



Grand Lodge Reports are published with the sanction of the Right Honorable the EARL of ZETLAND, K.T., Most Worshipful Grand Master of England,

REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

No. 9.]

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1869.

[PRICE (WITH SUPPLEMENT) 2D.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
ROYAL ARCH MASONRY...	1
OBITUARY	1
REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS	2
SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER OF ENGLAND	3
MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS	3
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS	4
THE GRAND OFFICERS	4
MULTUM IN PARVO	4
MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE	4
SOCIETY FOR PREVENTING CRUELTY TO ANIMALS	4
ANNIVERSARY OF STABILITY LODGE OF INSTRUCTION	5
NEW MASONIC HALL, JAPAN	6
CONSECRATION OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH LODGE	7
MASONIC MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK	7
INSTALLATION FESTIVAL, ABBEY LODGE, ABINGDON	8
ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE—	
Past Masters as Preceptors	9
Chair Degree	9
The Romish Anti-Masonic Bogle	9
A Correction	9
A HYMN	9
MASONIC GATHERING AT SKIBBEREEN	10
PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWO GRAND LODGES OF ENGLAND IN RATIFICATION OF THE UNION, 1813	10
LIST OF AGENTS	11
ADVERTISEMENTS... ..	11 & 12

ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

By the SON OF SALATHIEL.

(Continued.)

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In the Royal Arch degree we are taught the knowledge of the Sacred Name and word of the Most High—to reverence His holy law—to bend with humility and repentance before the throne of grace—to pour out our supplications and thanksgivings to the Father of mercies—to place our whole trust and confidence in His boundless goodness—to look up to Him alone for support in the hour of trial, for comfort under affliction, and for protection against danger. We are led to contemplate those periods in the ancient history of the world when the Almighty visited the sons of men, and spake with them face to face; when the patriarchs of old were favoured with special tokens of the Divine Presence, and with visible manifestations of the Divine will. Of these it will be necessary to specify a few instances, as illustrative of the origin of some of our ceremonial observances.

One of the earliest and most remarkable of these supernatural events was the appearance of the

angel of the Lord, robed in a flame of fire, when he addressed the astonished shepherd, Moses, from the centre of the burning bush:—"I am the God of thy fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses, we are told, hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God, whose awful presence hallowed the earth around; and the chosen servant of Jehovah was accordingly directed by a celestial voice to "put off his shoes from off his feet," and not approach too near the consuming Shechinah of flame, in which sat enthroned the majesty of God. The spot, therefore, became sacred to Moses, as the temple of his Eternal Master, and throughout the East, to this day, all worshippers on entering a house of prayer divest themselves of their sandals, lest any pollution adhering thereto should defile the pure abode of Deity. In reference to this custom, from a Masonic point of view, the learned Hutchinson states:—"As Moses and Joshua were commanded to put their shoes from off their feet because the ground whereon they trod was sanctified by the presence of the Divinity, so the Mason should be divested of every degree of arrogance, and advance in the naked paths of Truth, with steps of innocence, humility, and virtue, to challenge the ensigns of an Order whose institutions arise on the most solemn and sacred principles of religion."

The next Divine appearance, which illustrates a circumstance alluded to in the preceding remarks, was vouchsafed to Joshua, and is recorded in the 5th chapter:—"And it came to pass when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes, and behold there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand; and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, 'Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?' and he said, 'Nay, but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come,' and he said unto Joshua, 'Loose thy shoe from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy.'" But the grandest and most awful manifestation of the Divine Majesty shone forth from Mount Sinai, when the Sacred Law was promulgated. This consecrated mountain was originally called Horeb, from its dryness and sterility, and afterwards Sinai, from the miracle of the burning bush. Stupendous as was the code of legal institutions there delivered to Moses, not less stupendous and awe-inspiring were the wonders under which it was unfolded. The glory and grandeur of the Logos in this appearance are beyond description, and evidently announce the descent of the Deity Himself. It is expressly and sublimely said that

Jehovah descended in fire upon Mount Sinai, and while the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, He answered Moses in a voice which struck terror through all the camp of the Israelites. It was on Sinai that the future Messiah revealed himself in all the radiance of his own unapproachable brightness—the mountain tottering on its base, and convulsed to its very centre; the tremendous and incessant thunders, that rent the air in peals that seemed to indicate the return of chaos; and the glare of those impetuous lightnings, at once magnificent and terrible, that darted in every direction from the recumbent SHECHINAH—all these marvels evinced the presence of the true and living God, and the whole scene was so inexpressibly glorious that Moses, the favoured servant of the Most High, tremblingly veiled his face from the insupportable splendour of the Divine Majesty.

(To be continued.)

Obituary.

BR. GEORGE CRAMP, S.W. UNION LODGE, MARGATE.

"Defluit sic flos in tempore verno."

We have to record the decease of Bro. George Cramp, late S.W. of the Union Lodge, Margate (No. 127), who expired at the early age of thirty-six, a victim to that fell disease, "consumption," which has been long remarked as peculiarly fatal to the finest specimens of the Anglo-Saxon race.

The deceased gentleman was in the early summer of his days, of fine proportions, noble countenance, and of courteous and generous manners. From his cultivated mind and close attention to Masonry, he was deemed a young Mason of great promise, when the disease, which has laid low so many of the strongest and fairest of Britain's sons and daughters, showed itself; and, despite the skill and unremitting attention of the most talented physicians, it was but too apparent that the "fiat" had gone forth.

"Yet such the destiny of all on earth,
So flourishes and fades majestic man;
Fair is the bud his vernal morn brings forth,
And fostering gales awhile the nursing fan;"

until death (the ruthless destroyer of both strong and weak amongst mortals) steps in, and cuts short his brief career.

Bro. George Cramp (one of the sons of Robert Cramp, Esq., of Cannon Brewery, Ramsgate, and brother to the W.M. of the Royal Navy Lodge, Ramsgate, No. 429) was interred in the family vault in the cemetery of St. John's, Margate, on Saturday last, May 1st, when (in addition to his relatives, who were in mourning coaches) he was followed to the grave by a mournful procession of thirty gentlemen, attired in deep mourning, with all the solemn trappings of woe (but without collar, badge, or emblem)—sorrow depicted in every face. That solemn band of mourners formed on either side of the entrance or avenue to the church whilst the chief mourners passed, and then followed into the sacred edifice. An idle spectator inquired who they were. Our readers will recognise in them the bereaved brethren of his lodge.

Peace to his manes. May he have ascended to the summit of his profession, and reached "Those blessed mansions not built by mortal hands, but eternally in the heavens."

Reports of Masonic Meetings.

THE CRAFT.

METROPOLITAN.

Royal Jubilee Lodge, No. 72.—This lodge, so celebrated for its excellent working, met on Monday last, at Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street. The W.M., Bro. George Oxford, was in the chair. The minutes of the previous lodge were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for the admission of Mr. G. D. Legge, who was proposed by Br. J. Johnson and seconded by the W.M., and on its proving unanimous in his favour, he was duly initiated into the mysteries of the Order by the W.M. in a very excellent manner. Brothers Manning and Foster having answered the usual questions satisfactorily, were, by particular desire, raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by Bro. Joshua Nunn, P.M. The lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to a very excellent banquet, provided by Bro. Clemmo and superintended by Bro. Smith. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and the W.M. then proposed the health of the newly-initiated Bro. Legge, who in an eloquent reply said he felt a deep regret for not having been initiated many years ago, but hoped his future career in Masonry would prove to the brethren the pleasure he had in being initiated by so old and valued a friend and brother as the W.M.—Bro. Nunn then proposed the health of the W.M., saying that he and the brethren had to congratulate themselves in the selection of the W.M., who had for two successive years occupied that proud position, giving satisfaction to every one, not only by his excellent working and able presidency, but by his unceasing efforts to see the duties of the chair carried out. He (Bro. Nunn) considered that the success of the lodge was attributable to the exertions of its worthy W.M.—The W.M., in appropriate terms, returned thanks, and said he hoped to meet the brethren of the lodge at a summer banquet, when the ladies would be present. (Applause.) He then proposed "The Visitors," who were Bros. T. White, J.W. 22; J. Green, 663; J. Collis, P.P.G. S.D. of Hants, P.M. 130; J. Thomas, P.M. 507; H. M. Levy, P.M. 188; Taylor, P.M. 22; Rudderforth, late 195; Child, 1158; and Long, W.M. 435. Bros. Collis and Thomas returned thanks in able speeches. The harmony of the evening was enlivened with some excellent singing by the W.M. and Bros. Marsden, Widdowson, Dodson, H. M. Levy, Webb, Nunn, and Rudderforth. Altogether a most agreeable evening was spent, and the brethren separated at an early hour.

Lodge of Joppa, No. 188.—The above lodge met on Monday, the 3rd inst., at the Albion Hotel, Aldersgate-street. Bro. M. Vandipenheer, the J.P.M., having taken the chair (in the absence of the W.M., Bro. Ralph, through indisposition), the minutes of the former lodge were read and confirmed. A ballot was then taken for the admission of Mr. H. Hartog, who was unanimously elected and duly initiated into the Order. Bro. J. Grieve, of Lodge 153, was balloted for and accepted as a joining member. Bros. Montague Barnett, C. Nathan, and J. Susman having answered the usual questions in a satisfactory manner, were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to a slight repast, the usual toasts being given and responded to. The visitors were Bros. N. Defries, P.M. Tranquillity; and Wolfe. Some good singing by Bros. Hartog, Parker, Nathan and Hunt enhanced the pleasures of a very agreeable evening.

Southern Star Lodge, No. 1158.—A meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening last, at Bro. Allatt's, the Montpelier Tavern, Walworth, Brother Thomas H. Pulsford, W.M., presiding; H. Thompson, I.P.M., Bro. Goldsbond, P.M., acting as Senior Warden, D. Scott Bayfield, Junior Warden, Charles E. Thompson, Secretary and Senior Deacon, Towers, Inner Guard, and Bros. Shepherd, Page, Harris, Stevenson, Anstey, Wright, Huddlestone, Lewin (of the Domatic 177), Allatt, Potter (P.M. of several Lodges), Shaunessy (of an Irish Lodge), Hammond, and Walker. The Lodge was opened in due form and with solemn prayer, and afterwards raised to the third degree, when Bros. Stevenson, Anstey, Varnham, and Lewin, of the Domatic Lodge 177, were admitted, entrusted, and afterwards raised to the sublime degree of M.M.'s, the W.M. giving with due effect the traditional history, to which the brethren paid great attention. A description of the tracing board followed. The Lodge was lowered to the second degree, when Bros. Pearson and Jaques were passed to the degree of a F.C. The entered apprentice degree was then assumed, when Messrs. W. Gibbs, J. Warno, and William Davis, were duly initiated into the mysteries and privileges of ancient, free, and accepted Masonry. A light supper was provided, after which the toast of the "Initiates" was given, to which Bro. Gibbs responded, and said he felt very proud indeed in being admitted a member of the Grand Order of Freemasons, and trusted he might do all in his power befitting a good and true member. Bro. Thompson, P.M., proposed the

health of the W.M., and said as it was about the last time he would preside over them he did not think they ought to pass over it without paying him a compliment, for the unusually excellent manner in which he had performed his duties. The toast was received with cheers, and the brethren separated, pleased with their evening's entertainment.

Urban Lodge, No. 1196.—This lodge met on the 27th ult. at the Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell. The W.M., Brother R. Marsh (Henry Marston) in the chair. The lodge being opened and the minutes of former lodge read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for the admission of Messrs. John Crawford Wilson and Wm. Creswick (the eminent tragedian). Bro. James Henderson (1221) was passed to the degree of F.C., the ceremony being worked in a manner worthy of imitation by every brother who aspires to so high an honour as that of W.M. The brethren then sat down to a very excellent banquet, provided in Bro. Wicken's best style. The usual loyal and masonic toasts were given and responded to. The W.M., in proposing the health of the newly-initiated brethren, said it was the proudest moment of his life to have had the pleasure of initiating two such distinguished brethren, one of whom he had been professionally connected with for so many years, and whose high moral and intellectual character was so well known as to need no further eulogium on his part. Bro. Wilson was known as one whom to know was to respect as a great writer and a sincere and warm-hearted friend. He (the W.M.) had therefore had the pleasure and honour this evening of initiating a great actor and a great poet.—Bro. Creswick, in returning thanks, said that it had been his wish for years to receive this honour, but his professional avocations had hitherto prevented it. Yet, he had always been a Brother in heart, sympathy, and feeling. He was now a Brother in reality. It was a hope long deferred, but his greatest wish had now been gratified, namely, that of having had the very high honour of being initiated by one whom he so much esteemed.—Bro. Wilson, in a very happy and humorous speech, also returned thanks.—Bro. Wilson responded for the country visitors, and Bro. H. M. Levy for the town.—The visitors were Bros. Wilson (P.P.G.S.D. South Wales), Creswick (son of the newly-initiated brother), Nelson (W.M. 1221), Buller (9), Le Miere (9), Henderson (1221), H. M. Levy (P.M. 188), and Field (P.M. 624).—Bro. Dr. J. Carpenter, I.P.M., then proposed the health of the W.M. in very eloquent terms, congratulating the brethren on having selected one so well qualified to perform the Masonic ritual, and so perfect when presiding over the banquet table.—The W.M. returned thanks in a suitable speech; and it was remarked that few lodges could have a more excellent Master.—Bro. Sawyer, in returning thanks for the junior officers, said the lodge had originated from the Urban Club, composed chiefly of literary gentlemen.—In the course of the evening some capital singing was given by Bros. E. L. Blanchard (who, in a song of his own composition, created roars of laughter), Creswick, jun., Carpenter, H. Williams, H. M. Levy, and Field.—Great credit is due to Bro. Jas. Terry, the indefatigable secretary, who not only in his official capacity looked after the interests of the lodge, but also to the comfort of the brethren and visitors. After passing a delightful evening the brethren separated at an early hour.

PROVINCIAL.

Villiers Lodge, No. 1194.—A regular meeting of the lodge was held on the 1st inst., at the Northumberland Arms Hotel, Isleworth, Middlesex, and was one of the most successful ever held. Bro. E. Clark, I.P.M., occupied the chair, (the W.M. being abroad), and was supported by Bros. J. Trickett, S.W.; H. Allman, S.D. as J.W.; R. Gurney, Treas.; R. Wentworth Little, P.M. Sec.; E. T. Osbaldeston, J.D.; T. Small, D.C.; W. Harvey, F. Walters, P.M.; R. A. Steel, J. Jones, Major H. W. Palmer, E. J. Bailey, W. B. Tustin, E. H. Dalby, Geo. Kenning, and J. G. Marsh. The only visitor was Bro. Boddy of 945. Messrs. Benjamin Glover, C.E., and Lewis Ackworth, were duly initiated during the evening, and Bro. Palmer was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, admirably served, and comprising all the delicacies of the season. The usual toasts were given and responded to, especial honour being rendered to the two "initiates," Bros. Glover and Ackworth, with whose names those of the two joining members, Bros. J. G. Marsh, P.M. 192, and Geo. Kenning 192, were coupled by the W.M. We anticipate a very prosperous future for this young lodge, as the management of affairs is evidently entrusted to experienced heads in the Order. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Bros. W. Dodd, J.W.; F. J. Lancaster, I.G.; A. Avery, P.M., and G. Cattell, P.M., &c.

IRELAND.

BANDON.—The Ancient Doynce Lodge, No. 84.—The brethren of this old fraternity assembled in full force at their Lodge Rooms, Downshire Arms Hotel, on

Friday evening, April 23rd, at seven, p.m., on an Emergency Summons, to initiate Lord Bernard, of Castle-Bernard, only son and heir of the Right Hon. the Earl of Bandon, R. Wheeler Doherty, Esq., of Mount Prospect, and Eyre Maunsell Eyre, Esq., of Downdaniel Castle. A great number of the brethren of "old 84" attended. In fact, since this Lodge was first opened, which was on the 29th of May, 1738, and it is now approaching its hundred and thirty-first anniversary, the books do not record so large a gathering. There were present,—Steward R. Tresilian, W.M., G. Williams French, P.M. S.W., Robert Sutton, J.W., R. Seargent Topham, S.D., Carroll Dawson, J.D., Matthew Lee, I.G., George Bennett, Secretary and Treasurer, William Belcher, R. N. Wolfe, Thomas Peters, Wingfield Corley, Samuel Cotterall, Samuel Strahan, William Joyce, Joseph Morris, William Sillifant, Alexander Appleby, Edward Olliffe, Charles Greaves, Edward Toole, William Fuller, Ryder Nash, Edward Stanley, George Hagarty, William Topham, Robert Payne, Walter Bullen, Thomas Ruddock, Frederick Cornwall, Zachariah Hawks, P.M., Richard Bright, Jas. Martin, James Chatterton, 70th Regiment No. 2, Rev. J. Meldon, Apollo, Oxford, William Holland Kingston, Edward Alexander Appleby, Lord Bernard, R. Wheeler Doherty, Eyre Maunsell Eyre, Edward Lysson, Tyler. Upon the conclusion of the usual ceremonies the brethren adjourned to their supper room, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion with flags and banners of a loyal and Masonic character, and after doing ample justice to the good things placed before them by Bro. Lavne, they were entertained with several good songs. Amongst the rest "The Entered Apprentice" was given by Bro. Hawks, with all that sweetness and brilliancy for which that eminent member of the Craft is distinguished. Then followed a number of songs by Bros. Cornwall, Lee, Peters, Payne, &c., after which the brethren departed, having spent a delightful evening.

Tralee Lodge, No. 379.—This lodge which boasts of being one of the largest provincial lodges in Ireland, met as usual on Monday evening 3rd inst. Bro. R. H. Walpole, W.M., in the chair. Lodge opened in first degree, and called up to second, when Bro. B. O'Connor was passed to F.C. by the Treas., Bro. D. W. Gillycuddy, junr., in his usual impressive and efficient manner. Bro. John Gray, who since his admission has shown a spirit thoroughly imbued with a desire to serve the best interests of the lodge, gave notice of his intention to move a complete revision of the rules. Some other business having been transacted lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, a visitor, Bro. J. Gordon, of 93 Dublin, largely contributing to the evening's amusement. The emergency meetings were held during the past month, and so great is the amount of business on hand, that another is called for this week, when Bro. Newbold will be raised to the sublime degree of M.M. It is gratifying to add, that notwithstanding the severe and pointed opposition Masonry has experienced in this in this town, the Craft continues to progress most satisfactorily, and although fiercely attacked by the Ultramontane party in every issue of their local journal, it recommends itself to the favour of every well-thinking mind as evidenced by the increased anxiety to gain a true and clear knowledge of the Order.

MARK MASONRY.

St. Mark's Lodge, No. 24.—A meeting of this lodge was held at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, on the 3rd inst., when the chair was occupied by Bro. H. C. Levander, G.D.C., W. Master, supported by the following officers: Bros. T. Wescombe, G. Steward, S.W.; J. G. Marsh, J.W.; R. W. Little, P.M., Sec.; Rev. W. B. Church, Chaplain and M.O.; T. Cubitt, S.O.; and H. Parker, Organist. During the evening the election of officers for the ensuing year was held, with the undermentioned result: Bros. T. Wescombe, W.M., and T. Cubitt, Treasurer; the election of the Tyler was deferred, in consequence of his unaccountable non-attendance. A banquet followed the proceedings in the lodge, and a most agreeable evening was enjoyed by the brethren.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

Joppa Chapter, No. 188.—A convocation of this excellent chapter took place on Monday, 26th inst., at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Comps. J. Lazarus, M.E.Z.; Littauer, H.; S. V. Abrahams, J.; and Pollitzer, first soj., the ceremony being worked in a perfect manner, and a ballot was taken for the following brethren, viz.: Bros. H. M. Levy, P.M., 188; Hemsworth, W.M., 190; Rowsell, 205; Faulkner, 188; Worrell, J.W., 795. The chapter being closed, the company adjourned to a very splendid banquet, superintended by Bros. Jennings and Keeping. The usual toasts were given. The newly exalted companions severally returned thanks. The visitors were Bros. Reed, 733, and Crappell, who were then regularly exalted into Royal Arch Masonry.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER OF ENGLAND.

The Quarterly Convocation of this body was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on Wednesday the 3th inst. M.E. Comp. the Rev. J. Huyshe, M.A., 3rd Grand Principal, and P.G. Supt. for Devonshire, filled the chair of Z., with Comp. J. Fawcett, P.G. Supt. for Durham as H.; and Comp. H. Murray, D.G. Superintendent for China as J. Among others present we noticed Comps. J. Hervey, E.; Æ. J. McIntyre, Registrar; E. S. Snell, J. Smith, J. Nunn, F. Walters, H. G. Buss, J. M. Clabon, J. Brett, R. W. Little, F. Bennoch, W. Platt, W. Watson, T. J. Sabine, R. Spencer, E. B. Baker, R. J. Spiers, Dr. T. H. J. Goldsboro', G. S. States, C. T. Dorey, H. Browse, C. C. Dumas, H. Muggeridge S.B., J. Thomas D.C., B. Head, G. W. K. Potter, N. Bradford, W. A. F. Powell, A. Holman, W. Ough, J. Caldwell, T. J. Sabine, R. Grey, C. Thorne, W. M. Bywater, J. K. Stevens, J. H. Cox, Rev. R. J. F., and Thomas.

Upon the minutes being put for confirmation a division ensued upon that portion relating to the change of the hour of Meeting, from 8 to 7 o'clock, when the alteration to the latter time was confirmed by a majority of one.

The following Report was, upon motion duly made and seconded, taken as read:—

The Report of the Committee of General Purposes.
To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

The Committee of General purposes beg to Report that they have examined the Accounts from the 20th January, 1869, to the 20th April, 1869, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:—

To Balance 20th January	£357	4	10
To Subsequent Receipts	251	0	6
			£608	5	4
By Disbursements during the Quarter	£122	19	8		
Applied from Unappropriated Account	6	4	0		
By Balance	479	1	8		
	£608	5	4		

which Balance is in the hands of Messrs. Willis, Percival and Co., Bankers of the Grand Treasurer.

The Committee have also to report that a Complaint has been laid before them by the British Chapter, No. 334, Cape Town, South Africa, against Comp. William Rufus Ellis, for having represented that he had a Grand Chapter Certificate, when in fact he had none. The summary of the Complaint is that, in 1863, Comp. W. R. Ellis visited the Chapter, No. 334, and produced a Certificate from the Volubian Chapter, Falmouth, No. 89 (now 75), that he had been exalted in that Chapter in 1846, which Certificate was then (in 1863) indorsed by Scribe E. of Chapter, No. 334. That in the early part of 1868, he had been admitted as a joining Member of No. 334, on the proposition of Comp. King (the complainant). That he was then asked by the Scribe E. of the Chapter, No. 334, for the fee for registration in the Supreme Grand Chapter;—that he replied, that being already registered, it was not necessary to remit it to the Supreme Grand Chapter, and that he had occupied the Chair of J., in the Volubian Chapter. That his name was nevertheless transmitted to the Grand Scribe E. in England, for registration in the books of the Supreme Grand Chapter. That in July, 1868, he was elected to and installed in the chair of H., in the Chapter, No. 334. That in consequence of some question having been raised (after the installation had taken place) as to his eligibility to fill the Chair by reason of communication from the Grand Scribe E., dated 28th March, 1868, to the effect that the name of Comp. Ellis did not appear on the Registry of the Supreme Grand Chapter as a Comp. of the Volubian Chapter. Comp. Ellis was called upon for an explanation, when he attributed the omission to the negligence of the then Grand Scribe E. (Comp. William Henry White). That the Chapter, No. 334, accepted the explanation, but wrote again to the Grand Scribe E., and received in due course a letter dated 28th July, 1868, repeating that the name of Comp. Ellis had never been returned for registration by the Volubian

Chapter. That Comp. Ellis was, at the next Convocation, on the 20th October, 1868, called upon for further explanation; when he stated that the Supreme Grand Chapter was not in the habit of granting any Certificate other than the one he had produced by him (that of the Volubian Chapter) during the time that he was connected with the Volubian Chapter. That this explanation was at once rejected by the Chapter 334, as incorrect, whereupon Comp. Ellis expressed his desire to retire from the Chapter pending a reference to the Supreme Grand Chapter, which was unanimously agreed to by the Chapter, No. 334; and which Resolution was confirmed at the next Convocation, on the 11th January, 1869. That after the Chapter of the 20th October, 1868, was closed, Comp. Ellis admitted that he knew his Certificate was not a Grand Chapter Certificate, and that he knew his name had never been returned to Grand Chapter for registration. That a notice was thereupon sent to the other chapters in the neighbourhood, and a Resolution was passed—"That Comp. Ellis had been irregularly admitted to the Chapter, No. 334, and to the office of H., and that he having withdrawn, his Chair be declared vacant, and another Comp. was thereupon elected to fill the Chair."

Companion Ellis addressed a communication to the Grand Scribe E., dated the 20th February, 1869, wherein he states that he was exalted in the Volubian Chapter, in 1846, by his father John Ellis, who was then M.E.Z. of the Chapter, and received the Certificate of that Chapter, which he had produced to the Chapter; No. 334. He virtually admits the statements contained in the Complaint, but attempts to explain his remarks at the Convocation in October, 1868, by stating that he "could only account for his not being in possession of a Grand Chapter Certificate, if his memory served him rightly, that he had an idea that some years ago (probably 15 or more) the question as to Private Chapters granting Certificates was brought before the Grand Chapter, and it was then decided that those Companions who had Certificates under such Chapters should be allowed to retain them, but that afterwards no Private Chapter should be allowed to issue Certificates."

The Committee have fully investigated and carefully considered this Complaint, and they regret that they can come to no other conclusion than that Comp. Ellis deliberately and wilfully deceived the Chapter, No. 334, by making the representation that he was in possession of a Certificate from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and the "British Chapter, No. 334, Cape Town," have made out their statement and complaint.

The Committee, therefore, in pursuance of their duty to the Supreme Grand Chapter, respectfully recommend that Companion William Rufus Ellis, be suspended from his functions and privileges as a Royal Arch Mason during the pleasure of the Supreme Grand Chapter.

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received the following Petitions; viz:

1st. From Companions Francis George Irwin as Z., William Augustus Scott as H., Frederick Vizard as J., and six others, for a Chapter to be attached to the St. Kew Lodge, No. 1222, Weston-super-Mare, to be called the "Inkerman Chapter," and to meet at the Masonic Rooms, Regent-street, Weston-super-Mare, in the County of Somerset, on the third Monday of January, April, July and October.

2ndly. From Companions John Boyd as Z., George I. Sharpe as H., William Carter as J., and eleven others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Lodge of Prudent Brethren, No. 145, London, to be called the "Chapter of Prudent Brethren," and to meet at Freemasons' Hall, London, on the first Tuesday in the months of February, April and December.

3rdly. From Companions Richard Hall as Z., Thomas Heffernan as H., Henry Cotton as J., and six others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Witham Lodge, No. 297, Lincoln, to be called the "Chapter of Concord," and to meet at the Masonic Hall, Lincoln, on the first Tuesday in each month.

4thly. From Companions Edward James Morris as Z., Philip Henry Rowland as H., Peter Donaldson as J., and six others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Cambrian Lodge, No. 364, Neath, to be called the "St. David's Chapter," and to meet at the Masonic Hall, Neath, Glamorganshire, on the second Monday in each month.

5thly. From Companions Richard de Mulinsfeldt Lawson as Z., Samuel Wittey as H., and Charles Raikes Davy as J., and six others for a Chapter to be attached to the Lodge of Concord, No. 632, Trowbridge, to be called the "Chapter of Harmony," and to meet at the Masonic Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, on the third Wednesday in the months of January, March, May, September and November.

6thly. From Companions John Morton as Z., William Archer as H., John Lunt as J., and seven others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Walton Lodge, No. 1086, Kirkdale, to be called the "Walton Chapter," and to meet at the Queen's Arms hotel, Kirkdale on the first Friday in each month.

7thly. From Companions William Langley as Z., Frederick P. Newcombe as H., William Kelly as J., and seven others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Rutland Lodge, No. 1130, Melton Mowbray, to be called the "De Mowbray Chapter," and to meet at the George Hotel, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, twice in every year:

The foregoing Petitions being in all respects regular, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

The Committee have also received a Petition from Companions George Fead Lambert as Z., Thomas Francis Dallin as H., Charles W. Spencer Stanhope as J., and seven others, for a Chapter to be attached to the "Aposlo University Lodge, 357, Oxford, to be called the "Apollo University Chapter," and to meet at the University Masonic Hall, Oxford, on the last Thursday of February, May and November.

This Petition is recommended by the Provincial Grand Superintendent, but requires the consent of the Lodge to which it is to be attached, and the registration of two of the Petitioners. Subject to these requisites being supplied before the Meeting of the Grand Chapter, the Committee recommend the prayer of the Petition to be granted.

(Signed) W. PULTENEY SCOTT,
President,

FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON, W.C.,
21st April, 1869

Comp. W. R. Ellis was, pursuant to the recommendation of the Committee, suspended from his functions as a Royal Arch Mason, and all the Chapters applied for were granted, including the Apollo University Chapter, at Oxford. The M.E.Z., in the chair, then announced the appointments for the year as hereunder stated:—The Earl of Zetland, Z.; The Earl de Grey and Ripon, H.; The Rev. J. Huyshe, M.A., J.; John Hervey, E.; John M. Clabon, N.; S. Leith Tomkins, P.S.; Wm. A. F. Powell, 1st A. Soj.; E. Brackstone Baker, 2nd A. Soj.; Samuel Tomkins, Treasurer; Æneas J. McIntyre, Registrar; Henry Empson, Sword Bearer; Conrad C. Dumas, Standard Bearer; Joshua Nunn, Director of Ceremonies; Charles B. Payne, G. Janitor.

The Committee for the ensuing year will be as follows:—Comp. W. Pulteney Scott, President; B. Head, and E. J. Fraser, nominated by the M.E.Z.; and Comps. J. Smith, E. B. Baker, J. Nunn, J. Brett, F. Bennoch, and J. Savage, elected by Grand Chapter. We regret much to find that Comp. F. Walters, an indefatigable worker in the cause, and a constant attendant at every Masonic duty, was not re-elected a member of the Committee, but the extraordinary popularity of the companions above-named will account for this. The Grand Chapter was then closed.

We beg to remind Royal Arch Masons, especially those residing in the southern districts of the metropolis, that the Domestic Chapter of Instruction will be formally re opened at the Horns Tavern, Kensington Park, at 7 p.m., on Saturday, the 15th inst. At a preliminary meeting held recently, Comp. R. Wentworth Little, M.E.Z., of the parent chapter, and P.Z. 975, was unanimously elected Preceptor, and he will preside as Z. on the 15th inst., assisted by Companions J. Stevens, P.Z. 720 as H.; and H. Webb, M.E.Z. 72 as J. A numerous attendance is expected, and Companion Brett, President of Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, will lend his official aid.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.—We beg to remind the brethren that the 81st Anniversary Festival of this excellent Institution will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, under the presidency of Lord Leigh, Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire, on Wednesday, the 12th inst., when we hope to see a large gathering of the supporters of our Masonic Charities. We can testify unequivocally that the school is admirably managed, and in every respect reflects the greatest credit upon all who are officially connected with the Institution.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

[Announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths relating to the Craft, or their families, will be inserted, free of charge, if properly authenticated.]

BIRTHS.

MADDOCKS.—On the 17th ult., at Newport, Monmouthshire, the wife of Bro. Jas. Maddocks (P.M. 683), of a daughter.

MANSER.—On the 2nd inst., the wife of Bro. William Manser, of Penryn, Cornwall, of a daughter.

SMITH.—On the 27th ult., at 1, Albert-road, Morice Town, Devonport, the wife of Bro. W. R. Smith, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

VINCENT—HARDINGHAM.—On the 24th ult., at St. Mary's, Newington, Surrey, by the Rev. C. H. Hardingham, M.A., of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, brother of the bride, Bro. Thomas Vincent, M.M. 1076, to Helen Frances, youngest daughter of the late Mr. C. W. Hardingham, of Dover Road.

DEATHS.

FISHER.—On the 24th ult., at Oak Bank Terrace, Whitehaven, Henry Fisher, Esq., (P.M. of Lodge 872, M.M., R.A., and P.P.G.G.D. of Cumberland and Westmorland), highly respected, aged 40.

LABOURNE.—On the 22nd ult., at "The Lawn," Rhymney, Emily Ross, daughter of Bro. Richard Labourne (P.M. 683), aged 8 months.

IMPORTANT.

PERMANENT ENLARGEMENT OF "THE FREEMASON."

We have determined to permanently enlarge "The Freemason," from next week, to 12 pages, thus making it the largest Masonic Journal in the world. We are induced to take this step not only by reason of the great circulation which "The Freemason" has already secured, but in order to find space for the many interesting articles on Freemasonry which we have now on hand. Thoroughly assured of the support of many leading members of the Order in the United Kingdom, we now appeal to the Craft Universal to aid in extending the circulation of our Journal; and if each subscriber will only introduce "The Freemason" to his friends we shall soon attain to a weekly circulation of Ten Thousand copies.

A full account of the Consecration of the Golden Rule Lodge will be given in our next.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1869.

THE FREEMASON is published on Saturday Mornings in time for the early trains.
The price of THE FREEMASON is Twopence per week; quarterly subscription (including postage) 3s. 3d.; Annual Subscription, 12s. Subscriptions payable in advance. All communications, letters, &c., to be addressed to the Editor, 3 & 4, Little Britain, E.C.
The Editor will pay careful attention to all MSS. entrusted to him, but cannot undertake to return them unless accompanied by postage stamps.

THE NEW GRAND OFFICERS.

THE task of selection, when the aspirants are numerous and the appointments few, is one at all times attended with difficulties, but in the choice of Grand Lodge officers for 1868-69, such a wise discrimination and sound judgment have been exercised as to call for our unqualified admiration.

In the R.W. Brother EARL PERCY, who has been advanced to the dignity of Senior Grand Warden, we recognise a young and zealous craftsman, who now wields the hiram of power in the Churchill Lodge, at Oxford, and whose earnest devotion to the interests of Freemasonry bespeaks the approbation of every member of the Order.

Bro. DODSON, the Junior Grand Warden, has been a member of the Royal Clarence Lodge, at Brighton, for about eleven years, and is much respected by the Craft in Sussex. His ability as the Chairman of Committees in the House of Commons is so well known as to render comment superfluous.

Bro. the Rev. C. J. MARTYN, our new Grand Chaplain, hails from the Foundation Lodge, at Cheltenham, and is a highly worthy member of

his sacred profession, as well as of our ancient institution.

Bro. SAMUEL LEITH TOMKINS, S.G.D., is a Past Grand Steward, a P.M. of the Lodge of Antiquity (No. 2), and a member of the University Lodge, No. 1118. Bro. Tomkins not only possesses strong hereditary claims as the son of our esteemed Grand Treasurer, and the nephew of that ever-genial Mason, Bro. J. Newton Tomkins, but is also an eminent Craftsman himself, having filled with distinction the post of Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes during the past year.

Bro. WILLIAM A. F. POWELL, S.G.D., is the popular Deputy Prov. Grand Master for Bristol, where his name is a household word in Freemasonry, and we can say without hesitation that Bro. Powell's promotion to the dais is a source of satisfaction and delight to our brethren in the West of England.

Bro. J. COOPER FORSTER, J.G.D., is a P.M. of the Lodge of Unity, No. 69. He is a highly-respected brother, and has borne his fair share in the work of Masonic boards and committees.

Bro. E. BRACKSTONE BAKER, Past Grand Steward, and P.M. of the Lodge of Emulation, No. 21, is a most zealous and efficient Mason, and has likewise served with great credit on the various boards and committees of the Craft. Our readers will not have forgotten the services of Bro. Baker as a mediator between the Grand Lodges of England and Canada, when certain difficulties affecting the St. Lawrence Lodge, at Montreal, were adjusted through his able and kindly interposition. In recognition of his effective aid, the Grand Lodge of Canada, we believe, at the period to which we refer, conferred upon Bro. Baker the rank of a Past Senior Grand Warden.

To Bro. CONRAD C. DUMAS, A.G. Director of Ceremonies, most of the observations made upon the preceding names apply in every respect. He a Past Grand Steward, a P.M., and a Past Vice President of the Board of General Purposes. In greeting Bro. Dumas's appointment, we cannot however witness the retirement of his predecessor, Bro. Fenn, without expressing our sense of the rare ability and uniform urbanity with which he conducted the duties of his important post, more especially during the recent ceremonial at the Inauguration of the New Buildings.

The Sword of State could not have been confided to better hands than those of Bro. JOSHUA NUNN, who has evinced throughout the whole of his Masonic career, a thorough love for the Order, and unquestionable energy in promoting its prosperity. Bro. Nunn is a P.M. of the Caledonian and Lily Lodges, and the present W.M. of the Eclectic Lodge, No. 1201. He is also a regular attendant at the meetings of the Boards of General Purposes and Benevolence, where his practical experience renders him a pre-eminently useful member.

The appointment of Bro. JAMES BRETT, P.M. 177, as Assistant Grand Pursivant, has been hailed with unbounded gratification by all who know his worth—that is to say, by the whole metropolitan Craft, and by many in other parts of the country. If untiring perseverance in the pursuit of Masonic knowledge, ability in acquiring it, and inexhaustible good-humour in imparting it, are just claims to the honours of Grand Lodge, no living Mason in England can prefer stronger ones than Brother James Brett. He, and we believe all, the new Grand Officers are distinguished for their support of the charities, and of every good work in connection with the Order.

We therefore heartily congratulate the Craft, as well as the brethren in question, upon the accession of such worthy Masons to the honours and dignities of the Grand Lodge.

Multum in Parvo, or Masonic Notes and Queries.

The Ancient and Accepted Rite.—“Rose Croix” may perhaps learn something about the Belgian Constitution, quoted by Bro. Dr. Leeson, on applying to Bro. Rd. Spencer, of London; it mentions several high grades besides the Knight Kadosh. I am acquainted with everything of importance that has been written in reference to the Ancients and the Moderns, and believe, with the former, that their system was the older one of the two, both being the outgrowth of the Operative Guilds. I look upon the statement of Bro. Dr. Leeson, as to the Baldwin Camp of Bristol, to refer to the Rose Croix and other degrees, and as made to advance his own rite. That camp was certainly reinforced by French Knights, after a long previous existence. If Bro. Dr. Leeson has any documents, referring to the original establishment of the Bristol Templar Camp, let them be produced. The Rose Croix was formerly considered, in England, the Templar *ne plus ultra*—a fact in itself sufficient to show that it was of more recent establishment in this country than the Templar. The closing remark of “Rose Croix” about second-hand quotations, is mere assumption; I made no quotations, and was quite aware of the difference in reading to which he alludes. I have written upon ordinary evidence, accessible to any well-informed Mason, and were I to go over all the Masonic literature of 150 years in support of my views, I should require a dozen of your double numbers.—JOHN YARKER.

Masonic Jurisprudence.

FULHAM.—The W.M. must serve for twelve months to be entitled to rank as a P.M.

IOTA.—If you apply to the Provincial Grand Master, through the Provincial Grand Secretary, you will doubtless obtain the information desired. With reference to the status of P.M.'s in a lodge, there can be no objection to allowing brethren who have not passed the chair in that particular lodge, to sit with the P.M.'s at the social board; it is an act of courtesy which is pleasing to the brethren concerned, and does no harm to anyone.

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

On Tuesday, the 4th instant, the ceremony of laying the foundation stones of the new offices of this society was performed by Miss Burdett Coutts. The site of the new buildings, which is situated in Jermyn-street, St. James's, and is valued at nearly £4000, was presented a short time ago by a member of the committee, Mr. G. Wood, and the erection of the offices was immediately commenced. The works are now in an advanced state, and it is intended that they shall be completed before the end of July next. Miss Burdett Coutts, accompanied by the Earl of Harrowby, President of the Society; the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, Mr. Wood, and other members of the Committee, entered the building on Tuesday shortly before four o'clock, and after the 100th Psalm had been chanted, the Secretary, Mr. John Colam, read the statistical report of the proceedings and development of the society since its commencement in 1824. Another Psalm was then chanted, after which the noble President addressed the assembly. He pointed out the magnitude of the work undertaken by the society, and showed how easy it would be for every one to assist them, by instilling into the minds of children the duty of kindness to dumb animals. He also referred to the numerous Acts of Parliament passed mainly through the exertions of this society, and appealed for funds to defray the cost of the building.

Miss Burdett Coutts then laid the foundation-stone with the assistance of Bro. Edward Clark, P.M. 1194, one of the architects. The trowel used on the occasion, and manufactured by Mr. J. W. Benson, of 25, Old Bond-street, was of silver, handsomely engraved, and bore a suitable inscription. The square, level, plumb-rule, and maul were supplied by Bro. Geo. Kenning, Little Britain, London. The 104th psalm having been sung, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol said a prayer and pronounced the benediction. The National Anthem was next sung and the proceedings closed. Amongst those present were the Earl of Romney, Field Marshal Sir J. F. Burgoyne, the Dowager Countess of Essex, the Countess Beauchamp, &c. The architects of the new building are Messrs. Pain and Clark, and the estimated cost £3,500. Several donations were promised by ladies and gentlemen present at the ceremony.

We have seen a drawing of the intended building, which will be in the Italian style, with the elevation in Portland stone, and polished granite.

THE FIFTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF STABILITY LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.]

On Friday, the 30th ult., a large number of influential brethren in the Craft assembled at Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars, to celebrate the Fifty-second Anniversary of the Stability Lodge of Instruction.

This is a treat seldom missed by lovers of the working—the proper working—of the interesting ritual of the Craft. Bro. Henry Muggeridge, P.M. (192), was the W.M. and as his name is well known in the Craft as one of the most able Preceptors, it need scarcely be said there was a large attendance of the Brethren, amongst whom we noticed the following:—

Bros. A. Pratt (22), Strickland Muggeridge (192), Dr. Goldsboro (998), Owen Wainwright (261), J. Hart (22), H. Birdseye (715), Cargill (403), Pendred (92), Tattersall (13), Allwright (140), Capt. Egles Fitzroy, Purdy (861), Legg (861), Gardiner (861), Meanwell (861), Haywood (127), Colls (1), Partridge (22), Townend (715), Hems-worth (190), Jacob (92), Pratt (217), Bryant (12), W. R. Bryant (12), Brodey (217), A. Partridge (22), T. G. Browning (18), Nicholas (890), Thos. Meggy (98), Schultz (21), Worrup (217), Thorpe (217), Gover (1), Miles (49), Stevens (49), J. T. Lacy (49), James (217), Wyche (715), G. H. Lambert (548), G. Newington (49), Keighley (49), Parsons (22), Venn (49), Dinsdale (715), Atkins (427), Coles (18), Wych, Thorn (49), Crouch (12), Lindwell (1083), Bryant (49), Trott (192), Willie (171), Copestake (869), R. C. Mansfield (7), Beatie (410), J. White (61), Hubback (58), Lowenstarke (49), Bresbane (715), Palmer (715), Truscott (217), Hughes (217), Cox (19), Hart (217), Scriven (5), W. Birdseye (715), Robson (715), Cubitt (157), Crossfield (715), Docket (101), Wolpert (720), McIntyre (G.O.), Goodyear (192), Wallrond (18), Weedon (715), Laurie (12), Stoner (715), Gale (715), Massey, Beadon, and Hogg (58), Evans, Day (22), M. Lowenstarke (49), Hilyard (715), Harris, Theobald, Gray (2), Keble (715), Dyer (715), Peacock (49), Garuico (49), Webber (25), Wintle (933), R. Stewart (12), McKernam (122), Mansfield (21), Yeoman (715), Paddle (715), Dumas (99), Tipton (49), Clemens (715), C. F. Lilley (12), A. H. Lilley (12), Scott (22), C. C. Dumas (G.L.), Stevens (18), Kenning (192), Jepson (715), Marsh (192), Emmens (G.L.), Cogan (12), Hervey (Grand Sec.), Steib (49), Kerr (241), Rawles, T. Snelgrove (12), Collett, G. S. Snellgrove (12), Dudley Rolls (12), Chas. E. Thompson (1,158 and 177.)

The lodge was opened in the first and second degrees, and the sections worked in a most exemplary manner by the brethren, as follows:—

Sec. 1	Bro. A. Bryant, P.M., 192, & S.D.	12
" 2	" H. Birdseye	715
" 3	" J. H. Townend, J.W.	715
" 4	" Thos. Cargill { Lodge } { Board }	49
" 5		

Too much praise cannot be given to those brethren for the correct and the painstaking manner in which they went through their work, and, without wishing to be invidious, we would particularize Bro. Cargill, who, at the conclusion of the fifth section, was loudly applauded.

Bro. AENEAS J. MCINTYRE, Grand Registrar, congratulated the brethren upon the flourishing condition of the lodge, and said: I am empowered to move that £25 be given to the charities (applause), viz., £15 to the Old Men's Annuity Fund; £5 to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, St. John's Hill, Battersea Rise, S.W., which is for the purpose of maintaining, clothing, and educating the daughters of decayed Freemasons, and about which the following information may not be out of place:—This charity is supported by voluntary contributions from the nobility, &c., and many lodges, as well as by donations from the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter. Every donor of five guineas (lodges, chapter, and societies included) shall be a life subscriber, with the privilege of one vote at each election of children, and every subscriber of one guinea is entitled to one vote at each of the two succeeding elections. The other £5, he moved, be given to the Boys' School, which has equal, if not greater, claims upon the charitably disposed. This institution, which is situate at Wood Green, Middlesex, is, like the former, supported by voluntary contributions. Children of all religious denominations are admitted at the age of seven years, and are clothed and educated until the age of fifteen. A donation of

fifty guineas in one payment, or in payments of not less than five guineas each, constitutes a vice-president with ten votes at all elections of children. Other sums entitle the donors to privileges according to the amount. Subscribers of a guinea annually are eligible for election on the general committee.

The several sums were put *seriatim* and unanimously voted.

Bro. JOHN LLEWELLYN EVANS, President of the Board of General Purposes, said it was his pleasing duty to move that the best thanks of the lodge be given to Bro. Henry Muggeridge for the very able manner in which he had conducted the business of the evening. He was sure that every mason who had had the good fortune to hear those beautiful sections worked, would agree with him that they reflected much credit upon the knowledge and ability of Bro. Muggeridge. It was not for him to dilate upon Bro. Muggeridge's excellencies; and he would, therefore, move that the best thanks of the lodge were justly due, and were given to Bro. Muggeridge, for the manner in which he had managed the business of the evening. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. POTTER, Past Grand Deacon, had much pleasure in seconding the motion, and bore his testimony to the ability and zeal displayed by Bro. Muggeridge on all occasions in matters Masonic.

Bro. MCINTYRE then formally put the resolution that a vote of thanks be given to Bro. Muggeridge, and that the same be recorded on the minutes of the lodge.

The motion was carried *nem. con.*

Bro. HENRY MUGGERIDGE suitably acknowledged the compliment paid to him.

Bro. JOHN HERVEY, the Grand Secretary, who, when he entered the lodge in the earlier part of the evening, was greeted with warm applause, now rose, and said he also had much pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to the "working brethren," for the great ability with which they had discharged their duties. It was well to have a good preceptor, but to make things go well they must have good pupils, and from what he had seen that evening they had discharged their part with great credit to themselves, and satisfaction to the whole of the brethren. (Hear, hear.) He had, therefore, very great pleasure in moving that a vote of thanks be given to those brethren who had rendered such valuable assistance to Bro. Muggeridge in the working of the business of the evening. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. RAYNHAM W. STEWART, P.M., seconded the proposition.

Upon the question being put by the president, it was carried unanimously.

Bro. MCINTYRE said he could hardly hope that every brother of the large number present was a member of the Stability Lodge of Instruction, but he might hope that every brother who was not would join before he left that evening, and he trusted those brethren who were their friends would at once give their names to the secretary.

Bro. JUNIOR WARDEN publicly stated that the visiting fee was one shilling each evening, or by subscription of 10s. 6d.

Amongst the names of brethren who were elected members were Bros. Keely, White, Owen, Thorpe, Dumas, Colls, Parsons, Scott, Peety, Shools, Hillyer, Pike. The other names our reporter did not catch. The Lodge, which previous to the elections and resolutions had been lowered to the first degree, was then closed in the usual manner, and the meeting adjourned by the Junior Warden to the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, City, until the first Friday evening in the month of September.

From the Lodge the brethren went to the large dining room, where a frugal but substantial meal was provided, but whether to call it a dinner or a supper we do not know. We are in doubt as to which would be the most proper appellation. In such a matter it makes little difference what you call it if it is, as this was, a really good repast, and one which generally gave satisfaction.

The cloth was removed, and the musical brethren, Bros. T. Young (director), Frank Elmore, Edwin Ransford, Past Grand Organist; and George Tedder, of the Concert Hall, Junction Road, Holloway, who we were glad to see, sang the grace by Hobbs:

To Thee, O God, the Mighty Lord, most high,
Who dost our wants with liberal hand supply,
Our grateful hearts and voices now we raise;
To heaven's high throne we chant our hymn of praise.
We bless, we praise, we magnify Thy name,
Now and henceforth, for evermore.—Amen.

The CHAIRMAN said he had pleasure in proposing the first toast of the evening,—a toast which was always received among Freemasons with very great pleasure and satisfaction. They were very fortunate in having so good a Sovereign to reign over them. She was an example to their wives, their sisters, and their daughters. He had very great pleasure in proposing the health of the Queen, and he hoped they would give it with all due and proper honour, and to make the toast a Masonic one, he coupled with it the Craft; the toast, therefore, was "The Queen and the Craft." [The toast was well received.]

The national anthem was sung, the brethren keeping excellent time in the chorus.

The CHAIRMAN said the next toast to which he had the honour of calling their attention, was one which Masons received with peculiar pleasure at the present time, for the Most Worshipful Grand Master had just completed a quarter of a century in office, and as he has just been re-elected it showed most clearly that he enjoyed the confidence of the brethren. (Hear, hear.) The Most Worshipful Grand Master had lately told them, at Grand Lodge (a full report of which appeared in our last week's number), that it was for more than twenty-five years he had ruled over them, for for five years prior to his election as M.W.G. Master he ruled and governed the Craft as Pro. Grand Master. (Cheers.) For the admirable way in which he had presided over the Craft, the extreme urbanity he had always shown to younger brethren, he stood pre-eminent—pre-eminent to uphold the dignity of the Craft; and to do honour to him they would drink with the greatest pleasure the toast, which was the health of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Zetland, K.T., Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons, who had so long possessed and so long deserved their confidence. He trusted he would always enjoy a proper feeling in the breast of every Mason whom he now presided over. (Cheers.)

More than ordinary enthusiasm followed the drinking of this toast, and every glass was drained.

The CHAIRMAN said the next toast brought him nearer home to himself, because for the two toasts which had already been proposed there had been no one present to respond; but there was in the one he was about to propose. It was the health of a brother for whom he and they all had a great respect; the toast was the health of the Rt. Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers. In mentioning the name of the Earl de Grey, he mentioned a name which might be an example to all Masons. They had seen him as Principal Secretary of State, they had seen him as Lord President of the Council, and they had seen him as the Deputy Grand Master of Masons, and in all positions he had won the great regard of everyone. There was always great pleasure in doing honour to whom honour was due, and the brethren would accord to him his just meed of praise. (Cheers.) The Earl de Grey was supported by Grand Officers of worth, and although one of them was but a young man, yet he had determined to make himself a good and true Mason—he (hear, hear)—he alluded to Earl Percy, Senior Grand Warden. Then they had Bro. Dodson, the Chairman of the Committee of the House of Commons, who also showed that public functions did not debar him, nor any other man, from attending Masonic associations. (Hear, hear.) He could also mention Bros. Forster Cooper, and Brackstone Baker, who were unfortunately absent, but they had present five or six Grand Officers who were well-known in the Craft—(hear, hear)—well-known to them all. Four or five old Grand Officers and one recruit. (A laugh.) When he mentioned the President of the Board of General Purposes (Bro. Llewellyn Evans), who had so nobly won and worn his honour in the Craft (cheers); when he mentioned Bro. Hervey, Grand Secretary—(renewed cheering)—well-known for his excellent "working;" Bro. Potter and others, he could not be surprised that the Craft flourished so well. He would also mention Bro. John Emmens, Past Grand Pursuivant, and Bro. Dumas whom he had called a recruit, but who intended to do honour to the body. He trusted the Brethren would consider them as the five points of fellowship of Stability Lodge of Instruction. He had very great pleasure in proposing their healths, and as it was customary for the officers highest in rank to respond, he would call upon Bro. Evans to say a few words—Bro. Evans, with whom he had fought in Grand Lodge in the same spirit as he had met him that evening. With all sincerity he gave them "The health of the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master of England, and the rest of the Grand Officers," coupled with the name of Bro. John Llewellyn Evans, the President of the Board of General Purposes.

The toast was enthusiastically responded to.

Bro. EVANS, who was received with applause, said, on behalf of the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master of England, and the rest of the Grand Officers, he had the honour to return thanks for the very kind way in which their names had been received. His task on behalf of the Deputy-Grand Master was a very easy one, and for the other brethren, they were too well known to need any eulogy from him. He had known the Earl de Grey and Ripon when he held the high and responsible office of Principal Secretary of State, and had attended his duties at Grand Lodge to go home and sit for hours at work upon his public business, and for a brother, and one in such a high position to devote so much of his time for the good of Freemasonry, he thought they would agree with him deserved their Masonic regards. Their worthy President had alluded to the five Grand Officers, as representing the five points of fellowship, but he thought if he looked round he might see two others to make up the admirable number of seven, prominently amongst

them being their Worshipful Master himself. (Hear, hear.) He is the Lord Chancellor of the Order—(laughter)—and he could only hope that he might be Lord Chancellor in another sense. Then they had Bro. Ransford, who, in days of old—(applause)—ably filled the office of Grand Organist, and it was quite pleasant to find what excellent voice he was in. It brought him back to old times. (Hear, hear.) They were all pleased to see him. On behalf of the Grand Officers he begged to return his very best thanks. They were most anxious to discharge their duties, and he thought he might go so far as to say that he thought the Craft was satisfied at the manner in which those duties had been discharged. The worthy Brother sat down amidst applause.

The President rose to explain, and apologised to Bro. Ransford for not including him in the toast, but said it was because he did not sit on the right with the other Grand Officers. He did not wish to slight Bro. Ransford, far be it from him that he should have any such intention, for he esteemed him very much, and was very glad to see him. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. RANSFORD, Past Grand Organist, said he was convinced of the truth of what the W.M. had said, that he had not left his name out intentionally. (Hear, hear.)

The PRESIDENT said he had to call the attention of the brethren to the toast of the evening. They could see what it was in the programme, and it needed no words from him to make them receive it with the greatest approbation. It was "Continued Prosperity to Stability Lodge of Instruction," coupled with the name of their excellent preceptor, Bro. Henry Muggerridge, P.M. Anything he (the President) could say on his behalf would be perfectly superfluous. He had seen him in private lodges and he believed him to be one of the best instructors in Masonry, and any brother following in his footsteps would be sure to learn the correct ritual of the Craft. Whenever he (the president) came to that lodge he was sure to learn something fresh. He thought if the principles inculcated in the lessons of the Craft were carried out in private life, the brethren would prove themselves better husbands, better sons, and better fathers. He hoped that for very many years Bro. Muggerridge might be their preceptor, for he was convinced that, search wherever they would amongst his pupils, not one of them would be found who would do him discredit. He had very great pleasure in proposing his health in connection with the toast, and if the time were not so short he would have given a sketch of Bro. Muggerridge's career. When Bro. Peter Thomson, who was a great Mason—(hear, hear)—was called to his fathers, his mantle descended upon Bro. Muggerridge, who, with great ability and knowledge, had fulfilled the duties of Preceptor. He had exceeding pleasure in proposing his health, and he was sure the brethren would drink it with the same satisfaction he had in proposing it. (Loud cheers, and cries of "To you, Bro. Muggerridge.")

Bro. MUGGERIDGE rose and for some minutes was hailed with loud applause. When it had somewhat abated he said (speaking with some emotion):—Worshipful Master, Grand Officers, and Brethren, many thanks for this flattering reception, I am sure, Worshipful Sir I am exceedingly pleased at the very kind manner in which you have proposed, and at the way in which the brethren have responded to the toast. I have had the honour of responding to this toast so many times that it is impossible I can say much on the subject, especially as it is so limited in its character and so chiefly concerns myself. I am very much gratified with the manner in which you have expressed yourselves this evening. I have expressed my thanks on many previous occasions, still there are very many brethren present who were not present at our previous meetings, and I must say to them that I have been a member of this Lodge of Instruction close upon thirty years—(hear, hear.)—and I have had the management of this Lodge of Instruction very nearly twenty years. I assure you I am very much gratified at the admirable manner in which my four pupils have gone through their work this evening—(cheers)—but as the subject will be brought before your notice very shortly, I shall say nothing more upon that topic; at the same time I am exceedingly pleased at the manner in which you expressed your satisfaction at the way in which they went through their duties. I am also very much gratified at the very successful meeting this evening, and if anything I have done towards it has met with your approbation I am very much pleased. On this occasion perhaps it is not necessary to say more, but as we have very young members here this evening, it may be as well to state that this Lodge of Instruction meets at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, from the first Friday in September to the last Friday in April, and I shall be very glad to receive them and render them every assistance they may require to qualify them to fill the offices they may belong to. Worshipful Master and Brother Grand Officers, allow me to say that I am extremely pleased at seeing you here on this occasion, our Fifty-second Anniversary, and I am glad to hear the proceedings have met with your approbation. I am sure it is a very great satisfaction to me, and I hope we

may be honoured with your presence on many future occasions. Bro. Muggerridge concluded by urging upon the Brethren the propriety and advisability of attending Lodges of Instruction, and sat down amidst renewed marks of favour.

Bro. LLEWELLYN EVANS said the Worshipful Master had entrusted him with his gavel, and the brethren would understand for what purpose. (Hear, hear.) Bro. McIntyre was well-known in the Craft, and was an excellent Grand Officer, and he could not understand how he, belonging to an arduous profession, could devote so much time to Freemasonry, but yet he did so. He hoped they would drink the toast in bumpers. [Drunk with enthusiasm].

The PRESIDENT said, addressing Bro. Evans, his brother Grand Officers, and the brethren generally, he could assure them he felt completely overpowered by the very kind reception they had given him. He felt it a high honour to preside over them, for a more distinguished assemblage could not be found. Whether filling the chair, or assisting them in any other way, he was always most happy to assist them. In occupying that position for the third time, he could not forget the time when he first became a member of that Lodge, when the festival was presided over by a brother who was with them for seventeen years, and for the honour and good he had done in the Craft the name of John Havers would never be forgotten. (Loud cheers). He was a brother he could never forget, neither could he (the President) forget that day and their kindness to him. Bro. Havers was unable to be present through illness, and he was sure they must all deeply regret his absence, but he hoped they would give him an assurance of their sympathy for Bro. Havers in his affliction, and of the esteem in which he was sure he was held by them. (The brethren showed their concurrence and assent to these observations by a loud cheer). The speaker concluded by saying the cheer they had just given would enable him to convey to Bro. Havers an assurance of their condolence with and esteem for him. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. JOHN HERVEY, the Grand Secretary, said he did not know why the next toast had been placed in his hands, except it was that he had been a working Mason, and knew the difficulties working Masons were placed in. He well knew how much toil, how much attention, and how much zeal must be advanced when brethren undertake the duties of officers, and it was with a deal of pleasure he proposed "The health of the Working Brethren of the Lodge." In earlier days he (Bro. Hervey) had undertaken those duties himself, and he knew how arduous they were; but unless the duties of the lodge were well performed they fell far short of what they ought to be. When a person was initiated, unless the ceremony was done well it lost its impressiveness, and the candidate went away dissatisfied, and would say, "Well, yes, I was initiated, but the Master stumbled at every second word, and I did not think much of the ceremony." What was, when well performed, a solemn ceremony lost its solemnity by being slovenly executed. He paid a compliment to the working brethren and Bro. Muggerridge. If the brethren generally followed their example, there would be no risk of the ceremonies losing their impressiveness. He gave them "The health of the Working Brethren of the Lodge—Bros. Bryant, Birdseye, Townsend, and Cargill," coupling with the toast the name of the last-mentioned brother, the Senior Warden.

The toast was well received. Bro. CARGILL in returning thanks, said he was actuated by mingled feelings of pride and gratification—with pride because they had succeeded in satisfying them, and, he need not say, there could hardly be a greater stimulus to young Masons than that of affording gratification to their superiors in the Craft; but he could hardly realize what the lodge would do without Bro. Muggerridge, and he hoped he would long be spared to be among them. On behalf of the working brethren and himself, he begged to thank them for the manner in which they had received the toast.

The PRESIDENT proposed the sister lodge of instruction. He said the Emulation Lodge of Improvement was second to none in point of efficiency of working, and, in connection with it, he was delighted to see present Bro. Pike, who was distinguished as a teacher, and honoured as a man and a Mason. He had very great pleasure in coupling his name with the toast.

Bro. PIKE returned thanks, and said since the demise of Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, he had been very anxious that the lodge should not lose any of the honours it had won. He could only say that he thanked them very kindly for the manner in which they had responded to the toast.

The PRESIDENT proposed the Masonic Charities, and said it was a toast they ought never to forget; for, whilst they were very joyous, there were others who through unavoidable calamity and misfortune were brought to abject poverty. On such occasions they would be very remiss were they to forget the Masonic charities. The charities were not forgotten, for they were in a very flourishing condition, and he need only call their attention to the fact that on a recent occasion, viz., the Boys' School Festival, the largest sum was subscribed that had ever been subscribed on any

occasion throughout the world. (Hear, hear.) He was happy to say they had a brother present who was a steward, not for the first, but for the third time. (Hear, hear.) He alluded to Bro. T. Meggy, of the Fitzroy Lodge, and whom he would call upon to respond to the toast.

Bro. MEGGY, who was received with applause, appropriately responded, and congratulated the brethren, of the Stability Lodge of Instruction that they were able to vote on one evening £25 to the charities, which showed that more than one half of the money contributed was given in charity.

The PRESIDENT corrected Bro. Meggy, and said that the whole of the money contributed by the Brethren after paying for working and other unavoidable expenses, was given to the charities. (Hear, hear.)

The Brethren then separated, highly pleased at the proceedings.

During the evening the following pieces were sung by the musical brethren:—

National Anthem Dr. John Bull.
Glee—"Merrily goes the Bark" Stevens.
Song—"Welcome, ever welcome, Friends" Bervon.
Bro. YOUNG.
Duett—"Tell me where is Fancy bred" .. Stevenson.
Bros. YOUNG and RANSFORD.
Song—"Thou art so near and yet so far" Reichart.
Bro. F. ELMORE.
Glee—"Mynheer Van Dunk" Bishop.
Song—"The Oak and the Ivy" Land.
Bro. RANSFORD.
Glee—"Push the Red Wine about." .. Bishop.

NEW MASONIC HALL, YOKOHAMA, JAPAN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

YOKOHAMA, 2nd March, 1869.

At one o'clock yesterday, 1st March, was laid the first stone of the New Masonic Hall, which is to be erected in the Main Street, on the lot immediately opposite the German Club. No masonic ceremony was performed, but about a dozen of the brotherhood assembled to witness the simple laying of the stone. A bottle containing some Japanese coins, a rupee, and a record, was placed in the cavity prepared for it; after which the stone was lowered to its proper position. The W.M. Bro. Miller, then delivered a short address to the brethren present, which terminated the proceedings.

The masonic community are indebted to the courtesy of E. Loureiro, Esq., H.M.F.M.'s Consul for the site of their new hall, and a more convenient position, and one more suitable for a public edifice could not be found in Yokohama.

The new Masonic Hall will be built entirely of solid stone, without the wooden framework which has been usually considered necessary to ensure the stability of a building against the shocks of the earthquakes. One or two godowns so constructed already exist in the settlement, with no signs of injury, and if this mode of building should prove a success, it will materially lessen the risk of fire—a far more dangerous enemy than earthquakes.

The new building will be of the Doric order, with a portico supported by six columns, and is being erected in accordance with plans prepared by Messrs. Whitfield and Dowson, architects. Every endeavour will be made to finish the new hall by the 24th June, the festival of St. John the Baptist, one of the patrons of Ancient Freemasonry.

A petition for a second lodge to be held at Yokohama has been sent home, which it is hoped will be speedily granted, as Masonry has made much progress in Japan. The new lodge is to be called "O Tentosama," a Japanese term referring to the sun.

THE OLD MEN'S ANNUITY FUND.—Let it not be forgotten by the brethren of the Masonic Craft that Bro. Charles Sloman (the only improvisatore, and the author and composer of the songs, "The Maid of Judah," "The Daughter of Israel," &c.) is a candidate for election as a recipient of the benefits derivable from the Old Men's Benevolent Institution. Brethren and others desirous of assisting Bro. Sloman are informed that he will be happy to receive proxies in his favour at his residence, 24, Bow-street, Covent-garden, W.C. Non-Masons are eligible both as subscribers and voters. Subscribers are particularly requested not to withhold their votes under an impression of the certainty of Bro. Sloman's election, as that might prove greatly detrimental to his success.—Communicated.

CONSECRATION OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH LODGE, 1259.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTER].

For a long time past the Freemasons in and about the neighbourhood of Mile End, have felt the want of a new Lodge, which should be judiciously managed, well officered, and conducted according to the ancient usages of the Order. One or two preliminary meetings were called, and the desirability of petitioning the Most Worshipful Grand Master to grant his warrant discussed. Foremost amongst the agitators were Bro. John Wright, P.M. and Treasurer, 754 and 781, well-known and respected for his excellent working; Bro. Edward Jex, and John D. Lusty, and so favourably did the Most Worshipful Master think of the application that he at once granted permission for the warrant to issue. The petitioners were the before-named brethren, who were named consecutively as the first W.M., S.W., and J.W., and John Salter, S.D., John Deer, J.D., Weatherall, I.G., Hogg, Secretary, and Bro. Barford, P.M.

Bro. J. Terry, P.M. 228, 1196, and P.Z. 975, was appointed by the Grand Master as Consecrating Officer. The ceremony took place on Tuesday evening last at Mr. Allen's, the "New Globe Tavern," Bow Road, in the presence of about fifty brethren, some of whom had come long distances in order to listen to the excellent style in which Bro. Terry performs the ceremony; and his working of this, about the most interesting ceremony in Freemasonry, was listened to with rapt attention.

Bro. the Rev. D. Shaboe, Past Provincial Grand Chaplain, Suffolk, officiated as Chaplain, and the musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. Küster, Organist of the Urban Lodge, 1196.

The Brethren present were:—Bros. E. T. Reed (W.M. 781), E. Bracebridge (P.M. 781), W. McDonald (P.M. 30), Potts (P.M. and P.Z.), G. C. Kerust (M.D. 1227), H. Marston (53), H. Higgins (184), T. C. Holford (55), Jno. G. Stevens (P.M. 554), Dan. E. Scurr (P.M. 933), Benj. Pendeck (742), Gilruth (P.M. 55), Henry Warren (754), W. Steedman (P.M. 754), Jno. Rugg (781), Jno. Holt (781), Edw. Glinister (781), Barlow (P.M. 174), Newton (174), Kindred (P.M. and P.Z. 554), G. Christie (754), Rev. D. Shaboe (P.M. 183, 205, 554, 813, 898, 959, and P.P.G.C. Suffolk), Hugh Ballantyre (P.M. 754), Küster (Organist of the Urban Lodge), Alf. Harris (Friendship 206), Drayling (831), Hemmingway (831), H. Spooner (831), W. Davis (831), Warren (217), Wm. Bigg, William Thorp (217), Thos. West (700), Edward Davies (700), William Lusty, William Wrenn (P.M. 174, 1056), W. Watson (831, 1259), Edw. Davis, (P.M. 228), Tho. J. Quelch (P.M. 619), R. Brady (P.M. 217), Jno. C. Davis (W.M. 198), Chas. B. Payne (P.M. 27), Chas. E. Thompson (S.D. and Sec., 1158 and 177).

Bro. Terry was assisted by Bro. W. Hamilton, P.M. 554, who acted as S.W. *pro tem.*, and Bro. J. Kindred P.M. 354, as J.W., and shortly after three o'clock the Brethren, properly clothed, assembled in the lodge room, and the lodge was duly opened in the several degrees, and after an address had been delivered, the petitioners arranged themselves in front of the S.W. The Acting Grand Sec., Bro. Reed, W.M. 781, read the petition and warrant. In answer to the P.O., the brethren present signified their approval of the officers named in the warrant in Masonic form, and they were then constituted into a regular lodge according to the ancient form.

Bro. Terry delivered an oration on the nature and principles of the Institution. The Anthem was then sung,

"Behold how pleasant and how good."

Subsequently the board was uncovered, and Bros. D. Scurr P.M. 933, Stevens P.M. 554, and Bracebridge P.M. 781, proceeded to carry the cornucopia, wine, and oil three times round the lodge,

Anthem, "Glory be to God."

The Chaplain then took the censur round the lodge.

A chant by the Brethren. Anthem, "Glory to God in the highest."

The P.O. then dedicated and constituted the lodge, and after the "Hallelujah Chorus" the lodge was resumed to the second degree, and a Board of Installed Masters formed. Bro. John Wright was regularly installed into the chair, and saluted in the customary way, and after the appointment of officers, Bro. Terry delivered the concluding addresses in excellent style—in truth, his entire working was faultless.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to an excellent repast, provided by Bro. Barford, of the Red Lion, Leytonstone, Treasurer of the Constitutional Lodge, and one of the founders of this lodge.

The W.M. proposed the "Queen and the Craft," which was duly honoured.

The W.M. then proposed the health of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W. Grand Master, and said on that special occasion they had reason to be specially thankful to him for granting the warrant. It was one of the most unprecedented things that ever had occurred—the petition was presented, and within ten days it was cheerfully granted. There could be no doubt at all that the lodge was required—(hear, hear.)—and he hoped they would vie with each other in doing all they possibly could to render each other happy, and as they had every reason to be thankful to the M.W.G.M., he trusted they would drink the toast with enthusiasm, but before he concluded he paid a compliment to the Brethren of the Merchant Navy Lodge for the assistance they had given.

The toast was received with much applause. The W.M. next proposed the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master, a brother who was not only known in the Craft world, but also in the political world, as a very useful and a very active member of society, and one likely to become a very great man among Masons.

Bro. the Rev. D. SHABOE said he appeared before them as one who had had something to do with the consecration of the Duke of Edinburgh Lodge. (Hear, hear.) He had had the happiness of knowing their W.M. for several years, and a kinder hearted man never breathed, and as the consecrating Master had said when delivering the warrant into his hands—that warrant which was as pure as snow and as chaste as ice—that he had no doubt at all he would deliver it to his successor as pure and as spotless as it then was, so he (Bro. Shaboe) believed it would leave his care whenever that should be. (Hear, hear.) As he liked a pun he would say he was the "Right man in the right place." (Cheers.) He knew no man in the internal world whom he appreciated more than he did him. He had always found him kind-hearted, just and firm—they were the characteristics of a man and Mason, and if the Lodge did not prosper they would not have to reproach their W.M., or regret the choice they had made in selecting him to preside over their future gatherings. As one of the clergy, and living in the parish, he begged to thank them for coming into the neighbourhood, for it must be beneficial to society. He hoped the "Duke of Edinburgh" Lodge would meet with success, and if he could be of any assistance they might rest assured they might command him. He could not eulogise their W.M. too much, but if they did as he asked them they could not do ill.

The toast was received with cheers, and a good fire given.

The W.M. said he was delighted to have been spoken of by Bro. Shaboe in such terms, because there had been circumstances in Masonry in which they had been connected together in one of the warmest battles which had ever been fought, and then they were as great enemies as they were at that moment. (Laughter and cheers.) There was a difference of opinion, and at any rate they fought their battles to an issue, in which he (the W.M.) succeeded, and the right was on the right side. (A laugh.) He could assure the brethren, that so long as he had the power he should do all he possibly could to further their interests, and they would find through life that there was no such happiness equal to that of imparting happiness to others. It was so much better to be pleased at all things which came before them, than to make yourselves obnoxious. (Hear, hear.) There were a number of young Masons, excluding Bro. Barford who was an old P.M., and he hoped from the bad example set by himself and others, they would adopt the good portions and leave out those which were bad. He should be delighted if at the end of twelve months they could speak in the same manner of the flourishing condition of the lodge. With these few remarks he begged to thank them for the very kind manner in which they had responded to the toast.

The W.M. said he rose to propose a toast which gave him very great pleasure, and he was sure they would all respond most cordially. Masons had reason to be proud of one of the biggest in Masonry, and yet comparatively speaking one of the smallest men, Bro. Terry. (Great laughter.) Every one must acknowledge he was perfect in all his parts. He (the W.M.) had heard him in blue and in the Royal Arch, and in all he never missed a word. (Cheers.) A parson had his book before him, but he had not (much amusement, in which the Rev. Dr. Shaboe heartily joined.) He hoped they would do him all the honour he deserved.

Drunk with enthusiasm.

Bro. Terry, who was loudly applauded, said, in rising to respond to the toast they would allow him to say that it had afforded him as much pleasure to be present as it had afforded them to hear him. If he had given satisfaction he was amply repaid for any trouble he had been put to. He always made it a rule never to undertake to do anything unless he was fully competent to carry it out. He had received much assistance from Bro. Shaboe, who had kindly acted as Chaplain, and although the duties were light, if they were not done well and properly

it made a great deal of difference in the ceremony. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. D. SHABOE, in returning thanks, said he had had the happiness of being associated with Freemasonry for fifteen years, and he had learned from it that it mattered not in what position of society they might be placed, it was their duty to administer to the happiness of each other. For himself he had only done his duty, and could only say that he had never witnessed such magnificent working as he had seen that day—not one hiatus existed. It was often his pleasure to visit Lodges and sometimes he had witnessed a slight clasp, but Bro. Terry was perfect in all his points, and it was with much pleasure he had acted as one of his coadjutors. With regard to the slight difference of opinion between the W.M. and himself it was just this,—the W.M. thought something was silver and he thought it was gold, and the W.M. was right. They were a jolly set of fellows, and he didn't care (turning to our reporter) whether the brother who was taking notes put that down or not. (Laughter.) He trusted whenever they had struggles they would not be worse than his was with Bro. John Wright. With regard to the Lodge, he hoped it would go on and prosper, and give up one to another; he had tried it all his life, and there he was a happy, contented man. He hoped they would give way one to another in kindly spirit, and they would be sure to prosper, and if at any time he could be of any service to them he could only say his purse and his person were at their service.

The toast of "The Visitors," coupled with the names of Bros. Davis and Reed; "the Officers," "Masonic Charities," and "Tyler's," toast were given and responded to, and the brethren separated. Bro. Very was a very good Tyler.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS

For the Week ending May 15, 1869.

Monday, May 10.

- Lodge No. 5, "St George's and Corner Stone," Freemasons' Hall.
- " 12, "Fortitude and Old Cumberland," Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street.
- " 29, "St. Albans," Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-st.
- " 193, "Confidence," Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-st.
- " 879, "Peckham," Edinbro' Castle, Peckham Rye.
- " 957, "Leigh," Freemasons' Hall.
- R.A. Chapter, 720, "Panmure," Loughboro' Hotel, Loughboro'-road, Brixton.

Tuesday, May 11.

- Lodge No. 46, "Old Union," Radley's Hotel, Blackfriars.
- " 96, "Burlington," Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-st.
- " 211, "St. Michael," ditto.
- " 235, "Nine Muses," Clarendon Hotel, Bond-st.
- " 548, "Wellington," White Swan Tav., Deptford.
- " 933, "Doric," Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
- Mark Lodge, "Kent" George Hotel, Aldermanbury.
- Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, George Hotel, Aldermanbury; Comp. Brett, Preceptor.

Wednesday, May 12.

- Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, Freemasons' Tavern.
- Committee Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at 3.
- Lodge No. 3, "Fidelity," Freemasons' Hall.
- " 13, "Union Waterloo," Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich.
- " 15, "Kent," Three Tun's Tavern, Southwark.
- " 87, "Vitruvian," White Hart, College-street, Lambeth.
- " 147, "Justice," White Swan Tavern, Deptford.
- " 212, "Euphrates," George Hotel, Aldermanbury.
- " 781, "Merchant Navy," Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, Linchouse.
- " 820, "Lily," Greyhound Hotel, Richmond.
- " 1017, "Montflore," Freemasons' Hall.
- " 1228, "Beacontree," private rooms, Leytonstone.

Thursday, May 13.

- Lodge No. 91, "Regularity," Freemasons' Hall.
- " 206, "Friendship," Ship & Turtle Tav., Leadenhall-street.
- " 263, "Bank of England," Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars.
- " 1076, "Capper," Marine Hotel, Victoria Dock, West Ham.
- " 127, "Upton," Spotted Dog Tavern, Upton.

Friday, May 14.

- Lodge No. 33, "Britannic," Freemasons' Hall.
- " 134, "Caledonian," Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street.
- " 157, "Bedford," Freemasons' Hall.
- R.A. Chap. No. 6, "Friendship," Willis's Rooms, St. James's.
- K.T. Encampment, "Faith and Fidelity," Freemason's Tav.
- Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.'s, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
- Stability Lodge of Instruction, Guildhall Coffee House, Gresham-street, at 7.
- Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, George Hotel, Aldermanbury, at 7.

Saturday, May 15.

- Lodge No. 1185, "Lewis," Nightingale Tavern, Wood Green.

INSTALLATION FESTIVAL, ABBEY LODGE,
ABINGDON.

Friday, the 30th ult., was quite a "red-letter" day in the history of this Lodge, the brethren being honoured with the presence of the Grand Master, Sir D. Gooch, Bart., M.P., and the D.P.G.M., Rev. Sir J. W. Hayes, Bart., Vicar of Arborfield, near Reading, on the occasion of the installation of Bro. John Blandy-Jenkins (late High Sheriff of Berks) as W.M.

The Lodge, which is held in an elegant room adjoining the Council Chamber, was opened in due form at 3.30, and the W.M., Bro. J. T. Morland, performed the installation ceremony in an admirable manner. No other business was transacted, except the adoption of votes of thanks to the G.M. and the D.G.M., both of whom received the customary Lodge honours.

The G.M. assured the brethren that it afforded him great pleasure to attend, and make their acquaintance as their new G.M. He did not accept office without duly considering the duties attaching thereto, and he had resolved to visit each Lodge in the province, as opportunities for doing so presented themselves. This was the first visit he had paid to the Abbey Lodge, and he could not help expressing the gratification he had experienced in seeing it worked as it had been. He trusted he should find other Lodges in the province worked in an equally satisfactory manner.

The D.G.M. also said this was the first occasion on which he had joined the brethren of the Abbey Lodge, but he hoped to have other opportunities of visiting them.

At five o'clock a banquet was served in the Council Chamber, which contains several fine portraits by Gainsborough, besides well-executed portraits of some eminent men connected by birth, education, or otherwise, with the borough.

The chair was ably occupied by the Worshipful Master, Bro. J. Blandy-Jenkins, and the company included Bro. Sir Daniel Gooch, Bart., M.P., Grand Master of Berks and Bucks; Bro. the Rev. Sir John Warren Hayes, Bart., Grand Chaplain, and Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Berks and Bucks, Bro. Spiers, Deputy Provincial Grand Master (Oxford), and P.G.S.B. of England; Bro. J. T. Morland, P.M.; Bro. Captain G. F. Lamert, P.G.S. and W.M. of "Apollo" Lodge, Oxford; Bro. W. C. Bland, P.G.J.W., W.M. Lodge of Hope, Newbury; Bro. W. C. Borlase, Secretary "Apollo" Lodge; Bro. H. D'Almaine, Secretary, Abbey Lodge; Bro. W. Hedges, S.W.; Bro. W. Davenport, J.W.; Bro. W. Ballard, S.D.; Bro. Richard Badcock, Treasurer; Bro. Walter Ballard, J.G.; Bro. B. Badcock, Steward; Bro. J. H. Clarke, M.C.; Bro. F. H. McCalmont, S.W. "Apollo"; Bro. E. J. Trendall; Bro. J. S. Lowe, "Alfred" Lodge, Oxford; Bro. S. P. Spiers, W.M. elect "Alfred" Lodge; Bro. T. G. S. Mahon; Bro. Edward Morland; Bro. George J. Cosburn, Secretary Lodge of Hope; Bro. W. L. Ifunt; Bro. T. Stevens; Bro. T. Parr; Bro. J. L. Joleham; Bro. Trendall, jun., &c. The tables were adorned with some choice plants from the conservatory of Bro. E. J. Trendall. Grace was said by Bro. the Rev. Sir J. W. Hayes, and dessert having been introduced,

The W.M. rose and said that, as this was an anniversary festival of the Abbey Lodge, he had several toasts to propose, and he would first ask the brethren to drink the health of Her Majesty the Queen, whom they all respected and honoured, and coupled with the name of her who occupied the throne he would give that which must be uppermost in their minds as Masons, namely, the "Craft." Let them heartily drink the toast of the "Queen and the Craft." (Applause.)

The W.M. said the next toast was the health of the Earl of Zetland, who had long enjoyed the honour of presiding over the Order in this country, and who had distinguished himself not only as a Mason but also as a nobleman. (Applause.)

The W.M. next proposed the health of the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Grand Officers, associating with it the name of Bro. Spiers. He was sure Sir John Hayes would pardon him for not giving his name with this toast, but he should have Sir John on another score. (Applause and laughter.)

Bro. Spiers, D.G.M. (Oxford), said he ought not to reply on behalf of Grand Lodge in the presence of Sir John Warren Hayes, who was his senior both in rank, and standing, and age; still, he felt bound

to obey the command of the W.M., and he was pleased and proud to address them, both as a member of the Abbey Lodge, and also as a representative of Grand Lodge. They would, perhaps, be glad to learn that the recent appointment of Grand Lodge officers had afforded general satisfaction. The Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, continued to act as Deputy Grand Master, and it was a subject of congratulation that one who held so high a position, and enjoyed the confidence of royalty, still took so great an interest in everything associated with the Craft. (Applause.) Earl Percy, eldest son of the Duke of Northumberland, had been appointed Senior Grand Warden, and the appointment was a good one not only on account of the position of him who held it, but also because the noble earl was determined to prove himself worthy of it. (Applause.) The J.G.W. was Mr. Dodson, whose onerous official duties in the House of Commons were not sufficient to prevent him manifesting an active interest in the affairs of Freemasonry. That fact showed there was more in the Craft than the world gave it credit for. (Applause.) The Grand Master had determined upon advancing in each year one brother from the provinces in Grand Lodge. Referring to the Abbey Lodge, Bro. Spiers said it embraced within it men who did credit to Masonry, and also to the Town of Abingdon, and he was sure Sir Daniel felt pleased in having such a body to rule over. He was confident they would be obedient to his command, and would work as well as could be desired. He was some judge of Masonry, and must say that the ability shown by the late W.M. (Bro. Morland) was above all praise. (Applause.) In conclusion, Bro. Spiers again thanked the brethren for the compliment they had paid him.

The W.M. then proposed the health of the P.G.M., Sir Daniel Gooch. (Applause.) The brethren felt it to be a very great compliment to have among them their new Grand Master (applause), and he thought that, as a province, they must all feel themselves highly honoured in having such a distinguished Mason to preside over them. (Applause.) He had the good fortune to be present at the Provincial Grand Lodge, at Chippenham, when the brethren of that province presented him with the regalia of office, and he (Bro. Jenkins) found out in a moment that Sir Daniel was acquainted with the working of every department of the lodge; and seeing that, and also knowing his urbanity of manner, no brother could possibly wish for a better Mason to preside over the Province of Berks and Bucks. (Applause.) It gave him the greatest pleasure to see Sir Daniel there that evening, and he felt it was not only an honour to the lodge, but also a compliment to himself (the W.M.). He hoped this would prove but the first of many occasions on which they would have their G.M. among them; in fact, he trusted Sir Daniel would have cause to feel that the Abbey Lodge did such credit to the province that it was really incumbent upon him to be present. (Applause and laughter.) Perhaps he ought not to have gone so far and said that; still, he hoped Sir Daniel would often visit them. (Applause.)

The GRAND MASTER, in responding, said he should feel it incumbent upon him to visit the Abbey Lodge not in consequence of any deficiency, but on account of the excellent way in which it was worked, and also because of the kind and cordial reception they had given him. (Applause.) The gathering here had been a source of great pleasure to him, as it had given him an opportunity of making the acquaintance of a number of the brethren. He had attended not only because it was his duty to do so, but because he felt very anxious indeed to visit all the lodges in the province, to give him a knowledge of them and the way in which the different matters were conducted. Although he should on another occasion have an opportunity of expressing his views with regard to the ruling of the province, he would take into account as far as he could properly do so, the wishes of the various lodges in the appointments it would be his duty to make. He considered that in all the appointments for the Provincial Grand Lodge merit and excellence in Freemasonry ought to be the chief grounds. (Applause.) It had sometimes been urged that merit was not altogether what was needed, but he thought himself that the Brother who most zealously performed his duties ought to receive his reward in the shape of the honours connected with the Craft. (Applause.) They ought to aim to make the purple such a mark, that when it was seen in lodge it might be taken as a certain indication that the brother who wore it had done his duty to the Craft. (Applause.) Such feelings as those would guide him in the appointments he should make, and he must ask the brethren to believe that what he did was for the benefit of the province, and if he made a mistake, it would be an error of judgment, and not committed for the purpose of favouring one individual or the other. (Applause.) He would not regard either private or public friendships, but strive to discharge the duties of his office faithfully, and he hoped they would give him credit for acting from sincere and conscientious motives. (Applause.) He was glad to see amongst them that

evening Bro. Spiers, who held so high an office in the Province of Oxford, and whom he had previously had the pleasure of meeting. He assured the brethren, in conclusion, that he had spent a very pleasant and happy evening. (Applause.)

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER called upon the brethren to drink the health of the D.P.G.M., Sir J. W. Hayes, remarking that he felt sure there was not a brother present who was not glad to hear Sir John's name mentioned. (Applause.) Sir John was as old in Grand Lodge as Lord Zetland himself, and was initiated in the Apollo Lodge at Oxford. He was connected in every way with the brethren present, and it afforded them much gratification to see him present. (Applause.)

The D.P.G.M. thanked the brethren very sincerely for the kind reception they had given him, and assured them it gave him great satisfaction to be among the brethren of the Abbey Lodge. He had often wished to attend their meetings, and it was with the utmost possible pleasure with which he accepted the invitation they were so kind as to send him on this occasion. (Applause.) He had derived satisfaction from seeing the working of the Lodge, and finding how admirably everything was done. There was also some satisfaction in knowing that the brethren around him owed something to the Lodge in which he was himself initiated, inasmuch as their new Master had sprung from that Lodge. He felt sure the Abbey Lodge would thrive very much under the government of Bro. Blandy-Jenkins. (Applause.) He should be delighted to see the Abingdon brethren at Reading, and hoped they would swell the gathering at Windsor on the 21st of May, when they would do honour to their new Grand Master. (Applause.)

The G.M. then proposed the health of the W.M. (Applause.) He felt that, in a Lodge where Bro. Blandy-Jenkins was so well known it was almost wrong on his part to attempt to describe his many good qualities, for he had already served in the same capacity. He wished him health and happiness during the ensuing twelve months, and felt confident that during such period he would zealously discharge the duties of his office. (Applause.)

The W.M. said, in reply, that, but for the promise of assistance given by Bro. Morland, who had so efficiently filled the office during the past year, he must have declined the honour of once more presiding over the Lodge. He could not expect to come up to the standard set by their worthy G.M. (Sir D. Gooch), still he hoped the Lodge would be worked in a satisfactory manner. The W.M. closed by proposing the health of Bro. Morland, to whom he paid a well-deserved compliment for the very admirable manner in which he had performed the difficult ceremony of installation. (Applause.)

Bro. J. T. MORLAND, P.M., acknowledged the toast, observing that he hoped that what he had done met their approval (applause), although he had not satisfied himself. He considered it to be a high honour that he had been the first brother initiated in this lodge who had risen to the chair; and he assured the brethren that, although no longer Master, he should still devote his best energies in carrying on the lodge, and so long as he could promote the interests of either the lodge or an individual brother, he intended to do so. (Applause.)

The W.M. next gave the health of Bro. Lamert, the W.M. of the Apollo Lodge, who ably responded.

Then followed the health of the Masters of Lodges in the province, coupled with that of Bro. W. C. Bland, P.G.J.W., and W.M. of Lodge of Hope, who suitably returned thanks. The health of Bro. Hedges, S.W., was also drunk, after which the Tyler's toast was given. Several first-rate songs were sung, and the brethren separated highly delighted with the festival of 1869.

THE SOCIAL BUCKS' PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY.—On Saturday, May 8th (to-day), there will be a meeting of this society, of which Bro. Thomas Beard is president, at Bro. Swainston's, the "Three Bucks" Hotel, Old Jewry, when it is anticipated there will be a large and influential gathering of the Craft. Amongst the brethren who promote this really deserving society are Bros. J. Emmens (P.G. Purst., &c.), Stroud, M'Namara, H. Sydney, Thos. Adams, Charles E. Thompson, &c., &c.

ENGLAND 81 YEARS AGO.—On Wednesday morning 25th June, 1788, were executed at Newgate, pursuant to their sentence, William James, alias Levy, John Gilbertson, Jeremiah Grace, and Margaret Sullivan. They were brought out of Newgate about seven o'clock, and after spending some time in devotion the platform dropped a quarter before eight. They behaved with a seriousness and decency becoming their unhappy situation. After the men had been hanging about a quarter of an hour, the woman was brought out, dressed in black, attended by a priest of the Romish persuasion. As soon as she came to the stake she was placed upon the stool, which after some time was taken from under her, when the faggots were placed round her, and being set fire to, she was consumed to ashes.

Original Correspondence.

[The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents.]

PAST MASTERS AS PRECEPTORS.

(To the Editor of the Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am pleased to have it in my power to inform yourself and correspondents that the proposal put forward under the above heading is obtaining that support which might have been expected from brethren of high standing in the Craft, and that the Conference of Past Masters which I have suggested will be held in London between the 24th and 30th of this month. The exact date and place of meeting will be announced by circular, and also by a letter which I shall ask you to publish in your impression of the 15th or 22nd inst.

The more numerously attended this conference may be, the more important will be its results, and I have therefore to ask for further communications from such Past Masters as may desire to associate themselves with the movement. If your correspondents, Brother Hughan, "P.M. 200," and "Delta," would be disposed to assist, I should be obliged by their sending me their respective addresses, that circulars might be forwarded to them in due course.

The arguments already put forth in favour of the proposed memorial are weak as compared with those which it is thought politic to reserve from public discussion, but these will be brought forward at the conference and there fully debated. It is the desire of those who have originated this movement that every point of detail affecting the question of uniformity of ritual and ceremony should be calmly and earnestly considered, and the more numerously the conference is attended, the more certainly there will be of securing that result.

Again soliciting the further support of the brethren by personal communication,

I remain, dear Sir and Brother,
Yours truly and fraternally,
JAMES STEVENS, P.M., P.Z., &c.
Clapham-common, May 4th, 1869.

(To the Editor of the Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In my former letter under the above heading, I used the words, "In a ritual preserved, as that of Masonry is, by tradition only." Your correspondent, "Leo" (writing on a wholly different subject), after quoting my words says, "I deny that. Delta should either say nothing or tell the truth."

I pass over the graceful manner of Leo's correction, and proceed to consider whether any correction at all was necessary. I need hardly premise that my observation applied only to Blue or Craft Masonry, which alone formed the subject of my letter; and subject to this limitation, I think it will appear that my words were strictly correct. I am perfectly aware, and never dreamt of denying, that there are in existence numerous catchpenny publications professing to disclose the whole art and mystery of Freemasonry. I am also aware that there are in the hands of members of the Craft, both in print and MS., versions of our ritual *bona fide* intended to be correct. These, however, are held by Masonic authorities to be entirely contraband and illegal, and even the most correct of them only represent a particular brother's recollection of the traditionary working, as practised in his day. A tradition may be committed to writing twenty times in a century, but unless promulgated in a written form will still remain a tradition. If the writing is published, or preserved in any authentic form for purposes of reference, the legend will be transmitted orally no longer, or, in other words, can no longer be said to be "preserved by tradition only." But this is precisely what never does, and under the present system never can, happen with respect to Masonry. If a Mason procures a written ritual, or is painstaking enough to compile one for himself, it will be only useful just so far as it happens to correspond with the actual working in use for the time being. Wherever there is a discrepancy no one dreams of correcting the lodge working by the book, but the book is, as a matter of course, held of less authority than the lodge working—in other words, the *tradition* of the day.

The fact that unauthorised and contraband written versions do exist, is an additional reason in support of my suggestion that what I may call the "commonplace" portion of the ritual should be authoritatively printed for the use of the Craft. I am informed (whether correctly or not I cannot say) that in France this is actually done, under the sanction of the Grand Orient. Perhaps some of your correspondents can give useful information on this point.

At present there is a great and undesirable uncertainty as to how far the Masonic obligation of secrecy (as to ritual) really extends. I have heard it maintained by earnest and conscientious brethren that it is unlawful even to put upon paper for one's

own private study the smallest portion of the ritual from beginning to end. On the other hand, the great Masonic authority, the lamented Dr. Oliver, quotes with approbation the words of an American writer, Ward, who says, "The secrets of Masonry are her signs, words, and tokens; these the oath regards, and no more. The common language of Masons in conversation on the subject of Masonry is a proof that this is the opinion of the Fraternity in respect to the application of the oaths." This is the view which Dr. Oliver appears himself to have taken, inasmuch as he quotes freely in his works both from the ceremonies and lectures.

A division of opinion upon such a subject is a manifest evil. We should surely know precisely what is lawful, and what is unlawful; and in no way could this object so well be attained as by a publication of what I may call a skeleton ritual, comprising the prayers, explanation of tools, moral illustrations, &c., and leaving only the really special and esoteric portions to be learned from oral teaching.

I remain, dear Sir and Brother,
Very fraternally yours,
DELTA.

(To the Editor of the Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In reading the letters in THE FREEMASON on the subject of some method of acquiring uniformity of working the ceremonies, &c., of the Craft, I believe if some system could be devised and adopted that would lead to such a desirable end, it would be hailed with pleasure and satisfaction by many of the brethren. Allow me to throw out another suggestion: that the M.W.G.M. appoint a brother expert in the craft to visit the various lodges for the purpose of instructing the brethren; that the brother so appointed be the paid agent of Grand Lodge; and that the lodge asking for his instruction should be called upon to pay the travelling and hotel expenses of such agent. Trusting to see other ideas on this important subject,

I am, yours fraternally,
P.M., 208.

CHAIR DEGREE.

(To the Editor of the Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Am I right in inferring from the Scotch Constitutions that as the Scotch Grand Lodge only recognises three degrees in Masonry, therefore Arch Masonry is ignored, and any brother presenting himself at a Scotch lodge wearing a Royal Arch jewel may be required to remove it?

Further, if only three degrees are recognised in Scotland, how does that agree with the statement of certain Mark Masons, when they requested our Grand Lodge to recognise them, that they were recognised by the Grand Lodge of Scotland?

Yours fraternally,
SILEX.
London, May 3, 1869.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Permit me to inform "Leo" that I know perfectly well that the Mark is part of the degrees recognised by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, I did not refer to Mark but chair. "Leo" put words in the mouth of the Old Scottish Lodges that were never uttered or thought of except in the wanderings of such as himself; viz.:—your Royal Arch ideas are a new creation merely of last century, whereas we were in existence long before. Query how long? Let him read the last clause of his answer to "Cryptonymus." "Leo" should take to himself the advice he gives to "Delta," either say nothing or tell the truth. Where did the ritual exist previous to the 150 years ago, that "Leo" finds as the date of the degree of M.M.? In tradition. What does he think of the Masonry that existed at the building of Solomons Temple, or the Masonic Marks on the Great Pyramid of Cheops at Ghizeh, as discovered by General Howard Vyse.

In answer to your other correspondent, Bro. Snodgrass says that there are few lodges in Scotland, but work the Chair degree although against the positive instructions of Grand Lodge, I am aware of that, I was in the same position as Bro. S., and received it in the same lodge. What I intended in my remarks on the chair degree were, that no lodge has a right to use the Charter granted by Grand Lodge, in working that degree, as the Grand Lodge expressly stipulates in the granting of said Charter, and also in Grand Lodge Laws, cap. xxi. sec. i. "All lodges holding of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, are strictly prohibited and discharged from holding any other meeting than those of the three orders, viz., Apprentice, Fellow-craft, and Master Mason (denominated St. John's Masonry—the Mark forming part of the second degree); and from giving any countenance, as a body, to any other order of Masonry," &c. I think this speaks for itself. Is not every candidate bound by his O.B. to obey the laws of Grand Lodge? is it obeying them in using the charter for working a degree strictly prohibited by Grand Lodge? The R.W.M., administering the O.B. to a candidate in the Chair Degree

on a G.L. Charter, not only breaks, directly, his O.B. to Grand Lodge, but binds the candidate that he will not be present at the, &c., &c., except a just and lawful charter, &c., &c., he well knowing that there is no charter present at the time for working that degree. As I asserted in my last letter, they have an equal right to work the R.A.K.T. or any other order on the Grand Lodge Charter.

AMMI.

THE ROMISH ANTI-MASONIC BOGLE.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—As I perceived from your columns lately, an individual of the Roman hierarchy—Cardinal Cullen—issued a manifesto interdicting the presence of anyone, under his jurisdiction, at the grand Masonic assembly in Dublin, and, as dutiful children his subjects obeyed. The worthy cardinal treats them as bairns, but we are sorry to see them acting as such. He seems to remember his schoolboy days, when an awful effect could be produced by tying two brooms together crosswise, and dressing them up with an old shirt; possibly, he yet remembers the effect produced upon himself when going into his bedroom one night he saw the terrible apparition full before him, when the moon's rays shining through the window lighted it up with a ghostly glare. Profiting by the lesson, the now cardinal thinks that if a *bogle* can be made to frighten little boys, so also may one be equally easily made and stuck up to frighten men, *alias* big boys. His eminence, therefore, constructs his bogle in the shape of a manifesto, or anti-Masonic-ball-interdict, which being duly stuck up, the effect is at once seen by an universal skedaddle—the cardinal, no doubt, enjoying the ruse immensely.

One would have thought in this advanced age of railways, electric telegraphs, &c., there would have existed sufficient discrimination to have seen through the make-up, but such seems not to have been the case. Three centuries and a half ago, one at Witttemberg had the manly courage to pay *due respect* to a pope's foolish bull; but now, in this advanced era, A.D. 1869, where, in Dublin, was the Luther who had the sensible courage to light his pipe with a cardinal's possibly more foolish interdict.

All honour to the pioneers of freedom, wherever they are found. If men would only *think*, the days when such needlessly foolish manifestos would produce any practical effect would soon be numbered, and if cardinals would eat they would have to find some more profitable work than composing interdicts, or anti-Masonic manifestos.

The success, however, of the cardinal's present effort deserves some acknowledgment, and I would suggest that a crest be granted him of two broomsticks, tied together *a la latini crucis*, covered with a white shirt *a la hominis*, the whole surmounted with an old night cap, the motto being "Boh!"

I am, yours fraternally,
ANTI-HUMBUG.

A CORRECTION.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR,—Allow me to correct an error which has inadvertently appeared in your impression of Saturday last. In returning thanks for the "Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland," I am reported to have said "that I came from what some persons had called an *unfortunate country*."

I alluded to Ireland, on the occasion of the Inauguration of the Grand Hall having been called an "unhappy" not "*unfortunate*" country, and I said I was certain that the Irish brethren would do all in their power to make any English Brethren "happy" and welcome, should they visit Ireland, and I hoped some would do so at the Inauguration of the New Masonic Hall in Dublin, which I thought would take place about July next.

I remain yours very truly,
FRANCIS BURDETT, P.M., P.S.G.W.,
Rep. from G. L. Ireland, at G. L. England.
Ancaster House, Richmond, May 5, 1869.

A HYMN.

We seek one port beyond the main,
We journey on one tide;
Then, Father, let no question vain
Thy children here divide.

The streams by various names we call
Flow on to one bright sea;
Thy sun of Love shines on them all—
They all flow on to Thee.

So, as upon the streams the skies
Their shade of glory throw,
Let Heaven's light sulfuse our eyes
And fill our breasts below.

And when our lives like sere leaves fall,
Whatever stream it be
On which they fall, oh! deign to call
Those withered leaves to Thee.

ALEXANDER HUME BUTLER.

ROYAL ARCH.

Victoria Chapter, No. 1056.

In observing the rapid spread of Freemasonry throughout the length and breadth of the land, there are few indications of its prosperity more gratifying to thoughtful brethren than the formation of Royal Arch Chapters. For many years in the history of the Order, a lethargy seems to have prevailed with reference to Royal Arch Masonry, and the proper study of its ceremonies appears to have been neglected in a manner unaccountable to the few who appreciated the beauties of the system.

This torpor is now being dispelled by the light of better instruction, and it is no longer the rule for installed Principals to discharge their duties by deputy. Both in the metropolis and in the provinces we now possess Chapters where real work is done in masterly style, and with all the accessories of proper apartments and furniture. Among the new Chapters in London conspicuous for the Masonic abilities of its members the "Victoria" Chapter, No. 1056, may justly be quoted. An emergency Convocation of the "Victorians" was held on Thursday the 29th ult., at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, upon which occasion the splendid new furniture manufactured by Comp. Caney was used for the first time. The *tout ensemble* was all that could be desired, as every requisite for the use of the Chapter was provided. The officers and members present at the meeting were:—Comps. C. Hosgood, M.E.Z.; G. H. Oliver, H.; E. Clark, J.; A. A. Pendlebury, P.Z., Scribe E.; W. Long, Scribe N.; E. Gottheil, P.S.; R. Wentworth Little, P.Z. and Past Scribe; James Brett, P.Z., Treasurer; W. H. Hubbard, P.Z.; Geo. Kenning, J. D. Taylor, C. W. Noehmer, W. Musto, J. J. Caney, H. Bolleter, and J. W. Forge.

The visitors were Companions Joseph Smith, P.G.D.C., P.Z. 177; C. A. Cottebrune, Z. 733, P.Z. 177; W. Smith, C.E., P.Z. 33; R. Tanner, P.S. 975; G. Ruthven, 249; C. Willcox, 975; and J. Harvey.

After the confirmation of the minutes, ballots were taken for several candidates, and, proving favourable, Bros. R. R. Baker, W. Ashby, E. Roberts, W. J. Ferguson, and R. E. Bright, were then admitted into the supreme Order of capitular Masonry by the M.E.Z., and it is but bare justice to Companion Hosgood to say that the ceremony was rendered by him and his able officers in a most admirable and impressive manner, indeed the proficiency shown cannot be surpassed.

Votes of thanks were then unanimously and heartily accorded to Comp. George Kenning, who presented the chapter with a superb Bible and complete set of books; to Comp. Caney for an elegant solid silver trowel; and to Comp. Long, for a handsomely emblazoned scroll.

The chapter having been closed with the usual solemnities, the companions proceeded to the banquet hall, where, after "the feast of reason and the flow of soul," substantial creature comforts were provided to recruit the physical man. Toasts in honour of the candidates, the M.E.Z., the visitors, officers, &c., followed the usual formal observances; and when the hour for departure arrived, all separated with a thorough conviction that in the Victoria Chapter they had not laboured in vain, or wasted their strength for nought.

MASONIC GATHERING AT SKIBBEREEN.

On Thursday last week the Brethren of Lodge 15 gave a supper to Bros. J. Waters and John Evans, on the eve of their departure from Skibbereen. The former has for many years been manager of Messrs. Grant & Co's, establishment here, which position he filled with much credit to himself and satisfaction to the public, by whom his departure is much felt. Mr. Evans has not been so long in our midst, his first visit to Skibbereen being to erect the Gas Works. But short though his stay has been, he too was fortunate in gaining the good wishes and respect of all classes. As Masons, both these gentlemen were all that the Craft could desire, and by whom their absence will long be felt. The chair was occupied by Bro. C. Clerke, and the

vice-chair by Bro. J. F. Levis. After the usual Masonic and loyal toasts were disposed of the chairman gave the toast of the evening in suitable language, expressing his sorrow at losing their excellent member, sentiments which were fully endorsed by the brethren.

Mr. Waters, in reply said,
Worshipful Sir,—Accept my very sincere thanks for the very kind manner in which you have proposed my health, and you, brethren, for the hearty and kind manner with which you have received it. I have sometimes heard speakers say that such and such moments were the happiest of their lives, and that their feelings so overcame them that their tongues refused to utter the thought and feeling of their hearts. I do assure you, worshipful sir, and dear brethren, such is my case to night. Words of mine cannot convey the feeling of my heart for the flattering but unmerited eulogium, which you, worshipful sir, have passed on me, and which the brethren have endorsed by their hearty approval of every sentence as it fell from the Master's lips. I trust I shall so conduct myself towards my fellow men as to merit the approbation of all good men and worthy Masons. It is with feelings of much regret that I am about to sever the tie which has for so long a time subsisted between us as friends, but, in doing so, I have the consolation that Masons are bound by a tie that cannot be broken, for whenever you find a member of our Order there you find a brother. Since I joined your most honourable society of free and accepted Masons, you, brethren, have exemplified in your conduct towards me one of the first great principles of our most noble Order—brotherly love. You, sir, have expressed yourself in words of hope and encouragement for my success in my new sphere of duties. I can quite reciprocate such kind words and wishes. Nothing will give me greater pleasure than to hear of the prosperity of my friends in Skibbereen, and of the brethren of Lodge 15 in particular, wherever my lot in after life may be. I shall always look back with pleasure to the years I spent among you. If, in the order of Divine Providence, we are never again permitted to meet in a Masonic Lodge, I sincerely trust and pray that we shall all live such lives that, when the last summons from our Great Master shall sound in our ears, we shall be found ready to enter the Grand Lodge above, when parting shall be no more.

Mr. EVANS, in a short but appropriate speech, warmly thanked the brethren for the great kindness he had received at their hands, and assured them that his parent Lodge would ever be looked back on by him with feelings of true affection.

After several other toasts the meeting separated about eleven o'clock.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWO GRAND LODGES OF ENGLAND IN RATIFICATION OF THE UNION, 1813.

Grand Assembly of Freemasons, for the Union of the two Grand Lodges of England, on St. John's Day, 27th December, 1813.

(Continued.)

The cornucopia, the wine, and oil, were in like manner presented to the Grand Masters, who, according to ancient rite, poured forth corn, wine, and oil, on the said Ark, saying—"As we pour forth corn, wine, and oil on this Ark of the Masonic Covenant, may the bountiful hand of Heaven ever supply this United Kingdom with abundance of corn, wine, and oil; with all the necessaries and comforts of life. And may He dispose our hearts to be grateful for all His gifts!" And the Assembly said, "Amen."

The Grand Officers then resumed their places. A letter was read from the R.W. Brother Laurie, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, transmitting Resolutions of that Grand Lodge in answer to the letter of the M.W. the Grand Master of the two Grand Lodges, announcing to them the happy event of the Union and requesting them to appoint a deputation agreeably to Art IV. of the Act of Union. And it was ordered that these Resolutions be inserted on the minutes of this day.

A letter was also read from the W. Brother W. F. Graham, Dep. G. Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, transmitting Resolutions of that Grand Lodge, in answer to a similar communication from their Royal Highnesses the two Grand Masters of the respective Fraternities in England. It was ordered that these Resolutions be entered on the minutes of this day. In consequence of its having been found impracticable from the shortness of the notice for the sister Grand Lodges to send deputations to this Assembly, according to the urgent request of the two Fraternities, conferences had been held with all the most distinguished Grand Officers and enlightened Masons resident in and near London, in order to establish perfect agreement upon all the essential points of Masonry, according to the Ancient Traditions and general practice of the Craft.

The members of the Lodge of Reconciliation, accompanied by the Most Worshipful His Excellency Count De Lagardje, Grand Master of the first Lodge of Freemasons in the North, the Most Worshipful Brother Dr. Van Hess, of the Grand Lodge of Hamburg, and other distinguished Masons, withdrew to an adjoining apartment, where, being congregated and tiled, the result of all the previous conferences was made known.

The members of the Lodge of Reconciliation, and distinguished visitors, on their return, proceeded slowly up the centre in double file; and as they approached the two Grand Masters they opened, and the Grand Visitors advanced, when His Excellency the Grand Master of the first Lodge of the North, audibly pronounced that the forms settled and agreed on by the Lodge of Reconciliation were pure and correct.

This being declared, the same was recognised as the forms to be alone observed and practised in the United Grand Lodge, and all the Lodges dependant thereon, until time shall be no more.

The Holy Bible spread open, with the square and compass thereon, was laid on the Ark of the Covenant, and the two Grand Chaplains approached the same. The recognized obligation was then pronounced aloud by the Rev. Dr. Hemming, one of the Masters of the Lodge of Reconciliation, the whole Fraternity repeating the same, with joined hands, and declaring—"By this solemn obligation we vow to abide, and the regulations of Ancient Freemasonry now recognized strictly to observe."

The Assembly then proceeded to constitute one Grand Lodge, in order to which the Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Wardens, and other acting Grand Officers of both Fraternities, divested themselves of their insignia, and Past Grand Officers took the chairs; viz., the R.W. Past Deputy Grand Master Perry in the chair as Deputy Grand Master; the R.W. Robert Gill, as Senior Grand Warden; and the R.W. James Deans, as Junior Grand Warden.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, then in an eloquent address, in which he stated that the great view with which he had taken upon himself the important office of Grand Master of the Ancient Fraternity, as declared at the time, was to facilitate the important object of the Union which had been that day so happily concluded. And now it was his intention to propose his illustrious and dear relative to be the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge, for which high office he was in every respect so eminently qualified. He therefore proposed His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex to be Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons of England for the year ensuing. This was seconded by the R.W. the Hon. Washington Shirley, and being put to the vote, was unanimously carried in the affirmative, with masonic honours.

(To be Continued.)

THE ANCIENT BRITONS.—Those numerous writers who represent the brave Ancient Britons as being totally without roads of any kind, are evidently in error. The cannibals who, according to recent researches in ancient sepulchres by industrious antiquaries like the Rev. William Greenwell of Durham, appear, at some remote period, to have inhabited our country, previous to what has been hitherto regarded as the Aborigines, and who have had, in the course of nature, been forced to give place to a superior race called Celts, themselves doomed to give place to a still superior race, may possibly have been in that deplorable condition. But a people who understood so well how to fortify their fords, that the strong stakes they had driven into the bed of the Thames remained for many centuries; and whose enduring earthworks still show how every mountain top in Britain had been chosen as their "coigne of vantage;" whose courage in war struck the veteran Roman legions with surprise, and whose skill in riding their small hardy horses and dexterity in driving their scythe-armed chariots would be now viewed with admiration in any circus in Europe; whose careful casting of many metal articles, of both use and ornament, as well as the construction of their vehicles, show considerable mechanical ability and artistic skill; whose knowledge of agriculture extended to the cultivation and garnering of corn, and to the use of marl as a manure; and whose Bardic-Druidical system of religion, if we may form any notion of it by the Historical Triads of the Cymry (the numbers three and seven being apparently, from remotest ages, dear to superstition), was a higher and a holier thing than much that yet passes current among men as sacred;—that such a people, I say, should have possessed no rude roads even, to enable them to pass with ease through their interminable forests, is no article of my historical creed, and I can only express my surprise that it should form any portion of my belief of so many other authors.—*The History of the Stockton and Darlington Railway*, by Bro. George Markham Tweddell, F.S.A. Scot. and Newc., &c.