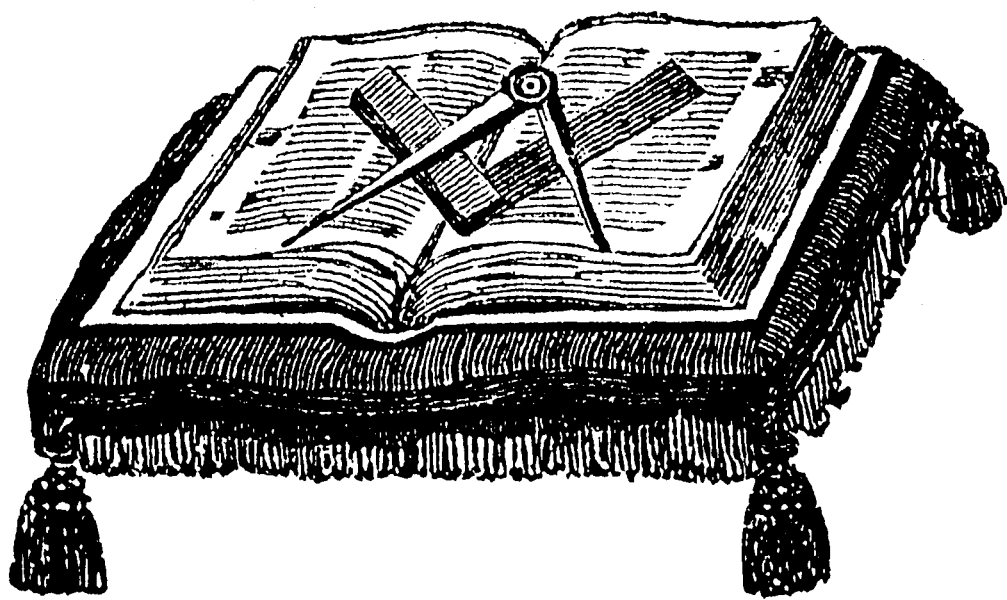


THE
FREEMASONS MAGAZINE
AND
MASONIC MIRROR

FOR 1857.



LONDON:
BRO. HENRY GEORGE WARREN,
2, RED LION COURT, FLEET STREET;
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1857.

THE
FREEMASONS'
MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

JANUARY 1, 1857.

THE NEW YEAR.

USUALLY the commencement of each new epoch is regarded as such a natural occurrence as to excite but little, even the most imaginative, in this dull prosaic generation. Amongst our forefathers, the anticipation of Christmas produced an eager joyfulness, as the thought of shaking off dull care and allowing the heart to beat with other impulses than mere money-getting came upon them. This revival also, this time of refreshment for the affections, was augmented by the religious tone given to the festivities of the period, and men felt that devotion sanctioned the hilarity which the disposition towards delight promoted. Now Christmas and the New Year have become, indeed, oases very circumscribed in their influence over the rest of time. At the railway speed of our present progression in the lust for gold and the toadyism of power, men hardly pause to bait their hearts at these ancient hostelries of goodwill. It is true, boys and girls make us live our time over again, and renew the saltiness of our youth by their own pickledom of mischief; we, old hypocritical mummies as we are, stretch our wizened jaws, rugged by thought and pursed up with pecuniary calculation, into a ghastly grin of hollow sympathy with the boisterous uproar of hearty fun sounded by the youngsters. But we soon return to our knitted brow, and cold calculating gaze, for the Exchange principle must be maintained—"business must be attended to;" so we vote boys and girls great plagues, very expensive, sigh over our debts, begrudge almost the plums in the pudding, and the brief sunbeam of Christmas festivity, and the auspices of an opening year merge in the gloom of Paterfamilias moodily contesting the odd halfpenny in his butcher's bills!

Nevertheless, the journalist must not neglect his prescribed duty of casting up both sides of the account, with a view of meeting the

public satisfactorily. We wish, indeed, that the reward attendant upon the exertions we have lavished to render this Magazine deserving of success, was adequate to the measure of proof we possess that we have laboured unmitigatedly and strenuously. Still we hail gratefully the acceptable evidence given by an increasing circulation that our efforts have been somewhat appreciated. One circumstance is especially gratifying, namely the determined encouragement given to the Magazine, the moment the liberty of publication appeared to be impugned. In one province, no sooner was a Brother—a most energetic and deserving Mason—snubbed for his manly vindication of the freedom of the Masonic press, than a rapid increase of subscribers to this Periodical proved the sympathy felt with him in his struggle, whilst the opposing authority incurred a severe castigation from the American press, whose every fibre vibrates with us in the vindication of true liberty of opinion. The best way to defy publicity, is to disarm it, by a fair, upright, generous discharge of duty; for sure we are that it is not the honest man that dreads the light, but the malefactor, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. To check, therefore, or even to attempt to check the publication of Masonic affairs, is as futile as the endeavour of any one to do so must be suicidal; the opposition has already led to our success, and will assuredly, as heretofore, if attempted, tend to the opponent's discomfiture.

We thank, however, our numerous friends, especially of Worcestershire and Staffordshire, for their noble assistance; let them remember that when true to us, they are only true to themselves, their own liberty, and their own Masonic exaltation.

Ours, indeed, is somewhat a thankless task; for whilst all the benefits of the concluding year are owing to the publicity given to abuses by this *Magazine*, we ourselves are the last to participate in the result. So, whilst Canada has been supported, and the long-cherished abuses in Grand Lodge routed up to their very centre, we have been sufferers in pocket, as well as time and trouble. But the Masonic principle is to look beyond; and it is, therefore, our determination to persevere in the same impartial course we have adopted, of upholding the rights of the poorest Lodge, or the weakest Brother, against illegal abuse, or systematized neglect. Nothing can be further from our intention than to disregard authority, engender strife, or malign officials; but if authority veil utter incompetency, it *must* be disregarded; if improvement and the rights of the Brotherhood cannot be maintained without strife, why then strive we shall, yet in all charity; and if officials prove themselves inadequate to their duties, and with one hand open to take money, have the other too paralyzed to acknowledge the receipt of it, for many years, why then out such officials must go, no matter how closely they adhere to their emoluments; and if we are asked our motive for this action, it is that, though we venerate age much, we love the glory and grand development of true Masonry far more.

A deal has been done towards improvement in our Masonic constitution during the last year, but more remains to be done before

we at all come up to that adaptation to the wants of the day, which it is the genius of Masonry to expand with. The resignation of the Grand Secretary imperatively demands that a successor be appointed, who shall at once be a man of education, of position in society, and of acknowledged talent. We beg to say that toadyism is no recommendation; though, we fear, the most supple, not the most sufficient man, will get the place. Well-bred, of highly-cultivated mind, at once a scholar and a gentleman, the Grand Secretary of the Masons of England should, at all events, be able to comport with dignity to his office, and win by his courtesy, equally as elicit confidence by his intelligence. There ought now also to be a decided improvement made in the constitution of our library, a public Masonic reading-room ought to be opened, to which all properly recommended Brothers might, subject to certain rules, obtain access, and the Librarian's office might be well paid out of a portion of the Secretary's income, with whom he might also be a coadjutor, that is, if economy be an object. There are Brethren, clergymen of known scholarship, and well placed in the literary world, who might ably fulfil this office; at present, we only throw out these suggestions, probably their adoption will be "*ad Græcas kalendas*." One thing only we hope and trust, that we shall have no person promoted who may be already cumbered with dignities, and whose rise has been marked by the perpetual hypocrisy and venality,—the dogmatism towards the little, and the demure suppleness towards the great,—with which he has disgraced and earned promotion.

No! let the best man win, and in future, justice, punctuality, courtesy, and efficiency in the Grand Lodge, and Masonry generally, be more attended to. We give much credit to the Grand Master for the way in which he controlled the somewhat turbulent array of successful opponents to his laying down the law. It remains now only for him and his advisers to use far-sightedness rather than personal prejudice in the selection of officers, and in the reform essential to our well-being. If there be any superficial turmoil, yet the great heart of Freemasonry beats still truly and sympathetically from Brother to Brother. Masons, like married folks, even when they recriminate, love; they abuse each other's faults, but will not allow others to abuse them; and if only attention to duty, and a just spirit of promoting true efficiency, and of protecting the weak, characterize Grand Lodge, we fear not that, aided by the wholesome though bitter tonic of impartial truth in the *Freemasons' Magazine*, mutual forbearance and fraternal union will cement the Brotherhood, and each and all usher in the opening year with cordial good wishes for their Master.

Above all, in recognition of the Great Source whence all good emanates, let us not forget we have ascended, by the year 1857, one bar more in the ladder resting against the entrance of the Eternal Lodge; nor that, as the breath issues from the climber, and precedes him, so our gratitude for another past year's mercies should anticipate our arrival at the Celestial City. If misfortune has touched, but not discomfited us, if death has shaken our resting-place, yet not over-

thrown us, let us remember that evil is good to those who consider whence it comes, its purport, and who, merging the past in the present, contrast what is, with what might have been. Seasons vary, now we have too much sunshine, now too much rain, according to our shortsightedness; let us be thankful for enough of *both*. The weather and the seasons, with their fruits and lessons, come always right at the year's end; why then should the most constant, ay! and sincere, tribute from man to his Maker be—Complaint?

FOUNDATION OF FREEMASONS' HALL.—“In the year 1776,” continued my amusing companion, “I had the gratification, under a new Master, of witnessing the most magnificent spectacle it is possible to conceive; for it realized the gorgeous description of the Arabian Tales. I refer to the solemn dedication of Freemasons' Hall. The numerous band of Grand and Past Grand officers, in full Masonic costume; the galleries crowded with ladies of rank and fashion, presenting the appearance of a magnificent *parterre* decorated with a galaxy of exotic flowers dazzling to the eye; a hundred musicians, vocal and instrumental, placed in the orchestra; the Masters and Wardens of private Lodges arranged, like a holy Sanedrim, in order of precedence upon the benches on the floor; added to the splendid and tasteful decorations in the Hall itself, produced a *coup d'œil* which exceeds my powers of rhetoric to describe.

“It was a superb sight to behold the Brethren, invested with the badges and appendages suitable to their rank, entering the hall from the committee-room, and proceeding to the throne of Solomon, compass the room three several times to sweet music, amidst the waving of handkerchiefs and scarfs from the ladies in the galleries. The Grand Tyler led the way, then followed the Lodge, covered with white satin, borne by four serving brethren; after which, the corn, wine, and oil, in covered vessels of gold and silver, carried by Master Masons of good standing in the Order, followed by the members of the Hall Committee, and the Brethren of the Alfred Lodge, Oxford, two and two, in their academical dress, surmounted by the insignia of their several offices.

“But it will be an unnecessary waste of time,” the Square interjected, parenthetically, “to describe the order of a procession which must be perfectly familiar to you. When the preliminary ceremonies were completed, and the Lodge placed in the centre of the hall; when the three lesser lights, with the gold and silver pitchers containing the elements of consecration, were placed thereon; when the three great lights, on a velvet cushion, were deposited upon the pedestal in solemn silence, then did the heart of every Brother present rebound, like the war-horse at the thrilling blast of the trumpet, on hearing the simultaneous burst of harmony from the orchestra, which introduced the opening symphonies of the foundation-stone anthem,—

‘To heaven's High Architect all praise,’ &c.,

which was sung by Mr. Hudson, of St. Paul's Cathedral, the choruses being filled up by the whole band.

“The ceremony, I assure you, sir, was very imposing; and although the eye was satiated with the gorgeous display, and the ear delighted by the sweet influence of music, yet the heart of every person in this vast assembly was carried away by the oration of the Grand Chaplain, whose matchless eloquence of language and grace of delivery riveted the attention of his audience. And when he pronounced any particularly fine passage, with all the energy of enthusiasm, the acclamations were unbounded; and the conclusion of the address, after a deep silence of a few seconds, was hailed with such peals of enthusiastic cheering, as have scarcely ever since been heard within the walls of Freemasons' Hall. The triumph of the orator was complete.—*Revelations of a Square.*

PENCILLINGS FROM THE SKETCH-BOOK OF A MADRAS OFFICER.

BY AN INFANTRY M.M.

CHAPTER IV.

MUSINGS ON THE PAST AND FUTURE OF INDIA, FOLLOWED BY A
CHANGE FROM PERSONAL NARRATIVE TO A TALE OF FICTION.

'Tis the clime of the East ;—'tis the land of the Sun."

Byron.

WONDERFUL as is the extent of empire into which, since our first conquests, the British possessions in the East have gradually become consolidated, till they have, as it is truly said, been made to constitute the brightest gem in the crown of England ; and singular as were the successive steps by which such acquisitions were gained, not less surprising to the uninitiated in such matters does it appear, that till within a very brief period so little, compared with other more recently adopted countries, where civilization has made such rapid strides, should have been done by practical methods to test the fertility of the soil of India—to advance the fructuation of its vegetable and improve its animal productions, or to develop to their full extent its hidden treasures and mineral advantages, so as to bear more closely on our own commercial prosperity as a nation, and benefit the hundred and fifty millions of natives now under the control of Britain, and amongst whom we have so long sojourned. The reason, however, to those who have there passed a long and allotted part of life's brief span, and been employed in the public service, is obvious and distinct. Doubtless had we, as a people, but only a short time back thrown up the cards, could it have been possible to have given up the game of conquest, and returning all we had reaped into the hands of the descendants of the ancient proprietors of the soil, bid farewell to Hindostan for ever, a statesman, being called upon in his place in Parliament to point out some great and lasting monument of her prosperity under our rule—some column of distinction on which is indelibly traced in unmistakeable characters the civilizing agency of our own glorious institutions—in order to show that for upwards of two hundred and fifty years, since the first charter was granted to the East-India Company by Queen Elizabeth, the English had held sway, small in extent at first, but increasing in magnitude during successive eras, and now undisputed over such a vast expanse of territory,—he would have been sorely puzzled to do so. One great and glorious object in reference to the religious element, he might say, had been achieved—Christianity had

been introduced, and to a considerable degree, diffused; but in other respects, he would not have been outstepping the bounds of veracity in affirming that such an indication came not within the limits of his ken. On the contrary, we may imagine he would have delivered himself and argued thus:—"We have been ever in an unsettled state—our tenure has been marked by the pressure from without, if not of actual warfare protracted and expensive, by a constant preparation for it; while, from within, we have had to contend with the *vis inertiae* of native indolence,—the mighty barrier of deeply-rooted prejudices in a gradually subjugated people of various castes, whose minds, presenting a complex form of ideas, were of too chaotic a character to be speedily and efficaciously worked upon by the genius of European civilization; their mental tendencies were adverse, and their feelings moulded in every imaginable shape of antagonism, to an interference with their own antiquated usages, and original habits of thought and action."

But now that a spirit of inquiry has gone out from among us—now that we are better known than we were in the last century by the people of India, the case is altered. With occasionally trifling outbreaks of a merely local or frontier character, we have comparative rest and security in our Eastern possessions. Steam, we know, has for a long time past been a great agent in bringing Great Britain and India into more immediate contact, and a closer interest at home has been of late years excited in the condition of the swarthy races of the latter country; and what may not the introduction of iron roads into India, now progressing, and in some parts completed, be expected to effect? When the railway-engine whistle is heard across the once almost trackless plains, and intersecting lines bring their giant strength to bear on the general benefit of the country, what vast advantages in every way will accrue! Soon, too, will that wonder of the age, the electric telegraph, effect the most speedy transmission of intelligence between home and India; and what are we to think when we are told in sober seriousness, that the day may yet come when the line of rail shall be completed by which the traveller may reach Calcutta in seven days from the British metropolis!

It has been stated, that the first starting of an engine on the line at one of our presidencies, occasioned the utmost consternation among the bewildered natives, who were spectators of the scene. Rushing about in an affrighted manner, they exclaimed, "*Shaetan hy!*" (It is a demon); but already they have found out their mistake, and now welcome its approach as a beacon-light—the herald of their advancing prosperity.

A superficial glance, however, at the map of Asia, will suffice to show us that in 1856, from Cashmere in the north to Cape Comorin in the south, and in longitude from the mouth of the Indus to the Himalaya Mountains, we have indeed an important empire at our feet!—a noble field for the genuine philanthropist and man of enterprize—an arena in which to scatter the seeds of knowledge and all that

tends to the good of our fellow-men broadcast o'er the land, by means of which the native's prosperity shall be advanced, and his mind be elevated and refined—in the contemplation of which, the language of the poet, when apostrophizing England, suggests itself to us:—

“ O thou Ocean Queen,
Be these thy toils, when thou hast laid
The thunderbolt aside!
HE who hath blest thine arms
Will bless thee in these holy works of peace ! ”

The time has been, and I can recollect it, when no European adventurer could travel into the interior without a passport. In days gone by, too, there was no free press. As a contrast in respect of travelling between what has been and what will now be in India's improved condition, let me here make a passing remark on the state of what were, rather amusingly, called our *high roads*, but a few miles only from the metropolis of Southern India. They were mere lanes of mud or sand, according as the season was wet or dry, and when passing over the great “*Maidan*,” or plains, the route could only be discoverable here and there by the ruts of some lately revolving *bandy*, or cartwheel, as the ponderous and ill-shapen carriage had traversed the indistinctly-marked way, laden with supplies of pale ale and confectionary for a military mess at some distant station. The physical features of the country were, in fact, about the same as they must have been in the days of Alexander the Great; for it may fairly be said, at any rate with regard to the Presidency of Madras, that until lately, when the great thoroughfare from the Carnatic to Mysore, and thence across the entire peninsula to the Nilgherry Hills and through Coorg to Mangalore, was wonderfully improved, and in some parts practically opened for the first time, saving within the precise limits of civil and military stations, by-roads in England were fifty per cent. better. The impression a traveller would have formed would be, that seemingly we had heretofore been accustomed to view India as a grand field for the display of martial prowess;—as the 'vantage ground of heroes, a safety-valve for the aspirings of the adventurous youth of Britain's redundant population;—as a sort of moving camp on a gigantic scale. It will no longer bear this aspect; and doubtless, under Providence, one great and prominent advantage arising from the introduction of railways, will be the avoiding in future the chances of that fearful scourge, the cholera; since, instead of the long and tedious march of hundreds of miles at the average rate of ten miles a day, and occupying months to accomplish, the transit of troops can be effected by the train. In like manner, shortly will the old expedient of a palanquin and bearers, to stead the passenger to the interior, be exploded, and in place thereof he will take his ticket, and seat himself in the railway-carriage, as at home.

Up to this point, indulgent reader, I have endeavoured to engage your attention to a personal narrative; but, as I and my companions have now established ourselves at the cadets' quarters, permit me here

to drop my individuality, and merge my own adventures by a sort of prosopopœia into those of another—to transfer them to an “*alter ego*”—in the story of Indian life which I am about to present to your notice. What has been written, I wish you to understand, is but a preparatory episode to what is to follow.

Behold, then, with the rapidity of a dissolving view in a panorama a change occurs, and I step at once from the ground of autobiography to wander upon the field of fiction; of fiction, however, founded upon fact; though, to calm down the apprehensions of the numerous tribe of Whites, Blacks, Joneses, and Browns, Johnsons and Thompsons, names which exist “as plenty as blackberries” in all professions, let me add here that, in admitting to my pages incidents which have occurred in the course of my experience, I am but holding “the mirror up to nature” in the scenes I depict, while at the same time I disavow all personality, and state that I herein sketch no character which, viewed in its entirety, might justly be set down as the prototype of any defunct or existing individual.

A *dissolving view*! all suggestive of *melting moments*, and therefore characteristic of the climate of India, which, if it does not work wonders in creating an *aspiring* hero, turns a man, at least, into a *perspiring* one!

It is then within a year or two subsequent to my own arrival in India, whence the tale, which forms the subject-matter of the following pages, dates its commencement. A large party of gentlemen cadets were now at the quarters, increased, on a burning day in July, by the advent of three young men, who will figure here by the names of Hugh Fitzallan, Aylmer St. George, and Mason Holwood.

The two former were of a very gentlemanly stamp, rather good-looking, and in all respects, both as regards mind and body, pretty well gifted by nature; but Fitzallan, in addition to the advantages he possessed of a fine person and a stature exceeding six feet, while his companion was several inches less in height, had received that of a university education for a time, when St. George was but a youth at a large grammar-school, from the trammels of which he had been but just released previous to sailing for India. They were known to each other in England; both were high-spirited, and a similarity of feeling existed between them, which ripened into friendship; they had occupied the same cabin on the voyage out, and were determined, if possible, to enter the same regiment in India. Fitzallan, the elder by three years, without assuming the place of a monitor, had much influence over St. George, who was not only disposed to look up to his friend as his superior in age, but also because he felt that in Fitzallan he saw a man he could esteem—one more matured in intellect than himself, and a collegian. The father of Fitzallan, a private gentleman in Shropshire, had at one period of his life been a wealthy landed proprietor, but a lawsuit had ruined him; the son and heir, no longer able to prepare himself for the bar nor bear the expenses of an Oxford undergraduate, was obliged to quit college, and a cadetship having been kindly offered him by an East-India

director of the day, he considered that his father's altered circumstances made it expedient for him to accept it at such a crisis.

Mason Holwood, their shipmate, was a youth of seventeen, with rather an unprepossessing exterior, no manner, and was thought to be wanting in general ability; the son of a Liverpool merchant, his views seemed to be confined to money-getting rather than to the "bubble reputation" of the soldier, and whatever shrewdness he displayed lay in the calculation of the number of rupees he hoped to amass while in the service. On the voyage he had shown considerable petulance of temper, and a habit of flatly contradicting a person in conversation, on which account he was no great favourite, as may be supposed, with his brother cadets.

The trio were seated, on the evening after their arrival at Madras, in the compound of the quarters, dressed in the cool white habiliments worn by Europeans in India; the sea-breeze had set in, and each was indulging himself at his ease in his high-backed arm-chair of canework, smoking a Trichinopoly cheeroot. In front of them was placed a teapoy or little table, on which were the refreshing liquids, cold brandy panee and sangaree. Apparently they were now wrapt in a reverie on the novelty of the scene around them, occasionally interchanging a sentence relative to the voyage out and their fellow-passengers, when Fitzallan, gazing on the sky, exclaimed with enthusiasm to St. George,—

"What a glorious sunset!"

"Indeed it is," answered his friend; "I wish our friends at home could see it."

"True," rejoined Fitzallan. "Why, this is a spectacle worthy of Claude to depict;—and yet it is so beautiful that I am persuaded, could a painter transfer the colours we see above us to his canvas, your home-keeping critic would pronounce them a burlesque upon nature. What a variety of tints of fiery red, orange, green and brown, yet softened off around the great luminary of day, now fast dipping to the horizon in a sheet bright as molten gold, and blended together with the delicate touch of the lovely rainbow light! It is a sight utterly unknown to those who dwell for ever under the comparative gloom of an English sky! Oh, if it could be seen by——"

"One you love in old England, eh, Fitzallan?" said St. George, interrupting him. "Nay, heed not, old fellow, I do not wish to pry into your secrets; but I think you would scarcely be so romantic, or speak with such poetic fire, if you had not some deeper cause than mere admiration of the works of nature. But you are right; no one would believe this without seeing it."

Fitzallan smiled good-humouredly at this sally of his companion, and turning to Holwood for his opinion, who was now looking dreadfully pale in the face after smoking his first Indian cheroot, elicited from that young gentleman a remark that he thought nothing about the sunset, and cared less; and having thus expressed himself, Mr. Holwood said he should go in-doors and lie down.

At this moment the sound of a horse's hoofs advancing at a rapid pace was heard, and a burly-looking officer, with a good-natured visage, arrayed in undress infantry uniform, galloped up to the house, and in a sonorous voice shouted out "Bhaee!" to one of the black menials standing in the verandah. Then lowering its pitch, and saying something in Hindustani, the servant ran out to the cadets, and placed a card in the hand of Mr. Fitzallan. On it was printed "Captain Lucifer Hoaxwell."

"Why, this is the gentleman to whom I brought out an introduction from Sir Harvey Greenhorn, and sent it him only this morning," exclaimed Fitzallan, as he rose to meet the visitor.

Captain Hoaxwell was a very lively, loquacious fellow of about thirty years of age, brusque, but free and easy in his manners, and full of fun. He dismounted, and, unlike the terms of distant civility on which persons in England usually meet on a first introduction, at once offered his hand to Fitzallan, and afterwards to St. George, saying—

"Welcome, young men, to this land of promise! Well, how are you getting on? Let me see! Grog, eh? (looking at the little table and glasses.) That's right! Thanks for your letter, Mr. Fitzallan, from the old knight my uncle. I wish it had contained an order, however, on Figgs and Co., for 1,000 rupees! Well, how are they all down in Devonshire? ages since I saw them! ten years at least!"

All this was said with but little breathing-time, and Fitzallan having given the captain all the news he could recollect, and insisted on his joining them in taking some brandy panee, to which the latter seemed nothing loath,—

"You know, I suppose," said Hoaxwell, laughing boisterously, "why I call this the land of promise, my lads, don't you?"

"No," answered both the gentlemen.

"Well, I'll tell you; because such a lot of fellows get in debt here—*promise to pay*; and then you see, though, till they get staff appointments or money from home, they can't pay; so they're promising young men d'ye see? D'ye twig, eh?"

After an hour's conversation of this sort, which gave the captain in society generally the name of an agreeable rattle, he rose to return home to his bungalow, his regiment—a native infantry one—being at this time located at Perambore, on the outskirts of Madras.

"To-morrow, gentlemen," said the worthy captain, with great volubility, "you will like to see Black Town. You shall go with me. We will have palanquins. I will show you the *lions* of the presidency. I've nothing to do to-morrow, and we will afterwards go to Preston's Hotel, on the esplanade, have a bottle of Champagne and a game at billiards. Do you play? Oh, of course, you do! Tell that old fellow, the butler, Sir John, as we call him, that piece of animated bronze-work, to have the palanquins and bearers at the quarters by eleven o'clock; and, now, good night! Expect me soon after breakfast;" and the captain, vaulting into his saddle, cantered off to his quarters.

"If," said Fitzallan to St. George, on Captain Hoaxwell's departure, "the English climate chills the blood of the warmest constitution, it is very certain the converse of the proposition holds good in the East. Here the heat raises the animal spirits most remarkably. What a prodigious flow that man has; but he seems a good fellow!"

"Say rather," replied St. George, "that he 'keeps his spirits up by pouring spirits down;' but I won't be uncharitable: we shall see more of him soon. What has become of Holwood? The hall is lighted, I see; let us go in to supper."

Here they found their fellow-cadet reclining on a sofa, and grumbling out sundry invectives against the heat and mosquitoes. The cheroots, too, he said were odious.

"Then why attempt to smoke at all, if it makes you unwell?" asked St. George.

"Oh, they say in feverish places tobacco is wholesome; so a fellow in the army ought to know how to ward off sickness," responded Holwood.

"They say! who say it?" inquired Fitzallan; and added, "Though pleasant, I doubt its efficacy."

On the following day, punctual to his engagement, Captain Hoaxwell called at the quarters: the result of his visit will be seen.

LA VENDEE.

A DRAMATIC POEM.

(Continued from page 839, of Vol. ii.)

HENRI.

How now, my sister Eleanora? Well?

ELEANOR.

Ay! well, quite well whenever thou art by.

HENRI.

Then, why this pensive look and clouded brow?
Eleanor, I have heard Old Winter term'd
A jolly fellow; yet, now, Nature gives
Her dreariest welcome to him. Now thou, sweet,
Dost treat me much the same.

ELEANOR.

Hold! hold! thy simile is good; and, in truth,
Winter may well be jolly; has he not
Ta'en all the treasures which Dame Nature lavish'd
On Autumn, Spring, and Summer, hoarding them
With zeal of a snow-bearded miser?
Impossible that she could give him *more*.
And thou too, Henri, hast thou not my gems,
My heart-gems taken? And yet how thou blamest
The blank which thou hast left!

HENRI.

Fie! fie, sweet sister! dip not now thy lips
 Into dissimulation. I could laugh,
 To hear from those red rubies that thy love
 Entire to *me* is given.
 Nay blush not so;—lo! neck, and face, and arms,
 Are crimson now. Eleanor, thou art
 As a pure snowdrop dipp'd in royal blood;
 Thy pouting lips, like some o'erhanging drops,
 Wait to be caught. [*He kisses her.*]
 Oh! that I were the keeper of thy heart,—
 That casket for all jewels. *I* forsooth!
 'Twould be too mighty, ample for my care.
 Grant mine's a better simile than thine,
 Because more truthful.

ELEANOR.

Well, be it so. I give it up to thee.

HENRI.

Ay, now as ever. Thou didst never seek
 To call the last word thine. But, Eleanor,
 I did not come to dally with thy words,
 As autumn pulls in pieces summer buds;
 My errand was to bid thy fingers plait
 Those truant tresses back, to hurry thee
 To give first welcome to the patriot's friends,—
 Lescure and Cathelineau.

ELEANOR.

Cathelineau!

HENRI.

Cathelineau, whom I've long'd to meet
 E'er since those wondrous words I told to thee
 Fell on my ear. Oh, I could not forget
 Him to whom Genius must have given birth.

ELEANOR.

Go, go, I will rejoin thee soon.

[*Exit Henri.*]SCENE 2ND.—[*Eleanor sitting alone in a wood.*]

Lonely I've wander'd to this aged wood,—
 Sad as if God had planted my worn heart
 In chaos' deepest centre.
 The sun gleams redly through the grove, and makes
 The leaflets almost tremble as they gaze
 With upturn'd faces on his heated brow;
 The aged trees now fold their arms together,
 And fill the air with low and sleepy yawns,
 Refusing steadily to let him walk
 At their cool feet. "Go, go," they cry, "and spend
 Your kisses on the tiny flowers and shrubs;
 And when anon wearied with dalliance, vent
 Your turbulence on them, or weep it out
 Beneath some thunder-cloud." The sulky sun
 Slow turns his steps away, and wanders down
 To the blue west, telling at times his grief.

“LABOUR AND REFRESHMENT,”

AN ADDRESS BY BRO. THE REV. JOHN KINGSTON, BISHOP COSIN'S HALL, DURHAM

FELLOW MASONS,—The time is, indeed, come when the Brethren must apply themselves in earnest to the work of reformation. Undeterred by the apathy which overspreads the Craft generally, those of us who realize their solemn responsibilities and value their important privileges, must beware of shrinking from the former or of abusing the latter.

That the privileges of the Order have been conferred on the unworthy, and that as a consequence the responsibilities attaching to those privileges have been disregarded, is undeniable. Such a state of things must surely cause grief and pain to us; but rectify them we eventually will, provided we invite to us as auxiliaries, *Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice.*

Now it is on the first of these virtues I would take the liberty of specially addressing you.

It is, you must be aware, a prevalent opinion, though, I need not say, a most unfounded one, that Masonic Lodges are mere convivial meetings, around which the veil of mystery is thrown, for the purpose of unrestrained indulgence in wine-bibbing and revelry. It was only this day I met with the following passage from Dr. Macnish, quoted in “The Glass and its Victims,” by Samuel Laird, M.D.: “Let the frequenter of drinking clubs, *Masonic Lodges*, and *other bacchanalian* assemblages, leave off attending these places; and, if he must drink, let him do so at home, where there is every likelihood his potations will be less liberal.”

False and calumnious as this reflection on our Craft is, I should not have noticed it, but that I consider it an exponent of the estimation in which we are held by too many of the uninitiated, whose good-will and respect it would be both our duty and our interest to cultivate and maintain. And, indeed, to speak candidly, we are, I think, ourselves somewhat blameable in this matter; for why should we not at once, with true Masonic “fortitude,” cut down this root of bitterness, and remove the stumbling-block by which so many of “the poor, pitiable uninitiated” are tripped up? And sure I am, that no Brother who has the *real* interests of Masonry at heart, will ever regret the exercise of that self-denial which, with the blessing of the G.A.O.T.U., would be instrumental in producing the following supremely important results:—

Firstly.—The removal of general prejudice above alluded to.

Secondly.—The *repulsion* of such of the uninitiated as are influenced by unworthy motives to seek admission into the Order, and whose lives, after their initiation, give the lie to the pure and noble principles which they profess.

Thirdly.—The *attraction* of a greater number of the virtuous, the talented, the learned, and the influential, who would restore the lustre of our Order, which has been dimmed by indiscriminate admission into its privileges.

Fourthly.—The vast increase of the Lodge funds (too long squandered in banquets), by which the widow and the orphan, and the reduced worthy Brother might be sent rejoicing away, and the real benevolence of our system made to shine before the eyes of an envious and incredulous world.

Fifthly.—The removal of such obstacles as now stand in the way of those who cannot conscientiously join in anything which approaches in the slightest degree to “revellings and banquettings.” Many such Masons I know to be now standing aloof, who, if this evil were removed, would gladly come amongst us, and doubtless exercise a most salutary influence over us.

But let not anything which I have said be construed as militating against Provincial Grand Lodge, and other public (if I may so style them) banquets, on special occasions. It is against *private* Lodge refreshment I would lift my voice. It is against the heartless and unjust allocation of admission fees to purposes other than *benevolent* and *charitable*, that I would most strenuously protest.

Arouse yourselves then, ye who are imbued with true Masonic principle; never rest satisfied till you are enabled to say to him who would taunt us with intemperance, “Friend, you greatly mistake; no intoxicating beverage is ever admitted within the portals of our Lodge; it is ‘the feast of reason’ which we partake of; it is ‘the flow of soul’ which we sip within its hallowed precincts.”

Let the world see by our exhibition of the three theological, and of the four cardinal virtues, that it is a great, a solemn, and a blessed privilege to be a Mason, not in *name*, but in *deed* and in *truth*.

“I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.”

MASONIC PURSUITS.—When I recommend a diligent attention to Masonic pursuits, I would not be understood to advise that course at the expense of your worldly business. The one is indispensable, the other a relaxation. The necessary avocations of life must on no account be disregarded. Your family must be provided for, your moral status must be honourably maintained, your engagements satisfied, and your employment punctually attended to. But if you are a prudent economist of time, all these duties will leave you an abundance of leisure for the requirements of Masonry. One must be done, and the other not left undone. The characters of a good and worthy member of society, and of a zealous Mason, are not irreconcilable or incompatible with each other, but on the contrary may easily be blended. This is a great secret; and he that is master of it will be respected both in the world and in the Lodge.

TRUE MASONS.—Silence, secrecy, and calmness of temper, are the unmistakable marks of a true Mason. He who incessantly boasts of his knowledge may be set down as an empty chatterer. Noise is not wisdom. Those who ostentatiously proclaim their own merits may for a time enjoy the satisfaction of deceit; yet, in the end, their pretensions are sure to be exposed.—*Dr. Oliver’s Book of the Lodge.*

A SECOND CANTO FOR THE NEW YEAR.

THOUGHTS lay upon my heart as snow-wreaths cover,
 Soft in the summer time some alpine hill,
 And musingly I watch'd the moments hover
 Over the old year ere his pulse grew still ;
 While through each crevice of yon moss-grown tower,
 Shaking each wither'd ivy-leaf from sleep,
 Mingled with mystic voices from night's bower,
 The wild deep carols of the joy-bells sweep.

Stars were above me, gazing on the dying,
 Glassing with light the symbols which amid
 The white locks of the passing year were lying,
 And soft light fell on each transparent lid,
 Beneath which I could watch old feelings sleeping,
 Old hopes, young treasures, which had now gone by,
 Wet with the tears my worn heart had been weeping,
 Incrusted o'er with many a frozen sigh.

Life, and this strange existence rose before me,
 Dimness, and mystery, and shadowy things,
 While yet I thought, the New Year bending o'er me,
 Fanned my hot brow with her still parted wings ;
 And on my weary spirit in its sadness,
 Her silv'ry tones play'd as the rosy breath
 Of lovely spring, in her most happy gladness,
 Often doth steal to kiss the brow of Death.

" Think upon life, it hath its wealth of seeming,
 Crush'd love, which Death, not Time, can e'er subdue,
 Its fantasies, its hopes, its wondrous dreaming,
 Its broken hearts which nothing can renew ;
 Change passeth over all, there's not a feeling
 But hollow'd out that anguish may rest there ;
 Thou livest but to watch the sad revealing
 Of the enshrouded wretchedness of care.

" Hark ! the mysterious language which is rushing
 Through the lone midnight, borne upon the wings
 Of the sweet chimes which from yon tower are gushing,
 Calls back the mem'ry of departed things ;
 The heart would nestle down on old affection,
 But findeth not the resting-place of yore,
 There is some thorn e'en in the recollection,
 Of what is pass'd, to come again no more."

EMILIE MUNZ.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I trust you will allow me to communicate to the Fraternity through the medium of your widely-extended and useful Journal, that I have at length consented, in compliance with the numerous and oft-repeated solicitations of Brethren in every part of the island, to furnish the Masonic world with a practical survey of the esoteric jurisprudence of symbolical Masonry, as it is enunciated in the English Book of Constitutions, exemplified in the collected opinions of legal and scientific Brethren, and confirmed by the decisions of Grand Lodge.

I am not ignorant, that in order to accomplish such an arduous undertaking with any certainty of success, something more will be required than the solitary researches of a single individual, however, his Masonic knowledge may have been perfected by experience, or his intellect matured by reading and reflection; and it is under the influence of this feeling that I invite the ready concurrence and cheerful acquiescence of intelligent Brethren who have collected facts and formed sound opinions on the interesting subject of Masonic legislation, to extend their valuable assistance towards the illustration of difficult or doubtful points in the discipline of our arcane science.

As a veteran labourer in the Masonic vinyard, therefore, I submit my request (and I hope it will not be considered unreasonable), to the Masters of Lodges and the Fraternity at large, that they will freely communicate to me any cases and decisions, queries, suggestions, or disputed positions which may have occurred within the compass of their experience, and created a difference of opinion amongst the Brethren of their respective Lodges. And I am the rather inclined to anticipate a favourable acquiescence with my petition, inasmuch as the proposed work is not of a speculative nature, embracing any sectional division of the Craft, but of universal application to the requirements of English Freemasonry and the constitutions of the Grand Lodge; and consequently unrestricted in its utility as a book of reference to all members of the community without exception, how widely soever they may differ from each other in the views and opinions on the historical, doctrinal, or legendary points of ancient symbolical Masonry.

Believe me to be, my dear Sir,

NORMAN PLACE, LINCOLN,
Dec. 10th, 1856.

Your faithful Brother,
GEORGE OLIVER, D.D.

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

SIR,—At the last Grand Lodge, I ventured to express an opinion that the Master of a Lodge has no power, of his own authority, to exclude any Brother who shall have given the requisite proofs of his being a Mason, and thereupon claim admission into the Lodge, and to dissent from the proposition of the Grand Registrar, to the effect that the Master had such a power.

Time did not allow me then to refer to the Constitutions, [and I spoke only

from a general recollection of the law on the subject, and of the duty of the Inner Guard (repeated at the opening of every Lodge) to admit Masons on proof.

I beg now, however, to request the favour of being allowed, through the medium of your columns, to call the attention of the Craft to this matter, and to point out that the proposition made and carried at the last Grand Lodge is not in accordance with the existing Constitutions.

The only clauses which speak of the exclusion of members are, I believe, the following ;—under the head of “The Grand Master,” No. 8 ; “Provincial Grand Master,” No. 4 ; “Private Lodges,” No. 21 ; “Members, and their Duty,” No. 6. In each case, the exclusion is exclusion *by the Lodge*. I find no place where the power to exclude is given to *the Master*. And even a Lodge cannot exclude without giving the Brother notice of the complaint against him, and appointing a time for its consideration. The Constitution “Private Lodges,” No. 21, runs thus :—“No Lodge shall exclude any member without giving him due notice of the complaint made against him, and of the time appointed for its consideration. The name of every Brother excluded, with the cause of exclusion, shall be sent to the Grand Secretary ; and, if a country Lodge, also to the Prov. Grand Master.

Again, if a *Lodge* cannot exclude without going through the formalities enjoined by this law, *à fortiori* a *Master of a Lodge* cannot, even if I were to admit that the Master had the power to exclude at all, which I do not admit—and yet, if my recollection serves me, Grand Lodge resolved that the Master could exclude of his own authority, and at once.

Whether it be or be not desirable to give a Lodge the power to exclude an unworthy member at the moment, and without giving him the previous notice now required, I will not now argue. I can conceive a case in which such a power might be beneficially exercised ; but I should doubt the propriety of placing it in the hands of any individual, looking to the evils which its arbitrary exercise might involve.

I remain Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

GEO. FRED. NEWMARCH.

CIRENCESTER, Dec. 9th, 1856.

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

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In the September number of your excellent Magazine, I find that the Prov. Grand Master of Western India has come boldly forward, in his own name, and denounced my letter to you of the 5th March last, as being “full of the most gross misstatements.” He asserts that, he has “no hesitation in declaring” such to be the case, and challenges me to give my name as he does his. Alas ! the Prov. Grand Master of Western India has had “no hesitation in declaring” and doing so much that was both ill-judged and wrong that his present “declaration” will have no weight with those who know anything of him ; and, as to his challenge, I am sorry I cannot oblige him. My name you have, and that I think quite sufficient, and my Masonic standing and experience, I humbly submit, entitle my statements to some consideration.

I have carefully read over again my letter to you of the 5th March last, and, save in one unimportant particular, I do not see that I have overstated anything.

The mistake, I admit, is this : I stated in my letter that the English Lodge “St. George” was revived *after* the W.M. of Lodge Perseverance had been foiled in his endeavour to establish a system of *Snobocracy*. In this I find I was wrong. The Lodge “St. George” was revived *before* that time, but how, I have as yet been unable to ascertain. At all events, the spirit of *Oliquism* only began to be fully developed and R.W. Bro. Cartwright's antagonism to his own Lodge to be manifested on the occasion specified in my letter of the 5th March last. A candidate proposed by him, but obnoxious to many of the members, happened to be black-balled in rather a decided manner. His worship got into a rage, had “no hesitation in declaring” that there existed in the Lodge a combination to black-ball *every* candidate that was brought forward, and actually *declared* the Lodge should not open again. He put it to the Lodge then, whether that was not the best course to adopt, *but not a hand was raised in support* of his arbitrary

determination. And yet, Mr. Editor, in a draft letter, subsequently addressed by him to the then Prov. Master Le Geyt, he *declared* again that *he had the consent of a large majority of the Lodge* to the measure he had resolved on ! When he circulated this draft of this letter he was told in a minute by one of the members that his statement in regard to the majority was not a true one ; and, subsequently, at a special meeting convened by himself, the assembled Brethren repudiated the existence of any conspiracy, and vindicated the ballot. He was driven to the wall, compelled to withhold his letter, and to continue the working the Lodge as usual.

What shall we say of a man who acts in this way ? I can give you many instances of a darker hue even than this, but as Lodge Perseverance and the Prov. Grand Master of Western India are now at open war, and the circumstances are all before the Grand Lodge of Scotland, I will refrain. Subscribing myself meanwhile,

Yours fraternally,

Δ.

BOMBAY, Nov. 3, 1856.

ROYAL FREEMASONS' SCHOOL FOR FEMALE CHILDREN.

Christmas Tree.—The children in this admirable institution have prepared a very splendid "tree" during their holidays, and we have been invited to witness their enjoyment of it on Friday, the 10th of January, when it is expected many of the friends of the institution will be present, at from five o'clock until ten, to participate in it. We believe we may say that it will be quite an open evening for the reception of such of the governors and their families as can make it convenient to be present.

ROYAL FREEMASONS' ASYLUM.

In the early part of the past month the East Surrey Lodge of Concord (No. 680) sent to each inmate of the Asylum for Aged Masons and their Widows at Croydon the very seasonable gift of two sacks of coal, sixty packages of wood, and two boxes of lucifers.

GRAND MASTERS.

For the entertainment of our readers, we publish a complete list of all the Grand Masters since the year 1722, viz.—

Francis Scott, Earl of Dalkeith.	H. Brydges, Marquis of Caernarvon.
Charles Lenox, Duke of Richmond,	Robert Raymond, Lord Raymond.
Lenox, and Aubigny.	John Keith, Earl of Kintore.
J. Hamilton, Lord Paisley.	J. Douglass, Earl of Morton.
Wm. O'Brien, Earl of Inchiquin.	John Ward, Lord Ward.
Henry Hare, Lord Golrain.	Thomas Lyon, Earl of Strathmore.
James King, Lord Kingston.	James Cranstoun, Lord Cranstoun.
Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk.	Wm. Byron, Lord Byron.
T. Coke, Lord Lovell.	John Proby, Lord Carysfort.
Anthony Brown, Lord Viscount Montacute.	James Brydges, Earl Caernarvon.
James Lyon, Earl of Strathmore.	Sholto Ch. Douglas, Lord Aberdour.
John Lindsey, Earl of Crauford.	Wm. Shirley, Lord Ferrars.
Thomas Thynne, Lord Viscount Weymouth.	Lord Petre.
John Campbell, Earl of Loudon.	Duke of Cumberland.
Edward Bligh, Earl of Darnley.	Prince of Wales.
	Duke of Sussex, and at present
	Earl of Zetland.

By the above noble list of Grand Masters, such as no age, society, or kingdom, could ever boast to have ruled them, Masonry has been fixed on the solid basis it now stands.

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION, *December 3, 1856.*

The usual Quarterly Communication was held December 3rd, at which the M.W. the Grand Master presided in person, and was supported by Bros. Hall, Prov. G.M. for Cambridgeshire, as D.G.M.; Rawson, Prov. G.M. for China, as S.W.; Patteson, Prov. G.W., as J.W.; Sir Lucius Curtis, Prov. G.M. for Hampshire; Bond Cabbell, Prov. G.M. for Norfolk; Capt. Bowyer, Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire; Fleming, Prov. G.M. for the Isle of Wight; Bagshaw, Prov. G.M. for Essex; Col. Burlton, P. Prov. G.M. for Bengal; Dr. Kent, P. Prov. G.M. for Australia; Williams, D. Prov. G.M. for Sydney; Dobie, G. Reg.; Tomkins, G. Treas.; Rev. J. E. Cox, G. Chap.; White, G. Sec.; Farnfield, Assist. G. Sec.; Jennings, G. Dir. of Cers.; Chapman, Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; Ransford, G. Org.; Smith, G. Purs.; Beadon, P.G.W.; Sir J. W. Hayes, P.G. Chap.; Parkinson, P.G.D.; John Hervey, P.G.D.; Havers, P.G.D.; Potter, P.G.D.; Norris, P.G.D.; King, P.G.S.B.; J. N. Tomkins, P.G.S.B.; Biggs, P.G.S.B.; Spiers, P.G.S.B.; Charles Elkington, P.G.S.B.; Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; Patten, P.G.S.B.; &c. &c.

NEW GRAND TYLER.—RESIGNATION OF THE GRAND SECRETARY.

The Lodge having been opened in ample form,—

The M.W. the Grand Master said: “Brethren, before we proceed to the regular business, there are two communications which I wish to make to you: the first is, that there is a vacancy in the Office of Grand Tyler, and I beg to inform Grand Lodge that I have appointed Bro. Charles Payne, of the Freemasons’ Tavern, to that Office. (Applause.) The next communication which I have to make is, that the Grand Secretary, who has filled his office now for twenty years, has placed his resignation in my hands (hear, hear), but I have declined to accept it for the present, because I am not prepared at this moment to appoint a successor. (Hear.) I am placed in a difficult position; at the same time I confess that, considering the advanced age of the Grand Secretary, it is a difficulty which I ought to have been prepared to meet. At the present moment, however, I am not so prepared. I can assure Grand Lodge, that the subject shall receive at my hands that attention which its importance demands; and I will endeavour to find a successor who may work beneficially for the Craft. (Cheers.) At the same time I feel confident that services so lengthened and so valuable as those which Bro. White has rendered should be dealt with liberally. (Hear, hear.) I will not now anticipate what Grand Lodge may do, but I do feel confident that Bro. White, though he retires from the Office of Grand Secretary, may still render valuable and important services to Masonry. (Hear, hear.) These services cannot be too highly estimated, and I shall propose that we shall retain those services as far as possible. (Hear, hear.) The Grand Master’s room will always be at his disposal, and he will be able to be consulted there on matters affecting the interests of the Craft. I hope, therefore, that Grand Lodge will concur with me in not accepting Bro. White’s resignation till some successor of a suitable character may be found.” (Applause.)

The balloting papers were then distributed, and the voting was at once proceeded with for Past Masters for the Board of Benevolence.

THE MINUTES ALTERED BY THE GRAND MASTER.

The Grand Secretary read the minutes of the previous Quarterly Communication, September 3, which had been altered by the Grand Secretary at the Grand

Master's command. Instead of concluding by stating that "Grand Lodge adjourned on the motion of Bro. H. G. Warren," they ended by simply saying, "Grand Lodge was then closed." The adjourned Grand Lodge was totally ignored; and the next minutes read were those of the Grand Lodge of Emergency, held November 19th.

Bro. Binckes rose apparently with the view of re-opening, in some way, the question as to the power of adjourning Grand Lodge, but he was put down by the M.W. the Grand Master, who ruled that he was out of order.

Bro. Gregory, on the question of the confirmation of the minutes, said:—"M.W. Sir and Brethren, I rise to move that the minutes of the Grand Lodge of Emergency be *not* confirmed so far as they relate to the appointment of the Colonial Committee. (Hear, hear.) I rise with great diffidence, for, although an old Mason and P.M. of my Lodge, this is only the second time I have ventured to address Grand Lodge. (Hear.) Whether right or wrong, therefore, I trust I shall be received with indulgence. (Cheers.) I was present at the last Grand Lodge, and also at that meeting which preceded it, and which the head of the Craft has decided to have been illegal; but I did not at the Grand Lodge of Emergency say anything against this Colonial Committee, lest, had we decided against it upon that occasion, it might doubtless have been said that the adjourned Lodge was declared illegal for the purpose of throwing over this Colonial Committee. (Hear.) I am not alone in wishing to oppose the confirmation of this part of the minutes, although I am quite aware that it is a very unusual course to pursue (hear, hear), and it is a course which I would never have taken except for very extraordinary reasons. This Colonial Committee is objectionable because it will not fulfil the duties which are expected of it, and for the performance of which it is specially appointed. (Hear.) The causes which led to the appointment of that Committee had been delicately alluded to, and the M.W. the Grand Master had intimated that the Grand Secretary was about to retire. (Hear, hear.) That is a step I am sure which we all regret, although we see the necessity for it. (Hear.) That step, however, will remove all necessity for the appointment of this Colonial Committee. (Loud cries of 'No! no!' and partial cheering.) This Colonial Committee is not a Committee which will work well, and it will certainly produce effects which the movers of this resolution by no means desire. (Hear, hear, and No, no.) It will create an *imperium in imperio*. (No, no.) If you agree to this Committee, you will pass a law which is contrary to existing laws. You are giving to this Colonial Board some of the powers of the Board of General Purposes. You will thus have two rival bodies in Masonry, the precise limits of whose powers and duties are not clearly defined (hear), and they will be continually coming into collision with each other. (Hear, hear, and cries of 'No! no!' and 'Not necessarily.') Such a Board is not needed at all. If in a regiment the duties of an adjutant had been inefficiently performed, would a Board of General Officers be appointed? (Laughter.) Why, no, of course not: a new adjutant would be appointed (hear); and when your lordship appoints a successor to our respected Bro. White, you have the cure in your own hands. (No, no.) You will do all that is necessary by appointing as successor to Bro. White, a Brother who, though he will not have Bro. White's experience, will possess that energy and activity which younger years alone can give. I believe that this is the only remedy to be applied to the evil which has justly been complained of. It seems to me, M.W. Sir, that this Committee is not a legitimate kind of remedy to be applied to such an evil. For these reasons I move, 'That the minutes be confirmed, except in so far as they relate to the appointment of this Colonial Board.'"

This amendment, having been duly seconded, was put by the M.W. the Grand Master; on which—

Bro. Mason said: "M.W. Sir and Brethren, the Brother who has just sat down, has not given us any valid reason why the resolutions which were so carefully considered at the last Grand Lodge should now be altered or repealed. (Hear, hear.) The first objection which he made was, that this Committee would be an *imperium in imperio*; but the worthy Brother himself put an end to whatever force there was in that objection, when he stated that these resolutions put an end

to the powers of the Board of General Purposes, so far as colonial matters were concerned. (Hear, hear.) That observation fully answers the objection that we are creating an *imperium in imperio*. We are setting up concurrent jurisdiction, it is said; but this is not uncommon in this country, and the resolution which is to be moved this evening by the Rev. Bro. Portal, will put an end to any objection which may arise under that head. The colonial affairs will be placed entirely under the jurisdiction of this Colonial Board. I will tell the Brethren who say that this Board is not needed, that there are grave and serious reasons why it should be established, but which, for the sake of saving time, I will not now enter into. (Hear, hear.) There has been gross neglect and great inefficiency. (Hear, hear.) There have been great evils—evils which are even now crying aloud for remedy; and if it rested with anybody to put an end to those evils, it rested with the Board of General Purposes. (Hear, hear.) I have every respect for every officer of Grand Lodge, and for every one of its members, but I will say that there has been gross neglect in colonial matters, and that no measures to prevent those evils have been taken by the parties by whom they ought to have been taken, viz., the Board of General Purposes. (Hear, hear.) That Board having failed to fulfil its duty so long, does not deserve to retain any longer the power of dealing with colonial matters (hear, hear); we have, therefore, bestowed those powers upon the new (Colonial) Board, which will use them efficiently. The time for mere suavity of manners on such points has passed away. (Hear, hear.) We must have efficiency (hear, hear), and not mere politeness, at any cost. (Hear, hear.) I think, therefore, that it is right and proper that the resolutions passed at last Grand Lodge should be now confirmed in their entirety.” (Applause.)

Bro. Aria next attempted to address Grand Lodge, of course in support of the Colonial Board, but he was put down by cries of “Time, time,” and other marks of impatience.

The Rev. Bro. Portal: “Brethren, if there is no one else who will rise to say that——”

Bro. Dobie: “M.W. Sir, I rise to order. I beg to refer the Rev. Brother to the Book of Constitutions, page 66, where he will find that any Brother speaking in Grand Lodge must address himself to the M.W. the Grand Master.” (Hear, hear, laughter, cheers, and cries of “Divide, divide!”)

The Rev. Bro. Portal, having complied with this formality, said: “Having now the permission of the Chair, I shall not be cried down by these calls for a division from the Brethren on my left. The Brother who opened this debate said, that inasmuch as the Grand Secretary had resigned his functions, there was no occasion for the appointment of this special Board to consider the Colonial question. Now, if this objection holds good, we must suppose that the whole of the blame of the neglect and delay rests with the Grand Secretary, which I, for one, am prepared flatly to deny. (Hear, hear.) In despatches from Canada, which I received only yesterday, and which, if it please Grand Lodge, I shall be happy to read, I find that unless something be promptly done, the whole Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada will secede in a body, and a petition is now circulating amongst them, asking the Grand Lodge of England to sanction them as an independent body.”—[A Voice: “So much the better.”]—“A Brother says, ‘So much the better;’ but I say, so much the worse (hear, hear, and loud cheers from all parts of Grand Lodge); and it is because I think that the Grand Lodge of England should continue to exercise supreme power throughout our dominions, that I wish it to consent to the appointment of this Board, which will keep it cognizant of what is passing between ourselves and the colonies.”

The amendment was put and lost, and the minutes were then confirmed amidst loud cheering; it being just a quarter to ten o’clock when the business had reached this stage.

NOMINATION OF GRAND MASTER FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

Bro. Roxburgh nominated the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland as Most Worshipful Grand Master for the ensuing year. In the presence of his lordship he would not say much in his praise. They all knew how ably he had ruled the Order during a long course of years. (Hear.)

Bro. Henry George Warren, P.M. No. 202, begged to nominate the Right Hon. Brother the Lord Southampton, feeling bound to do so in vindication of the principle of a resolution of which he had given notice, for limiting the period a G.M. could hold office.

This announcement evidently took Grand Lodge somewhat by surprise. At first there was, for an instant, silence—a deep calm—then, seeing that Bro. Warren was serious in his proposition, there was a very loud and general cheering from all parts of Grand Lodge, mingled, here and there, with laughter.

A Brother then rose, amidst loud laughter, and wanted to ask Bro. Warren, through the Grand Master, whether he had the permission of Lord Southampton to make such a nomination.

The Grand Master said, he did not think he could allow such a question to be put; but it would be for the Right Hon. Brother Lord Southampton to consider whether he could accept the office should they do him the honour to elect him. (Hear, hear.) It was, therefore, not necessary that such a question should be put.

LODGES ERASED FROM THE LIST.

The Grand Secretary said that the Lodges which stood upon the order for erasure were as follows:—

No. 179, Wakefield, Yorkshire.
 No. 603, Reigate, Surrey.
 No. 651, Deva Lodge, Chester.
 No. 662, Castle Heddingham, Essex.
 No. 675, Lodge of Fortitude, Newton Green, Cheshire.
 No. 681, Lodge of Verity, Ripon, Yorkshire.

As there was some hope, it appeared, that No. 179 would be resuscitated, it was ordered to stand over. No. 603 had made the required returns and payments. The others were ordered to be erased.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

At this stage of the proceedings the Scrutineers returned, and announced the names and numbers which follow:—

Barnes.....	39	Lee	99	Burton	85
Adlard	130	Aldrich	97	Sheen	84
Robinson.....	122	Lyall	89	Barrett.....	84
Young.....	119	Varden	89	Gale	83

These were declared to be duly elected the Board of Benevolence for the year ensuing; but the request being made by some Brother, the following list of the unsuccessful candidates, and the number of their votes, was also read:—

Adams.....	67	Andrew	77	H. S. Cooper	81
Couchman	76	Potter	73	Prince	71
Duff.....	60	D. Samuels.....	75	H. G. Warren	67

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The Grand Secretary then read the report of the relief afforded by the Board of Benevolence during the months of September, October, and November; which was as follows:—

September 24, Bro. Cröhn in the chair, four petitioners were relieved with sums amounting in the aggregate to £60.

October 29, W. Bro. John Hervey in the chair, ten petitioners were relieved with sums amounting in the aggregate to £117. It was also recommended to Grand Lodge to give £30 to the wife of a Brother under peculiarly distressing circumstances.

November 26, Bro. John Hervey in the chair, twelve petitioners were relieved in sums which amounted in the whole to £121.

THE CASE OF MRS. ———.

The M.W. the Grand Master then put the question, "That £30 be granted to the wife of Bro. ———, of No. —, London," in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Benevolence.

Bro. Binckes moved as an amendment, that the sum be £50 instead of £30, and said that he hoped his amendment would meet with the unanimous approval of Grand Lodge. The case was a very deserving one. From personal investigation he found this was one of the most painful cases he had ever known; here were a mother and eight children deprived of the support of their natural protector by one of the most awful visitations of Providence which could well be imagined. The father had been subjected to the loss of his reason, and was, in fact, at that moment, the hopeless inmate of a lunatic asylum! (Sensation.) He (Bro. Binckes) could not find any cause for believing that Bro. ——— had brought this upon himself in any way, by intemperance or excesses of any kind. (Hear, hear, and cheering.) He had been a subscribing member twenty-four years and a half to the Lodge of ———, and the Master of that Lodge had taken upon himself to see that the money granted should really be applied to the relief of the wife and children, and not be absorbed by the parochial authorities. The poor woman had been enabled to open a little shop, but was not doing very much, and this grant would enable her to open a better-stocked shop in a more eligible locality. He hoped that the amendment would be agreed to.

Bro. Potter agreed with all that Bro. Binckes had said. This poor woman was, not long ago, moving in as respectable society as many of themselves.

The amendment, "That £50 instead of £30 be given," was then put by the M.W. the Grand Master, and carried unanimously, amidst loud applause.

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES REPORT.

This report, which was read by the Grand Secretary, announced the insertion of Mr. Cookney's name in the lease of the Freemasons' Tavern, in lieu of that of Mr. Bellinger; and, also, that the agreement had been prepared and executed accordingly; that a counterpart had been executed by the tenants, and delivered into the custody of the Grand Secretary. The Board also reported, that in pursuance of the resolution of the last Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, referring back to the Board the subject of the purchase of certain houses adjoining Freemasons' Hall, and by and with the advice and consent of the Grand Superintendent of Works, that officer had accordingly inspected the said property, and reported it to be worth £2,250. That sum had been offered to the owner of the property, subject to the decision of the Grand Registrar, as to the title deeds, which having been reported satisfactory, the purchase had been completed.

The report next set forth a statement of the receipts and disbursements on account of Grand Lodge during the present quarter, as reported by the Finance Committee, up to their meeting on November 21.

On account of the Fund of Benevolence:—balance in hand October 1, £974; subsequent receipts, £158. 12s. 2d.; making total receipts, £1,132. 12s. 2d. Disbursements, £152; leaving a balance on that account of £980. 12s. 2d.

On account of the General Purposes Fund:—balance October 1, £2,105. 17s. 1d.; since received, £534. 5s.; gross receipts, £2,640. 2s. 1d. Disbursements, to the Boys' Institute, £1,000; to the Annuity Fund, £1,000; to the Widows' Fund, £500: total disbursements, £2,500. 1s. 6d.; leaving a balance in hand of £139. Moneys received for the appropriation of which directions have not yet been given, £430. 13s. 1d. Total balance in hand, £1,556. 5s. 10d.

In the hands of the Grand Treasurer, £105.

These reports were ordered to be received.

Letters were announced to have been received in acknowledgment of the grants above named to the Boys' School and the Annuity Fund.

HAS THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER POWER TO REFUSE ADMISSION INTO A LODGE?

An appeal from the members of Lodge 548, Sydney, New South Wales, was referred to the Colonial Committee, and then a communication from Lord Naas

(accompanied by resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Ireland), was read. Lord Naas, who is the Irish representative at the Grand Lodge of England, was unavoidably absent. His letter was addressed to the Grand Secretary, and was dated November 22, 1856. It was, as nearly as we could catch it, in the following terms :—

“ Dear Sir,—I regret that I was not fortunate enough to find you at the Freemasons’ Hall when I called the other day, as I was desirous of consulting you about the Australian Lodges. I beg you will make the following statement to Grand Lodge on the first occasion which presents itself. Complaints have been preferred against the Prov. Grand Lodge of Sydney, acting under the Grand Lodge of England, by Lodge No. 266, holding under the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, for refusing admission into any of the English Lodges of Brethren belonging to the Irish Lodge, and also for refusing to allow members of English Lodges to visit the Irish Lodge. The subject having been brought under the consideration of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, I was requested by that body to place the question before the Grand Lodge of England. While the subject was under the discussion of the Board of General Purposes, that Board availed itself of the presence of the D. Prov. Grand Master of Australia, Bro. Williams, who happened to be in Dublin on a visit, and from him they understood that he considered the Lodges holding of the Grand Lodges of England, *had a right to refuse* the admission of a member of the Irish Lodge,—though such Brother might not be under suspension—into any of their Lodges; and also that the Prov. Grand Lodge had the power to forbid their members from visiting the Irish Lodge. You will doubtless observe, that the principle involved in this opinion—the principle on which the Lodges under the English Constitution in Sydney appear to have acted—is most important, and deserves the consideration of the Grand Lodge of England. At a meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, held in August last, the law of Masonry, as propounded by Bro. Williams, was discussed and dissented from, as being contrary not only to the written rules, but to the spirit of the Order. The principles on which the English Prov. Grand Lodge in Sydney has acted, appeared to the Grand Lodge of Ireland to be untenable, viz., that, because Lodge No. 266 fraternizes with the St. Andrew’s Lodge,—which it clearly appears is a regularly constituted Lodge, holding under the Grand Lodge of Scotland—therefore the members of it (*i. e.* the Irish Lodge) are to be refused admission into the English Lodges, because certain members, who appear not to have been elected in the English Lodge, were ballotted for and elected in the St. Andrew’s Lodge, which the Prov. Grand Master for Sydney has not thought proper to recognize. Such a course of conduct, the Grand Lodge of Ireland considers, has a tendency to cast a certain amount of stigma upon the Irish Lodges.

“ I have the honour to enclose a copy of a communication forwarded by Bro. McPherson, and an extract from the Minutes of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, at their meeting of August 7. These documents place the matter in the clearest possible light.

“ I regret that I was not able to be present at the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of England in June. I can assure you that the Grand Lodge of Ireland is most anxious that this subject should be discussed in a Masonic spirit, and that the difficulty should be so adjusted as to restore to the Australian Lodges, whether they are acting under the English, Scotch, or Irish Constitutions, that harmony and mutual goodwill which so happily prevail in the Order in the mother country.

“ I remain, with the greatest respect, &c. &c.,

(Signed)

“ NAAS,

“ Irish Representative of the Grand Lodge of England.”

“ Bro. W. H. WHITE, Grand Secretary.”

Enclosures.

The first enclosure was a communication dated Sydney, March 1, 1856, from the Lodge No. 266 above named. It was as follows :—

“ At the formation of the St. Andrew’s Lodge (Scotch), No. 358, about four years ago, a compact was entered into between the Lodges under the English Consti-

tution, No. 666, and No. 257 under the Irish Constitution, not to recognize and acknowledge the said St. Andrew's Lodge, till they had written authority in answer to a communication sent to the Grand Lodge of Scotland respecting the same, as to their application for a warrant, which was generally supposed to have been signed by unauthorized parties not recognized by any other Lodge. In due course an answer was received by the Prov. Grand Master from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the particulars of which, however, were never disclosed. Eight months have elapsed, during which period we have made repeated applications to the Prov. Grand Master and his Lodge for the letter alluded to, or a copy thereof; but we have received no answer whatever. Surely, in common courtesy, if not by right, we were entitled to expect a reply? We had been made a party to the affair, and we have as much respect for the judgment and discernment in our Lodge, as in any of the English Lodges. This conduct on their part is not, in our opinion, at all according to Masonic usage. Eight months having elapsed, and no answer having been returned, our Lodge passed a resolution appointing a deputation of its members to inspect the documents of the aforesaid St. Andrew's Lodge, and if found correct, to acknowledge and fraternize with them; and the Lodge proving properly constituted, this was accordingly done. The English Prov. Grand Master now laid hold of this proceeding, to debar any and all persons, under the Scotch and Irish Constitutions (except No. 267), from visiting their Lodges, and refused all communication with us: and further, they passed a resolution, that any Brother visiting us should be suspended by them. The St. Andrew's Lodge has recently made an application to this Prov. Grand Lodge to form a Committee to inspect its documents, which the Prov. Grand Lodge declined to do, on the plea that it has written home and could not interfere till an answer is received. Such is a plain unvarnished statement of facts which we wish to lay before the Board of General Purposes, in order that they may make a communication to the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland, and ask their advice and assistance. We may as well state, that some of our Brethren have been told verbally that the answer of the Grand Lodge of Scotland was no answer," &c.

(Signed by the Worshipful Master and Wardens.)

Bro. Dobie said this was entirely a question of colonial jurisdiction, and as such, should be referred to the Colonial Board to discuss and report upon. As to the general principle, he was of opinion that the Worshipful Master of a Lodge had power to refuse a visitor if he thought proper. It was monstrous to suppose that a convict, for instance, or other known bad character, could claim admission into a Lodge of gentlemen. (Hear, hear.) As he believed the Worshipful Master and Wardens had a right to admit whom they would, he should, to save the time of the Lodge, move a resolution affirming that principle, which he concluded by doing.

Bro. Aria objected, and referred to the Prussian Grand Lodge, which excluded certain Brethren upon other grounds than those which had been referred to by the Grand Registrar. If such powers of exclusion were to be allowed there was no telling what abuses might creep in. As Masonry was universal nothing but certain *known* facts against his character should exclude any Brother; nothing should exclude a Brother from a Freemasons' Lodge which would not exclude him from any society of gentlemen. He trusted that this communication would receive due attention at the hands of Grand Lodge.

Bro. Williams, D. Prov. G.M. for Sydney, was not very audible in his observations, but we understood him to say, that the Lodge referred to had received Brethren suspended by the Prov. Grand Lodge for un-Masonic conduct, and he thought that was sufficient reason why they should hold no communication with it. Besides which, men guilty of certain offences were admitted into these Lodges, which complained of being cut off from communication with the others. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. Bro. Portal: "As Grand Lodge is still very imperfectly informed as to the details of this case, let it be referred to the Colonial Board." (Hear, hear.)

Bros. Dobie and Aria assented to this proposition.

Bro. Harvey said, the R.W. the D. Grand Master for Sydney was about to return to that country, and it was therefore very desirable that he should carry back with him some resolution of Grand Lodge upon this subject. There could, therefore, be no objection whatever to Bro. Dobie's motion; it bound Grand Lodge to nothing, and only expressed a principle which must meet with universal approbation. (Applause.) Bro. Aria had tried to lead them away from the real question by referring to a case in Prussia, which was not at all analogous to the present case. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Binckes said, it was no use to attempt to shirk specific cases of difficulty merely by affirming general principles.

Bro. Newmarch contended, that it was the duty of the Tyler to admit *all* Masons on proof; but this was assailed by cries of "No! no!" from all parts of Grand Lodge; and, in fact, it raised such a storm of disapprobation that the Brother sat down and made no further observations.

The M.W. the Grand Master read the bye-law: "No visitor shall be admitted into a Lodge unless personally known, recommended, or well vouched for, and after due examination by one of the Brethren present; and during his continuance in that Lodge he shall be subject to the bye-laws of the Lodge, and the Master of the Lodge is bound to enforce these regulations."

Bro. Gole said this was not a mere colonial question. He disapproved of the course pursued by the Prov. Grand Lodge of Sydney. A man proving himself to be a Mason ought not to be refused admission. The W.M., who refused such a Brother put himself in the position of a court to try the Brother's character, and that without the Brother being heard on his own behalf. This was contrary to the spirit of Masonic law. A man once a Mason, till under some Masonic suspension, ought not to be refused admission. (Loud cries of "Oh! oh!" and various demonstrations of disapprobation from all parts of Grand Lodge.)

A Brother said it could not be tolerated that any man, whatever his character, was to come to the door of your Lodge and demand admission, whether you would or would not. (Loud applause.) A man might be a good Mason at one period of his life, but afterwards he might commit himself. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. Bro. Westall thought the Scotch and Irish Lodges were not sufficiently particular as to when they initiated. He had been Prov. Grand Treasurer, and had found hundreds of Masons who made a trade of it and lived by begging, and out of all the cases he had known of these itinerant Masonic impostors only two had English diplomas. (Applause.)

Bro. H. G. Warren, P.M., No. 202, asked the Grand Master if this was not such a motion as required notice to be given of it?

The M.W. the Grand Master said no, as it was simply an answer to the communication from the Grand Lodge of Ireland. It was desirable that the opinion of Grand Lodge should go forth at once to the colonies, assuring them that Grand Lodge justified them in refusing to receive Brethren of known bad character. (Applause.)

The resolution was put in the following terms:—

"That it is the opinion of this Grand Lodge, that it is in the power of the W.M. and Wardens of any private Lodge to refuse admission to any visitor of known bad character."

Carried unanimously, and ordered to be communicated to Lord Naas, in reply to his epistle.

This was the end of the orders of the day, and Grand Lodge was about to proceed to the notices of motion, but it was eleven o'clock, and the Grand Master enforced the bye-law, that after that hour no new business can be proceeded with. Considerable amusement was caused by the Brethren, some of them disputing the time and declaring that it had *not* struck the hour, and, *ergo*, that Bro. Portal was entitled to proceed. The minute or two spent in this way put the question beyond any doubt, so that when Bro. Portal at length rose it really had struck the hour, and the M.W. the Grand Master, on being appealed to, requested him to desist.

Bro. Aria said he hoped the Grand Master would call a Grand Lodge of Emergency to go on with the arrears of business.

The M.W. the Grand Master said he would give the matter his consideration, but made no promise either way.

The Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form, with solemn prayer.

METROPOLITAN.

GRAND MASTERS LODGE (No. 1).—The Brethren of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 15th December. Bro. Harris, W.M., presided, and efficiently passed a Brother to the 2nd Degree. Bro. Samuel Rawson, S.W. and P.M., was elected to the chair for the present year; Bro. Giraud re-elected Treas., and Bro. G. Smith and H. Holt, Tylers. The Brethren, to the number of twenty-six, afterwards dined together, and spent a very pleasant evening.

LODGE OF FIDELITY (No. 3).—The Brethren of this Lodge assembled together on the 9th December at the Freemasons' Tavern, when Messrs. Odell, Phillips, and Bailey Garling were duly initiated; three Brethren passed, and one raised to their respective Degrees; Bro. Gillespie was elected W.M.

ROYAL YORK LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE (No. 7).—On the 17th December this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern in full force, there being upwards of thirty Brethren present. Bro. John Hervey, W.M., presided, and passed two Brothers, and raised three to the respective Degrees to which they had become entitled. Bro. Isidor Levinson, S.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing twelve months; Bro. Harrison, P.M., Treas., and Bro. Rice, Tyler. At the conclusion of the business the Brethren dined together, and spent a very pleasant evening.

BRITISH LODGE (No. 8).—The members of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern, Monday, 15th December. Two Brethren were passed to the 2nd Degree, and one gentleman was initiated into Masonry. The Lodge was visited by Bro. Johnstone, W.M. 778.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—At the meeting of this Lodge, on the 2nd December, Bro. Frend was elected W.M. for the year 1857, and Bro. Lee re-elected Treas.

WESTMINSTER AND KEYSTONE LODGE (No. 10).—The first meeting of this distinguished Lodge for the season was held at Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, December 3rd. About forty Brethren were present, including several visitors from the Provinces. The Lodge being opened by Bro. P.M. Cox, as W.M.; Bros. Lord Carnarvon, S.W.; Benson, J.W. Six Brethren were by ballot elected joining members. The chair was then taken by Bro. P.M. the Rev. G. R. Portal, who most ably initiated Viscount Valletort and Mr. Nelson Rycroft into the Order. The Lodge was then adjourned, and the Brethren partook of a banquet; after which several members left to attend Grand Lodge, and the Lodge was resumed: Bro. Cox again presiding as W.M.; Bros. John Udall, P.M., as S.W.; Benson, as J.W.: when Bro. the Rev. F. A. Beckmore was passed to the 2nd Degree, and Bro. Owen raised to the Sublime Degree of a M.M. The ceremony in each Degree was conducted in a very efficient manner; and the Lodge closed in harmony. A Lodge of Emergency was held on the 19th November, in consequence of the M.W. the Grand Master having called a special meeting of the Grand Lodge. The Lodge was opened in the 1st Degree, by the W.M. Bros. Wyndham Portal; Lord Carnarvon, S.W.; G. R. Portal, as J.W., and many other members: numerous Brethren from the Provinces attended as visitors, amongst whom we noticed Bros. Lucius Curtis, Prov. G.M. for Hants; Edmund White, P. Prov. G.S.W. for Somerset; J. H. Hearn, P.D.G.M. for the Isle of Wight, Wells, J. R. Stebbing, Edmund S. Bagshawe, Hering, Sam. R. Everett, Lovander, Sherry, Nash, Harcler,

Peach, and Wm. Gibbs; and the business of Grand Lodge was freely discussed. The Lodge being closed, the members and visitors adjourned to dinner, after which those Brethren who were qualified attended to Grand Lodge.

ENOCH LODGE (No. 11).—On Wednesday, December 10, the last meeting of this Lodge for the year was held at Freemasons' Tavern, when Bro. F. Binckes, W.M., initiated five gentlemen, passed two Brethren to the 2nd, and raised one to the 3rd, Degree. Bro. W. S. Masterman, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the year ensuing, and Bro. W. Williams, P.M., as unanimously re-elected Treasurer. Nothing further offering, the Brethren adjourned to a magnificent banquet, the number partaking thereof being forty-six, amongst whom were several visitors, the names of all of whom we could not catch. We noticed, however, Bros. F. Adlard, P.M., No. 7, and Prov. G.D.C., Essex; C. Robinson, P.M., No. 8; G. Barrett, P.M., No. 188; W. Paas, W.M., No. 30; E. J. Kennedy, P.M., No. 201; Church, No. 38; C. Sloman, St. Aubyn, &c. &c. The evening was very much enlivened by numerous excellent songs, how capitally given, may be judged of when we state that the vocal corps included Bros. Donald W. King, C. Sloman, St. Aubyn, Lawler, E. L. Hine (one of the initiates), and several members of the Lodge. Bro. C. Sloman created an immense sensation by the happy manner in which he brought in the names alike of W.M., P.M., officers, and visitors, while indulging in one of his unrivalled efforts as an *improvisatore*. Taken altogether, we do not know when we have attended a Masonic gathering with more unmixed gratification, the only regret being that the hour sped too rapidly away.

GLOBE LODGE (No. 23).—The members of this Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern Thursday, 18th December. A Brother was passed to the 2nd Degree. Bro. Goodman, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. Hewlett, P.M., Treasurer.

EGYPTIAN LODGE (No. 29).—The regular monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the George and Blue Boar Tavern, Holborn, on Thursday, December 4th, Bro. Dwine, W.M., in the chair. Amongst other business before the Lodge was the initiation of W. Benjamin Banks, jun. (son of Bro. B. Banks, of Nos. 212 and 778), into our ancient Order. By the permission of the W.M. the ceremony was impressively performed by Bro. H. G. Buss, P.M., in a truly creditable manner, and other business having been disposed of, the Brethren adjourned to supper, and spent a most harmonious evening, several of the Brethren contributing to the enjoyment by their excellent singing. Bro. Buss sang the "Entered Apprentice" with great taste. The S.W., Bro. James Shepherd, was unanimously elected W.M. for the year ensuing, and Bro. P.M. B. Todd re-elected Treasurer, Bro. William Rice, Tyler.

MOUNT MORIAH LODGE (No. 40).—At the meeting of this Lodge, on the 17th December, Bro. John Absolon, J.W. (the celebrated artist), was elected W.M. for the year. Bro. Edward Ellwood was re-elected Treas., and Bro. Longstaff Tyler.

STRONG MAN LODGE (No. 53).—The Brethren of this Lodge met at Bro. Ireland's, Falcon Tavern, Fetter-lane, on Thursday, 4th December, and a more numerous assemblage of this Lodge has not taken place within the last six years. Bro. P.M. Turner, in the absence of the W.M., Bro. Moss, officiated and raised three Brothers to the sublime Degree of M.M.'s. He then initiated two gentlemen into the Order, both ceremonies being performed in a very distinct and impressive manner. Bro. Pollett was unanimously elected as W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. P.M. Lewis, Treas. The business of the Lodge being concluded, the Brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet provided by Bro. Ireland.

GIHON LODGE (No. 57).—This Lodge met at the Bridge House Hotel on the 18th December, when Pro. Willmot, W.M., passed Bros. Green and Wake. The new Master, Bro. Sheriff, was then duly installed in a very able manner by P.M. Bro. George England. Bro. Sowden was appointed S.W., and Bro. Lucas

J.W. The Brethren afterwards dined together, peace and harmony reigning throughout the evening.

CONSTITUTIONAL LODGE (No. 63).—This Lodge held its first meeting after the recess, at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, on November 17, the business for the evening being an initiation and passing, both of which ceremonies were ably performed by Bro. P. Moss, W.M. The Brethren partook of a banquet provided by Bro. Painter, in his usual hospitable and *recherché* style; the evening was passed in social harmony, interspersed with many songs by the Brethren.

ST. MARY'S LODGE (No. 76).—A meeting of this Lodge was held on the 18th Dec. Bro. Wilson, W.M., presided, and raised a Brother to the 3rd Degree. Bro. Dr. Lawrence (so well known by his Treatise on the Gout) was elected W.M. for the ensuing year; Bro. F. Watson re-elected Treas.; and Bro. W. Rice, Tyler.

VITRUVIAN LODGE (No. 103).—At the last meeting of this Lodge, Bro. Cherry, W.M., presiding, two Brethren were duly passed, and Bro. Joseph Locke elected W.M.

LODGE OF REGULARITY (No. 108).—This Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern Thursday, 11th December. One Brother was passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft.

MOIRA LODGE (No. 109).—December 8th witnessed perhaps the most splendid installation of a W.M. to a private Lodge ever known in the metropolitan district, no less than about sixty Brethren, including many Grand Officers, having assembled to honour the elevation of Brother Frederick Slight to the presidency of the Lodge. The entertainment was in Bro. Bathe's best style, and arranged with that delicacy of taste and exquisite attention to comfort as well as splendour for which the London Tavern is famous. Deservedly popular as Bro. Slight is, from his amenity of manners and efficiency as a Mason, he was unprepared for the overwhelming *éclat* ushering in his installation, which, by a well preconceived plan, took place on his natal day. The ceremony was incomparably performed, and several old Masons declared it pre-eminent in their experience of similar occasions. The musical arrangements were under the able conduct of Bros. Leffler, Jolley, sen. and jun., and Young, assisted by Miss Henderson, whose charming voice, in the apposite song of "Many Returns of the Day" (given in allusion to Bro. Slight's natal anniversary, and as an appendix to a capital speech of P.M. Ledger, in proposing the W.M.'s health) was as effective as the striking beauty of her face. The Brethren evidently appreciated both. Bro. Leffler was in admirable voice, and gave Balfe's song, "Green Trees whispered," splendidly. The toasts were of the usual character. The tumultuous applause at Bro. Slight's health being proposed far exceeded in heartiness any mere complimentary conventionalism. It was evidently the heart of good-will that stimulated the cheers accorded to him. Long may he wear his honours, for we are assured he will wear them well. We recur to the entertainment for the sake of pointing out especial excellencies in the entertainments of the London Tavern. Not only is the *cuisine* in the highest range of culinary art, but the viands are served *hot*, and the attendance complete. In this large party the only drawback was perhaps in the placing of the Brethren, who evidently, to make a bull of a paraphrase, "stood not," as Pat would say, "on the order of their sitting, but sat at once:" thus we saw a Grand Officer at the end instead of the upper part of the table, but if this was "contra bonos mores," it was, at all events, Masonically "on the level," and so we have no doubt the Brother thought it. Altogether the dinner was as perfect an appreciation of a W.M.'s desert as we could witness.

TEMPLE LODGE (No. 118).—The Brethren of this Lodge met on Tuesday, the 9th Dec., when the W.M. initiated Mr. C. Southall and passed Bros. Barnett and Greenland to the 2nd Degree; after which, P.M. Bro. Wynne raised Bros. Bush and Hitchcox to the Sublime Degree of M.M. The election of W.M. for the ensuing year afterwards took place, when the choice of the Brethren fell on Bro. Scott, the present S.W. Bro. Weedon, P.M., proposed that the annual ball for

the benefit of the Boys' School take place, and that Bro. Beard be requested to act as Hon. Sec. thereto. This proposition being seconded, and Bro. Beard consenting, it was carried unanimously. In the course of the evening Bro. Beard read a petition from the widow of a Brother who was killed at the attack on the Redan, praying for assistance. Several strong testimonials accompanied the petition, and the Brethren unanimously agreed to the prayer of the applicant by requesting the Treasurer (Bro. Reast) to hand her such a sum as he might deem expedient after he had visited the applicant.

LODGE OF GOOD REPORT (No. 158).—This Lodge met at Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, on Thursday, 4th December. Three gentlemen were initiated into Masonry, and there were also several joinings.

BEDFORD LODGE (No. 183).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge took place on Friday, the 12th Dec., at the Freemasons' Tavern, when Bro. P.M. Lee raised Bros. Morton and Jones to the Sublime Degree of M.M. It is one of the most gratifying treats we have in Masonry to hear our Bro. P.M. Lee perform the ceremony of raising; the whole is given in a most impressive manner; and too much cannot be said in praise of the working of this Lodge by all its Officers. Pro. Bollinger, the S.W., was duly elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. P.M. Cooper re-elected Treas. Upwards of thirty Brethren retired to a most excellent banquet. Among the visiting Brethren we noticed Bros. Stewart, W.M. of No. 127; Abbot and Walker, No. 118; and Lowick, who played and sung several pleasing songs.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE (No. 196).—A Lodge of Emergency was held on the 9th December, Bro. R. Hazard, W.M., in the chair; Bros. W. Johnson, S.W.; H. Cornick, J.W.; G. Hart, S.D.; G. Pritchard, J.D.; W. Aspinall, I.G. *pro tem.*; Samuel Aldrich, P.M.; Thos. A. Adams, P.M.; and P.M. No. 206; A. Hamilton, P.M.; W. Shury, P.M.; and upwards of twenty members of the Lodge. Bros. W. Rowe, D. Pattle, and A. Berry were severally ballotted for, and unanimously elected joining members. Messrs. Thos. Ronaldson, John Caney, and Charles Eagle, were ballotted for for initiation. The Lodge having been opened in the 2nd Degree, the W.M. passed Bros. May and Giltro (initiated at the last meeting); also, Bro. Richard Dawes, who was initiated in the Lodge of Industry and Perseverance, No. 126, Calcutta, in 1843. The Lodge was then resumed in the 1st Degree, when Messrs. Caney and Eagle were initiated. Propositions were made for initiating three gentlemen at the next meeting; also for two Brethren to join. The business of the evening being concluded, the Brethren retired and partook of tea and coffee. During the evening the W.M. expressed the pleasure he felt in being placed in the honourable position he then held, and it was gratifying to him to see so many members present, especially when he announced to them in the summonses the important fact, that there would not be a banquet that evening. It was a practice that had been established by Bro. P.M. Aldrich,—it was one he should follow, when convenient to the comfort and views of the members of the Lodge generally, which he had no doubt their respected S.W., Bro. Johnson, would follow when W.M. (Hear, hear, from Bro. Johnson, and applause from the Brethren.) Another source of pleasure to him (and he was sure the Brethren participated in it), was to know that the St. John's Lodge, No. 196, was so much respected as to induce their esteemed Brother the Rev. O. F. Owen, Editor of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, through Bro. P.M. Aldrich, to recommend it to Bro. Rich. Dawes, for the purpose of taking the 2nd and 3rd Degree. Bro. Dawes addressed a few graceful observations to the Lodge, and expressed the pleasure he felt in having the opportunity of again associating himself with those who were united together in fraternal Brotherhood. He should have much pleasure in becoming a subscribing member of the Lodge, and would unite his efforts with those of the Brethren in sustaining its high reputation. We do not recollect a more agreeable evening spent in Freemasonry than we experienced on this occasion, and we feel that we cannot do better for the good of the Craft and the Charities than to recommend other Lodges to follow this excellent example, of "dropping" a ban-

quet occasionally, not only that the amount thus saved would be better spent in supporting the Charities, especially the Benevolent Institution, but by this mode Lodges would be prevented running into debt, which is but too frequently the case.

OLD CONCORD LODGE (No. 201).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, the 2nd December, under the able presidency of the W.M. Bro. Nicholson, who initiated Messrs. G. Minnis and C. Clayton into the mysteries and privileges of the noble Order, and passed and raised some Brethren to their respective Degrees. This being the evening for electing W.M. for the ensuing year, Bro. Jeffries, S.W., was unanimously elected to that distinguished office, and Bro. Kennedy, P.M., also unanimously re-elected Treasurer. Bro. Emmens, P.M. and Sec., again called the attention of the Brethren to the case of Mrs. Barnstorff, who is a candidate at the next election of the Widows' Fund, and begged they would use all their influence in her behalf. It is gratifying to add, that thirty-four of the members at once gave in their names to become subscribers of this charity, and thereby have an opportunity of supporting this poor widow at the election. A member, who has fallen into distress through illness, was afforded immediate relief from the Benevolent Fund of this Lodge. Some other Lodge business being ended, about fifty of the Brethren adjourned to the banquet, after which all the usual Masonic toasts were given. The visitors' healths being proposed, Bro. John Gurton, W.M., No. 211, returned thanks in a neat and appropriate speech. The W.M.'s health was then proposed by Bro. G. M. Gurton, P.M.; but previous its being drunk, Bro. Emmens, P.M., begged to say a few words. He had the honour of introducing Bro. Nicholson into Freemasonry. It was a pleasing task at all times to speak of an old friend whom they esteemed, but how much more was it so when that friend was "a Brother" who had become W.M. of this distinguished Lodge. It was the last night he would occupy that high position which he (Bro. Emmens) was happy and proud in saying he had filled with so much honour and credit to himself and so much pleasure and gratification to every member of the Lodge. Most of the Brethren knew the vast amount of business that had been gone through during the W.M.'s year of office, twenty-one gentlemen having been initiated by him into the Order, and every ceremony had always been performed without his once requiring the assistance of a P.M. or any other Brother. He (Bro. Emmens) had during his membership of this Lodge (independently of the two years he had the honour of being W.M.) witnessed eighteen Brethren pass that chair, and of that large number not one had he seen excel Bro. Nicholson in fulfilling the duties, and during his (the W.M.'s) year of office, it was gratifying to know that the principles of Freemasonry were carried out in perfect harmony and brotherly love. That the W.M. had the interests of his Lodge at heart he well knew, and so long as his successors followed the example so nobly set by him, the Old Concord Lodge must continue to flourish. The toast was received with much enthusiasm. Bro. Nicholson, in reply, said: "Brethren, most sincerely do I thank you for the kind reception given to my name, and, in expressing my thanks, can only say, that it has always been my endeavour to show my appreciation of the dignity to which I had been appointed as your W.M., in studying to discharge those duties to the best of my ability. When I was installed W.M. of this flourishing and highly-respectable Lodge, it was with a full determination on my part of acting up to the high trust you had reposed in me, and if I have done so to your satisfaction, I am well rewarded. I shall ever feel indebted to our Bro. Emmens for having introduced me into this noble Order in the Old Concord Lodge, and shall ever feel indebted to you all, Brethren, for your kind support and brotherly evinced towards me during the time I have had the honour of being your W.M." The W.M. then called the attention of the Brethren to one other toast he wished to introduce that evening, and said that he was quite sure they would respond to his toast with that cordiality it so much deserved, it was the health of a Brother they all knew, and, knowing, respected him. All of you, Brethren, are aware, said Bro. N., of the duties of Secretary to this numerous Lodge when we are assembled for business, but few

of you know the arduous duties of that office out of the Lodge, which I have experienced since having the honour of being your W.M. If there is anything required, whether at the Board of Benevolence, whether at the Grand Secretary's Office, or in any application to me as W.M., I have always found our Bro. Emmens ready and willing to perform those duties, although I know it has frequently been at a great inconvenience, and, I may add, expense to himself. You have heard this evening of the exertions making by him in behalf of the widow of our late Bro. Barnstorff; besides, Brethren, I wish you to bear in mind he is the father of this Lodge. He has been a member of it now upwards of twenty years, and during that number of years never has he been absent from the Lodge *but one night*. I could almost venture to assert, that this is what no other member of the Craft could say; that one night he was absent, Brethren, I know was the occasion of a severe domestic affliction. Bro. Emmens had the honour of serving this Lodge as W.M. two years in succession, and after he became P.M. accepted the office of Secretary, which he has continued for upwards of fifteen years. Now, I ask you, Brethren, this simple question, what could we do without him? And having said this much, I am sure you will all join with me in drinking his health, and allow me to add that I hope the time is not far distant when this Lodge will present our worthy Brother with some substantial mark of their esteem for his valuable services. The W.M. concluded by calling on the Brethren to drink "Long Life and Prosperity to Bro. Emmens." This toast was warmly received; and, in reply, Bro. Emmens assured the Brethren that he felt deeply grateful for the kind manner in which his health had been drunk, and said that the W.M. had been pleased to speak of him in terms far beyond his deserts, although he could safely say, it had always been his study, as it ever would be, so far as his humble abilities served, to faithfully discharge the duties of his office; indeed, he had always thought it a pleasure to do those duties. He was proud to say, that during his time in that Lodge it had risen from comparative insignificance to what it now was; namely, second to none in the Order; and he felt it a duty as well as a pleasure to attend to its interests. After saying a few more words, Bro. Emmens concluded by again thanking the Brethren for the kind reception given to his name, and sat down amidst general applause. Bro. Jeffries's (the W.M. Elect) health was proposed, as also Bro. Kennedys', P.M. and Treas., the Officers, &c.; all were warmly received and duly responded to. The visitors on this occasion were very numerous. During the evening about twenty of the Brethren gave in their names as Stewards for the annual ball, which takes place at the Queen's Concert Rooms, Hanover-square, on Tuesday, the 20th January, 1857; the proceeds of which ball are entirely devoted to Masonic charities.

PHOENIX LODGE (No. 202).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge took place on the evening of Saturday the 13th ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern, under the presidency of the W.M. Bro. James Burton. The summons for the evening specified that there was a Brother to be raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and a gentleman to be initiated into the Order; but as neither of them came up, the W.M. called on the Brethren present to work the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th sections of the first lecture, a command which was freely and zealously obeyed by them, Bro. Williams taking the 1st and 3rd, Bro. Watson the 2nd and 4th, and Bro. Harrison the 5th. Bro. Williams then informed the Brethren that he had just received a letter from Bro. Armstrong, expressive of his regret that indisposition would prevent his attendance that evening, but requesting him in his (Bro. Armstrong's) name to present to the Lodge a Mosaic slab, and a perfect ashlar fitted with a triangle, and the other necessary machinery. All these articles are most tastefully designed, and bear the impress of masterly workmanship. The ashlar, which is of the purest statuary marble, is a perfect cube in measurement. In the centre of the slab or porcelain-tile, there is a beautiful painting, representing the Phoenix rising with soaring wings from amidst the flames, under which are the figures 202. The same design, sculptured in brass and gilt, surmounts the triangle, and thus the whole of this valuable paraphernalia is identified with the Lodge to which it has been presented. The thanks of the Lodge were

unanimously voted to Bro. Armstrong for his valuable gift, and it was ordered that an entry of the same should be made on the minutes. All Masonic business having been concluded, the Brethren, about eighteen in number, sat down to supper, and were entertained by the harmony of Bro. Taylor and his talented daughter Miss. A. Taylor, Bros. D. M. Evans, Mitchell, and Bourke. The visitors were Bro. Raynham, W. Steward, W.M. of the London Lodge, No. 125; Bro. Mitchell, of the Albion Lodge, No. 9; and Bro. the Hon. Robert Bourke, of the Naas Lodge, No. 212 on the Irish registry. The Hon. Bro. Bourke returned thanks for the toast of "The Visitors," and expressed the pleasure and gratification which they felt in hearing the beauties of Masonry so ably explained as they had been by the Brethren who had that evening assisted in the working of the sections, and added that for himself he was proud of the honour of being proposed as a joining member of a Lodge which so fully carried out the principles of the Craft.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 206).—The Brethren of this Lodge assembled at the Falcon Tavern, Fetter-lane, on the 8th December, there being a very full assemblage. Bro. Garrod was duly installed W.M. by Bro. P.M. Adams in a most impressive manner, that fully deserved the compliments paid him by the P.M.'s present at the conclusion. The W.M. appointed Bros. Brett, S.W.; Baker, J.W.; Haydon, S.D.; Moor, J.D.; Runsen, I.G.; Smith (Grand Pursuivant), Treas.; and Child, Secretary. After the ceremony the W.M. proceeded to initiate three gentlemen into the secrets and mysteries of the Order in a style and correctness that augurs well for his year of office. A very handsome P.M.'s jewel was presented to Bro. Marshall in acknowledgment of his services as W.M., and the prosperity which had attended his year of office. The Lodge being closed in due form, fifty-six Brethren sat down to a banquet replete with every comfort, and for which Bro. Ireland received a vote of thanks. Among the visiting Brethren we noticed Bros. Farnfield, A.G.S.; Buss; Moss; Watson; Rackstraw; Warren; Odell; Tyrrell; Goodman; Archer; Van Buren, &c. &c. The usual toasts having been drunk (Bro. Farnfield returning thanks for the Grand Officers and the charities), Bro. Carpenter, P.M., rose, and said that he had now, in consequence of Bro. Adams having been obliged to leave to attend to a professional engagement, to perform a most pleasurable duty, that of presenting their worthy Brother and Treasurer with a service of plate, consisting of a teapot, milk ewer, and basin, which had been subscribed for by the members of the Lodge and Chapter. To those who knew Bro. Smith, and the assiduity with which he always attended to the duties of the Lodge, being ever ready to act in any capacity, from I.G. to P.M., so as to maintain the efficiency of the working, he need say nothing to prove how well he deserved this mark of esteem at their hands; and to those who did not know him so intimately, he would only say that the more they knew of him the more they would learn to esteem and appreciate him as a man, a friend, and a good Mason. The teapot bears the following inscriptions:—"Presented to Bro. Joseph Smith, Grand Pursuivant of the Grand Lodge of England, for his zeal and faithful services as Treasurer to the Domatic Lodge (206), Nov. 1856." On the obverse side:—"Presented to Comp. Joseph Smith, Grand Director of Ceremonies to the Grand Chapter of England, for his zeal and faithful services as Treasurer to the Domatic Chapter (206), Nov. 1856." Bro. Smith, in a suitable and eloquent speech, tendered his grateful thanks for the high honour conferred upon him, trusting that the testimonial would be cherished in his family, and handed down as a heirloom to his children's children; and forcibly impressed upon the newly-initiated Brethren that by assiduity and attention, with perseverance, they might arrive to the same position as himself, and receive a similar token of respect. Bro. Smith was initiated in the Albion Lodge (No. 9) in 1841, and joined the Domatic Lodge in the same year. He passed through the various offices in the Albion Lodge, in which he also passed the chair. Bro. Smith likewise served as W.M. in the Domatic Lodge in 1844, and again in 1846, initiating 27 Brethren during his two years of office. In 1845 Bro. Smith was elected Treasurer of the Lodge, and still continues to hold the office. In April last he was appointed Grand Pursuivant by the Grand Master.

He has received from the Lodge on former occasions two Past Master's Jewels, and a gold Master's Jewel from a gentleman in the Isle of Wight, whom he raised to the 3rd Degree. The service of plate cost nearly £30, it having been obtained at trade-price through the kindness of Bro. Tyrrell.

ST. JAMES UNION LODGE (No. 211).—This rapidly increasing Lodge met at the Freemasons' Tavern on Tuesday, 9th December. The W.M., Bro. J. Gurton, assisted by his officers, raised four Brethren to the 3rd Degree, passed four to the 2nd Degree, and initiated one gentleman into the mysteries of the Order in a most able and impressive manner. Bro. Gurton was re-elected W.M., and Bro. Kelly, Treas. After the Lodge had passed to refreshment, Bro. Cooper replied to the toast of "The Newly Initiated;" Bro. Mawley, Prudence, to that of "The Visitors"—amongst whom were Bros. Collard, W.M., No. 209; Levison, S.W., No. 209; Norman, J.W., No. 209; Blackburn, S.W., No. 169; Smith, No. 218; Kahan, No. 209; Thornhill, No. 745; Lea, Jackson, No. 201; Collins, No. 23; Harding, No. 745; Taylor, No. 201. Upon the health of the W.M. being drunk, Bro. Gurton remarked upon the pleasure he felt at the Brethren having again elected him to fill the office of W.M., and assured them that no exertion should be wanting upon his part to make them happy and comfortable, and to increase the honours of the Lodge. A ball was announced for charitable purposes. The pleasures of the evening were greatly increased by the singing of Miss Taylor, accompanied by Bro. Taylor, and also by the amusing comic singing of Bro. Charles Hart, a member of the Lodge.

LODGE OF INDUSTRY (No. 219).—The ordinary monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at Dick's Coffee-house (Bro. Quelch's), Fleet-street, December 23rd, when Bros. Scharltner, J. T. Woodstock, and John Wheatley, were very ably and impressively passed to the 2nd Degree by the W.M., Bro. Suter, who has just terminated a very agreeable and successful year of office. Bro. Orelli, the S.W. of the Lodge, was unanimously elected by the ballot W.M. for the ensuing year. The Lodge being closed, the Brethren adjourned to a very excellent and substantial repast. The visitors were Bros. James Taylor, No. 168; H. Riseborough Sharman, J.W., No. 202; C. W. Hough, No. 19; Charles Lane, No. 168; John Lane, No. 668; Bassett Smith, P.M., No. 857; Joseph Smith, Grand Purs.; and Copin, W.M., No. 752. The evening was spent in the most agreeable manner, and the visitors expressed their high admiration of the excellent and impressive manner in which the business of the Lodge was conducted. Bro. Lescombe was re-elected Treasurer for the 25th year.

LODGE OF JOPPA (No. 223).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, 1st December, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, under circumstances of an unusually painful nature. The W.M., Bro. S. G. Risch, presided at the meeting in November with his accustomed ability, but about a fortnight afterwards was attacked with bronchitis, which consigned him to a sudden and untimely grave before the month had closed. The Lodge-room presented a peculiarly mournful aspect, the paraphernalia and fittings being all covered with black, and the Brethren, who mustered to the number of nearly seventy, appearing in Masonic mourning. While gazing on all this "solemn tracery of woe," one could not help being forcibly reminded of the uncertainty of all things below. To-day, poised on the pinnacle of prosperity, to-morrow tottering on the uneven paths of adversity, ay, even sunk into the "cold obstruction" of death. To some amongst the visitors then assembled the circumstances in which they found themselves were particularly affecting. They had come to partake of the hospitality of their friend and Brother, in ignorance of his death,—they remained to pay the last sad tribute of respect to departed merit, by sharing in the performance of his funeral obsequies. "The Lodge" being covered with black, the W.Ms. and P.Ms. ranged themselves immediately around it, the other Brethren standing in the background, when the Rev. Bro. De Solla, Chap., read in a very feeling and impressive manner the beautiful Masonic service appointed for occasions such as this, the Brethren joining in the responses, and giving evidence by their respectful and orderly demeanour of the deep interest they felt in the solemn scene. Of our late Brother

we knew but little, but it is evident that during his comparatively short career he had endeared himself to all with whom he was acquainted, and over whom he had been called to preside. To perpetuate his memory, and to evince the estimation in which he was held, it was unanimously resolved that a monument should be erected, and subscriptions for that purpose were at once entered into, which amounted to £24. The chair was ably filled by Bro. Henry Lyons, P.M., who initiated two gentlemen into the Order, passed two Brethren to the 2nd, and raised two others to the 3rd Degree. Bro. Lewis Alexander, P.S.W., was elected W.M. for the year ensuing, and Bro. Moses re-elected Treasurer. The customary banquet, it is almost needless to say, was dispensed with, and the officers of the Benevolent Fund attached to the Lodge having been chosen, the proceedings of the evening were brought to a close. The visitors were Bros. F. Binckes, W.M., No. 11; C. Vangoor, W.M., No. 218; H. A. Isaacs, W.M., No. 247; Ansell, No. 218; Cartmore, No. 266; Jacob, &c.

LODGE OF CONFIDENCE (No. 228).—At the meeting of this Lodge at Anderton's Hotel, on Monday, December 8th, Bro. Footit, W.M., passed a Brother to the 2nd Degree, and raised four. Bro. J. Jackson was then duly installed W.M. by Bro. Watson, P.M., No. 23; and the following Brethren invested with the jewels of their respective offices:—Cummins, S.W., Brewer, J.W., Newnham, S.D., Spencer, J.D., Johnson, I.G. At the conclusion of the business the Brethren supped together, and passed a most social evening.

JERUSALEM LODGE (No. 233).—At the meeting of this Lodge, held at the Freemasons' Tavern, December 3rd, Bro. Saunders was most ably installed as W.M. by Bro. Crew, P.M., No. 1; thus succeeding Bro. A. B. Frend, whose year of office has given the utmost satisfaction to the Brethren. Bro. Simpson was re-elected Treasurer. At the conclusion of the business about thirty of the Brethren dined together.

JORDAN LODGE (No. 237).—The members of this Lodge held their meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, Dec. 19, Bro. Young, W.M., presiding, who proceeded to initiate Mr. Hurst into the mystic Order. Bros. Arliss, J.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing year; Scambler, P.M., was re-elected Treas.; and Dawes, Tyler. The business of the Lodge being completed, the Brethren retired to a well-spread banquet. The visitors present were Bro. Boucher, No. 816; and Bro. Giraud, Lodge Esperance, Berne, Switzerland.

LODGE OF ISRAEL (No. 247).—The Brethren of this Lodge, to the number of nearly sixty, assembled at Bro. Seyd's, Finsbury-square, on Tuesday, Dec. 9, to do honour to the last meeting under the rule of their present excellent W.M., Bro. H. A. Isaacs. Ballots were taken for six gentlemen, of whom three were initiated, and two Brethren were passed to the 2nd Degree. To those who know Bro. Isaacs, it is useless to say one word in commendation of the manner in which the ceremonies were conducted; to those to whom his name is unknown—if indeed there be any such—we can safely assert that the whole of the business was conducted most admirably and efficiently. To mark the estimation in which Bro. Isaacs is held, it was unanimously resolved that a Past Master's jewel should be presented by the Lodge; in addition to which a subscription was at once commenced to provide a suitable testimonial as a token of regard from the members of the Lodge individually, which at once realized the sum of £24. Bro. J. Isaacs, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the year ensuing, who acknowledged, in very feeling terms the honour conferred upon him. Bro. Somers, P.M., was re-elected Treasurer. The list of visitors comprised the names of Bros. F. Binckes, W.M., No. 11; W. Paas, W.M., No. 30; Gardner, W.M., No. 112; Jephson, P.M., No. 107; Hart and Fresant, No. 218; Schwabe, No. 223; Glashmore, No. 265, Sydney. The customary "refreshment" followed "labour," and everything passed off most agreeably.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 276).—The regular meeting of this Lodge took place at the Gun Tavern, Pimlico, on Tuesday, the 9th ult., when Bro. Henry Carter, the W.M., presided, and initiated a Brother into the Order.

This being election night, the Brethren proceeded to ballot for the W.M. and Treas. for the ensuing year, when the S.W., Bro. Lugg, was elected W.M., and Bro. P. M. Allen, Treas. The other business having been completed, the Brethren retired.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE (No. 281).—At the last meeting of this Lodge, on the 4th December, the W.M., Bro. Dr. Paul, initiated two gentlemen into the Order, passed one Brother, and raised three. The Lodge continues to flourish, and to work in the utmost harmony.

LODGE OF NINE MUSES (No. 286).—At the meeting of this very select Lodge, on the 9th December, Bro. Warner, W.M., in the chair, the S.W., Bro. Dr. J. Stuart Tulloch, was unanimously elected W.M. for the year ensuing. Bro. John Propert, P.M., was also re-elected Treasurer.

FITZROY LODGE (No. 830).—The members of this military Lodge met at headquarters of the Hon. Artillery Company, Friday, 28th November. Two Brethren were raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason, and Lieut. Armstrong was initiated into the mysteries of Masonry. Another meeting was held, Dec. 26, at the head-quarters of the Honourable Artillery Company. Lieutenant Armstrong was passed to the Degree of a Fellow Craft, and Quartermaster Balin was initiated into the mysteries of the Order. Bro. Woolfenger, S.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. P. Matthews was re-elected Treasurer. It was also proposed and carried unanimously, that a jewel be presented to the worthy Secretary, Bro. Long, for his invaluable services and unceasing attention to the interests of the Lodge. The visitors were Bros. Crue, P.M., No. 1; Young, P.M., No. 11; and the Rev. Mitchinner, of No. 227.

INSTRUCTION.

EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT (No. 21).—The Lodge was opened soon after seven, on Friday, November 28th, R.W. Bro. W. Beadon, Prov. J.G.W. in the chair, having on his left Bro. S. B. Wilson as P.M.

The officers were Bros. W. H. Absolon, S.W.; Palmer, J.W.; J. Levinson, S.D.; F. Binckes, I.G.; while to Bro. G. Barrett were entrusted the financial arrangements outside the Lodge.

The explanation of the first Tracing Board was given by our respected and esteemed Brother Stephen Barton Wilson, in a most able and impressive manner, and was listened to by a crowded Lodge with attention and delight. To vary the proceedings, and relieve them from the charge of monotony, Bro. Wilson, in lieu of going through the entire explanation himself, called on several of the Brethren for the different illustrations which were worked in the order named by Bros. Artus (Sec.), S. B. Wilson, J. Palmer, W. H. Absolon, F. Binckes, and John Hervey. This arrangement produced a happy effect, and appeared to give satisfaction to every one. After a warm and hearty expression of thanks—but certainly not more eulogistic than deserved—from the chair, to Bro. Wilson for the kindness and readiness with which his abilities were always placed at the service of the Lodge, the Brethren, to the number of nearly 200, adjourned to

THE BANQUET.

At the close of which, the W.M. proposed, as the first toast of the evening, "the pious and immortal memory of Bro. Peter Gilkes," which was drunk in solemn silence.

The W.M. then said, the next toast he had to propose was "the health of her Majesty the Queen," coupled with that of prosperity to the Craft. Of that illustrious lady he would say that, although she was not as yet the mother of a Mason, he hoped and trusted that she might live to see some of her posterity preside over the Grand Lodge of England. The toast was drunk with all the honours.

The W.M. next rose to propose the health of "the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M. of England," and in doing so remarked that their experience of their noble Brother

for the nineteen years he had presided over them, was, he was sure, such that they would all agree with him that his urbanity and kindness, whether exhibited in the manner in which he presided over their banquets, or conducting Masonic business in the hall, could not be exceeded. (Hear, hear, and No, no.) Their Grand Master was one of a family of Masons for many generations past, and he was sure they would all unite in doing him the honour of heartily drinking his good health.

The W.M. in proposing the next toast, "the health of the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers," observed, that he was happy to say that his lordship was at present much better in health than he had been for some time previously, but still far from the possession of that bodily vigour which all those who loved, regarded, and respected him, wished to see him enjoy. (Hear, hear.) With the portion of the toast which related to the other Grand Officers, he saw around him many distinguished Brethren, the name of any one of whom might be fitly associated with it. There were, for instance, Bros. Stephen Barton Wilson, Herbert Lloyd, Havers, and others; but he should fix on a much younger Mason than either of them, and one who was likely to prove a considerable honour to the Order. He alluded to his friend, the Hon. Bro. Dutton, Prov. G.M. of Gloucestershire, whom he a short time previously had the honour to install in that high office. He had since seen him work as the Master of a Lodge, and he knew that he was not only able, but also willing to promote the cause of Freemasonry. The toast was most cordially received.

Bro. Dutton briefly returned thanks, stating that his heart and soul were in the science, and that, so far as he knew how, he should be glad to do all in his power to promote the interests of the Craft. The Worshipful Brother concluded his remarks by calling on the Brethren to drink the health of the excellent chairman of the evening, Bro. Beadon. (Applause.)

Bro. Beadon, in reply to the toast, said that if it were possible for one who had been in Masonry for so long a time, and received so much kindness from his Brethren as he had, to be still more flattered, it would be by the cordial reception of his name on the present occasion. If it were a gratifying thing to be well thought of by his fellow-men, it was ten times more gratifying to him to find that he was so judged by a body of men whom he respected and looked upon with regard, and in whose hearts he knew Masonry was alive. He considered it the greatest possible gratification and honour to any one who, like him, held Masonry in respect and regard, to preside at a meeting of their Lodge, which was sending forth numerous Brethren to promulgate the genuine tenets of the Institution, a set of men who were treading in the paths of virtue and Masonic science. It must, he thought, have been most gratifying to all the Brethren present to see the able manner in which the several sections had been that evening worked, as it was a guarantee that both the Brethren who took part in them, and those who listened to them with delight, would do all in their power to make Masonry better known and more extended. It was wonderful to see how the extent and knowledge of the science had lately increased; it was flourishing and prosperous, and he hoped it would still go on and flourish. (Loud cheering.)

The W.M. again rose, and said that as they had already drunk to the memory of Bro. Gilkes, the founder of the Lodge, he had now to call on them to join him in drinking the health of the father of the Lodge, Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, to whom, as they all knew, they owed a deep debt of gratitude, for the instruction which he was ever willing to impart to them. He hoped that their worthy Brother might long continue among them, and that they might for many long years have the advantage of his assistance and Masonic knowledge in conducting the business of the Lodge; for it was to him that it looked for counsel and for light. He had great pleasure in calling upon them to drink most cordially the health of Bro. Wilson.

Bro. Wilson having briefly acknowledged the compliment,

The W.M. proposed, as the next toast, "prosperity to the Lodge of Unions," from which their Lodge of Instruction held its charter, coupling with it the name of Bro. Green, the W.M. of that Lodge.

Bro. Green returned thanks, and said that the Lodge of Unions took the

liveliest interest in the prosperity of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, was honoured by the high position which it held in Masonry, and gratified to see it send forth so many excellent Masons, who were an honour to the Craft. While such was the case the Lodge of Unions would be proud of giving its sanction to so good a body of men.

The W.M. then proposed "success and prosperity to the sister Lodges of Instruction," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Havers, P.G.D.

Bro. Havers, in replying to the toast, said that on that evening he met the Brethren of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement for the first time. It was true he had for many years past been hearing of their numbers, and of their respectability, but he had had no notion of their mode of working. In the Lodge of Instruction (the Stability), with which he was more immediately connected, they thought that they were foremost in promulgating Masonry, although they had heard that the Brethren of the Emulation Lodge were before them in point of numbers. Under these circumstances, he would tell them, for the magnificent and glorious display of Masonry with which he had been that evening gratified, he congratulated Bro. Beadon on being the president of such a body of Masons. With him he joined in the hope that the sublime principles of Masonry might ever flourish. Although the working of the two Lodges might slightly differ, they both had at heart the same good principles, and sought to unite man to man in closer bonds of amity and love. (Cheers.) The object of Masonry with them, as with his Brethren of the Stability, was, that in the affairs of this life they should in a manner prefer the man who was a Mason to him who was not admitted a member of the mystic tie. Of the value and sacredness of that tie no man could doubt, for there was not to be found, he thought, among human obligations any tie more honourably, more religiously fulfilled than that tie which bound Mason to Mason in the grand principles of the Order. In conclusion, he would assure the Brethren present that they should ever be hailed as welcome guests at the board of the Lodge of Stability, and he should carry to his Brethren there the report of the kindness and affection with which he had been received that evening, and tell them that there was no rivalry among Masons, except a rivalry in doing good.

The W.M. proposed as the next toast the "Visitors," coupled with the name of Bro. Skelton, P.M. of St. Mary's Lodge, No. 76.

Bro. Skelton having suitably replied to the toast,

The W.M. said the next toast on his list was "Success to the Masonic Charities," and it was one which he was sure they would all drink with pleasure, for in charity the whole essence of Masonry was to be found. The Masonic charities were, he considered, an ornament to the Craft, as they were founded on the kindest feelings of the heart; in them were maintained the children, widows, and orphans of Freemasons, whom calamity might have placed in a different position of life to that which they had formerly occupied. He hoped that the day would never arrive which would separate Masonry and these charities one from the other. He knew that when he united with the toast the name of their Brother Whitmore—who, despite of all the difficulties and hindrances which apathy and reluctance had cast in his way, had worked up the establishment of the Asylum for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, and to whom the Craft was so much indebted for the manner in which, while engaged in that good work, he had displayed the true feelings of a Mason, love and charity towards the distressed—they would drink the toast with increased enthusiasm. Bro. Whitmore was more fortunate than had been many other promoters of the happiness of his fellow-creatures, for he had his reward in seeing the Institution he had been mainly instrumental in founding, not only flourishing, but daily increasing in popularity with the Craft.

Bro. Whitmore, who was most cordially received by the Brethren, said that as an old member of the Lodge of Emulation, he felt gratified to witness the prosperity which it at present enjoyed, as he remembered the time when they thought themselves fortunate if they could at their annual banquets muster twenty-five or thirty members. But referring to the toast which they had just drunk, he looked upon it as a high honour to have his name coupled with the charities of

the Order, without which he considered Masonry would be little worth. It was true that for many years he had struggled against difficulties and discouragement, that might have deterred the stoutest and the bravest in founding the Asylum alluded to by the W.M.; for he was one who considered that there were wound up in the undertaking those Masonic principles which would bring about a triumphant result. He was pleased to find that it was now a home and a resting-place for Masons who had done the Craft good service, and it was great gratification to him to see that there was not now one Brother to be found who did not regard it as a glorious institution.

The other toasts of the evening were the Treasurer and Secretary, replied to by Bro. John Hervey; the Stewards, which was acknowledged by Bro. Binckes, and the Tyler's toast, after which the Brethren separated, highly pleased with the enjoyment of the evening.

STRONG MAN LODGE (No. 53).—On Tuesday, Dec. 16, this well-known Lodge of Instruction held its annual banquet at Bro. Morbey's, the Gordon Hotel, Covent Garden. Bro. Watson presided, and was ably supported by Bro. Cotterbund, S.W.; Bro. Boyd, J.W.; Bro. Brett, P.M.; Bro. Armstrong, S.D.; Bro. Erwood, J.D. Amongst the company we noticed Bros. Rackstraw, T. A. Adams, J. W. Adams, Carpenter (P.M. Lodge of Industry); Burton, W.M., No. 202; Sharman, J.W., No. 202; Adey, of the Bedford Lodge; Hasleton, of the Temple Lodge; Watts, of the Unity; Boyd, of the Polish National; Haydon, of the Domatic; Hughes, of No. 202; Lowenstark, and Moss, W.M., of the Parent Lodge.

The 7 Sections of the first lecture were ably worked, Bro. Watson, as W.M., putting all the questions, by the following Brethren, viz.: 1st Section, Bro. Cotterbund; 2nd Section, Bro. Armstrong; 3rd Section, Bro. Cottrell; 4th Section, Bro. Brett; 5th Section, Bro. Haydon; 6th Section, Bro. Adams; 7th Section, Bro. Lowenstark.

The Lodge was closed in due form, and the Brethren partook of a very substantial and excellent repast provided by Bro. Morbey, to which ample justice was done. The cloth was removed, and

The W.M. gave, "The Queen," which was duly honoured, and the "National Anthem" was given by Bro. Taylor at the piano, assisted by Miss Ada Taylor, Bro. Edward Hart, and Bro. J. W. Adams.

The W.M. then gave the "Visiting Brethren," coupled with the name of Bro. Watts, of the Lodge of Unity, No. 82.

Bro. Watts regretted that some more able Brother had not been selected to return thanks for the number of distinguished visitors whom he saw around him. Other demands upon his time and attention had hitherto prevented his devoting so much of his time to Masonic studies as he could wish; but for the future, he hoped, he should profit by the instruction offered him there and elsewhere, until at length he became able to rival the worthy Brethren whom he saw around him upon that interesting occasion. (Hear, hear.) He could assure them that the gratifying exhibition of Masonic talent which he had that evening witnessed would not be lost upon him. (Cheers.) When persons were called upon to speak in their own behalf and in the name of others so unexpectedly as he had been called upon to do upon that occasion, it generally made them feel small in their own estimation and appear so also to others. (No, no.) On behalf of himself and the visitors, he begged most sincerely to thank the W.M. for the kind manner in which he had been good enough to propose, and to the Brethren for the very flattering reception which they had given to, the toast of "The Visitors." (Cheers.)

The W.M. then proposed the toast of the evening, "Prosperity to the Strong Man Lodge of Instruction." He said, whatever might be the advantages privately afforded, a man could never be an efficiently working Freemason unless he had the advantage of some experience in a Lodge of Instruction. Lodges of Instruction were absolutely necessary to those who would perform properly the duties of their respective offices in the regular Lodges. He would, therefore, commend Lodges of Instruction to all those who aspired to office in Masonry,

and who were desirous of adequately discharging the functions entrusted to them. He would say again, therefore, that however desirable private instruction might be, it was necessary that all who would be efficient Officers should practise their duties in these Lodges of Instruction; for it was only in Lodges of Instruction that they could attain that familiarity with Masonic ceremonies which would enable them to go through with them in an impressive manner, so as to produce the desired effects upon the candidates.

The toast was drunk with much enthusiasm and a capital fire.

The W.M. next gave "the parent Lodge, and the health of Bro. Moss, the W.M. thereof," for whose kind countenance and support he expressed himself truly grateful. He rejoiced to see so worthy a Brother amongst them on that interesting occasion; and to those who did not know Bro. Moss personally, he ought perhaps to mention the fact that the Brethren of their parent Lodge had done Bro. Moss the honour to elect him W.M. for the second time. (Applause.)

Bro. Hart then sang his highly comic song about the "poor chummies," which is so well known, and so very amusing to those who have the pleasure of meeting Bro. Hart at the various Lodges.

Bro. Lowenstark returned thanks on behalf of Bro. Moss, who had been obliged to leave the party.

The W.M. then proposed "the Past Masters of the Lodge," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. Brett, the immediate P.M.

Miss Ada Taylor and her father then sang a duet, which was well received.

Bro. Brett returned thanks, as also did Bro. T. A. Adams, who delivered a highly amusing and characteristic speech.

Bro. Brett then proposed the health of the W.M., of whose Masonic abilities he spoke in the highest terms.

The toast was duly honoured and responded to by Bro. Watson, who said he had only done his duty; every Mason was bound to do his best, and he had done so that evening. He was glad to see his exertions so cordially appreciated by the Brethren. (Hear, hear.) He could only say that the happiest hours of his life were those which he had spent in Masonic society. (Cheers.) When he was in search of Masonic information he found the Brethren courteous and ready to give it; and so now he felt it to be no more than his duty to treat others with that kindness and courtesy which would encourage them in their search after Masonic instruction, which he was always ready and happy to impart. (Hear, hear.) He was glad to say, moreover, that he was not only willing but able to impart instruction, as the first of next month would be the end of his eighteenth year as a Mason, seventeen of which he had been a XV. Section man. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. Adey gave a capital song, which included imitations of Charles Kean, Mrs. Warner, Keeley, Crompton, and Macready. Bro. Lee also contributed a song to the general harmony.

The W.M. then proposed Bro. T. A. Adams, Treas., and Bro. H. G. Warren, Sec. He congratulated the Lodge on having amongst its Officers Brethren of such distinction as the two he had named. (Hear, hear.) He eulogized Bro. Adams for the readiness with which he assisted the young Mason in search of knowledge; and Bro. H. G. Warren for the energy and ability with which, both by the tongue and the pen, he endeavoured to promote what he conceived to be the best interests of the Craft.

Bro. Adams returned thanks.

Bro. H. G. Warren, in returning thanks, said he could assure them that he was deeply grateful for the kind manner in which the W.M. had referred to him, and for the cordiality with which the Brethren had applauded the flattering observations which the W.M. had been good enough to offer. He had great pleasure in supporting Freemasonry on every occasion when he could do so, either by the tongue or by the pen. In Grand Lodge he was sometimes heard. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He sometimes found it needful to tell that body what he thought, and on a recent occasion, he had gone so far even as to nominate an opposition candidate for Grand Master. (Hear, hear.) He had now, however, to inform those who would have voted for Lord Southampton, that that worthy Brother has, from peculiar circumstances, declined to stand this time; he, how-

ever, expressed great pleasure that any Brother should have deemed him worthy of that honour. In declining the honour, he used the words "*for the present.*" (Applause.) He took that opportunity—which was the earliest he had had—of informing the Brethren of this fact, because he deemed it very undesirable that the opposition should not be allowed to go on after it had been discovered there was no chance of its success. (Loud cheers.) He regretted that he had not Lord Southampton's letter with him; for nothing he could say would so much redound to the honour of that noble Brother as to read to them his letter (Cheers), which was dictated by a truly Masonic spirit. (Renewed cheers.)

The W.M. then proposed the Wardens, which was duly honoured and appropriately acknowledged, and the proceedings closed.

This Lodge of Instruction appears now very likely to resume that highly-flourishing position which it formerly held in the Craft. Under the valuable attentions of Bros. Watson, Adams, &c. &c., there is every reason to hope for its increasing and continued prosperity.

PROVINCIAL.

DEVONSHIRE.

STONEHOUSE.—*Lodge of Sincerity* (No. 224).—The members of this celebrated Lodge held their usual monthly reunion at St. George's Hall, on Monday, the 10th November: among those present were Bros. W. C. Hancock, W.M.; W. H. Evens, P.M., P.G., J.D., &c.; W. Hunt, S.W.; Richard Robinson Rodd, J.W. *pro temp.*; and Honey, W. Clase, Rendle, Tripe, P.M., P. Prov. G.S., &c.; R. Dowse, P.M. Bro. Drake was passed to the 2nd Degree by the W.M. in a style seldom seen out of this Lodge in the provinces. The charge was given by Bro. Tripe in his usual eloquent manner, and the working tools by Bro. Dawse, P.M., who, on this occasion, certainly surpassed himself. Bro. Valentine Neucatt, late of No. 185, was elected a joining member. Labour being ended, the Brethren retired to supper. During supper they were *enlivened* (as they had been *annoyed* during labour) by a Terpsichorean assemblage in the regions below. On December 9, there was a full meeting, but no work done. Since our last visit we notice the exhibition of three splendid Tracing-boards, painted by the celebrated water-colour artist, Samuel Cook. These beautiful ornaments were presented to the Lodge by Bro. G. J. Gilbard. Certainly this Lodge-room and appointments are, without dispute, the most chaste and complete in the province, with the exception of the more elaborate and ornate display at Barnstaple. The only thing that jarred on our constitutional nerves was the reception of Bro. Neucatt without his clearing-off certificate from the Lodge he had left.

DORSETSHIRE.

LYME REGIS.—*Montagu Lodge* (No. 963).—The Lodge was duly opened by the Worshipful Master Bro. Montagu, on Wednesday, December 17th, at the Lion Hotel: the minutes were read and confirmed, and letters were directed to be sent to Bros. Collard and Livingston, thanking them for their great kindness to the Lodge while visiting this province. The above Brothers were unanimously elected honorary members. Bros. H. Marden and Dunham were then examined preparatory to being passed; these Brothers having retired, the Lodge was opened in the 2nd Degree, and the above Brothers were duly passed to the F.C. Degree, whose Tracing-board was lectured upon by the W.M., and the Lodge closed in peace and harmony at 8:30 p.m., and the Brethren partook of a cold supper before separating.

DURHAM.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—*St. Hilda's Lodge* (No. 292).—A Lodge of Emergency was held December 17, 1856, for the installation of Bro. Henry Hewison, P.S.W. and Treas., whose election to fill the chair appears to have given the utmost satisfaction, if we may judge from the unanimous way in which he has been elected. The Brethren mustered very strong on the occasion; and amongst the visitors we noticed P.Ms. Fenwick and Tulloch, and the W.M. of St. George's, No. 624, North Shields. The Lodge having passed through the several Degrees, the retiring W.M., Bro. Ridley, in a neat address, thanked the Brethren, especially his Officers, for their attention and able support, and proceeded to the business of the installation. Bro. Hewison, having been led forward, was duly installed in the chair. The W.M. elected his Officers in the following order:—R. S. Forster, S.W.; J. J. Oliver, J.W.; J. D. Leister, Treas.; J. Roddam, Sec.; J. Hedington, S.D.; J. Hinde, J.D.; R. H. Evans, I.G.; J. Snowdan and T. G. Buchanan, Stewards; J. Docchar, Tyler. The Lodge having been called to refreshment, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and responded to with enthusiasm. The beautiful and impressive ceremony of the installation was conducted and given by P. M. Ridley, in a very efficient and forcible manner. We cannot conclude without congratulating the Brethren of this ancient Lodge on its present satisfactory state, whether as regards the number of subscribing members or the state of its funds, which augurs for the Lodge, under the sway of the newly-elected and respected W.M., a year of unprecedented prosperity.

ESSEX.

CHELMSFORD.—*Lodge of Good Fellowship* (No. 343).—The annual meeting of his Lodge took place on the 11th December, at the White Hart Hotel, instead of the Shire Hall (the assize occurring at the time fixed), the W.M. Bro. Webb in the chair. Amongst those present were Bros. J. R. Bagshaw, Prov. G.M. of Essex; and Major Skinner, R.A., D. Prov. G.M. of Essex. Bro. Webb was installed by Bro. Peter Matthews, of Enoch Lodge, as W.M. for the ensuing year, and appointed his Officers as follows:—Bros. Rev. C. W. Arnold, S.W.; Andrew Durant, J.W.; Joshua Burton, P.M., Treas.; G. Wakeling, P.M., Sec.; Henry Huish, and Joseph Bott, Deacons; and John Myers, I.G. About fifty members, including some visitors from other Lodges, afterwards sat down to a sumptuous banquet provided by Bro. Durrant, the W.M. occupying the chair.

ISLE OF WIGHT.

NEWPORT.—*Albany Lodge* (No. 176).—On Wednesday, the 17th Dec., the Brethren held a Lodge of Emergency, for the installation of Bro. Broadley Wilson Way as their W.M. for the ensuing year. The ceremony was performed by the R.W. Dep. Prov. G.M. of the Isle of Wight, Hyde Pullen; and the addresses to the W.M. and his Officers were delivered by him in his usual eloquent and impressive manner. The W.M. invested the following Brethren as his Officers:—Robert Stratton, S.W.; Philip Bright, J.W.; the Rev. Allan Wallace, Chap. and Treas.; Robert Read, Dir. of Cer.; David Way, S.D.; Henry Bright, J.D.; Joseph Poor, C. and A.T.; Edmund Braithwaite, Org.; W. Williams, Almoner; Jas. White, Sec.; Thos. Kentfield, Reg.; W. W. Way and J. R. M. Pomery, Stewards; C. S. Bannan, I.G.; S. Watheridge, Tyler. The business of the Lodge being closed, the Brethren adjourned to a banquet at the Bugle Inn, provided by Bros. Henry and Richard Mew in their usual style of excellence. The newly-installed W.M. was zealously supported by the R.W. Dep. Prov. G.M., Bro. Pullen; Bros. Roscoe, Shedden, Dr. Hoffmeister, P.M., No. 41; J. Galt, W.M., and E. Galt, W.M. elect, No. 717; and numerous visiting Brethren. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and duly honoured in succession, and the harmony of the evening was promoted by many appropriate songs.

KENT.

CHATHAM.—*Royal Lodge of Antiquity* (No. 20).—The Brethren of this Lodge met on Wednesday, December 17th, for the purpose of installing their W.M. Elect, Bro. Charles Isaacs, P.S.G.W. and Prov. G. Sec. for Kent. After the installation, the W.M. had the pleasure of initiating three gentlemen into the mysteries of the Order, which bids fair as a commencement of his year of office. There were also five joining members to the Lodge: so that we hope again to see it in its once proud position in the province. The W.M. then appointed Bro. Thomas Hills, P.M., S.W.; and Bro. Henry Somerville, J.W. The assistant Offices were kept open to enable the new members in due course to be invested.

The Lodge being closed, nearly thirty Brethren sat down to a splendid banquet, provided by the landlord of the Sun Hotel. Among the visitors were Bros. Joseph Ashley, P.D.G.M.; F. P. Campbell, P.S.G.W.; Frank Southgate, P.S.G.W.; Saul Isaacs, P.J.G.W.; J. J. Nicholls, G. Reg.; Watson, W.M., Lodge of Freedom, No. 91; Cooke, W.M.; and several Brethren of the Belvedere Lodge, No. 741.

After the usual toasts, the health of the W.M. was proposed in a most eloquent manner by Bro. Ashley, the P.D.G.M. of the Province, who stated that he had known the W.M. since his first admittance into the Order, in fact, was present at his initiation; he had watched his progress in Masonry, and had appointed him, many years since, his Grand Secretary, when the Province was under his direction. Continuing the interest he took in the Craft, he had since then served under two Grand Masters, and as a proof of his services being recognized, they were about to present him with a testimonial of their esteem and respect. He congratulated the Lodge on the selection they had again made, and he had no doubt that under his able guidance the Lodge would again be in a flourishing position.

The W.M., in reply, thanked the Brethren for the kindness he had at all times met with at their hands, more particularly for the kind manner in which they had received the toast from Bro. Ashley; he assured them, the only motive he had for again taking the chair, was to endeavour to raise the Lodge to its former proud position. He had seen with regret during the past year, they had, on several occasions, been unable, for the want of members, to open their Lodge. He had no doubt whatever now, that, with the assistance of the neighbouring Lodge, and the newly-initiated members, he should be able to discharge his duties to the satisfaction of the Brethren.

The health of the visitors was responded to by Bro. Campbell, who again congratulated the Lodge on their selection, wishing them every success.

The Brethren did not separate until the last train informed them it was time to go: and thus the evening was spent in every feeling of brotherly love.

GRAVESEND.—*Lodge of Freedom* (No. 91).—On the 15th of December the Brethren of this highly-respectable and excellently-worked Lodge met together at Bro. Wates's. The Brethren present were Bros. Watson, W.M.; Dobson, P. Prov. G.S.W. of Kent; Southgate, P. Prov. G.S.W. of Kent; L. Briveau, P. Prov. G.R. of Kent; Nickoll, Prov. G.R. of Kent; Spencer; John Mott Thearle, Prov. G.J.D. of Hertfordshire; Evans; Wates; J. Johnson; Pearson; Crittenden; Grundy; Cook; Simmonds; Strafford; J. M. Briveau; Hills; Olive; Norris; Pottinger; G. A. Everist; W. H. Everist; J. J. Everist; A. Francis; Cooke, and many more worthy Brethren. The business of the evening was ably gone through by Bro. Watson performing the ceremonies of initiation, and, with the assistance of Bro. N. Spencer, a raising with great ability. After the initiation of Bros. H. Johnson and Turner, and the raising of Bro. Thomas, Bro. Watson, the W.M., proposed, and Bro. Spencer seconded, the proposition that the sum of ten guineas be contributed by the Lodge of Freedom towards the fund collected for the presentation of a testimonial to Bro. Isaacs, Prov. G.S. of Kent. After some discussion an amendment, proposed by Bro. Wates, and seconded by Bro. Pottinger, that the amount should be five guineas, was carried. On the closing of the Lodge, the Brethren adjourned to the long room to partake of a supper provided, with his usual consideration for the creature comforts of his

guests, by Bro. Wates. After supper the usual toasts of the evening were given with characteristic brevity by the W.M., much to our satisfaction. We have on previous occasions expressed our disapprobation of a series of long speeches from one individual, and Bro. Watson may consider this as to him in the light of an honourable-mention certificate, such as jurors give at exhibitions. Brevity, they say, is the soul of wit. In this case, if any connection existed at all, it would be in strength, for more powerful blows with the gavel we never before heard given by a W.M. That expressive and universally accepted adjective "stunning" fails to express the effect—it was *awful*. Being seated close to the W.M., we enjoyed to the fullest extent the mahogany reverberations. To the toast of "The Visitors," Bro. John Mott Thearle replied in appropriate terms. The singing was first-rate. Bro. Spencer's "Practical Philosophy," and another musical gem by a Brother, entitled "Thistles and Freedom," were deservedly encored. Then John Mott Thearle's "Rale auld Irish Jontleman," and Bro. Nickolls's "Partnership Song," with a host of others, amongst which "Bold Robin Hood," sung with a voice of most astonishing volume, deserves especial notice, inasmuch as this favourite air was frequently introduced with great propriety by the owner of the said voice, particularly after many songs in which the composer had neglected to add a chorus. After a very happy evening, several of the visitors adjourned for the night to Bro. Watson's Belle Vue Tavern, on Windmill Hill, and to all Brethren who can appreciate all the comfort of good beds and breakfasts, and a hospitable landlord, we recommend this. It brought to our mind what Shenstone sung:—

"How often in this life's dull round,
We find our warmest welcome at an inn."

MAIDSTONE.—*Belvidere Lodge* (No. 741).—The thirteenth anniversary of this important and prosperous Lodge took place on the 2nd inst., at the Star Hotel, Maidstone. The first Master of this Lodge was Bro. Charles Gustavus Whittaker, who, at its original foundation, gave the high sanction of his name and position in aid of the exertions of its founders, Bros. Pike and Cruttenden. Being a magistrate of the county, and possessing an universal reputation for all the good and manly virtues which belong to the character of an English gentleman, the Lodge under his guidance quickly arrived at a position of prosperity and influence, somewhat unusual in a new institution. The prestige of his name, supported by the indefatigable exertions and truly Masonic qualities of his two successors, Bros. Pike and Cruttenden, kept up the position of the Lodge during the next two years; but having reached a point of considerable elevation, a pause in its progress followed, and eventually it stood quite still, if it did not retrograde. After a dull interval of some years, the chair came at last into the possession of Brethren who determined not to enjoy the honours of the Mastership without performing its duties, and a gradual revival followed. During the last year it has been filled by Bro. Cooke, and the revival which seems to have arisen in Masonry at Maidstone, became, under his rule, decided and obvious. In every change Bro. Whittaker had shown his unswerving sympathy with the fortunes of the Lodge, and it was thought by the Brethren a graceful celebration of its new auspices to offer the chair of the Lodge to its first Master. Bro. Whittaker, ever susceptible where the welfare of the Lodge was involved, consented at once to accept the office, and a large muster of the Brethren of the province testified on this occasion their sympathy with the token of respect paid by the Belvidere Lodge to so distinguished an example of Kentish Masonry as the conduct of Bro. Whittaker had afforded. There was, therefore, on this anniversary, not only a large muster of the Brethren of the Belvidere Lodge, but of the most distinguished Masons belonging to the province. The ceremony of installation was most impressively performed by that excellent working Mason Bro. Savage, after which the Worshipful Master invested the following Brethren:—Bros. Cooke, P.M.; Orford, S.W.; Barrett, J.W.; Pearson, Sec.; Durrant, Treas.; Clifford, S.D.; Bartlett, J.D.; R. Day, I.G.; Hartnup and Grundy, Stewards; and Page, Dir. of Cer.

The Brethren afterwards sat down to a splendid banquet, served in a style truly excellent by Bro. Pine, the respected landlord of the Star. In the course of the evening the health of the W.M. was drunk with the most enthusiastic applause. In reply Bro. Whittaker expressed his gratitude for the compliment paid him, and remarked that he had been induced again to accept the high office conferred upon him by two considerations: the first, that he had reason to believe that his doing so would be to the advantage of the Lodge; and the second, that any deficiency in himself for want of practice would be fully compensated for by the proficiency of the Brother who held the office of immediate Past Master, and of the other Past Masters. The health of Bro. Cooke, the immediate Past Master, was then drunk amidst enthusiastic cheering. Brother Cooke, in responding to the compliment, expressed the satisfaction he felt at the thought that the Lodge had been so prosperous under his year of office. The balance in the hands of the Treasurer when he came into office was under £2, it was now nearly £50. He had had the pleasure of initiating sixteen candidates into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry during the period he had filled the office of W.M., and he was proud to say that every one of the newly-initiated Brethren had a character and station which would reflect credit upon the Lodge. He was delighted to think that it was while under his rule that the Lodge had exhibited such extraordinary signs of vitality; and not the least gratifying event of his year of office had been the presentation of a handsome jewel of the value of ten guineas to Bro. Pearson, P.M., to whose enthusiastic services the Lodge owed so much. These remarks were received with the most enthusiastic applause. Amongst the visitors were Bros. Spencer, P.M., of Gravesend; and Vale, P.M., of Hereford, whose excellent harmony added much to the enjoyments of the evening.

A great revival in Masonry appears to have taken place at Maidstone. We recorded in our last number the formation of a new Chapter, which, on the night of its consecration, could boast of twenty members; and we understand that a Masonic ball, under the most distinguished patronage, will take place at the Assembly Rooms on the 20th of January.

The Belvidere Lodge has shown a munificent appreciation of the services of our *Magazine* to Freemasonry, and we therefore only express our gratitude in wishing the most complete success to every Masonic undertaking by them.

MARGATE.—*Union Lodge* (No. 149).—At the last meeting of this Lodge, Bro. Hayward, a continuous subscriber for twenty-two years, and a most active and zealous member of the Craft, was elected Master, and Bro. Poussett, Treas.; Bro. Boys, P.M. and P. Prov. S.G.W., Kent, called on the Lodge to support the *Monthly Magazine* already taken by him, by Bros. P.Ms. Poussett, and Phipps, and urged the Brethren to become individual subscribers; it was then moved by him, and seconded by Bro. Poussett, P.M. and P.G.D.C., and carried unanimously, "That the thanks of this Lodge are especially due to Bro. Warren for the independent course which he has pursued in Grand Lodge, and in his conduct of the *Freemasons' Monthly Magazine*,* which this Lodge thinks particularly deserving of Masonic support."

RAMSGATE.—*Royal Navy Lodge* (No. 621).—At the last meeting of this Lodge, Bro. Boys, P.M. and P. Prov. S.G.W., Kent, having alluded to the merits of the *Monthly Magazine*, it was resolved unanimously, "That in the opinion of this Lodge the same is entirely deserving of Masonic support."

LANCASHIRE.

BLACKBURN.—*Lodge of Perseverance* (No. 432).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Old Bull Hotel on the evening of Tuesday, the 2nd of December. After the ordinary business of the Lodge had been transacted, Bro. Ibbotson was raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M., and a gentleman was duly

* Our worthy and esteemed Brother is slightly in error,—Bro. Warren is not the sole manager of the *Magazine*.

elected into the Craft and initiated into the Degree of E.A. Bro. James Bolton was elected a re-joining member, and a Brother was proposed for election as joining member. Two gentlemen were proposed as candidates, after which the Lodge closed, and met again at an emergency on the succeeding Tuesday, when a gentleman was elected and initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry. Altogether the year of the W.M. elect opens prosperously. We wish him a continuance of prosperity throughout his year of office.

LIVERPOOL.—*Ancient Union Lodge* (No. 245).—On Thursday evening, the 20th November, the Brethren of this Lodge assembled at the Royal Hotel, Dale-street; Bro. Wearing, W.M., in the chair, assisted by Bros. Fabert, as S.W., and Ellison, as J.W. Two gentlemen were duly initiated into the Order. The very impressive and beautiful manner in which the ceremony was performed by Bro. Wearing, places him in the foremost rank of the W.M.'s of this Province, who are all famous for their zeal and expertness in the art. Several communications and petitions having been laid before the Lodge, the Brethren adjourned to refreshment. After a very excellent banquet, during which Bro. Clark, the very zealous M.Cer., contributed materially to the comfort of the Brethren, the usual loyal toasts were given and responded to heartily. The W.M. then proposed the healths of the M.W.G.M. of England, Lord Zetland, his Deputy, the Earl of Yarborough, and the R.W. Prov. G.M. for West Lancashire, Le Gendre N. Starkie; Lord Combermere, the W. Prov. G.M. for Cheshire, and the Officers of the Prov. Grand Lodge. After regretting that the noble Lord had been unable to attend the last Prov. Grand Lodge meeting, in consequence of ill health, he having never been absent once during the last sixteen years, the W.M. begged to couple with the toast the name of Bro. Anderson, one of the Prov. Grand Stewards for the year. Bro. Anderson, on behalf of the Prov. Grand Lodge, returned thanks in a few appropriate remarks. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Rev. Gilmour Robinson, D. Prov. G.M. for West Lancashire, and the other members of the Prov. Grand Lodge, and concluded by stating that Bro. Allender, the only representative of the Prov. Grand Lodge present, deserved all the praise that could be lavished upon him, inasmuch as he had been most unceasing in his endeavours to obtain for Liverpool what the Masonic body most wanted, viz., a Masonic Hall. Bro. Hallender, in returning thanks, said, he felt the honour bestowed upon him in coupling his name with the Prov. Grand Lodge, as he was but a Steward, and scarcely entitled to be called an Officer of it; but with regard to the proposed Masonic Hall, he stated that many gentlemen would gladly enter into the Fraternity did the Lodges not meet at hotels; and amongst other benefits accruing therefrom, mentioned the desirability of having a room for the Craft Lodges, one for the Chapters, and, more especially, one for Lodges of Instruction, of which there is a great scarcity in this town; likewise, the great *desideratum* of having dressing-rooms, where Brethren could prepare themselves so as to appear in full dress when attending Lodge meetings. He concluded by calling upon all the Brethren present to aid him in following out this work, which was so evidently for the benefit of Masonry in general. The health of the visiting Brethren was then proposed by the W.M., and responded to by Bro. Harris, of No. 654, Corfu. The W.M., in a very impressive manner, proposed the health of the newly-initiated Brethren, pointing out the numerous beauties of Masonry, to which the Brethren responded in very glowing terms, of their short experience in the sacred art. Bro. Allender then proposed the health of the W.M., in terms of the highest eulogium, which the Brethren present seconded in such a rapturous manner, as fully showed the high place he has most deservedly obtained in their hearts; indeed, as Bro. Allender remarked, a better man or a truer Mason could be hardly found. The W.M. responded in a few eloquent remarks, which were warmly received by the Brethren. The last toast of the evening having been proposed by the W.M., the Lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer. The conviviality of the meeting was greatly promoted by the excellent singing of several of the Brethren. Bro. Anderson, at the special request of the W.M., leading all the musical honours, and the usual Masonic songs.

During the last month (December) there have been two Emergencies in this Lodge, and one regular meeting. The first Emergency was held on Monday evening, the 8th inst., when one gentleman was initiated, and one Brother duly passed. The second was held on Monday evening, the 15th inst., when one gentleman was regularly initiated, and one Brother passed.

Thursday, December 18th, being the regular night of meeting, the W.M. read a dispensation from the Prov. Grand Lodge of the province, authorizing the initiation of six gentlemen, who, all being present, were regularly initiated into the Order in solemn form. The Lodge having been opened up to the 3rd Degree, four Brethren were raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M.'s. The Lodge was then closed down to the 1st Degree, when the principal business of the evening, the election of a W.M. for the ensuing year, was proceeded with. The names of the various Brethren eligible for that high office having been read over, the voting was commenced, and on its conclusion the W.M. was declared to be duly re-elected. Bro. Fahert, S.W., then rose to move the presentation of a P.M.'s jewel to Bro. Wearing, as a mark of the high esteem in which his services had been held by the Lodge. Bro. Bromley seconded that proposition, and begged to call attention to the fact that the W.M. had never been absent on a single occasion, had given all the Degrees, and had never required the assistance of any P.M. in the performance of his arduous labours. Bro. Wearing then returned thanks, and said that he felt highly honoured by the confidence placed in him by the Lodge, and he would have the greatest pleasure in devoting his best abilities to the benefit of the Order. Bro. Callis was then unanimously re-elected Treasurer. The Lodge was then closed in peace and harmony.

OLDHAM.—*Lodge of Friendship* (No. 344).—This Lodge celebrated the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, on the 10th of December. Bro. William Blackburne was installed W.M. by Bro. J. Gaitskell, Prov. J.G.D., of East Lancashire, after which the following Officers for the ensuing year were invested by the W.M., viz.:—Bros. John S. Hague, P.M.; John Jackson, L.M.; Rev. A. H. Hulton, S.W.; A. Stott, J.W.; Rev. J. Bumstead, Chap.; J. Ponsonby, S.D.; J. Gaitskell, D.C.; J. Travis, I.G.; U. Shaw, Tyler: the other Officers appointed were not present. The festival being held so early, the attendance was not so numerous as on former occasions. The usual toasts were proposed, and many of them very ably responded to. A company of Brethren from the neighbouring Lodges enlivened the proceedings with some excellent Masonic glees, &c. very well sung. The Lodge was closed about twelve o'clock, and all retired, much pleased with the evening's entertainment. A correspondent writes, "It is to be hoped that in future the Lodge will see the propriety and advantage of adhering to the proper day,—to hold a festival on any other is an anomalous absurdity. There are in the Lodge of Friendship, No. 344, as in most other Lodges, numbers of Brethren (?), whose Masonic attainments are confined almost entirely to the K. and F. Degree, and surely it is no more than reasonable and right that at least one fixed day in the year should be devoted to it."

Masonic Benevolent Fund.—A Masonic assembly and ball, in connection with the Lodge of Friendship, No. 344, was held in the Town-hall, Oldham, on Thursday, the 18th Dec., in aid of the Provincial Benevolent and Annuity Fund of East Lancashire, under the patronage of the Earl and Countess of Zetland, the Earl and Countess of Yarborough, the Earl and Countess of Ellesmere, Viscount and Viscountess Combermere, Earl Howe, Bro. Stephen Blair, R.W. Prov. G.M.; Bro. Albert H. Royds, R.W.J. Prov. G.M., &c. &c. The company was small, but highly respectable. Among those present were—Bros. Albert H. Royds, R.W. D. Prov. G.M. of East Lancashire, and his lady; Charles Harrop, P.G.R. of West York; Heywood Whitehead, Lawrence Newall, and other Brethren from neighbouring Lodges. Our Oldham correspondent thus writes with regard to the ball:—"The assembly was strictly Masonic, and considering the object in view, a cheerful and liberal support might reasonably have been expected; but if any such expectation were entertained by the promoters it was a vain one. The Brethren from the Lodge of Candour, No. 422, and from the Tudor Lodge, No. 688, mustered in strong force, and it is to be

hoped that this brotherly act will be borne in remembrance, and an early opportunity be embraced of returning it. With these honourable exceptions, no deep debt of gratitude is due from the promoters to neighbouring Lodges, or even to their own: their charitable attempt proved a failure. It might be all very fine to preach up the spread of Freemasonry, and the valuable principles on which it is founded, if the preacher could convince himself of the truth of his doctrine. The increase of its members, and the practice of its precepts, unfortunately move in an inverse ratio. Freemasonry—genuine Freemasonry—is little known and less practised. There is no indissoluble bond of Brotherly love, relief, and truth. There is no anxiety or alacrity to comfort and help. A Mason of the present day would rather assist and encourage a stranger whom he seldom sees or never met before, than a Brother whom he is daily seeing, and monthly meeting, to renew his obligations to aid and help. There is no ‘traversing through dangers and difficulties;’ he would not go the length of a street in a cab for the purpose. Freemasonry, like religion, as preached and practised, are two entirely different things.” [Still they are to be encouraged, and possess great examples.—Ed. *F. M. & M. M.*]

ROCHDALE.—*Lodge of Hope* (No. 62).—The Brethren of this Lodge held their annual festival on the 17th December, at the house of Bro. Tomlinson, Spread Eagle Inn. Bro. James Butterworth was duly installed W.M., and appointed his Officers for the year. The Brethren, to the number of fifty-one, sat down to a most sumptuous repast, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and very efficiently responded to, and the meeting was further enlivened by Bro. Cocker, who presided at the pianoforte, and sang several appropriate songs.

SOUTHPORT.—*Lodge of Unity* (No. 889).—The members of this Lodge assembled at the Scarisbrick Arms Hotel, on Tuesday, December 19, to instal their newly-elected W.M., Bro. J. B. Lambert, and to celebrate the Festival of St. John. Some distinguished Masonic talent was convoked for the occasion; and the impressive and interesting ceremony was performed in a manner that excited general admiration among all present. Bro. W. Dawson, Prov. G. Treas. of East Lancashire, officiated, and was assisted by Bros. Hamer, Prov. G. Steward of Woolton; and Stagg, Prov. G. Reg., East Lancashire. The Officers appointed were:—Bros. George Woods, S.W.; Ralph Holden, J.W.; James Hunt, Treas.; John A. Robinson, Sec.; George Scholes, S.D.; W. Walker, J.D.; Henry Bailey, I.G.; Moyster, Tyler. The banquet was supplied in a sumptuous style, and consisted of all the delicacies of the season. The following members of the Order were present:—Bros. J. B. Lambert, W.M.; T. R. Bridson, P.M.; Stagg, Prov. P.G.S., East Lancashire; W. Dawson, Prov. G. Treas., East Lancashire; Hamer, Prov. G.S., West Lancashire; J. Ladmore, W.M. Ormskirk; G. Woods, S.W.; Rylands, Manchester; Scholes, S.D.; Walker, J.D.; R. Blundell, II. Blundell, W. Warner, Altcar; James Mawdesley, F. Richardson, James Hunt, J. A. Robinson, Richard Ellison, R. R. Dinnis, Richard Johnson, R. Pickering, Thomas Hignett, Ormskirk; H. Greenwood, Robert Johnson.

After dinner, the W.M. gave the usual toasts in rapid succession—thus making a vigorous start to the evening’s proceedings. The Masonic toasts were honoured with a true Masonic reception, and the name of her Majesty was welcomed by a loyal outbreak of applause.

Bro. T. R. Bridson said, he should like, before he retired, to propose a toast to which he was sure they would do honour—“Their Worthy and Worshipful Master,” whom they had installed that night. It had given him great pleasure, in which he was sure they would all participate, to find that worthy Brother elected; and he sincerely hoped that it would be the means of making them all what they ought to be, and what all of them would wish to be—good Masons. He thought that he might answer for their W.M., that his conduct throughout his term of office to all the Brethren—those who were absent as well as those who were present—would be such as to give them the highest satisfaction. He did not say that, like all other men, their W.M. might not have his faults; for even among Masons there were different sorts of people—

good, bad, and indifferent. They promised great things; and, at least, their endeavour ought to be to do their duty both to themselves, their Order, and mankind in general. Brethren, "Our Worshipful Master's good Health, God bless him." (Cheers.)

The W.M. said, it must, indeed, be a proud and pleasing position to occupy, when he had at that moment to stand before them to return his humble heartfelt thanks to his Brethren for the great kindness conferred upon him, and for the honour he had received at their hands as the W.M. of the Lodge of Unity, No. 889; but however pleased he might have been with what had transpired that day, that pleasure had been considerably enhanced by the Fraternal feeling which had been exhibited by his R.W. Bro. Bridson, and the kind and characteristic manner in which he had been pleased to bring his name before the present assemblage. There were times in a man's life, when, however willing to speak the dictates of his mind, the feelings became so overpowered that the heart beat with more than its common pulsations, and the tongue refused its office; and although he had the mind, he had not the words sufficient to thank them for the high and distinguished compliment they had paid him by electing him to rule over the Lodge of Unity this year. He trusted he should do so with honour to the Craft, and with advantage to the Brethren. It would be his pleasing duty not only to instruct all those who might enter the Lodge, but all those who were its members at present; and he trusted that they should be all of one heart and one mind, and endeavour to raise a superstructure, firmer and brighter than before. Let them remember that Masonry was a progressive science, and while looking at their antecedents, let them also look forward and endeavour to redeem the pledge they had given in 1853, that the Lodge No. 889 should be a Lodge of Unity indeed and in fact, carrying out the great principles of the Order. He had to thank them for the high compliment they had paid him, and he wished them all long life and happiness. (Cheers.)

Bro. Rylands then rose to propose the health of the Treasurer of the Lodge, Bro. James Hunt; and produced at the same time a large and handsome jug of bright clear glass, with Masonic emblems engraved on it. He gave the jug the credit of considerable antiquity, and said it had been handed down from generation to generation of Masons, the condition attached to its possession being that it was not to be sold, but to be handed by its possessor to some Brother for whom he might have especial admiration, or who might have attained a position of celebrity amongst the members of the Craft. He added that he had received many kindnesses from his friend Bro. Hunt, and he had great pleasure in presenting him with this Masonic relic. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. Hunt expressed himself particularly obliged to his worthy and esteemed friend and Brother Rylands, whom he had known from a child, and his family before him; and he rejoiced in being so flatteringly noticed by him after an absence of so many years from Manchester, and in knowing that he was of some notoriety in the estimation of some of his friends in that city. He thanked them all for drinking his health, and hoped that this might be the worst day of their lives. (Cheers.)

Several other toasts were proposed, and songs were sung, and the evening was happily spent.

WIGAN.—*Lodge of Antiquity* (No. 207).—The usual meeting of this Lodge took place on Monday evening, the 5th December, when the ceremony of installation of the Worshipful Master was beautifully and efficiently performed by Bro. W. Dawson, of Anchor and Hope Lodge, No. 44, W.M. P.T. Bro. Thomas Holmes was unanimously re-elected Treasurer. Bro. T. L. Bold, W.M. elect, appointed the following Brethren his Officers:—John Taylor Kearsley, S.W.; John Henry Peck, J.W.; James Wood, S.D.; William Caldwell, J.D.; William Ainsworth, I.G.; Edwin Baines, Hon. Sec. In the ceremonies of installation Bro. Dawson was ably assisted by Bro. John Ladmore, W.M. of Lodge of Harmony, No. 845, as S.W.; and Bro. Jesse Baldwin, P.M. of Lodge of Peace and Unity, No. 393. Until within the last eighteen months the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 207, has been nearly dormant for some length of time, as the whole of the members

had grown grey in the service, and consequently lacked that buoyant energy which is generally evinced in young Masons. Latterly, there has been an accession of young blood, and from the marks of improvement already worked out, we have hope of making ourselves one of the best working Lodges in the province.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

SLEAFORD.—*The Lodge of St. Botolph* (No. 878).—An adjourned meeting of this Lodge was holden in the Lodge-room at the Bristol Arms Inn, on Thursday, the 4th December last. Present—Bros. Reynolds, W.M., Robinson, Greenwood, Wright, Bellamy, and Shacklock, and the following visiting Brethren: George Jackson, W.M., and Daniel Jackson, P.M.; Clayton, P.M., Tewson, Waghorn, Smith, Bothamley, Kent, Lock, Young, of the Lodge of Harmony, No. 339, Boston; Hall, W.M., Webber and Drury, of the Witham Lodge, No. 374, Lincoln; and Pocklington, W.M., of the Hundred of Elloe Lodge, No. 690, Spalding; Foster, &c. &c. The minutes of the last Lodge having been confirmed, Bro. Robinson was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, according to the ancient rite, the ceremony of installation being ably performed by Bro. Greenwood, P.M., and Prov. G.D.C. Bros. Shacklock and Wright were appointed Wardens, and accordingly invested; and Bro. Greenwood initiated three gentlemen of Sleaford into the mystic tie. The meeting on the 4th December last was the first since the permission of the G.M. and Prov. G.M., of Lincolnshire, had been obtained for the removal of the Lodge from Boston to Sleaford, the Lodge at Boston having fallen into disuse, and only numbering about five members. The Lodge in its new locality will, we have no doubt, prosper, as there are six other gentlemen to initiate, and it will then number upwards of twenty subscribing members. After the Lodge business was terminated, twenty-four Brethren sat down to an excellent supper in the Lodge-room, provided by Bro. Bellamy; and the cloth having been removed, the usual Masonic toasts were given and songs sung, and the Brethren passed a very happy evening together.

SPALDING.—*Hundred of Elloe Lodge* (No. 690).—At the Lodge holden on Tuesday, the 2nd December, Bro. Pocklington, W.M., in the chair, Mr. Preston, of that town, was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry; after which the W.M. delivered the lecture on the E.A. Tracing Board. A gentleman was also proposed for initiation at the next Lodge night, and Bro. Wood, S.W. of 1855, was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year; and Bro. Tidswell, P.M. and Prov. G.J.D., was unanimously re-elected Treasurer. The Lodge-rooms have been recently fitted up with very handsome gas-fittings, and otherwise decorated. The 8th January is fixed for the installation of the W.M. elect.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

NORTHAMPTON.—*Pomfret Lodge* (No. 463).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, the 4th December, at the George Hotel, when the chair was taken by Bro. M. A. Boeme, P.M., in the absence of Bro. William Worster, W.M., who was prevented from attending by severe indisposition. Bro. Henry Jackson, No. 325, Gibraltar, was balloted for and elected a subscribing member of the Lodge. The P.M. then, with his accustomed ability, initiated Mr. Legh Richmond, of Guilsborough Hall, into the mysteries of the Craft. After the initiation was concluded, Bro. R. T. Wartnaby, S.W., was balloted for and unanimously elected W.M. for the year ensuing.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

We are informed that Colonel Wildman, of Newstead Abbey, Prov. G.M. for Nottinghamshire, has nominated Bro. Edmund Percy as his Deputy.

OXFORDSHIRE.

OXFORD.—*Alfred City Lodge* (No. 425).—The members of the Alfred City Lodge met on Tuesday, the 9th of December, when they unanimously elected Bro. H. Houghton, musicseller, to the office of Worshipful Master for the year ensuing. At the same time, the indefatigable stewards of some years' standing,

Bros. Fraser and Thurland, were unanimously re-elected Stewards for the year. The Alfred Lodge has enlisted many new members in the course of the past year, and may be said to be in a very flourishing position, both with regard to its funds and its efficiency as a good working Lodge.

Apollo University Lodge (No. 460).—The members of the Apollo University Lodge met on Wednesday, the 26th of November, when they unanimously re-elected Bro. H. A. Pickard, B.A., of Christ Church, Worshipful Master for the year ensuing. On the conclusion of the business there was a banquet, which was well attended by the Brethren of the University and City Lodges; and among the visitors was Bro. S. C. Hall, the popular writer, whose address on the characteristics, value, and power of Masonry was eloquent, truthful, and heart-stirring. It elicited rounds of applause, and the talented Brother appeared to be much struck with the enthusiastic reception accorded to him. The addresses of eight newly-initiated Brethren formed one of the most interesting and amusing features of the evening, for while some charmed the Brotherhood with their eloquence, others amused them with their hilarity and humour. This was one of the most agreeable evenings of the year, and the re-election of the Worshipful Master is a circumstance which reflects credit on the Lodge and honour on the individual. This has been a very prosperous year for the Apollo Lodge, and there has been a large accession of new members, including many distinguished persons, who are likely to occupy high positions in society and to render essential service to the Craft.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

On Thursday, December 11th, a Prov. Grand Lodge of Emergency was held at Bath, for the purpose of confirming the bye-laws which had been passed at Taunton, at a special Lodge two or three months since. The proceedings occupied but a short time, but great interest was felt by numerous members of the Craft, in consequence of the R.W.P.G.M. having ordered a Court to be held to inquire into a memorial addressed to him by the R.C.L., No. 48. The proceedings were merely of local interest.

BATH.—*Royal Cumberland Lodge* (No. 48).—The Brethren of the above Lodge met on the 4th day of December, when the ballot in favour of Bro. E. L. Bagshawe, as W.M. for the ensuing year, was unanimous, and his installation was appointed to take place on Thursday, the 8th inst. The annual banquet will be celebrated at six o'clock the same evening, at the Castle Hotel, the arrangements for which are entrusted to P.M.'s Bros. Temple, Wrench, and Wells. Our esteemed and respected Bro. Haselin was also unanimously appointed Treasurer. The W.M. Bro. Higginson, assisted by his Wardens and Officers, initiated into the Order Mr. T. A. Mansford. The W.M. then called upon the delegates who were sent to represent the Cumberland Lodge in Grand Lodge, to give an account of the proceedings, and Bro. Wells being called upon, rose and explained to the assembled Brethren the treatment which the Grand Lodge of England had experienced at the hands of the M.W. the Grand Master, who had so far forgotten what was due to that supreme body as to positively forbid any Brother referring to the Book of Constitutions, for fear of having his opinion over-ruled. Upon the recital of this and various other matters, the Brethren were loud in their denunciations of such conduct, and unanimously coincided with the speaker in his hope that the rule of such a Grand Master might speedily be terminated.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

HANDSWORTH.—*St. James's Lodge* (No. 707).—We are requested to state that this Lodge meets at the New Inn, and not the Hen Inn (as stated in our last number); and that there were a passing as well as a raising at the November meeting. We are also requested to add that this is not a very young Lodge, the warrant having been granted in March, 1842; that the said warrant has not been resuscitated in the Lodge from its formation to the present time; has gradually in-

creased in numbers ; and that four of the members are at present P.G.L. officers, two of them being the P.G.T. and P.G.S., and have held those appointments for some years.

TIPTON.—The Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire met, pursuant to the summons of the R.W. Master, Col. Vernon, at the commodious and convenient room of the Britannia Inn, Tipton, at twelve, noon, on Friday, November 21st, an earlier date (as was intended) being rendered impossible through the severe illness with which the Prov. G.M. was seized while travelling on the Continent. The muster of Brethren upon this occasion was very large, and a great number of visitors from Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Derbyshire, Oxfordshire, &c., likewise attended to do honour to the Prov. G.M.—to one, in fact, to whom honour is justly due. After a confirmation of minutes, and a resolve not to advertize the Prov. Grand Meeting in future, but to send round additional circulars, the most interesting business of the day commenced, viz. :—

THE CONSECRATION OF THE DARTMOUTH LODGE, NO. 960.

The ceremony, as performed by the R.W. Prov. G.M., was very impressive and imposing, and rendered not less so by the very excellent tone given to the whole assembly by the example of the Prov. G. Chap., the Rev. Bro. Gwynne, *M.A.*, and the assistant Prov. G. Chap. Bro. Downes, who steal into and lead captive the hearts of all their hearers. The Prov. G.M. was also assisted by the R.W. the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. Ward ; the R.W. Bro. Stone, P. Prov. S.G.W. ; Bro. Burton, P. Prov. G.S.W., who bore the oil, corn, and wine ; and Bro. the Rev. J. Dowener, *M.A.*, Assistant Prov. G. Chap. ; the musical portion of the services being rendered in a very efficient manner by Bro. J. S. Baker, joined in by the celebrated vocalists Bros. Pursall, Glydon, and staff.

After the conclusion of this ceremony, the R.W. Col. Vernon discharged a duty equally binding, but more solemn than the consecration—it was that of officially announcing to Prov. Grand Lodge the untimely death of a Brother, than whom none was more dear to Masons ; a Brother who would, had he been spared, have occupied the highest office a Mason could fill in Prov. Grand Lodge ; namely, that of Prov. G.S.W. Little did he think—little did any of them suppose that the day of his investment as Prov. G.J.W. would be the last day their lamented Bro. Newsam would be able to meet them again. He trusted that they might, however, when called hence, meet him in the Grand Lodge above, where the G.A.O.T.U. lives and reigns for ever. The R.W. Prov. G.M. concluded by reading the eulogium drawn up by the Brethren of St. Matthew, Wallsall, and published in a late number of this *Magazine*.

The Prov. G.M. then proceeded to appoint and invest his Officers as follows, our correspondent not being able to procure the names of those Brethren whose offices are left blank :—Bros. Stone, Prov. G.S.W. ; Lloyd (who was unanimously re-elected), Prov. G. Treas. ; Dee, Prov. G. Sec. ; — Reg. ; Goode, Prov. G.S.D. ; —, Prov. G.S.D. ; Howells, Prov. G.S.W. ; Hill, Prov. G.D.C. ; —, Assistant Prov. G.D.C. ; Smith, Prov. G. Org. ; —, Prov. G.S. Bearer ; —, Prov. G. Purs. ; Bageley, Tyler ; Gavatz, Standard Bearer.

The Brethren afterwards adjourned to St. Paul's church, opposite the place of meeting, when prayers were offered up by the Rev. Bro. J. Downes, Assistant Prov. G. Chap., and a most interesting and impressive discourse afterwards delivered by the Incumbent, the Rev. Bro. E. A. Gwynne, Prov. G. Chap. The collection after the sermon amounted to above £13, subsequently made up to £15 by Prov. Grand Lodge ; £10 to be given to the Masonic schools, and £5 to the schools of St. Paul's.

On resuming business in Grand Lodge, thanks were voted to Bro. Gwynne for his admirable sermon, and the same (upon Bro. Gwynne kindly acquiescing to the request) was ordered to be printed, and the proceeds devoted to Masonic charities.

After the conclusion of the Prov. Grand Lodge business, the Brethren adjourned to banquet in the Masonic hall, built by Bro. Whitehouse, of the Navigation Inn, for the accommodation of the Brethren of Noah's Ark Lodge, No. 435. The

dinner was most excellent, and done ample justice to by the 103 who sat down to partake of it.

The usual loyal, &c. toasts having been drunk, and appropriate glees, &c. sung after each, the health of the Prov. Grand Master was proposed by the R.W. the D. Prov. G.M. Bro. Ward, in a speech which, though highly complimentary, every one *felt* could have borne greater laudations, and therefore it was, perhaps, that the Masonic honours were so heartily, so *Masonically* given at its conclusion. The glee which followed was "The Red Cross Knight," and most happily was it rendered.

The Prov. G.M. replied in his usual happy and easy manner, giving, in conclusion, "The Visitors," to which Captain Bowyer, the Prov. G.M. of Oxfordshire, replied in neat and appropriate terms.

The toast of the D. Prov. G.M., and the other Prov. G. Officers, was replied to by Bro. Dr. Burton, Prov. P.S.G.W., in that felicitous and eloquent manner for which he is greatly celebrated among his Masonic Brethren.

The health of "The W.M. of Noah's Ark Lodge" (the Lodge visited), Bro. W. Howells, and that of the W.M. of the Dartmouth Lodge, which had been consecrated that day, were given by the Prov. G.M., and responded to by Bro. Howells and Leavens. The reply of Bro. Howells was considered a master-piece of eloquence by the Brethren present, who were rather surprised at his so successfully "coming out." The health of the Chaplain was duly acknowledged by Bro. Gwynne; and that of the R.W. Bro. Vernon, Prov. G.M. of Worcestershire, replied to by the Rev. Bro. A. G. Davies (M.A.), R.M., No. 730, W.M. No. 819, and Prov. G. Chap. of Worcestershire.

"The Ladies," and more especially "Mrs. Vernon," having been proposed in a humorous speech by Bro. Ward, and as gracefully acknowledged by the R.W. the Prov. G.M., the last toast was given, and the Brethren separated, most highly delighted (and instructed likewise) by the day's proceedings.

The glee singing was performed by Bros. Glydon, Pursall, Pendleton, and Baker, and elicited loud and prolonged applause; as also the singing of the song called "Noah's Ark Lodge"* (written by a Rev. Brother member of that Lodge), which was given by Bro. Ingram.

SOUTH WALES.

Installation of the W.M. for the year 1857.

CARMARTHEN.—*St. Peter's Lodge* (No. 699).—We have much pleasure in stating that Bro. Wm. Gwynne Steadman Thomas, of Oak House, Carmarthen, was duly installed on the 10th December last by Bros. Ribbaus and B. Jones, P.M.'s, under a dispensation obtained for that purpose from the Prov. G.M., Lord Milford. The ceremony of appointing the officers for the ensuing year was also gone through on the same evening, and the W.M. appointed the following Brethren:—Bros. J. Thirlwal, S.W.; J. Rowlands, J.W.; Morgan, Hon. Sec.; W. H. Cole, S.D.; D. E. Lewis, J.D.; W. T. Thomas and J. Gwyther, Stewards; Kyle, I.G. Bro. Ribbaus had been elected Treasurer at a preceding Lodge, and was now formally invested with the insignia of his office. The W.M. delivered a most excellent charge to the Brethren on his installation, and the whole ceremony passed off exceedingly well. After the ceremony, the Brethren adjourned to the banquet (which was provided by Bro. Rees in his usual excellent style), and the evening was spent in a pleasant and convivial manner, not forgetting that true Masonic virtue—*temperance*. The W.M. acted in the most liberal manner at the dinner, and had his health proposed and drunk by Bro. David Morris, P.M., and M.P. for the borough, in a highly flattering manner. We heartily wish Bro. Thomas a happy and successful year of office.

On Dec. 19th a Lodge of Emergency was called to initiate the Rev. R. J. H. Thomas, and to raise Bros. Wm. Davies and F. J. Williams to the Sublime Degree of M.M. The ceremony of the initiation was ably and efficiently performed by

* Printed in the *Freemasons' Magazine* of July last.

the W.M., and the raisings by Bro. W. H. Cole. The former elicited great marks of approval, and the latter a unanimous vote of thanks (proposed by Bro. W. M. G. Warren, and seconded by the W.M.), which was ordered to be recorded on the minutes. Altogether the business passed off well ; and, as the Lodge was placed in a difficulty by the absence of a Brother who usually takes the working ceremonies upon himself, it is but fair to say that too much praise cannot be accorded to the W.M. and Bro. Cole (who are both young Masons) for making themselves so perfect in the ceremony they each performed, and for coming forward at a critical moment to assist the Lodge at an emergency. This Lodge is becoming one of the strongest in Wales ; and we have only one thing more to desire, which is, that the Prov. G.M., Lord Milford, will hold a Prov. G.L. at Carmarthen at no distant date.

SUFFOLK.

THE LATE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

It is well known that the late Sir E. S. Gooch was Prov. Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Loyal Order of Free and Accepted Masons. As a fitting tribute to the memory of one so beloved and lamented, it was determined by the Brethren of the Craft belonging to the various Lodges throughout the district that they should attend Divine service at the church of St. Mary-at-Tower, Ipswich, where practical charity in behalf of the East Suffolk Hospital should be appropriately associated with the memory of one whose whole life was devoted to high and generous deeds in behalf not only of his wealthier but all his poorer neighbours.

With that devotion to the Order by which he has ever been characterized, the duty of rendering the homage in which all hearts were engaged was undertaken by Bro. the Rev. Erskine Neale, the Prov. Grand Chaplain. Accordingly, on Sunday evening, Dec. 7th, at half-past six o'clock, between seventy and eighty of the Brethren belonging to the Perfect Friendship and other Lodges, under Bro. Robert Martin, D. Prov. G. M., met together at the New Assembly Room, the whole in black with white gloves, the mourning usually worn upon such occasions ; when, preceded by the Prov. Grand Chaplain, and by the Dep. Prov. Grand Master, and the principals of the respective Lodges, the whole proceeded to the church of St. Mary-at-Tower, where a very crowded congregation had already assembled, some hundreds of people not having been able to gain admission, so great had been the anxiety of the public to be present to join in the respect to be rendered to the memory of a good man.

To say that the occasion was most solemn and impressive, would only be to affirm what was felt by all, and especially by the Brethren assembled. But this was felt the more deeply by the latter when it was remembered that, only a few weeks before, one over whose grave they were now assembled to do the last honours, had met them with his wonted urbanity and cheerfulness at one of their festivals in the neighbourhood, where, agreeably to the cardinal principles of the Order, the lips now sealed in death had inculcated those high lessons of duty which were ever nearest to his heart—religion, and loyalty, and charity—the blessed sources of all those practical virtues which form the character of the Christian, the legislator, and the country gentleman. We have seen sorrowing multitudes bending over the grave of the philanthropist ; we have beheld, amidst the “pomp and circumstance of war,” the warm tears falling upon the grave of the soldier. But no scene could have been more affecting than that now witnessed ; no scene could have been more touching or more calculated to call into action all the higher feelings of our nature, than that now associated with the name of Gooch—the hushed sounds from the thronging multitude as they lined the paths through the old churchyard—the mournful music from the muffled bells as their sorrowful tale was borne upon the sighing night-breeze through the moon-lit air aloft—the full organ within, pealing forth the agonizing strains of that master-piece of funereal melody, the Dead March in Saul, alternating between the poignancy of grief and joyful hope for the departed.

The prayers were read by the Rev. W. N. St. Leger, the incumbent; the lessons by Bro. the Rev. W. D. Poore. Bro. Foster presided at the organ, assisted by Mr. Matt, Mr. Hayward, and a competent choir. The anthem selected for the occasion was from Matthew xxv., beginning at the 31st verse, "When the Son of Man shall come in His glory." The sermon, by Bro. the Rev. Erskine Neele, was most eloquent and practical, from Acts xxvii. v. 25, "Seeing He giveth to all life and breath and all things." After some well-timed observations upon the value of life, with reference to our preparation for eternity, as well as with reference to our power of doing good to our fellow-creatures in this world, the reverend gentleman proceeded as follows:—

"A few words on his last hours before we glance at some leading features in his character. We who mourn him as our chief—we who, as Masons, had special opportunities for judging of the beauty, kindliness, and benevolence of his private life, are comforted by the thought that, though suddenly assailed by the last enemy, he was not surprised. It may be interesting to you to know that severe as were his sufferings, he was, throughout, cool, firm, and collected; gave minute directions respecting his funeral; indicated where he should be interred in a retired spot in Benacre churchyard; expressed in his usual frank and cordial manner his acknowledgments to those who waited around his sick bed; and avowed no unwillingness to die, or dread of the great change. Why should he? The believer never dies—he only sleeps in Jesus.

"Next, as to the salient features in his character. He was thoroughly English! In his tastes—in his pursuits—in his frank and manly address—in his love of the country and country sports—in his attachment to agriculture—in his cordial sympathy with the humble tillers of the soil—he was national to the heart's core. No foreign frippery—no affectation of foreign tastes and foreign manners!

"He was high-minded in the best acceptation of the term! Anything petty and equivocal he scorned! Some will well remember how, on a certain occasion, in the adjustment of a somewhat intricate matter, when the suggestion was thrown out by a watchful observer, 'To repudiate this document is quite allowable, and unquestionably it would be both expedient and advantageous,' he quickly interposed, and somewhat sternly said:—"Do so, and from that moment I am no longer a party to your proceedings. I came here this morning not to *debate* about what is either expedient or advantageous—I came here to *do* what is just.'"

The preacher, in conclusion, exhorted his hearers to solemnize the service by charity. The collection, made for the benefit of the funds of the East Suffolk Hospital, amounted to £15. 1s. 5d. The organ again played the Dead March in Saul, and the crowded, and, we may add, edified congregation, took their departure with a solemnity of feeling which evidenced how deep was the impression made upon the hearts of all whose high privilege it had been to be present.

SURREY.

REIGATE.—*Surrey Lodge* (No. 603).—A Lodge of Emergency was held on Saturday, the 6th of December, at the Swan Inn, Reigate, for the purpose of taking steps to revive the regular meetings of this the oldest of all the Lodges in the province of Surrey, of which, it will be remembered, the late lamented Prov. G.M. for Surrey, Lord Monson, was the life and soul and most munificent benefactor. There were present on this occasion, Bros. Thomas Hart, as W.M.; Peter Martin, P.M.; George Lyall, Holman, &c. The visitors were Bros. John L. Evans, W.M., No. 318; Rev. William H. Lyall, P.M., No. 10. Several residents in the neighbourhood were proposed for initiation, or election, as joining members, at the next meeting. Some alterations in the bye-laws were agreed to, including one which provided for the removal of the Lodge from the White Hart to the Swan Inn. At the conclusion of the business the Brethren sat down to an excellent banquet, and under the presidency of the W.M. *pro temp.* passed a most agreeable evening. There is every prospect of this Lodge not only regaining, but even surpassing its pristine lustre, and the very successful resuscitatory meeting may well be taken as significant of increased prosperity and usefulness.

SUSSEX.

Visit of the Earl of Yarborough, D.G.M. of England.

BRIGHTON.—*Royal York Lodge* (No. 394).—This Lodge held its monthly meeting at the Old Ship Hotel, on Tuesday, December 2nd, 1856, Bro. W. R. Wood, W.M., presiding. The Lodge having been duly opened in the 1st Degree, and the report of the Committee of General Purposes received and adopted, a ballot was then taken for W.M. for the ensuing year, when Bro. John Bacon, S.W., was unanimously elected; Bro. C. Sprake was again elected Treasurer, and the Tyler reappointed. At this state of the proceedings the R.W.D.G.M. of England, the Earl of Yarborough, was announced, and was received with the usual Masonic honours. His Lordship having been saluted, he requested the W.M. to proceed with the ceremonies of the Lodge, which was opened in the 2nd Degree. The Lodge was opened in the 3rd Degree, and Bro. Nye Chart raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The Lodge being then closed down to the 1st Degree, Bro. P.M. Lucas moved, and Bro. P.M. Bacon, S.W., seconded, that a Past Master's jewel be presented to the W.M., and a vote of thanks recorded on the minutes of their Fraternal regard to Bro. Wood, and for the efficient manner in which he had conducted the business of the Lodge during his year of office. The S.W. put the motion to the Lodge, and it was carried unanimously. The Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren retired to refreshment, the noble Earl joining them; after several of the usual Masonic toasts being drank,

The W.M. rose and said, they had arrived at the toast of the evening. He need not refer to the kindness and urbanity of their distinguished visitor; these spoke eloquently in his presence and fraternal manners on this occasion, and he could not help alluding to their noble Brother's munificent support of their various charities; and that on one occasion he had the happiness of sitting under the presidency of the D.G. Master at the Festival of the Girls' School. The time when their dear children came into the hall was one always to be remembered; it gladdened the heart of every Mason, and particularly so in these days, when the subject and mode of education were being so extensively discussed. To find that the Masons of England already possessed what might be called a model institution—an establishment in which 700 girls had been educated and placed out in the world, not one of whom had been known to have brought the least slur on their benefactors, proved such to be the formation of their characters, that thanks were due to their excellent teachers and the managers of the Institution, for bringing about such happy results. He also remembered the kind and affectionate manner of the noble Earl when he addressed the children; on that occasion his Lordship said to those to whom he distributed the prizes awarded, and who were about leaving the school to enter the world, "Now, my dear children, should you at any future time find yourselves in a condition of trouble or difficulty, send to me; you will remember this hall, write to me here, and if on investigation your case is deserving of it, you shall have my warmest sympathy and support." Such were some portions of the remarks of our noble Brother, and some hundreds of the Brethren were present, who heard them with the most heartfelt satisfaction and the deepest emotion. But there was one anecdote of their honoured guest which perhaps every one had not heard of, that might be said to occur in private life, when the eyes of the world, or of the Brotherhood, were not upon him, and which he (the W.M.) felt would not be out of place to mention. Some few months ago, Bro. Lavell was driving a friend, with two of his children, in the neighbourhood of Ventnor, in the Isle of Wight, when he met with a perilous upset; at this trying moment a carriage came along, in which there were a gentleman and some members of his family. The carriage was stopped, the gentleman alighted, desiring his servants to help the unfortunates in their trouble; when the horse was secured and the *débris* collected, and, to use Bro. Lavell's own words, "they shook their feathers, and providentially found themselves more frightened than hurt;" he inquired of one of the servants the name of the gentleman to whom he was so much indebted in the hour of need? the servant replied, "the Earl of Yarborough." The name was most gratifying to Bro. Lavell's ears; he made

himself known, and told his lordship that he had had the honour of having been present at some of the festivals. The sign was returned—the children, his friend, and himself were conveyed to his lordship's residence, near at hand, where the frightened party received the most fraternal and hospitable attention from the noble earl and his family, and a carriage was placed at their disposal to convey them home.

The W.M. concluded by proposing "The Health of the Earl of Yarborough, the D.G.M. of England."

The Noble Earl acknowledged the compliment, and expressed his great satisfaction at witnessing the proceedings of the Lodge, which he said had been conducted with great ability and propriety; and he regretted he had not received a letter from Bro. Harvey before he left home, which he fully expected, so as to have enabled him to have brought it for the satisfaction of the Brethren, containing the particulars of the purchase of the estate at Tottenham for the Boys' School. It had become necessary now, that a school should be had for the boys, not to allow them to be distributed over the kingdom as they had been up to the present time, and with that view some £3,500 had just been laid out in the commencement of that project; whilst perhaps more had been done for the girls, the boys had not been neglected, and both would continue to be fostered with the same care that had long been bestowed upon them; with respect to what Bro. Wood, their W.M., had related of the little help he had been able to afford Bro. Lavell, at the time of his accident, it was to himself a source of great pleasure. The noble Brother then expressed a wish to be nominated as a member of the Lodge, and, after making some complimentary allusions to the W.M., concluded by proposing his health.

The W.M., after acknowledging the toast, proposed "The Health of Bro. Smithers, the W.M. of the Clarence Lodge," in doing which he said, when he was fully assured of the intention of his lordship in visiting the Royal York Lodge, he lost no time in inviting Bro. Smithers and his Officers and as many of the Brethren as could make it convenient to attend, so that the greatest number might participate in the visit of his lordship.

Bro. Smithers briefly returned thanks, and believed if the notice had been greater there would have been a larger attendance of his Lodge.

The healths of the P.Ms., W.M. Elect, and the Officers, were duly proposed and acknowledged. His lordship then retired and very soon after the Brethren broke up, very much gratified with the evening's proceedings.

CHICHESTER.—*Lodge of Union* (No. 45).—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, December 11, 1856, when there was a very large attendance of the members of the Lodge. The visitors were Bros. Henry Bowles Franklyn, *M.D.*, Grand Orient, France; and Capt. E. A. Dawes, 97th Regt., No. 44. George Pettindrigh, Esq., Quartermaster of the dépôt battalion stationed at Chichester, was initiated by the W.M. Bro. James Powell, jun., into the mysteries of the 1st Degree.

Bro. Bulbeck was passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft. The Lodge being closed to the 1st Degree, the W.M. informed the Brethren that the time had now arrived for them to elect his successor, when Bro. Gambling, P.M., proposed the re-election of the present Master, remarking in appropriate terms on the zeal and ability with which the duties of the past year had been discharged.

Bro. Halsted, S.W., seconded the proposition, and the Brethren unanimously elected Bro. James Powell, jun., as Master for the ensuing year. The Master Elect, in accepting the office, expressed a hope that those Brethren whom he might appoint as Officers for the ensuing year would be constant and assiduous in their Masonic duties, and thus lay the foundation for a succession of able and efficient Masters, to sustain the resuscitated vitality of this oldest Lodge of the province.

Bro. Charles Sturges Jones was then elected Treasurer in the room of Bro. K. Pescott, P.M., who resigned, and whose valuable services to this ancient Lodge, in less prosperous times, were duly acknowledged in a special minute. Bro. Benford was elected Tyler. Three gentlemen connected with the dépôt

battalion, were then proposed for initiation at the next meeting, and the Lodge closed in harmony. The installation of the W.M. elect will take place on Thursday, January 15th, when Bro. Lord George Lennox, and other distinguished Brethren from Brighton and Portsmouth, are expected to attend.

WARWICKSHIRE.

RUGLEY.—*Lodge of Rectitude* (No. 739).—At the last monthly meeting of this Lodge, on December 8, 1856, Bro. J. Bromwich, W.M., in the chair, the following Brethren were nominated and elected to take office in the ensuing year, viz.:—Bros. Raymond B. Smythies to be W.M.; G. G. Dainty, Treas.; and G. Harrold, Tyler. The installation of the W.M. will take place on Monday, January 12, 1857, on which occasion the Brethren of the Lodge intend to celebrate the Festival of St. John. It is hoped and expected that there will be a numerous meeting, and the Brethren of the surrounding Lodges are particularly invited to attend.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

DUDLEY.—*Vernon Lodge* (No. 119).—At a meeting of this Lodge on Wednesday, 17th December, three candidates were proposed for initiation, and other business transacted. We are pleased to observe the good working of this Lodge since its transfer from Bromsgrove, and the decided progress it is making under the able presidency of the Provincial Grand Chaplain, its W.M.

Harmonic Lodge (No. 313).—At the meeting of this Lodge, on Tuesday, the 2nd of December, the annual election of the W.M., Treasurer, and Tyler, took place. The Rev. T. W. Herbert was unanimously elected W.M., Bro. Dennison, P.M., Treas.; and the Tyler was re-elected. The installation takes place on Tuesday, Jan. 6th, inst., at two o'clock p.m., the banquet being at five o'clock. The banquet was presided over by Bro. Bristow, P.M., the W.M. T. R. Cooper being compelled to leave through indisposition. The health of the G.M. was given in terms far from eulogistic; in fact, his conduct was freely commented upon, and his resignation declared to be a consummation "devoutly to be wished." The D.G.M., the Earl of Yarborough, called forth far different remarks—better health to him, and less of that innate modesty which unfortunately prevents his acquiescence in the honour which would be immediately given him if his permission for nomination as G.M. could only be obtained. The health of the Prov. G.M. Bro. Vernon was proposed and drunk with cordiality, the W.M. and Brethren wishing to see him among them more often to receive in person this toast. The W.M. elect was proposed by the W.M. *pro temp.*, in highly laudatory terms, and was responded to by the Rev. Bro. Herbert in a thorough Masonic speech, concluding by giving Bro. Cooper, the W.M., better health to him, &c. "The Visitors" was responded to by the Rev. Bro. A. G. Davies, M.A., P.M. No. 819, and Prov. G. Chap., who took this occasion to return thanks for Bro. Sir E. A. Johnson, D. Prov. G.M., he being a member of the Vernon Lodge, of which he had the honour to be W.M. Other of the visitors returned thanks for their respective Lodges. After the health of the candidate (which was drunk with musical honours) and the remaining customary toasts, the Brethren separated in harmony, at an early hour. The following were the visitors:—Bros. the Rev. A. G. Davies, M.A., P.M. No. 730, W.M. No. 819, and Prov. G. Chap.; Shipton, I.G. No. 730; Warmington, No. 730; T. Stevenson, P.M. No. 838; and H. Harpur, No. 838; and R. Light.

MASONIC BALL.—We are happy to announce that the annual ball is fixed for Wednesday the 21st of January, and that it will be under the distinguished patronage of the R.W. Bro. Vernon, the Prov. G.M.; Col. Vernon, the Prov. G.M. of Staffordshire; Earl Howe, the Prov. G.M. of Leicestershire; Boughton Leigh, the D. Prov. G.M. of Warwickshire; Bro. Wainright, Prov. P.G.S.W.; J. Renaud, Prov. G.S.W.; Bro. Lord Ingestrie; Bro. Blackwell; Bro. E. Dixon; Sir Stafford H. Northcote, Bart., M.P.; J. H. H. Foley, Esq., M.P.; Capt. Rushout, M.P.; Capt. Bennitt; the Lady Ward, &c. The proceeds will be devoted to the charities of the town.

KIDDERMINSTER.—*Lodge of Hope and Charity* (No. 523).—At the last meeting of this Lodge, Bro. James Fitzgerald, W.M., was unanimously re-elected W.M. for the ensuing year. The Lodge meets on the last Monday in the month.

Meeting of Lodges for January, 1857.

Harmonic Lodge, 6 P.M., January 6, Freemasons' Tavern.

Royal Standard Lodge, 6 P.M., 13th January, Hotel.

Vernon Lodge, 5 P.M., 21st January, Old Town Hall.

Perseverance Lodge, 6 P.M., 28th January, Freemasons' Tavern.

YORKSHIRE.

NEW PROVINCIAL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.—We have great pleasure in announcing that the Right Honourable the Earl of Mexborough, R.W. Prov. G.M. of West Yorkshire, has appointed Bro. George Fearnley, M.D., Grove House, Dewsbury, to be Deputy Prov. G.M. of West Yorkshire, in the room of the late highly-esteemed W.D. Prov. G.M. Bro. Charles Lee, of Leeds, whose decease we announced in our last number. The appointment is hailed with great satisfaction by the Brethren of the province, Bro. Fearnley's high standing in the Craft, his zeal for Masonry, combined with his great talents, urbanity of manners, and business habits, pre-eminently qualify him for the eminent position he has attained. Bro. Fearnley, we believe, was initiated into Masonry in the Lodge of the Three Grand Principles, No. 251, Dewsbury, in the year 1840, and after having served through the various offices, including both J.W. and S.W., was installed W.M. in December, 1844, to which office he was re-elected the following year; whilst W.M. he served the office of Prov. G.S., and was selected by the R.W. Prov. G.M. the two succeeding years to fill the distinguished post of Prov. S.G.W., and during the illness of Bro. Lee he has acted as D. Prov. G.M., by command of the R.W. Prov. G.M. Bro. Fearnley will preside at the Prov. Grand Lodge, to be holden at Heckmondwike on the 7th January inst., when it is expected there will be a large gathering of the Brethren.

DEWSBURY.—*Lodge of Three Grand Principles* (No. 251).—The regular monthly meeting of this Lodge took place on Thursday, the 11th December, under the Presidency of the W.M. Bro. R. Hemingway, who initiated a candidate into the mysteries of Freemasonry; after which ceremony, Bro. James Clay, the W.M. elect, was most impressively installed into the chair of K.S., by W. Bro. Richard R. Nelson, P.M. and P.G.S.B. Amongst the Past Masters present were R.W. Bro. Dr. Fearnley, D. Prov. G.M. of West Yorkshire; W. Bros. Thos. Hemingway, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Charles Oldroyd, P. Prov. G.S.B.; G. T. Wright, No. 761, P.S.G.D.; J. H. Wilkinson, P. Prov. G.S.; M. Hinchcliffe, M.D.; W. Audsley, &c. &c. The following Brethren were appointed by the W.M. as Officers for the ensuing year:—Benjamin Oates, jun., S.W.; John Spiking, J.W.; W. Audsley, P.M., Treas.; Richard R. Nelson, P.M., Prov. G.S.B., Sec.; James Hunter, S.D.; R. Walkington, J.D.; Thomas Hallewell, I.G.; E. Knowles, B. Oates, and G. Tolson, Stewards; Luke Hinchcliffe, G.Org. A better selection of Officers could scarcely have been made, and we have no doubt (from the zeal and ability evinced by these Brethren in the Offices they have previously held), but that the ensuing year will prove a very successful one, and that the Lodge will be worked in a very efficient and satisfactory manner. A Committee was appointed to audit the accounts, and two gentlemen proposed as candidates for Freemasonry.

This Lodge will celebrate the Festival of St. John on the 8th of January, when it is expected there will be a large gathering of the Brethren.

DONCASTER.—*St. George's Lodge* (No. 298).—The Brethren of this Lodge held their monthly meeting at the Town Hall, on Friday, the 28th November, at two p.m. Two Brethren were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Masons, after which the Brethren passed a resolution granting a sum of money towards the testimonial to the late Brother, Charles Lee, D. Prov. G.M. for the West

Riding of—Yorkshire. At six in the evening the Brethren assembled at the Woolpack Hotel, and partook of the installation banquet, which had been postponed in May last, in consequence of a banquet given at that time to the retiring W.M., the Rev. John George Fardell, on his leaving this part of the country. The banquet was on this occasion supplied by Mr. Francis, and gave satisfaction to all. The chair was taken by Bro. George Brooke, the W.M., who was supported on the right by Bro. the Rev. J. G. Fardell, P. Prov. G.C., and P. Prov. S.W., and on the left by Bro. Mason, P.M. The vice-chair was occupied by Bro. R. Clarke, S.W., of the London Coffee House, Ludgate Hill. The following Brethren were also present:—Bros. W. H. Bailes, P.M.; Sherwin, P.M.; Nicholson, P.M.; Kerans; G. S. Liddle; Guy; Lister; Collinson; Russell; Smith; Acaster; and Snowden. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the W.M. proposed the health of Bro. Fardell, the Chaplain of the Lodge, who, although he had left this town for a distant part of the country, was still a member of the Lodge of St. George, and had come from the county of Norfolk in order to be present and take a part in the proceedings of the Lodge that afternoon. He hoped that they would often see their reverend Brother among them, and that he would have the same pleasure in meeting them as they had in seeing him present at their meetings. The toast was responded to by Bro. Fardell, who spoke of the pleasure he had always had in meeting the Brethren, and referred to the lengthened term during which he had held the office of W.M., and in which he had been succeeded by one who, he was glad to find, was fulfilling its duties in so satisfactory a manner. In conclusion, he had to propose, as a toast, the health of Bro. G. Brooke, the W.M. He trusted that he would continue as he had begun, and that he would, at the expiration of his office, retire with credit to himself and satisfaction to the Brethren. The W.M. having returned thanks, several Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to. The greatest good feeling and harmony prevailed, and the Brethren separated, having enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

HUDDERSFIELD.—*Huddersfield Lodge* (No. 365).—One of the most numerous attended Masonic meetings we have witnessed for several years was held at the Zetland Hotel, on Wednesday, December 10, on the occasion of the installation of Bro. Hanson, as W.M. of this Lodge. The proceedings of the evening were conducted by the Prov. G.D.C. Bro. W. Smith, P.M. of No. 635, and Hon. Member of No. 763. The following Brethren were appointed Officers for the year ensuing: Bros. Jas. Hall, S.W.; James Taylor, J.W.; R. H. Thompson, P.M., Treas.; J. Brook, Sec.; B. Hutchinson, S.D.; Henry Garton, J.D.; C. Harding, I.G.; Geo. Milnes, Org.; W. Johnson, Tyler; J. Boothroyd, S. Steward; W. Taylor, J. Steward.

It is satisfactory to a working Mason to have good reason to anticipate on a Brother's taking the chair of King Solomon, that he will well rule and direct his Lodge; but still more satisfactory, after his reign has ceased, to be able to state that his anticipations have been realized; and this we can conscientiously say of Bro. W. H. Aston, who has just vacated the chair of this Lodge: he has happily combined the *suaviter in modo* with the *fortiter in re*, and thereby obtained the love and respect of every member of the Lodge; and at the same time preserved intact the ancient land-marks of the Order. No one can visit the Huddersfield Lodge without admiring the accurate manner in which its duties are performed; and this correctness is the result of its being made a rule to place the best workers in office, without regard to the mere accidental circumstances of rank or fortune. If in any Lodge, that principle, of which the plumb-rule is the emblem, is tacitly ignored, and a title or a long purse considered a higher qualification for office than Masonic merit and ability, we may safely predict that the working of such a Lodge will be of a very rusty description: to such we would say—

“Learn more reverence, Brethren, not for rank or wealth—that needs no learning:

That comes quickly—quick as sin does! ay, and culminates to sin;
But for Adam's seed, MAN! Trust me, 'tis a clay above your scorning,
With God's image stamped upon it, and God's kindling breath within.”

Lodge of Truth (No. 763).—The installation of the W.M. of this Lodge took place at the Freemasons' Hall, Fitzwilliam-street, on Friday evening, Dec. 5th. Amongst the Past Masters present we noticed, of this Lodge, Bros. Kilner, P. Prov. G.S. Works; J. T. V. Hardy, B.A., London University; John Sykes, P. Prov. G.J.D.; Thomas Robinson; Geo. Wright, Prov. G.S.D.; from No. 251, Bro. Nelson, Prov. G.S.; No. 342, Bros. T. Wigney, P. Prov. G.R.; W. S. Thornton, W.M. Prov. G.S.; No. 365, Bros. Hainsworth, J. Cliff, J. Shear, W. Smith, Prov. G.D.C; Thompson, P. Prov. G.J.D.; Thomas, Prov. G.P., and Lee. There were also present the W.M.'s elect of each of the other Lodges in the town, and W. Scott, M.D., J.W. of the Lodge of Harmony, and a number of other visitors. All the Brethren were clothed in deep mourning for our late D. Prov. G.M. The business of the evening commenced by Bro. Louis Bramson, after giving convincing proofs of his proficiency as a F.C., being raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. Bro. Hanson was then passed to a F.C.; after which our esteemed Bro. Walter Matthewson was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, according to the ancient usages and established customs of our Order. The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. P.M. Hardy, whose talents as a Working Mason are so well known as to render any remark superfluous; suffice it to say, that on this occasion he (if possible) excelled himself. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following Brethren as officers: Bros. Dyson, S.W.; Benton, J.W.; the Rev. W. K. Robinson, B.A., St. John's College, Cambridge, Chaplain; Thomas Robinson, P.M., Treas.; J. Tempest, Hon. Sec.; Thomas Learoyd, and Edward Clavequin, Dirs. Cers.; Karl Demmann, Dr. Phil., of Hanover, Organist; R. H. Robinson, S.D.; Samuel Hardy, J.D.; M. H. Hirst, J. Coates, Roberts, Purv.; Elam, Willis, Bramson, Hare, Stewards.

A resolution was unanimously passed, requesting Bro. W. Kilner, the first W.M. of this Lodge, to allow his portrait to be taken in oil colours, by Bro. Howell, P.M., Nos. 342 and 763, for the Lodge.

Bro. J. R. Dore then brought before the notice of the Brethren the claims of the *Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror* to their support as the organ of the Craft, celebrated for its fearless advocacy of the best and truest interest of the Order.

As the business for the evening could not be completed by a reasonable hour, the Lodge was, in accordance with its by-laws, adjourned to the Monday following, on which occasion the W.M. initiated Mr. John McKean into Masonry in a very able manner. The usual charge and tracing-board in the 1st Degree were given by Bro. P.M. Hardy.

The appointment by the R.W. Prov. G.M. the Earl of Mexborough of Bro. Dr. Fearnley as D. Prov. G.M. has given great satisfaction to the Brethren of this Lodge, as was evinced by the enthusiastic reception of his name (for the first time in the province) at the festive board.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN CHAPTER.

JERUSALEM CHAPTER (No. 218).—A convocation of this Chapter was held at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, on Tuesday, December 9th, Comp. Newson, P.Z., presiding, in the absence through illness of the M.E.Z. There was no regular business before the Chapter, but we are led to expect a large accession of Brethren to its ranks during the ensuing season. Resolutions expressive of sympathy and condolence were passed in reference to the late Comps. Browne and Risch, who have been called away from us since the last monthly meeting of the Chapter.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS.

BATH.—*Royal Cumberland Chapter* (No. 48).—On Tuesday, December 16th, 1856, a convocation was held for the purpose of installing the three Principals Elect, when Comp. Percy Wells was installed as M.E.Z., and Comp. Peach as H., for the ensuing year, by Comp. Charles Haseler. The installation of Comp. Bagshawe as J. was appointed to take place on the 20th January inst. The M.E.Z. Comp. Wells then inducted the Scribes and P.S., and afterwards exalted Bro. William R. Hanham, J.G., No. 48; and Bro. Francis Davis, No. 48; after which the Chapter was closed in harmony.

IPSWICH.—*Royal Sussex Chapter* (No. 522).—This distinguished Chapter held its usual quarterly meeting at the new Assembly Rooms (the now usual place of holding the Chapter), on Wednesday, the 3rd December. This being the night of installation, Comp. S. B. King was duly installed into the chair of Z., by Past Z. Comp. John Pitcher, Esq.; Comp. the Rev. W. F. Freeman was installed into the chair of H.; and Comp. Jennings, as J. The most excellent Z. then returned thanks to the Companions for having elected him to fill that high and important office, the duties of which he assured them he would discharge to the best of his abilities, and he trusted to give them satisfaction, as he had always the best interests of the Chapter at heart. The Companions present were W. Townsend, sen., P.E.Z.; W. P. Mills, P.E.Z.; J. Franks, P.E.Z.; C. J. Townsend, P.E.Z.; E. Dorling, P.E.Z., and many others. We may observe that this Chapter is one of the most flourishing in the province, and that the regalia is strictly in accordance with the principles of the Order. The principal standards and the banners are classically drawn, and are placed round the Chapter, which has a very rich and appropriate effect, more especially upon the newly-exalted Companion.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

Encampment of Observance (Time Immemorial).—This Encampment took place at Thatched House Tavern, St. James's-street, on Thursday, December 18th. Present—Sir Knight Robert Warner Wheeler, the eminent Commander Sir Knight Dr. Hinxman, and W. G. Smith, 1st and 2nd Cpts.; John Masson, the Treas.; J. H. Law, the Prelate; Chev. B. Herbeler, Ward, Graves, and other members. Comp. Nathaniel Solomons, who is about to depart for St. Helena, of which island he is the Consul for this country, was admitted into this eminent degree, the ceremonial being performed by Sir Knight Wheeler, in a way that called forth the commendation of all present, Sir Knight George B. Matthew, formerly a member of this encampment, being a visitor. He has just received the appointment of British Consul at Odessa, for which city he takes his departure after Christmas. Sir Knight J. H. Law was unanimously elected M.E.C. for the ensuing year, and Sir Knight Ward was appointed Register. All business being ended, the Knights assembled for refreshment in the noble banqueting-room of the hotel, the walls of which are decorated with many memorials of by-gone days, in portraits of the members of the Dilletanti Society. The Lodge-room has a good portrait of the Duke of York, wearing the collar of W.M. of the Prince of Wales' Lodge.

Cross of Christ Encampment.—At a meeting of this Encampment, held at Radley's Hotel, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, on Friday, the 19th December last, Sir Knight Samuel Rawson, 1st Capt. Prov. G.M., and Prov. G. Superint. for China, was unanimously elected Eminent Commander for the ensuing year.

SCOTLAND.

GRAND LODGE.

On Monday, December 2, the Grand Lodge of Scotland met in the Cafe Royal, West Register-street, Edinburgh, pursuant to summons for the election of the G.M., and the appointment of Office-bearers for the ensuing year. After the labours of the evening, the Brethren adjourned to a banquet held in celebration of the festival of St. Andrew, which was well attended by deputations from many of the Edingburgh and Provincial Lodges.

Among those present we observed the M.W.G.M., His Grace the Duke of Athol; Lord Loughborough, Sub. G.M.; Lieut.-Col. Lord James Murray, Representative of the Grand Lodge of Scotland to the Grand Lodge of England; Col. Hunter; Capt. W. Ramsay; Capt. Robert Cathcart Dalrymple Bruce, 82nd regt., representing the Alloa St. John's, No. 69; Mr. Samuel Hay, Banker; Bro. J. Skene, Advocate; Dr. M'Cowan, Representative of the Grand Lodge of France; Bro. J. E. Hope Vere; Bro. Alex. Stewart; Mr. Laurie, &c. &c. &c.

After the usual Masonic and loyal toasts, the Most Noble the G.M. gave the "health of the Navy and Army" in a quiet and effective speech, referring to the sensation that some time ago prevailed whenever the navy and army were mentioned. Bro. Lieut.-Col. Lord James Murray returned thanks for the army, and gave some details of the illness he experienced whilst in the Crimea, and alluded in terms of eulogy to the kind attentions of the sister service to their sick Brethren in arms.

Bro. Beveridge, of H.M.S. *Sampson*, also a Crimean hero, answered for the navy.

His grace next proposed the Earl of Zetland and the Grand Lodge of England, the Duke of Leinster, and the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Lord Loughborough, in a most eloquent and able manner, proposed the health of the Most Noble the Duke of Athol, G.M. He mentioned that it was under the auspices of the family of the M.W.G.M. that he had first become instructed in Masonic mysteries; and, with stirring eloquence, detailed the services which his grace had rendered the craft. Lord Loughborough's remarks elicited great applause, and one Brother, more hearty than the rest, desired "another cheer for the Duchess." In responding, his grace observed as follows:—"I think I heard a Brother call out one cheer more for the Duchess, which leads me to believe that you are all satisfied she remains true to the faith of her fathers."

The health of Lord James Murray was next proposed by the officiating R.W.S.G.W., Bro. Dr. M'Cowan. His Lordship, in returning thanks, alluded to the severe duties which had called him from England to the Crimea, thus preventing him from giving much time to the requirements of his post as representative of the Grand Lodge of Scotland to that of England.

The Duke of Athol proposed the health of Bro. Whyte Melville, D.G.M., apologising for his absence on this occasion, and expressing his regret thereat, as there was not a better Mason living.

The health of the Sub. G.M., Lord Loughborough, was then proposed by his grace, and warmly received by all the Brethren. The M.W.M. spoke in terms of the highest praise of the Sub. G.M., pointing him out as a most worthy Mason, and one in every way to be admired. His grace then proposed the following toasts:—The R.W. the G.Wardens, Bro. M'Cowan, No. 1; Bro. Dryburgh, No. 2; the R.W. the G. Sec.; and R.W. the G. Clerk.

After an enlivening song from Brother Law, the M.W. the Grand Master proceeded to propose the health and prosperity of the following Lodges, who had on this occasion sent deputations and representatives to be present at the festival: R.W.M. Bro. M'Cowan, with No. 1; St. Mary's Chapel, Edinburgh.

The R.W. Brother, in reply, congratulated the M.W. Master on his re-election to the Eastern Chair, and in a few words assured the Grand Master of the desire

of the Brethren of St. Mary's Chapel to aid at all times the progress of the Craft. The deputation from this Lodge was very strong.

The Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2, Edingburgh, and R.W. Bro. Dryburgh, was next proposed, and well received. R.W. Bro. Dryburgh only expressed the feelings of his Lodge in responding.

R. W. Bro. Cruikshanks and the Lodge St. John of Glasgow. R.W. Bro. Cruikshanks, in returning thanks, mentioned that on the 23rd of January a festival would be given by the Prov. Grand Lodge of Glasgow, and with that hospitality proverbial to Glasgow, stated that they would be glad to see as many of the Craft as could attend.

The health and prosperity of Lodge No. 5, the Canongate and Leith, Leith and Canongate, with R.W. Past Master Bro. Stevens, were then proposed, and the toast was ably responded to by Bro. Stevens, in the absence of R.W. Bro. Pearson.

No. 8. The Edinburgh Journeymen and R.W.M. Bro. Hunter were then proposed by his grace, and Bro. Hunter made a most emphatic reply. He said that he heartily congratulated his grace on his re-election to the position of Grand Master Mason of Scotland, and hoped that with such a master the Grand Lodge would not have to run here and there seeking for a fitting place to give their annual festival in, but that his grace would stir up the fraternity at large, and by next year a building would be erected for Grand Lodge purposes worthy of Scottish Masons. Bro. Hunter alluded in strong and able language to the services of Bro. John Lorimer, whom he said he had known as a Mason for the last century—(here the Brother, finding he had made a mistake, corrected himself)—he meant half a century, *at least before he himself was born!* that in former years Bro. Lorimer had done good service to the Grand Lodge, and that he now, by his presence there, showed that he still had the well-being of the Craft at his heart.

The M.W. Master then proposed No. 44, St. Luke's, with R.W. Bro. James Skene. Bro. Skene, in a short, quiet, and gentlemanly speech, congratulated the M.W. Master on his re-election to the chair, and conveyed the wishes of his Lodge, that his grace would take an early opportunity of visiting them.

His grace then proposed No. 69, Alloa and St. John's, with Captain Robert C. D. Bruce, Sen. Proxy Warden, as its representative.

Captain Bruce said,—Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Grand Wardens, and Brethren, I regret much that No. 69, Alloa St. John's, has no one more able than myself to respond to the compliment which has just been paid it. A military man not versed in the art of speaking I would plead as my excuse, but when you have heard the able and very lucid speech of Bro. Lord James Murray, the plea falls to the ground. It would ill become me, at this late hour of the evening, when we may soon expect a visit from the myrmidons of Forbes Mackenzie, to delay you with any remarks of mine; but, during a service of some thirteen years passed in every quarter of the globe, I have had opportunities of seeing the advantages of Masonry, of visiting its Lodges, far removed from the supervision of the Grand Lodge here. Yes, Brethren, I now stand among the Masons of Scotland, but scarce three years are past since I clasped with brotherly friendship the hand of the Hindoo, the Arab, and the Jew, and yet, in my travels, and in my every-day life, I am frequently asked, "What is Masonry? what good is there in it? Why are you a Mason?" Ah, little do the Cowans know of the secret of that beautiful system of morality veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols, which unites us all in one brotherly band, levels all distinctions, smooths away the bitterness of bigotry and superstition, and makes the peer and peasant greet each other with the friendly and endearing appellation of Brother.

Bro. Bruce, after congratulating his grace on his re-election, and expressing for his Lodge their thanks for the compliment paid them, sat down amid much applause.

The following Lodges were also proposed: No. 97, St. James's; No. 151, Edinburgh Defensive Band; No. 160, Roman Eagle; and No. 296, Edinburgh and Leith Celtic.

ALLOA.

St. John's Lodge.—On Tuesday, December 9, a meeting of this Lodge was held in the Lodge-room, Royal Oak Hotel, when the following office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected:—Proxy Master or Representative in the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Bro. W. Downing Bruce, Consul for Monte Video, Edinburgh; Senior Warden in the Grand Lodge, Bro. Capt. Robert C. D. Bruce, United Service Club, Edinburgh; Junior Warden in the Grand Lodge, Bro. M. S. A. Walrond, Calder Park, Lanarkshire; Bros. Stephen N. Morrison, R.W.M.; William M'Queen, S.W.; James Roy, J.W.; John Watson, P.M.; James Duff, Chap.; Thomas Stirling, Bible Bearer; Peter Brotherston, Surgeon; Thomas Hunter, James Miller, Deacons; George Bennet, Alexander Kirk, Stewards; George Graham, I.G.; David Wotherspoon, Tyler.

After the election was over, Bro. Downing Bruce introduced two gentlemen for initiation into the mysteries of Freemasonry, viz., Lieut. Gordon Alexander, of the 93rd Highlanders, and Lieut. Lampen, of the 34th Regt., both officers who had distinguished themselves in the Crimea. After the usual toasts, the R.W.M. proposed the healths of Lieuts. Alexander and Lampden, and alluded in glowing terms to the manner in which the 93rd Highlanders received in line the murderous charge of the Russian cavalry at the ever-memorable battle of Balaklava, proving themselves worthy representatives of those glorious spirits who fought for Scottish freedom on the gory field of Bannockburn. (Cheers.) Among other toasts that were proposed was that of Capt. R. C. D. Bruce, who was highly eulogised for the efficient manner in which he had represented the Lodge, and for the eloquent speech recently delivered by him at the festival of the Grand Lodge in Edinburgh, on the occasion of his health being proposed by the Duke of Athol. The toast of Capt. Bruce's health was received with loud applause. Other toasts were proposed, and the meeting broke up at an advanced hour.

ARBROATH.

On Monday, December 1, St. Andrew's Day, the members of two of the three Lodges—the St. Vigeans and Panmure—held meetings in their respective Lodge-rooms, when they proceeded to the election of Office-bearers, which resulted in the re-election of most of those who were in office last year. After the election, the Panmure Lodge joined the Brethren of St. Vigeans, in Anderson's Hotel, where they celebrated the festival of St. Andrew with the customary spirit and good accord of Freemasons.

DALKEITH.

Dalkeith Kilwinning Lodge.—This Lodge met on Tuesday, being the festival of St. Andrew—Bro. James Thompson, R.W.M., in the chair. The minutes of last meeting being read and approved, the Lodge proceeded to nominate candidates to fill the chairs for next year. Bro. James Thompson being requested unanimously to fill the chair, declined the high honour the Brethren wished to confer on him, in a speech replete with fine sentiment and manly feeling. Bro. Edward, of St. Mary's, performed some select pieces on the harmonium, assisted by Bros. Lawrie, Robertson, and Dyer on the violin, which drew forth the highest encomiums from the Brethren.

EDINBURGH.

Lodge of Edinburgh Mary's Chapel (No. 1).—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held in their Lodge-room, Ship Hotel, on Tuesday, December 15, for the nomination of a R.W.M., and appointment of Stewards. We are glad to notice that Bro. Francis D. M'Gowan, M.D., was nominated to fill the chair of this most ancient and honourable Lodge; and Bro. Owen Gough was at the same time re-appointed to act as representative Steward in the Grand Lodge of Scotland. After the meeting upwards of fifty Brethren sat down to a splendid supper.

Lodge Canongate Kilwinning (No. 2).—A monthly meeting of this Lodge was held in their Lodge-room, St. John-street, on Wednesday, December 16. On this

occasion a gentleman was initiated into the Order, and three Brethren were passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft. Various Brethren were present from the Lodge of Edinburgh Mary's Chapel, headed by their R.W.M.

Edinburgh Defensive Band (No. 151).—On Tuesday, the 25th November, the Lodge Edinburgh Defensive Band, No. 151, held their meeting for nomination of Office-bearers, and it affords us the greatest pleasure to record the unanimous re-nomination of Bro. James Finlayson as R.W.M. After the nomination had been gone through, we found the unanimous vote of the Lodge recorded as follows, viz.:—Bros. James Finlayson, R.W.M.; William Smith, P.M.; Walter Richardson, S.M.; James Ker, D.M.; William Gullan and George Anderson. Wardens; James Mathison and James Kirkwood, Deacons; James Borthwick David Hutchinson, Standardbearers; Robert Mickle, Chap.; David Turner, Treas.; Daniel Grant, Sec.; Thomas Harris, jun., Door Guard; James Young, Bard; Dickson Ker, Tyler. The Committee of Management to consist of Bros. Andrew Collins, John M'Clumpha, James Henderson, James Gregory, and James Young. The business of the Lodge having been quickly gone through, the Brethren resolved the Lodge into a convivial meeting, when a deputation was received from the Cannongate Kilwinning, headed by R.W.M. Bro. Dryburgh, also a very large number of visiting Brethren from various Lodges. The usual loyal toasts were then given, Bro. Captain Bruce replying for the army. In his speech he referred in flattering terms to the unique and appropriate system of firing which they, as a military Lodge, had kept up since their formation in 1782. Various other toasts were given, amongst which was the health of R.W.M. Bro. James Finlayson, by Bro. Dryburgh, and in an eloquent speech, replete with true Masonic feeling, referred to the kindly and fraternal feeling that reigned in the Edinburgh Defensive Band under the able guidance of Bro. James Finlayson. The toast was responded to with the greatest enthusiasm. Bro. Finlayson, in his reply, having thanked the R.W.M. of the Canongate Kilwinning, and the deputation that had accompanied him, he referred to the prosperous state of the Lodge in its monetary affairs, but more so to the orderly and praiseworthy unity of action which existed. At the end of the meeting, Bros. Dryburgh, Dr. M'Vitie, and Stewart Watson, of the Cannongate Kilwinning, were affiliated full and free members of the Lodge. A vote of thanks was then given to the R.W.M., and Office-bearers of the Lodge St. David's, for their kindness in granting their Lodge for the occasion. The evening was enlivened by several beautiful airs from the Rhenish Band led by Bro. Herr Lubauch.

Celtic Lodge.—On the 5th inst., this Lodge being duly formed at the Turf Hotel, a petition was presented in favour of a professional gentleman of Edinburgh; being well recommended, he was entered in the 1st Degree. On Friday, the 12th, a meeting for nomination of office-bearers. A large assemblage of the Brethren being present, the business of nomination proceeded for the different offices.

FORFAR.

The Lower Lodge of Freemasons met at Forfar on Monday, December 1, in the Crown Hotel, to elect their office-bearers, and celebrate the anniversary of our national saint. The following Brethren were elected to fill the several offices:—James Edwards, M.D., R.W.M.; David Adam, D.M.; James Ewan, P.M.; James Burns, Treas.; John Adam, Sec.; Alexander Forsyth, S.W.; James Strachan, J.W.; George Lowson, S.D.; Charles Kinnear, J.D.; James Dick, Chap.; John Taylor, G. Steward; James Simson and James Peacock, Assistants; David Langlands, Tyler. After the election the Brethren spent a very happy and harmonious evening.

GLASGOW.

St. Mark's Lodge (No. 102).—At the meeting of this Lodge, held on the 21st November, Bro. Donald Campbell, D.M., having for Wardens Bros. John Reid and John Werge, initiated Mr. George Armitage, Birmingham, to whom instructors were as usual appointed. On the 1st December, Bro. Campbell, assisted by

the same Brethren as Wardens, and in presence of a large attendance of the Craft, entered Mr. Thomas B. Smithson, New York, an apprentice Freemason. The following members were then nominated to fill the various offices during the year succeeding their election and installation, viz. :—Bros. Donald Campbell, R.W.M.; James Horne, D.M.; J. M. Rowan, S.M.; Allan C. Gow, S.W.; John Werge, J.W.; Rev. Norman McLeod, Chap.; David Houston, Treas.; Robert Mitchell, Sec.; J. N. Sutherland, S.D.; Henry Johnston, J.D.; John Laurie, J. K. Donald, Louis Rose James, and Alexander Paterson, Stewards; W. A. G. McLeod, I.G.; J. T. Rothead, Architect; Alexander McDonald, Jeweller; Alfred Maclure, Dir. of Music; Robert S. Thomson, Master of Cer.; John Aird, Clothier; James Pollock, Tyler; John Deuchar, of Morningside, Proxy M.; Bros. William Forrester, Peter Hannah, David Boyd, and the Wardens John Reid and Robert Tomson, jun., were appointed Auditors of the Treasurer's accounts. Bro. Andrew B. Whyte, a M.M. of the Lodge Star, Glasgow, was affiliated. On the 3rd December, Bro. Campbell presided at an Emergency meeting, the acting Wardens being Bros. John Werge and George McLeod. Bros. Smithson and Leggatt were, on a motion and certificate made in compliance with the Grand Lodge Laws, passed to the Fellow Craft Degree, and thereafter raised to the Sublime Degree of Free and accepted Masonry. Bro. Thomas Stout was also passed on this occasion. On the 4th December, another Emergency was ruled by Bros. Campbell, S.W.; John Reid, and John Werge, the acting J.W.; and other Office-bearers aiding in the work. Messrs. James Carmichael, Cotton, Hugh Robertson, and Wilfred Masson Robertson, all resident in Glasgow, were brought to light in legal manner as Apprentices. On the 8th December, there was another Emergency meeting, and the D.M. occupied the chair. Bros. John Reid and Robert Mitchell, as S. and acting J. Wardens, performed their respective duties. After the routine business, Bro. John Risk was passed to the Fellow Craft, and Bros. James Morton, Matthew Bullock, and John McLaren were raised to the Sublime Degree. On the 15th December, Bro. D. Campbell, D.M., officiated as R.W.M.; and in the West and South, Bros. John Reid and John Werge marked the course of the luminary. The applications of Messrs. John Ferguson, Neil McGill, and James Miller were considered,—the candidates found admissible, and intrusted with the 1st Degree of the ancient mysteries. Apprentices Archibald Bullock and W. M. Robertson were passed; and Fellow Crafts Thomas Stout and H. C. McAusland were, after examination, raised to the Sublime Degree. The Lodge, under certain conditions, agreed to pay a sum to meet any loss which the committee might experience in carrying out the festival of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Glasgow, in April next.

Commercial Lodge (No. 360).—The Brethren of this Lodge assembled at their Lodge-room in Croy-place, on Thursday, December 4th, when a lecture on music was delivered by Bro. Julian Adams. The subject was treated in a most masterly and interesting manner, and was interspersed with many pleasing illustrations by the worthy Brother upon the pianoforte, concertina, flageolet, &c. The lecturer commenced by a reference to the earliest music mentioned in Holy Writ, and followed it through various grades, its rise and fall with various nations, its composers, and its effects upon the human system—the ear, nerves, brain, and feelings. The lecture, which occupied upwards of two hours in its delivery, was listened to with much attention, and was frequently applauded. At the close of which a vote of thanks to Bro. Julian Adams was proposed by the Rev. Bro. Graham, D.D., in a very eloquent and energetic speech, which was very cordially responded to, and warmly applauded by the Brethren present, and which Bro. Adams gracefully acknowledged. There was a tolerable attendance of the members of the Lodge and visiting Brethren, and under the able presidency of Bro. Davison, W.M., Bros. McKensir, S.W., Martin, J.W.

GREENOCK.

Lodge Greenock, St. John.—The following have been elected Office-bearers of the Lodge Greenock St. John, for the current year:—John Mackenzie, R.W.M.; Dugald Ferguson, S.W.; Andrew I. Black, J.W.; J. Heriot, Treas.; J. Black, Sec.; James Don, Tyler.

PEEBLES.

Kilwinning Lodge (No. 24).—On Monday, the 1st December, the anniversary of St. Andrew was celebrated—Bro. Archibald Donaldson, Jun., R.W.M., presiding—when a numerous turn-out of the Brethren were present, and a candidate initiated into the Apprentice Degree. A very happy evening was spent, with toast and song in true Masonic style, when the Lodge was closed at high twelve. It ought to be stated that upon this occasion the new flute band requested the honour of escorting the R.W.M. to the Lodge, which was most respectfully declined. Nevertheless, the band played the Mason's Anthem through the town, and also at the Mason Lodge while the Brethren were met, and was complimented by the R.W.M. On the following evening a Lodge was again held, and a Brother passed to the sublime Degree of Master Mason—the R.W.M. presiding.

PERTH.

Ancient Lodge of Scone and Perth (No. 3).—This Lodge held their meeting on Monday, December 1st, and elected the following Brethren to the various offices, viz.:—John Fisher, R.W.M.; John Mackay, D.M.; John Baird, S.D.M.; Matthew Gloag, P.M.; John Maclauchlan, S.W.; James Thompson, J.W.; Robert Peters, Treasurer; James Galletly, Secretary; D. Hopkirk, Bible-bearer; A. Campbell and J. T. Buchan, Key-keepers; J. Kennedy and Peter Reid, Stewards; Robert Reid, Tyler; Alexander Patterson, Esq., Proxy-master.

ROYAL ARCH.

EDINBURGH SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

A quarterly meeting of this Supreme Chapter took place at the Star Hotel, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, December 17. In the absence of the First Grand Principal, the chair was occupied by Patrick Deuchar, M.E.D.Z.; Arch. Douglas, P.P.Z., No. 12, acting H., and Hector Gavin, P.P.Z., No. 65, acting J. The minutes of previous quarterly meeting were read and approved of. The business before the Chapter, on this occasion, was chiefly of a routine nature. Proxy commissions were sustained in favour of E. Comps. Patrick Deuchar, from Chapter Perseverance, Bombay, No. 71; Donald Campbell, from Banff Chapter, No. 4; A. J. Stewart, from Girvan Chapter, No. 35; Stewart Watson, from Charleston Aboyne Chapter, No. 57; Alex. Downie, from Paisley Abbey Chapter, No. 76. On an application from certain Royal Arch Masons of Chapter Carlton, St. John's, New Brunswick, No. 47, duly certified, the Supreme Chapter agreed to grant a Charter in their favour constituting them into a Royal Arch Chapter, to be held at Fredericton, in the Province of New Brunswick, on the third Wednesday of each month, under the name and title of "Fredericton Chapter, New Brunswick," and to rank No. 77 on the registry of Scotland.—There were produced and read to the meeting resolutions passed at a meeting held on the 9th December, of the suspended members of Bon-Accord Chapter, Aberdeen; wherein they stated the utter impossibility on their part of giving effect to the order which had been made upon them to recover the Warrant, which it was maintained by the Grand Chapter had been improperly and illegally issued by them to London, seeing that all connection between them and those working under said Warrant had now ceased. These resolutions, along with their former memorial on the subject, were remitted to the Committee to be reported on *quam primum*, and from certain statements made in reference to the subject by one of the members of the London Bon-Accord Mark Lodge, who happened to be present as a regular English Royal Arch Mason, it was expected that the nature of the report to be obtained from the Committee would be such as to put a termination to the unhappy measures which the Supreme Chapter had found it their duty to adopt.—Other business having been transacted, the meeting closed in due form.

IRELAND.

On Monday, the 20th December, a decision was given in the Queen's Bench, in the important case of *O'Sullivan v. O'Reilly*. The Plaintiff, Mr. O'Sullivan, is a Roman Catholic gentleman, a Justice of the Peace, and a man of high character; the Defendant, Archdeacon O'Reilly, is the parish priest of Athlone, who charged the Plaintiff with having defrauded certain of his creditors, with having seduced the governess of his children, and finally with being a member of the Order of Freemasons,—“whom God and the Church damned,”—language used by the rev. defendant, according to the evidence of one of the witnesses. After a patient trial, which lasted two days, and which has created the greatest interest not only in Athlone but throughout the country, the jury found a verdict for Mr. O'Sullivan, the plaintiff, on all the issues, with the sum of £850 damages. The reports and comments of the local Press have naturally led the Roman Catholic organ, the *Telegraph*, to expatiate not only on the trial but also on the iniquities of our Order, in behalf of which our excellent contemporary, the *Carlton Sentinel*, has the following reply, which we have great pleasure in inserting:—

“The Freemason order has pursued its silent course throughout the civilized world for centuries, though subject to persecution, and to the fiery ordeal of the Inquisition in Spain and Italy; but it has received the protection of States from time to time, by the wisest sovereigns, and the most distinguished statesmen in Europe.

“The *Telegraph* asks, ‘Are not the most inveterate enemies of the Catholics of Ireland Freemasons—implacable enemies in religion—uncompromising antagonists in politics?’ The answer to those startling questions may be summarily disposed of, by reference to one or two facts material to the issue. In the first place, the Masonic Order in France, which numbers nearly one million, is composed of the most distinguished members of the nobility, the gentry, and educated classes throughout France—all Roman Catholics, the members of the Lutheran Churches being in the proportion of one to forty, and principally resident in the districts of Nantz and Strasburg. This great body, whose head-quarters are at Paris, are not the inveterate enemies of their own creed, and they are devoted adherents to the laws which promote peace and order, besides being the supporters of numerous orphan charities. Napoleon I. was at the head of the “Order” for several years. Napoleon III. is himself a distinguished member of the body, knowing from experience the fidelity of the Order to the laws of every country which recognizes a fraternity that has existed for ages. The three last Monarchs of England extended their protection to it, more especially the two last. The King of Prussia is at its head in his own dominions—it is flourishing in Belgium and Sardinia among an enlightened Roman Catholic people, and it has, for the information of the *Telegraph*, affiliated branches in every part of the East—in Mahomedan Turkey, in India, in Syria, in fact, it may be found in every corner of the earth, from the Banks of the Liffey to the walls of China.

“The *Telegraph* appears to be alarmed for the public safety from the inroads which Freemasonry is making on society. The writer observes:—

“‘What has sanctioned this combination that it should thus be permitted to overspread the world, and act as it listeth, at all seasons and in all places? It may exist in the Government, on the seat of justice, in the jury-box, in the Legislature, in the army, in the navy, and even amongst our dependents—it may plot and cabal amongst us or for us, we are powerless in its meshes: they may, in spite of us, plot together against us. How insignificant and feeble is the power of the Confessional when compared to this?’

“No doubt of it. If the King of England was the Grand Master of the Order, it existed within the council chamber—in Parliament as it does at present—on the judgment-seat—at the bar—and, actually at this moment it folds within its tender embraces one-half, at least, of the learned professions in the kingdom.

Here is a startling fact for the *Telegraph*! but what is more, it diffuses itself throughout the entire army, from the general to the non-commissioned officer, and, 'shocking to relate,' whole regiments go out on foreign service, with their 'warrants' and Masonic insignia to hold military Lodges when settled at any particular station, whether in India, in Canada, or the Levant; but is her Most Gracious Majesty in danger from this formidable organisation? Is her throne encompassed by secret enemies—'is the social edifice convulsed by the widespread influence of the Order?' No; her Majesty's father, the late Duke of Kent, was at the head of the Order as a general in the army, and her royal uncle, the late Duke of Sussex, continued in his office as 'Grand Master' of England and its dependencies until the day of his death. We presume, if treason lurked beneath its folds, some royal eye, jealous of the prerogative of the monarchy, and anxious for its safety, would detect it.

"Let us now, by way of advice, suggest to the *Telegraph* the expediency of concealing its *animus* when it dwells upon subjects of which it is ignorant. It should be ever grateful for the services rendered the Head of the Church. Does the writer forget that Pius IX. owes, through Providence, his life to a Freemason, who communicated to the Grand Lodge at Paris the intention of a party to administer POISON to him through his cook? If he will refer to the columns of the public journals, some few years ago, he will there find a public acknowledgment of this service in frustrating the designs of the assassin."

AMERICA.

BOSTON.

MASONIC KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.—The annual meeting of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island was held at the Masonic Temple in Boston, on Wednesday, the 2nd November. The following persons were elected Officers for the ensuing year:—Daniel Harwood, of Boston, G.M.; John McClennan, of Boston, D.G.M.; Cyrus Fisher, of Providence, G. Generalissimo; James W. Crooks, of Springfield, G. Capt.-Gen.; Rev. Wm. R. Alger, of Boston, G. Prelate; John B. Bead, of Pawtucket, G.S.W.; J. A. D. Joslin, of Providence, G.J.W.; Wm. Parkman, of Boston, G. Treas.; Calvin Whiting, of Boston, G. Recorder; Asa Walker, of Worcester, G. Sword-bearer; C. B. Farnsworth, of Pawtucket, G. Standard-bearer; N. H. Gould, of Newport, G.W.

NEW YORK.

NEW BENEVOLENT FUND.—The first quarterly meeting of a newly-organized association, terming itself the Masonic Board of Relief, was held on the last Monday in November, at Odd Fellows' Hall, New York. The Board is constituted of delegates from the different Masonic Lodges in the city, and has for its object the relief of destitute widows and children of deceased members of the Fraternity. This is a new arrangement, and it is thought will prove much more efficient to accomplish the end aimed at than the old system, of having each Lodge make provision for the impoverished widows and children of their respective members.—*American Masonic Journal*.

WAKED UP AT LAST.—We learn with pleasure that a considerable cargo of Grand Lodge certificates from England have recently arrived in this city for Brethren in Canada. Some of these had been ordered and paid for a long time since. One for our old friend W. Bro. Noxon, now of New York, *eighteen years ago*. It is gratifying to find that the somnambulists of the Grand Secretary's office, are being aroused from their slumbers. A few more such movements as that which has taken place in Canada, might perhaps keep them awake.—*Canadian Masonic Pioneer*.

SUMMARY OF NEWS FOR DECEMBER.

THE COURT.

On the 5th, the Court removed from Windsor to Osborne; and on the 16th her Majesty visited the *Resolute* at Cowes, on board of which vessel she was most cordially received by the American officers in charge of her.

On the 19th, the Royal Family returned to Windsor, where they spent the Christmas amidst the usual festive rejoicings. Among the distinguished visitors entertained by her Majesty during the month were H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, and her nephews, the Princes of Leiningen.

FOREIGN.

On the 28th of November, a Neapolitan soldier made a rash attempt on the life of the king, but was immediately arrested. His Majesty has since received the congratulations of the other European sovereigns on his escape, and the city of Naples has been illuminated to mark the joy of his subjects. The wretched criminal had the character of being the most exemplary man in the Neapolitan army; but had unfortunately for years past persuaded himself that when the ruler breaks a sworn compact with his people, and misgoverns them, regicide is no murder. The unhappy man was executed on the 10th December, and bore himself throughout with the greatest dignity, calling on the Deity in his last moments to have mercy on his soul and on his country.

On the 3rd the American Senate, on being informed of the death of their eminent countrymen Mr. Clayton, resolved to pay his memory a tribute of national respect.

Generally, there are at present threatening aspects in foreign politics, and it is to be feared that Prussia will be aided in her attempt to crush the liberties of Switzerland. The state of society in Sicily may be well called volcanic.

News has been received of the bombardment of Canton by the English fleet, in consequence of twelve sailors having been arrested on board an English ship, and the Governor refusing any explanation of such conduct.

LEGAL.

On the 5th there was a regular field day in Westminster Hall in the trial of two cases of libel and one of breach of promise. In the last-mentioned case the lady plaintiff, Miss Crippin, obtained £400 damages against her former suitor, a Mr. Farebrother. In one of the libel cases, that of Lord Lucan against the *Daily News*, the freedom of the press was maintained by a verdict for the defendant. In the other case Mr. Smith, the agent of Buckmaster in the Crimea, obtained a verdict against the *Illustrated News* for reprinting from the *Times* the paragraph for which he formerly sued that paper.

On the 10th the Under-Sheriff, in the case of *Keays v. Harvey* for crim. con., assessed the damages at £400. On the same day a verdict for £500 damages was taken by consent in a similar action brought to trial in the Queen's Bench. In the same Court a libel case was tried on the same day, and resulted in a verdict for the defendant, the proprietor of a newspaper at Feversham.

On the 15th an action was tried in the Court of Exchequer, in which the plaintiff, an officer of the German Legion, sought to recover from the colonel of his regiment, the full value of some goods of his sold for a trifle by the adjutant, in consequence of his having absented himself from his regimental duties without leave.

On the 17th Vice-Chancellor Kindersley ruled that the vestry of St. James's, Clerkenwell, had the right of electing to the incumbency. The same day, at the

Kent Assizes, Thomas Mansell was found guilty of wilful murder, and ordered to be executed.

On the 19th, at the same assizes, Redanies, the Italian soldier, was sentenced to death for the murder of the girls Beck. On the same day the Lords Justices pronounced a decree vesting the winding up of the Royal British Bank in the Court of Bankruptcy, and on the 23rd the commissioner declared a dividend of 5s. in the pound.

On the 20th Sir John Dodson, in the Court of Arches, confirmed the decree of the Prerogative Court relative to the furniture of the churches of St. Paul and St. Barnabas, Knightsbridge.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

Under the head of accidents, we have had during the past month, a large number of railway collisions, boiler and mine explosions, destructive conflagrations and shipwrecks; while under that of offences, it would be tedious to enumerate the burglaries, garotte robberies, suicides, and murders which have, since our last summary, blackened the surface of society, and which so emphatically call in question the efficiency of our police.

On the 4th, there was a fearful collision at the Denton Station of the Stockport and Staleybridge branch of the North-Western Railway.

On the 6th, the *James Hartley* steamer ran down the brig *Messenger*, off Shields Harbour.

On the 7th, the American ship *Clarendon* was wrecked in a gale off the coast of Whitehaven.

On the 11th, a large portion of the Farnworth Paper-mills was destroyed by fire.

On the evening of the 14th, a small boat, in which several persons were taking an airing on the Thames, came in contact with Blackfriars-bridge, and was capsized, when three of the crew were drowned.

On the 15th, Marley was executed, at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Richard Cope in Parliament-street.

On the 17th, a destructive fire broke out in Aldersgate-street; and the same evening, another at Lambeth, both attended with great destruction of property.

On the 19th, a burglar was shot at Barnsley.

On the 20th, a terrific explosion took place at Bessemer's Iron Works, Leeds, by which several persons were more or less injured.

On the 20th, the atrocious criminal, Jackson, who murdered his two children, was executed at Chester.

On the 20th, it was announced to the public that Paul and Wanini, two men engaged in collecting the rates of the city of London Union, had absconded with large sums of money.

On the 21st, a girl aged twenty-one years, and who was stated to have been a prostitute from her tenth year, was brought before the magistrate, at the Thames Police Office, charged with attempting to commit suicide by poison.

On the 23rd, at Winchester, the three Italian sailors, Lagava, Petrici, and Barbaalo, convicted of murder and piracy, underwent the last penalty of the law. The two former confessed to several other deeds of bloodshed.

On the 24th, Redpath and his associates were fully committed for forgery and fraud.

COMMERCIAL.

On the 1st, Mr. Horatio Love was declared duly elected a director of the Eastern Counties Railway Company, in room of Mr. D. Waddington, M.P., resigned.

On the 4th, the Waterloo Bridge Company declared a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 4s. per share. The same day the Regent Canal Company declared a similar dividend, at the rate of 8s. 6d. per share.

On the 7th, the Peninsular and Oriental Company held its annual meeting, when the net profits for the year were stated to be £197,153. 11s. 7d., out of which a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. was declared.

On the 8th, the Bank of Australasia declared a dividend of 20 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital.

On the 11th, there was a meeting of the Atlantic Telegraph Company, at which it was stated that by the 31st of May the Telegraph would be completed. The British Government is to subsidize the Company to the extent of £14,000 per annum, until the returns yield a dividend of six per cent., and after that event is to pay £10,000 per annum for the transmission of messages.

On the 16th, there was a meeting of the Commercial Bank, when the most satisfactory explanations were given of its present position.

On the 18th, the Canada Company declared a dividend for the year, at the rate of £2. 10s. per share.

On the 19th, the Chartered Bank of Australia declared a dividend at the rate of two and a half per cent., and finding its present capital unwieldy, resolved to return £200,000 of it.

On the same day the South Australian Company reported an increase of £2,597 on the year in the amount of their rental, and declared a dividend of seven per cent. per annum.

On the 22nd, there was a meeting of the Venezuelan Bond-holders, when they rejected a proposition made to them on the part of the Government of Venezuela, and demanded the immediate payment of three per cent. on the active debt.

On the 23rd, the Colonial Gold Company and the Liberty Mining Company held special meetings, and in each case resolved to wind up their affairs.

PROVIDENT.

On the 8th, the Waterloo Life Assurance Company held its annual meeting, and declared a dividend of six per cent. The company has been only five years in existence, and yet its annual income is £17,482, and it has a reserved fund to the extent of £29,000.

On the 12th, the annual meeting of the General Annuity Endowment Association took place, when it was stated that, after paying out of the income of the year £19,263 in annuities, there was an increase in their funds to the extent of £7,031. 12s. 1d. The accumulated capital at present amounts to £284,036.

On the 18th, the fifth annual meeting of the Conservative Land Society took place, when the chairman, Lord Ranelagh, stated that the committee had sold £28,323. 9s. 6d. worth of land during the past year.

BENEVOLENT.

On the 1st there was a meeting of the supporters of that excellent institution the Orphan Working School, when fifteen children were elected to partake of its advantages out of a list of ninety-two candidates. We are sorry to state that the institution is in debt to the treasurer to the extent of £700.

On the 3rd the Society for the Relief of the Poor of the city of London and the parts adjacent, held its annual meeting, when it was stated that the Society had, from January to March last, distributed among the poor £930 worth of coals, charging them only sixpence per cwt. The sum thus received amounted to £457, so that the actual amount of the Society's bounty was only £473. The cost of distributing this was £372.

On the 4th the governors of the Philanthropic Society held their quarterly meeting. The report of the conduct of the boys on the farm at Redhill, now licensed as a Reformatory under the Act of last session, was highly satisfactory. The profits of the farm for the past year amounted to £200.

On the 8th there was a special meeting of the governors of the Female Orphan Asylum. The following figures may give some idea of the good working of this popular charity. It has sheltered and educated 2,638 female orphans, 2,252 of whom it has apprenticed out to respectable trades. Of the remainder, 221 died, two are now employed in the house, and there are 163 at present on the books.

On the 9th (St. Andrew's Day having fallen on a Sunday), the anniversary of the Scottish Hospital was celebrated at the London Tavern, when a considerable sum was collected in aid of its funds.

AMUSEMENTS.

On the 7th, a new play, called "The Cagot," and written in blank verse, was produced with decided success at the Lyceum.

On the 9th, Mr. Webster, after a long absence from London, reappeared at the Adelphi in the play of "Janet Pride."

On the 12th, the royal family of Oude visited the Princess's Theatre, to witness the performance of the "Midsummer Night's Dream."

On the 20th, the last Promenade Concert for the season took place at her Majesty's Theatre.

On the 22nd there was a Bal Masqué at the same theatre, under the management of Jullien.

On the 24th, General Tom Thumb commenced his London levées, after an absence of nine years from England.

On the 26th, boxing-night, the several theatres vied with each other in catering for the amusement of the public. The Pantomimes and Extravaganzas are, generally speaking, well got up, and, what is their chief recommendation, highly ludicrous.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the 4th, the new Bishop of London was enthroned in St. Paul's Cathedral.

On the 5th, the new Bishop of Durham formally took possession of that diocese.

On the 9th, the Smithfield Cattle Show was opened, and the next evening the members of the club dined together.

On the 16th, Mr. Russell Gurney, Queen's Counsel, was elected recorder of the City of London.

On the 17th, the Indian Mail brought the announcement of the declaration of war against Persia.

On the 18th, Orsini lectured at St. Martin's Hall on the tyranny of the Pope and the Emperor of Austria, in Italy.

On the same day there was a Crimean banquet at Nottingham; and a meeting at Bradford to denounce the war with Persia.

On the 19th, Sir Houston Stewart was entertained at a public dinner by the inhabitants of Greenock; and in the *Gazette* of that evening was published the retirement of Cornet Ames from the 4th Dragoons.

On the 21st, the Bishop of London held his primary ordination.

On the 23rd, the same prelate consecrated the Church of St. Matthew, Oakley-square.

On the 24th, the Poor-Law Commissioners took the management of the City of London Union into their own hands.

On the 25th, Christmas-day, the paupers in each of the metropolitan work-houses were liberally entertained by the guardians.

Several meetings were held in Dublin, Birmingham, Swansea, &c. &c. to obtain a reduction of the income-tax.

Several meetings were also held in the metropolis to protest against the present high rate of taxation.

The Sunday League has, during the month, received several defeats in the provinces.

Among the persons of distinction removed from among us last month, may be mentioned the Marquis of Queensbury; the Hon. Gen. Butler, the father of the hero of Silistria; the Hon. Gen. Gardner; Admiral Sir Henry Hart; and Sir Edward Beechey, the Arctic explorer; and Dr. Paris, president of the College of Physicians.

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.

THE "FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR."—The Brethren are respectfully informed, that the Volume for 1856, in a handsomely embossed symbolic cover, will be ready for delivery on the 15th instant, price 13s. 6d. Covers may, after that date, be had at the office price 1s., or the Brethren may have their numbers bound for 1s. 6d.

Those Brethren whose Subscriptions expired with our last Number, will oblige by forwarding a Post-office order for the present year.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND THE CRAFT.

WE have great pleasure in calling the attention of the Brethren to resolutions recently come to at Margate and Ramsgate, as reported under the head of Kent ; and in returning our sincere thanks to the Brethren of those Lodges for their kind and fraternal appreciation of our labours.

WE are kindly informed that at the last meeting but one of the "Noah's Ark" and "Vernon" Lodges, the Brethren unanimously resolved to take in *The Freemasons' Magazine*.

Bros. G. Steel, Darling, Wells, Miles, Hartskell, Lyall, Anderson, Smythies, Bold, Harrison, Leonard, Dove, and many other Brethren, are entitled and requested to receive our best thanks.

The "Reviews" of the present month are necessarily postponed.

"ALPHA."—Apply to Bro. Spencer, Masonic jeweller, 26, Great Queen-street.

"A CANADA FREEMASON."—The only collection of "Masonic Aphorisms" we recollect being published, is to be found in Dr. Oliver's new edition of the "Book of the Lodge."

A BROTHER can hold office in two Lodges at the same time, but he cannot be Master of more than one Lodge at a time without a dispensation from the Grand Master. By Article 6, p. 73, of the Book of Constitutions, our Brother will see that the Junior Warden can legally perform the ceremonies.

"J. B. C."—There is no law to prevent a Brother visiting a Lodge in the town in which he resides as often as he thinks fit, excepting he has ceased to be a subscribing member to a Lodge, as laid down in p. 83 of the Book of Constitutions. At the last Grand Lodge it was decided that the W.M. had the power of refusing admission to Brethren of known bad character. If you are wrongfully excluded, you have your remedy by laying a complaint before the Board of General Purposes. As Bro. J. B. C. resides in —, surely it would be better for him to belong to a Lodge in that town, rather than to Lodges in places he only occasionally visits.

"THE NEW G. SEC."—There are several candidates in the field, but the general impression appears to be that Bro. Farnfield will receive the appointment, which is in the gift of the G.M. The G. Sec. is not appointed annually, but continues in office during the pleasure of G. Lodge.

"ADONIRAM."—Strictly, according to the instruction of the Book of Constitutions, the levels on the Mason's apron ought to be of blue ribbon, but silver is now very generally substituted; and as we have never heard of the substitution being objected to in Grand Lodge, we presume it is tacitly acknowledged. There is no authority for wearing silver fringe. We do not recollect the ruling to which you allude, but we consider you are right in electing your Master at your regular meeting in December, and adjourning to St. John's day for installation, should your bye-laws provide for your meeting on that day, so that your minutes can be regularly confirmed. In such case your position would be precisely analogous to that of G. Lodge, which elects in March, and adjourns to the Wednesday next following St. John's day, as provided in the Book of Constitutions, when, prior to the festival, the minutes are confirmed, and the G.M. installed.

"P. G. S. B."—There is no doubt that, according to the Book of Constitutions, the wearing of the Arch Jewel in Craft Lodges is sanctioned; but still we cannot regard it as strictly correct—the word "legal" was a mistake.

"J. J. L.," Cheetham.—We will do our best to carry out your suggestion, but we can assure the worthy Brother that it is no easy matter to obtain answers to circulars,—only about one person in ten can be relied upon to reply.

"THE MASONIC CHARITIES."—P. W., Bath, shall receive a letter in two or three days.

"R. W. W."—In the report of the Grand Conclave of Knights Templar, we should have said the revival of the *Conclave*, as the Order has existed from time immemorial. Bro. Tucker's alleged offence was the wearing the paraphernalia of the 33rd Degree, not that of a K.T., as mentioned at p. 609 in our last volume; but the real transgression was the instituting a comparison between the way in which himself and the M.W. Grand Master would be received in the Grand Lodge of France.

"BRO. RUSSELL," Cape Town.—Arrangements are being made to comply with your wishes; accept our thanks for your energy.

The Canadian Pioneer and Freemasons' Indian Friend arrived just as we were going to press. We shall cull from its contents next month.

"O. B."—The Earl of Zetland.

"R. R. R."—The festival for the Benevolent Institution is to take place on Wednesday, the 17th June next. The G.M. is expected to preside.

"THE BOYS' SCHOOL."—We believe that it is contemplated, though not definitively arranged, to have a public Masonic opening of the new school-house on the day of the Festival, on Wednesday, March 11.

"THE GRAND FESTIVAL."—The words in the Book of Constitutions are, "to which all regular Masons may have access," clearly implying that none but Masons have a right to be present.