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A ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR SCOTLAND.

IN our opening number we referred, at length, to the benefits conferred by the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and likewise to its progress, present position, and future prospects. We also expressed our intention of treating, in a somewhat similar manner, the other Masonic Institutions—the maintenance of which is due to the energy and goodwill of the general body of Masons—to wit, the Royal Masonic Institutions for Boys and Girls respectively. It is, then, with a feeling of genuine pleasure that we announce to our readers that a plan is under consideration among our Scottish Brethren for the establishment of a Royal Scottish Masonic Benevolent Institution. We have received a prospectus, in which are briefly set forth the objects it is sought to attain thereby; and a proposed code of rules and regulations for the governance of the Institution when established, together with a very stirring appeal from Bro. Geo. R. Harriott, Prov. G.M. Wigtown and Kirkeudbright, the originator and promoter of the scheme. We doubt not the appeal will meet with that attention which the excellent character of the proposal merits. Equally confident are we that Scottish Masons will not be behind their brethren in other parts of the United Kingdom in promoting and fostering an Institution whose objects are the relief of aged and distressed Masons and their widows, and the education of the sons and daughters of poor, yet deserving brothers.

It is to be regretted, and may, perhaps, be matter for no little wonderment with many people, that Scotch Masonry should possess no public fund, asylum, or institution for the general purposes of benevolence. Scotchmen are intensely national, not from mere sentiment only, but from pure love of country. Even in the most remote lands—and Scotsmen are to be found all over the world—they never forget their native hills and glens, but retain always the liveliest recollection of their exceeding beauty. The clanship of olden time still exists, but on a wider basis; where were many clans, with much and mutual rivalry, there is now, so to speak, but one clan,—the whole nation. Hence, we repeat, the surprise which many will experience, that Scotch Masonry should be without some such institution as the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, though we are convinced that Scotch Lodges and individual members of the Brotherhood have not been found wanting in the grandest of all Masonic duties—Charity.

The object of the present proposal is a large—we may almost say, a too ambitious—one, being none other than the establishment of an institution which shall unite in itself the aims of our three Masonic Charities. To this no sound objection can be raised, so far as its mere government is concerned, but the promoters of the scheme must first get their institution before they lay down plans for its supervision and direction. And the question will naturally occur to every one,—May there not be shipwreck of the whole scheme if its aim be too extensive? True, the promoters have, in a measure, anticipated this objection, by limiting the proposal, at first starting, to renting a "house at one of the Universities, as a College Hall on a small scale, say for 10 or 15 students." After allowing amply for the cost of this experiment, it is calculated there would still be a balance left for general management and for annuities to a limited number of widows and aged brethren. Yet we submit, with all deference, that it would be far better and far likelier to succeed if the project were, in the first instance, limited to one purpose only, leaving

the other objects to be gradually engrafted on the earlier one, as the ability of the Institution to extend its field of operations became more assured. Again, we would suggest that the relief of aged and distressed Masons and their widows is a matter of graver importance than the training of youth, especially in Scotland, where the system of education is superior to our own, and the rudiments of knowledge are within easy reach of all classes of the community. But, after all, these are merely suggestions, thrown out, not in a spirit of carping criticism, but with the earnest desire to aid the promoters in the attainment of their object.

Nothing need be said as to the general character of the proposal, which will necessarily command the attention of Scottish Masons. Nor do we anticipate any backwardness on the part of the latter in supporting the project. Once let it be shown that the establishment of such an institution is feasible, and its maintenance in a flourishing condition, is, humanly speaking, assured, while we are confident Scotch Masons will do their duty. Nor is it needful to say much on the present occasion respecting the rules and regulations of the proposed Institution. They are conceived in a just spirit, with a due regard for its proper governance. But these rules are liable to amendment when the scheme has reached maturity. We may remark, however, that, as far as we have been able to institute any comparison, the proposed rules embody all the chief points laid down in the laws and regulations of our Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and our Royal Masonic Institutions for Boys and Girls respectively. They have evidently been prepared with the utmost care by one or more persons, who, if not possessing experience in the management of such institutions, show themselves herein to be thoroughly competent for such a task. So carefully, indeed, have these laws and regulations been drawn, so excellent is the spirit in which they have been conceived, that we question much if any material alteration would be required.

It only remains for us to add, that we wish every success to the scheme, and that as far as any efforts of our own may be of service to the promoters, we shall most willingly render them such aid as it may be in our power to afford. On all occasions our columns will be open to them for the furtherance of this most admirable project.

CITIZENSHIP OF THE WORLD.

"AS wide as the earth; as deep as the human heart." This is the ideal that some young and enthusiastic minds form of a cosmopolitanism which shall embrace the great human family. Many a man has aspired to be an apostle of cosmopolitanism. The great traveller, or the loungeur, who has sauntered through every capital of Europe, may imagine that because he has seen many countries, or men of many nations, that he is therefore qualified to teach us the true principles of international toleration, or rather citizenship. Culture and refinement may, indeed, gain by the labours of such men as these; but it often happens that the traveller is a man of narrow ideas, who has gone through the world incapable of justly estimating the facts presented to his mind, while the loungeur, who hangs about the saloons of fashion, often knows nothing of men outside his own sphere. Citizenship of the world was indeed a dream of the young England party a generation ago, and it is rather odd that the gallant

young gentlemen, who showed so conclusively that they had "the courage of their opinions," did not seem to be aware that the principles upon which true cosmopolitanism should be based had long before been expounded by two great corporations, which are destined to influence man while the earth endures. The first of these is the Christian Church; the second is the great fraternity of Freemasons. It is not our business to speak in these columns of religious questions, but no one can deny that the transcendent intellect of Jesus had sketched the principles upon which universal brotherhood should be based more clearly and accurately than any of the great prophets or philosophers who preceded him. Confucius, the Chinese thinker, did, indeed, make some approach to the golden rule. Socrates, four hundred years before our era, was clearly on the track which Jesus afterwards pursued, yet he but faintly grasped the noble idea of a brotherhood which should be co-extensive with the human race. There can be no question that Masonry owes its noblest principles to the founder of Christianity. Its Charity, its Brotherly Love, its comprehensive grasp of humanity as a whole, were no doubt derived from the Prophet of Nazareth. Learned writers have, indeed, proved that the *Talmud* contains an immense body of moral precept, only second in importance to that contained in the Gospels; but these precepts were, so to speak, the private property of a nation, the people of which had no idea of inviting the whole world to become partakers with them of the measure of truth they enjoyed. Masonry, which dates its foundation far beyond the Christian era, is yet deeply indebted to that marvellous period when Christian art, as Pugin justly called it, flourished, for the breadth and Charity which are its distinctive traits in the present age. The architects of the great Gothic cathedrals not only spread Masonry over Europe, but they enlarged its moral boundary line. The eternal truths on which the scientific portion of Masonry is based are no doubt derived from a study of the works of the Great Architect of the Universe; but the grand principles which we are proud to regard as the guiding stars of the Order, the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, come from a source nearer to humanity than the manifestations of Divine Power. A Mason is essentially a citizen of the world. Toleration, in its broadest and widest sense, is taught him in the sacred arcanum of the Lodge. Creed, colour and nationality are nothing to him; but wherever he may roam he recognises the members of the Craft as peculiarly his brethren. In the presence of such cosmopolitanism as this the boastings of individuals outside the Masonic circle are vain and to trivial. A man of the world may indeed educate himself regard the people he meets as in some sense related to him by great moral and social ties, but he must be a gentleman, as well as a man of large and liberal ideas, before he can consent to forget the prejudices of his age and country. It is the Mason who is bound to his fellows of the Craft by that mystic tie which has often been recognised and respected in the heat of the battle, in the midst of plague, pestilence and famine, and at times when political tyranny has made the confession of the principles of the Order dangerous to the social status, and even the life of the daring brother. Such citizenship is glorious, and we, in common with the great mass of our brethren, are proud of its responsibilities and its claims.

HOMES AND EDUCATION.

IF social, sanitary, and educational reformers mean to accomplish any great improvement in the habits of the people, they must begin to study the character of home comforts and home duties. It is here where the first germs of virtue or vice are planted, and the formation of character commenced. The gentle mother, with that touch of affection which none but mothers can give, will awaken in the babyhood of her children some thoughts of love, home, and duty that live on for ever. Some kind words, some persuasive injunctions, that will suggest duty rather than command obedience, will aid the development of the mental and moral susceptibility of the child, which is to become the father of the man, much better than fear and coercion. Home, without purity and constancy, is spoiled of its holiest charm and most blessed influences, yet how many of the homes of the artizans, mechanics, and more

especially of the agricultural labourers, are denuded of the means of that family isolation and domestic reverence for decency which should be incumbent upon every parent to secure. The owners of property should be made to understand that they have duties to perform, as well as rights to maintain; that the accumulation of private wealth cannot, for one moment, be allowed to be a standing obstacle to the general social welfare of the community. The injury to the character of those who, by circumstances, are compelled to live in mere dens of desolation and depravity, cannot be over estimated; such homes are mere hotbeds of temptation, vice and foul disease, and children who are brought into the world under such vicious influences may, really and truly, be said to have been born in sin, and shapened in iniquity. What is needed to subdue these evils are more peace makers; when we look around, do we not find that religion is war? that Christians, forsaking their one Lord, gather under various standards, to gain victory for their sects? Politics are war, breaking the whole people into fierce and unscrupulous parties, which forget their country in conflicts for office and power. The age requires men of serene judgment and commanding virtue to preach, in life and word, the inestimable value of human brotherhood, by which alone the fires of jealousy and hate can be allayed. Great ideas and genial feelings are even now being derived from this source and are at work. Amidst the prevalence of crime and selfishness, there has sprung up in the human heart a sentiment or principle unknown in earlier ages, an enlarged and trustful philanthropy, which recognises the rights of every human being which is stirred by the terrible oppressions and corruptions of the world, and which does not shrink from conflict with evil in its worst forms. There has sprung up, too, a faith of which antiquity knew nothing, in the final victory of truth and right, in the elevation of men to a clearer intelligence, to more fraternal union, and to a purer worship. This faith is taking its place among the great springs of human action, is becoming even a passion in more ardent spirits; this spirit ought to be hailed with delight, as the enlightened harbinger of brighter and better times to come. Ages rolled away before it was learned that this world of matter which we tread on is in constant motion, all now are beginning to learn that the intellectual and moral world has its motion too, not fixed and immutable, like that of matter, but one which the free will of men is to carry on and to stretch forth for ever. This is the social star that shines in the mental firmament, and sheds its cheering rays all around. But to ensure the continuance of this moral and mental progress we must invoke the aid of a sound, expansive and rational education, one that will include that whole course of moral and mental discipline, by which youth can be prepared to discharge the functions and fulfil the duties required from age. Scholastic teaching is but a part of education. The Church, the State and the family are educational agencies. Each in its way as important and as influential as the school; and in every effective plan for national education these separate agencies must be combined in harmonious co-operation, lest what is accomplished by one agency should be counteracted or subverted by another. Unfortunately, this important question has been so involved in controversy that its aspect has been distorted and obscured by the passions of angry or interested partizans, to such an extent as to disguise its very nature. Men argue as if the question at issue was between education and non-education; but a more greivous error could hardly be committed. There is no such thing as non-education. Every human being is educated; that is to say, every human being derives principles of conduct and habits of action from the authority, the conversation and example of those by whom he is surrounded. The thief is educated, the poacher is educated, and the pick-pocket most sedulously educated. There is no school in the world where more heed is given to the progress of the pupils than that in which a Fagin acts as master, and an Artful Dodger as head assistant. Vice opens schools as well as virtue. Crime has rewards for the zealous, and punishments for the refractory, quite as efficacious as those at the disposal of rectitude. Let this great truth be once thoroughly apprehended; let it once be understood that we have not to choose between education and non-education, for the simple reason that non-education is an utter impossibility; let it not only be known, but felt that our choice is confined to education or mis-education—that we have to decide between possible good and positive evil, and

nine-tenths of the controversies that have been raised on the subject will be instantly dismissed. No one on earth can deny that mis-education is a moral and mental malady, that should, for the sake of the community, be at once placed under efficient control. It does not require much prescience to see that an education unfitting youth to perform the duties of men and citizens is destructive to the individuals, and pernicious to society. But so long as the education preparing them for the discharge of these duties is withheld, the reverse process must flourish in full force. There is no standing still in this world, the mind exist only in progress, it must advance in some direction either to good or evil. The blank sheets of paper to which the mind of infancy has been compared, cannot long retain its pure vacuity. If the wise will not trace upon it the characters of good, the wicked will so sully it as to render it unsusceptible of any useful impressions, and cover it all over with uneffacable spells of evil. Ignorance does not mean a total absence of every kind of knowledge, nor does folly signify a total absence of every form of intelligence, but ignorance is depraved knowledge, and folly is depraved intelligence. When we once admit the fact, that ignorance is depraved knowledge, it will require little argument to prove it the necessary parent of crime. The inference is so obvious, the consequence so immediate, and the connection so palpable, that no statistical tables are necessary to the demonstration. It is often urged that a good national education will be very expensive; grant this argument; what then? The answer is plain, has not a vile mis-education lost the nation, for years past, large sums in public prosecutions, which monies, had they been expended in the reformation of young criminals, would have caused a diminution of crime, and an increase of happiness and security to the public. Therefore, let church and dissent, establishment and voluntarism forget all minor differences to realise the sublime prospect, "when our sons may grow up as the young olive-trees, and our daughters as the polished corners of the temple."

A MAN AND A BROTHER.

IT was no rosewater revolution that passed over the United States of America some ten or a dozen years ago. Between the America of 1860 and 1875 there is a difference that, in the elder nations of the world, might be measured by a century of change, yet many questions affecting the social life of the people have survived the "late unpleasantness," and still furnish material for the oratory of the stump and the watchword of party. For the most part these questions may be left to the people themselves. The popular sentiment, which, during the intoxication of successful war, applauded monstrous rogueries, under the thin disguise of commercial enterprise, and now identifies conspicuous wealth with public virtue, may be trusted to prove as fleeting as other popular sentiments elsewhere. Indeed, there have been many indications that, without the crowning mercy of a financial panic to quicken it, the intelligence of a free people will, sooner or later, provide a remedy for admitted evils. The difficulty is to get the evils acknowledged as such; when that is effected, their correction will follow in good time.

One of these burning questions, the peculiar institution of the Southern States, was always a fruitful source of discord for contending politicians, and now, ten years after its complete abolition, we find the status of "coloured citizens" the subject of anxious consideration to American statesmen. The "coloured pusson" is the hero of the hour. The civil rights of the emancipated negro engage the attention of every publicist, from Washington to Saratoga; from the Chief Judge of the Supreme Court to the doorkeepers of Morrissey's Faro Clubs. We do not propose to discuss the general question here. Our present object is simply to direct attention to a phase of the civil rights agitation, in which every Freemason will be deeply interested.

At Jackson, in the State of Michigan, there was held, last December, a meeting of "coloured Masons" to receive the report of a Committee appointed a year ago to petition the white Grand Lodge for recognition. How many of the twelve months were occupied in preparing the petition, and how many in considering the prayer of the supplicants, is not stated, but the answer was a refusal to grant a warrant, and, according to the report in the *Detroit News*, upon grounds exclusively technical.

As we understand the matter, no question was raised affecting the fitness of the petitioners for the desired honours. No irregularity of initiation was suggested, and no maimed rites were condemned. Nevertheless, "the Grand Lodge passed a resolution, affirming exclusive jurisdiction for over 30 years as a reason for refusing recognition." There is about this remarkable resolution all the laborious brevity which is the predominant characteristic of American newspaper literature, and which renders a large part of it unintelligible to English readers. But there can be no doubt upon the main point, the refusal of the warrant, and, as we think may be assumed, upon technical grounds solely.

The question that will naturally suggest itself to the outer world is this:—Are these men Masons? or are they not? and it is a question that calls for the serious attention of our American Brothers. If these men of Michigan are Masons in all save recognition by the whites, the action of Grand Lodge in withholding the boon appears incomprehensible. Regarded from the commonplace standpoint of expediency, it is impossible to approve a decision which prolongs and tends to promote the existence of irregularities that are scandalous to the Brotherhood at large.

From the higher view presented to the heart of a Mason, it is productive of more positive feelings; stronger, indeed, than we care to utter. Toleration, which is the offspring of Charity and Brotherly Love, is one of the grandest principles of our Order. Distinctions of creed or nationalities when invidious, are only known to Masons for reprobation: they are repudiated in our precepts and condemned in our laws. Pride and prejudice, whether begotten of rank or opinion, material wealth or intellectual culture, have no places in Masonry. It is the active principle of charity which sanctifies the aims and ennobles its members, and that principle has a wider scope and meaning than conventional interpreters accord to it on either side of the Atlantic. We shall not, ourselves, be unmindful of this high attribute of the Craft, nor be proved deficient in the distinguishing virtue of every faithful Mason.

In this spirit we hasten to acknowledge that it is not for us to pronounce judgment, even upon stronger evidence than the *ex parte* statement of a newspaper reporter. Moreover, we are unable to comprehend how such an obstacle as is dimly set forth in the resolution quoted should prevent the recognition of genuine Masons by the heads of the Order.

It may be, and it doubtless is so, that there were other and sufficient reasons for the action of Grand Lodge. But the prayer of the "coloured Masons" of Jackson, and its rejection by the "white folks," furnish a curious corollary to our proposition of 2nd January: "There are thousands unrecognised, professing affiliation with the great brotherhood throughout the Union, who have no more right so to do than they would have to proclaim themselves kings by divine right."

The regular committee meeting of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons, was held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Bro. Major Creaton in the chair. Bro. Jas. Terry read the minutes of the former meeting, they were unanimously confirmed. The Warden's report was read, with that of the House Committee, showing repairs were necessary. Several candidates for the next election, both male and female, were placed on the list, and other matters in connection with the Institution were discussed. There were present Bros. B. Head, H. Browne, J. Brett, T. Cubitt, J. Constable, F. Adlan Newton, Griffiths Smith, L. Stean, W. Stephens, Hyde Pullen, W. Hale, Hilton, J. Stephens, C. A. Cottebrunc, C. Hogard, H. M. Levy. A vote of thanks to the Chairman followed, and the meeting was adjourned to the second Wednesday in the next month.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—This purifying and regulating medicine should be occasionally had recourse to during foggy, cold and wet weather. These Pills are the best preventives of hoarseness, sore throat, diphtheria, pleurisy and asthma, and are sure remedies for congestion, bronchitis and inflammation. A moderate attention to the directions folded round each box will enable every invalid to take the Pills in the most advantageous manner; they will there be taught the proper doses, and the circumstances under which they must be increased or diminished. Holloway's Pills act as alteratives, aperients and tonics. Wherever these Pills have been taken as the last resource, the result has always been gratifying; even when they fail to cure, they always assuage the severity of symptoms and diminish danger.

MASONIC RENCONTRES — THE TWO ISTHMUS.

BY BRO. WALTER SPENCER, F.R.G.S., &c.

EARLY in 1863, I arrived in the comfortable P.M.C. steamer "Bolivia" at Panama, after a charming passage along the South American shores, over the harmless waters of the tropical Pacific. Inspired with youth and health and charmed with memories of travel, of the great plateaus east of the Andes, of their mighty mountain passes, of the lovely stretches of forest and champaign betwixt them and the confluence of the Amazon, of the ruined cities of the Incas, and of deserted Jesuit missions in the far interior, I felt that no natural obstacle could daunt me, that there was no distant spot to which man could not penetrate, no desolation he could not explore. Landed at the old city, visions of Pizarro and Almagro rose before me, starting on their career towards unknown discoveries, which were to culminate in the conquest of a continent; of arrivals and departures, of old caravels bearing successive Viceroy's to the land of gold, of intrigue and tumult which the old town had witnessed, as adventurers hurried to greet every new satrap in hopes of supplanting the favourites of the one recalled. I leaned over the decaying battlements, by the rusty cannon, which still speak haughtily of bygone terrors when the keys of the Pacific were their own, and strained my eyes at the forest on the further shore, to discern the ruins which tell of the desolation inflicted by Morgan and his buccaners. The desire came strong upon me to explore those gorgeous forests, to revel in their emerald tints alone, and greedily to monopolise the glories of nature in her most lovely array. I was homeward bound; might have scant opportunity for more explorations; was not tied to a few days. Why should I not walk across the Isthmus? There was an old mule path used before the opening of the railway. I would find it out.

On return to the hotel, "Aspinwall House," (where my fellow passengers had been disgusted at Spanish-American cookery,—viands swimming in oil) in the evening, on a cool balcony, where gentlemen smoked delicious new Havannahs and ladies lulled themselves in rocking chairs enlivened by occasional "chaff" with street vendors of black pearls, tortoiseshell, vanilla beans and plantain fans, I broached my project, and was greeted with derisive yells by the male, and a chorus of little screams by the female members of our party. Next morning, kind Mrs. —, the wife of our good old Commodore, took me to task seriously on the subject. Her dissuasion, for my then frame of mind, was unfortunately calculated: she recounted anecdotes of horror, of the midnight plunderers, who from the woods made periodical raids on the outskirts of the city, of recent crimes committed in the villages, of the ferocity of the negro squatters, and the danger from wild beasts: to which comforting anecdotes I promised to give full consideration. Armed with a letter of introduction I called on the Peruvian Consul, D. Antonio Rubio, asking for information and advice as to the route. He stared aghast, and hurriedly took up his hat, saying he would go at once to the railway authorities and get me a free pass by train. He thought I *must* be compelled through lack of funds. Any one who has had to deal with a Spanish-American or Spaniard will know that the idea of walking, when there is a possibility of riding, would never enter his head. When undeceived on this point, he was kind enough to enliven me with statistics of the ravages made by fevers among the white population; with the moral that I should certainly break down in some negro hovel ere I had got halfway across.

This current of opposition somewhat modified my plans. Unable to get information as to the route without considerable unpleasantness, in order to carry out my view I decided to depart secretly. The railway track could not be missed: on that I determined to rely, using it as a base-line from which to make such excursions as fancy might dictate. Returning to the hotel, I entrusted my luggage to an American fellow-traveller bound by train to Aspinwall, with instruction to deposit it duly at the "Howard House;" retaining a broad brimmed *Guayaquil* hat, light strong trousers, a colonial *jumper*,* a sword-stick and revolver-belt, which the jumper would conceal. These, a bottle of sulph. quin., and some dollars in my pocket,

* *Jumper*, a thin blue sergo sleeved smock, reaching to the hips.

with a brandy-flask at my side, would serve my purpose. A change of linen would be cumbersome, and might tempt cupidity; the distance from ocean to ocean was but forty-eight miles, and might even be accomplished in a night. It seemed wiser to travel by night only; the fearful heat of the day, even in the glades of the forest, would be harder to bear than even the densest night malaria.

Without leave-taking of any one, therefore, I set out at seven that evening in bright moonlight, for regions unknown; without a thought except of an adventurous ramble with a happy issue, and in all the buoyancy of youthful spirits. My pipe, good store of tobacco, and matches not forgotten, I "lighted up," and struck out of a street, across fields that would land me on to the "Line" well out of the town. The hum of the population and the tinkling of guitars died dreamily away, as I bounded on to the sleepers and swung gaily along the track. For some distance on the line I passed clusters of hovels, and then entered a narrow way between the dark matted giants of the tropical bush. The moon disappeared at ten o'clock, and the white mist rising round me, clinging amid the dense vegetation, showed that I had really entered the dreaded miasma of fetid swamps. I stopped to fortify myself, with quinine from the point of a penknife, washed down with Cognac. Vegetable growths in rank rotteness, densely packed, were perspiring a thick steam, and I seemed to scent fever as I passed along. Strange horrid insects and reptiles crawled, or scampered off the path. At about 11 p.m. I caught the sound of footsteps, at a distance, following mine; full of the stories of negro treachery and what not, I took out my revolver, and, as the stranger approached, cried out, in Spanish, "*Quien vive.*" The reply was of surprise, in English: and, somewhat reassured, I queried, "Who the D—l are you?" "United States sloop 'Thecla,'" replied the invisible; "what's up?" "Whither bound?" I asked. "On the tramp across." "Come on," I called, cautiously, prepared for a ruse. The starlight was sparkling and beautiful, the place an open glade, and the stranger appeared in the garb of a seaman, having a bundle slung over his shoulder from a stick. A deserter apparently. On questioning him, I found it was so. His intention was to stow himself away in a steamer on arrival at Aspinwall, and to work his way to New York as a fireman. We joined company; the companionship proved not uncongenial, but after midnight his pace slackened, and seeing him stoop to drink from a rill which trickled out of the bush, I pulled him back, and, with a caution against drinking *essence of fever*, fortified him from the flask and with a pinch of quinine. At about 1 a.m. we heard a regular tramp, as of soldiery approaching from the opposite quarter, and both apprehensive, we drew into the bush. Presently the oncoming band burst into a chorus, soon resolvable into "*Was ist des Deutschen Vaterland.*" A party of Germans, on their way across, bound, they said (for I was rejoiced to speak again the dear old German tongue), for *San Francisco*. Artisans of various trades, travelling cheaply as Germans know how, on their way to strengthen with their sense and sinew, the glorious State of California. Shortly after this little episode, when close to a clearing amid which we could distinguish a dark group of huts, my companion sat down on a stump, and declared he must have a rest. We had passed various stations in the darkness along the line, but there was one larger which I now was anxious to reach, determining not to travel further after sunrise, and nothing doubting but that my dollars would secure me shelter and a good reception.

Not wishing to part company, I said, "Well, come with me; we'll get some refreshment;" and, stumbling along over the stumps to the first hut, rapped at the door, shouting twice, "*Quiere usted dinero*"—"Do you want money?" I could hear a startled occupant go through the various grunts and rustlings which betoken awakening consciousness, bursting at last into a chuckle as the meaning of the unexpected query dawned upon him. "Because," I added, "for a cup of coffee you shall have a dollar." This brought to the door an aged nigger, on the broad grin, who admitted us, and proceeded to strike a light by the friction of two sticks, until cut short by the ignition of a match. Around, upon a flooring of plantain leaves, lay his interesting family, who sat up, rubbing their eyes and staring at the intruders. In a wonderfully short time the fire was lighted—on the same floor—no chimney—and an earthen pot was boiling upon it. In less than half an hour we were imbibing a hot

fragrant beverage without milk or sugar, that I really have often fancied I have not known equalled since; after which, our dollar being paid, we thanked our host and departed. We jogged on again through the same horrible swamp miasma, till a glow of violet radiance gradually spread overhead, and then we seemed to enter full daylight all at once. Then began, from all sides, a screaming and trilling and chattering, sounds of fluttering and rustling and croaking; the whole forest was tremulous with sounds of life. We now sighted ahead, the station I was in search of—*San Pablo*; perceiving already signs of life about, I quickened my pace and hastened to meet a white-clad gentleman who emerged from under the green verandah; but first looked round for my comrade. He was gone—vanished. To be known along the line was evidently no part of his plan, and I saw him no more; but have often wondered whether he effected his escape, or whether the too vigilant care of the U. S. Consul at Aspinwall, provided him with lodgings and a passage back. It may have been a highly improper sentiment, and merit the reprobation of right-minded people, but I could not help sending my sympathies after him. Greeting the new comer in English, I told him I wanted accommodation for the day, when he turned surlily upon me, “*Not much, young man, you don't carry on your little games here.*” Taken quite aback, I stammered out, “*But I am willing to pay, I thought to find accommodation at any station on the line.*” “*Tramps won't get much out of me, I can tell yer, so you'd better vamos as quick as you like.*” Tired, and now feeling unpleasantly moist in my heated clothes, I expostulated in vain. He lived there with his family, and would take no one in, but at length relaxed so far as to give me a scrawl on a bit of paper, for a dependent stationed some miles further on, directing him to give me needful food and shelter, on payment. I had not felt so sold since one evening years before, when arriving at the *Crimsel Hospice* about sunset, our party found there not even a truss of straw unoccupied, and had to tramp over snow and ice, miles further on to Handeck. There was no alternative, so stimulated by another sup of Cognac and a renewed pipeful, I continued on. At about eight I reached “*Frijoli*,” and was so fortunate as to find the official in charge, *M. César Giraudier*. He read dubiously, the scrawl of introduction, said he had strict instructions against receiving any one; thought that it must have been given simply to get rid of me, &c. Alarmed for the result, I was about to implore him, and to offer *any price* for simple shelter, when his gentlemanly appearance, or the intelligence in his eye, or some impulse I know not what, induced me, as though by accident, to make the Mason's sign. “*Come in,*” he said, “*don't stand out there in the sun, you'll get a sunstroke. I'll have breakfast ready now. Take your boots off. Mon frère, vous êtes chez vous.*” Here was a change—little did I expect, when made a Master Mason three months previous, in the good *Duke of Leinster's Lodge*, at Lima, so soon to reap the benefits of Brotherhood. Eased from the blazing sunshine and enjoying the cool shadows of the closed venetians, I reclined on a cane sofa, whilst my host rushed about shouting to his negro help; and soon, upon the coarse rumpled tablecloth, were seen a smoking dish of iguana's eggs, two appetising mugs of creamy chocolate, and a pile of hard biscuits. Used to all sorts of fare, I by no means disdained this, and pronounced the eggs, delicate meat fit for an Empress.

“*Now,*” said my new brother, “*I have my duties to attend to. A train will pass this afternoon, and I must see that all's clear; from the back of this there leads an avenue down to the creek, a branch of the *Chagres*, go and have a bath; don't mind the alligators, they are but small ones, the large Caymans never come so near the house.*” I took the advice, and was not molested; after which I found my way to a delicious glen near, in the forest, where the bright sky was only visible here and there through delicate tracery of foliage, down which its glowing light gilded or bronzed the edges of leaves and branches, like glittering foil. It was a very lovely spot. I lay down, on a slope, and gazed upward. Innumerable birds and winged insects, of unspeakably gorgeous colours, flew across, whirled about, and danced madly athwart in every direction. So small were the humming birds, and so large the lepidoptera, it was in vain I tried to distinguish one from the other in their rapid flight. Twined inextricably from branch to branch, ran clusters of creepers, blossoming orchids amid which the lovely *Flor del Espiritu Santo* was conspicuous. Here I fell asleep, till 5 o'clock; woke none the worse,

and returned to the house. During the evening with my new found friend, we exchanged experiences. At home he had been clerk in a telegraph office; wanted to travel; emigrated to New Orleans; the war broke out—not sympathising with the South, he had gone further on and come to an anchor here. The life was beginning to pall upon him; there was an abandoned gold mine in the neighbourhood, formerly worked by the Spaniards; the Indians had a rumour of fabulous mineral wealth in these parts; he had a mind to invest in plant, hire labourers, and set to work. Amongst other topics broached, was table turning, and he imparted to me an experience, noteworthy only from what will be seen in the sequel. He was acquainted at home with one “*Allan Cardec*,” whom he described as an extraordinary mystic, and for whom he avowed great veneration. This man held remarkable theories, and was a professor of what is now known as “*Spiritism*.” “*In his company,*” said my host, “*my hand, when resting on his table, used to be moved about, in a manner against my will, and on his assurance, I occasionally allowed it to write sentences with a pencil, when long moral precepts and trite advice, such as *Do no one injury*, used to be written, by means quite apart from my volition. Contemplating emigration, I was instigated to ask my hand a question, and demanded, ‘Shall I live abroad?’ The answer was, *En Orient tu mouriras*. Piqued at this, and having my thoughts fixed upon America, I determined to falsify the strange prediction, and you see, here I am.*” We laughed and wondered at this aimless story, and at 9 o'clock the moon being well up, I rose to go, having had enough of the Isthmus and being determined to get to Aspinwall next morning. Giraudier refused all remuneration, which, in fact, I only ventured to hint at; but he could not refuse to accept my sword-stick as a reminder of this strange rencontre with a *Brother* in the woods. He walked with me as far as *Stephens's Tree*, entertaining me with anecdotes of the road, which is said locally to have cost a human life for every sleeper laid down on it, and we took leave, mutually regretting the severance of our short companionship and without a thought that our widely different destinies could ever bring us again in contact.

(Sequel in our next.)

On Wednesday and Thursday evenings the members of the City Police Force held their annual festival, in the large room of the new Ward Schools, Bishopsgate, which was kindly lent for the occasion by the Rev. William Rogers. Colonel Frazer, the Commissioner of Police, Major Bowman, the Chief Superintendent, Mr. Foster, assistant Superintendent, Mr. Alfred De Rothschild, and Mr. Freshfield, of the Bank of England, were among the chief guests. A very large proportion of the members of the force, with their wives and families, attended, and took part in the dancing with great spirit. Bro. J. R. Foulger, acted as M.C. A sleight of hand entertainment, by Mr. Creamer jun., was much enjoyed, as also were some songs and glees, which were given under the direction of Rev. Bro. J. T. Smith. The band of the Police Orphanage, composed of boys attending the schools, was present, and performed in a creditable manner. In the course of Wednesday evening, Mr. Alfred De Rothschild, addressing the members of the force present, took occasion to say that the movement was one in which he entirely concurred, and that it had afforded him great pleasure to be present on the occasion; expressing, at the same time, his regret at the absence, from indisposition, of the Rev. Mr. Rogers. He added that he had great pleasure in acting on the Managing Committee, for, in his opinion, there was no class of men in the whole community more useful than the Police, not only of the City and Metropolis generally, but of the country at large. At this festive season it was often seen how roughly a policeman was treated in a pantomime, and the great good nature he invariably displayed showed that while he was one of the best tempered members of society, he was always bent upon doing his duty. The band of the force, under the able direction of Mr. F. A. Rattray, performed most admirably. We are glad to hear that several gentlemen of influence in the City, to mark their sense of the very efficient manner in which the duties of the force are discharged, have determined to contribute a sum sufficient to cover the whole cost of both entertainments.

REVIEWS.

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

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Oliver's Masonic Jurisprudence; a New Edition. Edited by Walter Spenser, Esq., F.R.G.S. London: Spenser. 1874.

SECOND NOTICE.

Our former notice of this work extended only to Craft Lodges, and we have now to redeem our tacit promise, and follow the author through the higher grades of Masonry, upon which he throws considerable light. He has collected a body of precedent and ceremonial which possesses the great advantage of being perfectly accurate; and his strictures upon those who from time to time have attempted to degrade Masonry, or who were too apathetic to perform the high functions pertaining to the Provincial Grand Lodge, are very just. The Provincial Grand Master naturally claims the first consideration of our author, who sets forth his duties and privileges most clearly and ably. "A Provincial Grand Lodge should be formed of the master spirits of each Lodge; for they are the only men who are likely to promote its interests, and make its machinery conduce to the general benefit of society in the province." As Dr. Oliver justly observes, if especial care were always taken in the introduction of members, the laws would be punctually observed, and he cites the well known practice of the Swiss Lodges, which, in our opinion, err on the side of too great strictness and severity. Upon the question of the qualifications necessary for the Provincial Grand Officers, it is somewhat difficult to speak fully here, but we may say that a little care in judging of the talents and acquirements of candidates will never be thrown away. A man who is half-hearted, or whose zeal for Masonry is on the decline, should never be permitted to wear the purple. It has happened before now that a Provincial Grand Master, careless of the interests of the Craft, has spread apathy or discontent through an entire district; and even when this high functionary is inspired with proper enthusiasm, it is highly necessary that he should be seconded by able and energetic subordinates. The right man in the right place is a homely maxim, which applies to the Craft as fully and completely as it does to the world. Freemasonry is a great social compact, and he who aspires to distinction must place his talents at the disposal of his brethren, for the general good of the Order. With respect to the Provincial Grand Lodge, we rather regret that the editor of the work before us has not thrown out a suggestion for more frequent meetings. Our laws enact that it shall assemble at least once a year; instances have indeed occurred where it has not been called together for a period of three years, but such cases, in these days of perfect railway communication, are, we hope, exceedingly rare. As the Provincial Grand Lodge is, so to speak, the fountain of Freemasonry, towards which all the Lodges within its jurisdiction look for light and guidance, more frequent meetings could not but conduce to the good of the Order; zeal for the cause would be excited by their more frequent ceremonials, which are interesting and instructive in the highest degree. The old system of public processions, no doubt, attracted a certain class to our ranks, but we cannot agree with our author in the opinion that their suppression was disastrous. It is only an uneducated mind which is influenced by the display of Masonic regalia, and at the period when public processions were discountenanced, the "Odd Fellows" and "Old Friends," and other similar secret societies, frequently attempted a burlesque of Masonic form. The public visit to the parish Church was doubtless a good old custom, but Masons are able to show their respect for T.G.A.O.T.U. without resorting to public ceremonial, in which, often, the meaning was lost or forgotten in the blaze of jewellery and costume.

Of the author's remarks upon the Grand Lodge, the great legislative centre of Freemasonry, we need say little, since we cordially agree in the main with his opinions. We may, however, remind our readers of the attempt, which was made in the year 1768, to incorporate it by Act of Parliament. The design was supported by the Duke of Beaufort, the then Grand Master, and in 1771 a bill was brought into Parliament by the Hon. Charles Dillon, the Deputy Grand Master, but on the second reading it was opposed by Mr. Onslow, on behalf of a number of the brethren who had petitioned against it, and the design of an incorporation fell to the ground. This curious episode in the history of the Order is carefully recorded in the work before us, and to some of our readers it will be quite new.

We have left ourselves no space to comment upon the last section of the work, which is devoted to the laws relating to the Royal Arch Degree, and we must, therefore, refer the Mason desirous of instruction in the customs and ceremonials of this sublime step in Masonic progress to the book itself, which will afford him all the information he may need upon this and kindred questions.

Social Pressure. By the author of "Friends in Council." London: Daldy, Isbister and Co., 56 Ludgate Hill. 1875.

Among the essayists of the day, none stand so deservedly high in the estimation of the public as the author of "Friends in Council." Since the appearance of that now familiar work, the author has published many books—some historical, and some biographical. He has essayed the rôle of romancist; he has published "Thoughts on Government," and other similarly interesting volumes. In all cases his labours have been duly appreciated by the public. Yet, successful as he has been thus far, Sir Arthur Helps seems determined that his literary fame shall go on increasing. "Social Pressure" may not perhaps surpass his "Friends in Council," to which, in fact, it is a sequel; but it is fully equal to it, and that is saying much, for sequels are not unfrequently failures. We are apt to institute a too severe comparison between the first and the latest of any series of essays. We fancy we see the same thoughts or line of thought reproduced, only in somewhat different language. We mark the recurrence of any weak points that may formerly have attracted our attention; we pass, with hardly a word of praise, the repetition of former excellence. We become, in fact, hypercritical, and unintentionally, no doubt, incline towards severity when our duty is to be impartial. In the present instance there is no fear even of hypercriticism. "Social Pressure" will bear even the pressure of the severest and least friendly criticism. The same "Friends" appear in conclave, and discuss sundry topics of popular interest. In the essays which deal with these topics, as in the discussions that follow the several essays, these amiable friends present always the idiosyncrasies which have marked them on all previous occasions. One is practical, another caustic, a third argumentative, while a fourth indulges somewhat in repartee. All, however, display the same admirable qualities, while the style in which the subjects are treated, and afterwards talked over, leaves little, if anything to be desired, either as regards language or matter.

Among the topics to which our friends direct their attention in these pages, two will especially recommend themselves to the notice of our readers. These are the essays on "Ridicule" and "Over-Publicity." In the former case, the form of ridicule which is so severely and, we may add, so justly censured, is the kind vulgarly known as "chaffing." Chaff, we all know, is harmless enough if confined within proper limits. It may, and indeed often does, amount to nothing more than a friendly interchange of banter. Falstaff is chaffed, for instance, about his adventure with the men in "buckram" and in "Lincoln Green;" but the tone which Prince Hal and Poins adopt towards their fat comrade in dissipation is essentially a friendly one; there is nothing ill-natured or unkind in what they say. Gratiano was severe in his chaff of the rascal Shylock; but our sympathies are not with the Jew, who, had it been possible, would have taken "his pound of flesh." We feel he merits the severe verbal chastisement which Gratiano inflicts upon him. The antiquary, again, chaffs his nephew, Hector McIntyre, about his misadventure with the *phoca*; but here again the chaff, though a little trying to the choleric young Highlander, has nothing ill-natured in it. The chaff to which the essayist objects is that witless, inane, and cruel kind of ridicule, which is so common among the lower order of Cockneys—the chaff which selects for its butt a scar that recalls unpleasant memories, a deformity of the body, respecting which the person attacked is keenly sensitive; a defect of speech or vision, or some old slip in manners or language, which he deeply regrets, or is heartily ashamed to have committed. Chaff of this kind is rightly described as cruel, for it causes pain, and as witless, for, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the man who chaffs simply repeats himself again and again *ad nauseam*. We are entirely at one with the author in his severe animadversion on this description of ridicule, and we feel assured our readers, while they never object to the harmless interchange of pleasantry, are as strongly opposed as ourselves to saying or hinting at anything likely to embarrass a friend or brother. Chaff of this sort is un-Masonic, and no Mason would intentionally indulge in it.

The essay on Over-Publicity almost equally commends itself to the brotherhood. We are sorry to say the world of late years has become over inquisitive, not about matters generally and properly interesting to the whole body politic, but respecting those which direct and regulate the private relations of individuals. Nothing pleases a mixed company so much as the narration of some little scandal affecting the character or habits of one known to them, either personally, or even by name only. A certain honour attaches to him who relates this latest piece of news. Mysterious nods and winks follow the narration, as though each one hearing it were delighted beyond measure. "I thought as much," says one; "I fully expected it," chimes in another, and each chuckles and goes his way. It never occurs, either to the tell-tale, or to the listeners, that this amounts to a cruel invasion of the privacy of life. The weaknesses or shortcomings of our neighbours should be repressed and kept as private as possible. They are not a fit subject for the tittle-tattler who cares not whom he injures, so he retains or extends his fame as a newsmonger of what is or should be private and confidential. But there is a worse kind of over-publicity than even this, or perhaps, we should rather say, a

over-publicity that bids fair to be more widely, and even universally disastrous. We mean the publication of memoirs, in which are recorded the sayings and doings of many and different persons, or of their nearest and dearest relatives and friends. A prominent case of this kind, which has recently come before the world, will best illustrate our meaning. There have been latterly published the Greville Journals. In proportion as these contain facts and opinions of a strictly private character, and with which therefore the public is generally unacquainted, in the same proportion will they excite the interest of all classes. The personages who figure in the pages of these memoirs are among the highest and most esteemed of our public men, during the last half-century. Mr. Greville was admitted to free and familiar intercourse with them by reason, chiefly, of his official position as Clerk of the Council. Yet has he not scrupled to note down facts connected with their private life, or record his opinions, often in unbecoming language, respecting their private conduct and relations. These are now published to the world, though some of the actors are yet living, and, as far as we know, without so much as consulting the friends and kindred of those who are dead and gone. We cannot too severely condemn such a violation of trust. There are many classes of men—Masons among the number—to whom the most important secrets are entrusted, or who are placed or place themselves under an obligation to maintain certain things secret and inviolable; and he who betrays the trust reposed in him, must have, to say the least, a very eccentric idea of what constitutes honour.

We have selected these two essays for lengthy comment, not only because they are specimens of the author's method of handling his subject, but because the objects he has no doubt had in view in writing them will be more fully appreciated by the class to whom our observations are addressed. But we should fail in our duty if we limited our praise to these particular essays. There are others equally admirable on "The Art of Leaving Off," on "The Folly of Mankind," "That towns may be too large," &c., &c., while the conversations are witty, and sparkle with epigram. With these remarks we commend "Social Pressure" to the attention of our readers, in the full persuasion that they will derive an infinite amount of pleasure from a study of its contents.

Our Song: The Compass, Book, and Square. Written by Francis Bennock, Esq., F.S.A., P.M. No. 1. Composed by Donald W. King, P.M. No. 12. London: 48 Woburn Place, Russell Square.

We have received a copy of the above, which, from its enlivening strain, must commend itself to our musical brothers. It is within the compass of an ordinary tenor voice, and will no doubt be acceptable as a standard Masonic song.

LITERATURE.

A Tour in the Saddle in Search of the Beautiful, by J. T. SPENCER. London: Charing Cross Publishing Company.

THIS little brochure is the work of an artist who, like many gentlemen of his profession, handles the pen as cleverly as he wields his pencil. The scene of the author's tour, which was undertaken entirely for artistic purposes, is the charming Lake District of Cumberland, which he visited in the spring of the year, when nature, by way of contrast to the glowing browns of autumn, about which painters rave, puts on her varied tints of delicate green. The work is written in a flowing and spirited style, and we need not add that Mr. Spencer managed to fill his sketch book with choice "bits" of mountain and glen. His pleasant gossip will be appreciated by readers who desire to know how a painter can talk about nature and the beautiful.

The Charing Cross Magazine seems to include some amateurs on its staff. The general matter is pretty good, and the serial stories are interesting, but an ambitious paper, on the momentous question of "Life after Death," contains so much false reasoning and so many puny arguments that we are surprised to see it in a magazine of position and influence. Having travelled over the same ground as the writer of the article, we were curious to see if he had contributed any additional evidence upon a question which puzzles so many people just now. We confess, however, that his attempts at reasoning, which, no doubt, have all the charm of novelty to a writer who appears to have no idea of the elementary principles of logic, rather disgusted us. Arguments which are good enough for the nursery should not be paraded before the world, and if the writer is wise enough to take a little friendly advice, we may remind him that the logical infidel justly throws the onus of proof upon those who assert that man lives hereafter. Believing, as we do most unfeignedly, in a future life, we have little or no patience with the antiquated "chrysalis and butterfly argument," which, pursued to its logical end, only proves, if accepted as an analogy, that man dies a second time when he reaches his butterfly stage of existence. We may add, that the writer's pen plays such odd pranks with his style that we are inclined to think it must have been loaded with quicksilver.

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

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

AT the Court of Governors of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, held on Monday morning, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, under the presidency of Mr. Henry Brouse, a vice-patron. It appears, from the statement submitted, that the number of boys educated and maintained in the school had increased, in the last 12 years, from 72 to 176, while the number, since the foundation of the Institution, in 1798, amounted to 1,266. The receipts for the year 1874, showed a total of £10,186, inclusive of a grant of £466 from Grand Chapter. It was announced that the 77th anniversary festival will be held on Wednesday, 30th June, on which occasion M.W. Pro. Grand Master the Right Honourable the Earl of Carnarvon will preside. Having transacted its ordinary business, the Court then adjourned. The following is a list of the 48 candidates from whom eight will be elected into the Institution by ballot at Freemason's Hall on Monday, 12th April next, the ballot commencing at, or before, one, and closing at three o'clock precisely.—

SEVENTH APPLICATION.

1. James Thomas Marks.

SIXTH APPLICATION.

2. James Arnytage Buterty.
3. Henry Morrison Shipway.

FIFTH APPLICATION.

4. Robert Duff.
5. James Earl Storey Graham.

FOURTH APPLICATION.

6. Charles Henry Cromwell.
7. William Reginald Hunter.

THIRD APPLICATION.

8. Vincent John Lee.
9. George Augustus Winpoy.
10. William Astlo Cooke.
11. Arthur David Kerr.
12. John Tom Swallow.
13. Donald Steward Wharton Hambly.
14. James Herbert Rees.
15. George Samuel Cox.
16. Richard Thomas Gardner.
17. Leonard Wain.

SECOND APPLICATION.

18. Alfred Greville Vivian.
19. William Christopher Ludlow.
20. George Randall Allison.
21. Richard George Head.
22. Gilbert Palmer Sheridan Perrin.
23. James Archibald Barclay.
24. Arthur Frederick Lemarchand.
25. Percy James.
26. Victor Hugh Fairfield.
27. William Henry Jackson.
28. Charles Frederick Austin.

FIRST APPLICATION.

29. Henry Waller Stock.
30. James Thomas London Slate.
31. James Saunders Davies.
32. Charles Henry Jackson.
33. Elwood Blake Tibbetts.
34. Percy Norman Gingham.
35. John Henry Gurney.
36. Alfred James Green.
37. Charles Edgar Armitage.
38. Wrightson Robert Bryant.
39. Robert Walter Keddell.
40. Stanley Heppell Service.
41. George William Stanton.
42. George William Pinner.
43. Alfred Christopher Quelch.
44. Charles William Johnson.
45. John Butterworth.
46. George Arthur Dawson.
47. Joseph Gover.
48. Thomas Smith Pilling.

THE THEATRES, &c.

COVENT GARDEN.—At 7.0, THE VIVANDIERE. At 7.15, 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 DREAM AT SEA 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 7.15, 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 7.15, SWEETHEARTS and SOCIETY.

GAIETY.—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 7.15, 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 7.15, WHITTINGTON.

CRITERION.—LES PRES SAINT GERVAIS, &c.

AMPHITHEATRE, HOLBORN.—At 7.0, THE WATERMAN. At 8.15, MADAME ANGOT.

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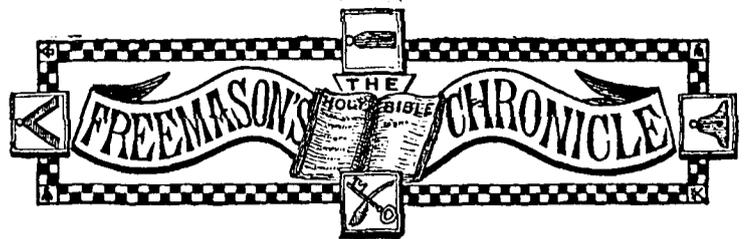
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

HOME QUESTIONS.

LAST week we congratulated our readers on the prospect of a quiet Parliamentary Session. There are, happily, no burning questions of a political character to agitate the public mind. But though, as regards *la haute politique*, we may take to heart and act upon the advice of a certain venerable Whig statesman, to "rest and be thankful," it by no means follows that the coming Session need be altogether barren of results. Now, of all others, is the time for sound practical legislation, such as will tend to promote the social well-being of the community. For instance, the sanitary condition of our large cities and towns leaves much to be desired. We are, or at least, we boast that we are, essentially a practical people. Yet we hardly act up to the character we claim for ourselves, or the need for better sanitary arrangements throughout the country would be far less urgent. To select one instance out of the many that have latterly been the subject of public comment—the condition of Oxford, one of our two university towns, is the reverse of creditable to the local sanitary authorities, if the report be true that sundry undergraduates have died, and H.R.H. Prince Leopold is still suffering from the effects of typhoid fever. This huge metropolis of ours, again, is by no means as well cared for in the matter of health as is desirable. There are no end of fever-dens within what are known as the "Bills of Mortality," a very ominous name indeed, if we bear in mind how densely populated are the poorer districts of London. It seems to us that local authorities generally follow the example of the man who shut the stable door when the steed had gone. They are clever enough in tracing to its source the outbreak of any disease, when its ravages have been stayed, but slow to prevent such outbreaks. We have a Central Authority at Whitehall, whose duty it is to look after the health of the country. Let this Central Authority be made more real, and local boards of health may then be energetic before, instead of after, the need for energy has arisen. Here, at least, is one question which may occupy the attention of Parliament this year, with advantage to the public.

Another subject for discussion at St. Stephen's, is whether sterner repressive measures shall not be taken to put down a certain form of ruffianism, which has attracted much notice within the last few months. We mean the cruel practice of wife-beating. Scarcely a day passes but we read of some poor unfortunate woman being half beaten to a jelly by her brutal husband. Many there are who think the "Cat" may prove an effectual remedy against this particular class of crime, while others are entirely opposed to such mode of punishment. It is not our province to discuss the merits of either side of this momentous question. One remark, however, we may safely venture to make, no amount or kind of punishment that can be administered will have a brutalising effect upon these ruffianly fellows. It is not possibly for a man, who half kills her, whom, of all others, he is bound to cherish and protect, to descend to a lower depth of brutality. It may or may not be expedient to administer the Cat in such cases, but if it be administered the culprit will sustain no injury to his morals. However, we shall soon learn the intentions of Government in dealing with this question. We believe the Home Secretary has instituted certain inquiries as to the effect of flogging in connection with garrotte robberies. No doubt he will be influenced in any measures he may propose to take by the tenour of the report he receives in reply to such inquiries. All we hope for is, that this particular kind of ruffianism may be successfully repressed; we leave it to the wisdom of Parliament to select the likeliest means to secure this object.

Yet another question commends itself seriously to the notice of Parliament—the seaworthiness of our merchant ships.

No class of men have a stronger claim upon the protection of Government than our seamen. We are a naval power, and it is upon the men of our Merchant Navy that we must ultimately rely in the time of war; if our War Navy, at least, is to maintain its ancient renown. *Appropos* of this subject, we are glad to notice that on Thursday afternoon a deputation of gentlemen, representing the shipping interest, waited upon the First Lord of the Admiralty, with a view to urging upon the right honourable gentleman the desirability of providing training ships for the Royal Navy in connection with the Mercantile Marine. Mr. Ward Hunt received the deputation with his usual courtesy, listening to their suggestions with the utmost attention, and promising that the Government would give the question their most careful consideration.

Other matters of great importance will, doubtless, engage the attention of Parliament—Legal, Educational, and Military Reform. But if only the three subjects we have referred to are dealt with successfully, the Legislature will have little cause to be ashamed of its work in the Session of 1875.

We learn, from the *Ottawa Weekly Citizen*, that the officers for the present year of the Corinthian Lodge, No. 39, were duly installed by Rt. Worshipful Bro. E. C. Barber; those of the Doric Lodge, No. 58, by Rt. Worshipful Bro. John Gemmell, and those of the Chaudiere Lodge, No. 264, by Rt. Worshipful Bro. Barber P.D.D.G.M., and the installation of officers in the Civil Service Lodge has been postponed in honour of the marriage of the W.M.

At a meeting of the Masonic Archæological Institute, held at the Hall of the Supreme Grand Council, 33 Golden Square, on Monday evening, Bro. R. G. Haliburton, of St John's, Nova Scotia, delivered a very able and interesting lecture, "The Pre-historic Vestiges of Masonic Symbolism." The lecturer, who is known as the discoverer of the "Year of the Pleiades," sought to prove that Masonic Symbols supplied a key to the common origin of the religions of all nations, and that they had at the outset not only an emblematical, but likewise a positive significance in relation to primitive astronomy. A discussion ensued, and, owing to the importance of the subject raised, was adjourned to a future meeting. The Earl of Carnarvon was to have presided, but his Lordship was unable to be present, owing to the severe illness of the Countess.

We note already the usual premonitory symptoms that not long hence London will be labouring under its annual attack of Blue Fever of the most malignant type. We hear, from both the Cam and the Isis, that the presidents of the respective University Boat Clubs are about to test the merits of certain provisional crews. Lent Term this year will be a short one, as Easter falls on the 28th March, and the race is usually rowed on Saturday before Passion Week. The choice of men, therefore, must be made speedily, so that they may go into training in good time. Thus, in about a month, we shall all be uncommonly learned as to grip, catch, bucketing, sliding seats, and the other technicalities of rowing. Of course those will criticise the crews most severely whose knowledge of aquatic matters is the least.

Bro. R. Soutar, of the Gaiety Theatre, is rapidly recovering from his late severe accident.

Preparations for the Arctic expedition are being rapidly pushed forward. Commander Markham has recently been in Dundee, for the purpose of selecting six men to act as ice-masters. We are glad the Government has recognised the necessity, in the interests of science, of prosecuting further Arctic exploration. It would never do for England to be surpassed in researches of this kind by any other nation.

Cabbies, as a rule, are a much abused class, oftentimes more sinned against than sinning. We rejoice therefore "muchly" to know that a scheme has been started for the purpose of providing covered stalls or sheds at all the Metropolitan Cab stands. The proposal originated, we

believe, with our contemporary the *Globe*, and has been cordially endorsed by *Land and Water*. The plan is certainly a good one. Cabby will have a place of his own, where he may thoroughly enjoy his cup of coffee or fragrant Bohea, read the daily papers, and generally make himself at home, instead of being driven to seek shelter from the elements in the neighbouring public house. We hope the proposal, which has our best wishes for its success, will meet with a cordial support from the public.

The second Annual Ball of the Red Cross Order will be held at Willis's Rooms, St. James's, on Wednesday, 31st March next. Bro. Colonel Francis Burdett, G.V., has consented to act as president; Bro. Robert Wentworth Little as treasurer, and Bros. H. A. Dubois and C. Hogard have consented to act as Secretaries of the Ball Committee, which already numbers nearly 50 members. It is anticipated that a large number of the members of the Order will be present.

It behoves the English Government to watch the proceedings of the newly established *régime* in Spain with the utmost circumspection. Already we hear that journals which are not favourable to the new order of things are being suppressed, and that a Protestant church is said to have been closed. If it be true, as regards the latter rumour, that priestly influence, even at this early period, has made itself felt in the councils of the new sovereign, there is little hope, we fear, that Spain will derive much material benefit from her latest political arrangements. It is further reported that the German Empire will delay recognition of Alphonso XII. till assurances have been received that the Protestant church in question is re-opened for public worship. This course of Prince Bismarck is highly to be commended, and we trust our own Government may find courage enough to follow in his footsteps. Meantime, it is a home question with us:—How fares it with Masonry? The stability of Spanish Freemasonry has never been very well assured, and if priestly rule is to be the order of the day, we greatly fear the interests of the Craft will be imperilled.

The Surrey Masonic Hall at Camberwell is rapidly approaching completion. This undertaking not only deserves the support of brethren who reside in the south district, but also that of the metropolitan brethren, who can independently meet and pursue their Masonic duties. Bro. J. Clarke, of Buckingham Street, Strand, is the architect, and under his supervision it promises to be a great success.

According to *Debrett*, the newly installed M.W. Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons in Ireland, His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, K.G., was born 21st January 1811, and succeeded his grandfather, the first Marquis and 9th Earl of Abercorn, in January 1818. His Grace was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, and was created LL.D. of Cambridge 1847, D.C.L. of Oxford 1856, and LL.D. of Dublin 1868. He was Groom of the Stole to the late Prince Consort 1846-59, and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland under the Conservative Administration 1866-8; he is Lord Lieutenant of the Co. Donegal, a Major-Gen. of the Royal Archers (the Queen's Body Guard of Scotland), and a Captain of the London Scottish Volunteers. He now holds the Viceroyship of Ireland for the second time. As stated by His Grace at the recent ceremony of Installation, his connection with Freemasonry has already extended over more than forty years. He married, in 1832, the Lady Louisa Jane Russell, second daughter of the 6th Duke of Bedford, by whom he has issue several sons and daughters, the eldest, and heir apparent to the title being, James, Marquess of Hamilton, b. 1838, and M.P. for Co. Donegal, since 1860.

An earnest appeal is being made to the brethren throughout England, with a view to aiding Rev. Bro. Churchill Prov. Grand Chaplain of Hants and Isle of Wight, in the restoration and improvement of his church; the foundation stone of the chancel having been recently laid in due form by Br. W. W. Beach, Esq., M.P., Provincial Grand Master. Rev. Bro. Churchill having expended all that he can personally afford, a letter has been addressed to the Worshipful Masters of the several Lodges in Eng-

land, urging them to request subscriptions from the members of their Lodges. The parish contains over 20,000 people, chiefly sailors in H.M.'s Navy and Dockyard labourers, and as the appeal is strongly recommended by Bro. Beach and other influential brethren in the neighbourhood and elsewhere, we cannot doubt it will meet with a hearty response from the members of the Craft.

The question of the appointment of collectors of taxes is one that we may expect to see taken up during the ensuing Session. The ball has been set rolling by a Mr. Barclay, of Mosely, near Birmingham, who, being appointed collector of taxes, and refusing to fulfil the duties, has been called upon to pay a fine of £10 for contumacy, and is held to be responsible for any defalcations which his substitute may be guilty of. It seems to be a most arbitrary law which compels a man to accept a post which cannot fail to be repulsive to the feelings, and seriously obstructive to the pursuits of one engaged in any profession or business. Still more unreasonable is it that, having paid a fine for the introduction of a substitute, the man should be held responsible for his deputy's defalcations—and within our recollection defaulting collectors are a stern reality. Mr. Barclay has secured the sympathy of no less a personage than Mr. John Bright, whose influence may possibly be of some little service.

Bro. John Baum retires, in March next, from the management of the Royal Alhambra Palace.

The coal supply of this country, is a matter, not merely of individual interest, but of national importance. Should England be drained of coal, a collapse of our national wealth must naturally follow; inasmuch as the iron-trade, which so much depends for its prosperity on our coal supply, would be materially affected. Of late years calculations regarding the future coal supply, have assumed a tone the reverse of assuring. When Mr. Gladstone, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, foretold its speedy exhaustion, we felt uncomfortable, to say the least, and entertained some idea that the price of coal, which had recently risen to so high a rate, might have some connection with so unfortunate a prospect. Of late we have heard of new coal-fields in various parts of the country, and our hopes rise considerably when we read the account of the recent borings near Longton, where the Duke of Sutherland owns a great deal of land. After boring to the depth of 243 yards, a seam of coal was discovered 13 feet in thickness. Other seams have been found in the neighbourhood, and it is supposed that an area of 500 or 600 acres is available for the production of the "black diamond." Again in Sussex, where experiments have of late been made, with a view to the discovery of coal; it is supposed that a field exists which is connected with those of France and Belgium. These prospects are certainly re-assuring.

The continued support and good will which are accorded to Prince Alfonso, are the most reliable evidence of the success of his *pronunciamiento*. No phase of the Spanish question has assumed so universally satisfactory an aspect. A *coup d'état* might be expected to create enthusiasm, and unite varied interests for a time, but we find no mere passing acceptance of the new régime. The reception of Alfonso is marvellously cordial, and as apparently sincere. He has not shunned localities where an opposition to his claim might most likely have been anticipated. Barcelona, pre-eminently Republican, has accorded him a reception which is described by the *Gazette* of Madrid, as one of "indescribable enthusiasm." On the 13th inst. we hear of him at Valencia, *en route* for Madrid, which city he reached the day following; popular demonstration accompanying him throughout the whole of his progress.

The mode of disposing of the dead has lately become a topic of no little importance, and must, sooner or later, be considered with a view to sanitary reform. The present method of burial, however it may have become endeared to us by custom and association, must be changed before long. The idea of "cremation," started by Sir Henry Thompson, as a remedy for the evils complained of, encounters much prejudice. With more than a probable chance of success, however, can we regard the views of

Mr. F. Seymour Haden, a medical gentleman of some eminence, which he promulgated in his letter to the *Times*, on Tuesday last, under the heading of "Earth to Earth." Distinctly opposed in his views to the advocates of cremation, he argues in favour of burying the dead "properly," whereby he means that the dead should have a chance of early resolution by speedy contact with the earth. He strongly condemns the system of putting bodies into "hermetically sealed coffins." The poisonous effects of decomposing matter would be neutralised by the earth, could it only reach the body. He suggests that coffins should be constructed of the thinnest material, by which means the course of resolution would not be long impeded. Amongst other materials he suggests wicker-work coffins, open at the top, and "filled in with fragrant herbaceous matters." Such a covering, he contends, would protect the body from the immediate pressure of the earth, just as effectually as the stoutest oak would do. There is nothing, at all events, repulsive in this suggestion.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

E. M. H.—Your letter to hand. We will explain the apparent inaccuracy next week.

W. C. H.—We cannot open our columns to appeals on behalf of individual candidates for election to any of the Royal Masonic Institutions. Such a course would be an act of partisanship on our side, and would necessarily give rise to feelings of jealousy on the part of the other candidates.

We shall be obliged if Secretaries of Lodges will make their notices of meetings as concise as possible, bearing in mind that the space at our disposal is, after all, but limited. We shall be further obliged if such notices are sent as soon as possible after the meetings are held. Those relating to Thursday gatherings will be inserted if they reach us by the first post on Friday morning.

INQUIRER.—The question you raise is scarcely a fitting one for discussion in our columns.

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.

A FREEMASONS' LIFEBOAT.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—For the information of "A Master Mason," whose letter on the above subject appeared in your last issue, and those whose interest in the matter is sufficiently strong to create a desire for enlightenment upon the point, I have to state that a Freemasons' Lifeboat has been stationed, for the last three years, at North Berwick, on the borders of Scotland. The funds for this boat were subscribed by the Fraternity, and, upon the motion of the late Bro. R. J. Stebbing, P.G.D. England (who also christened the boat), Grand Lodge granted a sum of £52 10s. The boat possesses the special characteristics "A Master Mason" desires to see. Its name is "The Freemason," and the emblems of the Craft figure as conspicuously on the gunwale as gold leaf, oil colour and varnish can make them. The money was collected, and the purchase effected three years since, and unless "A Master Mason" is quite in his novice, he must have been singularly oblivious of events which were, comparatively, recently well known to every member of the Order. I may also take this opportunity to inform him that, after the boat had been purchased, upwards of £22 remained in the hands of the treasurer, Bro. Solomon Davis, Lodge 141, and 230 White-chapel-road, which sum he proposed should form the nucleus of an Endowment Fund. Whether such has been done, or how far Bro. Davis has succeeded in the laudable attempt, I am unable to say, my duties as Honorary Secretary having ceased upon the boat being stationed.

Yours fraternally,

E. GERRHILL, P.M., P.Z.,

Hon. Sec. to the late Committee of the Freemasons' Lifeboat Association.

WHAT THE WORLD THINKS OF US.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—At this time of the year, when the Brotherhood glories in its banquets and festivities, we may perhaps be inclined to listen to what the world thinks of Freemasonry, and what the "profanes" say of its members.

As to the Institution; its great principles—brotherly love, relief and truth—evidently speak for themselves, and by its extraneous

actions it may safely be assumed that the Order will always be in a position to silence a great many of its detractors.

But what about its members? Do they one and all stoutly enforce upon the world the belief that *social, moral* and perhaps also *religious* advantages are to be derived from Masonry, that, *a priori*, a Mason must be considered a "good man" in the truest sense of the word, and that to the generic definition of good character he adds the necessary adjunct of good morals, and also, as much as possible, that refinement of manners which is, in a very great degree, the best test of both.

As one of the Fraternity, I ought not, perhaps, to put these questions, lest I should find some serious difficulties in the way of giving them a most affirmative answer. But if it is difficult to so praise and appreciate the merits and value of each individual member of the Craft, is it not, for this simple reason, imperatively incumbent upon each and every Lodge, and much more so upon the "Higher Orders," that they should always contrive to have at their head, not simply their *blameless* members, but also the *most deserving* among them, both *socially* and *intellectually*; men of *honour* and *virtue*, possessed of those qualities that *unmistakably distinguish the "gentle" from the "ungentleman."*

We know that the rule of the Order is such that it enjoins almost imperatively on every member the obligation of cultivating his intellect and polishing his manners, to the best of his ability. But we also know that to fulfil such an obligation is not a thing within the attainment of every man, however inclined or resolute he may sometime be to undertake the task.

Hence, a man may be a good ordinary Mason in his sphere, even perhaps capable of being of some credit to the Brotherhood, in a *humble position*, and yet be *totally unfit to fill the chair*, and preside over his brethren in the conspicuous and most honourable office of "Master," "Preceptor," or "Most Wise Sovereign." For it may justly be said of the latter, what is also said of princes and monarchs, the higher their offices the more conspicuous their shortcomings or abilities, their virtues or their vices.

Certainly every Mason is, in the eyes of the Great Architect of the Universe, upon the same level of equality. Yet, no reason of seniority, indeed no private influence should ever bear upon the Election of the Master of a Lodge, and far less that of the Heads of the "Higher Orders," who must be above all, and in all cases, morally, socially and intellectually, not only competent and capable of doing the work of the office, but also in a position to reflect honour on the Fraternity, both inside and outside the Lodge, Chapter, or Preceptory.

The Heir to the Throne is now at the Head of the Fraternity, and, unlike most of his predecessors in Office, he is also Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of Knights Templar, and Patron and Member of the Ancient and Accepted Rite. Does not this fact convey in itself an idea of what and who should be, throughout the country, elected as his coadjutors and representatives in the various Lodges, Chapters, and Preceptories, placed under His Royal Highness's patronage and direction?

I trust the brethren will receive the above remarks in the same spirit in which they are written. Yours, &c. PAST MASTER.
Plymouth, January 1875.

MASONIC HONOUR AT FUNERALS.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—An old P.M., a correspondent of mine, established in a colony which has not yet attained to the dignity of a District Grand Lodge, writes to me as follows:—

"On the death of our worthy Bro.—, the members of my Lodge wished to bury him with Masonic honours, and consulted me upon the propriety of doing so. I was obliged to reply that I considered it contrary to the "Constitutions," and I fear my opinion has been thought childish by some of the younger brethren. It does seem hard that, there being no District Grand Master here to grant a dispensation, and our distance from Grand Lodge rendering it quite impossible to obtain one from head quarters, we should be debarred from making so laudable and appropriate a demonstration when occasion requires. As the brethren put it to me:—'Supposing that our actual W.M. should die in office, having expressed a wish to be honoured with a Masonic funeral, what are we to do?'"

The addendum to the present Book of Constitutions is certainly clear, and shows that my correspondent was right in setting up his veto; but, as I concur with him in thinking the case a hard one, I beg permission to agitate the question in your estimable columns, which I hope soon to see recognised as the general organ for Masonic culture and intelligence in our colonies and in their motherland.

Yours fraternally, YPSILON.

[There are no actual grounds for agitating this question. The solution is to be found if the Lodges of the place will join in a memorial to the M.W. Grand Master, setting forth their reasonable desires, together with such facts as they can adduce in support of the same, and praying for a dispensation from his authority for all such purposes. Of course, reasonable cause must be shown, and the Lodges must undertake to comply with the proper formalities, such as regular records on the minutes, reports to the Grand Secretary, &c. &c.—EDITOR FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.]

MONEY MARKET AND CITY NEWS.

FRIDAY.

We have entered upon another favourable turn in the financial current this week, the Bank of England having reduced its rate of discount to 4 per cent., being 1 per cent. lower than last week. The

present attitude of the money market is therefore presumably stronger than it has been for some time, and we may perhaps look forward, under other encouraging auspices, for a still lower figure in the official *bulletin* from the chief establishment. The usual fortnightly adjustment of accounts was completed yesterday, and there has been nothing to obstruct the satisfactory settlement of the various transactions. In view of the present abundance of money, it is expected that several new loans will be brought forward shortly, and, amongst others, we hear of a large loan, £5,000,000, for Brazil. Messrs. Rothschild are to have charge of the financial arrangements, and, as this Government has always adhered honestly to its engagements, there can be little doubt the public will subscribe liberally. The issue will be in 5 per cent stock. In a previous number we ventured on a few remarks touching the method of arriving at a proper conclusion respecting certain investments. Let us now proceed to point out, in the interests of our readers, the best way of comparing the credit of Governments and the prices of their loans; which seems to be more particularly applicable just now, when rumours of loans are rife in all directions. The surest means we can employ to accurately compare loans of all descriptions and shades with one another, is by reducing the several terms and conditions involved to one uniform set of considerations—just as, in fact, in the comparison of vulgar fractions. We have first to find a common denominator before we are able to state which of two fractions is the larger or the smaller. In the case of loans, the object to be primarily reached is to be in a position to answer three questions (1) What is the actual (not nominal) amount of the money lent? (2) In what term of years is it repayable? (3) What is the rate of interest paid on this actual amount? It is obvious that when these three questions are answered with respect to all loans (with or without sinking funds), the process of obtaining the relative cheapness or dearness of several stocks is rendered quite simple. Having the due rate of interest yielded, and the currency of the loan, and knowing that its redemption is to be effected at par, we have every means in our hands for arriving at accurate conclusions, and it is by such a process alone that we can overcome the obstacles which present themselves when we attempt to contrast loans carrying sinking funds standing at different prices, and consequently yielding different bonuses on redemption. The practical utility of the observations we have made, and their applicability to other questions affecting investors, we hope occasionally to illustrate still further.

The Funds remain without change, and are quoted 92½ to 92¾ for money and 92¾ to 92½ for the account.

After a heavy settlement it usually happens that business remains quiet for a time, and the present is no exception to the rule. Foreign Stocks therefore present very little movement, and the consideration of the coming loans is chiefly occupying attention.

The English Railway market shows a strong front. Midland have been in request on the strength of the statement that the new working arrangements gave every assurance, and that the policy adopted was likely to prove highly conducive to the interests of the company. South Eastern and Brighton have also benefitted by the publication of satisfactory announcements respecting their dividends, which are found to be 6½ in each case.

According to the annual tax returns, the taste for "cards" shows no sign of abatement; on the contrary, last financial year the three-penny stamp duty on every pack of playing cards was paid on 1,020,956 packs. Thus, the yield to the revenue from this source alone was £12,761. Seven years ago, the number of packs on which duty was paid was only 743,350.

Mr. J. R. Scott, the registrar of the London coal market, has published the following statistics of imports and exports of coal into and from the port and district of London, by railway and canal, during the year 1874:—London and North Western, 962,533 tons; Great Northern, 872,616; Great Western, 555,225; Midland, 1,587,301; Great Eastern, 663,015; South Western, 30,572; London, Chatham and Dover, 5,714; South Eastern, 12,776; London, Brighton and South Coast, 2; Grand Junction Canal, 5,982; total, 4,695,739. Imports during the year 1873, 5,158,608. Decrease on the year 462,839.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

The following statement shows the receipts for traffic on the undermentioned railways for the past week, as compared with the corresponding week in 1874:—

Railway.	Miles open.		Receipts.	
	1875	1874	187	1874
			£	£
Caledonian	737	731	46,795	46,693
Glasgow and South Western	315	315	15,451	16,036
Great Eastern	763	762	40,517	40,465
Great Northern	515	513	51,035	48,944
Great Western	1,525	1,502	91,492	95,973
Lancashire and Yorkshire	430	428	59,063	57,427
London and Brighton	376	376	25,258	24,188
London, Chatham and Dover	153	138	14,526	13,533
London and North Western	1,582	1,575	119,880	119,661
London, Tilbury and Southend	42	42	1,305	1,244
Manchester and Sheffield	258	258	28,270	28,021
Midland	944	883	95,698	91,201
Metropolitan	7½	7½	8,935	8,762
" " District	8	6½	5,185	4,354
" " St. John's Wood	1½	1½	—	—
North British	839	820	39,387	36,451
North Eastern	1,378	1,378	94,418	98,028
North London	12	12	6,423	6,535
North Staffordshire Railway	185	185	8,421	9,223
" " Canal	118	118	1,030*	1,510
South Eastern	350	347	27,149	27,881

* Impeded by ice.

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, 16th JANUARY.

- 308—Prince George, Bottoms, Eastwood, Yorks.
715—Panmure, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
1329—Sphinx, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.
1364—Earl of Zetland, Old Town Hall, Hackney.
1385—Gladsmuir, Barnet, Lodge of Emergency.

MONDAY, 18th JANUARY.

- Quarterly Meeting, Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 12.0.
1—Grand Masters', Freemasons' Hall.
21—Emulation, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
58—Felicity, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
61—Probity, Freemasons' Hall, Halifax.
185—Tranquility, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
264—Nelson of the Nile, Freemasons' Hall, Batley.
302—Hope, Masonic Hall, Bradford.
307—Prince Frederick, White Horse Hotel, Hebden Bridge.
408—Three Graces, Haworth, Yorks.
720—Panmure, Balham Hotel, Balham.
862—Whittington, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
901—City of London, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
907—Royal Albert, Freemasons' Hall.
1201—Electric, Freemasons' Hall.
1514—Thornhill, Masonic Room, Dearn House, Lindley, Yorks.
R. A. 12—Prudence, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall Street.
R. A. 139—Paradise, Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield.
R. A. 827—St. John's, Masonic Temple, Dewsbury.

TUESDAY, 19th JANUARY.

- Board of General Purposes, Freemasons' Hall, at 3.
30—United Mariners, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham Street.
73—Mount Lebanon, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.
95—Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall Street.
162—Cadogan, Freemasons' Hall.
165—Honour and Generosity, London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street.
194—St. Paul's, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street.
373—Socrates, George Hotel, Huntingdon.
435—Salisbury, Freemasons' Hall.
704—Camden, Bull and Gate Tavern, Kentish Town.
857—St. Mark's, Half Moon Tavern, Herne Hill.
1214—Scarborough, Station Hotel, Soothill, Batley.
1441—Ivy, Windsor Castle Tavern, 199 Southwark Bridge Road.
R. A. 19—Mount Sinai, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street.
R. A. 186—Industry, Freemasons' Hall.

WEDNESDAY, 20th JANUARY.

- General Committee Grand Chap., at 3.
Lodge of Benevolence, at 6.
Grand Stewards Lodge, Freemasons' Hall.
140—St. George's, Trafalgar Hotel, Greenwich.
174—Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham Street.
190—Oak, Freemasons' Hall.
258—Amphibious, Guildhall, Heckmondwike.
380—Integrity, Commercial Temple, Morley, Yorks.
387—Airedale, Masonic Hall, Shipley, Yorks.
619—Beacon, Greyhound Tavern, Dulwich.
700—Nelson, Masonic Hall, William Street, Woolwich.
910—St. Oswald, Masonic Hall, Pontefract.
969—Maybury, Freemasons' Hall.
1019—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, Wakefield.
1044—Wandsworth, Spread Eagle Hotel, Wandsworth.
1301—Brighouse, Masonic Rooms, Brighouse, Yorks.
1349—Friars, Cheshire Cheese, Crutched Friars.
1382—Corinthian, George Inn, Glengall Road, Isle of Dogs.
1470—Halsey, Town Hall, St. Albans.
R. A. 10—Westminster and Keystone, Freemasons' Hall.
R. A. 192—Lion and Lamb, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street.
R. A. 217—Stability, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street.
R. A. 1395—St. Marylebone, British Stores, New Street, St. John's Wood.

THURSDAY, 21st JANUARY.

- House Committee, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
23—Globe, Freemasons' Hall.
55—Constitutional, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street.
63—St. Mary's, Freemasons' Hall.
169—Temperance, White Swan, High Street, Deptford.
179—Manchester, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street.
181—Universal, Freemasons' Hall.
208—Three Grand Principles, Masonic Hall, Dewsbury.
275—Harmony, Masonic Hall, Huddersfield.
337—Candour, Commercial Inn, Uppermill, Yorks.
439—Scientific, Bingley, Yorks.
600—Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Bradford.
813—New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton.
1042—Excelsior, Masonic Hall, Leeds.
1125—St. Peter's, Freemasons' Hall, Tiverton, Devon.
1139—South Norwood, South Norwood Hall, South Norwood.
1278—Burdett Coutts, Approach Tavern, Approach Road, Victoria Park.
1287—Great Northern, King's Cross.
1365—Clapton, White Hart Hotel, Clapton.
1421—Langthorne, Swan Hotel, Stratford, Essex.
1507—Metropolitan, Metropolitan Club, 269 Pentonville Road.
R. A. 5—St. George's, Freemasons' Hall.
R. A. 733—Westbourne, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood.
R. A. 834—Andrew, Clarendon Hotel, Hammersmith.

FRIDAY, 22nd JANUARY.

- House Committee, Boys' School, at 4.
197—Jerusalem, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street.
301—Royal Forest, Hark-to-Bounty Inn, Slaidburn, Yorks.
569—Fitz-Roy, Head Quarters, Hon. Artillery Company, London.
632—Holme Valley, Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth.
1034—Eccleshill, Freemasons' Hall, Eccleshill, Yorks.
1102—Mirfield, Assembly Room, Eastthorpe, Mirfield, Yorks.
K. T. Precep—De Furnival, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey Street, Sheffield.

SATURDAY, 23rd JANUARY.

- Audit Committee, Boys' School, at 3.
140—Peace, Masonic Rooms, Meltham.
1207—West Kent, Forest Hill Hotel, Forest Hill, Lewisham.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

- MONDAY.—14.—St. Luke, Freemasons' Hall.
TUESDAY.—36.—St. David, Ship Hotel, E Register Street.
495.—Rifle, Freemasons' Hall.
WEDNESDAY.—160.—Roman Eagle, Iona Hotel, 62 Nicholson Street.
THURSDAY.—48.—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall.
226.—Portobello, Royal Hotel, Bath Street.
R. A. 152.—Perseverance, Lodge Room, 86 Constitution Street.
FRIDAY.—R. A. 83.—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Royal Shamrock Lodge, No. 32, Waterford.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, 7th instant. Bro. John Sunderland W.M. in the chair, assisted by Bros. Thomas Andrews S.W., Thomas Atherton J.W., Alexander Nelson Treasurer, S. H. Perry Secretary. Past Masters Bros. Thomas Slater, Robert Whalley, Peter Whalley, J. Banks and H. Waugh. Bro. Thomas Atherton was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year, the ceremony being performed by Bro. Thomas Sleator, P.G.S., after his usual able and impressive manner. Bro. Thomas Andrew was installed S.W.; Bro. S. H. Perry J.W.; Bro. Rev. J. De Renzy Chaplain; Bro. Alexander Nelson S.D.; Bro. E. G. Brooks J.D.; Bro. Thomas Triggs I.G.; after which the Lodge was closed, and the brethren were entertained at a most sumptuous banquet, parting at a late hour, after having spent a very enjoyable evening.

Vitruvian Lodge, No. 87.—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the White Hart, College-street, Lambeth, on Wednesday the 13th inst. The W.M., Bro. C. S. Jolly in the chair, E. Thurkle S.W., C. Walters J.W., J. G. Bond P.M. Treasurer, H. Mallet Secretary, H. T. T. Ross S.D., A. Timothy J.D., C. Nott I.G. Several P.M.'s and about 40 other brethren were present. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bros. Huff and A. Goulty, having answered the usual questions, were intrusted, and retired. The Lodge was opened in the third degree, and Bros. Huff and A. Goulty were duly raised to the sublime degree of M.M.'s. The Lodge was resumed to the first degree, and Bros. W. Hallam, B. Hallam, F. Goulty, and Pearmine were intrusted, and retired. The Lodge was resumed to the second degree, and Bros. W. Hallam, B. Hallam, F. Goulty, and Pearmine were passed to the degree of F.C.'s. The Lodge was resumed to the first degree, and a ballot taken for Messrs. T. Goodman, H. H. Tupper, and F. Beard, which was unanimous in their favour, and they were accordingly initiated into ancient Freemasonry. The Lodge was then closed in perfect harmony, and the brethren afterwards adjourned to a banquet. Bro. Hunt, Mount Moriah Lodge, No. 34, enjoying the hospitality of the Lodge.

Lodge of Prudent Brethren, No. 145.—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held on Tuesday last, at the Freemasons' Hall. Bros. T. Bull W.M., Leggot as S.W., E. H. Thiellay J.W., J. Boyd (P.M., P.G.P.) Treasurer, Moulton S.D., Haslett S.D., Haslett J.D., Hughes I.G., J. Last I.P.M., and Torry. Masters Chimney, Owen, Sawyer, Kinard, Frost, Daw, Talbot, Cherer, &c. The Lodge was opened, and Messrs. F. H. Hayes, Taylor, Brooks and Wright were initiated. Bro. August Bootch, Albemarle Hotel, was raised to the sublime degree. Bro. Bull, the W.M., working the degrees in his usual impressive manner. The Lodge was then closed. The installation meeting will take place on the 26th inst.

All Souls Lodge, No. 170, Weymouth.—Bro. P. Hooper, solicitor, has been installed W.M. for the ensuing year. The annual banquet took place at the Masonic Hall, on the 8th inst., and was numerously attended.

Caveac Lodge, No. 176.—The above Lodge met at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, on Saturday, the 9th inst. Bros. Nairne W.M., Leeman I.P.M., S. W. Sorrel J.W., P. Browne (P.M.) Treasurer, E. Leitchfield (P.M.) Secretary, Goss S.D., Stride J.D., J. B. Sorrell, jun. I.G., C. Brown (P.M.) D.C., &c. The Lodge having been opened, one brother was raised to the third degree. There being no other business, the lectures on the tracing boards in the second and third degrees were given. Bro. G. K. Leitchfield I.P.M., signified his intention to act as Steward at the forthcoming anniversary festival for the Boys' School, on Wednesday the 30th June. The sum of £10 10s was voted from the Charity Fund to be placed on his list. The usual banquet followed, which was provided by Bro. W. G. Jennings, and gave great satisfaction. The usual routine toast followed. Bro. F. Walters P.M., 73, &c., P.G.P. for Middlesex, responded to the toast of the visitors.

Domestic Lodge, No. 177.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Friday, the 8th inst., in the presence of a numerous assemblage of brethren and visitors, Bro. F. Kent C.C., W.M., occupying the chair. Bros. Everett S.W., Treadwell J.W., J. Smith P.M. and P.G.D., Treasurer, J. Willing jun., Secretary, and P.M.'s Bros. Fergusson, W. F. Smith, G. Tims, Elmes, J. R. Foulger, Ferguson and Walford. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of the former meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. then raised Bros. E. W. Kent, and J. Tribe, and passed Bros. Parker, Bede, Serjeant, Bously, Holder, Isenstein and Harris to the 2nd degree. Bros. John Ambrose and G. B. Physic were unanimously elected joining members. Messrs. Herbage, Gibson, Marriott and Turner were initiated into the Order. A board of installed Masters was then formed, and Bro. Everett S.W. and W.M. elect was presented by Bro. J. Smith (P.M.) P.G.P., and was duly installed by Bro. Jas. Brett (P.M.) P.G.P. The newly installed W.M. then invested his officers as follows, viz.—Bros. F. Kent (C.C.) I.P.M., A. Tredwell S.W., J. Willing J.W., J. Smith P.M., treasurer. The announcement of Bro. Smith having been re-elected was received with great enthusiasm. Bros. Williams, secretary; W. Palmer S.D., J. Bascall J.D., G. Clark I.G., White D.C., Spink, Assistant Secretary, Daly, Tyler. The investing of the officers seemed to give great satisfaction. The addresses, given by Bro. Brett P.M., were listened to with breathless attention, and well merited the expressions of satisfaction evinced. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren,

100 in number, sat down to a sumptuous banquet, provided by Bro. Clemow. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given. Bro. Kent I.P.M. then rose and proposed the toast of the W.M. He was not only a good Mason, but he was one who would carry out those duties required of him, he was sure, to their satisfaction. The toast of the newly initiated was given and responded to. The W.M. then said he had to propose the toast of the evening, and that was the Past Masters, for they did not get that as a heritage, but they had obtained it by hard work, and if he did not know his duties, they were always able and willing to assist him. He would pay a proper compliment to one who had occupied the chair during the past year, not only with great credit to himself, but with satisfaction to the brethren. He had been a member of the Lodge for sixteen years, and those whom he had introduced were gentlemen whom they were proud to meet, and he had great pleasure in placing on his breast a jewel, presented to him by the brethren for his able working and government of the Lodge during his year of office. Bro. Kent returned thanks for the valuable gift, and stated how gratified he was to meet the brethren, and also the Past Masters; his only ambition was to emulate them. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the Treasurer, Bro. J. Smith P.M., and Secretary, and Bro. J. Willing. The former brother had occupied that post for thirty-six years. He also mentioned the name of Bro. J. Willing, the newly elected Junior Warden, who had formerly been the Hon. Secretary. Bro. J. Smith P.M. and Treasurer, and Bro. J. Willing, responded. The health of the officers followed, and the Tyler's toast concluded a very agreeable evening, which was enlivened by the excellent singing of Bros. Palmer, Harris, Hancock and Ambrose. The visitors were Bros. Harran, Stone 1298, Laing P.M. 1336, Hulbert 463, Tilley 720, F. Croaker 185, Black 144, and H. M. Levy P.M. 188.

Bank of England Lodge, No. 262.—This fine old Lodge celebrated the installation of its W.M., Bro. Miceli, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate Street, on Thursday evening last. Amongst the visitors who honoured the gathering with their presence on the occasion, was R.W. Bro. Colonel Burdett, Prov. G.M. Middlesex, who made a feeling reply to one of the toasts. In these days of photography, when appropriate Lodge Albums are in such request, visitors would do well to notice the splendid Album which enshrines the portraits of the Past Masters of this Lodge. A ponderous folio which a stout porter could hardly carry, whose binding is a miracle of art, and the portraits in which are executed in the finest miniature stippling. It was started nearly forty years ago by subscription, and its series is still continued yearly.

Drogheda Lodge, No. 411, Ireland.—St. John's Day Festival was celebrated on the 28th ult. The Lodge assembled at 5 o'clock, and was opened in form. In the absence of the Master, Bro. Clarke (P.M.) H.K.T., and Secretary of the Lodge, opened it, and immediately installed Bro. Jeffers as W.M. for the ensuing year. Forthwith the new Master proceeded to instal the following officers: Bros. J. L. Whitty S.W., Flinn J.W., Glenny S.D., Griffin J.D., and McCausland I.G. Two gentlemen were then initiated. A notice from Grand Lodge was read, announcing that the 6th January had been appointed for the formal installation of his Grace the Duke of Abercorn as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ireland. The Lodge shortly after was closed for labour, and at about quarter past seven the brethren sat down to refreshment. Dinner was served in handsome style, and the usual Masonic toasts were duly honoured. About 12 o'clock the brethren separated, in peace, love and harmony. It may be remarked that this Lodge was instituted so long back as the year 1760, and although the warrant was given up for a very few years, a new warrant, bearing same number (411), was granted in 1844, thus reviving the same old Lodge of the year 1760.

Faith and Unanimity Lodge, No. 417, Dorchester.—The monthly Lodge was held on Wednesday, 6th inst., when the re-elected W.M., Bro. W. P. Cockeran, was re-invested and proclaimed in due form. He appointed the following officers:—W. Osmond S.W., W. H. Dean J.W., Alfred Atkins Secretary, W. How S.D., C. Shortts J.D., G. J. G. Gregory P.M. D.C., J. Robinson P.M. Org., J. D. Robinson I.G., T. Beviss and D. T. Edmonds Stewards. An initiation took place. W. Bro. J. M. P. Montague, Deputy Provincial Grand Master Dorset, was present, and remarked upon the good progress being made in the Province. Referring to the Charities, he mentioned that at the next Boys' Festival two Stewards from Dorset would carry up nearly £600, chiefly subscribed within the Province.

Royal Monmouth Lodge, No. 457.—The installation of Bro. Joseph Coates, as W.M. of this, the Senior Lodge of the Province, took place on Tuesday 5th January. The ceremony was ably and efficiently performed by Bro. Captain S. Geo. Homfray D.P.G.M. Mr. Hy. Paul Prosser, a "Lewis," son of Bro. Dr. Prosser, one of the oldest P.M.'s of the Lodge, was initiated by Bro. Broad P.M., and Bros. T. J. A. Williams (Town-clerk) and T. R. Oakley were passed to the second degree, after which the D.P.G.M. took the chair, and proceeded with the installation. The following officers were appointed by the W.M.:—Bros. T. R. Hyam I.P.M., John Thomas S.W., H. P. Tippins J.W., Rev. D. G. Davies Chap., Matthew Jones S.D., George Rowlands Roberts J.D., Wm. James P.M. Treasurer; W. B. Broad P.M. Sec., W. H. Price P.M., M.C., F. Horsey and T. J. A. Williams Stewards, P. W. George I.G., Tom Watkins Tyler. After the customary vote of thanks, the Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet, at the King's Head Hotel. The cloth having been removed, the usual loyal and Craft toasts were proposed. The toast of "The Masonic Charities," very ably proposed by Bro. Homfray, elicited a practical response, in the shape

of the handsome subscription of about 25 guineas. The proceedings were enlivened by some excellent songs by the D.P.G.M., whose rendering of the now comic song of "Look at the price of coal!" created quite a furore, as indeed did his celebrated "Marked with a Level and Square."

Silurian Lodge, No. 471, Newport.—The installation of Bro. Benjamin Lawrence, P.P.G. Sup. Wks., as W.M. of this Lodge, was held at the Masonic-hall, Dock-street, before a large gathering of the Craft, on Wednesday 6th January. The preliminary business having been disposed of, a splendid P.M. Jewel was presented to Bro. H. J. Gratte P.M. as a slight recognition of the valuable services he had rendered to the Lodge. The presentation was made by Bro. Charles Rowe, the W.M., in a very appropriate speech, which was responded to by Bro. Gratte. The ceremony of the day was then proceeded with, the onerous duty being undertaken by Bro. Rowe, whose correct and impressive rendering of this beautiful part of the Masonic ritual called forth the warm approval and admiration of the brethren. The following is a list of the officers appointed by the newly-installed Master:—Bros. Charles Rowe P.G. Sec. I.P.M., C. R. Lyne P.G.S.B. S.W., Joseph Gibbs J.W., Rev. J. W. Osman Chap., W. Pickford P.G.T. Treasurer, R. B. Evans P.G.S.W. Secretary, J. Campbell S.D., C. H. Oliver jun. J.D., H. J. Groves P.G. Org. Organist, H. J. Gratte P.P.G.S.D. M.C., D.D. Thomas Librarian, G. Hoskins, C. P. Evans, Thomas Pugsley R. A. Rennie—Stewards, A. McMahon I.G., H. Fletcher Tyler. A vote of thanks was given to the retiring W.M., Bro. Rowe, after which the Lodge was closed. The banquet took place at the Queen's Hotel, the very handsome and spacious billiard-room having been expressly cleared for the occasion. The new host and hostess (Bro. Matthews and Mrs. Matthews) deserve every encomium for the manner in which the repast was placed on the table. Amongst the floral and other decorations, which added materially to the general effect of the banquetting-room, we observed some splendid ferns and pot flowers, kindly lent by Bro. Colonel Lyne, P.G.M., and Bro. Earl, of Christchurch. The toast of the evening was given by Bro. Captain Homfray, who highly complimented the W.M. on his Masonic attainments, and zeal in working the Craft. The Chairman's response was not only able, but in excellent good taste. Bro. Pickford was earnest in pleading the claims of the Masonic Charities, the toast in honour of which (proposed by the D.P.G.M.), being responded to by him. The subscriptions amounted to about £35.

Friendship and Sincerity Lodge, No. 472, Shaftesbury.—Bro. Benett Stanford, M.P. for the borough, has been installed W.M. of this Lodge, and his officers are—New S.W., Mansfield J.W., Usher Secretary, Kite S.D., W. L. Chitty J.D., Gengo D.C., Wykes Org., C. T. Robins and R. H. Sawyer Stewards.

THE DRAMA.

Opera Bouffe—The undraped Drama—Whittington.

WE, on a former occasion, expressed in general terms our opinion with regard to the form of entertainment styled Opera Bouffe. We consider it stupid and frivolous in the last degree; but just as in the grand opera most divine music is often allied to commonplace words, so here the meaningless and halting phrases of a ninth-rate burlesque are not unfrequently interwoven with light, cheerful, and catching melodies. The humour of the words and story, where there is any at all, is of a character wholly foreign to English tastes, and it is singular to note how often the point of the original is missed, even by the literary cobbler who adapts the play, and the theatrical manager who produces it. When, for example, *The Grand Duchess* was first brought out at Covent Garden, the satire of the original, which was based on the smallness of the grand duchy and the extremely diminutive character of all its administration, was entirely spoilt by the introduction of an immense corps of auxiliaries representing the army and court attendants. Such a display may have been very grand, but it robbed the piece of half its general effect. The more recent *Fille de Madame Angot* furnishes even a better instance of this. The play, as originally produced, had a strong and tolerably comprehensible plot, the dialogue being partly spoken and partly sung. But the English adapters, with hardly a single exception, ignored the spoken dialogue, and based the English play solely upon the words accompanying the published music. The consequence of course is, that the English words fail to convey any idea of a plot, and are indeed almost without meaning at all.

A further reason for the popularity of Opera Bouffe, beside its novelty and the tuneful music, may be found in the adventitious aids of dress and dancing of a more or less piquant, if not indecent description. It is astonishing that English matrons can look with even tacit approval upon the exhibitions of semi-nudity and lascivious gesture which are so frequently to be seen at our West-end theatres. Such dances as the *Ripirelle* or the *Cancon*—such costumes as may be seen in almost any burlesque or opera bouffe now being performed, are a disgrace to our modern civilisation. Nor does the evil rest with the mere moral effect produced by the representation. A still worse consequence has been that decent and intelligent actresses have been driven to the provinces and into retirement, to make room for shameless creatures whose only attraction lies in their shapely limbs, their immodest looks, and their notoriously wanton lives. Actresses like Miss Hughes, Miss Foote, Miss Ada Dyas, and Mrs. Viner, whose talents are recognised by every playgoer, are frequently disengaged for months at the time, whilst the Totties and Sissies and Patties,—whose talents, such as they are, consist in a clean pair of heels—are to be found wherever we turn, in the enjoyment of the best parts, and, apparently, most lucrative situations.

There is nothing new to notice at the theatres, the burlesque of

Whittington, at the Alhambra, being perhaps the greatest novelty. Here, Mr. H.B. Farnie, and the still popular Offenbach, have joined forces, and produced, what to all appearances, is destined to prove an immensely popular piece. The story of the London shop-boy who rose to be Lord Mayor of London, has always been a favourite with the writers of story books and pantomimes, and here the interesting narrative is supplemented by some very tuneful music, and some capital songs. Amongst the latter may be mentioned "The Bells of Bow," "the Haunted Kickaboo," the "Rat" song, and "A 'prentice bold am I." The play is moreover favoured with a very strong cast. Miss Julia Matthews, than whom no English actress is more suited for the lighter and better class of Opera Bouffe, sustains the part of Alice; Mr. Rouse plays fussily the part of Captain Bobstay, whilst Mr. Henry Paulton as the Sergeant of the Patrol, and Mr. Terrott as the Bellingr of Bow, help to complete the cast. The title rôle is of course allotted to Miss Kate Santley. Scene painter and costumier add to the general attractiveness of the entertainment.

We are indebted to the latest issue of *Who's Who* for the following interesting information relating to various members of the Aristocracy and others employed in the Public Service:—

The oldest member of Her Majesty's Privy Council is Lord St. Leonards, aged 94; the youngest, H. R. H. Prince Leopold, aged 22. The oldest Duke is the Duke of Montrose, aged 76; the youngest, the Duke of Norfolk, aged 28. The oldest Marquis is the Marquis of Tweeddale, aged 88; the youngest, the Marquis of Camden, aged 3. The oldest Earl is the Earl of Leven and Melville, aged 89; the youngest, the Earl of Norbury, aged 12. The oldest Viscount is the Viscount Molesworth, aged 89; the youngest, Viscount Clifden, aged 12. The oldest Baron is Lord St. Leonards, aged 94; the youngest, Lord Southampton, aged 8. The oldest of the titled Heirs of Peers is Viscount Kirkcaldy, heir to the Earl of Leven and Melville, aged 58; the youngest are Viscount Crowhurst (heir to the Earl of Cottenham), Viscount Forbes (heir to the Earl of Granard), Viscount Kingsborough (heir to the Earl of Kingston), and Viscount Stavordale (heir to the Earl of Ilchester), each of whom are in their first year. The oldest member of the House of Commons is the Right Hon. Joseph Warner Henley, M.P. for Oxfordshire, aged 82; the youngest, the Hon. William F. O. O'Callaghan, M.P. for Tipperary, aged 23. The oldest Judge in England is the Right Hon. Sir Fitzroy Kelly, Lord Chief Baron of

the Court of Exchequer, aged 79; the youngest, the Right Hon. Sir George Jessel, Master of the Rolls, aged 51. The oldest Judge in Ireland is the Right Hon. James H. Monahan, Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, aged 71; the youngest, the Right Hon. Christopher Pallos, LL.D., Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, aged 44. The oldest Scotch Lord of Session is Charles Neaves, aged 75; the youngest, Lord Shand, aged 47. The oldest Prelate of the Church of England is the Bishop of Llandaff (Dr. Alfred Ollivant), aged 77; the youngest, Dr. Edward Parry, Suffragan Bishop of Dover, aged 45. The oldest Prelate of the Irish Church is Dr. John Gregg, Bishop of Cork, aged 77; the youngest, Dr. William Alexander, Bishop of Derry, aged 51. The oldest Bishop of the Colonial and Missionary Church is the Right Rev. Samuel Gobat, Bishop of Jerusalem, aged 76; the youngest, the Right Rev. Alfred Willis, Bishop of Hawaii, and the Right Rev. T. E. Wilkinson, Bishop of Zululand, each aged 39. The oldest Bishop of the Scotch Episcopal Church is the Right Rev. Robert Eden, Bishop of Moray and Ross, aged 71; the youngest, the Right Rev. Alexander P. Forbes, Bishop of Brechin, aged 58. The oldest of the retired Bishops is the Right Rev. Connop Thirlwall, late Bishop of St. Davids, aged 79; the youngest, the Right Rev. Edward Twells, late Bishop of Orange River, aged 47. The oldest Baronet is Sir Richard John Griffith, aged 91; the youngest, Sir Arthur Victor R. A. Rumbold, aged 6. The oldest Knight is General Sir John Bell, G.C.B., aged 93; the youngest, Sir Ludlow Cotter (eldest son of Sir James Laurence Cottor, Bart.), aged 22. The oldest Recorder in England is John Bramwell, Recorder of Durham, aged 81; the youngest, George E. Dering, Recorder of Faversham, aged 34.

The number of patents applied for during the year just passed was 4,492. This is the largest number on record, and is an increase of 195 on the previous year, 1873, in which there were, 4,294. This steady increase will not encourage those who are in favour of the abolition of the patent laws.

From a report, which has just been issued by the Minister of Finance in France, it appears that the total cost of the war of 1870 was £395,440,000.

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