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THE SUCCESS OF THE "CHRONICLE."

NOTWITHSTANDING the homely maxim which warns us not to halloo until we are out of the wood, we are constrained, in consequence of the marked success of our First Number, to say a few words upon matters which, since they concern the well-being of a journal that has the interest of Masonry at heart, can scarcely be regarded as merely personal. Our success has been so unqualified, and we have received so many letters of encouragement from high and influential quarters, that we have now no doubt at all that we shall be able, with the cordial co-operation of our brethren, to make THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE in every way worthy of the Craft it aspires to represent. In spite of the counsels of many half-hearted friends, who insisted upon the assumed fact that Freemasons, as a rule, were regardless of the press, and indisposed to use it as a channel of intercommunication, we did our brethren the justice to believe that any apparent apathy on their part with respect to Masonic journalism merely arose from the acknowledged inferiority of the organs which have hitherto solicited the confidence of the Order. We felt assured that an honest effort to place before them a high class Masonic journal, whose literary matter and style of printing would not shame the most fastidious, would be appreciated; and the result proves that we were right in crediting the Order with high public spirit, and something more than even Masonic *esprit de corps*. Our First Number, which has been eagerly sought for, has circulated through the length and breadth of the land; and every post brings us letters of thanks and congratulation from men who have made their mark in Masonry, and who may fairly be regarded as the official spokesmen for their colleagues. Suggestions and hints for the development of our news columns have not been wanting, and, while thanking those who have thus given us the benefit of their large experience in the technical portion of Masonry, we may say that their suggestions, where practicable, shall be adopted as soon as opportunity offers. We are now making arrangements for the supply of regular memoranda of all Lodge meetings of importance, and we hope to give our readers a complete weekly *résumé* of Masonic intelligence, which shall leave nothing to be desired in that particular. With respect to the literary department of the paper, we hope to give a series of articles on Masonic questions of high interest, from the pens of competent brothers who are well trained in literary work. We do not despair of establishing correspondentships in India, America, and the Colonies, so that our readers may be posted up in the proceedings of the Craft throughout the wide range of the Masonic world. This latter feature, however, will necessarily be a work of time, but already we have printed an article upon Masonry in the United States, from the pen of an able American brother, and we shall be prepared to follow this up with a further article by a distinguished English Mason who has recently returned from a visit to the land of the Stars and Stripes. We are of opinion that an international exchange of views upon questions which embrace the broad principles upon which the brotherhood is based will be highly conducive to the homogeneous welding of the Order into one compact mass. Every travelling Mason is aware that Lodges in distant countries occasionally depart somewhat from the orthodox ritual, and although our "Constitutions" may be firmly adhered to generally, yet place and circumstance, and the absence of any general communication with the distant outposts of

the Masonic body, renders outlying Lodges liable to errors in matters of detail. These errors might be avoided if our distant brethren were brought into immediate relationship with those founts of perfect practice and ceremonial,—the English Grand Lodge and its great provincial prototypes. We shall not forget that Masonry is, so to speak, indigenous in the British Army, which has had the honour of carrying the mysteries of the Craft into every quarter of the globe. We shall do our best to keep our readers informed of the proceedings of our military brethren, and as the regimental Lodge necessarily follows the corps to which it is attached, we hope to make our reports of this branch of the Craft co-extensive with the Great Empire over which our gracious Queen holds her benign sway. Articles on questions of moment connected with the outer world will not be wanting, to vary the interest of our columns, and as these will be written from a Masonic standpoint, we are sanguine that they will be heartily welcome to our readers. Nor shall we forget the vast mass of Masonic literature which has emanated from the pens of gifted brothers during the last generation. Books for review are already crowding upon us, but in addition to fair and impartial notices of current publications, we shall, from time to time, as occasion offers, prepare careful papers upon the old standard works connected with the Order, in which lies embalmed the ripe experience of men who were bright stars in the brilliant galaxy of the distinguished members of the Craft. In conclusion, we feel assured that the enthusiastic reception with which our First Number was greeted will be extended to our future issues, since we shall spare neither time, labour, nor expense to command universal support. Even if, after all our efforts, we do not achieve permanent success, we will endeavour to show to our brethren that we deserve it.

AFTER-DINNER SPEECHES.

THE art of public speaking has been greatly neglected in this country. There is no lack of schools for the study of various systems of musical notation; almost every village has its choral society, but who can point to an institution where oratory is cultivated as a fine art. Homer speaks of "the smooth-tongued chief, from whose persuasive lips, sweeter than honey, flowed the stream of speech." But that was among the sensitive Greeks, with whom eloquence was a worship; in our colder northern latitudes great verbal fluency is often viewed with suspicion. The vulgar have a saying, "all jaw," and the more refined tell us that "speech is silver, silence is golden." Like many another proverb, taken literally, this one is exceedingly foolish. You have but to carry out the idea to its logical conclusion, and we might glory in a House of Commons that was a vast deaf and dumb asylum. As a matter of fact, a ready and fluent tongue is only ridiculous when unaccompanied by study and observation; when, however, it is used as the medium for rendering current the results of reading and of reflection, it gives a charm and grace to society which all the splendours of wealth might compete with in vain. Our present object is not to suggest the foundation of a great school of oratory, but to point out a few simple rules, by which every man may become an agreeable, if not a profound and brilliant speaker. All the arts of life are said to have resulted from the inconveniences which arose on account of the want of them, and we confess we have been led to a consideration of this subject by the sufferings we have endured in our capacity of

listening Freemason. What brother is there amongst us who can, with fidelity, assert that he has not endured with impatience the verbal floundering of many otherwise good fellows? Moreover—but this we whisper with bated breath—which of us, from entered apprentice to Grand Officer has not, at some time in his career, felt that most dreadful of sensations, when the blood seems to flee from underneath the cheeks, and the tongue refuses to moisten the parched lips, which gasp inarticulately like a fish in *extremis*? This, brethren, is a species of stage fright to which the greatest orators have been subject. In our opinion it may be easily cured. It arises from the patient attempting a task beyond his powers. Your unpractised speaker seems to think that the moment he rises to his feet it will be expected from him that he shall pass suddenly out of the ordinary conversational sphere and soar into the regions of pure literature. He makes an attempt to round his sentences, to be didactic, or even worse,—funny. Of all the tribe of sucking Ciceros, save us from the would-be-funny man. It is scarcely necessary to say that, in nine cases out of ten, the aspirant for oratorical hero-ship blossoms into a verbose Icarus, the waxen fastenings of whose wings melt in the stare of many eyes when he falls flop into the sea of ridicule. This should not be, for the most ordinary, imperfectly educated mechanic, describing the processes of his trade, is able to give you a lucid account of the means by which he arrives at a given end. It never enters his mind that it is expected of him that he shall make a brilliant speech, and, being perfect master of his subject, he is sparing of details; hence you go away impressed with the idea that he has not told you all he knows, but rather that he knows much more than he has told. We have used this homely illustration advisedly, because we believe the whole art of public speaking, especially after-dinner, to lie in the one word—simplicity. We will take, for example, an ordinary Freemason, belonging to the middle classes of life. Chance has made his career a business one, occupation has debarred him from much study. Suddenly we find him called on to return thanks for the visitors at a Masonic banquet. He knows that a speech is expected from him, and he feels as if he should like to change places with Korah, whom the earth swallowed up—at least it is so stated in the Mosaic record. The purgatory of a song having been gone through, the fatal moment arrives, and we behold our brother upon his legs. After a few preliminary splutters, he tells us that he has been into many Lodges, but he has never, in the whole course of his Masonic career, seen the working conducted as it has been in this particular instance. He is very much obliged to the brother who brought him, and he generally concludes with the feeble joke that he will come again as often as he is invited. That, brethren, is an example, as you know, of an ordinary after-dinner Masonic speech; as a speech, we may say it is not good; as a specimen of taste, it is execrable. Why is this? Simply because it never strikes our brother that what he really feels about the matter in hand, expressed in the terms of his daily conversation, would be acceptable under the circumstances.

If you will observe the practice of John Bright, admittedly the finest orator England at present possesses, you will see that he differs from ordinary public speakers, particularly in so far as he is more natural. He never goes out of his way to be rhetorical. Speaking, as he mostly does, on subjects of imperial interest, his thoughts naturally flow along high levels, but whenever the subject admits of what we may call the domestic treatment, you will find Mr. Bright speaking just such a speech as might be uttered at any man's fireside. Talleyrand said, that "speech was given to man for the purpose of concealing his thoughts." Many after-dinner speakers pay unintentional homage to the great French cynic, by confirming his epigram in their unfortunate practice. For ourselves, not only do we not think that speech was given to man that he might conceal his thoughts, but we think the mere assertion stupid and misleading; and truly characteristic of the age of kites and pigeons when it took its rise. On the other hand, we believe that under every man's nature, however apparently unemotional, there exists a fund of incipient heroism, and a vein of tenderness too often unworked. It is all very well to be hard and cold, whilst we are driving our bargains or working at our handicrafts, but after the ledger is put on the shelf, or the tools laid by for the night, where is the man who does not thrill with joy when he sees his youngsters happily at play, or sleeping quietly in their little white beds? We do not advocate that what

are called the more sacred feelings of the heart should be soiled by contact with rough natures or mocking laughter. God forbid! What we do say is, that the whole art of successful oratory, and more especially of after-dinner speaking, lies in uttering, in simple, unaffected language, the thoughts that arise in the mind. As it is given to but few men to be great poets, so it is given to but few geniuses to be great orators. A noble, passionate style is born with some men, and such alone stir assemblies by the mere modulation of the voice. They are men of extraordinarily sensitive natures, who have the delicate pitch of a fine musical instrument. They are played upon, and affected by the passions of a crowd, as much, if not more, than they affect in turn. Watch them closely, and you will perceive that their great successes are made by merely acting as the vocal organ of what the crowd thinks. Was it not Mr. Gladstone who said that "the orator takes up in mist what he flings back in shower?" Shortly, then, it has been our ill fortune to listen, from time to time, to a great deal of very bad after-dinner speaking. We assert, moreover, that at present few of our countrymen of the middle class are much better than intolerable bores when they attempt to think aloud whilst in an upright position, and in presence of their fellow men. This arises because they attempt too much. If we may be permitted to respectfully suggest a few rules, they will be—Let no man speak but when he has something to say. The simplest and least conventional forms of speech are always the best. Never be frightened lest natural emotion should produce laughter,—it never will; and, above all, avoid being funny. When you feel nervous, keep on. We were nervous ourselves once, but that time, alas! is too long ago—in such a beautiful green world as this—to be recalled with pleasure.

BROTHERHOOD!

IN that one word what sympathetic associations arise. How the mind at once revels in benevolent reflections, and anticipates the felicity of that reciprocity of fraternal affection which links humanity together. Brotherly love is a very sacred tie, that should always be deemed a holy bond, and one that will help us to bear each others burdens and share each others joys. This is the basis upon which the brotherhood of Freemasons has been founded, and to extend its aims and principles is one of the great objects for which this Journal has been inaugurated. The leading elements of power that should guide every association should be to awaken the human mind, and to give to men of all classes consciousness of their intellectual and moral power to communicate knowledge of a useful and quickening character, to encourage men in thinking with freedom and vigour, to inspire an ardent love of truth and justice.

All such associations are worthy of support and patronage; while such as are designed or adapted to depress the human intellect, to make it dependent and servile, to keep it where it is, to give a limited amount of knowledge, but not to give an impulse to the onward motion of men's thoughts and aspirations. All such unions, however benevolent their professions, should be regarded as among the foes of the community, and as obstructions to the welfare of society. It is these kinds of clubs and unions which weaken in men the motives to exertion, which offer a bounty to idleness, and make beggary as profitable as labour.

On these social questions the present age admits and requires a more extensive teaching than formerly. An intellectual activity that shall be cheered by benevolence and social kindness, an active sympathy that shall know no alien, but become as far diffused as "fancy's wing can travel, oblivious of its own delight if aught that breathes is wretched." By the aid of brotherhood, we obtain a large intercourse with other minds, which cannot but become a valuable acquisition for the enlightenment and elevation of our own. A more genial and generous spirit is wanted in the nation. We need reform in our political and social institutions, in our habits, our feelings and our characters. Dark and fearful are the various contests that rage all around for wealth and power. Far as the mental eye can sweep the social horizon, there is to be seen an amount of sin, sorrow, shame, and crime, that requires all the religious, moral and mental agencies to stem its onward progress; yet there is no need for despair.

Influences are at work that will subdue those evils if they cannot eradicate them. There may be in existence a vital power and energy which will hold on while the world continues, ever realizing larger amounts of happiness.

National spirit, allowed its free scope by institutions, is a pledge for such progress, which, for aught that appears, may be eternal and unbounded. In the growing intelligence of the great masses of society, we have a promise of progress for our own country, and its influence upon the world. A further sign of improvement is exhibited in the advance of more extended feelings of common interest among all the different grades of the industrial classes. The gulfs of separation are not, by any means, so wide as they were. The identity of interests of the various orders, who live by trade and labour, is presenting itself to people's minds in a more distinct light and impressive form than heretofore. On every hand the great body of the people are more and more thinking for themselves, and cultivating their own powers and faculties.

The literary and social institutions that are rising everywhere throughout the land are so many centres of light and knowledge, radiating and exercising an useful and glorious influence, the value of which cannot be measured by the exact numbers of subscribers to these institutions, or the amount of funds raised.

These facts, therefore, should leave no doubt, or cast any gloom upon the minds of those who have faith in the ultimate destiny of an enlightened humanity.

OUR BRETHREN IN THE WEST.

"FIRST in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen," runs the legend, no less trite than true, that describes the brave soldier, the sincere patriot, the unambitious statesman, the Christian gentleman, and the good Mason, George Washington.

Nearly half a century ago, on the summit of an eminence overlooking the broad bosom of the Potomac, and surrounded by the outlines of an embryo city, was laid the first stone of a grand national monument, to perpetuate the glory of a great and good man. Surrounded by the dignitaries, civil and military, of the young republic, and distinguished representatives of many lauds, the Grand Lodge of the United States, assisted by a numerous Masonic delegation, officiated, with all the pomp and pageantry incident to a great national event. The glowing records of that day's celebration have long since passed into the pages of history, but history fails to record the sequel. It may not be amiss to recall the following extract from the address of an illustrious statesman and worthy brother, long since exalted to the General Grand Chapter above. Lay the corner-stone of a monument which shall adequately bespeak the gratitude of the American people to the illustrious father of his country. Build it to the skies; you cannot outreach the loftiness of his principles! Found it upon the massive and eternal rock; you cannot make it more enduring than his fame! Construct it of the peerless Parian marble; you cannot make it purer than his life! Exhaust upon it the rules and principles of ancient and modern art; you cannot make it more proportionate than his character!" The stone was laid, and the work commenced. Towards its completion a memorial block of marble or granite was furnished by almost every nation in the world. From an enormous base, forming the centre of a beautiful circle of Corinthian columns, arose, some hundred feet, the proportions of a majestic shaft. A generation has almost passed away, and to-day, looming up in the midst of the nation's capital—the "City of Magnificent Distances," or as the "outs" are wont to term it, the "City of Magnificent Plundering,"—stands the neglected, unfinished and almost forgotten Washington monument, "Looking," as described by an English writer on America, "like the wreck of an old Spanish windmill," a reproach to the nation, an eyesore to every honest American, a lame and impotent conclusion to a great undertaking, and a standing verification of the ingratitude of republics. Two years more will bring to Americans the one hundredth anniversary of their independence. Extensive preparations to commemorate that event, by an international exhibition at Philadelphia, and appropriate centennial celebrations throughout the Union, are already on foot. Amid all the grand projects and prospects for national jubilee and glorification, not a single word of suggestion is heard to

complete the nation's tribute to him who, of all others, was mainly instrumental in giving it birth. Is it not time that this monument should be either finished, or, for the credit of our Transatlantic brethren, pulled down, and all trace of its existence obliterated?

Masonry is doing an incalculable amount of good in the U.S. In no quarter of the globe is its field of operations so unrestricted; side by side with the announcement of the installation of his Grace the Duke of Abercorn, as G.M. of the Freemasons of Ireland, in the *Times* of Thursday, we regret to see despatches stating that the city of New Orleans is placed under military control. It is only a few days since we read, with supreme satisfaction, of a general grand encampment of Knights Templar at New Orleans, which turned out to be a most brilliant and imposing affair. It brought together, in that city, thousands of men from all sections of the country, representing fairly the best citizens, and all shades of political sentiment. The State of Louisiana, of which New Orleans is the capital, is the political cauldron of the South, and has been kept pretty much at boiling point since the close of the war. Nor is it to be wondered at when we consider the reckless and oppressive system of misgovernment to which its people have been subjected at the hands of ignorant negroes and unscrupulous white adventurers. The circumstances under which this meeting assembled gave its proceedings unusual interest, and created universal desire to hear what the Sir Knights would have to say about the real condition of things in Louisiana. Every city throughout the country was certain to get the truth from the returning Sir Knights, and those who knew predicted a great change of opinion and feeling in relation to the condition of the permanent white population of the southern States. Our brethren met good people in New Orleans, as pure and patriotic, as worthy of their confidence, as deserving of their sympathy, as could be found in any city of the north, and, knowing this to be case, we are confident that the result cannot fail to be highly beneficial to both sections in the mutual good understanding that is certain to follow. We have heard before to-day of the influence of Masonry in national affairs, and consequently are not surprised to learn that the suggestions of coercion made to the government by the military authorities, who have just assumed the direction of affairs, have met with universal and deserved condemnation. The meeting of good and true men, for a pure purpose, divested of all prejudice and partizan feeling, can and will do more to restore kind feelings between the two sections than all the compulsory laws that ever have been or ever will be enacted.

We shall watch, with interest, the course of events in Louisiana. Meantime, in the name and interests of that great and "wide-spread community for the extension of human sympathy and human brotherhood, embracing myriads of men of all nations and of all creeds, in one common bond of amity," let us wish peace and goodwill to the countrymen of George Washington, who was, of all men, a shining light unto Masons. Our American brethren are numerous, enterprising, generous and wealthy. They would scarcely miss the means required to complete the structure commenced by their predecessors; we have, therefore, no fear that, as English Masons, we shall be misunderstood in venturing to suggest to our brethren in the West that *they* finish the Washington Monument.

A meeting of the Provisional Committee of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE PUBLISHING COMPANY will be shortly held, with a view to making a first allotment of shares. Under the circumstances, we need make no apology for drawing the attention of our readers thereto. There may be many members of the Craft who are anxious to promote the success of an organ whose sole object is to advance the interests of Freemasonry. We advise, therefore, any of our readers who may desire to take shares, to send in their application to the Bankers, London and County Bank, Aldersgate Street Branch, at the earliest opportunity. Forms may be obtained from the General Manager of the Company, 67 Barbican, E.C.

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THE TRUE HISTORICAL ASPECT OF THE
"RELIGIOUS AND MILITARY" ORDER OF
THE TEMPLE; *ci-devant* "MASONIC."

By WALTER SPENCER, F.R.G.S., Member of the
International Congress of Orientalists, &c. &c.

OF affiliated Masonic Orders, or *side degrees*, there has been none more honourable than that of "Masonic Knights Templar." A change was effected in its constitution upon the installation as Grand Master, of the Heir-Apparent, in full conclave of Knights from all parts of the kingdom, with a ceremonial memorable from traditions and surroundings as well as from the evident earnestness imparted to it by the Prince.

In their main features, the remodelled Statutes have reverted to the constitution of antiquity, and have discontinued the use of the prefix "Masonic," which during more than a century, marked the transition from enforced obscurity to reviving splendour. Theoretically, the Cross of the Order has ever conferred a title to chivalry (anciently "nobility"); now—the quasi-official acknowledgment implied in the bestowal of Crosses upon some of the chief potentates of Europe, has ratified its title to honour. Being constituted a *Brotherhood of Gentlemen*, i.e. of men whose culture and instincts associated for the furtherance of public welfare, render their Order a social engine of weight and standing, it is, theoretically, the pride and duty of all, from the Grand Master to the youngest Companion, to serve the Order to the best of their ability, *for the love of the Order*, ennobled by common disinterestedness.

This is true CHIVALRY; not mediæval nor Quixotic, but conceived in the highest instinct of our age, as a counterpoise to the worship of Mammon and the love of self. This differentiates the Temple from *Universal Masonry*—that general bond, which harmonising men of every creed and status, necessarily perpetuates its interests by appealing to selfish aspirations—tempting *all* to office after office, attended by renewal of honours. The aim of the Temple is that of Masonry; but, as in olden times its individuals were bound to poverty and chastity, even so now *abnegation* is required of them. The means employed cannot be "Universality." The Temple marshals but one corps in the van of progress, and its creed is "Christianity," which it heralds as the true civiliser, the surest reformer and the swiftest accelerator of imperfect manhood towards the millennium of love. Both have their mission, but the Templar is the farther from his goal, and not yet in this world can he expect reward.

In the United States a more methodical organisation, and more definite plans have rendered the Order more powerful than here; not to be left out of account by public men, whose shifty expediency may invite retribution from a "public opinion," stimulated by higher principle. In Republic and Kingdom Statutes may differ, but principles are the same—unselfish adhesion to the Order, respect for its constituents, and pride in its name. These evidently inspire our Grand Master and Great Prior, and are worthy of the esteemed Officers and Companions who have begun to agitate for return to "Masonic" usages, for whose consideration I subjoin the following *précis*:—

The tale of the atrocious and too successful plot laid by the Pope and the King of France, which brought about the ruin of the Order in A.D. 1307, of the sufferings and heroic martyrdom of its chiefs, is too well known to need recapitulation; but this does not close its history. I now quote from "The History," by James Burnes, LL.D., F.R.S., Knight of the Royal Guelphic Order, &c., &c., a distinguished Knight Templar:—"The Brotherhood was not suppressed, and there has been a succession of Knights Templar from the twelfth century down to these days; the chain of transmission is perfect. Jacques de Molay, Grand Master, anticipating his martyrdom, appointed, as his successor, Johannes Marcus Larmenius, of Jerusalem, and from that time there has been a regular line. The Charter of Transmission, with the signatures of the various chiefs, is still preserved." Here follows a list of the Grand Masters, according to the signatures of the Charter, from Larmenius onward, comprehending the great *Du Guesclin*, *Maine*, *Condé* and *Conti*. The Grand Mastership, after the French Revolution, was preserved in the person of Bernard Raymond Fabré-Palaprat, and by him transmitted to Sir Sydney Smith, whose *nom de guerre*, "Cœur de Lion," acquired in the Levant, specially pointed him out as

the most worthy of Christian Knights for that eminent station.

The head-quarters of the Order remained at Paris, but the lamentable prevalence, since 1830, of faction and political incertitude in that city of ferment, whose baleful influence other institutions have not escaped, proved stifling to the spirit of the Order, and, so far as I can ascertain, it either languished in retirement or became extinct. The dignity of Grand Prior in this country was supported by the Duke of Sussex, on whose shoulders, at Sir Sydney's death, and failing regular succession, the mantle of Grand Master would have appropriately descended. Autograph endorsements of his, upon diplomas of the Order issued from Paris, are in my possession. Whether manifold occupations afterwards impeded the regular discharge of his functions, I know not, but numerous Encampments of Knights Templar, dating from before the days of Grand Master Dunckerly (Fitz-George), were certainly under his command. The origin of these latter is involved in obscurity; there can be little doubt that, in this as in other countries, fragments of the Order perpetuated in secret a shadowy existence, unveiled on the advent of propitious days at various centres, and marshalled in due time under a Royal banner. Of the traditions and functions of the Duke, the present Grand Master is the natural heir, and details of privilege should give way to Royal prerogative. The *spirit* of the Charter animates the Order, its *text* is but an antiquarian curiosity; it still survives, and could find no such legitimate owner as H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

And now, close critics of the hard cynical stamp, and clever iconoclasts of the *Findel* School, will smile and say—"This is a pretty story, and though the existence of the Charter be not disputed, we have condemned it long since for a forgery." Fortunately, the use of reason, is not confined to the cynical critic or patriotic iconoclast: and I will take the liberty to state and examine the charges brought against the Charter, in vindication of its authenticity.*

The first, and, as will appear, the only noteworthy attack, is made by M. Clavel, in his *Histoire pittoresque de la Franc-Maçonnerie*, &c. Paris: 1843, p 215. After stating that he has before him original documents to the following purport, and that Dr. Morrison, of Greenfield, intended to publish them, he informs us: "that an association for abominable purposes, was formed at the Court of Louis XIV., was suppressed by that monarch, and revived by Philippe d'Orleans in 1705, for political ends. That an Italian Jesuit then forged the Charter with the signatures of the Grand Masters, that a Minute Book was commenced, which was kept up by succeeding Grand Masters. That the Order attempted to open communication with the surviving branch of the Templars (the Order of Christ), in Portugal, but was met with scorn by King John V., who arrested its envoys. That on the death of Grand Master the Duc de Cossé-Brissac, in the Revolution, an article of his furniture containing the Charter and other documents, was purchased by his physician, who showed them to a friend and to Fabré-Palaprat, and that this suggested a revival." He adds that the founders at once took to manufacturing relics in support of the documents in their possession; that burnt bones from the pyre of *De Molay*, were fabricated by Leblond and Fabré, that a copper reliquary and other things, were bought by Leblond of a marine-store-dealer, that a damascened iron casque was stolen by Arnal from a government depot, &c., &c.

The story as told by Clavel reads glibly and smooth; let us see whether such confident assertion has been supported by, or is capable of proof.

Firstly, as general premises, I would remark that the readers of the pages of Clavel must be struck with that author's proficiency in the art of book-making, and the evident adaptation of his wares "to sell." I am far from finding fault with this propensity, but must point out that a good anecdote-monger and a sprightly cynic does not always stick at trifles, when his knowledge or judgement is at fault; that his aptitude for drawing upon imagination must be sometimes gratified at the expense of truth; that he can hardly fail to pass off some fables for facts, or unwittingly to recount some facts as fables. Moreover, it must be remembered, and I shall subsequently have more to say in that connection, that the main and ostensible cause of the downfall of the Order in the 14th

* See also *Sketch of the Knights Templar*, &c. By Richard Woolf, F.S.A. London, 1864.

century, was its reputed dissent from the tenets of the Roman See. This drew down upon it the same unsparing hostility that exterminated the Waldenses and Albigenses; the agents of that hostility are not always visible, and the open revival of an Order suppressed under such circumstances would be necessarily about the bitterest pill which the Court of the Supreme Pontiff could have to swallow. Again, it would seem that M. Clavel in his patent desire to ruin the revived Order in the estimation of the reader whom his easy and flippant style may have attracted, has not escaped the pitfall which has snared many an author, especially amongst French critics,—*he states too much*. I think the bias declared in his assertions may be taken as proved.

To begin with, he is unable to accuse Fabr -Palaprat and his compeers of the forgery of the Charter; and, in order to find a false original for the Society, he remounts to the days of Louis XIV. What is his account of its object? Its identity with the accusation against the martyrs strikes us, and whilst we ponder on the improbability, even on the authority of Buss -Rabutin, of *an Order being founded* for such a purpose, we remember that similar charges have been ever the handy weapon of a ruling hierarchy, and that even the apostolic gatherings of the founders of our faith, did not escape it from the mouths of the heathen priesthood. To account for the apparent genuineness of the Charter, with its antique character, its monkish and illuminated Gothic border, he ascends to the days of Philippe d'Orleans (suggested, may be, by the first signature in the only remaining Statute-book), and finds a convenient Italian Jesuit, an excellent draughtsman for the purpose. Supposing, however, such to have been the case: as M. Clavel was not cotemporary with that Grand Master, nor his confidant, and as it is highly improbable (if the association were really re-established as he states, for occult political ends), that the fact of the forgery should have been transmitted to posterity, to the infamy of the concoctors; whence did M. Clavel derive that link in his circumstantial narrative? Was it from Dr. Morrison of Greenfield, who, as he says, was about to publish his documentary evidence? I fear not, I have many works upon the Temple, once the property of that gentleman; I have seen a correspondence of his for years on that and other subjects, and neither in the letters, nor in even in a marginal note, is there anything which supports M. Clavel's implication. Dr. Morrison was known equally with Dr. Burnes, as versed in the history of the Order; Clavel wrote when it was lapsing into chaos, and the circulation of his attractively-illustrated work would for the time distance all contradiction. Even were the assertions based on Dr. Morrison's authority, it would not establish improbabilities; and where are the interesting documents, which, when published, were to prove so much?

The unsuccessful attempt to correspond with the Order of Christ, is an unfortunate instance for M. Clavel, being evidently adduced in support of his calumny. When examined, it will tell the other way. The Templars of Portugal: transformed or incorporated into the Order of Christ, preserved none of the spirit of their illustrious origin, but had become simply a State incumbrance on the Kings of Portugal, willing slaves of the Popes. The Order which dared to make such an attempt must have been notorious in France; how then, if its very existence involved a falsehood, was it tolerated or connived at by the King of that country? Its impudent envoys to Portugal must have had no small faith in its pretensions, which, if palpably fictitious, merited nothing but contempt; we are told, however, by M. Clavel, that a royal order was issued for their arrest, that one was captured and *transported to Africa*, where he died.

These bits of history do not fit well into the narrative. The details subsequent to the death of the Duc de Coss  Brissac were, M. Clavel implies, furnished by Dr. Morrison, with much circumstantiality; and certainly the respectable physicians, advocates and others, who are accused of manufacturing martyrs' bones, thieving from arsenals, &c., &c., must have been a set of blackguards, if capable of a tithe of what is thus laid to their charge.

As we pull up, we reflect that nothing is easier than to vilify, especially after the lapse of years; and, in a general way, it seems to come as easy to M. Clavel, as to deify does to a greater author with whom we are better acquainted. To remove the impression once made, is not so easy; though, in this case, the task is by no means so difficult as

would be that of pulling down the Great Frederick from his plinth.

I should be quite content to stake the zealous adhesion of noble Sir Sydney Smith, and of keen Dr. Burnes, against the two gross libels of M. Clavel, even could they be supported by the documents of Dr. Morrison.

The other scoffers at the Charter have fallen into the error which Dr. Findel and the hyper-critical school are so fond of pointing out in English *Masonic* authors. They have accepted and repeated Clavel's assertions *without further examination*. The only one I deem noteworthy is that made by our brethren of Scotland, in their "Statutes of the Religious and Military Order of the Temple," published in 1843. Their origin and succession is eminently respectable, but they felt sorely wounded by a passage which appears in the Charter of Larmenius. . . . " *Decreto e suprema mihi auctoritate, Scotos Templarios Ordinis desertores, anathemate percussos, illosque et Fratres Sancti Johannis Hierosolymae, dominiorum Militie spoliatores (quibus apud Deum misericordia) extra gyrum Templi nunc et in futurum, volo, dico et jubeo.*" They therefore, although perceiving the independent testimony conveyed to their story of their own origin, adopt Clavel's *exposure*, and proceed—"The author (of the Charter) has fatally exposed himself by making Larmenius excommunicate the Knights of St. John. How could that brotherhood, who never were within the pale of the Temple, be driven from it?"

I have before adverted to *hyper-criticism*, and record my conviction that more honest truths are endangered than falsehoods exposed thereby. Of course it is extremely clever, and it serves a purpose, which is too frequently the bias, conscious or unconscious, of the critic's mind. It was clever of the Spanish Bishops to demonstrate that Columbus's statements were moonshine, it illustrated their acumen, and showed their knowledge of Holy Writ; but the world was round notwithstanding. I see nothing in the exclusion from fellowship of the sister and rival Order, with which individual Knights had from the beginning exchanged mutual hospitality, but a natural outburst of wrath on its enrichment at the expense of the martyred Templars.

I have also seen it objected that the signature of *Du Guesclin* is written *Du Guerclin*, and that that hero could not in fact write at all. But I submit that there are innumerable medi val MSS. where the letter "s" is undistinguishable from "r," and that the statement against *Du Guesclin* is only susceptible of negative proof.

The mission of the Order, illustrating one of those remarkable retributive prophecies, which are the enigmas of history; its lofty aspirations and mortal antagonism to the Roman See, I will endeavour to unfold in a future Number. I would merely add here, that in presence of the large proportion of intelligent and instructed members of the Order to be found in this country, I endeavour, above all, to avoid the suspicion of dogmatism, and am emboldened to record my opinions only by reliance upon the very great facilities I have had for making myself acquainted with the subject. All opinions demand a like respect, and risk a like analysis; I would not have mine give offence to any companion of the Order; the badge we wear is the symbol of Charity as well as of martyrdom.

The following paragraph, from the *Detroit Evening News*, should be ventilated, as it raises a question as interesting to English Masons as to our American brothers.

The State Grand Lodge of coloured Masons, met at Jackson, this week. The principal topic of public interest was relative to recognition by the white folks. The committee, appointed a year ago, to petition the Grand Lodge (white), reported that they had performed that duty, and that the Grand Lodge had passed a resolution affirming exclusive jurisdiction for over 30 years, as a reason for refusing recognition. This Grand Lodge (coloured) considers this action to be contrary to the action taken in the case of a Lodge holding a warrant from the Grand Lodge. The coloured Masons are quite confident that in time this recognition will be given as an act of justice. The following officers were elected:—

- M. W. G. M.—Isaac Burdine, Ypsilanti.
- D. G. D.—Richard Stewart, Cass county.
- G. S. W.—Wm. R. Hackley, Niles.
- G. J. W.—John A. Freemann, Ann Arbor.
- G. Sec.—T. J. Martin, Dowagiac.

REVIEWS.

—:o:—

All Books intended for Review should be addressed to the Editor of The Freemason's Chronicle, 67 Barbican, E.C.

—:o:—

Memorials of the Masonic Union of A.D. 1813. Consisting of an Introduction on Freemasonry in England; the Articles of Union; Constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of England, A.D. 1815, and other Official Documents; a List of Lodges under the Grand Lodge of England, with their numbers, immediately before, and after the Union, &c. Compiled and arranged by William James Hughan, Past Senior Grand Deacon of England; Representative of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, &c., &c., &c. Also, an exact reprint of Dr. Dassigny's "Serious and Impartial Inquiry," which contains the earliest known reference to Royal Arch Masonry. London: Chatto and Windus, Piccadilly. Truro: William Lake, Princes Street. Philadelphia (U.S.A.): Charles Eugene Meyer, 722 Arch Street. 1874.

It is hardly necessary to discuss the matter contained in these pages, for every Mason is more or less familiar with the greater portion of the contents. Yet, in justice to the compiler, who has evidently spared no pains in the selection and arrangement of his materials, we feel bound to offer him our hearty and fraternal congratulations on the success which has attended his efforts. Few people are aware of the labour entailed in collating perfectly trustworthy information on any subject; fewer still of the difficulties which a compiler experiences in compressing such information within reasonable and readable limits. All these difficulties, however, have been vanquished, and the result is a volume which, it is no mere figure of speech to say, should be in the possession of every member of the Fraternity.

The first or introductory portion of these memorials is a succinct and admirably lucid account of Freemasonry, from the Constitution of the first Grand Lodge in England in 1717, down to the Union, in 1813, of the two Grand Lodges, respectively known as the Grand Lodge of the Society of Free and Accepted Freemasons under the Constitution of England, and the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England according to the Old Institutions. The conference which led to, and the ceremonial observed at this Union are fully described; the articles of the Union itself being printed in extenso. Part the Second comprises the Constitutions of the ancient fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, including the Charges of a Freemason, extracted from the ancient records of Lodges beyond sea, and of those in England, Scotland, and Ireland; the regulations for the government of the Grand Lodge during the time of public business and of Private Lodges, of Lodges within the London district, of Country Lodges in districts, and of Military Lodges, together with such other regulations as are appointed to be observed by the several degrees of the Craft, on the proposal of members, the constitution of New Lodges, &c., and in connection with the transaction of business, regalia, public ceremonies, and Masonic funerals. These were first published in 1815. Then follows a reprint of the "Serious and Impartial Inquiry," by Dr. Fifield Dassigny, printed in Dublin 1741, a valuable and important book, bearing, as it does, on the subject of Royal Arch Masonry. This "Inquiry" had been lost for a century, all attempts to discover a copy having failed till quite recently. Then follows a list of Lodges, A.D. 1874, arranged in tabular form, so that the reader may see, at a glance, those Lodges on the Roll of the United Grand Lodge of England, A.D. 1814, their numerical position in 1813, prior to the Union, according as they were under the "Grand Lodge of England," (Moderns) or the "Grand Lodge of England, according to the Old Institutions," (Ancients) with the years when the former were constituted, the alterations made in 1832 and 1863, and the order of those still in existence in 1874.

We trust this brief description of the contents of this volume will serve to convey to our readers a pretty accurate idea of its value. It certainly bears out what we said in the beginning of this notice, as to the labour attending the compilation of such important materials. We have already offered Brother Hughan our very sincere congratulations on his success, and we can only express, in conclusion, our firm conviction that his work will meet with that cordial reception from the whole Craft, which it unquestionably deserves at their hands.

History of the Lodge of Tranquillity, No. 185, from its origin to the present time. By JOHN CONSTABLE, W.M., with a preface by W. J. HUGHAN, P.M. 131. London: Charles Skipper and East. 1874.

THE history of this Lodge, uneventful as it is, is, notwithstanding, well worthy of preservation, and our thanks are due to the able historian who has well performed his task, and to Bro. Hughan for his carefully written preface, which lightly and agreeably skims the surface of our ancient historic records. The Lodge of Tranquillity,

as many of our readers know, received its dispensation from the so-called "Ancient Grand Lodge of Freemasons," which was founded early in the last century, by some malcontents who seceded from the Grand Lodge of England. It is not our business just now to trace the history of this remarkable heresy in Masonry, which is very clearly sketched by Bro. Constable, who traces it from the year 1739 to 1813, when harmony was restored to the English Masonic world. Happily, in these times there is no danger of any disturbance of our peace; Masons are united in the bonds of a perfect brotherhood, and are proud to own allegiance to the Grand Lodge, which exercises sway over the Craft. The Lodge of Tranquillity was founded on the 20th December 1787, the Earl of Antrim being Grand Master of the "Ancient Grand Lodge." Its early career was comparatively humble and unobtrusive, and from the quaint extracts which are given from the Minute Books we infer that some of the successive secretaries lacked culture. Oddly enough the Lodge, which has since had so much reason to be proud of its Jewish brethren, passed a resolution in the year 1791 absolutely excluding any candidate of the Hebrew persuasion. This resolution was agreed to in direct violation of the grand principles upon which the Order is founded. That it originated in narrow bigotry, unworthy of Freemasons, few will deny, but in those days toleration was imperfectly understood, even by the Masonic brotherhood. We regret extremely that several volumes of the minute books of this period are lost, and that we have no record of the rescinding of this obnoxious bye law. But in 1819 the almost moribund Lodge was resuscitated by Jewish brethren, who since that time have been amongst its most active and able members. Bro. Joseph Abrahams has the honour of having founded the Benevolent Fund of the Lodge, which now reaches the respectable sum of £600, invested in 3 per cent. consols; since 1856 £650 has been paid away to deserving brothers, and notwithstanding that the application of the fund is confined to members of the Lodge, the brethren have not forgotten the general Masonic charities, to which they have largely subscribed. Amongst the members of the Hebrew persuasion who have distinguished themselves in the Lodge of Tranquillity we may mention Bro. Alex. Levy, P.M., the seconder of Bro. Abrahams's motion for founding the Benevolent Fund, Bro. Saul Solomon, who greatly distinguished himself when filling the office of W. M., Bros. Barnet Moss, D. Lazarus, and Joseph Abrahams. The Lodge, in fact, is decidedly Jewish, and we cannot but congratulate it upon the fact that these distinguished Masons with their colleagues have, in furthering the interests of the Lodge of Tranquillity, fulfilled the Golden rule. Indeed, they have returned good for the evil intended their race by the misguided brothers who passed the excluding resolution to which we have referred.

Our space forbids us to follow the history of this Lodge further, and, in conclusion, we cordially recommend the work to our readers.

Who's Who, in 1875; A. H. Baily and Co. Cornhill.

This handy little volume has again made its appearance. The contents are as completely arranged as ever, and as a work of reference it cannot but be acceptable. This year is, we believe, the 27th of its issue, which shows the appreciation in which it is held by the public.

MAGAZINES OF THE MONTH.

SECOND NOTICE.

Baily will never want for readers, its contents are so varied and interesting, so genuinely sportsmanlike in tone, and so thoroughly English. Among the contributors, too, we often meet with such well-known *noms de plume* as "Amphion," "Old Calabar," &c. In the present number there is an admirable paper, by our "Stale Contributor," on the subject of the "Irrepressible Savage," our own English Savage, who has been so often and so prominently before the public of late in connection with those truly Christian practices of wife-beating and kicking men to death. The writer evidently regrets the decline of the ring, or, at all events, of the old English custom of settling differences in a manly stand-up fight. He seems to think that the knife and the knuckle-duster have superseded the fist in such cases, because this custom is so often strictly forbidden by the police. There is, perhaps, something in this suggestion, but we greatly fear the brutality lately displayed by the *protégés* of Mr. Peter Taylor, Taylor's Lambs we will call them, is inborn. There is a sketch of sport in Jamaica; while "Our Van," always cleverly driven, contains plenty of sharp criticism, and several recent jokes, interspersed among all kinds of hunting, and other appropriate news of the month.

Reviews of Sir A. Helps's "Social Pressure," by Mr. Thomas Hughes, of "The Greville Memoirs," by Mr. Stapleton, and a criticism of the critics' comments on the new Hamlet, are the leading features in *Macmillan*. We fully agree with the first, we heartily endorse even the severest comments in the second case, while as to the last we leave the judgment to the taste of our readers.

It were hardly too much to say that the present number of the *Gentleman's* is one of the best we have seen for months past. The first chapters of "Dear Lady Disdain," by Mr. Justin McCarthy, head

the programme. It is early yet to judge of a novel when but two or three chapters have appeared, but we confess we have taken a great fancy to Mr. Christmas Pembroke and Miss Lyne. We think Mr. McCarthy will succeed in making much of these two personages. "Municipal Reform for London" will be found a hard nut to crack. Vested interests and rivalries will, doubtless, stop the way, yet the suggestions which are offered in this case are very sensible and very moderate; and some have the advantage of not being new. "The fighting capacity of Europe" is carefully written, and the warning to ourselves to see that our own naval and military power is what it ought to be, must not be lightly passed over. The notice of the late "Tom Hood" contains, we think, a just estimate of the deceased humourist's merits, while doing full justice to the gentleness and kindness of his disposition. "The Lucknow of to-day" will be read with great interest, recalling, as it does, the memory of the terrible events with which the city was associated during the Indian Mutiny. We have also the opening chapters of a new serial by Mr. Frank Percival—"Al Lya Sahib"—of which hereafter, when we have obtained a greater insight into the plot.

Fraser contains a paper on "German Home Life," evidently the first of a series of such. The subject of the present one will attract the attention of Materfamilias, the question being none other than "Servants." The writer, a lady, speaks with authority having, as she tells us, spent many years in different parts of Germany. She is, perhaps, a little too considerate towards our English domestics. An account of "The Early Kings of Norway," of the "Bayou Tèche," a certain district in Louisiana, U.S., and of the Settlement of Vineland in New Jersey, by the founder, Charles K. Landis, offer many attractions to some readers. "Sir Charles Bell" is a carefully written biography of one of our greatest surgeons and physiologists. The Rev. S. Baring-Gould, whose *Yorkshire Oddities* made its appearance towards the end of last year, contributes a selection of "Quaint Corners of Mediæval Biography," and Mr. F. W. Newman continues his "Contrasts of Ancient and Modern History."

This month the *Contemporary* is somewhat dull reading, to all at least but those who affect the study of sociological and other kindred subjects. We may except, however, a paper by the late Count Montalembert, on "Rome and Spain," a well-argued essay by Mr. W. R. Greg, on the "Obligations of the Soil," and "Saxon Studies," by Julian Hawthorne, the study on this occasion being Dresden; certain of its streets, its markets, bridges, canals, smells, and much indeed of what Dresden is famous for among travellers.

Chambers's Journal possesses certain sterling merits which deserve to be noticed all the more because it rarely if ever stoops to flatter the public taste of the moment. A vast fund of sound information may be gleaned from its pages, and there are always some pleasantly written stories to enliven the quieter kind of literature which occupies so much of its space. "My adventures in the French War," "Plain People" and an "Adventure with a Leopard," may be quoted in evidence of what we have said.

The periodicals issued by the well known firm of Cassell, Petter and Galpin, are they not, in number, well nigh legion? in quality, excellent? *Cassell's Family Magazine*, which is merely a new and enlarged series of the familiar *Cassell's Magazine*, opens with "The Manchester Man," a new serial by Mr. G. Linnous Banks, and contains many contributions of considerable merit, interspersed, at frequent intervals, with capital illustrations. The *Popular Educator*, *The Bible Educator*, *The Races of Mankind*, *Old and New London*, *The History of Protestantism*, and, for Sunday reading, *The Quiver*, all these are among the issues, weekly and monthly, of Messrs. Cassell and Co. All are worthy of commendation, nor ought we, perhaps, to omit mention of *Little Folks*, which, this month, appears in an enlarged form, but at the same price. We cannot help thinking that our little English folks will rejoice at this announcement, for the periodical is one of the best adapted for young people which it has been our good fortune to read.

Once a Week is simply frightful in the matter of illustration, some of the contributions, however, are passable.

The new volume of *Cornhill* celebrates the opening of the year with a new story, "Miss Angel," the prominent character being Angelica Kauffmann. We commend, besides this, Mr. Black's "Three Feathers" to the notice of our readers, an article "On people who will talk;" written pleasantly, and with truth, and an account of "The Love and Marriage of Catherine de Bourbon," the sister of Henri IV. of France, the hero of Ivry, Arques, and other famous battles.

We are very partial to *Tinsley's*. The contributors include several well known writers, of whom Mr. Farjeon alone is a tower of strength. He contributes the opening chapter of "Love's Victory"—a new story in succession to "Jessie Trim," concluded last month. Besides this, there are three other serials, of which one, "With Harp and Crown," is by the authors of "Ready-Money Mortiboy." We anticipate much pleasure from both these stories. Of minor contributions we have noted "The Old Cities of Belgium," "The Poetry of the Pike," and "Half the Penalty." We think the "Portrait of the British Matron" is considerably overdrawn. There are, doubtless, many such British Matrons, but it is not fair to apply this particular portrait generally.

Good Things, for old and young, has always enjoyed a certain amount of popularity. The present number is the first of a new series, to which we offer our best wishes, especially as one of the most prominent features in the list, "Puzzledom," directed by the late Tom Hood, will be continued under the auspices of his sister, Mrs. Broderip.

Though the *New Quarterly* is one of the newest of our Magazines, it has already secured for itself a high place among that class of periodicals. One of its chief features is that each number contains a complete novel, and, in the present issue, we find "The Mad Willoughbys," from the pen of the well-known author, Mrs. Lynn Linton. We may add that the story is in every way worthy of the author and the periodical in which it appears. There is, too, in the

way of fiction, another, but shorter tale, by Mr. John Dangerfield, entitled "The Tragedy Queen." The materials are very slight, but the manner in which the story is told is very pleasing. Besides these, we have noticed in particular the opening article, by Mr. Lewis Parker, on "Canada, an Emigrant's Journal." As the subject of emigration has been latterly attracting much notice, the experiences of one who has already settled in this most important colony cannot fail to excite interest; there is, likewise, a pleasantly written paper on English flower gardens, in which the writer, Mr. Archibald Banks, offers sundry excellent suggestions, while the rest of the contents are equally worthy the attention of our readers.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY NEWS.

FRIDAY.

We have commenced the new year, so far, with a more wholesome tone in the markets, but there are not wanting certain indications of a dullness in trade generally that conduces to flatness. The latest movement on the part of the Bank Directors, in reducing the rate of discount to 5 per cent., will, most probably, afford some ground for hoping that the stringency of the Money Market during the past few months has, at length, passed away, and that we may, therefore, look forward with confidence to a sounder policy in investment arrangements. The release of the dividends on Wednesday has added to the superfluous supply of ready money seeking employment, and on the open market discount business is being done at fully a half per cent. less than the chief establishment. The restoration of the monarchy in Spain, to which we briefly alluded last week, has now become an accomplished fact; and the new King has already commenced his journey. One effect of the sudden change in the political history of Spain, has been the sudden rebound of Spanish securities, which at one time were quoted 10 higher than the usual average. We do not mean to insinuate that, to a certain extent, this apparently favourable alteration is not justified by the circumstances. The national credit has yet to be fully restored before we should recommend any investment in these securities. It is said that some sort of pledge has been given that steps will be taken to place the external debt of the country on a satisfactory footing, and, for the sake of those concerned, we heartily hope it may. The unfortunate bondholders have been a long suffering and patiently abiding class, and if there is now to be a consideration of their claims, it will go far to establish something like a good feeling once more amongst the trading and commercial communities of Europe, who, in entering into engagements with the Spanish Government, did so in the belief that all its obligations would be faithfully observed. The condition of affairs in France is now causing some uneasiness, as the latest reports make mention of a spirit of disaffection towards the Government, which threatens to bring about changes which are not calculated to advance the best interests of the country, or, in other words, to promote that peace and harmony so essential to material progress.

The Board of Trade returns of mercantile statistics have just made their appearance, and furnish us with the usual statement of imports and exports, both for the month of December and for the whole of the past year. The figures undoubtedly show a considerable falling off in the value of the goods received and despatched. The conclusion to be arrived at is clearly the dormant state of our home industries, more particularly as concerns the iron trade, the extreme fluctuations in which have been particularly prominent during the past twelve months. If possible, we will endeavour on another occasion to return to this subject, and offer a few general remarks on the distinct bearing this branch of business has on our other commercial relations.

The English Funds have made steady progress this week, and are quoted at an advance.

Foreign bonds assumed a much stronger appearance until the horizon became clouded by the course of events in France; it is of course impossible to say how it will all end, but the fact remains clear, that the operations on the Bourse have, for the moment, become paralysed. Egyptian, Spanish and Turkish have, however, taken a firmer position in the market; since we last wrote, the difficulty in the latter case, as to the payment of the next coupon, having been got over with the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

English railways for the most part presented the most encouraging features of the week. The business on foot showing a general desire to take up many of the stocks that have recently been depressed by speculative sellers.

American Securities have not been extensively dealt in; Erie's are lower, but in other respects not much change is noted.

Telegraph Shares are only feebly supported. The variations, however, in these and miscellaneous enterprises are without feature.

The directors of the London and Westminster Bank have resolved to declare, at the next annual meeting, a dividend of 11 per cent. for the half-year ended the 31st December, making 21 per cent. for the year on the paid-up capital of £2,000,000. The surplus fund will now amount to about £1,014,000.

Two new iron-clad men-of-war are to be built for the Turkish Navy by Messrs. Samuda, of Blackwall.

It is rumoured that a new loan for Spain will shortly be introduced, but under all the circumstances we should be inclined to place little reliance on this statement.

The supply of coals this week on the London market having been in excess of the demand, a reduction of 2s per ton was submitted to.

CLUB HOUSE PLAYING CARDS.—Mogul Quality, picked 1s 3d per pack, 14s per dozen packs. Do. seconds 1s per pack, 11s per dozen packs. If by post 1½d per pack extra. Cards for Piquet, Béziqne, Écarté, &c. Mogul Quality 10d per pack, 9s per dozen packs.—London: W. W. Morgan, 67 Barbican, E.C.

THE THEATRES, &c.

COVENT GARDEN.—At 7.0, THE VIVANDIERE. At 7.45, THE BABES IN THE WOOD.
 DRURY LANE.—At 7.0, TEN OF 'EM. At 7.30, ALADDIN.
 HAYMARKET.—At 7.30, OUR AMERICAN COUSIN and THE LOAN OF A LOVER.
 ADELPHI.—At 7.0, THE PRAYER IN THE STORM and THE CHILDREN IN THE WOOD.
 PRINCESS'S.—At 7.0, LOST IN LONDON and BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.
 LYCEUM.—At 6.50, FISH OUT OF WATER. At 7.45, HAMLET.
 OLYMPIC.—At 7.0, TWENTY MINUTES WITH A TIGER. AT 7.30, THE TWO ORPHANS.
 STRAND.—At 7.0, INTRIGUE. At 7.20, OLD SAILORS. At 9.15, LOO AND THE PARTY WHO TOOK MISS.
 PRINCE OF WALES'S.—At 7.45, SWEETHEARTS and SOCIETY.
 GAITEY.—At 7.0, BENGAL TIGER. At 8.15, MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR.
 GLOBE.—At 7.0, A PRETTY PIECE OF BUSINESS. At 8.0, BLUE BEARD.
 VAUDEVILLE.—At 7.0, LEGACY LOVE. At 7.45, TWO ROSES. At 10, ROMULUS and REMUS.
 CHARING CROSS.—DRAWING THE LINE and THE NEW MAGDALEN.
 OPERA COMIQUE.—At 7.0, WAR TO THE KNIFE. At 8.15, IXION RE-WHEELED.
 COURT.—At 7.30, PEACOCK'S HOLIDAY. At 8.30, BRIGHTON.
 ALHAMBRA.—At 7.0, THE TWO BONNYCASTLES. At 7.45, WHITTINGTON.
 CRITERION.—LES PRES SAINT GERVAIS, &c.
 AMPHITHEATRE, HOLBORN.—At 7.0, CINDERELLA.
 SURREY.—At 7.0, FORTY THIEVES.
 PHILHARMONIC.—At 7.30, FARCE. At 8.10, LA FILLE DE MADAME ANGOT and the GREAT DORST'S.
 ALEXANDRA, Park-street, Camden-town.—At 7.0, PERFECTION. At 8.15, VALENTINE AND ORSON.
 HENGLER'S CIRQUE.—At 2.30 and 7.30, LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD.
 SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE.—At 2.0 and 7.0. ALADDIN AND THE WONDERFUL LAMP.
 CRYSTAL PALACE.—Open Daily, PANTOMIME, AQUARIUM, PICTURE GALLERY, &c.
 POLYTECHNIC.—STAR WATCHING AND THE TRANSIT OF VENUS; THE MYSTIC STATUE; CHYMICAL MARVELS; THE ISLE OF WIGHT AND ITS LEGENDS, CONJURING, &c. Open at 12.0 and 7.0.
 EGYPTIAN (LARGE) HALL.—Dr. LYNN, at 3.0 and 8.0.
 EGYPTIAN HALL.—MASKELYNE AND COOKE, at 3.0 and 8.0.
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN EUROPE.

IN addressing a constituency composed of men of every shade of politics, the discussion of political questions is impossible. Yet are we not therefore debarred from laying before our readers a brief account of the present aspect of politics in Europe. The time for this is opportune. We are at the commencement of a new year, and at no other season can we better take stock of the political eventualities in store for us.

Home politics demand our first attention. Happily, as regards these there is everything to hope and nothing to fear. Our condition is a prosperous one, and, as far as can be seen, there is not the slightest prospect that the current of this prosperity will be in anywise disturbed. In a few weeks Parliament will re-assemble, when Her Majesty, in person or by deputy, will address her faithful Lords and Commons, telling the nature and extent of the legislative measures that will be submitted for their deliberation during the Session. The object of these several measures will, for the most part, be the improvement of our home government. Legal reform, the better organisation of our army and navy, and the question of local government and local taxation, will probably be the questions to which the attention of Parliament will be chiefly directed. But then, though they will doubtless give rise to long and animated debates, they are not, in one sense, burning questions. They will not create in us any feeling of uneasiness as to our relations with foreign powers. We cannot, of course, foresee what the morrow may bring forth, but present appearances justify the belief that another year of peace is in store for us, and that our commercial and industrial energies will be as great and as productive as ever.

If we turn our attention to the other powers of Europe, we shall find much to cause a feeling, if not of alarm, at all events of extreme uneasiness. The condition of our immediate friend and neighbour, France, is still unsettled, and there is every evidence that it will so continue, even if it does not become more unsettled still. The various political parties into which the country is divided—the Legitimists, the Orleanists, the Buonapartists, the Republicans—are absolutely irreconcilable; to that extent, indeed, that any form of government seems well nigh impossible. The strength of parties is such, that neither Monarchists nor Republicans can secure a working majority. Hence it is that every attempt to constitute the present provisional form of government becomes impracticable. Even at the moment of writing a ministerial crisis has occurred, and what will follow, whether a new reconstruction of the Ministry, a dissolution of the Assembly, or a *coup d'état*, is highly problematical. We are so accustomed to surprises in connection with French politics that he would be a bold man who should even attempt to prognosticate the issue of the present crisis. Two things only can be affirmed with safety, that the government of the country is in good hands, and that its material prosperity is greater than it has been since the close of the war.

The power of the German Empire seems greater than ever, yet the Emperor and his advisers have their work cut out for them. What may be the issue of the struggle with the Vatican remains to be seen, but the contest is one which cannot fail to create uneasiness, even in the firm, relentless mind of Prince Bismarck. Then the necessity there is for maintaining large armies must, sooner or later, press heavily on the various parts of the Empire. Hitherto, the French indemnity has relieved the Imperial Parliament of the duty of providing wholly for its maintenance out of the Imperial revenues. But, sooner or later, an increased demand on the national purse must be made, and this will involve increased taxation. How this demand will be received remains to be seen. Germany may acquiesce in the inevi-

table, and make the necessary sacrifice in order to maintain the integrity of the Empire; or German loyalty to the existing régime may diminish in intensity. However, this may be, there are, in the present phase of German politics, at least, the elements of doubt and difficulty as regards the future.

In Spain the new year has opened more joyously, or, at all events, with a better prospect that it will shortly enjoy a more settled government, and, as a consequence of this, that its civil war will be sooner brought to a close. A bloodless revolution has resulted in the eldest son of the ex-Queen Isabella II. being proclaimed King, as Alphonso XII., and all parties, save the Carlists, and, we presume, the extreme Republicans, appear to have accepted him with acclamation. Already the young monarch is *en route* to his capital, where and elsewhere throughout Spain the most active preparations are being made to give him a cordial welcome. So far so good; but the Carlist war will severely tax the energies of his country. Any serious reverse on the part of the new Alphonsist army may lead to the upset of the Alphonsist throne, and then—chaos again. Still it is a hopeful sign for Spain that the proclamation of the young King should have been so generally and so spontaneously well received, by both the army and the nation: the Carlists, of course, being excepted.

The chief difficulties in Italy are of a financial character, and these difficulties arise almost entirely from her being compelled to follow other powers in maintaining a vast military and naval force. Her Government is firmly established; her material resources are being certainly, if slowly, developed, and, but for the reason above, her financial condition would be a prosperous one. As to Russia, Austro-Hungary, and Turkey, there is little, if anything, in the *status quo* to call for special remark. The first named power has taken measures to increase her army, so that in the course of the present year it is calculated she will have a million and a half of men under arms. But so long as the reins of government are in the hands of the present Emperor, Europe, we think, will have little, if any, reason to fear that Russia will pursue other than a pacific policy.

We have thus briefly surveyed the political situation throughout nearly the whole of Europe. As regards ourselves, the task has been one of unmixed pleasure. As regards the rest of the great powers, the prospect is not very consoling. We must be thankful, however, that no present cause for alarm exists. There must always be an element of danger when every Continental power is armed to the teeth. Happily, each has special work cut out for it, and though this work may any day be interrupted by the occurrence of some grave event, it is, at least, a satisfaction to feel that, for the moment, there is some chance that the peace of Europe may not be broken.

The State visit to Paris of the Lord Mayor and his Lady, together with other civic dignitaries, is an event of some importance, demanding from us more than a passing allusion, not simply because his lordship is an honoured member of the Craft—though such reason would certainly have its weight—but because its influence for good is unquestionable. We do not mean that this visit has any political significance. The time has long since past when any interchange of friendship between the sovereigns or notabilities of two countries would be deemed a guarantee of perpetual amity. Indeed, the few occasions that occur to us at the moment—the friendly meeting of Henry and Francis, on the Field of the Cloth of Gold, the friendly relations between Charles II. and Louis XIV., and even the meeting between our present gracious Sovereign and the late King Louis Phillippe—were, each and every of them, followed by war, or a threatened severance of friendly relations between France and England. But France will assuredly regard this event in a kindly spirit, almost, perhaps, as a renewal of that intimate friendship between us and her which existed twenty years since, and for some years after the close of the Crimean War. The present occasion is a slight one—the opening of a new opera house, but the appearance, in the streets of Paris, of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs in their State carriages, and attended by their State officers, cannot, we repeat, but create the most favourable feeling in the minds of the impressionable French, the rather that it follows so closely upon the presentation to the Queen of several volumes of

addresses from all parts of France, thanking her and her subjects for their sympathy and assistance after the late Franco-German war was ended. There is another reason, perhaps. Since the horrible events of 1871 nothing has occurred in Paris in the shape of public rejoicing or festivity, and France will gratefully remember that the nation which sympathised so deeply with her in her misfortunes is also the first to join her in her first return of enjoyment. May the loyal feelings of friendship thus evoked long continue to exist between the two great Western Powers!

Brother T. Adams, P.G.P., and preceptor of several Lodges of instruction, announces his Annual Ball, at Willis's Rooms, for Tuesday the 2nd February. This used to be called a Masonic Ball, and there can be little doubt that a large number of the fraternity will attend on the present occasion. No Masonic emblems or clothing will however be worn, as only the Grand Lodge can grant a dispensation for the brethren to appear in Masonic costume. A goodly list of stewards is announced, including many esteemed members of the Craft.

Four executions on one day is a phase of retributive justice we have rarely to record. On Monday last three men were executed at Liverpool, and one at Newgate. In each case the crime of murder was rendered more atrocious than usual by the violence and brutality by which it was accompanied. Notwithstanding this, efforts were made to obtain a reprieve in more cases than one. We know there are many people who object to capital punishment; others, again, there are, who have a hatred of the "cat." It was only the other day, at a meeting of the Glamorganshire magistrates, that Lord Aberdare, in alluding to the latter subject, expressed himself strongly against its application to garotters and wife-beaters. He held that it had not acted as a deterrent in the former case, and that it would result in a serious disturbance of conjugal relations in the latter. If his lordship can point out any means for repressing the vice of drunkenness, to which undoubtedly most of the dastardly attacks on women are attributable, he will be doing the State some service.

The *Times* furnishes us with an account of lifeboat services for the past year, which, at the present moment, cannot fail to prove highly interesting. We have so frequently to record loss of life at sea, that any institution which has for its object the saving of human life must possess great interest for us, and should claim our best sympathies and support. No less than 543 lives were saved by lifeboats belonging to the Institution during the year 1874. This number is supplemented by 170 saved by fishing boats and others, making a total of 713 persons saved. In addition to these services, 15 vessels have been saved from destruction by its instrumentality. It is equally gratifying to learn that no lives were lost from the lifeboats themselves. Reviewing former statistics of the Institution, we find that since its formation no less than 22,866 lives have been saved, 947 gold and silver medals bestowed, and a sum amounting to £43,600 disbursed in pecuniary rewards.

The survivors of the emigrant ship, "Cospatrick," have made us acquainted with very harrowing details respecting the burning of the vessel, and the sufferings they individually experienced during a ten days' exposure in an open boat. We very much fear that the second boat, which for a short time kept company with that in which Macdonald, Lewis and Cotter escaped, has gone down with all hands, as no tidings have been heard, as yet, of any other survivors, though the "Windsor Castle" and the "Syria" have both arrived at Madeira from the Cape and St. Helena. It is seldom that, when people take to the boats, through some accident to the vessel, they find themselves without either food or water; such, however, was the case in this instance. The fearful alternative of starvation was one scarcely less terrible than the means employed to avoid it. When the pangs of hunger could no longer be endured, the few who survived on the sixth day were compelled to devour the livers of two of their dead companions, and drink their blood. It was a merciful interposition of Providence that this shocking state of things was not required to be repeated. The "British

Sceptre" rescued them on the tenth day. The survivors bear testimony to the extraordinary kindness they experienced from Captain Jahnke and his crew. More dead than alive, they were left in hospital at St. Helena, from whence they are but recently arrived, apparently little the worse for their sufferings. The cause of the fire we shall probably never know, though it is supposed to have had its origin in the boatswain's locker, where tar and other combustible matters were stowed. But the cause of the terrible loss of life may be accounted for to a very great extent by the fact of two of the boats being burned before they could be lowered, and, secondly, by the inability of the crew to lower all the others. We are glad to find that a subscription is being raised, under the auspices of the Lord Mayor, for the benefit of the relatives of the lost.

Whilst the Midland Railway is effecting a general surprise in the abolition of second-class carriages and the reduction of first-class fares, the Great Northern is distinguishing itself in a manner not likely to prove so satisfactory to the parties dependent on its management. For some weeks past, the gross unpunctuality of many of the trains, especially those which may be termed "business" trains, has called forth loud and wide-spread expressions of dissatisfaction. The evening trains cannot be said to observe better time. It is high time the matter was taken up in earnest. "Punctuality is the soul of business," is a truism which every-day travellers recognise. A meeting to consider this subject, together with the system lately introduced by the company, of granting season-tickets, was held last week at Cannon-street Hotel. We trust the deputation to the directors, which was then determined upon, may lead both to a revision of the new tariff and to some improvement in the suburban train service. Perhaps the latter may be attained to some extent when the new line from Finsbury Park to Broad-street is opened, as the delays which occur are doubtless attributable to the block on the Metropolitan Railway; but, *nous verrons*.

The latest returns of the Registrar-General furnish some startling facts, which the severity of the season will account for in no small degree. It is an abnormal state of affairs that the deaths should exceed the births in any locality. We find, however, that in eleven out of twenty-one towns for which returns have been furnished, this state of affairs exists, and supplies a total of 669. Glasgow is pre-eminently conspicuous in this respect; where the deaths exceed the births by no less than 247 in one week, the actual death rate being 60 per 1,000. Liverpool stands next with 51, Manchester and Salford with 50, while Oldham and Dublin show 45, Nottingham 44, Bradford and Bristol 43, and Edinburgh 42; London exhibits 37. These, with twenty other towns, make the average of the 21 no less than 41 per 1,000. These rates are so much in excess of the usual returns, that we are at a loss to account for them, notwithstanding the recent trying nature of the weather. Looking at the returns for Paris and Brussels, where the actual cold exceeds that in this country, we find, in the former, a rate of 24, and, in the latter, one of 25 per 1,000. In the case of Brussels, the return relates to a week previous to the last, when the death-rate of London was 31 per 1,000.

We learn, from the *Mauritius*, that it is proposed to hold a Masonic reception in honour of the Right Hon. Lord Lindsay, Provincial Grand Master of West Aberdeenshire. A programme has appeared in the *Mauritius Sentinel*, in which brethren are invited to offer such suggestions as seem fit to them as regards the manner, while his Lordship is invited to state his pleasure as to the date for holding the reception.

Elsewhere in our columns will be found an account of the installation of His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, as Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland. Those, however, of our readers, who are desirous of perusing a fuller and more detailed account of the ceremony should consult the columns of the *Irish Times*, which contains a list of the Brethren present, together with particulars of the installation and names of the principal officers of Grand Lodge.

THE IRISH FREEMASONS.

His Grace the Duke of Abercorn was, on Wednesday evening, the 6th January, installed Grand Master of the Freemasons of Ireland, an office held for over 50 years by the late Duke of Leinster. The ceremonial was held in the Masonic Hall, Molesworth-street, and was invested with all the pomp and pageantry which the Order could impart to it. All the Grand Officers and a numerous host of Masters and Past Masters of Lodges, including many representing the Provinces, were present in full Masonic costume, with the decorations of the several ranks, and formed a brilliant assemblage. On the arrival of his Grace from the Viceregal Lodge he was conducted by the Deputy Grand Master (Mr. Shekleton) and the Grand Officers to the Small Lodge-room, where he was formally installed as Master of the Grand Master's Lodge. They then proceeded to the Grand Lodge-room, where the Lodge was opened in due form, and the Grand Master elect was conducted to the dais, while a Masonic march was played on the organ. After prayer by the Grand Chaplain, his Grace knelt, and the obligation of his office having been administered to him, he was invested, by the Deputy Grand Master, with the official insignia, and conducted to the throne, while the Duke of Connaught's Grand March was played on the organ. A selection was also sung from a Masonic ode, especially composed for the occasion. The director of the ceremonies, Mr. St. George, then proclaimed his Grace, amid a flourish of trumpets, declaring with impressive formality all his titles, and, last of all, that of Grand Master of the Ancient and Honourable Order of Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland. The proclamation was followed by the enthusiastic cheers of the Assembly, and Mr. Shekleton, Deputy Grand Master, on the part of the Order, congratulated his Grace on his acceptance of the office. In the course of his address he said:—

"It was a matter of great satisfaction to us that your Grace was enabled to accept the office for which you were selected by the numerous and enthusiastic suffrages of your Irish brethren; selected not from any political motives—for all who hear me know that when we cross the portals of this building we Masons discard considerations of party, and remember only that we are members of a brotherhood, linked together by ties of universal charity and love, knowing no distinction of class or creed,—but selected as an Irish nobleman who has been neither ashamed nor afraid to reside among us, and who, both in private life and while discharging high and responsible functions, has obtained the respect and esteem not merely of those who entertain the same religious and political views as your Grace, but of those who are most diametrically opposed to them. (Loud applause.) To be called upon in such a way as your Grace has been to preside over a society so widely diffused and so influential as the Masonic body is unquestionably an honour of which any one, no matter how exalted in rank, might well be proud. Your Grace has been elected in succession to one whose memory is, and will, I trust, be ever cherished among us—one who for a period exceeding the span of most men's lives ruled over our Order with mild and courteous sway. We cannot, in the course of nature, anticipate so prolonged a tenure of office for your Grace, but we most fervently trust that the bond of union which has this day been cemented between your Grace and the Masons of Ireland may not soon be severed, and we can assure your Grace that though the office of Grand Master is an annually elected one, so long as your Grace is willing to preside over us you need not apprehend any desire for change on the part of your constituents."

His Grace was saluted according to ancient usage, amid the cheering of the whole assembly, with great enthusiasm.

The Grand Master, in returning thanks for the honour conferred upon him, expressed his sense of the responsibility which it involved, especially when he recalled the memory of the late Grand Master, to whose loss he referred in terms of the deepest regret, warmly eulogizing his administration of the office and his distinguished character. His Grace said it would be his earnest desire to follow the example so worthily set by his predecessor, and to use every endeavour in his power to maintain the dignity of the Grand Lodge and to advance the great and important influence which Freemasonry exercised towards mankind. His connection with the Order was of no recent date. It was now forty-three years since he was admitted into the Apollo University Lodge in Oxford, and the course upon which he then entered as a novice culminated in the honour now conferred upon him. His Grace then added:—

"It has not needed that long experience to teach me what you all know, and what has been so well expressed to-night—the great objects of Freemasonry. We know that its objects are not political (hear, hear); that they are not confined to any denomination or any sect (hear, hear); but that, as a widely-spread community, for the extension of human sympathy and human brotherhood, it has been the means of embracing myriads of men of all nations and of all creeds in one common bond of amity. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Brethren, it is not necessary for me in this place to remind you that the name of your illustrious patron, the Prince of Wales ('hear, hear,' and applause) is a sure guarantee that loyalty to the Sovereign is our true and sterling watchword (cheers); and we have the experience of 3,000 years to know that charity to mankind and love to the brethren are, and have been, the leading and guiding principles of our noble Craft, and the great and ultimate aims of our Association. ('Hear, hear,' and applause.) Brethren, I thank you

again most truly and most gratefully for the honour you have conferred upon me, as well as for the most cordial and flattering reception which you have given me." (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

His Grace reinstated Mr. Shekleton as Deputy Grand Master, and the Marquis of Headfort having been installed Senior Grand Warden, and Lord Dunboyne Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Lodge was closed with the usual forms.—*Times*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All Letters and communications must be addressed to the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, 67 Barbican, London, E.C.

ABIF.—Your conduct was most reprehensible; you were bound to obey the W. M., and, upon consideration, you will see that you were to blame. By all means write the apology.

SENIOR WARDEN.—We will try to comply with your request in a few weeks. Send us all the particulars, and keep us posted up.

R. R., Plymouth.—Thanks for your very kind wishes. The question of size had our fullest consideration. We shall be glad to hear from you at any time.

SOLOMON.—The Anniversary Dinner of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls will take place on 12th May next. You will find all the information you ask for in the *Cosmopolitan Masonic Calendar* for 1875.

CORRESPONDENCE.

All Letters must bear the name and address of the Writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.

THE TWO ST. JOHNS.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

SIR,—Your correspondent will find the information he needs in Mackay's "Lexicon of Freemasonry," under article "Dedication." It occupies two closely printed pages, or I would copy it out. The "Lexicon" is published by Griffin, Stationers' Hall Court.

I am, however, much disposed to think that a third St. John, viz., St. John of Jerusalem, otherwise St. John the Almoner, is the proper St. John of Masonry. His festival, according to the Eastern Calendar, falls on 11th November. Yours, &c. 31°.

[We willingly give insertion to the above letter, in reply to the series of questions propounded by a correspondent in our last number. There are, however, many conflicting theories thereon, and we shall gladly open our columns to the discussion of the subject. As regards the third St. John, spoken of by our present correspondent, we refer him to "A Mirror for the Johannite Masons," by the Rev. Geo. Oliver, D.D. (R. Spencer, 1848).—ED. FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.]

A FREEMASONS' LIFEBOAT.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

SIR,—I congratulate you upon the success achieved by your first number, which has aroused the enthusiasm of the Masons in this district. We are glad of the prospect of being represented, and I may say enlightened, by a journal of sufficient influence and ability to command the confidence of the Craft. I am certain that you will always advocate the best interests of the Brotherhood, and that any scheme for furthering the benevolent objects which Freemasons have at heart will meet with your warm approval and support. I venture therefore to make a suggestion, which is, I believe, quite new, so far as we are concerned, but which, notwithstanding, will, I am sure, meet with support if you will kindly honour these lines with a corner in your journal. My suggestion is, that the Masonic body in England should subscribe and place a FREEMASONS' LIFEBOAT upon some exposed station on the coast where a lifeboat is needed. The records of the National Lifeboat Association show that there are many such dangerous places at present without boats, and I think it would be a noble thing for the Brotherhood to identify itself with the Association which is devoted to the saving of life at sea. There is a "Mark Lane Lifeboat," which was purchased by the merchants and others of that busy centre of trade. There is, I believe, a "Stock

Exchange Lifeboat," and the Civil Service has added one of these useful craft to the fleet of the Lifeboat Association. I ask you, Sir, whether you think the Freemasons, as a body, should longer remain indifferent to the claims of humanity? A small subscription from each member of the Fraternity would suffice to carry out my suggestion fully and completely. Freemasons do not, indeed, care to advocate their principles, but I believe the most orthodox member of the Craft would be glad to see the motto of the Fraternity painted on the gunwale of a vessel devoted to the noble task of saving our suffering seamen.

I trust, Sir, that you will consider this hint of mine, and that you will be good enough to throw open your columns to its discussion. I believe many of the brethren will gladly support my view by the pen, and, when the proper time comes, by the practical aid of the purse.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,
Liverpool, 7th January.

A MASTER MASON.

[We gladly give insertion to this letter, and shall be willing to receive suggestions upon the subject.—ED. FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.]

THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

Dear Sir and Bro.—I hasten to offer you a word of congratulation on the appearance of your first number. The articles are written with spirit, and the subjects admirably chosen. More especially am I pleased with the prominence you have given to the subject of the Masonic Charities. It has often been a matter of regret to me that so little was known, even by Freemasons themselves, of these excellent Institutions. It is surely not creditable to the Fraternity that an institution like the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution should be compelled each year to send round an eleemosynary hat to make up a deficit in its balance sheet; I observe, with pleasure, that you intend to take the other Masonic Charities in turn, and I shall look anxiously for the appearance of these articles in subsequent issues of your paper. Wishing you every prosperity,

I am, Dear Sir, yours fraternally, KELPH.

P.S.—My form of application for shares and subscription have already been forwarded to you.

Obituary.

It is our painful duty to announce the death of Brother Thomas Ward Blagg, which took place at Norwood, on New Year's Eve. For some time since the deceased gentleman had been failing in health, and he was about to retire from the active duties of his profession when the sad event occurred, which has caused so much profound sorrow in a wide circle of friends. Mr. Blagg had held the office of Town Clerk of St. Albans since 1827, and his reputation for business tact, and knowledge of his difficult profession, was well known to the world. The announcement of his death was made at a meeting of the Finance Committee of the St. Albans Corporation, and the Mayor, who was in the chair, expressed his deep sorrow and that of his brethren. The meeting was at once adjourned, and it is stated that the funeral, which will take place on Wednesday next, will be attended by the Corporation, and that a vote of condolence, addressed to the sorrowing widow, will be passed.

We regret to have to announce the death of Mrs. Carr, wife of brother T. A. Carr (P.M.) 795, and daughter of brother C. Gammon (P.M. and Treasurer) 795, late Under Sheriff of London, and formerly Deputy of the Ward of Vintry, which he had the honour of representing in the Common Council of the City of London. The sad event occurred at West Lodge, Peckham Rye, on new year's eve. The deceased lady was taken suddenly ill, in midst of the festive rejoicings of the season; Brother Dr. Roberts and Dr. Brown, who were summoned to her aid, were unremitting in their attention, but, in spite of all that skill and experience could suggest, she rapidly sank, and expired at half past 12 on the morning of new year's day. Mrs. Carr, who is deeply lamented by her bereaved husband and a wide circle of friends, was only 26 years of age. *Requiescat in pace.*

BREAKFAST.—EPPE'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills."—*Civil Service Gazette*. Made simply with Boiling Water or Milk. Each packet is labelled—"JAMES EPPS & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, 48, Threadneedle Street, and 170, Piccadilly." Also, makers of Epps's Glycerine Jujubes, for throat irritation.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

We shall be greatly obliged if the Secretaries of the various Lodges throughout the kingdom would favour us with a copy of their summonses each time of issue.

[SATURDAY, 9th JANUARY.

Quarterly General Court Girls' Schools, Freemasons' Hall, at 12.0.
108. London, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
176. Caveac, Westminster Palace Hotel, Westminster.
1323. Granite, Freemasons' Hall.
1361. United Service, Greyhound Hotel, Richmond.
1426. The Great City, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
1457. Bagshaw, Bald Faced Stag, Buckhurst Hill.
R. A. 1293. Burdett, Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court.

MONDAY, 11th JANUARY.

Quarterly General Court Boys' School, at 12.
5—St. George's and Corner Stone, Freemasons' Hall.
29—St. Albans, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
59—Royal Naval, Freemasons' Hall.
90—St. John's, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
193—Confidence, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
1366—Highgate, Gatehouse Hotel, Highgate.
R. A. 22—Mount Zion, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
Mark 173—Temple, Green Tavern, Tavern, Stepney.
Red Cross Con. 2—Plantagenet, Caledonian Hotel, Robert-street, Adelphi.

TUESDAY, 12th JANUARY.

46—Old Union, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
166—Union, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
180—St. James's Union, Freemasons' Hall.
198—Percy, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
211—St. Michaels, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
223—United Strength, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell.
235—Nine Muses, Queen's Hotel, Cork-street, Bond-street.
548—Wellington, White Swan Tavern, Deptford.
917—Cosmopolitan, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
933—Doric, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
1397—Anerly, Thicket Hotel, Anerly.

WEDNESDAY, 13th JANUARY.

Com. Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at 3 p.m.
11—Enoch, Freemasons' Hall.
13—Union, Waterloo, Masons' Hall, William-street, Woolwich.
15—Kent, Freemasons' Hall.
87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth.
147—Justice, White Swan, High-street, Deptford.
238—Pilgrim, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
749—Belgrave, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
781—Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, Lincolnhouse.
1017—Montefiore, Freemasons' Hall.
1306—St. John of Wapping, Gun Hotel, High-street, Wapping.
R. A. 1290—Hervey, Freemasons' Hall.
R. A. 1305—St. Marylebone, British Stores, New-street, St. John's Wood.
K. T. Precep. 129—Holy Palestine, Regent Masonic Hall, Regent-street, W.

THURSDAY, 14th JANUARY.

19—R. Athelstan, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
91—Regularity, Freemasons' Hall.
206—Friendship, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
263—Bank of England, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
534—Polish National, Freemasons' Hall.
657—Canonbury, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
860—Dalhousie, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
1076—Capper, Marine Hotel, Victoria Docks, West Ham.
1283—Finsbury Park, Finsbury Park Tavern, Seven Sisters-road, Holloway.
1321—Emblematic, Tulse Hill Hotel, Tulse Hill.
1425—Hyde Park, Westbourne Hotel, 1 Craven-road, W.
R. A. 73—Mount Lebanon, Bridge House Hotel, London-bridge.
R. A. 140—St. George's, Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich.

FRIDAY, 15th JANUARY.

6—Friendship—Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's.
201—Jordan, Freemasons' Hall.
975—Rose of Denmark, White Hart Hotel, Barnes.
Mark 176—Era, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.
K. T. Precep. 43—Kemeys's Tynte, 33 Golden-square, W.

SATURDAY, 16th JANUARY.

715—Panmure, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
1329—Sphinx, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.
1364—Earl of Zetland, Old Town Hall, Hackney.
1335—Gladsmuir, Barnet, Lodge of Emergency.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY.—145.—St. Stephen, St. James's Hall, Writer's Court.
TUESDAY.—1.—Mary's Chapel, Waterloo Hotel, Waterloo Place.
WEDNESDAY.—2.—Canongate Kilwinning, St. John's Chapel, St. John's Street.
R.A.—1.—Edinburgh Freemasons' Hall.
THURSDAY.—8.—Journymen, Blackfriars Street, High Street.
FRIDAY, R.A.—63.—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Lodge of Joppa, No. 188.—The installation meeting of this flourishing Lodge was held on Monday, 4th inst., at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate Street, Bro. O. Roberts (W.M.) in the chair, assisted by Bros. Hickman S.W., S. Dodson J.W., Auerhaan Treasurer, E. P. Albert (P.M.) Secretary. Past Masters Bros. Berkowitz, Hunt, B. W. Aaron, L. Alexander, I. Abrahams, H. M. Levy and Joel Phillips. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Mr. J. Parker was balloted for and accepted. Bros. S. Botibol, Clark and I. Botibol were passed to the second degree. Mr. Skinner was initiated by Bro. Hunt P.M., and Bro. Isaacs was raised to the third degree by the W.M. A Board of installed masters was then formed, and Bro. S. Hickman S.W. (W.M. elect) was presented to the Lodge; he was duly installed into the chair, in the presence of twenty-four W.M.'s and P.M.'s, by Bro. O. Roberts. The retiring W.M.'s rendering of the ceremony was worthy of imitation, and at the conclusion he was warmly congratulated by the brethren of the Lodge, and also by the numerous visitors present. The W.M. having been saluted, invested his officers as follows, viz., Bros. Dodson S.W., L. Lazarus J.W., L. Auerhaan Treasurer, E. P. Albert (P.M.) Secretary, — Miller S.D., — Cook J.D., Berkowitz (P.M.) Chaplain, A. Auerhaan I.G., H. Hymans D.C., — Borgen and Campion Stewards, P. E. Van Noorden Organist, and — Woodstock Tyler. The Lodge was then called off, and the brethren, above 100 in number, sat down to a very *recherché* banquet and dessert, provided by the Albion Company, and superintended by Bro. W. G. Jennings (the manager). The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given. The W.M., in proposing the health of the Earl of Carnarvon, Provincial Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, said, although the Prince of Wales had been elected Grand Master his engagements had been so numerous that he could not perform those duties as Grand Master himself; and it became necessary for him to appoint a Provincial Grand Master. The brother he appointed to fill that office was the Earl of Carnarvon (loud cheers), who had rendered immense service, not only to the Craft, but to the country. (Cheers.) Bro. Jabez Hogg, whom he was proud to see present, as well as other Grand Officers, had done good service in Grand Lodge, he had also benefitted the charities, not only by his serving as steward, but also by being a large subscriber himself. (Cheers.) Bro. J. Hogg, in responding, said, if there was one duty more pleasing than another in Freemasonry, it was to return thanks for this toast; it was a privilege of Grand Officers to be rather ornamental than useful, and to enjoy the *otium cum dignitate* on these occasions. He had been spoken of in glowing terms by the W.M., and he had to thank him for the manner in which he had spoken of the Grand Officers' assistance at the installation of W.M.'s, but the Joppa Lodge shewed it did not want such assistance; it was impossible there could be better working, and if the brethren would emulate it, Masonry in England must flourish, for he had experienced one of the greatest treats of his life to see such good working as he had that evening. The W.M., in proposing the toast of the Benevolent Fund, said the amount in the hands of the Treasurer was £1,158 3s 11d, and that fund was for the relief of brethren only connected with the Joppa Lodge; and brethren had been relieved to the extent of £100. The W.M. informed the brethren that the officers had on this occasion given to that fund above £15, in addition to the extra amount subscribed (£3 3s) by the Worthy Treasurer, Bro. L. Auerhaan, and his son (£2 2s) Bro. A. Auerhaan, the newly appointed I.G. Bro. W. Aaron (P.M.), President, returned thanks. The toasts of the newly initiated followed. Bro. Roberts then rose, and proposed the toast of the W.M., who, he said, was the right man in the right place, and the Lodge was pleased to see him in the chair. (Cheers.) The W.M., in responding, shewed his aptitude for the position he had been placed in, and thanked the brethren for their kind expressions. He would endeavour, during his occupation of the chair, to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors, more particularly the Past Master. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the I.P.M., Bro. Obed Roberts (at the mention of whose name the greatest amount of enthusiasm was shown); he said, that worthy brother was one who had shed lustre on the Lodge, for he had never been excelled in his strict adherence to his duties, for the brethren had seen how ably he had performed them. The ceremony of installation had been perfectly rendered, and he then, in the name of the Lodge, presented him with a very elegant gold Past Master's jewel, set with diamonds, and a splendid locket, with square and compass, and suitable inscription, set with diamonds, of artistic design; he hoped he might be spared to enjoy it for many years, and that it might be a heirloom to his family. Bro. Roberts, in feeling terms, responded for the valuable gift. Bro. J. Constable W.M. 185, returned thanks for the visitors. He, as well as every brother who responded, paid a just compliment to the able working of the I.P.M. and the W.M. The toast of the Past Masters, Wardens and Officers were given, and duly responded to. The Lodge was then called off, and the brethren, after discussing various matters, separated. A very agreeable and harmonious evening was passed. The W.M. provided a capital concert, under the direction of Bro. P. E. Van Noorden, the Organist, and Miss Matilda Scott, Miss Woolaston, Mr. Alfred Mori, and Mr. Prenton. The visitors were Bros. Jabez Hogg P.G.D., Seymour 736, J. H. Smith P.G.C. 270, J. Constable W.M. 185, Myers P.G.C. 409, Edwards 56, Furber 27, Gottheil P.M. 141, M. Davis P.M. 74, and W.M. 1474, Leins P.M. 1364, Wilks 1305, C. Davis 220, S. Adams 25, H. Gloster 1306, Abrahams 185, T. Bull W.M. 145, Frankenberg 73, Lowenstark P.M. 1017, Melhuish 55, Albert P.M. 9, J. Emanuel W.M. 205, L. Lazarus 25, H. Lyons 205, A. Myers 65, Cohen 205, Marks 185, Van Minden 205, Ring 1017, Hess 205, Gruinbaum W.M. 1017, S. Lazarus, late P.M. 188, and A. Prime 1139.

Lion and Lamb Lodge, No. 192.—The installation meeting was held on Thursday, 7th January, at the City Terminus Hotel,

above 100 brethren being present. Mr. George Newman (a P.M. of the William Preston Lodge) was installed by Mr. Henry Muggerridge, and the father of the Lion and Lamb Lodge, in the chair of this Lodge, in succession to Mr. George Abbott, who was presented with a P.M. jewel on vacating the chair. There were several eminent Freemasons present, among whom were the G.S. (Mr. John Hervey) Colonel Burdett (P.G.M. of Middlesex), Colonel Peters, the Rev. E. E. Brette, D.D., (P.G.C., Middlesex), Mr. R. W. Little (G.S. of the same province and Secretary of the Masonic Girls' School). Mr. W. Worrell (Secretary of the Royal Albert Orphan Asylum). Mr. H. Garrod, Mr. George Konning (a P.M. of the Lodge) and Mr. Roberts (a P.M. of the Lion and Lamb Lodge). In responding to the toast of "Lord Skelmersdale D.G.M., and the Grand Officers," Mr. Hervey reviewed the progress of Freemasonry during the past year, on which he looked with great satisfaction. The events which had occurred in the Order, he said, were of great importance, and would have some influence on Freemasonry in the future. The Prince of Wales, the present Grand Master, was installed in the early part of the year as Master of the Prince of Wales's Lodge, and on the same night, when he (the Grand Secretary) was present, proposed his brother, the Duke of Connaught, as an initiate in the Craft, thereby showing most conclusively that he did not consider Freemasonry inimical to the government of the country, or that there was anything in it subversive of the authority of her Majesty. In March, the Duke of Connaught was initiated, which was an event of great gratification to Freemasons. In the following April, Prince Leopold was proposed by the Prince of Wales, in the Apollo University Lodge, at Oxford, and was initiated at the end of the month. Those were three significant events. But there was yet another, the installation of the present Earl of Zetland, in succession to the late earl, as Provincial Grand Master of the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire. There was another event, which he was very sorry to allude to the secession of the Marquis of Ripon from the Grand Mastership. He could speak most strongly in his lordship's favour, because the way in which he conducted the duties of his office showed that there could not possibly be a better Grand Master. At all times he was ready to perform his duties, he was most attentive to business, and ready to do anything that would further the prosperity of the Order. At all times he endeavoured to uphold in every shape and way the ancient and honourable fraternity, and as late as March last he took the chair at, and pleaded most powerfully the cause of, the Freemasons' Boys' School. After the excitement caused by his lordship's withdrawal had passed away the Craft in their calmer moments would feel that they had sustained a great loss by the Marquis of Ripon's resignation, and that they had a great deal to thank him for during the 20 years that he was an active member of Grand Lodge. It had, however, been said that "there was as good fish in the sea as had come out of it," and although the Marquis of Ripon had resigned Freemasonry, the Heir Apparent to the Throne of England had consented to occupy his post. These events were significant of the high position the Craft held in the opinion of the Royal family, and of the standing it was destined to take in all civilised communities on the face of the globe.

New Concord Lodge, No. 813.—The members of the above Lodge met at the Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton, Bro. T. Bartlett W.M. (this being his occupation of the chair for the second time), supported by the officers of the Lodge, with the valuable assistance of Bro. W. H. Main (P.M.) Secretary, and a numerous assemblage of the brethren. The Lodge being opened, Bro. A. W. Medwin was raised to the third degree. Bros. Boydon, Swales, W. Gabb and Shipway were passed to the second degree. The ceremonies were carefully and impressively delivered in Bro. Bartlett's usual manner. Messrs. Baylis and Foye were duly initiated into the Order; and Bros. A. Hill and Marshall were re-elected joining members. After other business matters had been discussed, the Lodge was closed. The banquet, which was provided by the worthy host, Bro. H. G. Gabb, gave great satisfaction. The usual toasts were given and the brethren enjoyed a very agreeable evening.

Pomfret Lodge, 360, Northampton.—The brethren of this Lodge celebrated the Festival of St. John, in their Lodge Room, George Hotel, on the 28th ult. Bro. Val. Thomas Barford was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year, the ceremony being very ably performed by Bro. Hinton (of London, son of an old P. M. of the Pomfret Lodge), in the absence of the I.P.M. (Bro. E. Cox, P.M. of the Canonbury Lodge, London), who was, unfortunately, unable to be present. Bro. J. T. Green P.M., was appointed S.W., Bro. Winter J.W., Bro. George Robinson P.M. Secretary, Bro. B. Wilkins (P.M.), D.P.G.M. Treasurer, Bro. Lalor S.D., Bro. Gadsby J.D., Bro. J. U. Stanton P.M., Senior Steward, Bro. T. R. Wood J.S., and Bros. Dead and Troup C.G. Amongst the visitors at the banquet were Bros. Hinton, Neall, Matthews (London), Bro. Buckle (P.G. Secretary Northampton and Hunts), Bro. Griffin (W.M. elect of St. Peter's Lodge, Peterborough), and although the attendance was not so good as usual, owing to the inclemency of the weather, the evening was passed in a very pleasant manner, harmony being contributed by Bros. Buckle, Hinton, Stanton, Winter, Wood, &c. In the course of the evening Bro. Buckle alluded, in a brotherly manner, to the loss the province of Northampton and Hunts had sustained, in the death of the late D.P.G.M. (Bro. S. Inns), and expressed the satisfaction he felt that so worthy a successor had been found in the person of Bro. Butler Wilkins, a member of the Pomfret Lodge. Bro. W. B. Gates P.M., P.P.G., Treasurer, accepted the office of Steward of one of the Masonic Charities.

St. Peter's Chapter, No. 1125, Tiverton.—A regular quarterly convocation was held at the Masonic Hall, on the 6th instant; the principal chairs being occupied by E. Comp. James Mills P.P.G.D.C. Z.; E. Comp. W. H. Reed P.Z. as H., and E. Comp.

Henry Davey J.; Visiting Companion, E. Comp. J. Killingly P.Z. E. Comp. Mills was re-elected Z. for the ensuing year, and E. Comp. Davey having been elected H., and Comp. T. B. Patterson J. they were duly installed in their respective chairs. The following officers were also appointed and invested:—W. E. Williams S.E.; W. H. Reed J.S.N.; Thomas Parkhouse T.S. and Treasurer; Henry Melhuish S.A.S.; J. B. Crabb J.A.S.; William Bartlett and Joseph Searle Stewards; Edward Coleby M.C.; A. Andrews Org. and John Patey Janitor. A handsome gold P.Z. jewel was presented to E. Comp. Mills, in recognition of his services connected with the establishment of this Chapter. Two brethren having been proposed for exaltation, the Chapter was closed.

Golden Rule Lodge, No. 1261.—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held, at the Regent Masonic Hall, Air Street, Regent Street, on Tuesday, 5th inst., there were the following brethren present. Bro. J. Harriss P.M., W.M., Bro. W. W. Smith S.W., Bro. A. Torkington Secretary, Bro. P. Godfrey J.D., Longley I.G., Bros. F. Deane, J. Levy, T. James, T. Millington and Fabian P.M. The Lodge was opened in first degree. Mr. Alfred Curtis, who had been balloted for and approved at the previous meeting, was initiated into mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry as an entered apprentice. Bros. F. Deane and J. Levy having proved their proficiency in the first degree, by answering the usual questions, were entrusted and retired. The Lodge was opened in first degree, and Bros. Levy and Deane were passed to the degree of F. C. The Lodge was resumed in first degree, and this being the whole of the business for which the brethren were called together, the Lodge was closed, and adjourned till the first Tuesday in February.

Asaph Lodge, No. 1319.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, the 4th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Bros. E. Frewin W.M., J. Jekyll S.W., E. Terry J.W., H. Tinney I.G., E. Swanborough D.C., and Past Masters. Bros. J. Weaver, Chamberlin and E. Stanton Jones. The Lodge was opened and the minutes were confirmed. Two gentlemen were initiated, one of whom was Mr. Stephenson, of the Strand Theatre, and one brother was passed. Great praise was given to the W.M. for his admirable working. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren separated.

THE DRAMA.

The Merry Wives of Windsor—The Pantomimes.

AGREEABLY to our promise of last week, we return to the consideration of Mr. Hollingshead's revival of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. This comedy, though full of a broad, racy humour, essentially Shakspearian, and containing many admirable sketches of character, can hardly be considered as one of the most dramatically effective of the great poet's productions. The plot is too slender to bear the weight of five long acts, and, although it may be heresy to say so, the humour in places appears forced and artificial. There is a tradition that this play was written at the request of Queen Elizabeth, in order to show Sir John Falstaff in the character of a lover; and internal evidence would seem to favour this supposition. As Dr. Johnson aptly remarks, "No task is harder than that of writing to the ideas of another." The poet approached as near as he could to the task enjoined him; yet, having perhaps, in the former plays, completed his own ideas he seems not to have been able to give Falstaff all his former power of entertainment." Only, however, with other of Shakspeare's plays can it be at all unfavourably compared. Considered by itself, it is a marvel of wit, humour and imagination. In every scene may be found flashes of humour and sketches of character which it would be difficult, if not impossible, to match in the works of any other author. The characters of Dr. Caius and Sir Hugh Evans, of Slender and Ford, of the two wives and Anne Page, and even the serving men, Simple and Rugby, stand out in bold relief, and fix the imagination by the vigour and completeness with which they are drawn. As for Sir John, he is older, fatter and perhaps a trifle duller than when he fought "a long hour by Shrewsbury clock," but his wit is still keen, and his thirst for sack yet unquenched. The play was evidently an afterthought, for the fat knight was comfortably disposed of in Henry V., but no one can possibly regret his resuscitation who has read or seen *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

The GAIETY cast for this play is unquestionably a strong one. Since the death of Mr. Barrett and Mr. Mark Lemon, Mr. Phelps has been the only Falstaff on the English stage. His impersonation is carefully, almost too carefully elaborated, and great point is given to all the speeches; but there is a want of unction in his rendering of the part. The humour is altogether too dry for a man of Falstaff's "kidney." We think, too, though here the matter is more open to dispute, that Mr. Phelps's Falstaff is a little too old. In reading the play we think of Sir John as an old man, certainly, but hale and hearty notwithstanding. These are points upon which critics will probably be divided, but none, we think, will refuse to admit the great merit of Mr. Phelps's performance, both as regards the breadth and general accuracy of the conception, and the minuteness and finish bestowed upon the execution.

Mr. Phelps is, of course, the central figure in the revival, but some other of the performers deserve a word of commendation. Mr. Herman Vezin as Mr. Ford exhibits characteristic power and earnestness, and his impersonation generally is essentially and artistically dramatic. Mr. Righton, albeit a little shaky in his Welsh accent, gives a very humorous rendering of the part of Hugh

Evans. "A hit, a palpable hit," is made by Mr. Arthur Cecil, in the character of the little French Doctor Cains. Mr. Cecil's forte lies evidently in the region of eccentric comedy, for this is nothing less than a masterpiece. The "merry wives," Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page, are acted with sufficient vivacity by Miss Rose Leclercq and Mrs. John Wood, whilst Miss Furtado makes an attractive and modest Anne Page. The chief blot in the representation is found in the performance and general make-up of Messrs. Pistol, Nym and Bardolph, Falstaff's not too obedient or reputable followers. It would seem that the old type of utility actor is fast dying out. No actor who can speak a few lines with decent elocutionary skill is content to appear in any other than one of the leading parts of a play; and the consequence is that parts like these, affording excellent scope for acting, are frequently handed over to indifferent artists. In our opinion, the make-up of the representative of Bardolph would have caused all Windsor to follow at his heels had he ventured to appear so disfigured in the streets. As regards the scenery and stage appointments, every praise is due to Mr. Hollingshead for the taste and care bestowed upon them; in no case can they be said to "overstep the modesty of nature." We are also pleased to note that *The Merry Wives of Windsor* is to be followed by *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The pantomimes this year are, as usual, resplendent in variety of colour, scenic effect, and magnificent costumes. As for the humour, the old rollicking spirit of pantomime seems to grow duller as time rolls on, and what with elaborate openings, an endless succession of ballets, and the gorgeous developments of the transformation scene, the harlequinade is driven farther and farther into the region of midnight until it seems almost probable that our immediate posterity will see it abolished altogether. COVENT GARDEN in particular has always held the reputation of producing the grandest, costliest, and duldest pantomime of the London season. Perhaps, however, we ought not to look for fun in an entertainment where, as in this instance, so much is always done in the way of spectacular magnificence. The real beauty of some of the scenes in this year's pantomime, such as the frozen dyke of Dunmow, the surprising spectral effects produced in the scene of the Great Bed of Ware, and the surpassing magnificence of the transformation scene, will probably cause people to overlook the fact that the performance affords little ground for merriment.

At DRURY, the Vokes family furnish the fun, and there is an abundance of it; but even here the humour of pantomime is, to a certain extent, overshadowed by the triumphs of scene-painter and machinist. The scene of the Garden of Jewels is a marvel of spectacular ingenuity, and is of itself sufficient to justify a visit to the theatre. Mr. Fred. Vokes sustains with characteristic ability, and we may add agility, the rôle of Abanazar the Magician. Mr. Fawdon Vokes appears as Kariac, whilst Miss Victoria Vokes makes a most delightful Aladdin, and her sister a fascinating Princess Badroulbador.

The story of *Sinbad the Sailor* supplies the groundwork of the pantomime at the HOLBORN, and a great deal is made of this time-honoured subject. The scenery is very effective; and one scene, the Home of the Black Ants, is as good as anything presented this year. Miss Maggie Brennan makes a most sprightly and vivacious Sinbad, and she is well seconded in her endeavours by Messrs. Vincent, Moxon and Furtado. The AMPHITHEATRE, too, under the management of Mr. Hollingshead, bids fair to maintain a prolonged prosperity with its present programme. At the SURREY, Messrs. W. H., Harry and Fred. Payne prove, to delighted audiences, that the salt and savour of Pantomime are not yet banished from the London stage; whilst ASTLEY'S, with its gorgeous Circus pantomime of *Aladdin*, fully maintains its old reputation.

Glancing to the provinces, we observe that Bro. Steele, at the Victory Theatre, Aldershot, has achieved a genuine success in a pantomime founded on the well-worn topic of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Miss Millie Steele plays the part of Jack, and carries all before her by the sprightliness and grace of her performance. The transformation scene, which is supposed to represent the Dream of Endymion, is a magnificent affair, and the concluding harlequinade has an abundance of hearty fun wherewith to enliven the holiday-seeking public.

The Music Halls, like the theatres, have their Christmas season, and at most of them an entertainment, of a more or less seasonable character. Mr. Morris, the "Proteus," late of the Charing Cross Theatre, appears in his extraordinary performance at the London Pavilion and the Royal Cambridge, whilst the Royal, under the management of Bro. Sweasy and Adams, presents a most varied programme, including the "dancing Quakers," Riley and Barnum, and the great ventriloquist, Lieutenant Cole. A little excitement was created here on Tuesday last, by the announcement being made, by Bro. P. Corri, that Mr. Lamont, the boatswain of the ill-fated "La Plata," was in the hall, the news being received with great applause. It may also be noted that the benefit of Bro. Adams is announced for the 25th instant.

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