voted to Bro. Frank James, and a Treasurer's jewel to Bro. William Totty, who has been Treasurer to the Lodge for seven years.

SUFFOLK.

SOUTHWOLD.—*Provincial Grand Lodge*.—On Wednesday, March 26, a Special Provincial Grand Lodge of the Province of Suffolk was held at Southwold, for the purpose of presenting to the M.W. the Prov. G.M., Sir Edward Sherlock Gooch, Bart., M.P., a portrait of himself in his Masonic costume (admirably executed by Lucas), as a testimonial of the esteem of the Brethren of the province. The day was exceedingly unpropitious, a bitter cold N.E. gale blowing, yet the Brethren mustered about eighty in number. The Grand Lodge was opened at one P.M., and after being closed, a considerable number of ladies and gentlemen were admitted (by ticket) to hear the address on the presentation by the R.W. the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Martin, whose eloquent speech was listened to with the deepest attention by all present. After the chanting of the Masonic benediction, the Prov. G.M., in suitable terms, acknowledged the mark of affection of the Brethren, concluding by assuring them the present received from them that day would be cherished by him as the choicest gem in his residence, and he trusted as long as the walls of old Benacre Hall remained, his descendants, for many generations, would appreciate and support the world-wide blessing—Freemasonry. At three the Brethren formed in procession and proceeded to the beach, where the ceremony of naming a new life-boat was performed by Lady Gooch, and a pathetic address delivered by the Prov. G. Chap., Bro. Mingage. A sumptuous repast having been laid in the Lodge-room, seventy-three of the Brethren sat down to dinner. In the course of the evening the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, that of the visiting Brethren being responded to by Bros. R. Magub, No. 693, Newport; and C. Morby, W.M. of No. 169, London. Amongst the Brethren present were Bro. E. Jeffery, W.M., No. 84; Bros. Echaeaz, S.W.; Bloomfield, J.W.; R. Clarke, S.D.; F. Morse, P.M.; J. Prentice, Sec.; Garnham, W.M., No. 383; Gilbert, S.W., &c.

SURREY.

EWELL.—*Grove Lodge* (No. 593).—This Lodge, which is now re-established in its old quarters at the Spring Hotel, commenced its season on Saturday, April 19. Bro. George White, W.M., presided, and was supported by P.Ms. Blake, King, Vink, Fisher, and several other Brethren. The business was the election of W.M. and Treasurer; Bro. H. Chown was chosen for W.M., and Bro. Blake for Treasurer, by the unanimous votes of all present. A gentleman was proposed for initiation, and two Brethren as joining members. Bro. Blake, the Grand Secretary of the Province, announced the intention of the Prov. G.M. holding a Grand Lodge at Chertsey in the month of June.

WARWICKSHIRE.

BIRMINGHAM.—*Howe Lodge* (No. 857).—The Brethren of this Lodge, having removed from the rooms in which they have been “cabin’d, cribb’d, confined,” to commodious premises in Newhall-street, are now busily occupied in making extensive additions thereto, which it is hoped will be completed before Midsummer. The alterations are executed after designs by Bro. Frederick Empson, P.M. of No. 51, and will render this place of meeting the most convenient for Masonic purposes in the province. The rapid progress to prosperity of this Lodge (already numbering nearly fifty persons) affords a striking exemplification of what may be effected in Masonry when the Brethren set to work in earnest to uphold its true principles, and are content to regard the banquet as a secondary consideration. Scarcely five years established, the members have expended £300 in the purchase of furniture, &c., and invested £200 more for Masonic purposes, in the public funds. Attached to it is a Mark Lodge* and a Royal Arch Chapter, together with an admirably-conducted Lodge of Instruction, superintended by the P.Ms., which assembles on every Friday evening throughout the year, save during the months of June, July, and August. The revival of a funeral ceremony, which, in bygone days, the Lodges generally

* By what authority?—Ed.

observed on the decease of a member, was suggested to the Brethren of the Howe by the untimely death of Bro. S. Weiss, I.G., who was killed last autumn, by a fall from his horse, in the very prime of life. At the September meeting of the Lodge, Bro. Weiss was present to perform his duties, in all the fulness of health and hope; but when the next meeting took place—alas, for human trust!—he was cold in the earth, and his sorrowing Brethren were deliberating how best they might evince their regret for his loss, and their sorrow for his memory. Well might the moralist exclaim—

“ Oh, man, how perishing the bliss you crave,
Now warm in life, now with’ring in the grave !”

The Lodge premises being too small, a large room in the square was engaged, where upwards of seventy Brethren assembled to carry into effect the intentions of the Lodge, as expressed in the “Introduction,” prefixed to the printed form of the ceremonial:—“It having pleased the G.A.O.T.U. to take unto himself our much-beloved Brother, Solomon Weiss, who departed this life in hope of an eternal one, on Sunday, the 30th day of September last, this solemn assemblage is convened to enable us to testify our sincere regard for his memory, by celebrating his obsequies according to the ancient custom of our Craft.” The yet recent catastrophe could not fail to awaken in the mind of every one present reflections suited to the occasion; and the mournful rites were rendered doubly impressive by the introduction of several pieces of appropriate music, admirably composed by Bro. J. A. Baker, Hon. Sec. of No. 696, and performed by himself on the harmonium; the vocal parts by Bros. W. Baker, Pursall, and Pendleton, of No. 88, and Bro. Savage, of No. 696, who generously volunteered their services. An oration, setting forth the estimable qualities of the deceased, was touchingly delivered by Bro. Bassett Smith, P.M., No. 857, to whom the arrangement of the ceremony was principally intrusted. Bro. Weiss, a native of Switzerland, was inducted into Masonry in the Akazia Lodge, at Winterthur, on the 18th May, 1841, and joined the Howe Lodge soon after the period of its establishment. He had for some years been resident in Birmingham, where his amenity of manner and kindly disposition, combined with his Masonic zeal, had caused him to be universally beloved by those Brethren who knew him best; “but his sun went down while it was yet day,” and he was taken from amongst them, without warning, in his thirty-ninth year, when everything appeared to promise him a long career of happiness and prosperity—

“ Just in the zenith of those golden days,
When the mind ripens ere the frame decays.”

Athol Lodge (No. 88).—This most flourishing Lodge held its usual meeting at the White Hart Inn, on Wednesday, the 16th April. Bro. P.M. John Pursall presiding (in the absence of the W.M.), most impressively initiated Mr. William Glydon and Mr. Benjamin Hunt into the mysteries of the Craft, and passed Bro. Martin Wertheimer to the Degree of Fellow Craft. On behalf of the Lodge Bro. P.M. McCracken had the pleasing duty of presenting a most elegant P.M.’s jewel of solid gold to Bro. P.M. Pursall, he having most ably and indefatigably discharged the onerous duties of W.M. during the past two years: the Lodge thus testified its just appreciation of his merits as a friend and Brother. The jewel bore the following inscription:—“Presented to Bro. John Pursall, P.M., by the Brethren of the Athol Lodge, No. 88, in token of their esteem for the zeal and fidelity with which he discharged the duties of W.M. in that Lodge during the two years, A. L., 5854 and 5855.”

Faithful Lodge (No. 696).—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held at the Assembly Rooms, Old Square, on Tuesday, the 8th of April, when the W.M. elect, Bro. Harry Rees, was installed into the chair for the year 1856-7, by the oldest P.M. of the Lodge, Bro. Thomas Perkins; this ancient and interesting ceremony was performed by the worthy old P.M., in his usual masterly and impressive manner, to the great satisfaction of the Brethren present, of whom there was a full attendance. The Lodge was honoured by a number of distin-

guished visitors, viz., Bro. Boughton Leigh, Prov. D.G.M. for Warwickshire; Colonel Gordon, Royal Engineers, of Lodge No. 3-491, C.W.; Bros. Hopkins, and the W.M. of the Howe Lodge, No. 857; Roberts, W.M., of the Lodge of Light, No. 689; Walker, W.M. of the Athol Lodge, No. 88; and other working Brothers. The W.M. appointed and invested, Bros. Baker, Sec.; Perry, Treas.; T. Fisher, S.W.; Simonite, J.W.; Tilford, S.D.; Lee, J.D.; Flowers, I.G.; Watkin, Org.; Kelly, Tyler. The Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren adjourned to the Swan Hotel and partook of a very elegant banquet, at which Bro. B. Leigh presided; the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were emphatically given and responded to. The worthy brother the Secretary, assisted by a few of the Brethren, contributed much to the enjoyment of the evening.

WILTSHIRE.

MONCTON FARLEIGH.—*Lodge of Rectitude* (No. 420).—This Lodge is about to remove from its present place of meeting, to a more convenient locality. At a recent meeting of P.Ms., presided over by the W.M., Bro. Firmin, a committee, consisting of Bros. P.Ms. Dr. Tunstall, Broadley, and Peach, were appointed to visit the neighbouring towns with a view to this purpose.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

DUDLEY.—*Harmonic Lodge* (No. 313).—This Lodge assembled for the despatch of business on Tuesday, the 1st of April, when, notwithstanding the unfavourable notion commonly associated with that day, Mr. Joseph Timmins, after the ballot, was duly initiated into the mysteries of the 1st, or E.A. Degree. Bro. William Deakin was then passed to the 2nd, or F.C. Degree; both ceremonies being very well performed by the W.M. Bro. T. R. Cooper, who must have given great attention to his work, considering it is only the third night of his office. Bro. W. Bristow, P.M., deferred his notice of motion, at the request of the W.M., until the next Lodge-night, when we hope the payment of all arrears will for ever prevent the necessity of its being brought upon the carpet. After the transaction of private business, the Lodge was closed. There was a very good muster of Brethren to Lodge and banquet, Bro. W. W. Dean, of No. 524 (Kidderminster), being present as visitor.

Lodge of Perseverance (No. 838).—At the March meeting of this Lodge on the 26th, several Brethren were passed to the Degree of F.C., the banquet being adjourned to the following evening, owing to circumstances over which the W.M. had no control. The election of W.M. takes place, we believe, at the ensuing May meeting, which occurs on the 28th. Bro. Alfred Patterson, son of Bro. Alexander Patterson, P.M. of No. 313, one of the oldest and most respected Masons in the neighbourhood, is S.W., and, it is anticipated, will be passed to the chair.

Royal Standard Lodge (No. 730).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge, held at the Dudley Arms Hotel, on Tuesday, the 8th, was a very successful one. Lodge was opened by the Rev. Bro. A. G. Davies, W.M., assisted by the whole of his Officers. Messrs. Finch and Johnson were then ballotted for, as candidates for initiation, and unanimously elected; owing, however, to family affliction, they were unable to take their 1st Degree. Bro. Francis Saunders was raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M. by the W.M., in a manner that called forth the warm eulogium of the numerous W.Ms. and P.Ms., visitors present; after which, Bro. E. M. Warmington was successfully passed to the 2nd Degree. Nothing further offering, &c., Lodge was closed in due form. Among the visitors present were Bros. Frank James, P.M. of St. Mathews, Walsall, and W.M. of No. —, West-bromwich; J. Fitzgerald, W.M., No. 524, Kidderminster; A. Patterson, P.M., No. 838; T. R. Cooper, W.M., No. 313; Clark, No. 313; Thomson, "The Howe Lodge," Birmingham; Horton, No. 838, &c. The banquet was enlivened by several excellent songs, among them an original by Bro. Cooper, W.M. No. 313, styled "Oldbury is improving daily," which elicited roars of laughter. Among the "Trades, &c." were "Coopers, Doctors,—'Doctor Cooper,'" &c. &c. The toasts

of "The D. Prov. G.M.," and "The W.M." were given by Bro. Cooper, which were suitably acknowledged by the W.M., and Bro. Dennison, P.M., as one of the Officers of the Prov. G.L. The evening was truly spent in harmony and peace.

YORKSHIRE.

BRADFORD.—*Lodge of Harmony* (No. 874).—On the 17th of April, two Brethren were passed and raised to the 2nd and 3rd Degrees respectively. After supper an animated discussion took place on the article "Our Duty," in the April number of the *Freemasons' Monthly Magazine and Masonic Mirror*. Measures were proposed to make the Lodge meetings more useful and interesting.

ROYAL ARCH.

LONDON CHAPTERS.

ROYAL YORK CHAPTER OF PERSEVERANCE (No. 7).—This very numerous and highly-distinguished Chapter held its final Convocation for the season on Tuesday, 22nd April, at the Freemasons' Tavern, when two Brethren were exalted to the Sublime Degree of R.A., Comp. Le Veau, M.E.Z., officiating with his accustomed ability. Comps. Absolon, Symonds, and Jones, having been severally unanimously elected at the last meeting, were then duly installed into their respective chairs, the ceremony in each case being performed by the outgoing Principal. The officers for the ensuing year, therefore, are:—Comps. W. H. Absolon, Z. ; Symonds, H. ; Dr. Jones, J. ; Honey, Scribe E. ; Tyler, Scribe N. ; G. Haward, P.S. ; Savage, D.C. ; Harrison and —, Stewards ; Rice, Janitor. The banquet was attended by about forty Comps., and admirably presided over by the M.E.Z., who evinced the most anxious desire to promote the comfort of all, and, by his courteous and conciliating manner, entirely justified the choice of those who had elected him to his high office. As might have been anticipated on an occasion like this, the visiting list was a lengthy one, including D. Gooch, Z., No. 9 ; F. Adlard, P.H., No. 3 ; J. R. Sheen, J., No. 218 ; A. Gardner, No. 70 ; W. P. Scott, No. 2 ; W. Paas, E., No. 30 ; F. Binckes, No. 49 ; &c. &c.

MOUNT MORIAH CHAPTER (No. 9).—This Chapter met at the Thatched House Tavern, Thursday, April 3rd. Three Brethren were exalted to the Sublime Degree of the Royal Arch. Comp. John Hervey was a visitor.

OLD KING'S ARMS CHAPTER (No. 30).—The quarterly Convocation of this Chapter was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, April 7, when Bro. C. Bailey, of No. 680, was exalted to the Supreme Degree of R.A. Comp. George Biggs, P.G.D.C., officiated as Z., and performed the whole of the ceremony, which was gone through in the most able and impressive manner. The banquet was served in excellent style, and partaken of by about eighteen Comps., Comp. J. Linton, M.E.Z., presiding. The evening was passed most agreeably, as is always the case at No. 30 Lodge or Chapter, as every one who has enjoyed the privilege of a visit to either will readily testify. The visitors, in addition to Comp. Biggs, were Comps. Jones, No. 7 ; Pole, No. 2 ; and Binckes, No. 49.

MOUNT SINAI CHAPTER (No. 49).—At the Convocation of this Chapter, held at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on Tuesday, 15th April, Bros. Taylor and Platt were exalted to the Supreme Degree of R.A. ; Comp. Andrew, P.Z., performing the ceremonies in his usual able and impressive manner, to the gratification of all who had the privilege of hearing him. This being the appointed evening for the choice of Officers, the following Comps. were elected:—Comps. Cooper, M.E.Z. ; Potter, H. ; Barfield, J. ; Pierce, E. ; Upton, N. ; and Daly, P.S. About thirty sat

down to banquet at the conclusion of Masonic business, presided over by Comp. J. Smith, M.E.Z., under whose genial sway everything passed off most agreeably. The visitors were Comps. Buss, Z., No. 206 ; T. A. Adams, P.Z., No. 206 ; W. Watson, P.Z. No. 25 ; Queely, No. 91 ; Odell, No. 206 ; G. W. Richards, &c. &c.

MOIRA CHAPTER (No. 109).—At the Convocation held at the London Tavern, on Friday, the 18th of April, Comps. Palmer, M.E.Z. ; Law, H. ; and Gole, J. ; Bros. William Anderson Rose (alderman and sheriff), David Henry Stone (under-sheriff), James Lucas Allen, and Richard Nathaniel Philipps, were exalted into this Sublime Degree. The Companions then proceeded to the election of Principals, and the choice fell on Comps. Law, for Z. ; Gole, H. ; and Ledger (W.M. of Lodge No. 109), J. ; G. W. K. Potter, re-elected Scribe E. The Companions then adjourned to banquet.

DOMATIC CHAPTER (No. 206).—This Chapter met at the Falcon Tavern, Fetterlane, Thursday, March 27th. Comp. Buss was installed as Z., and T. A. Adams as H., who, in a most able manner, installed his successor, Comp. Thompson, as J. The following Officers were also inducted, Comps. Smith, Treas. ; Childe, E. ; Shury, N. ; Odell, P.S. : who appointed Comps. Bohn, 1st Assist. ; Suter, 2nd Assist. Bro. Wadeson, of the Wellington Lodge, was then exalted to the Sublime Degree of a Royal Arch Mason. The Companions then proceeded to an excellent banquet, and after the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the M.E.Z. proposed the health of the newly-exalted Companion, and congratulated him on his admission to Royal Arch Masonry, and also on the great pleasure he appeared to derive from the beautiful ceremony. Comp. Smith, P.Z., next proposed the health of the M.E.Z., and congratulated the Chapter on having selected so excellent a presiding Officer, whose previous conduct and attention was sufficient earnest of his future zeal. The M.E.Z. thanked the Companions for the high honour conferred on him in being placed in the dignified situation, and expressed his determination to exert himself to the utmost to deserve the distinction. He then proposed the healths of the visitors, Comps. Watson and Crawley, Past Principals of No. 25, thanking them for the great assistance they had rendered the Chapter in installing the Principals, and for their readiness at all times to render it when called upon, whether in open Chapter or private instruction. Comp. Watson thanked the Chapter for their kind and unanimous acknowledgment of his services ; and Comp. Crawley, with whom he had worked in Masonry for a number of years, and who, he believed, was animated with the same desire as himself to carry out the principles of the Order to the best of his ability. Comp. Crawley, in thanking the Companions, assured them that it would ever be his greatest pleasure to render his assistance, and he thought that the manner in which one of the ceremonies had been performed was sufficient proof that his labours had not been in vain. The M.E.Z. then proposed the health of Comp. Adams, 2nd Prin., who had been obliged to leave in consequence of a professional engagement, and Comp. Thompson, 3rd Prin. Other toasts were drunk, the company passing a very pleasant evening.

The same Chapter met on the 24th April, when Bro. Green, W.M. of the Universal Lodge, was exalted to the Sublime Degree. The Companions then proceeded to an excellent banquet. After the loyal and Masonic toasts, the M.E.Z. proposed the health of the newly-exalted Companion, and thanked him for having selected the Domatic Chapter, the working of which he felt assured would be such as to meet the ideas of a member of the Craft so distinguished for his knowledge of Masonry. Comp. Green, in returning thanks, expressed his great satisfaction at the step he had taken, and the delight he had experienced in listening to the ceremony, the beauties of which far exceeded any ideas he had previously formed. With regard to his progress in Craft Masonry, he had the honour of being selected to preside over a Lodge which was distinguished for its reward of merit, and assured the Companions that so great was the impression made by the truly beautiful ceremony, that he could not fail to exert himself to the utmost to support the interests of the Order.

JERUSALEM CHAPTER (No. 218.)—This Chapter held its regular Convocation on Tuesday, April 8th ; when the first business consisted of the installation of the Principals. Comp. Thomson was installed as Z., and Comp. Sheen as H. Comp. Levy, having been attending the funeral of a relative, was unavoidably absent ; his installation as J. was therefore deferred. Bros. Pigott and Coronel were exalted to the Supreme Degree of Royal Arch Masons. The Companions afterwards retired to banquet, and a pleasant and agreeable evening succeeded. Comp. Bowman, No. 12, was the only visitor present.

POLISH CHAPTER (No. 778).—At the meeting of this Chapter on Thursday, the 24th April, the election of officers for the ensuing year took place, and was declared as follows :—Comps. Warren, Z. ; Michalski, H. ; Detkins, J. ; Johnston, N. ; Webber, P. Soj. ; Blackburn, E. ; and Limanski, Treas.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS.

OXFORD.—*Alfred Chapter* (No. 425).—A convocation of this Chapter was holden in the Masonic Hall on the 21st April, when no less than seven Brethren were exalted. Comp. William Beach most ably officiated as Z., and Comp. Atkins Bowyer as P.S.

THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.



At a meeting of the Supreme Council held on the 8th of April, the Ill. Bro. Matthew Dawes was elected to the 33rd Degree, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Ill. Sov. Gr. Insp. Gen. Emly.

A Grand Chapter of K. H. of the 30th Degree was held on the 11th April, at the Freemasons' Tavern, for the reception of candidates, when thirteen Brethren were advanced to that high Degree. The ceremony was performed by the Ill. Sov. Gr. Com. Dr. Leeson, most ably assisted by the Ill. Bro. G. B. Cole, 32nd Degree ; and gave much satisfaction to all present, amongst whom we observed the Ill. Sov. Gr. Insp.

Gen. Sir John De la Pole, Vigne, Winsor, and Dawes.

The Supreme Grand Council, 33rd Degree, have sanctioned the following Days for the Meetings of the Grand Metropolitan Rose Croix Chapter and the Grand Chapter of the Knights K.H. 30th Degree. The Second Tuesdays in the months of January and July for the Rose Croix Chapter. The Second Tuesdays in the months of April and October for the Chapter K.H. 30th Degree. Each Day at four o'clock, at Freemasons' Tavern.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

CROSS OF CHRIST ENCAMPMENT.—The members of this Encampment met at Radley's Hotel, New Bridge-street, on the 28th March. Sir Knt. the Rev. J. E. Cox, E.C., in a most efficient manner, assisted by Sir Knts. Golds-worthy, Wackerbarth, R. and M. Costa, installed his successor, Sir Knt. J. W. Foukes, who appointed and invested the following Sir Knights to be his Officers, viz. :—Sir Knts. Rev. J. E. Cox, Prelate ; S. Rawson, 1st Capt. ; B. A. Kent, 2nd Capt. ; R. Spencer, Reg. ; C. Baumer, Treas. ; A. M. Moore, Expert. On this occasion the Encampment was honoured with the presence as visitors of Sir Knt. Dr. Wm. Jones, of the St. George's Aboyne Encampment, Aberdeen ; and Sir Knt. E. Freeman, No. 1 Encampment, Cork.

BATH.—*Camp of Antiquity*.—On Friday, the 25th January, the Baldwyn Camp of Antiquity, stationed at Bath, from Time Immemorial, held its first annual meeting, for the purpose of installing the Most Eminent Commander Elect, Sir Knt. F. T. Percy Wells, and admitting two Companions into the Order. The following Sir Knights were present :—Davyd William Nash, Dep. Prov. G.M. of Bristol, and Dep. Sup. G.M. of the Order of Time Immemorial ; Samuel Edward Taylor, M.E.C. of the Camp, and also of the Camp of Baldwyn of Bristol ; Joseph Hume Spry, 1st Capt. ; George Chick, 2nd Capt. ; Amery, King, Hinton, P. Wells, and Ward. After the Camp was opened, the M.E.C. installed Comps. Bagshawe and Firmin, as Knights Templar, and administered to them, and other Sir Knights, the Obligation of Allegiance to Sir Knt. Henry Shute, the M.E. and Sup. G.M. of Knights Templar from Time Immemorial. The M.E.C. Elect, Sir Knt. Percy Wells, was then presented in ancient form to the Dep. Sup. G.M. of the Order, and by him installed into the Command, when he appointed Sir Knt. J. Amery, 1st Capt., and Sir Knt. G. Firmin, 2nd Capt. ; after which the Camp was closed, and the Sir Knights adjourned to the banquet prepared by Sir Knt. Amery. This Encampment, one of the most ancient in the kingdom, was revived in the year 1791, by the then G.M. of the Order, Thomas Dunckerley, by a Warrant or Patent of Constitution granted by him to Sir Knt. Charles Phillott, of Bath, and others. This Patent is still in the possession of the Camp, and under it the last remaining member of the Encampment, Sir Knt. Joseph Hume Spry, in conjunction with Sir Knt. Samuel Edward Taylor, the M.E.C., and several Sir Knights of the sister Encampment of Baldwyn, at Bristol, again brought into activity the Encampment of Antiquity, held several meetings, and installed many worthy Companions into the Order. The Minute Books, Treasurers' account, and correspondence of this old Encampment, dating back to a very early period, afford many curious particulars of the transactions of the Sir Knights of the Order belonging to the Encampments of Bath, Bristol, Salisbury, &c., which would prove highly interesting to the historian of Templar Masonry in this country. Much of their contents was extracted by Dr. Oliver, for the purpose of illustrating this portion of Masonic history ; his MSS. on this head are, we are informed, in the possession of the Dep. Sup. G.M. Sir Knt. Davyd William Nash.

MANCHESTER.—*Jerusalem Encampment* (No. 9).—A meeting of this Encampment was held at the Waterloo Hotel, Piccadilly, on Tuesday, April 22nd, 1856, when, in the presence of a goodly assemblage of members and distinguished visitors, a candidate was duly installed into the Order by Sir Knight Charles Clay, P.E.C. After which Sir Knt. Chas. Ellis, R.✠, was installed as E.C. of the above Encampment for the ensuing year by Sir Knt. Reddick, of Bolton. The principal offices were conferred as follows :—Sir Knts. John J. Lundy, R.✠, N.P.U., as Prelate ; Stephen Smith, R.✠, 1st Capt. ; Lyons Wright, 2nd Capt. ; H. A. Bennett, Expert, &c. At the conclusion of the business the Sir Knights present partook of an excellent banquet, and spent the evening with the usual good feeling which characterizes this the oldest Encampment of the district.

OXFORD.—*Encampment of Cœur de Lion*.—The annual festival was held at the Masonic Hall, on April 21st, on which occasion the Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire, Henry Atkins Bowyer, Esq., First Captain, was installed Eminent Commander for the ensuing year ; Sir Knt. W. Black, of Christ Church, performing the ceremony very impressively. The newly-installed Com. then appointed his principal officers as follows :—Sir Knts. Harrison, of Bras. Col. ; W. Martin Atkins, of Farley Castle, Cpts. ; the Rev. Thos. Russell, St. John's Col., Prelate ; Com. Spiers, Treas. ; Edm. Bevers, Reg. ; J. C. Farnborough, Magd. Hall, Exp. ; W. W. Hutton, Trin. Col., Capt. of Lines, &c. The following Companions were installed Knights Templar, by the new Com. Rev. W. H. Wentworth Atkins Bowyer, of Bras. Col. ; W. Amhurst Tyssen Amhurst, of Christ Church and Didlington Park ; C. S. Bigge, of Christ Church and Linden Hall ; B. Bond, Trin. Col. ; J. N. Fasakerly and G. Atkinson, both of Univ. Col. After the transaction of business, the Knights adjourned to a magnificent dinner, served in the banquet-room of the Masonic Hall, and the bill of fare comprised all the delicacies of

the season, including turtle and the choicest wines. The Em. Com. was supported by the officers and Brethren, whose names are given above, and also by the following visitors and members:—the Prov. G.C. for Worcester, H. Vernon; the P.G. Prior of Bengal, Col. Burlton; Sir Knt. Com. T. H. Hall, of the Encampment of Observance, P.G. Reg.; Sir Knt. Com. Masson, Grand Treas.; Sir Knts. the Rev. J. G. Wood, F.L.S.; the Rev. J. S. Sidebotham, New Coll; Francis Terry, Madrid Encampment, Bath; Fredrick Symonds; Com. Thompson; Edward Ellis, Ex. Col., and many others. A most happy and social evening was passed, and an intimation was given that on the next annual festival, in 1857, occasion will be taken to celebrate the septenary of the birth of Richard the First, Cœur de Lion, which took place in Oxford, A.D. 1157.

SCOTLAND.

DUNDEE.

Caledonian Lodge (No. 254).—On the evening of April 9, the Caledonian Lodge held a special meeting in the hall of the ancient Lodge, the use of which was kindly granted for the occasion. After ceremonies, the Junior Warden called from labour to refreshment, when about forty of the members and visiting Brethren took their places, the R.W.M. Bro. Charles D. Chalmers in the chair. The excellent band belonging to the Lodge performed appropriate airs; and the proceedings of the evening were much enlivened by the inimitable singing of Brother James Vango, the celebrated comic vocalist, who was on a professional visit to Dundee.

GLASGOW.

St. Mark's Lodge (No. 102).—This Lodge met on the 7th April, when D.M. Bro. D. Campbell, as R.W.M., and the Wardens, Bros. John Reid and Robert Thomson, jun., performed their respective duties in passing Bros. J. F. Arnour, William Whyte, jun., James Somerville, and James Easton; and in initiating Messrs. Hugh Macdonald, Morrison Kyle, and Malcolm Campbell. The petition of the Commercial, and Renfrew County Kilwinning Lodges, for the use of the Apprentice Tracing-Board, was granted; and a vote of thanks passed to Bro. J. T. Nicholson for his superior reading of extracts from Shakspeare's Henry IV. and the Apothecary scene in Romeo and Juliet. The request of two necessitous Bros. to receive some small interim charity was complied with, and a motion for affiliation at next meeting was made. Before closing, Bro. Campbell informed the Brethren who had not been present, of the particulars of the assembly on the 28th, which he said had been a most happy and successful reunion, and that the Brethren and their fair partners had harmonized in the dance and sweet music of an excellent band. On 11th April, Bros. Campbell and Reid, as R.W.M. and S.W., Bro. John Davidson, R.W.M. of the Commercial Lodge, as J.W., with the assistance of other office-bearers and Brethren, initiated William Cumming and Robert Findlay Pearce. In accordance with a motion made at last meeting, Bro. Egmont Feldtmann, of the "Commercial" was affiliated, and on account of Bro. Cumming having to commence a distant voyage, Bro. M. Campbell to sail for America, and Bro. J. F. Armour to proceed in a few days hence to England, as was certified by some of the members, and on separate motions, regularly carried as prescribed by the Grand Lodge Laws, Bros. Cumming and Campbell were passed, and along with Bros. J. F. Armour, R. S. Boyd, Patrick Fleming, and J. G. Galbraith, were raised to the Sublime Degree. On the 15th, Bro. D. Campbell and the Wardens initiated Mr. Robert Tarbet on an occasion of emergency; and on the following day Bros. Campbell, John Reid, and Robert Mitchell, as Master and Wardens, initiated at an emergency meeting Messrs. Henry Allan, Allan C. Gow, and Leonard Gow. On the 17th there was another emergency meeting, when Bros.

Robt. Tarbet and Hen. Allan requiring, the one to sail for America, and the other to join his ship forthwith, on the section of the Grand Lodge Laws providing for their situation being obtempered, were passed to the Fellow Craft, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

RENFREW.

Renfrew County Kilwinning Lodge (No. 370).—We are happy to say that this Lodge (a notice of the installation of which appeared in the *Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror*), has met with a degree of success far above the most sanguine expectations of its originators, and most unprecedented in this quarter. Since the inauguration, a period of about four months, meetings have been regularly held every fortnight, and often every week, in consequence of cases of emergency. During these four months there have been initiated between forty and fifty gentlemen into the mysteries of Freemasonry, besides the affiliating between twenty and thirty Brethren of sister Lodges. Some of the Brothers of the Renfrew County Kilwinning Lodge are now in the United States and Canada, some in France, and others in India. There have also been two lectures delivered in the Lodge; the first by Bro. Taylor, on architecture in connection with Freemasonry; and the second, delivered on Monday the 7th April, by Bro. Miller, of Glasgow, St. Mark's, on the history and principles of our ancient and honourable Order. Both lectures were read to large audiences of the Brethren, who listened attentively to them. The following is the list of office-bearers of the Renfrew County Kilwinning Lodge: Bros. James A. Mackean, W.M.; George Napier, S.M.; John Thomson, D.M.; George Ronald, S.W.; Thomas Hunter, J.W.; Robert Rowand, Treas.; William Murray, Sec.; Rev. Neil McNeil, Chap.; James J. Lamb, Architect; John Ker, S.D.; James Graham, J.D.; William McArthur, I.G.; Allan Scott, Tyler.

ROYAL ARCH.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

EDINBURGH. — On Monday, 24th March (postponed from 21st, being Good Friday), the members of this body met at the Star Hotel, to elect office-bearers for the ensuing year, and to celebrate the festival of the vernal equinox. By the hour of meeting, 4 P.M., a goodly number of the Companions were found to be in attendance. The Chapter was, in the absence of the First Grand Principal, opened in due form by E. C. Dr. Walker Arnott, Dep. Z., who, having declared the offices vacant, and stated the object of the present meeting, thereupon vacated the chair, which was occupied by Comp. William Gaylor, P.Z. for the United Chapter of Dundee, No. 6, being the senior Chapter present and represented. The latter, having been put in possession of the previous minutes of nomination, stated that in consequence of arrangements which had taken place, agreeable and satisfactory to all parties, for the retirement from office of their late esteemed First Grand Principal, J. Whyte Melville, the pleasing duty devolved upon him of proposing as a successor to that office the eminent Companion who had for a long series of years discharged the duties of Dep. Prin. Z., and on whom he felt satisfied such appointment justly devolved, no less because it had been worthily earned, than it was also worthily to be bestowed. He accordingly moved, that the Chapter do now appoint to the office of First Grand Principal, Dr. George Arnott Walker Arnott, Professor of Botany in the University of Glasgow, which, having been duly seconded, was carried by acclamation. The Grand Principal Z. now elected, having been obligated, invested with the insignia of office, and duly installed, resumed the chair, when the election of the remanent office-bearers was proceeded with, and declared to stand as follows;—John Whyte Melville, of Mount Melville, P.G.Z.; Patrick Deuchar, R.N., Dep. Z.; William Dawson MacRitchie, M.D., G. Prin. H.; John Deuchar, of Morningside, Esq., G. Prin. J.; Robert Ramage, G. Scribe E.; William Gaylor, G. Scribe, N.; John Henry, Treas.; Thomas Boog, Recorder; John Gellatley, Edward Main, Alexander Downie, Sojourners; Donald Campbell, G. Chanc.; Alexander Beattie, Dep. Chanc.; George Darling, G. Sword Bearer; Stewart Watson, William McRobert,

G. Standard-Bearers; David Bryce, G. Architect; John Law, G. Jeweller; William Donaldson, G. Clothier; David Crichton, G. Janitor. The Chapter being thereafter closed in ample form, the Companions, as had been arranged, proceeded to an adjoining hall, tastefully decorated with Masonic emblems and insignia, to dine together in honour of the occasion of their meeting. The chair was filled by the M.E. First G. Prin., supported on the right by E. C. Patrick Deuchar, D.P.Z., and on the left by E. C. Dr. MacRitchie, G. Prin. H., the duties of croupier being ably performed by E. C. Alexander Dourie, one of the G. Sojourners. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been disposed of, and the sister Grand Chapters of England and Ireland fraternally acknowledged and complimented; the Chairman, in reply to his health being proposed, acknowledged the honour conferred on him by the position which he now occupied, and stated that his object, as hitherto, would be to use his best efforts for the good government of Chapters at home, and for the maintenance of fraternal intercourse and a friendly relation with those of other countries. An evening of the most harmonious display of Masonic feeling was passed, alike instructive and entertaining, many of the toasts given abounding with useful historic remarks, relieved at intervals by some excellent singing. Visitations were received from the Chapters, Edinburgh, No. 1; Montrose, No. 3; Glasgow, No. 50; and Canon-gate Kilwinning, No. 56; the representatives of whom were all pleased to express themselves much gratified by the reception given them. The dinner and wines were supplied by Comp. Beattie on this, as on former occasions, in his usual style of comfort and elegance, and gave the highest satisfaction.

GLASGOW.—*Glasgow Chapter* (No. 50).—The M. and P. Degrees, in Lodges opened on the 4th April, were conferred upon Bros. David Boyd, Walter Easton, and Egmont Feldtmann, Master Masons of the St. Mark's and Commercial Lodges, by Bros. Donald Campbell, James Horne, and Robert Thomson, jun., as R.W.M., S.W., and J.W.; several other office-bearers and Brethren were also present. In the Chapter on the same evening these Brethren were admitted and exalted to the Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Masonry by Comps. Campbell, Horne, and Thomson, as Z., H., and J. On the 17th the same Lodges and Chapter were convened, when in Lodge Bro. Campbell Horne, and G. McLeod, as R.W.M., S.W., and J.W., admitted Bros. William Bunten, Robert Tarbet, and Patrick Fleming, all M.Ms., of St. Mark's; and in Chapter the same candidates were admitted to the Excellent and exalted to the Sublime R.A. Degree, by Comps. Campbell, Horne, and McLeod, as principals. In the emergency meeting of the Chapter on the 18th, at which Comps. M. E. Donald Campbell, Z., George McLeod, acting H., and Robert Thomson, jun. (N.), J., were present, along with other Comps., Bros. David Boyd, and Egmont Feldtmann, were found properly qualified, and passed through the Excellent and exalted to the Sublime Degree of R.A. Masonry.

DUNDEE.—*Union Royal Arch Chapter* (No. 6).—The Comps. of this Chapter, to the number of twenty-six, dined together in the British Hotel, on the 24th March, to celebrate the Festival of the Vernal Equinox.—James Chalmers, Esq., M.E.Z., in the chair; and James Jack, Esq., P. Prin. croupier. After an excellent dinner, provided by Comp. Rickard, a few national and local toasts were honoured; and at seven o'clock the Chapter was opened in solemn form. Comp. W. Anderson moved a special vote of thanks in very complimentary terms to the M.E.Z., for the great interest he has taken in the affairs of the Chapter, and the assiduous attention he has paid to the duties of his office, as well as for the courtesy he has invariably displayed to the Comps. This was cordially agreed to, and ordered to be recorded. The M.E.Z. acknowledged the compliment in feeling terms, assuring the Comps. of his estimation of the honour conferred upon him, and expressing his thanks for their kindness and support, which he would endeavour to continue to merit. Thereafter the Chapter was closed, and a Lodge of Mark Master Masons formed, when the evening was spent until ten o'clock, in the most agreeable and brotherly manner. A number of appropriate toasts were given, amongst which were,—“The Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland and its Office-bearers;” “The Subordinate Chapters;” “The

Supreme Grand Chapters of England and Ireland ;" "Our worthy Proxy 1st Principal, Comp. Gaylor ;" "The honorary Comps. of this Chapter, coupled with the name of Comp. D. Campbell, M.E.Z., of the Glasgow Chapter, No. 50," &c. Many excellent songs were sung, particularly by Comp. Pearman, who kindly presided at the pianoforte. This festival was altogether very satisfactory, and evinced the unanimity and resolution of the "Union" to carry out the Excellent Order in its best and fullest bearings.

IRELAND.

GRAND LODGE.

At a meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, held on Thursday, 3rd of April, upwards of 500 members attended. The chair was taken at eight o'clock, by the Dep. G.M., the R.W. John Fitzhenry Townshend. The business of the evening was to decide, whether the office of Dep. G. Sec. and Dep. G. Treas. of the Grand Lodge should be divided, and two officers appointed instead of one, in room of the late and respected Bro. John Fowler. The question was decided, that the office should be held by one officer, at £150 per annum, and that he be empowered to nominate a Brother as an assistant, at £100 a year salary. Accordingly, Bro. Lucius H. Deering was appointed. Bro. Deering nominated Bro. C. T. Walmesley as his assistant, and the appointment was ratified by the Grand Lodge. So large and influential a meeting of the Masonic body has not taken place for many years. The question at issue was looked upon, as it really was, one vitally affecting the interests of the Order. The assemblage is plain proof in itself that the spirit of Masonry, though it may appear to slumber at times, is ever in existence, and that when matter affecting the general good of the Craft is under discussion it is easily kindled into fervour. From every province were men of all social positions collected, and, however their views might differ, a common object pervaded the hearts of all, namely, a desire to advance the interests of the noble Craft.

INDIA.

BENGAL.

ADDRESS TO LORD DALHOUSIE.—The Brethren of this presidency having delivered an appropriate Address to Lord Dalhousie, late Governor-General of India, prior to his departure for England, his Lordship returned the following Reply :—

"Right Worshipful Sirs, Worshipful Wardens, and Worthy Brethren all,—I am deeply sensible of the kindly feeling which has induced the several members of the Masonic Fraternity in Bengal to unite in this parting act of courtesy and kindness.

"During the years that I have passed among you, it has been my good fortune to have had opportunities of visiting the farthest extremities of this Indian empire.

"Wherever I have gone I have met a Mason's welcome.

"Entitled to no Masonic allegiance from the Craft, I have yet been honoured with the homage which you pay to your chief: and from time to time you have offered me frequent testimony of your respect, and sympathy, and esteem.

"The Brethren have crowned all their former kindness to-day.

"I have felt honoured by their approbation of my personal and public conduct since I have dwelt and ruled among them ; while the terms of regret in which they

allude to my departure hence have touched my heart, and have rendered me doubly grateful for the good wishes with which they speed me on my way.

“Brethren, I bid you all farewell with genuine sorrow ; and I leave you with the expression of my earnest hope that the Great Architect of the Universe will sustain the fabric of your Order in purity and strength ; and will continue ever to build it up on the ancient and sure foundations of Brotherly kindness and charity.

“*Government House, March 4, 1856.*”

His Lordship then took leave of the Brethren individually, by shaking hands with them, after which the deputation retired.

CHINA.

HONG-KONG.

Zetland Lodge (No. 768).—St. John’s Day, 27th December, 1855. At high noon, the members of this flourishing Lodge, with several visiting Brethren, attended Divine service at St. John’s Cathedral. The proper lessons for the day being read by Bro. the Rev. Mr. Beale, chaplain of H.M.S. *Sybilie*, a most eloquent discourse was delivered by Bro. the Rev. M. C. Odell, military chaplain. At 6 P.M. members, and a great number of visiting Brethren, attended Lodge at Freemasons’ Hall, where the much-respected and zealous R.W. the D. Prov. G.M. for China (the Hon. W. T. Mercer), who had been unanimously re-elected W.M., invested his Officers for the ensuing year—Bros. the Rev. C. Odell, S.W. ; George A. F. Norris, J.W. ; Douglas Lapraik, Treas. ; Alex. Grand-Pre, Sec. ; Francis Stewart, S.D. ; George MacAlister, J.D. ; Samuel Appleton, D.C. ; W. A. Brown, J.G. ; R. Goodings, Tyler. After which about eighty Brethren adjourned to partake of a banquet, and after the usual Masonic and loyal toasts, separated at an early hour, truly happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again. On Monday, 11th February, a farewell dinner was given to Bros. Charles St. George Cleverley, P.M., and Architect of the Freemasons’ Hall, and Robert Rienaeker, Past Treas. ; the latter Brother the oldest member on the roll of No. 768 (*Zetland Lodge*), on the occasion of their approaching departure for England. Our excellent W.M. Bro. the Hon. W. J. Mercer, the D. Prov. G.M. for China, briefly yet eloquently alluded to the hearty and zealous way in which both Brethren had performed their duties to the Craft ; and in a feeling, earnest manner wishing them both a pleasant voyage, and happy meeting with friends at home, bade them “God speed !” in which good wishes all the Brethren assembled heartily joined. Thanks are due to our indefatigable Secretary Bro. Grand-Pre, whose catership and general arrangement of the banquet gave universal satisfaction.

FREEMASONRY AND THE ROMAN CATHOLICS.—The superiors of the Romanist Church, Hong-Kong, having refused to marry Bro. Grand-Pre, our assistant-superintendent of police, because he happens to be a Freemason, the ceremony had to be performed in St. John’s Cathedral, on Monday last, by the Rev. M.C. Odell (S.W., No. 768), the Hon. the Colonial Secretary (D. Prov. G.M. for China) giving away the bride. The reverend fathers acted, no doubt, in all conscientiousness ; but they should know, if only by the reading of Masonic works patent to the world, that there is nothing in Freemasonry incompatible with the exercise of the most enlightened Christianity.—*Overland Friend of China*, February 15.

AMERICA.

NEW YORK.

In the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of New York recently published we find the following singular report from the Committee on the Condition of Masonry :—

“The Standing Committee on the Condition of Masonry respectfully report, in part, as follows :—That they have had under consideration the statement of W. Bro. Spencer, of Temple Lodge, No. 14, relative to the case of a Brother made an E. A. Mason, in said Temple Lodge, who has one shortened leg, occasioned by the dislocation of his hip. Two inquiries present themselves :—1. Ought he to have been made a Mason ? 2. Ought he to be further advanced in Masonry ? As to the first point, the language of Subdivision Nine, of Section Eight, of the Constitution, and that of the ‘Old Charges’ are identical in meaning. The candidate must be ‘hale and sound, not deformed or dismembered,’ at the time of making. Can this be said to be the case with the Brother in question ? Can it be said that he is fully qualified to take part in every portion of the Lodge work ? And should Charity, which is ever kind, prompt an affirmative answer to both these interrogatories, where shall the rule be limited ? To what point may not the disability be stretched ? Must it be the *entire* loss of a limb, or an absolute distortion of the whole frame ? We are of the opinion that the first inquiry must be answered in the negative, and that he ought not to have been made a Mason. As to the second point, if we are right in our conclusions as to the first, a negative answer must also be returned. Suppose he had imposed upon the Lodge, or had committed an offence after his initiation, or even previously, although not discovered till afterward, has the Lodge therefore no remedy ? Happy we are to be informed, that the excellent character and social standing of the candidate forbids the idea of any truth in these suppositions, but they furnish a complete argument that he is already a Mason, and therefore the disability should not be regarded. Nor does the fact that he is industrious in his occupation, and that his labour is not affected by his lameness, alter the conclusion. The true question is, whether he is qualified for our work. And if we would arrest the progress of a man who is debarred by moral deformity, why cannot we apply the *express and unalterable rule* where the case is one of physical infirmity ? Although not perhaps strictly within the range of our duties, we will add, that there are two modes of preventing his further advancement : by the refusal of the Master to act in violation of a Landmark ; or if positive action be required, by the use of the ballot, and exercising the right asserted in Subdivision Nineteen of the above-cited Section Eight. That the decision of the Grand Lodge may serve as a guide for the future, we have thus extended these remarks, and that they may take definite action on the point, we submit this resolution :—*Resolved*, That it is a violation of a Landmark to make a Mason of one who has the disability of lameness, occasioned by a shortened and crooked limb, and that Temple Lodge, No. 14, use their discretion in conferring the remaining two Degrees upon said candidate.”

The report was adopted. We are sure in England such a trivial objection would not prevent a man of good moral character becoming a Mason.

PROPOSED MASONIC TEMPLE.—La Fraternidad Lodge (Spanish) has issued invitations to the various Lodges in this city, to send delegates to co-operate with them in erecting a Masonic Temple. Bro. Heyneman, of Philadelphia, proposed to raise 500,000 dollars on the following plan :—One hundred acres of ground to be bought for a graveyard, at a cost of 100,000 dollars ; another 100,000 dollars to fence and beautify it ; divide the whole into 50,000 lots, and sell them at 10 dollars per lot. With the 300,000 dollars balance, buy a lot on Broadway, build a Hall, and furnish it. A committee was appointed to select such Brethren

as may be willing to serve, and by their position, wealth, and business tact, give confidence to the stockholders who may embark in the enterprise. The Convention adjourned to the 2nd of April; it has as yet fixed on no definite plan, but invites the Brethren to send in a plan for adoption.—*New York Masonic Messenger*.

AN AMERICAN GRAND SECRETARY.—The *New York Masonic Messenger*, in alluding to some observations of ours at the anniversary of the Lodge of Emulation, says, "The Editor stated boldly it was impossible to get any information out of the Grand Secretary's Office, applications being always refused. We sympathize with him deeply—just our luck. We suppose, Grand Secretaries, with fat salaries, think they have a right to be churlish. Our idea of a Grand Secretary is, that he should not only be able and attentive to his duties, but should be a perfect gentleman in behaviour. The poor unfortunates who have to apply for charity, are already degraded enough by misfortune; they require kind words and sympathy, which cost nothing. This is the age of reformation. The expenses of our Grand Lodge last year were nearly 20,000 dollars; the charities, 2,000 dollars! Can the English Grand Lodge beat that?"

SWITZERLAND.

GENEVA.

A discussion on our Order took place in the Great Council. The Councillor of State moved to grant the concession for the building of a Masonic Temple. General Dufour and M. Pietet opposed the motion, and succeeded in referring the petition to a Special Commission. Mr. James Tazy defended the Order against its powerful opponents in a manner which entitled him to the appreciation of every member.

UNITED MASONIC BALL.—This excellent reunion of the Brethren and their ladies was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 30th March, the company numbering nearly thirty, who passed a delightful and protracted evening in the enjoyment of the dance, enlivened by the strains of Bro. Hayward's band. The supper, provided by the spirited proprietors of the tavern, was excellent in quality and liberal in supply, and the wines rich and in abundance. The several Stewards were indefatigable in the discharge of their arduous duties; and Bro. Frampton, as M.C., extorted the thanks and admiration of all. The hall was handsomely decorated with Masonic and other banners—amongst which those of the Allied Powers were conspicuous, and over the alcove in which the statue of the Duke of Sussex, formerly the G.M. of the Order, is situated, was a figure of Victory encircled in laurel.

THE LATE BRO. DALTON.—We have great pleasure in publishing the following list of subscriptions raised for the relief of the widow of Bro. Dalton, an old and exemplary Tyler, well-known and respected in the Craft:—Bedford Lodge and its members, per Bro. Jerwood, £10. 10s.; British Lodge, £5.; British Chapter, £5.; Polish National Lodge, £2. 2s.; Globe Lodge, £2. 2s.; Tuscan Lodge, £5.; Mount Moriah Lodge, £2. 2s.; St. John's Lodge, £3. 3s.; St. Mary's Lodge, £5. 5s.; London Lodge, £2. 2s.; Lodge of Regularity, £2. 2s.; Burlington Lodge, £3. 3s.; Lodge of Nine Muses, £2. 2s.; Lodge of Fidelity, £1. 11s. 6d.; Lodge of Benevolence, £5.; the W.M. and five other Brethren of the Lodge of Antiquity, one guinea each, £6. 6s.; Bros. Shrewsbury, 5s.; Longstaff, 5s.; Daws, 2s. 6d.; Nicholls, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Burge, 2s. 6d.; W. H. M., 2s. 6d.; Bro. Banks, 2s. 6d. Total—£63. 13s. Bro. John Harman, of the Freemasons' Tavern, originated the subscription, and has been most indefatigable in carrying it out; whilst Bro. Jerwood, with his accustomed kindness, has acted as treasurer, and seen to the proper application of the monies raised.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR APRIL.

THE COURT.

The Queen held her first drawing-room for the season on the 10th. It was very numerous attended, and the Princess Royal made her *début* upon the occasion. On the 15th Her Majesty held a levee. The Queen and Prince Albert visited the Crimean heroes in hospital at Chatham, on the 16th, and on the 18th proceeded to the camp at Aldershot, where they remained for the night. The militia in camp were reviewed on the 19th, and presented a most soldierly appearance. Her Majesty and the Royal Family were present at a grand naval review at Spithead, on the 23rd. Owing to the breaking down of a train on the South Western Railway, and other bungles, the members of the Houses of Lords and Commons did not arrive until the review was half over, and did not get back to town until 4 in the morning.

THE PEACE.

The booming of the Park and Tower guns late on the evening of the 30th March announced to the London public the conclusion of peace, which was officially published in the *Gazette* on the following day. Though the terms have not officially transpired, it is understood the Black Sea is to be neutralised, the navigation of the Danube thrown open, and the frontiers of the Principalities, which Austria is immediately to evacuate, re-arranged. The Conference, notwithstanding the conclusion of peace, continued its sittings up to the 16th, and it is stated that some rather angry discussions took place relative to the affairs of Italy. There are to be fireworks in the various parks, and other rejoicings, so soon as the news of the ratification having been exchanged is received.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

The House of Lords met for the first time after the recess on the 1st; but beyond the announcement of the Marquis of Lansdowne, that peace had been concluded, as already published in the *Gazette*, and the postponement of one or two motions, nothing was done. On the 3rd, on the motion of the Earl of Albemarle, returns were ordered relative to the infliction of torture to raise revenue in India. On the 4th, the Agricultural Statistics Bill passed through committee. On the 7th, after a discussion on the Bank Charter Act, which led to nothing, a few unimportant bills were advanced a stage. On the 8th, the Agricultural Statistics Bill was read a third time and passed. On the 9th, in a discussion relative to the annexation of Oude, it was stated every information would be given on the return of Earl Dalhousie to this country. On the 11th, the Royal Assent was given to several Bills, the principal one being to enable parties charged with offences to remove their trials from one place to another. The Matrimonial and Divorce Bill was read a second time. On the 14th, resolutions were again passed denouncing the tortures in India. The Lords sat on the 15th, but no business was transacted. On the 17th Lord Panmure stated it was proposed to send troops to North America, to replace those withdrawn at the commencement of the war. On the 18th, returns were ordered relative to the ticket of leave system. On the 21st, the Church Discipline Bill was lost by a majority of 41 to 33. On the 24th, Lord Lyndhurst gave notice that he proposed on an early day to call attention to the affairs of Italy. The Bill for legalising marriages with the sisters of deceased wives, was lost by 43 to 24 on the 25th.

In the House of Commons on the 1st, Lord Palmerston announced the conclusion of peace, and stated that four weeks were allowed for the exchange of ratifications. Several votes were taken in supply, and a compulsory Vaccination Bill read a second time. On the 1st, a motion of Mr. Roebuck, for increasing the salaries of County Court Judges to £1,500 a year, was, after some opposition, withdrawn. Mr. Bouverie obtained leave to bring in a Bill for the amendment of the poor law as regards the removal of paupers; and Sir George Grey brought in his Bill for the Reform of the Corporation of London. By this measure the common councilmen are to be reduced from 236 to 96, and the aldermen from 26 to 16; the latter to be elected for six years

only, instead of for life, as at present. The Lord Mayor who need not have served any other office, is to be elected by the common council; and the magisterial functions of the aldermen transferred to stipendiary magistrates. On Wednesday, after Mr. Headlam's Medical Profession Bill had been postponed, a new writ was ordered for Athlone, in the room of Mr. Keogh, who has succeeded to a judgeship in the place of Mr. Justice Torrens, deceased; and for Ennis, in the room of Mr. Fitzgerald, raised to the dignity of Attorney-General. On the 3rd, Lord Palmerston, in reply to a question, stated the armistice had been extended to the sea as well as land. A committee was agreed to to inquire into the operation of the Act to substitute other punishments (the ticket of leave system) in lieu of transportation. Mr. Malins obtained leave to bring in a bill to abolish distinctions between special and simple contract debts, and the Attorney-General to amend the law relative to the criminal appropriation of trust property. The Bankers' Draft and the Factories Bills were read a second time. After the House had on the 4th been occupied a considerable time with the personal disputes of Sir James Graham and Sir C. Napier, the members went into committee of supply, and several votes for the public service were passed. On the 7th, a motion of Mr. Cowan, to the effect that it was the duty of the Government to abolish the system of enlistment in private houses in Scotland, was carried by 139 to 116. The House went into committee of supply, and votes were passed relative to the National Gallery and other public institutions. On the 8th, a motion of Mr. Muntz, relative to a more equitable adjustment of the income-tax was lost by 194 to 63. The Lord Advocate introduced two bills relative to education in Scotland. On the 9th, the Oath of Abjuration Bill, which, if carried, will admit Jews into Parliament, was read a second time by a majority of 230 to 195. On the 10th, the House went into committee to consider Lord John Russell's educational resolutions, and after some discussion, the debate was adjourned until the following day, when the resolutions were negatived by a majority of 260 to 158. On the 14th, the House was occupied in committee of supply, and a motion of Mr. Williams, to reduce the salaries of the governors of Jamaica and Western Australia, was lost by a majority of 269 to 3. On the 15th, Mr. Spooner's motion against the Maynooth grant was carried by 159 to 133: leave was therefore given to bring in a bill for its abolition. On the 16th, Mr. Fagan's Ministers (Ireland) Bill was lost on the second reading, and the Reformatory and Industrial Schools Bill read a second time. No House on the 17th. On the 18th, after some discussion relative to the proposed new thoroughfares through St. James's-park, and the new monument to the memory of the Duke of Wellington in St. Paul's Cathedral, the House resolved into committee of supply. After some objections had been made on the 21st to the proposed Peace rejoicings, and votes taken for the British Museum and Board of Health in supply, the Chancellor of the Exchequer moved the second reading of the Fire Insurance Bill, intended to prevent the evasion of the duty by foreign companies. The debate was adjourned, the prevalent opinion being, that the best way to prevent evasion would be to lower the duties. On the 24th, Lord Palmerston laid on the table the papers relative to Central America. Lord Gooderich carried a resolution against the Government for the carrying out of the competition system for public offices; and Sir Francis Baring obtained the appointment of a committee to inquire into the receipt, issue, and audit of public moneys. On the 25th, the House was principally occupied with discussions as to the cause of the accident which prevented honourable gentlemen reaching the review in sufficient time on the previous Wednesday; after which it went into committee on the Borough and Counties Police Bill.

PROVIDENT.

The annual meeting of the Prudential Life Assurance Company was held on the 1st, when a report was presented, which stated that the new business exceeded £2,000 a year, and that the total income of the association now amounted to £19,142 per annum. The report was adopted.

The first annual meeting of the Empire Life Assurance Company was held on the 22nd. The report, which was adopted, said, that up to the 31st of December last the directors had received 223 proposals for the assurance of £70,770, of which they had accepted 176, assuring £53,480, and yielding an annual income amounting to £1,942. 18s. The only claim falling in during the year has been one for £100. Since

that date, and up to the 31st of March, they had received seventy-three proposals for the assurance of £21,610, and the whole result of their business was the completion of 234 policies, covering £69,810, and yielding an annual revenue of £2,536. 3s. 2d. The total expense of establishing the company was only £726. 0s. 4d.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE UNIVERSAL PEACE SOCIETY.—We are happy to learn that a powerfully organized association for the harmonious combination of nations, in diffusing the principles of universal peace and civilization throughout the world, is now in course of formation, and has received the cohesion of several influential parties. It has no respect to political schisms, but aims by missionaries and publication of philanthropic essays, as well as by an active exertion of the services of Brothers of Charity travelling through the world, to remove war, and encourage peace and civilization amongst all mankind. The temporary offices are at Red Lion-court, Fleet-street.

THE *John Bull* and *Britannia* newspapers have been amalgamated, and under present management there is little doubt the *John Bull* will maintain its ancient popularity.

On the 19th a very handsome testimonial was presented to Mr. Saunders, the Secretary of the Great Western Railway, by the heads of departments and clerks of the company.

The Lord Mayor entertained Mr. Dallas, the American minister, at the Mansion House, on the 17th, when the latter declared that if anything occurred to disturb the friendly relations between England and the United States, it would be in consequence of "some overwhelming State policy, or some foregone conclusion not to be overcome by any persevering and honourable conciliation."

Obituary.

BRO. CHARLES BALL.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Bro. C. Ball, solicitor, of Chester, who died on Monday, April 7, after a very brief illness. This event is a striking instance of the uncertainty of life, and of the emptiness of all mortal calculations. Mr. Ball was in the prime of life, and had in a very short time, by his ability and assiduity, obtained for himself an excellent practice, and a position which is very seldom attained by persons much more advanced in life and of more lengthened standing in the profession. Had health and strength been granted him, he would have vindicated to himself a foremost place in Chester. His remains were accompanied to the cemetery by a large number of the Brethren of the Cestrian Lodge of Freemasons, of which ancient society Mr. Ball was an efficient member, and held the post of S.W. The pall was borne by Bros. Truss, W.M.; Weaver, J.W.; Brown, Treas. and Sec.; Horatio Lloyd, P.M.; Dutton, P.M., and V.W. Prov. G.S.D.; Jones, S.D.; and Pigot, I.G.

BRO. JOHN GREEN.

Died, April 1st, at his residence, Marshalls House, Prescott, aged 73. He first saw the light in the Loyal British Lodge (No. 123?), Chester, 1804, joined the Lodge of Loyalty, No. 101, Prescott, in the year 1805, and continued a subscribing member until his death. A just tribute to the memory of a most excellent Mason, and therefore necessarily of a good man, was manifested by an assemblage of highly respectable Brethren, who (unsolicited) preceded his remains to the grave. "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."

BRO. CAPT. THOMAS MALKIN.

On the 28th of April, at his residence, Sandhurst Lodge, Regent's Park, in the forty-sixth year of his age, Bro. Captain Thomas Malkin, of the Cadogan Lodge, No. 188, beloved and lamented by all who knew him.

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.

"THE DONCASTER GAZETTE."—We thank our contemporary for the many kindly notices which have appeared of our efforts. In the last notice, however, we find the following remarks:—"In the Notices to Correspondents the editor has omitted to give his reasons for *burking* articles sent for insertion, whilst others of a similar character are given, but possessing probably less interest." We shall be glad to be informed what article we have *burked*, as we are altogether ignorant to what the editor alludes. He must know that from our necessarily extensive correspondence, we must exercise a discretion in the insertion or non-insertion of communications; but we certainly disclaim all favouritism in the manner in which we conduct the Magazine.

"JUVENIS."—Earl Stanhope is not a P.G.M. We do not even know that he is a Mason.

"W. M., No. 435."—If you do not get your Magazine at the same time as the other periodicals, it is the fault of your bookseller. Order it of some one else, or send us your subscription in advance: we will take care you get it.

"J. G." Oldham.—Seven days' notice by summons must be given of the proposition of a Brother for exaltation before he can be balloted for.

"P. B.," Chester, is thanked for his communications. That of last month did not come to hand. The Emperor of the French is generally understood to have been initiated into the Order in the United States, but we have no authentic record of such an event.

Our Bristol friend is thanked for his account of the meeting of the Knights Templar Camp of Antiquity at Bath, but he would add to the obligation in future by letting us have his communications a little nearer the date of the transactions he records.

"ST. JOHN'S LODGE," Stockport.—In our last, Bro. Henry Booth was erroneously described as Prov. G. Treasurer instead of Prov. G. Tyler.

"JUSTITIA."—We regret the length of our valued correspondent's communication prevents its insertion in the present crowded state of our columns: we must therefore postpone it.

"BRO. W. WIGGINTON."—We beg to thank your Lodge and yourself for the kind invitation forwarded to us, and for the communication you have sent. Want of time forbids our acceptance of the first, but we shall always make space for the second.

CURIOSO asks whether it is true that Bro. Parkinson is a member of the Board of General Purposes? Whether he supplies the candles to Grand Lodge? And whether he audits his own accounts? To the two first questions we can answer in the affirmative; as regards the third, we can only say that we should think Bro. Parkinson would leave that duty to other members of the Board. From what we have heard of the Grand Lodge Audit, we can only pronounce it to be a disgraceful scramble; the accounts being got rid of as soon as possible by the pleasant announcement "Dinner is on the table."